

Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

Newsletter 14th September

*Cut off for items for inclusion in next Newsletter is **Thursday 21st September***

Blessing of Whakatū Presbyterian 's new building

On Wednesday morning this week, members of Whakatū parish gathered at 6am for a dawn blessing of their new building at Champion Road, followed by breakfast inside.



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Exciting news from Motueka

In January of this year, Pearl of Islands Foundation (PIF) and St Andrews Motueka Uniting Church organised a joined programme for 15 refugee families, over 60 individuals, including children of all ages. The families are from Turkish background who are PIF's members, including directors and volunteers. They came from Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin.

PIF sponsored their airfares and travel costs, and St Andrews Motueka families opened their houses for them to stay over four days.

The event, which has been dubbed *The Welcome Mat*, was the first of its kind in Aotearoa NZ and is now being considered at the UN for an award! The award is a "People's Choice Award", so if you wish to vote for it you can go to <https://unga-conference.org/pioneers-in-sdgs-awards-nominees/> and enter 27 to vote.

More about this initiative can be found at pif.org.nz/the-welcome-mat/ - including photos and videos of the visit.

Halkett Presbyterian Church 150th

Halkett Presbyterian Church, Canterbury, will celebrate 150 years of continuous services at 11am on 15th October. The service of celebration will be followed by a finger food luncheon (\$25) with time to catch up and share memories.

For more details contact the Hope Church West Melton/Halket office on 02 121 48182.

Meet the Ilam Candidates

The Village Presbyterian Church in Bryndwr is holding a "Meet the Candidates Evening" for candidates standing in the Ilam electorate in the upcoming general election. You are invited to come along and hear your candidates speak and answer questions. The meeting will be chaired by Rev David Coster.

WHEN: Sunday 17 September at 7pm.

WHERE: The Village Presbyterian Church & Community Centre, 365A Ilam Road (corner of Ilam and Aorangi Roads)

ENQUIRIES AND QUESTIONS: Any enquiries can be directed to Gavin James, care of the Church office (351 6664). If you want to send through questions in advance, you are welcome to do so in person or via email bryndwr@villagechurch.nz

A light supper will be provided at the end of the meeting.



Hope West Melton
High Tea
Church Fundraiser

Indulge in a nostalgic high tea, featuring an array of finger foods by a skilled patisserie chef, accompanied by live music in our charming new venue, all in support of the Hope West Melton church building!

Table for 2 \$100

Saturday 7th October

Table for 4 \$200

Two sittings: 11:30am & 2pm

REGISTRATIONS CLOSE 15TH SEPTEMBER
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
HOPECHURCH.NET.NZ/HIGH-TEA
(NOT SUITABLE FOR CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 12)

Thank you to our sponsors:

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PLANT SALE

ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH,
349 WAI-ITI ROAD



Wide variety of plants ~
Cake stall ~ Morning tea



9AM SATURDAY, 16 SEPTEMBER



Newsletter Items: Please share this Newsletter around your Parish, especially with members of Session/Parish Council and all office bearers.

Details of events, or requests to be added to the distribution list should be emailed to gail@alpinepresbytery.org

Presbytery Directory: All Parish Offices have been given a log-on to Infodile, so please contact them initially if you need any contact details.

Due to our obligations under the Privacy Act, logon access is not openly available; anyone wanting this should send a request to Gail at gail@alpinepresbytery.org, advising of their position in their Parish or the Presbytery.

News from Partner & Other Organisations

Leader's Day - Laidlaw Centre for Church Leadership

Thursday 26th October 9.00am - 3.30pm; Chateau on the Park - Christchurch, 189 Deans Avenue; Cost: \$30

Discovering how the whakapapa of Te Rongopai (the Gospel) can renew mission in Aotearoa

The story of Te Rongopai (the Gospel) in Aotearoa is full of amazing hope, despite its brokenness. Laidlaw Centre for Church Leadership invites you to join us for this one-day conference dedicated to exploring what it could mean to do 'mission' differently in New Zealand. Gain fresh insights into the intricate tapestry of Te Rongopai (the Gospel) - moving beyond identity politics, and discovering the power of whakapapa – while finding our place in God's story.

Register: Via Eventbrite Link

<https://raranga.us6.list-manage.com/track/click?u=1f404cbf2f9d756b14c5ef8da&id=280a42fccf&e=e0fef2ceba>

Your registration includes: Arrival tea/coffee, morning tea and lunch

Places are strictly limited. For more information please email cfcl@laidlaw.ac.nz.

Ministry Position

Ready for an exciting 'Jesus' challenge? We are offering a full-time ministry position—with a twist.

- Two adjacent cooperating parishes at the gateway to the Coromandel
- Intentionally missional
- Wanting to lead new and innovative ministry?

For position information please contact admin@pc.org.nz in the first instance.

Exciting opportunities for tamariki and rangatahi these school holidays with A Rocha!

Do you have tamariki and rangatahi passionate or interested in exploring nature and / or environmental care? Looking for an exciting and stimulating opportunity to dive deeper into these topics during the upcoming school holidays?

Check out these two programmes coming up that aim to grow environmental leaders for tomorrow!

He Māhuri Tōtara - 25-29 Sept 2023

In Ōtautahi Christchurch. For high school students. \$50.

A Christian environmental leadership development course for high school students. For young people who want to learn more about caring for creation, leadership, Te Ao Māori or the Bible, and how those things are connected. Expect a week that is full of workshops, hands-on activities, outdoor adventures and building relationships with likeminded people.

More info at: www.hemahuritotara.org/

SUSTAIN Camp - 1-5 Oct 2023

In Whāingaroa Raglan, Years 7-10. \$185.

Join Scripture Union's SUSTAIN Camp in Raglan - hosted by A Rocha at the Karioi Project. Enjoy a week of delighting in creation - from the mountains to the sea. We'll be exploring the secret paths of Karioi Maunga as we build traps, check the trapping lines and appreciate a remote campfire. We'll be learning where our food comes from as we visit and help out on a local farm with the most spectacular views! We'll also be venturing across different shores for swims and surfs as we consider the significance of water.

More info at: www.sunz.org.nz/youth/sucamps/sucamps-2023-2024/sucamps-spring-2023/sustain-2/

 SISTER EVELEEN
RETREAT HOUSE
Book a room for your own retreat

Apart from our ongoing retreat programme (www.sistereretreat.com/events), we are open for guests booking in for individual retreat days. This is a perfect space for anyone looking for some quiet and solitude in a beautiful environment and with the most beautiful views.

We have 4 spectacular rooms in the main house as well as three cozy rooms in the separate annex, behind the house. Our kitchen is fully equipped and ready for you to self-cater. Tea and coffee are provided.

All linen is provided. Please book via our website or get in touch with us enquiry@sistereretreat.com

Looking forward to welcoming you here at Sister Eveleen.

Resources

A selection of resources and links to resources to assist you with your work and outreach can be found on our website here: alpinepresbytery.org/resources/

Online Worship Options

Visit the "Resources" page of our website to view the links from those of our churches offering this.

Alpine Presbytery

Culture & Strategic Framework
[Click here](#) to download this document, updated September 2020

Starter Questions on Bioethical Issues for our Churches during Election Year

St Andrew's Hokitika newsletter listed these questions, which have been prepared by the InterChurch Bioethics Council. They may be of interest for some of you—to ask political candidates, to discuss in small groups, to initiate sermons and to help individuals considering their vote in the 2023 government elections.

- Which issues can you identify that are so impactful that policies for these issues need to be non-partisan (ie where the major political parties agree) so that our country is sustained and effective in its thinking and actions on this issue for the next few years?
- What are your climate change/crisis goals and actions for the first year of term if you are part of the Government? What are your goals and actions for the next 3 years? Is there any current measure you would undo or change, and for what reason? In what ways do you see a link between climate change and the cost-of-living crisis? What is your main emphasis in responding to climate change – reactionary (cleaning up after disasters), adaptive (pre-empting where the next disasters may occur and making changes to be protected from them), or mitigation (long term actions to reduce the causes of climate change in order to slow/stop/reverse climate change)?
- Genetic Modification (GM)/engineering/editing – what do you think the main benefits and the main risks are in GM? Who do you think in Aotearoa New Zealand should be deciding what is acceptable to be allowed in GM – the government, the public, farmers/companies/doctors? How can we best protect human genes, and in culturally appropriate ways? How can we protect the integrity of species (so that species aren't changed irreparably by GM) and protect species biodiversity (where endangered species are helped to survive using GM)?
- Artificial Intelligence (AI) includes algorithms and algorithmic use of Big Data, computer generated intelligence and human brain activity stored outside a human. What regulation do we need for the development and use of AI to protect society without impeding AI's benefits and opportunities? How would you ensure that demand for new technology does not race ahead of ethical consideration and regulation of the technology? What does it mean to you to be human with human intelligence? Are the boundaries of humanness crossed in AI, gene editing, genetic enhancement, transgenics etc, and who should discern what and where are these boundaries?
- What are your policies regarding misinformation (unintended wrong information) and disinformation (intentionally wrong information) – in social media, in mainstream media, other information vectors? What measures would be considered to limit disinformation, and what would be considered going 'too far'? What values would you use to determine limits? How would those values be identified and measured? And how could/does Artificial Intelligence play into this spreading of disinformation?
- There has been significant concern about the lack of equity for access to health and education, especially for people with disabilities, Māori, Pasifika, and those in some geographical areas. How would you ensure this equity of access to services with dignity, effectiveness and fairness in Aotearoa NZ? Where do you see policies needed at the top of the cliff rather than just at the bottom of the cliff? What opportunities for those missing out are you most interested in improving, and how? What efforts would you make to unite the public attitude to these measures?
- What are your policies with respect to providing equity in funding/provision/support for Palliative Care, and for Assisted Dying, as at present only assisted dying is fully funded? What would you put into place to enable accessible, realistic options for terminally ill people in Aotearoa New Zealand to be able to choose from both types of end-of-life care?

From the last Newsletter

- **Opening Day for Hoon Hay Presbyterian Op Shop**
- **Rev Neville Burns**
- **Important Police Check Update**
- **Investing for Mission Impact**
- **Newsletters:**
Connect Newsletter from PSUSI
Bush Telegraph
- **Presbyterian Investment Fund**
- **Sister Eveleen Retreat House:** Creative Play to Nourish the Soul—*A creative silent retreat*
- **Tax Fairness Forum**
- **New Brighton Silver Band concert**
- **Notes August Presbytery Council meeting**

Coming Up

- **Plant Sale, St Stephen's Timaru: 16th September**
- **Meet the Ilam Candidates: 17 September, at The Village Bryndwr**
- **Plants4U at Rakaia: 30th September**
- **Hope West Melton High Tea Fundraiser: 7th October**
- **St Andrew's, Blenheim, Garden Tour: 14th & 15th October**
- **Plantarama at Cashmere Presbyterian Church: 14th October**
- **Halkett Presbyterian Church 150th Celebration: 15th October**