



The Acorn Newsletter

February 2013

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Latest News

Acorn Board Chair Sally Morrison was recognised in the 2013 New Year's Honours when she was awarded a Membership of the Order of New Zealand (MNZM). Sally's lifelong community service and her commitment to caring for the elderly and disabled were compelling reasons to be awarded this prestigious honour. We are extremely proud of Sally and congratulate her on this outstanding achievement.



Medical student receives Acorn scholarship

The study of medicine is not for the faint-hearted, with the standard of academic performance needing to be consistently high in order to progress in this field, and the length of study bringing added financial pressure.

When Tauranga girl Amber-Jane Wood decided to study medicine at Otago University, it was after already having completed a Bachelor of Science in Anatomy. Amber's decision was not made lightly, as she now faced several more years of study with negligible savings, unsupportive changes to the student loan scheme, and family circumstances that prevented any financial assistance being possible. However Amber was committed to becoming a doctor and willingly sought and found work during the academic year and in her summer breaks. Despite these difficulties, Amber completed her first year of medicine in 2012, with distinction.

The Acorn Foundation is pleased to be able to present Amber-Jane with the BOP Medical Students Scholarship for 2013. Amber says "Being granted this scholarship will truly make the world of difference to my studies, and will allow me to continue excelling at what I love. Medicine is an exciting and rewarding career and I am privileged to be starting my journey in this field."

Tax refunds for donations

Are you thinking of making a donation to a charity this year? Would you like to kick-start your Acorn endowment fund and begin to see your generosity making a difference in this community now? If you make your donation before 31 March you can claim 33% back as a tax credit, and receive it **this year**. All donations over \$5 are eligible for a tax credit up to the amount of your personal annual income.

We would be happy to discuss with you the advantages of donating during your lifetime. Please give us a call on 579 9839.

Acorn 10th birthday and oak tree planting

In 2013 the Acorn Foundation celebrates 10 years of service to this community. In May we will be having a special tree-planting ceremony to honour our donors who have died. We credit these generous individuals with much of Acorn's ability to provide support to other community organisations in our region. We will follow this with a luncheon for all of our donors. Watch out for details soon.



Quote of the Month

"I have found that among its other benefits, giving liberates the soul of the giver." **Maya Angelou**

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Sally Morrison—Chair
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Nicky Wilkins
General Manager



Hearing Association brings new sound to clients

Tauranga (BOP) Hearing Association saw a gap in the market to assist lower income people with hearing impairments. With hearing aids costing anything from \$1800 - \$4000 per aid, many elderly were going without hearing aids and finding they were withdrawing from society, becoming isolated or suffering with frustration trying to communicate with their families and friends.

The opportunity arose for the Tauranga Hearing Association to become an agent for NewSound hearing aids (an in the ear and a behind the ear hearing aid). With these hearing aids only costing between \$400 and \$550 each and being of good quality they have been able to assist over 60 people in less than 3 months to achieve better hearing. For some it is the first time in years they have heard the birds in the tree, or their grandchildren's laughter.

The Hearing Association received Acorn funding of \$2000 in 2012 to help with their on-going operating costs.



Lawry T'assel receives his NewSound hearing aid

Scholarship for Bill Holland

Acorn's inaugural Chair Bill Holland is one of five people from across the globe to have been accepted to study at the Center of Philanthropy and Civil Society at City University of New York (CUNY), and has received a scholarship to do so.



His research project at CUNY will be very helpful for Bill's work in developing and growing the community foundation movement across New Zealand.

Says Bill "Before applying for the programme, I checked to make sure that the study would be of a practical nature and of practical value. It will certainly give me the opportunity to properly investigate what has been done elsewhere in the world when arriving at the options available to us in NZ.

"When we were first setting up Acorn, I went to the US to attend a Community Foundations Conference to get ideas on what we should be doing in NZ. That experience has been very valuable and Acorn is a real success story. I am hoping that the experience I will gain from my going to the US this year will be equally valuable in terms of our new National Association."

Community Group Endowment Funds

A growing number of community organisations are recognising that they need a long-term funding strategy to ensure their continued survival, especially during tough economic times when donations from non-members are less forthcoming. As a way to assist these organisations, in 2010 Acorn initiated Community Group Endowment Funds. We currently have 14 of these funds set up, and many of the organisations are actively seeking donations to their fund, to provide assured on-going funding in the future. Our current Community Group Endowment Fund holders are:

- Alzheimers Society - Tauranga*
- BOP Classic Aircraft Trust (trading as Classic Flyers)*
- Bay of Plenty Rugby Union*
- Creative Tauranga*
- Diabetes Help Tauranga Incorporated*
- Get Smart Tauranga Drug and Alcohol Services*
- Merivale Community Centre*
- Motor Neurone Disease Association of NZ Inc*
- Mount Maunganui Lifeguard Service*
- Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust*
- Tauranga Performing Arts Competitions Society Inc*
- Tauranga Volunteer Coastguard*
- YMCA Tauranga*
- Youth Development Trust Western BOP*

If you would like to contribute to one of these funds you can do so via our website, or phone 579 9839.

Acorn Website gets makeover

As part of our on-going marketing strategy we are in the process of re-developing our website. The upgraded site will be more user friendly and users will find it much easier to locate what they're looking for. The new look will go live towards the end of February so why not check it out soon?

Acorn Foundation wishes to thank the following partners for their ongoing support:



Did you know Acorn is on Facebook and Twitter? Why not check us out to keep up to date with what we're doing.



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