



Our Legends.



The latest addition to the Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust's fleet.

New Wheels For Community Connector

The Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust Community Connector service continues to grow, and with a new set of wheels in the carpark, they look set to match increasing demand.

Thanks to a grant of \$16,000 from the Braided Rivers Community Trust, in partnership with the Lion Foundation, the Trust have been able to add a new vehicle to their fleet.

Having previously been operating using a vehicle purchased from the Ashburton Town Watch three years ago, Trust Chairperson Liz McMillan said the vehicle aging had led to the need for a new vehicle.

"We were sort of sitting around 25 to 30 passengers a month," McMillan said.

"We are now sort of sitting around 45 so it is growing."

The on-demand service operates across the

district and relies on volunteer drivers to get people to high-use drop off points in Ashburton like the hospital or District Council offices.

Like many volunteer-based initiatives, there is always a need for more helpers, with the role being incredibly rewarding and a fantastic way to connect people McMillan said.

"One day a month that you could help us out would be really good" McMillan said.

The Trust now has three vehicles to use, with a vehicle based in Rakaia provided by the Community Association and Rakaia Lions, while the old vehicle will be kept on hand for short trips.

The new vehicle is a hybrid, and can seat 6 adults plus the driver, helping to increase overall capacity.

Those looking to find out more about the service should contact 03 928 8164.

New café a hub for neurodivergent

A café for neurodiverse, by neurodiverse. That is the purpose of the newly started Alofa Café. The NeuroCafe initiative opened by Takiwatanga Whakare, aims to serve two purposes for the neurodivergent community, to provide a safe sensory space for neurodivergent people, and provide real workplace experiences.

Takiwatanga Whakare was co-founded by Celia Colcord in 2018 when she moved to the area and found very little support for herself and her son, who is neurodivergent.

"Now our children have grown up, they are needing support around work experience kicking into the work and transitioning into adulthood" Colcord said.

The café has taken inspiration from several similar locations in the North Island. Based out of Flashbacks at 175 Burnett Street, the café is operated by neurodivergent staff, while also offering safe sensory spaces for neurodivergent customers. Thanks to a quick response grant from the Braided Rivers Community Trust of \$1,525, they have been able to equip the space

with the appropriate sensory equipment they needed.

"We're going to have a sensory space not only for our patrons, but also families that come in that just need a bit of a break and a coffee," Colcord said.

"The sensory space is designed to be able to give some space for them or children that just need to regulate while they're in a café."

Colcord said having spoken to a neurodivergent café owner in the North Island, the next step to making it sustainable would be to be NZQA qualified to allow the staff to get qualifications to match their experience.

There is also an international organisation based in Australia which collaborates with businesses to support them with employing neurodivergent staff, who Colcord said she would love to partner with and bring their work to New Zealand.

"It's big plans, but it is definitely doable," Colcord said.

Alofa Café will be open every Monday and Tuesday, 9am-5pm.



The Alofa Café team at the grand opening of the café

Working Together to Support the Community

Braided Rivers Community Trust Somerset House, Burnett St, Level 2

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June - Quick Response Grants

Thomas Eaton	\$500
Bede Gies	\$500
Charlotte Chilton	\$500
Harrison Doak	\$650
1 st Ashburton Boys Brigade	\$1,307

July - Quick Response Grants

The following grants were made	
Hayley Duffell	\$500
Tamari Graham	\$500
Ashburton Pottery Society	\$625
Chloe Peck	\$1,000
Takiwatanga Whakare	\$1,525

We provide the funding - but the real LEGENDS are the one who turn it into something magical!

Braided Rivers Community Trust and the Lion Foundation proudly support local people, teams, and groups with funding to help them grow and give back.

We're regularly inspired by the impact of this support and look forward to sharing more of their stories of success.

Lion Foundation - July

Mid Canterbury Dog Training Club Incorporated	\$2,000
Ashburton Community Garden	\$2,338
Ashburton Youth Health Trust Te Wairua O Rangatahi	\$7,500
Young Men's Christian Association of South and Mid Canterbury Incorporated	\$8,000
Mead-Te Pitiia Gun Club Incorporated	\$14,000
Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust	\$16,000
Age Concern, Ashburton (Incorporated)	\$25,000
Ashburton Seniors Centre Trust	\$25,000
Birchright Canterbury Trust	\$25,104
Rakaia Golf Club Incorporated	\$28,000
Mid Canterbury Hockey Incorporated	\$55,000
Ashburton Celtic Rugby Football Club Incorporated	\$55,000
	\$262,942



THE LION
FOUNDATION



Somerset
HOUSE