

# University of Waikato Ecumenical Chaplain Report to the Chaplaincy Committee AGM March 2023

Welcome to a very different New Year – the first year of our new Chaplaincy Team.

This year we have appointed Nadine Werner and Nick Goodwin as our first two Volunteer Assistant Chaplains on the Hamilton Campus, and I am currently interviewing a candidate for the same role at our Tauranga Campus. Another new face this year is Patricia (Trish) Donald who is studying for a Level 5 Certificate in Chaplaincy through South Pacific Bible College at Tauranga; she will be shadowing me as an Intern for one day a week throughout 2023.

I am very pleased to welcome Suzy Fourie back to the Wellbeing Hub this year, and I shall talk further about the joint work that we are planning.

The campus has a good feel to it, with some real energy after the last few years of COVID restrictions. It is encouraging to see so many students turning up in person, and our student clubs and societies are starting to function again.

## Background considerations (from the Chaplain's Job Description):

### POSITION PURPOSE

To provide a service of pastoral counselling, public worship and informal Christian teaching on the campus for staff, students and others. To communicate the work of chaplaincy to local, regional and national churches, thus ensuring the continuation of the Chaplaincy on campus. To work in a Chaplaincy team with the Roman Catholic Chaplain and to make regular reports to, and work closely with, the Chaplaincy Committee.

### KEY TASKS

- Lead worship in the chapel as appropriate
- Act as a liaison with Christian groups on campus
- Liaise with and coordinate the input from local, regional and national church bodies.
- Ensure the proper use of the Chapel and 'drop-in' centre in accordance with established policies
- Conduct informal study groups and the presentation of a Christian perspective on issues as and when they arise on and off campus
- Liaise with chaplaincy teams in other tertiary institutions
- Participate in the maintenance of a safe and healthy environment. Contribute to the hazard management programme.

## Lead Worship

I have managed to keep the weekly informal Eucharist going throughout the year. The numbers have remained constant with typically half a dozen of us meeting each Tuesday lunchtime. Some staff and students have left, and others have joined. Once again, Father JP (Juan Pedro Maldonado) and I co-presided at a service for Ash Wednesday. On two occasions I have baptised the grandchildren of serving or former staff members.

## Liaise with Christian Groups

This year, I am pleased to see the return of (International Student Ministries) who have restarted their Wednesday English language support fellowship in the chapel. TSCF (Tertiary Students Christian Fellowship), WaiCath and Student Life have all been busy with launch events to celebrate the return to campus of both domestic and international students.

## Liaise with Churches

There were less invitations to preach in 2022. However, I have provided regular reports to the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian regional bodies as well as promoting chaplaincy at engagements with the Matamata Anglican Men's Group and the St Andrew's Presbyterian Church. For the third year running, I co-led Religious Diversity Training in Tauranga jointly hosted by the University, the City Council, and the Tauranga Moana Interfaith Council. I was a VIP guest at the Open Days for the LDS Temple refurbishment.

## Chapel Usage

As mentioned above, we have good patronage by the various student Christian groups, and recently we have seen increased usage by the music department, UniRec for their specialist services, and our Mental Health team for training events. While not our "core business," this helps to keep the chapel on the map for our staff and others and many comment on the peaceful atmosphere.

The Society of Friends, Hillcrest International Church (SDA) and the Fijian AOG group, all meet regularly on the weekends, along with Father JP and his Sunday mass community. Arise Church have a youth morning prayer on Wednesdays and both the Monday night meditation group and the Interfaith Choir have returned after the COVID-enforced absence.

## Conduct Informal Study Groups

Over the course of 2022, my weekly study group discussed interviews of a range of theologians and religious scholars hosted by Pete Enns and his "The Bible for Normal People" podcast. We have just begun some Lenten studies using material by Abp Stephen Cottrell.

Working with Suzy up at the Wellbeing Hub, I shall soon commence a series of three practical workshops on "Contemplative Photography". We shall also be reaching out to the various ethnic clubs and societies on campus to resource them in celebrating their major cultural festivals.

Working alongside Teresa Fernandez, one of the Catholic representatives on our Waikato Interfaith Council, we are planning to launch an Interfaith Club on campus that would meet in the chapel.

### Liaise with Chaplaincy Teams

As indicated in last year's report, now that I have stepped down as chair of ANZTCA, my contact with chaplaincy teams across the motu has diminished, but I am still consulted on leadership issues and expect to continue resourcing the development of multifaith chaplaincies as we work out the practical implications of the new Code of Practice. See the appendix for an extract from this code.

### Safe and Healthy Environment

As part of our continuing focus on Customer Service, I completed an Empathy Webinar as well as the "Bringing in the Bystander" sessions by our Violence Prevention Coordinator. I was a guest at the City Council's "Welcoming Communities" launch and also at the "Waikato Community Inclusivity Symposium."

I have coordinated several cultural lunches celebrating the ethnic diversity of our Student Health team.

With the return to face-to-face pastoral care and also the formation of our chaplaincy team, I have increased the frequency of my own professional supervision.

### Other Events and Activities

Promotion of the work of the chaplaincy continues through my involvement with Open Days and Staff Inductions, the Student Services Expo, and orientation events. My role as Returning Officer for the Student Union elections took a little more energy this year as its board queried their General Manager's decision to allow some late registrations, and I was asked to review all the registrations. I managed to resolve the matter to everybody's satisfaction and was subsequently a VIP guest at their annual awards night. I spoke about chaplaincy at the welcome for our Manaaki Scholars (MFAT Scholarships).

At the end of 2022, I completed my PGCert in Chaplaincy through the University of Otago. The graduation in absentia is a formality and will take place in May 2023.

The chaplaincy has still not been able to officially receive its Māori name as protocol demands that we take second place to the opening of the Pā. Progress has been made in other areas, and discussions with Professor Tom Roa have led to us adopting the term "Pou Hono Wairua" to describe the role of a chaplain. While Otago has been using "Kaihono Wairua," Prof Roa advised that Tainui tend not to prefer the "kai-" prefix and that Pou as a mooring post or point of connection has a better resonance. He has also recommended we use a graphic based on the Aurei sculpture to represent the spirituality of tangata whenua in our multifaith graphic. Referencing Kīngi Pōtatau's kōrero about the three threads and the needle, it suggests the spirit of unity and the common pursuit of knowledge and understanding, symbolically tying together people, relationships, kaupapa and ideologies.

As the name for the pin that holds a cloak together, the Aurei has an obvious affinity with the Korowai of our Chaplaincy. See Appendix 2 for the updated cover to our chaplaincy brochure. The Aurei is top left.

In other ministry connected with Social Justice, the Chaplaincy co-hosted a poetry evening to mark “The Day of the Imprisoned Writer.” I am currently working with Dr Norman Franke on a call for an Easter Ceasefire in Ukraine.

### In Conclusion

I am very grateful for the support and encouragement of our chair, the Rev Stephen Bright, and my previous line manager, Associate Director Jill Dibble. I am pleased to report that there has been a seamless transition from Jill to Jo Knight and that there is no change in direction under the new management: the chaplaincy continues to be a valued and fully integrated member of the Student Health team.

Thanks, as always, to Jill Schumacher and our church funders for their financial and administrative support. Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa!

*Andrew McKean TSSF – 10 March 2023*





Nadine, on left, supporting our Mental Health Nurses at a Violence Prevention event.



Nick, on right, at the TSCF 2023 Launch.





WaiCath at the 2023 Clubs' Day



Brother Andrew, centre, helping out at White Ribbon Day 2022

## APPENDIX 1

*Extract from the*

Education (Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners) Code of Practice 2021

### **Part 4**

#### **Wellbeing and safety practices for all tertiary providers**

15. Outcome 3: Safe, inclusive, supportive, and accessible physical and digital learning environments

16. Process 1: Safe and inclusive communities

(1) Providers must have practices for –

(e) providing all learners with information –

(ii) about the cultural, spiritual, and community supports available to them; and

(f) providing learners with accessible learning environments where they can connect with others, build relationships, support each other, and welcome their friends, families, and whānau.

17. Process 2: Supporting learner participation and engagement

(1) Providers must provide learners with opportunities to –

(b) connect, build relationships and develop social, spiritual and cultural networks; and

(c) use te reo and tikanga Māori to support Māori learners' connection to identity and culture.

APPENDIX 2



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**WAIKATO**  
*Te Whare Wānanga o Waikato*

**TE KOROWAI O TE RONGOPAI**



**CHAPLAINCY**