



# CHRIST CHURCH ~ taitā

## WELLINGTON REGION'S OLDEST CHURCH

### Preservation Post

Newsletter of the  
Christ Church Preservation Society (Inc.)

Issue 77 – March 2023

### Upcoming Events: Church of Tonga Service – Every Sunday

**Greetings, here is the latest Christ Church news.**

#### From the President

Mary and I were reminded on Wednesday that, although the seasons change, the charm and beauty of the special place we share at Christ Church remains constant.



We spent a few hours clearing the area near the children's graves, including trimming and removing convolvulus, liberating the camelia hedge which was getting out of control. We enjoyed the company of our special volunteer, Adrian Broad, who now acts as liason with the

Corrections team whose "clients" are doing a great job of keeping the churchyard in good order. Our professional gardener, Teresa Greally, is also working very efficiently to maintain the gardens, particularly the roses.



Tracey Buick and Daphne Daysh have been busy with arrangements for a good number of weddings, while more work has been done on refinement of the website. A working group of Anne Irwin, a past president, Janice Henson, past secretary and Bruce Hutton are currently preparing a draft record of our story for inclusion in the Hutt City heritage plan.

However, there is so much more to be done if we are to keep Christ Church at the level of presentation and preservation we all wish for. Therefore it is imperative that all families associated with the church continue to look to the ways they

can help, whether by way of doing things on site, undertaking other tasks in support of the Society, joining the committee or giving financial support. In particular, families can pave the way for more participation by signing up the younger generations with life or annual membership. Membership forms are attached with this newsletter.

I do hope that the visitor centre project can be a stimulus for more interest in Christ Church, with a particular emphasis on education of younger generations about the settler community and its interaction with Māori.

Later this year we will have our Annual Service and AGM. We would like to continue the telling of the story of a family as the centre piece of the celebration. If your family would like to offer itself as the subject for this year's gathering, with a speaker or more, please let me know.

Finally, a special thanks to our editor, Margaret Hutchings, for putting together this issue of Preservation Post.

John Stevens,  
President

## Visitor Centre Update

We understand that the Christ Church Cottage Museum Trust, which is developing the plan for the visitor centre, has applied to the Hutt City Council for a variation of the building consent by moving the building further away from the northern boundary, so avoiding the cost of firewall protection on that side. The building will also be two metres closer to the road and the existing amenities block will remain intact. Otherwise the plan is the same as previously approved by Heritage New Zealand, the Diocese and the Preservation Society. Further, we are assured that a building contract at a price within the funds available has been negotiated. HCC has refunded its consent fees to further support the project.

Hopefully the consent variation will be processed without further delay and this project can proceed in the current year.

## A word from Colin Barnes

Rev Colin Barnes, vicar at the time of the fire at Christ Church, was a visitor to the



grave of his wife, May, with his two sons, on Christmas Day and is shown with volunteer supporter Adrian Broad.

Colin, who was until recently a frequent visitor to the graveyard has

sent the following message.

As I am no longer able to drive I cannot get to the events at Christ Church but I still hold the church in great affection and am so pleased that the Preservation Society cares for it so lovingly. I am also glad to hear that the church is being used regularly by the Tongan Christians. They worshiped in our Parish Hall when I was Vicar of Taita.

Our very best wishes to you, Colin.

## Bruce Routley Remembered



Long standing and enthusiastic supporter of Christ Church and the Society, Bruce Routley, was last month

remembered by his family, a good number of whom had travelled from Australia. Bruce's family were members of the congregation when his parents were farming nearby in the Valley.

A service conducted by Rev John Daysh was followed by interment of ashes in a niche adjoining that of his daughter Wendy and the 'Wendy seat' she donated before her death. On a beautiful day, the family gathered with a number of Bruce's

former staff of his Dominion Bus business they had invited to join them.



## **Weddings**

***January 6th 2023  
Erin Chamley and Alan Healey***

***January 28th 2023  
Kathryn Leach and Matthew Reweti***

***February 25 2023  
Brianna Bartley-Harrod and Adrian  
Widdicombe***

***Saturday 18th March 2023  
Katie Watling and Seamus Murnane***

## **Bequests for Christ Church Taita**

Including a bequest for The Christ Church Preservation Society is a wonderful way to honour those who have gone before us and to ensure that we can continue to preserve and develop Christ Church.

## **Ashes Wall**

A niche in our Ashes Wall costs just \$750.00 plus GST. For further details email: [info@christ-church.org.nz](mailto:info@christ-church.org.nz).

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