

MMM New Zealand News

Issue 2 2024

mmm
Building...
Empowering People



**UPCOMING
PROJECTS**

p8

30

years

Register Now!

mmm

Anniversary Conference

18 - 20 October

Totara Springs Christian Centre
Matamata

p4



**SUPPORT MMM
FIJI**

p5



CONTACT DETAILS:

NEW ZEALAND

1 Kane Street
Pirongia 3802
Phone: +64 (0)7 871 9161
Email: mmmnz@mmm.org.nz
Web: www.mmm.org.nz
Bank Account: 030442 0148838 00
Westpac

AUSTRALIA

5/621 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham
Victoria 3132
Australia
Phone: +61 (0)3 9837 2700
Email: admin@mmm.org.au
Web: www.mmm.org.au

HONG KONG

Unit A 10/F Viet Luen Factory Building
126 Wai Yip Street,
Kwun Tong, Kowloon
Hong Kong
Phone: +852 2605 4813
Email: mmmhk@mmm.org.hk
Web: www.mmm.org.hk

FIJI

PO Box 225
Sabeto
Fiji Islands
office@mmmfiji.org
www.mmmfiji.org

SOUTH AFRICA

Postnet Suite # 115
Private Bag X1, Menio Park 0102,
South Africa
Mobile: +27 (0)76 2010499
Email: info@mmmsouthafrica.org

THAILAND

PO Box 103
Bandu
Chiang Rai 57100
Thailand
Phone: +66 (053)705 595
Email: mmmthai@mmm.org.au

ZAMBIA

PO Box 73624
Ndola
Zambia
Phone: +260 (0)974 998368
+260 (0)955 103343
Email: mmmzambia.office@gmail.com

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

5/621 Whitehorse Road, Mitcham
Victoria 3132
Australia
Phone: +61 (0)3 9837 2700
Email: terrence@mmm.org.au
Web: www.mmminternational.net

Printed by: SCG, 24 Norton Road,
Hamilton

Front Cover: Leif Pedersen lines up the piles
for the Hope Rising Farm,
Ngaruawahia, project.

LETTER FROM THE

Director June 2024



The leaves have fallen off the MMM grapevine in the orchard and so it's time for the winter prune. I enjoy tending to the grapevine, being part of the process from a lifeless looking vine, seeing the new growth form and the branches extend, the development of little bunches of grapes, keeping the branches trimmed to get the goodness of the vine moving into the fruit, through to a vine laden with grapes and enjoying their goodness.

It reminds me of the illustration that Jesus gives in John 15 being paralleled to our lives in Christ.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit.... Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me." John 15:1-4

Christ is the vine and we are the branches. A vine needs branches to bear fruit. But before we get all boastful about that, let's keep in mind a quote from Rev Andrew Murray, "A branch is simply a bit of wood, brought forth by the vine for the one purpose of serving it in bearing its fruit."

We have one purpose – to bear fruit. We have been redeemed to bear fruit for the vine and the purposes of the vinedresser. But we have no ability to produce that fruit unless we draw on the sap of the vine. We are absolutely dependant on the vine – the vine has the stores of life, the sap within it to flow into the branches. The branches are nothing and have nothing except what the vine provides. The vine is our source and our strength; it is strong, we are weak and nothing without the vine.

May we sense the sap of Christ flowing through us, empowering us for each and every activity.

You will read of God's good hand in people's lives and the bearing of fruit that we desire which has been enabled by the sap of Christ, and for the glory of the vinedresser – God the Father.

Howard Robinson
MMM New Zealand
Director

"Malcolm needed a holiday," was the answer Ave got when she asked Malcolm Ragg's wife Anne why they had travelled from Foxton to the South Island, West Coast projects. Malcolm is a small motors mechanic and runs his business from home so it's a bit hard to get away from work. Most wouldn't consider the work Malcolm put in on the projects "a holiday" but we are glad he did! Maybe it's true what they say, "A change is as good as a holiday!"

People volunteer on MMM projects for all kinds of reasons, some even for a holiday!



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:

- 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

Farewells and Welcomes

RICHARD CRAWFORD *Tribute*

Valued for his faith based common sense, Richard's passing is a big loss to the MMM Board. Lloyd Port, the Secretary of the Board, wrote the following tribute.

On 30 March, MMM New Zealand Board Member and friend to many, Richard Crawford, suffered a massive heart attack while riding a mountain bike and subsequently went to be with the Lord.

Richard had been on numerous volunteer projects, particularly in New Zealand and Fiji, and came onto the MMM NZ Board in 2007. He had recently shared that the slogan 'Serving those who Serve', summed up what kept him involved with MMM.

Richard brought an abundance of skill and competence to the Board Table, not only with his 'hands-on' building background and trade related acumen, but also governance experience. He had a clear understanding and distinction in governance and management matters.

Richard had integrity and commitment that has been widely recognised wherever he was involved. As well as his involvement with MMM, he was actively involved in his local church and community. These involvements included: the Fire Brigade, a Community Charitable Trust which runs various social enterprises,

The Community Board, and lately as a Councillor for the Maketu -Te Puke Council.

Richard had a special ability to connect and relate to people. He was also skilled at presenting ideas and vision.

There is a further quality that Richard particularly had - faith-based common-sense. Simply, he was a committed follower of Jesus. He understood 'Christian principles', he communicated and applied them in practical ways. Richard demonstrated much of Jesus in his daily life.

For those in MMM who knew and served with Richard, he will be greatly missed. We will not forget him and his valued contribution.

We from MMM New Zealand extend our love and support to Julie and their family. - Lloyd Port



STEVEN SENN *New Director*

The Board of MMM New Zealand is pleased to be able to announce that Mr Steven Senn has been appointed as the new Director of MMM New Zealand. He will succeed

Howard Robinson who is standing down after 11 years in the role.

Steven is a member of the C3 Church North City (Rototuna, Hamilton). He brings strong organisational, interpersonal and communication skills to the team, coming from the business and marketing sector but also involved in a not-for-profit organisation over the last few years.

Steven will begin a period of Partnership Development to raise his financial and prayer support to enable him to serve, and once he has raised his support, there will be a period of transition and handover.

MMM New Zealand is delighted that Steven has sensed God's calling which has led him to apply for and accept this role. We are confident that under Stevens leadership MMM NZ will continue to develop to the glory of God and successfully face the challenges of serving in the volunteer sector in the Christian community.

Please keep both Steven and Howard in your prayers as they face these significant life changes.

MIKE TAYLOR *New Project Coordinator*

Hi. I'm Mike Taylor. I'm pleased to have taken on the role of Project Coordinator.

I am from Hamilton; I have been married to my lovely wife Elisabeth for 39 years and we have four children and five wonderful grandkids. Elisabeth and I attend Agora Church in Hamilton.

I have been involved in the timber joinery industry all my working life, and owned and managed my own company for 22 years.

I have been involved with MMM for about 25 years, joining several overseas mission trips and served on the Board for a short time. I

have always been passionate about MMM and three years ago I felt strongly that God was calling me to sell up my business and work with MMM.

The physical work of working on the projects has been a nice change for me. I have the skills to do the role of Project Coordinator so when the position became available, I offered myself. I plan to still be involved with physically working on the projects when possible.



Conference

DAVE AND JUNE GENNARD *Farewell*

On 22 March MMM held a Farewell Dinner for David and June Gennard. Dave served as the Project Coordinator and June as Admin Support and Prayer Coordinator. We wish them well in their retirement. Left - their first project together in 2013 at the South Island Capernwray Bible School. Below - pictured with their farewell gift, a print of Mount Pirongia.

Dave - When God ends a season, you look back to see how far you have come. Back in March 2013 I wrote on my Facebook page the following: "I have just finished another two days helping out MMM at Freedom Church. It is great to work with your hands and enjoy some really good fellowship at the same time."

To see something come together as you work is very encouraging. It got me thinking why God sent Jesus to earth as a carpenter rather than a scholar! I wondered if it was something to do with molding

something wonderful out of us, that stubborn block of wood.

Since August 2020 when we relocated to Pirongia it has been a privilege to be one of the first contacts with ministries, churches, and camps who have

enquired about MMM helping out with a project; to answer their questions and walk them through the process of MMM helping their organisation. I have listened to them, considered their needs and tried to assist them either through processing an application or suggesting what they need to do to address their maintenance needs.

I have also been blessed and encouraged to get to know the many MMM volunteers, many of whom I now call friends. As 1 Corinthians 3:9-10 says: "For we are God's servants, working together, you are God's field, God's building." Like a skilled Master builder, we lay a foundation, and someone else builds on it. MMM lays the



foundation of a well-maintained building so our partners can use it to enhance the spread of the Gospel.

Thank you to all of you who put up with me contacting them repeatedly. Thank you for stepping up and volunteering your time to serve MMM on projects. During my time as Project Coordinator, with MMM, some three years and a half years, MMM volunteers have done some major projects and that is a true testament to the commitment of MMM volunteers. Some that come to mind are MAF in Tauranga, Samoan AOG in Hamilton, Vertical Horizons Camp in Taranaki and Celebrate Messiah in Punakaiki. For me, there are also some projects which stand out because of the people from the organisation: Hamilton South Baptist Church, Presbyterian Church in Katikati, and Tirau Community Church. These Churches truly take onboard the idea of partnership, stepping up with their members contributing significantly alongside MMM NZ.

June - During my time with MMM in Pirongia I have supported Ave Robinson in the many and varied tasks in the office and with hospitality. One of the areas I was responsible for was to put together the monthly "Prayer Force". I was continually surprised in the way God answered prayers on specific days a prayer was made. God's timing is perfect – there have been so many 'wow' moments. Thank you for all those who have faithfully come to the MMM Centre each month to help with the mail out. And, of course, a big thank you to all who commit to daily praying for the ministry of MMM; God does indeed hears the prayers of his people.

May God bless you all and guide you on the paths He wishes you to take. May He show you the wonders of His world.

- Dave & June Gennard



Totara Springs
Christian Centre, Matamata
18 - 20 October

See you there!

30 year Anniversary Conference

MMM is a Practical ministry, People ministry, Spiritual ministry and International ministry. This is why we have a Conference. MMM is more than a building. Conference brings to the fore why we do what we do. Yes, we are hands on; we are about projects and transforming buildings into useable space for Christian churches and ministries - but that's not the whole story. We are also about people, growing our Christian lives and we are bigger than New Zealand. All of this comes together at Conference! Conference is a great place to enjoy fellowship, learn together and meet some of the international team members. Here is a question for you,

Are you coming to conference? We hope to see you there!
Register at www.mmm.org.nz or scan the QR code on the back page.

Cost - \$100 with caravan/camper, \$80 children
\$120 camp motel/lodge accommodation



Update

MMM (Fiji) is about to enter a very encouraging and exciting time in it's journey in 'Serving Those Who Serve' in Fiji. Twenty years after committing to setting up and establishing an MMM Centre at the Sabeto Christian Camp near Nadi, an opportunity has arisen for MMM (Fiji) to relocate to a property not far from the camp. The MMM (Fiji) Trustees - with the full support of the MMM NZ Board, are looking at the suitability and viability of the property.

The offer of this farm to MMM has been a clear answer to prayer, but there are challenges to work through, a significant one will be

to ensure that suitable housing to meet the future needs of MMM are permissible for the type of lease the property is under.

Funding will be required, both for the purchase of the farm assets and the lease for the land, as well as to build the accommodation, so we will be looking to our Heavenly Father to supply our needs through our MMM supporters.

We trust you - our valued supporters - will join with us in prayer and with finances to enable MMM to establish a permanent Centre in Fiji.

We look forward to presenting more details in the next issue of our MMM News. - *Bruce Alchin, Chairman MMM (Fiji)*



The Pajero has been a faithful set of wheels for MMM Fiji for 15 years. But sadly, these days, it spends more and more time at the mechanic's garage than it does moving people and gear. It's time for an upgrade. An upgrade of a vehicle in Fiji will cost \$50k NZD. Can you help?

If you would like to donate to the property purchase, or vehicle upgrade you can make a donation to the MMM NZ Trust Fund account with Vehicle or Property in the details and we will ensure it goes to support a new vehicle or property.

Bank Acc - 03 0442 0148838 08

Teams are Good. Termites Are Bad

In April we had a small but skilled team of tradesmen join us for a week at Oasis Farm in Sabeto to help the fight against the relentless termite! Paul and Max joined us from Auckland and Jordi and Reuben came from YouBuild in Nelson. We are grateful for the ongoing partnership with this building company which is consistently sending us great builders. We also had Sevu, Kenneth, Liki and Roy on the job. The team was replacing doors, timber piles and cabinets affected by the termites as well as new gutters, drains, a concrete footpath and more.

We then had a team of six from Morrinsville Baptist join us for a week in May, completing 'Part A' of a larger maintenance programme for Sabeto Christian Camp - another team is scheduled there in August. The main task was demolishing and rebuilding the kitchen in the camp manager's house which was in a poor condition. This was a great project to have an electrician and a plumber for and we kept them busy in their trades at the house and with lots of general maintenance around the camp, which was a huge blessing. The mechanic in the team also did some work on all three vehicles we have in our care at the moment, which was amazing.



The Asian Subterranean Termite (AST) was discovered in Fiji in 2009 and is a growing concern, causing devastating damage to timber structures primarily in the 'red zones' of Lautoka and Labasa, but spreading to many other areas now, such as Sabeto. Basic knowledge on prevention and monitoring is unknown to those that need it most. Appropriate building materials (e.g. concrete piles) are not available and revised building code practices are not in place. They are typically found in colonies inside or near large trees and can forage up to 50m in all directions.

Recently we met with the Sabeto Christian Camp management in the unit there that MMM was based in until 2022. Roy was describing how it is hard to tell if termites are active in the building, but one way is to squeeze timber like architraves. If they have already been there a while it will be hollow. As he demonstrated this on the windows in the room, it disintegrated before us all and termites came out of the hole! It was completely unexpected to us, but shows how difficult it is with this issue. We had Biosecurity Fiji spray several windows and trees around the camp where we have found active termites but at the time of writing, the access point to the building and extent of damage is unknown.

Roy is in the process of implementing monitoring and baiting systems for Sabeto Christian Camp, Oasis Farm and several individuals we know who are affected. Please pray for success so that these ministries and people can find the sneaky critters outside the home and prevent future damage.

- Roy 'The Terminator' Hogan

FARMERS' FELLOWSHIP





Full-Time Volunteers on projects in New Zealand: Wayne MacCarthy, Marty and Robyn McKone and Leif Pedersen

PROJECT REPORTS

NORTH ISLAND

Ham South Baptist, Hamilton

This term started with a hiss and roar, and continued that way.

The MMM team and volunteers joined with White Wood Homes to build a huge deck for Hamilton South Baptist Church. What a great combined team that worked hard and well together, and played hard together. The reigning table tennis champion is Mason from White Wood Homes.

The job started with demolition of the old, almost dangerous, tiny deck and stairway, and moved from ground level up to a full huge deck, safety rails, stairs, concrete path, decorative slats and shade sails.

On this job we had the wonderful team along with the many church volunteers both on the job and providing great morning and afternoon teas and lunches. *Team Leader - Leif Pedersen, Bruce Clow, Elliott and Luka Marshall, Luke Greenwood, Marty and Robyn McKone, and Noah Van De Laak*



Totara Springs Christian Centre, Matamata



From Hamilton we moved on to Tōtara Springs, just outside of Matamata. This was a three week job where we stripped the wallpaper out of ten motel units of varying sizes and repainted the rooms. It sounds

quick and easy, right?! Not so much. First job, pull the outer layer of wallpaper off, next using spray bottles and steam pads, scraping all the under layer and glue off, sanding, filling holes, more sanding, cutting in and rolling the undercoat then two layers of top coat. Then came putting cupboards back on walls, screwing switches back on, cleaning and setting the furniture back up in the rooms. It looked



amazing once it was finished - but it seems we went too fast. We still had a few days left, so it was on to finishing the top coat on the sports camp office as well as some internal wiring, sanding down metal posts and repainting them. The project went well, with the team being joined by a couple of the Totara Springs maintenance staff. *Team Leader - Leif Pedersen, David King, Marty and Robyn McKone, Mike Taylor, and Noah Van De Laak*

Tirau Community Church, Tirau

After Totara Springs the team moved not far down the road to Tirau Co-operating Church. Their church is right in the middle of Tirau and right next to the bus stop where all the tourist buses park. At the back of the church is a large L shaped hall that was moved on to the property in the 80's. Painting the exterior was a huge job. We scraped, sanded and waterblasted, we undercoated and top coated, we cut in around a myriad of doors and windows. There was a huge amount of scaffolding in two layers. Part of the roof was replaced and some of it was painted. On wet days we moved inside and prepared and painted part of the kids area including brightly coloured doors.

The church members there were amazing. We had a crew of five regulars, mostly semi-retired farmers (because farmers never fully

retire) and a couple of others that came as often as they could.

The ladies each tried to outdo each other with meals and we had a lovely farewell dinner at the end. This community was amazing and we could feel the love that permeates from this church. *Team Leader - Leif, Lynette and Lucas Pedersen, Marty and Robyn McKone, James Pask, Mike Taylor, and Noah Van De Laak*



Te Awamutu Bible Chapel, Te Awamutu

From Tirau we moved on to Te Awamutu Bible Chapel or TABC. On this job we removed deteriorating "temporary" cladding that was installed 25 years ago. We added extra framing, builder's paper, reclad and built a portico out from the double doors. This area was also painted. Part of the buildings roof was also water blasted and repainted. We had good help from the church, especially during the school holiday period and the mostly ladies provided an incredible amount of yummies. *Team Leader - Leif Pedersen, , Noah Van De Laak, Marty and Robyn McKone and Ben Wooding (Although we're not sure if Ben was classed as a church member or MMMer!)*

It's been a busy few months but very fulfilling seeing so much get done for such amazing and deserving ministries.

- Robyn McKone

SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS

Karamea Community Church, Karamea

Sometimes MMM teams make the headlines of the local paper, as was the case in Karamea, a small town on the West Coast of the South Island. The article began, "If you have driven down Waverly Street lately, you may have seen an array of campers, caravans and vans parked around the outside of the Holy Trinity Church. Like me, you may have asked yourself, 'Who are these folk and what are the actually

doing there?'" So, I decided to pull over, park up and go find out for myself." It turns out it wasn't only the Editor of the Karamea Chronicle whose interest was piqued by our hard working team. One volunteer from the project was travelling back home to Nelson, and as he was travelling through Murchison, he felt he should stop off for an ice-cream. He didn't really feel like eating an ice-cream, but sensed he should stop at the ice-cream shop. While purchasing the ice-cream, the seller asked where he had come from. Being a keen MMMer he started to explain about the project in Karamea and volunteering with MMM. Suddenly the person behind the counter got engaged with the conversation, because, although Karamea was a two and half hours drive from this ice-cream shop, at the end of a dead end road, she had driven past that week and assumed someone had bought the building to live in and had their friends there doing it up! She was happy to hear it was still a church and was just having a needed make-over. Wherever we are serving we never know whose watching and wondering what is happening there!



This church is a little unique in that it was built as an interdenominational church and memorial to a shipwreck 150 years ago! The Karamea Chronicle article concluded by saying that, "... even the non-religious visitors and locals will appreciate seeing Karamea's little church all prettied up again, sporting its exterior makeover of pale blue accessorised with white trim and brand new grey roof." Well done to the nine volunteers on this project. - Ave Robinson
- Team Leader Alan and Rosina Mitchell, Ronnie MacArthur, Malcolm and Anne Ragg, Bob and Janice Thompson and Gerard and Femmy Van Leeuwen

Celebrate Messiah, Punakaiki



Celebrate Messiah Punakaiki is a backpacker hostel that cares for Israeli travellers that come here to stay. They share the gospel with them, befriend them and most of all make them welcome and celebrate their Jewish heritage. Our project was to re-clad the main accommodation building. Alan and I brought a heap of scaffolding from Waimate which came in very handy and saved money for the ministry. Our trailer was packed to the gunnels with scaffolding poles, the essential trail bike and kayak for weekend recreation and for the energetic, like Alan, night-time kayaking after work up the Pororari River. We were here about



a month and got heaps of work done. Thankfully we had many helpers. Alan and I arrived first, and got the project underway then others joined us for whatever time they could throughout the project. A guy from Greymouth and four of his sons came to help one Saturday. They read about the project in the Homeschool Newsletter and wanted to help.

There was a lot to be done, firstly removing all the cladding and removing windows.

Then it was onto re-cladding it all; there was scraping of old paint on the deck and eaves and heaps of insulation to be put in the walls before the new cladding went on. The old concrete block work around the base also needed a fresh coat of paint. The interior needed work as well. Chris did a lot of plastering and sanding and there were new windows that needed new beads and they all needed painting. The rooms downstairs needed new windows and the guys were also stripping off gib, fixing leaks and fixing the new windows into bathrooms and bedrooms.



Then Tom arrived when Alan needed help with removing all the screws from the roof and rescruwing the whole roof off, as well as giving it a fresh coat of paint.

Sophie and the girls there did a great job of feeding us and I got to bake morning and afternoon teas, which I feel is my gifting. We played games of Upwords in the evenings and gave Chris lots of laughs with Femmy trying to teach left handed me how to cast on the European way right handed. It was crazy, and sadly I think I've forgotten again, so more fun times ahead Femmy! The site is rather spectacular. I've always wanted to

have a bach by the sea but I came home and told the family. "That place is too close to the sea for my liking", which surprised them! We got it done before the worst of the weather came through so that was good. All in all, a great job done and dusted. - Rosina Mitchell

Team Leader - Alan and Rosina Mitchell, Mike Arthur, Malcolm McAlstair, Ken and Eileen Ogden, Chris Pynenberg, Malcolm and Anne Ragg, Howard and Ave Robinson, Tom and Erin Scott, Gerard and Femmy Van Leeuwen and Willie Van't Wout

Heartfelt thanks to our amazing volunteers!

Upcoming Projects in NZ

 NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS	<u>16 May - 14 June</u> Hope Rising Farm Ngaruawahia Assisting with building two office cabins and a large deck between them		<u>17 - 27 June</u> MMM Team Members Home Te Awamutu Interior painting of home
<u>June/July</u> Ngatiawa Retreat Waikanae Building access ramps		<u>1 - 12 July</u> Keswick Christian Camp Rotorua Building maintenance and painting	<u>15 - 26 July</u> Titoki Healing Centre Whakatane Building maintenance and painting
<u>5 - 16 August</u> CYC Ngaruawahia Renovating cabin doors and windows and repainting	<u>Sep/Oct</u> Orama Oasis Great Barrier Island Building maintenance and painting	 SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS	<u>Aug/Sep</u> Elim Church Christchurch Interior building and painting

SITUATIONS VACANT

Property Manager

The MMM Centre is located in the Pirongia village at the foot of the mountain. We are seeking someone to coordinate the maintenance of buildings, grounds, vehicles and tools at the MMM Centre. There is on-site accommodation available.

Hospitality Host

The MMM Centre is in the lush Waikato. We provide accommodation for our volunteers in furnished units and there is a caravan park. There is a part time role available in hospitality, greeting our guests and those that use the facility. There is on site accommodation available.

These roles could be combined and would suit a retired/semi-retired couple.

All positions in MMM are non-salaried, i.e. by faith. Our team testify to the faithfulness of God.
Will you trust him? Pray about it!
For more information contact: doug@mmm.org.nz, 027 455 0100

Anniversary Conference

18 - 20 October

Totara Springs Christian Centre

Have you served with MMM over the past 30 years? Come to Conference, enjoy some fun, some memories, find out more about MMM, catch up with 'old friends, make some new ones!



Scan me!

To register for conference, scan this QR code or go to;
www.mmm.org.nz.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?
CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE
WWW.MMM.ORG.NZ

Volunteers are welcome on projects. Just call Dave first to check the project is on schedule!
Thanks!



PHONE OR EMAIL DAVE: 021 272 1562
projects@mmm.org.nz
HELPERS WELCOME. CARAVAN PARKING AVAILABLE ON MOST PROJECTS