

Waiapu Archives Report

Work at the Diocesan Archives has picked up momentum this year. Jillian King, as member of Diocesan Office staff, continues to deal with regular requests for information from our records from individuals, families, and church organisations. Bishop Murray Mills continues on a voluntary basis to sort and file new material.

Three particular events have highlighted the value of careful Archiving.

With the handing over of former Anglican Care Residential Homes to new owners, historic details of buildings and the gifting of money needed confirming. We were grateful that we had done so much work sorting and filing our Waiapu Social Services archives over recent years. This meant we could be of assistance.

With the current Government Commission looking into children in care, we have been pleased that the Diocesan Office last century had so carefully kept its confidential files on its Children's Homes, Abbotsford and St Hilda's, in Central Hawkes Bay. Judy Anderson was contracted to work painstakingly with Jillian, to ensure that all the files we hold on individual children will be at hand as needed. There has been a lot of both sad and joyful reading in the process!

With the closure of St James Parish Mahora, it was a joy to discover how well that parish had maintained its records going back to the 1950s. More especially with the changes in that parish from traditional Vicar to Local Ministry Team leadership, it was great to see how the local ministry team had so carefully minuted all its life. The written and photographic records of the array of groups that made up Mahora parish's life over 60 plus years - children's, youth, women's, men's, social services groups – would make the basis of a very full social history of Hastings suburban life. It is good that the records are now safely with the Diocesan Archives.

We remind all ministry units and all clergy of the importance of recordkeeping, and the duty to forward all records that have reached archival status to the Diocesan Archives.

Please feel free to contact us for advice – archives@waiapu.com