

MMM New Zealand News

Issue 3 2025



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Front Cover: MMM Fiji brought together local volunteers and visiting NZ team members to build a home for a long serving Christian Camp manager on her retirement.

LETTER FROM THE Director

NOVEMBER 2025

We're delighted to bring you the third edition of *MMM New Zealand News*! You may notice a few changes in the magazine's layout and focus. We believe the Lord would have us highlight more clearly the outcomes of our projects—showcasing not only the work completed, but also the lives touched through it.

In this edition, we've placed greater emphasis on first-hand feedback and testimonies from recent recipients of projects directly impacted by MMM's ministry. As you'll read, the positive effects reach far beyond the physical improvements to buildings (though those are certainly valuable). They extend into areas of team building, spiritual growth, and renewed encouragement for believers to continue pursuing what God has called them to. These stories remind us of *why* we do what we do and reaffirm the importance of the work God has entrusted to MMM.

A heartfelt thank-you goes to our administrator, Jeanette Russell, for her dedication in conducting interviews and gathering these inspiring testimonies. We also extend sincere thanks to everyone who has served so faithfully on projects across Fiji and throughout both the North and South Islands. And of course, we deeply appreciate the team who regularly turn up to help pack and post this very magazine—you all play an essential part in sharing these testimonies of God's goodness.

Finally, at the beginning of October I was blessed to attend MMM Australia's 50th Celebration and the International Alliance Meetings. It was an enriching experience to hear firsthand about the challenges and triumphs faced by our partner centres around the world and their continued perseverance in the face of trials while remaining steadfast in their commitment to serving the Lord through the ministry of MMM.

Blessings,

Steven Senn
Director, MMM New Zealand



In Memoriam - Martin McKone



It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Marty McKone on Monday 4 August 2025, at age 67, after living courageously with motor neurone disease for 18 months. Marty and his wife, Robyn, served as MMM NZ Full Time Volunteers for four years, and Marty said that those years with MMM were the happiest of his life because he was able to use his practical gifts in the service of his Lord and Saviour. Those who knew Marty will remember him for his infectious smile, his humour, his positive attitude and his deep-rooted faith in Jesus. Marty left a lasting impact on all who crossed his path and will be greatly missed on our MMM projects.



Practical Ministry

People Ministry

Spiritual Ministry

International Ministry

Vision:

To see the church empowered and equipped with adequate facilities appropriate to God's mission.

Mission:

MMM NZ Exists to enhance the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of building, both people and facilities to serve Christian workers in God's global kingdom.

Help for the Front Line

CHRISTIAN CAMPING - MMM NZ is here for them

A winning formula

What makes Christian camping so successful in bringing young lives to Christ? Is it the emotional and physical challenges presented to the kids to bring them to the limit of themselves? The inspiring spiritual teaching and role modelling through quality leadership, giving them a vision for the way forward? Camps are often the first place kids encounter a loving God who will not fail them when friends, family, and even life, have let them down.

Barriers to entry

What happens to kids after they catch the reality of Christ? How do you support their journey after they leave the camp gates? 80% of kids coming through camps are not Christian, so getting them plugged into churches in today's secular environment is difficult. Few kids now have Christians within their family network. These new followers are starting their walk from scratch, with no-one beside them. For them, entering into a church building is as daunting as diving into a foreign culture.

Growth and authenticity

One can't underestimate the importance of getting new believers discipled and into regular fellowship, thereby providing them with the solid foundation required to walk out an authentic and enduring faith.

The overlap

This is where New Zealand's 60+ Christian camps, churches and even international teams, have the opportunity to work together! Overlap events, where camp leaders do something onsite at a local church, connecting the camp experience with a new church experience.

Biggest challenges for camp managers

There's no way around it, the framework around the Camping Machine requires a deep purse. For camps to succeed they must be safe and well maintained and must constantly develop and grow fresh activities.

Camp managers constrained in this model must continually be searching out funding grants and business sponsorship. The hard thing is that sponsors don't get excited about having their name and branding on a septic tank or a fence at the back of the property. Most funders would rather throw their cash at a Flying Fox or an adventure trail.

Camp managers, are on record expressing concerns about being able to support and grow their staff, both in income and in pastoral care. Perhaps the No. 1 demand on camp directors is staffing, so offering good accommodation is important. And their young camp leaders, just like our MMM MoMentuM interns and young volunteers, need the counsel and input of more mature Christians to bridge the gap between their faith world and their social world.

MMM Helping to meet the need

Although camp bookings have strengthened after the Covid period with churches and school groups returning, many camps are still in great need of assistance. The labour provided by MMM saves more than half the cost of building and maintenance projects, easing the burden on camp managers and keeping Christian camps focused on doing what they do so well...working on the front line.

Camp Raglan - FEEDBACK FROM AN MMM PROJECT RECIPIENT

The Raglan Coast makes for stunning scenery but as an environment, it's harsh on the best of building materials.

Children's Bible Ministries (CBM) run a number of camps and activities at their Camp Raglan site. They aim to reach children for Christ and see them grow in their faith. They also train adults in Children's Ministry. Director, Mike Buckley, commented:

"What a blessing to have the team from MMM come to Camp Raglan. We battled the wild weather but much was accomplished and our team were so grateful for the support. We have had MMM come and work alongside us for twenty plus years now. It is so encouraging to have a ministry like MMM help us in the big jobs that we just don't get the time to get to. Thank you so, so much for blessing us with your expertise, cheerful attitude, grit and determination to get the job done. Our team were so blessed to have you during August 2025."

The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace." [Numbers 6:24-26 (ESV)]



Above: Woolshed re-purposed as a BMX bike shed





Bula! From Roy & Rachael Hogan

MMM (Fiji) Team Leaders

The challenges of building projects in Fiji are always an adventure! Concrete blocks aren't uniform, timber isn't straight, tools or materials are ridiculously expensive or impossible to buy. Materials need to be ordered far in advance, which is ironic as Fijians aren't the best at planning ahead. Termites are trying to sabotage most timber buildings, a massive issue in Fiji.

Power and water can take months to get onsite and can easily go off at any time. You never know when a barge you were relying on to transport your materials to an outer island will break down in an even more remote location! You need

to be ready for anything and everything as you cannot quite know when something you never could imagine might happen.



But by putting our hands up to live in the uncomfortable, we also get the opportunity to see God at work in ways that we couldn't in New Zealand. We are constantly learning to embrace new and more complex challenges. We get to serve people that earn \$5FJ an hour, sometimes less, struggling day to day to get by and pay the bills. For many Fijians, clean drinking water, hot showers, three meals a day and electricity are a luxury they dream of. They have no way of getting help other than through the efforts of MMM (Fiji) and the volunteers that partner with us. People that have so little but yet they choose to serve the Lord with all that they have, and have so much joy in doing so.

We get the opportunity to enable others to experience the blessings of serving here. We feel humbled and privileged to serve the people of Fiji and you are always welcome to join us.

A Mighty, Momentous Milestone!

MMM Australia Celebrates

50 Years!!



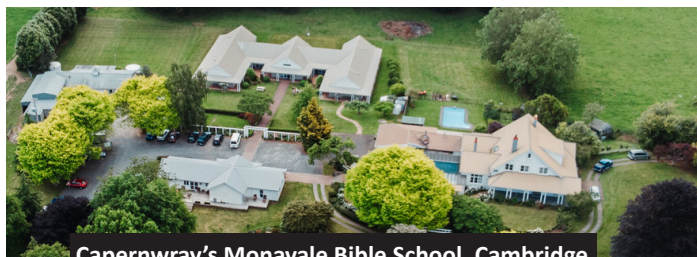
For half a century, MMM Australia has been serving the Body of Christ in the field of building and maintenance. They marked the occasion with a celebration dinner on the 4 October 2025, alongside meetings with MMM Australia's State Managers and Department Heads, followed by a meeting of the MMM International Alliance partners.

The CEO of MMM Australia, James Lacey, made the comment, "MMM Australia has faithfully continued its work as the world changes rapidly. The need remains but the manner in which we can respond is changing."



MMM PROJECT RECIPIENT

Capernwray New Zealand



Capernwray's Monavale Bible School, Cambridge

Capernwray New Zealand is part of Torchbearers International which has 25 centers located throughout the world, offering short-term Bible school programs, conferences, camps and retreats.

It's been said that Capernwray is a greenhouse. Students are nurtured for a short time, put down strong roots, then are planted out in the world.

A big part of what CNZ does is teach young people to know the indwelling life of Jesus Christ and prepare them for practical service, living out Christ's life wherever God has placed them. Capernwray Business Manager, Glenn Johnson, comments:

"As a charitable trust, CNZ relies on the generosity of many individuals who gift time, and provide funds, to help maintain and develop our facilities that we use to serve our students and guests.

This very need for practical assistance in our maintenance and building projects over the years has made MMM NZ a key partner in our ministry. Capernwray New Zealand (CNZ) has been blessed with the support of MMM for over 20 years.

The MMM team are wonderful examples of individuals living out Christ's life – humble servants, who give their time and practical skills to bless others and glorify God. Our CNZ team love having the MMM team at our campuses – not just appreciating the incredible work done, but the encouraging conversations, shared devotions, and rich prayer times together. We praise God for MMM, and the team who serve with them."

Farewell & thank you to Harry Joe



MMM NZ sincerely thank Harry Joe for his time on the team this year. Harry has lived in Australia for a number of years but came back to visit family and volunteer with MMM NZ. He arrived at the Pirongia Centre in April, and has served on projects for the best part of the year, often staying on location during the week. Team Leader Lejf Pedersen, when asked about Harry, said the words that spring to mind are “conscientious”, “eye for detail”, and “commitment”. Harry was a valued MMM Team Member for the following projects: Hope Rising Farm Charitable Trust, Finlay Park Adventure Camp, Capernwray Bible School, CYC Christian Camp, Camp Raglan, Kaipaki Bible Church and Paeroa Bible Chapel.

Harry's first engagement with MMM NZ was in 2009, through which he was seconded to three years service with MMM Hong Kong. Harry will now be returning to Australia and no doubt, he will be seen at MMM Queensland projects near his home in Brisbane. MMM NZ wish him well in all his future endeavours!



MMM PROJECT RECIPIENT

Kaipaki Bible Church

A prayer, a place, a purpose

A MMM Team spent three weeks painting at KBC (Kaipaki Bible Church) from late August. KBC had recently moved into the Ohaupo venue and the building was found to have a fascinating past.

Shortly after settling in, Pastor Dave Firth had a visitor. He recounts:

“On a Thursday morning, back in April, a lady dropped in to see me at The Ridge as she wanted to talk about the church. So I sat with her and her son while she told me she had lived in Ohaupo for 32 years.

She explained that a motorbike gang (known as the ‘Outcasts’) had regularly frequented the Ohaupo Tavern (the name of our building back then) causing trouble. There were fights, screams and revved engines most nights, and people were scared.

So she, and her mum, decided to pray that the building would be used as a hotel instead of a pub. Shortly thereafter, it became a hotel.

However, the problems didn't go away, and so they prayed it would be used as a restaurant...and, it was.

Encouraged, they prayed it would be used as a wedding venue ...and, it was.



Then one day they thought, “dare we be bold enough and ask God that it may be used as a church?”

When the woman heard that Kaipaki Bible Church had rented the building for the church she wept. She felt moved to tell me her story which was why she came in that day.

Yet furthermore, that very evening, there was one more sublime answer to prayer. We were approached by a Christian Trust that wanted to buy the building for us!

We love The Ridge (formerly ‘Windy Ridge’). God has clearly put it in our hands to steward for a season, and we are super thankful. It's in the middle of a delightful little town (Ohaupo) and we are seeing amazing things happen in the community.

“...if the Lord calls us to step out of the boat we know it's the right thing to do.”

The building is old and hasn't been well maintained. There's been a lot of ‘it'll do for now’ repairs and alterations simply to meet an immediate need. Lots of different uses have necessitated changes that haven't always been done well. That said we are smitten by the place and love seeing God use it for His Glory.

A local café, hindered by ongoing roadworks in the street, was offered a space in the building. The café brings life, energy and people into the place every day. Hundreds of locals, travellers, business people, drop in regularly and we get to chat, rub shoulders and engage with them about things of the Lord.

We are delighted to see what The Lord has done so far, what He is doing now, and glimpses of what He may do in the future (we already have some exciting ideas for Christmas).

Sometimes the storm looks a bit strong and scary but if the Lord calls us to step out of the boat we know it's the right thing to do. Taking on an old pub on the main street in a small town didn't seem the most logical option initially, but we have firmly placed our faith and trust in the Lord and stepped out in faith, and we are enjoying the journey as we fix our eyes on Him!”



Photo on left -The MMM team enjoy a hearty lunch provided by the Kaipaki Bible Church. The church provided lunches, morning and afternoon teas for 3-week project.

PROJECT REPORTS

NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS

CYC,
Ngaruawahia

Dates: 14 July - 1 August 2025

Team: Lejf Pedersen (Leader), Harry Joe, Adam Hanson, Andrew Parsons, John Clapp, Elliot Marshall, Luca Marshall, Luke Greenwood

A week at CYC was taken up with rewiring 18 cabins in Camp One. It was decided that the easiest way was taking off the roof and running the cables under the roof. While it was off they installed some new insulation.



The MMM NZ Team also removed the old bunks from cabins 1-7 and 14-17 and replaced them with larger bunks. The bunks will now fit the new larger mattresses and mattresses will be more secure.

At the same time, they changed out all the windows and framing with safety glass and double glazing.

These changes will improve CYC guest's comfort and safety.



Camp Raglan

Dates: 4 - 22nd August 2025

MMM Team: Lejf Pedersen (Leader), Harry Joe, Wade Linnell, James Pask, Stephen Douglas, Luca Marshall, Elliot Marshall.



Some of the MMM Team stayed onsite during the two week project, while others braved the Raglan divide to travel daily.

They worked alongside three local volunteers, one being a roofer, to replace the roof iron and barge boards on two utility rooms then repair, reclad, reroof and paint the bmx shed, a re-purposed woolshed.



In addition, the Cook's bathroom and the boys and girl's bathrooms were relined. Also, the Cook's laundry and toilet were renovated.

Kaipaki Bible Church, Ohaupo

Dates: 25 August - 12 September 2025

Team: Lejf Pedersen (Leader), Harry Joe, Adam Hanson, Noah van de Laak, Elliot Marshall, Luca Marshall, Luke Greenwood and Louise Chapman, along with a local team bringing the total number to 36!

Louise Chapman travelled from Papamoa to volunteer, staying onsite at the Pirongia Centre for the duration of the project.

Many hands made light work of painting the outside of the building and a few inside rooms were refreshed as well. Lejf made short work of updating the electrical wiring and installing new plug sockets where necessary. The team even had time to build a small retaining wall outside next to auditorium.





SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS



Reefton Baptist Church

Dates: 16 - 31 October 2025

Team: Alan Mitchell (Leader) & Chris Pynenburg, Rosina Mitchell, Mike Nichols, Mark and Elaine Rosche, Willie Van't Wout, Pauline Jeffs.

The job began with scraping down and painting window frames, and expanded from there....



Capernwray New Zealand, Cambridge

Dates: 16 June - 4 July and 15 - 26 Sept

Team: Leif Pedersen (Leader), Harry Joe, Adam Hanson, Anita Pedersen, Luke Greenwood, Elliot Marshall, Luca Marshall, James Pask.



Capernwray New Zealand has two beautiful Campuses in the Waikato. Monavale Homestead Bible School & Conference Centre (pictured on page 4) and Capernwray Adventure Lodge (pictured above).

In June, at the Capernwray Adventure Lodge Campus, the team prepped and painted 3 staff flats and an office. They also fixed a rotten floor in a bathroom and installed a new vanity cupboard. They insulated a staff flat ceiling, installed new lighting in



the communal bathrooms and fixed a leak in the chiller. Outside, they fixed gutters, repaired a leak in a utility shed and replaced rotten decking boards.

In September, at Capernwray's Monavale Campus the MMM Team replaced and moved fences by the pool and created a pool side covered BBQ area. They fixed a roof leak above the kitchen/laundry and replaced light fittings. The team also replaced and rendered the exterior cladding at the rear of the lecture hall and repaired fascias & guttering.



opened up. There was some significant water damage that needed to be addressed. The team simply took things in their stride and developed strategies to address issues as they became apparent.

It was great to see a number of the Chapel members invest significant time in working with the MMM Team. Some strong relationships were forged through spiritual fellowship and conversation during times. God has been among us through this time and the ladies excelled with some great goodies and wholesome lunches. The time has reminded me of the value of serving in a team – pulling together, sharing skills and resources for a common set of objectives – powerful!

On the Sunday that Lief shared in our service, and through the updates the following week, the whole church was encouraged and there was a 'buzz' around what was being achieved – we are very grateful!"

Paeroa Bible Chapel

Dates: 29 September - 17 October 2025

Team: Leif Pedersen (Leader), Harry Joe, Adam Hanson, Elliot and Luca Marshall, Toby Greenwood, Lynette Pedersen, Lucas Pedersen, Anita Pedersen.

The MMM Team headed to Paeroa to repair and repaint water damaged ceilings in the church office and the youth hall. They were also to repair the barge boards and install new spouting at the rear of the building. Pastor Bill Tissingh comments:

"The work grew as the affected areas were



Upcoming Projects in NZ

YOU CAN JOIN!

North Island Projects 	3 - 21 November Namamanuca Primary School Yanuya Island, FIJI Building dorm for school children from neighbouring Island	3 - 21 November St Mark's Church Nawton, Hamilton Painting exterior	24 Nov - 12 Dec Festival One Karapiro Building a mobile shower block
	South Island Projects 	We have projects we are yet to schedule as we are seeking capable team leaders. Get in touch!	January (TBA) River Church Ashurst Repair and paint exterior

Projects Still To Be Scheduled

Volunteer Now!

Elevate Christian Disability Trust	Painting windows
Cambridge Baptist Church	Electrical work
Hibiscus Coast Presbyterian	Exterior Painting
Birkdale Bible Chapel - Auckland	Exterior Painting
Student Life - Wellington	Convert garage to office
Athletes In Action - Auckland	Painting windows
King's Kids- Auckland	Concrete, erect carport
Woodend Christian Camp (SI)	Maintenance & paint
Lakeside Christian Centre (SI)	Interior Fit Out
St Pauls, Upper Moutere (SI)	Paint church manse
Fantail Ministries - Rangiora (SI)	Water damage repairs

Hey Farmers !!

Don't forget to keep MMM in mind at calving time! All funds raised through Farmer's Fellowship bless MMM's overseas work.

Phone: Maurice 027 498 4993
Doug 027 455 0100





Thinking about your career?

MMM MoMentum Internship

MMM NZ partners with Christian builders and apprentices to give young people the best foundation and headstart for their future. Want to know more - Give us a call!

Would you like to know more?
Check out our website

www.mmm.org.nz



Volunteers are welcome to join us on projects

Be sure to phone before arriving on a project to ensure it is on schedule. thanks!

Project Coordinator: 021 272 1562

projects@mmm.org.nz

caravan parking available on most projects
Lunch, morning and afternoon tea provided