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Helping Build Connections

Essential to a healthy, strong community is a sense of being connected. Technology can be a powerful connector, especially for our elderly who are often socially isolated, with diminishing independence. But it can also be intimidating.

Digital Seniors, run by Heretaunga Seniors, helps members navigate the often-bewildering world of smart phones, tablets and computers. Weekly courses match seniors with tutors who work one on one with them, focusing on what each wants to learn and what their communication needs are.

From the 96 year old wanting to record his family history, to the grandmother who can now 'Facebook' with her extended and far-flung family, Digital Seniors has been a huge success.

"It's wonderful to see how the tutors take away their fear and help open up a whole new world for them," says Marilyn Scott, manager of Heretaunga Seniors.

Hawke's Bay Foundation has provided grants to Heretaunga Seniors for the past three years. Marilyn comments: "Our partnership with the Foundation helps us run our services and programmes, and also connects us with the many others working in the Hawke's Bay community. I recently went along to

a round table accountability meeting at the Foundation to report on our progress. It's so lovely to have a real relationship with a local funder and to meet others who are doing amazing work here in the Bay. Hawke's Bay Foundation is the first funder to bring recipients together like this - such a positive initiative, giving us all a great sense of working together to build a better, safer and more culturally diverse Hawke's Bay."



With Your Will, There is a Way

Lawyer Graham Throp of Bramwell Bate often finds himself advising clients on their wills. "Many of them feel they have been fortunate over their lifetimes and want to give something back. Part of my job is to give them options to consider – both in terms of beneficiaries and ways of giving," says Graham.

"Hawke's Bay Foundation is certainly an option I suggest and its appeal for my clients is twofold. Firstly, the Foundation supports a wide variety of charities in the region and they have an excellent understanding of community needs. And secondly, my clients really value the fact that their gift will be preserved forever – it will go on growing and giving, leaving a permanent and hugely positive footprint in the Hawke's Bay community for many generations."

What is Hawke's Bay Foundation?

Hawke's Bay Foundation is a charitable trust that receives donations of all sizes from individuals and families around the region. These funds are pooled and invested forever. Only the earnings are distributed annually to support Hawke's Bay community initiatives and organisations bringing about positive and powerful social change.

For more information about HBF visit hawkesbayfoundation.org.nz

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BayBuzz is pleased to support the Hawke's Bay Foundation