

\$5m invested into the revitalisation of Christchurch

In the immediate aftermath of the devastating February 2011 Christchurch earthquake, The Lion Foundation took direct action by committing \$5m to support the people of Canterbury. The additional funding was pledged on behalf of The Lion Foundation and all of its venue operators across New Zealand, on top of the general grant making activity which has continued in the area, and is unprecedented in The Lion Foundation's history. Following the distribution of a final grant in February 2015 the \$5m funding pool has now been fully invested into the community.

As explained by Simon Whyte, Chairman of The Lion Foundation, the decision to ramp up investment into Christchurch was a simple one, "We've had a long standing partnership with the Christchurch and Canterbury communities through our loyal venue operators and the community organisations that have received grants over the last 30 years. When the earthquake struck there was no doubt that The Lion Foundation had a role to play, it was simply a matter of identifying the right causes."

Assisted by local knowledge and input provided by Sarah Smith, The Lion Foundation's Christchurch based Trustee and Chair of the local Regional Grants Committee, the Trustees gave very careful consideration to which applications were supported by the pledge funds, aiming for projects that would leave a legacy for the people and region. "We felt it was important to partner with a range of projects that would best reflect the region now and into the future" Mrs Smith said. "This meant looking at everything from arts, culture, sport, education and community. We're very happy with the outcome, it has been \$5m very well spent."

Given the impact of the earthquake on regional infrastructure a number of grants were made towards major capital projects such as the Hagley Park Pavilion, Christchurch Arts Centre, Sumner Surf Life Saving Club and new Coastguard base at Kaiapoi.

Lee Robinson, Chairman of Canterbury Cricket Trust, was a happy man when The Lion Foundation stepped up to help at Hagley Park, "The completion of the Hadlee Pavilion at Hagley Oval would not have been possible without this incredibly generous donation from The Lion Foundation. Christchurch lost all of its first class cricket facilities in the earthquakes and along with this, its ability to host international fixtures. This donation helped the Canterbury Cricket Trust to deliver a pavilion within a tight timeline enabling Christchurch to host ICC Cricket World Cup matches and the Opening Event of the tournament. The atmosphere in the crowd at that Opening Event summed it all up – this city is back up and running again and able to host a major event."

The Christchurch Arts Centre were able to ensure that culture continues to play a major role in the community and The Lion Foundation gladly stepped up to help to help restore the iconic clock tower and bell. Arts Centre chief executive André Lovatt says the organisation is very thankful for the generosity of The Lion Foundation. "The Clock Tower is the oldest building within the Arts Centre and holds exceptional heritage significance, as well as being a popular landmark for locals and tourists alike. We are extremely grateful for the support provided by The Lion Foundation, so we can continue the restoration of these important features of the Arts Centre, and welcome back the public as soon as possible to enjoy the facilities once again."

Since the earthquake the Youth Alive Trust have been working tirelessly on opening the New Brighton Youth & Community Centre. They finally achieved this and opened the new building in June 2015 thanks to a \$450,000 grant from The Lion Foundation. “There is a lot of history in New Brighton, and we’ve been through some tough times. Yet this building is a ray of hope for the future generations, a safe haven that will support children, young people and families as we rebuild our city” said Youth Alive Trust Chairman, Stan Tawa.

The Lion Foundation also played a major part in helping the Sumner Surf Life Saving Club get back into action as explained by Club President Al Malcolm, “The generous grant from the Lion Foundation in 2013 came at a time when so many of our club members were struggling to rebuild their lives and properties. Without the generous support of the Lion Foundation, and others, this project would never have got off the ground. The Foundation should feel justifiably proud of its role in our rebuild and in those other activities it has supported within the Christchurch area”.

These projects will leave an inter-generational legacy, but also play their part in strengthening the region's spirit in the immediate term. Whilst some things can never be replaced, the \$5m pledge by The Lion Foundation has played its part in revitalising the Christchurch community.

A full list of the projects supported by The Lion Foundation’s \$5m Christchurch earthquake pledge is as follows:

Canterbury West Coast Sports Trust	\$80,163	Towards the lease for a new Sports Hub office, housing Sport Canterbury and multiple other sporting organisations
Christchurch Music Industry Charitable Trust	\$45,000	Towards one modular, quake safe music rehearsal room for the BEATBOX project
Antarctic Heritage Trust	\$100,000	Towards technical costs for “STILL LIFE!”
St Pauls Papanui Anglican Parish	\$70,000	Towards the repair of the Historic Places Trust rated building, St Pauls Anglican Church
RNZAF Museum Trust Board	\$50,000	Towards the fit-out of the workshop area of a new building for use as an interim recovery centre for damaged and displaced heritage collections
Crichton Cobbers Youth & Community Club	\$54,000	Towards ongoing operating costs
Coastguard Waimakariki	\$500,000	Towards the construction of a new coastguard base at Kaiapoi
St Margaret’s College	\$100,000	Towards seats for the chapel auditorium & gymnasium complex
Sumner Surf & Life Saving Club Inc	\$200,000	Towards rebuilding the clubhouse, training and patrol facilities on Sumner Beach

Canterbury Cricket Trust	\$1,000,000	Towards the construction of a sports pavilion at Hagley Oval
Christchurch Stadium Trust Inc	\$500,000	Towards the purchase of seats and scaffold at AMI Stadium
Youth Alive Trust	\$450,000	Towards stage 1 of the New Brighton Youth & Community Centre building development
Arts Centre of Christchurch Trust Board	\$600,000	Towards restoration of the Arts Centre clock tower & bell
North West Christchurch Community Sporting Trust	\$95,400	Towards the spectator stands at Marist Park
Cashmere Technical Football Club	\$315,000	Towards floodlighting & fencing at Garrick Park plus drainage at the Whittington Ave ground
Theatre Royal Charitable Foundation	\$300,000	Towards the cost of theatre seating for the Isaac Theatre Royal rebuild
Living Springs Trust	\$265,000	Towards founders field
Bug 4/2 Inc	\$56,236	Towards lego, computers, licenses, photographic equipment and a projector for the 'Imagination Station'
Cholmondeley Children's Centre Inc	\$300,000	Towards construction costs of rebuilding the facility

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