



**Aoraki  
Foundation**

IMPACT REPORT 2023



**Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei.**

**Seek the treasure that you value most dearly, if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain.**

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# 2022/23

## Highlights

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**\$4.28M**

of community  
funds under  
management



**20**

Endowment  
Funds



**\$444,075**



Distributed to the  
community from  
endowment funds

**36**

Grants and  
scholarships  
awarded



**\$154,510**

in donations received  
for CPlay and Lions  
Bike Skills Park



**129**

individual  
donors



# Our Team

## Board of Trustees

The Aoraki Foundation is governed by an experienced group of volunteer trustees. They proudly donate their time and expertise for the betterment of the South Canterbury community. Many of these trustees also contribute to the operational costs of the Foundation and/or donate to our funds.



**Greg Anderson**  
Chairperson



**Tony Alden**  
Deputy Chair



**Jenny Carter-Bolitho**  
Trustee



**Georgina Hamilton**  
Trustee



**Lili Delwaide**  
Trustee



**Claire Barlow**  
Trustee



**Dale Walden**  
Trustee



**Andrew McRae**  
Trustee



**Jo Goodhew**  
Trustee

# Our Team



## Staff

The day to day operations of the Aoraki Foundation are handled by a small yet capable team. Kirsty Burnett has joined Richard & Nicola recently and has brought with her considerable skills and experience.



**Richard Spackman**  
Chief Executive



**Kirsty Burnett**  
Donor & Community  
Engagement Manager



**Nicola Buckingham**  
Administrator

## Committees

We have a number of generous South Cantabrians that donate their time and expertise to make up our committees. These committees fill specialist roles at the Aoraki Foundation from investing to understanding community needs.

### Distributions

Jo Goodhew  
Andrew McRae  
Claire Barlow  
Raewyn Francis  
Raeleen de Joux  
Richard Brown

### SC Health Fund

Jo Goodhew  
Dale Walden  
Anna Wheeler  
Gavin Wilton  
John Begg  
Dominique Enright

### HR/Personnel

Greg Anderson  
Tony Alden  
Lili Delwaide  
Brittney Bowie

### Investment and Finance

Tony Alden  
Dale Walden  
Nick Noone  
Justin Riley



## Volunteers

We are also very grateful to the following wonderful people that volunteer their time to assist the Aoraki Foundation and keep our operational costs down. Ngā mihi nui.

### Photographers

Richard Brown  
Stu Jackson

### Partnerships

Anna Bolland

### Events

Ginny Bolderston



# From the Team

## 2022/23 Report

It has been said, one must first face adversity before achieving success. Well that sure sums up the last two years for us. A year on from a challenging and turbulent 2022 the Aoraki Foundation has recorded one of the most successful results in our history.

This year we signed a record seven new endowment funds adding another record of \$1.4 million of new funds for the community. Thanks in large part to one generous donor we also set a new record of \$444,075 given out in grants, distributions and scholarships. On an operational front we have turned around a deficit last year into a healthy surplus in 2023. These are impressive results given where we were positioned on the start line. We are delighted but certainly not carried away.

Last year we shared our vision of distributing \$1 Million per year in to the South Canterbury community by 2030. Despite the large gifts to the community this year, we are still only 15% of our way to this target. To do the unthinkable we will need to be steadfast in our commitment and we will still need the help of others.

This is an appropriate time to thank the many partners, supporters and volunteers that have been instrumental in our growth this year.

The financial assistance we have received from the business community and local councils, has enabled us to grow our awareness in the community, and importantly with potential donors. This will only increase further with the appointment of Kirsty Burnett in a new role of donor and community engagement manager.

Having a stable, robust, and committed Board of Trustees is critical to the success of a community foundation and this year we have seen that come to the fore. The new trustees put in place in 2022 are adding value both at the board table and in the community. Gresson Dorman Partner, Georgina Hamilton joined the board in June to replace Andrew McRae as he steps down after almost five years with the Aoraki Foundation.

Finally to our donors, thank you for your kindness and compassion. Hearing your dreams for our beautiful region is inspiring. We love that we have a strategic part to play in your philanthropic desires and we cherish the responsibility of upholding your legacy. By combining your generosity with our smarter giving model we can achieve a better South Canterbury, for now and forever.

**Greg Anderson**  
Board Chairperson

**Richard Spackman**  
Chief Executive

# Fund empowering women to be relaunched in South Canterbury

Rachael Comer • 11:35, Mar 23 2023



Preparing for the Aoraki Foundation Women's Fund launch event are Rowa Raymond, left, Tam Johnson, Claire Barlow, Richard Spackman and Lily Bolland.

# Aoraki Foundation celebrates work of those in South Canterbury

Rachael Comer • 05:00, Jun 26 2023



Celebrate South Canterbury was held at the Argenta Art Gallery with the Aoraki Foundation recognizing the recipients of its funding in 2023. Organisations representatives, from left, back row, are Leola Wilson, Ann Brown, Rosie Chambers, Richard Spackman, Sian Neary, Joy Sagar, Ines Steiger, Pam Allan and Christina Cullimore, and front row, from left, Heather Locke, Kirsty Burnett, Carolyn Cooper, Keith Shaw and Jeff Paul.

# Aoraki Women's Fund relaunch to aid three charities in South Canterbury

Rachael Comer • 10:09, Apr 03 2023



At the relaunch of the Aoraki Foundation Women's Fund on Thursday are, from left, fund ambassador and MC for the evening Anah Aikman, fund chairperson Tam Johnson, Pasifika community connector from Multicultural Aoraki and speaker Sange Malama-Tuisaula and Multicultural Aoraki general manager Katy Houstoun.

# Ambassador status for loyal service

STAFF REPORTER

Three former Aoraki Foundation trustees have been made ambassadors for the foundation.

Lesley Roy, Ken McKenzie and Ron Laxton were recognised for their service at an Ascend Aoraki event held recently. Chairman Greg Anderson said an ambassador of the Aoraki Foundation was not only someone who had given their time to building the community foundation, but they exhibited its beliefs in their day-to-day lives and continued to support the foundation through advocacy and promotion.

"These three are fine examples of the commitment many individuals have made to this great community asset. Mr Roy was a trustee for six years, five as chairwoman. She was the Mackenzie district representative and oversaw a strong period of growth at the foundation.

Mr Roy is still heavily involved as the chairwoman of the Aoraki Foundation Women's Fund, a fund for women, by women. Mr McKenzie was one of the original live trustees and was instrumental in some of the early funding projects such as Cbay and the Miller General Impact Fund. Mr McKenzie still provides pro bono legal advice to the foundation and has a huge amount of knowledge about philanthropy and bequests. Mr Laxton also served six years on the foundation's board and played a pivotal role in the establishment of the South Canterbury Health Endowment Fund and the MRI Scanner fundraising campaign. Mr Laxton is still involved with the Aoraki Foundation as the chairman of the MRI Charitable Trust. In his acceptance speech, Mr



Recognised... The three community leaders recently named as ambassadors (from left) Ron Laxton, Lesley Roy and Ken McKenzie.

Laxton recalled an old proverb that explained the virtues of the foundation. "One has made at least a start on discovering the meaning of life when they plant shade trees, under which they know full well they will never sit."

After the presentation of the awards, chief executive Richard Spackman outlined the foundation's goal to distribute \$1 million per year in funding by the year 2030.

This goal is as lofty as the mountain we are named after, but we owe it to those that have come before us to be brave, we owe it to our community to be ambitious, and we owe it to ourselves to be resolute. "Achieving a target like this would mean South Canterbury would have another funder similar in scale to Trust Aoraki or Community Trust. It

would give many charitable organisations another reliable source of funding. Mr Spackman said, however, that in order to support the community for the foreseeable future, the trust would need assistance itself. "South Canterbury is a wonderful place full of generous and charitable people that give where they live."



Community minded... Queenstown lawyer Stephen Brent, from RVG Law, speaks to South Canterbury advisers about supporting community foundations.

# Talk emphasises importance of local foundations

More than 40 local advisers committed to making a difference in South Canterbury gathered recently.

A professional advisers breakfast, organised by the Aoraki Foundation, featured guest speaker Stephen Brent, from Queenstown firm RVG Law. The morning began with a welcome from Aoraki Foundation chief executive Richard Spackman, who highlighted the importance of professional advisers for the success of community foundations, spreading awareness and understanding of the foundation.

Mr Spackman talked about the remarkable progress made by the Aoraki Foundation over the past year, including the establishment of eight new funds and bequests, amounting to about \$1.3 million. These contributions were earmarked for endowment funds ensuring sustainable support for South Canterbury charities in perpetuity, and the foundation had already distributed an impressive \$44,075.40 to the local community this year alone, thanks to the generosity of local donors, he said.

Highlighting the importance of commercial partnerships, Mr Spackman thanked the local business community for their recent support. Oceania Dairy became the Aoraki Foundation's first strategic partner and, in addition to several businesses, the three local councils had also provided support as community partners - contributing to the foundation's mission and operational costs.

Mr Brent grew up in regional towns throughout the South Island and had always had a strong connection with community and a passion for making a difference. A turning point in his life came when, at 50, he thought about how he could give back to the community that had given him so much support. Watching the



All ears... Some of the 40-plus advisers at a professional advisers breakfast held recently in Timaru listen to guest speaker Stephen Brent.

Netfix series *Afterlife*, by Ricky Gervais, he was struck by a profound quote from the show: "A society grows great when old men plant trees, the shade of which they know they will never sit."

This quote resonated with him and sparked a determination to invest in his community through the Wakatipu Community Foundation. Community foundations were a trustworthy and long-lasting way for individuals to give back to their local communities, Mr Brent said.

He acknowledged the role of professional advisers in helping their clients to navigate the process of including community foundations in their wills and memorandums of wishes.

He shared several stories of clients who had decided to leave a significant portion of their estate to the Wakatipu Community Foundation and the causes that were dear to them. The value of those gifts alone totalled more than \$20 million. Mr Brent urged local professional advisers to familiarise themselves with the Aoraki Foundation and its strategic purpose. He encouraged them to ask one simple question: "What clients are making decisions about their estate: "Have you thought about leaving something for the community?"

# Fund receives almost \$1m investment

CLAIRE ALLISON  
@timarucourier.co.nz

Nearly \$1 million of community funds have been invested recently with the Aoraki Foundation to ensure its future.

The St Andrews Golf Club had already vested funds in the foundation for a St Andrews Youth Scholarship since the course closed in 2016, but has recently chosen to place about \$450,000 with the foundation for a golf development programme in South Canterbury.

The last president of the now-defunct club, Graham Cadigan, said club members involved with dealing with the assets of the sale of the course wanted to ensure the funds were wisely invested and distributed locally.

"Because of the success we'd had with the endowment fund, it was decided that the money [for golf development] would go to the foundation as well, and we know it is earmarked for this programme, or similar programmes. "We're very fortunate, and have

The foundation has the expertise and the history, and it gives the fund certainty and continuity going forward."

confidence in the Aoraki Foundation to manage the funds in accordance with people's wishes. When Richard Spackman, Aoraki Foundation chief executive, and his team are ready to do the next round of funding, we know they've got to show it's money well spent."

A second fund, the Hubbard Churcher Scholarship, was set up in 2006/07 by the late Allan Hubbard, in order to help financially disadvantaged people wanting to enrol in tertiary study.

The scholarship, with a capital of about \$420,000, has continued under the stewardship of HC Partners, but spokesman Craig Copland said those involved had decided to vest the funds with the foundation.

"The foundation has the expertise and the history, and it gives the fund certainty and continuity going forward." Mr Copland said the foundation had a higher profile, which could increase the chances of people adding to it, and ensure local high schools were aware of its existence.



Golfing good... Signing over funds to the Aoraki Foundation to support golf development programmes in South Canterbury are (from left) Stewart Young (St Andrews Golf Club), Aoraki Foundation trustee Jo Goodhead and Graham Cadigan (St Andrews Golf Club).

# Aoraki Foundation

## What you need to know

Community Foundations are local, independent, and not-for-profit. They run a well-proven model of place-based philanthropy which has been growing across the world for over 100 years, and they are now established in 17 regions in New Zealand.

Community Foundations focus on a place and its people, strengthening communities from within and enabling locals' aspirations for their community to take shape. They are governed by passionate and skilled local volunteer boards which often give more than just their time.

Acorn Foundation in Tauranga was one of the initial Community Foundations starting in 2003. The community got behind Acorn Foundation early on. This year Acorn gave out over \$3 million in community funding.

A Community Foundation exists to inspire and facilitate giving within their local region. The use of an endowment model ensures gifts are maximised and enduring. This "smarter giving" model is simple but extremely effective.

We are South Canterbury's Community Foundation supporting the Mackenzie, Waimate, and Timaru districts. We are a registered charity governed by a group of experienced volunteer trustees.

Some passionate locals - Ken McKenzie, Nigel Davenport, Nick Noone, Damon Odey and Sid McAuley started the Aoraki Foundation in 2009.

Initially the Foundation was project based, involved in major fundraising campaigns including the CBay Aquatic Centre and the MRI Scanner. It quickly established some large endowments, such as the South Canterbury Health Endowment and Miller Estate.

Over the last ten years the Aoraki Foundation has grown its funds under management to more than \$4.2 million and given out almost \$1.8 million to local charities, projects and community groups. Through the generosity of its donors, endowment funds have been established for the environment, health, financial literacy, transplant care, nursing, swimming, women, education, sports and more.



**YOUR GIFT**



**IS INVESTED AND GROWN**



**AND THE ONGOING INCOME EARNED**



**GOES TO THE LOCAL CAUSES YOU LOVE.**

**“A society grows great when people plant trees in whose shade they shall never sit.”**

**Greek Proverb**

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## **What matters to us**

It is important we share with you our beliefs, as they underpin all that we do.

### **1. We believe in a better South Canterbury.**

We love where we live and we want South Canterbury to be the very best it can be. Everyday we see passionate and generous locals who share that same belief.

### **2. We believe that with partnerships and collaboration we can achieve better outcomes.**

We know we cannot do this alone. The key to uplifting our community is working together. This includes our donors, community partners like councils, funders, mana whenua and all the charities doing the mahi in South Canterbury.

### **3. We believe that one person can make difference.**

We still believe in the power of one. Change and progress at its very heart always comes down to the actions of an individual. This might be a donor, one of our trustees, an advisor, or a recipient. It might even be you!

## **Our Vision**

We are dreaming big with a bold vision for the Aoraki Foundation. It is a vision we can aspire to, something that will challenge and elevate our community. Our vision is simple:

## **To distribute \$1 million dollars per year to the community by 2030**

Given our current funds, this goal is ambitious, in fact it is as lofty as the mountain we take our name from. However, we owe it to our community and all those that have come before us to be brave. To get there we will need support, we will need some luck, but most of all we will need a steadfast commitment from those closely involved with the Aoraki Foundation.

If you would like to be part of this journey please let us know, we would love to hear from you.



**“This is not about me, I am one of many who care greatly about the environment .”**

**Fraser Ross, Donor**

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# Fraser Ross

## Environmental Fund

Nowadays, environmental protection is a mainstream concept. It's everywhere — in our news headlines, in our classrooms, and in our consumer habits. But 50 years ago, it was reserved for those on the fringes of society. And that's where the Fraser Ross story begins.

Fraser balanced his career as a pharmacist with his love of nature, dedicating hours to ecological field volunteering and environmental advocacy. In Fraser's first project of national significance the "Save Manapouri" campaign, he mobilised the South Canterbury community to collect over 7,000 signatures to stop the lake being raised, which would have destroyed the wildlife habitat including large areas of native forests along the lake foreshore.

For years Fraser spent his weekends removing weeds, eradicating pests, replanting trees, and protecting native bushland. Fraser was an early member of Forest & Bird South Canterbury, and names the regeneration of Conways Bush, Kakahu Bush, and Arowhenua Bush as his standout projects. He was a founding member of the South Canterbury Conservation Trust, a member of the black stilt/kaki recovery project, and more recently, has become a 'minder' for the little blue penguins around Timaru's shores.

Now that Fraser is in his late 80's, he cannot physically do the work he loves so much, so he came to us at the Aoraki Foundation. In 2016 he established a significant environmental fund for the South Canterbury community. This aims to provide financial assistance to carry on the conservation work Fraser started. With five years of growth under the Aoraki Foundation, it is now in a position to make its first grant.

Fraser has been involved with the regeneration of Arowhenua Bush since 1975, when a massive storm almost wiped it out. Forest & Bird have recently acquired this land, and The Fraser Ross Environmental Fund's first grant will go towards a research project to aid in the propagation of this precious lowland native bush. It is wonderful that Fraser's gift can impact a project so close to his heart, and we know it gives him great peace of mind to know the work he started will continue into the future because of his partnership with the Aoraki Foundation.

With an enduring commitment come rain, hail, or shine one could call Fraser a long time advocate for the protection of the natural environment - but to us he is simply a legend!

**"Arowhenua Bush is the last remnant of lowland Canterbury indigenous forest outside of Riccarton Bush, and Fraser along with his compatriots saved this in 1975."**

**Jo Goodhew, Aoraki Foundation Trustee**

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**“Our dream is to grow this fund to a level that will sustain our operating expenses.”**

**Robyn Baldwin, SC Multiple Sclerosis**

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# Multiple Sclerosis Society

## A Community Group Fund

This year we established our first Community Group Fund and the catalyst was South Canterbury Multiple Sclerosis Society (MS) selling a long-held property in King St, Timaru. The property was vacant and required a lot of maintenance so the decision was made to sell up, but then they had the problem of what to do with the money?

**“The problem when you have a lump-sum of money sitting there is the concern that over time it will whittle down and trickle away and you’ll have none left. We’d love to see it grow instead.”**

**– Barry Taylor**

Their solicitor, David Forman, suggested speaking with the Aoraki Foundation. Having been impressed with the Foundation’s work with C-Bay and the MRI scanner, Barry and Chairperson Robyn Baldwin arranged a presentation from Aoraki Foundation Chief Executive, Richard Spackman, to the South Canterbury MS Board.

Bolstered by the news that Aoraki Foundation could set up a dedicated fund for the MS Society, the decision was simple. The South Canterbury MS Fund was set up through Aoraki Foundation with an initial investment of \$300,000. This will continue to be invested and added to until, Robyn hopes, the fund is self-supporting of their services.

The move will not only grow the MS Fund so the society can continue to support people with MS, it will also grow awareness of MS in South Canterbury under the Aoraki Foundation umbrella.

**“A person’s life can change in an instant with a diagnosis of MS, and we are here to support that person and their whānau at this time of need. A self-supporting fund would allow us to focus on service delivery rather than fundraising” – Robyn Baldwin**

The endowment fund’s intended aim is to help run the organisation, to grow community awareness, and to build up their finances. “In perpetuity,” Barry says. “The fund is an ongoing vehicle that our supporters can contribute to, via donations or a gift in their will. The professional management of the Aoraki Foundation provides them with peace of mind that their gift will continue to support Multiple Sclerosis within South Canterbury for years to come.”

### **What is a Community Group Fund?**

A Community Group Fund is a special type of endowment fund established solely for the benefit of one community organisation. The Aoraki Foundation and the organisation share the responsibility of growing the fund.



# New Funds

## Mackenzie Charitable Fund

The Aoraki Foundation and the Mackenzie Area Community Services Charitable Trust have combined to start a new fund for the people of Fairlie and Tekapo. The Mackenzie Charitable Fund is a collaborative effort between the two charities for the promotion of health, welfare, well-being and the alleviation of hardship.

The Mackenzie Area Community Trust has been working in behind the scenes to support the local community for over twenty years. As Chairperson, Stuart Barwood describes, "We go about helping people when they are in a time of need, we don't make a big deal about it, we are just here to support our community."

A presentation by Aoraki Foundation Chief Executive Richard Spackman, sparked a conversation about resettling the Trust's assets into a new Fund within the Aoraki Foundation. As Richard explains, "The Aoraki Foundation is an infrastructure for greater giving, and we are honoured to be custodians of these community funds. This is a wonderful story about the people of Fairlie supporting the community and it is a privilege to be part of this moving forward."

## Hubbard Churcher Scholarship

The late Allan & Margaret Hubbard started a tertiary scholarship for local school leavers back in 2006. Many South Canterbury learners have had their study costs reduced thanks to this three-year scholarship.

The funds have grown over the years under the stewardship of accounting firm HC Partners, however, spokesman Craig Copland said those involved had decided to transfer the funds to the Aoraki Foundation.

"The Foundation has the expertise and history, and it gives certainty and continuity going forward." Mr Copland said the Foundation had a higher profile, which could increase the chances of people adding to it, and ensure local high schools were aware of the scholarships.



**Stewart Young (St. Andrews Golf), Tom Wilson (Aorangi Golf), & Graham Cadigan (St. Andrews Golf)**

## St. Andrews Golf Fund

The former St. Andrews Golf Club has started its second named endowment fund with the Aoraki Foundation.

In 2020 they established a scholarship for the young people of St. Andrews with a gift of \$100,000. Having seen this be successfully managed and promoted, the committee have made the decision to gift the remaining proceeds from the sale of the course to the Aoraki Foundation.

The purpose of St. Andrews Golf Fund is to support the development of golf within the South Canterbury region. Initially it will focus on supporting the operational costs for the Futures Golf program run by Aorangi Golf in partnership with Golf NZ. Futures Golf is aimed at enriching the lives of young people by creating experiences that inspire a lifelong love of golf. Aorangi Golf Development Officer, Tom Wilson, has seen a 39% increase in junior members since starting the program in 2022. These young people are learning new skills while developing a love of being physically active.



# Recipients

## A big gift to the Community

Twelve charitable causes in South Canterbury received a wonderful surprise, all thanks to one kind local donor.

Back in 2017 the donor established two endowment funds with the Aoraki Foundation. The funds were to promote two causes that they were passionate about, health and heritage. Through these funds the donor has already donated in excess of \$10,000 to local charities and organisations.

Having had a successful business career, and as a life-long investor, the donor has always kept a keen eye on the financial markets. They are well aware of the uncertainty and volatility that lies ahead, as we navigate our way out of the Covid-19 recovery. It was this uncertainty that led them to the conclusion that charities need as much support as they can get right now. With this in mind, the donor approached the Aoraki Foundation with a plan to fully distribute the two funds to a selection of charities that were close to their heart.

**“It is not easy for charities. The cost of living has dramatically increased, placing considerably more strain on funding at a time where many of these services are needed most.” - Donor**



St. Patrick's Church, Burkes Pass

Appreciating the motivation behind this decision, the Aoraki Foundation were fully supportive of their request and worked with the donor to identify the charities that they would most like to support. In total more than \$366,000 was donated to 12 different charities. These charities are either based in South Canterbury, or the funds are to be spent on assets and services which benefit South Canterbury.

The task of informing these charities about this generous gift fell to Aoraki Foundation Chief Executive, Richard Spackman. As Richard explains, “Hearing the recipients’ reaction to these gifts was a genuine privilege - they were so appreciative and grateful. One recipient said I was just like Father Christmas! I really felt that the donor should be making these calls but he is so unassuming.”

Jane Batchelor, from the Burkes Pass Heritage Trust, was overwhelmed by the donor’s generosity. She said that the trustees intend to use the funds to update the interior of the historic St. Patrick’s Church.

A gift of this magnitude is an honour to be involved with, we feel so lucky that the donor chose the Aoraki Foundation to support their philanthropic ambitions. On behalf of the Aoraki Foundation, the charities, and the community in general I would like to say, “Thank you, you truly are a wonderful person”.

### Health Fund

St John South Canterbury • \$27,528.97  
Hospice South Canterbury • \$27,528.97  
Presbyterian Support SC • \$27,528.97  
Cancer Society of NZ • \$27,528.97  
Idea Services • \$27,528.97  
Stroke Foundation NZ • \$18,352.65  
SC Health Endowment Fund • \$27,528.97

### Heritage Fund

Anglican Church Property Trustees • \$36,509.79  
SC Museum Development Trust Board • \$82,147.03  
Timaru Civic Trust • \$27,382.34  
South Canterbury Historical Trust • \$27,382.34  
Burkes Pass Heritage Trust • \$9,127.45

The Aoraki Foundation is proud to have supported the following organisations and individuals through the generosity of our donors.



# Recipients

2022/23

## South Canterbury Health Fund

**Alzheimers South Canterbury**  
Towards staff salaries • \$8,500

**Life Education Trust**  
Towards Educator salaries • \$4,660.37

**Wandersearch Canterbury**  
To purchase new radio frequency devices and refurbish existing devices • \$2,714

**Cancer Society of NZ**  
Towards build, fit-out and ongoing operational expenses of 3 bedrooms in the South Canterbury wing of the new Canterbury Cancer Facility • \$30,000

**Ronald McDonald House - South Island**  
Towards costs associated with South Canterbury families staying at the Ronald McDonald facilities • \$3,500

**Graeme Dingle Foundation**  
Towards costs to run the Kiwi Can Programme in South Canterbury schools • \$3,500

**Geraldine Family & Youth Trust**  
Towards costs to run the Breakfast Club at Geraldine Primary School • \$1,154

**YMCA South & Mid Canterbury**  
Towards the cost of running the Resiliency Toolkit Programme in South Canterbury secondary schools • \$3,500

## Miller General Impact Fund

**Presbyterian Support**  
Towards running the Christmas Angel Project 2023 • \$10,000

**Fraser Park Community Trust**  
Towards the development of the multi-sport and events centre • \$5,000

**YMCA South & Mid Canterbury**  
Towards the cost to run the Raise Up Youth Development Programme • \$3,500

**Graeme Dingle Foundation**  
Towards running the Kiwi Can Programme in South Canterbury schools • \$6,000

**Fairlie Golf Club**  
Towards the installation of an accessibility toilet in the clubhouse • \$1,160.37

**Life Education Trust**  
Towards Educator salaries • \$5,339.63

## St. Andrews Youth Endowment Fund

**Isla Young**  
Towards tertiary studies • \$500

**Georgie Hawke**  
Towards tertiary studies • \$500

## Graeme Dingle Foundation



## Aoraki Women's Fund

**Project Period**  
Impact grant • \$2,000

**Plunket Perinatal Adjustment Programme**  
Impact grant • \$2,000

**Pinc & Steel**  
Impact grant • \$1,518

**Presbyterian Support**  
Impact grant • \$1,807

**South Canterbury Women's Refuge**  
Impact grant • \$2,675

## Cody Hunter Timaru Host Lions Fund

**Anonymous**  
Post-surgery costs associated with liver transplant • \$1,000

## Fraser Ross Environmental Fund

**Forest & Bird South Canterbury**  
Towards costs of undertaking a vegetation history study at Arowhenua Bush • \$6,000

**Total**  
**\$444,075.40**

Grants & Scholarships



Raewyn & David

# David & Raewyn's Story

## Alzheimers South Canterbury

When David was diagnosed with Early Onset Dementia we were living in Wellington. The specialist had asked to speak to me privately, and matter of factly told me that there was no cure and that I needed to make sure our affairs were in order. I was stunned and left his office feeling as if my world had just turned upside down and I was all alone.

I quickly found out that family and friends while empathetic did not want to hear about dementia as it made them feel uncomfortable and as to support, well, they wanted me to tell them what to do, but how could I do that, when I didn't know myself?

For around 18 months we muddled along. David left work and we moved to Timaru to be closer to our daughter. The first thing I did was make an appointment to see a new doctor and I am so thankful that I did. He offered to contact the Alzheimers Society on our behalf and arrange for someone to contact us.

**"When Rosie sat in my kitchen introducing herself and telling us how the Alzheimers Society could help and support us, I could have cried."**

- Raewyn

Here was someone who knew what our journey might look like. Rosie gave me information on what services

were available, and has made a point of ringing me on a regular basis to make sure as a carer I'm looking after myself - something I didn't know how to do because for so long it had always been about David and his illness.

I was encouraged to attend the carers group course the Alzheimers Society run, and for the first time got to meet other people going through similar journeys to mine. I listened to guest speakers who offered so much information that I'd never heard before.

When Rosie first met me, I'd just been diagnosed with depression and felt totally overwhelmed. Today thanks to the support I am receiving from the Alzheimers Society, I am well again and feel better able to cope with this horrible beast dementia that's forced its way into my life.

This journey is a marathon and I know there will be times I stumble but I don't feel that I'm alone anymore. Rosie in particular from Alzheimers South Canterbury has kept me sane and gives me so many tips and tricks on things that I can change or do to make living with dementia bearable. I can't thank her enough.

### **How the Aoraki Foundation helped:**

Alzheimers South Canterbury received a grant of \$8,500 from the South Canterbury Health Endowment Fund to support salaries of staff like Rosie.

# Life Education

## A giraffe with a mission

When Educator, Amy Pateman, told her 23 year old step daughter she was going to be working for Life Education, she exclaimed "Oh Harold, I loved Harold... does he still smell good?" Showing that Harold evokes long lasting memories of learning through all the senses.

Those memories are created by Specialist Educators that provide schools with unique lessons to meet their children's learning needs. Covering those challenging topics that our children and young people face today, including: relationships with food, substance use, mental health and well-being and bullying. These factors are key to The Life Education Trust's mission of inspiring tamariki and rangitahi to make positive choices.

**"It is great that children can recollect the key points from the lessons 3, 4 and 5 years on - as well as remembering Harold's famous jokes"**

**- Amy Pateman, Educator**

After two terms with Life Education, Amy is constantly amazed at the messaging the children recall from previous years. As well as remembering some of Harold's famous jokes. It's great that children can recollect the key points from the lessons 3, 4 and 5 years ago.

Amy believes it's a combination of factors that create these long-lasting memories. First being that the children are engaged the minute they walk in with the different space and the cool technology and of course the Giraffe that smells wonderful....Harold!

**"I love Harold - He's my best friend " - Student**



**The mobile Life Education classroom rolling into another school**

Life Education has been operating in Mid and South Canterbury for over 30 years and visits 8,000 children annually. They offer schools two lessons per class in their own mobile classroom. This is made possible by local trucking companies who move the classroom, sometimes daily, to help reach the smaller rural schools that might otherwise miss out due to distance.

Life Education are very grateful for the local support they receive, and for the awesome team they have behind them. Their Trust is made up of volunteers who govern and assist with grant applications, fundraising events and promotions. This small group of volunteers are very committed to ensuring Harold and his messages remain in our schools for many years to come.

### **How the Aoraki Foundation helped:**

Through the generosity of our donors, the South Canterbury Health Endowment Fund and Miller General Impact Fund provided Life Education with a grant of \$10,000 towards educator salaries.



“One day we hope we can be a Christmas Angel and help a family out.”

Christmas Angel recipient family

The team from Todd Mudie Group turn up to save Christmas as co-funders of the Christmas Angels Project

# Christmas Angels

## Presbyterian Support South Canterbury

Christmas is a special time of year particularly for children, but not all children in South Canterbury experience this the same. An increasing amount of families have been forgoing Christmas as financial pressures increase. Four years ago Presbyterian Support South Canterbury (PSSC) launched a project to change this and bring joy back to Christmas.

Christmas Angels is a community wide initiative where sponsors (individuals/families or businesses) are matched with a family in need. The sponsor a.k.a "angel" will purchase Christmas gifts for their allocated family and PSSC will deliver these on behalf of the angel.

Family referrals come in from Plunket, Multicultural Aoraki, Arowhenua Whanau Services, Refugee Settlement Service and Family Works. In the first year the project supported 53 families to brighten up their Christmas. This year that number is expected to grow to well over 200. This just shows the financial troubles many families are facing.

**"It only takes a few bills and Christmas is gone. It could come down to choices like your car's warrant of fitness or Christmas presents for your kids." - Carolyn Cooper, PSSC Chief Executive**

Christmas Angels Co-ordinator Jan Hide (who is also a former trustee of the Aoraki Foundation) feels fortunate to be involved with the project.

**"The efforts being made by families to improve their lives is so inspiring and the generosity of our sponsors is unbelievable" - Jan Hide**

Most important is the difference it makes to those in need. Waking up on Christmas morning with presents under the tree is not a given for all families. It may be only one day but these are days we remember so fondly as children.

**"It is the first time in five years we have had presents under our Xmas tree and we now look forward to Xmas day and seeing smiles and tears in our kids eyes" - Anonymous**

### How the Aoraki Foundation helped:

The Aoraki Foundation funded the operational costs of Christmas Angels in 2021 (\$10,000) & 2022 (\$9,000) from the Miller General Impact Fund. In 2023 we could only allocate \$4,000 to the project but found a partner in Todd Mudie Group who made up the \$6,000 shortfall. Thank you to Todd, Sheryl & all the team at TMG.

# Thank you letters



Thank you for Making  
our Christmas Special.

Thank you so  
much for your  
very generous  
gifts.

The girls saw me  
bring them inside  
and their eyes lit up  
asked where they came  
from and I said an  
angel.

Thanks again so much  
it means the world

Merry Christmas and  
a very safe and  
Happy New year.

Thank-you to our Christmas  
Angel, I was in tears when  
I looked through the gifts you  
gave my family. I can so  
thank full I can't find the words  
to express it. My kids will be  
over the moon. One day I  
hope we can be a Christmas  
Angel and help a family out.  
Thank-you from the bottom  
of our hearts

XOXO

Dear Christmas Angels

I just want to express my gratitude  
for your kindness and generosity.  
2022 has been a challenging year with  
ups and downs BUT Christmas (and the  
days leading up to it) I will always  
remember with positivity and happiness

This Christmas I felt very blessed and  
grateful. This is in a large part thank  
to you!

We haven't had a Christmas like this for  
many years. It was stress and worry  
free. I was actually very excited on  
Christmas Eve putting our Christmas  
presents underneath our tree. It was  
magical and I loved seeing the kids'  
surprised expressions in the early  
morning.

I cried on Christmas morning when the  
were opening their wonderful presents.  
I apologised to the kids for getting so  
emotional. But they told me it was okay  
as they knew they were "happy tears".

No words can fully express my gratitude.  
Thank you for your kindness and I  
hope this thank you will suffice.

Kindest regards,  
—

# Events

## Connecting with community

### Aoraki Women's Fund

The Aoraki Women's Fund had a busy year hosting their first major event since Covid-19 and what a great event it was. Billed as a re-launch of the fund, the premise of the evening was to get 100 women to donate \$100 each and for that full \$10,000 to be given out to causes helping women and girls.

As Aoraki Women's Fund committee chair Tam Johnson describes,

**"We are so grateful for the contribution of each person who played a part in making the night unforgettable. The event was not only enjoyable but also fruitful, as \$10,000 was distributed to five deserving causes in South Canterbury".**

The donations went to the Project Period, Postnatal Adjustment Programme, Family Works, Pinc & Steel and Women's Refuge. These charities are making a difference to the lives of women and girls, many of which are at a low point in their life. It is a constant struggle for charities to get funding so gifts like this make a real and meaningful impact as you can see from this response below:

**"Oh my goodness this is absolutely amazing! What a successful brilliant night full of inspiring wahine doing amazing mahi in our community. Again thank you so much from the bottom of our hearts with so much aroha" - Alana, Women's Refuge**

The event was a wonderful way to make an immediate difference in the community. However, the main aim of the Aoraki Women's Fund is to establish a permanent fund, an endowment fund, to support local causes forever. The committee has been working towards this goal for two years and have already raised over \$20,000 through regular monthly donations from a small group of dedicated women, many of whom serve on the committee.

The success of the event and the generosity of the attendees and donors has made it clear that the Aoraki Women's Fund is a cause that resonates with the community.

### Celebrate South Canterbury

Celebrate South Canterbury is a new event for us and we are aiming to grow this into a larger event for South Canterbury to come together to celebrate philanthropy, volunteering, charities and community groups.

Held at the beautiful Aigantighe Art Gallery, Celebrate South Canterbury was a chance for our donors to hear first hand stories of the impact their gifts make in the community. Four charities spoke on the day about the challenges they face in the community and the importance of financial support to meet these challenges.

A special announcement was made on the day that the Fraser Ross Environmental Fund was making its first grant to support further studies at Arowhenua Bush just outside of Temuka.



**Ashley Shewan**  
Celebrate South Canterbury

"Imagine a world where women and girls can reach their biggest, most ambitious dreams."

Jenny Carter-Bolitho, Aoraki Women's Fund

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# Aoraki MRI Charitable Trust

## Ten years on and going strong

A very significant birthday happened on the 15th of March. The South Canterbury MRI Scanner turned ten years old. In these last ten years more than 35,000 MRI scans have been performed at Timaru Hospital. It is incredible to think that prior to the installation of the scanner, patients had to travel to Christchurch to get an MRI. As Nathan Taylor, Radiology Manager at Te Whatu Ora explains,

**“The benefits of a local MRI Scanner have been massive for South Canterbury and cannot be understated. Prior to 2013, patients had to travel to Christchurch by private vehicle or ambulance. This could be a whole day away for the patient and often a support person”.**

### Fundraising

The work on the fundraising appeal started almost two years prior to the opening of the scanner, and was a joint initiative between the South Canterbury District Health Board and the Aoraki Foundation. The committee was led by Ron Luxton and included Chris Fleming, Gavin Wilton, Steve Earnshaw, Ian O’Loughlin, Anne Dickens, Ian Smith, Peter Burton, Lorna Inch and fundraising project manager Stacey Scott.

As Ron says, “It was a very busy time. We started the campaign with \$1 million thanks to large donations from the Health South Canterbury Charitable Trust (\$100k), Alpine Energy (\$150k), AD Hally Trust (\$250k) , and St Vianneys (\$500k). I will always remember how, the day after we launched, I got a phone call to say an individual wanted to donate. Now, this was an individual, not an organisation. This person wanted to donate one hundred thousand dollars. That was simply astounding. We only gained momentum from there”.

Outside of the initial fundraising committee there were many other individuals that made a significant contribution, Nigel Davenport and Ken McKenzie from the Aoraki Foundation were heavily involved. As was Dale Walden from the St Vianneys Trust. In fact, these three supporters, and Ron, would become the initial Trustees of the Aoraki MRI Charitable Trust. Service clubs such as the local Lions and Rotary made major contributions along with funders Trust Aoraki and the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury. Like any project of this scale it needed the whole community to get behind the idea and South Canterbury sure did that. Within 18 months they had raised \$3.1 million which exceeded the cost of getting the MRI Scanner operational.

“The upgrade has significantly improved the image quality while reducing the time to perform a MRI scan. Ten years ago having the MRI available in South Canterbury was a huge achievement, this upgrade has ensured the future for another ten, with world-class technology”.



Nathan Taylor, Radiology Manager

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## 2022/23 Highlights

### MRI Scanner

**\$1.66M**

in funds available  
after the upgrade

**\$994k**

upgrade of  
the MRI scanner

**36,433**

MRI examinations  
since installation

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### Upgrade

The Aoraki MRI Charitable Trust wisely chose to lease the MRI Scanner to the South Canterbury District Health Board based on a recommended ten year life expectancy. These lease payments would enable the Trust to fully replace the scanner at the end of its useful life. As trustee Nigel Davenport explains, “One of the best decisions made by the board was to use a model that ensured South Canterbury had ownership of our MRI, not the national health system”

As the ten year lease period approached its expiry, the Trustees sought an assessment on the existing MRI. While the existing scanner was performing well, the Trustees

also wanted to consider the future needs of our community and a desire to future proof as much as possible. Based on consultation with the SCDHB Radiology team and the supplier General Electric, it was agreed to upgrade rather than fully replace the scanner. The upgrade would provide better imaging quality, technology improvements, reduction in patient examination times, and the continuation of a comprehensive preventative maintenance agreement. While the upgrade came at a hefty cost of close to one million dollars, it saves more than that again by avoiding a full replacement along with a significantly shorter downtime.



# Ascend Aoraki

## Three new Ambassadors

The Aoraki Foundation awarded three former trustees the status of Ambassador at a gala event at the end of 2022. Lesley Roy, Ken McKenzie, and Ron Luxton were recognised for their service to the Aoraki Foundation at the event entitled Ascend Aoraki. Current trustee and Chairperson Greg Anderson explained,

**"An Ambassador of the Aoraki Foundation is not only someone who has given their time to building our community foundation, but they exhibit our beliefs in their day to day lives and continue to support the Foundation through advocacy and promotion."**

Lesley Roy was a trustee for six years, five of which were as Chairperson. She was the Mackenzie District Representative and oversaw a strong period of growth at the Foundation. Lesley is still heavily involved with the Aoraki Foundation especially the Aoraki Women's Fund, a fund for women, by women.

Ken Mackenzie was one of the original five trustees. Ken was instrumental in the early days with funding projects like C-Bay and endowments like the Miller General Impact Fund. Ken continues to provide pro bono legal advice to the Foundation and has a huge amount of knowledge on philanthropy and bequests.

Ron Luxton also served six years on the Aoraki Foundation board. Ron played a pivotal role in the establishment of the South Canterbury Health Endowment Fund and the MRI Scanner fundraising campaign. Ron remains a trustee of the Aoraki MRI Charitable Trust.

All three ambassadors spoke fondly of their time as trustees and stressed how important it is that the community supports the Aoraki Foundation to continue to grow new funds.

Ascend Aoraki was also the first opportunity for Chief Executive, Richard Spackman to publicly outline the aspirational goal the Aoraki Foundation has set. This is to distribute \$1 million per year in funding by the year 2030. This goal is as lofty as the mountain we are named after, but we owe it to those that have come before us to be brave, we owe it to our community to be ambitious, and we owe it to ourselves to be resolute. Achieving this goal will not be easy and we will not do this alone. In order to support the community for the foreseeable future we first will need assistance ourselves. We are confident that support will come, in Richard's words,

**"South Canterbury is a wonderful place full of generous and charitable people that give where they live."**

"One of the most wonderful elements about the Aoraki Foundation is that it enables us to give to the future."

Lesley Roy, Aoraki Foundation Ambassador

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# Thank You

We are so very grateful

## Endowment Donors

**90th Jubilee Scholarship Trust**  
Mountainview School Scholarship  
Endowment Fund

**Anonymous Donors**  
Swimming Fund

**Aoraki Water Trust**  
Aoraki Water Endowment Fund

**Ashley Shewan**  
Ashley Shewan Health Endowment Fund  
A.J. Shewan Endowment Fund (Heritage)

**Eric & Queenie Miller**  
Miller General Impact Fund

**Fraser Ross**  
Fraser Ross Environmental Fund

**HC Trustees 2010 (HC Partners)**  
Hubbard Churcher Scholarship Fund

**The Health South Canterbury Charitable Trust**  
SC Nursing Education Endowment Fund

**Leigh Lawless**  
Aoraki Kids Endowment Fund

**Mackenzie Area Community Services Charitable Trust**  
Mackenzie Charitable Fund

**Richard & Sharon Spackman**  
Financial Literacy Fund

**St. Andrews Golf Club**  
St. Andrews Youth Endowment Fund  
St. Andrews Golf Fund

**South Canterbury District Health Board**  
South Canterbury Health Endowment  
Fund

**South Canterbury Multiple Sclerosis Society**  
South Canterbury Multiple Sclerosis  
Endowment Fund

## Endowment Donors

**Stacey Scott**  
Scott Family Endowment

**Timaru Host Lions**  
Cody Hunter Timaru Host Lions Fund

**Timaru-Temuka Methodist Parish Charitable Trust**  
Timaru-Temuka Methodist Parish Fund

**Various Donors**  
Aoraki Foundation Women's Fund

## Friends of the Foundation

Centsable

Fluid Design

Ginny Bolderstone

Goru

Lesley & Malcolm Roy

Robyn & David Hewson

RA & JM Luxton

Scott & Associates

Todd Mudie Group

And all our generous  
anonymous donors

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“We love that by supporting the Aoraki Foundation it will help a multitude of charities now and forever.”

Logan Hanifin, Oceania Dairy



## Partners

Supporting our community

### Strategic Partner



### Community Partners



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IMPACT REPORT 2023



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