



PressGo



Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand



**ANNUAL
REPORT
2018-19**



Rev. Sharon Ross Ensor, Acting Chairperson.

Tēnā koutou katoa, greetings to you all. It is my pleasure to report on the work of PressGo for the 2018-19 year. I hope you enjoy reading about the ways in which PressGo has supported the mission of the PCANZ over the last year.

Report from the Chair

The PressGo Board was established by General Assembly 2008 to support the growth of the church by facilitating processes to support new and innovative mission and outreach in New Zealand. To that end the Board administers seed funding and provides practical advice and support to presbyteries and local faith communities via its other two streams of inspiring mission and capacity building. In the 2018-19 year the Board has approved a total of 13 grants from the funds it administers.

Mission Enterprise Fund

The **Mission Enterprise Fund** (MEF) was established following the decision of the 2014 Assembly. We are very grateful for those congregations who have contributed to the fund through the sale of property. These contributions mean that there can be a wider sharing of resources within the PCANZ focusing on growth, vitality, community engagement and showing compassion and care for those who are “on the edges”. A total of \$275,000 has been either distributed or committed as new grants from the MEF in this financial year. In addition MEF contributions were returned to Whakatu Presbyterian (\$50,830) and Knox Lower Hutt (\$59,698) in accordance with GA2018 clarification of exemption. As at 30 June 2019 the total MEF stands at \$811,677 with forward commitments of \$740,000 making the total available funds \$71,677.

The following MEF grants have been made:

St Margaret’s Presbyterian Church, Bishopdale

\$75,000 towards new mission facilities

Alpine Presbytery

\$50,000 towards Hanmer Springs new mission initiative

Hope Presbyterian Church,

\$150,000 towards West Melton mission facilities

The **Aroha** grant fund, which receives 20% of the MEF income, supports ministry among vulnerable and socially disadvantaged communities. It is administered by the PressGo Board in consultation with Te Aka Puaho and the local Presbyterian Support agency. No new grants were made from this fund during the year, so funds stand at \$236,000 at 30 June 2019.

Presbyterian Foundation

The 2016 General Assembly agreed that oversight of the **Presbyterian Foundation** funds be moved to PressGo. As at 30 June 2019 the total funds available for distribution, less forward commitments, stand at \$84,025. Small grants of up to \$10,000 or 50% of the project are funded through the Presbyterian Foundation and \$56,040 has been granted this year:

Chartwell Co-operating Church, Hamilton	\$7,000 towards employing a Youth and Family worker
Newtown Pacific Islanders Church, Wellington	\$2,500 towards an event run by their Sunday School
Fairfield Presbyterian Church, Hamilton -	\$7,000 towards employment of a Whanau worker
PCANZ National White Ribbon event	\$2,500 towards anti-violence awareness event
St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Marton	\$10,000 towards Youth and Family ministries
Presbytery Central	\$3,000 towards podcast directed to young people
Northern Presbytery	\$5,040 to support Auckland Inner City Listening Project
St John's in the City, Wellington	\$5,000 for youth ministry collaboration with Marton church and joint children's holiday programme in Marton
St Margaret's Presbyterian Church, Silverstream	\$5,000 towards employment of Family and Community Outreach Co-ordinator
Kiwi Church, Christchurch	\$9,000 towards employment of Intergenerational Mission Coach

Our Three-Strand Approach

The Board is committed to PressGo's three strand approach of inspiring mission, building capacity and seed funding to resource the PCANZ for growth and sustainability.

The PressGo Catalyst, with the involvement of Board members where possible, actively engages with congregations to help them clarify the issues they are facing and then to discern, refine or develop their vision and identify the resources they require to attain it.

The Board is aware that the funds it administers are indeed limited and only a small part of the total resources of the PCANZ. Over the year we have worked with Presbyteries who have developed their own Mission funds and encouraged a partnership approach to funding requests.

PressGo is working increasingly with staff at Knox Centre for Ministry and Leadership (KCML) as they identify and train leaders for the future. This work naturally flows through to congregational leadership and we have participated and supported development of the Lent-inar interactive presentations, Lighthouse weekend retreats initiated by KCML to provide congregational teams with the opportunity to test and refine missional ideas, and the Listening in Mission programme which is taught to all interns and is now available to the wider church. PressGo funded a "Listening" pilot to discern further the opportunities in Auckland city.

As a result of a discussion paper prepared by PressGo, the General Assembly 2018 established a work group to investigate a Theology of Property and Money and bring implementation recommendations to General Assembly 2020. This will

provide impetus and support to PressGo to encourage the sharing of resources as anticipated in its Terms of Reference.

The Board received a paper on Effective Grant making, prepared by the Catalyst, which resourced a discussion on indicators of success. This will be reflected in requirements for future grantees around monitoring and evaluation in order to better answer the questions "did this make a difference?" and "did the recipient achieve what they set out to do?"

In March, (Council of World Mission) CWM Mission Development Programme Associate Lynette Li visited New Zealand to review PressGo's use of their grant to support the building of missional communities. Lynette came away very impressed with our approach which uses funding, coaching, capacity building and partnerships to foster mission ideas, initiatives and communities. Our collaborative approach with Presbyteries, KCML and the national service teams emphasises the importance of leadership, local context and sustainable and appropriate support in achieving viable and replicable results. PressGo has an important role in nurturing an ecosystem which enables new things to grow and thrive.



Tamiana and Honey Thrupp welcomed Lisa Wells and Lynette Li to the Hughes Place garden.

Early in the new financial year, the Catalyst will convene a meeting of mission catalysts, both paid and volunteers, from across the Presbyteries. This event, run as part of our Inspiring Mission strand, has been planned for some time and will enhance the Mission Catalyst Network which has been meeting electronically for peer support and sharing.

Working more closely with Presbyteries has been a goal this year and the Catalyst acted as advisor to the Northern Presbytery Mission Pathways committee and Kaimai Presbytery's Strategic Work Group. We have been pleased to see the development of new processes for both Congregational and Ministry Development reviews in Northern and Presbytery Central and contributed as able. This is an area which lacked cohesion and attention in past years, and we look forward to continuing to help finesse these resources for the wider church.

It has not gone unnoticed that this has been a year of Council of Assembly initiated reviews. A National Services Review has concluded, and the Catalyst is now a member of the Mission Resourcing Team and participates in additional national initiatives as part of her role. PressGo itself has been reviewed and recommendations will come to COA in November 2019. The Board looks forward to engaging with COA and hearing what is working well and what improvements can be made to ensure we serve PCANZ well into the future.

The Board was deeply saddened to hear of the death from cancer of the Very Rev Andrew Norton in September 2019. Andrew, a founding Board member, was also Convenor of the Board from 2014-



The Very Rev. Andrew Norton.

2018. He was an innovative, visionary and courageous leader for both PressGo and the wider PCANZ. The Board is grateful for the time, gifts and skills gladly offered by Andrew to the Board and for the significant contribution he made to the work of PressGo since its inception.

Thank you to the Board members and associates who give so generously of their time and skills to our work. It is energising and inspiring work that we do for the PCANZ! We are committed to work in ways which show imagination along with good discernment, accountability and transparency as we honour the trust invested in us by the church for this task.

Our sincere appreciation and thanks to those individuals and congregations who have supported PressGo over the past year – those who make regular donations, one-off gifts, those who endowed the Presbyterian Foundation and those who contribute a proportion of their property sales through the Mission Enterprise Fund. Thank you! We are grateful for the part you play in enabling us to do the work we do for the PCANZ.

Rev Sharon Ross Ensor
ACTING CHAIRPERSON PRESSGO BOARD

Who is on the PressGo Board?

Rev Sharon Ross Ensor
(Acting Chair until August 2019)

Rev Martin Stewart
(Incoming Chair August 2019 onwards)

Mrs Jenny Flett

Rev Dr Darryl Tempero

Mrs Mareta Matenga

Mrs Anne Overton

Rev Mose Taumaoe
(appointed November 2018)

Mrs Diana Baird
(Associate, Convenor Resource
subcommittee)

Rev Wayne Matheson
(Associate, AES)

Mrs Lisa Wells
(PressGo Catalyst)

Looking to the Future – From the Incoming Chair

Greetings!

I have only just become the Chairperson of PressGo, thus I expect I might have more to say next year.

I want to acknowledge the wonderful work of Rev Sharon Ross Ensor as Acting Chairperson. I want to declare that the use of the word ‘acting’ is strange for a person carrying out a role in an outstanding manner for a prolonged period of time! I came onto the Board with Sharon doing something far greater than ‘acting’ - she was the real deal! I admired her calm enabling leadership and the way she supported Lisa Wells in her role as Catalyst. I will greatly miss Sharon’s leadership and presence on the Board.

I also want to acknowledge Lisa’s fine work for PressGo. Lisa is a pioneer as well as a very able administrator - we are very

fortunate to have both skills in one person. The creative partnership with KCML is an example of a more collaborative move in PressGo’s focus. Lisa has spearheaded this relational approach and it is proving very fruitful.

The recent death of Very Rev Andrew Norton has been a great loss for the many people who enjoyed him and were challenged by his left-field, wide-angled view of what could yet be. PressGo was the recipient of a significant portion of his energy and imagination. We feel the loss of him greatly!

Rev Martin Stewart
INCOMING CHAIRPERSON

Kiwi Church

– Intergen Coach

Kiwi Church is a network of communities that are exploring new ways of being church. There are three communities in Christchurch and around 70 people are involved in Beer and BBQ church, Vertical 1, and Thin Place as well as a community in West Otago. Authentic relationship is Kiwi Church's highest value and so it is important that communities remain small and multiply. The communities are intentionally intergenerational. Kiwi Church applied to PressGo for help in planting a new missional community in Riccarton by supporting the work of an intergenerational coach.

This new expression of church will bring all ages together with a particular missional focus which combines learning from 3DM, other new mission seedlings and KCML's Listening in Mission. First steps will be prayer, listening and discernment around the ways to connect with people. At the same time Kiwi Church wants to experiment with intentionally intergenerational prototypes of church. The PressGo Board considered that this type of initiative provides ability to experiment and envision and inspire others to try something different.



Julia Penno, Kiwi Church Intergen Coach.

Hope Presbyterian Church

– West Melton Congregation



In 2008, the parish of West Melton and Halkett invited Hope Presbyterian Church to merge with them and share mission and ministry together. Since then West Melton has experienced steady growth to the point the congregation is too large for the current building. Some Sundays, adults wait in the foyer for seats to become available once children leave for Sunday School. A nice problem to have!

A new, larger worship space has been envisaged which is structurally integrated with the remodeled church to form a coherent and attractive complex that will serve West Melton's needs for the foreseeable future. Alpine Presbytery was highly supportive of the project, which was budgeted at \$1.7m. PressGo partnered with the Alpine Mission Fund to contribute \$150,000 and \$200,000 respectively.

Although the building is important, for PressGo the real focus of the application and the reason behind their grant was the plan to continue to grow the congregation and reach into a community where God is active. As Christchurch sprawls south, the immediate neighbourhood is changing, and the church community spaces will ultimately contribute to the community's infrastructure and provide a vital community hub. As the application said:

"This is a remarkable opportunity to really grow God's kingdom in a strategic location that is relatively unchurched."

Detailed design is underway, and the church expects to open the completed development at the end of 2020.



Marton Mission 2019

Thanks to PressGo, St John's in the City, Wellington was able to take a team of 36 people to join St Andrew's Presbyterian Church in mission in Marton. St Andrew's provided 15 young people so the team numbered over 50, with 40 teenage "missionaries".

The major service project was running a week-long Christian holiday club for 80 children. The programme was high energy and included singing, Bible stories, games, music, sports, crafts and a lot of fun. The teenagers acted as positive role models and guides for the children.

Here are a few of the social media comments on a local Facebook group:

"Nga mihi nui ki a koutou! Such happy, positive role-models for our tamariki! So, I thank you all from the bottom of my heart."

"All three of my grandkids had so much fun. Every day when I picked them up, they sang the songs they learnt. Such a fantastic thing to put on for the kids. Well done Team."

"Well done team!!! This was amazing my daughter loved it so much!! Can't stop talking about it. THANK YOU ALL so much."

In the afternoons, the team spread out around the town. One group spent the afternoons at the skateboard ministry, while others served in rest homes, an op shop, childcare centre, a community group, or got involved in painting, singing, gardening, cleaning, sorting etc. The team went to every door in Marton collecting food for the Christian Welfare foodbank, and in connection with the Council, ran a youth event for high school youth at the local swimming pool.

The final aspect of the week was worship which happened at both at St Andrew's and neighbouring St Stephens churches, as well as daily devotions lead by the Rev Stuart Simpson.

For the team it was an opportunity to put faith into action, the same way you

might teach a child to pray by praying with them, rather than teaching them about prayer. They grew in faith as they shared in God's mission, sharing their stories and experiences. A tight bond was created between the two churches and this surely will only be the beginning of the relationship. For St Andrew's, they connected in with so many more people in their community and have been able to invite the children into their weekly children's ministry programming. For both churches, the young "missionaries" leave the experience having grown in faith, become stronger leaders and inspired to continue to live out their faith through service. PressGo contributed half the costs of this mission, the rest was raised by the churches and young people themselves. Good news on all fronts!



Te Taurahere Whatumanawa – The Heart Strings Project



This Annual Report would not be complete without mentioning our sole Aroha fund recipient to date, but it is difficult to pack twelve months of activity into a few paragraphs because this is a project which keeps delivering 24/7.

Te Taurahere Whatumanawa is a partnership of Te Aka Puaho, Whakatane Presbyterian Church, Presbyterian Support Northern and PressGo and began with the establishment of a community garden (now Hughes Place Food Production Project). It has become an important gathering and focal place for the community of Taneatua in rural Bay of Plenty. Much food is produced in the gardens, supplemented with a pantry and other donated goods. It's all free for the taking and then people contribute as they are able, sometimes digging, planting and harvesting and at the same time investing in the lives of the young people who flock to the garden.

People are re-learning how to grow their own food and the recent inclusion of farmland in Ruatoki begins the next stage of the programme which is to raise cattle, chickens and pigs. Diversification will help the whole project become more sustainable as well as feeding the community and supporting people in need. Holiday programmes, special events like Neighbour's Day, Easter, Christmas are created in the garden and feature lots of fun and kai.

All that sounds like basic community development, but there is a difference!

This is a story of children's lives being blessed by strangers; stories of sadness when Rev Chris Barnard was farewelled; stories of prayer to heal the land and stories about visits from KCML and Connect youth leaders.



Rev. Chris Benard, one of the instigators of the project, being farewelled.

The best illustration of the different ways this project weaves together the stories of the community, their mission and the PCANZ-wide connections is told by Honey:

November 23rd 2018 - The White Ribbon riders rolled into Taneatua led by the fire brigade to the Hughes Place garden, drawing in a crowd of around 150 people created a family orientated afternoon for all. We were privileged to have one of White Ribbon ambassadors Very Rev Ray Coster all the way from Tauranga speaking to the crowd.

Days before our White Ribbon event an incident happened on the corner of our street resulting in a young man dying from family violence. Our hearts were heavy. All we could do was pray for the young man and the situation around us before he was taken away. With this happening and the event fast approaching, we hoped that everyone's hearts would be healed to make our day a success.

Once again, we had known perpetrators of domestic violence standing around the outside of the grounds listening, but this time they were very helpful with setting up and the clean- up. Towards the end of the day as we were packing up, a carload of young men looking very high on drugs came speeding through the reserve; very threatening - the other men stood there to protect us as they drove off.

The team involved have the trust of their community and where there are needs people feel free to visit and ask for help, or their neighbours will ask for them. There is a sense that the on-going prayer, pastoral care and genuine aroha is a blessing from God. No reira ma te matua nui i te rangi koutou hei manaaki.



Children at prayer.



Amorangi Rev. Tamiana Thrupp, at the holiday programme operated out of Te Maungarongo marae, holding mokopuna Killeen.



PressGo

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To find out more
about how PressGo
can help you respond
to God's mission,
please contact:

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