



Friends of Rotorua Hospital Chaplaincy

August 2026

In this issue

- Global week of 24-7 Prayer
- Welcome to new Chaplain
- New Admin introduction
- Hospital volunteers morning tea
- Thanks to Gaynor
- Obedience
- Joyful commissioning service
- Blessing an ambulance
- Quiz Night invitation

Rotorua Hospital Chaplaincy
Department
Rotorua Hospital
Private Bag 3023
Rotorua Mail Centre
Rotorua 3046

NON-STOP PRAYER AROUND THE WORLD



Join with the churches of Rotorua
and internationally
as we declare God's greatness
over every part of the world

When: September 6 - 13

Where: Rotorua Hospital Chapel

Contact: Your church office/contact person
or Elizabeth Pilaar at: rotoruachurches24.7@gmail.com

<https://cepilaar63.wixsite.com/rotoruachurches24-7>

View website
to register



“And whatever you ask in prayer, you
will receive, if you have faith.
Matthew 21:22



Welcome to new Rotorua Chaplain

Kia ora, my name is Susan Gedye and I am honoured to join the team as the new Chaplain at Rotorua Hospital.

As Ngāti Whakaue, I am deeply connected to this whenua having been born and raised here in Rotorua. It is a privilege to now serve the community that has shaped my life and faith.

I have a heart for people and a passion to see individuals and whānau experience hope, healing and wholeness. Whether through a listening ear, a quiet conversation or a prayer, I am here to walk alongside people with compassion, grace and without judgement.

I value working alongside patients and whānau and our dedicated hospital staff to support the wellbeing of the whole person- emotionally, spiritually and relationally. My hope is to be a positive and encouraging presence throughout Rotorua Hospital offering kindness, comfort and care wherever it is needed.

I look forward to meeting you and journeying alongside our patients and their whānau.



"Therefore, as
God's chosen people,
holy and dearly loved,
clothe yourselves with
compassion, kindness,
humility, gentleness
and patience."

Colossians 3:12

**This verse highlights the essential
character of healthcare ministry.**



New Admin Introduction

Hi, I'm Priscilla Coveney, and I recently joined the Chaplaincy Department as an Office Administrator, working alongside Alison. Together, we support the chaplaincy team and help ensure they can provide care and support to patients, families and staff throughout the hospital.

I have lived in Rotorua for the past 10 years and love being part of this community. I am married to Aaron, and together we have a blended family of five children ranging in age from 17 to 32.

I attend Living Well Church and value the sense of faith, community and connection it provides. At home, Aaron and I have two small dogs who keep us entertained and are very much part of the family.

I am enjoying settling into my new role and feel privileged to be part of the Chaplaincy Department and the important work our team does each day.



We continue to be very grateful to funding agencies who loyally support the work of Chaplaincy in the community of Rotorua. It is because of local businesses in Rotorua that allows funding to return to this community:

Kasper's Sports Bar – Mo's Bar
Malfroy Tavern – Village Sports Bar & Cafe





Hospital Volunteers Morning tea

On 18 June, the hospital hosted a special morning tea to celebrate and thank the many volunteers who generously give their time to support patients, staff and services throughout the hospital.

Kathy Rex, Quality Risk & Clinical Governance Manager and Emergency Department Service Manager, delivered a heartfelt speech expressing her appreciation for the volunteers. She spoke about the invaluable contribution volunteers make, saying that the hospital simply could not operate in the same way without them. She emphasized how deeply volunteers are appreciated by hospital staff, and acknowledged the real difference they make to both patients and the wider hospital community.

A delicious morning tea was provided, with plenty of food for everyone. In fact, some of us were so well catered for that lunch was hardly necessary afterwards!

The event also provided a wonderful opportunity to meet volunteers from other groups across the hospital.

Representatives included the chemotherapy volunteers from the Cancer Society, the stroke volunteers from Te Awhi Mai working within Older Persons Rehabilitation Services (OPRS), the Friends of ED, Help Desk volunteers, Ward volunteers, NODA (No One Dies Alone) volunteers, and our own Chaplaincy Team.

Special thanks go to Karen Francis, who organised the event and coordinated the invitations. Her hard work and attention to detail ensured the morning tea was a great success and an enjoyable occasion for everyone who attended.



"Special thanks to our chaplain Gaynor, who blesses our clinic each Friday. Her presence reflects our commitment to holistic, compassionate care for every wāhine and whānau who walks through our doors."

Welcome to our new Chaplain Susan who will be taking over from Gaynor

**A MESSAGE
FROM THE
WOMANS CLINIC**

OBEDIENCE

"He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and obey it""
Luke 11v28 NIV



Consider the story of Daniel in the Bible. God blessed and guided him, and his life became a testimony for every generation. Daniel's obedience increased his wisdom, helped his friends, and brought great favour from the king. The very best life is the obedient life. We have no idea of the gifts in store if we will follow God's instructions.

We may not be Daniel but Philippians 4:13 reminds us that we can do all things through Him who strengthens us. Daniel faced decisions, and made up his mind to be obedient to God.

When Daniel arrived in Babylon, he was probably a teenager. Required to eat food that violated God's commands, "Daniel made up his mind that he would not defile himself with the king's choice food or with the wine which he drank;" When we are faced with decisions, we should ask, "What would God have me do? Is there anything in the Bible that relates to this – a command or a relevant principle? God's principles and the stories that convey his character show us what godliness looks like in every situation.

Then we make a commitment. Settle in our hearts, once and for all, that we will obey God; leave no room for questioning your conviction. We may face many trials and challenges, but the gains from courageous obedience are immeasurable.

We can have confidence in God. Daniel knew God, and he knew the character and laws of God were good. Through intimacy with God, we experience his love, which gives us the confidence to talk with him.

Finally, we can trust God with the consequences. The obedience of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego could have led to sorrow and suffering. They did not know how things would work out. However, they knew God would handle any problems that came from their obedience. If we suffer loss, he will use it for good and bless us in this life or the next.

Will we always obey perfectly? No. Only Jesus lived in perfect obedience to the Father. His greatest act of submission, going to the cross on our behalf, makes it possible for us to be forgiven when we miss the mark.

Friends, rely on the power of Christ to say. "Lord Jesus, I choose to obey God and leave all the consequences to Him." You will be blessed for days to come.

Thoughts from Dr Charles Stanley



The Smile

Confidential patient story - VCA

She was sunken down in her bed, hair awry, mouth turned down at the corners, looking grey and gloomy. She said her whole world was grey – it was someone's fault – I forgot whose.

We talked for a bit about her relationship with the grey, then she recalled something in her life that had colour.

She smiled.

I blessed her as her physio came in.

A Joyful Commissioning Service

On 30 July, we celebrated a very special occasion with a Commissioning Service to welcome five new members to our Volunteer Chaplaincy team: Joy Dorfliger, Clare Jessep, Margaret Stengs, Elizabeth Pilaar and Gary Parker. We were also delighted to commission and officially welcome our new Chaplain, Susan Gedye, during the same service.

Our new Volunteer Chaplain Assistants have successfully completed the Volunteer Chaplaincy Assistant Training Programme, which included a ten-week classroom-based course followed by a ward practicum. This is a significant achievement, and we are delighted to welcome them into this important ministry. We are equally pleased to welcome Susan Gedye to our chaplaincy team and look forward to the gifts, experience and compassion she will bring to her role.

The service began with a warm welcome from Paul, followed by an introduction to Matiu Best, Regional Manager for Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa.

We then celebrated the commissioning of our new Chaplain, Susan. Through prayers, Scripture readings and hymns, beautifully accompanied by our talented pianist, Pam, we gave thanks for God's calling on her life. The singing was heartfelt. Susan made her promises before being presented with the Symbols of Ministry, along with her new uniform and commissioning certificate, by our current Volunteer Chaplain Assistants.

The commissioning of our new Volunteer Chaplain Assistants followed a similar pattern. They each made their promises before receiving the Symbols of Ministry, their uniforms, and commissioning certificates. The service was enriched by a heartfelt reflection from Clare, who shared what serving as a Volunteer Chaplain Assistant means to her, adding a deeply personal and meaningful dimension to the celebration.

It was a memorable and uplifting occasion, made even more special by the presence of family, friends and our existing volunteer team, who gathered to encourage, support and celebrate those being commissioned.

We are incredibly grateful for those who are willing to give their time to serve God through hospital chaplaincy. This ministry is both challenging and deeply rewarding. The people our team encounter are often facing illness, uncertainty, anxiety or disappointment. For many, a hospital stay can be an unfamiliar and lonely experience, separated from the comfort of loved ones and the familiarity of home.

Our chaplaincy team provides compassionate care, a listening ear and a reassuring presence during these difficult times. By walking alongside patients, whānau and hospital staff, they offer hope, encouragement and a tangible expression of God's love in action.

We thank God for calling each member of our chaplaincy team to this important ministry and pray for His continued guidance, strength and abundant blessing as they serve with compassion, wisdom and grace.



Our new volunteer Chaplains with their certificates. From left: Gary Parker, Joy Dorfliger, Clare Jessep Van Wyk, Margaret Stengs and Elizabeth Pilaar.



What a great group to have join our team, we are very blessed and looking forward to working with them.



Jacqui, our Taupo Chaplain, Paul our Rotorua Chaplain and Matiu our Regional Manager for Hospital Chaplaincy Aotearoa.



Matiu presenting Susan with her commissioning certificate.





The fabulous feast catered for by Café Dynasti, was presented so beautifully and everything tasted wonderful. We had a lovely time enjoying morning tea together and celebrating our new team members after the service.



Margaret and her friend, Maria.



Dick, Gaynor and Gary enjoying a conversation.



Joy's son, daughter and gorgeous wee grandchild.



Damian and Geraldine, Gary's wife.

Christian Pilaar
enjoying the
celebration.



Father Prakash
and Vicki.





Each Symbol of Ministry was passed along the line as it was received. This was the Chalice and Paten.



Clare sharing what serving as a Volunteer Chaplain Assistant means to her, with Elizabeth watching on.



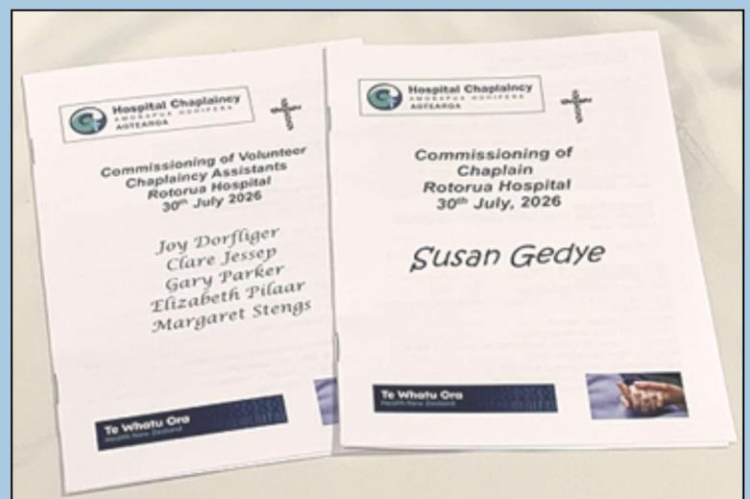
Susan and her friend, Taryn.



Pam, our wonderful pianist.



Timothy and Maria in deep discussion.





Even difficulties have purpose. This is confident trust that God weaves every experience – both pleasant and painful – into His greater purposes.

Like a master weaver who includes both dark and bright threads to create a beautiful tapestry, God uses all of life's experiences to accomplish His good purposes.

The Blessing of an Ambulance

On Friday 31st July, Paul was invited to St John's Rotorua to bless a new ambulance.

The ambulance has very generously been donated by a family in Rotorua.

What a wonderful way to show compassion and kindness to a community and such a wide reaching gift. We praise God that this family had the provision to be able to gift such an important and vital resource.



Paul saying a blessing over the Ambulance.



**Please continue to pray for us
For the Chaplains, the volunteer Chaplaincy Assistants and the Administrators
For the Committee members and our Trustees**

HOW IS CHAPLAINCY FUNDED?

The Rotorua Hospital Chaplaincy service is funded from:

- ✦ Donations from local Churches, Charitable trusts and Individuals, Friends Subscriptions, some Government funding (Ministry of Health and Lakes District Health Board). Donations over \$5.00 are eligible for a tax rebate.

Where do you come in? You may wish to:

- ✦ Become a Friend of the Rotorua Hospital Trust, donate to the Rotorua Chaplaincy Department, make a regular donation by automatic payment, or make a bequest in your Will.
- ✦ Above all, you can PRAY!

Donations: By direct credit Bank Account Details ASB Bank,
Rotorua 12-3155-0260724-00
Account name: Rotorua Hospital Chaplaincy Trust

Cash is still lovely, but please do not post.

Charities Commission Register No: CC20601



☐ **YES!** I would like to become a Friend of Hospital Chaplaincy

☐ **YES!** I would like to donate monthly \$15 \$40 \$75 Other \$.....

☐ **YES!** I would like to receive your Friends newsletter

Name: Email

Address

(if you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please email
priscilla.coveney2@lakesdhb.govt.nz)

Your invitation to our upcoming Quiz Night



Thursday 3rd September

Rotorua Citizens Club 7pm

Dining Room and bar open 5:30pm

Tables of 8 - \$15.00 per person entry

Easy questions – great prizes – raffles

Register your interest with Priscilla Coveney

priscilla.coveney2@lakesdhb.govt.nz

07 349 7853

Raffles – Great Prizes – Auctions

We would love to see you there!



FEAR NOT

Fear is one of the enemy's greatest weapons.

As humans, it limits progress.

As believers, it weakens faith.

But God says:

“For God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind.”

– 2 Timothy 1v7

“Fear not, for I am with you.”

– Isaiah 41v10

“Perfect love casts out fear.”

– John 4v18

“Do not be afraid; only believe”

– Mark 5v36

Child of God, fear imprisons, but FAITH sets you free.

Walk boldly.

God is with you!