

Acorn celebrates 20 years!

This milestone marks just the beginning of our journey.

An intrepid explorer with a generous heart

Although she retired 18 years ago, it's hard to get hold of Chris Tustain. You'll find her on the tennis court, walking around the streets of Matua, cycling, swimming in the harbour, or playing bridge at the local club. But when you DO find her, you'll find a content soul with a passion for so many activities and with so many interesting stories to share that you won't notice the time passing!

Born in England, Chris and her family emigrated to New Zealand when she was five years old, settling in Whangarei. At 16, she began working at the National Bank in Whangarei and continued to work for the bank at Te Puke and Tauranga branches for most of her working life in New Zealand. Chris set off on her first overseas trip at the age of 24, igniting a serious passion for travel, and has since visited no less than 80 countries. Her trips were varied, with some on boats, some with groups and friends, and some on her own, and two of her longer trips were working holidays, including hotels, village cafés and pub work, as well as two terms as an assistant matron in a boys' prep school in Devon. Her travels have taken her to the Arctic, Antarctica, sub-Antarctic Islands, and all continents in between. In 1975 she and a friend travelled from Kuala Lumpur to Istanbul on public transport, mainly buses and trains. It was a very interesting and educational

journey, but harrowing at times. One of her favourite destinations is South Georgia, in the south Atlantic, where the scenery and wild life is spectacular. In Africa, she climbed Mount Kilimanjaro and visited mountain gorillas in Rwanda.

Upon retirement from the bank, Chris joined the St John volunteer team, working as a Friend of the Emergency Department at Tauranga Hospital. She is passionate about animals and the environment and has been an incredibly generous supporter of performing artists and budding young sportspeople. She has provided 20 awards in those areas over the past nine years.

Her travels have taken her to the Arctic, Antarctica, sub-Antarctic Islands, and all continents in between.

Recipients of these awards include tenor singer Filipe Manu, who was the winner of the 2014 Christine Tustain Performing Arts Award, and youth Olympian Veerle ten Have, winner of the 2018 Christine Tustain Sports Award.

Filipe Manu went on to join the prestigious Jette Parker Young Artist Programme at the Royal Opera House. Since joining that programme in 2019, Filipe has performed the role of



Chris Tustain and Veerle ten Have

Gastone (La Traviata) on the world-famous main stage and made his debut at Wigmore Hall and Royal Albert Hall. Most recently, Filipe won the 2022 Lexus Song Quest where he performed Ah, Lève-Toi, Soleil.

Veerle ten Have's Olympic journey started with windsurfing when she was 14, and she continued to achieve highly in that sport for the next six years. For many years, she was New Zealand's top female windsurfer in the RS:X class, and she won silver at the 2018 Youth Sailing World Championships in Texas. After switching to the exciting sport of windfoiling, Veerle has an ultimate aim to race at the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Chris joined the Acorn family in 2009 after a recommendation from a friend. She had been concerned about where her money might go after she passed away since she knew that her family was not in need of it,

and she wanted to ensure it supported the things she loved. Chris was one of Acorn's first 'living giving' donors, meaning she contributed to her fund immediately. She built her fund up so that she could see her distributions in action, something that provides a lot of satisfaction. She set up the 'Christine Tustain Classical Music Award' and the 'Christine Tustain Sports Award' after reading articles about promising musicians and sportspeople who simply could not afford to pursue their passion. Chris thought it a great shame to see such talent not reach its full potential, so she set up her awards to assist these young people.

Chris Tustain's support for those who excel in classical music and sports in the Western Bay of Plenty will continue for generations to come.

When you give back, you can get back... a 33.3% tax credit. Gifts made before 31 March receive a 33.3% tax credit this year, up to the amount of tax paid.

The beginning of our journey

In 2023, Acorn celebrates another milestone – our 20th birthday! Acorn has come a long way since our early days, when a group of committed trustees decided to follow the lead of other countries and introduce the community foundation model to Aotearoa New Zealand. Now we are one of 17 foundations that enable generous locals to support the needs of their regions across 80% of the population of the country.

With more than 400 endowment funds – and over 600 total donors – the Western Bay of Plenty's community foundation is well-poised to support our region long into the future. Our donors come to Acorn in all sorts of ways: via gifts in a

will, living giving to get the pleasure of seeing gifts in action, contributions to one of Acorn's many Community Group funds, as a member of a Giving Circle or a Workplace Giving programme, or as a contributor to the Vital Impact Fund, which supports organisations working in the areas of greatest need in the area.

Acorn's growth curve has accelerated over the past several years, both in funds under management, and most importantly, in contributions to the community. It took the foundation nine years to pass \$1M in total distributions, 15 years to reach the \$5M mark, and 18 years to pass \$10M in support for this region and other areas that are important

Giving. Caring. Together.  
20 YEARS

**Giving.**

Acorn's Smarter Giving Model has enabled generous locals to connect with causes that matter in our region since 2003.

**Caring.**

Thanks to the generosity of more than 400 donors, Acorn has gifted over \$13M to hundreds of community organisations and award winners.

**Together.**

Community-minded donors, committed strategic partners, and engaged local funders work with Acorn for the benefit of the WBOP.

to our donors. With more than \$3M in endowment and pass-through distributions in 2022, it is clear that Acorn's support for those recipient groups doing such wonderful work will only continue to grow.

However, even though we are enthusiastically celebrating our 20th year, we know that Acorn is at the very

beginning of its journey. Community foundations in Canada and the US are more than 100 years old, and we have been able to see how their organisations have developed over time. With such an enthusiastic group of donors, supporters and volunteers, we know that the future looks very bright indeed!



# Community Groups doing amazing work for the arts and the environment

There are many organisations in our region that have set up a Community Group endowment fund with Acorn. By giving to these funds, you can help your favourite groups move towards self-sufficiency. Once their fund reaches the \$50,000 distributions threshold, the investment returns earned each year will provide an annual income stream to the organisation far into the future.

You can choose to give to a Community Group fund during your lifetime as a one-off or a regular donation, or you can leave a gift for that fund in your Will.

New Community Group funds to learn about:

**Project Parore** is a community-driven environmental stewardship approach

focused on improved freshwater quality and restored native habitat. The project is all about practical ecological restoration from hills to ocean, promoting changes in land management and use to improve soil health, stream health and biodiversity across the eight catchments of the northern Tauranga Harbour.

It is a collaborative effort, engaging landowners and residents to protect the ecosystems that need to support livelihoods well into the future, and to enhance our shared spaces for the benefit of wildlife and humans alike. Volunteers can get involved in everything from citizen science to pest control and planting. Project Parore's Community Group fund will ensure the organisation has a

continuous income stream in the future to maintain their conservation efforts.

**Opus Orchestra** was founded in 1991 and plays a vital role in the cultural life of our region, providing performance opportunities for local professional musicians through concerts for local audiences. They wish to continue their commitment to enriching lives through exceptional orchestral performances in the Bay of Plenty/Waikato regions in perpetuity, hence their decision to partner with the Acorn Foundation to create a lasting legacy for Opus Orchestra.

Having a reliable long-term funding stream will enable Opus Orchestra to prosper long into the future. It will allow Opus to continue providing inspiring

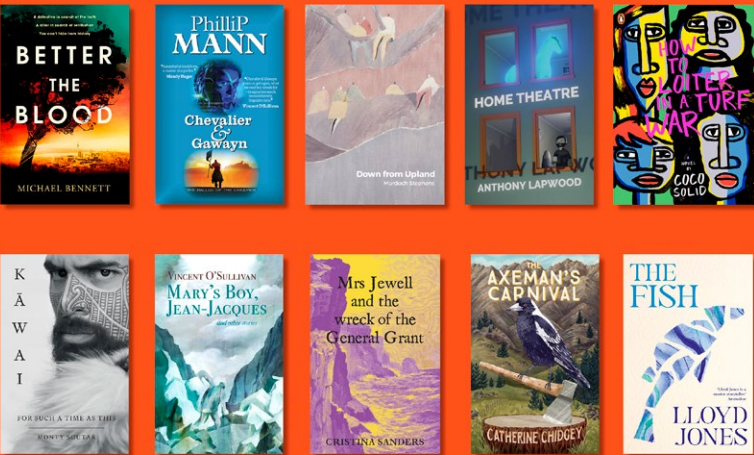
concerts locally and to develop its Opus Pathways programme, which supports development opportunities for musicians in all phases of their careers from secondary school to the professional level.

If you would like to donate to either of these Community Group funds visit the DONATE NOW page on our website and select 'Project Parore' or 'Opus Orchestra' from the drop-down menu.

Check out the Acorn Foundation website [www.acornfoundation.org.nz](http://www.acornfoundation.org.nz) for a full list of Community Group funds.



## Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction 2023 Longlist



## NZ Book Awards 2023 fiction longlist

The Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction will offer \$64,000 for the winner in 2023. This amazing award has been providing support for New Zealand's top writers since 2016 and will be giving away the prize for the first time since Jann passed away in August 2022. Jann's estate will support the fiction category at the NZ Book Awards in perpetuity, including an increase for wage inflation each year.

### The 2023 Ockham New Zealand Book Awards longlisted titles are:

#### Jann Medlicott Acorn Prize for Fiction

- Better the Blood* by Michael Bennett (Simon & Schuster)
- Chevalier & Gawayn: The Ballad of the Dreamer* by Phillip Mann (Quentin Wilson Publishing)

- Down from Upland* by Murdoch Stephens (Lawrence & Gibson)
- Home Theatre* by Anthony Lapwood (Te Herenga Waka University Press)
- How to Loiter in a Turf War* by Coco Solid (Penguin, Penguin Random House)
- Kāwai: For Such a Time as This* by Monty Soutar (Bateman Books)
- Mary's Boy, Jean-Jacques and other stories* by Vincent O'Sullivan (Te Herenga Waka University Press)
- Mrs Jewell and the Wreck of the General Grant* by Cristina Sanders (The Cuba Press)
- The Axeman's Carnival* by Catherine Chidgey (Te Herenga Waka University Press)
- The Fish* by Lloyd Jones (Penguin, Penguin Random House)

# Corporate giving supports the region

The Christmas and New Year's holidays can be a difficult time for locals and charitable organisations that help people in need. Luckily, local businesses realise that it is important to support the community during this challenging time.

2022 marked the fourth year that more than \$150,000 in donations were gifted to charitable organisations around New Zealand in lieu of Craigs Investment Partners sending out client gifts. \$30,000 was donated locally, with the Giving Committee representing the Tauranga-based Craigs employees selecting twelve wonderful local organisations working for the benefit of those who need a helping hand.

"It is our pleasure to work with Acorn Foundation to provide support to organisations who are doing such good

work in a difficult environment," said Hamish Coleman, Craigs Investment Advisor.

Oriens Capital decided to allocate its second donation of 2022 to the Tauranga Community Foodbank, which supports individuals and families in need through the provision of food parcels. Tauranga Community Foodbank were delighted to receive this donation from the Oriens team, particularly since the current pressure of rising rents and increased food and petrol prices are leaving incomes very stretched. The Oriens team felt this donation was timely, given the family stresses during the Christmas holidays.

The team at ASB Tauranga (inclusive of Bayfair and Pāpāmoa) chose to donate to two deserving recipients in November: Tauranga Women's Refuge and St Peters

House. With these organisations facing increasing demands, raising enough funds to best support their clients is a constant worry. Fortunately, gifts from generous corporates like ASB Tauranga means these organisations can increase their support to the community.

We appreciate all of Acorn's corporate and Workplace Giving donors for their generosity and thoughtfulness, which is making a real difference to so many in our community.

To find out more about corporate giving with Acorn, visit our website [www.acornfoundation.org.nz](http://www.acornfoundation.org.nz) or give us a call on 07 579 9839.





# Scholarships and awards

Our first Scholarship Celebration evening in December was a success! It was an amazing opportunity to honour the 2022 secondary school scholarship winners who will be beginning their tertiary education this year.

## Acorn Foundation Bob & Joy Owens 2022 Scholarships

The Owens Scholarships have been supporting young people in our region for 29 years. These award winners have shown a significant commitment to their schools and to the community, with a strong idea about their future goals.



**Congratulations to the 2022 Bob & Joy Owens Scholarship winners:**

**Aquinas College:** Antony Death will study Mechanical Engineering in Canterbury

**Bethlehem College:** Jenna Warner will pursue a Chemistry degree at Auckland University

**Mt. Maunganui College:** Alex Thompson will major in Human Resource Management and Operation Supply Chain Management

**Otumoetai College:** Ella Quarmby will pursue a major in English Literature & Creative Writing at Victoria University

**Tauranga Boys' College:** Taine Larsen will study a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) degree at the University of Canterbury

**Tauranga Girls' College:** Ella Paterson will seek a career in Arts and Humanities, specialising in English

**Te Puke High School:** Emma will study Food Technology at Massey University.

## Farmer Autovillage Scholarship

Nine winners this year came from the scholarship programme established to celebrate the Farmer Autovillage 30th year. This programme was one of several that the Farmer Autovillage team put in place to thank the WBOP community for all of the support received by the business over the years.



**The 2022 Farmer Autovillage Scholarship winners include:**

**Mount Maunganui College:** Neve Simpson, Benjamin Lindsey and Will Fraser

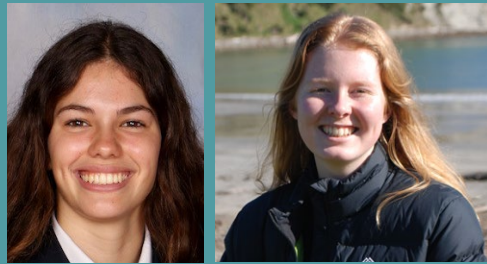
**Pāpāmoa College:** Emilie Rillstone, Josh McCaul and Ariana Wilson

**Te Puke High School:** Amy Phillips, Ashton Zaal and Amber Thompson

## Tauranga Girls' College Trust Scholarships – in memory of Minola Grant

Ruby Walford (pictured left) and Ella Mitchell (pictured right) were selected

for the 2022 Tauranga Girls' College Trust Scholarships. Both girls will attend the University of Auckland this year. Ruby will study Health Sciences, while Ella's passion for economics and equitable public policy will have her study for conjoint Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Global Studies degrees.



## Alwyn Robert Thompson Law Scholarship



Winner of the Robert Alwyn Thompson Law Scholarship 2022, Lily Pearce from Tauranga Girls' College, is looking forward to studying Law and

Commerce at the University of Waikato. She is excited to dive deeper into her passion for helping the community by studying Law, which she hopes will help her to become a more insightful member of society.

## 2022 Te Puke High School Butler Scholarship



Congratulations to Ruby Willis on receiving the 2022 Te Puke High School Butler Scholarship. Ruby's passion to rid the fashion industry of

toxicity, referring particularly to negative body image and unrealistic beauty standards, as well as addressing current issues with sustainability, set her apart from other applicants.

Ruby said, "This scholarship has directly altered the next three years and therefore changed the rest of my life, by opening up so many opportunities that I did not have access to before. For this, I will be forever grateful."

## 2022 Cashmore Family Scholarship



Passionate design student, Toby McGuffie, received the 2022 Cashmore Family Scholarship at Tauranga Boys' College. Toby stood out during

the interview process for his incredibly warm, positive and forthright manner. He will be attending Massey University this year to study a bachelor's degree in design.

Toby says, "I will be eternally grateful to have been the chosen recipient of the Acorn Foundation Cashmore Family Scholarship 2022 and wish to acknowledge Richard and Andrea Cashmore for this."

*This extremely generous scholarship will assist me enormously with my university expenses over the next three years."*

## BOP Medical Students Scholarship 2022



Fourth-year medical student Henry Smith was awarded the BOP Medical Students Scholarship through Acorn. Henry will be undertaking a

clinical placement at Tauranga Hospital this year while juggling his responsibilities as a new father.

"Medical school has been a full-time, intensive course, which limits the opportunities to earn money on the side. Five years of no full-time income creates a financial strain which hovers in the background on top of already challenging academic requirements. This grant will strongly help supply the resource requirements that come with having a new baby, and I am eternally grateful for it," says Henry.

## Christine Tustain Classical Music Award 2022



Outstanding violinist Sarah Lee of Otumoetai College won the 2022 Christine Tustain Classical Music Award.

Sarah will begin a Bachelor of

Music at the University of Auckland this year. Sarah's commitment to her musical studies is second to none; she has been travelling to Auckland once a week for the past five years to study with her tutor.

Sarah said, "I am very grateful to be receiving the Christine Tustain Classical Music Award. Music has had a tremendous impact in all stages and areas of my life and will continue to do so."

## Jann Medlicott Creative Arts Award winner



In September last year, Ella Quarmby from Otumoetai College was announced as the Jann Medlicott Creative Arts Award winner. Ella is looking forward to

starting a Bachelor of Arts in English Literature and Creative Writing at Victoria University this year and also plans to continue her creative writing. "I am incredibly grateful for this award in ways that go beyond its financial aspect - to be recognised by people outside my immediate circle is probably the best encouragement a writer can have," said Ella.

While Ella is the 11th recipient of this award, 2022 marks the first year it has

been awarded without the active participation of Acorn donor Jann Medlicott, who sadly passed away in August. Jann was a passionate and avid reader, and she would have been delighted to know that the 2022 Creative Arts Award went to a young writer with so much potential.

## 2022 Coker Classical Arts Scholarship winner



Earlier in 2022, we announced the winner of the 2022 Acorn Foundation Coker Classical Arts Scholarship, Caitrin

Mackenzie-Everitt. Caitrin received the award based on an impressive portfolio of visual artworks demonstrating artistic talents across a range of mediums and styles. The scholarship will assist with her studies at Otago Polytechnic, where she is currently working towards a Bachelor of Visual Arts.

## Amnesty International Gary Ware Legacy Award

The Gary Ware Legacy Award is run by Amnesty International Aotearoa New Zealand to empower and support young people with a passion for protecting and promoting human rights. The Ware family created the award via Acorn Foundation as a lasting legacy for Gary, who passed away in 2018.



Katja Phutaraksa is a political artist and master's student who was selected for her vision to raise awareness of the displacement of

the Banaban people in Kiribati by phosphate mining in the 1900s. Katja's use of art in activism is particularly powerful because of the emotions it evokes through real and raw storytelling.



Josh McCormack was selected to develop his project Sex Outside the City, a new kaupapa that aims to improve health outcomes

for LGBTQIA+ and takatāpui people in rural-regional Aotearoa. Having grown up in rural Taranaki, the final-year Auckland University medical student knows the challenges of accessing safe and affirming LGBTQIA+ healthcare all too well.

Find out more about each of these deserving recipients on our Facebook page [facebook.com/AcornFoundation](https://facebook.com/AcornFoundation)



## Acorn welcomes

We are delighted to have recently welcomed three new volunteers – and a current volunteer into a new role – at Acorn.

### Tan Phuangdokmai (Distributions Committee):



Tan was born in Thailand and moved to London at the age of 13. After finishing school, he began his career teaching physical education. Once he moved to New Zealand, Tan worked as the Operations Manager at the local disability support charity, Momena. He joined Tauranga City Council in 2022 as the Connected Communities Advisor before progressing into the Inclusive Cities Advisor role. In this new role, Tan will work closely with older people and people with disabilities and their carers to ensure all people are fully included and valued in Tauranga.

Tan is eager to use his diverse skills and experience to build meaningful relationships and create positive change for the city he now calls home.

### Annabelle Stewart (Distributions Committee):



Annabelle will bring a new perspective to the committee being the youngest ever member to volunteer with Acorn. She grew up in Pāpāmoa

and attended Mount Maunganui College. As a year 9 student, she was voted onto the school's Board of Trustees as their youngest ever Student Representative. At present, Annabelle is studying full-time at the University of Waikato towards a Bachelor of Social Science majoring in Psychology with a minor in Philosophy.

In her spare time, Annabelle plays the Flugelhorn in the local Tauranga City Brass Band and is an active member of the Band's committee, managing fundraising and grants applications.

Annabelle is excited and honoured to be joining the Distributions Committee. She hopes to become more involved with local community organisations and make a positive difference for the region.

### David Lewis (Investment Advisory Committee):



David has worked in financial markets and investments for over 20 years. He has recently founded Novus Consulting, a social enterprise aiming to help large NZ investors, especially those in the charitable sector, implement responsible investment approaches. He is also working towards a master's degree in sustainability.

Previously he was a Portfolio Manager and Deputy CIO at Milford Asset Management, and earlier in his career spent over a decade overseas with BT Funds and Merrill Lynch.

Having recently moved to Tauranga, David is pleased to be able to contribute to the great work the Acorn Foundation is doing and to help continue its very strong investment track record.

### Beppie Holm (Trustee):



We are delighted to welcome our newest Trustee to the Acorn Board - Beppie Holm!

Beppie is a long-time supporter of Acorn and has been a member of our Investment Advisory Committee for the past 5 years. Beppie's international commercial experience and local involvement with WNT, Enterprise Angles and Purpose Capital will enable her to bring a wealth of knowledge and experience to our Board.

Beppie is delighted to be joining the Acorn Board of Trustees. For some time, she has been a living donor with an endowment fund and has admired the professional and collaborative way in which the Acorn team supports our community organisations. She is honoured to now also contribute in a governance role.

Haere mai, Beppie - we're so glad you've joined the Acorn Board!

## Acorn farewells

### Peter Tinholt:



The Acorn team sends a huge thank you to Peter Tinholt, who has retired from the Board after completing eight years of volunteer service as a Trustee.

Peter joined the Board in 2015 and has served on the Audit, Risk and Policies Committee (ARP) since its inception in 2019. Peter was a core member of the Board who shepherded the foundation through its transformative years. The year that Peter joined the Board, the funds under management had grown over 40% from \$9.4M to \$13.4M, distributing over \$500,000 to the community for the first time. The eight years that followed were a period of intensive growth for Acorn as the foundation now sits at over \$57M and distributed \$3M in 2022.

We are so appreciative of Peter for all of his help, counsel and encouragement over the many years of his involvement with Acorn!

## Acorn's 2022 AGM

Thank you to everyone who attended our AGM evening in November at The Collective. We loved seeing so many of you in person since last year's AGM was held via Zoom. It was wonderful to celebrate our successes for the year which included distributing over \$3M to the community. Thank you to the organisations who shared their highs and lows of the year and to former

scholarship winner, Lyndon Downes, who shared what it meant to him to be awarded the Te Puke High School Butler Scholarship in 2021. We had the opportunity to thank trustee Peter Tinholt, who retired after eight years of voluntary service. To end the evening, violinist Sarah Lee, the winner of the 2022 Chris Tustain Classical Music Award, entertained the audience.



## Donors we remember: Jill Butler [1933-2022]



Jill was born in Te Puke in 1933. Her father Henry Neal Carpenter, together with Jack Conway, founded the partnership of Conway & Carpenter Electricians in 1930. The same business is still operating today – over 90 years later.

Jill was educated at Te Puke Primary School, then spent two years boarding at Epsom Girls Grammar School in Auckland. When all Auckland schools were closed due to a polio epidemic, she resumed school at

Te Puke High School. She was appointed Head Girl at Te Puke High School in 1950.

After turning 21, Jill travelled to England by ship and obtained a job at NZ House in the emigration department before obtaining a better paid job in a German travel agency in Bond St, London.

Returning to New Zealand, Jill married and lived in Opotiki for 10 years but still retained strong ties to Te Puke.

Jill met her husband George in Te Puna and they married in 1982 and continued with a successful orchard business until their retirement. They were married for over 40 years.

In a fitting tribute to their generosity, they have established the Butler Scholarship at Te Puke High School, supporting a deserving student each year to undertake tertiary study.

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



**ACORN  
FOUNDATION**  
WESTERN BAY OF PLENTY



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