

the acorn.



Building a thriving community, together

The Acorn Foundation surpasses last year's distributions with \$3.3M given to the Western Bay of Plenty Community in 2023. It is Acorn's 20th year of giving to the community. In total, Acorn has now distributed \$16.5M to deserving charities and

individuals in the WBOP on behalf of our generous donors. Thank you to our donors for believing in our smarter giving model. Your support allows Acorn to continue to grow and give back to the community you live in and treasure.

Supporting what you love, long after you've gone

For Claude Hewlett, supporting what you love long after you've gone, meant providing a substantial annual funding stream to the horses he loved, and the people who need them, well into the future.

Claude left school at 13 to go farming before being drafted into the army to fight in World War II. He was a gunner in Italy before serving as a peacekeeper on the Yugoslav border. He returned to farming after the war and reconnected with Marjory, whom he had met when they both worked on a Pongakawa farm.

Claude and Marjory married in 1946 and Claude continued farming until 1954, when they moved to Tauranga. Claude began work as a builder, and Marjory worked as a supervisor at the nurses' home at Tauranga Hospital.

It was Marjory who first introduced Claude to horses, and it's hard to imagine his life without them. He spent 43 years involved with the Greerton Pony Club and was president of the Papamoa Pony Club for five years. Claude also organised equestrian sports at the Tauranga A & P Show for 19 years. As a founding member and then President of the Tauranga District Riding for the Disabled for 25 years, it is only fitting that Claude and Marjory's endowment fund is directed towards supporting this organisation in the WBOP.



Claude & Marjory Hewlett

Tauranga Riding for the Disabled provides equine-assisted therapy and rehabilitation for children and adults suffering from physical, emotional and mental health impairments. Riders attend to achieve therapeutic, educational, or sporting goals, and the organisation also provides programmes for at-risk youth

and young offenders.

This year will be the second year that Tauranga Riding for the Disabled will be benefitting from Claude and Marjory Hewlett's generosity.

"We are extremely grateful for the support we have received from Claude and Marjory Hewlett. Having the certainty of this annual funding will help us plan for the future and to continue helping those in need within our community," said Elisha Olds, General Manager of Tauranga Riding for the Disabled.

Besides the more formal roles in his life, Claude spent much of his time as an informal social worker visiting older people, especially returned soldiers. He helped with their shopping and chores, and those who knew him described Claude as a perfect gentleman.

Marjory passed away in 2008 and Claude was in his one-hundredth year when he died in 2020.

Where there's a will, there's a way

Organise your wishes this September during Wills Month. If you haven't considered the legacy you would like to leave locally, Wills Month is the perfect time to organise to sort it out.

During Wills Month, Acorn Foundation has partnered with local solicitors to allow clients to change an existing will to include a gift to Acorn at no charge. Other will changes are charged at the solicitor's normal rate. Local law firms have supported Acorn's efforts for years. If your solicitor firm is listed below, you can contact them for an appointment to get this addition to your will for free.

Abernethy Broatch Law

Anderson Law Office

Beach Law Papamoa

Burley Castle Hawkins Law

Cooney Lees Morgan

Fenton McFadden

Harris Tate Lawyers

Holland Beckett Law

Kaimai Law Bethlehem

Kaimai Law Katikati

Keam Standen Lawyers

Rejthar Stuart Law

Sharp Tudhope Lawyers

The Mount Lawyers

Tompkins Wake

Toner Law

Giving Circles support BOP charities

Thank you to the three Acorn Giving Circles who recently gifted significant donations to various charities in our region. The Giving Circles include Sally's Angels, First XI and the Honeybadgers. Each of these Giving Circles is made up of at least ten local people, who are united in their desire to make a difference together. The group members donate \$50 each month, pool their donations, and then get together once or twice a year to decide where to gift the money.

Reflecting the current need in our community around food security, all three of the Giving Circles chose to gift some of their donation to Tauranga Community Foodbank. Nicki Goodwin, Manager at Tauranga Community Foodbank, said, *"these donations will assist us with buying food to provide nutritious food support for people who would otherwise have nowhere else to turn. Unfortunately, we have seen a growth in demand for our service as the cost of living is affecting many people who would normally not need our support."*

Other charities chosen by the Giving Circles include local food security charities Good Neighbour and Street Kai, and youth charities Te Aranui Youth Trust and Bay of Plenty Youth Development Trust.

By pooling their donations across the year, each of the Giving Circles were able to donate a significant amount – between \$5,000 and \$7,000 per Giving Circle. This amount was then split between their chosen charity recipients.

Often, some of the group members will have an idea of where they would like to donate the money but the Acorn team are always on hand to provide guidance. Bridget Cummins, member of the First XI Giving Circle, explained to us why she enjoys being part of an Acorn Giving Circle.

"Being part of a Giving Circle makes you aware of what is going on in the community. Acorn has their finger on the pulse and works with lots of different charities in areas that may be 'under the radar' of many people. It is that part of the community that need some help."



Jordy Gastmeier, Tauranga Community Foodbank

Learn more about starting your own Giving Circle on our website acornfoundation.org.nz or contact emily@acornfoundation.nz / 07 579 9839

A gift in a will means that Canteen Aotearoa will receive annual funding to support rangatahi/young people impacted by cancer

Around 4,200 rangatahi (youth) are impacted by cancer each year in Aotearoa, whether it's their own diagnosis or cancer in their whānau. Canteen's mission is to ensure they don't have to face cancer alone.

Canteen provides vital support services tailored to the individual's specific needs and cancer experience. Their Clinical Team offers a wide range of free services to support rangatahi, including individual support, peer events, therapeutic camps and programmes, and specialised online support through Canteen Connect.

Annual funding from the Roy and Mary McGowan Fund and Emergency Services Club Fund helps Canteen support its members living in the Western Bay of Plenty (WBOP).

Chief Executive of Canteen, Nick Laing, expressed what that funding means

to them, *"The financial support we receive from the Roy and Mary McGowan Fund helps Canteen Aotearoa continue to provide its vital support services for rangatahi impacted by cancer. This includes individual counselling and opportunities for rangatahi to connect with others who understand what they're going through. One of the most important programmes that this fund directly supports is CanSurf, an annual camp held at Waihi Beach. It's a weekend where rangatahi learn to surf amongst other activities, which gives them a safe space to have some fun, get a break from cancer and connect with other rangatahi, creating bonds that continue long after the weekend ends."*

Over the years, more than 350 local individuals, couples, and families have decided that leaving a gift in their will to support the WBOP community is a great



Lola (left) and Canteen Leaders

option. Gifts given through the Acorn Foundation are invested in perpetuity, generating investment returns that are distributed annually to community organisations working in areas that are closest to our donors' hearts.

Roy and Mary were able to support many deserving organisations through their gift in their will to Acorn. Canteen was thrilled to be chosen by Mary to receive annual distributions from their fund.

"Canteen provided amazing support for both my siblings and I, and I cannot describe what it was like to be part of a group that completely understood my experience and were so open and

honest with each other. Cancer is such an awkward topic, and it's so freeing to be able to talk about your experience without feeling like you're making other people uncomfortable," said Tauranga Canteen sibling member, Lola.

Lola also joined Canteen's Leadership Programme to support other rangatahi dealing with cancer in their whānau. The programme has given her the opportunity to develop key skills, learn more about her leadership style, and support her peers.

The impact that Mary and Roy have had on our region will live on through the gift they left to the community they loved so much, through their Acorn fund.

Jann Medlicott's legacy will live on through her annual Acorn Prize for Fiction. The 2023 winner received \$64,000.

The prestigious Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction winner was announced in May at the 2023 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. The awards were attended by Acorn's Chair Lesley Jensen and Trustees Brian Cloughley and Michael Attwood. Acorn staff



member Margot McCool was given the pleasure of awarding the Acorn to Catherine Chidgey, a two-time winner.

The award has been offered since 2016 thanks to the late Acorn supporter Jann Medlicott, and it was awarded this year for Catherine's novel *The Axeman's Carnival*.

The Fiction category's convenor of judges, Stephanie Johnson, says *The Axeman's Carnival* is a novel that has been clasped to New Zealanders' hearts.

"The unforgettable Tama (maggie) – taken in and raised by Marnie on the Te Waipounamu high country farm she shares with champion axeman husband Rob – constantly entertains with his take on the foibles and dramas of his human companions. Catherine Chidgey's writing is masterful, and the underlying sense of dread as the story unfolds is shot through with humour and humanity."

"The Axeman's Carnival is unique: poetic, profound and a powerfully compelling read from start to finish."

This is Catherine's second win at the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards. She won the Acorn Foundation Fiction Prize in 2017 for *The Wish Child*. Both books are published by Te Herenga Waka University Press.

KPMG employees come together to support Tauranga youth charities

Two local youth charities are very grateful to the employees at KPMG Tauranga for their donations. This year just under \$5,000 was donated and has been split between two local charities. The chosen charities are Te Aranui Youth Trust, which supports vulnerable children in the Western Bay of Plenty, and NumberWorks'nWords Tauranga, which provides Maths and English tuition after school to students.

Tanya Grimstone, Funding Manager at Te Aranui Youth Trust, says the donation

has already allowed the charity to provide vital support to vulnerable children.

"This funding has already enabled us to assist two rangatahi [youth] who have been victims of family harm, with one school uniform so a child can return to school and also helping to replace a broken window to keep a home warm. Without these funds we would not have been in a position to help," said Tanya.

Leanne Rhodes-Robinson, Owner at NumberWorks'nWords Tauranga, says the donation will provide four free

tuition places to children who would otherwise not be able to afford a place.

"This funding will make a big difference to four students from a lower socio-economic background, and we are so happy we can offer these places for free next term. We are very grateful, as I know the children and their parents will be," says Leanne.

Employees at the firm can choose to join the programme by donating a percentage of their payroll each month, which gets pooled, and the participating employees collectively decide where

to donate their pooled money.

KPMG is one of several corporate donors in the region who support the community in different ways through the Acorn Foundation.

Learn more about Corporate Giving on our website acornfoundation.org.nz or contact emily@acornfoundation.nz / 07 579 9839



Some of the KPMG Workplace Giving Team

Lenovo

Scholarships

Celebration of Dale Carnegie 2023 Scholarship winners



On Thursday, 29 June, 22 students from schools across the Western Bay of Plenty were excited to receive their graduation certificates for completing the 2023 Acorn Foundation Dale Carnegie Youth Programme. The estate of the late Mary and Roy McGowan funded these scholarships that have been offered since 2010.

Year 13 students from 10 Western Bay of Plenty schools were selected for this programme. This three-day course teaches the Dale Carnegie five drivers of success: building greater self-confidence; strengthening people skills; enhancing communication skills; developing leadership skills; and reducing stress and worry.

Lauren Wilson from Tauranga Girls' College said the major benefits of the course were, *“being able to communicate with others no matter what the subject, while understanding their viewpoint.”*

Echo Clifton from Katikati College told us: *“Over three days, you will learn so much about yourself and your own abilities by putting your enthusiasm into everything you do.”*

Congratulations to the following scholarship winners:

- ACG Tauranga: Henrietta Davenport and Chase Rudkin
- Aquinas College: Maia Hetutu, Jose Farrell and Daniel Coster
- Katikati College: Echo Clifton and Jorja McKeown
- Mt. Maunganui College: Anjali Kumar, Trang Vu and Rowan Carey
- Otumoetai College: Angus Scott and Mia Mackenzie
- Papamoa College: Kaitlin Dunn and Willem Koning
- Tauranga Boys' College: Saad Aamir and Elliot Hayes
- Tauranga Girls' College: Lauren Wilson and Aimee Unwin
- Te Puke High School: Blake Scott and Mya Clarke
- Te Wharekura o Mauao: Amika Rangi-Dixon and Oceane Tukaki-Smith

Local students win 2023 Scholarships to Outward Bound



The Acorn Foundation hosted the 2023 Outward Bound Scholarship celebration held on Tuesday, 20 June at The Collective in Tauranga. These scholarships are awarded annually to Year 12 students from local Western Bay of Plenty schools, plus Whakatane High School, to attend the Tangaroa Watch programme at Anakiwa in the South Island. At the event, Josh Hansen of Whakatane High School shared his experience on behalf of the student cohort.

Students are nominated by their schools and selected by Outward Bound staff members based on their commitment to their school and the community, with demonstrated financial need and an opportunity to improve their self-confidence. This is the seventh year that committed Acorn donors and other local supporters have provided these valuable scholarships to this 3-week programme that uses outdoor adventures and physical activities to build resilience, perseverance and communication skills which deliver life-long benefits.

Congratulations to the following scholarship winners:

- Tauranga Boys' College: Ryan Speirs, Aaven Mgarva, and Olly Dow
- Tauranga Girls' College: Meghan Hughes and Ellie White
- Otumoetai College: Paiana Smith and Alyssa Toomer
- Pāpāmoa College: Summer Preece
- Te Puke High School: Sienna Livingstone and Charlie Anderson
- Katikati College: Isaac Rangikotua and Lyrique Jacobs-Tahana
- Whakatane High School: Maddison Lynch and Josh Hansen

2023 winners selected for the Page/Acorn Engineering Scholarship



Page/Acorn Scholarship winners Lewis Graham, Bailey Snowling and Joshua Conroy

The Acorn Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2023 Page/Acorn Engineering Scholarship. The scholarships are awarded annually to second-year apprentices at local engineering firms, thanks to local Acorn donors Bob and Pat Page. Recipients and their respective workplaces will receive funding for two years to assist with expenses and equipment.

The Page/Acorn Engineering Scholarship was established in 2008 by the late Bob and Pat Page to reward and encourage apprentices who go above and beyond expectations. Bob Page co-founded local firm Page and Macrae Engineering in 1953 and was always passionate about seeing young people succeed.

Nearly 70 apprentices and their workplaces across the Western Bay of Plenty have received support over the years – all thanks to the generosity of Bob and Pat Page.

Congratulations to the following recipients of the 2023 Page/Acorn Engineering Scholarship:

- Adriaan Meyer, Otūmoetai: Boshier Engineering
- Bailey Snowling, Te Puke: Page Macrae Engineering
- Eron Manabat, Ohauti: Page Macrae Engineering
- Ezra Keenan, Whakamārama: Robert Page Engineering Limited
- Joshua Conroy, Te Puke: Page Macrae Engineering
- Lewis Graham, Poike: Page Macrae Engineering
- Te Mawae McAllister, Te Puke, Impact Engineering

Upcoming events

Friends of Acorn: 2023 Distributions morning/afternoon teas

Our 2023 Distribution gatherings are an opportunity for Acorn donors, friends and anyone with a passion for our community to hear how this year's funding was directed, as well as to hear from some of the wonderful local recipient organisations working in our communities. This year we will be hosting functions in Katikati and Tauranga.

Katikati speakers include Volunteering Services, Western Bay Heritage Trust, The Tauranga Boy's Brigade and Poutama Pathways to Employment as well as a special performance by A Friends Place (Waihi Beach Community Centre).

Tauranga speakers include Volunteering Services, The Elms Foundation, and Tauranga Boy's Brigade with a special performance from The Starjam Alumni Jammers.

There will also be Outward Bound Scholarship winners speaking about their experiences at both functions.

We encourage you to bring along friends, clients, or customers whom you think may have an interest in giving back to our local community, through Acorn.

Please give us a call at **07 579 9839** or email **frances@acornfoundation.nz** to RSVP.

KATIKATI

Tuesday 26 September, 10am - 11:30am
Junction Theatre, The Arts Junction,
36 Main Road

TAURANGA

Tuesday 3 October, 2:30pm - 4pm
Bethlehem Shores Atrium,
141 Bethlehem Road



TAURANGA
ARTS
FESTIVAL 23
19-29 OCT

Mansfield: In Her Own Words (Unplugged)

The thirteenth biennial Tauranga Arts Festival is here, and we are delighted to sponsor 'Mansfield: In Her Own Words' which celebrates the profound legacy and language of Katherine Mansfield but in musical form. Selected poems are set to contemporary music composed and performed by some of Aotearoa's leading songwriters and recording artists and juxtaposed with a curated selection of Mansfield's letters narrated by Michèle A'Court.

Carrus Crystal Palace, Tauranga Waterfront
Friday 27 October, 8:00pm

Get your tickets for this show and all of the other wonderful Tauranga Arts Festival performances at Ticketek, <https://premier.ticketek.co.nz/>

Donors we remember

Graham O'Neill [1943 - 2023]

Graham was born in Rotorua, the youngest of six children. His family had operated a dairy farm in Katikati since the 1940s. He developed a keen interest in regenerative farming and soil health, which he applied to his property with considerable success.

Graham was heavily involved in the Scout movement, having been in the Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, and Venturers, and receiving the Queen's Scout Award. An active Scout leader, Graham enjoyed sharing his skills and wisdom with younger boys in the Katikati community.

Graham developed a love of sailing and sailed his keeler yacht regularly to the Bay of Islands and beyond. He also enjoyed travelling and went on five world tours during his lifetime.

His Acorn fund will support a wide range of organisations in the Katikati community, including providing several tertiary scholarships at Katikati College.



Yvonne Harrison [1929 - 2023]

Yvonne was born in Waitara in 1929 and began her married life with her husband Doug Harrison in 1955 on a dairy farm in the Minden area. Doug and Yvonne raised six children together alongside developing the kiwifruit orchard on the farm.

Doug and Yvonne were always involved in the community in some way – it was always very close to their heart. Both belonged to a group called the New Hebrides Association where they assisted with building and development work in the New Hebrides (now Vanuatu).

Yvonne was involved with Enliven Carruth day programme to support older people and knitted countless booties, hats, and cardigans for Plunket. The couple loved to travel together and had many interesting and exotic holidays in various parts of the world to see how other people live.

The Harrisons wanted their commitment to the community to continue long into the future, so they set up their Acorn fund to allow for annual distribution to Plunket and St. John.



Farewell Margot

We had a lovely sunny afternoon at The Kollektive on Thursday 10th August celebrating Margot McCool's retirement.

Margot has played a huge role over the last 15 years, serving as Donor and Community Engagement Manager for the past five years. When Margot started at Acorn in 2008, we had 61 donor funds set up and we gave away \$115,000 that year. We now have over 450 funds established and will distribute more than \$3M to the WBOP this year.

On behalf of all the caring donors, and the community Acorn supports, we thank her for her dedication to Acorn's vision of creating a thriving and vibrant Western Bay of Plenty for all.

We are thrilled for Margot and her husband, Johnny, as they prepare for a retirement full of family, fun and travel.



Introducing a new role for Acorn

Emily Goulding, who has been working for Acorn as our marketing specialist since 2021, has recently started a new role focusing on Corporate and Community Giving. In this role, Emily will focus on promoting 'other ways to give' via Acorn, as opposed to our traditional endowment fund giving model. This includes Corporate and Workplace Giving, giving as part of a Giving Circle, and supporting charities who have set up their own Community Group Fund with Acorn. Emily will also support those of our donors who do 'pass-through giving' (a donation that we immediately pass through to charities, rather than via an endowment fund).

"There's lots of potential for Acorn to engage with people in our wider community, who

may not be in a position yet to create an endowment fund. To-date, Acorn hasn't had the resources to focus on these other ways to give, so it's an exciting time to be starting this new role," says Emily.

If you would like to learn more about any of these ways to give, check out our website or contact Emily on **07 579 9839** or **emily@acornfoundation.nz**.



Thank you to our TECT Rebate Donors

In July of this year, 37 local Mercury customers donated their TECT rebate to the Acorn Foundation Vital Impact Fund. A total of \$10,750 was donated to the Vital Impact Fund, which supports charities working in the areas of greatest need in our region. Members of Acorn's Distributions Committee meet each year to decide upon the recipients and

in 2022, this fund distributed more than \$26,000 to local charities including Tauranga Community Foodbank, Tauranga Community Housing Trust, and Awhina House.

Donating to the Vital Impact Fund is an easy way to ensure that your money ends up supporting those who need it the most in our region. We'd like to say

a sincere thank you to everyone who donated their TECT rebate to support our community this year.

Learn more about the Vital Impact Fund on our website acornfoundation.org.nz



Building a thriving and vibrant Western Bay of Plenty, for all our people and for our natural environment.



STRATEGIC PARTNERS:



PREFERRED SUPPLIERS:



(07) 579 9839 www.acornfoundation.org.nz