

Ara Foundation

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Ara Foundation

Review 2017 | 2018

› **Changing lives**
through opportunities
and experiences



Welcome



Since Ara Foundation was established in 1984, it has greatly enjoyed the opportunity to help Ara students and staff from all walks of life chase the extraordinary.

Every year we celebrate the wonderful diversity of our applicant pool; the diversity of character and diversity of ideas. How fortunate we are to have such talent in students and staff that makes the Ara community so special.

When I was elected Chair of Ara Foundation in 2017, I shared that our board's intent is to provide support for students and staff who have an ambition to make a true difference in people's lives. Through grants and eponymous awards, we are realising this objective. The true gift of our grants lies in giving applicants the chance to pay it forward, which all of them do within their communities in one way or another.

I would like to acknowledge my fellow trustees for their valuable contribution in considering and selecting our outstanding recipients each year.

This year we have welcomed two new trustees to the board, Izzy Berliner and Tony Gray.

Izzy, an Ara Bachelor of Engineering Technology Graduate, joined the Ara Foundation in 2016 as a student representative from the Ara Student Council. She brought with her a strong focus on the student experience which reflects her passion for ensuring our student voices are heard and valued. You can read more about her achievements on the last page of the review.

Tony hails from an extensive higher education background in the United Kingdom and was appointed Chief Executive of Ara Institute of Canterbury in September 2017 having previously been Chief Executive of NMIT in Nelson for eleven years. He has a long career in the tertiary education sector in both private industry training and polytechnics.

I can say on behalf of the entire board and the wider Foundation, that we consider it a true privilege to play a role in transforming the lives of people who are creatively driven, challenging the status quo, and fulfilling their potential in sectors ranging from medicine to the performing arts. The knowledge that the projects we help to find their way in the world, are catalysing transformative change that touches lives locally, and far and wide, is a triumph of a charitable trust in action.

As you explore and enjoy the stories in this review, you will become acquainted with many examples of how our students and teachers are receiving, challenging and sharing wisdom for the greater good each and every day.

We welcome your ideas on how you can assist Ara Foundation with its work and invite you to enjoy and share the stories you discover inside.

Fiona McKissock
Chair of Ara Foundation

"...the true gift of our grants lies in giving applicants the chance to pay it forward."

Number eight wire mentality

Ara Engineering student Tim Parkin, an ex-diesel mechanic, enjoyed many adventures up on ski fields guiding ski mobile tours in earlier years. It was during one of Tim's tours, as he struggled to coordinate his group above the roar of his snowmobile, that he had his lightbulb moment.

"It always irked me that you couldn't talk over the noise of the engine. And it's the same thing here with dirt bikes in New Zealand. It's nicer to be in the outdoors when it's peaceful and quiet."

Such was Tim's desire to challenge the status quo, he set about innovating a new concept - an electric bike.

"The same challenge is always that things like dirtbikes need a good power to weight ratio - so high power, low weight. Torque is more important as it gives you acceleration rather than top-end speed."

Tim's education on how to make his technology tick came from observing a motorbike club at the track and logging data on the behaviour of the bikes. "The vast majority of the design is done, with some more work to be done on the battery and custom components. My goal is to have the prototype finished by November.

"The grant has been hugely helpful. I don't think I would have been able to get into a project like this otherwise because you end up having to financially back yourself and cut more corners. It's made it a lot easier to design with less stress."

» Ara Foundation provided Tim with \$1,300 to help him buy a motor for his electric bike.



Lights, camera, oddities, action!

If you never thought that quirky summer job with that very idiosyncratic employer could find you fame and fortune, think again. Sam Harris has taken what is a rite of passage for many coming of age and turned it into a side-tickling series of stories that he hopes are destined for the big screen. An Ara Foundation grant is helping to turn this dream into a reality.

Hailing from the Ara based National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Art (NASDA), and now currently in his third year, Sam says the inspiration to create a digital comedy series arrived in the form of Two Productions Theatre Company made up of former teachers from Toi Whakaari in Wellington.

"We had a devising block with them where we worked on a series of sketches. Through this experience, I realised I liked devising and the writing side of things, instead of just acting. The grant from Ara Foundation is an opportunity to get my own work out there and show off all the skills I'm being provided through my course. We are using it towards a four month project which involves creating a three part comedy web series called Odd Jobs."

The title is a double entendre, referring to jobs that are casual and, quite literally, odd. With shooting taking place in July/August 2018, the series will first air on Youtube and Facebook as three five-minute sketches, telling the story of protagonist, Jason, played by Jamie Swarbrick - also co-writer of the series - who is trying to save money to fund his university studies.

"I play the weird people that he does odd jobs for to make loose change. James Murray, our director and cinematographer, is looking for opportunities for us to enter the series in to competitions like the TVNZ New Blood series," Sam explains. "Eventually, we would like to apply for Lightbox. We are thinking about using our series as a pilot to show everyone our idea so we can get support to turn it into a feature film."

» Ara Foundation provided Sam with \$2,500 to help towards production costs for the creation of Odd Jobs.

A designer life

Ara graduate Charlotte Grainger is designing her own destiny.

As part of her third year at Ara Fashion Institute, Charlotte was required to go on a 140 hour placement within the fashion industry, and she set her eyes on the big smoke with a desire to work with London brand M.I.H Jeans.

Committing her grant funds towards flights to London, Charlotte spent five days a week in-house from February to March, and was welcomed into the fashionable fold from day dot.

"During the time I was at M.I.H, I was included in important design meetings, and I completed a variety of tasks including pattern making and worked on computing programmes typically included in the fashion industry."

Having gained proficiency in Illustrator, Photoshop and Indesign, and privy to

confidential archives of the brand's designs and inspirations, Charlotte was able to derive a great deal of inspiration for her course project.

"I was also able to work very closely with the designers on my project for Ara and get feedback on my work from industry professionals. Overall, this experience has given me more confidence in myself and my abilities as I have gained skills that will be crucial for my future development in the fashion industry."

» Ara Foundation provided Charlotte with \$1,770 to pay for her flights to London which enabled her to complete her internship with M.I.H Jeans.

"This experience has given me more confidence in myself and my abilities."

Healthy habits



As the world increasingly wakes up to its relationship with food, and, more importantly, the value of leading a healthier life, the March Into a Healthier You initiative, devised by Ara Institute students Vicky Rowe and Kylie Sharpin, has hit home with this all-important message.

Using a grant from the Ara Foundation, the pair created and ran a four-week initiative, from 19 February to 16 March 2018. Vicky and Kylie's efforts and creativity manifested in eight presentations (including invited speakers), as well as refined sugar-free, healthy treat recipe tastings each week. Sessions were supported by project partner, Jess Miller, who helped with the presentations and food tastings.

Covering topics including healthy food swaps, getting more vegetables into

your diet, cooking on a budget, reading nutritional labels, eating and stress, and hidden sugars, the dynamic duo also prepared a cookbook of refined sugar free treats which was printed by Ara Printery and provided free to those attending the events.

"We learnt many new skills from running this event, including event management, public speaking, speaking one-on-one with people on nutrition issues, and design skills from putting together the cookbook, which will all be useful in our future careers as nutritionists."

» Ara Foundation provided Vicky and Kylie with \$2,675 to help them create and launch their March Into a Healthier You Initiative.

A foundation of excellence

Sam Scoon is realising his dream and helping others to create their own. A qualified builder who completed his pre-trade qualifications with Ara Institute, Sam completed an apprenticeship post-education and is now specialising in new builds and renovations.

When he won the Colin Russell Award after being nominated by his tutor, it came as a wonderful surprise. "I used the grant money to buy myself tools. I love what I do and to get to see the final product after all your work is great. You can see what you achieved and see a smile on the owner's face."

The Colin Russell Award is given in recognition of Colin, who has a 50 year association with Ara Institute and is the former Patron and original Settlor of the Foundation. Sam continues to excel in his career having won New Zealand Certified Apprentice of the Year two years in a row.

» Sam Scoon is this year's winner of Ara Foundation's Colin Russell Award for Excellence in Trades. The award, which comes with a \$500 grant, recognises outstanding commitment and success within the trades industry.





The sound of success

Just over thirty years ago, in 1988, the iconic community access radio station, Plains FM 96.9, found its feet thanks to Dr Brian Pauling, former head of Ara’s New Zealand Broadcasting School. Since then, its airwaves have given a voice to diverse citizens, a community of people to which many broadcasting school graduates have also belonged as they have taken to the radio and enjoyed thriving careers.

Sharing the same building as the broadcasting school, Plains FM has long enjoyed a special relationship with the respected institution, and the basis of this relationship has given rise to some impressive opportunities. Case in point are three internships that received funding from Ara Foundation, with one student per year granted an internship in the years 2015, 2016 and 2018.

Contributing half the cost towards these 24 week internships - with Plains FM covering the remaining bursary cost from its salaries budget - Ara Foundation has enabled three students to flourish with a real-world, hands-on experience in a busy broadcasting environment.

In 2015, Jamie Larson began his 24 week internship as a production assistant learning the radio ropes, from producing talk back content to live-to-air panelling. Post-education and internship, Jamie cut his teeth in the working world as a full-time staff member for Plains FM before landing a role with MediaWorks in Auckland. He has just been employed to work for a new sports radio station launching in London as a producer and tech runner. “I think I’ve learnt quickly that community radio will always be something I’ll return to one way or another,” Jamie says of his compelling experience.

In 2016, Varian Kerr began her internship with Plains FM as content assistant. From assisting with production and presentation of Lite L8 Breakfast show, to assisting staff with podcast uploads, Varian is now working for The Australian Radio Network in Sydney in a commercial radio environment.

In 2018, the third and final intern, Emily Hickman, made her community radio debut as a content assistant, learning the complex scheduling and play-out system through to producing pre-recorded programmes. She has just accepted a permanent role with Plains FM. “I can already say with confidence that I am coming out of the internship a better broadcaster and a better person than I was before.”

➤ Ara Foundation provided \$14,437 towards half the costs of three internships with Plains FM, which gave three individuals the opportunity to launch a career in radio.

Pioneering modern medicine

For generations, nurses have played an invaluable role in health and wellbeing. Jacinda King, the Canterbury District Health Board (CDHB) postgraduate nurse coordinator, is a thought leader and champion for change in the field she made her professional home almost 15 years ago when she graduated with a Bachelor of Nursing Degree.

Within Jacinda’s current role as a postgraduate nurse coordinator, she ensures nurses across the Canterbury Health system have access/are supported to undertake postgraduate nursing education. This includes coordination of postgraduate nursing funding to meet Health Workforce New Zealand (HWNZ) contractual requirements. Her current role also includes coordination of Ara Nursing graduate level education funding for CDHB staff. As the recipient of the Ara Foundation Nursing Scholarship, Jacinda is also undertaking her masters research through Ara Institute in 2018.

“This research will be focused on Internationally Qualified Nurses (IQN’s) experiences of transitioning to acute nursing practice within New Zealand. It will provide valuable insight and information for both Ara and the CDHB in relation to preparation and transition of IQN’s into our workforce,” Jacinda explains.

“In Canterbury, we have a significant challenge ahead to maintain a sustainable and effective nursing workforce that will meet the needs of the population in the future by providing the right nurses, at the right place, at the right time, and a future nursing workforce that is fit for purpose. Within my career aspirations, I am committed to working in collaboration with Ara and the CDHB to meet this challenge.”

➤ Jacinda King was awarded the Ara Foundation Nursing Scholarship at a value of \$5,000



“In Canterbury, we have a significant challenge ahead to maintain a sustainable and effective nursing workforce.”



Silver screen success stories

Through four exclusive partnerships - one with Ara and the New Zealand Broadcasting School - Park Road Post Production is offering a select handful of students the chance to break into the highly competitive screen and television industry. Park Road Post Production is part of Peter Jackson's Weta Group.

Thanks to two annual scholarships, funded by the Ara Foundation, two second-year New Zealand Broadcasting School Screen and Television Students, who have excelled in their study, have been able to attend a 10 day industry intensive master class with Park Road Post Production.

With the chance to learn from the best in the business, gaining proficiency in the use of state-of-the-art technology and enjoying the experience of working with everything from online editing to music and mixing, these scholarships are offering once-in-a-lifetime opportunities to deserving students like Joseph (Joss) Hardman and Anna Fitzgerald.

Of his experience Joss says, "I consider myself very lucky that I was given the chance to spend 10 days at Park Road Post Production. Overall, the course gave me the chance to visit a prestigious organisation, and talk to many of the amazing people that work there, including quite a few Academy Award winners."

Anna's reflection on her internship speaks to the joy of being able to develop great relationships and enhance her passion for the industry even more. "Over ten days I gained a very wide range of valuable knowledge that I will remember for the rest of my life. The people I met and processes learnt hugely impacted the way I understand the post production process."

➤ **Ara Foundation provided \$7,500 to make the Park Road Productions internships possible.**

"From ping pong events to basketball, you name it, we've done it...."



Mid-week social soirées

Higher education is so much more than an academic adventure, it provides an energised backdrop for a meeting of minds and an opportunity for lifelong friendships to form.

Recognising the importance of helping to bring students together, with the knowledge icebreakers are always helpful, Tony Greenwood, the employment and apprenticeship coordinator for Ara Institute, sought a grant for a Wicked Wednesday Student Engagement Project. The project is an initiative to better connect students through a series of inspiring activities.

"During our Wednesday sessions, we covered everything from CV writing and employability, to cooking on a budget, hygiene, and drivers' licencing. We held sausage sizzles and launched an amazing race with prizes. The project lent itself to being a student orientation exercise and an opportunity to make connections."

The inaugural Wicked Wednesday launched in 2017 with some activities rolling over to 2018. "From ping pong events to basketball, you name it, we've done it. The grant has certainly been a huge help. We allocated some of our budget to match the grant so we've had \$10,000 to spend. This year we're tweaking some of what we did last year to help the project continue to succeed."

➤ **Ara Foundation provided the Wicked Wednesday Student Engagement Project with \$5,000 to launch its initiatives.**

A Kiwi on the world stage

In 2017, Luke Hempleman achieved something that many could only dream of - he took the stage at the Globe Theatre in London.

Having been selected as part of the Young Shakespeare Company - a select team of 24 who would travel to London - Luke was able to enjoy a completely life-changing experience. All the while, he was also studying towards his journalism qualification through Ara's New Zealand Broadcasting School.

"It was a very proud moment for me. I had raised \$6,000 of the \$8,000 cost myself, and thanks to the Ara Foundation grant of \$2,000, I didn't have to worry about the money side of things. I was over the moon. The experience was life-changing, and being on that stage was one of the best moments of my life. The trip in general was exceptional. Being given the opportunity to work with industry professionals and improve my craft - I just can't put it into words."

With his feet back on home soil, Luke's heart and mind are still set on the world stage with National Geographic in his line of sight. "My ultimate aspiration is to work with National Geographic and write for their magazines and work on their documentaries. I am really passionate about the stories they have to share and I love the art of storytelling."

➤ **Ara Foundation provided Luke Hempleman with \$2,000 so he could attend the Globe Theatre in London as part of a select group of students who were handpicked by the National School of Shakespeare Production.**



"The experience was life changing, and being on that stage was one of the best moments of my life."

More grants

2018 World Indigenous Business Forum

Mary Dimond, a Senior Lecturer at Ara's Business School, encourages her students to understand the multicultural nature of doing business globally from New Zealand. She applied for, and was awarded, \$1,200 to attend the 2018 World Indigenous Business Forum to build on her knowledge of indigenous business, network and identify opportunities for her students to complete their mandatory six month internship. The conference is coming up in October this year so watch this space for updates.

Challenging a lingering taboo

Isla Kennedy and Briar Inwood, Ara Bachelor of Sustainability and Outdoor Education students, pioneered a project to empower women while concurrently de-stigmatising a topic that is as old as humanity but that has never been able to shake its taboo despite it being a normal part of female existence - menstruation.

"Our project is called 'Break the Bloody Taboo'. We want to be able to normalise menstruation so we worked alongside MyCup and purchased menstrual cups from them. Through this partnership we were able to sell cups at a subsidised rate of \$15 to students. We also held an Eco Showcase. We have sold 80 cups to date and the full profits have been invested back into our initiative. This is awesome because one tampon can take up to 500 years to breakdown in landfill."

As Isla and Briar are in their third year, they are thrilled to be able to pass the reins over to another student heading into her third year next year who will continue to do justice to the initiative's important work and message.

➤ *To apply for a grant please visit www.arafoundation.co.nz*

Trustees

› Fiona McKissock -Chair

Fiona has been an Ara Trustee since 2013. She brings a broad range of commercial and financial experience to her role as Trustee and Chair of the Foundation. Her 25-year 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 New Zealand, Australia and the United Kingdom, including the community/ not-for-profit sector. She enjoys her involvement with the Ara Foundation and the opportunity to contribute to students' educational experiences and to support Ara and the wider region. Recently relocated to Wellington as COO of the New Zealand Police Association, Fiona enjoys her continued active involvement with Ara and connection with Canterbury.

› Katherine Ewer -Deputy Chair

Katherine Ewer, LLB, TEP is an experienced Tax and Trust lawyer based in Christchurch. Katherine became a Trustee of the Ara Foundation in November 2013 and Deputy Chair in 2016. Katherine has more than 23 years' experience as a Barrister and 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 a variety of complex trust issues as well as 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 NZ Dietetic Registration. She is an Ara Council appointee to the Ara Foundation.

Her current directorships, trustee and committee member responsibilities include Chairing the Board of Brackenridge Estate Ltd. Jane is Deputy Chair 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.

Jane was appointed as NZBA Executive Officer in May 2017 and retains a leadership role for the Canterbury Clinical Network.

› Brett King

Brett brings to the table more than 30 years' experience of technical, operational and leadership roles within the civil construction industry throughout the wider Canterbury region. 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 stormwater networks. Brett is an Executive Divisional Manager with Fulton Hogan with an operational overview of the Central South Island and West Coast.

He has a Bachelor of Applied Management and a National Diploma in Business (Health and Safety Management). He is a Chartered Member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors. He serves on the board of Aoraki Development and Promotions Ltd, as well as being a trustee of LineTrust South Canterbury (40% owner of Alpine Energy) 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 was previously Director of the Research and Commercialisation office at Lincoln University and 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.

› Tony Gray

Tony Gray was appointed Chief Executive of Ara Institute of Canterbury in September 2017 having previously been Chief Executive of NMIT in Nelson for eleven years. He has a long career in the tertiary education sector in both private industry training and polytechnics.

Tony came to New Zealand from the United Kingdom in 2003 to take up a role as Chief Executive for the privately owned Pacific International Hotel Management School in New Plymouth, where he also had responsibility for the ORION Hotel Schools group in Australia, China and Switzerland. Before that, he held Chief Executive roles in Further and Higher Education colleges in the United Kingdom. He was also a member of several national and regional United Kingdom education organisations, as well holding a Ministerial appointment to the UK Farm Animal Welfare Council.

Tony is a Fellow of the NZ Institute of Management; a member of the Institute of Directors in New Zealand; he was part of the NZQA Expert Advisory Group for Quality Assurance reforms for the tertiary sector; he chairs the Tertiary Accord of New Zealand (TANZ) Board, and is a member of the NZQA Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics Advisory Group.

› Geoff Cranko

Geoff has been managing and growing local and publicly listed 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 people through supportive training and exposure to real world experiences. Geoff is the Group Managing Partner of the Strategy, an international network of creative agencies. He is also a director of several national businesses and Chair of the Canterbury Medical Research Foundation.

› Izzy Berliner

Izzy joined the Ara Foundation as a student representative in 2016 from the Ara Student Council. She has a strong focus on the student experience and is passionate about maintaining a strong student voice on the foundation. She attended Ara from 2014-2016 and completed a Bachelor of Engineering Technology. She is currently a Civil Engineer at Beca and is also a member of the Canterbury Young Engineers committee and Engineering New Zealand.