

FOREWORD FROM THE TRUSTEES

The past financial year was one of achievement for the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Trust (the Appeal Trust) as Trustees substantively allocated all of the nearly \$100 million in Appeal funds to projects post-earthquake recovery in Canterbury. We also achieved our intention to allocate the majority of funds by early 2014; just three years after granting the first funds to a recovery project.

We as Trustees are responsible for allocating the money raised by the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal efforts to support initiatives to help the Canterbury region recover from the earthquakes of 4 September 2010 and 22 February 2011. We chose to commit the funds towards communities, not individuals, and address the gap between what other funders and government were already funding.

Since the launch of the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal on 27 February 2011 by Prime Minister John Key, a total \$99 million of donations has been received or pledged, \$98.4 million has been approved to recovery projects and \$600,000 from a SKY Television pledge will be allocated over the next three years. It has been satisfying and rewarding to partner with donors either on projects that they have specifically wished to support, or match their donations up with projects that lacked funds.

Every dollar donated goes to Canterbury.

In the year to 30 June 2014, we again prioritised funds towards large, permanent projects (valued at \$100,000 or more) as we aimed to make a positive difference in Canterbury for the coming 20-50 years while leaving a public legacy that honours all the people who donated to the Appeal. Many people probably didn't expect the Trust to be still running three and a half years later, and this has not only impacted on the projects we have committed funds towards, but also finding projects to fund.

Many of the large projects funded this year were again challenged by complex issues including insurance claims, consenting processes and funding from other sources, but in each case we have made the funding conditional on reasonable deadlines being met for each project's progress.

Canterbury continued in 'post-disaster recovery phase' and as infrastructure or 'bricks and mortar' needs were addressed, the growing psycho-social needs of the people became more apparent, in particular children, young people and their families. In recognition of this, we granted up to \$4.3 million to help address such hardship and also to benefit people still



Above (from top):
Trustees Dr Rod Carr,
Colin MacDonald and
Gabriel Makhoul

All Trust administration costs are met by the New Zealand Government.

struggling as a result of the earthquakes. Much of these funds have been effectively set aside for Trustees to grant to specific projects as needs arise and will be delivered via social service providers and advisory services, which are best placed to make local recommendations of projects with the greatest need.

The \$15 million we granted in 2012/13 towards 'Connecting the City to the Sea' through the eastern suburbs, remains committed for the future but is waiting on Christchurch City Council and Canterbury Earthquake Recovery Authority planning decisions regarding the future use of riverside and red-zoned land.

Smaller, local community recovery projects did not miss out as we ensured that limited funds remained available during the year to fund projects like repairing unintentionally uninsured homes for winter, repairs to Rāpaki Marae dining hall and neighbourhood summer fun events.

Trustees have greatly appreciated the local perspective of Advisory Board members to funding proposals over the past three years and would like to formally acknowledge the contribution to the Appeal Trust of: Jane Huria (Chair), Justin Murray (Deputy Chair) Ros Burdon, David Close, Tane Norton, Pamela Richardson and Anthony Rimell.

We also thank Appeal Trust Secretary Paul Swallow and the Secretariat.

The Appeal Trust is no longer receiving funding requests but as Trustees we will continue to meet as required to make funding decisions concerning projects that directly benefit people still struggling, and on any other matters.

All grants will continue to be administered and monitored within the Department of Internal Affairs.

Dr Rod Carr
Colin MacDonald
Gabriel Makhlouf
Trustees