



St Paul's Presbyterian Church
"Partners in God's Mission of Love"

NEWSLETTER – June 2023



"Do this in remembrance of Me."

Service of Holy Communion

Sunday, 11th June 10:00am. Please accept this as a personal invitation to be present.



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Editorial

Pam Clare

Did you know that the Taradale Cemetery in Puketapu Road has a Presbyterian section? We were there on a still blue Sunday afternoon to locate the headstone of a young Scottish minister. “*Rev Samuel Douglas. Who was drowned near Napier. Asleep in Jesus*” reads the inscription. He had been swept away in the disastrous 1893 Hawkes Bay floods while visiting in his large rural parish extending from the north of Napier to Meeanee and Taradale.

One hundred and thirty years and so many floods later, (1893, 1897, 1924, 1938, 1970, 2018, 2020, 2023....), Jill McDonald, our interim moderator, writes of the founding of a faith led community initiative, Bridging Hawkes Bay. This need arose following the devastating impact of Cyclone Gabrielle on so many individuals, communities, businesses and livelihoods and the prevalence of significant mental health and emotional needs. St Paul’s Parish Council and congregation wanted to make a meaningful contribution to the relief effort and have contributed \$1,340 to this rural chaplaincy focused initiative, the church having matched individual donations dollar for dollar.

The Moderator in his Pentecost message also speaks of mental health and wellbeing issues, and the impact on our young people. Jill McConnochie recalls the three years that she and other women from Hawkes Bay Presbyterian served on the National Executive of APW (PWANZ from 2012). Finally, we remember the full and well lived lives of Owen Brown and Ian Finlayson.

Pentecost Message from the Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand

Right Rev Hamish Galloway

This month the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission released the results of a new study that speaks about the causes of the high levels of stress, anxiety and social isolation impacting our young people. One of the four causal factors they identified was intergenerational disconnect!

It used to be that the church was a primary place of intergenerational connection in our society. That was certainly my experience as a child and young person at Hoon Hay Presbyterian Church! It was a common story of big Sunday Schools, youth groups and Boys' and Girls' Brigades often led by our parents – we young people developed special helping connections with the older members of the parish. And this was part of a bigger story in Aotearoa as Presbyterian men and woman, empowered and led by the Holy Spirit, planted this huge network of churches, social service organisations and schools that is the Presbyterian movement in this land.

But times have changed. Part of that change is the increasing level of hostility towards the church in the younger generation. Certainly, as I move around the country, I see a huge network of Presbyterian churches who are struggling to connect with young people. This is so challenging at many levels.

So, what has Pentecost and the Holy Spirit got to do with that? Well, the early church context was also hostile and challenging! Yet, fresh from the jaw dropping spectacle of Jesus risen from the dead, the early Christians had a compelling story for the telling. And then the book of Acts tells of the added injection of the Holy Spirit. Spirit-filled and Spirit-led action dominated the

life of the fledgling church - and they met hostility with resilient love that spurred spectacular growth in spite of the challenges!

We too are people who carry the story of the risen Christ; we are people of the Spirit. As we reflect on the needs of our young, and the exciting narratives of the early church and our Presbyterian heritage in this land, may our hearts cry out for the Holy Spirit to do a new thing with us! The Scripture that most speaks to me about this right now is Ezekiel 37. As the prophet wandered despairingly among the dry bones of his people, the Lord empowered him to bring flesh and breath to those bones. As we survey the dry bones of despair in our youth, may we too listen carefully to the call of God to be bearers of God's hope-inspiring message and life-giving Spirit to a new generation.



Pentecost Flowers by Rae Wildbore 2022

The Moderator, Rev Hamish Galloway, has written to inform the Church that Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand has reluctantly decided to formally wind up, as of 30th June 2023. This has followed much prayer and discussion and two national PWANZ meetings to vote on, and confirm, this decision. To read the full article, see www.presbyterian.org.nz.

From the Interim Moderator: Bridging Hawke's Bay

Rev Jill McDonald

When Cyclone Gabrielle hit New Zealand in February 2023, it devastated and impacted so many individuals, communities, businesses and livelihoods throughout Hawkes Bay.

A committed and passionate group of people have partnered together to address the long-term needs of our community through this recovery journey.

Numerous bridges were destroyed or damaged leaving people in rural communities to fend for themselves and isolated.

While some Bailey bridges have been built to reconnect our communities physically, these are only temporary and there are still significant time additions for travel.

We are conscious that many of our flood affected neighbours are hurting, broken and lost. For some, this will take many years to overcome.



Tragically, there have already been a number of suicides that are directly related to the cyclone. Significant mental health and emotional needs are prevalent and are only expected to remain heightened for some time. There has also been a spike in family harm which is expected to remain high for the next four years.

To help in the healing of people in this region, we have founded a new faith led community initiative called Bridging Hawkes Bay.

We learned in the days and weeks after the cyclone how important bridges are. Numerous bridges were destroyed or damaged, leaving people in rural communities isolated and fending for themselves. While some Bailey bridges have been built to reconnect our communities physically, these are temporary and have limitations.

We know that the full recovery through the impacts of the cyclone will take years.

We also know how much we, as human beings, need to feel connected, treasured and loved and how important that is in the healing of our community. The name ‘*Bridging Hawkes Bay*’ was inspired by Joy Cowley’s beautiful poem “*The Bridge*”¹ describing how we are called to be a bridge to others in their time of need.

*There are times in life
when we are called to be bridges,
not a great monument spanning a distance
and carrying loads of heavy traffic
but a simple bridge
to help one person from here to there
over some difficulty
such as pain, fear, grief, loneliness,
a bridge which opens the way
for ongoing journey.*

¹ Joy Cowley, *Aotearoa Psalms: Prayers of a New People*, (Catholic Supplies, New Zealand, 1989), 20.

Bridging Hawkes Bay sends people of faith out into the community to connect, listen and support those who are hurting. Volunteers will be empowered, supported and trained in psychosocial first aid, active listening, emotional wellbeing as well as the theology of chaplaincy and the resources that are available for cyclone-affected whanau.

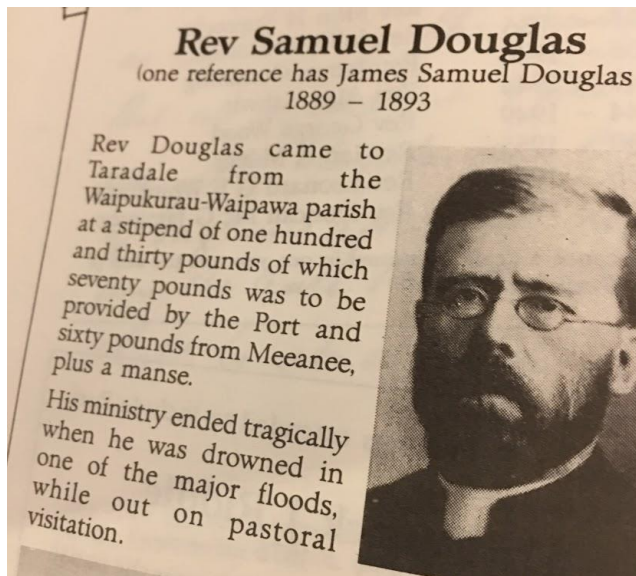
In the short-term, Bridging Hawkes Bay is being operated out of St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Hastings but we will be partnering with other churches around our province in order to support our community. If you want to know more, please contact Rev. Jill McDonald jill@standrewshastings.org or 027-407 0489.



From the Archives – Drowned near Napier

Pam Clare

While attending a service at Napier North (Knox Church) shortly after Cyclone Gabrielle, it was mentioned that one of their early ministers had drowned during the 1893 floods. This was before Knox Church was built in 1896, and he had had a large country district to cover, extending from the Port to Meeanee and Taradale.



Papers Past provided a name, Rev Samuel Douglas, with headlines from the New Zealand Herald on Tuesday 6 December 1893 proclaiming “Sixty Miles of Country Inundated.... A Clergyman Drowned.... Serious Loss of Life Feared.... Bridges

Destroyed.... Railway Traffic Stopped....Enormous Loss of Stock”. It describes “the most disastrous flood ever recorded in Hawkes Bay, the whole low-lying country between Napier and Ormondville being affected”.

Much of it reads as scarily relevant to our recent experiences. Following heavy rain, the Tutaekuri, Ngaruroro and Tukituki rivers all rose “with phenomenal rapidity” with families spending the night on roofs and farmers at Meeanee sailing boats among ruined potato and hay crops. However, those north of Napier were little affected, with the Taupo coach getting through without difficulty.

Three deaths were recorded, among them, the minister for the Port and Taradale parishes. “The Rev. S. Douglas, Presbyterian minister, wished to get to Taradale, and accepted a lift on a butcher’s cart. At the low part of the road the current was so strong that the cart was overturned, and Mr Douglas was swept away to sea”.

Who was Rev Samuel Johnson? He is remembered in the publication “A Second Glance”, a history of St Columba’s, Taradale, by Nancye Munro and John Boyd.

“He came to Taradale from the Waipukurau-Waipawa parish at a stipend of one hundred and thirty pounds of which seventy pounds was to be provided by the Port and sixty pounds from Meeanee plus a manse. His ministry ended tragically when he was drowned in one of the major floods, while out on pastoral visitation”.

The Napier City Council Cemetery database contains the following information. Rev Douglas, aged 39, was the son of Samuel and Martha née Gaw. He was born at Dalbeattie, Scotland, and had lived in NZ for 11 years. His occupation was Presbyterian Minister. A death notice was published in the Daily Telegraph on 11 December, 1893 and the date of interment was Tuesday 12 December, in the Presbyterian section of Taradale Cemetery. The inscription on his headstone reads:

Rev Samuel Douglas

Late of Dalbeattie, Scotland.

Who Was Drowned Near Napier

On 5 December 1893

Aged 39.

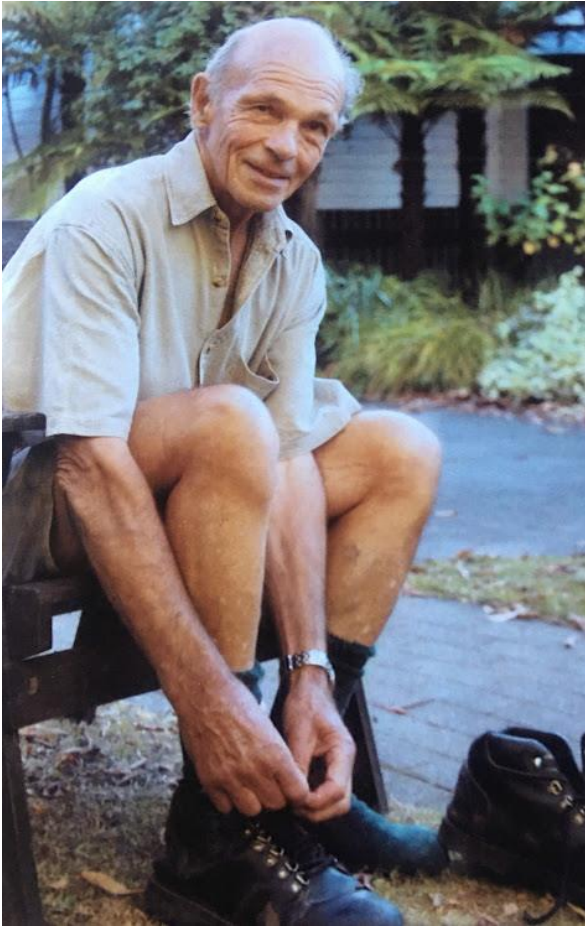
Asleep in Jesus



Remembering Owen Brown

22 May 1930 – 20 April 2023

From the eulogy given by his daughter, Kerry Brown



Owen lived in Gore for his first twelve years, his father a bank manager with the BNZ and his mother a music teacher. A transfer to Hokitika resulted in music lessons with a piano teacher, playing rugby, and joining bible class, church, and Boys' Brigade. The family moved to Christchurch and it was at Christchurch Boys' High School where Owen's interest in geography began and where one of his teachers encouraged him to go on to Canterbury University where he achieved an MA with Honours, majoring in Geography.

When in Christchurch, Owen would attend concerts with his mother and sister when his father was away on banking business. Owen got involved in the local repertory and his interest in classical music evolved at this time. Whilst at Canterbury University, Owen and a group of friends planned a 25-day cycle trip around the North Island leaving from a Bible Class camp in Masterton and cycling to Hawkes Bay, up the East Coast, on through the Waikato and up to Auckland – and back. At the age of 20, Owen and his university friends tramped the Milford, Routeburn and Hollyford tracks and Stewart Island.

This was followed by a skiing trip to Arthur's Pass and a tramp around South Westland.

After graduate teacher training in Auckland, Owen was accepted to his first teaching position at Napier Boys' High School in 1953. After four years teaching there, his love of travel took him on his OE trip by ship to Australia then to England where he taught at a Secondary Modern School in London, bought an Italian Lambretta scooter, and travelled Europe. Following his time overseas, Owen returned to Pahiatua to complete his three years of country service in a rural school where he met Janet, teaching together at Tararua College for three years.

Owen had a trip to Alaska and Canada during an extended school holiday period. His last leg home involved a flight to Honolulu, then to Auckland; an overnight train to Palmerston North, a railcar to Pahiatua where he dropped his bags and arrived for a day's teaching at school! He always said how it made for good conversation in the classroom!

It was back to NBHS in 1961 four years later where Owen was appointed a teaching position and house master at Scinde House. Owen and Janet married in 1964 and started their family a year later having Kerry then Craig. They had many good friends and neighbours during their life in Napier and Owen also made numerous friends through his many interests. These included the Port Ahuriri Bowling Club, St Pauls Church, NZ Forest parks and Mountain Advisory Council, Heretaunga Tramping Club, Amblers Walking and Cycling group, Scinde Lodge No.5 where he was also the organist for them and other lodges. He had a 70-year association with St Paul's from 1953, when he accompanied NBHS students to services before joining himself, serving as an office bearer on the Board of Managers for 30 years.

Owen joined a NZ Walkers tour and travelled to Canada in the 1990s to tramp the Canadian Rockies. At the age of 87 years, he was still tramping into the local Kaweka and Ruahine Ranges where he had taken hundreds of NBHS students over the years.

Education was a big part of Owen's life, having taught at NBHS for 33 years. He also taught Community Education Classes and classes at the Napier Prison and later the Mangaroa, HB Prison. After his retirement from NBHS in 1990, he carried on with community education classes and community tours in and around HB, sharing his love of the outdoors and knowledge of the area. He had an extensive knowledge of education in general and an interest in people, places, and things.

Owen was a man of integrity; a loyal man, a wonderful friend, colleague, committee member, father and grandpa.



Remembering Ian Finlayson

11 December 1939- 28 April 2023



From the eulogy given by Ian's son, David Finlayson.

Ian was born on Auckland's North Shore in 1939. The family moved to Napier when he was nine and he enjoyed his days at Marewa School, Napier Intermediate and Napier Boys' High School. His working life began as an Insurance Agent at NZI and MLC, where he and Dorothy met, and they were married in 1965. David, Gina and Leigh were born during the 1970s and after more than 30 years in Insurance, 1992 saw a career shift when Ian and Dorothy bought the Spanish Lady Motel in Kennedy Road which they operated until their retirement in 2008 to McNaughton Place.

Throughout his life Ian had many hobbies and interests including a long involvement with the Napier Harriers. He joined the Napier Harrier Club as a 15-year-old in 1954 culminating in 69 years associated with the club. He served as treasurer and secretary, and was president for ten years. He was made a life member in 1999 and was also an executive member and a long-standing patron of the Hawkes Bay Gisborne Centre. Harriers was a big part of his life, not only for the competition and fitness, but for the lifelong friendships he formed. He was also involved with the Bledisloe School Committee, Te Awa Swimming Club, and Taradale Rotary Club.

Family, travel, food and drink brought Ian enjoyment, often combined on trips to Australia, Canada and Scotland, and many trips to America to visit his three grandsons, and David and Janet.

Finally, but most importantly, Ian was true to his Faith. He served on Board of Managers at St Columba's, Taradale, and at St Paul's, where he was Session Clerk for five years, and last year was honoured to receive Elder Emeritus status. He demonstrated true Christian living by his commitment to Dorothy, his dedication to family, and his loyalty to friends. Glory be to God for Ian's wonderful life, and I pray that he is now enjoying sunny days having a yarn with friends and family, hopefully telling them some new jokes, or at least ones they haven't heard for a while, and resting peacefully.

Rev Sally Carter's memories of Ian:



Ian was Session Clerk when I was called to St Paul's in 2011. We would meet regularly to catch up on what was happening in the parish and through him, I came to know a lot about the people and the ins and outs of parish life. He and Dorothy were warmly hospitable and it was a pleasure to go to their place for a chat - not usually very short! Whenever someone came up in conversation, Ian would have a connection with them – “Oh I went to school with him (or her), we used to play in the cul de sac, I knew him from Harriers” - you get the picture. Those connections were a very important part of Ian's life and remained significant even as he became less sure in his memories.

Ian cared greatly about the parish, about the wider church and about the community. He was a very faithful and loving pastoral visitor - the connections he had meant that he could touch into people's memories and have conversations which both Ian and those he visited enjoyed. I remember that he told me he sometimes found himself visiting with Marie Geddis at a time when a glass of sherry (or port, or something!) was on offer. Ian found great joy in his love for Dorothy, who first caught his eye when she was a young girl on Ian's insurance route. That love extended into a deep love for his family who loved him back! It is Ian's cheeky grin, his warm connection with people and his commitment to the organisations he belonged to that I will remember most, as well as his friendship and support as I started to find my feet in the life of St Paul's. Thank you, Ian. Rest well.

Parish Register

Diane Hardie born 7th July 1938 and died 30th March 2023. Diane's funeral service was held at St Paul's on Wednesday, 5th April 2023 at 10.30am.

Janice Frances Donghi born 26th September 1934 and died 6th April 2023. Janice's funeral was held at St Paul's Church on Wednesday 12th April 2023 at 2pm.

Owen Hudson Brown born 22nd May 1930 and died 20th April 2023. Owen's funeral was held at St Paul's Church on Thursday 27th April 2023 at 2pm.

Ian Keith Finlayson born on 11th December 1939 and died 28th April 2023. Ian's farewell was held at St Paul's Church on Wednesday 3rd May 2023 at 11am.

Our loving sympathies go out to the families of Diane, Janice, Owen and Ian.



Who's on 'Keith's Seat'?



Jill McConnochie

Following on from the last issue, where I expressed my sadness that the PWANZ is to cease operation, Pam has asked me to recall the time Hawkes Bay Presbyterial served as the National Executive of the Association of Presbyterian Women (APW). So here goes - From Hawkes Bay Parishes came our President Gladys Mead, Vice Presidents were Sheila Jamieson and Jeannette White. Jeannette was also the convener of the Prayer and Study Dept. I was the Secretary, Rae Wildbore was Treasurer, Pauline Bristow was Minute Secretary, as was Shirley Goss, after Pauline died, and Heather Turner liaised with other Presbyterians. But Jeanette Luxton, Mission Convenor came from Rotorua, Margaret Ranby, Harvest Field Editor from Palmerston North, and Helen Burney Parish and

Community Convenor from Feilding. This team of the ten of us were elected at a conference in Timaru in April 1988.

The outgoing Executive from Southland presented themselves as a “Cricket Eleven” departing the field, and we were a “great bunch of Hawkes Bay Fruit” ready to serve for the next three years. The Timaru Choral Society sang a song on the Conference Theme “Standing Tall” written especially by Margaret Ranby to the tune “Woodlands”.

We met monthly over the next three years for our meetings, and I recall a retreat at Waipatiki being a special time when we stayed in two comfortable holiday homes, one of them belonging to Eleanor and Warwick Holmes.

Rev Michael Thawley, our Chaplain at the Conference held in Hastings, led the Communion Service which we found particularly moving, for at the conclusion of the Service and after partaking of the elements, attendees came to the front where Elders gave them a small piece of fish and spoke the words “Feed my Sheep”, before folk left the Church.



Presbyterian Women's Missionary Union of NZ 1906, became APW in 1963, PWANZ in 2012

Regular Events

Care and Share: Held on the 3rd Monday of the month from 1:30pm in the Church Lounge (February – November)

Lunch group meets monthly on the 1st Friday of each month at noon for food and fellowship at various venues around the city

Jitterbugs Pre-school Music and Movement each Tuesday from 9am (during the school term).

September 2023 Newsletter

The closing date for contributions to the September newsletter will be **Monday 21st August 2023**. Please forward articles to **Pam** at pamclare@xtra.co.nz or **Bridget** at the church office. Details below.

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