

Ara Foundation

Review 2015/2016

CHANGING LIVES

through opportunities
and experiences



› **\$70,000**

During the past 18 months we allocated nearly \$70,000 in grants and support for activities.

› **50% ▲**

This is a more than 50 % increase on the previous period's distributions.

INTRODUCTION

› FROM THE CHAIR

CARL PASCOE

Review time provides the opportunity to look back on previous achievements and undertake an informal assessment of activities. This report provides a great snapshot of some of the lives we've impacted and opportunities provided, that have made a real difference to students and staff at Ara Institute of Canterbury. Whether it is providing funding for attendance at academic conferences or money for sets of chef's knives, Foundation grants do make a real difference. This document does not focus on our financial performance - you can read this online at www.arafoundation.co.nz - instead, it highlights the work of the Foundation and how lives can be changed through opportunities and experiences.

Our 2015/16 focus has been on the implementation of strengthened governance principles and a forward focused strategy to ensure Ara Foundation remains relevant and effective.

A formal Statement of Investment Priorities and Objectives (SIPO) was adopted by Trustees this past year, to ensure we had a considered investment strategy that would enable sustainability into the future. With expert guidance from Richard Austin at iQ2 Private Wealth, we have set our investment portfolio on a sound footing, which will allow for future growth and the ongoing allocation of grants. This will ensure the Foundation continues to provide real value to Ara, with funds available to directly improve skills and broaden experiences for staff and students.

In keeping with the Foundation's intention to develop future revenue streams through business outreach and engagement, the Trustees hosted members of Canterbury business and industry to attend *Ara Presents: 25th Anniversary Gala Concert* in May 2016. As primary sponsor, the Foundation was able to demonstrate the real value in supporting the fantastic talent of Ara students and staff, past and present.

A special thank you to renowned trumpeter and former Foundation grant recipient Cameron Pearce, for taking the time to share his first-hand experiences as a grant recipient with our guests.

In 2015 the Trustees decided to demolish B Block given issues with the building post-earthquake. The demolition took place in early 2016 and the land is currently rented to Wilsons for car parking.

As a result of Aoraki Polytechnic and CPIT joining forces this year and rebranding as Ara Institute of Canterbury, the Foundation is enjoying a fresh new look that complements Ara's new name, identity and brand.

We have adopted a name change to reflect the wider Institute that we support and are now known as Ara Foundation. We took the opportunity of a name and change in livery to upgrade our website. It now features an online application process, making it easier for applicants to apply for grants.

I'd like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the contribution of two Trustees of the Foundation. This year Scott Whitaker's term has come to an end after eight years of valued input. Scott's contribution is representative of the strong commitment Christchurch law firm Duncan Cotterill has made throughout the lifetime of the Foundation.

And thank you to Kay Poulsen who resigned after serving four years. Ara Foundation has certainly benefited from the expertise that both Scott and Kay brought to the table. On behalf of all the Trustees, I thank you both very much and wish you all the very best for your future endeavours.

And lastly, I hope you enjoy reading some of the stories of the people that the Foundation has assisted over the past 18 months, through the provision of new opportunities and experiences.

If you would like to assist the Foundation with its work I would welcome a conversation. Please feel free to make contact.

Here's to a great 2017!

KAREN LEWIS AWARDS

Cina Wigmore has a passion for food.

“I love everything about food – the creation of food, the different ways of presenting it and the artistry of food. I just love cooking, I enjoy it and I’m so glad I enrolled at Ara.”

Cina is one of three outstanding students enrolled in Food and Hospitality at Ara who received a Karen Lewis Award in 2015. The awards recognise recipients who possess and demonstrate a passion for the hospitality sector.

“I wanted to study cookery to better myself and get more experience. It was great to receive a boost in financial support, especially as I am studying away from home”, Cina said.

➤ **Cina, who is studying a Diploma in Professional Cookery, received a \$1,500 grant as a contribution to her Ara course costs.**

➤ **A total of \$9,500 was distributed among three students from Food and Hospitality at Ara.**

FOOTING FOR FUTSAL

Bachelor of Engineering student, Mitch Webber, describes representing New Zealand to play Futsal in Brazil as an amazing opportunity for which he is very grateful.

“Being involved in an environment of my international peers, playing the sport I love and representing my country and my technology institute makes me very proud. The level of competition is far above anything we have ever played in before”, he said.

Futsal is a modified form of football with five players per side on a small, usually indoor pitch. Mitch described the FISU World University Futsal Championships player’s village as similar to an Olympic style setting, where teams travel from around the world to meet and compete.

“It was a big culture shock for someone who has never been farther than Australia. It was amazing to see a different part of the world where Futsal is important and everybody plays the sport and knows the sport. The opportunity has helped me to become




motivated to put more time into my study and manage my time better, so I can put more time into Futsal. It’s opened my eyes to what is out there. I’d like to travel a bit more and see where else I can go with Futsal.”

Mitch now has his sights set on the 2018 Junior University Championships in Kazakhstan.

“I aim to keep working hard at my study and improving my football skills so hopefully I will be selected to play.”

The New Zealand Futsal teams comprised players from tertiary education providers including – Auckland University of Technology, the University of Auckland, Victoria University of Wellington, the University of Waikato and Ara Institute of Canterbury.

➤ **Ara Foundation contributed \$2,250 toward Mitch’s travel and accommodation costs.**



› CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF JAZZ

A highlight of the year for the Ara Institute of Canterbury was the celebration of 25 years of Jazz School. The Foundation was pleased to support the *Ara Presents: 25th Anniversary Gala Concert* - opener to the Cavell Leitch International Jazz and Blues Festival.

Former and current students and staff celebrated 25 years of Ara Music Arts with a spectacular performance at a packed out Isaac Theatre Royal in May 2015. The fabulous musical showcase enticed alumni from all over the world to return to Christchurch to perform.

The concert paid tribute to the individuals that helped to establish what was formerly known as the CPIT Jazz School. It included performances from 89-year-old Doug Caldwell, Bob Heinz, Tom Rainey Ted Meager, LA Mitchell, Oval Office, Mukhlisa and Departure Lounge.

Renowned trumpeter Cameron Pearce, an Ara tutor and former recipient of an Ara Foundation grant said the anniversary concert was a very special occasion for the Ara Music Arts community.

“It is a huge honour and a once in a lifetime opportunity to bring everyone together and celebrate in the way we know best - through performance”, Cameron said.

The concert received rave reviews and the Foundation took the opportunity to host guests to the toe tapping performance.

Top: World music group Mukhlisa at Ara Presents: 25th Anniversary Gala Concert. Photo credit: Cavell Leitch 2016 NZ International Jazz and Blues Festival/ Johannes Van Kan.



› CAMERON PIERCE

Guests of Ara Foundation heard first-hand how the Foundation changes lives through opportunities and experiences.

Cameron Pearce, renowned trumpeter, Ara tutor and former grant recipient completed his Masters in Jazz Performance at Queens College City University of New York in 2007, thanks to the Ara Foundation.

At Ara Presents: 25th Anniversary Gala Concert Cameron told guests...

“The benefits reaped from my time in New York went beyond just the enhancement of my own skills. As well as testing and extending me to the margins of my abilities, the new learning and increased self-confidence gained from an intensive immersion in jazz education has brought long lasting benefits to the Ara Music Arts Programme.”

SIMONE PITAMA

Simone Pitama is a local girl with a big future.

She was one of 10 high achieving Māori and Pasifika recipients granted a Rakatahi Award by Ara Foundation and flown to *An Evening with Oprah* show in Auckland.

The Northern Outlook newspaper published a profile on Simone and her response to winning the award...

"I felt very privileged because there were so many people that got nominated for the same award and there were only 10 of us picked to go. So to be picked from 90-something people I feel pretty lucky..."

I can't begin to explain how grateful I am... but not just that. I have valued the new connections I've made with those who experienced Oprah with me, and we've become a new whānau, adding to such a memorable trip that had already inspired us", Simone told the reporter.

Simone has lived in Rangiora all her life and often spends time at Tuahiwi Marae and within the marae community.

She is of Ngāi Tahu and Tūhoe descent and attended Tuahiwi School – where she learnt fluent Te Reo Māori – and then attended Rangiora High School, where she was awarded for her contribution to Te Reo.

She is also a North Canterbury representative netball player and skilled at volleyball and basketball.

Simone also received a First Foundation Scholarship which includes a work placement opportunity at Spark.

➤ **Ara Foundation supported Ara's Rakatahi Awards by providing \$5,000 to enable high achieving Māori and Pacific Island high school students the opportunity to attend *An Evening with Oprah*, along with a leader's lunch in Auckland.**



OUTDOOR PURSUITS

Ara Outdoor Leisure Club is a student-led group which creates opportunities for students across Ara to enjoy outdoor activities, meet new people and see new places. The group targets students from out of town and who might not have access to some of the city's more out of the way attractions.

➤ **The Foundation provided \$3,300 seed funding to enable the club to get off the ground. Activities this year included walking trips, a visit to Laser Strike and an afternoon at the Adrenaline Forest multi-level aerial obstacle course at Spencerville.**



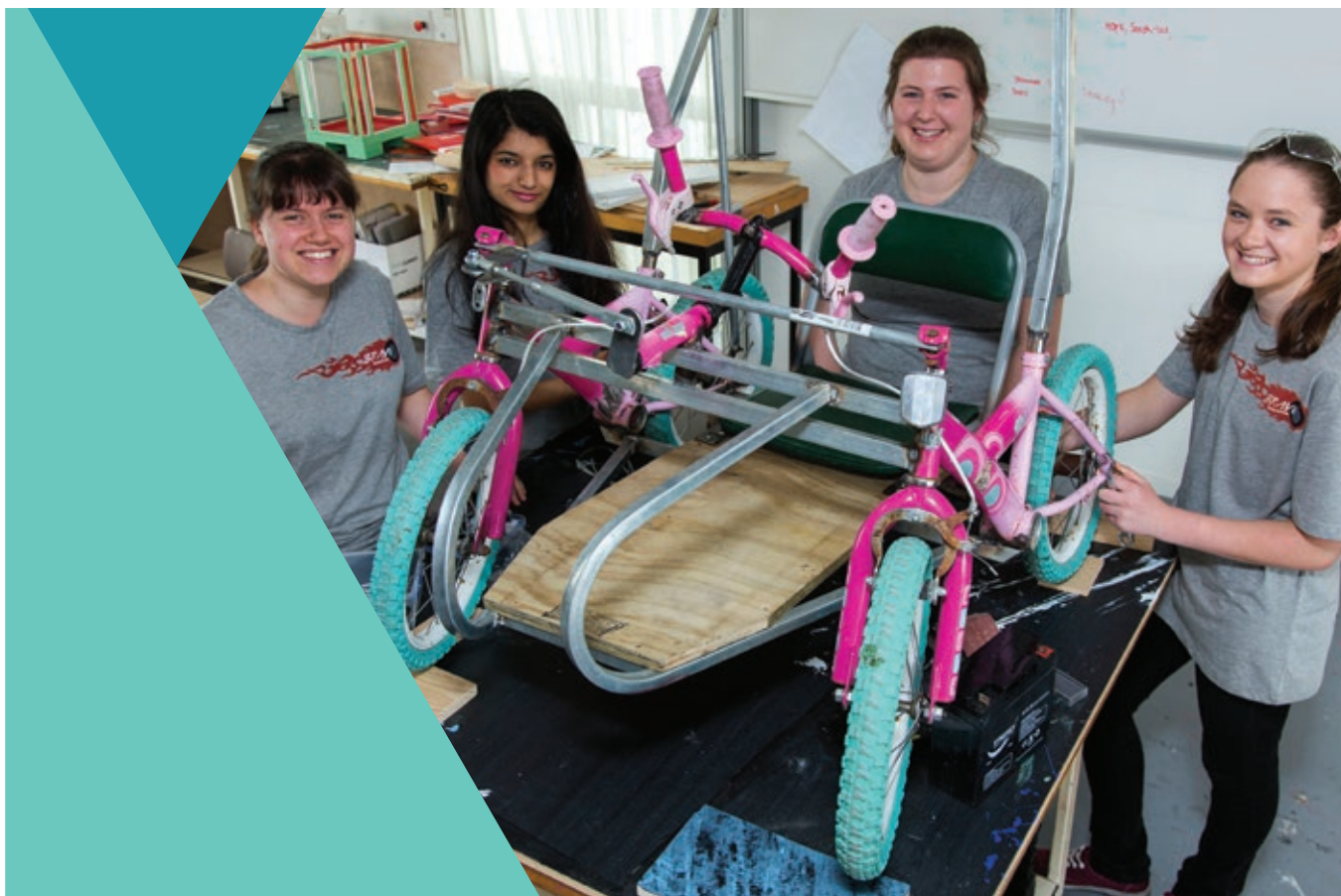
According to student Savanna Ornsby, who helps coordinate activities, the club is having a big impact on student culture at Ara.

"Generally there's not a lot of cross contact – people tend to stick with their normal friend groups. The opportunities the club offers really changes this, particularly for international students and exchange students who don't have a lot of contact with people outside their area of study. It's an opportunity to meet students from other departments. We've really encouraged the fact that people can just come on their own – you don't have to know anyone

and we're really friendly. It's so cool to see people exchanging numbers and stopping and chatting with people they've seen at an event – that's really awesome."

For exchange student Michelle Reuters it was the opportunity to get out the classroom that appealed.

"It was so nice to go on walks, enjoy the beautiful landscape, have lunches together and talk to a lot of different people. We always had a good time and lots of fun! It was good to get some exercise rather than studying and sitting all day in class or in the library."



RACING FOR A BETTER FUTURE

Team Brave

From left:

Maree Palmer 18

Mandira Shailaj 17

Vanessa Coburn 17

Johanne van Mechgelen 18

Maree Palmer feels strongly about the environment and believes electric is where the future is at.

She was a member of Avonside Girls' High School's *Team Brave* and she and her team mates – aged 17 and 18 – feel the same enthusiasm about electric vehicle event 'EVolocity'.

“I love working with this group - they're really cool people and it's so much fun. It's great to be working on a project related to an industry that's so important”, Maree Palmer says.

Mentored by their Physics Teacher Keith Sadler, the team designed and built an electric racer from two repurposed Polly Pocket bicycles fitted with an engine, roll cage and outer casing. The students loved every minute of the project including the opportunity to hone their welding skills at the Ara Trades workshop.

This is the second year Ara Foundation has supported EVolocity – the electric vehicle challenge which requires students to work in teams and apply their core STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) knowledge.

EVolocity's project-based learning programme exposes students to mentoring with Ara's tutors, access to its facilities and a taste of the learning and career opportunities offered by Ara Institute of Canterbury.

➤ **Ara Foundation contributed \$20,000 to Ara Engineering for provision of required support.**

EVolocity is building a strong fan base with students, with schools reporting knowledge being carried over to younger students, keen to design, build and race.

In 2015, 28 teams of students put their designs to the test in categories including standing sprint, street circuit economy race and parking skills.

The event was well attended with more than 1,000 spectators turning out to enjoy the racing at Mike Pero Motorsport Park, Ruapuna.

Congratulations to all the winners and competitors!

> BUSINESS STUDENTS EXPERIENCE INDIA



Ara student Matthew McPherson says his experience of culture in India has made him aware of the many opportunities and also the challenges for business in India.

Matthew was one of six Ara Institute of Canterbury business management students who took part in a two week study tour hosted by the Jaipuria Institute of Management, one of India's top private business management schools, located near the country's capital, New Delhi.

Matthew, who is studying toward a Bachelor of Applied Management majoring in marketing and project management, says as well as making lots of connections and friends on the trip, the experience revealed to him first-hand the environmental and social challenges for business.

"I learnt a lot about Indian culture as the students we met were from a number of different regions of India and we could discuss the cultural differences between the regions. By seeing the wealth gap in India between rich and poor, it helped me to understand the problem and see the opportunities that exist for businesses to show social responsibility and to help alleviate the poverty that so many people face today", Matthew said.

The focus of the two week academic study tour was for students to experience business and industry in India and gain credits towards their Ara qualification.

Ara Head of Business Dr Teresa Schwellnus said the study tour included classes, industry visits and cultural activities.

"Ara and Jaipuria are collaborating to increase international opportunities for students of both institutions. We hosted a group of Jaipuria students to Christchurch and this opened up an opportunity for our students to visit India."

> **The Ara Foundation provided six travel grants of \$2,500 to students participating in the tour.**

India is one of the fastest growing economies in the world and is an expanding market for New Zealand.

> PASSION BECOMES REALITY



Christopher Butlin has always had a passion for sustainability and now he has turned his focus to helping others understand the concepts and implement the principles.

“It’s a hard market to break into, but I’m making headway through gaining more experience and getting more projects under my belt”, Christopher said.

As well as studying his masters in commerce, majoring in management, the 22 year old is acting in a consultancy role assisting New Zealand wetsuit company Seventh Wave undertake a CO2 evaluation of the company, among other projects.

Christopher received an Entrepreneur Award to enable him to develop his start-up ideas full time over the ten week 2015/16 summer break.

Award funding provided by the Foundation, enabled him to participate in the University

of Canterbury Innovators’ Summer Start-Up Scholarship programme. The programme is designed to “fast-track” students’ ideas towards reality, by working on a venture full-time.

While most students were enjoying holidays or working over the break, Christopher joined 32 other young innovators at The Hatchery – a mentoring environment of experienced, staff, industry and other students at the university.

> **The Foundation funded two Entrepreneur Awards of \$9,486 to Ara’s most outstanding entrepreneurial students.**

“It was a really good experience”, said Christopher. “It allowed me the time to explore the practice of sustainability in real work situations and in an environment where I could talk to experts and really understand what I needed in order to provide a sound service around sustainability.”

EXCEPTIONAL MATHS STUDENTS RECOGNISED

Lea Swan is an example of a student who discovered maths later in life, catching up on what she missed out on at high school.

The young mum, studying for a Certificate in Pre-Health and Science at Ara, achieved high grades in all her maths courses. As a result, Lea was offered an electrical apprenticeship which includes further study at Ara.

It was these grades that contributed to Lea being selected as one of the recipients of the Alison Robinson Mathematics Award. Savannah Stewart received the second award.

Savanah returned to education to study in the pre-health and science programme after working in hospitality. Her certificate included three mathematics courses in which she was an outstanding student in all respects. Savanah was successful in obtaining a place on the Bachelor of Medical Imaging degree course.

➤ **The award was donated by Alison Robinson, who taught mathematics at Ara for approximately 40 years, up until 2002. Her level 2 mathematics award is an incentive for students to do well at mathematics, in preparation for continuing their education at a higher level.**



Lea Swan (left) and Savannah Stewart (right)

COLIN RUSSELL AWARD

In February 2014, after several years out of the work force raising her two children, Cathie Schofield made the decision to enrol at the Ara Institute of Canterbury in a Level 2 pre trade course in Furniture and Joinery. Following that first year, Cathie went on to complete Level 3 and 4 training before completing her training in 2015.

Proving herself as an excellent trades student, Cathie was employed by MWF Joinery in July 2015. Her employer described

her as 'work ready' and an 'awesome employee, who fitted in well with all the staff'.

Cathie is also the first female recipient of the Colin Russell Award for Excellence in Trades.

"I didn't realise that I was the first woman to receive this award until I went up to receive it and Colin informed me as he handed it to me. Afterwards I thought, wow, that's a really cool thing, to be the first woman to get this award, I must be doing a really good job!"

➤ **The Award, which comes with a \$1,000 grant, recognises Cathie Schofield's commitment to and success within the trades industry.**

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



Cathie Schofield
and Colin Russell



RYAN ORANGE

➤ **Ryan Orange's engineering research paper was of such high quality he was invited to present at the 4th Annual International Conference on Architecture and Civil Engineering held in Singapore in April, 2016.**

An Ara Foundation grant enabled him to attend the conference and present.

His paper, *Experimental Assessment of a Supplementary Uplift Restraint Bracket for Residential Building Construction*, part of his Bachelor of Engineering Technology (Civil), was a result of a year-long research project.

Co-authored by Brian Farrant and Hossein Askarinejad – from Ara Engineering and Architectural Studies – the paper investigates a bracket which prevents the uplift of walls during significant wind or earthquake events. The bracket can be installed in a residential house during construction to comply with the bracing requirements of the New Zealand Building Code.

“While there are off-the-shelf products available, this bracket's capacity is greater than those propriety products available on the shelves”, Ryan said.

The only New Zealander to present and one of the youngest in attendance, Ryan said it was ‘really cool’ having the opportunity to take part in the two-day premiere forum for the presentation of new advances and research results in the fields of Architecture and Civil Engineering.

He describes the experience as hugely beneficial...

“It was the first real conference I had ever attended and while it was a bit nerve-wracking presenting, I came back having learned a whole lot.”

As well as looking fantastic on his CV, participation at the conference has also provided him with recognition towards IPENZ (NZ's professional body for engineers) membership and certification.



RED ZONE WHARE UPDATE

The WHARE project aims to show how a few cost-effective improvements can make a huge difference to quality of living in Christchurch's older housing stock.

Post-earthquake, Ara recognised a great opportunity to secure a red-zoned house and refit it as a research and training facility for architectural, engineering and trades students. From this concept the WHARE, (Warm, Healthy, Affordable and Resource Efficient) project evolved.

The first step was securing a red-zoned house donated by Southern Response and relocated from the Kaiapoi Red-Zone to Ara's city campus on Madras Street.

➤ **Ara Foundation provided seed funding of \$35,000 in 2013/2014 to help get the initiative off the ground.**

The 1960s bungalow remains 'as is' while being monitored over a winter cycle to establish base data. Options for improvement will then be applied, such as natural ventilation, thermal insulation, air tightness layers and alternative energy sources. The house will be monitored for another winter cycle so results can be compared.

Nearly 200 sensors are located within the house, while outside a weather station collects data on air and surface temperatures and humidity levels internally and externally.

WHARE Research Project Leader and Research Chair, Engineering and Architectural Studies, Rory Greenan said the project provides real world learning for students while contributing to international best practice solutions for more sustainable urban living.

"The holistic, coordinated interventions we're using can make huge improvements to home air quality and comfort, such as eliminating the risk of condensation and mould and saving up to 70 per cent of the costs of heating and cooling."

Other supporting partners include, Hawkins, Innovo, Melray Electrical, Clyne and Bennie and Mico Plumbing. Hawkins apprentices who have worked on the site are graduates of Ara's He Toki ki te Rika (Māori Trades Training) programme.

› SUMMARY

The period 2015/16 has been one of implementation toward our goals of ensuring long-term sustainability. The Foundation is starting to benefit from the hard work of trustees which has gone into laying a solid platform for distribution, as well as partnering opportunities with business, industry and community. The Foundation has been positioned well to manage the increase in grants which have been distributed over the past 18 months.

› 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.

› TRUSTEES

Carl Pascoe – Chair

Carl has more than 30 years' experience in educational, community, directorships, business management and consultancy roles within a wide range of organisations at both local and national levels. Carl has run his own consultancy business for 25 years. His consultancy specialises in assisting people to shape and develop values-based, challenging, profitable, exciting and fun organisations. He is committed to ensuring young people have real opportunities for education and work.

Elizabeth Hopkins

Elizabeth has more than 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.

Kay Giles

Kay has been Chief Executive of the Ara Institute of Canterbury since August 2010. Prior to this, Kay spent 25 years in senior management roles in the tertiary education sector in Australia, most recently as Director at SkillsTech Australia, the trades and technician institute in the Brisbane metropolitan area. She has a passion for vocational education and training and the role it plays in contributing to economic, industry community and individual development. Kay is on a number of local and national tertiary education-related committees and involved in several working groups associated with the Christchurch rebuild.

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.

Jenn Bestwick

Jenn was appointed Ara Institute of Canterbury Council Chair by the Minister of Tertiary Education in 2010. Jenn's professional career has been largely in strategy and business development working in both the public and private sectors. In addition to her role at Ara, Jenn is on the Boards of Tourism New Zealand and Southern Response Earthquake Services. As Chair of the Council, Jenn is an ex officio Trustee of the Ara Foundation.

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 Design and Advertising, a boutique international network of agencies. As well he is a director of several national businesses, Chair of the World Busker's Festival and a Trustee of the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation.

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.

Fiona McKissock

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 Deputy 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

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

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).

Ara Foundation

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