

the acorn



Give & Get Back: Support our community before 31 March and get a 33.3% tax credit this year.

Jump – or die. That was his choice.

“The aircraft was on fire, so I jumped out and ended up in the mouth of the River Thames, very badly burned. I got out quickly of course. As soon as I saw the fire start, I was out on the end of a parachute. I was a survivor – that was the important thing”.

Those were the words of former RAF squadron leader Roy McGowan, referring to his experience at age 23 after being shot down in his single seater Hawker Hurricane on 15 September 1940, during one of the pivotal battles of WWII. More than 100 New Zealanders took part in what became known as the Battle of Britain.

Roy was treated for his severe burns by renowned New Zealand plastic surgeon, Sir Archibald McIndoe, who gave Roy new upper and lower eyelids as part of his recovery treatment. Badly burned pilots like Roy became known as the “guinea pig club,” as the plastic surgery techniques used were revolutionary at the time.

Roy survived the war and had a successful career that took him to many parts of the world, including Singapore. It was there that he met the elegant and engaging Mary Liew,

who was born in Brunei on the island of Borneo. They married in 1968 and lived and worked in many different parts of the world – a life rich in experiences and filled with many family and friends. Roy and Mary eventually retired to live in New Zealand in 1982, firstly in Kerikeri and finally in Tauranga.

They continued to lead full lives, with gusto and enjoyment, while quietly paying it forward to future generations. Through the Acorn Foundation, they have been supporting the Dale Carnegie Youth Leadership programme since 2010. Each year, this programme allows more than 20 students from across Western Bay Plenty schools to attend a three-day course that helps them to develop confidence and communication skills.

“This course has taught me a vast range of valuable life and people skills that will help me immensely in my future. My confidence and ability to hold proper conversations with new people and how to manage stress and worry before it gets worse. I really recommend this course to everyone.”

– course attendee 2019



Mary and Roy McGowan

Roy passed away in 2012 aged 94, and Mary continued to live in her apartment at The Avenues in Tauranga, self-sufficient, kindhearted and with a vital interest in her family, her many friends, the Tauranga area, and world events. She was fiercely independent, very gracious, and always kind and generous.

Mary’s journey reached its end on 11 December 2020, aged 95. But the McGowans’ impact on the community will live on

Acorn reaches another milestone!

Acorn heads into 2021 having passed \$40M in the fund, which is a huge achievement that the Acorn team, our donors and our supporters can really celebrate. As our fund grows, so does our ability to support the community we all love. Along with our passionate and caring donors, there are many individuals, businesses, and foundations whose invaluable support along the way has helped the foundation reach this milestone. We are so thankful for your aroha!

through the gift of their Acorn fund that they have left to the region they loved so much.

Creating lives of value - Momena

Momena is an organisation with a legacy anchored deep in the Bay of Plenty’s charitable heart. From the 1970s, where it had its genesis in the modest aspirations of a handful of community-minded Rotarians, we have grown into a substantial service provider with an ambitious business enterprise arm.

Momena has three key goals:

- To assist our clients in the important work of creating lives they value;
- To use our influence to advocate for change in the systems and societal attitudes that continue to hold back people living with disadvantage; and
- To create and generate business with a social conscience so we have the financial stability to choose to focus our work where we see the most need.

The most significant change in Momena’s 45-year history came in 2015, when Avalon (as it was then known) changed its outdated service model and moved from Te Puna into Tauranga. The change created an opportunity to do more in answering the call of people with a lived experience of disability, who had increasingly been asking

to have more autonomy and control over their lives. They wanted an ordinary life, to be able to work, study, and live as a part of their community. Time and again, our clients proved they could achieve more than they’d ever dreamed of.

Our highly skilled team are committed to continuing our core work, supporting our clients to live their life of value and thrive. We provide this through the delivery of our two flagship programmes Forward, Together and Springboard.

- Forward, Together - This bespoke coaching and mentoring programme works in the areas of health and wellbeing, meaningful work, and growth and learning. Our Community Connectors work alongside our clients, helping them to identify and then go on to achieve their aspirations, moving them forward towards the life that they want to live.
- Springboard - We help prepare students to take the leap from school to adult life. Working with young people in their last year of school, we connect them to opportunities for training,

work, or further education. We partner with the student, their whanau and school to determine which pathways will best help them create a life they value.

In August 2020, Avalon became Momena and moved to a new home within the social sector hub at The Collective. Our new name speaks to the forward momentum we help our clients achieve. This forward trajectory is also true of our organisation – it has changed to adapt to the needs and dreams of our community, continuously seeking to achieve the best possible outcomes for clients.

But our thirst for change doesn’t end with our work. We are committed to challenging the societal attitudes that hold back disadvantaged people, especially people with a lived experience of disability. We appreciate this is a mighty big call but like our community-minded founders on whose shoulders we stand, our initial efforts will be modest. However, as funds allow, we will look to grow our focus on societal change.

Last year, we created a new Social Change



role collaborating across businesses, the social sector, and the community. The goal is to build networks, working together to create change, and grow understanding of the challenges facing disadvantaged people in Tauranga Moana.

Momena is an organisation born of a bright idea that was perfect for its time. And we proudly continue this legacy of innovation. Led by our clients and community, and a determination to do good, we have re-imagined our service delivery, our funding strategy, our role in societal change, and even our brand and office location. Momena is committed to continuing our work and helping shape our community so all people belong, are valued, and thrive.

Acorn donor, Dr Jann Medlicott, recognised in New Year’s Honours List

Along with several other deserving Tauranga residents, we were so delighted to see long-time Acorn supporter and NZ Book Awards Fiction Prize donor, Jann Medlicott, named as a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit at the new year.

Jann has been closely involved with the Acorn Foundation since 2008, sponsoring an adult learner scholarship at the University of Waikato from 2012 to 2015 and, since 2012, she has sponsored an annual Creative Arts Award through Creative Bay of Plenty. In 2020, the value of this prize was increased to \$5,000 to provide even more support to a young artist.

In 2016, Jann began to anonymously sponsor the national Acorn Foundation

Fiction Prize at the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. The award was renamed as the Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction in 2020 and is annually adjusted for wage inflation with a current value of \$57,000.

Jann’s impressive professional history includes her work as a radiologist from the late 1970s until her retirement in 2011, Clinical Director of Tauranga Hospital Radiology Department from 1988 to 1995, founder and Managing Director of several private radiology practices in Tauranga, and Chairperson of the New Zealand branch of the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Radiologists from 1995 to 1997.

On winning this award for services in philanthropy, the arts and radiology, Jann

said, “The beautiful Bay of Plenty has been my professional workplace and home for the past 40 years, now half a lifetime. To know that this community considers my contribution over that time to be worthy of recognition brings me both joy, pride, and in equal measure, a degree of embarrassment and humility, because of the public exposure that inevitably follows, and because of the knowledge that there are thousands of people in our community whose contributions are no less significant, but unsung.

Tauranga has been kind to me. I am grateful for the support over the years, not only of the community itself, but also of friends, colleagues and whānau, particularly my



parents who sacrificed much to ensure that their daughters received the same educational opportunities as their sons and taught us from an early age that anything was possible, irrespective of gender.”

We truly couldn’t be happier to see such a wonderful, passionate and deserving person recognised for her service.

Acorn’s 2020 AGM & Distributions Evening



Thanks to all of the Acorn donors and supporters who came along to The Kollektive on 16 November for our combined AGM & Distributions Evening. Lesley Jensen, Acorn

Chairperson, ran the AGM with talks from Graeme Horsley - Investment Advisory Committee Chair, Anthony Ririnui - Chair of Distributions and Scholarship Committees, and Michelle Malcolm - Chair of Audit, Risk and Policies.

We also heard from some really great Acorn recipient organisations: Wendy Isaacs from Therapy Dogs NZ (with support from Mac the labradoodle); Tanya Smith from Age Concern Tauranga; Matt Anderson-Smith from one of our newest organisations, Big Buddy Mentoring Trust; and Eric Holowacz, General

Manager of Creative BOP, who presented the Jann Medlicott Creative Arts Scholarship to Sarah Mileham. We so appreciate the time given by these organisations to come along and share their stories with us. It really highlights why we do what we do.

We had a wonderful evening of wine and nibbles and enjoyed catching up with many of our donors and supporters ahead of the festive season. Our team remains incredibly grateful to reside in a country where gatherings of friends are (currently!) still able to take place.



Local businesses provide support at Christmas time

At Acorn, and in our personal lives, we are noticing a real change when it comes to what and how we are giving at Christmas. There is a noticeable move towards more sustainable and impactful gifts, often directed at those truly in need.

This sort of thoughtful giving is not just taking place on an individual basis; local businesses are also supporting the community through Acorn.

For the second year running, the good folks at Craigs Investment Partners provided more than \$150,000 for the Acorn Foundation to distribute around the country on their behalf. This donation was made in lieu of client Christmas gifts and went to the 19 communities in which Craigs has an office. In the WBOP region, the recipients included EmpowermentNZ, Good

Neighbour, Awhina House Women’s Shelter, KidsCan local efforts, St. Peters House, Tauranga Moana Men’s Night Shelter, and Under the Stars.

Two other local organisations provided support to the Acorn Foundation Vital Impact Fund during the holiday season. Every year, the Vital Impact Fund supports organisations working in the areas of greatest need in the community, and this year includes Grief Support Services, KidsCan local efforts, St Peters House and Sustainability Options. Findex Tauranga provided a donation from their employees in November, while in Noel Leeming’s Bay of Plenty stores, the Acorn Vital Impact Fund was their charity of choice for their Friends & Family event in early November.

The generosity of these organisations is



greatly appreciated at what can be a very tough time of year for many. This community support is something to think about as we head into another challenging year – as individuals, as groups of friends, or as businesses. Any and all help goes a very long way!

Mark your calendar! Saturday 13 March @ 10am

The annual Acorn Friends & Supporters morning is scheduled for 10am on Saturday 13th March on the Pavilion at The Kollektive. We welcome you and your friends to join us to hear from some of our amazing recipient organisations and scholarship winners. Speakers will include Philips Search & Rescue Trust, Brain Injured Children Trust, and others. More details will follow; however, you can RSVP at any time to jo@acornfoundation.org.nz.



Introducing the newly implemented Acorn Foundation Junior Art Awards – applications open now

An Acorn donor couple recently committed to support a new initiative from the Tauranga Art Gallery starting in early 2021: The Acorn Foundation Junior Art Awards.

With a vision to create an exceptional art experience for young creative minds, whilst engaging and inspiring our local community, the Junior Art Awards are open to children aged between 4 – 14 years who live in the Bay of Plenty region. The theme for the Art Awards 2021 is Te Taiao/ Nature. This competition will be a biennial event, with the first exhibition taking place from 3 April 2021 to 2 May 2021 at the Tauranga Art Gallery. Entries are open now and are due on 26 February.

The staff at the Art Gallery are extremely appreciative of the financial support provided by our Acorn donors to help bring this fabulous initiative to fruition. We look forward to seeing the wonderful work submitted by our junior artists in April!

Scholarships and Awards

University of Waikato Eva Trowbridge Scholarship

The Acorn team was delighted to award the 2020 Acorn Foundation Eva Trowbridge Scholarship to Tracey Simmonds. Tracey is the 14th winner of this prestigious scholarship at the University of Waikato, Tauranga campus, which honours students over the age of 25. Tracey is going into her final year of her Bachelor of Social Work degree and has just finished a placement at the Welcome Bay Community Centre. She was chosen for her strong academic performance and her empathetic approach to those she serves.

Her placement manager described her in the following way:

"With Tracey's life experiences and her passion to empower people, she will be an incredible asset to the community."

Congratulations, Tracey!

University of Waikato Adult Learner Scholarship

Kylie Oliver was the very deserving winner of the 2020 Acorn Foundation Adult Learner Scholarship. Kylie is currently halfway through her four-year Bachelor of Social Work degree at the University of Waikato. She is a single mother of three young people aged 23, 18 and 15 and, when not at university or working on assignments, works part time to make ends meet.

According to Kylie,

"Winning this scholarship came as a complete surprise, yet I am so grateful and feel privileged to be honoured with this award...this award will help me get through the remainder of my degree to allow me to become a qualified social worker without the added stress of having such a huge debt. Upon graduating, my goal is to work with youth, and with women and children exposed to family violence. If I can help one family make positive changes to live a safer, happier and healthier life - then my four years at university will all be worth it."

With the support of the Acorn Foundation, and this scholarship, in two years' time I will be able to start making this goal a reality."

Kylie is a credit to her family and to the University of Waikato, Tauranga campus, and we are so proud that she is this year's winner of the Adult Learner Scholarship.

University of Waikato Beverly Perszyk Scholarship

A big congratulations to Jed Melton, a recent graduate from Te Puke High School, who has won the 2020 Acorn Foundation Beverly Perszyk Scholarship.

In his last year of school, Jed achieved an Excellence endorsement at level 3 and was the top student of sport and recreation. He also received the honour of Player of the Year for his football team in both 2019 and 2020 and captained his team throughout the past year.

Jed's interests lie in statistics and business which has inspired his choice to study a Bachelor of Business, majoring in Accounting at the University of Waikato in 2021.

Jed said,

"This scholarship means a lot to both myself and my family. It is an incredibly generous opportunity that will not only help financially but also motivate and inspire me throughout my studies at University. Beverly Perszyk reminds me of my own mother, in that she never attended tertiary education, but always valued the idea of further education. She always encouraged me to reach my potential both intellectually and physically, and I like to think she was successful. The Acorn Foundation Beverly Perszyk Scholarship means a lot because being the first in my family to attend university is quite important to me in honour of my sister, Karli Melton, who was aspiring to attend university before she was tragically killed by a drunk driver at age 15...This scholarship will help me to obtain a university qualification and in doing so, achieve personal goals and inspire those around me and in the community."

Well done Jed - we wish you all the best for your future!

Acorn Foundation Bob & Joy Owens Scholarships

Seven new scholarships were awarded to Year 13 students in late 2020 on behalf of the Bob & Joy Owens Scholarship Fund. These awards provide \$5,000 annual scholarships for three years to the worthy students selected from seven local colleges. 2020 marked the first year that Acorn administered these awards, which have been providing tertiary support for students through the Owens Charitable Trust since 1993. These prestigious scholarships have always been awarded to students who have shown a significant commitment to their schools and to the community, with a strong idea of what they want to accomplish in the future. Independent Owens Scholarship Selection Committees work closely with the administrators at each school to choose finalists who are then interviewed by the panellists. Each scholarship was awarded at the respective school's Senior Prizegiving event.

2020 Bob & Joy Owens Scholarship winners:

- Aquinas College—Hannah McGregor
- Bethlehem College—James Zingel
- Mount Maunganui College—Shania Callender
- Otumoetai College—Baylee Dyer
- Tauranga Boys' College—Logan Green
- Tauranga Girls' College—Mia Krueger-Reedy
- Te Puke High School—Patricia Pisor

Congratulations to each of these outstanding students as they embark on their tertiary studies this year.

Amnesty International Gary Ware Legacy Award

Late 2020 saw the announcement of the first winners of Amnesty International's Gary Ware Legacy Award, an award that was implemented by the Ware family who have been advocating for the rights of others in New Zealand and abroad for decades. Outstanding entries from young people across New Zealand included



initiatives for solar lights for village homes in Fiji, teddy bears for refugees, and peer-to-peer mentor programmes.

The 2020 award went to Glendowie College's Olivia Bing, Sophie Newton, M Gan, and Laura Oh who will receive funding for their winning entry: A documentary highlighting human trafficking here in New Zealand. Olivia Bing said information on the issue was difficult to uncover but awareness is the first step to better protecting people in New Zealand.

Laura Oh says receiving the award was a humbling experience.

"We are incredibly honoured to be the first ever recipients of the Gary Ware Legacy Award. Thank you to Amnesty International for helping us bring our idea to life."

Amnesty International Community Manager, Margaret Taylor, says the Gary Ware Legacy Award is a response to the growing demand among younger generations for a more promising future.

"New Zealand youth are caring, compassionate and are already actively engaged in delivering on the change they want to see in the world. They want to build a beautiful and inclusive Aotearoa and we want to support them to do so. This award, thanks to the Ware family - a family full of rights advocates steeped in New Zealand history - goes a long way to doing that."

The award was made possible through a generous donation from the Ware family following Gary's unexpected passing in October 2018. An Acorn endowment fund provides for the award to be made annually, in perpetuity.



Schedule a speaker

Are you part of a social club, a community or service club, or maybe just a group of friends who regularly meet for coffee? The Acorn Foundation regularly speaks to groups like yours.

2020 was a very unique year and there is so much for us to talk about, from the foundation growth story to the local collaborative funding for COVID response, to the Vital Update research

that explores how our community is changing. Many groups have been particularly interested in how the community is holding up in light of the pandemic and what role community organisations have to play in the recovery.

Whether your group is only a few people, meets early in the morning or in the evening, or only meets at your club premises, Acorn can accommodate your requirements. We would

love the opportunity to connect with existing and new supporters to talk about how engaged, generous members of the public like you are having a positive impact on the community in which we live.

To request a member of the Acorn team to come to speak to your group, please contact Sarah at sarah@acornfoundation.nz or 07 579 9839.



Functions & Events

2020 funded organisation Round Table Sessions (6)

Various dates and times from mid-February to early March.

Please contact Jo if you would like to find out when specific recipient groups will be providing reports.

Acorn Friends & Supporters Morning Tea

10am Saturday 13 March 2021

For further information or to RSVP for any of these events, please email: jo@acornfoundation.org.nz or phone (07) 579 9839

DONORS WE REMEMBER

Roy (1917 – 2012) and Mary (1925 – 2020) McGowan



Mary and Roy have been supporting the Dale Carnegie Youth Leadership programme via Acorn since 2010. This annual programme allows students from across Western Bay of Plenty schools to attend a three-day course to develop confidence and communication skills.

Roy and Mary's fund will provide for organisations which benefit youth development in the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty areas, St John's stations in Mt. Maunganui and Tauranga, CanTeen, the ongoing work of the Acorn Foundation and its peak body Community Foundations of New Zealand, as well as unrestricted funds.

For more information on the lives of Roy and Mary McGowan, see the article on Page 1.

Claude (1921 – 2020) and Marjory (1914 – 2008) Hewlett



Claude was born in Morrinsville and left school at 13 to work on farms in the Bay of Plenty. Claude was a typical man of his generation who worked hard at farming, then found his life interrupted by war. He was conscripted into the army and served as a machine gunner in Italy and then a peacekeeper on the Yugoslav border.

Marjory was born in Gore and raised by her grandparents. When she left school, she became a land girl. Marjory and Claude briefly met when they were both working on a Pongakawa farm prior to Claude's departure to serve in the war.

After Claude returned to New Zealand in 1946, he and Marjory were married within a month, and they farmed in Pongakawa until 1954, then moved to Tauranga where Claude became a carpenter. Marjory worked as a

supervisor at the nurses' home at Tauranga Hospital, and then later at the Star and Tauranga hotels.

Marjory introduced Claude to her interest in horses, and he spent 43 years involved with the Greerton Pony Club. He was president of the Papamoa Pony Club for five years and a founding member and then President of Riding for the Disabled for 25 years. Claude also organised the horse sports at the Tauranga A&P Show for 19 years. His interest in rugby led to him presiding over the BOP Rugby Supporters for several years.

Claude and Marjory's fund will support Tauranga Riding for the Disabled.

William Anthony (Tony) Woodman (1945 – 2020)



Tony was born in Cheshire, England, and emigrated to New Zealand as a 15-year-old.

He worked in the NZ Forest Products mill near Tokoroa, and then moved to Whakatane where he had a rural milk delivery run. He later moved back to Tokoroa to be a machine operator at the mill, which had by then been purchased by Carter Holt Harvey.

Tony eventually moved to live in Papamoa and finally settled in Te Puke in 2011, where he very much enjoyed his garden.

Tony's fund is unrestricted as he was very happy to provide for areas of need in the local region.



Building a stronger community together

Support our community before 31 March and get a 33.3% tax credit this year.

Acorn welcomes three new volunteers

Larry Bilodeau - Trustee and Distributions Committee

The Acorn trustees are delighted to welcome Larry Bilodeau to the board.



Larry graduated with a degree in mechanical engineering from Lakehead University in Ontario, Canada and started work in the chemical division for the world's largest oil, gas and chemical company. He worked in project engineering, maintenance engineering and environmental engineering in the first five years of his employment before moving into management positions. During this time, Larry also completed an executive MBA at the Darden School of Business in the USA.

Larry was offered a role as a group general manager for Ballance Agri-Chemicals in New Zealand and moved his family to New

Plymouth from Canada. Within two years, he was offered the role of CEO of Ballance and led the business for 14 years until his retirement in 2014.

Larry understands the importance of good governance that directs and supports an organisation. He currently serves as Chair of the Tauranga Community Foodbank and is a director and treasurer of the Kaimai Pistol Club. Welcome, Larry!

David McClatchy - Investment Advisory Committee

In November 2020, Acorn welcomed the newest member of the Investment Advisory Committee, David McClatchy. David and his wife have recently returned to New Zealand from Sydney, and he brings a wealth of investment experience to our volunteer committee.



David has recently retired as Group Chief Investment Officer of IAG and previously served as CEO/Chairman of ING Investment Management Australia Ltd. In addition, David served as Chairman and Trustee Director of IAG and NRMA Superannuation Fund.

David's expertise will be invaluable to the IAC, and Acorn is so appreciative of his willingness to provide this service to the foundation.

Frances (Frankie) Bates-Crisp

Awarded the Institute of Directors Bay of Plenty Branch Emerging Director Award 2020, Frankie has been placed as an intern Emerging Director on the Acorn Foundation Board.

Frankie has over 18 years' work experience across three waters, electricity, gas,



construction and engineering geology in project management, operational management and leadership roles across New Zealand and Australia. She is currently the Contract Manager for TRILITY, leading the delivery of wastewater services for the Rotorua community.

Frankie aspires to acquire skills that enable her to contribute to an organisation at the directorship level. She intends to focus on strategic, business and commercial decisions in the governance arena, while maintaining her personal core values of integrity, fairness and trust.

Outside of work, Frankie is a committee member for the Rotorua Honey Bee Club, Associate Member of the Institute of Directors, and Member of the Project Management Institute. She is learning the ukulele, enjoys gardening and keeps bees and hens.



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

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