

Advance Ashburton Community Foundation



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PROGRESS

- » Invested Funds – \$10,471,910
- » Bequests – \$29,206,000
- » Donations made in the year to March 31 2018 – \$772,855



INTRODUCING OUR 2018 ADVANCE ASHBURTON SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

On January 30th twenty-nine scholarships totalling \$56,000 were awarded from eleven different funds held by Advance Ashburton.

**Ashburton Jaycees Fund
Industry Trade Scholarships**
Kate Moses, Thomas O'Brien, Sailor McLean, Brayden Farrell

**Ashburton Jaycees Fund
Leadership and Professional
Development Scholarships**
Hannah McDougall, Victoria Pluck

Tinwald Club Fund
Kaleb Small

Ian Glassey Memorial Fund
Alison van Polanen, Brayden Guise

**Scholarship in Agriculture,
Horticulture and Aquaculture**
Benjamin Barry

Ian Glassey Environmental Scholarship
Brooke Clarke

Alister Smyth Scholarships
Grace Thomson, Hannah Roulston,
Jacinta Netzler

**Johnston Brothers
Health Science Scholarships**
Pippa Griffiths, Albertene Hefford,
Claudia Kinvig, Bethnee Jopson

**United Friendly Society
Health Science Scholarships**
Ruby Wills, Lucy Clough,
Stephanie Porter, Lauren Rattray,
Alexandra Wootton

Advance Ashburton
Mark Mably, Fran Connelly-Whyte,
Aimee Elliott, Emily-Jane Farr

Family Trust Scholarships
Ryan Simpson, Sina Ainu'u

This year we received over 100 scholarship applications and had funds available for twenty-nine scholarships. To enable us to help more we are now accepting donations for 'pass through' scholarships. So, if you wish to donate funds for a particular scholarship – whether it be an existing category or a new category – the funds won't be invested, but passed directly through Advance Ashburton for the purpose of a scholarship. If you would like more information please contact Sandi Wood, Executive Officer on 027 577 5875.

LET'S GET YOU ON THE ROAD

The Rural Support Trust, in partnership with Safer Ashburton District, has proudly introduced this exciting new initiative funded by a grant from Advance Ashburton Charitable Foundation.

Those charged with integrating farming families into our community have identified that many newcomers, especially women, do not have a licence. On top of feeling lonely and cut-off from support networks, they have trouble carrying out simple tasks such as getting to town for groceries.

"Let's get you on the road" is the slogan behind the three-year pilot known as the Mid Canterbury Newcomer Rural Driver Licensing Scheme. Free to participants, the programme has been designed to create safe and confident new drivers, increase their participation in the community and encourage self-sufficiency and independence.



Co-ordinator, Wendy Hewitt, wants to get rural newcomers "on the road".

BOOST

LITERACY PROGRAMME UPDATE

Now into its 5th year, with 41 tutors working with 140 children across 13 primary schools.

For more details of this wonderful programme please visit our website www.advanceashburton.org.nz



Photo - Ashburton Guardian

CELEBRATING THE WORLD OF PARENTING

Ashburton's inaugural Parenting Week, the brain child of the Rural Canterbury Primary Health Community Connector Brenna Russell and Families Without Violence Co-ordinator Anna Arrowsmith, provided a range of events and seminars held to educate, inform and entertain families of all ages and stages.

Supported by a Foundation grant, all the events were free of charge, so the events were accessible for all Ashburton parents, said Brenna. The week started with a parenting Expo where parents could access information from organisations such as Plunket, Playcentre, Family Planning, and NZ Principals' Association. Other day-time events included a Plunket session and a Newcomers Network morning tea at the Community House.

Five evening sessions with a variety of speakers, held in the Event Centre, were popular. One, the Managing and Understanding Childhood Anxiety, seminar was fully booked. It finished with a forty-minute question and answer session. Numbers to each event were capped to allow interaction between speaker and audience, Brenna said.

Other evening sessions featured the Brainwave Trust, The Parenting Place - Christchurch, and healthy, family cooking with Ashburton chef, Chantelle Quinn.

"Parenting is probably one of the hardest and yet most rewarding jobs on the planet," says Anna Arrowsmith. "There is always a need for more parenting education and the better our parents "parent" their children, the better our community is as a whole, the better our families are, and the safer and healthier our children will be."

Ms Arrowsmith hopes the Parenting Week will be a biennial event for the Ashburton community. Everyone who attended the events completed a feedback form with positive comments and requests for more. "We are really proud of our first Ashburton Parenting Week and would like to thank those who sponsored this event and made it happen," she said.



ABOVE The Expo and the lectures were popular during Ashburton Parenting Week.



CANCER SOCIETY PREMISES UPGRADE

Refurbishment of the Ashburton Cancer Society premises in Mona Square is under way. Since 2012 when the Cancer Society moved from their cramped and earthquake-damaged property to the Mackenzie Centre, the number of clients has increased from 130 to 176.

With more clients, volunteers and groups, including CanBead, Prostate Cancer, and Look Good, Feel Better, also using the facility, the time had come to upgrade the interior of the building. With funding from Advance Ashburton, Mackenzie Charitable Foundation and the Cancer Society, the upgrade work includes creating a new private meeting room with Skype facilities for conference calls with out-of-town health professionals. New automatic doors, double glazing, new carpet and decorating are also being provided.

Cancer Support Services Manager, Annie Bonifant is delighted. "We are so lucky to have such lovely rooms at the Mackenzie Centre and with the alterations they will be further enhanced, making an even more welcoming and inviting environment for people who require our services.

"The alterations enable us to now offer a totally private and comfortable meeting room for clients and families. This will allow other groups, programmes, workshops and meetings to take place without interrupting the day-to-day running of the centre.

We are so grateful to Advance Ashburton for their continued support and generosity."

TOP Annie shows Advance Ashburton Trustee, Elizabeth Ashford, some of the upgrade work at the Mackenzie Centre.



THE TROTT'S GARDEN CHARITABLE TRUST

A renowned garden with international acclaim, Trott's Garden, has been sold recently to the newly formed Trott's Garden Charitable Trust to ensure this beautiful garden remains accessible to people both local and from all over the world.

The New Zealand Gardens Trust awarded Trott's Garden six stars (its highest category) and designated it as a NZ Garden of International Significance, for its outstanding horticultural value in plant material, cultivation, design, construction, and maintenance.

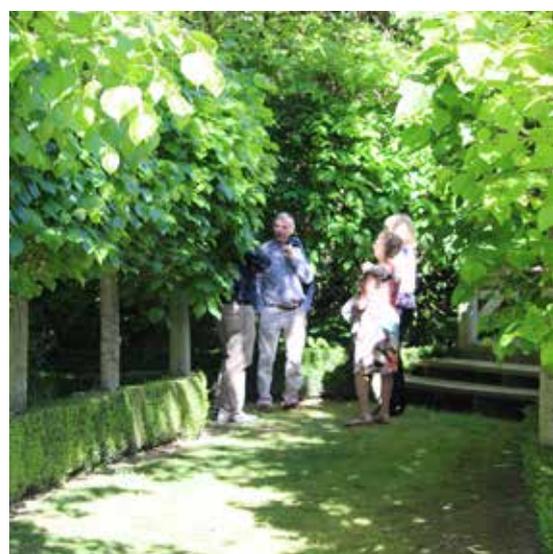
With the Trust taking over a garden of this size and scope, many keen gardeners have put up their hand to help keep the garden and lawns looking their very best.

Plans for the Trust are being developed and include ideas for horticultural education, art classes, a bee discovery centre and an edible garden.

Discussions are being held with other community groups who might be able to use the garden for their own charitable or community purposes.

At the same time, Trott's Garden will remain as a garden that will be open for public viewing and as a sought-after location for weddings, funerals and other special events. These activities will help to fund the ongoing development and future uses of the property. One of the first exciting developments was the installation of a permanent marquee as a venue for wedding receptions and other major functions thanks to the support of EA Networks.

With the support of Advance Ashburton, the Trust has been able to employ a full-time gardener to work alongside the many volunteers who have given up their time and energy for this exciting new community project.



ABOVE Trott's garden – an asset for the community.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Without doubt the experimental classroom, the Kohanga, at Ashburton College finished 2017 on a very positive note and captured the interest of many.

Principal Ross Preece is one year and one term into the demanding position of leading Mid Canterbury's largest secondary school, and with the backing of Advance Ashburton Community Foundation, has transformed the lives of a small group of troubled youths under his charge.

The experimental classroom, fondly referred to as the Nest, was introduced to tackle head-on a complex and unique set of struggles faced by eight challenging students. We watched with interest and pride as this collaborative venture provided

a lifeline to a group of Year 9 and 10 boys who had been identified as causing concern in the school.

Such was the level of interest that following a presentation to an influential group of locals, Principal Preece was invited back to answer the question "what happens next?".

"At the end of term four all eight boys were still engaged in education," said Ross with a great deal of pride.

None were suspended and six were attending some mainstream subjects of their choice, which was a tremendous endorsement for all involved.

Being responsible for the safety and wellbeing of over 1,100 students is not a role Ross takes lightly. For him it is not a numbers game where the individual

needs of students go undetected, and for this Ross has quickly earned the respect and support of a large team of teachers and administration personnel, as well as the wider community.

Kohanga teacher Lindsay Abbott remains at the coal face of this new and rewarding initiative, and almost 12 months on remains full of praise for the participants.

Therefore, with the generosity of AACF, the strategy for 2018 remains unchanged – setting all students up for success.

Thanks to the addition of a full-time Foundation-funded teacher-aide, Ross and his team are better able to identify the best fit for those who struggle to integrate into the mainstream education system, and keep them engaged in learning.



Specialist teacher Mel Simons with one of the Ashburton groups.

MINDPLUS

MindPlus is a programme that provides intellectual, creative, social and emotional learning and support for children identified as gifted in our community.

Currently there are forty-eight of our local children between the ages of six and thirteen who attend the programme where their gifts and talents are further developed and they gain a greater understanding of themselves.

“I feel it’s a place where I’m understood,” says one of the students.

This programme currently runs three days per week with students coming from fourteen local schools.

The students spend one day per week with a specialist teacher in a dedicated classroom.

MindPlus is supported by the Mid Canterbury Principals’ Association and the NZ Centre for Gifted Education (NZCGE). NZCGE selects the children

who often have complex needs and provides the curriculum, teacher professional development and student support.

The curriculum focuses on six learning strands: conceptual, personal, talent, research, thinking and communication development. It is designed to increase the breadth, depth, sophistication and complexity of learners’ knowledge and abilities in these areas and to increase self-learning.

MEET OUR BOARD

Advance Ashburton provides enduring trusteeship so donor aims are achieved in perpetuity.

FROM LEFT Sitting: Elizabeth Ashford, Patron Roger Bonifant, Chairman Trevor Croy, Mary Ross.

Standing: Executive Officer Sandi Wood, Jo Taylor, Chris Wylie, Gary Fail, Jack Allan, Mayor Donna Favel, Nicki Webster.



Advance Ashburton is a perpetual charitable trust dedicated to benefiting the Ashburton region.
Give where you live... to build a stronger community.



For more information:

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Charities Commission Registration CC28482