

# FOREWORD FROM THE TRUSTEES



The Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust (the Appeal Trust) is responsible for the allocation of the money raised by the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal to support initiatives to help the Canterbury region recover from the earthquakes of 4 September 2010 and 22 February 2011.

Since its establishment the Appeal has raised more than \$100 million in pledged and received funds and has channelled a total \$77 million in grants to projects across Canterbury. At 30 June 2013 \$17 million remained available to allocate although decisions we have made already in 2013/14 have since allocated \$2.5 million of this to new recovery projects.

In the year to 30 June 2013, we intentionally prioritised funds towards permanent projects of medium to large size valued at \$100,000 or more. This focus will continue in 2013/14 as we aim to make a positive difference in Canterbury for the coming 20-50 years while leaving a public legacy that honours the thousands of people who donated to the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal.

The Appeal Trust’s largest funding decision of 2013 committed \$15 million towards future projects that will strengthen the connection from Te Papa Ōtakaro/ Avon River Precinct at Fitzgerald Avenue through eastern Christchurch all the way to the sea. While the exact nature of these future projects will take time to define - and will not proceed until the future use of much of the land is identified - Trustees’ intention is to ensure that once decisions are made and projects are ready, funds are available to give them momentum. “Connecting the City to the Sea” projects could include such things as permanently restoring environmental, recreation and sporting features, wetlands, walkways, cycleways, public performance spaces, community spaces and play areas. A common factor will be their strong contribution to the social fabric of Canterbury, with access and benefit for all.

Another example of a large, permanent project is \$6.5 million granted to a sport and recreation centre for Christchurch’s eastern suburbs (which includes \$3.1 million generously donated by an anonymous donor) where we partnered with the Christchurch City Council to provide water attractions for the pools which otherwise would not have been included.

For smaller, local community recovery projects we also ensured that limited funds remained available during the year and this will continue in 2013/14.



Trustees have greatly appreciated the local perspective that Advisory Board members have brought to funding proposals over the past two and a half years. Standing (left to right) is Anthony Rimell, Dr Rod Carr (Trustee), Justin Murray, Tane Norton and David Close. Seated (left to right) are Colin MacDonald (Trustee), Ros Burdon, Pamela Richardson and Jane Huria (Chair). Absent: Gabriel Makhlouf (Trustee).

This prioritisation on large permanent projects reflects Canterbury’s post-disaster recovery phase, whereas in our first year of operation many non-permanent projects were granted funds, such as transitional community centres and temporary swimming pools.

We have faced challenges in allocating funds to these large projects due to the complex range of issues facing each project including insurance claims, land zoning and consenting processes. However, in

“Every dollar donated to the Appeal goes to Canterbury. All administration costs are met by the New Zealand Government.”

2013/14 Trustees expect to allocate the majority of remaining Appeal funds to further large, permanent projects that will benefit the people of greater Christchurch and the Canterbury region for many years to come.

The Christchurch Earthquake Appeal is one of the few dedicated earthquake relief charities that remains open and with funds available, and throughout the past year it has continued to receive donations each month. It is heartening to see that the people of Christchurch are not forgotten nearly two and a half years after the February 2011 earthquakes.

We expect to allocate remaining Appeal funds by February 2014, being three years since the launch of the Appeal. Thereafter, all grants will continue to be administered and monitored within the Department of Internal Affairs until the end of the Trust's 10-year lifetime.

**Colin MacDonald | Dr Rod Carr | Gabriel Makhoulf**

*Trustees*

## CHANGING WITH THE TIMES 2010-2021

