

# Karanga Atawahai

## Matariki at Mercy Hospital.



Whanau Mercy Ministries is online. Check it out today by scanning the QR code, or visit: [whanaumercy.nz](http://whanaumercy.nz)

Matariki week at Mercy Hospital, Dunedin is an annual occurrence and one where Mercy staff are invited to get involved in various activities organised by the Māori Kaihautū Leadership Team. This year we celebrated Matariki with a range of activities getting staff involved as they were able around the campus. Mercy staff and their families were also invited to participate in a Matariki colouring competition over the course of the week, with prizes for the different categories.

*Rāhina 16 Pipiri* was Matariki Hunga Nui: Remembrance where we shared waiata, remembered those who have died and distributed Te Tiriti books to all our departments at Mercy Hospital.

*Rātu 17 Pipiri* was Matariki Ahunga Nui: Celebrating the Present where we had shared kai with hangi from Harbourside Hangi and a Matariki Quiz to test staff knowledge of Matariki.

*Rāapa 18 Pipiri* was Matariki Ahunga Nui: Celebrating the Present where we had had flax weaving sessions learning to weave flowers and stars, and twirling the poi.

*Rāpere 19 Pipiri* was Matariki-Manako Nui Looking to the Future where we gave vegetable seeds to all staff for planting in their gardens and we planted a Kahikatea native tree in our campus.

All in all, a great week of celebration finished off with a Matariki holiday for everyone to rest, reflect and relax.

Mānawatia ā Matariki!

You can see more of their great photos [here](#).

Alofa Lale Kaiwhakahaere Mīhana

Mission and Outreach Co-ordinator, Mercy Hospital



Image: Mercy Hospital Kaimahi after planting

## Community Conversation: Stories of Julia B. Lynch.

There is a special gathering in celebration of the life and legacy of Julia B. Lynch, Sister Mary Lawrence, one of Aotearoa's most beloved portrait artists. As part of the exhibition Julia Lynch: A Dedicated Life this community conversation invites friends, family, former students and admirers to come together and share personal stories and reflections. This session will be facilitated by Judy Houlahan who is the president of the St Mary's Old Girls' Association and was taught by Sister Mary Lawrence. 'Community Conversation: Stories of Julia B. Lynch' is an opportunity for connection, storytelling, and collective remembrance. It is on Saturday, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2025 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm at the NZ Portrait Gallery.

You can find out more information [here](#).

# “Enlarge the Space of Your Tent”: Considering New Opportunities for Mercy Mission.

“Enlarge the space of your tent, stretch your tent curtains wide, do not hold back” (from the Bible - Isaiah 54). This prophetic call is both poetic and practical. It invites us to imagine Mercy not as a fixed structure, but as a tent - flexible, responsive, and open to movement. In our WMM Strategic Framework, this vision is captured in the priority: *Stretching and Widening Tent Pegs* - a call to consider new opportunities for Mercy Mission in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Unlike a building, a tent is vulnerable. It flutters in the wind, it requires constant tending, and it offers little insulation from the world around it. But it is also mobile. It can be pitched where the need is greatest. It can be expanded to welcome others. It can be a place of encounter, of dialogue, of shared purpose. The point of a tent is not to stay within it (unless we need its protection and shelter), it is a stepping or starting point for experiencing something new.

In our own history, the tent has deep resonance. It was under a tent at Waitangi that Te Tiriti was signed. It was also there that Bishop Pompallier secured the protection of religious freedom - an early act of expanding the tent to include all faiths. Today, we are called to do the same: to stretch the tent pegs of Mercy toward those at the margins, to build new partnerships, and to inspire others to join us in mission-driven action.

Catherine McAuley once said, “The poor need help today, not next week.” Her words remind us that Mercy is not static. It moves. It responds. It adapts. As partners in mission of Mercy and in our ministries, let us ask each other: where is the tent of Mercy being stretched in our context? And how might we help hold the ropes steady as we widen the space for others to enter?

David Mullin  
Ko te Hapai O | Executive Director, Whānau Mercy Ministries Trust

Image: Former students stand beside the portraits painted of them by Sister Mary Lawrence (Julia Lynch).



## Julia B. Lynch Gallery Show Opening.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> June the opening for the Julia B. Lynch: A Dedicated Life exhibition was held at the Portrait Gallery in Wellington. On a raining Friday morning, it was great to see 80 people had come out to support the event. There were representatives from the Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa | Sisters of Mercy New Zealand, Archivists from the Sisters of Mercy and St Mary’s College, Trustees, Directors, St Mary’s College Staff and also some of the people whose portraits had been painted by Julia Lynch, also known as Sister Mary Lawrence.

Sister Mary Lawrence taught art at St Mary’s College, and also as a fundraiser for the school would paint the portraits of students. Some of those portraits had been lent to the exhibition, and it was great to be able to capture a photo showing the students in front of the wall of their paintings. There is also a digital slideshow running with other portraits that could not be hung in the exhibition. The exhibition is running until 14th September, with some talks planned during this time. We will advertise those talks in Karanga Atawhai so keep an eye out.

### Watch this space!

Keep an eye on upcoming issues of Karanga Atawhai for details about talks linked to the exhibition.



### “Stretching and Widening Tent Pegs”.

Extending our reach to meet emerging needs and inspire others to join our mission.

In the spirit of mercy and mission, we will respond boldly to emerging needs, prioritising engagement with those at the margins. Through partnerships and outreach, we extend the Mercy presence into new spaces and amplify our impact.

# Introducing: “From the Archives...”

Exploring the stories, taonga, and legacy held within the Sisters of Mercy archives. Recently the Whānau Mercy Ministries Team were fortunate enough to have a little look at the Ngā Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa | Sisters of Mercy New Zealand Archives held in Wellington. During that visit we saw this beautiful chair that was hand carved by a Sister of Mercy in Palmerston North. The artistry was exquisite. Every two months we will be featuring an interesting item or story from the archives to keep the stories and the mission that we have inherited alive for all of us.



Image: Andrew (centre) pictured with the Whānau Mercy Trustees and Executive Director, Dave Mullin.

## Thank you to Andrew Bell.

The Trustees recently thanked Andrew Bell for the work he has done for Whānau Mercy Ministries in the Mission space, helping with the website, and developing and sending out Karanga Atawhai every month until Whānau Mercy Ministries had a full complement of kaimahi. We are very grateful for the work he did for us and wish him well in his next endeavours.

## Share your stories, they connect us all.

We would like to share the stories from your Ministry so we can help build connections and act as a bridge between all our Ministries, please share your stories with any images to: [wmm@whanaumercy.nz](mailto:wmm@whanaumercy.nz).

### Please forward this newsletter on:

Please share this newsletter with members of your school boards and those involved in our Ministries. Others can subscribe directly by scanning the QR code:



**Announcing: New Mercy Governance webinar: Mercy Governance: Mastering AI in the Boardroom**

## An Introduction to Strategic AI Leadership for Whānau Mercy Ministries Trustees, Directors and Leaders.

**Lead with Wisdom in the Age of AI:** This session is designed to give you a foundational understanding of artificial intelligence from a board and governance perspective. Whether AI feels like a foreign concept or a familiar conversation, this is your opportunity to step confidently into your role as a strategic steward of emerging technology. In just 60 minutes, we'll explore how AI intersects with governance and ethics.

### What you'll discover:

- **AI Literacy for Directors:** Unpack the core concepts of GenAI, risks and opportunities, and the board's role in oversight and deployment.
- **Practical AI Integration:** Explore how AI can be thoughtfully introduced into our organisational life to support mission delivery, not distract from it.
- **AI in the Boardroom:** Learn how to use AI tools to support discernment, strategy discussions, and future-focused decision-making.

It will be held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 6:00pm to 7:00 pm.

You can find out more details [here](#).



# Being Church in Aotearoa New Zealand Catholic Schools.

**A new resource to support Catholic schools in living out the mission of the Church in Aotearoa.**

Being Church in Aotearoa New Zealand Catholic Schools is a new support document published by NZCEO and NCRS (National Centre for Religious Studies) to reemphasise the place of Catholic schools in Aotearoa New Zealand.

The document, with clear language and grounded concepts, contextualises and links several key Catholic education documents on the Aotearoa Catholic education landscape – The Catholic Education of School-Age Children (NZCBC, 2014), Catholic Special Character Evaluation for Development (2022) and Tō Tatou Whakapono Our Faith (NCRS, 2021).

The purpose of Being Church in Aotearoa New Zealand Catholic Schools is to facilitate rich dialogue of how Catholic school communities can realise their place in the mission of the Church, and make clear connections between Catholic special character, Religious Education, and the current Aotearoa New Zealand context.

Furthermore, its intention is to expand and support practical application of The Catholic Education of School-Age Children (New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference, 2014). The document can be downloaded [here](#).

**Download prayers & resources at [whanaumercy.nz/resources](http://whanaumercy.nz/resources)**

We're regularly adding new karakia and will soon include downloadable formation resources for use in your hui and gatherings. Scan the QR code to access our resource section - so you'll always have a karakia on hand when you need one.



## SAVE THE DATE

### Whānau Mercy Ministries Hui Whānau Save the Date.

From 4pm 13<sup>th</sup> October to 4pm 14<sup>th</sup> October Whānau Mercy Ministries are holding Hui Whānau to bring our trustees, directors and senior leaders together in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. This will be a space to experience, encounter and engage with Mercy. We will be having keynote speakers and sessions where we look together at considering new opportunities for Mercy Mission. We hope to see all our Ministries represented. More details and a registration form will be sent out in early July.

### St Catherine's 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Weekend.

St. Catherine's College is celebrating its 75th Jubilee over Labour Weekend, 24–26 October 2025. The long weekend will be an opportunity for you to connect with old friends and teachers and share memories of your college days. Join us for individual events or the full weekend. All events will be held at St. Catherine's College, Upper Bourke Street, Kilbirnie. See More information on our website [here](#).

### St Mary's College, Auckland 175<sup>th</sup> Celebrations.

2025 is the 175<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of St. Mary's College Auckland and the celebrations are taking place over Labour Weekend, 24–26 October 2025. The weekend will include an official welcome, school tours, high tea, exhibition sports games, gatherings of various groups, a Jubilee Dinner, and displays from the archives. You can find out more information [here](#).

### Mercy Governance: Finance Essentials Online Workshop.

As part of the Mercy Governance Programme for our Trustees, Ministry Directors and Senior Leaders in our Ministries we are offering a Financial Essentials Workshop which is being funded by Whānau Mercy Ministries. It is worth 8 cpd and will run online beginning Wednesday 4 September to Wednesday 9 October from 5.15PM to 6.30PM. [You can click here to find out more about it](#), or register scanning the QR code.

