15 February 2021

**Northern Wairoa Fund – Keeping Giving Local**

In November of 2020 the Northern Wairoa Fund made its first grant. The first recipients were the Dargaville Dalmation Club, and the grant was for $500.

The Northern Wairoa Fund of the Northland Community Foundation was started with a donation from Bruce and Merle Wade. Since then there have been a few other cash donations, and the fund is now in a position to pay out modest grants on an annual basis.

Northern Wairoa fund representative and Northland Community Foundation trustee Richard Alspach said “*The fund had huge potential for the area, and he was confident that this modest grant would be the first of many, and that over time they would grow both in quantity and frequency”. “As a Region Northland has been disadvantaged for decades, and some would say that the West side of Northland even more so than the rest. Northland Community Foundation, and by extension the Northern Wairoa Fund is a way that all Northlanders can contribute to the long-term viability of communities and organizations in the Region that they identify with. If you feel that Northland has contributed to who and what you are, then the Foundation is a way of giving back”.*

Certainly, this is the motivation which is causing Richard and his wife to be actively considering leaving a gift to the Northern Wairoa Fund in their respective wills. Richard states: *“It’s a painless way of leaving a legacy for future generations of Northlanders and I would encourage all Northlanders to do this. It doesn’t have to be to the Foundations general fund, it can be for a cause you feel passionate about, for example literacy in your local schools, or for a sport you want to see flourish. It’s also worth pointing out that history has taught us that if we don’t take steps to look after ourselves, then nobody else is going to do it for us.”*

If anybody is living in the Northern Wairoa area and wants to discuss the concept of the Northern Wairoa Fund further, feel free to give Richard a call on 094395133, or ring the Northland Community Foundation.

Article by Richard Alspach (Trustee of the Northland Community Foundation and Committee driver of the Northern Wairoa Fund).

Picture: Greta Buchanan (General Manager of Northland Community Foundation), Allan Mortensen (Director of Kaipara Lifestyler), Dargaville Dalmation Club representatives, and Richard Alspach.

**For enquiries, please contact:**

Greta Buchanan

greta@northlandcommunityfoundation.org.nz

General Manager 021 558 224