



Media information, 27 May 2022

Masterton community to benefit from \$1.5M, Masterton Trust Lands Trust

Community-owned Masterton Trust Lands Trust has announced an historic annual grants budget of \$1.5 million for 2022/23. It coincides with the Trust's 150th year.

"My fellow trustees and I are thrilled the Trust has achieved a record-high grants budget to support our community in the year ahead. We look forward to the benefits the boost in funding will provide locally," said Leanne Southey, Trust chair.

The \$1.5 million represents the largest amount of money the Trust has ever made available to the people of Masterton. This includes its usual annual rental support for community tenants and a diverse education grants programme. "An exciting new arts initiative is also in the planning, with an announcement due later this year," said Miss Southey

The Trust is equally delighted to be able to reinstate community grants. Five years ago, trustees made the difficult decision to pause annual community grants for non-profit organisations in Masterton. This was due to financial constraints at the time, caused by structural issues with several Trust-owned buildings.

"Reinstating community grants is a positive outcome from the conclusion of litigation," explained Miss Southey.

From 1 July, the Trust's community grants fund will open again with \$100,000 available to community groups for grants of up to \$10,000. A further \$50,000 will be on offer for significant projects seeking grants of more than \$25,000 in collaboration with other funders.

The Trust welcomes applications from Masterton-based non-profit organisations. Assessment criteria will examine how funding can contribute to 'community good' for health and wellbeing, physical welfare, art and culture, youth and elderly, and environmental projects.

More information will be available from early June on the Trust's website, www.mtlt.org.nz or by phoning 06 370 0155.

ENDS

For more information contact Leanne Southey, MTLT chair, phone 027 469 7161

More about Masterton Trust Lands Trust - Masterton Trust Lands Trust was formed in 1872 born out of the Small Farms Association that established Masterton and Greytown. Unsold land was set aside in each town for trusts to administer, with the income devoted to educational and cultural purposes.

This year marks 150 years since the Trust was established. Celebrations will include an exhibition at Aratoi and the publishing of a book *Continuing Legacy* by Gareth Winter that traces the last 25 years of the Trust's work against the backdrop of an ever-changing world

Photo caption

A \$5,000 grant to the Shear History Trust enabled free museum visits for Masterton schools.