

ANNUAL REPORT 2021- 2022













Connecting Mid Canterbury Charitable Trust Community House - Room 22 44 Cass St. Ashburton http://

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ABOUT THE TRUST



Connecting Mid Canterbury is a registered Charitable Trust (CC55035), formed in July 2017.

VISION

Mid Canterbury is a connected, regenerative, resilient community that cares.

MISSION

To support the growth of a regenerative, resilient and caring community by connecting people, services and resources in Mid Canterbury.

INITIATIVES

In order to fulfil its purpose the Trust launched two initatives on October 1st 2017, the Mid Canterbury TimeBank and the Learning Exchange, now known as Keep Learning Mid Canterbury.







STRATEGIC PLAN

To see our vision fulfilled, we need an **effective organisation** that **collaborates** to **enhance lives**.

These are our 3 Strategic Goal Areas.

1. Effective Organisation / Ropū tonui

- Sustainable funds
- Robust systems
- Inclusive & welcoming culture
- Operational excellence

2. Collaboration / Mahi Tahi

- Partnership with wide range of community stakeholders
- Support provided for existing services
- Responsiveness to changing community needs & aspirations
- Research and experience inform our work

3. Enhanced Lives/ Hāpai Oranga

- The 5 Ways to Wellbeing are enjoyed by all Mid Canterbury residents
- Social inclusion: everyone is valued
- Connection: no-one is isolated
- Lifelong learning is embraced

TRUSTEES - AS AT 30 JUNE 2022



Left to Right: Robin Burton (Secretary) Antony White (Chair) Maria Jimenez Coby Snowden (Treasurer) Charlotte Baldwin Donna Favel Bruce Sim

OUR SUPPORTERS



Lottery Grants Board Te Puna Tahua













Ashburton District



CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Connecting Mid Canterbury has been going for over five years now but this past year has been relatively quiet as far as the TimeBank is concerned, due to Covid19 in the community. On the other hand, Keep Learning Mid Canterbury has been busy with the development and launch of a website.

I'd like to acknowledge the work that has been done by our coordinator Kate and also Ramandeep up until she finished in February this year. Thanks go to Margaret and Roberta for running the café catchups, the many Keep Learning facilitators who gave a wide range of talks during the year and everyone who has helped with various social events. Last but not least, thank you to all Timebank members who have connected, contributed and helped create a sense of belonging.

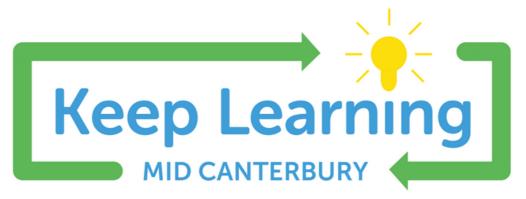
At last year's AGM we welcomed Charlotte Baldwin and Robin Burton to the Board. I would like to thank all the Trustees for the time they've spent over the past year, ensuring that various governance aspects are taken care of. It has been great working alongside Robin, our organized and efficient Secretary, and Coby, our very reliable and hardworking Treasurer. Charlotte is not seeking reelection, nor is Bruce Sim – my thanks to them both for the time and energy they've contributed to the board.

We are very grateful to our funders for their support with our initiatives in Mid Canterbury. In this financial year, we have received funding from Braided Rivers Trust, NZ Lotteries and COGS for operating costs. The Community Trust of Mid and South Canterbury contributed to the Keep Learning initiative, Creative Communities (ADC), Lion Foundation, and Nelson Building Society all contributed to events or specific resources that we needed to keep the charity running. We were fortunate to receive a special grant from Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu which enabled us to develop our profile in the rural communities, create marketing collateral and run our Connecting Community events.

After 5 years on the Board I have decided to move on and won't be standing for nomination for another term. I wish the Trust well as it works toward fulfilling its mission 'to support the growth of a regenerative, resilient and caring community by connecting people, services and resources in Mid Canterbury.'

Antony White Chairperson



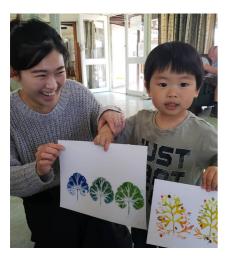


We organise about 40 talks and workshops each year on a wide variety of topics. Keep Learning events are open to anyone - most are free, some have a small fee.

www.keeplearningmc.nz shows our events as well as learning events run by anyone else in the district - it is free for community groups, organisations and businesses to list their events.

Aims:

- fill the gap in the district for non-vocational community education opportunities
- help people find and access opportunities so they can 'Keep Learning', 1 of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing
- help organisations get the word out about their services & the training and learning opportuntities they provide







KEEP LEARNING MID CANTERBURY

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

40 Keep Learning Events 737 Keep Learning Attendees



KEEP LEARNING EVENTS

International Cooking Classes

Collaboration with Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network

- A Taste of Korea
- A Taste of India
- A Taste of Belgium
- A Taste of Argentina
- A Taste of the Philippines
- A Taste of Malaysia

Connecting Community -Rural events

Thanks to funding from Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu.

- Lagmhor
- Hinds
- Methven
- Dorie
- Hakatere Marae
- Wakanui
- Mt Somers

Harakeke Wānanga

Thanks to funding from the Creative Communities Scheme

- Flax weaving flowers
- Flax weaving pop up kete
- Flax weaving pikau

All Other Events

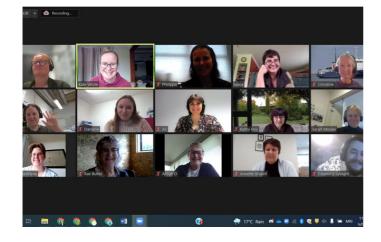
- Rainbow Inclusion x 2
- Cellular Memory
- Local Lives Human Library
- Intentional Living
- Pet Beds for Rescue Animals
- Learning Apps
- Gym Tour
- Importance of Small
- Living stronger for longer
- Forest Tour
- Printing with Nature
- Shinrin Yoku
- Know your rights
- Christmas Fun
- Digital Detox
- Depression
- Suicide Prevention
- Burglary & Theft prevention
- Digital Safety for parents
- Thinking of buying an EV?
- Te Reo Pronunciation x 2
- Te Reo Māori 5 Week Course (run twice)













CONNECTING COMMUNITY EVENTS

May & June 2022

7 Rural Locations

357 Attendees

We received a one-off grant in April from **Te Pūtahitanga o te Waipounamu** to support whānau wellbeing & resilience - with a focus on those living rurally. The plan was to promote our initiatives, both of which support wellbeing, throughout the region. We designed special trifold fliers and delivered to every RD letterbox in the district, advertised in regional papers & newsletters, designed & printed new promotional materials, fliers and signs, and organised seven Connecting Community events.

The **Connecting Community Events** were designed to promote connection in rural communities and provide information about our initiatives as well as other groups and services that support wellbeing. These events were run as part of the Keep Learning programme. We provided activities for children, dinner for everyone (soup and sausages) & spot prizes. We sought to create a friendly and relaxed environment that enabled people to connect with us and with each other.



It was fantastic to collaborate on these events with;

- Citizens Advice Bureau
- Community Connector Service (Covid related support)
- Hakatere Marae
- Local Fire & Emergency Service volunteers (& their fire engines!)
- Local Lions groups (who ran the sausage sizzle at each event)
- Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network
- Neighbourhood Support
- Rural Support Trust
- Waitaha Primary Health
- Wellbeing Ōpuke

Thanks go to Lovett Family Farms for donating all the vegetables for our soups!



We are grateful for the support in the form of prizes, from;

- Alluvial Restaurant
- Ashburton Golf Club
- Ashburton New World
- Brown Pub Methven
- Discovery Jet
- EA Networks Centre pool & gym
- Formosa Restaurant
- Harakeke Flowers
- Methven Foursquare Supermarket
- Methven Golf Club
- Mitre 10 MEGA Ashburton
- Rakaia Golf Club
- Regent Cinema
- Ruralco
- Southern Alps Honey, NZ



According to the 149 surveys that were completed, 97% of attendees would recommend the Connecting Community event to whānau or friends and 95% of attendees learnt something new.

Here are a few general comments from the surveys:

- Absolutely fantastic and motivating event. It is nice to know that there is a wealth of support, thank you.
- This was an amazing event and I would recommend to everyone to attend
- *Keep Learning is the best organisation I've seen since I came to the South Island. Love it!*
- We are new to Mt Somers, really surprised how much support/ help is available in the community.

What did you get out of coming along?

- Met new people. Great to know how much help is around when needed
- Learnt about the TimeBank felt good to come to a community event
- Connected more with the community and learned of regional services
- Met lots of friendly folk
- Learnt that there is a lot of community support options and different activities happening
- A feeling of connection. Lots of options and info to keep in mind and follow up on. Hope!
- As a farmer, I enjoyed meeting folks in the community
- Feeling of belonging
- Connections
- Caught up with neighbours we hadn't seen in years
- A good sense of community belonging
- I received valuable information which I will share with workmates & friends
- I feel more connected with my district and want to join the TimeBank.





- Great event, really beneficial
- Lovely Kai!
- So glad I came along.
- Fantastic evening, very informative
- Great connecting!
- It's a bonus having kids activities
- The TimeBank sounds amazing!!!

MID CANTERBURY TimeBankov Connect O Contribute O Belong

In a TimeBank people give and receive help exchanging time credits instead of money. Everyone's time and skills are valued equally; one hour of help = one time credit.

Timebanking software enables members to post offers and requests and respond to others' requests and offers and record exchanges. Not only does the TimeBank system provide a way for people to share their skills and get their needs met, it enables people to connect with others, feel useful and valued and gain a sense of belonging to the community.

Organisations are also members of the TimeBank so some exchanges are organisations rewarding their volunteers with time credits for their volunteering. Mid Canterbury TimeBank as an organisation also records exchanges with those who volunteer in different ways to make the TimeBank run.

On average 24 TimeBank members completed & recorded exchanges each month (*Previous year: 38*)

NUMBER OF EXCHANGES

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

507

(Previous year: 1090)

Since Launch 1 Oct 2017 - 30 June 2022

4,466

HOURS EXCHANGED

1 July 2021 - 30 June 2022

2,216 (Previous year: 2538)

(11003 year. 2550)

Since Launch 1 Oct 2017 - 30 June 2022

12,686

EXCHANGES - INDIVIDUALS

Garden

- chainsaw work
- pruning
- how to organise the forest
- pick your own plums
- christmas lilies
- grubbing thistles
- gardening
- spinach & silverbeet
- compost bin
- horse poo
- prune roses

Driving

- out of town
- ride to camp
- drive to Oxford
- ride to social event

Home

- fixed a clothes line
- renovating shed
- stacking firewood
- look after my houseplants
- cleaning windows
- cleaning doors & skirting
- house chores
- fence staining
- handyman
- babysitting

Animal Care

- Rabbit sitting
- Dog walking
- Dog visit & feed



Practical/ Crafts

- build a workbench
- sewing dog bed cover
- mending
- sewing
- fix small blanket
- making pet beds
- teaching knitting
- shortening sleeves
- sewing rifle covers

Kitchen

- Baking
- Cordial
- Learn to make egg savouries
- blackcurrants
- oven clean
- air fryer trial
- Birthday party baking
- Birthday cakes

Wellness

- Support person
- Massage
- Foot massage
- Emergency massage
- Walk/ companionship
- Exercising & life advice

Other

- adopt a grandparent
- host a cycling couple
- teach me how to drive a manual car
- help us move house
- Computer help & lessons
- help packing/ unpacking







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EXCHANGES - ORGANISATIONS

Timebank

- Trustee/ Treasurer role
- Guardian Angel
- Running Cafe Catch ups
- Welcome Desk
- Childcare at events
- Event set up & pack down
- Sign writing
- Governance
- Staveley Quiz prep
- Food prep
- Mount noticeboard to wall
- Collecting pinecones for our fundraiser



Rewarding volunteers with time credits is a great way to acknowledge all the unpaid work people do to make organisations in our community tick.



Other Organisations

- CAB advice
- Interviewer
- Community Directory
- Boost
- Refugee Support visit
- Companionship
- Driving mentors
- Shopping assistance
- Social outing- refugees
- House set up
- Managing the pool
- Cooking instructor
- Front of house volunteer
- Clothing exchange
- Policy work
- Forest tour
- Afternoon tea server
- Gardening help
- Human book
- Flood clean up
- Driver
- Rug doctor chairs





TIMEBANK SOCIAL GATHERINGS

Social gatherings are a key component of the TimeBank that allow people to connect with others, have fun, hear about others' needs and skills, and generally feel a sense of belonging to the community. People often feel more comfortable and willing to help or exchange with those they have met, so organising these events helps facilitate that.

All our events are open and promoted to the general public, as we love helping everyone connect, not just current TimeBank members.

This year we organised 12 larger social gatherings and 24 other Meetups. TimeBankers also actively participated in community events, representing the TimeBank, for example at Back to Basics





TimeBank Social Gatherings this year

- Mid Winter Christmas
- Games Night x 2
- MHAW Picnics Methven & Ashburton
- Garden Party @ Trotts
- Staveley Camp
- End of Year Picnic
- Tinwald Pool Party
- Multicultural Food Festivity @ Hakatere Marae
- Easter Egg Hunt & Music Adventure, At Violinos

- 'The Duke' Movie Fundraiser
- Queen's Birthday Catch up
- Cafe Catch Ups x 17
- Catch up at Wes's
- Art Gallery Visit
- Catch up at Tom's
- Volunteer get together
- Lockdown Crafternoon
- Lockdown Zoom catch up





TIMEBANK MEMBERSHIP

As at 30 June 2022

177	29	206
INDIVIDUAL	MEMBER	TOTAL
MEMBERS	ORGANISATIONS	M E M B E R S

The following data is from the 130 individual members (73%) who completed our annual survey in July 2022

Demographics of TimeBankers

LOCATION

- 76 % live in Ashburton,
- 17 % live elsewhere in Mid Canterbury,
- 19 % live rurally

NEWCOMERS

- 32% were born outside of NZ
- 4% have lived in the district for less than 2 years
- 19% have lived in the district between 2-5 years

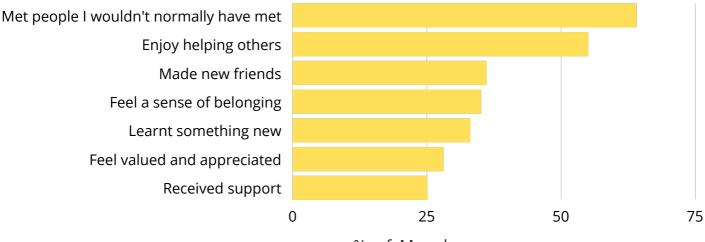
GENDER

- 81% identify as women
- 19% identify as men

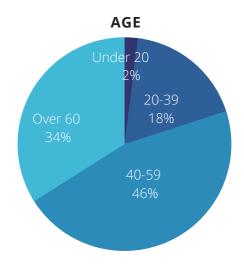
Do people feel better off by being in the TimeBank?

- 88% of all members consider themselves better off
- 95% of active members consider themselves better off (67% of members were active in the previous 12 months, i.e. they exchanged &/or attended social gatherings or Keep Learning events)

What contributed to members feeling better off?



[%] of Members



5 WAYS TO WELLBEING

Promoted by the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand

TimeBank members identified which of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing they've put into practice through their involvement in the TimeBank & Keep Learning initiatives.



Wellbeing statistics

- 12% of members have physical health issues or a disability
- 13% have mental health issues
- 14% have felt socially isolated
- 22% of members say the TimeBank has helped them feel less isolated
- 59% say the TimeBank has contributed positively to their wellbeing









FEEDBACK FROM MEMBERS (JULY 2022)

Timebank had been a godsend for me.

Support from within timebank has helped me to connect with others and hugely reduce social isolation. I have received support in some of my most difficult times, such as post major surgery and when facing severe health challenges. It has also released some of the burden from my parents who carry most of the load supporting me but who, after decades of my being seriously ill, are stretched beyond breaking point. I am exceedingly isolated due to illness and, after many years away, was finding Ashburton to be an incredibly lonely place. Timebank has enabled me some independence from my parents, and I gain friendship and connection as well as assistance via TimeBank exchanges. This has been critical to my physical mental and social well being. - **Nikkijo**



For me being in the Timebank is like a 'security blanket'. I may not need it at the moment but when I do the Timebank 'family' is there to call on. When connecting with others we meet people from all walks of life and from different nationalities. In a subtle way this can create peace in the world, when we learn and understand why others act in certain ways. - **Christine**

It's great to have opportunities to help out or connect with others. Combats the social isolation that has become normal due to the pandemic. Also met people I never would have met otherwise and got a lot of support and wisdom from them. - **Elti**



I feel that I am now part of a large, friendly family. I have made many new friends, and my self-confidence has grown. - **Margaret**

I love how the elderly within our community are participating and feeling useful! I particularly like receiving time credits from my volunteering with CAB, and in return receiving help with our fruit trees and baking. I'm so proud to be part of such an amazing group of passionate and generous people who make this organisation work. - **Coby**

With the division and worry people have felt during Covid 19 now is a great time to try to build stronger communities and support systems. TimeBank offers opportunities to help support other people in the community with tasks people often feel uncomfortable asking for help with, win win. - **Gwen**

I've met people who are new to New Zealand, I helped them feel welcome here and find services they needed. I've met more people in my community, that I wouldn't have otherwise met. Being a single woman without children can be very isolating. I feel more part of the local community because of TimeBank. - **Kath**



What does the TimeBank mean to you? (Answers from surveys)

- Socialising when I have been so withdrawn from people. I can now talk to adults & feel like people like me
- Timebank was my lifesaver and helped me realise I still had something to give and not just receive all the time. It has given me a purpose.
- Connection to a wider network of people, knowledge and resources. I've gained some really practical help from people in the TimeBank
- I have no family locally so I consider my contacts through TimeBank as my local family
- The opportunity to learn skills that you otherwise may feel intimidated trying in a bigger situation
- A great way to meet people with similar interests and to get the satisfaction of helping others
- Love it! Connecting with people is one of the best feelings I have experienced
- A great way to experience things you may not normally have the opportunity to, and to feel connected in the community
- TimeBank has changed our lives for the better and I know many who would agree
- Nice to know people are there, even if they're not entirely utilised by me!
- Definitely giving and receiving, meeting new people
- Place for sharing and caring
- Belonging to a positive group of people
- Connection with people from all walks of life
- Being able to contribute to my community



- TimeBank has given me a purpose in life. I am an older person, living on my own, have made so many new friends, and have received just so much help.
- It has given me a feeling of belonging in a real community and support network
- A non-judgemental place to meet and socialise with others. My two children and I loved attending the Violinos Easter egg hunt. It was a great place to be for all ages and play music /have fun.
- A great place to share your skills & learn new ones, use other people's skills, and meet new people.
- It is a valuable community asset especially for those who are new to the area or are feeling isolated
- Timebank has helped me make connections within the Ashburton Community and make friends with people I normally wouldn't meet.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

This past year has been an interesting one! Exciting things have been happening on the **Keep Learning** front, most notably the launch of our website, which was developed by interns from Otago Polytech. Analiese Robertson, Director of ACE Aotearoa, was the guest speaker at the official launch on October 27, 2021. It was wonderful to have Analiese and the ACE Sector Capability Manager Tai Samaeli join us from Wellington. The launch was very well supported with many from community organisations in attendance.





In the 8 months following the launch of the Keep Learning website, 83 events were listed by 19 different groups. The ultimate goal is that all groups, organisations, and businesses who run learning events in Mid Canterbury, will list them on the site and it becomes THE place to go for people in our district to find out what's on.

I think one of the best features of the site is the ability to sign up for notifications about events in certain categories and locations. So far 98 people have chosen to receive these email notifications.

As usual, the Keep Learning programme offered a wide variety of events. One new initiative was to run a 5-Week Te Reo Māori course for beginners, using zoom. This met a need in the community for personal and professional development and proved a useful income earner for the Trust. We ran it twice and hope to meet the demand for more Māori language courses in the future.



It was great to collaborate with 21 different organisations and groups on Keep Learning events. For the first time we ran events with Qtopia on Rainbow Inclusion, Sport Canterbury on 'Growing stronger for longer', Digital Waitaha and the Depression Support Network. A partnership with the Newcomers Network on the 'A Taste of...' series of international cooking classes, has led to us being able to offer these fun and popular classes every month, instead of quarterly.



During Mental Health Awareness Week in September, we ran 5 events to promote each of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing. The 'Connect' event was called Local Lives and was a human library type event run in collaboration with the Ashburton Public Library. This was a special event where people shared their stories 1-1 and learnt about others.

I am reminded of the whakataukī;

Me mahi tahi tātou, mō te oranga o te katoa. *We must work together, for the wellbeing of all.* I love that mahi tahi (collaboration) and oranga (wellbeing) have been identified as key goals in the revised Connecting Mid Canterbury Strategic Plan.

Collaborating on things that promote and support wellbeing is a real privilege. One prominent example of this was running the **Connecting Community Events** in rural halls around the district in May & June. People learnt about the TimeBank, Keep Learning and many other services that support individual and community wellbeing. Attendees connected with others from their community and felt supported. These events were a really great way for Connecting Mid Canterbury to support and collaborate with other like minded organisations and form stronger connections with them.



The **TimeBank** has had a quieter year compared to previous years. 65% of TimeBank members said they engaged less this year because of Covid19. Although many people wanted to avoid social contact once the virus was in our community, others felt increasingly isolated and needed the social contact. With many other social groups and events on hold, we felt it was important for the TimeBank to continue providing opportunities for connection.

We scheduled as many outdoor events as we could to reduce risk and enable those without a vaccine pass to still attend. We also combined with the Newcomers Network to run events that helped timebankers and newcomers connect. Pooling resources and ideas led to better events with more people attending. It was great to see lots of children and families enjoy these too.

We welcomed 22 new TimeBank members throughout the year and farewelled about the same number. Some members moved out of the district during the year, others left the country, and some decided they didn't have time to be involved in the TimeBank any more.

Sadly, two timebankers passed away this year. Marion (Maz) Bartlett singlehandedly ran a successful scrap metal fundraiser for us in the early days of the TimeBank and attended many of our social & learning events. Petra de Geus facilitated learning events on Polymer Clay (with help from Maz!) and was a regular at Staveley Camp each year. She received a significant amount of support from a number of Timebankers. We remember and miss them both.



I'd like to thank the timebankers who supported our Movie & Pinecone fundraisers, those who volunteer for us and the members who donated financially during the year. We appreciate you all so very much!

Thank you too, to EA Networks for their donation of two laptops; particularly useful at Starter Sessions, and when we are out & about.

After a year with us, Ramandeep Kaur resigned as TimeBank coordinator. We miss having her and her delightful family around, now that they have moved out of the district. My thanks go to Ramandeep for her work and care for members and volunteers. With funding uncertainties we have not hired another coordinator, so I'm currently covering the coordination of both initiatives.

I'm very grateful to the funders who support the work of Connecting Mid Canterbury and the Board who enable me to have one of the best jobs around; connecting people, services and resources, and working together with others, for the wellbeing of all.



TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to present the Treasurer report for the year ended 30 June 2022. It has been a rollercoaster year with uncertainty around funding before receiving a whopping \$20,000 for promotion and rural community events. The Trustees acknowledge the huge amount of work by Kate to get these events done within the three month timeframe, with the budget totally spent by due date.

REVENUE

Grants received (adjusted for unspent funds) totalled \$66,293, \$16,003 more than the previous 12 months. \$20,000 of this was a one-off grant from Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu for connecting rural communities. We received this grant in April with the condition the full amount be spent by 30 June.

The Trust acknowledges the following grants received during the year, without which we could not function:

NZ Lotteries	\$15,000
 Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu 	\$20,000
• Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)	\$ 8,000
 Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury 	\$ 5,000
Creative Communities Scheme	\$ 2,857
Lion Foundation	\$ 4,950
• NBS	\$ 1,565
 Braided Rivers CommunityTrust 	\$ 5,000



Other Revenue totalled \$6,470, a significant amount more than last year due to targeted fundraising earlier this year. The Te Reo initiative provided by Kate White proved so successful, it's being offered again this year under our Keep Learning umbrella. The Trustees are grateful for the donations pledged by members when we experienced cashflow difficulties earlier this year.

EXPENDITURE

Expenses totalled \$73,567, an increase of \$21,159 from last year, attributed to the rural Connecting Communities events over the last three months of this financial year. The grant was spent on Coordinator wages, advertising and promotions, the benefits of which extends well beyond the specific project.

ASSETS

These totalled \$26,885 as at 30 June 2022, predominantly funds in the bank. These are for grants received but not spent yet and budgeted to be spent during the year to 30 June 2023.

LIABILITIES

These totalled \$26,888, mainly Grants Received in Advance \$22,784, this refers to the following grants still to be spent and carried forward to the 2022-23 financial year:

- NZ Lotteries \$15,000
- Braided Rivers Community Trust \$ 4,156
- Lion Foundation \$ 3,628

My heartfelt thanks goes to Antony White who has helped me in this role over the year, his contribution to the Trust as past Treasurer and Chairman has been tremendous.

Coby Snowden - Trustee / Treasurer, Connecting Mid Canterbury Charitable Trust (CC55035)