



**Ara Foundation**

Review 2016 | 2017

› **Changing lives**  
through opportunities  
and experiences

## Ara Foundation goals and objectives

- › To promote and support the general educational purposes and activities of Ara Institute of Canterbury
- › To improve the educational facilities of Ara
- › To provide financial assistance (including the provision of scholarships and bursaries) to students of Ara on such conditions (if any) as they deem appropriate
- › To support student educational activities of Ara
- › To support staff education and development projects of Ara
- › To support innovative educational projects undertaken by staff of Ara
- › To support any other educational or charitable enterprise.

# Welcome



**Ara Foundation has the resource and mandate to help contribute towards transformational change on the lives of staff and students at Ara Institute of Canterbury.**

At Ara Foundation's board meeting in May 2017, I was elected chair of Ara Foundation. It is a great privilege to be appointed to this position of responsibility and I am looking forward to leading the direction of the Foundation and helping to contribute towards realising its vision over the next four years.

I would like to thank the outgoing chair Carl Pascoe for more than 15 years' service to Ara Foundation. His input, dedication and commitment have been unwavering throughout this time. As a result of Carl's tenure as chair, Ara Foundation is well positioned as a solid, long-term and sustainable platform for distribution of grants, as well as an active partner and enabler of opportunities connecting education with business, industry and the community. Carl's passion for providing educational, work and meaningful opportunities for young people is an inspiration to us all.

It is also important to pay tribute and recognise the work of Kay Giles who during her time as Chief Executive of Ara was also a trustee of Ara Foundation. Kay contributed substantial knowledge and enthusiasm to our decision making and we wish her well in her retirement.

This year we welcome a new trustee to the board, Brett King. Brett has considerable governance experience and community involvement in the South Canterbury region. Through his role with Fulton Hogan in Timaru, Brett understands industry needs and opportunities in the Timaru district. We are looking forward to working with Brett to extend Ara Foundation's reach and connectivity.

It is my intention as chair, along with the support of Ara Foundation's hard working trustees, to further build the Foundation's ability to be able to respond to, and support, immediate and long-term initiatives, projects and opportunities that contribute to enhancing the experiences of Ara staff and students. Equally important, is the ability of the Foundation to support the all-round contribution Ara Institute of Canterbury makes to the wider region and beyond.

Finally, I am delighted to share with you some of the stories of the people Ara Foundation has assisted throughout this reporting period. We hope you enjoy reading about these life changing opportunities and experiences. Please do not hesitate to make contact if you have ideas on how you could assist Ara Foundation with its work.

## Enjoy the read!

### Fiona McKissock

Chair of Ara Foundation



# Karen Lewis awards

Every year Ara Foundation presents Karen Lewis Awards to selected outstanding students within Ara Hospitality and Service Industries. The awards recognise recipients who possess and demonstrate a passion for the hospitality sector and they are awarded in remembrance of long time Ara Foundation Trustee Karen Lewis.

## Gabby Davis

Gabby Davis' determination and a desire for a career path in food and beverage service earned her a \$500 partial subsidy toward course costs to undertake the International Wines and Spirits short course at Ara.

Gabby is employed at Bloody Mary's Steakhouse Bar and Grill, at Rydges on Latimer Square in Christchurch. She says she loves working there.

'Every month we have wine tasting so I get to try different and new wines. I won a competition through work to visit the Giesen vineyards and stay at the Giesen Brothers house. It was an amazing experience that I will never forget.

'I am absolutely blessed to have been nominated for the Karen Lewis Awards. I wasn't sure whether I was going to receive any money from Ara Foundation but I gave it a go. I told the panel about my passion for wines, how happy I am to work with wine every night and to learn new things about wine every day,' Gabby says.

'To the students who are looking to apply for the Karen Lewis award, I say: go for it! It is one of the best opportunities to sell yourself and your dreams once you have completed your Ara course.'

## Ryan Prouting

Ryan Prouting's ethic of hard work, clear focus and determination to excel, resulted in an Ara Foundation Karen Lewis Award grant of \$3,500. Ryan graduated with a Diploma in Professional Cookery from Ara in mid-2016. The 20-year-old has continued employment at award winning fine dining Christchurch restaurant Chillingworth Road (where he has worked for 2½ years) and is saving hard in preparation for staging overseas. Staging is an unpaid internship when a cook or chef works short-term for free in another chef's kitchen to learn and be exposed to new techniques and cuisines.

'Receiving the grant gives me a lot of confidence in myself, because others around me have seen my work and believe I have the potential and determination to go far,' Ryan says.





## Aydin Coskun

An opportunity to be immersed in the workings of the Mantra Legends Hotel in the heart of the Gold Coast's Surfers Paradise, spurred a complete change in career direction for Aydin Coskun. In January 2017, the Diploma of Hospitality Management student spent three weeks experiencing a side of the industry he had never seen before.

'I've grown up in a family run restaurant, so I've grown up in the industry. The opportunity to work at Mantra Legends gave me a lot of knowledge that I didn't have and would never get working in a family restaurant,' Aydin explains.

At Mantra Legends, Aydin worked back of house, in room service, pool service and in a bar. But it was the mixology and cocktail flairing ability of some of the staff that really caught his attention.

'It opened up my eyes to what mixology is all about. One of the guys had won a flairing competition in Singapore and he was really good. He taught me to make some simple cocktails – a blue lagoon and an espresso martini. It's amazing how they can perform like that without compromising how the cocktail tastes and that it's still presentable.'

Aydin has secured a bartender/mixologist position at a new cocktail lounge called Red Light District in Christchurch's hospitality hot spot, Victoria Street.





Shea Kokaua will study a Master of Media Arts in 2018

## Pasifika Arts scholarships

**“I’m definitely going beyond what I had ever expected of myself.”**

Shea Kokaua’s father always encouraged him to go as far as he could with his study, but he never thought he would get this far.

The 24-year-old NASDA student has won one of two Ara Foundation Pasifika scholarships to study post-graduate arts in 2018.

‘I have Pacific Island heritage and grew up in Aranui so to get a degree and to do honours is a big thing. I thought once I had finished, it would be time after all those years of studying to get a full-time job and finally earn some money. Dad always said “I should do my masters” but I never expected it would happen. I’m definitely going beyond what I had ever expected of myself.’

Shea says under graduate studies are largely set and prescribed, so he is looking forward to having the flexibility next year to pursue creative arts in a way that is more individualised and related to his skills and interests.

‘I look at the people in my community and I see they are really talented. So many of them are more talented than me. I want to make the most of this opportunity and represent all of them in a way,’ Shea adds.

The scholarships will fund one year of study fees for two Pasifika postgraduate students studying a Bachelor of Media Arts Honours and Master of Media Arts in 2018, with potential for a second year of funding, if year one proves successful. The aim is to foster artistic excellence, increase postgraduate study and improve employment opportunities for Pasifika students.

Ara Institute of Canterbury Creative Industries lecturer Tony McCaffrey says the emergence of less conventional performing arts such as slam poetry and hip hop in recent years is having positive impacts on Pasifika culture and fostering new and creative forms of expression. He says the scholarships will foster and support new talent.



Ara New Zealand Broadcasting School Radio Course Leader Brendan Reilly

## Success in mess

**Did you know people don't connect with your successes? They connect with your messes, and the lessons you gained from them.**

That is just a sample of the knowledge Ara New Zealand Broadcasting School Radio Course Leader Brendan Reilly brought back from Radio Show held in Nashville, Tennessee in 2016.

Hosted by America's National Association of Broadcasters and Radio Advertising Bureau, Radio Show is the ultimate global forum for thrashing out the latest in industry knowledge, issues, topics and ideas.

➤ **Brendan was granted \$2,484 from Ara Foundation which covered registration to attend the high-profile conference.**

Brendan says the opportunity to attend meant he gained valuable insight into the industry, at an international level, which he could bring back to Ara and share.

'Our relationships and connections with industry are strong and mutually beneficial.

'To be able to attend, report back to industry partners and share new knowledge with students, cements Ara as a relevant and up-to-date educator of future intern graduates and facilitates best-practice teaching to students,' Brendan says.

Thanks to this opportunity, Brendan Reilly is now a key source of industry knowledge for Ara's budding radio announcers. So, will he let us in on any other industry secrets?

'Caller Nine contests are on their way out – most people don't call. "Tell me a story" is the key" and it's a technique as old as time,' Brendan adds.



## **PITCH** runway show in Christchurch can catapult an emerging designer's career into the spotlight.

Established in 2006 as a showcase of work produced by fashion students at Ara Institute of Canterbury, the event is known to attract industry insiders looking to snap up emerging talent and identify fresh fashion trends.

PITCH alumni include 2015 Elle Style Awards Emerging Designer of the year Georgia Alice Currie – and Melissa McIndoe's 2012 PITCH collection earned her a place on the team of noted New Zealand fashion designer, Karen Walker.

Ara Creative Industries Head of Department Tom Rainey suspects there is scope for PITCH

to expand, to offer more value and widen exposure for its stakeholders. Tom has gained Ara Foundation support to investigate the options, before the PITCH production team ventures into new territory.

➤ **Ara Foundation has made \$10,000 funding available to enable Ara Creative Industries to appoint a contractor to carry out a feasibility study on extending PITCH.**

As Ara Foundation's review goes to print, the study is underway.





Ara Sustainability and Outdoor Education students Lily Hall (left) and Hilary Munro

“Essentially, we wanted to reduce the amount of waste that comes from buying coffee every day”

## Big ups for Cupcycle

Brightly coloured reusable coffee cups are in circulation at Ara Institute of Canterbury’s city campus thanks to two passionate Ara students.

Lily Hall and Hilary Munro are studying degrees in Sustainability and Outdoor Education. As part of a sustainability paper they were required to undertake a project which influences and encourages behaviour change.

As keen coffee drinkers, both the girls had noticed disposable coffee cup waste around campus. They wanted to initiate a project that reduced waste and was of benefit to Ara and the wider environment.

‘We were getting a little bit frustrated walking around campus and seeing so many coffee

cups being used and thrown in the wrong rubbish bin,’ says Hilary.

‘Essentially, we wanted to reduce the amount of waste that comes from buying coffee every day. We thought it would be a really cool idea to get some cups, give them away to students and encourage people to change the way they buy coffee.’

Te whatakai o Visions The Pantry on Campus supports the initiative by offering discounted coffee to customers with reusable cups.

Visions Restaurant Manager Jason Newton has noticed Ara staff in particular, are good at remembering to use their recyclable cups.

‘I think the girls have come up with a really good idea that challenges our “throwaway society”. Good on them,’ Jason says.

➤ **Ara Foundation contributed \$2,171.51 and mentoring time, IdealCup donated 100 cups and discounted new cups and Te whatakai o Visions The Pantry on Campus supports the Cupcycle programme through washing used cups and offering a discount on coffee purchases.**



Image courtesy of Hospice West Auckland Arts Therapy service

## Art therapy benefits

**“I very much look forward to the future of art therapy in palliative care for New Zealand”**

A newly registered nurse's findings on art therapy in end of life care have been positively received by industry professionals.

Angela Burke presented her master's thesis *Catheters and Canvases* – the arts in palliative care, at The New Zealand Palliative Care Conference.

At the time of the conference Angela had only just started a graduate nurse position at Wellington Hospital having completed her training and study at Ara Institute of Canterbury.

The paper, which will be published in *Kai Tiaki Nursing New Zealand* magazine in December, highlights the benefits of art therapy and recommendations around how it can be better incorporated into palliative care services throughout New Zealand.

Angela said she received positive feedback from attendees, including one who was actively

encouraging closer ties between the arts community and palliative care services.

‘She was extremely excited as she herself is an artist and has seen the immense benefits and enjoyment patients gain from engaging in creativity’, Angela said.

‘This was very encouraging as it affirms the paper and recommendations are more than “good ideas” but are practical, applicable and effective in the real world of palliative care services.

‘I very much look forward to the future of art therapy in palliative care for New Zealand and I hope to play some part in the championing of this and trust that this initial paper has served this cause in some way.’

➤ **Ara Foundation provided Angela with a grant of \$750 making it possible for her to attend the conference.**



# Sophie Peterson

Sophie Petersen is a founder of So Keen Productions – a recently launched Christchurch-based production company – which aims to bring theatre to the community through small cast musicals and plays.

A graduate of Ara Institute of Canterbury's National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Arts (NASDA), Sophie received an Ara Foundation Student Entrepreneur Award in 2016. This was one of two awards (worth \$17,886 together) presented to Ara's most outstanding entrepreneurial students. The funding gave Sophie the opportunity to participate in the UC Centre for Entrepreneurship Summer Start up Programme. The ten week programme is designed to fast track new ventures by applying Lean Business Model methodology with supportive industry mentoring, workshopping and seminars.

Sophie had seen examples of small theatre companies in Auckland and Wellington and saw potential for something similar in Christchurch. Even though her venture was at the very early stages, the Summer Start up programme provided the perfect environment for testing her theories and transforming her idea into a reality.

'Regardless of what industry or business was in focus, it was really beneficial to be continually questioned and challenged to think about how I could turn this idea into something I can continue with. The speaker workshops and the speed mentoring kept pushing me in the direction of a production company, which is where we are at right now.'

Sophie admits that before the programme, she had 'little to no' knowledge in some areas, Summer Start Up's pressure cooker, total



So Keen co-founder Sophie Petersen

immersion environment quickly changed that. Soon after completing the course, Sophie collaborated with business partner Keenith Love – also a graduate of NASDA – to launch So Keen Productions.

Sophie is buzzing and excited about what lies ahead.

'Christchurch is ready for this style of theatre and I think you're really going to love it!'

So Keen is based at BizDojo – an inner-city co-working space dedicated to new and emerging businesses and community initiatives. Visit [www.sokeenproductions.org](http://www.sokeenproductions.org) to see what's on.

Ara student Michael Blackwell also received an Ara Foundation Student Entrepreneur Award and Ara Foundation grant to attend the Summer Start up Programme.

**[sokeenproductions.org](http://sokeenproductions.org)**



## Alison Robinson award

The Alison Robinson Award is presented to students who have shown considerable effort in undertaking level 2 mathematics study in preparation for continuing their education.

Often the winners are mature students who have returned to study later in life. The \$350 incentive is an acknowledgment of Alison Robinson's 40 happy years' teaching Ara Institute of Canterbury students, until her retirement in 2002.

### Michael Everett

The 2016 Alison Robinson Award was presented to Michael Everett. Michael completed pre-trade electrical at Ara when he left high school and went on to secure and complete an electrical apprenticeship. Six years later, Michael was keen to continue his education in the industry, so he enrolled in level 2 mathematics at Ara, a prerequisite he had not studied at high school.

'This award was very unexpected; however, it was nice to have all the effort and study recognised in addition to getting better than expected exam results,' Michael says.

Michael is studying part-time toward a New Zealand Diploma in Engineering Level 6 Electrical while working part-time as an engineering trainee at Orion New Zealand Ltd.

## Colin Russell award



Former Ara Foundation chair Carl Pascoe and TJ Taukiri

TJ Taukiri is this year's winner of Ara Foundation's Colin Russell Award for Excellence in Trades.

➤ **The award, which comes with a \$1,000 grant, recognises outstanding commitment and success within the trades industry.**

Ara Trades Manager Automotive Autobody and Road Transport Peter Sauer says TJ is a worthy recipient who applies himself fully and took on additional study to achieve his ambitions.

'TJ got on with others and the work that was put in front of him and during his time at Ara he discovered a passion for auto body', Peter says.

As a result of work experience placement, TJ has been successful in gaining an apprenticeship and now works in the auto body industry.

Former Ara Foundation chair Carl Pascoe commended TJ for his passion and commitment – which represents the true spirit of the Colin Russell Award.

'TJ enrolled with Ara Trades looking to better himself and he has grasped every opportunity with both hands'.

The Colin Russell Award is given in recognition of Colin, who has a 50-year association with Ara and is the former Patron and original Settlor of the Foundation.



## EVolocity

Over the three years it has received Ara Foundation funding, EVolocity has more than doubled from 15 to 32 competing high school teams surrounded by a showcase of sustainable energies and technologies.

In 2017, EVolocity organisers are expecting more than 80 teams from Canterbury, Nelson, Wellington, Waikato and Auckland will compete for the EVolocity title.

EVolocity is a project-based learning programme for young people. The hands-on competition – where students design and build an electric vehicle to race – aims to stimulate innovation in electric vehicles and smart transport and develop skills in electric vehicle design and technology. It also opens the door to enrolment and study opportunities at Ara Institute of Canterbury.

➤ **Ara Foundation has contributed \$57,000 over three years with 2016 being the final year of development funding for the EVolocity programme.**

EVolocity FESTT, held on 27 November 2016, attracted around 1,500 people to Addington Showgrounds to watch schools racing and experience the surrounding sustainable energies and technologies showcase.

### TEACHER FEEDBACK

'One of the best projects ever. Collaboration, competition, community support and credits proved to be a potent mix for student engagement and learning.'

'We consider this to be one of the best educational programmes around, as it covers a wide range of topics within the New Zealand curriculum.'

### STUDENT FEEDBACK

'It involves a mixture of engineering challenges and builds real skills in a mentored environment.'

'It's fun!'

"On a scale of 1 to 10, EVolocity would be about a 300."

## More grants!

**"...huge deal for us in trying to make a mark in the industry - this could really help us stand out..."**

**SUSTAIN STUDENT GROUP** received \$4,000 to coordinate positive experiences and activities for Ara students with an emphasis on wellbeing, healthy living, bringing people together, promoting sustainability and strengthening links between Ara and the wider community.

**NZBS PIGS GUTS FILMS** – a team of four Ara students from the New Zealand Broadcasting School received a \$2,000 travel contribution from Ara Foundation to attend the screening of their film at the HP48 Hour Grand Final at The Civic in Auckland in November 2016.

'This has never happened before and to be chosen for the grand final as well as being nominated for three separate categories; Lachlan Wilson for Directing, Luke Earl for Editing, Joe Coughlan for best actor, is a kind of a huge deal for us in trying to make a mark in the industry - this could really help us stand out as potential interns and give NZBS some really good exposure,' grant applicant Jake Vale said.

# Trustees

## › **Fiona McKissock** -Chair

Fiona moved to Christchurch in 2013 and is General Manager of Crighton Anderson, a national specialised valuation firm. She brings a broad range of commercial and financial experience to her role as Trustee and Chair of the Foundation. Her management and financial career has spanned roles ranging from accounting through to general management, consulting, and project management. She has broad experience in a wide range of industries across NZ, Australia and UK, including the community not for profit sector. She enjoys her involvement with the Foundation and the opportunity to contribute to our students' educational experiences and to support Ara and the wider region.

## › **Katherine Ewer** -Deputy Chair

Katherine Ewer, LLB, TEP is an experienced tax and Trust legal practitioner based in Christchurch. Katherine became a Trustee of the Ara Foundation in November 2013 and Deputy Chair in 2016.

Katherine has more than 18 years' experience as a solicitor in New Zealand and operates her own specialist Tax and Trust practice. Katherine advises on income tax and GST issues in respect of a wide variety of commercial, corporate, property and cross border transactions as well as providing tax and structuring advice to commercial and property clients. Katherine also advises on tax, asset and estate planning opportunities for individuals (both resident and non-resident).

Katherine is a member of the Society of Trust and Estate Practitioners (STEP).



## » Jane Cartwright

Jane Cartwright was appointed to the CPIT now Ara Institute of Canterbury Council in 2011. She holds a Bachelor of Science, a Post Graduate Diploma in Science (Human Nutrition), an MBA from the University of Otago and holds NZ Dietetic Registration.

Her current directorships, trustee and committee member responsibilities include Chairing the Board of Brackenridge Estate Ltd. Jane is also a Board Member of Nurse Maude Association, Member of Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal, Chartered Member of the NZ Institute of Directors, and Associate Fellow of the NZ Institute of Management. She is an Ara Council appointee to the Ara Foundation.

Currently Jane is in a leadership role for the Canterbury Clinical Network. She has held executive and senior roles in the health system and local government leading developments in community, mental and public health. She has substantial governance and operational experience.

## » Brett King

Brett brings more than 30 years' experience of technical, operational and leadership roles within the civil construction industry throughout the wider Canterbury region to the table. He has extensive experience in management and engineering within the civil construction industry, along with a proven ability to lead change and motivate teams, while maintaining strong relationships with clients and key stakeholders. Brett is an Executive Divisional Manager with Fulton Hogan with an operational overview of the Central South Island and West Coast. He is also responsible for new business implementation in wider Canterbury and represents the company's regional business interests in rail.

Brett led Fulton Hogan as part of SCIRT (Stronger Christchurch Infrastructure Rebuild Team) which was tasked with rebuilding the city's earthquake damaged roads, fresh water, wastewater and storm water networks. He is a Member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors and serves on the Aoraki Development and Promotions Board. Brett has also served on the board of Mid-South Canterbury Rural Fire. In 2005, he was appointed a life member of New Zealand Red Cross – having served on boards at both a regional and national level.

## » Elizabeth Hopkins

Elizabeth has over 20 years' experience in commercialising science and has worked in several areas including pharmaceuticals, nutraceuticals, medical devices, cosmetics, and food. Elizabeth is currently Director of the Research and Commercialisation office at Lincoln University. She has been CEO of several New Zealand Biotech companies and now holds directorship and consultancy roles within a range of organisations, at both local and national levels.

## » Jackie Curtis

Jackie is managing partner of Cherry Red Consulting, a Christchurch based communications consultancy. Prior to establishing Cherry Red, Jackie held senior roles within the corporate sector. Jackie has a comprehensive background and significant experience in the provision of strategic communications and marketing in both the private and public sector. Jackie is a graduate of Victoria University, a Fellow of PRINZ and has completed the week long residential NZIOD course.

## » Geoff Cranko

Geoff has been managing and growing companies on a global basis for 30 years. A strong advocate of long-term strategy, clear communication and effective marketing, he believes strongly in developing young people through exposure to real world experiences. Geoff is the Group Managing Partner of Strategy Creative, an international network of agencies. He is also a director of several national businesses, a Trustee of the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation and past Chair of the World Busker's Festival.

## » Kay Giles

Resigned 30 June 2017.

## » Carl Pascoe

Resigned 2 May 2017.

# Ara Foundation

**Ara Foundation**

PO Box 22-631, Christchurch

Phone 021 810 590

Email [office@arafoundation.co.nz](mailto:office@arafoundation.co.nz)