

Annie Leigh Currie - Scholarships and Grants

The woman behind the Annie Legacy Fund



Annie grew up in Dunedin and maintained a deep affection for Otago throughout her life. Her parents were working class folk who had three children, Annie being the second born.

She educated herself as a nurse in Christchurch and spent her early career in the burns unit at Burwood Hospital. Moving to Nelson she worked as a nursing tutor at Nelson Polytechnic for several years.

While in Nelson Annie discovered psychodrama and committed herself to personal development. She continually strove to grow and expand her mind throughout her life, and was persuasive in encouraging others do the same. She especially saw the need to help young woman improve themselves and to break through barriers and traumas that their upbringing may have put them through.

Moving back to Christchurch Annie continued her psychotherapy training, qualifying as psychodramatist, and becoming a registered psychotherapist.

She had a joy for life that is rare. She adored anything that looked like an adventure and her delight in life infected many of the people she encountered.

Working as a psychotherapist for many years she helped people from all walks of life with counselling and personal and professional development courses. Annie had strong values around education, the environment, creativity, spirituality, and helping others.

She was a deeply creative person, but never took her work too seriously. Her joy was in the doing and the being, and in seeing delight in others. Her paintings are full of light and whimsy, her pottery unique and quirky.

Annie passed away in October 2021 aged 71 after a long illness. Throughout this time she maintained her creative flair with courage and grace.

She willed that her resources should be left to helping young woman to educate themselves and to preserving and protecting natural environments. She wanted her legacy to make a difference in these areas. As Trustees of the Annie Legacy Fund, we have the honour of distributing these funds. For recipients, Annie would say, "Use it well." "Keep on doing your good work and keep developing yourself."

Chris Turton, Peter Taylor. Trustees for the Annie Currie Legacy Fund