

Application for funding to the Annual Plan MDC

The Marlborough Community Vehicle Trust (MCVT) has been in existence for five years. It is registered with the Charity Services as a not for profit organisation and this remains a primary objective of the Trust.

We transport members of the Trust from Picton to either Blenheim and/or Nelson and passengers from Blenheim to Nelson for any medical matters, consultations, minor surgery, eyesight problems etc. Our charges are currently \$30 Picton to Blenheim return and \$60 Picton/Blenheim to Nelson. Our passengers are all Trust members. Membership is a one off charge of \$20 for a lifetime. Unfortunately St John are unable to run a shuttle service and we are therefore the only means for people without licences or family assistance to keep an appointment other than very expensive taxi and overnight accommodation charges. An additional benefit of our service is that elderly or disabled people can remain in their own homes and attend hospital services.

Our drivers are all volunteers and retirees from teaching, police, nursing, defence force, engineers etc and are vetted by the Justice Department and medically cleared by their doctors. Our 28 drivers and 9 Board members are all unpaid volunteers.

From our origins in 20016 when three founder members had an idea but neither a car, drivers nor members we have received unstinting assistance from MDC. Omega Rentals have sold cars to us very cheaply, and numerous sponsors have provided severely discounted services. Often their invoices contain the words, No Charge.

In the last year we have transported 290 passengers from Picton to Wairau, and Picton/Blenheim to Nelson hospital. We have transported over 1100 passengers since start up and that includes the times of Covid lockdowns, and reduced specialist consultations for elective surgery. Currently we have 268 Trust members.

Covid has seriously impacted upon our sponsors, donors and membership recruitment. Even the Seniors Expo had to be cancelled, usually a source of funding.

MDC recently assisted with the purchase of an additional car that will eventually replace one of our originals that now has almost 300,000 kms on the clock. Council paid \$6000 and we found the other \$3,600. This purchase has brought additional insurance, maintenance and road charges. This has depleted our accounts and our reserves are dwindling. We are not in serious trouble but help for a finite period would be appreciated. We have produced our yearly outgoings and a budget forecast.

We are asking Council to include us in the Annual Plan Budget for the next three years at \$8000 per annum. If we recover financially, and we are applying to other sources, we will cease our dependence on MDC.