

# **Hawke's Bay Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Hospital Chaplaincy Service Report**

**... And now these three remain faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.**

**1Corinthinas 13;13**

This past year has certainly been one of challenge, change and adaptation. And as pen is put to paper the ebb and flow of change continues at many levels. We, as hospital chaplains, are daily encouraged to keep our feet firmly on Christ who is the rock.

## **InterChurch Council for Hospital Chaplaincy (ICHC)**

Major changes have been occurring within ICHC with the resignation of CEO, Rev Tim Pratt, and the National Operations Manager, Anna Northcott. An interim CEO has been appointed.

## **Chaplains**

Barbara continues in her role as the ICHC Midlands Regional Chaplain (which includes Hawke's Bay). She continues to support chaplains, and their teams, in all the hospitals which are located in the Waiapu Diocese. Barbara is also on the ICHC senior leadership team and is currently supporting a new chaplain at Mid Central DHB's Palmerston North Hospital.

With Barbara's increased work load both in her role as lead hospital chaplain at Hawke's Bay DHB and her role as ICHC regional chaplain, we have been fortunate to be able to get some more funding which has enabled us to appoint a fulltime chaplain position, Rev. Dr Ockert Schoeman, here at Hawke's Bay Hospital. This ensures chaplaincy is a visible presence around the wards and departments as we seek to continue to provide pastoral and spiritual support for those who come into the hospital, whether as patients, whānau, families or staff.

## **Hawke's Bay Hospital chaplaincy service community involvement**

We are grateful to a number of trusts, and private donations, that continue to support and fund us. We are indebted to the Hastings District Council (HDC), the Higgins Trust, Hawke's Bay District Health Board, local churches and individuals for their financial support.

The Pam Torbett Trust funding, which the chaplains oversee, continues to provide pastoral and spiritual support to people from the Wairoa region who come down to Hastings and who don't qualify for transport assistance from Government programmes.

The blessing of planes at Skyline Aviation and the yearly request to lead HDC opening prayers at one of the monthly council meetings continue, and these, along with ambulance blessings are all part of our community involvement.

The horrific events which happened at the two Mosques in Christchurch on March 15 stunned our nation and each of us. Barbara in her role as HBDHB's lead chaplain was asked by the Mayor of Hastings, Sandra Hazlehurst, to take part in the Hastings Civic Remembrance Service. It was very moving seeing hundreds of people of all ages and all backgrounds and ethnicities joining together to remember those people who had lost their lives and to support those who were in total shock following this horrific event which happened in our country. The chaplaincy team were asked by Hawke's Bay DHB to facilitate four remembrance services for staff, these were held in the Memorial Chapel and were very well attended.

## **Anzac Day commemorations held at the Hawke's Bay Fallen Soldiers' Memorial Hospital**

The chaplains continue to facilitate this annual service supported by the DHB staff. For the first time in ten years the weather was not favorable on this special occasion, but despite the rain and the overcast day, the

spirit of this national event was not dampened. Mayor Sandra Hazlehurst spoke along with Captain Buffy Little, their speeches interweaving amazingly well.

### **The Chaplaincy Team**

The chaplains are supported by six ecumenically-trained volunteer chaplaincy assistants. Their willingness to visit patients in their allocated wards and to help with the Saturday round and the Sunday service is very much appreciated. We greatly appreciate their support and help.

Sadly we said farewell to Rachel Coxhead, one of our volunteer chaplaincy assistants who died suddenly in October last year. Her legacy lives on as we see her flowers continuing to bloom in the courtyard.

Rev Peter Williamson, another of our volunteer chaplaincy assistants has recently been ordained as an Anglican priest. We are grateful that he continues to support hospital chaplaincy as he is able.

Rev Margaret Hall, our administrator and locum chaplain, continues to support us all in so many ways and her support is very much appreciated.

### **Waiapu Diocese.**

A big thank you to Bishop Andrew and the Waiapu Diocese who continue to support our service both financially and pastorally. We are also very grateful to the Anglican parishes in Hawke's Bay along with Hukarere College and Woodford House for their continued on-going support in variety of ways,

This support includes assisting in bringing patients to our weekly Sunday Chapel Service, financial donations, and those parishioners who remember us in their daily prayers. We are also grateful for those who support us in our yearly Chaplaincy fund-raising week which includes the baking, selling and eating of cupcakes. Please contact the chaplains if you are able to help this year in this fund raising event.

In closing we wish to thank our local Chaplaincy Committee who continue to support us both pastorally and with fund-raising events. **A special thanks to Tracey O'Shaughnessy who continues to provide financial advice. Her experience and guidance is very much appreciated.**

In a time of uncertainty, both in our world, in our country and in our communities, it is comforting to know that Christ is here beside us all, guiding and encouraging us in the ministries He has called us to.

Please join us in prayer and let us know how you could help us.

May God Bless you all.

**Rev Barbara Walker QSO and Rev Pelly Pirikahu.**