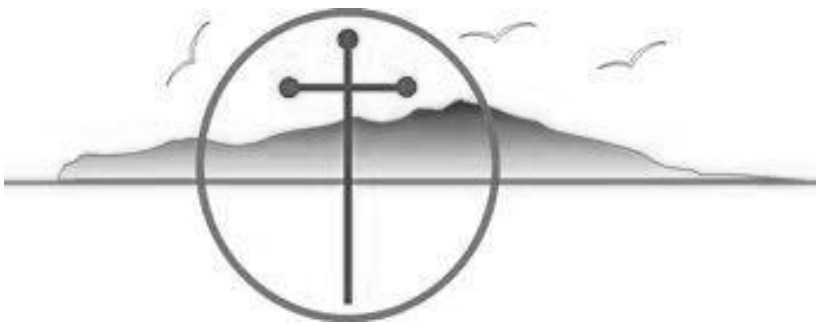




Kapiti Uniting Parish

Annual reports for the year to June 2026

prepared for the Parish Annual General Meeting

held at Raumati on Sunday 11 October 2026

***Our mission: to promote Christian faith and values in
the communities of the Kapiti Coast***

Table of Contents

Agenda for the Kapiti Uniting Parish AGM 11 October 2026	3
Minutes of the AGM of Kapiti Uniting Parish 21 September 2025	5
Ministers Report	7
Parish Council Report	8
Waikanae Church	10
Property Report	13
Pastoral Care Group	16
Worship and Music Committee	17
Playgroup Report	19
Social Opportunities	20
Raumati Women's Fellowship	20
Thrifty Place – Op Shop	22
Raumati Village Community Garden	22

The Annual Financial Report will be circulated separately

Agenda for the Kapiti Uniting Parish
Annual General Meeting
to be held at Raumati on 11 October 2026

Welcome

Apologies

**Minutes of the last Annual General Meeting held on Sunday
21 September 2025**

Matters Arising

Reports

Reports as per the Annual Report
Financial Reports

Confirmation of Parish Council representatives

Evan Ireland (Waikanae Church Representative)
Barrie Woods (Raumati Church Representative)
Maureen Calhaem (Parish Development and Outreach)
Marie Smith (Property and Finance)

Nominations for Parish Council representatives

Appointment of Parish Council Officers for the coming year

Treasurer
Secretary

Acknowledgements

(Retiring Parish Councillors) Carole Rudings and Kate Foley

General Business

Prayer for the Parish Council for the coming year

Closing prayer and blessings

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Kapiti Uniting Parish 21 September 2025

Held on Sunday 21 September 2025 after 10 am service at the
Raumati Church

Chairperson – Rev Anna Gilkison

Secretary – Jan Rae

Present – 42 parishioners

Apologies were received from Elizabeth Kerr, Kate Foley,
Syd Mephram, Judy Morley- Hall, Jennie Dickens, Carole Rudings,
Carole Wiig, Dianne Boyce, Rosalie Sugrue, Pam Newey.

As the minutes of the 2024 AGM had been distributed, these were taken
as read. Rev Anna Gilkison moved that these be accepted as a true and
correct record of the meeting. Carried.

Reports - Bronwyn Mill moved and Kartini Davis seconded that the
reports be accepted with the addition to Kevin Boyce's name being
added to the list of musicians in the Worship and Music report. Carried
Comments arising from the reports:

- It was noted that there is a need for help with music at Waikanae services, where another accompanist is required.
- Bruce Johnston commented that there is a need for more accompanists in general and acknowledged the help of Ellen Barrett at Raumati.
- Ken Milne was thanked for the work he has done in various role over a long period of time, particularly recently as Chairperson of the Property Committee and for his continuing work with Thrifty Place.

Financial report

The Treasurer, Cathy Drummond reported:

- That although people had moved out of the parish or had passed away, the income has remained relatively stable.
- The income from Thrifty Place has been higher than in previous years.

- The rental from room/hall hires at both Raumati and Waikanae makes a significant contribution to the parish's income.
- Marie Smith was thanked for her help with financial matters particularly for the time spent working on insurance claims and completing applications for grants.
- Mike Binkhorst was thanked for reviewing the accounts.
- It was moved by Merle Stevenson and seconded by Ken Milne that the financial report be accepted. Carried.

Confirmation of Parish Council Representatives for the coming year

The following were confirmed as members of Kapiti Uniting Parish Council for 2025/2026

Evan Ireland (Waikanae Church representative)

Barrie Woods (Raumati Church representative)

Maureen Calhaem (Parish development and Outreach)

Carole Rudings (Social Opportunities)

Marie Smith (Property and Finance)

Erice Carley (Pastoral Care)

Kate Foley (Advertising and Media representative)

Appointment of Parish Council Officers for 2025/2026

Chairperson – Rev Anna Gilkison, Secretary – Jan Rae,
Treasurer - Cathy Drummond.

Acknowledgements

Rev Anna Gilkison thanked members of the Parish council and presented them with flowers. The Rev Roger Wiig thanked Rev Anna Gilkison for her 'faithful leadership' in the past year.

The meeting ended at 11.40am with saying the Blessing.

Ministers Report

Rev Anna Gilkison

A church is more than the sum of its parts but at an Annual General meeting, it is the parts we pay attention to and the parts that we are grateful for. As Paul reminds us, in 1Corinthians 12: 12-13, every part is vital to the whole, no matter how humble they perceive their role to be or how pre-eminent their role in the day-to-day functioning of the Church.

It is our job as a Church, at the AGM, to reassure ourselves that the parts work cohesively for the good of the whole. When we receive individual reports and measure them against their committee's or their position's goals we are also called to recognize and give thanks for the part they play in working together to strengthen the fabric of the Parish as a whole. Our differences contribute to our diversity and breadth of vision. They give us character and extend our reach to include many different ways of being the Church in Kapiti. We have three different congregations and two churches serving several separate Kapiti communities, each with their own culture and identity.

These are challenges KUP has embraced without compromising its integrity as one Uniting Parish. It is the job of the newly confirmed Parish Council to make sure that we run the Parish in such a way that the Church as a whole acts lovingly across our diverse responsibilities and shines collectively as a beacon calling others to see in us an expression of the timeless truth of Jesus Christ's saving presence in Kapiti.

It isn't only the committees which give substance to our identity as a Church. It is every single one of you who, together, make up the body of the Church. Each of you brings something unique, something essential to our faith community. Even those we have lost leave something of themselves with us. We are what we are because of them. We are what we are because of you. You are a hundred and more

blessings to thank God for. With your help our Church is the cup that
 runneth over.

*Thanks be to God
 for Kapiti Uniting Parish,
 for its leaders, for its workers and for its people.*

Parish Council Report

Rev Anna Gilkison

Members of Parish Council over the course of the year:

Jan Rae, Secretary, Cathy Drummond, Treasurer, Marie Smith,
 Kate Foley, Barrie Woods, Maureen Calhaem, Carole Rudings,
 Evan Ireland, Erice Carley (until December), Beth Manning -
 Consultant.

Portfolios/Committees

Health and Safety – Robin List has taken responsibility for our fire
 safety at Raumati with Evan at Waikanae. With Robin's help we have
 greatly improved our fire safety procedures and equipment safety.

Property and Finance – A very big thank you to our treasurer,
 Cathy Drummond, for keeping track of our complex finances, our
 compliance obligations, the difficult task of liaising with our Partner
 Churches in relation to our finances, overseeing routine financial tasks
 as well as the often-unpredictable building expenses, keeping up with
 invoicing and receipts for building hirers from both churches. We are
 grateful to the members of Property and Finance for their role in
 overseeing these important concerns. We also as a Parish depend very
 much on Marie Smith for her expertise, experience and considerable
 knowledge of Partner Church regulations.

Advertising – Kate Foley has revolutionized our visibility in our local communities with regular advertising through social media, signage and posters.

Social Opportunities – Carole Rudings has maintained our commitment to providing social opportunities for Parish members. Carole also took responsibility for the catering at the Uniting Churches Regional Gathering which we hosted in April. She had to persevere through many difficulties, and the catering result was a highlight of the event.

Parish Development and Outreach – Besides Thrifty Place the jewel in the crown of our outreach is the Thursday Playgroup which has flourished with the help of Monica Simpson our imaginative, caring and gifted Playgroup Co-ordinator. Thanks also to Bev Smith for helping Monica with this work. Thank you, Maureen, for your long-standing commitment to playgroup.

Music and Worship – this is an important part of our church life and we are indebted to Bruce Johnston for his leadership of this committee. His competent and visionary commitment to our worship and music ministry has been outstanding.

Pastoral Care – our pastoral care is undertaken by several tireless, kind and considerate women (and some men!) who do this work on behalf of all of us. High quality pastoral care is at the heart of our calling as a Parish. I can truthfully say that the Raumati and Waikanae Pastoral Care ministry is quite exceptional. A big thank you to Diana Roberts, Merrill Baker and Lyn Martin for their unstinting service to our pastoral needs.

Thank you, too, to Evan Ireland and the **Waikanae Committee** for taking care of our Waikanae Church so efficiently. And to Desmond Corrigan for his work at Waikanae which has kept up and improved the standards of building and grounds maintenance and other areas of church functioning.

Thank you, Barrie, for overseeing **Raumati Church** needs. Barrie has served the Church in a leadership role for many years. He is a treasure.

At its August meeting the Parish Council was very pleased to appoint Beth Manning of Waikanae Church as a consultant on Policy Development. This work is long overdue and is now essential in order for us to meet our Charities Commission requirements.

I would like to end this report by expressing our gratitude as a Council to the following people:

Jan Rae—I don't know where we would be without you, Jan. Thank you for all that you do.

Marg Lees, our exemplary Staff Appraisal and Support Co-ordinator.

Kay McIntosh, Kate Foley and our wonderful Thrifty Place staff.

Fiona Bell, especially for the Together magazine which is a ministry in itself to our many members who can't easily come to our churches in person.

And, finally, I wish to acknowledge Erice Carley's ministry in this parish, in leadership, music, pastoral care and community engagement, particularly through church-based peace and justice action. We will not forget you, Erice.

Waikanae Church

including Property and Women's Fellowship

Marie Smith and Evan Ireland - Co-Chairpersons

With a weekly average attendance of 22, the Waikanae congregation continues to grow in warmth and fellowship. We appreciate the oversight which Rev Anna Gilkison gives the Waikanae Congregation as a part of the Kapiti Uniting Parish. The pastoral visiting, worship services and studies which she brings are much appreciated.

Monica Olsson a dearly loved long time member of the congregation died on 27 September 2025, aged almost 103 years. Honor Moss died

on the 14 December 2025. Honor had shifted from Te Horo a few years ago. Both funeral services were held in the Waikanae Church. We are blessed to have known them. Keith Lang celebrated his 99th birthday by publishing a book of poems which he had written. We have welcomed Ute Michel, Meri Risati and Beth Manning to our congregation this year.

Waikanae Services: Rev Anna regularly leads Waikanae. The Waikanae Worship group consists of members of the congregation who have prepared and brought us services which are much appreciated. Sue Hodgson, Fiona Duckworth, Rosemary Wells, Desmond Corrigan, Tina and Evan Ireland, Paula and Mike Binkhorst, Beth Manning. From the Raumati congregations we have appreciated those who have led services at Waikanae, Maureen Calhaem, Rev Robin and Heather List, Kate Foley and Carole Rudings, Barrie Woods, Kevin Boyce, Rev Roger Wiig.

The use of alternate music for the hymns is being tried at present for when a pianist is not available.

The Church Anniversary Service acknowledged 46 years that the Waikanae Women's Fellowship had been meeting on the third Tuesday morning of the month.

Parish Advent and Easter studies have been attended by some members. Diana Roberts and Desmond Corrigan, led some of the sessions. The Christmas Day service was well attended with many visitors. The Raumati congregation have come to Waikanae for two of the combined parish services. In January more informal services were held in the lounge. The Harvest Festival service in March resulted in a good variety of foods being taken to the Women's Refuge where it was appreciated.

The Parish Maundy Thursday evening meal and service held in the Waikanae lounge was a very moving experience. The Easter Day service was well attended. In May, the Women's Fellowship service focused on the MWF Special Projects – Starship Hospital Foundation

and Tongan Community Development Trust . A soup and rolls lunch followed. Donations of \$420 were received for the projects.

Pastoral Visits: Thank you to all who visit informally within the congregation. Rev John and Diana Roberts visit those who are unable to come to services and take Communion to them monthly.

Women's Fellowship meets monthly. A small group with worthwhile discussions and awareness of the wider work of the MWF. Alternate months the group expands into the "Soup Group." Women and men attend. More structured discussions on a wider variety of topics. Always followed by a soup and rolls lunch.

Community: Appreciative letters have been received from the Foodbank for our weekly contributions. Items for Thrifty Place are contributed regularly. World Day of Prayer Service on 6 March held at the Presbyterian Church was supported by members. Some attended the Lower North Island Synod gathering for Uniting and Co-operating Parishes at Raumati in April. Diana Roberts submits full reports of Waikanae activities for the Together.

Property: The Church exterior was painted in December. KCDC Heritage Fund contributed a grant of \$4,625 towards the total cost. We are very thankful to Desmond Corrigan for his continuing oversight of the property and grounds. Evan Ireland and Mike Binkhorst did the annual check of the buildings. Mia, a member of the Baptist Church Youth Group works one hour weekly to vacuum the lounge and church, wash the floors and clean the toilets. The lawns are mown, irregularly sometimes, by a contractor. Community groups use the lounge every day of the week. A wedding was celebrated in the church in April. A large TV screen has been donated for use during services, for sound and images.

Waikanae Church Committee members are Evan Ireland, Marie Smith, Paula and Mike Binkhorst. Desmond Corrigan has resigned. Evan is on Parish Council. Marie is on Parish Property and Finance committee and Parish Council.

All The “Other Things” That Happen Everyone contributes, in so many ways to the life and activities of the congregation. Opening up and preparing rooms for services and meetings, floral arrangements, morning tea, washing and drying dishes, replenishing kitchen supplies, door duties, communion preparation, minister’s steward, Bible readings, compiling rosters. To you all a very big thank you. As well as the services - fellowship and sharing around the tables at morning tea in the lounge after the services is very important and appreciated. We move forward into the new year knowing the continuing love and comfort of God who cares for us.

Property Report

Kate Foley

The current members of the Property and Finance Committee from July 2025 – June 2026 are Cathy Drummond (Treasurer), Marie Smith, Kate Foley, Jako Smith and Shyam Murti.

The committee works very well together and attends to many maintenance and repair projects. We are a small committee with many tasks to complete on both of our church properties and the manse. We also attend to any reported health and safety issues.

Raumati Property Report

We have completed many maintenance projects this year. The projects include:

- Sanding and re-staining the hall floor.
- Painting the outside of the building facing Raumati Road, the side of the hall and side of the church facing Weka Road.
- Repairing the corner framing of the building near the hall and adding a polycarbonate roof.
- Contracting an arborist to remove the kowhai tree near the church main entrance, and the trimming of the second kowhai and the large tree near the front driveway.
- Cleaning of all the gutters on the building.

We are looking forward to reporting on further projects in our report next year, which will include the renovation of the downstairs meeting room and new carpet in the church foyer.

As mentioned in our report last year, the cleaning of the Raumati Church has been an ongoing issue for many years, due to the service provided by the commercial cleaners. Notice has been given to our current cleaners and Monica Simpson has now been employed for six hours per week to clean our Raumati complex from September.

We are very grateful to Monica who has been cleaning for us for two hours per week for the last year. We employed Monica to clean a year ago to cover the shortfall by the commercial cleaners. Monica has gone above and beyond, and we are delighted Monica will now be our sole cleaner. Thank you, Monica, for all your hard work, you are a blessing to us.

We hire two students at our parish, a cleaner in Waikanae and Sophie (who took over from brother Jack, in the last year) in Raumati. Sophie, replenishes all our kitchen and toilet supplies, sweeps the church driveway, washes all the tea towels and hand towels, empties the bins, and removes all the unwanted clothes and cardboard from Thrifty Place. Thank you very much for all your work, it is so important to keep our churches clean and ready for hire by our hirers and parish members.

We very much appreciate the work of our Raumati gardeners, Robin and Heather List and Liz Sutherland. This year we had another visit from Ernesto from Chile. Ernesto gave the garden a big tidy up and trim during his visit. The garden always looks well maintained and you all do a wonderful job keeping the garden tidy. Thank you.

Thank you to Dianne Boyce who is a Jack of All Trades. Dianne gardens, tidies, removes rubbish, repairs, paints. You name it, she does it, all in her own quiet way. Thank you, Dianne, for all your help, it is very much appreciated.

Robin List undertook a project of switching our fire compliance company. We have now contracted Wormald to monitor our fire compliance requirements. Thank you, Robin, for your work on switching providers, which will in turn, give us better service at a better price. We also appreciate your monthly and yearly checking of fire extinguishers, fire hose reels and emergency lighting. Very important work to keep us all safe.

Thank you to Michael Foley for doing any job that is on the list. Mostly checking and replacing lightbulbs, removing and disposing of unsellable items from Thrifty Place, appliance testing all electrical goods to be sold at Thrifty Place, emptying the Beam vacuum system and weed spraying the Raumati Church driveway.

We would like to thank all parish members including the Fijian congregation and hirers who assist us in keeping our churches clean and well maintained. We know we all play a part in this, whether it is vacuuming the floor after morning tea, removing rubbish and tidying up. Thank you!

Thank you to our Parish Administrator Fiona, who handles all day-to-day property needs and reporting. Fiona has been a great help, assisting us with trades people and contractors. Thank you, Fiona, for all your help, it is much appreciated.

Robert Grove

Sincere thanks to Desmond Corrigan for the many years of work that he has put into maintaining the grounds of the Manse 11 Robert Grove. Not only the garden but other repairs to the house which he has done over time.

Pastoral Care Group

Merrill Baker and Lyn Martin - Co Convenors

As a team we have continued to make many visits and telephone calls to parishioners and cards or letters are sent to those in hospital and to family members who have recently been bereaved. Special birthdays and anniversaries are also remembered.

In January this year Erice Carley stepped down from our group due to health reasons and sadly she passed away on 6 August. Erice was a faithful, caring, pastoral visitor and also represented us on Parish council.

More recently Diane Ammundsen has stepped down, due to health reasons. Diane has been involved with pastoral care for many years, and we want to say a sincere thank you Diane for all your loving care and respect for those you have cared for. We have appreciated your faithful commitment to pastoral care and we miss you at our monthly meetings.

We are very pleased to welcome Alisi Barton to our group which also includes Rev Anna Gilkison, Merrill Baker, Lyn Martin (Co-Convenors), Diana Roberts (Waikanae representative), Carole Rudings, Bastiana Snyders, and Dianne Boyce.

We are very grateful to Rev Anna for her support in attending our meetings, visiting those who are in hospital as well as making pastoral visits, where there is a need, to those at home.

At the June Parish Anniversary Service, newcomers to the Parish were warmly welcomed by the Rev Anna and our Parish Council members.

We were sorry to farewell Jennie Dickens who moved to Crofton Downs to be nearer family members.

Sadly, we record the deaths within our Parish over the past year and some who had an association with us: Noel Chapman, Maureen Anderson, Monica Olsson, Russell Hodder, Honor Moss, Dallas Revans, Heather Hopkirk, Gordan Solloway, Norma Ede, Peter Hodgson, Syd Mephram, Mary Mill, Marie Storey and Erice Carley, Bernice Olsson. Lovingly we remember them.

Worship and Music Committee

Rev Anna Gilkison and Bruce Johnston – Co-Chairpersons

Members of the committee over the course of the year

Carole Rudings (Minute Secretary), Diane Ammundsen, Cathy Drummond and Maureen Calhaem

At Kapiti Uniting Parish worship is contextual, contemporary and collaborative. It is interactive, imaginative and thoughtful. Worship is theologically responsible while recognizing the diversity and range of church backgrounds which are a feature of our Church.

Music

We treasure our musicians and the place of music in our services. We sincerely thank our musicians who, during the period covered by this report are Marie Smith, Merle Stevenson, Elizabeth Kerr, Janet Milne, Kevin Boyce, Ellen Barrett, Noeline Cuzens, Evan Ireland who manages what we are calling our Music Library, as well as Dilys Jones, Isabel Robertson and Erice Carley.

Erice had to stop playing for us because of ill-health in January this year. Isabel also has health issues and played for the last time at the Maundy Thursday Service which we held at Waikanae. Thank you, Isabel, God keep you in his care. Thank you, Erice for the gift of your musicianship to KUP. May you be at peace. And thank you, Dilys Jones, for your marvelous accompaniment at our Coastal Villas services.

Varieties of worship

These encompass our long-standing alternative worship at the United@9 services;
Simple Services at Waikanae;
Services led by the Waikanae Worship Group;
Our core 10 am services in the Raumati Church and the Waikanae Church.

Thank you to the Fijian Congregation for your memorable contributions to our worship in the past year.

Worship and social responsibility

We continue to hold Peace Vigils which are widely advertised, thanks to Kate, in the community. The United Nations Day of Peace Interfaith Peace Gathering in September. Thanks to Marg Lees for ensuring we continue our commitment to this significant community-based Peace Gathering.

Worship leadership

Finally, our ministry of worship would be greatly depleted were it not for our wonderful team of Worship Leaders and Preachers:

Rev Roger Wiig
Rev Robin List
Kevin Boyce
Diana Roberts
Maureen Calhaem
Kate Foley
Carole Rudings
Heather List
Barrie Woods
Desmond Corrigan
Evan Ireland
Mike and Paula Binkhorst
Sue Hodgson
Tina Ireland
Fiona Duckworth
Beth Manning

Thanks to your generous gift of time, preparation and inspired leadership we are able to continue offering services of worship for three congregations. God bless you. And God bless all the many people whose work is vital to our worship – door stewards, audio-visual people, bible readers, morning tea providers, communion servers and preparers, worship stewards. And thank you to our Office Administrator, Fiona, for her excellent work on the orders of service.

Playgroup Report

Maureen Calhaem and Monica Simpson

Every Thursday morning, in term time, in the hall there is noise, laughter and fun while children from small babies to school age, gather with their parents and caregivers.

Monica leads the group with Lavinia and other members of her family helping. Bev Smith, and Marie Smith give their time and expertise week by week. We also have volunteers from Kapiti College.

Each week, there is an array of educational toys attractively set out, (not easy because everything has to be set up and put away each time), a music session, a new art activity, and morning tea.

It is a delight to see children enjoying what is provided, and parents and care givers chatting to each other.

Thank you everyone involved.

Social Opportunities

Carole Rudings

The after service lunches remain popular with lunch visits made to Rosetta Café, Café Colombia, etc, occurring in the past year.

We are well covered in the Parish with social opportunities through Women's Fellowship and events that fit into the overall church year. Any suggestions for additional social events would be welcomed.

Raumati Women's Fellowship

Lyn Martin, Convenor

I have pleasure in presenting the Raumati Women's Fellowship Annual Report for the 2025 – 2026 year. We have enjoyed the fellowship of our meetings which have been reasonably well attended.

We have heard from a variety of speakers over the last 12 months including Jai and Amelia from the Restorative Youth Justice Centre, who spoke at our last AGM.

Last August Carole Rudings spoke of her experiences of working in Mental health. In September Alison Miller enlightened us on the services provided by Age Concern. In October we enjoyed Merle Stevenson's travel talk on her overseas trip to Scotland and Ireland along with her souvenirs. November Marie Smith gave us an interesting talk on her attendance at the N.Z.M.W.F. Convention held in Auckland.

At our December meeting Pam Newey organised a Christmas quiz followed by reading a Christmas poem. Some of our members then took part in a Christmas meditation. We also brought along gifts for the Women's Refuge. In March Trish Tennant gave an interesting talk about 'Kapiti Hidden Books'. In April Pete Strang shared his memories of his very special life story.

In May Carolyn Press Mckenzie from HuHa spoke with great enthusiasm of her job with the organisation. Last July our members enjoyed a well-attended lunch at Infinite Cafe in Raumati. In February after our meeting, we had a shared lunch and enjoyed a social time together.

In March this year the World Day of Prayer Service was held at St Marks Anglican Church in Raumati in which our members took part. On 17 May Rev Anna Gilkison led our Special Project Service. The overseas project was from Christian World Service supporting the Tongan Community Development Trust and the New Zealand part was the Starship Children's Hospital. Slides and commentary were shown. Thanks to Alisi Barton for her input regarding the Tongan Community. Thank you to those of you who provided plates for morning tea, which raised \$404.50.

During the year we paid our fees to M.W.F. of \$117. We have also given donations of \$50 to Wellington Free Ambulance, Life Flight Trust, and Blind Low Vision.

Merrill Baker and Marie Smith attended the Wellington District M.W.F. meeting held in Stokes Valley Uniting Church in February.

Thank you to Rev. Anna for your help and support during the year also to committee member Jan Rae. Special thanks to our Secretary, Merrill Baker for all her hard work and also to our Treasurer, Pam Newey. Our members are involved in many aspects of our church life and we look forward to another year of friendship and fellowship.

Thrifty Place – Op Shop

Kay McIntosh, Kate Foley, Managers

Thrifty continues to grow in popularity, with more people coming to shop there from out of our area.

Both Kate and I attended an Op Shop manager's meeting in April. Karen, from the Baptist shop initiated the meeting at the Olive Grove Cafe in Waikanae. There were about seven of us, and we had a good discussion and exchange of ideas. All of us face having unsuitable goods being dumped on us, with no real solution to this problem, apart from educating the public. I recently took a number of electrical goods, plus electronics to the free e-waste at the local dump. One of the staff was very understanding and said if we ever had large items eg TV, then we would be charged half price to dump them.

We've been very fortunate over the past two years to have three new volunteers from our church. It really helps to spread the workload especially as every so often we get an avalanche of donations all at once. The shed is often used to store the surplus.

Once again, a huge thank you to everyone for volunteering and donating goods. These are the things which make Thrifty a success.

Raumati Village Community Garden

Kate Foley

Our garden is turning eight years old this year. Regular updates on the garden are posted on our Facebook page

www.facebook.com/raumativillagecommunitygarden

In June, we planted two citrus trees and a rosemary bush in the garden. We now have four citrus trees and two rosemary bushes. Sadly, our donated bay tree was stolen. David from the Kapiti Horticultural Society, extended our back border garden and this became home to our

rhubarb patch. The plants were donated and have been very popular, with many stalks being picked.

In August the Paraparaumu Pippins visited our garden and planted lettuce and spring onion seedlings. The Pippins were really interested in what we were growing and really enjoyed the planting.

Thanks to the donation of \$500 from the Kapiti Horticultural Society earlier in the year, we topped up the garden beds in November with 14 bags of Zoo Do and planted all our seedlings for summer. Most of the seedlings are grown from seed and donated to the garden, and occasionally we purchase bundles from Awapuni Nurseries if required.

We continued to keep our garden thriving over summer and appreciated a donated watering can after our one was stolen. Thanks to Diana and Lyn for your help with our summer garden, watering and weeding.

In February, the Women's Craft Group that meet in our downstairs room on a Tuesday morning, painted rocks and donated them to the garden. We really love their crafts and they brighten up the garden. The craft group, enjoy visiting the garden and harvesting what is available.

David and Sarah, did a big working bee in March and prepared the garden for autumn and winter. We then planted over 100 seedlings, including broccolini, lettuce, pak choy, spinach, spring onion, rocket, rainbow beet, silverbeet and leek.

In May, we had a visit from a group of tamariki from the Kapiti Children's Centre. They were learning about kindness, sustainability and becoming kaitiaki. We talked about all these things and how they relate to the garden. I gave a tour of the garden, which included our rainwater tank and compost. The highlight of the visit was planting broad bean seeds.

In winter, I removed over 100 strawberry plants that had grown from runners and replaced them with new fresh plants. Strawberry plants are really only best for three years, so it was time for a refresh. The old plants were all donated to members of the community.

Jim McIntosh has excelled in keeping our garden predator free. Thank you Jim, we appreciate the time you give each week checking our traps and helping the local birdlife thrive.

The great thing about being a gardener, is that you always have hope for the season ahead. We have had a productive year and are looking forward what comes next. Each year we try to learn, grow and harvest more. Thank you to all the helpers, David and Sarah, Lyn, Diana and Dianne.