



Small businesses recognised for the first time in Canon Oceania's 2020 Grants

Auckland, New Zealand, Wednesday 23rd September 2020: Canon Oceania is announcing the winners of its 2020 Grants Program, recognising two worthy organisations that will contribute to a better future for their local communities. This year, Canon revamped its Grants Program with a new small business category and increased cash donations in response to the impact the pandemic has had this year.

After the public cast more than 5,500 votes for this year's finalists, Canon is awarding over \$30,000 worth of grants to projects, across New Zealand and Australia.

For the last 14 years, in the spirit of Canon's guiding philosophy of *Kyosei* – living and working together for the common good – Canon Oceania has supported over 80 schools, not-for-profits and community groups with more than \$400,000.

The enormous number of applications is a humbling reminder of the remarkable work that is happening across our region despite tough personal and economic circumstances. We know ongoing support is crucial, as there are many organisations that will be permanently changed by the events of 2020. We hope this alleviates some of the uncertainty that many smaller organisations are facing and are excited to see how this year's winners use their Grants to continue their admirable work.

For the first time, New Zealand winners will receive an equal donation of cash and equipment – to support causes trying to rebuild themselves in a weaker economy.

Community: \$5,000 grant (\$2,500 Canon products + \$2,500 cash) **Broad Bay School**

Broad Bay School is a primary school on the Otago Peninsula. The Grant will enable students to construct a 3D model of Brady Bay and the harbour that connects with oral histories of its local people through QR codes. Working closely with the Te Rūnaka ō Ōtakou the project will consolidate links between the school and the wider community.

“In this time of unprecedented global connectivity, it is vital that we also continue to foster our local community connections, with our people and the environment,” said Greg MacLeod, Principal, Broad Bay School. “Canon's generous grant will allow Broad Bay School's Dunedin students to record the stories and histories of our people, past, present, and future, and connect these to a three-dimensional sculpture of our local environment, which will be a valuable resource for our community”.

The 2020 winners were based on each applicant's potential to positively impact the small business, education and community sectors, as well as the degree to which Canon's Grant would help bring the project to life.