

Foundation News

June 2021

Thank You!

We would like to extend a huge thank you to our supporters. We are so grateful for the contributions you have made to us. Your gifts have such an enormous impact on the work that we do.

Check out below the ways in which you have helped.

Sculpture at Laura Fergusson

Launching our very first fundraising initiative in over 30 years, “Sculpture at Laura Fergusson”, was held in the grounds of our residential home in October, last year. As well as displaying the sculptures from local artists, we were able to invite members of the community to come and have a look at what we do and showcase our grounds. Our residents were thrilled to be part of the open day, showing people around and pointing out their favourite sculptures.

The opening night saw a flurry of sculpture purchases. Thanks to your wonderful support, the proceeds of this event have already directly benefited our residents with the instalment of fibre internet at our Ilam Rd site.

Both residents and staff now have consistent access to the internet at high speed. Our residents have much improved Wi-Fi, allowing residents unlimited forms of online engagement such as games, video calling family and friends or catching up on the news.

This event would not have been possible without our generous sponsors: Mortlock McCormack Law, Paul Duggan and Associates and Mediaworks. Your support is truly wonderful. Thank you!



Sculptures





Christmas Giving Day

Christmas Giving Day

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou - Huge thanks to you all!

Late in 2020 we held our first ever Christmas Giving Day. Due to the overwhelming support of matching donors, we were able to make the Giving Day a “triple-matched” campaign, meaning that all donations made by the public on the day were tripled.

We were completely blown away by the support we received. From the generosity of our matching donors, together with our supporters, we managed to raise a whopping \$117,059, far exceeding our expectations. We cannot thank you enough. Your support has been completely awesome.

We would specifically like to extend huge thanks to our matching donors:

- The whānau of Laura Fergusson in Britain
- Evan and Anne Begg
- Andy Fox
- Turner Family Members
- Canterbury Equine Clinic
- Beveley Murray, Patron of the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust
- Plato Creative
- Individual Trustees of the Laura Fergusson Foundation
- Kathryn Jones, CEO of the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust
- Ashton Garage Doors
- BL Stringer & Co Ltd
- Former members of the Women’s Auxiliary
- The Family of Wilson Murray
- Anonymous donor
- Nicky and Chris Averill

Wilson’s story

Last year, Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust client, Wilson Murray was leaning against a window louvre outside his apartment when part of it broke. He fell three storeys to the ground and suffered a traumatic brain injury.

“The paramedics arrived only a few minutes after his fall, which saved his life,” Wilson’s mum Laura says. “But after he was discharged from hospital, he went to Laura Fergusson, and received care every day to help his rehabilitation.”

Wilson adds, “I definitely was not ready to go home after I left hospital. The care I received at Laura Fergusson was pivotal to my recovery. Overall, my time at Laura Fergusson was great. I kept a positive attitude and the therapists helped me recover hugely. All the staff were great at supporting my recovery.”

Upon hearing of the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust Giving Day, held last November, the family of Wilson Murray decided to become a matching donor. This meant that all donations



Wilson Murray

Wilson's story cont.

received on the day were tripled thanks to their generosity and that of our other matching donors. Wilson's Mum Laura says, "We decided to become a matching donor to give back to the organisation, because it was just fabulous that Laura Fergusson was there to help when Wilson needed it. He would not be where he is today without it".

Wilson is doing well. He completed the last semester of 2020 at university and took a summer school class to help him catch up on the time he missed while recovering. Wilson has since been accepted into his first professional year of mechanical engineering. We wish him all the very best with his ongoing recovery.

We would like to sincerely thank Wilson's family for becoming a matching donor and supporting the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust to help more people who receive a brain injury.



A Spanner in the Works

New book shines light on TBI

The Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust has launched a book written by 12 individuals and family members of those who have suffered a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). "A Spanner in the Works" contains accounts of the authors' journeys from their accident to rehabilitation, providing honest, authentic insights into the challenges and realities of life after TBI, as well as offering hope and advice.

Project lead and Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust speech-language therapist Delwyn Eden says, "Collating the stories for this book was a real labour of love. The contributors share similarities, but also very different roads to recovery. Many wanted to share their stories so that they could offer hope for others who may suffer a TBI in the future."

CEO Kathryn Jones adds, "We are extremely grateful to the people who have kindly and courageously shared their personal accounts and experiences. They have shined a light on the complex and often invisible changes that can happen after TBI, including changes in communication, thinking skills, behaviour, mental health, life roles and relationships."

The book cover features a new Tin Man character, generously created by artist Tony Cribb. The original art and one other piece, "Duckspanner" were donated to us by Tony and were auctioned at the book launch, raising over \$4000! We are so grateful for Tony's support!

Copies of the book are available for purchase by emailing hello@lfbt.co.nz



The authors

Ordinary Life Opportunities – some clients need a helping hand

At Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust, our mission is to provide ordinary life opportunities, and while we can provide excellent care to our residents and clients, they still face barriers accessing their ordinary life opportunities, often due to restrictive transport costs. Where many people can get into a car and drive to an activity, resident Ron cannot drive and needs a mobility taxi service for transport. Ron has attended the New Zealand Riding for the Disabled Association for the past five weeks and would attend more if he could afford to. However, the 7km trip costs a minimum of \$33, as long as the Christchurch traffic doesn't slow them down. This means it can cost upwards of \$70 for transport in one day.

“Wow!” said Ron with a grin as he finished his most recent session. Today was extra special for Ron as he was able to safely mount a horse for the first time. He was thrilled, “Once I got straightened up it was great, it was fantastic.”

Simone, a trainer at the Riding for the Disabled Association said “it's not just about the horses, it's about the safe community that is built here. Being in the environment, talking with the volunteers and families, making and drinking tea together, you feel like you are in a safe space. It is the community that acts as therapy.”

It is a community that Ron loves being a part of, but cost of transport is a huge barrier. Ron applied for a grant to cover his transportation cost but only received a portion of what he needs. “I've only got funding for one school term, so I'm looking for more ways of funding my transport to Riding for the Disabled.”



Ron at Riding for the Disabled Association

Congratulations to the LFBIT City2Surf Team!

We are super proud of our team of twelve clients and three staff who entered the Les Mills City2Surf in March 2021. After being denied the opportunity to participate in 2020 due to COVID restrictions, the team were so excited to finally take part!

The City2Surf is an opportunity for those of all levels in training. You can walk, jog, or run the 6km course, or if you're feeling brave, the whole 14km! Our team had varying levels of preparation. Some have been training with their rehab coaches, while others have had a few quiet independent walks. This year was the first event of its kind for many of our clients, most of whom simply wanted to get out there and give it a go.

There were mixed emotions as the team lined up to start the race, client Paula saying she felt "A little bit excited, a little bit nervous." The team were excited to finally get out onto the course.

Everyone in the team crossed the line, led by Richard, who blitzed the course. Chris says he was absolutely shocked by how well he did. Pre-injury, Peter would run half marathons and reported that this race was the hardest thing he has ever done. "Pleased to complete it – you don't want to not finish something you start- but absolutely buggered. I found it hard work." It was a terrific achievement for everyone on the team!

The team began discussing next year's race immediately after crossing the finish line. Richard and Chris were happy with their times, but think next year they will be even faster. Some are even considering taking on the whole 14km course! There will be more before then, as the team are ready to enter into more races throughout the year.

It was a fantastic day, and we are so proud of our team for participating. Special thanks to the Noeleen McIlroy Trust for generously funding the team's registration fees. Without the Trust's generosity, we would not have been able to take part.



City2Surf Team

New land purchase to future-proof services

We are thrilled to announce that the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust has purchased land at 126 North Parade and 37 Poulton Ave, the former location of Marian College.

This site meets our requirements for building a new purpose-built home for all of our services (assessment, rehabilitation and residential support) which will be located in the one place.

The new building will enable us to support the 1000 people with brain, spinal and other complex injuries we are working with at any one time, not just now but well into the future.

While we saved to purchase the land, fundraising efforts are now underway to help fund this exciting new project. Our campaign will launch on the evening of Friday 23 July at the Majestic Centre, cnr Durham and Wilmer Streets, Christchurch. If you would like to attend please contact Nicky Averill on Nicola. averill@lfbt.co.nz or 0274 185 266. Further information will be sent out in due course.



CEO Kathryn Jones with the keys



Meet The Laura Fergusson Foundation Team

Nicky



Nicky

With a background in fundraising, event management and organising charitable art exhibitions, Nicky is tasked with raising funds for the Capital Campaign at the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust. She is passionate about the work that the Trust does in assessing, rehabilitating and supporting people with traumatic brain injury.

Nicky is looking forward to working with the Laura Fergusson whānau to collectively raise funds for a future-proofed building that will continue to support our clients now and into the future.

Jasmine



Jasmine

A desire to use her skills to do something better for the world led Jasmine to her marketing and communications manager role at the Laura Fergusson Foundation. After many years working for many varied organisations, including five years in occupational health, Jasmine made the move to Laura Fergusson just over a year ago and is relishing working for a not-for-profit, that does such important work in the community.

Diane



Diane

With a background working for a variety of not-for-profit organisations, Diane assists the Laura Fergusson Foundation in pursuing grant funding for capital items so that the Trust can provide facilities that are purpose built and offer centralised services for clients and whānau.

She looks forward to raising funds to help make the road to recovery more accessible to clients and whānau.

The Laura Fergusson Foundation's mission is to raise funds to support the work of the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust.

Look out for our up and coming events throughout the year including an Art & Sculpture Exhibition and Christmas Fete!

I would like to make a donation to support the Laura Fergusson Brain Injury Trust.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Post code _____

Phone _____ Mobile _____

Email _____

By Internet banking payment to 12 3191 0032489 00

By Credit card payment
Contact Nicky Averill
027 4185 266 / nicola.averill@lfbt.co.nz

The Laura Fergusson Foundation is a registered charity LL5576S. Your donation is tax deductible and you will receive a formal receipt.

We collect your personal information in order to acknowledge your donation and invite you to events and campaigns. This information is stored confidentially on the LFF database. You have the right to ask for a copy of any personal information we hold about you, and to ask for it to be corrected if you think it is incorrect.