

## Have you ever wondered what the Flagstaff Community Church logo means?

Some of the healthy harakeke that surround our church where interweaves several important elements which together strongly represent who we are and what we stand for.



There is harakeke (native only to NZ, Tasmania and Norfolk Island and not to be confused with flax) which not only grows profusely on our property but is spread widely across the slopes of the Flagstaff maunga. Then there is the tui which along with other native birds now visits the creek area frequently.

Within our name, the elongated letter “t” is not a typo but rather a reminder of the centrality of the cross which is at the heart of our shared faith. We aspire to be a Christ-centred creative community that is open and welcoming to all.

Below our name, we pose a question: “Hutia te rito o te harakeke, Kei whea, te kāmako e kō?” Or “When the heart is torn from the flax bush where will the bellbird sing?”

This is the first part of the karakia traditionally prayed during the harvesting of harakeke leaves; the remainder being “Kī mai ki ahau, He aha te mea nui o tēnei ao, Māku e kī atu, He tangata, he tangata, he tangata”. Or “You ask me what the greatest thing on Earth is. My reply is it is people people people.”

Māori describe harakeke, which has a fan-like growth pattern, as a whānau or family. At the centre is the rito (baby) leaf, then followed by the tamaiti (child) and āwhi rito (parent) leaves. Traditionally, none of these are taken but only those leaves that are fourth from the centre, thought of as the tupuna (grandparent). By protecting the whakapapa of harakeke through sustainable harvesting this gives it the best opportunity to grow and flourish. The whānau share common roots and derive strength and stability from forming part of a larger whole.

At Flagstaff our hope, our desire is to see the harakeke metaphor come alive on two levels: one being our shared commitment to the renewal of God's creation, expressed in the creek restoration project and other new initiatives; the other being our sense of call to being a welcoming community where people of all ages, stages and backgrounds can find a place of rest, celebration and abundance in God.

## Newsletter

Flagstaff Community Church June, 2023



The poster has a dark blue background with light blue wavy lines representing water. In the center is a white shield-shaped area with a blue border. At the top of the shield is the word 'ANCHORED' in bold blue capital letters. Below it is a graphic of a white anchor inside a blue bowl-like shape, with a blue rope tied around the anchor's shank. Underneath the graphic is the word 'Retreat' in a blue script font. Below that, 'BAPTISM &amp; CONFIRMATION COURSE' is written in bold orange capital letters. Further down, 'YOUNG PEOPLE YR 7 - 10' is in bold blue capital letters, followed by '25 - 27 AUG 2023' and 'CAMP COLUMBA' in bold blue capital letters, and '\$60 PER PERSON' in bold blue capital letters. At the bottom of the shield, 'REGISTRATIONS CLOSE - 11 AUG 2023' is written in orange script font.

[Anchored Baptism & Confirmation Course – Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry \(pcfm.org.nz\)](https://www.pcfm.org.nz)

How can we invite young people into lives anchored in faith?

The PCANZ have noticed from Church statistics that only a small number of young people who engage in church ministries make a public profession of faith through baptism or confirmation.

Therefore, we have developed a Confirmation/Baptismal course for years 7-10, wherein ministers can invite their young people to explore issues of faith and provide the opportunity to profess their faith through baptism and/or confirmation/reaffirmation of faith.

The 'ANCHORED' course includes a regional one-night or weekend retreat (led by national and/or Presbytery staff) and a five-session curriculum that follows on from the retreat in the local church context. For each minister who has one or more young people interested in exploring faith through 'ANCHORED', the commitment would be to attend the weekend retreat with the young person/people with at least one chaperone, and then to lead the five sessions with their young people in the weeks following the retreat.

# RICHARD BRUNTON

**The awesome power of blessing.**

**Saturday 12th August, 2023 | 10am - 3pm | \$30**

**Calvin Church - 25 Robertson Street, Gore**

*A morning of teaching, followed by an interactive workshop.*

**Monday 14th August, 2023 | 7pm | Free event**

**Taieri College Hall - 3 Green Street, Mosgiel**

*An evening of fellowship, and to share in a time of worship and blessing.*



For further details and to register:

lyn@calvin.org.nz or  calvincommunitychurch



**Matariki Public Holiday: Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July.**

**Matariki Remembrance Service: Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July, 9.30am.**

You are welcome to join us in a service of remembrance for our loved ones. The morning will include waiata, hīmene, children’s activities, lighting candles and prayers for a hurting world. The morning will conclude with kai (morning tea) Haere mai tātou!

**Native Planting and Mahi Māra Day: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 10am – 2pm.**

Matariki encourages us to gather together and connect with Papatūānuku. Bring your gardening clothes, gumboots and gloves to help with planting and spreading woodchips at School Creek. BBQ and refreshments.

**A Walk in the ‘Dark’: Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 July.**

Come for a short-floodlit bush walk at School Creek any time between 6:00pm and 8:00pm. Dress for the weather and wear solid footwear. Cancelled if heavy rain is falling.

**Matariki Celebration Service: Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 9.30am.**

Nau mai, piki mai – join us in welcoming the Māori New Year with family at our whānau service, featuring waiata, hīmene, children’s activities and stories.





## Reducing our carbon footprint - shopping

- ▶ Each of us has a carbon footprint
- ▶ Represents how we live and choices we make
  - ▶ Food
  - ▶ Transport
  - ▶ Housing/household
  - ▶ Shopping



### Shopping

- ▶ Buy only what you need
- ▶ Reusable shopping bags
  - ▶ Jute, paper, mesh bags, biodegradable cotton
- ▶ Buy quality products that last
  - ▶ Less energy used, less in landfill
- ▶ Don't buy fast fashion
  - ▶ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-01-12/fast-fashion-turning-parts-ghana-in-toxic-landfill/100358702>
- ▶ Support companies that are environmentally responsible and sustainable
- ▶ ESG investing

**School Creek Restoration Project:** We are currently restoring our awa next to the church. This little creek is showing signs of life and is breathing again and some native birds are showing up. There are a few folks who meet for a couple of hours on a Monday and pot away at planting, trapping pests, removing, weeding, etc. Occasionally we have a project in which everyone is invited including our local school. If you want to join us ring Neil Brown 027 435 4672.

KAI FOR OCTACAN  
ANNUAL FOODBANK APPEAL

THURSDAY  
JUNE 22  
2023

Lower Octagon  
7.30am - 2.00pm



# SAVE THE DATE

## Parish Council Update

Our **Annual General Meeting** will be on Wednesday 20th September 2023 at 7 pm.

**Halfway Bush property Update:** Council agreed to a draft Property Sale Agreement to be sent to habitat for Humanity to pass on to the Government department , who has agreed to fund the project. The agreement will be presented to the congregation members and associates for approval, and then presented to the property team of Presbytery and Synod for their approval. It is a slow process, but we are getting there.

**Church Bookings:** Flagstaff Church is becoming popular as a venue and putting pressure on our volunteers, booking will be approved by parish council before they can go ahead.

**Matariki:** Brendon and others are speaking to 4 different groups in June on resources for celebrating Matariki in a church setting. Matariki is celebrated nationally on Friday 14th July, we will have a celebration service on Sunday 23rd July

**Our love and sympathy go to Patsy Laughton and her family after the recent death of Jim, peacefully at Ross Home.**

### **Finances**

For Year to Date

Income \$145618

Expenses \$144719

Surplus \$899

### **For end of May**

Income \$10400

Expenses \$13403

Deficit \$3003

**Flagstaff Prayer Time:** Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone Welcome. Every Tuesday 8.30 – 9.30 am in Church foyer. Join us as we share and celebrate stories of God's action amongst us and pray for one another and discern God's leading into the future.

**Interested in studying Theology?** The Theology Programme at the University of Otago offers a wide range of papers and qualifications, all available via distance learning. For further information go to [www.otago.ac.nz/theology](http://www.otago.ac.nz/theology) or ph 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639. See <https://tinyurl.com/theologyotagovideo> for a brief video or find us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/theologyotago](http://www.facebook.com/theologyotago). Details about our Semester 2 papers are available here: <https://www.otago.ac.nz/theology/study/papers/index.html#second-semester>

**Pastoral Visit:** If you would like a pastoral visit from someone from within the pastoral team or the minister, please ring elder Sarah Barton 021 385905.

**Life Groups:** Life Groups @Flagstaff are a vital part of who we are as a community of faith as we seek to grow in Jesus. Not only do we explore the messages God has for us from the Bible but we also have the opportunity to connect with others and experience a place where no-one stands alone. If you would like to join one of our weekly groups please contact Sarah Barton 021 385905.

**Community Facing Groups:** Where the focus is on friendship around a common interest. These groups are welcoming which may centre on an activity, a hobby, a talent, a life stage, a project or service. Groups include, Steady as you Go, Hire a Helper, Community Garden, Women's Coffee Group @ Coffee Culture (Held 1st Tuesday of the month at 7.30 pm), Green Fingers, Walking Groups and more! If you would like to join a group, start a group or find out more information then please contact Brendon on 0273569200.

**Discipleship Groups:** which focus on study and prayer. Wednesday 1.30 p.m. Contact Sarah 021385905.

**Tithing/Giving:** There are many ways we can support the activity of God in our church, community and world. Two ways of making your church offerings.

1. Use internet banking to make direct credits or automatic payments to the Flagstaff Community Church. Westpac bank # 03-0903-0192517-03. Please include your name for reference or if you use Envelopes use your Envelope reference/number.
2. Join the envelope system by contacting Alison Jenkin (Wakari) 021 1052 320. You will receive a set of personally numbered envelopes. This can be placed in the kete/basket at the foyer entrance anytime during Sunday Worship.

If you give to special appeals or missions, you can claim on these donations by identifying the appeal by naming it when you make the internet payment or by putting your number or name and address on an envelope.

### **Contacts:**

**Prayer Chain:** Sue Yule 476 7655, or Sarah Barton 021 385905

**Pastoral Care:** Sarah Barton 021 385905

**Envelope System:** Alison Jenkin 021 1052320

**Technical Equipment:** Andrew Sims [andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com);

**Church Newsletter:** Jenny Neill 467 5813 [dandjneill@xtra.co.nz](mailto:dandjneill@xtra.co.nz)



## Kaumātua - Elders

**Presbytery Elder:** Sarah Barton

[parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz);

Vanessa Gordon: [ness.gordon@gmail.com](mailto:ness.gordon@gmail.com);

Alastair & Sue Yule: [yules@xtra.co.nz](mailto:yules@xtra.co.nz);

Tim Mephram: [tmephram@rautakiadvice.co.nz](mailto:tmephram@rautakiadvice.co.nz);

Gary Dent: [gary.dent7@gmail.com](mailto:gary.dent7@gmail.com);

Andrew Sims: [andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com](mailto:andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com);

**Minister:** Rev. Brendon McRae

Phone: 027 356 9200

[brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz)

Flagstaff Community Church Services 9:30am (Communion 3rd Sunday of each month)

**Parish contact details:** PO Box 10074,

Halfway Bush, 9042, Dunedin

[office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz](mailto:office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz);

**Website:** [www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz](http://www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz);

[www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff](https://www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff);

**Office** 9 Centennial Avenue, Wakari

Dunedin, 9010

