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**Church office & worship: 172 Hinemoa Street | [www.onewacc.org.nz](http://www.onewacc.org.nz)**

## **Newsletter: July 2025**

### **Minister's Message**



#### **Te Kāhui Whanaungatanga – Bringing People Together**

The following article titled 'The Symbol of Gorse' was included in the Northern Presbytery Business Meeting (15 June 2025). Te Kāhui Whanaungatanga is more than a committee - it's a movement within PCANZ. Grounded in te ao Māori, it fosters connection, presence, and shared vision across worship, leadership, and Church life. As we move toward General Assembly 2025, we expect to see its influence grow. At its heart, Te Kāhui Whanaungatanga is about building strong relationships - by playing, praying, working, and belonging together.

#### **The Symbol of Gorse**



Gorse is an exotic weed and an incubator for native seeds. First introduced by our pioneering European ancestors, gorse flourished in the full sun and rapidly became rampant. What began as a boundary marker and windbreak is now a costly weed to control. In 1987, Dr Hugh Wilson (a



botanist and the son of a Presbyterian minister) began a small ecological restoration project on 109 hectares of gorse infested, marginal hill country on Banks Peninsula. 37 years later, the Hinewai Reserve has become 1250 hectares of flourishing native bush, which stops just short of the sea through the work of Dr Wilson and the Maurice White Native Forest Trust. Dr Wilson and those he worked with were wise, though unconventional – ‘fools and dreamers’ some said.

Rather than battling against the gorse – burning or bulldozing it – they left it well alone. “It is an ecologically well-known fact that gorse is a pioneer succession plant”(Wilson). Interestingly, the dense gorse gives self-sown native seeds a place to germinate and grow. The little ones are sheltered from harsh sun, (and) strong winds and protected from possums and other pests. As they grow they shade the gorse, slow its growth and eventually replace it. Something is dying. Something is rising. What if we, the Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand, more intentionally incubated and nurtured indigenous forms of the life of faith? What if our pioneering work was the stuff of fools and dreamers? What if we remembered the contribution of our Presbyterian forebears – imported boundaries makers, ways of being together – but relinquished the rules and ways of the past that no longer serve as they were originally intended? Poipoia te kākano, kia puawai – Nurture the seed, and it will bloom.

**Rev Jin Sook Kim**



# Kids Eco Church

Kids Eco church has been off on another adventure! This month we all enjoyed Point Break: beach clean-up at Little Shoal Bay. Reacher grabbers at the ready, we collected all the plastic, paper, cans, metal and other bits and pieces down around Wai-Manawa (Little Shoal Bay). The tide was high and the day was sparkling with the backdrop of beautiful boats, the harbour bridge and the city skyline.



After collecting a reasonable amount we stopped for a quick ice cream (plastic free) on the way home. We can't wait for our next exciting adventure!"



*Look at all the rubbish we collected!*

# WINNER OF KIDS PHOTO COMPETITION

We are delighted to announce the winner of round 2 of the kids photo comp (Scavenger Hunt event) is Maggie.

Maggie wins a \$30 Paper Plus voucher.

Well done Maggie, our judging panel thought your picture was gorgeous!



## ECO KIDS EVENT!

Sunday 6 July 2025

Meet 9:30am @OCC, 172 Hinemoa Street

(runs 1—1.25 hours)



## Sprouts & Sprays

FREE  
EVENT



Create your own **mini garden** to take home

Mix up some magic planet friendly cleaners

Enjoy a **free hot chocolate**



Round 4 of our Kids Eco Photo Comp:

**Win a \$30 Paper Plus Gift Card!**

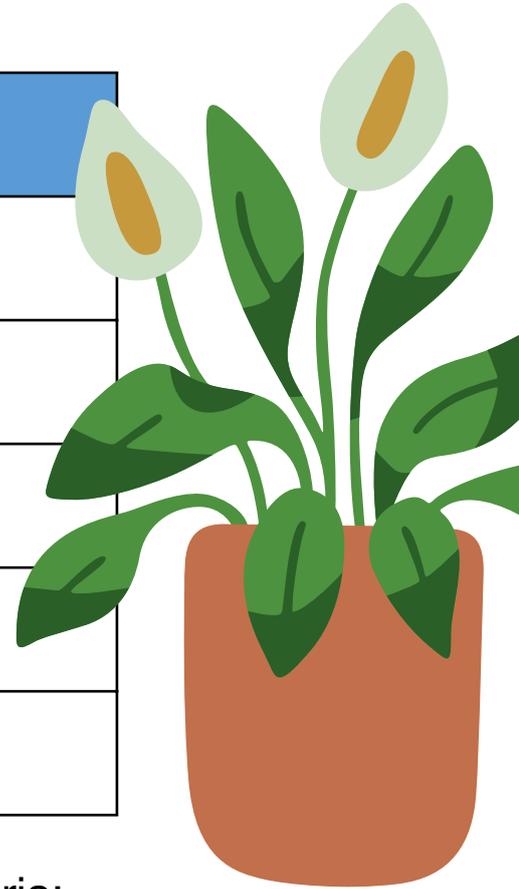


# FRESH AIR PLANTS

## From John Railton

I found the following plants for providing fresh air to progress our journey along the Eco Church track.

Plant	Scientific Name	Rating
Lady Palm	<i>Rhapis excelsa</i>	8.5
Bamboo Palm	<i>Chaemaedorea seifrizii</i>	8.4
Rubber Plant	<i>Ficus robusta</i>	8
Peace lily	<i>Spathiphyllum sp.</i>	7.5
Boston Fern	<i>Nephrolepis exaltata</i>	7.5



The above ratings are based on the following criteria:

- Removal of chemical vapours
- Ease of growth and maintenance
- Resistance to insect infestation
- Transpiration rate

Formaldehyde is the most common toxic gas found in households and the best plant for removing this is the Boston fern. The best plant for removing Ammonia is the Lady Palm. The best plant for removing acetone (found in vehicle exhaust, nail polish remover) is the Peace lily.

The above is taken from 'How to grow Fresh Air by Dr. B. C. Wolverton'. The author researched the best plants for a breathable environment for a NASA lunar habitat.

## MAINLY MUSIC BIBLES



The Bibles which members of our congregation helped to fund late last year have now been distributed to families who attend our sessions.

As part of the organisation's 35th birthday celebrations a special edition of a Children's Bible has been printed. After 3 weeks of singing special songs that were requested by members, we had a celebration morning tea complete with a birthday cake. At the conclusion the Bibles were given out, one per family. A special citation was placed in the front acknowledging the contribution made by Mainly Music team members and the OCC congregation. We hope that they will become family Bibles used by the children in each family who have received them and that they will remind them of their time here with us for many years to come. Thank you to everyone who help us raise sufficient money to ensure that there were enough Bibles to go around and to those who pray for our sessions regularly. Without the prayers and blessings of you all we wouldn't be able to continue with this special work.

**Pauline Fish**



## Bible Talk Suppers with Bible 52 – July reading plan

BTS will meet at 5 pm on 27 July (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday) at the church lounge on Hinemoa Street. We'll have a light supper, share our reflections, and learn from one another. All are welcome



### Week 1 (21) – Proverbs 3

Additional readings: Deuteronomy 18:1-5, John 14:6

Memory verse – Proverbs 3:1-2 (write the verse below and memorize it for reflection)

### Week 2 (22) Ecclesiastes 3

Additional readings: John 12:20-36, John 16:33, 1 Corinthians 12:9-10

Memory verse – Ecclesiastes 3:11 (write the verse below and memorize it for reflection)

### Week 3 (23) – Isaiah 9

Additional readings: Isaiah 61:1-4, Psalm 2, John 3:16-21 Memory verse – Isaiah 9:2 (write the verse below and memorize it for reflection)

### Week 4 (24) – Isaiah 53

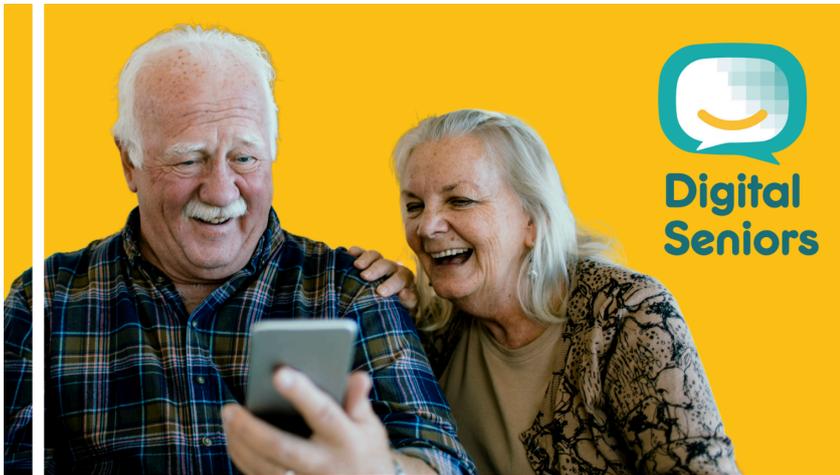
Additional readings – Isaiah 52:13-15, Matthew 8:14-17, Romans 3:21-26

Memory verse – Isaiah 53:5

# Digital Seniors at OCC

Are you over 65 and do you have questions about using your phone, laptop or tablet? The wonderful Digital Seniors volunteers will be joining us for a couple of sessions over the school holidays because a giant whale will be in their space at the library!

Take advantage and come along to ask anything you like about using your digital device. It's free and the volunteers are lovely, friendly and patient people! (Our new Community Engagement Lead, Sarah, also works for Digital Seniors and she can attest to how awesome they are).





**Are you a senior who would like some free support with your digital device?**

Where	When
Onewa Christian Community, 172 Hinemoa St	Thursdays 3rd & 10 <sup>th</sup> July

Bring your device along to a Digital Seniors hub to learn at your own pace with one-on-one help from our friendly volunteer coaches!

**No need to book, just turn up!**

Closed on Public Holidays  
[www.digitalseniors.co.nz](http://www.digitalseniors.co.nz)  
0800 373 646

Devonport-Takapuna  
Local Board  
Auckland Council

C H ● R U S

**Kim Bulluss** will be back on practicum from 23 July and offering free counselling sessions on Wednesdays from St. Aidans. Please share information with any friends or family who might find these useful.

# Free Counselling

I am a student counsellor from MIT (Manukau Institute of Technology). As part of my third-year practicum, I am offering free, confidential counselling sessions on Wednesdays (97 Onewa Rd), or by appointment online.

**To book, or for more information  
contact Kim on :**

 **0274 190 134**

 **counsellingwithkim@yahoo.com**



# LOVE GAMES? INTERESTED IN PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE? ARE YOU KEEN TO DO MORE?

If you were affected by the floods a few years ago, you'll be aware of the need to be prepared for climate events. The team from Weathering Tomorrow Together have adapted an Australian board game to be relevant for our area. The game helps people to experience adverse events in a safe way to enable them to think about how they might get better prepared and ways to mitigate some of the changes through looking after Creation.

The game is being played by people from all walks of life in our area and we are looking for people to take part on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

We will be playing the game over 3 hours and then there will be lunch and a chance after lunch to share ideas of how we might make some changes in our area to better prepare as well as to be more proactive in minimising our impact on the planet.

If you are keen to take part, please get in touch with Sarah via email on [sarah@onewacc.org.nz](mailto:sarah@onewacc.org.nz)



## KAIPĀTIKI COMMUNITY – WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

JOIN US TO PLAY A CLIMATE RESILIENCE CHALLENGE BOARD GAME - BASED ON OUR LOCAL AREA!

Weathering Tomorrow Together

PICTURE THIS: A WILDFIRE STARTS IN ONE OF OUR LOCAL RESERVES. SPOT FIRES ARE STARTING & SMOKE IS BEING BLOWN ACROSS OUR HOMES, VISIBILITY ON ROADS IS AFFECTED, AND YOUR NEIGHBOURS NEED HELP. WHAT WOULD YOU DO? HOW WOULD OUR COMMUNITY PULL TOGETHER?

WHAT WILL HAPPEN?

- YOU'LL JOIN 19 OTHERS & PLAY WITH A TEAM OF 3 OTHER LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS AROUND A DETAILED MAP OF KAIPĀTIKI.
- YOU'LL FACE REALISTIC SCENARIOS BASED ON CLIMATE SCIENCE PROJECTIONS
- YOU'LL MAKE STRATEGIC DECISIONS ABOUT PROTECTING THE PLACES AND PEOPLE YOU CARE ABOUT MOST
- YOU'LL LEARN FROM NEIGHBOURS AND DISCOVER RESOURCES YOU NEVER KNEW EXISTED
- AS A RESULT, YOU'LL HELP SHAPE A STRONGER, MORE CONNECTED COMMUNITY WITH GREATER RESILIENCE

**WHERE & WHEN?** SATURDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> JULY, 9AM-2PM  
172 HINEMOA STREET

**INTERESTED?** EMAIL [COMMUNITYENGAGEMENT@ONEWACC.ORG.NZ](mailto:COMMUNITYENGAGEMENT@ONEWACC.ORG.NZ)

VISIT [WWW.WEATHERINGTOMORROW.CO.NZ](http://WWW.WEATHERINGTOMORROW.CO.NZ) FOR MORE INFORMATION



# ONEWA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Council is delighted to have Sarah Thorne joining us and leading the community engagement charge. Her presence and her contributions are already being appreciated gladly. Sarah has lots of great plans in the pipeline including community engagement initiatives that also bring an environmental focus. Council is very happy with all the community events that continue to flow.

Cathy has since spearheaded another successful event - Matariki Crafts with local children. She is also developing another initiative to meet up with other Churches, organisations and community groups to discuss the possibility of a Night Shelter on the North Shore.

## ECO CHURCH INITIATIVES

Lots of Eco Church initiatives are continuing around OCC and we have lots in the pipeline. A food scraps bucket has been arranged for OCC and for the other Churches and users of our Church building. Small environmental steps can make a big difference.

Kids Eco Church has been helping clean up Little Shoal Bay with their latest event, Point Break. It was again marvellous to be out and about helping the environment in our local community. The next Kids Eco Church event will be Sprouts & Sprays. Do you know any young people who would be interested in creating their own mini garden to take home along with natural cleaners? Then invite them along to Church the 1st Sunday in July!

If you are interested in helping out with any Eco Church initiatives or you would like to be part of the Eco Church Team then please touch base with anyone from Church Council.

# ONEWA CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY CHURCH COUNCIL REPORT CONT'



## **BUILDING MATTERS**

Thanks to David and his team for the continued marvellous work on the buildings including the windows and the stained glass window. A report showing all the detail of what has been achieved will be prepared. There is also to be some new and improved signage to the Church building.

## **PRESBYTERY**

Our Presbytery people attended a full day meeting with Coastal Presbytery a few weeks ago. There were lots of reports, lots of discussion and lots of

connecting. Among other things presented, OCC presented a proposal regarding tax and a statement about peace in Gaza which was noted.

## **PASTORAL**

We ask that you remember in prayer all those who are part of our Onewa Christian Community and other friends who are unwell or needing extra prayers for other reasons. We think about our friends who are travelling and hope for safe and happy journeying for them.



# **A NZ that Demands Attention: Findings from the Salvation Army State of the Nation Report 2025**

**A talk by Rev Dr Bonnie Robinson**

**Justice and Research Stream Lead and Director  
Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit of the Salvation Army**

**Thursday 21 August at 7.30pm**



Bonnie has had a long career in the social services sector and was awarded a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in 2023 for her services to seniors and social services.

Additionally, she is currently the president of the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services. In addition to management roles at CEO level, Bonnie has also worked in social policy and research, with a focus on social justice issues.

Bonnie is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church. Bonnie's doctorate focused on values-based decision making at a governance level. Bonnie is married to Rev Brett Johnstone, and has two adult children.

**Entry: by donation**

**Venue: 130 Remuera Road, Remuera**

**Register: [pamela@stlukes.org.nz](mailto:pamela@stlukes.org.nz) | 09 520 0740**

## Roster for the month – July 2025

Date	Elder	Door Duty	Prayer	Reading	Morning Tea
6 July	Robin Baxter	Karen Davies	Robin Baxter	Karen Davies	Jocelyn C/ Barbara Westra
13 July	Jocelyn C	Colin Reid	Jocelyn C	Colin Reid	Elizabeth Wong/ Robin Baxter
20 July	Community Breakfast				
27 July	Rachel Hurr	Margaret Larsen	Rachel Hurr	Margaret Larsen	Barbara Wadams/ Linda Buckthought

\*Serving elders for communion: Pauline F/ Jocelyn C/ Cathy F/Rachel H

**THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING  
YOU DO, TEAM!**



### Eco Church Activities

Join us every first Sunday of the month for our Eco Church Activities!



Together, we'll care for creation through meaningful, eco-friendly initiatives. Everyone is welcome!

Let's make a difference—one Sunday at a time!  

**We love it when you send us stuff!**

**News and opinions for the newsletter always welcome:  
please think about contributing for next month's edition.  
E-mail all articles to Sarah ([sarah@onewacc.org.nz](mailto:sarah@onewacc.org.nz))  
by 25th of the month**

## **OCC values**



### **Community**

**We focus on people, personal connection and treating everyone with respect in practical ways ('manaakitanga').**

### **Diversity and inclusion**

**We want to reflect and support the community around us.**

### **Open heart / open mind**

**We make space for personal and spiritual growth. We promote real and meaningful connection with others.**

### **A living faith**

**Active faith begins at the point where certainty ends. A living faith involves faith in oneself, faith in others, faith in the future and faith in God.**