

MEDIA | RELEASE

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COMMUNITY GROUP WORKING TO ESTABLISH NEW FUND FOR TARRAS

Christchurch Airport is working with members of the Tarras community to establish a new fund for the district.

The fund reflects the airport's commitment to making a positive contribution to Tarras.

A community establishment group has been put together to work with the airport to design the fund and establish its application and distribution processes.

The airport owns 750 hectares of farmland in Tarras and is currently investigating the potential to site a new regional airport for Central Otago there.

Project Director Michael Singleton says the airport will make \$30,000 available for community projects each year.

"Regardless of whether a new airport is built, we are working in Tarras and supporting the community is the right thing to do," says Michael.

The establishment group members are Jonny Trevathan, Pete Jolly, Rachelle Haslegrave and Michelle Dacombe.

Spokesperson Jonny Trevathan says the group was set up after a series of meetings with members of the community showed real support for the fund.

"We know this community well and will ensure the fund reflects Tarras' values and that the money goes where it's needed most," says Jonny.

The group has decided the first distribution of funds will be \$20,000 to the Friends of Tarras School (FOTS).

FOTS chair Michelle Dacombe says they approached the airport for assistance with fundraising last year.

"We're a group of parents who fundraise for extra resources, including IT equipment and new sports gear, for Tarras School. That's become harder in recent years. COVID's cancelled events, sales of our Shrek book have slowed and we're trying to raise money from the same pockets," says Michelle.

Michael Singleton says there's no requirement for members of the Community Committee or for fund recipients to support the airport's project.

"This is a no strings attached contribution. It will also sit outside any mitigation we may have to make if our project proceeds."

"We're grateful to those on the establishment group for their help and are looking forward to seeing how the community chooses to spend the fund and the positive difference it will make," says Michael.

More details will be made available once they have been finalised with the establishment group.

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For further information contact...

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