

Feilding Baptist Church Te Haahi Iriiri o Aorangi Annual Report



2023

2023 LEADERS

Minister:	Martin Baldwin
Elders:	Ruth McGee, Geoffrey Ward, Matt Carter
Worship:	
Children:	Anne Sanson, Michelle Ward, Diane Baldwin, Geoffrey Ward
Cuppa Chat & Play:	Tanya Carter
Girls Brigade:	Lynne Prior
ICONZ:	Geoffrey Ward
Overseas Mission:	Eleanor Keyte-Bailey
Office:	Eleanor Keyte-Bailey

FEILDING BAPTIST VISION STATEMENT

Building a community of God's people
Engaged in ministry individually and collectively
In the church and community

Grounded in sound theology
Guarded by clear accountability
Leading to spiritual maturity

CONTENTS

Minister	1
Statistics.....	5
Little Lights	7
J Team	8
Nexus	8
Cuppa Chat & Play.....	10
Girls Brigade	11
ICONZ	13
Knit & Natter.....	15
Mission	16
Admin & Maintenance Team.....	19
2023 Budget & Finances	21



Minister

My lingering memory of 2023 is of sickness and weddings! Fortunately there were some other things... Before the first wedding in mid January Influenza A struck, almost scuppering the wedding plans in Tauranga. The second wedding took place in May on the other side of Whanganui. This was followed with our first dose of Covid, and before the year was out, we received a second!

The excellent Alpha Pre Marriage course of five sessions preceded both weddings. These were conducted over Zoom with both couples, one in Adelaide, the other in Dunedin. Though non churched, they appreciated the content.

In February (13th & 14th) Cyclone

Gabrielle caused incredible flooding and damage in Auckland and Hawkes Bay. We raised over \$1000 to send to Flaxmere Baptist who were coordinating many of the gifts from around the country. Our gift gave them the opportunity

to buy equipment to speed up the sorting and delivery of these products and was very gratefully received.

Also in February we signed off our Child Protection policy and practises. We engaged the team that delivered the ICONZ Child Protection nationally, and for a fee had ours completed, unique for us. We were very grateful for the huge amount of work Esmé Haigh had put into the foundations of this.

Easter Camp returned to Manfeild and once again we provided a significant volunteer contribution. On Good Friday local churches combined for a 'walk of the cross' and then a service in the Civic Centre. This included morning

tea, where, due to a misunderstanding, 150 packets of hot cross buns were delivered, instead of 150 buns... Thankfully Easter Camp took 600 of the surplus 750!





The coronation of King Charles (Saturday 6th May) provided the opportunity to celebrate, Barb Funnell and her team lead a magnificent and fitting royal evening.



from Jo Botha's shock death. And it didn't end there with

three more to pass before the year was out; Elva Cooper, Will Telford, Alison Anderson.

Still we wouldn't want to paint a

Around this time Lyndon Ingram along with Colin Funnell and Michael Taylor restarted the ball rolling for our Toilet Upgrade. We discovered along the way that this should have been completed ten years earlier, and our Building Warrant of Fitness actually required it to be done. The urgency and need to complete this was picked up by the congregation and by the end of the year \$70 000 of the \$200 000 needed had been donated.

picture of decline, with 31 new faces over the previous two years attending a Newcomers' Lunch in August. Our annual statistics for the Baptist Union were encouraging, up on 2022 but not quite back to pre-Covid levels.

Bridget Ingham's visit on 12th October saw our foyer full to hear of her work with Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF). It made me very glad of our support of this outstanding mission and aviator.

The deaths of Gladys Wickham, Judi McNab, Derek Cooper were very close together, resulting in three funerals in ten days in early July. This was a sobering time for our church, and followed on



And in the same month we paused before two Sunday services to watch Rugby World Cup

matches from France, even shifting the start of one service to 1030 to enable pulses to



return to normal (and people to attend)!

A new initiative for us was Alpha's Parenting Teens Course. We ran this over five weeks using Zoom in October and November. Positive feedback was received.

Through the year the ministries of Cuppa Chat & Play, Girls Brigade, and ICONZ continued with excellent leadership and leadership support. Eric and Heather Relf concluded their time with ICONZ after decades of leadership. The Knit and Natter group was just superb, especially with support for Diane Botha. Eleanor's Thursday morning home group got underway, but the weekly prayer group became less regular.

Over the year Eleanor Keyte-Bailey continued to shed responsibilities, significantly the day to day finances that Nikki Waller took on for a time before outsourcing the bookkeeping to CATAS. And there was also a changing of the guard with Autumn Taylor handing over the reins of Newsletter Editor after 13 years to Laurretta Hannah.

Michael Taylor and Reon Hince completed their second term of three years as church elders requiring them to stand down. They were replaced by Matt Carter and Geoffrey Ward. Ruth McGee was elected again, beginning her second three year stint.

A popular feature of the midweek eNews was the Green Room, where people had the opportunity to add things to sell before using Trademe. As the year went on, the price of many of the items became 'contribution to the toilet fund'. It was impossible to predict which items would appeal, making me reflect that retailing is an interesting business! The much valued eNews deliverers (for those without email access) were Tanya Carter, Jenny Williamson and Eleanor.

A 'Thank You' lunch took place after a Sunday service in December. I am sincerely grateful for the high level of involvement we have at Feilding Baptist. From little behind the scenes things to higher profile things, the level of participation is superb. For that I am very thankful.



My roles outside the church by the end of the year involved chairing Keep Feilding Beautiful, being on the Hato Hone St John Feilding Area Committee as well as being the local Chaplain, sitting on the Lower North Island Baptist Association Executive, and involvement with the Feilding Christian Leaders Network – significantly the Civic Centre Carols. Many things to keep ‘on the boil’.



We also had responsibilities at Coombrae Rest Home with services each month.

2024 is a year to look forward to with Feilding Baptist turning 120 and the Feilding District commemorates 150 years since European settlement.



Celebrating two 60th wedding Anniversaries:
Marty & Gail Healey 3rd August 1963
Jan & Harvey Hosick 7th December 1963



Good Friday walk



Statistics

Sunday Attendance

	Adults	Teens	Children
2023	79	15	14
2022	73	8	11
2021	82	13	20

2023 Guest Preachers

Grace Paddison (video)

Pam Barnett x4

Bruce Morris - CBM

Rodger Scoones

Ruth McGee x2

Nicola Mountfoot (video)

Mick Duncan (video)

Sam Schuurman

Baptisms

New Members

Births

Sebastian Boyle - 25th January

Dedications

Micah Hince

13th August



Deaths

Jo Botha

9th May

Judi McNab

25th June

Gladys Wickham

26th June

Derek Cooper

5th July

Elva Cooper

5th September

Will Telford

19th November

Alison Anderson

5th December





Little Lights

Little Lights is a delightful group to be involved with. We have a core group of 4 children and can have up to 7 to 8 children on any given Sunday.

We start the programme with Prayer Bear (the only object to have survived the 2011 fire). Each child takes a turn to hold Prayer Bear and pray – usually saying “Good morning, Jesus”. This is followed by a story from The Children’s Bible. Depending on the story we may colour in a picture, make something or do an activity that relates to the Bible Story. At the moment we are working our way through some of the Old Testament stories. Thanks to Gail Healey we have some beautiful new Bible story books that we will be using in 2024. Thank you, Gail.

After a while we all go to the Kai table where the apple machine is popular. The children use the machine to peel, core and slice the apple for morning tea. Sometimes we have bananas or

mandarin too. Potato sticks and a drink of water round out morning tea. Then comes play time. Thanks to Heather Relf we have had lots of fun with her knitted farm. The blocks, baby



dolls, trolley, cups and plates, plastic animals and wheeled vehicles are the favourite toys. All too soon it is time to pack up.

Tom Priest is the most valuable member of the Little Lights team. Tom sets up, gets out resources and packs up every week. It is

very reassuring to have Tom available to help each Week. Thank you so much Tom. Thank you too to Michelle Ward and Barb Funnell for filling in at times I cannot be in Little Lights. Your help is also greatly appreciated.

Please continue to pray for the Little Lights as they “grow in wisdom and stature, gaining favour with God and man” (paraphrase from Luke 2:52)

Anne Sanson



J Team

We had four to seven primary aged children each week.

We followed the Bible timeline looking at the life of Jesus through to the early church and beyond. The emphasis was more than just the 'stories' but who Jesus is, and how we need to know who Jesus is, before we can be followers of him.

The use of short videos often proved effective in explaining and bringing to life much of the New Testament stories.

Each week included an interesting morning tea, sometimes a game and some sort of activity.

As is often the way, spontaneous conversations between the children and their prayers, out loud in the group, reflected genuine faith development and concern for the world they live in.

Diane Baldwin

Nexus

It has been encouraging working with the young people. Being part of the conversations about the practical side of faith and navigating through life's challenges has given me more of an insight into their thinking. When I see the level of faith, understanding, decision making, views on a range of topics, practical solutions, etc. I feel happy for them and their

families. Of course there are the left field ridiculous comments but humour definitely has it's time and place. We want them to enjoy each other's company.

We have a baking roster and I always look forward to seeing what tasty food we get to enjoy each week.



The number turning up ranged from 7-14. We constantly joked about extending our space and giving Martin a smaller office. We didn't think it'd be too hard if we turned up with the right tools. We regularly finished off

our sessions playing sports and games such as handball and tanker. To keep our sessions interesting, we used digital online quizzes to test how well we might have been listening. The competition was fun.

Geoffrey Ward





Cuppa Chat & Play

At Cuppa, Chat & Play we discovered again the privilege of opening our church and hearts to community parents, caregivers and their amazing preschoolers. We had fun with Bible stories, games, toys and crafts. We finished the year with the kids making generous gift bags for a loved one - showing our church's support to these families.

This year God placed Heather Muldoon, Brenda Woodfield, Jean Jackson, Heather Relf and me in this ministry to provide a safe, warm place for the adults to open up, discuss issues and health problems and ask for advice. What a hard year for them! Some of us delivered flowers and garden produce to families, Heather R knitted a

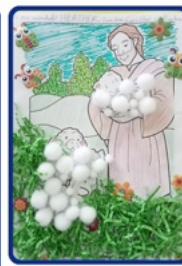
beautiful jumper for a boy, and Brenda spent time creating thoughtful bookmarks with Bible verses on for everyone. One lady commented that when I and my friends (the church) prayed for

her, it always worked! 😊 God is so good.

Our wonderful leaders may have privately battled personal issues and health concerns this year, but they are so valued and loved - one leader was visited in hospital by three of our little ones when

she was sick! ❤️

Thank you sincerely for remembering our group in prayer.



Tanya Carter



Girls Brigade

The year 2023 began without any restrictions for the first time in several years. The initial activities were family-focused. The year started off with a delightful night at the farm, where the girls used hobo stoves to make pancakes, followed by the joy of toasting marshmallows. This was succeeded by a picnic at Kōwhai Park, the following week.



However, due to leaders' health issues, a decision was made to combine the Juniors and Seniors for the year, while the Pioneers continued with their own program.

The year's activities for the Juniors and Seniors predominantly revolved around food. The girls learned practical skills such as using a sharp knife safely to cut fruit and vegetables to make snacks. An entire term was dedicated to preparing food and acquiring the skills needed for the successful

execution of a fundraising High Tea. The High Tea event itself was a resounding success, with

70 attendees enjoying the delicious treats served by the girls.

In addition to culinary pursuits, the girls engaged in various activities, including swimming sessions, crafts for Mother's and Father's Day, and the creation of a Tic-Tac-Toe game using rocks and a square board.

Martin, spoke about keeping Feilding beautiful. The girls were both amused and horrified as he demonstrated the importance of cleanliness by tipping a bucket of rubbish on the floor, with the girls subsequently using rubbish tweezers to pick it up.



As a company, a commitment to community service was demonstrated by a night of picking up rubbish around Feilding, followed by a



well-deserved reward of hot chips on a cold and windy night.

The year concluded with the girls engaging in festive activities, creating Christmas crafts and learning the song for the break-up.

Meanwhile, the Pioneers had a creative and productive year, focusing on painting, sculpting, and crafting. Their projects included the Ten Commandments, pots for Mothers' Day, handmade cards, and various cooking activities.



The Girls' Brigade experienced substantial growth throughout the year, starting with 21 girls and ending with an impressive total of 42 girls and eight Leaders/Helpers. We would like to thank Feilding Baptist for their ongoing support.



As we reflect on the achievements and growth of the 1st Feilding Girls' Brigade in 2023, we express our gratitude to everyone who contributed to making this year memorable and impactful.

Leaders

1st Feilding Girls Brigade



ICONZ

Feilding ICONZ runs during school term time on Wednesdays, 6-7.30pm. We currently have 2 divisions: Adventure section for boys 8-12 years old and the Extreme Section for boys 12 years old and over.

Think of ICONZ as a mix between Scouts and a Christian youth group. The guys work to earn badges while at the same time developing a practical appreciation of what God has done for us. The badges cover spiritual, action, community and interest themes.

Some of the activities we did were cooking and baking; developing useful domestic skills; outdoor survival cooking; fitness and strength training; competitions like paper planes and boat races; mini chemical reaction rockets; outdoor survival skills; digital game building using a

range of coding languages; swimming.

Some of our leaders retired at the end of the year; Kelly after at least 7 years. This will allow him to focus on the youth activities at the other FBC. And Eric and Heather after many decades of work with Boys' Brigade. They are still happy to help when needed and with camps which are their specialty but need more time to enjoy retirement and do

things like take the caravan on road trips. With these retirements we had only 1 trained

leader left, leaving 2024 continuation uncertain.

Thank you to Matt R, Johnny, Jack, Jimmy and Reuben training up to become leaders. Thanks to Matt H, Keith and





Zane for agreeing to be parent helpers.

We are fortunate to have Michelle run the admin side of things. She has experience doing this for A.T.C.

There are many people who have helped make ICONZ a success this year. In no particular order: Tom Priest, Matt Hook, Eric and Heather Relf, Kelly Brunton, Reuben Leung Wai, Johnny & Joseph Redshaw, and Michael Muldoon.



Thank you to all of you for your time, commitment and energy.

Geoffrey Ward



Knit & Natter

We have a lovely group of ladies, with an average number of 10-12, who meet in our homes once a fortnight.

We're a friendly bunch, caring & helpful; sharing our patterns, recipes (& baking for afternoon tea ☕🍰!!), family photos & stories, helpful hints, homemaking magazines no longer needed & any extra garden produce!

We enjoy different crafts together as we natter; knitting, crocheting, sewing, mending, hobbies or just relaxing & chatting! Christmas & special occasions are fun times to celebrate together!!

It was so lovely to welcome Diane Botha back to our group earlier this year after she had been through a very difficult & sad journey! May the Lord continue to bring healing & peace to your heart dear Diane!

We do include a short reading from Max Lucado's book "Grace" to encourage our Spirits

& we do pray for those in need be it then or later at home!

Over all we have developed great relationships as we get to know each other better & appreciate our different personalities - indeed we are all parts of the Body of Christ, no matter our varied backgrounds!

Sadly we've had to farewell Dita Alblas who is heading north to fresh adventures with her husband Willem - may God continue to guide & bless them both in the years ahead!

Thank you dear ladies for sharing of yourselves & your heart's desires for your families & the future - may 2024 be another blessed year as we trust in the Lord!

Love you all, Gail 🌸🧶🧵🧶🌸

Gail Healey



Mission

AROTAHĪ – HANDCARVED MISSION

NZBMS-TRANZSEND-AROTAHĪ has been undergoing change & has been led to the new name “AROTAHĪ/Hand Carved Mission” – it is evident that there is continuing, ongoing ‘carving’ as new ways of doing things & new opportunities arise. The recent revisiting & inclusion of Māori input in Aotearoa is evidence of significant change & ‘the borders’ of where & how we support mission work have been opened wide.

What WE do here – Financially our church supports “Renew Together” (formerly called ‘Prayer & Self Denial’) Week – in the month of May – the focus being our national work in Kolkata & Bangladesh. Peter & Leonora are senior missionaries working with village churches & have been encouraged by an increase in numbers & greater commitment. CJ is a National (probably the first National we

have directly supported), a vital worker/overseer at JOYYA

Bangladesh. Joyya is a business providing employment to many who have been rescued from prostitution. This work has expanded not only to make & sell articles to provide wages but to provide community help – fresh drinking water fountains, legal advice, health clinics & even teaching to ride a bike – a great help with transport.

Over recent years our church has developed an interest in the work of MAF – Mission Aviation Fellowship NZ. We support Benji, Jess & Elliott Hunt. Benji is an aircraft engineer-‘Maintenance Operation Supervisor’, in the hangar at Mt Hagen. He is also very gifted in getting alongside & teaching national staff & encouraging them to train. Jess has a nursing background & at times has helped by visiting medical centres; she has a warm personality & contributes a lot at the mission compound in integrating the large staff who come from various nationalities. Elliott is now about 8 and is now



home schooled. When here on home assignment Elliott attended Mt Biggs School for a term. His comment the first day – “they have flush toilets & they are CLEAN.” Martin & I were able to attend their public meeting held in Bulls.

Through this interest in MAF we have met Bridget Ingham, a pilot based at Mt Hagan. She not only is gifted musically & academically but writes monthly newsletters interspersed with a mid-month Prayer Update – a lot of dedication & discipline to manage that. Those of us who follow these newsletters have a glimpse of the skill & dedication needed to upskill & fly in such steep terrain & variable weather. We have supported her with ‘on-off’ donations.

Christian Blind Mission – CBM (a NZ based initiative) Four years ago we held a ‘small change’ appeal for the work done in various countries where operations are needed for blindness, orthopaedic deformities & the like. This has

become an annual appeal & we have gladly given \$1082.70 dollars at year end 2023.

Mission at HOME: Within New Zealand we have budgeted \$200 each (\$1,000 pa) support for:

- Hospital Chaplaincy
- Grapevine magazine
- Hope Project (letter box drops of booklets @ Easter & Christmas)
- Eden Christian Kindy
- Feilding Christmas Parade – shortbread given out with a ‘Christmas message’ an initiative of Feilding Christian Leaders Network

Several folk here receive & support Missionary news ‘direct’ but we also print & deliver the Arotahi weekly Prayer Calendar & Missionaries letters as they arrive.

Other missionaries we have met over the years are: Jo & Charlie; Ross & Cindy; Peter, Dasha & baby Sean with a co-worker Frances; Joel & Lizzie with Lydia & Noelle; “Woven Life” – work in Thailand



Our Giving

Renew Together Appeal 2023	\$1040	
Budgeted Finances:		
Peter & Leonora	\$1002 pa	
CJ	\$1002 pa	
Benji & Jess Hunt	\$2004 pa	
Bridget Ingham:		
Donations from 'surplus'	\$1800	
From Mission Speaker budget	\$500	
	\$7348	\$7348
Mission at Home		\$1000
CBM - Advent 2023		\$1082.70
TOTAL FOR 2023		<u>\$9430.70</u>

Our Praying

Arotahi Weekly Prayer Calendar printed, distributed to eight prayers as well as several who receive this by email.

Newsletters from Arotahi missionaries, Kolkata, Bangladesh, Thailand, another country (privacy) & various updates from Arotahi Office (NZ Baptist Mission Society) & News from Bridget & Hunts.

The missionaries we support are upheld at our monthly communion services .

May is Mission month with weekly focus on Arotahi Mission – Renew together.

December is our special appeal in support of CBM – Christian Blind Mission.

Eleanor Keyte-Bailey



Admin & Maintenance Team

Every couple of years we have had an act of vandalism against the building. This year it was the foyer window where the laminated glass put up a good fight before a large rock was punched through. Toughened glass was the prompt replacement.



Not long after two of the three unlaminated and non-toughed windows were discovered, with rocks thrown through one, and into another, both outside office windows. These again were replaced with toughened glass.

Later in October the outside office wall received a large red tag as part of an extended tour around town that included St Paul's hall, other CBD buildings and bridges. This took two coats of paint to cover.

Concern was then expressed that the remaining standard

glass window in the Minister's Office would make a considerable mess should it be targeted. It was finally decided to replace the entire window,

frame and all with double glazed toughened glass. This has significantly aided security.

The annual Spring Clean included an emptying of the loft in preparation for the toilet upgrade. A considerable quantity of

'treasure' had been squirreled away. The flower room and 'Six Week' room were also sorted. A small portion was rehoused, some was sold, and a large quantity 'left the building'.





Two new kitchen trolleys are the only notable purchase in 2023.

We budgeted to replace eleven of the Exit lights (\$2500), but surprisingly these passed the winter test. A more noticeable upgrade in 2024 could be a roller hatch for the kitchen, making cleanup more peaceful for groups using the foyer.

Once again many thanks to the Admin Team; Andrew Robertson, Eleanor Keyte-Bailey, Jan Hosick, Eric Relf, Heather Relf, Colin Funnell, and Barb Funnell. And to the large number who helped during the year with maintenance and care of the building.

Thanks too to James and Brenda Woodfield for weekly cleaning.





FEILDING BAPTIST CHURCH

Te Haahi Iriiri o Aorangi

tūrangawaewae

a place to stand

tupu whakarangi

growing heavenwards

manaaki tangata

to care and look after people