

the acorn



Acorn's 2021 funding round is now open!
Applications are due by Thursday 10 June.

New Acorn donor, Jopie Heuseveldt, supports Katikati Innovative Horticultural Trust

Acorn is delighted to have new donor and passionate Katikati community supporter, Jopie Heuseveldt, join the Acorn family. Jopie turned 90 recently and has been a fan of Katikati College for decades. She and her late husband, Kees, immigrated to New Zealand from Holland and originally settled in Christchurch where they both worked as teachers. While serving as VSA volunteers in Tonga from 1968 to 1970, they made friends with a couple from Katikati who invited them for a visit. It only took one trip to the Western Bay of Plenty to convince Jopie and Kees that they had found their new home, and they soon bought property in Omokoroa.

Both Jopie and Kees found a place at Katikati College, where Kees installed a new workshop and taught Engineering and Technical Drawing. Jopie had taught primary school in Christchurch, so she was very excited to be hired to teach English and History at the college. They both retired in the 1980's, and Jopie moved to Katikati after Kees passed away.

Jopie has recently committed to supporting the Katikati Innovative Horticultural Project through her Acorn Foundation fund. She chose this cause due to Kees' passion for growing trees of every type on their property

in Omokoroa and her belief that supporting students into careers in horticulture will greatly benefit the area. Since the Katikati Innovative Horticultural Project is setting out to create a centre of horticultural educational excellence that will cater for college-aged students, young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs) and the local community, it perfectly aligns with Jopie's vision for the area.

After meeting Jopie recently, Katikati College horticulture head teacher, Hilary Johnson says, "I am hugely grateful to Jopie for not just her generosity, but for her vision in seeing how her contribution can go towards affecting so many young lives in our community, which then of course translates into older lives contributing to our community and society in general. To receive support for our project from a private individual with no affiliations to the horticultural industry is truly humbling. She greatly recognises that learning must be relevant and real to the individual. This is something that underpins our personalised Innovative Horticulture programme and is one of the key factors making it successful."

Katikati College Principal, Carolyn Pentecost, said, "Quite simply she reminded me why I



Carolyn Pentecost, Jopie Heuseveldt, Hilary Johnson

love my job! Being a teacher is truly a calling for some like Jopie, and even at 90 she still has a lesson or two to teach others. I imagine she was a game changer for the students lucky enough to have her as a teacher. Her humility and passion are the essence of a good teacher."

The Acorn Foundation works closely alongside generous donors like Jopie Heuseveldt to help them support the local organisations they are passionate about.

Acorn's 2021 funding round is underway

On 3 May we kicked off the 2021 funding round for WBOP community organisations. We continually aim to streamline the application process to make it more efficient for local charities, so this year we have moved to a one-step application, doing away with the previous years' requirement to submit a preliminary application to determine eligibility. Final decisions will be made by the Acorn Distributions Committee and approved by the Acorn Board in August, with funding distributed in early September. Funding criteria is available on our website. Applications close on Thursday 10 June. For further information, please contact us on 07 579 9839 or email info@acornfoundation.org.nz.

StarJam

StarJam provides transformative opportunities for vulnerable young people with disabilities who are aged 6 to 25 years to experience confidence, empowerment, inclusion and the feeling of being valued within their communities. Our vision is an inclusive New Zealand where all people living with disabilities are successfully integrated into our communities and realise their full potential.

We achieve our aim through running weekly workshops in music and performance and providing regular opportunities for participants (or Jammers) to perform and showcase their talents before audiences in a variety of community settings. Involvement in our community-

oriented programmes offers a strong sense of belonging and purpose for children and young people, providing assistance to their transition in to adulthood and the wider world. It helps them develop emotional, physical and social skills which assist them to integrate and contribute to their communities, creating positive change in their lives.

We currently provide 52 music workshops around New Zealand, with 4 of these being in the Tauranga region, alongside a public performance and community event programme targeted at this vulnerable sector. Each workshop holds 30 sessions annually and comprises up to 12 participants (Jammers), under the guidance of a paid tutor and 3 volunteers. The workshops are fees free in recognition of the financial hardship many families with children with disabilities face and are open to all who wish to participate, irrespective of their disability.

"My daughter just started with StarJam and is LOVING it. She chose a Mamma Mia song for 'spot the talent' and 2

others copied her song choice, and she was so chuffed - she has never been able to be 'cool' or have other kids look up to her before. It has really changed her confidence already."

- Laura Jafferes (Jammer parent)

Many of our participants have experienced bullying, isolation and exclusion. This has had a detrimental impact on their mental, emotional and, indirectly, physical health. StarJam provides a lifeline to an often marginalised group - a forum where they will not be judged, where they will undertake an activity that will provide them with stimulation and motivation, and where they will discover a new sense of belonging.

"Nobody's judging how good anyone else is and you can experiment and do your growing in that group."

- Natalie (Jammer)

With the ongoing uncertainty of alert levels, our established online platform can be used whenever the need arises, ensuring much needed stability and continuity for our Jammers.

VITAL UPDATE



"He is the happiest I ever see him when he's at StarJam".

In line with our growth strategy and our plans of increasing to 6 workshops in the Tauranga region, we have recently employed a dedicated Area Programmes Coordinator. This appointment will provide a direct contact for people living in Tauranga Moana, strengthening our commitment to the region and providing increased support for both Jammers and their whanau/caregivers.

Starjam received Acorn funding in 2020 from the Edna Brown Fund, which specifically supports those suffering medical conditions.



"What I love about StarJam is making friends and being happy".

New Zealand's literary giants honour benefactor

A Sunday lunch in April at the Tauranga Club was more special than most. A quartet of New Zealand's best fiction writers gathered with friends and family to honour Tauranga local Jann Medicott, whose generosity provides the national fiction prize at the Ockham New Zealand Book Awards.

The Jann Medicott Acorn Prize for Fiction—previously called the Acorn Foundation Fiction Prize—has been awarded since 2016. First winner Stephen Daisley (*Coming Rain*) sent his apologies from Australia.

Medicott and her guests were thrilled to hear from the other winners:

- 2017: Catherine Chidgey, *The Wish Child*
- 2018: Pip Adam, *The New Animals*
- 2019: Dame Fiona Kidman, *This Mortal Boy*
- 2020: Becky Manawatu, *Auē*

Acorn Foundation Donor and Community Engagement Manager, Margot McCool, said, "The impact of Jann's generosity in providing this annual prize was very evident in the highly personal stories shared by our

winners, of the ways they had put the funds to use. Make no mistake, whilst we have writers whose work deservedly sits alongside the top works of fiction anywhere in the world, they have not previously had the recognition they so deserve. This award goes some way towards addressing that."

Jann is currently receiving further treatment for cancer and was thrilled to have the support of close friends and family at this very special gathering.



Dame Fiona Kidman, Becky Manawatu, Dr. Jann Medicott, Pip Adam, Catherine Chidgey

VITAL UPDATE

Great pathway for vulnerable youth - Te Aranui Youth Trust

At the heart of what we do at Te Aranui Youth Trust is our mission: To inspire and challenge vulnerable youth to make safe and positive life choices. Te Aranui means 'The great pathway'. We believe that by surrounding our young people with great role models and challenging activities that increase, encourage and support their behaviours and decision making, we can put them on a positive path to a better future.

We have been working with the New Zealand Police and Ministry of Education for over 20 years providing a number of interventions for vulnerable youth in the Western Bay of Plenty. Working with youth between the ages of 7-14 ensures they have access to the support they need to stay in school and play an active part in their community.

Our school holiday programme includes a mix of fun and challenging activities, alongside community and cultural activities to maximise their potential. One of the essential parts of the programme is giving our youth a sense of belonging. By including whakawhanaungatanga (relationship building), te āo māori (Māori world), kaitiakitanga (guardianship), rangatiratanga (leadership), manaakitanga (hospitality), kotahitanga (unity), wairuatanga (spirituality), tikanga (custom) and kapa haka (cultural performance), we help reconnect them with their culture.

The programme also includes community give-back sessions which are an important part of the week to encourage involvement in their community. In the past, these have included dune care and education, community gardens, beach cleaning, and firewood collection. Our favourite part of the week is a cultural performance in a rest home dementia ward where our rangatahi have made some beautiful connections over the years. Our week concludes with a whānau hangi to celebrate their achievements from the week alongside whānau, our supporters and supporting agencies.

We also support the Tauranga Police Youth Development Team providing necessary interventions to support youth under their umbrella. Interventions can include uniforms, school fees, stationery, counselling, sports fees or any other interventions identified by Police staff that support the youth and their whānau.

Our Wāhine Toa/Tama Toa programme is run in schools all over Tauranga providing a term-long programme for youth who have been identified by school staff as needing a little extra support. Some of these youth may be victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse or drugs in the home. We cover a range of topics including personal hygiene and self-care, alcohol and drug awareness, youth rights and responsibilities, basic first aid,



sexual health, body image, mental health support, cyber safety and healthy relationships. We have a number of schools requesting this programme and are working to build capacity so that we can take this programme into more schools across the Western Bay of Plenty.

We believe that with early intervention we can break the cycle of violence, substance abuse and benefit dependence. By providing our most vulnerable youth with positive role models, a vision of a better future, skills to deal with their anxieties, anger, and frustration, they can grow to be functional adults contributing to their community. This in turn creates a safer and more positive community for everyone.

Of course, none of this would be possible without the support of the Tauranga community and the generous donors of the Acorn Foundation.

Te Aranui Youth Trust received funding in 2020 from the B&J Currie and Haine Family funds.



It's TECT time again!

The next TECT rebate will be paid out in July, and beneficiaries have until 20 June to select their rebate preference. A donation to the Acorn Foundation Vital Impact Fund is one of three options that can be selected. Over the past two years, generous TECT beneficiaries have donated \$70,000 to this Acorn fund that supports organisations working in the area of greatest need in the WBOP. In 2020, the recipients included Grief Support Services, St Peters House, Sustainability Options, and local KidsCan efforts.

ASB Tauranga supports local charities

We love the team at ASB Tauranga (inclusive of Bayfair/Papamoa) who had Acorn donate money in April on their behalf to the wonderful work being done at EmpowermentNZ and St Peters House.

According to Scott Nicholson, General Manager of EmpowermentNZ, "ASB's donation is vital to us being able to operate and continue working towards seeing all people within our community thrive. You truly make the difference for us, and we are extremely grateful!"

Cath Page, Manager of St Peters House, said, "We are extremely grateful to ASB Bank for their support of St Peters House and the Tauranga community. The extra funding will help us as we increase our services to try and meet the growing needs we are seeing."

Acorn donor and former pupil encourages love of learning at Katikati Primary School

Who knew that making a birthday cake out of playdough could be a Maths learning exercise?

The junior classes at Katikati Primary have been totally embracing their new Numicon maths equipment and curriculum, which brings a whole lot of fun together with a whole lot of learning. Thanks to the generosity of local man Alan Goodyear – himself a pupil at Katikati Primary in 1941 – the junior classes are absolutely loving learning maths, without even knowing that it's happening!

DP in charge of the junior school, Anne Morriss, says "With Alan's support of funds to resource this programme, our dream is now a 'happening thing.' Staff are already seeing the benefits and gains in the children's learning when working with the Numicon shapes, rods and activities."

Alan visited the school recently to see how the Numicon programme works inside the classroom and was delighted to see even the New Entrants class were totally absorbed in the fun, colourful equipment that makes learning literally like child's play. Staff are equally enthusiastic about Numicon and say that it is already making a difference to how quickly the children are picking up concepts of numbers and sequencing.

Alan Goodyear set up a fund in memory of his son Paul with the Acorn Foundation in 2017 that will continue to support science and maths learning at Katikati Primary School, as well their Remedial Reading programme. He takes a great deal of pleasure from seeing the difference that this support is making to children's learning – and how much fun they are having in the meantime.



The Acorn Foundation has been working with generous donors like Alan Goodyear to support local organisations operating in areas of interest to them since 2003.

VITAL UPDATE

Scholarships and Awards

Acorn Foundation Junior Art Awards

The Tauranga Art Gallery recently hosted its first

Acorn Foundation Junior Art Awards, supported by a generous Acorn family, with the celebration and awards evening taking place at the Art Gallery on 1 April.

With a vision to create an exceptional art experience for young creative minds, whilst engaging and inspiring our local community, the Junior Art Awards was open to children aged between 4 – 14 years who live in the Bay of Plenty region. The theme for the Art Awards 2021 was Te Taiao/Nature.

The very excited winners were presented with certificates and \$100 prizes at the celebration evening. Congratulations to all those who entered and who now have their artwork on display at the Tauranga Art Gallery!



The final four books included in the fiction category are:

- *Bug Week & Other Stories* by Airini Beautrais
- *Nothing to See* by Pip Adam
- *Remote Sympathy* by Catherine Chidgey
- *Sprigs* by Brannavan Gnanalingam

“These four highly accomplished works couldn’t be more different but all pack an immense literary punch” says Fiction category convenor of judges Kiran Dass. *“Craft, nuance, urgent storytelling, rage against injustice, and new perspectives are at the forefront of these four impressive books.”*

You can read samples of each of the shortlisted books on the Acorn website. Keep an eye out for the announcement of the winner after 12 May!

Page Acorn Engineering Scholarship winners for 2021

Set up by Bob and Pat Page, the Page Acorn Engineering Scholarships have been given out annually since 2009 to engineering apprentices in the WBOP who are nominated by their firms for displaying behaviours that are considered elevated above the normal expectations. This monetary award supports second year apprentices and their workplaces to purchase their own set of tools or to help with course expenses, and the acknowledgment that comes with winning this prestigious award for stand-out work ethic is a credit to each individual selected.



We are delighted to announce the 2021 winners:

- Torin Bryan, Te Puna--Boshier Engineering
- Omri Cook, Papamoa Beach--Gamminco Industrial
- Giovanni Dryfhout, Te Puke--Page Macrae Engineering
- Ronan Mitchell, Mt. Maunganui--Page Macrae Engineering
- Connor Watkins, Papamoa Beach--Contract Mechanical Services

Well done to each of you, and we wish you all the best in completing your engineering apprenticeships!

Ryan+Alexander gifts five new tertiary scholarships for WBOP students

Five Tauranga local school leavers will head off to tertiary study in 2022 with a welcome financial boost.



A suite of scholarships will be available from local recruiting company, Ryan+Alexander, who have offered the scholarships to mark five years in business.

Acorn is delighted to partner with Ryan+Alexander to administer the scholarships which will make a significant difference to five students who will undertake their tertiary education here in the Western Bay of Plenty.

Co-director Bernadette Ryan-Hopkins says the Tauranga community has supported Ryan+Alexander to thrive, and it's gratifying to be able to pay forward that support to five

hard-working, motivated school-leavers. *“This is our way of saying thank you to Tauranga for all the support this city has shown our business across our first five years. We’re so excited to be able to help some local school-leavers achieve their tertiary education goals.”*

Co-director Kiri Burney says the full-service agency has grown to a team of six, specialising in finding great candidates for great roles across regional New Zealand and the agency counts many of the Bay of Plenty’s top employers among its clients. *“We’ve loved these five years of matching excellent candidates with the exciting opportunities available in Tauranga and beyond”* Mrs Burney says. *“And now we get to celebrate this milestone by launching a scholarship to help five local school-leavers equip themselves to join the workforce.”*

Scholarship recipients will be chosen from Tauranga’s five state secondary schools - Tauranga Boys' and Girls' colleges, Mount Maunganui College, Otumoetai College and Papamoa College. To be eligible, applicants must be committed to completing their full programme of study at a Tauranga tertiary campus and be able to demonstrate both academic excellence and community involvement. Each recipient will receive \$3500 over the course of their chosen study programme. Please visit the Acorn website for more information about these scholarships.

Jann Medicott 2021 Acorn Prize for Fiction

The four shortlisted writers vying for the 2021 Jann Medicott Acorn Prize for Fiction will be anxiously awaiting the awards ceremony taking place in Auckland on 12 May at the Auckland Writers Festival. With an inflation-adjusted value of \$57,000, this award is lifechanging, both in terms of recognition and relieving a significant financial burden for any author.



KPMG Tauranga distributes first Workplace Giving funds



Thanks so much to the participants at the KPMG Tauranga office, who have chosen their first recipients for their Workplace Giving donations. The office Giving Committee have chosen two terrific local organisations to receive support in the area of youth development: Te Aranui Youth Trust and Blue Light Western Bay.

KPMG employee contributions are taken out of their fortnightly pay, with the 33% tax credit applied at the time. Therefore, a \$10 donation cost the employee \$6.66, while

KPMG’s company matching programme means that nearly \$15 is donated. KPMG Tauranga’s Office Managing Partner, Glenn Keaney, says, *“Personally I have had a long association with Acorn, serving as a Trustee from 2011 to 2019, with four years as Chair. I understand first-hand how much good Acorn is contributing to the community, so when the opportunity arose to be an early adopter of Acorn’s Workplace Giving programme, we signed up. The benefit is*

that over time we can help make a real difference to our community and the youth involved in these initiatives, which, in the longer term, supports our purpose of fuelling New Zealand’s prosperity. The programme also helps us create a culture of philanthropy and adds to the team spirit in our Tauranga office. We hope that as the programme continues, more of our team will see the value it brings and join in.”

“We thought, why not start our fund now, so we can enjoy seeing the difference that it makes? We know that our contribution is helping, and it’s something that we take much pleasure in following each year. Acorn is doing a wonderful job, and we are very pleased to be a part of it.”

When we attend the donor events and see and hear what the beneficiaries are doing with our funding, it really gives us so much pleasure. To see all those people and hear their stories is a wonderful thing. The whole atmosphere is fantastic – it’s a privilege to be part of it. The fact that we gave during our lifetime is something very special.”

- Anonymous Acorn Donors



TECT Community Awards

It was wonderful to see our region’s hard-working volunteers and community groups celebrated at the TECT Community Awards held recently at Baycourt. These individuals and organisations go above and beyond to make our community a better place to live and to see them so well celebrated made for a heartwarming and inspiring evening. A big congratulations from Acorn to all of the winners on the night, with particular mention to those groups who have received funding support from Acorn donors: Mockingbird Charitable Trust (Winner: Diversity and Inclusion Award) and BOP Youth Development Trust (Winner: Rising Star Award). Well done, everybody!

Functions & Events

3 May - 10 June	Acorn Foundation 2021 Funding Application period
12 May	Ockham New Zealand Book Awards
27 May	Donor Tree Planting
29 June	Outward Bound Tangaroa Watch Celebration
8 July	Dale Carnegie Youth Programme Graduation

For further information about these events, please call us at (07) 579 9839 or reach out to Jo@acornfoundation.org.nz

DONORS WE REMEMBER

Norma [1918-2012] & Joan [1920-2019] McWhinney

Norma McWhinney was born in Wellington on 6 August 1918, and her sister Joan was born on 31



May 1920. The sisters were brought up during the depression years. They really learned how to make their own fun and appreciated the sacrifice their parents made to educate them at St Mary's College, a Catholic school in Wellington.

In 1940 the family moved to Blenheim where their father managed NZ Loans and Mercantile which later became Dalgetys. Norma nursed her mother in Blenheim for 20 years, and Joan worked as secretary to the Chief Executive of the Wairau Hospital.

Joan and Norma moved to Tauranga in 1978 to be with their eldest sister. They both enjoyed gardening, embroidery and knitting. Norma passed away in 2012 and her sister Joan passed away in 2019. It was Joan and Norma's appreciation for their education at St Mary's College that inspired them to provide funds to support young people to develop their faith within St Mary's Catholic Church in Tauranga.



Jocelyn Hicks [1937 - 2020]



Jocelyn Hicks was born in Omokoroa, attending Omokoroa Point School on her pony. After four terms at Tauranga District High School, she then moved to Auckland where she attended Epsom Girls' Grammar. After completing a BA degree from Auckland University, Jocelyn was appointed to the history department at Auckland Girls' Grammar School, a position she held for a period of 20 years. She later moved to Diocesan School for Girls as head of the history department for another 12 years.

After these years in Auckland, Jocelyn returned to Tauranga with her husband, Rob, where they owned and operated kiwifruit orchards in the Omokoroa area. Jocelyn's strong interest in history resulted in her being involved at The Elms as a guide and a trainer of guides for 20 years.

Jocelyn was a founding member of both the Omokoroa History Group and the Omokoroa Public Art Group and was one of the first trustees of the Western Bay Museum. She had a strong belief in the importance of archives.

Jocelyn posthumously received the Tauranga Centennial Heritage Award at The Elms, highlighting the superb contribution she made over many years to the history of Tauranga.



Acorn Supporters & Friends function packs a punch

"Tears, sadness, hope, inspiration, awe--what a range of emotions we experienced during Saturday's Donor and Friends event!"

– Acorn Donor

We had over 70 people attend our March morning tea for what was definitely one of our more powerful and emotional functions to date. An inspiring lineup of brave and passionate speakers reminded all of those present why we choose to be a part of Acorn and just how and who Acorn is helping through the generosity of our donors. Speakers included:

- Whitney Smith from **Philips Search & Rescue Trust** which provides funding and promotion to our local TECT rescue helicopter. This emergency service covers the coastal Bay of Plenty region, providing a 24-hour emergency service, 365 days a year;
- Winner of the **Acorn Foundation Adult Learner Scholarship**, Kylie Oliver, who bravely shared her story about domestic violence following her former husband's addiction to meth and her ultimate aim to help women suffering abuse;

- Brain Injured Children Trust's** Mark Wilson, who was diagnosed with cerebral palsy and received assistance from Brain Injured Children Trust to access the Neuro-Developmental Therapy Programs (NDTP) which ultimately transformed his life; and
- Craig Nees from **BOP Youth Development Trust** which runs, amongst other programmes, the Tauranga Boxing Academy, that works with youth to build confidence, self-respect and resilience. Winning the 'Rising Star' award at the TECT Community Awards highlights just how successful this young organisation has become!

Thank you to all of our speakers for sharing your stories and your time, and to all of our donors and supporters for being the wonderful people you are. We feel both blessed and honoured to assist you on your philanthropic journey!

Acorn farewells

Acorn has recently said goodbye to three valuable volunteers. Each of these fantastic people holds a special place in our hearts, and we wish them only the best in the future.

Graeme Horsley (Trustee)

Graeme originally joined the Acorn team as a member of the Investment Advisory Committee in June 2015, taking over as Chair in May 2016 after joining the Board that February. Graeme was instrumental in leading revisions to Acorn's Investment Policy Statement to change the mix between Fixed Income and Growth assets as the markets changed. Graeme also led the way for Acorn to participate in alternative assets and in social impact investing.



Anthony Ririnui (Trustee)

Anthony joined the Board in June 2015 and originally served on the Investment Advisory Committee. He moved to the Distributions Committee in February 2019, which he ably chaired along with the Scholarships Committee. Anthony has a deep commitment to his whānau, iwi and the wider community that is greatly admired.



Viv Edwards (Distributions Committee)

Viv has served the Distributions Committee through three granting cycles and has seen the committee go from strength to strength. She is passionate about the well-being of the local community and provided valuable insight due to her senior leadership position at Plunket.



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 speaks to groups like yours.



There is so much for us to talk about, from the foundation growth story through to COVID recovery and the impact of the housing shortage on our community.

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 email sarah@acornfoundation.nz or call 07 579 9839.



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:



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