

**ASHBURTON TRUST and the LION FOUNDATION REGIONAL GRANTS COMMITTEE**

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**February 2019**

The Ashburton Trust is pleased to announce jointly with the Lion Foundation, that it has again provided substantial support to many local groups within the community with its February round of grants. Funding for the grants comes from gaming machines operating in Ashburton Trust premises and \$263,884 was distributed to 11 organisations with this round of applications.

Support from this round went to a wide range of organisations with funds going to a mix of operational costs, event costs and long-term infrastructure.

The Mid Canterbury Mountain Bike Club's project to further develop the Ashburton River Trail and Skills Park is an exciting project which received a significant boost. This River Trail Loop can attract up to 250 riders of all ages on a good day and up to 30 users at a time on the Skills Park, with participation extending to include female and family members over the last three years. The Skills Park has been a draw card for children and youth, and has helped increase the number of Ashburton students competing in regional and national mountain biking events. The funds will be used to install car park lighting, bike wash facilities, balancing features and drinking fountains in addition to trail work and landscaping with native plants.

Primary school students at 18 of 22 schools enrolled in the schools learn to swim and survival skills teaching programme will have costs subsidised by a grant made to the Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust MC. This programme not only teaches children to learn to swim, but it also gives them survival skills so that if they were involved in a water related incident they would have skills to keep themselves safe.

The Ashburton Trust and Lion Foundation have again helped the Lion Club of Ashburton to fund six participants to attend the Berwick Outdoor Experience, for an 8-day outdoor pursuit's development and leadership course. This experience helps empower participants to increase their confidence, self-esteem, gain valuable life and leadership skills and enhance their personal development and potential to contribute to the wider community long term.

For other applicants, support will help enable resources and running costs to be funded.

Funds distributed with this round of applications are as follows:

Ashburton Borough School	60,000	Chrome books and chairs
Ashburton College Alumni Trust Board	17,701	Coordinator salary and hosting fees
Ashburton County Scottish Soc Inc	17,165	Drum accessories and equipment
Ashburton Mackenzie Community Group Inc	3,000	Rent
Ashburton Youth Café Charitable Trust	15,000	Rent and rates
Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust MC	76,821	Learn to swim programme, lighting
Lion Club of Ashburton Charitable Trust	2,870	Berwick Outdoor Experience
Mid Canterbury Choir Charitable Trust	10,000	Musical director, storage, hire, fees
Mid Canterbury Mountain Bike Club Inc	42,771	Trail work, lighting and bike wash
Rakaia Ploughing Match Assn Inc	9,556	2019 ploughing championships
Youth Institute of Ashburton District Charitable Trust	9,000	Cactus programme costs

Grants for the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018 now total in excess of \$1.3m, spread across a wide range of organisations supporting the community, sports, and education and health initiatives.

**Ashburton Trust Lion Foundation Regional Grants Committee**