



The long-awaited porch has become a reality. Electricians have been working inside and the new stained glass windows above the porch should be in place within a week or two.

### Directory

#### Vicar:

Ian Hardcastle 424 0939  
 vicar@ststephenswgp.org.nz

#### Honorary Priest Assistants:

Anne Aspden 424 3693  
 Neville Cooper 424 8630  
 Max Cranch 428 1686  
 Paul Huffam 424 8956  
 Graham Lamont 424 4599

#### Pastoral Care Coordinator & Prayer Requests:

Anne Aspden 424 3693

#### Beachfront Rest Home Ministry:

Mary Smith 424 5782

#### Northaven Ministry:

Herb Pryde 021 470 060

#### Home Group Co-ordinator:

Guinny Sorensen 422 0441

#### Junior Church & Crèche:

Jill McTeigue 421 0645

#### Absolute Youth:

Quentin Currall 428 2429

#### "mainly music":

Gill Henderson 428 1248

#### Wardens:

Roy Smith (Vicar's) 424 8686  
 Torben Sorensen (People's) 422 0441

#### Church Office & Secretary:

**KITsheet items & Hall Bookings:**  
 Sue Kroger 554 0747  
 office@ststephenswgp.org.nz  
 3-5 Stanmore Bay Rd  
 P.O. Box 447 Whangaparaoa

#### Treasurer:

Jon Henderson 428 1248

#### Envelope Recorder:

Sue Kroger 554 0747

#### 2nd Chance Shop:

Diane Carss 027 253 7411

#### A.A.W. Chair:

Wendy Probert 428 4452

#### Transitions (Grief Support):

Christina Jensen 424 0642

#### Sacristan:

Jacque Benner 424 8478

#### Flower Rosters

Lynelle Mann 424 0808

#### Cleaning Roster

Gill Cranch 428 1686

**Website:** [www.stStephensWgp.org.nz](http://www.stStephensWgp.org.nz)

**News & Views Interim Editor:** Helen Hardcastle

Copy for Christmas mag to: [mag@stStephensWGP.org.nz](mailto:mag@stStephensWGP.org.nz) by 20<sup>th</sup> of November.



**News & Views**  
**Sept-October**  
**2013**

### Promise Keepers - October Men's Event

Don't miss out! See page 11



### New Wine Summer Camp

for all the church family (see p4)



**MADE FOR MORE**

**NewWine Summer Festival**  
 WORSHIP TEACHING MINISTRY  
 WARKWORTH 8-12 JANUARY 2014  
 WAIKANA E 16-20 JANUARY 2014  
 NEWWINE.ORG.NZ

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit JOHN 15:16

## The Vicar's Journal

Dear Friends,

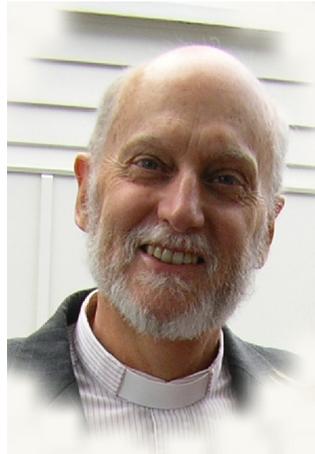
When a big event is approaching, one tends to become more and more drawn in to thinking about it and preparing for it. This is so with our mission trip to Tanzania. You should see the pile of trip gear that is growing in our lounge! As Helen and I prepare and plan, we hope you are getting excited too, as in going there, we are acting as ambassadors for St Stephen's church.

Through us, you are reaching out to the people of Kondoia in a very tangible way. Together with Anne, we will be meeting the people who now have a roof on their church, thanks to your generosity. We will be meeting the evangelists who have a place to stay as they minister in Christ's name in a Muslim village, because you have provided the money for their accommodation. We will be able to see first-hand what their difficulties are as they live and preach the good news about Jesus day by day.

Fortunately, Anne Aspden is coming with us, as she has wide experience of mission in third world countries, while Helen's and my experience is in 1st world countries. Please pray for the three of us as we prepare talks to encourage the clergy and lay ministers of the Kondoia Diocese. It is a humbling thought to be offering teaching to these people who face poverty, hunger, and persecution on a daily basis. We know little of their difficulties, but we do know the God who loves us in our separate situations. He never changes and we long to be able to share what we have learned of Him that will be encouraging to them.

Meanwhile, on the home front, there are a number of opportunities which we eagerly share with you: New Wine conferences are massive fun, so book in early. January 2014 holds the promise of MORE good things as we take a church weekend away to new heights at Warkworth New Wine. Carry on reading for more interesting and challenging opportunities...

In Him,



I don't suppose these have changed much over the years, but in my seven years as Vicar's Warden, and for six years prior to that as Vicar's Assistant, then in the final years in my last parish, as Pastoral Care Co-Ordinator, while I was well aware of my duties, not once did I come across the last one! I never had cause to feel frightened of any of the three clergy I worked with. I respected and loved each of them and the feeling was mutual.

But what about a job description for being an ambassador for Christ – is there one? I believe there is, and there is a place in the workforce for each of us, not just one suitable applicant.

You may be able to write a job description of your own, but here is the one I have chosen, which is based on the lovely prayer sometimes used before the final blessing at a service:

Go out into the world in peace

Be of good courage

Hold fast to that which is good

Render to no-one evil for evil

Strengthen the faint-hearted

Support the weak

Help the afflicted

Honour all people

Love and serve the Lord

Rejoice in the fellowship

Your fellow-worker,

Irene Hobday

### Church Bulletin Humor

- *Sermon Outline:*  
I. Delineate your fear II. Disown your fear III. Displace your rear
- The lovers in the exhaust fan are not working.
- We pray that our people will jumble themselves.
- Helpers are needed! Please sign up on the information sheep.
- As soon as the weather clears up, the men will have a goof outing.

## Job Description

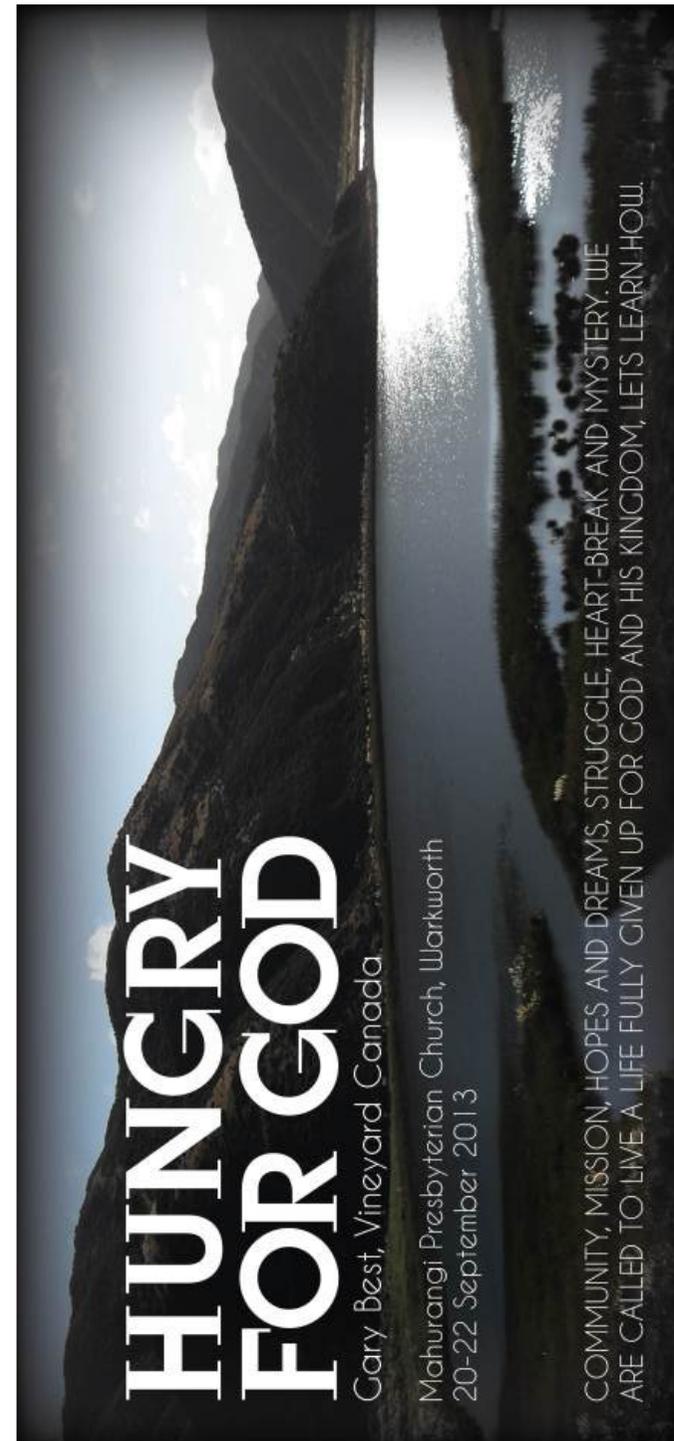
I would imagine that in this age of job losses, there are those in our church family who have scanned the 'Situations Vacant' columns in the papers in search of work. Even if you are not looking for a job they sometimes make interesting reading. Some will only consist of a few lines, while others take a block and will probably use the words – 'the applicant will need to ...' and will go on to name the skills required.

In June I was reading the Spring 2013 issue of This England and came across an article about a country funeral. The writer said that the mourners were a mixed bunch of villagers, who had come together to say goodbye to an old lady, a farmer's widow, a servant of the church and her community for more than 60 years, a pillar of the Women's Institute, Chairman of the Parish Hall Committee, a Scottish country dancer, a loyal supporter of all village activities, but perhaps most important of all, a former churchwarden. She goes on to say that the duties of a churchwarden are manifold.

I wonder how many of our church family know what the duties of a churchwarden are. I guess those who have ever served in this capacity will be well aware of what is required of them – (Roy and Torben are you paying attention?) This is how the writer lists them:

For centuries churchwardens have been officers of the parish responsible for:

- Maintaining the fabric of the building
- Organising the annual church inspection
- Supervising adequate heating, seating and lighting
- Handling money
- Keeping detailed records
- Attending meetings of the Parochial Church Council (Vestry)
- Welcoming visitors
- During an interregnum ensuring that the church is served by visiting preachers – and
- According to one website, they must be "wise, firm and not frightened of the clergy"!



Gary and Joy Best are founding leaders of Vineyard Canada. They love the local church and have planted and pastored for 25 years in a way that has released people in that hunger. They come to NZ to share their insights, experience, theology and love of seeing God move powerfully through his people in the knowledge that if we hunger God will answer.

Gary is author of "Naturally Supernatural" which discusses how the Holy Spirit longs to work through ordinary believers to see God do amazing things and transform lives and the world around us.

Check out the details on [www.http://newwine.org.nz/events/gary-best/](http://newwine.org.nz/events/gary-best/) ; look on the welcome desk for a leaflet and the sign-up sheet for a lift.

## Fun times for the whole Church family - New Wine Summer Conference... Plan it now!

The summer festival will give us time and space to consider the “more” for which we were made. We will take our hearts deeper into the love of God through worship, our minds into the honest truth of God through teaching and inspiration, and our wills radically into the mission of God through prayer and challenge.

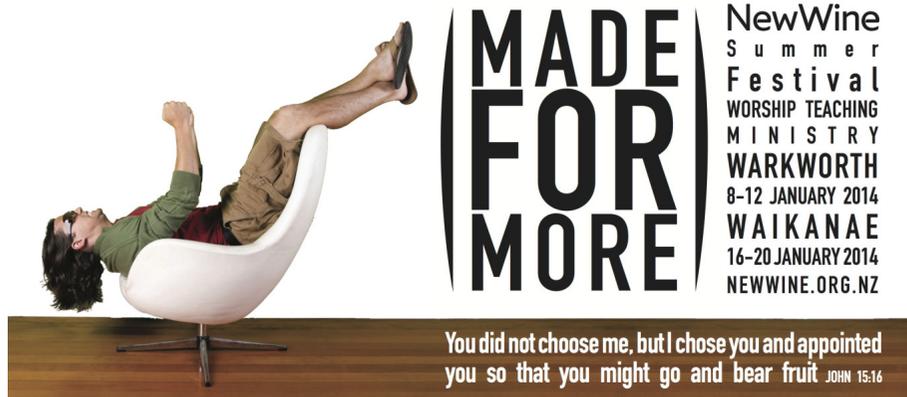
In January we will grow our faith and raise our expectations of what God will do as we accept that we are chosen and appointed and ARE SIMPLY MADE FOR MORE.

**Book early for a discount!**

Features of this year’s festival include:

- Teaching with both Kiwi and international speakers
- Churches who will create tent villages to dine together, chat together, live in community together
- Afternoon “Strengthening Marriages” sessions with Andrea Wigglesworth and Vicky McEvoy from Scotland
- “One Issue”; a forum to chat for 20 minutes with Christian counsellor Richard Black, Aaron Ironside and associates about just one issue
- Workshops on practical ministry; healing, prophecy, hospitality, business and many more including a theology stream
- Extended worship sessions for those who love to worship longer and deeper
- Evening entertainment
- Afternoon activities

<http://newwine.org.nz/summer-festivals/>  
has application forms



**MADE FOR MORE**

NewWine  
S u m m e r  
F e s t i v a l  
WORSHIP TEACHING  
M I N I S T R Y  
WARKWORTH  
8-12 JANUARY 2014  
WAIKANA E  
16-20 JANUARY 2014  
NEWWINE.ORG.NZ

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit JOHN 15:16

## Invitation

There are some new home groups which have started or are about to start: You are welcome to come along and see if a particular group is a good place for you. No-one will be offended if you try several groups before you decide.

At the Ropes’ place are men’s and women’s groups on alternate **Tuesday evenings**. Marian and Warwick would welcome a conversation with potential new members - 424 1678

**Friday morning** in Gulf Harbour is a group with a developing style. We have started with “A Life Worth Living” - a study in the book of Philipians. Call Helen Hardcastle or Diane Carss to connect. (see below)

## Home Groups

<b>Monday</b>	7.00pm	Puhoi group led by the Sorensens (09 422 0441)
<b>Tuesday</b>	1.30pm	Kknitting/craft group meet in the fFyer
	7.15pm	Stanmore Bay, Leader: Terry Tustin (424 2049)
	7.30pm	Ladies’ Bible Study led by Marian Rope (alt. Tuesdays)
	7.30pm	Men’s Bible Study led by Warwick Rope (alt Tuesdays)
<b>Wednesday:</b>	2pm	Central group: Florence Brown (424 0234).
	7.15pm	Stanmore Bay Group led by Max Cranch (428 1686).
	7:30pm	Matakatia Group led by Jon Henderson (428 1248)
	7.30pm	Stanmore Bay Road - Paul & Terry Huffam ph 424 8956
<b>Friday:</b>	9.45am	Home Group meets in the Youth Room. Led by Daphne Waples (426 6498)
	10am	Gulf Harbour - Helen Hardcastle & Diane Carss (027 253 7411)

**Therefore encourage one another and build each other up,  
just as in fact you are doing - 1 Thess.5.11**

Any queries to Home Group Co-ordinator Ginny Sorensen (09 422 0441)



### Budgeting Course

Debt continues to be a huge problem across New Zealand for many

reasons, but at the heart of many people's problems is a lack of knowledge about how to manage their money effectively. Since *Christians against Poverty* was established 5 years ago in New Zealand, hundreds of people have been released from an unnecessary burden of anxiety over money. Marriages have been saved, children have food on the table and some driven to the edge of suicide have new hope.

Taking control of your finances is not as difficult as people think. The *CAP Money* course is designed to empower people, using a very simple budgeting system. It encourages people to know what is happening with their money now and helps them to plan for the future.

Four people in St Stephen's have been trained as "CAP Money coaches" and we have run two CAP Money courses in 2011.

We are hoping that more people who are interested in this area of ministry will become trained CAP money coaches, too, so that the team can expand. It is not an arduous course and we would love to hear from anyone who is interested in helping people learn budgeting skills.

Our CAP Speaker for Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> September will be Kirstin Smith.

Kirstin leads the *Creditor Liaison and Insolvency Team* at the CAP Head Office, where she negotiates clients' debts with creditors and walks clients through the insolvency process, if necessary. Though she grew up in Katikati and went to University in Auckland, Kirstin has spent time overseas in YWAM, worked a summer camp in the US and lived for two years in London. She was drawn to CAP first because of the focus on providing both a practical solution and spiritual transformation, and has a deep desire to see people set free, not just from debt, but from all of their burdens, hurts and confusion.

Di Hillas, Bob Elder and Helen Hardcastle have been trained as "CAP Money coaches" and are about to run a CAP Money course especially for St Stephens and friends. There will be a sign-up sheet on the back table or you can ring Helen on 424 0939 to join the course, which runs for three weekly sessions. They will be on 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September from 7-9pm.

If you are interested in coming on the course, bringing a friend, or just checking out this new ministry, please talk to Di (424 7422) or Helen (424 0939).



## Are you Red-y?

Our next "All-Age service" is on 29th September.

***Wear something red & bring a friend...***

### **Test your Biblical Knowledge or How Attentive are you in Church?**

1. Name of project celebrating bicentenary of the first sermon preached in New Zealand.
2. Who delivered this sermon?
3. Ian's recent sermon series was called after a man who rode in a heavenly precursor of a large Mitsubishi MPV launched in 1983. Who was he?
4. What was handed down to Moses on a tablet of stone on Mt Sinai?
5. Hebrew names of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego? (See Daniel 1)
6. Sister of Lazarus and Martha?
7. A prophetess in Jerusalem of the tribe of Asher widowed for approx 62years. (See Luke 2)
8. Daughter of Laban & first wife of Jacob? (See Genesis 29)
9. Ruth's mother-in-law?
10. Sold into slavery by his brothers? (see Genesis 37)
11. Name of river Moses had his first boat-ride on?
12. A patriarch who deceived his ancient father into giving him the blessing.
13. Overlooked, youngest of 8 sons, yet became king of Israel?
14. A nine letter word for Communion (Means thanksgiving)
15. What does the word Gospel mean?

## Amazing Joy

What has given me the amazing joy in my life? I became a Christian at a Billy Graham meeting in my teens but later backslid during my 30's and 40's only to find my Lord again through Alpha during my 50's. I've had some tough times in my past - a divorce which left me with 2 teenagers to rear, a career that ended with redundancy, several severe illnesses, a disastrous financial investment that left me virtually penniless followed closely by two strokes in my 50's, which meant a complete stop to my earning capacity, and now I've got terminal cancer in my 60's. Enough to make one sorry for oneself?

But no, I have chosen to be happy- partly because I have wonderful children and grandchildren and am richly blessed by my many friends and relations, but above all because I have chosen Christ to be foremost in my life. I remember after the strokes I was sitting in the doorway of my flat catching whatever breeze I could in the heat of the day and I was reading the book of Job. It mirrored my own miserable state and tears rolled down my face at his woes and mine. Then I read the final verses and prayed to God for the same steadfastness Job had shown and I was blessed by ecstatic joy as I came to realise that never-failing belief in Him was the answer. I had gone through terrible depression and had suicidal thoughts but with the help of counselling and my St Stephen's friends, I came back to joy.

Since then, I have chosen to be positive and joyful in spite of everything. I have learnt the positive benefits of encouraging everyone around me and my greatest pleasure comes from the smallest positive uplifting of other people. I also obey the Lord's Prayer: "Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us". That forgiveness is essential before you can love everybody and forgiveness is a choice, a decision of the will. In the words of C.S Lewis:

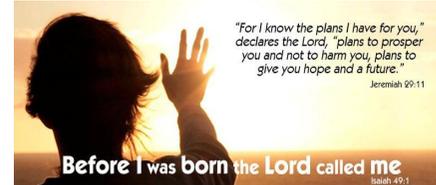
*"Even pain serves a purpose, if it only keeps us from viewing this present earth as a final home."*

I know that when I die I will know the ultimate joy of being with my Lord in heaven. Faith in Him is the key to everlasting joy. He always answers our prayers but not always as we wish. Dozens of you pray for me (I can feel it!) and I have huge peace and joy, although no actual healing of the cancer has taken place. Surely though, the blessings He has given my spirit are more than anyone could wish for. When one is healed spiritually one becomes a healing channel for God. Spiritual healing not only deepens and strengthens one's faith but it also fills you with the desire to be used by God in helping others.

*Cntd p7*

### Answers to Quiz:

1. Hope Project
2. Samuel Marsden
3. Elijah
4. The Ten Commandments
5. Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah.
6. Mary
7. Anna
8. Leah
9. Naomi
10. Joseph
11. The Nile
12. Jacob
13. David
14. Eucharist
15. Good News
16. During Advent and Lent



Promise Keepers - 2013

## Men's Conference

4 - 5 OCTOBER 2013

Friday: 7:00 - 9:30 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am - 9:00 pm

Venue: Victory Convention Centre

- **Understand** that God knows you and has a plan for your life
- **Discover** the upward call of God for the next stage of your spiritual journey
- **Break free** from spiritual mediocrity to a future of hope and purpose

Promise Keepers Men's Event **The Call** will help you prepare and position yourself to clearly identify the call on your life and to equip you to fulfill it. This will be life-transforming. Activate His plan for your destiny at Promise Keepers Auckland this October!

**Step up now and answer the call!**

**For more info:** <http://www.promisekeepers.org.nz/akl13> or ask Ian or Rob Aspden.

## Vision 4 Mission

With Spring just around the corner it may be a good time to see how your “winter time with God” has gone! Has He given you much to think about in the coming months? Are you ready to take part in His plan for you or are you still ‘looking on’ from the sideline? Over the last few months, as leader of the *Vision4Mission team*, I feel as though we have been ‘looking on’ from the sideline. However with Spring approaching and Advent not too far ahead, we have been busy searching out new ways to help people within our community.

On the first Sunday of each month we have a “Food Bank Collection” for the local Hibiscus Coast Food Bank. Thank you so much for the support you show to those less fortunate within our community.

I know that Christmas seems such a long way off but before we know it, we will be saying “I can’t believe it’s Christmas again!” In October small blue Santa sacks will be available for you to use for your special contribution to the Hibiscus Coast Food bank appeal. A list of items they would appreciate will be on each sack – you only have to purchase one (or two). The advance planning may help with your own Christmas ideas. Wrapping paper and sellotape are also needed if you wish to give this as well. Thank you all.

The missions we are currently giving to are all appreciative of what we are able to give them. Many, many thanks for the stamps that you give. The Anglican Mission Board so far have made I think, around \$11,000 this year from the sale of stamps. We are a small part in that but it all goes to a bigger cause.

We await news of a successful trip to Tanzania in October for Ian and Helen, and Anne Aspden. This will be interesting for all as we will have first hand news of what Bishop Given faces every day as he and his co-workers go about doing God’s work in East Africa.

**As a team we thank you for your efforts in all the ways you support missions at St Stephens.**

Blessings,

*Sheila*

*cntd from p6...*

I believe that apart from Christ I can do nothing, so I declare my complete dependence on Him. Faith in Him is my key to wonderful peace and absolute joy. If I can pass on to other people some of the joy, peace and love, well then, my time on earth has not been wasted.

*by Margaret Hopkins*



### Margaret Hopkins

Former parishioner

Died Tuesday 3rd September 2013

Funeral 2pm Tuesday 10th September at St Stephen’s

You were an encourager, an loving and enthusiastic welcomer and it was a joy to be in your presence.

Rest in peace, beloved and courageous sister in the Lord. We will miss you, but we know that you are with Jesus, overflowing with unimaginable, perfect joy and we will see you again.

The NZ Order of St Luke the Physician has an International Healing Conference at Totara Springs Christian Centre, Matamata (about 2 hours drive from Auckland) 15-18 October 2013

This conference is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for people in NZ interested in healing.

The theme is “Christ’s Healing in the Third Millennium”

There will be three international speakers, plus the Bishop of Dunedin speaking. There will be about 50 overseas visitors, so it will be a very interesting time. 15 workshops as well as the keynote speakers will make for a rich feast.

There is still time to register, but places are filling up fast! For more information see [www.OSLNZ.org](http://www.OSLNZ.org) or telephone: Janice and Neville Cooper on 424 8630.



The school assembly greets us.

## St Andrew's High School Project in Tonga – July 2013

These pictures give a bit of an idea of what we did on our time in Tonga. Of course there was much more, like the school singing and their band, the feasts with our hosts, the dancing, the swimming and the break we had with a visit to Pangaimotu Island.

13 members of our church have recently returned from a week in Tonga where they spent the time working mainly on maintenance and upgrading work in an Anglican school, St Andrew's High School in Nuku'alofa. The group consisted of parishioners aged from 17 to 85 years old and we joined up with a similar number of volunteers from Wellington. This initiative was part of a program run by two New Zealanders, Simon & Rachel Tipping, who aim to improve the facilities at the school and pass on some skills to the local students. The school struggles for funds and Rachel and Simon spend three months of the year there as volunteers. This year they have six teams coming over from various parts of the country, each spending a week helping the school.

As well as being involved in building and painting work, the team were also involved in working in the school library, in providing some first aid and cooking classes and in passing on some of their skills to senior pupils at the school. We finished on Saturday 20 July.

We worked hard but enjoyed the chance to meet and work with the Tongan students, to experience life in Tonga and to meet up with the Tongan people who made us very welcome. To follow up our interest in the school, Liz's plant-growing and Marnie's sponsorship of a promising Tongan boy will demonstrate our continuing intention to bless them.

*Rob Aspden*



Alison Bodmer, Marnie Andrews & Emma Mundell chilling between jobs



Painting with flair and fun!