
The Link



No. 1 - March 2012



Smares

(by Laura Catto)

Winner of the "Us Section" (See page 3)

TAWA UNION CHURCH

Christ centred, community facing



Message from our Minister



Rev Clare Lind

We have been involved in a discernment process- thinking about who we are and who God is calling us to be. Our Statement of Identity and Intent was an outcome of this process.

We are on a spiritual journey, exploring our place in God, in the community and in creation.

It's a journey that's unfolding: we don't claim to have arrived. If you'd like to join us there is space for you to come along.

Over the last year our Tawa Union Church workgroups have added their own statements to the original, and it may well be that other groups within our church decide that this is a useful thing for them to do as well.

We have now come to a new phase in our journey, where we are consciously and concretely exploring our place in the community, and potentially our relationship with our physical environment.

The Making Connections day on March 24 will kick off this next phase. I want to encourage as many of you as are able, to join us for the day. If enough of us participate, the Church Council and I are very hopeful that this will be the beginning of something very significant, exciting and transformative in the life of our church.

Gregory of Nyssa once wrote that it is our lifelong task to find out what part of the divine image God has chosen to reveal in us. Mission and ministry are strongest and most sustainable when they flow from who we are, just as Jesus' mission and ministry did.

As we approach our Making Connections day, my hunch is that who God is calling us to be outside of our front door will have a strong correspondence to who we are called to be inside, behind our front door. Beyond that, I'm intrigued to see what unfolds on the day.

Come along and join with me, Nigel Hanscamp (a Mission Resourcing expert), the Church Council and members of workgroups as we consider, pray, listen, make decisions and plans regarding our connections with those beyond our front door. We need your wisdom, your prayers and your energy on that day.

Clare Lind

Making Connections

Date: Saturday March 24

Time: 9am -4pm

Venue: Tawa Union Church,
Elena Place.

Lunch is provided.

TUC Great Summer Picture Show

There were four sections to the TUC Summer Picture Show this year. Thanks to all who entered. The judges thought that the quality of our photos was up this year. Congratulations to our winners and those mentioned in dispatches.

Spirit Section	Jane Catto	1st
	Bryan Pannett and Murray Chiles	Highly Commended
Us Section	Laura Catto	1st
	Pat Matheson	Highly Commended
Journey Section	Don Lind	1st
	Linda Medcalf	Highly Commended
12 years and under	Becky Bridge	1st
	Chelsea Livingstone	Highly Commended

Message from the Chair



Lois Hill

CELEBRATIONS

It seems to me that the appropriate word to describe 2012 so far is Celebration!

We, at Tawa Union Church, are planning to celebrate 40 years of being the Union Church in Tawa.

This will happen on the Saturday, 30th June and Sunday, 1st July. We hope you, your families and friends (old and new) will join in these celebrations.

Do help us by giving us any names and addresses of former parishioners and friends who would be interested in attending.

We are also celebrating our outreach as a church, with a workshop planning how to spend our resources of time, expertise and money on "Connecting" with our community.

Do come along on Saturday, 24th March and contribute to our plans. We will be led on this day by Nigel Hanscamp.

On the Sunday, 25th March you will hear some of our thoughts and findings.

We are looking forward to musical events in May as New Zealand celebrates national music month. We will sing some of our favourite hymns, learn some new ones and have a special performance at the "Friends" afternoon on Saturday, 12th May.

Already this year there have been significant family celebrations.

David and Gloria Hollier celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary; Margaret Balneaves is soon to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Sally Burridge celebrated the life of her church in Christchurch in a special closure service and has a beautiful remembrance cross carved from some of the remains.

Des and Helen Pointon have celebrated a significant anniversary, as have Margery and Allan Todd.

Rosa and Uluaki Finau's son Roco was born; Leah and Peter Robinson's son Lennie was christened.

I suspect these are to name but a few of our church family celebrations. If I have missed your celebration do let me know for the next *The Link* publication.

This is the celebratory year!

Last Sunday the expert photographers in our midst celebrated their achievements in the three categories of our second annual photographic competition.

What a start to 2012 and it is only March.

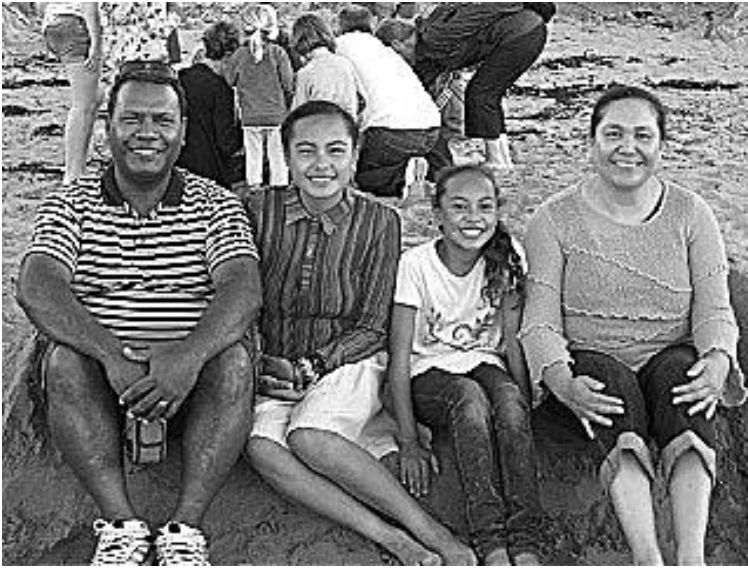
I hope we all continue to enjoy celebrating this year, whether it be little successes or significant ones.

Celebrations –PARTY, PARTY – are so good! We really don't need an excuse to CELEBRATE!!!!!!



Cheers,

Lois Hill



Manoa Havea and family

Interviewed by Barbara Adams

We are pleased to welcome Manoa and Akanesi, their daughters Loisi, Tema and Asi and his son Paula, into our church community. They are keen Kiwis and when they watch sport, New Zealand is their favourite team.

Manoa was born in Tonga and started primary school there. His large extended family members in Tonga were all

involved with church activities and church work.

His father, at the age of three, was adopted by a Tongan missionary.

Before Manoa's grandfather died, he asked Manoa's father, a church minister, to go to the Solomon Islands to continue the work that he had started there. The assignment was accepted

and Manoa's father later became the Moderator of the United Church of the Solomon Islands and remained in that position until his retirement at the end of last year.

Manoa is the third generation of his family to become ministers.

Manoa, his wife and children, came to New Zealand in 2001 to avoid unrest in the Solomon Islands at that time, and also in order for their children to have a good standard of education. Asi was born after their arrival.

They live in Lower Hutt and have settled well into New Zealand life, involving themselves with church activities and sporting pursuits. They are a bilingual family using English and Tongan in their home.

Manoa had a call to go into the ministry and once his wife graduated from university, the time was right for him to commence his own studies. He is currently studying at Trinity College in Auckland and goes each month for instruction. As part of his training he is attached

to our congregation until the end of October, participating in activities, and at times he will be leading worship. He will graduate at the end of this year and this will be followed by two years of probationary service, before being ordained.

Manoa loves fishing which is his favourite activity. He has a story of an extra large fish, caught on a line from the wharf. He also likes playing soccer and touch rugby as well as watching sports.

He is a keen gardener, producing vegetables and flowers. Singing is a special love of his and he plays the guitar and keyboard, but adds that it is just for fun and his own enjoyment.

He is looking forward to developing good relations with our Tawa congregation, working for the church in the community, and visiting people in their homes and in rest homes. He already regards the Tawa congregation as his congregation and he feels positive about his time with us and working with our minister, Clare.

Do You Remember These Entertainers?



Yes! Of course you do! At last year's Friends' Afternoon.

From Left: Margaret Reid, Michael Miller, Jasmine Hall, Rachel Hall and Jessie Hilal
The young people entertained us with their musical talents and Margaret Reid presented the pensioner version of *My Favourite Things*.

Friends' Afternoon 2012 - Saturday, 12 May, 2 - 4pm

Friends' afternoons are an opportunity to meet up with past and present members of our church. There is always great company and a chance to chat over afternoon tea and listen to wonderful musical entertainers.

This year we have organised another group of talented musicians who have not performed at our church before. Their identity will be revealed shortly!

May is 'MUSIC MONTH' and an invitation is extended to all our church family to join us on this musical and social occasion. Please mark this date on your calendars. An invitation will follow.

Pastoral Care Workgroup

How to make Grape Syrup

by Faith Delaney

On sorting old papers recently, I came across my mother's recipe for Grape Syrup. This was used in our church at Wai-iti, near Nelson, for communion wine before 1955.

Each year she would order twenty pounds of black grapes from a small vineyard at Mahana, near Motueka, and process them using this recipe.

Each Sunday, the communion elements, bread and juice, were carried on her bicycle, down the valley where we lived, to the little Wai-iti Church of Christ, where my father always prepared the table for weekly worship.

I was 21 when my father died, and the farm sold. I suspect he had faithfully prepared the weekly Communion for many years before my time.



Grape Syrup

Put grapes into a preserving pan with half their weight of sugar.

Heat long enough to make the grapes quite soft but do not boil. Takes approx. one hour.

Strain through a jelly bag.

Return juice to the pan and heat for a further one hour. Only allow it to steam, and not boil.

Bottle and cork tightly.

Taonga (Treasures) at Tawa Union Church

Tawa Union Church Banners

This is the fourth and final in a series of articles by Gill Knox.

Photography by Bryan Pannett

After an APW conference in Havelock North in 1987, where they saw a collection of beautiful banners, a group of women, Louise Day, Lesley Shaw, Moira Paton, and Linda Medcalf, decided to make some for St Aidans.

After some research it was decided to start with the seasons of the Church year and so the planning for an Advent banner got underway.

Advent Banner

The predominant colour is purple, which represents preparation for Christmas. The theme of the banner is light coming into the world.

The candle flame starts small on the first week of Advent and gets bigger and brighter as the weeks progress.



Advent

At the same time, the circle behind the flame representing the world also gets lighter as Christmas and the birth of Jesus approaches.

Pentecost Banner

Traditional Pentecost or Trinity designs were rejected in favour of a "Tawa" design.



The banner is in three parts to represent the Trinity.

The hills and valley are the Tawa hills and valley with the people of Tawa reaching out to the Holy Spirit. The sun, the giver of all life, represents God. The border panels have alternating sprigs of Tawa leaves and the fruit of the Tawa tree, and Linden leaves and the wind borne seeds of the Linden tree.

The fruit and wind borne seeds have significance when related to the Holy Spirit.



Easter Banner

This banner was originally made from a vision received by one of the banner makers.

The background colours represent the sky at sunrise, full of promise. If you look closely at the hills, you may see the empty tomb.



The Parish 30th Banner

The Parish 30th Banner

The banner has at the centre, a cross, the symbol of Christianity. This also happens to be the sign superimposed on a map of New Zealand, of the Associated Churches of Christ.

The fiery burning bush of the Presbyterian and the shell and dove of the Methodist Churches are found in opposite corners.

The Parish banner was created by the people of the parish in 2003. It was 30 years since the Union Parish had been together and it was decided to make a living symbol of our life.

The people of the congregation and church related groups were given a square of material to decorate in any way to depict their family or group.

The results were as varied as were the parishioners, some telling of the members in their family and some had hidden meanings.

These squares were taken and the resulting banner was created by Faith Delaney, Marjorie Todd and Margaret Jones.

The names of past ministers were recorded; pictures of the preaching places taken and parishioners who hadn't made a square were able to sign the banner.

The interpretation of the three imposed circles around the cross is for the three churches in the parish.

The interpretation of the noughts and crosses is that each of the crosses represents the roman numeral 10, making 30 years, and the three noughts are going round in circles.

Some of these parishioners have shifted away; some have died, so it is a timely reminder that we acknowledge the many names on the banner for prosperity.

Tawa Union Parish Banner

In making a parish banner we wanted to represent the special nature of our parish in having three denominations all contributing to the richness of our heritage.



The banner was therefore made in a triangular shape and the three symbols of the denominations were placed within it. Because the Associated Churches of Christ symbol incorporated a cross, that was placed in the middle

and the Methodist one on the right so that the bird appears to be flying towards the other two. The banner has Tawa Union Parish on the back of it so that, in a procession, it is identifiable.



Christmas Banner

For Christmas 2007 a Christmas banner was made incorporating a large star in the centre and Mary and Baby Jesus at the bottom. The Southern Cross constellation makes the banner a New Zealand Christmas banner.



The Christmas Wall Hanging

This wall hanging was created by Marjorie Todd who says..."As part of the U3A Quilting group I am always endeavouring to find something different or unusual to do.

"We all do bed quilts, table runners, wall hangings and bags. The stained glass window style involves different techniques, so when I saw a Christmas wall hanging in that style I was eager to attempt it.

"Three panels complete the wall hanging: the star which heralds the birth of a Messiah, the angel which announced to the shepherds the arrival of Jesus, and finally Mary and baby."

We are fortunate that Marjorie brings it down each year and hangs it on the east wall next to the organ.



Hope Banner

This vision was an enlightenment from God, given to a member of St Aidan's.

The seeking hands, looking to God for help and love, show there is always hope in the cross if we reach out to him.

The Linden hills are always brown in the summer, but the green grass of life can always be found in the valleys if we seek.

From the glorious cross of the resurrected Christ we find his promise in the rainbow and hope in life here, now and for

always. The Holy Spirit, the dove, gives us peace in our lives, when we bring our worries to the foot of the cross, to hand them over.

Names of the banner makers and the year of completion are embroidered on the back of each banner.

This completes our journey looking at the Taonga or Treasures of our church over four issues of *The Link* magazine.

I hope you have enjoyed learning about who made what and why these treasures are in the church. I certainly have enjoyed finding out about them.

If you feel we have missed any out please contact the author of the article or the editor.

Gill Knox

Editor: We are aware of at least one more banner (1990 Sesqui-banner) that has been missed from this article; we will include in a future issue of *The Link*.

Rev. Peter MacKenzie

Interviewed by Barbara Adams

Peter and Delwyn MacKenzie are members of our Tawa Church congregation but Peter is often preaching at other churches on Sundays so is not able to join us for services as often as he would like.

Peter is the Executive Officer of the Uniting Congregation of Aotearoa New Zealand (UCANZ).

He is involved in looking after ventures in co-operating and union churches up and down the country, from Kaitaia to Bluff. He is away from home for a total of about eight weeks a year, broken into segments.

Peter has no family background of serving the ministry but after gaining a Bachelor of Arts degree in history at Otago University, he then completed a Bachelor of Divinity degree to become a minister.



At the moment he is starting university study again and researching for a thesis on church mergers. This will involve his spare time and some of his work time for the next few years. He finds the prospect quite exciting.

Peter was born in Timaru and was educated there before starting university studies at Otago.

His first parish was at Cheviot.

He has travelled the world as part of his job, which included three years preaching in Canada and then back to Oamaru before becoming minister at Johnsonville.

He and Delwyn now live in Aotea and are fortunate to have two children and two grandchildren who live in the Wellington area.

Peter's great interest is gardening and he has a good sized section and a healthy vegetable garden. He feels that his love of gardening may be almost genetic as he is the fourth generation of his family who enjoys gardening.

His exercise is in the garden and he also does a lot of walking.

He is keen on acting and has taken part in productions at Tawa, Newlands and Porirua.

He admits that Delwyn is the family singer and he just follows along. He fiddles with the guitar occasionally.

Peter is gluten free, a medical condition which requires him to be careful about what he eats. It has changed his whole outlook on food and he says that he enjoys food more now than previously, although he is limited in what he can eat.

He appreciates being able to fully participate in communion at our church with the gluten free bread provided. This is not often available at other churches. Peter stresses that his gluten free diet is not a choice.

They have had a homestay student from China living with them for over a year. When she returns back home for her first time in April, Peter and Delwyn are going with her for three weeks.

At the conclusion of their trip they will all return together, to continue their lives in Aotea.

Peter and Delwyn look forward to seeing the real China rather than following the tourist routes.

Come along to Making Connections

Lots of us were delighted to hear about Wesley Community Action's garden and glad to know that a practical donation from us at TUC had helped their work. As a church we can do more of this.

This is an invitation to anyone and everyone who is keen for our church to be out and about beyond our front door- in our neighbourhood, in our world. **Making Connections** is a day for us to consider, pray, listen, make decisions and plan. Nigel Hanscamp, a Mission Resourcing expert, will be there to help us to do that.

Making Connections

Date: Saturday March 24

Time: 9am -4pm

Venue: Tawa Union Church, Elena Place.

Lunch is provided.

If you want to be part of the TUC crew that will be doing interesting, outward stuff over the next few years, get in at the ground level and take part in this gathering.



Post Script:

Thanks to the contributors to this issue of *The Link*:

Clare Lind

Lois Hill

Barbara Adams

Laura Catto

Elsbeth Chiles

Faith Delaney

Gill Knox

Bryan Pannett

Keeping in touch... With this edition of *The Link* we are again including a space in our address panel (below) for your Pastoral Contact person (your Parish Visitor) to write their name and phone number. This means that you will know who has delivered your newsletter if personal contact was not able to be made at the time. If you would like to contact someone about a pastoral matter, then you will have the phone number to make a call.

Elsbeth Chiles, Pastoral Convener, Ph 232-4554



Rev. Clare Lind, Minister
P O Box 51-019, Tawa.
Wellington

Leanne Bridge, Church Secretary
Phone 232 8844
Email: tawa_union@orcon.net.nz

The Link was delivered by:
Phone:

(Your Pastoral
contact person)

The Link is prepared for Tawa Union Church by Graham Ellett, Ph 232 6488 and members of T.U.C. (Graham's email: ellettg@clear.net.nz)

Statements made, or opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the views of the Ministry or the Church Council unless directly quoted.