



# Alpine Presbytery

*resourcing the braided river*

## Newsletter 8<sup>th</sup> August 2024

*Cut off for items for the next Newsletter is Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> August*

### **Council News related to Royal Commission Abuse in Care Report**

Council of Assembly met on Wednesday 31 July.

Among other matters it considered the Abuse in Care Report from the Royal Commission: *Whanaketia – Through pain and trauma, from darkness to light. Whakairihia ki te tihi o Maungārongo* ([www.abuseincare.org.nz/reports/whanaketia](http://www.abuseincare.org.nz/reports/whanaketia))

The report is the culmination of six years' work, and it contains harrowing stories of abuse in state and faith-based organisations, including the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand. It is difficult to read but we encourage you to do so.

Council is grateful for the **pastoral letter to the Church from the Moderator**. ([tinyurl.com/ymuax8vb](http://tinyurl.com/ymuax8vb))

Council noted the Commission's *Recommendation 3* concerning public acknowledgement for historic abuse should be made to survivors, their whanau and support networks and that our Moderator of the General Assembly, Rt Rev Rose Luxford, is to undertake this on our behalf.

We welcome the opportunity to give a meaningful apology that will be developed and agreed with a representative group of survivors.

Council noted 2 recommendations in particular from the Commission's 138 recommendations. Recommendations 130 and 131 concern transparency and public accountability for implementing the inquiry recommendations. They state:

#### *Tūtohi | Recommendation 130*

The government and faith-based institutions should publish their responses to this report and the Inquiry's interim reports on whether they accept each of the Inquiry's findings in whole or in part, and the reasons for any disagreement. The responses should be published within two months of this report being tabled in the House of Representatives.

This will include specific findings relating to the Presbyterian Church.

#### *Tūtohi | Recommendation 131*

The government and faith-based institutions should issue formal public responses to this report about whether each Recommendation is accepted, accepted in principle, rejected or subject to further consideration. Each response should include a plan for how the accepted Recommendations will be implemented, the reasons for rejecting any Recommendations, and a timeframe for any further consideration required. Each response should be published within four months of this report being tabled in the House of Representatives.

To assist it in this important work, Council has moved quickly and approved a task group on behalf of the Presbyterian Church, who will fully consider the report of the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care, including recommendations 130 and 131. They will identify the matters that need attention by the Church, recommend to the Council of Assembly steps to be taken by the Church to attend to those matters, monitor initial progress in implementing necessary steps, and report regularly and in a timely way to the Council of Assembly. This process will ensure the Church meets all deadlines for reporting. The Task Group is to communicate, consult, and take advice as it sees fit.

The task group will be convened by Rev Dr Bonnie Robinson - Research and Justice Stream Lead and Director of the Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit, Salvation Army and the members are Dr Jean

Mitaera - Chief Advisor, Centre for Pacific Health & Social Practice, WelTec and Whitieria; Associate Professor Dr Anna High – lecturer in law at Otago University; Rev Tamiana Thrupp – Moderator Te Aka Puahou; Rev Mitch Jarman - Amorangi Te Aka Puahou and Dr Michelle Egan-Bitran - Safeguarding Consultant for Safeguarding Children.

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#### 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 sent to Gail Weaver

#### Presbytery Directory:

All Parish Offices have been given a log-on to Infoodle, 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 Weaver, Office Support, advising of their position in their Parish or the Presbytery.

The group will report to Council so that it can consider their advice and respond to both the findings and recommendations in a timely manner.

Our responses will be shared with the wider Church and published.

Let us continue to hold in our prayers those who have been so badly impacted by actions from within our denomination, and all survivors, also the members of the Commission, government agencies and those who take this forward.

Council invites congregations in their gathered church worship services to use the **litany** ([tinyurl.com/ymuax8vb](http://tinyurl.com/ymuax8vb)) provided by our Moderator.

*Mrs Kat Solomona, Convener, Council of Assembly*

## PLANT SALE



**ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH,  
349 WAI-ITI ROAD, TIMARU**



**Wide variety of plants ~  
Cake stall ~ Morning tea**  
Please bring along a bag for your purchases



9AM SATURDAY, 14 SEPTEMBER



### Theology Programme, Open Lecture, University of Otago

Tuesday 20 August, 5.15-6.30pm,

Archway 4 Lecture Theatre, University of Otago

**“Generosity in the Letters of Paul: What's the Difference between Grace and Humanism?”** by Professor John Barclay, Lightfoot Professor of Divinity, Department of Theology and Religion, Durham University. All Welcome.

Professor Barclay's many books include *Paul and the Power of Grace*; *Paul and the Gift*; *Pauline Churches and Diaspora Jews*; *Against Apion: Translation and Commentary*; *Jews in the Mediterranean Diaspora from Alexander to Trajan (323 BCE – 117 CE)*; *Colossians and Philemon*; *Obedying the Truth: A Study of Paul's Ethics in Galatians*.

This lecture will also be live-streamed at: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/its/services/teaching-and-research-services/streaming/video-streaming-channel-4>

### Winter Wānanga with KCML

St Pauls Trinity Pacific, Christchurch

**Walking the Road: Pastoral Care and the Road to Emmaus** - Friday 23 August, 7pm - 9pm (Option for dinner available at 6pm)

**Preaching for the Old Testament: Learning from the Book of Esther** - Saturday 24 August, 9.30am - 3pm (Lunch & Morning Tea Provided)

**Facilitator:** Rev Dr Geoff New, Principal Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML).

**For more details and to Register** go to [alpinepresbytery.org/winter-wananga/](http://alpinepresbytery.org/winter-wananga/)

**From the last Newsletter**

- Rev Errol Hildreth
- Statistics forms
- Global Mission: English Teacher Required in Vanuatu 2025
- Scripture Union NZ summer camps
- Event to honour the victims and survivors of sexual abuse
- Notes from July meeting of Presbytery Council

**Coming Up**

**Christchurch Ministry Leaders' Lunch:** 15 August

**KCML Workshops:** 23—24 August

**Plant Sale, St Stephen's, Timaru:** 14 September

**Knox Church, Waimate, 150<sup>th</sup> Celebrations:** 21–22 September

**Presbytery Gathering in Nelson:** 1—3 November

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/](http://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

Saturday 17 August, Hope Presbyterian West Melton

More information at [hopechurch.net.nz/refresh](http://hopechurch.net.nz/refresh)

# refresh

*A conference for leaders, by leaders*

verb ————— /rə'freSH/  
to give new energy and strength to someone



Jubilate Singers presents



## Not Tonight Josephine

Music from the time of Napoleon.  
(Featuring Russian, German, Austrian, French and English songs), c. 1800

"Not tonight Josephine"

"I am free on 17 August at 2 pm."

**Conducted by Philip Norman**

Accompanist: Jeremy Woodside (organ)  
Soloists: Courtney Hickmott (soprano) and Richard Oswin (piano)

**Knox Church**  
28 Bealey Avenue  
Saturday 17 August 2.00pm

[www.jubilate.org.nz](http://www.jubilate.org.nz)



Advanced booking \$30/\$10 (Full/student)  
[www.trybooking.co.nz/SNJ](http://www.trybooking.co.nz/SNJ)  
or cash at the door. Includes afternoon tea.

