



Plains Presbyterian
9th February 2020

Waitangi Day

I acknowledge the deep grief and loss of the tangata whenua (Maori) that will never be healed or restored again. I feel, also, the hearts and attitudes of the Crown, the generations that are regarded as Te Tiriti partner. And, I know the position of others, like me, who arrived to the shores of Aotearoa as immigrants (manuhiri, visitors), and our part in the nation's journey. It appears complicated, and that it will never be a perfect settlement. There are many and deep injustices and corruption.

There is too much pain and suffering, which has left a scar on the land and on the people. But, what is the way forward? The Waitangi Tribunal is one means of redressing the wrong. And, there must be other ways of moving forward as a united nation. The answer is always in the people, the people, the people. We cannot turn back the clock. We can only go forward and move on in a deliberate path as a united nation. We must all contribute and be involved as citizens who love and care for each other, and for the land. I believe that we have made progress in 180 years since the Treaty was signed. It is said that New Zealand is the envy of many nations around the world in regard to the status and recognition Te Tiriti offers Maori.

My perspective is very Christian: "love your neighbour as yourself". My answers are steeped in my faith in Jesus Christ and so, in my view, everyone is my brothers and sisters. It may seem idealistic and simplistic. But, I believe that the answer lies in the attitude and perspective that we can live and coexist as family, as neighbours, as whanau, as tangata tahi - as one people.

We will journey together, bear one another's grief, stand together, live side-by-side, and understand one another. This is my utopian answer to our journey in this God-given land of Aotearoa, New Zealand. We are the people, the people, the people. The generations of today can build an even better future than what is before us now.

Ke ora tatou i te aroha o Ihu Karaiti.

May we live in the love of Jesus Christ.

Be sacrificial for each other. Be unconditional in love for each other.

Blessings

Right Reverend Fakaofa Kaio Moderator Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand moderator@presbyterian.org.nz



Presbytery Gathering - 27th to 29th March at St David's Union Church Ashburton

Register for this important event as we gather from across the Presbytery. With General Assembly planned for later in 2020 this Gathering will be our only Gathering during 2020.

Key aspects of this Gathering will include:

- * Launching of our Alpine Mission Fund "Have a Go" project;
- * Updates from our Hanmer & Prestons new mission projects;
- * Presentation and adoption of our revised Alpine Presbytery Strategic Framework;
- * PCANZ Moderator Rev Fakaofa Kaio's reflections on his term as Moderator;
- * Keynote Speaker Rev Spanky Moore on Culture & the Church;
- * Choice of workshops which will include:
 - Multi-generational Discipleship
 - Care for Creation
 - Pastoral Care
 - Ministry to the Third Age / Pastoral Care for seniors / Ministry in Rest Homes
 - Outsmarting Porn

Election of the next PCANZ Moderator

All Parish Councils should have received this week a memo from the Assembly Executive Secretary concerning the process of electing the next Moderator of the General Assembly (2022). Please note that Parish Councils / Sessions are invited to send their nominations to the Executive Officer of Presbytery no later than 5pm on Thursday 9th April 2020. Please feel free to contact Presbytery if you need further information.

Telling our Stories - videos

The latest of our video stories is now online, this time of Kiwi Church. Search for the Aline Presbytery You Tube channel, (where you will find all of our stories) or select:

Short story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=saA3drcEfilM>

Longer version: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zIDD9EhAtO4>

St John's Notice

Community cuppa begins again on the 28th February at 10:00 am. Bring a friend along to connect with others. Look forward to seeing you there.



St Andrew's Notice

February 11th

10:00am Rakaia Friendship Club | Welcome to all, also welcome to come when it suits. Speaker on health aids, dinner, entertainment with Lorraine and Shirley. Sales table and raffle.

February 12th

10:30 am Fit Kids | Music and movement for preschoolers, friendship for adults.

1:00 pm Steady as You Go | Exercises for seniors. Enjoy the benefits of a range of gentle exercises for strength, balance, walking and co-ordination

All these events are part of our community outreach programme and hosted at St. Andrew's.

*Special occasion for John and Barbara Titlow. This Thursday Waitangi Day 6th February at Taumutu Marae they will receive their New Zealand Citizenship. We send our congratulations.

Bible Reading for Sunday at St. Andrew's

The reading is Ephesians, chapter 3, verses 1 to 13

The theme of the passage is "mystery" – a secret that only God can reveal. St Paul writes about something wonderful that God has prepared for us and that becomes clear when we put our trust in Jesus.

Sunday Services for February

9 th	9:30 AM	St. Andrew's	Rev. John Titlow
	10:30 AM	St. John's	Rev. Arii Taimataora
16 th	9:30 AM	St. Andrew's	Rev. Arii Taimataora
	10:30 AM	St. John's	Rev. Neville Burns

Prayers for flood victims

Gracious God,



We pray for the folks of Gore, Mataura and other nearby towns who are affected by this massive flood. We pray for your protection and provision as they are being evacuated from their homes. May they find refuge and comfort in those who are giving support and helping. *May the comfort of a warm bed, hot cuppa's and warm food be a sense of your care and concern reflected.* Be upon the emergency services and volunteers who go out of their way to bring to safety to others. Bless them we pray, Amen.