

Lending a 'helping hand' to locals

Trust helps Coasters achieve their goals

Just under \$6500 of funding was provided over the past year to give a helping hand to Pohutukawa Coast locals.

The grants were made courtesy of the Pohutukawa Coast Helping Hand Trust.

This included support for seven young people to train for and/or attend international competitions in their chosen sport (cheerleading, marathon running, triathlon, tae kwon do and rowing).

Local community organisations including Rescare, Coastguard Maraetai, Beachlands Community Trust and the Beachlands Toy Library also received funding assistance, and the Trust helped several Maraetai Beach School students to attend their school camp.

The Trust, the brain child of long time Beachlands resident Glenn Miller, is now in its fourth year and even Glenn admits he has been surprised at its success.

"It's a lot bigger and better than I ever thought it would be. Initially I was hoping to give away a couple of thousand

are young sports people, the Trust has made grants to a wide range of activities and age groups.

Recipients have included locals attending overseas seminars, Scout leaders doing leadership courses, school camps and the AIMS Games.

The trust does try to avoid giving the same money to the same groups year after year.

There is also no lower or upper age limit for applicants.

"However, the focus is very much on young people. I like to see the young ones being able to get ahead," says Glenn.

"What I do like from the young ones is to see them write their own applications, rather than having someone older do it for them," says Glenn.

"And a 'thank you' is always nice.

"All we ask in return is for recipients to keep the community informed of what they have done and where they have been."



2014: Trust chairman Glenn Miller (left) and secretary Melanie Llewelyn (right) hand cheques to the very first recipients – archer Cheree Kinnear and Te Puru Scout leader Ben Everts.

ing how to donate and how to apply for funding, please visit the website: www.pchelpinghandtrust.org

The Trust's Facebook page is regularly updated, please follow: www.facebook.com/pchelpinghandtrust

The trust meets to consider applications every month. There's no long drawn out process and applicants will be informed of the decision straight after the meeting, receiving the money within the month.



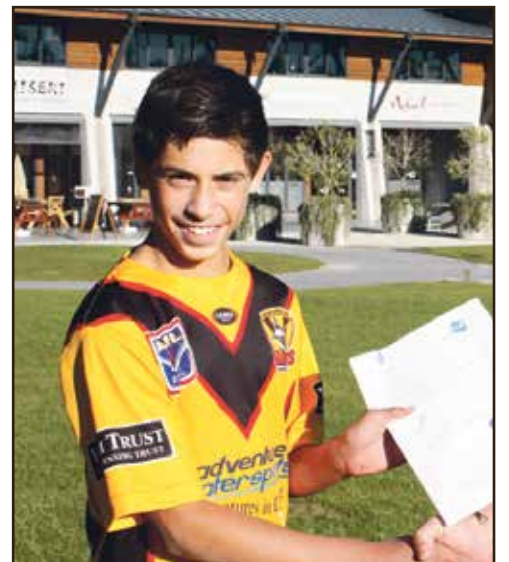
2014: Beachlands School AIMS Games team.



2017: Rower Daniel Williamson (second from left).



2017: Trent Dodds, triathlete.



2015: Francis Morrison, rugby league.



2015: Renee Cure, cheerleader.



2015: Emma Bavelaar, underwater hockey.

dollars every now and then. But it's now gone way past that," says Glenn.

"When my family was younger it cost us a lot of money to put them through gymnastics plus a lot of running around everywhere.

"I thought, even after the girls stopped gym, that if I ever got a chance to help young kids in sport then I would do it."

That opportunity came when Glenn retired from 34 years of service with the Beachlands Volunteer Fire Brigade.

He recruited local police officer Gary Larsen, Dr Barry Claridge, business people Simon Male and Melanie Llewelyn (the Trust's secretary) to be trustees.

Franklin Local Board member Malcolm Bell and *PC Times* publisher Duncan Pardon also attend meetings to offer the Trust their local knowledge.

One of the Trust's strengths is that it doesn't have a long list of rules and regulations.

It tries to make the process as simple as possible and applications are treated on their merits.

And, although many of the recipients

This is done mainly via articles in the *PC Times*.

Glenn says the Trust is about offering a helping hand, not about providing all the funding. The trustees expect applicants to have made an effort to raise their own funds first.

And the focus is very local.

"At this stage it's basically still aimed just at Beachlands and Maraetai. Other districts have their own trusts – such as Whitford with its landfill trust.

"It's not all about money. We have also given computers, tools, and even running shoes, for example."

Of course, to give away money the Trust also needs to raise money. For this, it is reliant on individuals and organisations sponsoring the Trust and supporting it financially.

All levels of support are most welcome, from single one-off donations to dollar a day commitments.

All money raised goes directly to the recipients. There are no administration costs.

• For more details on the Trust, includ-

TO APPLY FOR A GRANT:
www.pchelpinghandtrust.org
TO MAKE A DONATION:
 Email: pchht@vodafone.co.nz

