

Karanga Atawahai

Karanga Atawahai - The Voice of Whānau Mercy Ministries

July 2025

Hearts, Hands, and Kai.

Julie Conder

Kaihapai | Adviser - Operations/Projects

On 17 July, Natasha Watson (Pou Atawahai) and I visited Te Waipuna Puawai Kai Hub and Food Support Space, which supports whānau in Rānui and Henderson, Auckland.

We arrived at 11am and were quickly put to work packing kai boxes filled with donated food and fresh vegetables grown in their māra kai.

Whānau had been queuing since 10am, and by midday about 60 whānau received boxes. Volunteers worked steadily under the calm leadership of Josie Ruawhare, Operations Manager, who greeted each whānau with genuine manaakitanga and respect.

Beyond kai support, Te Waipuna Puawai also offers community education programmes focusing on physical, mental, spiritual, and



whānau wellbeing at their Umere and Glendene centres with counselling services also offered at Rānui.

As part of Whānau Mercy Ministries, it was inspiring to see our shared values in action. Our heartfelt thanks go to Josie, Bill, and the Rānui team. In the spirit of Catherine McAuley, this is doing the ordinary with extraordinary love.

If you feel inspired, Te Waipuna Puawai warmly welcomes volunteers and donations to support their work.

UPCOMING EVENT

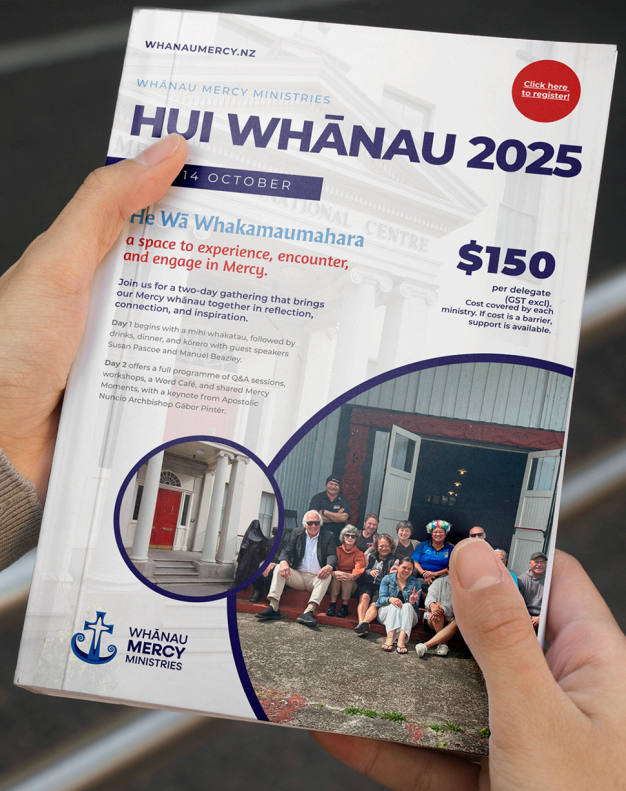


Whānau Mercy Ministries Hui Whanau.

Registration has now opened for the inaugural Whānau Mercy Ministries Hui Whānau from the 13th October to the 14th October. This is an opportunity to bring our trustees, directors and senior leaders together in Te Whanganui-a-Tara. We will be having keynote speakers and sessions where we look together at considering new opportunities for Mercy Mission. There is a cost to each person attending of \$150 as well as travel to and from the event. There is accommodation on offer to those who are from outside Wellington if this can be indicated on the registration form. We look forward to seeing representatives from all our Ministries.

You can find more information [here](#) & register for the event [here](#)

This event is 8 cpd.



From Carmel to the Vatican: Inspiring the Next Generation of Carmel Girls.

Former top scholar Mia Boothroyd (Class of 2019) has written to share an extraordinary academic and personal experience – one she hopes will inspire other Carmel students to aim high, follow their passions, and maybe even meet the Pope.

This year, Mia attended the prestigious Vatican Observatory Summer School (VOSS) in Albano/Castel Gandolfo, Italy, alongside 23 other astronomy students from 22 different countries. VOSS is hosted by the Vatican Observatory, one of the oldest active astronomical institutions in the world, operated by Jesuit scientists and astronomers.

“It was such an amazing time – we learnt so much and met so many people from around the world,” Mia shared. The 2025 programme focused on new discoveries from the James Webb Space Telescope, covering topics like exoplanets, astrochemistry, and galactic phenomena. Outside of lectures, the group explored ancient ruins in Ostia Antica, visited monasteries in Subiaco, and walked the historic streets of Rome.

A highlight of the programme? “We were lucky enough to have an audience with the Pope... It was so amazing to meet him,” Mia wrote. The students were also granted special access to areas of the Vatican not usually open to tourists. “When I met the Pope, I told him I was going to send the photo to my school teachers, so I better keep my promise!”

Now beginning her PhD in Denmark, researching meteorites and planetary formation, Mia credits Carmel with helping ignite her love of science: “It was actually at Carmel I first learnt about the Vatican Observatory... without which I never would’ve known about VOSS!”

VOSS runs every two years (the next in 2027), and is open to students studying astronomy, physics, or mathematics at undergraduate or postgraduate level. To learn more, visit: [Vatican Observatory Summer School](#)

Mia closed her email with a message of gratitude and hope: “I wanted to remember my teachers at Carmel who first taught me science – thank you! – and to share some of this joy with others. I hope in the future, a Carmel girl may attend VOSS again and have an amazing time in Italy too.”

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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.

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:



Te Raranga Atawhai

From the Archives...from “harbour the harbourless” to “shelter for all”

The language may change over time, but the message of the Mercy charism remains the same. An early example is this illuminated manuscript, articulated in the language of Catherine McAuley’s era, states the Corporal Works of Mercy as: To feed the Hungry, to give drink to the thirsty, to clothe the naked, to harbour the harbourless, to visit the sick, to visit the imprisoned, to bury the dead.

By 2016 in Aotearoa New Zealand “harbour the harbourless” has become “Shelter for all” in a petition presented to Parliament by sisters who galvanized Mercy people nationwide to share their opinions in scrapbooks that were presented as a colourful and thought-provoking plea to politicians.

While today in 2025 we have the Whānau Mercy Ministries articulation as printed on the candle given to new trustees at their commissioning ceremony “to respond willingly and to walk compassionately with those who are seeking . . . shelter . . . “

UPCOMING EVENT

Mercy Global Action Emerging Leaders Fellowship.



MELF Cohort Four will present their research on Monday 1st September and Tuesday 2nd September 2025. The presentations will be made in person at Mercy International Centre in Dublin and will also be available for people to tune in to online via Zoom. There are two presentations from New Zealand, Charlotte Cummings, one of the Whānau Mercy Ministries Trustees and Teresa Vaughan, a former student from St Mary’s College Wellington who is currently working for the Department of prime Minister and Cabinet with a background in public service.

Click here to register...

[Register for Day 1](#)

[Register for day 2](#)

Congratulations!



Print taken from original 1915 painting by Sr Mary Rose of Nenagh Ireland, aunt of Sr Xavier and Sr Alphonsus O’Meara who came from Nenagh to the Greymouth Mercy community in 1894. Public domain.

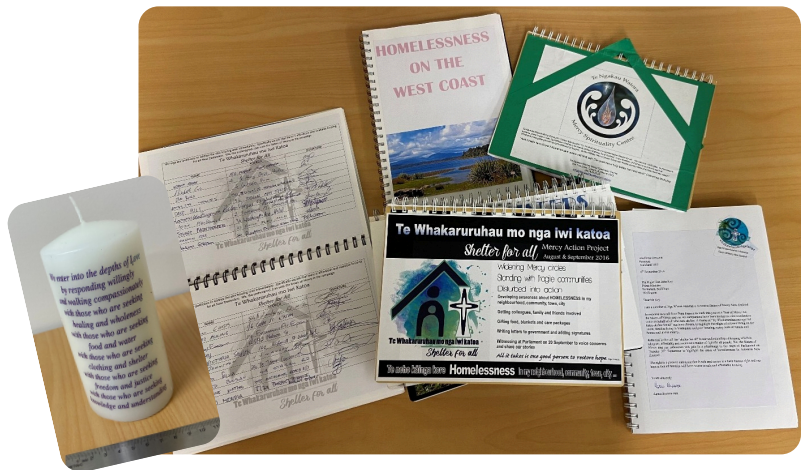


Image 1: Mercy Archives Reference: CN.3045.6.0001

Image 2: Candle in use with Whānau Mercy Ministries



Charlotte Cummings
(Aotearoa New Zealand)

Guidance for Mercy Governance Boards on the 8th Work of Mercy - Care For Our Common Home



Teresa Vaughan
(Aotearoa New Zealand)

New Issues, same Mercy values

Congratulations to Josie Ruawhare who is Operations Manager at Te Waipuna Puawai and has been selected for cohort 5. We look forward to hearing about her experience.

SAVE THE DATE

Unpacking Te Tiriti o Waitangi and creating an intercultural space for Mercy to flourish



On 20th August from 6pm to 7pm we will be having a webinar with Manuel Beazley, Vicar for Māori, Diocese of Auckland. Manuel will be unpacking Te Tiriti and also talking about what it could look like for us as Mercy Ministries within an Aotearoa context to be creating an intercultural space, especially as the first MPJP to be approved in Aotearoa, New Zealand. Whānau Mercy Ministries is committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and this is one of our strategic priorities. This event is 1 cpd. See more information [here](#), including the Teams meeting link.

Add event to calendar:

[Apple](#) [Google](#) [Office 365](#) [Outlook](#) [Outlook.com](#) [Yahoo](#)

Loyola Press: Heroic Leadership for All: A webinar with Chris Lowney

This is a webinar with Chris Lowney who is the author of *Heroic Leadership* and *The Heroic Leadership Workbook*. Leadership is heroic when it enables and empowers leaders to transcend themselves and their egos to serve missions that inspire their allegiance, excellence, and imagination. Chris Lowney believes we are all called to such heroic leadership. Join Lowney for an engaging webinar in which he'll identify exercises to guide us through a spiritual and reflective journey leading to a deeper understanding of vital principles that empower us to be effective leaders in all that we do. You can find out more information and register [here](#), it is at 7am New Zealand time, but if you register you will be sent a recording of the webinar.

Download prayers & resources at 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.



A Mercy Perspective on Care for the Common Home



On 26th August from 6pm to 7pm we will be having a webinar with Sally Neaves about care for the Common Home. The webinar will tell the story of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea (ISMAPNG) experience working in Integral Ecology over the past 10 years. It includes the highlights, the shifts, the challenges and changes in direction over that time as the world changes, we ourselves change, and scholarship in the field develops. There will also be time for reflecting and sharing what arises from this story as we consider our own context in these times. Sally Neaves is from Bathurst NSW and is the Integral Ecology Animator for the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea. Find our more information [here](#). Care for our Common Home is one of the strategic priorities for Whānau Mercy Ministries. This event is 1 cpd.

Add event to calendar

[Apple](#) [Google](#) [Office 365](#) [Outlook](#) [Outlook.com](#) [Yahoo](#)

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 3 September to Wednesday 8 October from 5.15PM to 6.30PM. [You can click here to find out more about it](#), or register scanning the QR code.



Stay up to date with all the latest

Whanau Mercy Ministries is online...

Check it out today by scanning the QR code, or visit: whanaumercy.nz

