

A photograph of the Te Waiora house, a long, single-story building with a white roof and brick walls, surrounded by greenery and trees. The text "TE WAIORA NEWS" is overlaid in large blue letters.

TE WAIORA NEWS

Rest Refreshment & Renewal

www.tewaiorahouse.org.nz

October 2020

Annual Thanksgiving Service

Sunday 1st November : 2:30pm

The service will be held in the nearby Hororata Anglican Church followed by afternoon tea in the Te Waiora house. A chance to praise God, connect with others and see what has changed at Te Waiora since you were last there.

Everyone is Welcome.



Introducing our new Chaplain - Paul Eden

(He should be familiar to most)

It was in the mid 1990's when I was first invited onto the Te Waiora Trust. At the time I was an associate pastor at Spreydon Baptist Church, now South West Baptist. A few years later my wife, Jo, and I moved to Wellington to the position of senior pastor at Miramar Baptist church. Our connection with TW was put on hold until 2014 when, now back in Canterbury, I was invited back onto the Trust. Jo and I have had an interest in the mission of TW for many years, believing it is important to have places of retreat where people can rest and experience healing and refreshment in God's presence. In 2016 I became unwell and had to let go of my responsibilities at TW and the

church I was pastoring. Now having recovered to the level of wanting to support the ministry again, the Trust invited me to be involved as chaplain.

I see the chaplain's role as supporting the Trust and Hosts through listening, prayer, and being actively involved in events as appropriate. Recently at a Trust planning day I led a reflective time, then facilitated the day. The annual thanksgiving service is another regular event that the chaplain facilitates. I like to keep in touch with the issues, joys and concerns of the Trust and Hosts, so attending Trust meetings, when they are held in Hororata, is helpful.

Jo and I live in Staveley, at the foot of Mt. Somers. We live in an historic cottage, built in 1875, which we share with many travellers from NZ and around the world (when the pandemic allows it). Jo loves gardening and selling plants. We both enjoy writing, and I have recently completed a book reflecting on ministry burnout and the part Gods relentless kindness plays in its prevention and healing. We worship at Mt. Hutt Elim church and value our church family. We have three adult daughters who now have their own families who provide us with much enjoyment.



Jesus said : Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest (Matthew chapter 11)



From The Chairperson

We've had a crazy mixed up sort of year with Covid-19 affecting all of us, so what a blessing to know that God is unchanging, and that his faithfulness is a constant. Te Waiora has been blessed by God again this year, and I can speak from personal experience when I say that guests also have been blessed by spending time there. Mikyla and Nathan are doing an amazing job in making people feel welcome and ensuring they are well fed and looked after, as well as attending to the myriad of tasks associated with managing the house and property.

We are very grateful to Paul Eden for agreeing to step up as our new chaplain, and he's already planning our annual Thanksgiving Service which is being held on 1st November at 2.30pm. (More details elsewhere in this newsletter.)

The board, along with our hosts, had a very profitable planning day recently where we took a step back to review the purposes which are part of the trust deed which was revised in 2012.

These include the establishment and conduct of a retreat facility, the teaching and promotion of healing in its widest sense, encouraging cooperation between the church and the medical, nursing and allied health professionals, and such other charitable activities as the trust may decide (abridged). One of the outcomes from the planning day is that we are already in discussion with others about running a healing course at Te Waiora. And we are also going to be advertising for assistant hosts so that guests are able to stay for longer without compromising the time off that our hosts need.

Once again we have been blessed by the generosity of our supporters and volunteers, both with their time and their money, and above all else with their prayer support. Your prayers have been answered in so many ways by our ever-faithful God. Thank you!

Wishing you every blessing in Christ.

Alison Jephson



Feedback from some of our most recent guests:

I loved it and will definitely be returning, for longer! Such modern, clean, spacious facilities with perfect combo of private space, public/shared spaces, amazing food and wonderful, caring hosts. Being fully catered including morning and afternoon teas felt such a treat, and the way (the Hosts) served me, showed interest in me, yet respected my space all contributed to it being very restful and enjoyable. *RL*

I had an incredible time of being cared for and resting. I'm leaving feeling nourished in body and spirit. *JM*

What an absolutely amazing place!! Incredible facilities and grounds and the hosts Nathan and Mikyla (sorry if I've spelt that wrong) are totally amazing - such lovely people. They see a need almost before it's there and quietly fill it so that everything is very smoothly run. The peace that permeates the whole place was tangible. And the prayer hut; I can see why people book just that room. Can't wait to go back for another visit! *JR*

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

The harvest is plentiful, and the workers are few. Do you have half a day or a day a week to spare? Would you care to invest in a Kingdom work and use that time for the glory of God? Have you considered joining the team Te Waiora as a regular volunteer? There are countless ways in which your time, skills and energies could be a blessing to the guests at Te Waiora House. Some examples include: tending to the many flower gardens, vegetable gardens or orchard. Assisting with catering, cleaning, and maintenance of the house and property, relieving or assisting the Hosts with caring for the guests. Please contact us on 03 318 0789, via tewaiorahouse@xtra.co.nz or Facebook Messenger (search for Te Waiora House) and talk to us about how you would like to get involved.

Have you been to our website or facebook page? Like or follow us on facebook to get up to date news

www.tewaiorahouse.org.nz

facebook: [Te Waiora House](https://www.facebook.com/TeWaioraHouse)

Share us with others



Mikyla and Nathan

And from the hosts

What a faithful God we serve. Despite the unprecedented times, the last few months have been overflowing with signs of God's grace and favour over Te Waiora House.

A significant blessing for Te Waiora has been the work done on the construction of a much needed garage, to replace the garage that was converted to a bedroom in the staff flat. The reassembly of one of the two garages that were very kindly donated to Te Waiora House, has been a significant project for the House over the last few months. In working bees at the start of July and September, a large group of volunteers committed many hours towards getting this garage to the point of almost being complete. Over and above the time and expertise generously given by a number of volunteers, including our builder, a number of other companies with no prior ties to or knowledge of Te Waiora House, very kindly donated their resources and time to provide essential Health and Safety resources for the project. This does not do justice to all that was volunteered and donated,

however we would like to offer a huge heartfelt thank you to everyone for all that they were able to donate to us, and for their invaluable support of the work and ministry of Te Waiora House. THANK YOU!

God has been bringing many guests to spend time at Te Waiora House in the last few busy months. It has been our pleasure to host a number of individual guests and groups from church and non-church organisations at the House, and August especially was quite a full month. As always, he has been pouring His blessing upon all of the guests, and we feel privileged to be a practical part in His ministry here at Te Waiora House. You will find feedback from some of our most recent guests later on in the newsletter.

Te Waiora House hosted a Praise and Worship Evening recently, which we are hoping will become a monthly event that anyone can attend. What a gift it was to be a part of the varied group of people who spent some time in fellowship around food, joined together in song and prayer to praise God, and to lift up to him the needs on our hearts. If you missed out, but would be interested in being a part of this monthly event, never fear! We are intending on holding one on the fourth weekend of each month, where possible. If you wish to come to the next one on Saturday 24th October please let us know by Thursday the 15th of October, for catering purposes.

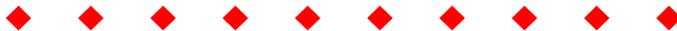
We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all of those who partner with us in furthering the ministry of Te Waiora House. From baking, cooking, hosting guests, to gardening and mowing lawns, to joining in our prayer ministry, and to supporting the ministry with finances. The Te Waiora House ministry is always made richer by what you our supporters are able to bring to it, and the way in which we serve the Kingdom of God alongside one another. Once again we acknowledge that this does not do justice for all that you do, but please accept our huge and heartfelt thank you for all that you do to support this ministry. THANK YOU!



Finally, as we go through spring, we have continued to be surprised and blessed by the splashes of colour God keeps bringing out of the gardens. Spring is a beautiful season at Te Waiora House, and God keeps reminding us how incredible an artist He is. Though we have included a few photos as a small snapshot for your enjoyment, we can never fully capture the real experience of such beauty, so please take the time to book your next retreat and come and experience this part of paradise for yourself.



Bless you all, until next time! Mikyla & Nathan.



Announcing the winners of the Bedroom Naming Competition

In our June newsletter, we announced the start of a competition to name the bedrooms of Te Waiora House after South Island rivers, with Maori names – in keeping with the theme of Te Waiora House's name. We would like to thank every one of the participants for their time in collating a list of names.

Our winning entries consisted of a detailed list of names, name meanings, reasons for each name being chosen, and a scripture to accompany the names. Our warmest thanks and congratulations go to Kathryn Thorne and Jonathan Rumens, who placed equal first for the entries they submitted. Our warmest thanks and congratulations also go to Murray Gee, who placed a close second with his entry of names. All winners were awarded a package of Te Waiora House baked shortbread prepared especially for them.

The names will soon be inscribed onto name boards for each room, and the name meanings, and scriptures explained in each room's welcome booklet, for guests to read and reflect on as they choose. Our hope is that this will be another instrument through which God blesses each guest who stays at Te Waiora House.



Kathryn Thorne



Jonathan Rumens



Murray Gee



The Trust is very thankful

Thankyou to all those who kindly donate to the ministry financially or as volunteers. Thanks again to ReachOut Press who print this newsletter and David Beckwith (builder of the garage).

We would also welcome more monthly financial contributors if you are able, as this enables us to better plan and budget for the future. Contact us if you would like to help or want to contribute. There is another garage that was gifted to Te Waiora we would like to re-build if you can help.

Notice: We are closing our PO box!

All future mail to be sent to
Te Waiora Christian Trust,
236 Hororata Road, RD2 Darfield 7572

Te Waiora, Living Water

A poem by Jo Bean

For Life, for health
Poured out for all -
Life giving, living water.

For healing, cleansing
never - ending -
Life giving, living water.

Sparkling, joyful,
Abundant and musical
Life giving, living water.

Soaking it up, saturated,
Going deep, deep down -
Life giving, living water.

Rising anew, a calling to pursue
Life giving, living water.

Contact Us

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Vouchers

Vouchers can be purchased from Te Waiora House and are an ideal gift or thank you to somebody who could benefit from time at the House, or a special appreciation for service given in your church or com-

DONATIONS AND GIFTS TO THE MINISTRY (Please specify if your gift is for a specific purpose **)

Name **

Address

Enclosed : \$.....

An annual receipt will be sent after 31 March, but please tick here if an immediate receipt is required: ()

Please send to : Te Waiora Christian Trust, 236 Hororata Road, RD2 Darfield 7572

Direct Credit / Automatic Payment: **03 1704 0014464 00**

Please email your name and address to Te Waiora for direct credited donations so we can provide you with a receipt.