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HAWKE'S BAY
FOUNDATION

Spring 2023

Hawke's Bay Couple's

Bequest 'Par for the Cause'

Pursuing their own passions in life has motivated an adopted Hawke's Bay couple to leave gifts in their will to help others follow theirs.

Avid historian Dr Michelle Smith and former amateur golfing representative Blair Smith describe themselves as "hardworking, pretty ordinary New Zealanders" with a strong desire once they're gone, to provide financial opportunities for others.

A recent visit to update their will with their lawyer before going on holiday prompted the pair to approach Hawke's Bay Foundation to put their charitable giving into action.

"Blair always had an idea that he wanted to support Hastings Golf Club (where he is an active member), along with a few other smaller bequests between us: namely the SPCA, Women's Refuge and muscular dystrophy research. We wanted to give something back to the local causes and charities that are important to us and our lawyer suggested we get in touch with Hawke's Bay Foundation, so we did."

"We don't have any children and thought how can we put the money we've made in our lifetime to good use without burdening executors with the ongoing responsibilities of managing it. Hawke's Bay Foundation are experts in this field, they're built to last, have deep community roots and know where the needs are greatest.

"We like the endowment model where the money can build up, and we can gift from the income, maintaining the body of the fund and allowing us to leave a lasting legacy."

Michelle admits she was a 'late bloomer' when it came to finding her passion. Born with muscular dystrophy has brought with it multiple challenges, including several falls, a couple of major operations and reliance on a wheelchair, but as Michelle asserts she never let it stop or define her.

In 2010 Michelle finished her PHD and entered the museum sector where she worked as historian and curator of Papakura Museum for eight years.

"We're not philanthropists, we just want to make things a little easier for a handful of groups that are important to us, be it animals or people."

After moving to Hawke's Bay five years ago seeking a lifestyle change and better work life balance, Michelle and Blair settled in Havelock North. The five minute commute to work for Blair as Village Manager at Summerset Retirement Village is a far cry from the two hour daily commute he used to endure.



Did you know that 40 percent of New Zealanders die without a will - that's 1500 individuals each year who may possibly leave their family members grieving, while having to also sort out a rather complicated legal process. We've also all heard the stories about a family member being cut out of a will, only to contest their share in court. Nobody wants to go through that and there's a way to avoid it.

Think about making a will with the help of your friends and family. Talk to them about your choices so there are no surprises. Your friendly local solicitor will help you put your wishes into words and you can enjoy the rest of your days knowing you've tidied things away.

While you're there you may wish to consider leaving a gift to the place you live - a gift to Hawke's Bay Foundation. Your gift will be invested, and the income given out to your favourite local causes and charities, forever. Create a legacy your family and friends can remember you by with a gift that will keep on giving. It's food for thought right?

Amy Bowkett
Executive Officer

← Soon after moving here, Michelle was approached by a local farm owner to document Kahuranaki Station's history. Several private projects later, Michelle felt compelled to set up a grant for other budding historians to assist with the costs of seeing a project through to fruition. She plans to leave a percentage of her estate to Hawke's Bay Foundation to facilitate her wishes.

"A grant for writers and researchers who don't have access to larger funds or institutions is something I wish I had had access to when embarking on my own projects - putting together a book is not a cheap exercise! Capturing history is really important, be it family history, local history, it provides a sense of place and identity.

"Blair and I hope with the little bit we leave behind that we can remove financial barriers allowing people to follow their dreams like we've been able to. We hope it's enough to make a difference."

Blair feels fulfilled that a percentage of his estate will support 1-2 budding local golfers per year in perpetuity, with the costs of coaching, equipment, travel and entry fees through Hastings Golf Club.

Since picking up a golf club at the age of nine, Blair Smith never looked back. Making the coveted New Zealand Under 21 team and playing off a 1 handicap at his peak saw Blair reach the pinnacle in amateur ranks. Now a member of Hastings Golf Club, he is keen to support talented Hawke's Bay juniors.



Michelle and Blair Smith at home in Havelock North with beloved service dog Skye

"Golf has been a big part of my life and I always knew that I wanted to put something back into the game when the time comes to benefit junior golfers coming through. It's an expensive sport so if I can provide some support and opportunity to kids out there with talent who are more in need of a hand up, then I'm happy."

"We've been very fortunate in our lives and through hard work we are able to give back in this way. It feels great. It's easy to leave your money to family but it's a different world than it used to be in terms of reliance on inheritances.

"Whatever is left at the end we'll never get to be part of it but know it's going to be put to good purpose and many people (and animals) will benefit. It's easy to do and for us, it's a gift that will keep on giving long after we've gone."

Wills Month

September is Wills Month and gifts left through Hawke's Bay Foundation grow into an ongoing source of funding, to support the causes locals love, forever.

If you don't yet have a will or you need to update your will, there is no better time than now. Having a current will will not only relieve loved ones of the stresses and burdens that may arise if you die intestate, but it can ensure that you have greater control and that

your estate is administered in accordance with your current wishes.



Cyclone Relief in Hawke's Bay gets an All Blacks Spin

Putting a star-studded spin on cyclone relief efforts in Hawke's Bay seemed a "natural thing to do" for former Napier Boys First XV player turned All Black, Brad Weber.

The 18 test halfback, recently named as injury cover for the Rugby World Cup squad has been calling his fans to arms this Super Rugby season, with a challenge for followers to match his donations to Hawke's Bay Foundation's Cyclone Relief Fund.

To play his part, Brad personally

donated \$2 for every pass he made in Super Rugby - with 771 passes made during the season his final total donated is \$1542. Launched on Weber's Givealittle page, 195 donors have got in behind the fundraiser, taking the current collective cyclone relief total from Weber's fundraising efforts to over \$21k.

Brad is ecstatic so many Kiwis from around New Zealand heeded the call.

"I had an initial goal of raising \$10 thousand but I smashed through that real quick and thought 'I've got to rethink my

goals here'. It's been incredible to see so many people support the cause including fellow local rugby export Gareth Evans who donated his 50th cap jersey for the Highlanders, Ruby Tui, Paul Williams and Samisoni Taukei'aho. It's been heartwarming to see these players help out where they could."

Alongside his Givealittle page, Brad also set



All Black Brad Weber

'Pearl in a Whirl' Cyclone Boosts Recovery

Book sales of 'Pearl in a Whirl' - Cyclone Gabrielle's heart tugging tale of one fluffy cat amid the wreck and ruin has captured the nation and continues to raise funds for Hawke's Bay's recovery efforts.

Written by bestselling author Catherine Robertson, illustrated by Fifi Colston and published by Penguin, the book officially launched in June ahead of its release in all good book stores around New Zealand.

Since hitting bookshelves, Pearl has consistently sat in New Zealand's Top 10 Bestseller's List with every copy sold helping boost Hawke's Bay Foundation's Cyclone Relief efforts.

It's success has popular children's book illustrator Fifi Colston beaming with pride.

"I've illustrated over 50 books in my career as a book illustrator and this is my favourite. I'm so proud of what we've pulled together and what I was able to extract from myself as an illustrator and the team behind it. The book is doing so well and it's giving back which is so fantastic."



Hawke's Bay Foundation Executive Officer Amy Bowkett with her husband Richard and children Stanley and Celia, alongside illustrator Fifi Colston and author Catherine Robertson.

The book's official launch back in Pearl's old neighbourhood at the Puketapu Pub in July was a chance for locals to get together and celebrate the cyclone's one silver lining.

For community spokeswoman Ange Mackie it was an emotional reunion.

"Pearl in a Whirl is a nice keepsake of the cyclone and what everyone went through and the bravery of those people caught up in it. It's lovely to see this book come to fruition given the trauma that Amy and her family have been through losing their home and way of life.

"Some members of the community have moved on but others are still feeling heavy and are in the daily grind of waiting for answers about their future.

It's a long road but the community continues to put on fundraisers like this one. I think everyone's in a place of acceptance now, but they're just tired... very, very tired."

As for Pearl, she now calls Napier's Bluff Hill home and according to owner, Hawke's Bay Foundation Executive Officer, Amy Bowkett, she's adapted well to town life.

Author Catherine Robertson is certainly standing by for the next installment.

"I reckon Pearl's got a lot of adventures in her and we do have options for a sequel, who knows, hopefully not a flood story or a tsunami or earthquake... something less traumatic. I have faith that there'll be more adventures to come!"

up two Trade Me auctions for rugby memorabilia kindly donated by some rugby royalty. Up for grabs was a 2022 All Blacks jersey fully signed by the All Blacks squad, and a 2019 Rugby World Cup Referees jersey signed by all the World Cup referees. Together, the jerseys raised over \$1500.

Now six months on from the devastation caused by Cyclone Gabrielle and Weber still gets emotional.

"Coming back to play for the Magpies and seeing places I grew up destroyed and the eye opening effects it's had on

some people who are still struggling, this was my way of feeling like I am helping in some way. I've felt really helpless being stuck away with footy and unable to help physically on the ground with the clean up. I don't want what Hawke's Bay has been through to become yesterday's news and if I can bring some awareness that people here still desperately need help, then that is great."

Hawke's Bay Foundation Executive Officer Amy Bowkett is humbled by Brad's efforts.

"His enthusiasm and tenacity for our cause is inspirational and we have no doubt that he carries these skills onto

the field as well. As a proud supporter of Hawke's Bay we wish Brad all the best for his international career and thank him for his support of our work."

Hawke's Bay Foundation's Cyclone Relief Fund closed to donations on 30th June 2023, however if you would like to donate to ongoing cyclone recovery you can direct your giving to their General Fund. The General Fund is an endowment fund which aims to ensure long term, sustainable funding for Hawke's Bay charities to build resiliency and help the region withstand future disasters.

To donate to the General Fund head to: www.hawkesbayfoundation.org.nz

Iconic Bay Business Backs

Region on its Road to Recovery



Hawke's Bay Foundation Executive Officer Amy Bowkett with Bayswater Vehicles owner Rob Townshend

Hawke's Bay's most established brand in automotive sales is taking a front seat in helping Hawke's Bay get back on its feet, in the aftermath of February's cyclone.

Bayswater Vehicles, owned and operated by Rob Townshend, a name long synonymous with car sales in the region, has stepped in to sponsor Hawke's Bay Foundation with a new cutting-edge branded electric BYD ATTO 3 vehicle.

For Rob, a self-described 'car fanatic' and 'extremely proud Bay boy', supporting a Community Foundation that has been integral in the region's clean up and rebuild, fulfills a deep sense of pride and connection to a

“Supporting the local economy and giving back to the place that has given us so much is incredibly rewarding.”

community that's supported his family's business for over 30 years.

“The past few months have brought unprecedented challenges to our community. We recognise the significant role that local businesses like us play in the fabric of society, and believe it's our social responsibility to make a positive impact on our community during these trying times.

“It's extremely important to back the community that has supported our business for so long. Day to day we don't have the ability to be on the ground physically helping with the clean-up and rebuild, but by actively supporting organisations participating in these efforts, our company and our people feel we are playing a small part in our region's journey towards recovery.”

Bayswaters Vehicles has just sponsored Hawke's Bay Foundation with a cutting-edge fully electric BYD ATTO 3, affirming the brand's commitment to environmentally friendly motoring.

“As a trusted and long-established company in Hawke's Bay, we feel a need to reaffirm our dedication to our community. By aligning ourselves with organisations like Hawke's Bay Foundation who are out there every day making a significant impact on community well-being, Bayswater are supporting in the best way we can.”

Hawke's Bay Foundation Executive Officer Amy Bowkett feels very lucky to be taking the wheel of the technically advanced wheels.

“As we found out during the cyclone, local communities look after each other. It is a delight to work closely with Rob, Bayswater have such a positive reputation in the Bay and they've always been very community focussed. We are honoured to be a chosen charitable vehicle by such a well-respected organisation.”

If you'd like to become a Corporate Supporter for Hawke's Bay Foundation, contact us today on (06) 870 4648 or info@hawkesbayfoundation.org.nz

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