



OUR HEROES

Making a splash



Instructor Harrison Doak teaching in the successful learn to swim programme.

Support Mid Canterbury's community advisor calls it huge - and it certainly is. She's Alice Breading, who is referring to the seriously generous \$81,127 grant from the Braided Rivers Community Trust in Partnership with the Lion Foundation to fund the Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust - Mid Canterbury learn to swim programme.

The programme is for Mid Canterbury primary school children from five to 12 years, with Breading knowing just what it means to have such funding support.

"It is really huge," Breading said.

"Obviously it affects a huge number of kids, which is amazing." Breading said funding removed the cost barrier that may have been an obstacle for some families.

"They all get an equal opportunity to have lessons, to practice their skills and build their confidence in the water," Breading said.

The programme means all primary school students in Mid Canterbury have access to 10 lessons per year during school time at the EA Networks Centre pool.

Though the focus was on learning to swim, Breading said it also provided water safety knowledge and skills.

"It's about feeling confident in the water, having that background knowledge if you're on the lake or if you're in a boat and knowing you should have a life jacket on," she said.

"Those are things they're also going to take home and even help teach and pass on to their own their families."

Food funding relief

Food Rescue Aoraki's boss can't thank funders enough for a \$20,000 grant that allows them to continue to help those in need.

She's Helen McKeown, the manager of the recently created Food Rescue Aoraki, which is indebted to Braided Rivers Community Trust in Partnership with the Lion Foundation for a \$20,000 funding grant.

The grant was awarded to the Ashburton Safer Community Council to administer on behalf of Food Rescue Aoraki.

"We have a very wide reach in the community," said McKeown, who is based in Timaru.

"By funding us, it allows us to continue the work that we do."

"On our current figures, there's about 800 kilogrammes of food going out into the Ashburton community every week."

"So that shows how important this funding is."

Ashburton foodbanks are the recipients of the rescued food, which is collected twice weekly from local supermarkets through volunteer and part-time staff.

They rescue food from supermarkets, which would otherwise be dumped, and then distribute it to groups and individuals in need.

"If we don't have that funding money, we can't provide the service because the money helps pay for our overheads."

The grant is another important win for Food Rescue Aoraki, which emerged out of Foodbank Canterbury.

The food charity's future was uncertain after the overarching Foodbank Aotearoa national body announced it would stop operating just before Christmas.

"That's why this funding is huge," McKeown said.

"And whatever food is picked up in Ashburton, gets delivered into Ashburton."



Food Rescue Aoraki's Helen McKeown.

Braided Rivers Community Trust - February 2024

Quick Response Grants

Neville Bendsdorp	\$750
Craig Osborne	\$1,250

Annual Grants

The CanInspire Charitable Trust.....	\$1,250
Ashburton Bridge Club Inc.....	\$1,000
Ashburton Seniors Citizens	\$2,000
Lions Club of Ashburton	\$500
Mid Canterbury Netball	\$3,000

Braided Rivers Community Trust - March 2024

Quick Response Grants

Ashburton Fanciers Society	\$1,100
Ashburton Bird Club.....	\$500

We give the money - however the recipients are the heroes who make the magic happen with the funds.

Braided Rivers Community Trust and the Lion Foundation are committed to assisting local individuals, teams and groups with monetary donations that will enable them to thrive, grow and help others in our community.

We are regularly overwhelmed with stories of how the funds are used to ensure people achieve their vision and we plan to regularly tell their stories of success.

Braided Rivers Community Trust in partnership with the Lion Foundation

Lions Club of Ashburton Pakeke Inc Charitable Trust	\$1,400
Big Little Theatre Company Inc.....	\$3,500
Rakaia Playcentre.....	\$2,000
Ashburton Youth Café Charitable Trust.....	\$16,000
Hampstead School - Ashburton.....	\$17,000
Ashburton Safer Community Council Trust Board - Food Rescue.....	\$20,000
Ashburton Performing Arts Theatre Trust	\$25,000
Ashburton Celtic Rugby Football Club Inc.....	\$20,000
Allenton Sports Club Inc.....	\$25,000
Ashburton Pistol Club.....	\$22,000
Dear Effie Charitable Trust.....	\$15,000
Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust - Mid Canterbury.....	\$81,127
Mid Canterbury Rugby Union Inc.....	\$95,000
Total.....	\$343,027



Somerset HOUSE

OWNED BY THE COMMUNITY, TO SUPPORT THE COMMUNITY



THE LION FOUNDATION