




What’s in this issue:

 <p>MODERATOR'S MESSAGE WAITANGI DAY 2025</p>	 <p>JUNIOR YOUTH FRIDAY FUN CAMP</p>		 <p>NEIGHBOURS AOTEAROA SHARING. GROWING. CELEBRATING.</p>
<p>Moderator’s Waitangi Day Message</p>	<p>Fun Friday and Easter Camp</p>	<p>Our community</p>	<p>Neighbours Day 2025</p>

Tēnā koutou katoa

As I look forward to being at Waitangi again this year I think back to last year and the privilege it was to participate in both the Waitangi Day services alongside the Moderator of Te Aka Puahou, the Rev Tamiana Thrupp. Tamiana and his wife Honey, Executive Officer of Te Aka Puahou, were great companions to be there with. They guided me in terms of protocol on Waitangi Day, and the afternoon before we enjoyed the spirit of the place as we visited stalls, listened to different speakers, and partook of delicious kai. Many different cultures were there together and that felt very rich.



There is of course much talk at present about Te Tiriti, and I have just finished reading a book a colleague gave me titled, “Huia come home” by Jay Ruka, Dean of Taranaki Cathedral Church of St Mary. On the back cover of the book is the following: “Using the story of the untimely extinction of the huia, Jay Ruka offers a fresh perspective on the narrative of Aotearoa; a tale of two cultures, warring worldviews and the things we lost in translation”.

One section of the book pays particular attention to the story of Te Tiriti and the church’s involvement which is very helpful. The knowledge of our history then leads into exploring our worldviews. Jay’s book is written mainly for a Christian audience, but it is hoped that others will also find it helpful. It is a fascinating read, and I commend it to you.

It is so interesting to reflect on the reality of having different cultural worldviews and how that impacts how we react to different happenings. Our cultural worldviews also intersect with our faith understanding and God’s ongoing work in the world. I have seen that throughout my ministry as different cultures seek to work together in parishes; in 2018 I undertook study leave in this area - “Moving from co-operation to community in multi-cultural congregations.”

I have been reminded again of the dynamic of different worldviews in my time in Samoa for the Council for World Mission gathering. The cultural lens through which we view life influences our values, actions and decision making. It is shaped by many things and also carries many assumptions. And so, it is really good to have conversations with people from other cultures; to seek to understand how each other see and live in the world. Our assumptions can be broken, our eyes opened to new possibilities, and we become enriched through the process.

As we approach Waitangi Day, let us take the opportunity to engage with others to explore the different worldviews and understandings of Te Tiriti that exist and seek to build our bicultural relationships. This occurs through our Christian worldview and experience – following Jesus who was able to step into different settings and find ways of engaging with a wide range of people with grace, wisdom and compassion. We can ask ourselves, “What is Jesus calling us to do in this space?” And the light of Christ goes before us to guide and illuminate us.

As we have heard so recently in our Christmas season, “What has come into being in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.” (John 1: 4-5)

Ma te wa

Rose

Right Rev Rose Luxford

Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

moderator@presbyterian.org.nz

EARTHQUAKE APPEAL FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF VANUATU



Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

On December 17, 2024, a 7.3 magnitude earthquake destroyed multiple buildings in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The earthquake claimed 12 lives, with more than 200 people injured. The Port Vila CBD was seriously affected and is currently in lockdown, with the demolition of buildings now under way. Businesses and schools are facing serious logistical challenges. Thousands of residents in and around Port Vila have had to relocate, with some communities possibly facing permanent relocation to new, safer sites.

The Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu (PCV) owns several buildings in Port Vila. While none of these collapsed, due to the severity of the earthquake there are concerns about the safety of a number of these buildings. As a sign of our commitment to our partnership with the PCV, Global Mission has offered to send two structural engineers to Port Vila to undertake assessments on these buildings to help the PCV determine the next steps. Following this, we anticipate significant costs will be involved in building repairs that are likely to take some time.

So as a sign of solidarity with the PCV, Global Mission is launching an earthquake appeal to help meet costs associated with supporting individuals and communities affected by the earthquake, and for maintenance and repairs on damaged buildings.

Funds can be banked into the Global Mission account, 02 0500 0086963 10 with the reference PCV Earthquake Appeal. Please send an email to Katrina Graham, katrina@presbyterian.org.nz confirming the donation so a receipt can be emailed.

NEIGHBOURS AOTEAROA

SHARING. GROWING. CELEBRATING.

Neighbours Aotearoa (Formerly Neighbours Day) is about connecting neighbourhoods across Aotearoa. Every March, we encourage people to take a small (or big!) step to get to know their community better. Whether it's two neighbours connecting for the first time over the fence or a whole street coming together for a clean-up, the size doesn't matter – it's about creating meaningful connections that spark future relationships. Last year, we saw record participation, and this year, as we celebrate 15 years of Neighbours Aotearoa, we hope to grow even more.

Neighbours Aotearoa encourages on-the-ground participation with a focus on everyday activities like cooking, eating, making, learning, and repairing. The focus is on inclusive and accessible opportunities that appeal to people from many backgrounds and encourage sharing.

Neighbours Aotearoa will take place from 1-31 March 2025

Check out their web site <https://neighboursaotearoa.nz> for more information and great resources!



February Wishlist for the Foodbank



Presbyterian Support
Otago

We appreciate all and any donations, and would particularly appreciate flour, breakfast cereals (we have plenty of porridge oats), and snacks for school lunches like muesli bars. Help fill our pātaka!



Garden Volunteer

Stepping Stones & Club Enliven

Presbyterian Support
Otago

Can you help us to keep our Oxford Street garden beautiful, with a little help from our group members?

- 📍 158 Oxford St, South Dunedin
- 🕒 1 - 3 hours per week

*tools provided

For more information and to apply please email volunteer@psotago.org.nz or visit our website

psotago.org.nz/volunteer

Sewing Recycled Carry Bags for the Foodbank

In partnership with Dunedin Curtain Bank (who will supply us with suitable robust material) we are keen to produce our own bags for Food Bank Clients.

Columba College students have been making these as a trial and they have been a great success, so we're keen to offer the bags as a permanent option. We have the pattern and the materials, we just need: A Seam Team! If you can help us that would be Sew Fabulous!

Contact: joy.davis@psotago.org.nz for more information or to volunteer for Presbyterian Support Otago projects.

Thank you!

With your help we were able to provide hampers for five families in our local community over Christmas. In addition, the **Christmas Appeal** to help Marie in Dakar raised \$765. Here's the response from Sam and Yo:



"Thank you so much to all of you who contributed to the Christmas drive to help buy Marie a bed and make Christmas packages for all the Kayoong ladies! Marie has ordered a carpenter to make her a large bed that fits her mattress which will arrive in late January/early February - we shall send you a photo when it does. She was so delighted and shocked! She said she had wanted one for a long time but never been able to prioritise it over other needs of her boys. She chose to make a really big bed, King size so that when her relatives and nieces

come to visit, they can all fit on it together. This week I purchased the gift bags. I asked Ouray (one of the Senegalese founders of Kayoong) what she felt the women would most appreciate, and she said getting food for their families over the Christmas period was the biggest blessing, allowing them to feel they could provide a delicious meal/treats for their families. So I made up bags; a frozen chicken, dates, coffee, tea, Nutella, hot chocolate, milk powder, oil and a Kayoong basket. They were all delivered today on the 23rd. Thank you a billion! These gifts really mean a lot and I got big hugs and smiles from the women! Fatou who you see in this picture gave a big... 'WHOO HOO!!'

Junior Youth Friday Fun

Your joint youth group is underway for 2025!

For more information contact Amy on
aimsandbren@gmail.com

Leith ~ Highgate ~ Flagstaff

JUNIOR YOUTH FRIDAY FUN

Years 7 - 10 Fortnightly Friday nights
(Term 1: 14/2, 28/2, 14/3, 28/3, 11/4)
From 6 - 8 pm for dinner & games
Cost \$5
267 Malvern Street, Leith valley
See your youth pastor for more details
Or call George (02041560250).
Scan the QR code to join the parent
WhatsApp group

Easter Camp – 18-21 April 2025



Dunedin Easter Camp is for High School aged young people, from any youth group or church.

Where? Tirohanga Youth Camp

When? Friday 18 to Monday 21 April

Price? Early Bird (before 16 March) \$180, Full price \$195.

Registrations close Friday 11 April

More information? dunedineastercamp@gmail.com

The Vision

Our desire is to see an event where young people will come together and connect with God in a powerful way. Our heart is in an event where young people will encounter the living Christ and lay a foundation for a life of discipleship. Our mission is to create a space for youth groups to come together and grow stronger and go deeper. Our passion is to see an event where the Easter story is told and experienced in new and fresh ways.

The theme for Eastercamp 2025 is “Transformed”. As we met as a team to start planning for 2025, the pressures that young people face to “conform” to worldly perspectives felt heavy. Romans 12:2 says, “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind”. The hope is that through gathering together, exploring the Easter story and the Good News of Christ, young people will be challenged, encouraged, and inspired to live bold lives. Lives that are not blown by the wind of the world around them but centered and grounded firmly in Christ.



Green Fingers: 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.

Membership Mission Membership: There are a number of people who have moved from the original place where they were baptised and made a confession of faith, and who now make Flagstaff Community Church the place they live out their faith. To arrange an appointment to explore fully the implications of becoming a committed member of our congregation please contact Brendon McRae 027 356 9200.

Sunday Sermon: If you would like a copy of the speaker's message from Sunday, then please email Brendon on brendon@churchatflagstaff.co.nz and a copy will be sent to you.

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.

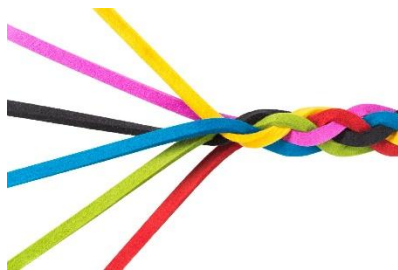
Flagstaff Prayer Time: Sharing life, ministry and prayer together. Everyone Welcome. Every Tuesday 9 – 10 am in church foyer. Join us as we share and celebrate stories of God's action amongst us and pray for one another and discern God's leading into the future.



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. Some papers are taught via videoconferences, others include teaching days in Wellington, while a few involve week-long intensives. For further information go to www.otago.ac.nz/theology. or phone 0800 80 80 98 or 03 479 8639.

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.

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



Community Facing Groups: Where the focus is on friendship around a common interest. These groups are welcoming and 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 027 356 9200.

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 writing the name of the appeal or special purpose when you make the internet payment or when you put your number or name and address on an envelope.

Contacts:

Prayer Chain: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Pastoral Care: Sarah Barton 021 385905

Envelope System: Alison Jenkin 021 1052320

Technical Equipment: Andrew Sims andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com;

Church Newsletter: Lisa Wells office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz;



Kaumātua - Elders

Parish Clerk: Sarah Barton parishclerk@churchatflagstaff.co.nz

Presbytery Elder: Don Lind donovan.lind@gmail.com

Vanessa Gordon: ness.gordon@gmail.com

Tim Mephram: tmephram@rautakiadvice.co.nz

Gary Dent: gary.dent7@gmail.com

Andrew Sims: andrewcarolynsims@gmail.com

Child Protection Officer: Jane Davis edlumis@icloud.com;

Health and Safety Officer: Hamish Cartwright cartwright012@gmail.com;

Minister: Rev. Brendon McRae

Phone: 027 356 9200

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

Administration: Lisa Wells office@churchatflagstaff.co.nz;

Website: www.churchatflagstaff.co.nz;
www.facebook.com/churchatflagstaff;

Office 9 Centennial Avenue Wakari, Dunedin, 9010.

