

MMM New Zealand News

Issue 1 2025

*Building . . .
Empowering People*

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Front Cover: Luke Greenwood and Luca Marshall working on the Paeroa Christian School Fale. Bottom picture, Mike Arthur on the Caversham Community Church project

LETTER FROM THE

Director March 2025



Change!

Now there's something that is going to excite some people and strike fear in the hearts of others. Change is a part of life and in lots of cases it is a good thing. As followers of Christ, it is something that we should be thankful for. As 2 Corinthians 3:18 says (going with the old KJV), we "...are changed into the same image (of the Lord) from glory to glory..." This is the process of a believer being progressively transformed into the image of Christ, moving from one level of God's glory to another, signifying a continuous spiritual growth and development through the work of the Holy Spirit. We should desire this process, although sometimes the experiences in getting there may be hard.

Here I am writing my last 'Note from the Director' and MMM is in the midst of change - the handover to Steven Senn, the incoming Director and Jeanette Russell for Office Administrator currently Ave's role. By the time you are reading this, it will have happened. This is a good thing - some new faces, fresh ideas, new energy but the same mission. I have always liked the quote "It's not the hammer and nails that drive the mission, it's the mission that drives the hammer and nails," and our mission is that; "MMM exists to enhance the spread of the gospel of Jesus Christ..." What a privilege!

I encourage you to embrace this change, to continue to support the ministry and Steven and Jeanette as they grow into their roles. Ave and I will be around for a bit to help in the process.

This note from me is usually the last thing to be written for the publication (which has always exasperated Ave) and as the pages are all filled up, I need to acknowledge, in this space, the sad news we heard this morning. David Halse, a former full time worker with MMM from 1999 to 2015 has gone on to Glory. He has changed location to the best place of all - the presence of Christ, together with Colin Robinson and Maryanne Foote mentioned on page seven. Praise the Lord for these wonderful co-workers.

I want to thank you all for your participation in the ministry and trust you will find continued joy in your service together.

Blessings,

Howard Robinson
MMM New Zealand
(Former Director)

For communication with Steven Senn in his new role, his email address is director@mmm.org.nz



Vision:

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

Mission:

- MMMNZ exists to enhance the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of building, both people and facilities to serve Christian work and workers in God's global kingdom

Festival One



Festival One is an annual music festival where Christian community, creativity, and faith intersect in vibrant and inspiring ways. It showcases an extensive and varied lineup of Christian bands, speakers and artists, all in a beautiful farm setting near Cambridge. I went along to help set up and be part of the team running the MMM stand.

Attending Festival One for the first time, it struck me how important festivals of this type are in building our next generation. Although music is the draw card, the mission tents, prayer spaces, workshops and discussion zones all provide a platform to inspire young minds, extending their dreams and revolutionizing ideas as to how they may walk out their lives in God's service.

Conveniently for MMM, this year, the mission and ministry zone, aptly named 'The Call', was perfectly positioned between the Main Stage and the food and merchandise stalls in The Market zone.

That meant MMM had a steady stream of attendees passing by their stall.

MMM drew visitors to the mission's stand with a "Drive a nail in one hit" challenge. An apprentice builder from Auckland, Eli Hohnneck, showed he had what it took. Most of our contestants were on the younger side and it's difficult to say what the average number of hits was; we mostly lost count! But perseverance was rewarded of course, with M&M's! Thankfully, many of these keen young hammer-hands had parents in the trades, or experience in DIY, and so the children gave us plenty of opportunity to engage with the parents and share the work of MMM.

Festival One is a great place to connect with potential MMM volunteers and put the word out to a slightly younger demographic, that their practical skills could be a gift from God, and with a willing heart, they are able to be used for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom. - Jeanette Russell

ORIENTATION

In recent weeks, Howard has been leading Steven Senn and Jeanette Russell through MMM's Orientation, which involves a lot of listening!

Anyone joining MMM or even those intending to serve for some considerable amount of time are encouraged to do MMM's Orientation programme.

What do we cover? Well, all kinds of things, actually. The obvious – like MMM's history; plus our 4-fold framework - we are a practical ministry, a people ministry, a spiritual ministry and an international ministry; The structure of MMM and how we operate within the International Alliance; Who serves with MMM? - Regular Volunteers, Associates, Full Time Volunteers; Serving with others - how to get along and appreciate differences; Finances and how MMM operates in that area; The Health and Safety Policy and more

Along with Steven and Jeanette joining MMM to serve Full-Time, we also have two new Board Members.

Paul Davis is an accountant in Hamilton who attends the Te Awamutu Bible Chapel. Paul was asked to join the MMM Board to bring his accounting skills.



Steven Senn, Jeanette Russell and Howard Robinson conducting Orientation

Chris McLean, his wife Jen and their three kids, joined MMM in 2022 and served for a year living in their caravan. Chris has his own building business in Dunedin, Spot On Building. He was asked to join the Board due to his building background and interest and experience in the ministry.



New appointments to the Board, Steven Senn (Ex Officio), Chris McLean and Paul Davis

Steven, in his role as Director, is also on the Board in an ex officio capacity.

We appreciate the time Board Members give to MMM and are grateful for the skills and governance they bring to the ministry. - Ave Robinson

A Word from our Young Volunteers

LUKE GREENWOOD

Meet Luke, MMM's new intern!

Luke heard about MMM through Elliot Marshall, a family friend. Elliot is a local builder who volunteers with MMM on Fridays in the Waikato area. Luke was homeschooled so made sure his school work was done by Friday so he could go with Elliot on projects throughout 2024.

Luke says he decided to be an MMM Intern for a year because it was a cool way to get into the

building industry and learn about different mission groups at the same time.

The way the MMM Internship works is Luke is MMM's apprentice and volunteers one day a week for MMM. The other four days he works for the Kingston Group, Te Awamutu. They have agreed to train him.

He enjoys the MMM Intern programme because of the good community, environment, fellowship and serving in mission; he enjoys it all!

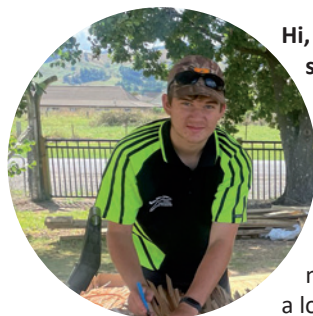


Not only did Elliot Marshall tell Luke about MMM, he also brought two of his kids on projects. Here is what they had to say;

Hola! My name is Georgia Marshall and I'm 17. I am homeschooled and my favourite things to do to relax include reading, dancing, acting and going to youth group.

I have been on the MMM Festival One crew twice now and being part of this crew is a highlight of my year! I really enjoying talking to all the MMM volunteers.

I would totally recommend volunteering with MMM, as I'm sure you would learn new things, as I always do! Even though I'm not the best at building, I still have a lot of fun trying and learning some new things. It's great to be part of a team and serve others. Seeing the joy on the faces of those you serve is cool.



Hi, I'm Luca Marshall and I'm 16. I do school at home and love to help others, design stuff, tinker, create with Lego and learn technical things at every opportunity.

If I get my school work complete during the week, I get to go with my Dad once a week to spend a day on a local MMM project. I am very motivated to get my school work done

because I love helping on MMM projects!

I've been on projects where MMM have been building offices, fixing camp cabins, painting a house and church, building decks, laying concrete, putting a roof on a *fale* shelter at a Christian school, building a carport and much more.

I really enjoyed working at Hope Rising Farm in Ngaruawahia as I learnt lots of new skills, worked in crazy mud, and had some cool people to work alongside. It was cool to see animals being used to interact with children to help them.

When we go on projects, it's great seeing the different church groups and organisations helping and serving people in the community and reaching out to people in need. You should get involved with helping too. You just need to smile, be willing to learn new things and have a good heart attitude, and be happy to help.

It's so good to meet new people on MMM projects too. The people we help are super grateful for the work MMM does and we never go hungry because they show their gratefulness by feeding us good food and looking after us.



I am Noah van de Laak, a formerly homeschooled, now working teenager. For a year I volunteered with MMM.

I have been on a variety of different projects, involving painting, fence building and house construction.

I've served all around the Waikato, at multiple Christian camps, including Totara Springs Christian Centre and CYC

Ngaruawahia, a number of churches, such as Tirau and in Hamilton, and even the MMM Centre in Pirongia.

I would definitely encourage others to serve with MMM. You get to visit a lot of different locations, meet lots of cool people and learn new things.

I have gained a lot of practice using basic tools, how to use a nail gun, and, of course, I've done loads of painting - so I must be relatively good at it now! Outside of the worksite, I've learnt a lot too, about the world, things from talking to people while on the worksites, and doing devotions.

I remember one time we were on a project when it started pelting down huge balls of hail. Strong wind was rushing between the buildings. Suddenly a glass sliding door (that was waiting to be installed), was picked up by the wind. It hit one of the worker's trucks, denting the back of it!

In general, I've shared a lot of laughter and jokes with people - I have lots of fun memories from this time.

UPDATE!

The MMM faithful old Pajero has seen better days; it's transported its share of teams and towed it's share of loads over the last 15 years! Fiji roads are not easy on vehicles and with gear and teams to move, we need a good reliable vehicle. Thank you to those who have donated to the cost of a replacement new vehicle. Here's how we are going to date. We have raised \$24,550 with the target of \$50,000. The MMM NZ Board have pledged to provide \$20,000. Can you help us reach the goal?

Every little bit helps. Don't forget donations are tax deductible when paid into this account. Ref. Fiji Vehicle
MMM NZ 03 0442 0148838 00
 All funds raised for the Fiji vehicle go fully towards it.



-\$50,000
 Can you help us reach our goal?
-\$44,550
\$20,000 from MMM NZ
-\$24,550 Your generosity!

WE ARE SO CLOSE!

JOIN US IN REACHING OUR GOAL OF RAISING \$50,000, FOR A REPLACEMENT VEHICLE FOR FIJI!

DONATE TODAY!



Connections made at the NEW WINE FESTIVAL

The Hogans are the MMM Fiji Project Coordinators and have been living in Fiji since 2022. As reported in the *MMM News issue 2, 2024*, termites are a very big problem in Fiji and something Roy is constantly dealing with.

Our family were grateful to be able to spend a few weeks in New Zealand over summer and we were blessed to be able to attend the New Wine Festival in Masterton during this time. MMM had a stand in the missions area that Steven Senn and Chris Pynenburg were on. Although we weren't at New Wine to represent MMM, we still spent some time at the stand.

MMM had an attention grabbing activity set up which was especially popular with the kids. It was a challenge about how many hits it



would take to get a nail in.

At one point in the weekend, Roy and Steven were chatting while kids were hitting nails when Roy asked them, "None of your dad's are builders are they?" to which one boy replied, "Nah, my dad only treats timber." Roy immediately got excited saying, "Is he here? Go get him. I need to talk to him."

The boy dutifully ran and got his dad. This was the beginning of lots of conversations in person and on email with Roy learning some really helpful information that he can use to guard against termites in Fiji. Roy was then able to find some of the chemicals he was recommended for killing and repelling termites in Fiji! Considering this information is still very much unknown in Fiji, this was a God ordained conversation for Roy to have while on the MMM stand at New Wine! - Roy & Rachael Hogan, Josh, Gabrielle and Kelepi (The Hogan family are NZCMS mission partners, partially supported by Anglican Missions.)



Hey Farmers!

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

Phone -
 Maurice 027 498 4993
 Doug 027 455 0100

Hmmm, MMM!





Photo on left - YWAM Family Ministries, Matamata exterior painting

NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS

YWAM,
Crystal Springs

The above photo shows painting of the exterior of their main building. The team also built two playgrounds. We enjoyed learning about the ministries of the family centre and hearing testimonies of what God is doing in that place. *Team Leader - Leif Pedersen, Luke Greenwood, David King, Elliot Marshall, Luca Marshall, Ken and Eileen Ogden, Mike Taylor and Noah Van de Laak*



Chosen Valley Camp Trust, Drury



The Manager's house at Chosen Valley was in need of some maintenance. We installed a new floor and wall linings in a bathroom, new window jams and painted all of the interior of the house. The camp had employed a builder to build a master bedroom with an ensuite. The joint effort meant the new manager was able to move in just in time for Christmas. *Team Leader - Leif & Lynette, Anita and Luca Pedersen, Ken & Eileen Ogden*

Paeroa Christian School, Paeroa



Paeroa Christian School has long partnered with Island Encounters in Fiji. A team from their senior year visit Fiji every two years. They asked MMM for assistance to build a Samoan 'Fale' - an open house with a thatched roof to help connect the school with its mission focus and as a wellbeing space for their students. We were asked to assist with the building along with some Fijians who are also known to MMM. Sadly the Fijian family who were to come were not issued their travel Visas in time.

When our team arrived on the project the plan was to dig the holes for the foundation with the use of some gear from a local camp, but we quickly realized that it was not sufficient. We contacted a local operator, who arrived three hours later to do the job for us. He did in two hours what would have taken us days to do. We were very grateful to God for his timing. *Team Leader - Leif Pedersen, Luke Greenwood, Elliot Marshall, Luca Marshall and Mike Taylor*

Festival One, Karapiro



Festival One was a fun time of setting up and working with many other volunteers. It always amazes me to see paddocks being transformed into a village in a week, then hosting thousands of people, and three days later the place is back into paddocks. *Team Leader - Leif Pedersen, Bruce Clow, Geoff Crawford, Luke Greenwood, Janferie Hazel, Luca Marshall, Georgia Marshall, and James Pask*

Caversham Community Church, Dunedin

By the time we, (Gerrard and Femmy) arrived, a day and a half late, the work was well on the way at the church. Most of the scaffolding on the outside was up, and the water blasting had been done. Great! Chris and Rudy were relining the disabled toilet and fixing some water damage in the front wall and framing.

Willie and Andrew were screwing some of the stucco back to the weatherboard behind it, and about five church members had started painting outside.

Alan Mitchell (Team Leader), as usual, was trying to fix as much as possible while organising the team as well. Not always easy, but things were moving along well. Taking into account it was a hundred year old building, plenty of things needed attention.



We added the MMM scaffolding and ladders to the job and got stuck in as well, adding to the painting team.

One thing we had to take into account at all times was the fact that the church had public footpaths and a bus stop on the front and side of the building. We had gates on the side of the scaffolding and later, a permanent spotter by the cherry picker. But all went well. Many pedestrians commented on the colour change and the fresh new look of the church.

It may not surprise you to learn that on the few days of rain we had, the church found some internal painting that kept our paintbrushes busy!



A lot of volunteers could only stay for a limited time, Chris, Rudy and Andrew worked in the first week. In the second week, they were replaced by Mike and Rob from Waimate, and Pauline came down from Oxford to help out for three days as well. Jen and her father (Ross) came in a couple of times in the morning. But I take my hat off to the volunteers from the church; they had a dedicated team of at least eight people, who painted, helped with repairs and kept us well fed. Also helping were some

members from the Cook Island church, who share the building, and some members of other churches. They turned up out of the blue and gave a couple of mornings or an afternoon. A great blessing to see the Body of Christ working together. *Team Leader - Alan and Rosina Mitchell, Mike Arthur, Pauline Jeffs Chris and Jen McLean, Rudy Niekerk, Ross Pettigrew, Andrew Sterling, Rob Wilkins, Gerard and Femmy van Leeuwen, and Willie van t' Wout (Report by Gerard and Femmy van Leeuwen)*



Thanks MMM from the Caversham Community Church

We are an Open Brethren Heritage Church called Caversham Community Church. Now associated with CCCNZ (Christian Community Churches of NZ). We are a small congregation located in Caversham, Dunedin, which is a lower socio-economic area.

We are still in a building that was purchased from the Baptist church in 1908. The church building was built around 1886.

We asked for assistance from MMM because the projects we needed to do were just a little beyond us - actually very daunting. We were quite afraid of the costs involved in undertaking such projects in today's economy. As it turned out, enlisting the help of MMM was a huge success, not only because of the costs saved (scaffolding alone would have been a fortune), but also because of the huge motivating factor that we desperately needed.

Finance aside, it was great working with a team of fellow Christians. The small core MMM team that stayed for the two or so weeks were just the tip of the iceberg. MMM contacts came for anything from a day to a week. There were about 13 in total. Add to that the six or seven people from other local churches and the members of the Cook Island church which uses our building, along with the crew from our congregation and we had about 40 people volunteering their time. One day we had 18 people (who had come to serve) at the lunch table!



Did you know every Full-Time Volunteer with MMM has to raise their own support?

Yes, MMM volunteers testify to God's faithfulness in supplying their every need.

Our new Full-Time Volunteers, Steven Senn and Jeanette Russell are still seeking monthly support to meet their budget.

Please prayerfully consider donating to; 030442 0148838 00, reference **Senn** or **Russell**

All donations are tax-deductible,

TRIBUTES

Colin Robinson passed away on 2 of February. Colin and his wife Barbara (deceased) served with MMM from 1999 to 2005 as part of the Robinson and Robinson mobile team.



Colin was in his 60's when he began working with MMM. Most missions, Colin and his wife Barbara observed, wanted teachers, preachers, evangelists, doctors and nurses - no one wanted builders. But Colin came to understand that God wasn't asking him to preach or teach. But still Colin protested! "What is that in your hand?" God asked. "Building skills," was Colin's answer. "Well, that's what I need right here," was God's reply. Still Colin wondered, "Am I not too old to be starting

something like this?

"No," God said and reminded Colin that Moses was 80. So, in their later years Colin and Barbara sold their house, bought a caravan and set off volunteering with MMM. They loved it! It was incredibly fulfilling. Reflecting on their time with MMM, Colin said, "Those six years were some of the most fulfilling of my life, because I knew I was specifically using what God had put in my hand to serve Him."

Maryanne Foote passed away on 10 of February. Maryanne and her husband Stuart served with MMM from 1999 until 2003.




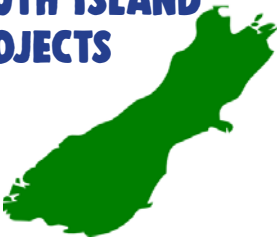


Initially it was Stuart who had the heart's desire to serve with MMM; it was with trepidation Maryanne joined a team. But once she had been to Fiji and discovered she could enjoy being on a team by supporting and encouraging others and creating an atmosphere of fellowship she returned and encouraged others to also go. Once they joined MMM

Full-Time, Maryanne helped in the office, coordinated overseas Mission Awareness Tours and Work Teams and was the Centre Hostess serving many a delicious meal and cup of tea. In 2023 Stuart and Marianne returned to Fiji with a team, where they got to serve together their adult children and grandchildren.

Upcoming Projects in NZ

YOU CAN JOIN!

 <p>NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p>	<p><u>3 - 14 March</u></p> <p>St Mark's Church</p> <p>Hamilton</p> <p>Replacing roof nails</p>		<p><u>17 -21 March</u></p> <p>MMM Centre</p> <p>Pirongia</p> <p>Painting roofs</p>
<p><u>24 March - 4 April</u></p> <p>Living Strong Ministries</p> <p>Hamilton</p> <p>Replace windows/Insulate walls</p>	<p>CREATE CHANGE!</p>  <p>JOIN AN MMM PAINTING PROJECT TODAY!</p>	<p><u>31 March - 17 April</u></p> <p>Jeremy Carroll, Student Life</p> <p>Glenfield, Auckland</p> <p>Painting house exterior</p>	<p><u>7 - 11 April</u></p> <p>MacCarthy, MMM Team member</p> <p>Painting house exterior</p>
<p><u>5 - 23 May</u></p> <p>Highland Home, Christian Camp</p> <p>Pohangina Valley</p> <p>Remodel pool area and other projects</p>	<p>Fellowship and food are a high priority at MMM; every day there is a devotion and prayer time!</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p> 	<p><u>2025</u></p> <p>Check online for upcoming South Island projects</p>

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YEARS ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

MMM AUSTRALIA

MOBILE MISSION MAINTENANCE

JOIN US AT OUR

CELEBRATION CONFERENCE

3RD - 5TH OCTOBER 2025

BELGRAVE HEIGHTS CONVENTION CENTRE

VICTORIA

SAVE THE DATES

more details to come

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

email: admin@mmm.org.au

OVERSEAS PROJECTS

MMM has other overseas opportunities this year

HONG KONG – May

to replace a staircase at High Rock Camp

TONGA – July

to build a church

FIJI

Register your interest

email: mmmnz@mmm.org.nz

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?
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WWW.MMM.ORG.NZ



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LUNCH MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEA PROVIDED

