

# MMM New Zealand News

Issue 2 2021



## ISLAND ENCOUNTER

Go new places!  
Make new friends!

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Printed by: FusionPrint, 24 Norton Road,  
Hamilton

Front Cover: A photo from the Scripture  
Union (Ponui Island) project.

## LETTER FROM THE *Director* June 2021



As I was driving the other day, I was listening to a podcast that had a number of people being interviewed and one of them made an interesting statement that caught my attention. He said, 'Today is a great day to start; tomorrow is a day too late!'

Quite profound really. If we don't start something today while we can, we are already a day behind in the progress we could have made if only we had started. And if it is the important thing we should be doing, we are already behind where we could have been. Sadly, we don't have time in our days to start everything that maybe we would like to get into but we have to decide what are the important things that we should be doing.

We can have great intentions of doing something and in no time a week, a month, a year has gone past, and we have not started and the time is lost, but it is still not too late because the statement is still relevant – 'Today is a great day to start; tomorrow is a day too late!'

I can tend to procrastinate on tasks that I have to do, especially if the task is not something I like to do and other things can easily take my attention. We can do that with God – we may have a prompting in our hearts and minds about something; it's like God giving us a nudge and saying "it's time to start" or "it's time to give" or "it's time to go" and we fail to obey, we fail to start. Maybe we need more than a nudge, we need a boot up the backside. God is saying, "Trust me, I'm big enough. The eternal is more important than the temporal". James 4:17 says, "Anyone, then, who knows the right thing to do, yet fails to do it, is guilty of sin."

Sin is not just doing the things that are wrong, but not doing the right thing and fulfilling what God has created you to do – to honour him, to serve him. Obey the prompting of the Holy Spirit and don't wait till tomorrow for that is a day too late and a day that you are not sure that you will have.

'Today is a great day to start.'

*Howard Robinson*



### Congratulations!

We are excited to congratulate Ronnie McArthur on his engagement to Susan Keiller! Ronnie was featured in an article last year, he came from Ireland for two months to work with MMM and due to Covid has remained here. We wish God's richest blessings on Ronnie and Susan for their future!



### 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

# Project



With vans and cars loaded full to the brim with tools, food and belongings we were heading to meet the barge at Kawakawa Bay. This did not feel real. We were heading to a beautiful Island, Ponui. The home of 2000 kiwis, beautiful beaches, donkeys grazing happily around the Scripture Union (SU) campsite, tucked away and hidden from the mainland. This was going to be our home and work site for the next five days!

Our team of eight volunteers consisting of David Halse (Team Leader), Harvey Stewart from Scripture Union, Geoff and Christine Crawford, and Leif and Lynette, Lucas and Anita Pedersen, .

We met at Kawakawa Bay and loaded our belongings and the MMM van onto David Chamberlain's barge and sailed for Ponui, also known as Chamberlain's Island. The campsite has been on the Island for over 90 years and run by Scripture Union. It was fascinating to learn of the rich history of the camp and how God has developed the ministry over the years. There have been countless Gospel meetings and camps, all seeking to encourage believers in their faith in Jesus.

Our main job at the site was to prepare the kitchen for a new vinyl floor. We pulled out the old flooring and underlay, and installed new underlay ready for the vinyl. We also restored a couple of old kitchen work benches which had seen better days, replaced some weathered decking outside and some other small maintenance jobs. David and Geoff spent the last day helping the farmer, David, build some new dog kennels.

Some of our highlights from the five days were, accomplishing our jobs that SU had in mind for us to do; being able to help them practically so that they can use their time and facility to help spread the Good News of our Lord and Saviour. Another memorable moment we will not forget in a hurry was being woken at 2.30am by kiwis calling right outside our room. Since this was new to all of us, we set off in our PJ's with headlights on and climbed around the hills in search of the brown kiwi for one and a half hours! Being able to see them in their own natural environment was something unforgettably special.

Have you ever had a donkey in your kitchen? We have! Due to the floor repairs in the kitchen, our "kitchen" was temporarily located outside in the wash up area. The donkeys were free to roam in and out as they pleased, especially looking for any food scraps to fill their stomachs! This was exciting for Lucas and Anita to see. While they missed out on school for a week, the kids enjoyed helping where they could, painting the kitchen benches and doing dishes, then kayaking and fishing in their down time. This was their best week of "schooling" for a while!

It was a privilege to be able to serve at such a unique, beautiful location of New Zealand - peaceful and quiet. We even got comfortable with using long drops/bio loos and cooking on gas hobs or the old coal range. The coal-range consisted of two ovens. We were surprised to learn how efficient it was - a great piece of engineering!

We would love to encourage anyone who is reading this article to volunteer for a project and help serve the Lord and others in a practical way. God can use anybody. We all have different gifts; we are one body in Christ. -The Pedersen Family.



## Donations-changes concerning cheques

We regret to inform you that our bank will not be accepting cheques from 25 June. Gifts can be given by donating directly to our bank acc, 030442 0148838 00 or by going to our website, [mmm.org.nz](http://mmm.org.nz) and clicking donate. Donations give through the website incur a 4.4% fee.

Many thanks, in advance for your generous support. All donations to MMM New Zealand receive a tax deductible receipt.



Have you ever wondered why you should get involved?

## A WORD FROM OUR VOLUNTEERS

I serve with MMM because there are thousands of tradies out there who will build a house, fence or other project for a buck. I don't want to spend my life building for people, I want to build for God and his Kingdom.

Why would you recommend serving on MMM projects to others?  
When I compare serving with MMM to when I was in secular employment, I am finding the work far more enjoyable and satisfying! I attribute this to the fact that I'm not there to earn a living off a customer, but just to bless the receiving ministry with a really practical boost that would otherwise be a huge cost to them. I am able to approach a job and do it excellently, without the pressure of the commercial environment. - Roy Hogan, Full Time Team Leader



GIVE US A CALL!

I became aware of MMM way back when it first began in NZ with the Sundgrens promoting it. When I was working for the Waikato branch of the Bible College of NZ, we had MMM come in the early 2000's and take down a wall to provide space for students to dine and have easy access to the kitchen area, including the dishwasher! I recall Ian Cross and Stuart Foote worked on that project. We had MMM come back at a later date to put in a door elsewhere to provide easier, dual access to a cupboard/storage area.

And why do I serve MMM? I could say because I had my arm twisted up my back! However, I know I have the skills and knowledge to fulfil most of my current role so was happy to move into it on my retirement from full time paid work. - Betty Brown, MMM Accounts

NO EXCUSES

I first heard about MMM because someone I knew told me and invited me to join a team. I often think us telling friends and family about MMM and personally inviting them to join a team is the most effective way of growing MMM volunteers.

Moirs Point in Mangawhai stands out as an enjoyable, project as it was one that our whole family could easily connect with. It was fun staying onsite, living in community with a good team of volunteers, in an amazing lodge and being able to easily see the progress in the job. I enjoyed getting to know and support the staff. It was also a great place to explore outside of work hours.

What have I learnt while serving with MMM? That if you trust God by living out His plans for your life, He will sort the details. Things like our finances that were such a big deal before starting, God has covered. - Rachael Hogan, Full Time Volunteer with kids!



NO MORE EXCUSES

I heard about MMM at a Motor Caravan Rally.

I would recommend serving with MMM because of the satisfaction of doing something worthwhile, constructive while serving God and working with good Christian people.

I serve for the above reasons and because I enjoy it.

Projects are all different. Some memorable because of difficulties or bad weather or amazing food we were provided with or the wonderful people we met or beautiful views from where we worked. - Paulene Jeffs, Volunteer.

We heard about MMM from Peter and Kay Brown, (The Australian couple who moved to New Zealand in 1995 to establish MMM here) so that was a long time ago! It's only taken nearly 30 years to get to do some work for MMM!

It is a great way to use your practical gifts to help build the Kingdom. You meet wonderful people, both on the job and within the ministries you are assisting, and can feel useful even though retired. - Lionel and Ngaire Stokes, Volunteers

GIVE US A CALL!

I first heard about MMM from my in-laws in the 90's.

My most memorable project was helping at the Botany Life project where we took down a big wall and built a mezzanine floor. I enjoyed being able to be hands-on in some of the aspects of the actual build; cutting noggins etc., learning new skills.

I find it enjoyable because I'm able to serve those who are serving Full-Time and hearing about their mission/church outreach, sometimes just being a listener; seeing the joy on their faces as a team member completes even a small project like replacing a broken lightbulb. And we always enjoy the fellowship with the Team Members. - Colleen Stokes, Volunteer



# Be one!

When we lived in the UK, we supported and had joined a project run by Brass Tacks - a practical organisation.

When we arrived in New Zealand I looked around for a similar organisation. During a visit to Parachute Music Festival, we met Ian Cross who gave us information about MMM. We began receiving the newsletter in 2008.

It wasn't until 2012 that I went on a project at Ngatiawa River Monastery. I worked with David Halse, Ian Cross, Peter and Viv and another couple.

The next project was at Freedom Church in Porirua and this led us to start a Prayer Meeting to pray for MMM (Porirua Pudding and Prayer Fellowship) in our house.

The Ngatiawa project stood out because of the rhythm of prayer the Monastery operate. This really did bring something special to the working day.

Other projects that stood out because of those who joined the project were Capernwray, Geraldine where we met Rodney and Betty and reconnected with Pete and Viv, and Crystal Springs where we first met David and Val Holmes.

So there was a pattern to why we came back... respect for the full-time workers and their skills, the prayer and fellowship and the feeling you are making a difference for God's kingdom.  
- David and June Gennard, Regular Volunteers

We heard about MMM when reading an early copy of Outhentic magazine and saw an advert for MMM.....excitement began!

We would recommend serving on MMM projects because you meet new people, help on deserving projects, have great fellowship and awesome morning teas and lunches.

Our most memorable project was painting the Motueka Baptist Church - great church community who welcomed us so warmly, involved us in their life groups, study, and were involved in the project every day.  
- Peter and Andrea Cooper, Volunteer

My motivation to join in a project, is a means to serve and tour. Through MMM I am able to serve the Christian community and organize short tour trips in my motorhome either on the way to a project(s) or as I return home. I confirm the project with the MMM office, know all is supplied and that my contribution helps the 'light' shine.

Serving the Christian community through MMM has enabled me to engage in the practical aspect of maintenance of various buildings, to enable the 'owners' of such buildings to continue their particular aspect of being 'witnesses to the gospel' i.e. as a team member of MMM on the project, doing the practical work, I help keep buildings functioning so that the Christian gospel can be ministered to those who are invited to 'hear the Good News of being born anew into the kingdom of God' thus fulfilling my part in participating in the 'preaching of salvation through Jesus'.

I recommend to those who like being 'hands on' in their serving while at the same time have the reward of 'giving' to view the project locations, pick those of interest and enjoy morning teas, many yarns and ministry as a team!!! Many hands make maintenance ministry a joy!  
- Stephen Douglas, Volunteer



I enjoy serving with MMM because spending time with people is always good, but doing things and working together with others gives you some great experiences together and great memories. I also enjoy meeting others who serve in different ministries and being able to encourage them by doing some of their maintenance projects.

A memorable project was going to Ponui Island with my family to work at the Scripture Union camp. The good thing about it was that I got to take my family with me and work together with the team. We came away with some good memories of what we had done together while serving at the camp. - Leif Pedersen, Full-Time Volunteer



## WELCOME TO WAYNE

We are excited to be welcoming Wayne MacCarthy to be working with the MMM Full-Time Team! Wayne brings a variety of work experience and a desire to support others in their giftings.

**Tell us a bit about yourself, marriage, kids, past work experience?**

I am married to Vanessa and we have four children, the eldest is married and the other three are still at home.

I've worked in Christian Camping doing everything that it entails. I was into a lot of adventure sports and outdoor instructing. I did a few years working in joinery and cabinet making but after an accident I retrained as a chef. I went on to work in the Lake Taupo  
(Continued over the page)



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Christian Camp kitchen, later at a rest home in Hamilton and then supported a new preschool in Te Awamutu to get their menu and kitchen up and running. More recently I've spent 10 years working for the Corrections Department in the Bakery at Waikeria Prison, training inmates.

In 2019 God led our family to Cambodia. I was involved in various ministries using my cooking skills, but also my practical maintenance and joinery skills. We returned to NZ in March 2020.

#### How did you hear about MMM?

I first learnt about MMM 30 or so years ago working at Totara Springs when MMM came to help build the Conference Centre. I have also known Howard and Ave through Christian Camping and knew about their walk with MMM, living in their bus and going to Hong Kong.

When we came home from Cambodia, we were able to stay at the MMM Centre during lockdown and that was the beginning of this current journey.

#### Why does serving with MMM appeal to you?

I enjoy the practical side of it, and I am happy to work behind the scenes. I like to be able to support others in their ministries so that they can be more effective in their callings.

#### What projects have you served on and what did you do?

CYC Ngaruawahia, House of Grace, Narrows Park Christian Camp, Hamilton Christian School, Te Awamutu Bible Chapel, Hamilton Samoan AOG, Manawaru Bible Chapel and on-site at the MMM Centre. I have been building, renovating, finishing and painting.

#### What have you enjoyed about working on MMM projects?

The variety, the people and knowing that my work makes a difference. I like knowing the work I do supports the sharing of the gospel in local communities.

#### What didn't you like?

There are not enough hours in the day!

#### How has your relationship with God grown since working with MMM? Have you experienced any answers to prayer?

Serving with MMM is a continuation of the faith walk that God called us into years ago. We have seen God provide for us and answer prayer over and over again. I am reassured that God has gone before and paved the way.

I am encouraged spiritually by the devotion and prayer-time we have at morning tea, which often develops into stimulating discussion.

#### Have you learnt any new skills on a project?

I have revisited a lot of old skills that I learnt in the past, and am perfecting them as I go.

I'm enjoying learning about compliance with the current building standards, and working with men who have expertise in their trades.

#### What is the best thing about serving on an MMM project?

The people - the teams of volunteers, the volunteers from the

organisation and the communities that you work with on the job. The satisfaction of bringing a project to completion and knowing that you have supported a ministry to do what they do best is awesome.

#### Would you recommend serving on MMM projects to others?

Definitely. When we came back from Cambodia we thought it was only short term. I wanted to keep busy and be purposeful during that time and MMM was a perfect fit for that. Choosing to give time to serve the Lord in this way has been rewarding for me and I'm sure it would be for anyone else who chose to do so.

*Welcome Wayne and family- it is great to have you on the team!*



Wayne, Austin, Cameron, Brianna, Vanessa, Katie (Cameron's wife), Jordan.

*Calving Time is coming!*  
**CAN YOU DONATE ONE OF THESE?**

**MOO!** **MOO!** **MOO!**

MMM is very thankful for the funds raised through Farmers Fellowship which supports MMM's overseas work in Fiji and Zambia. If you would like to donate or graze stock, please contact  
**Maurice Turner 027 498 4993 or Doug Carson 027 455 0100**



MMM's Farmers' Fellowship provides financial support for the ministry in other countries. This past year MMM New Zealand has supported MMM Zambia with \$NZ 20,000 to get their facility upgraded to meet the current standards. They have been working hard to get the renovations done by mid June. In Zambia MMM runs a Vocational Training Centre (VTC), and the facility was overdue for an upgrade so now the classrooms are having ceilings installed, walls plastered, painted and glazed windows installed instead of breeze blocks. It is good to hear that an old student is helping with the upgrade because he sees it as an "opportunity to serve God." The VTC plans to be open for a new year of students in August.

Many thanks to those who give and graze stock for the Farmers' Fellowship allowing us to be there for the wider MMM family.





# PROJECT REPORTS

Full-Time Volunteers: Roy and Rachael Hogan, Wayne MacCarthy and Leif Pedersen.

Did you know MMM relies on volunteers? Currently we have amazing volunteers serving in the Waikato and that's great, but we have plenty of requests from other areas seeking MMM's assistance. We could do more, with more help. Do you have a passion to serve God and support Christian mission? Do you enjoy practical work? Do you live outside of the Waikato? Give Dave a call! 021 272 1562

## Carrolls' Student Life, Auckland

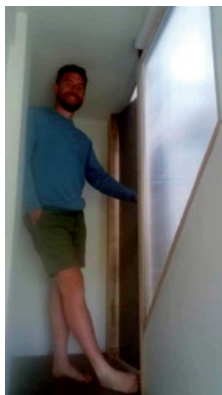


Dave Gennard, Brian Sullivan and Malcolm McAllister (Team Leader) were the three bathroommates.

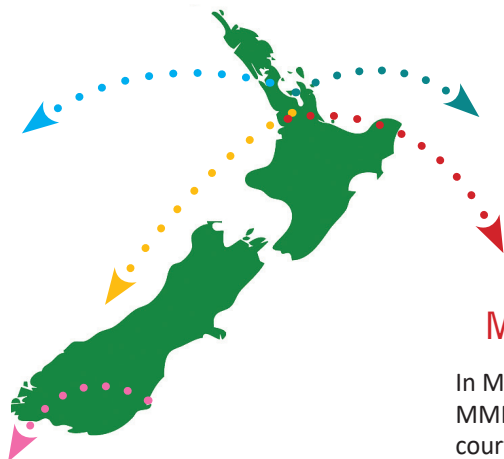
They demolished the Carrolls' (Full-Time workers with Student Life) upstairs bathroom in preparation for a complete makeover. They stripped out the old bath, vanity and toilet. They replaced the plasterboard, bathtub, toilet and vanity unit and brought in a tiler to complete the effect. The end result was good enough to go on a TV show!



## McKenzies' Student Life, Dunedin



The project was to install a door at the top of their stairwell to ensure warmth was kept in the right place for Cam and Grace McKenzie. It was great to have Alan and Rosina Mitchell serve on this project to get it completed.



## Samoan AOG, Hamilton

This 54m<sup>2</sup> extension project has been a large undertaking for MMM, which began in early February and has amassed 2,500 hours of labour from no less than 20 different individual volunteers (so far!). We have all been studiously working away on the addition of men's and women's bathrooms, a storage room, a new and extended kitchen and a larger, covered entrance (plus a lick of paint here and there). The project has gone smoothly on the whole (apart from the classic 'let's-redesign-the-foundations' trick that was played on us!) and in the coming weeks we will be doing the final fit-out of the kitchen and bathrooms.



The end result will be a huge practical improvement to how the church can operate and we're excited to see what's in store for God's ministry there! Team Leader - Roy Hogan



SEE THE  
BACK PAGE FOR  
PROJECTS YOU CAN  
SERVE ON.

## MMM Centre, Pirongia

In March, the team were busy at the MMM Centre laying cobblestones in the courtyard area and one day the concrete truck came and concrete was poured for new pathways, a concrete pad in front of the rebuilt shed and posts were put in to support the new retaining wall. There was plenty happening! Team Leader- Howard Robinson, Doug Carson, Dave Gennard, Wayne MacCarthy, Terry Meads, James Pask



## Ponui Island Scripture Union, Waikato


See article on page 3!

Serving those who serve...



# Upcoming Projects in NZ

 <p><b>NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS</b></p>	<p><b>31ST MAY - 15TH JUNE</b>  <b>SCOTT &amp; LORI SILSBEE (PASTORS)</b>  Rukuhia, Hamilton  Assist with renovations to a relocated house, changing windows and doors, internal remodelling.</p>	<p><b>16TH JUNE - 9TH JULY</b>  <b>KAUAERANGA VALLEY CHRISTIAN CAMP</b>  304 Kauaeranga Valley Road, Thames  Bathroom renovation, tiling of floors, fencing and possibly build a cabin.</p>	<p><b>12TH - 16TH JULY</b>  <b>JEREMY &amp; LANNY CARROLL</b>  Auckland  Bathroom renovation for Student Life Workers.  <b>NOTE - MORNING AND AFTERNOON TEAS AND LUNCH PROVIDED ON MOST PROJECTS.</b></p>
<p><b>24TH JUNE - 9TH JULY</b>  <b>TAUWHARE GOSPEL CHAPEL</b>  778 Tauwhare Road, Waikato  Renovations to Youth/Sunday School building. Replacing windows and doors, lining, finishing, painting, paths, installing spouting and downpipes.</p>	<p><b>16TH AUGUST - 3RD SEPTEMBER</b>  <b>HAMILTON SOUTH BAPTIST CHURCH</b>  131 Ohaupo Road Melville  Replace flooring in church, repair weatherboards, internal gib replacement and painting.</p>	<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b>  <b>KERIKERI BAPTIST CHURCH</b>  41 Hobson Avenue, Kerikeri  Church toilet renovation including building disabled persons' toilet.</p>	<p><b>20TH SEPT - 15 OCT</b>  <b>LUI AND ANA PONIFASIO</b>  South Auckland  House renovation - replace cladding, insulate, install windows, sort out issues with covered deck.</p> 
<p><b>11 OCT - 22ND OCT</b>  <b>ORAMA OASIS CAMP</b>  Great Barrier Island  Paint the main building and accommodation areas.  <b>Are you ready for an island adventure? Come along and bring your paintbrush!</b></p>	<p><b>SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS</b></p> 	<p><b>OCTOBER</b>  <b>TASMAN BIBLE CHURCH</b>  6 Williams Road, RD1, Upper Moutere, Nelson  External painting and lower roof, repairs to internal ceiling.</p> 	<p>Don't put the camper away just because summer is over! Come join an MMM project!</p> 




**GIVE US A CALL!**

I heard about MMM when a team came to our church to paint the building. I enjoyed being part of the church team helping with the job and was fascinated by the commitment to service of the MMM people.


I would recommend serving with MMM to others because it is such fun being able to use my small talent to help others. I am a keen amateur handyman, and love to watch the experienced MMM'ers solving problems and doing a professional job - a very educational time for me. Also, I meet the most wonderful people on the jobs, both clients and volunteers. We have a lot of fun and fellowship, and finish up with a sense of accomplishment of a job well done linked to wonder at the Lord's generous provision.

- Malcolm McAllister, Volunteer




**GIVE NOW!**

**VOLUNTEER NOW!**



**LEND A HAND!**



Would you like to know more?  
Check out our website  
[www.mmm.org.nz](http://www.mmm.org.nz)

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



PHONE OR EMAIL DAVE: 021 272 1562

[projects@mmm.org.nz](mailto:projects@mmm.org.nz)

HELPERS WELCOME, CARAVAN PARKING

AVAILABLE ON MOST PROJECTS