

EASTLAND YOUTH REPORT TO DIOCESAN SYNOD 2013

Rev Frank Ngatoro

We were sad to farewell Frank in May as Regional Youth Ministry Facilitator for Eastland and part of the Waiapu Anglican Youth Ministry team. Frank has made a huge contribution to the life of youth ministry in Eastland and the wider Diocese. He is a natural mentor and friend to young people and we know those qualities will serve him well in his new position. While Frank will continue to be very much part of the life of the church in Eastland, it was heartening to see the large number of people who gathered for Franks farewell on May 18th, from the Youth Facilitator position. His aroha, gentle spirit and passion for seeing young people grow in their faith was evident from the speeches, gifts and warmth of the people gathered.

Child Safe – ‘ Safe Here’

The Eastland Youth Working Group and Frank have been working to encourage the use of ‘Child Safe’ practices for those working with children and youth. This was put into practice in preparation for and during the Motu Boys’ Bike trip held last year. While it can seem a lot of work, the group felt well prepared, having thought through several scenarios and being able to come up with a Risk Assessment and Action Plan for their trip. Child Safe – recently re branded ‘Safe Here’ is an important aspect of our work with children and youth. Training modules are available and more information is available from Waiapu’s Child Safe Co-ordinator, Sandie Speeden: childsafewaiapu.com

Mentoring Training

A mentoring workshop was held in Eastland in November. Phil Trotter (National Anglican Youth Advisor) and Jocelyn Czerwonka led the workshop attended by about 8 people. Mentors are an integral part of the Leadership Training For Youth (LT4Youth) programme as each participant is encouraged to have an adult mentor to offer support and guidance. Training is hoped to be offered on an annual basis.

LT4Youth - Leadership Training For Youth

LT4Youth was launched at Diocesan Synod in 2013. Two young people from Eastland have enrolled and both have mentors. Another 2 have attended LT4Youth camps.

LT4Youth Camp – Tolaga Bay

Ten young people, three from Eastland attended the Care of Creation LT4Youth Camp held in Tolaga Bay in January. Thank you Frank and Stephen Donald for helping to organize this. Camping in St Andrews Church grounds was a real treat. Our Care of Creation Camp in Tolaga Bay was a lot of fun, and a bit of hard work too. Rev Stephen Donald arranged a Care of Creation project for us at the ‘Transit of Venus, Uawanui project’ which involved the replanting of native trees along the riverbank and coastal area in 2012. Our job was to clear away the weeds that had quickly grown and smothered the plants. The consensus was from the youth that they would like to come back again next year.

Waiapu Youth Intern

Kristy Boardman has enjoyed her placement in Eastland from May 2013 – mid August. Thank you to those who have hosted Kristy in their homes, especially Francis White, and to those who have worked alongside Kristy and encouraged her to share in ministry opportunities in Gisborne-Te Hapara, Waipaoa and Waikohu parishes..

Top Parish

Eastland was well represented at Top Parish 2013 in Rotorua and once again came away with awards and trophies.

Future Directions

Eastland region is taking the opportunity provided by Frank’s departure to refocus the half-time Regional Youth Ministry Facilitator’s position, and hope to advertise shortly.