

ANNUAL REPORT 2024 - 2025



Connecting Mid Canterbury Charitable Trust

Community House, 44 Cass Street, Ashburton www.connectingmc.org (03) 308 1237 ext 218

Chairperson Frances BeestonCoordinator Kate White

board@connectingmc.org kate@connectingmc.org

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Photos on this page are from the Amazing Race, 13 April 2025





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 mission the Trust launched two initiatives on October 1st 2017; *Mid Canterbury TimeBank* and the *Learning Exchange*, now known as *Keep Learning Mid Canterbury*.





TRUSTEES

As at June 30, 2025



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 / Rōpū tōnui

- 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 Mid Canterbury residents
- Social inclusion: everyone is valued
- Connection: no-one is isolated
- · Lifelong learning is embraced

OUR SUPPORTERS

















CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It has been a privilege to serve as Chair of Connecting Mid Canterbury Charitable Trust during another active and rewarding year. The Trust continues to deliver on its mission: supporting a connected, regenerative, resilient Mid Canterbury by linking people, services and resources. Both of our key initiatives — Mid Canterbury TimeBank and Keep Learning Mid Canterbury — have made significant strides this year, and the strength of community participation has been particularly heartening.

TimeBank activity has grown substantially. We recorded 194 exchanges (up from 120 the previous year), and an impressive 2,932 hours were exchanged — a huge leap from 502 hours last year. On average, 17 members completed and recorded exchanges each month, up from 11. While some of these hours were catch-up records from earlier periods, the scale of participation is a milestone worth celebrating.

Keep Learning Mid Canterbury continues to exceed expectations. Between July 2024 and June 2025, 41 events were held, attracting nearly 700 attendees. Events ranged from cultural cooking classes and wellbeing workshops to environmental tours and practical skills sessions — often delivered in collaboration with other local groups.

One key development this year was the Event Organisers' Hui in January 2025, which brought together a range of community providers and led to the creation of a shared events calendar. This practical tool is already helping with better planning, collaboration, and coordination of events across the district.

At the governance level, we welcomed new trustees Bronwyn Gilchrist, David Hickman, and Janet Glassey, who joined returning trustees Shirin Khosraviani, Carolyn Cameron, Margaret Thorpe, Donna Favel, and myself. I'd like to acknowledge each trustee for their time, energy and thoughtful contributions throughout the year. A special thank you to David Hickman, who has taken on the role of Secretary and is doing a stellar job — something I'm especially grateful for.

We remain grateful for the commitment and capability of our coordinator, Kate White. Her leadership, creativity and depth of community knowledge continue to drive the day-to-day and strategic success of the Trust. Gordon Manley has continued in his role as Financial Administrator this year and his calm professionalism has been a real asset to the team.

Our work is made possible through the generous support of our funders. We acknowledge with appreciation the ongoing backing from: Ashburton District Council, Braided Rivers Community Trust, COGS, Lion Foundation, NZ Lotteries Grants Board, Advance Ashburton, Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury, Creative Communities, NBS and EA Networks.

I want to thank everyone who makes Connecting Mid Canterbury what it is: our trustees, funders, members, event facilitators, volunteers, and the wider community. You each contribute to a vision that truly matters.

Ngā mihi nui,

Frances Beeston, Chairperson Connecting Mid Canterbury Charitable Trust





Aims:

- fill the gap in the district for non-vocational community education opportunities
- enable people to find events so they can 'Keep Learning', one of the 5 Ways to Wellbeing
- help organisations promote their services & the learning opportunities they provide

How do we achieve this?

- 1. **Events:** 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.
- 2. **Website**: <u>www.keeplearningmc.nz</u> shows our events as well as learning events run by anyone else in the district. It is a great resource for our community a central platform to find out what's on.





KEEP LEARNING MID CANTERBURY

1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025



KEEP LEARNING EVENTS

International Cooking Classes

Collaboration with Mid Canterbury Newcomers Network

- A Taste of Thailand
- A Taste of Fiii
- A Taste of Korea
- A Taste of Italy
- A Taste of Tonga
- A Taste of Brazil
- A Taste of Pakistan
- A Taste of Ireland



Events organised with Hospice Mid Canterbury

- Death & Paperwork Series:
 - Wills & Executors
 - EPAs & Lawyers
- Grief & Children
- **Funerals**



Jewellery, Dance & Drumming

Thanks to funding from Creative Communities through Ashburton District Council we could offer the following workshops:

- Polymer Clay Jewellery Making in Ashburton
- African Dance & Drumming full day workshop in Staveley





KEEP LEARNING EVENTS

Panel events

- Te Reo Māori: History& personal stories
- Running a Business
- Getting a Job

Te Reo Māori

- Mini Course # 1 Pronunciation
- Mini Course #3 Sentences

Nature & Environment

- Ashburton Domain Tour
- Guided Tour of the Universe x 2
- Weed Wrangling Staveley
- Community Garden Visit
- Seed raising
- Microplastics in our Soil with Ashburton Soil & Health group

Energy Efficiency

with EA Networks

- Powerswitch x 2
- Energy Efficiency x 2

Community

- Connect over Coffee
- Create Together
- Retirement Villages 101
- Fix it Fair

Food

- Preserving fruit
- Cheap & Easy Meals

Wellbeing

- Wellbeing Day
- Rainbow Inclusion
- Makeup 101













FEEDBACK 1

98 % of attendees at Keep Learning Events reported feeling

Better Off for having attended.



'I felt really peaceful through getting in touch with nature..'

'The well-being day really replenished my spirit, thank you.'



'Well done, much appreciated, please bring again, inspiring, useful, and helps to learn like this, thank you.'

'Met some cool people! Learned a LOT!!! Best thing ever!!! .'



'Amazing thank you guys. I find it isolating living in NZ so today was great!'



'Helped me see grief differently, My own and the kids I teach. Really good.'



'I need to go to more events like this to upskill myself and network.'

'Thank you I am going to keep drumming as a result of this beautiful workshop.'

'I thoroughly enjoyed the experience and connecting with others.'



'It was tons of fun! Would not change a thing, Great class so glad to get to be apart of it..'



'Really useful, easy to understand information. Makes the process of having parents age easier to navigate.

'Loved the energy and warmth of the facilitators and learning about African culture. Awesome, thanks.'

FEEDBACK 2



Great experience, learning together with others seems more fun, great atmosphere.

More people need to know about this stuff!! Learnt heaps. Very good facilitator.'



'Very infomative, interesting speaker, very knowledgeable and able to communicate complex information clearly and easy to understand.'



'A nice relaxing evening with people from lots of different backgrounds/cultures. Really enjoyed it, thank you.'

Very informative and helpful into thinking with a positive mindset. Thank you.



'As someone supporting people into work, it's been great hearing from those who employ.'



'Great evening, time just flew by totally engrosing.'

Thanks so much!! Please do more! Loved it!'

'So special to belong and mix'



'Great information! very useful for my line of work and personal life. Easy things to change, to make things easier for others.'



'I really enjoyed hearing the panelists' perspectives, their knowledge and being able to learn from their experience. Great mix of speakers.'



KEEP LEARNING WEBSITE

54
Different groups listed events

269
Events listed

July 1 2024 - 30 June 2025

232 New Sign-ups

To receive automated email notifications from the site

- Advance Ashburton
- Age Concern
- Anxiety NZ
- Apia Trust
- ARA
- Ashburton Art Gallery & Museum
- Ashburton District Council
- Ashburton Library
- Brain Health Aotearoa
- Brain Injury Canterbury
- Brainwave Trust
- Business Canterbury
- Centre for Social Impact
- Community Governance Aotearoa
- County Lions of Ashburton
- Dementia Canterbury
- Digital Waitaha
- EA Networks
- Eco Educate
- Electoral Commission

- Hakatere Marae
- Hakatere Multicultural Council
- Heart Foundation
- Hospice Mid Canterbury
- Jo Woolley
- Kai for Kids
- Kiwi Family Trust
- Keep Learning Mid Canterbury
- Lauren Wilding Nourish
- Mid Canterbury TimeBank
- Mental Health Education and Resource Centre
- Methven Walking Festival
- Mid Canterbury Choir
- Mid Canterbury Newcomers
 Network
- Mid Canterbury TimeBank
- Ministry of Social Development
- Mitre 10
- Multiple Sclerosis Mid
 Canterbury
- People First NZ

- Presbyterian Support
- Rushton Marketing
- Safe Communities
- Seniornet
- Step Ahead
- Tangata Atumotu Trust
- Te Huka Tai Trust
- Te Pou
- Te Rahi a Māui
- Te Whānau o Hakatere
- U3A
- UC Online
- Volunteering Mid and South
 Canterbury
- Wellbeing Öpuke
- Whānau Āwhina Plunket



Aims:

- Make it easy for people put into practice the 5 Ways to Wellbeing;
 Connect, Give, Take Notice, Be Active & Keep Learning
- Help people connect, across generations, cultures and backgrounds
- o Enable people to contribute their time & skills, to meet the needs of others
- Support organisations to find and reward volunteers

How do we achieve this?

- 1. **Social Events:** We organise a weekend social event each month along with smaller café catch ups and garden conversation hours twice a month, and mostly weekly Domain Walks, to promote connection. All our events are open to anyone.
- 2. **Exchanges:** Timebanking software enables TimeBank members (including local community groups) to post offers and requests, and respond to others' requests and offers, and record time exchanges. Everyone's time and skills are valued equally; one hour of help = one hour time transfer.

On average 17 TimeBank members completed & recorded exchanges each month

NUMBER OF EXCHANGES

1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025

194

Since Launch 1 Oct 2017 - 30 June 2025

5,036

HOURS EXCHANGED

1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025

2,932

Since Launch 1 Oct 2017 - 30 June 2025

17,029

TIMEBANK MEMBERSHIP

28
Organisation
Members

135
Individual
Members

As at 30 June 2025

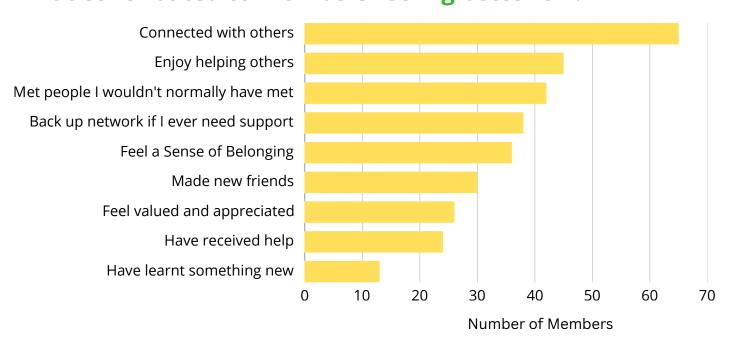
DEMOGRAPHICS

- 17 % members live rurally
- 30 % were born outside of NZ
- 18 % have lived in the district for less than 5 years
- 81 % members are women
- AGE: 18% are 18-39 42% are 40-59 40% are 60+

SURVEY (July 2025)

- 104 individual members completed the annual survey
- 83% of all respondents said they felt better off because of the TimeBank
- 50 % of respondents said they had been active in the TimeBank in the past year
- 96 % of active members said they felt better off because of the TimeBank

What contributed to members feeling better off?



TAKE NOTICE

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.

KFFP I FARNING

% OF MEMBERS

	3.72			TARE HOTTEE
69%	57%	46%	35%	25%

Wellbeing statistics

CONNECT

• 16 % of members have physical health issues or a disability

GIVE

- 11 % have mental health issues
- 16 % of members say the TimeBank has helped them feel less isolated
- 33 % say the TimeBank has contributed positively to their wellbeing





KEEP ACTIVE

What does the TimeBank mean to you?

Survey answers:

- Timebank has been a great way to connect with people across my community. I put a post up asking for some pen friends for my daughter and she got letters from another Timebanker's relation across the world!
- Makes me feel like I'm still worth something and valued/cared about even though I'm unwell and limited in my capacity for interaction
- I have met and supported people in the community that I would not have otherwise met, and this gives me a stronger sense of belonging here in Ashburton.
- Gives me a reason to go out and meet people, to help out when I can and be part of the community
- It's comforting to know Timebank is here to help if I need
- TimeBank gave me the opportunity to meet people I would never have met otherwise. I found the way to share our time and skills to people who needed and get the same on return is an excellent way to connect with our local community.
- Belonging to timebank feels good for the soul.

SOCIAL EVENTS

In the year to June 30 2025, we organised 11 larger social events and 24 cafe catch ups to help people connect with others and develop a sense of belonging to the community. 16 Friday Domain walks were also attended by members as a new way to connect. Another new initiative that started this year was our Garden Conversation Hours, for people to connect over a shared interest in gardening. 15 of these were held at the Ashburton Library.

All our events are open to and promoted to the general public, as we love helping everyone connect, not just current TimeBank members. Events are also an opportunity to promote the TimeBank & Keep Learning Mid Canterbury.



Events This Year





- Mid Winter Christmas Party
- Rakaia meet up with Selwyn TimeBank
- Wilrock Garden Visit
- Dinner @ the Domain
- Awa Awa Reserve Visit

- Chertsey excursion
- C Party
- Movie outing
- Diwali
- Amazing Race
- Shared Afternoon tea









ENERGY WELLBEING

Connecting Mid Canterbury is proud to be collaborating with **EA Networks** on Energy Wellbeing work.

This year our approach involved:

- 1. **Delivering in-home energy education** based on Consumer New Zealand's 'Find money in weird places' booklets. At these visits we gave out energy-saving products: LED lightbulbs, Vseal, a draught stop, a temperature gauge, and for homes that had condensation problems a Scoopy.
- 2. **Training organisations to deliver energy education to their own clients**. We provided staff from 4 agencies with products and training. This approach worked well as for example the refugees could receive training from staff in their own language and elderly received visits in home from someone they knew and trusted.
- 3. Providing energy efficiency education through Keep Learning events.
- 4. **Attending community events** to explain how people could have warmer, drier homes and cheaper power bills. At these events many free products were also given out.

The numbers for Oct 1, $2024 \rightarrow June 30$, 2025

- 19 households received visits by our trained energy educators; TK Paul and Mary Schmack.
- 56 households received energy education through a community agency; the Refugee Resettlement Service, CCS and Senior Citizens.
- 2 Keep Learning events about Powerswitch and 2 about Energy Efficiency



Hakatere Marae - Matariki Hauora Day



TK & Heather at the Mayfield A & P Show

Community events

- Pacific Peoples Expo 4/10/24
- Ethnic Communities Fun Day 19/10/25
- Positive Aging Expo 6/3/25
- Mayfield A & P Show 8/3/25
- Methven A & P Show 15/3/25
- Anzco Wellbeing Day 29/3/25
- Hakatere Marae Hauora Day 14/6/25



Our stand at the Anzco Family Wellbeing Day



TK giving out goodies

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

It has been another busy year coordinating the Trust's activities with some new ideas tried out to support people in our community to connect, contribute, belong and keep learning.

In the **TimeBank** new ways for people to meet were developed. So in addition to the popular Cafe Catch ups twice a month and our monthly weekend social gathering, we started *Friday Walks in the Domain* which anyone can join and dogs are welcome. Most Fridays since it started in November 2024 a few people have connected each Friday and enjoyed our beautiful domain together.





Another new idea was to have a *Garden Conversation Hour* at the library, where people could connect over their shared love of gardening. On the first and third Wednesday of each month about 8-15 people meet to share produce or plants as well as gardening advice. About half the attendees are timebankers, others have heard about it through the library newsletter. As with all our events, anyone can attend them. Also at the end of 2024 we started an *art appreciation group* and *movie lovers* group to attend exhibition openings and movies together although neither of those have really taken off.

We had some very successful new events for **Keep Learning** this year. The *Running a Business* panel event drew a big crowd as did the *Te Reo Māori Panel* event about the impacts of colonisation on te reo Māori with three locals sharing their own experiences. February first's *Fix it Fair* at the Ashburton Library was a huge success with lots of people showing up to get their mending done, jewellery repaired, computer knowledge sorted and handyman repairs looked into. Along with timebankers helping we had CanBead, MenzShed and Digital Waitaha staff & volunteers fixing things.

Some of the events with the lowest turnouts (Powerswitch, Rainbow Inclusion) saw the most grateful attendees! When the information gained is really valuable for those who attend and really makes a difference in their lives we are thrilled. It's not all about the big numbers!

The most fun and loved events we've run include our *A Taste of...* international cooking classes and January's *African Dance & Drumming workshop* at Staveley Camp, made possible thanks to a Creative Communities Grant.

We had wonderful energetic tutors who really made the experience memorable.

COORDINATOR'S REPORT

It was pleasing to see the **Keep Learning website** have a record number of events listed this year (269) by a record number of different providers (54)! Great to see such a wide variety of organisations listing their learning opportunities on the site. We had another 232 people during the year sign up to notifications from the site, so now just over 700 people are receiving notifications when new events are listed in categories of interest to them.

I want to give a shout out to our main **volunteers** - *Margaret Thorpe* who continues to run the cafe catch ups & promote TimeBank at community events and *Toni Bramley* (pictured here on a Friday Domain Walk) who manages data entry - recording all feedback from forms attendees complete at every Keep Learning event. Thank you both so much for your support!

Toni also started the 'Hopalongs' this year, which is a social support group for those in the TimeBank with disabilities and mobility issues, meeting monthly.



What's new in our **Energy Wellbeing** work is that we are now supporting agencies to deliver energy-saving education to their people. I delivered group education to Refugee Resettlement Volunteers, and Step Ahead and promoted our service to the CAB volunteers, Kāinga ora staff, Health Coaches, Winz staff and at a Community Network Meeting. So through various avenues the word is getting out to people about how to save on their power bills and have warmer, healthier homes.



In terms of **Connecting Mid Canterbury** mahi more generally, one new thing we organised was a hui for event organisers, in January 2025. During 2024 a lot of events were held at once resulting in burnout and frustration in community groups. It became clear that we needed some community coordination for all the events that were being organised. Issues were discussed and solutions shared at the hui, co-organised with Lesley Symington from Safer Communities.

I created a *Community Events Google Calendar* so events organisers could see when other events were scheduled and add their own to the calendar. This has proved really useful for those who have accessed it. We also created a shared doc with contacts of all those who run events so event organisers can contact each other more easily if they want to collaborate on events.

In June I was lucky enough to attend the ACE Conference in Ōtautahi. The theme was AI AI Bridging Artificial & Ancestral Intelligence. A very interesting and inspiring conference.

I extend my **sincere thanks** to the CMC board, Gordon our financial admin, TK and Mary our energy educators, all our volunteers, funders & community partners - you enable us to do all that we do to further connection & wellbeing in this community. Ngā mihi maioha,



FINANCIAL REPORT

I am pleased to present the Financial Report for the financial year ended 30 June 2025.

The Trust recorded a **loss of \$6,821** for the year, compared with a profit of \$5,378 in the previous year. This result is due to an increase in the Leave payable as well as the Board deciding to account for Time in Lieu on the balance sheet. The larger unspent grant amount carried forward also adds to the loss. The Trust utilised reserves while continuing to meet funders' expectations that grants be fully spent during the year.

REVENUE

Total grant income for the year was **\$59,962**, compared with \$52,593 in the previous year. The Trust carried forward **unspent grants of \$17,835**, up from \$7,348 the year prior. We gratefully acknowledge the support of our funders, who contributed the following grants:

- NZ Lotteries Grant Board \$20,000
- Community Organisations Grants Scheme (COGS) \$8,000
- Advance Ashburton \$8,000
- Ashburton District Council \$7,500
- Community Trust Mid & South Canterbury \$7,000
- Braided Rivers Community Trust \$3,000
- The Lion Foundation \$2,962
- Creative Communities \$2,000
- ACE Aotearoa \$1,500
- NBS Bank \$1,000 Donation

Additional revenue was generated through the **EA Networks Energy Wellbeing initiative**, which contributed **\$4,934**, offset by **contractor costs of \$1,792**. We sincerely thank EA Networks for their partnership.

EXPENDITURE

Total expenses were **\$67,165**, consistent with the prior year's total of \$63,174. Event-related expenses were largely balanced by event income, and overall expenditure was managed prudently.

ASSETS

As at 30 June 2025, the Trust held **\$29,377** across its bank accounts. These funds primarily relate to grants received but not yet spent, and will be utilised during the 2025/26 year.

LIABILITIES

Some grant funding received late in the financial year remains unspent and has been carried forward into 2025/26 as follows:

- NZ Lotteries Grant Board \$11,199
- Advance Ashburton \$4,543
- ACE Aotearoa \$1,500
- The Lion Foundation \$592

In closing, it has been a privilege to serve as the Trust's Financial Administrator over the past year.

Gordon Manley - Financial administrator

Connecting Mid Canterbury Charitable Trust (CC55035).

