



PressGo
Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

Annual Report 2017-18



Who is on the PressGo Board?

Rev Sharon Ross Ensor

Acting Chair

Mrs Jenny Flett

Rev Darryl Tempero

Mrs Mareta Matenga

Rev Martin Stewart

(Appointed June 2018)

Mrs Anne Overton

(Appointed June 2018)

Very Rev Andrew Norton

(until February 2018)

Mr Simon Bilton

(until February 2018)

Mrs Anne Edgar

Associate, Convenor Resource Subcommittee

Rev Wayne Matheson

Associate, AES

Mrs Lisa Wells

PressGo Catalyst

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 mission funding and provides practical advice and support to presbyteries and local faith communities.

Mission Enterprise Fund

In the 2017-18 year the Board has approved a total of 21 grants from the funds it administers.

The Mission Enterprise Fund was established following the decision of the 2014 Assembly. We are very grateful for churches that have contributed to the fund through the sale of property – this enables a wider sharing within the PCANZ and makes it possible for us to fund projects which help growth and vitality, focus on serving the wider community and demonstrate compassion and care for those who are marginalised.

A total of \$473,000 has been either distributed or committed from the MEF in this financial year. As at 30 June 2018 the total MEF stands at \$1,155,963 with commitments of \$663,163 making the total available funds \$492,800.

Christchurch North & Village Church	Village Well initiative based in Papanui	\$18,000
Clevedon Community Church	Extension of HATCH congregation project	\$20,000
Whakatu Presbyterian, Nelson	Minister for Local Mission	\$115,000
St John's Church, Hastings	Community Pastor	\$20,000
Mahurangi Presbyterian Church, Warkworth	Building / mission projects	\$300,000

The Aroha grant fund, which receives 20% of the MEF income, makes grants to support 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 office. This year we renewed our commitment to the Te Taurahere Whatumanawa (Heartstrings) Initiative in Taneatua and granted a further \$75,610 over two years.



Mahurangi Church and Community Centre

It's not often we have the opportunity to start again in a new place and design a church and community complex on bare land, but that is just what Mahurangi Church, in Warkworth (north of Auckland) has done. Warkworth has been identified as one of the new satellite areas of Auckland city and the population is expected to grow from approximately 6,000 to 25,000 over the next 15 years. Currently the growth in the area is

outstripping these expectations. We believe that the opportunities for growth and mission of the church in this environment are significant. As one of the larger, growing churches in this area we believe Mahurangi is well placed to take advantage of this opportunity. The church's goal is to be connected to and serving the local community by building a new multipurpose church and community facility designed to meet current challenges in a suitable location and to cater for future growth. PressGo was pleased to support this project and the new mission opportunities it presents with a significant grant from the Mission Enterprise Fund.

Presbyterian Foundation

The 2016 General Assembly agreed that oversight of the Presbyterian Foundation funds be moved to PressGo. As at 30 June 2018 the total funds available for distribution, less forward commitments, stand at \$145,299. Small grants of up to \$10,000 or 50% of the project are funded through the Presbyterian Foundation and \$94,500 has been granted this year.

Mahurangi Presbyterian Church	24/7 Youth work	\$4,000
Nawton Church	Community ministry	\$5,000
East Taieri Church	Strengthening Families project	\$10,000
Equip South	Southern restructure investigation	\$3,000
Fairfield Discovery Church	Child and Whanau Minister	\$10,000
Waiuku & districts	English Conversation group	\$2,500
St James Whanganui	Youth Worker	\$10,000
Whakatane Church	Heart to Heart Expo	\$3,500
St Clare's Co-operating	Bottletop Café	\$2,000
Mangere PI Church	Family Camp	\$7,500
Mangapapa Union	Youth Worker	\$8,000
St Heliers Church	Cultural Ambassador	\$10,000
Onehunga Co-operating	PI Youth Initiative	\$2,500
St Andrew's Hastings	PI Youth Initiative	\$10,000
Mairangi & Castor Bays	Indian outreach	\$6,500

Fairfield Presbyterian Parish

Community and Whanau Minister



Fairfield parish has now received two PressGo grants to help employ a Community and Whanau Minister. They write: “It has been such a blessing to have Christine added to our team. God is using her gifts to enrich and encourage what Fairfield Parish is doing in the community. The PressGo grants gave us the initial confidence to take a big step of faith to employ her half time. The blessing continues to multiply.” Christine Harding has been supporting the existing programmes and helped members with a passion for younger people to set up and establish new programmes such as Iconz for Boys (pictured above) and a regular Messy Church afternoon which is already introducing children and families to other existing programmes.

Future Work

The Board is committed to PressGo being seen not merely as a funding body, but as a resource for the PCANZ's 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 limited and only a small part of the total resources of the PCANZ. It will require courage to release the significant financial resources held by our congregations and presbyteries, but we are willing to partner with them to create ways for this to happen. The Board has affirmed its reluctance to fund building projects unless they are clearly integral to the development of a new mission initiative. Our focus is on people, not buildings. We have increasing concerns about how we use property in the PCANZ – both in how we share and how we hold onto buildings that can become idols of a grander past. Holding on and not letting go

is a problem. God is always calling us onward and stubbornly staying where we are most comfortable is not an option.

Thank you to the Board members and associates who give so generously of their time and skills to our work. It is an exciting and rewarding area of the PCANZ's life to be involved in and we do not take for granted the responsibility we have to do this work with wisdom, imagination, transparency and integrity.

Thank you to all 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! You are a vital part of the work we do together across the country.

The Board particularly wants to acknowledge the work of Andrew Norton, a 'founding member' of the Board and its Convenor since 2014. Andrew stepped down as Board Chair in 2018. He invested significant time and skill into the role and we are grateful for his vision, wisdom and leadership.

Rev Sharon Ross Ensor
Acting Chair PressGo Board



Mangere Pacific Islanders' Church

Sunday School Camp

The dream of a weekend camp at Ngaruawahia became a reality for Mangere Pacific Islanders Church with the help of a PressGo grant. Outdoor activities, bible study, and praise and worship all focussed on the theme – Faith in Action.

The camp enabled young people to lead, grow and celebrate what God is doing in their Sunday School and Church.



Mairangi and Castor Bays Presbyterian Church

Reaching the Indian community on the Shore

In their recently revised Mission Plan the parish identified the need to become more reflective of the age and ethnic mix of their local community. In short, they determined they were too European. There was an opportunity to reach out to the Indian community through one of the church's members, Raju George, who was ordained in Delhi. PressGo was able to help to employ Raju part-time and now Hindi speaking services on Sunday evenings are



held fortnightly and they are followed by a meal. The congregation at these evening services has been growing with 26 adults and 13 children attending.



St James Youth Ministry

In 2013 a children's ministry was replanted at St James Church Whanganui East. Five years later, the children who grew up through that children's ministry were reaching intermediate age and the need for establishing a junior youth ministry was apparent. The grant received from PressGo enabled the Church to advertise for a part time youth worker.

They say that Ben Androustos has been an answer to prayer for St James and he has started a Sunday morning group for intermediate aged young people alongside the children's ministry, as well as a Friday night youth group. Discipleship is the focus for both groups and they use the 'in around out' model as an underlying framework to guide their activities.

East Taieri Church Strengthening Families



East Taieri Church received a grant towards their community work with families. Their aim is to "support parents to do the best for children through positive parenting and making good choices to build resilience when families are facing tough times." A highlight for the church this year was working with seven local agencies, including Taieri College, to provide an evening for parents of teenagers called "Stop, Talk, Listen". This evening provided parents with information about technology and mental health and showcased agencies that can help further in these areas.

Reflection from PressGo Catalyst

With the retirement of Andrew Norton, the only remaining inaugural member of the Board is the PressGo Catalyst Lisa Wells. Ten years on from the establishment of PressGo as a key growth strategy, what has changed?

1. Congregations and presbyteries have more money and fewer members.
2. Predictions of fewer congregations having a full-time ordained minister have come to pass.
3. Good leadership is key to identifying new forms of church and different ways to engage with our communities. KCML is taking a significant role in this area and some outstanding young leaders are emerging.
4. While new forms of church and mission are emerging, many congregations want to make what they do “relevant”, without changing anything.
5. Congregations find it hard to look beyond attractional models and this is reinforced by language of “us” and “them”. Making “them” like “us” is the target.
6. First steps into community mission are often to hire someone to “do” it for the congregation. Unless the person is well-supported by the congregation the role founders under the weight of unspoken expectations.
7. Some Presbyteries have struggled to be flexible and agile and find new ways of working. They lack capacity and capability. Their primary role is to support congregations in mission, but don’t know where to start in helping congregations imagine a future different from a current reality of declining membership and worrying building issues. Business issues take time and priority and little time is left for developing adaptive strategies and inspiring mission practice.
8. I observe less trust in each other and others note increasing litigation. I wonder how this fits with the Biblical ways of relating when we have differences? (Matthew 7:3-5, Matthew 18:15-21.)
9. Growing churches have a point of difference – some are multi-cultural, some are ethnic-specific, some are evangelistic, some have great community connections and, increasingly, many are becoming shaped by God’s mission.
10. We have come to realise that PressGo can’t “save” the denomination by increasing membership of the churches. Encouraging congregations to be open to the movement of God’s spirit and responding in risky, courageous ways is what it will take to change the way we are church together.



PressGo



Presbyterian Church
of Aotearoa New Zealand

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

Lisa Wells

PressGo Catalyst

Phone 027 4455 723

lisaw@presbyterian.org.nz

