



Friends of Rotorua Hospital Chaplaincy

May 2020

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With so many of us staying at home, safe in our bubbles, it is time to think about all of those who “had our backs” – lets consider them – there is so much to be grateful for.



Our Annual visit from John Paul College



Pastor Allen Foote teaching about the Chief of the Medical staff



An excellent reader



Attentive

This is always one of our favourite times of the year, when the students of John Paul College come to visit the Chapel at the hospital, as part of their pilgrimage. Sadly, this year it was cut short, because of COVID-19, and one group missed out, and we missed them as well. Unfortunately, our Chaplain was unavailable this year, so the Assistant Chaplain, Allen Foote and the Administrator Alison Lamberton, guided them through our Chapel. We had fun! These students were so attentive, so well behaved, and the chocolate fish given to them for the right answers, certainly encouraged their participation. Thanks for coming – we hope to see you again next year.

A personal story – there is a picture in the Chapel of “The Chief of the Medical Staff”, which we also have in card form to give to patients – they have a lovely Psalm written on the back.

A child from John Paul College, a girl of 11 said to me “My mum got one of those cards when she was in hospital with her broken back.” She started to weep, so I took her into the office, and said to her that I was going to tell her a story, which went like this. “One day, when I was working here, a man came to my door – he was tall, and gentle and he asked if someone could come up to the ward to pray for his daughter. I went with him, and we spoke on the way about what was going on with her. I arrived at the ward, and behind a curtain, there was his daughter in the bed, sitting beside her was her mum, and on her mums lap was the cutest little 4 year old girl called (Name)”. The 11 year old girl looked up at me, tears now dry, and said with awe in her voice “that was me.”

That was a little God moment, as when the man came to my door; he said that his daughter, aged 24, had broken her back. I was 24 when I broke my back, and she and I share a similar name. I was able to relate to her so much when I went to her, and when I prayed with her, it was with much confidence that God was going to work in her. And He has. This young woman is now a champion horse rider, as is her daughter, and she has since had the cutest wee son.

After a little cuddle with the girl, she went back to her seat, with a chocolate fish in her pocket, and a lightness in her step. The pleasure and privilege was all mine!

Administrator

KIWI COFFIN CLUB

There was Ron, and Harold, and Cynthia, and Dianne, and John... so many lovely people greeting some of our team into the Kiwi Coffin Club on Ti Street, where we had a shared lunch, and then a guided tour.

These people are retired folk, who dedicate their time and expertise into being with people as they design their own coffins, and they make it fun – coffins or caskets can be any colour of the rainbow, and sure, while there are sad stories to tell, the people genuinely care and they are there to listen, to advise and to guide. And coffins or caskets can be anything that YOU want it to be.

During the measles outbreak in Samoa in 2019, they put together and sent 24 coffins over in 1 week. That's dedication.

Thank you for your time and for showing us around.



Measuring up



For a baby



Miyoko learning from Harold



Looking pensive



Kathy Horgan showing her strength



The Great Teddy Bear Hunt

During the time of COVID-19 lockdown, on the daily walk, it was such a pleasure to see how the community got totally involved in the Teddy Bear hunt – which went beyond Teddy Bears – it included Penguins, Spongebob, and caterpillars – and it was not only the children who went looking and found a certain delight in what they found. Below are some of the community efforts.



Waiting to be seen



On a gate by the river



Just hanging around



Upside down



Looking down



Swinging



Sharing

This reflection was written by the Chaplain for the Hospital Staff magazine during Covid-19

We're all going on a bear hunt....

I'm guessing most of you will be aware of the 'Bear Hunts' going on around the country.

The current Bear Hunt in NZ is based on a children's book called '*We're all going on a Bear Hunt.*'¹ It was hugely popular when my son was a pre-schooler and so I led a Bear Hunt at his 4th birthday party. Sitting in a circle, slapping our knees in rhythm to the words, I read the story about 4 children their Dad and dog embarking on a bear hunt. On the way the family encounters many obstacles such as; a field of long wavy grass (swishy swashy), a deep cold river (splash splosh), a field of thick oozy mud (squelch squerch), a big dark forest (stumble trip), a swirling whirling snowstorm (Hoooo woooo) and finally a narrow gloomy cave (tiptoe, tiptoe). Each time the family encounters an obstacle the refrain the children say is

*"We can't go over it.
We can't go under it.
Oh no!
We've got to go through it!"*

The fact that they '**have to go through it**' means that they are learning to face adversity and as a consequence, begin to develop resilience. Ironically, when the family finally comes face to face with an actual bear they all run away home to hide under the blankets and... the bear walks away looking really sad!

I wonder how/if the obstacle of Covid-19 is helping you grow in resilience?

I am writing this on Thursday, the day before Good Friday when Christians remember the death of Jesus. Leading up to Good Friday, Jesus confronted many obstacles and as he prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, he faced the final obstacle or adversary, death. During this time Jesus experienced sorrow and felt troubled. Three times he asked God, his Father if it is possible that the cup (of suffering) be taken from him.² I would argue that even for Jesus resilience was something he had to learn.

Justine Allain writes in her book *The Resilient Disciple*

*"He (Jesus) saves and delivers us **within the experiences of fear and danger**. He does this by **going through it himself**, by experiencing the fear and pain and showing us that God the Father has the power to raise him and us from the dead."*³

One of the themes located in the Easter story is that by confronting obstacles, by going through them, we can be strengthened, grow in resilience and can be changed for the good. That good then can be used to serve the greater good, sometimes even birthing 'new life.'

May all of you working within in the Lakes DHB, as you face the challenge of Covid-19, as you make sacrifices ... may you be strengthened and grow in resilience...may you be changed for the good. May your goodness serve the greater good, bringing 'new life.'

I wonder what might have developed if the family had stopped and faced the bear?

God Bless

Wendy (Chaplain)



Thank You



It was a case of “who looks better?” when David Elliott from the Rotorua East Lions Club came to present us with a cheque from the collection at last Decembers “Carols by Candlelight”. On our left we have our Administrator Alison Lamberton and on our right, our Assistant Chaplain Allen Foote.

The contribution to Chaplaincy is very generous, so thank you to all of the Chaplaincy team who assisted with the collecting and thank you so much to the Rotorua East Lions Club for being so generous to us.

All we need to do now is find a speaker for this years Carols by Candelight – anyone??

Fundraising Activities have been put on hold for a bit.... we had planned a sausage sizzle, but all of them at Bunnings have been cancelled; we were to have a movie night, but, for obvious reasons, that too did not go ahead; we had requests for another fun Quiz Night at the Citizens Club – the Citizens Club are not even able to open their doors; then of course, there is the annual breakfast – we hope that we can still do this later in the year.

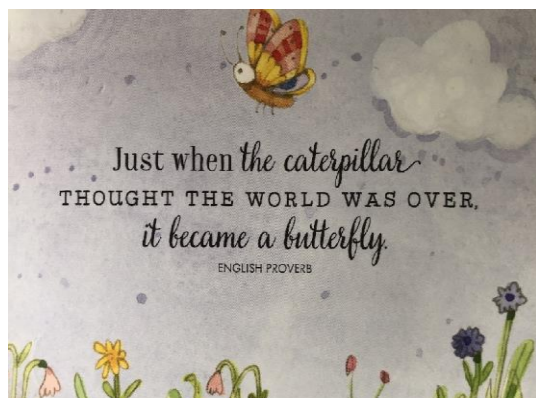
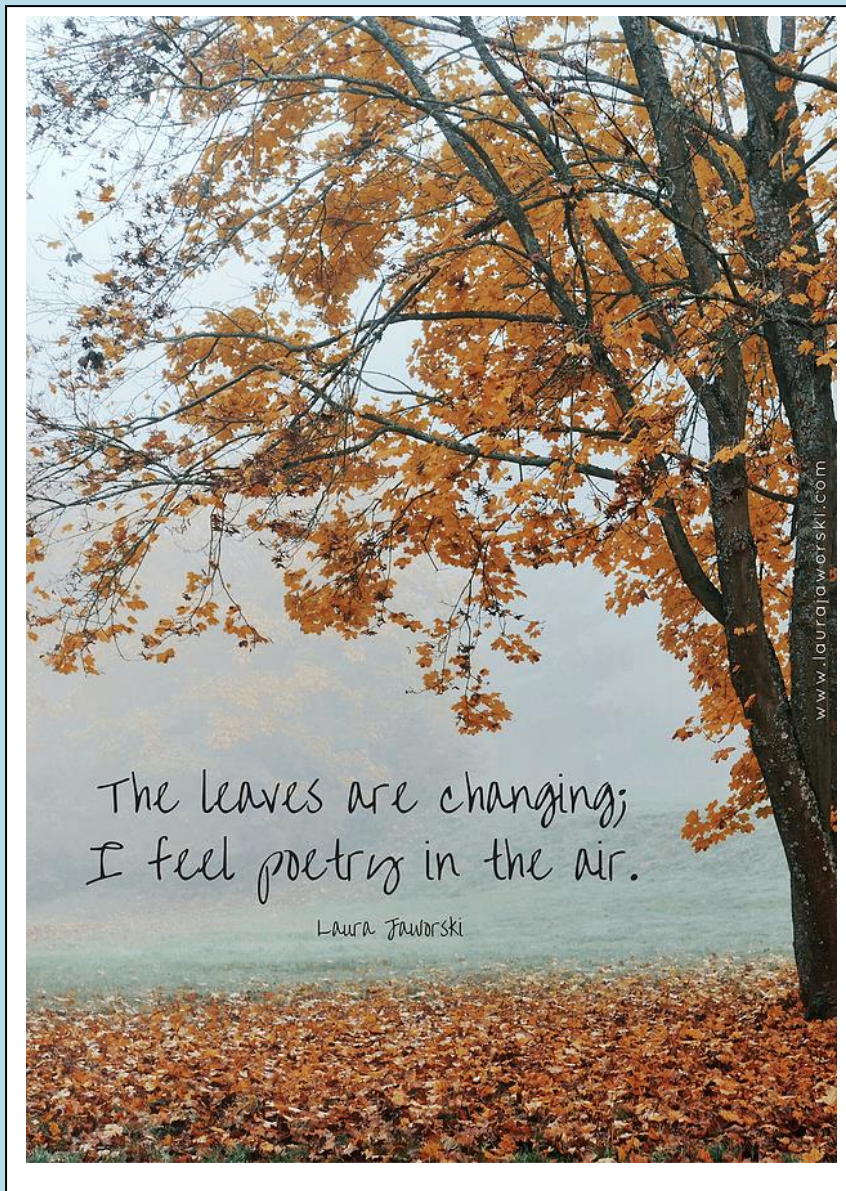
So we tried a more gentle approach and sent some special people some tea bags, in the hope that they would have a cuppa on us, and that they would perhaps donate the money they would otherwise spend on a cuppa to boost the Chaplaincy funds. Watch this space for the responses.



We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. Winston Churchill

Autumn is an artist who uses an oak leaf on which to pain a masterpiece

William Allen Ward



Thought for
the month

WHEN YOU PRAY
FOR OTHERS,
GOD LISTENS TO
YOU AND BLESSES
THEM. SO WHEN YOU
ARE SAFE AND
HAPPY, REMEMBER
THAT SOMEONE IS
PRAYING FOR YOU...

Please continue to pray for us

- For the Chaplain, the volunteer Chaplains Assistants and the Administrator
- For our 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, make a donation 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: (Cheques can be made out to Rotorua Hospital Chaplaincy Trust)
Bank Account Details ASB Bank, Rotorua 12-3155-0260724-00

Send cheques and response slips to:

Rotorua Hospital Chaplaincy Trust,
Private Bag 3023,
Rotorua Mail Centre,
Rotorua 3046

Charities Commission Register No: CC20601

John 13:35

By this shall all
men know that you
are my disciples, if
you have love one
for another



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

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

(I do not have internet banking, please send me an AP form) ☐

☐ YES! I would like to receive your Friends newsletter

☐ YES! I will be a prayer supporter of the Chaplaincy Team

Name: Email

Address

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