

the acorn.

There are many different ways to give and get back

Gifts made before 31 March receive a 33.3% tax credit this year, up to the amount of tax paid.

A running man with a heart of gold

Lloyd Christie [1930-2023]

Treasured local runner and Acorn donor, Lloyd Christie, passed away on 6 December 2023. Lloyd was heavily involved in athletics for most of his life and was awarded the long service award by Athletics New Zealand.

Lloyd was born in Taranaki and was raised on the family farm in Waikato. He left school at 15 during WWII to train as a motor mechanic. While working in Auckland he met his wife, Kath; they married in 1953 and moved back to Waikato and became sharemilkers.

Seven years later they purchased a farm on Oropi Rd, Tauranga. During their time on the farm, the Tauranga Ramblers Club set up their cross-country course. The club used the land for 32 years before it was later subdivided and sold. Lloyd also served

as the president of Athletics Waikato and Bay of Plenty from 2008 - 2009. In addition, he retired after serving as a Justice of the Peace for 36 years.

Lloyd and Kath's next venture involved industrial and commercial property ownership. These properties were eventually sold, and they began their foray into share market investing.

Over the years the Christies supported many community projects. They donated \$128,000 to the building of the athletics track at Tauranga Domain in 2007 and contributed to raising \$1.6M in 2016 to refurbish and extend Oropi Hall and Community Centre. They also have a St John ambulance with their names on it- which picked them both up when they each had a fall at home.

Since 2018 Lloyd and Kath have supported the community via the Acorn Foundation incl. distributions to Te Aranui Youth Trust, Waipuna Hospice, Takitimu House, Mockingbird and Tauranga Women's Refuge.

Lloyd and Kath also loved golf, badminton and skiing. They have three children, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren and celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary in 2023.

Kath is still very much involved in supporting the community however she can.



▶ Lloyd & Kath Christie

Before Lloyd's passing, the Christies donated to emergency response causes, including the Hawkes Bay Community Foundation Hurricane Relief Fund and Relief Aid to support those suffering in Ukraine.

In the future, their fund will contribute to a long list of local charities that support many sectors including health, homelessness, sports and youth organisations.

30 years of the Bob & Joy Owens Scholarship

It has been five years since the Acorn Foundation partnered with the Owens Charitable Trust to manage their scholarship programme. The programme has been providing tertiary scholarships in the region since 1993 and a total of 159 high school students have been awarded Bob & Joy Owens Scholarships over the past 30 years.

Bob Owens was born in Manchester, England, and his first academic achievement was getting a scholarship to Manchester Grammar School, which made his mother very proud. His schooling was short-lived when Bob decided to run away at the age of 16 to join the Merchant Navy. He survived a harrowing journey of being bombed in WWII while delivering fuel to ships. Even though his personal formal education was lacking, he firmly believed that a good education was important.

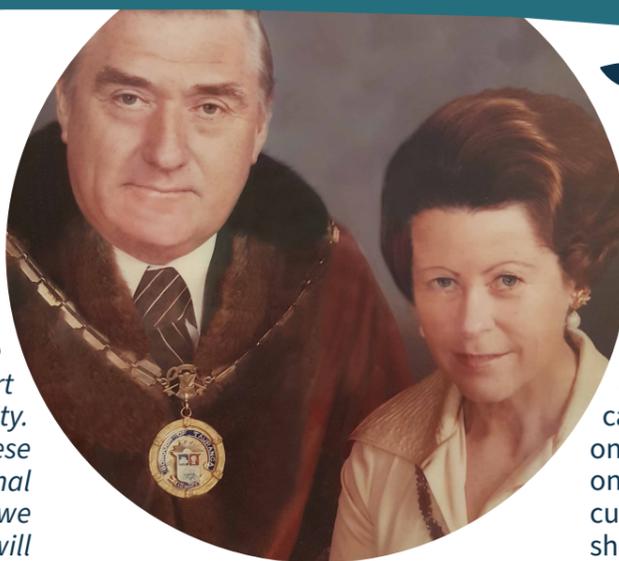
The scholarship is awarded annually to students from seven secondary schools in Tauranga who have excelled and shown great work ethic. However, whilst academic ability is important, Bob and Joy Owens were particularly interested in applicants who have a desire to contribute to society and make the world a better place.

Robin says, "As Trustees, Mahé Drysdale, Bill Capamagian and I very much wanted to ensure that the Bob and Joy Owens Scholarships continued on into the future providing such wonderful support for young people in the community. By placing the administration of these scholarships into the professional hands of the Acorn Foundation, we are ensuring that the Scholarships will continue exactly as they have always done for many years to come."

The Acorn Foundation administers the awards while volunteer Owens Scholarship panels interview the students chosen by the school administrators. These awards provide a \$5,000 payment per annum for three years to the students selected. The Owens family and friends are still involved on many of the interview panels in the schools.

The Owens Scholarship winners have always had a desire to make a difference. Sir Robert Owens once said, "It is vital that we do not lose our sense of community and volunteering and service to each other."

One of the earliest winners of the scholarship in 1994 was Vanessa Winning from Tauranga Girls' College.



▶ Bob & Joy Owens

Vanessa told us at the time she received the scholarship she was boarding with an elderly lady, juggling being a college student and working 30 hours a week. She was determined to attend university, build a career and have the opportunities her family hadn't had.

Vanessa's tenacity shone through in the interview and when announced as the winner Vanessa said "I couldn't believe it. Others had better grades and were definitely better sportspeople. I was so grateful, shocked and excited."

The Owens scholarship supported Vanessa through her entire degree and took the financial pressure off. Vanessa successfully completed an economics degree and a postgraduate degree in marketing.

Vanessa now mentors several young women starting their careers. The Owens family gave her support and non-judgemental advice, which encouraged her to also give back. Vanessa has many career highlights, including working on the launch of the first internet-only bank, Ergo, back in 1998. As the current CEO of Irrigation New Zealand, she is making a difference by driving storage and capture solutions to grow more food in a changing environment.

The Owens family also supported many community events and charities during Bob's business life and his involvement in local politics.

"I acknowledge my Dad for having such an inspiring vision for these scholarships. It has been a really rich time for me. My wish is that we hear a lot more about the great things young people are doing. A lot of these students didn't have an easy road, and they went on to make us so proud. It has been incredibly rewarding," concluded Robin.

There are many ways to give and get back, even as an anonymous donor

Now and again, we receive donations from anonymous Acorn donors who have found a cause they feel passionate about. Acorn is happy to facilitate these donations for our named fund and corporate fund donors. We call this pass-through giving; it enables people to donate to a charity of their choice via the Acorn Foundation. By doing this, they can be assured that their kind donation reaches its destination.

Recently we have had two anonymous donations from caring locals. The first is a donation of \$1,000 to Kiwi K.A.R.E., which is a Kiwi charity providing critical aid and refugee evacuation services to the people of Ukraine.

Tenby Powell, former Tauranga mayor and Chairman of Kiwi K.A.R.E. was extremely grateful to receive the donation. Tenby told us, "Sadly, this is rapidly becoming the forgotten war, even in Europe, where fatigue has set in given the length of time it's raged."

Kiwi K.A.R.E. remains committed to helping those most in need and your generous donation will make a significant difference to Ukrainians living in hardship. Winter is on its way and we have a lot of work to do to prepare for Russia's inevitable attacks on power and water infrastructure, and hospitals.

In addition to normal operations, we are currently focused on fabricating wood-burning stoves and water heaters, repurposed from old, recycled, electrical water cylinders that we collect from all over Ukraine."

The donation will go towards the stoves (burjuykas) and water heaters (nahrivach) pictured in this photo. These items will be delivered to families in great need during the winter.

The other anonymous donation came from a Katikati resident who donated \$50,000 to help build an affordable housing development in Katikati.

Acorn's Corporate & Community Giving Manager Emily Goulding says the donation came as a surprise: "We received a phone call from the donor, who had already decided they wanted to support the local Abbeyfield project. This donor already has an Acorn fund but wanted to make an immediate gift as they know Abbeyfield are currently fundraising to help with building costs."

Carole Parker, Chairperson of Abbeyfield WBOP, says, "We were absolutely blown away by the generosity of this donor. We've been fortunate to have had lots of support so far from the Katikati community, but this donation is incredible."

The Abbeyfield model is to provide affordable rental accommodation for older people over 65 with modest or no assets. As Katikati has a higher proportion of older people than the national average, it was identified as an area where there is an increasing gap between the needs of older people and housing options available to them.

Abbeyfield WBOP, a registered charity, have now purchased a site and are fundraising for the build.

"We just believe that older people, particularly those who are on limited incomes and maybe lonely, should have access to affordable, safe, purpose-built accommodation," says Carole. "How lovely that this anonymous Acorn donor clearly feels passionately about this too."

"It's one of the reasons I love working at Acorn," says Emily. "It's a privilege to witness such generosity from people who are really humble and would hate the idea of anyone knowing it was them. Acorn donors are locals with very big hearts."

Learn more about making a gift to charity via the Acorn Foundation and receive a 33.3% tax credit this year, visit our website or contact us: 07 579 9839 www.acornfoundation.org.nz



Kiwi K.A.R.E



Emily Goulding & Carole Parker

Acorn united with local businesses for the 2023 Christmas giving season

ASB Tauranga and Mount Teams donated \$10,000 to three local charities to support our community this Christmas via Acorn. The teams chose to split their donation equally between Tauranga Community Foodbank, Tauranga Women's Refuge and Grief Support Services.

Jennifer Murray, Funding Coordinator at Grief Support Services, said: "The exceptional growth of referrals from all sectors of the community continues to put extreme demands on our service. This donation will assist us to continue to offer much needed support."

For the fifth Christmas in a row, the Acorn Foundation and Craigs Investment Partners have teamed up to gift \$39,000 to 13 charities in the WBOP.

Craigs CEO Simon Tong says, "Workplace giving is a hugely rewarding initiative and it's fantastic to see so many colleagues support a philanthropic cause."

Recipients: Big Buddy; Awhina House; Good Neighbour; Tauranga Community Foodbank; St Peters House; Grief Support Services; Live for More; Heart Kids; Takitimu House; Kura Kai; Te Whare Waiora; Merivale Community Centre; Abbeyfield NZ.

Local Tauranga business Oriens Capital has donated \$2,500 to Te Aranui Youth Trust, via Acorn. At a time of year when many children in our region struggle to afford the basics for school.

Tanya Grimstone, Funding & Administration Manager of Te Aranui Youth Trust, said,

"Oriens kind donation will allow us to support our rangatahi with school uniforms, stationery, and shoes to ensure that they are ready for day one of the new school year."

The small team of six have been supporting local charities via the Acorn Foundation for the past three years. "At Oriens, we have a strong philosophy of giving back to the community. We choose to give via Acorn because they are well connected and with their guidance, Oriens can regularly help to make a difference," says James Beale, Partner at Oriens Capital.

Learn more about Corporate Giving on our website acornfoundation.org.nz or contact 07 579 9839 emily@acornfoundation.nz

Welcome/Haere mai



It is our pleasure to introduce our newest Acorn Trustee – **Keri Welham (Ngāti Pikiao, Ngāti Ranginui).**

Keri will bring a wealth of knowledge to the Board with her years of national and international journalism experience and her crisis communications background. After retiring as a journalist, Keri has built a thriving boutique content creation and communications agency based in Tauranga called All the Words Ltd.

She has participated in a range of volunteering activities over the years and has served on multiple boards including Volunteer Wellington and Momenta Charitable Trust. She is also the Resourcing Committee Chair and Trustee for the new Font Public Art Trust in Tauranga.

"I have realised that volunteering on boards gives me an opportunity to use my skills in a realm which is infinitely more positive. And I can't think of anything more positive than the work Acorn does for the people and communities of Tauranga Moana," says Keri.

Scholarships & Awards 2023

New Scholarships:

Bethlehem College International Travel Award

The scholarship is available to students of Bethlehem College to fund their overseas adventures. Last year, we were delighted to award two winners for this scholarship, Noelle Tito and Ella Pederson.



Dr Leonard Randall Scholarship

Acorn now administers the Dr Leonard Randall Memorial Scholarship that was created in memory of Dr Leonard Randall in 1960 for Te Puke High School leavers. We are pleased to announce Jessie Dickson as the 2023 recipient.

John & Renie Dennis Scholarship

John and Renie shared a lifelong passion for education and hope to make a difference through this scholarship with Acorn. In 2023 it was awarded to Ameerah Wilson.

Ngāi Tamarāwaho Peri Kohu Memorial Scholarship

This Scholarship is aimed at developing professional expertise for the long-term benefit of the Ngāi Tamarāwaho hapū. It was established in Peri's memory based on the impact he had on growing public cultural awareness of Tauranga's heritage, and his significant contribution to his hapū. Medical student, Jessie Urwin, was awarded this scholarship. She aims to help improve health outcomes for Māori.



Shepherd Fletcher Scholarship

Former Katikati High School teachers, Heather Shepherd and Nick Fletcher have a passion for helping young people. This scholarship will help a hard-working and dedicated student have access to educational opportunities from Katikati High School. Lyrique Jacob - Tahana was awarded this scholarship in 2023.



High School Student Scholarship winners:

Alwyn Robert Thompson Law Scholarship

Alex White, Tauranga Boys' College

Alwyn Robert Thompson Veterinary Scholarship

Charlotte Wilde, Tauranga Girls' College

Christine Tustain Music Award

Annouk Ayer, Katikati College

Christine Tustain Sports Award

Alex Rawlinson, Ōtūmoetai College

Jann Medicott Arts Scholarship

Byron Bunning, Tauranga Boys' College

Tauranga Girls' College Trust-Minola Grant Scholarship

Sian Gilby, Darlyn (Rizzy) Saludez, Tauranga Girls' College

Te Puke High School Scholarship

Evie Gibney, Te Puke High School

University Student Scholarship winners:

Amnesty International Gary Ware Legacy Award

Te Matahiapo Safari Hynes, Victoria University

BOB Medical Students Scholarship

Janaya Mitchell-Bryne, University of Otago

Boy & Joy Owens Scholarship winners:



Aquinas College:

Mia Thomas, Bachelor of Communication at Victoria University.

Bethlehem College:

Connor Settle-Smith, conjoint degree in Law and Psychology at the University of Auckland.

Mt. Maunganui College:

Abby Lindsey, Bachelor of Health at Victoria University or a Bachelor of Health Sciences at the University of Auckland.

Otūmoetai College:

Sofia Camila Arias, Bachelor of Arts and a Bachelor of Science Conjoint.

Tauranga Boys' College:

Byron Bunning, Bachelor of Screen Arts at Massey University.

Tauranga Girls' College:

Sara Esterman, Bachelor of Engineering with Honours degree at University of Canterbury.

Te Puke High School:

Adam Williams, Bachelor of Engineering Honours at University of Canterbury.

Farewell/Haere ra



The Acorn team will be forever grateful to **Lesley Jensen**, who has retired from her position as the Acorn Foundation Chair.

"It has been a great experience; I have enjoyed working with the donors I have met and our wonderful staff and volunteers. It has been a real pleasure."

Lesley has poured her heart into Acorn and this community. She has been an integral part of Acorn Foundation's success over the last eight years since she joined the Board and the Distributions Committee in 2015. She then served as Deputy Chair before becoming Acorn's Chair in 2019.

When Lesley joined as a Trustee, Acorn had \$11 million in funds and gave out \$305,000 to the WBOP. Fast forward to this year, Acorn has \$63 million in funds and distributed over \$3.3 million to 226 charitable organisations throughout the region.

The entire Acorn team have loved working with Lesley, and we wish her all the best for her next big adventure!



The Acorn Investment Advisory Committee and our Craigs team said farewell to our Committee Chair, **James Beale** in December.

James has retired after eight years of dedicated service to the foundation and during his time on the committee, Acorn's funds under management has more than quadrupled.

With our partners at Craigs Investment Partners, James led the committee through an intensive asset allocation project that has prepared Acorn well for its future growth.



The Acorn Foundation is so appreciative of the mahi done by **Carlo Ellis** to benefit the Western Bay of Plenty. Carlo served as an Acorn Trustee and as a member of our very busy Distributions Committee for the past several years.

Carlo has an important role at Tauranga City Council as Manager of Strategic Māori Engagement and serves on other boards around town, besides his responsibilities to his hapū and iwi, so we are so thankful for his wise counsel and advice. Ka pai, Carlo!

Donors we remember



Patricia Price [1935 -2023]

Patricia Price was born in 1935. She met her future husband Alastair in 1951, and they spent the next 69 years together – first as close friends, and then as husband and wife.

They moved to Omokoroa in 2004, where they lived together for the next 16 years before Alastair passed away in 2020. Patricia was passionate about music, and a strong supporter of community projects.

Patricia and Alastair had 4 children, and she lived to see 4 generations of her family come into the world. Patricia graciously donated to Acorn Foundation operations during her life.



Paul Treanor [1964 -2023]

Paul Treanor was born in Paeroa in 1964, where he developed a passion for sport and community that never left him. A graduate of Massey University, Paul was a well-known fixture in the Tauranga and Mount Maunganui communities – both as a dedicated and diligent financial planner and as a beloved member of the Mount Maunganui Lifeguard Service, as well as a variety of sporting boards.

Paul married his wife Sarah, with whom he had two children. His term in community leadership will perhaps be most remembered for his time as the Chair of the Mount Maunganui Lifeguard Service, where he was instrumental in fundraising for the new base.

In the future the Treanor Family Fund will support the Mt Maunganui Lifeguard Service.



June Bronger [1926 - 2023] Sig Bronger [1928 - 2010]

June was originally from Auckland and married Sig in 1977. In the mid-80s, they developed a kiwifruit and avocado orchard in Tauranga.

Sig came to Tauranga from Holland in February 1953. He went straight to Matakana Island to work and stayed there for over 35 years. Sig had his own business producing posts and poles for the kiwifruit orchards and then later produced power poles and wharf piles for the local areas.

June and Sig prioritised family and always considered work as a fun and challenging time. Together they bred ornamental ducks and birds, planted dozens of trees, enjoyed travelling, and volunteered at Waipuna Hospice.

To Sig and June, Tauranga was the best place in the world to live. Their fund will support charities that help those recovering from addiction and their families.



Maurice Dryden [1940 -2023]

Maurice Dryden was born in November 1940 in Lower Hutt. In 1983, he married Joan, and together they moved to Auckland in 1985 to manage a Christian Youth Hostel for the next two years.

They shared an unshakeable faith and were involved in many aspects of the church throughout their lives, including Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade, and later assisted in the Christian Alpha course.

Due to ill health, Maurice was forced to retire early, and he and Joan moved to Tauranga. There they became passionate supporters and volunteers for the ME/CFS Support (BOP), to support those who suffered from the condition that Maurice had for many years.



Joyce Wessel [1925 – 2023]

Joyce was born in Lochem in the Netherlands. At the age of 23, Joyce received a Diploma in Nursing and Midwifery. In 1953 she married Izek Wessel in Hamilton. The couple settles in Te Puke where they owned an orchard.

With her nursing background, Joyce was very supportive of organisations in the health sector. She joined Te Puke St John as an ambulance attendant, and for many years, she was also the committee treasurer. Joyce made a substantial donation to the St Johns building on No 3 Road that opened in 2013. She also donated a new ambulance to St John Te Puke and made provision for that to be replaced with another new one in 2024.

Joyce has supported over 20 charities including the Te Puke Volunteer Fire Brigade, the rescue helicopter in Tauranga, the Blind Foundation, Te Puke Plunket and the Neurological Society. Her contributions were always done anonymously. Joyce was a very private woman with a very generous heart whose donations will help many organisations for decades to come.

Margaret Snodgrass [1934 - 2023]

Margaret Snodgrass was born on a farm near Ohaupo. She trained in nursing in Te Puke, before working in the maternity ward in Tauranga Hospital for many years, both as a nurse and as a midwife.

She was keenly involved with St John's Anglican Church and supported the charitable sector extensively throughout her life. A passionate supporter of the SPCA and the Heart Foundation, she was committed to leaving her community better than she found it. In her spare time, Margaret enjoyed painting and playing golf.

In the future, Margaret's fund will be available for general purposes in the Western Bay of Plenty.

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



STRATEGIC PARTNERS:



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