



Alpine Presbytery

resourcing the braided river

www.alpinepresbytery.org

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Newsletter 30th July 2020

Executive Officer Spot

I'm six weeks into my role and I am quite enjoying myself. People are being kind and patient, and I hope that that continues as I find my feet.

I spotted a little video clip on Facebook and I shared it on my newsfeed. I received a mixed set of reactions. Here it is:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HmedVmZqzi4>

When I first watched it, I immediately thought about the parallels to my EO role – crazy, chaotic, fast-paced, scary, overwhelming, and yet, exhilarating, and joyful. In this role I get a 'curve-ball' email or phone call every three-four days!!! The amount of adrenaline in my system is not healthy!



When I shared the video clip on Facebook, several people replied with concern about the fact that the child's helmet was not fastened. I had noted it, but only in passing, and only after having first been immersed in the sheer pleasure in the child's play. Yes! That helmet should have been fastened! But that was not my first response, and nor was it what stood out, and nor was it anything I could, or wanted, to do anything about. It was the joy of life that I fastened on.

I wonder about many of our reflexes in this challenging time for most, if not all, of our churches. There is a lot of pressure, fewer workers in the vineyard, an ever-growing pile of responsibilities, financial challenges, and a fair bit of anxiety about what the future holds. Under such pressure, I wonder if our eyes and our energy are drawn too quickly to the rules. I wonder if we reflex to being serious or heavy. Is heaviness as much an opposite to joy, as sorrow is?

In my job description most of the responsibilities are in the zone of serious. There is nothing about playfulness and joyfulness. Every job description should begin with 'we want you to enjoy yourself!' But, even though those things are not written down in mine, nevertheless, I want to live my life skating down the street, blown by the Spirit, with the wind buffeting me, and the joy of life on my face. *And*, I want to be more than a little bit *unfastened*!

I wonder if the cultivation of that sort of reflex is going to be what our communities are going to need their churches to be offering them the most in this interesting season on planet earth!

Martin Stewart

Grant round closing date

A reminder that the closing date for the next Grant round is 31 August. The information sheet showing the funds available, to which regions of the Presbytery they are applicable and the total amount available, can be downloaded here: [Alpine Grants Information Sheet August 2019](#)

Forms are available from the Executive Officer and must be received back by the due date. Please contact Ann McMillan, Convenor of Property and Finance Team, if you have any questions: galatos.mcmillan@gmail.com; 027 3250397

COMING UP

Cashmere Sings: 2nd August, 3pm, at Cashmere Presbyterian

The Hope Seminar for Care for Creation: 16 August, at Hope Hornby.

First Aid Course: 29 August at The Village, Papanui

Presbytery Gathering: 11-12th September, in Christchurch

Garage Sale: 12 September at St Andrew's Blenheim

Presbytery Retreat: 11-12th October, in Hanmer Springs

Blenheim Garden Tour: 17 & 18 October—contact St Andrew's Blenheim

Newsletter Items

Please share this Newsletter around your Parish, especially with members of Session/Parish Council and all office bearers.

Details of events, or requests to be added to the distribution list, should be emailed to gail@alpinepresbytery.org

Cut off date for next week's Newsletter is **Thursday 6th August**.



Alpine Mission Fund applications also close at the end of August. The information sheet and application forms can be downloaded here:

[Alpine Mission Fund Information Sheet](#)

[Alpine Mission Fund Expression Of Interest](#)

[Alpine Mission Fund Application – General, \\$10,000+](#)

[Alpine Mission Fund Application – Building, \\$10,000+](#)

[Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework](#)

First Aid course

The Village are hosting a First Aid course, and there are still a few places available if you would like to update your skills in this area. If you are interested, please contact Tracey at The Village's Papanui office (ph 352 6197 or tracey@villagechurch.nz)

Date: 29 August 2020; **Time:** 9am till 1pm; **Cost:** \$75.00

Venue: The Village @ Papanui (Cnr Frank St and Papanui Rd)

Garage Sale & Garden Tour

St. Andrew's Church, Blenheim has a **Garage Sale** on **Saturday 12th September** and a **Garden Tour** on **Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th October**. If you feel like a break away, it's not too far to come to sunny Marlborough and you might like to time your trip to fit in with one of these activities. Our Garden Tour is famous for spectacular gardens, wonderful stalls and refreshments when you need them and it only costs \$20 pp.

Enquiries to Kim at the Church Office 03 5787119.

Other Newsletters

- [Bush Fire](#)—newsletter of Presbyterian Women Aotearoa New Zealand

EcuAction 2020 Forum Series

Challenging the stuff ups! & offering some solutions

WEA Centre, 59 Gloucester, Christchurch. 6th, 13th & 27th August, 5.30pm for 6–7.30pm

Programme, with expert presenter/ faith respondent:

- **August 6:** Unregulated Capitalism Destroying the Planet (Charles Drace/Jim Consedine)
- **August 13:** The Just and Creative Society our Education System Fails (Sue Bagshaw/ Jane Higgins)
- **August 27:** Land and Water We Could Soon Lose (Paul Broady/Kathleen Gallagher)

The presenter and respondent will make their presentations before the topic is opened up for "Questions, Answers & Comments"

All Welcome. *Koha to defray expenses please*

Organised by EcuAction, a Canterbury based ecumenical action group, co-hosted by the WEA. Further info from: ecuactioncanterbury@gmail.com, or Marilyn (021 061 3940) or Mary (021 387 088)

From last week

- **Presbyterian Children and Families Ministry team**
- **Presbytery Directory**
- **Lay Worship Month**
- **Engagement with the TELT report**
- **Praying for Children week: 2nd—8th August**
- **The Hope Seminar for care for creation—Sunday 16 August**
- **New journal table-of-contents - Hewitson Library**
- **Cashmere Sings! Sunday 2nd August**
- **Thinking of Living in a Retirement Village? - Free Seminar, 5th August**

Dropbox link for documents mentioned in this newsletter: control & click, or copy & paste the link to your browser: <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/5k528skz4niqgg/AABDjLatKU2-C2reVHA6hVza?dl=0>

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Presbytery Directory

We are now using Infoodle, so anyone wanting to access information from the Directory will need a logon.

Most Parish Offices have already been given a logon, so you may be able to get any information you need from there.

If you have a need for your own logon access, email Gail at gail@alpinepresbytery.org. Please bear in mind that we do need to be aware of our obligations under the Privacy Act.

Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework

[Click here](#) to download the Strategic Framework

Resources

A selection of resources and links to resources to assist you with your work and outreach can be found on our website here: alpinepresbytery.org/resources/