



**Media information, 2 May 2017**

### **MTLT limits 2017 grants**

Grant funding from community-owned Masterton Trust Lands Trust (MTLT) will this year be limited to education, Aratoi and the arts, with the usual annual community grants round being unavailable.

The community grants are usually made annually to Masterton non-profit groups that contribute to education and culture in the town. Grants to community groups have averaged \$129,000 over the past three years.

MTLT chairperson, Leanne Southey, said the trustees had made the difficult decision to not offer community grants this year due to financial constraints caused by structural issues with some MTLT-owned buildings.

“We are committed to moving as quickly as possible to remediate the buildings involved and face significant costs in doing so.

“The trustees regret that community groups will miss out this year and expect that this will be a short-term situation.

“Priority is being given this year to funding our education priorities for early childhood, schools and tertiary which are set for the next three years, and to the continued funding of Aratoi. Concessional rents for community groups, effectively a grant, will also remain.

Trustees have approved the first part of the education funding including a roll-based grant to schools of \$12 per student that amounts to almost \$70,000.

The trust will also provide its usual grant to the Masterton Library, subject to an application. It has also agreed to make an additional \$10,000 contribution to the Neil Dawson sculpture project.

Ends