



ACROSS

Te Kotahitanga O te Wairua

NEWSLETTER

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Children's Programme rocks on

Our children's programme continues to run successfully out of Takaro School. We have just completed the Term 2 programme which ran after school each Monday; children wound up with an afternoon of 10 pin bowling.

The "100 Club"

Reminder about our 100 Club. The "100 Club" idea involves identifying at least 100 local businesses and individuals willing to donate \$100 - \$1000 a year to meet the costs associated with the work of our agency. If you would like to "join the club" complete the form below (or download a form from our website www.across.org.nz) and return it to ACROSS. You will be issued with a membership number and receive regular updates on our work. If you are a business we will with your permission publicly acknowledge your support through the various contacts we have with others in the community.

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of ACROSS Te Kotahitanga O Te Wairua is to express the caring heritage of the Anglican and Catholic churches, through a charitable trust working in the community to provide professional social services to individuals and families in need.

ACROSS' Fame Spreads Far and Wide

Raveen Gopaul a 4th year social work student from Toronto, Canada joined us in May



Hello all. I was born and raised in Mississauga, a suburb of Toronto, Canada. I'm just entering my 4th year of my Social Work qualification

I love travelling and I feel fortunate to have had the opportunity to visit here (sadly my only choice was this winter). I've also had the opportunity to backpack around Europe, vacation in the Caribbean and drive around Canada. I arrived here (by myself) early May and will be leaving early August (back to my wife – who may let me live!) In the last month I've so far had a chance to visit Taupo, Rotorua and Wellington to do some touristy stuff. I've been to Hamilton (to sadly) see the All Blacks play Canada. In July, the plan is to drive around the South Island.

SOCIAL SERVICES SUNDAY 22 JULY

Social Services Sunday this year falls on the 22nd July. We are reminded at this time of all those who give generously in support of our service. Our Mission Statement also reminds us that an act of compassion is, however small, a matter of universal significance; service to the least is service to the greatest.

WELCOME

Welcome to Rebekah Kooge who joined our team of social workers earlier this month. Rebekah recently graduated from Massey with a Bachelor of Social Work and will be working with us full time.

Thank You

We would like to thank the following organisations who have provided us generous support: Anglican Care Network (Tindall Foundation), Catholic Diocese of Palmerston North, *The W Milverton Trust, JBS Dudding Trust, *N.Z. Lottery Grants Board, J R McKenzie Trust and COGS.

ACROSS STAFF GRADUATE

Wyllis Russell shares her story...



Graduation Day
Left: Wyllis Russell (Bachelor Social Work).
Right: Kylie MacManus (Masters Social Work Applied.)

When I began my journey some 10 years ago studying towards a BSW, it was a journey that certainly wasn't planned. I worked for an agency where it was compulsory to study for a qualification and along with support of a scholarship to help pay for your study, one would be silly to turn down such an opportunity.

At first I started because I enjoyed working in this field of practice, assisting others in the community, to make life changes. I received great support during my years of study. Mentoring, learning, attending contact courses and a scholarship, have enabled me to achieve my goals.

When I look back, or reflect on my sense of achievement, I guess I really wanted to do this for my family. Firstly for my sons, three of whom are half way through their tertiary study, inspiring them to carry on and complete their various degrees. Secondly, for my siblings, (I am one of 14 children) and the only one who has aspired to completing a tertiary degree. However in saying that, many of them are successful business people in their own right. And lastly, my grandchildren, whom I would also hope to see achieve.

For some 50 Whanau and friends to be in attendance at the Graduation was a special and wonderful day of celebration that I will treasure and remember for the rest of my life. My dad, 81 years old, was especially proud of this daughter. A real proud moment was when we attended the Maori Grad Dinner and my second eldest son Dwayne addressed the gathering of some 400 people. Whanau performed a haka and waiata expressing thanks to all for their support.

I will certainly put into use the knowledge and learning that comes with studying and achieving, where ever needed in the future. Many thanks to ACROSS for allowing me to complete my 4th year placement here. To those many organisations and Whanau Trusts who have supported me with scholarships and lastly to those who have been mentoring me such as Te Rau Puawai and finally my Whanau in Gisborne for their encouragement, motivation, awhi, whanaungatanga.

Your support...

Thank you to all those who continue to send us donations and monthly contributions. Your commitment to the work of ACROSS is very much appreciated. If you can help in further ways either through volunteer help or other financial assistance please give us a call or complete the form below and return to our office.

- I / we enclose a gift of \$ towards your work

- I would like to receive information about the ACROSS "100" Club

NAME: Signature:

ADDRESS: Date:

Send to: THE DIRECTOR, ACROSS Social Services, PO Box 1140, Palmerston North 4440