

our scholarships

WHAT A PRIVILEGE FOR ADVANCE ASHBURTON

In October last year, it was a privilege to award the first Jan Early Memorial Scholarship to Lorna Humm of Mt Somers.

This very generous scholarship, worth \$10,000, was donated by Jan's family, specifically to encourage local women to further their leadership and governance development. Jan, who sadly died in 2023, was a passionate supporter of Advance Ashburton and was a valued member of the Communications Committee. She had had multiple leadership and governance roles within the community and with respected business entities.

Lorna, a senior veterinarian, as well as an active farmer in her own right, was one of 20 applicants for the scholarship. She excelled at interview. Her answers to questions from two separate panels of interviewers were thoughtful, considered and concise. She showed a depth of understanding of the role and responsibilities of governance and leadership.

Current positions held by Lorna include chair of Provelco and the West Coast Branch of the NZ Deer Farmers Association. Both show her commitment to governance and leadership. Her long-term aspirations are to make a meaningful contribution to primary industry in New Zealand, as well as participating in local community activities and organisations. Since receiving the award Lorna has been



Lorna Humm

appointed to the Mt Somers Springburn School Board of Trustees.

Lorna plans to use the award to undertake Institute of Directors' courses relevant to governance. Advance Ashburton believes

that Lorna will, in her own special way, and with the wonderful encouragement of the Early family, be an asset to our community going forward.

We wish her well in future leadership roles. ✦

Save the Date

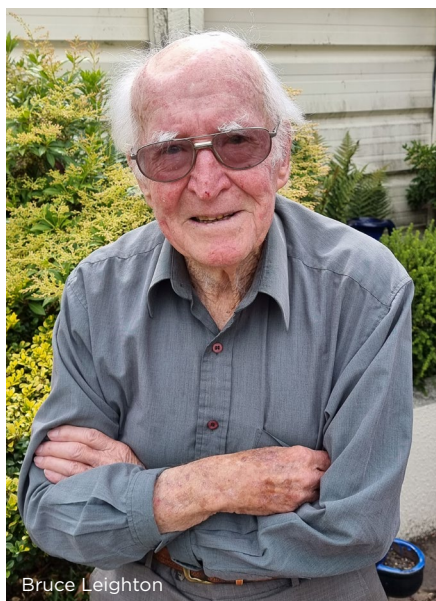
The Advance Ashburton Annual Celebration of Philanthropy will be held at 5.30pm on Wednesday 16th October at the Ashburton Event Centre.

We are delighted to announce that our keynote speaker will be former Mid Cantabrian, Andrew Hampton, Director-General of Security, New Zealand Security Intelligence Service. Andrew grew up on a farm south of Ashburton and attended Ashburton College before moving on to Canterbury University. He still has strong family and friendship ties to the district.



Andrew Hampton

our donors



WELCOME TO OUR DONOR FAMILY

Bruce Leighton was offered a job as an accountant in Ashburton in 1958. This was supposed to be a temporary stay as he and his wife, Mary, planned to move their family to the warmer climate of Auckland.

“Mary and I had been living in Dunedin with our first 2 children. One winter’s day, I was helping Mary hang out the nappies. No sooner had we hung the last nappy out, the first was frozen stiff as a board,” recalls Bruce. “I took the job in Ashburton as a first step on the way to Auckland, but we never left.”

The welcoming Ashburton community and opportunities the town provided for their

family were embraced by Bruce and Mary. Mary enjoyed gardening and loved to walk through the domain. Bruce took up golf, a hobby he continues to this day, playing nine holes most weeks. Their children – Diane, Jeff, Ian, and Deb, had a wonderful education at Allenton School, Ashburton Intermediate and Ashburton College before going on to tertiary education and professional careers.

Sadly, Mary passed away in 2018 and is dearly missed by the Leighton family. However, Bruce is thankful for the wonderful life that they have had in Ashburton, for the friendships and the memories they have made here.

Bruce’s donation to the Advance Ashburton Child & Youth Fund is in recognition of all that Ashburton has given to Bruce and his family, a way for him to give back to the community they have all loved. +

our community



LEFT Lead Coach, Lucan Taylor-Culshaw, in action with a class at the Mid Canterbury Boxing Academy

CHAMPIONING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE

A recent donation of \$30,000 to the Mid Canterbury Boxing Academy will ensure they can continue their great work developing champion people in our community.

The Academy, under the banner of the Mid Canterbury Youth Charitable Trust in Tinwald, has been aligned with the principles of the Billy Graham Youth Foundation since 2016.

The programme targets at-risk youth by teaching the skills of boxing and developing fitness.

At the forefront of the boxing classes are the eight core values: respect, responsibility, compassion, consideration, kindness, duty, obedience and honesty/truthfulness. The young people are guided by positive role models who motivate each of them to personal excellence.

And you don’t need to look any further than the new lead coach, Lucan Taylor-Culshaw, to see the difference the Academy is making. Lucan is a graduate of the Academy, a nationally ranked boxer and worked alongside former head coach, Cornelius Grobler, before taking over at the start of 2024.

Advance Ashburton has supported the Academy from the beginning and this latest donation was made possible through the generosity of longtime donors to the Foundation, Bob and Alan Johnston. We look forward to hearing about the future success of the young people from the Mid Canterbury Boxing Academy, both in and out of the ring. +

our team



We welcome Matt Marshall to the Foundation’s Audit and Risk Committee. Matt is a lawyer at local law firm, RMF Silva. He grew up on a farm in Wakanui and attended Wakanui Primary School, Ashburton College, and the University of Otago. Matt is actively involved in the community, including as a trustee of the Ashburton Housing and Support Trust which provides affordable accommodation for seniors with limited financial means, and on the sports field including being an experienced hockey referee. Most importantly, Matt is a proud family man and enjoys spending time with his partner and their son.

We thank Tim Silva, as he steps down as a member of the Audit and Risk Committee, for his service to the Foundation. +

families

CHILD & YOUTH FUND

To celebrate the 20th anniversary of Advance Ashburton in 2023, we launched a new community fund to support local causes related to children and young people up to 18 years of age.

Since the launch, this Fund has been growing steadily thanks to a number of significant donations and several new payroll givers.

We acknowledge the generosity of the founding donor, Ashburton Farmers Market Committee, who gave the initial donation of \$6,000 to start this Fund. We also extend our gratitude to new Advance Ashburton donor, Bruce Leighton, who is the first Platinum Donor to the Child & Youth Fund. Then, prior to Christmas, Advance Ashburton Trustees, committee

members, Friends of the Foundation and staff added a further \$1,060 to the Fund through our Christmas Giving programme.

We welcome donations to the Advance Ashburton Child & Youth Fund at any time, and one of the simplest ways to make your donation is through Payroll Giving.

Because the Foundation has approved donee status with the IRD, employees can make regular donations direct from their wages/salary. If you visit the IRD website and search Payroll Giving, you will find the process very simple. The Foundation receives immediate and regular funds, and the donor receives immediate tax credits in the form of reduced PAYE, so there is no waiting until the end of the financial year to hand in receipts.

For example, a weekly donation of \$6.00 costs the employee only \$4.00 because the tax rebate of 33.3% is immediately credited against the tax to be deducted each week. Over a five-year period, 15 people donating \$6.00 per week will result in \$23,400 being donated to the Advance Ashburton Child



& Youth Fund, and tax rebates for the employees totalling \$7,800.

Advance Ashburton is also able to receive one-off donations of any size, or regular automatic payments to the Advance Ashburton Child & Youth Fund. Payments can be made to the Advance Ashburton account: 02-0836-0071001-002. Please include your name and contact details (e.g. phone number or email address) and use 'Child&Youth' as the payment reference. Then, we will be able to issue a receipt so that you can claim a tax credit of 33.3% of your donation. +

our community

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FACILITY UPGRADE COMPLETE

An official blessing in November 2023 celebrated the completion of the newly refurbished Child, Adolescent and Family (CAF) mental health facility based at Ashburton Hospital.

Previously used for temporary accommodation for hospital staff, the facility was upgraded in a three-stage renovation beginning in 2020. Advance Ashburton granted \$164,000 to finance the project thanks to the generosity provided by the R.G. and H.A. Sinclair Fund and the Lynda Frampton Fund.

The project was completed in three parts so the facility could stay open throughout, despite the structural renovations required. The new space includes whānau rooms, offices, an extended kitchen and lounge area, and upgraded bathrooms, all with fresh décor and furnishings.

Overall, the facility is warm, welcoming, and empathetic to the needs of the young people



and their whānau whilst they are supported by the specialist mental health team in Ashburton. The therapy spaces contain a variety of sensory items including weighted animals and Lego, as well as artwork chosen with children and adolescents in mind. A further donation towards artwork and a painting was generously gifted by Advance Ashburton donor, Kay Begg, in memory of her son, Martin.

Having the CAF mental health facility in Ashburton means that it can directly liaise with other local health providers, and child and adolescent services. It also makes it easier for Ashburton families to access the mental health service by removing the burden of travelling to Christchurch for care and support. +

ABOVE CAF Blessing. From left: Clinical Lead - Helen Mountford, General Manager Rural Health - Bernie Marra, Advance Ashburton Trustee - Elizabeth Ashford, Advance Ashburton Chair - Mary Ross, and former Advance Ashburton Trustee - Gary Fail

BELOW CAF therapy space



our scholarships

ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The 2024 Scholarship Presentation Ceremony was held at the Ashburton Event Centre on 30th January. Scholarships with a combined value of \$103,000 were presented to 30 recipients from Mid Canterbury for study, training, and personal development.

The scholarships are highly sought after and the calibre of recipients in 2024 was excellent. The recipients were selected from 102 people following a rigorous process which included a written application, a personal interview with Advance Ashburton Trustees and relevant industry leaders, and referee endorsements. Aside from continued excellence in their studies or training, recipients also demonstrated a willingness

to give back to their community through coaching, leadership, or volunteer work.

The premier scholarship of the evening, the Neil Sinclair Memorial Scholarship, was presented to Bachelor of Science Honours student, Jonty Small. Jonty impressed the interview panel as an intelligent and driven person who has the potential to be an outstanding doctor in the future.

The late Neil Sinclair was passionate about supporting the Ashburton community and established the Advance Ashburton Community Foundation in 2003. Jeanette Sinclair, Neil's wife, was pleased to award the scholarship to Jonty as a very worthy recipient. +

NEW SCHOLARSHIP

Kate Syme established a named fund with Advance Ashburton in 2022 to provide scholarships for ex-pupils of Ashburton College to pursue tertiary study, with a focus to support youth of Māori or Pasifika descent. The first recipient of the Kate Syme Scholarship is Sifala Sigaga.

Sifala had the opportunity to attend a Rotary Leadership Camp at Boyle River during her Year 10 year at Ashburton College and from this moment, she was focused on securing a better future for herself. This determination and strong work ethic paid off in 2023 when she secured one of the most prestigious leadership roles in the school – the student representative on the Board of Trustees, an elected position decided by the entire student body. Sifala was also the top student in History in both Year 12 and Year 13.



Sifala Sigaga and Kate Syme

Sifala is studying towards a Bachelor of Laws and a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Canterbury this year. At this stage, Sifala is interested in pursuing Commercial Law, but she would also like to use her knowledge of the law to empower the people of the Pasifika community.

In addition to gaining this scholarship, Sifala has also been awarded a studentship with local law firm Argyle Welsh Finnigan Ltd. +

DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

As you know, Advance Ashburton prides itself on running a 'lean and mean' operation. We are committed to making our donor dollars go further to support causes in our community, and if we can make savings within administration we will.

The cost of producing, printing, and posting our newsletter has increased significantly over the past two years and whilst we hand deliver a significant number of these newsletters, we can make a significant saving by sending the newsletter via email where possible.

If you are receiving this newsletter via your postal mailbox and you have an email address, please let us know. Aimee would welcome your call at 307 5902 or send an email to office@advanceashburton.org.nz. For donors who would like to continue receiving a hard copy of the newsletter we will print this in-house and deliver it to you.



Jonty Small and Jeanette Sinclair

2024 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

Smyth Scholarship

Tia McCallum and Brenda Kingsford

Parsons Family Scholarship

Isla Miers and Chloe Small

Ian Glassey Memorial Scholarship

Samantha Fitzgerald and Emma-Louise Stagg

Kate Syme Scholarship

Sifala Sigaga

Colin & Alison Crampton

Music Scholarship

Molly Harrison and Simone Forster Lobato de Faria

Johnston Brothers Health

Science Scholarship

Kate Flanagan and Elise Heffernan

Dennis & Barbara Taylor Nursing

Scholarship

Megan Harrison and Grace Richan

Cameron Family Scholarship

Leah Berquist

Glass Family Scholarship

Nikkita Harmer

Tinwald Club Scholarship

Jack Bull

Rotary Club of Ashburton

Plains Scholarship

Ella Smyth

Ashburton Jaycees Personal

Development Scholarship

Emma Simonsen

Ashburton Jaycees Personal

Development Scholarship

Isobel Brook and Kyla Clement

Ashburton Jaycees Training Scholarship

Charlotte Mulder

Ashburton Jaycees Industry

Training Scholarship

Hamish Kerr, Oliver Davidson, Jack Gibbons, Sophie Smith and Jacob Swan

Ashburton UFS Health

Science Scholarship

Ella McSweeney, Shania Stempa and Millicent O'Connor

Frank Crampton Agricultural

Scholarship

Jonty King

Neil Sinclair Memorial Scholarship

Jonty Small