

# the acorn



**Give the gift of goodness this Christmas!**

## Considering community support this Christmas?



For many of us, Christmas means summer, family, BBQ's and pudding. But for others, it can be a lonely, expensive and stressful time of year. At Acorn, we really want to drive the spirit of Christmas giving to help those for whom this time of year brings little joy.

Many people struggle to find the perfect gift each year - particularly for those friends and family members who may want for very little. What if the solution was to make a donation to a favourite charity on their behalf? We can't stress enough the good feelings that come with giving, and what a great time of year to show generosity.

There are many ways Acorn can help with your giving plans:

- For individuals or families, you might choose to make a pass-through donation on behalf of a friend or relative to a charity they are passionate about. A donation to one of the 47 community group funds listed on our website will help it build towards a guaranteed future income. You can also choose to make a

direct donation into the Acorn Vital Impact Fund which provides funding each year to those organisations providing support to those most in need. In 2020, this list included Grief Support Services, St Peter's House, KidsCan Charitable Trust and Sustainability Options.

- For businesses, have you thought of replacing client gifts with a donation to a charitable organisation? An announcement of your gift would make a great addition to your corporate Christmas cards. Or perhaps you simply want to make a Christmas donation on behalf of your company and your staff to create a sense of pride, community awareness and compassion as we head into the summer months.

Whatever your choice may be, Acorn supports it, and our team is more than happy to help you get your donation to those who will truly appreciate it over the Christmas period.

## Acorn farewells Andy Cameron and Dean Camplin

Two long-time volunteers retire in November after eight dedicated years of service to the Acorn Foundation. Andy Cameron has served as a Trustee and a member of the Distributions Committee, where he acted as Chair from 2014 to 2018. Dean Camplin has served on the Investment Advisory Committee since 2012. When Andy and Dean joined Acorn, there was \$6.7M in invested funds, and the foundation distributed \$373,000 to the community. At the close of the financial year in June 2020, Acorn had

funds under management of \$36.4M and distributed \$1.85M - more than a five-fold increase of both measures. Andy and Dean have been integral to Acorn's success, and we will always appreciate their time and wise counsel to help the foundation develop. All the best to them both!



## Therapy dogs are busy supporting their best friends

Therapy Dogs New Zealand (TDNZ) started a journey in July 2018 to enable Kiwis to live their best lives by offering any child, adult or family access to a partially trained therapy dog at a cost that is more financially accessible than other options. TDNZ purchases the puppies and trains them until they are seven months of age. They then provide clients with the training, fundraising assistance and support to finish the training of their therapy dog via follow-up phone calls, monthly visits, then annual check-ups once the dog matures.

Therapy dogs support those suffering from disabilities, autism, asperger's, oppositional defiance disorder (ODD) in children, ADHD, global developmental delay, dyslexia, kobuki syndrome, chronic regional pain syndrome (CRIPS), post-traumatic stress disorder, cerebral palsy, depression, border line personality disorder, suicidal ideation, terminal cancer/illness and, the most common condition having a profound effect on all disorders listed above, is anxiety.

TDNZ uses only Labradoodle puppies as they are a family friendly breed that is intelligent, sensitive and highly affectionate with a love of people, especially children.

They are cute, funny and easy to train and take out socially. They have a soft expression and are gentle; Labradoodles only weigh 16-20kgs for the medium size and 25kgs for a standard size. The other most important factor for choosing this breed is their hypo-allergenic wool coat. Anyone normally allergic to dog hair is 99% likely to not be allergic to a Labradoodle due to their non-shedding wool coat. It was important to TDNZ that no one is precluded from applying for a therapy dog, even those clients with allergies.

With mainstream schooling, children with autism and anxiety symptoms need to fit in to a world that differs from their perception. But living in a modern, noisy and fast paced world, these children become increasingly overwhelmed as they try to cope day-to-day. This situation leads to explosive meltdowns, frustration, anger and the inability to regulate their emotions until they arrive home to a safe place to let go. A therapy dog, just by being close, snuggly and able to go anywhere with a family, provides comfort, deep companionship, and most of all, a reduction in anxiety symptoms to prevent the child from getting overwhelmed and then having a meltdown.

The dog becomes a friend who seems to understand, doesn't judge and will offer ongoing friendship and companionship, even when the child is not coping, misbehaves, hides under the bed or is upset. When this happens, the puppy will run towards him or her to interrupt the behaviour.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, TDNZ has seen an increase of applications for therapy dogs from all over NZ and now has 29 people on its waiting list. There are so many people suffering with severe anxiety and, in most cases, this leads to panic attacks, depression and a reluctance to leave the home. A child with anxiety will need to sit or lie down wherever he or she is, and our puppies will, on command, lay across the legs or chest of a child or adult or jump up and put their paws on the client, applying pressure through their own body weight. The client will hold the dog close until the shaking subsides. TDNZ's puppies, at just 9 months of age, can warn a client of an impending panic attack on their own without any formal training. The dogs do this by sensing a change (or a mannerism) in their owner using their natural intuition. This alert occurs quite naturally once the



pair have developed a very close bond and relationship with each other. TDNZ currently has 19 therapy dogs that are in forever homes with clients nationwide, and they have seven more puppies in training. Therapy Dogs New Zealand aims to increase the number of puppies it can train to meet the demand, without losing the quality of its service.

**In 2020, funding for Therapy Dogs came from the B. Burns & A. Johnston Fund.**



# Professional Advisors’ Breakfast

Professional advisors are incredibly important to our team as many Acorn donors who have left gifts in their Will are introduced to the foundation by local solicitors, accountants or financial advisors who take the time to understand their clients’ giving goals.

In mid-October, we were delighted to be joined by over 30 local professional advisors for a breakfast session hosted by Findex Tauranga. A big thank you to those who attended, and particularly to our guest speakers:

**Bill Holland, Holland Beckett:**  
Bill discussed the benefits of transferring charitable trusts to the Acorn Foundation. These benefits include Acorn’s in-depth knowledge of the needs of the community and the organisations who support our region, the elimination of onerous reporting requirements - particularly with new Trust laws in 2021 - and the potential for greater investment returns when combining a trust’s assets with Acorn’s investment portfolio managed by Craigs Investment Partners.

**Michelle Malcolm, Findex Tauranga:**  
Michelle shared her knowledge around some of the hidden fishhooks in trusts when beneficiaries or trustees are located overseas (example: beneficiaries who reside in Australia and receive property via a trust will be required to pay Australian capital gains tax).

**Guy Malthus, Craigs Investment Partners:**  
An Acorn donor himself - and Acorn’s investment portfolio manager for the past 17 years - Guy shared some tips around discussing giving goals with clients when



planning a financial investment portfolio. We really appreciate our speakers for taking the time to share their knowledge with other professional advisors and thank Findex Tauranga for hosting our event in their wonderful new office on Grey Street!

## Community Group Funds are a great way to support your favourite cause

Community groups across our region are managed by passionate people who believe strongly in the cause they support. However, funding is almost always a challenge, as these groups have little guaranteed income to count on each year. Raising money to fund their operations is often time-consuming and a big distraction from their main purpose, which is to support the community. An Acorn Community Group Fund can provide guaranteed long-term income, which is incredibly valuable. Anyone can donate to these funds at any time – details are on the Acorn website. Current groups include:

- Creative**

  - Creative Bay of Plenty
  - Tauranga Art Gallery Foundation
  - Tauranga Arts Festival Trust
  - Tauranga Performing Arts Competitions Society Inc

**Education**

  - Tauranga Boys’ College Old Boys Assn.
  - New Zealand Garden and Art Fest Trust
  - House of Science Tauranga
  - Tauranga Girls’ College Trust

**Health**

  - Alzheimer’s Society
  - BOP Multiple Sclerosis Society
  - Complex Chronic Illness Support
  - Diabetes NZ Tauranga Branch
  - Motor Neurone Disease Assn of NZ Inc
  - Tauranga Branch of Zipper Club
  - Waipuna Hospice Inc

**Heritage**

  - Museum Fund for Tauranga & Western Bay
  - Charitable Trust
  - The Elms Foundation
  - BOP Classic Aircraft Trust

**Sport**

  - BOP Rugby Union
  - BOP Sailing Academy Trust
  - Netball Waikato BOP
  - Otumoetai Golf Club
  - Tauranga Golf Club Inc
  - Tauranga Rowing Club
  - Tauranga City Basketball Association

- Community**

  - Acorn COVID-19 Rapid Response Fund
  - Acorn Vital Impact Fund
  - Age Concern Tauranga
  - Get Smart Tauranga Trust
  - Good Neighbour Aotearoa Trust
  - Graeme Dingle Foundation WBOP
  - Homes of Hope Charitable Trust
  - Kidz Need Dadz BOP
  - Live For More Charitable Trust
  - Merivale Community Centre
  - Momenta
  - Multicultural Tauranga
  - Tauranga Moana Nightshelter Trust
  - Tauranga Women’s Refuge
  - YMCA Tauranga

**Animal**

  - ARRC Wildlife Trust

**Place**

  - Katikati Acorn Fund

**Environment**

  - Bay Conservation Incorporated
  - Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust

**Water Safety**

  - Mt. Maunganui Lifeguard Service
  - Papamoa Surf Life Saving Club
  - Tauranga Volunteer Coastguard Assn

## Businesses are making a community impact

Companies all across the region are seeking out ways to contribute to the community. Acorn is well supported by many businesses, large and small. Craigs Investment Partners and KPMG have initiated Workplace Giving programmes, as has the Executive team at the BOP Regional Council. Cooney Lees Morgan has long contributed to their Acorn fund with partners and staff both involved. Firms like Burley Castle Hawkins Lawyers donate their TECT rebates to the Acorn Vital Impact Fund, and Findex Tauranga has selected the Acorn Vital Impact Fund for its November donation. Althorp Village Ltd has set up a permanent Acorn fund to continue their track record of community support.

Have questions about how you can get involved? Reach out to our team to talk about ways that Acorn can help your business better connect to our community.





### Realtor Jim Peterson’s creative way to give

Professionals realtor Jim Peterson has long had a heart for the local region. Although he has volunteered his time and donated to community causes for years, in 2018, he stepped up his efforts. He, with company support, contributed 20% of the full commission of houses he sold that were referrals from charity connections. Jim has recently partnered with the Acorn Foundation to create an endowment fund that will receive the proceeds of his commission donations, and it will start distributing to his chosen charities once it reaches \$50,000. He can be reached at [jim@nrgrealty.co.nz](mailto:jim@nrgrealty.co.nz) with any questions. Thanks so much to Jim for coming up with such a creative way to support our community!

## Noel Leeming Deals for Acorn Friends & Family

Our team was thrilled to be chosen by Noel Leeming for their Friends & Family event for two weeks, from 2 to 15 November. 2.5% of total sales will be directed towards the Vital Impact Fund, which supports organisations working in the areas of greatest need in the WBOP.

Acorn supporters can simply mention the



get **amazing** deals on the brands you love storewide

'Acorn Foundation Friends & Family Deal' in store to get special deals in all Noel Leeming stores across the Bay of Plenty, including Mt. Maunganui, Tauranga, Tauriko, Whakatane, Rotorua and Matamata.

People can shop for Christmas and support Acorn’s efforts in the community all at the same time!

## Horticulture Project

Three enthusiastic Acorn donor couples have been incredibly generous with their time to front our efforts to spread the word about Acorn to other locals who are involved in horticulture. Their stories have been featured in the October/November issue of Kiwifruit Journal, which reaches about 14,000 homes.

Merv and Lyn Stockley of Katikati and two anonymous couples from Te Puke shared their reasons for becoming Acorn donors with well-known horticulture journalist, Elaine Fisher. Elaine wrote this about the Stockley’s, “Merv is surprised that only a few orchardists are among Acorn’s benefactors, and he would like others to consider including it in their Will or making living bequests.” She quoted Merv, who said, “You can set up a fund to support the things you care about beyond



*your life or you can start a fund and observe the good that contributes to our local community while you are still here to see it happen. If you are still earning from your job or profession you could set up a fund and contribute what you can afford to on a regular basis.”*

We are so appreciative that these families were willing to share their stories to help others in their communities understand the benefits of giving forever through Acorn.



# Scholarships and Awards

## Jann Medlicott Creative Arts Scholarship

The Acorn Foundation and Creative Bay of Plenty were delighted to award this year's Jann Medlicott Creative Arts Award to Sarah Mileham, who is a current Bethlehem College Year 13 student. An extra bonus for Sarah this year was an increase of the award from \$2,000 to \$5,000 which will go a long way in assisting her with her future studies! We are incredibly grateful to our wonderful donor, Jann, for her generosity to the arts.



From Sarah:

*"...I have been blessed to receive the Jann Medlicott Creative Arts Scholarship for 2020. I am a passionate young singer who loves getting involved in the Bay of Plenty's cultural community. At Bethlehem College, I have had the privilege of playing in the school orchestras, concert band, percussion groups, dancing in our Stage art team, leading in productions, achieving in SmokefreeRockquest and singing in Jazz Band and Strings Group. I have also spent 2020 as the Deputy Head Girl which has provided wonderful leadership growth and responsibilities. One of my fondest achievements to date has been being a leader, member and soloist in the New Zealand National Secondary Schools Choir's 2019/2020 cycle.*

*With the support of this Scholarship, I intend to go to Victoria University's NZ School of Music and study a Bachelor of Music majoring in Classical Performance of the Voice. I am incredibly thankful for this scholarship as it brings me great joy and pride to represent the Bay of Plenty. With the amazing generosity from Jann Medlicott, I have the confidence to know that I am backed by a wonderful group of people. I am incredibly thankful for the support this scholarship provides and am looking forward to working hard towards my musical career."*

## 2020 BOP Medical Students Scholarship

We are delighted to announce that Amanpreet Singh has been selected as the 2020 winner of the BOP Medical Students Scholarship.



From Aman:

*"Kia ora my name is Aman Singh. I am a fourth-year medical student at the University of Auckland, currently placed at Tauranga Hospital for the year. I have an educational background in Public Health, completing a Bachelor's of Health Science and Postgraduate Diploma. I grew up in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, living on the outskirts of Whakatane where I attended Trident High School. I have loved coming back to the Bay of Plenty this year, being able to spend time with my family and community. Hospital placement in Tauranga has been enjoyable and rewarding, with there being a warm and friendly environment which promotes learning and development. I would like to say a huge thank you to the Bay of Plenty Clinical School and the Acorn Foundation for awarding me this financial grant."*

Congratulations Aman, and we wish you all the best with the rest of your studies!

## Five new recipients of the Page Acorn Engineering Scholarship

We look forward to celebrating the winners of the 2020 Page Acorn Engineering Scholarship in November. The Acorn Foundation was delighted to select the five new recipients of the award in April, but we were unable to hold our celebration at that time. This year, the criteria was revised to award second year apprentices who stand out from their peers in talent, attitude and enthusiasm.



Each of the following recipients and their respective workplaces will receive funding to assist with educational expenses and equipment for 2020 and 2021 from the Bob and Pat Page Fund:

- **Kullen Burgess**, Whakamarama—Impact Engineering
- **James Deelstra**, Gate Pa—Robert Page Engineering Ltd
- **Braden Strong**, Katikati—Page Macrae Engineering
- **Joseph Terry**, Papamoa Beach—Page Macrae Engineering
- **David Turnbull-Broadfoot**, Oropi—Contract Mechanical Services Ltd

Acorn's General Manager Lori Luke says,

*"This scholarship programme is in its 12th year and has now provided financial support to 52 talented young men and women who are pursuing a career in Engineering. Bob and Pat Page would be absolutely thrilled that their dream of assisting local apprentices to achieve their goals has come this far. We are so pleased that the Acorn Foundation has been selected to manage this worthy programme into perpetuity."*

Congratulations to each of these five outstanding recipients.

## New Scholarship: Acorn Foundation Coker Classical Arts Scholarship

Set up in memory of her late husband, Lynn, Acorn donor Jenny Coker recently established The Acorn Foundation Coker Classical Arts Scholarship for Year 13 students. This scholarship is intended for those students who have a proven interest and talent in classical painting and who wish to pursue studies in classical art at Elam School of Fine Arts at the University of Auckland.



*"My late husband Lynn Coker had a successful career dedicating himself to the study of, and education in, optometry. I offer this scholarship in his memory to support talent in classical art and in the pursuit of the same excellence that he strove for."*

Jenny Coker

Thank you Jenny, for your commitment to Acorn and to the arts, and a big thank you also to Creative BOP for the time and effort spent in receiving and reviewing applications.

## New Award: Gary Ware Legacy Award for Human Rights

Gary Ware (1938-2018) was a passionate human rights advocate who made a significant and valued contribution to Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand Inc. As part of his legacy, his wife Marlene and the rest of his family have established an annual award to fund a youth-led initiative that has a demonstrable human rights impact in New Zealand or globally. This award is open to young people up to the age of 24, for a programme that will focus on fostering creativity and backing young people to test out campaigns and action ideas that could change the Human Rights landscape for the better. This award will be made for the first time in December 2020.



## Events in November

Page Acorn Scholarships Awards Evening	Monday, 9 November, Robert Page Engineering, 5:30pm
Outward Bound Awards Evening	Wednesday, 11 November, The Kollektive, 6pm
Acorn AGM and Distributions Evening (including recipient speakers)	Monday, 16 November, The Kollektive, 6pm



## The Kollektive

The Acorn team celebrated two years in our new home on 1 November. TECT's idea to create a hub for the social sector to improve collaboration has certainly succeeded, and now The Kollektive is also home to community-minded businesses, including our auditors, William Buck. There's always room for others to join us.



**Wait...so, if I join The Kollektive as a non-residential member, I get to...**

- Attend workshops and training events designed to improve my skills?
- Meet new people at TK's presentations & talks?
- Have heaps of fun at TK's famous social events?
- Use TK's open spaces to meet with clients, friends & colleagues?
- I can print if I need to and use TK's free reliable WiFi?
- Plus, I can use the Whipped Baker Express Café with barista made coffee and devilishly delectable treats!

All of the above are waiting for you...  
@ The Kollektive – TK.  
from **\$120** a year.

[www.thekollektive.org.nz](http://www.thekollektive.org.nz)



## DONORS WE REMEMBER

### Elizabeth (Anne) Fletcher 1951 - 2020



Anne grew up in the Waikato but lived in Tauranga for 34 years. She was a lover of teddy bears and had a huge collection. Anne loved gardening, bromeliads and playing bowls, which was where her real passion lay. She played both indoor and outdoor bowls. Anne worked for a panel beating service for several years, and when the owner wanted to sell the business, she decided to buy it.

Anne married her husband, Don, which was a second marriage for both of them. They had a double wedding with great friends of theirs at the Presbyterian church in 16th Avenue. Don was 19 years older than Anne, and he died in 2008.

Anne had no children but deeply loved her dog, Amy. Anne suffered from lung issues for many years before her death, which prevented her from playing bowls and riding horses as much as she would have liked.

**Anne has left her gift to Acorn unrestricted.**



## Honouring Acorn Donors – 10 new oak trees planted

It was a later than usual tree planting this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, but we got there in the end! The weather gods blessed us with another fine day to honour our recently deceased Acorn donors. We were joined by around 30 close friends and family at this year's remembrance tree planting at the Acorn Foundation Oak Grove in Cambridge Park. 10 trees were planted to remember the following incredibly generous donors:

- Jack (Jacqueline) Abbot
- Norman & Molly Bicknell
- Carol Bithell
- Anne Crane
- Anna Finlayson-Smith
- Margaret McCracken
- Nan (Eleanor) Olsen
- Ray Thornley
- Sam & Nulma Turner
- An anonymous donor

A blessing was given by Davina Plummer of the Salvation Army Tauranga, and a brief background of each donor was read before trees were planted. Many of the donors' family and friends joined the Acorn team for tea at a local cafe afterwards. This day was really special and personal, and Acorn was honoured to share it with family and friends of our wonderful donors.

A big thank you to Davina Plummer, Tauranga City Council, Arbor Care and Tauranga Tree Company for your continued support and help on the day.

## Morning tea in the regions

In late September, the Acorn team headed out to Katikati and Te Puke to host morning teas with our regional donors, supporters and recipient groups. We thoroughly enjoy connecting with people in these towns and continue to be so impressed with the hard work and collaboration being undertaken.

Katikati's morning tea was hosted by Allan Wainwright and his fantastic team at the Katikati Community Centre, who also shared with us the admirable and encouraging way the community came together to support those in need during lockdown. We heard similar stories from Trudy van Stee who travelled over from the Waihi Beach Community Centre, who, along with her team of volunteers, worked tirelessly throughout lockdown to ensure the older Waihi Beach community were not left alone and isolated. Trudy runs A Friend's Place from the community centre which brings together senior members of the Waihi Beach community for various weekly programmes such as cards, playing music in their band, discussion groups, board games, art and more. We are so impressed with the services delivered by both of these community centres to truly encompass community spirit and show

just how essential the centres are to our region.

Representatives of Plunket and Blue Light Ventures spoke at both the Katikati and Te Puke morning teas. Trish Valois from Plunket shared how her new role as Community Services Coordinator has grown and evolved since she joined the team right on the cusp of lockdown. It was clear to all who attended just how broad the scope of services and support Plunket provides has become, far beyond the visits of Plunket nurses to check over new-born babies and their mums. Trish is leading the Plunket team's involvement in providing wraparound services and facilitating connections to service providers to meet the needs of each individual family.

Wendy Robertson from Blue Light provided an update on the young driver education programme which Blue Light facilitates, covering both Katikati College and Te Puke High School. Blue Light's programme supports youth whose families may not have the financial means, time, ability or a safe, registered vehicle to teach their teenagers to drive. A driver's licence is often a basic requirement for employment, an apprenticeship or training programme, or continued study, and it can



be difficult to obtain for many youth. Driving without a license leads to infringement fines and negative interactions with police which can snowball and eventually become an unwelcome introduction to the youth justice system and all it entails.

In Te Puke, Boyd Harris from Pukehina Surf Rescue shared the remarkable amount of work undertaken, and services provided, by this entirely voluntary organisation. The engagement with the Pukehina community has increased substantially, with both parents and children coming on board to participate. The Club runs many training sessions and also organises out of town training camps at low cost for families to attend. What Pukehina Surf Rescue is achieving is amazing and is a

testament to the commitment of Boyd and his team.

And finally, also at our Te Puke morning tea, we heard from Runa and Shirley from Tauranga Budget Advisory Services, who provide advice and services to the Te Puke community via space at EmpowermentNZ. It was apparent to all just how much Runa enjoys working with individuals and families in Te Puke. Her aim is to assist them to become debt free and to educate them financially to reduce expenses, while tailoring those services to each individual/family in a way that is encouraging and respectful.

It was inspiring to hear from each of these organisations, and we appreciate their time to share their stories with us.



When you choose to leave a gift to the community through Acorn, you can select your preferred charities, or you can leave the decision to our Distributions Committee to identify where the need is greatest.

FUNDING PARTNER:



PREFERRED SUPPLIERS:



TUSKANY



Phone (07) 579 9839 [www.acornfoundation.org.nz](http://www.acornfoundation.org.nz)

