

our donors



LEFT Alan and Bob on their family farm
ABOVE Bob and Alan funded the purchase of a mannequin baby for our hospital

‘We put it to others – “Why don’t you do something to see your money working while you are still here?” We have found it very fulfilling to give in this way.’

stories of how it is needed today,” says Bob. “We are happy to give to that, when you hear about and can see the real need.”

Bob adds, “It was put to us early that not only could we leave a bequest but also do something in our lifetimes. And we get real pleasure from seeing what our money is achieving today, so we put it to others – ‘Why don’t you do something to see your money working while you are still here?’ We have found it very fulfilling to give in this way”.

“Our old Dad used to say, ‘If you are in a position to help, you should’. That’s how we’ve always felt about this. The Foundation is so well organised and has always brought in the right people to look after the money, it’s a great organisation and we are happy to be a part of it.” +

A FULFILLING WAY TO GIVE

Brothers Bob and Alan Johnston grew up on their family farm in Carew. After running a sheep farming business, they eventually sold the farm for conversion to dairy around 2008, and they went into semi-retirement.

The brothers remain living on the farm and today, even in their 70’s, still help out at the busy times of the year. “We still get called on to shift cows from time to time,” says Alan.

Upon the sale of their farm, Bob and Alan found themselves in a new financial position with some discretionary income and, around this time, Advance Ashburton Community Foundation was in its early years.

They really liked the concept of a Community Foundation, where their gifts would be invested, grown, and given back to their community forever.

The brothers decided to give in three ways through Advance Ashburton: providing

scholarships for promising young medical students, direct funding to current community needs and, eventually, through gifts in their wills.

They have established a scholarship fund which pays income every year to medical students from the district. “We started with one scholarship per year and now there are six, each paying around \$3,000 a year. The great thing about it is that we know a lot of these families and it’s wonderful to see how it’s helping young people with big aspirations,” says Bob.

The recipients are very grateful, and the brothers enjoy hearing from them as they progress through their studies.

The brothers also get involved in other community initiatives, such as funding training equipment for Ashburton Hospital and other immediate needs such as Kai for Kids. Bob and Alan are appreciative of guidance Advance Ashburton brings, helping them make informed giving decisions. “We thought food for kids wouldn’t be needed in Ashburton, but we are all hearing real

Listen to Bob and Alan speak in a podcast prepared for the Farmer’s Weekly *What is your Rural Legacy* series.

www.advanceashburton.org.nz/latest-news.html

community

SUPPORTING PROJECTS THAT KEEP OUR COMMUNITY HEALTHY ... AND ARE FUN TOO!

A grant of \$10,410 from Advance Ashburton has been given to Mountain Bike Ashburton Inc. (MBA) to further develop the Skills Park on Dobson Street (Stage 3), and in particular the pump track.

MBA are planning on asphaltting the pump track, building some progressive drops, constructing a shelter, erecting more fencing, and planting more native plants. MBA believes this will make the track not only more user friendly and



Ashburton Skills Park

enjoyable, but also safer and requiring lower maintenance.

Foundation Chair, Mary Ross said, "It was great to be able to support a project that has developed from small beginnings to a highly popular destination for young and old."

James Reid, President of MBA, studied tracks in Wellington, Wanaka,

Queenstown, Christchurch, and Dunedin to research pump track designs. He hopes the work will be completed for the summer of 2021.

Mountain Bike Ashburton also manage the Ashburton MTB loop, and River Walkway which are free to use but they welcome membership to help fund their work on the tracks. +

health

STUDENTS EXPERIENCE REAL MEDICINE IN ASHBURTON

Four students from Otago School of Medicine have spent their fifth year of study in Ashburton.

As part of the Rural Medical Immersion Programme (RMIP), funded by Advance Ashburton and the Mackenzie Charitable Foundation, the medical students have spent half their clinical time in the hospital and half in general practice.

The young doctors are treated as full members of the hospital or practice and are involved in many of the clinical and administrative activities while under close supervision. They also spend time with other community health providers and visiting specialists.

Their director, Dr Branko Sijnja, visited recently to assess the students, describing the scheme "an apprenticeship" that makes them more competent and confident. "Without doubt they are streets ahead managing patients and, at the end of this year, they will slot into medical situations very easily."



The four medical students at work on Jimmy, the mannequin, at Ashburton Hospital (from left): Ratvi Soni, Isobel Clarke, Hamish Liddy, and Annliese Wheeler (Photo: The Guardian)

Student Hamish Liddy recalls ward rounds at Dunedin Hospital where medical students stood in the back row "holding the folder and pulling the curtain." "Here, we're an extra pair of hands," he said.

"At Ashburton Hospital, we join a medical team assessing patients, working with the team, being part of the patient's journey and contributing to decisions such as whether they be admitted, referred or discharged," says student Ratvi Soni. Annliese Wheeler has worked in the Rakaia and Methven Medical Centres alongside GPs, assessing patients, examining them, and discussing those assessments with the doctor. "You get to become part of the team

and it's easier to learn," she says.

While the focus of RMIP is to give the students practical experience ahead of their final year in 2022, it also gives them a taste of being a rural GP. Dr Lander, the local co-ordinator, says, "Mid-Canterbury needs rural doctors." The course is a way of understanding what's required in rural areas. "It's where medicine really happens – and you become part of a community," says Dr Sijnja.

The RMIP operates under the umbrella of the Rural Health Academic Centre, Ashburton, which is also funded by Advance Ashburton and the Mackenzie Charitable Foundation. +

education

HELPING OUR COMMUNITY FROM AN EARLY AGE – THE ASHBURTON TOY LIBRARY

The Ashburton Toy Library has received a grant of over \$2000 to assist them with the purchase of more educational-based toys.

These toys are designed to facilitate learning within a family environment, as well as at school. The new toys will focus on developing early maths, communication, and social skills, and creative thinking. Ashburton Toy Library encourages primary schools to join the toy library to access toys for individual student

needs under the guidance of learning support teachers.

President of the Ashburton Toy Library, Anthea Moore, said, “Because schools have limited funding, it is sometimes difficult to provide for specific learning requirements - which is why we want to grow our range of educational toys that facilitate learning through play.”

The Ashburton Toy Library is a non-profit organisation which was started in 1994. It is run by a volunteer committee and has approximately 1000 toys available for hire to Mid Canterbury families with pre-school and primary school age children. Toys are hired for a two-week period, giving members the opportunity to try a wide variety of new toys, at an affordable rate. They are used by multiple families over many years, making this a very sustainable model of use.



Learning while having fun at the Ashburton Toy Library

Everyone who becomes a full member or casual member of the Toy Library can hire new, quality, interesting and educational toys for their children or grandchildren. Great for everyone! +

youth

The Youth Institute of Ashburton backs two well-known and long-standing programmes, CACTUS and Kickstart Leadership, which Advance Ashburton has supported recently with a \$10,000 grant.

For 13 years, the CACTUS programme has provided after-school opportunities to the youth of Ashburton and, more recently, Methven. In that time, over 650 young people have been through the programme. It is open to all young people in the Ashburton District between the ages of 10 and 14, with referrals coming primarily from schools and parents.

The programme, which is Duke of Edinburgh certified, provides the opportunity for young people to get active, build confidence, make new friends, and have fun. In the process, they develop a range of skills including self-discipline, goal setting, interpersonal skills and teamwork. Activities include tramps, target shooting, archery, first aid training, visits to the fire and police stations, as well as a visit to Base, a local youth venue. At the end of each course, there is a weekend camp.



ABOVE CACTUS adventures
BELOW Kickstart Leadership Programme

The outcomes of the programme have been very positive for the young people and include improved behaviour and a sense of well-being, greater involvement in the community and increased empathy for others. This has a cumulative effect in the home, school, and community environments.

The second programme covered by the Advance Ashburton grant is the annual Kickstart Leadership course for Year 8 students. This 5-day programme is designed to equip our future leaders with the skills they need to succeed, including public speaking, team building, and decision making. Course leader, Ray King, uses the knowledge and expertise of local people with well-honed leadership skills to inspire the next generation. +



our team

NEW EXECUTIVE OFFICER

We are delighted to introduce our new Executive Officer, Victoria Johnson.

Living and working in the district for the last 18 years has given Victoria a real appreciation of community. "Community is paramount to the success of any provincial town in New Zealand," she says.

After completing a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in management, at Canterbury University, Victoria worked in management and financial roles in the UK and Christchurch. After moving to Mid

Canterbury, she was a relief teacher at Mt Hutt College before joining her husband Ben on their Mayfield farm.

Victoria is passionate about Mid Canterbury and what it has to offer. She was delighted to be appointed as EO for the Foundation and appreciates the opportunity to give back to the district.

"I am so impressed with the amazing contribution Advance Ashburton has made to our district since it was founded in 2003.

"The Foundation is also a low-cost operation, so donations are not eroded by unnecessary fees and costs. As donations are invested and the income used for worthy causes, the Foundation will be able to help Mid Cantabrians forever. Your generosity will stay local, go further and last forever! It is a brilliant concept," she says.



Victoria is looking forward to meeting the donors, existing and new, who want to make our district even better, and learning more about the unmet needs in our community.

If you would like to know more about the Foundation, please ring Victoria on 021 395 406 or 307 5902. +



Sir Ian Taylor

ANNUAL CELEBRATION

Please join us for our annual celebration on September 23, at the Event Centre.

Hear about the work of the Foundation over the past year and meet speakers including Sir Ian Taylor, founder of the internationally known animation company responsible for award-winning graphics for the America's Cup, F1, cricket and much more. Named Innovator of the Year 2019 and Visionary Leader of the Year 2020, he was knighted in 2021 for services to broadcasting, business and the community.

But it hasn't always been plain sailing. Sir Ian will talk to us about how innovation can happen in communities like ours.

Please RSVP to Victoria Johnson, Executive Officer, by 20 September 2021. Phone 021 395 406, 307 5902 or email info@advanceashburton.org.nz

Due to COVID-19 we have postponed the celebration until further notice

WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Do you want to give back to your community? Are there charities and causes that are especially important to you? Through Advance Ashburton you can support causes that are close to home, and close to your heart.

Advance Ashburton is driven by local generosity and the wishes of the donors to create a better future for our district. All donations are invested, and the income earned supports the local causes you care about, year on year.

If you are interested in looking at ways you can make a difference in Mid-Canterbury, please contact us on 03 307 5902, 021 395 406 or email info@advanceashburton.org.nz

GIVE NOW

Donate today to see the impact your generosity will create and benefit from a tax credit of up to 33% of the amount of your donation (for donations \$5 or more).

GIVE LATER

Through your will you can leave a gift to the Foundation, leaving a lasting legacy to the community you care about.

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN

Big or small, it's about economies of scale and through the Foundation every dollar makes a difference.

GIVE YOUR WAY

It's up to you whether it's a one-off donation, a regular direct credit, part of a workplace giving model, a giving circle, or a bequest in your will.