

MMM New Zealand News

Issue 4 2024



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We are seeking more Full-Time Team members. COULD THIS BE YOU?



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Front Cover: Photos from the 30 Anniversary Conference, Totara Springs

LETTER FROM THE

Director

December 2024



At the MMM NZ's 30th Anniversary conference my wife, Ave and I were presented with a certificate for 25 years of service with MMM. We didn't intend it to be that long! When we packed our household goods and moved our family into our freshly renovated house bus we were off for a "couple of years", so we told our faithful supporters and friends.

Why would you do that? Why would you serve in a ministry for 25 years?

Well, here are a few reasons and I could list more -

There was a need, and we could fill it. I had it on my heart to be a builder and use those skills for God since I was nine years old and my Dad went to Fiji to help build a classroom at a Christian school. Years later when I heard of Mobile Mission Maintenance, I knew this was a ministry I could be of use to, with the skills I had.

Serving in a ministry that encourages others ... is encouraging! Scriptures like, "Do good to all men, especially those in the household of faith," and "Always give yourself fully to the work of the Lord, for your labour in the Lord is not in vain," encouraged us to be intentional in what we give our time to. What is difficult for people to understand is that the opportunities MMM offers to support other ministries encourages the givers and the receivers! This lifestyle must be experienced to be believed! We have also grown to love the way the ministry of MMM brings people together to bless others – that's God's family at work.

We have found God faithful. When we began in ministry, our three kids were aged from four years old to six months old. With moving every few weeks, how would we meet the needs of our family? We didn't – God did, providing friends, doctors and education support when they needed it, and all our financial needs. After five years of life on the road, we moved to Hong Kong for eight years and led the MMM HK ministry before returning to serve with MMM New Zealand with teenagers, who are now grown and married. By keeping our eyes on God, he has provided what we needed and more, including the opportunity to travel around our beautiful country and some of his incredible world.

A long serving missionary friend of ours once said, "Mission life is so interesting, I don't know why more people don't do it!" We agree, why not trust God?

MMM is seeking more full time workers - qualified trades people to lead teams in a Mobile, Regional or Overseas (Fiji) capacity; people with a heart for God and enjoyment of working in a team. We also need competent handypeople to work with them – could this be YOU?

Howard Robinson

MMM New Zealand

Director



Practical Ministry

People Ministry

Spiritual Ministry

International Ministry

Vision:

- To see the church empowered and equipped with adequate facilities appropriate to God's mission

Mission:

- MMMNZ exists to enhance the spread of the Gospel of Jesus Christ through the ministry of building, both people and facilities to serve Christian work and workers in God's global kingdom

Conference 18 - 20 Oct



"Hi Ave, is there anything I can do to help you with in the office this week, as you prepare for the conference?" With that simple question, Conference 2024 officially began for me—just a week before everyone else arrived for a weekend of fun, learning, and worship.

"Well," Ave replied, "since you asked ... could you go through our online registrations and allocate rooms according to each registrant's needs?" I managed this multiple times as additional registrations, cancellations, and last-minute changes came in.

Then came bedding arrangements—singles or doubles? Who needed to be close to which areas, and for what reasons? There were lists of who was attending for the whole weekend, who would only join on Saturday, and who was just coming for the celebration dinner.

Name tags were next. "If you press this button, it'll print all the name tags, six per page. Then trim them, put them in the lanyards—but, oh no, we don't have enough lanyards!" After a frantic search, we found more, crisis averted!

Room allocation sheets needed to be printed and posted on doors upon arrival. But wait—a cancellation and a new registration meant reprinting and updating the room sheets.

This year's conference gift was a double-skinned drink bottle in blue, white, or red, each printed with the MMM logo. I went through every box, noting the color so that people could easily choose without opening multiple boxes. Meanwhile, I printed envelopes for the next MMM Prayer Force—by the way, are you part of our prayer team? We'd love to have you join!



Ruth Webb and the young people who helped with preparations for the dinner

The office was a constant hive of activity. Displays were prepared, "tractors" located for the Farmers Fellowship, communion organized, transportation arranged, decorations purchased, PowerPoints created, and

historical books brought out from the archive. People were called to confirm their roles, vans loaded, certificates created and framed, cookies made by Ave and bagged with M&M's. You can only imagine the coordination behind the scenes to make sure everything ran smoothly.

And there was more. This was also the week the *Prayer Force* was due to be created, edited, printed, folded, stuffed in envelopes, and mailed—a big task anytime, let alone the week before the conference. Please excuse any errors; it was my first time, though I really enjoyed it!

I'm sure I missed some important tasks during the lead-up to the conference, but you get the idea—there's a tremendous amount of work that goes into ensuring everything goes smoothly.

The MMM team arrived at Totara Springs at 3pm and went straight to work. Display tables were set up, room allocations taped to doors, bedding configurations checked, computer, sound, and lighting systems tested. Musicians practiced, the registration desk was set up with name badges, cookies, drink bottles, and a list to check off arrivals. And finally, a bit of food was passed around to keep the organizers from starving!

Then, attendees began to arrive for check-in. It was wonderful to catch up with everyone, meet new people, and exchange hugs all around. The air was filled with laughter, greetings, and happy squeals from kids. So much joy!

As for the conference itself, thanks to the thorough preparations by Ave and the team, everything ran exceptionally smoothly. We began with a warm welcome and inspiring worship (thank you, Elliot and team), followed by hilarious icebreakers led by Roy and Rachel from MMM Fiji. (Could you guess the length of a random piece of wood? Some of our guests could!) We enjoyed an incredible speaker in Campbell Forlong, a range of engaging electives, and a wonderful celebration dinner.

The electives covered: creating a grazing table, photography tips, Cameron's Camino trail adventure, information on joining MMM and support raising ideas, and the conditions facing Christian charities in Aotearoa. From the feedback, everyone enjoyed their sessions, though a second session would have been nice since it was hard to choose just one!

Free time allowed young and young-at-heart attendees to enjoy Totara Springs' fun activities: go-karting, archery tag, mini-golf, hot pool, water slide, and axe throwing. I didn't join in but heard rave reviews from those who did! (Continued over page)



International Alliance

HONG KONG MEETINGS

Directly following conference, Doug and Ruth Carson (Board Chair), Howard and Ave Robinson and Steven Senn (Incoming Director), left for Hong Kong where Doug, Howard and Steven attended the International Alliance meetings along with representatives from Australia, Hong Kong, South Africa and Zambia. MMM also operates in Thailand and Fiji but in those either Australia or New Zealand supports them as they get established. It was wonderful to be together with the international family of MMM and share our journeys together.



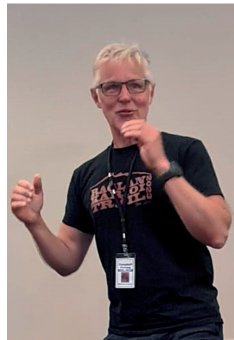
Currently Steven Senn and Jeanette Russell are seeking prayer and financial support as they prepare to take up their roles in MMM as Director and Administrator. If you would like to support them contact the MMM office for details.

Conference continued from page 3...

Saturday night was especially memorable. The Totara Springs' staff provided a delicious celebration dinner and handled the cleanup. Four certificates were presented: 30 years of service to Cameron Bennett and Bruce Alchin, nearly 30 years to Doug Carson and 25 years to Howard and Ave. What remarkable achievements with a wonderful mission's organization!

We watched a presentation tracing the history of MMM NZ from its early days and enjoyed a cake beautifully made by Ave and Howard.

Sunday was a lovely time of worship, more words of encouragement from Campbell, and communion led by Lejf. It was a perfect conclusion to a wonderful weekend.



A major highlight was Campbell Forlong's (left photo) inspirational message, drawing on the story of Moses receiving the Ten Commandments and sharing his own experiences of encountering God in nature. His words resonated with everyone, offering encouragement and inspiration.

Finally, it was time to pack up. Many hands helped with taking things down, loading the vans, and preparing everything to return to the MMM Centre in Pirongia. By Monday, we were unloading, tidying, putting things back in place, and preparing Howard, Ave, and Steven for their next journey—to the International Alliance

Board meetings in Hong Kong. Whew—do these guys ever stop?
- Robyn McKone

FARMERS FELLOWSHIP

WHAT A BLESSING!

Farmers Fellowship provides funds for MMM's overseas work such as:

- MMM Fiji, the costs of running the ministry and maintaining necessary tools and vehicles
- MMM Zambia, assisting with supporting the Vocational Training Centre

Please contact Maurice or Doug if you have stock to donate or grazing. Maurice 027 498 4993
Doug 027 455 0100

PRAYER

Did you know MMM has a prayer focus? There is a monthly prayer calendar - the *Prayer Force* that is sent out and there are Prayer Fellowships that operate in Hamilton, Hastings and Porirua. If you would like to receive the Prayer Force, or join or start a Prayer Fellowship in your area, contact the MMM office.



Mobile Life

DON'T PUT IT OFF!

We had been dreaming about buying a caravan 'when we retire' – to travel around New Zealand, do a bit of fruit picking and become part of New Zealand's on-the-road family, but God had other ideas.

Three years before Marty's retirement we got itchy feet, and the urge to start packing up the house and looking for a caravan and tow vehicle became irresistible. So we said "Yes." And everything just 'fell into place'. On a holiday down south, we found the perfect ute, that no one wanted to buy because of an iffy diff - Marty fixed it. Two weeks later we found the perfect caravan for us. It too needed a bit of work but again, Marty was well able. By Christmas 2020, we had moved into our new home on wheels, ready to hit the road.

We had heard about MMM while in Australia years ago and again an urge came to check if they were in New Zealand, and lo and behold, they were! After a quick email, Howard was on the phone to us with an invitation to call in after our holiday to check them out - and we never left. Well, we did twice, once to pack kiwifruit, once to pick strawberries. But God made it very clear that we were to join MMM full-time, and we have been with them ever since. It's an amazing organisation to work with and God has been incredible in caring for us in every way along this journey. He has also moved people to support us in our mission work.

And why do I say, "Don't put it off?"

Our dream had always been to travel after retirement, and common

sense would agree that was a good option because we would have an income. But God knew what we didn't. Marty has since become unwell and can now no longer participate in projects or hitch and tow the caravan. We have since moved into an MMM unit, and I have started supporting the admin team.



In God's perfect timing, Marty got to fulfil his desire to use his hands to help in the Kingdom, and I was able to live out my calling as a full-time missionary - right here in my home country. We have had four wonderful years with MMM and even now, with our health challenges, they are still supporting us.

What a great mission to be involved with! We can highly recommend them as an organisation "that serves those who serve", and cares for those who are part of their team.

So don't put off till tomorrow what God is calling you to do today. Don't put obstacles in His way. He is more than able and willing to meet your every need as you make yourself available for His purposes. Do not say, "When I'm older, or when the kids are grown, or ... or..." - *Robyn and Marty McKone*

We are seeking more Mobile team members. COULD THIS BE YOU?



WHY WE KEEP VOLUNTEERING WITH MMM

Ken first came across MMM when he was working at a church where MMM were serving. He joined them for morning tea and was impressed with their work, deciding this work was something he would

like to do some day. When he retired, he knew it was the time to give it a go. So we hitched up the caravan and off we went to an MMM project at Tairua for two weeks.

BUT Covid restrictions meant that Auckland was locked down so there was little point in us returning to our home there and be locked down. So our first two weeks turned into seven weeks! This was the beginning of our many journeys with MMM.

We have travelled both the North and South Islands, visiting family in Christchurch and volunteering on projects, while exploring our beautiful country, our caravan being our second home and now with our small dog tagging along.

Why do we keep volunteering? Projects are not too difficult with our age and energy levels. Ken works a full day and I help where I

can - painting, sweeping, serving food, doing dishes, whatever! We volunteer as many days as we are able on a project. Team leaders and volunteers have always been considerate, helpful

and positive with much fun and laughter. Hosts have always provided us with delicious food. It is not uncommon to have a local person join the team for a few hours or a day and then enjoy themselves so much they keep coming back. It is also really nice to turn up on a project and find you are working with volunteers you have been with before, that are now new friends.

Every project and organisation we are assisting is different. But one thing that is always the same is the opportunity to share a meaningful devotional and prayer time, daily reminding us as to why we are there.

At the end of each project it is great to look back and view the quality of work completed and significant help MMM has been able to give.

We are proud to be part of a team of people *servicing those who serve.*

Come and join a project!
- *Eileen Ogden*

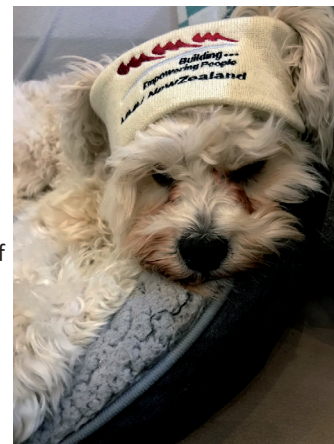




Photo on left - Orama, Great Barrier Island. Allison Le Heux and Malcolm McAllister painting doors

PROJECT REPORTS

NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS

Rhode Street Bible Chapel, Hamilton

The team repaired existing windows, cutting out and replacing rotten sills and jambs and raising up on new blocks. Removed old fibrelite panels and replaced with ply, replacing an existing door with ply panels and painting. *Team Leader - Leif Pederson, Marty & Robyn McKone, Elisha Sorensen, Bianca Wilson, Noah van de Laak*

WEC, Gordonton, Hamilton



East West College, Hamilton is the training arm of WEC mission. You don't have to be going out on the mission field with WEC to attend this college but many of the students do. When the team arrived there, Marty and Robyn got to park their

caravan next to the day care centre. They had children's laughter and birds singing; it was such a happy place. The project was to work with their painter to prepare and paint their auditorium from top to bottom. It had a really high ceiling and multiple windows and doors. Lots of masking to do before painting, and lots of cutting in. It was such a great atmosphere though, with people constantly popping in to say, "Hi," and



encourage us in our work. We were able to finish this quickly, so we moved on to two other jobs. Leif and his team,

which included a number of EastWest staff went from roof-to-roof de-nailing then re-screwing the roofing iron, while Marty and Robyn with the very timely help of Steven prepared and painted the student lounge.

Of course, we can't go past an MMM project without mentioning the food. We joined with the staff and students at morning tea and lunch which was yum, but we were also able to join their devotion and prayer times. It was great to be included in the life of the college and get to know many of the students and learn of their visions for their future in missions.

Team Leader - Leif Pedersen, Steven Douglas, Marty and Robyn McKone, Elliott and Luca Marshall, Bianca Wilson, Noah van de Laak

Hamilton South Christian School, Hamilton



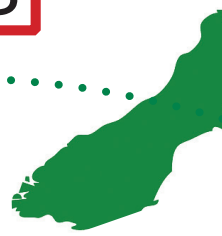
On this project the team were asked to repair the play ground, construct mobile seating units, dismantle existing reception area and re-build it to a new design. The team had to organise a new staff kitchen and install it. This project had the right people and in no time the to do list was being ticked off.

Team Leader - Mike Taylor, Bruce Clow, Leif Pederson, Noah van de Laak, Bianca Wilson



Belfast Elim, Christchurch

This project was primarily a painting job, although, as with all MMM jobs, there were some other tasks that needed doing that were more building-related. We arrived around lunchtime Thursday, with Gerrard and Femmy arriving not long after us. Femmy soon got motivated into stripping wallpaper almost immediately. Then we had others turn up, keen to start prepping and painting.



The pastor briefed us that the work was to freshen things up and keep the church looking spick and span for five more years until a rebuild, so we focused on freshening up rather than repairing everything.

Another helper, now a social worker at the church, joined us. He had enjoyed working with our team at a previous camp and mentioned that if all MMM jobs were like this, he'd join more projects. That was really encouraging.

You hope that when people join our teams, it creates momentum and inspires new members to get involved, keep up with the projects, and sign up for future ones.

We were billeted with good friends from the church. One had been a doctor in our town, so staying with them felt special. During their weekly Bible study, we shared about our MMM journey, hoping to inspire others. Afterward, someone said, "You guys are like gypsies," which we hope was a compliment!

A volunteer helped install a dishwasher, and we found a new front door for \$695 at a secondhand shop. A previous quote for a new installation had been around \$10,000, so the church was thrilled with the savings.



At the end of our time in Belfast, the church looked amazing. It was really brightened and refreshed, and as new pastors were about to take over the church's leadership, it was great to see it in pristine condition for them. *Team Leader - Alan and Rosina Mitchell, Jason Hubbard, Pauline Jeffs, Gerrard & Femmy Van Leeuwen, Eleanor, Graeme & Merelyn Hayman, Marcelle Van Leeuwen, William Drury-Turnbull, Michael Thompson, Willie Van't Wout*

Orama, Great Barrier Island

We appreciate all those who share their stories with us, the following is from Allison Le Heux who, along with her husband Daniel, served on the Orama project. Thank you Allison!

In October, my husband and I spent 10 days working on an MMM project at Orama, Great Barrier Island. We had read about the need for volunteers for this team in the MMM newsletter. The team leader, Malcolm McAllister, emailed us all the information we needed, and the Orama team assisted us with accommodation onsite and with flight bookings. Thus, we felt well prepared for our trip.

We really enjoyed the 20 min flight in a tiny 4-seater plane to the Island from North Shore Airport. We were met and taken to Orama, a beautiful scenic 40-minute drive. Malcolm and the three others on the MMM work party at that time, and the Orama community were all friendly and welcoming.

After a short orientation to the work, I was keen to get busy. During our time there, we were mainly redecorating a three-bedroom accommodation unit near the beach with a beautiful view out to sea; a very pleasant worksite. I helped with sanding, undercoating, painting the skirtings and cutting in for the other team members to roll the walls. I had painted before so I could use those skills but I found I learnt a lot working in such a kind supportive team. I learnt to paint internal doors, three coats of paint each side on four doors gave me lots of practice as we worked together. It was really satisfying work. Since we have to been home, I have put these skills to good use. I have independently painted a small bedroom. A first for me!

Another highlight was the delicious morning teas and meals at Orama - good food and good company. The devotion time and prayer time at morning tea was a special part of the day.

We really enjoyed a day out with the team exploring some of the Island, on narrow, winding roads through bush and open country. We walked along beautiful windswept beaches, and visited an art gallery and coffee shop.

We loved wandering around the beach at Orama, made it up to a lookout for amazing views and kayaked around the bay. The sunsets were amazing!

We look back on this trip with fond memories. It was a great adventure to join the MMM team working on a very worthwhile project. We are keen to be part of a team again in the future. - Report by Allison Le Heux, Team Leader - Malcolm McAllister, Ken & Eileen Ogden, The Creek family



Back row - Ken & Eileen Ogden, front; Malcolm McAllister, Allison & Daniel Le Heux



Back row - Ken Ogden, Malcolm McAllister and the Creek family

MMM FIJI

MMM Fiji continues to thrive with regular teams, seeing buildings and facilities greatly improved, ministries encouraged and lives changed as people sacrifice their time and

money to step out of their comfort zone and serve in Fiji.

In October we had a fantastic team from Morrinsville Baptist partner with us at The Kennedy Centre, a retreat and training centre south of Nadi owned by Evangelism Explosion. They host both local and international teams for evangelism training as well as other local groups. The team spent their time rebuilding the main entrance stairway, path and deck to the hall, replacing rotten decking and repairing the foundations of a building that was unused because of the state of the building. It is always encouraging to see the transformation we can achieve at local Fijian ministries by having teams partner with us.

In November, we had a team of action come to Oasis Farm to rebuild a house badly damaged by termites before a cyclone comes. At the MMM NZ Conference we promoted "Oasis Farm", the land

that MMM Fiji has committed to purchasing, and talked about this specific need it had. We had four guys put up their hands to come. They worked alongside a team of locals who worked incredibly hard from early in the morning until dark each day. They were able to completely demolish and rebuild the termite damaged part of the farm house. This is a massive blessing to the family living there knowing their home will be safe in a cyclone. God continues to bless us with the right volunteers for every project and amazes us with the way the finances come together, as people are obedient to God given opportunities to give generously. We are grateful to have a growing team of local guys working with us while being trained in building skills and disciplined. We are excited by the growth we have seen in MMM Fiji this year and the projects we have accomplished. However, we still constantly see so much need all around us and pray God continues to bring the right people to join our team at the right time.




There is a lot of work that happens behind the scenes to get teams on projects in Fiji. We are still searching for the right person who has the heart to serve MMM by helping to administrate the teams coming to Fiji from New Zealand. Maybe you don't have a trade, but administration and communication is more your thing. If so, please get in touch as we would love to hear from you.

Vinaka vaka levu - Roy and Rachael Hogan (more photos back page)



Upcoming Projects in NZ

YOU CAN JOIN!

 <p>NORTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p>	<p><u>2 -19 December</u></p> <p>Chosen Valley Camp Trust</p> <p>Ararimu, Auckland</p> <p>Exterior painting, main building and chapel</p>		<p><u>3 December</u></p> <p>Returning Missionaries' Home</p> <p>Rotorua</p> <p>Remove existing bathroom</p>
<p><u>15 - 31 January</u></p> <p>Paeroa Christian School</p> <p>Paeroa</p> <p>Build a Samoan Fale to enhance cultural connectedness</p>		<p><u>21 - 31 January</u></p> <p>Festival One</p> <p>Karapiro, Cambridge</p> <p>Assistance in setting up and packing down for Festival One, "A celebration of Jesus Christ through community, art and music"</p>	<p><u>3 -7 February</u></p> <p>MMM Centre</p> <p>Pirongia</p> <p>Painting roof of accommodation wings</p>
<p><u>10 - 28 March</u></p> <p>CYC Christian Camp</p> <p>Ngaruawahia</p> <p>Remodel pool area and other projects</p>	<p><u>24 Feb - 14 March</u></p> <p>Ngatiawa</p> <p>Waikanae</p> <p>Build a composting toilet</p>	<p>SOUTH ISLAND PROJECTS</p> 	<p><u>2025</u></p> <p>Check online for upcoming South Island projects</p>



The first photo is of most of the team that went to rebuild the termite eaten house for Oasis Farm, Fiji; James Pask, Peter Scott, Wade Linnell, Rachael and Roy Hogan (Brad Rodler, absent, was also on the team). In a week, with help from the local guys, they demolished and rebuilt it! The Oasis Farm tractor had not been going for over a year. James discovered the injector pump was incorrectly installed; he was able to fix it. A big blessing to tractor driver Liki! (See page 7 for more on MMM Fiji).

MMM Fiji is seeking regular funding for local workers and to upgrade the MMM Fiji vehicle. To assist financially please donate to;
Bank Acc - 03 0442 0148838 00 Donations are tax-deductible.
 Please tag donations either Fiji staff or Fiji vehicle. Thanks!



**WOULD YOU LIKE TO KNOW MORE?
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 WWW.MMM.ORG.NZ**



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