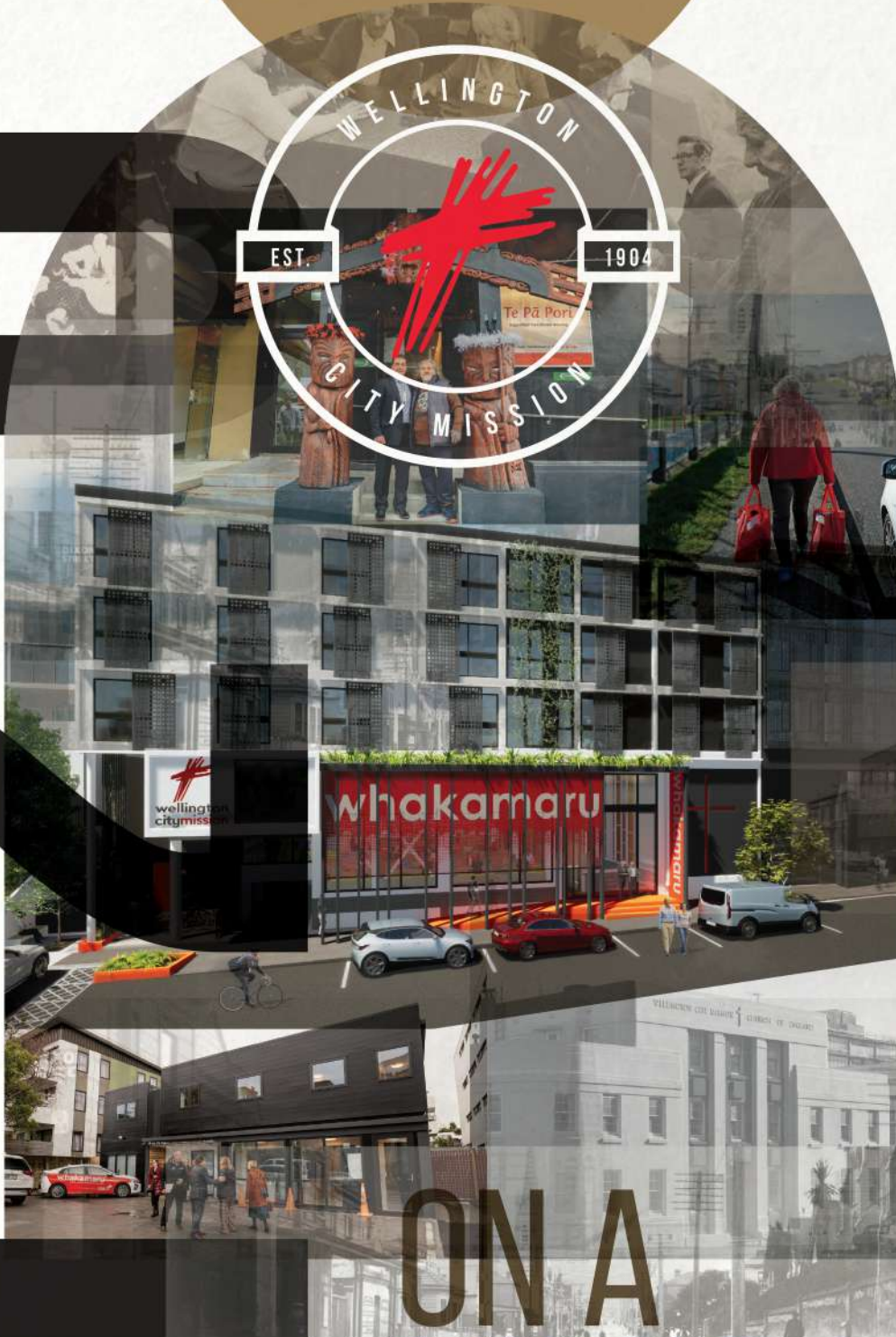


120

• ANNIVERSARY •



ISSUE 3 2024

ON A MISSION

YOUR GENEROSITY CHANGES LIVES

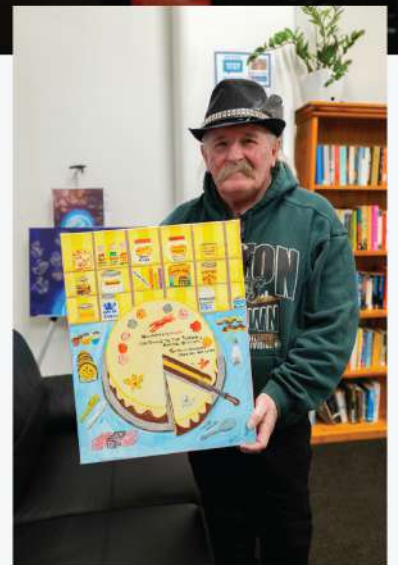
Empowerment. Transformation. Fullness of Life.



• Andrew in his art-filled room! • (below) A piece for Good Bitches Baking, as a thank you for the delicious food they donate to The Mission

BECOMING A FORCE FOR GOOD

SINCE ARRIVING AT TE PĀ PORI, ANDREW HAS TURNED HIS LIFE AROUND



It's hard not to think, "What if?" sometimes, and for me it's, "What if I had never drunk?". Throughout my life I've used drinking to connect with people, but over the last ten years, it got worse, to the point where I was drinking from the time I finished work until I went to sleep. Life was just a day-by-day routine, and there was nothing really positive.

Then in February last year, a drunken altercation led me to prison, which was a huge reflection period for me. When I came out in November I had nowhere to go, so I stayed in a hotel using what money I had saved. But at \$500 a week, I urgently needed to find somewhere to live. I was referred to The Mission just in time, because the week after I would have been on the streets.



• Andrew leading a Whakaaro mō te Rā for the other manuhiri



• Andrew is a proud member of the new Pā Service Squad



Kris Gibb,
Kaiwhakahaere/Site Manager
Te Pā Pori

"Here at Te Pā Pori, we want whānau to feel a sense of safety, care, aroha and community. Recently, we have been focusing on routine and structure through daily group work with our manuhiri. The foundation is a group meeting called Whakaaro mō te Rā where manuhiri are encouraged to share a thought for the day.

Andrew has been a positive, encouraging and facilitating presence in this space, and in the building generally. I love seeing him thriving, and I have no doubt that he is going to achieve the goals he mentions in this interview."

I came to Te Pā Pori while I waited on the list for permanent housing. From day one, I could tell this was a good place for me. And that next day, in my first Whakaaro mō te Rā (Thought of the Day) meeting, I found something very special, and I haven't missed a day since. Hearing other people share their experiences and success stories keeps you strong to work towards what you want in life. Eventually, Cam, one of the Kaiwhakarite (staff) asked if I would lead a session, and the rest is history. Now I help plan our meeting themes and present topics, especially around addictions.

I'm also part of the Pā 'Service Squad', a new initiative focused on serving the community. We've done things like have a barbeque in front of Te Pā where we give away free sausages to the public, and help with community garden initiatives. It's a great buzz for the guys to be giving back, and it's part of our reconstruction journey as we redefine ourselves as people who belong to our community and who want to grow.

I've also been able to restart one of my passions, art, and that's become a big part of my new routine. It keeps my mind busy and lets me be creative. I enjoy making pieces as gifts, and I recently presented art to both The Mission and Good Bitches Baking to thank them for what they do for us.

In my time here, I've seen new manuhiri surprised by how good this place is. They don't have to scramble for food, warmth, or companionship anymore, and that constant feeling of desperation goes away. It's given me a place where I can be safe and grow as a person, and that's completely changed my life's direction. I've found a clear path to the future, and I'm now studying for my Certificate in Health and Wellbeing, so I can work in Drug and Alcohol programmes. As part of my qualification, I'm doing 10 hours a week supporting the team at Te Pā Manawa in Petone too.

Everything I'm doing here has helped me remain sober for 18 months now. I have a life goal to reach 82 years old like my father did, and to make sure that I do as much good as possible in these last 15-20 years. My experiences in life, and my studies, will help me support others, and I'm happy to be able to show people that there is a way forward.

I really appreciate what The Mission and its supporters are doing for people here. Years ago, I knew Father Des Britten through my work, but now coming here as a manuhiri I can see why it's so successful. People need a place like this to reset and move from a negative situation to a better one, and to learn the skills to keep moving forward once they leave.

I will forever appreciate The Mission donors who make this all possible. I can assure them that, thanks to their help, the majority of people who come here will change their lives!


7,552
meals

provided for manuhiri
living in our Supported
Transitional Housing
accommodation



• Andrea in her "nest" at Kemp

YOU CAN FEEL THE CARE AT KEMP

ANDREA, A KAUMATUA AT KEMP HOME & HOSPITAL, WELCOMES US INTO HER "NEST" FOR A VISIT

Some years ago, my husband and I moved from Kawerau to Tawa to live with Avril (one of my six children), and her whānau. We wanted to help them out by taking care of their young baby Michael while they worked.

As time went on, Michael got older and a few years ago my husband died. My own health had also been an issue for a while, and I was at the point where I was going to hospital three or four times a month. Eventually I put it to my children that I should move on, to make sure that they would have a chance to have their own life as a young family. It was a big decision for us to make, but we agreed, and after looking around at my options, I felt really good about Kemp Home & Hospital. It was clean and welcoming, and you could tell how much care goes into this place. I felt at home as soon as I walked in the door.



• Andrea, with the amazing Kemp Marae she made!



• The original paper clipping advertising Andrea for adoption reads: "Healthy baby girl eighth caste Māori."



Valelia Gibb,
Nurse Manager
Kemp Home and Hospital

"It is such a privilege getting to know Andrea during her stay at Kemp. We run lots of different activities for our kaumatua. It's encouraging for others to have someone as engaged and passionate as Andrea who actively participates in many of the activities. It's important that our kaumatua feel like Kemp is their home, and so it's just as important that they're surrounded by hoame te whānau. It's great to know Andrea feels so comfortable here."

I've been here for 14 months now, and I'm really settled. The residents are all friends, and over time they become part of your whānau. We're aware of each other's struggles, and we look after each other. I'm also very happy about how the staff take care of me. If something happens, I can ring a bell and someone will be there to help. I can't really explain how good it feels to be so relaxed about my health, and it's been a big relief for my family. I've only been in hospital twice since being here, which is really saying something.

My whānau visit me often, and bring my mokopuna to visit. We'll usually go over to the sun room or just chit-chat in my room. Most weekends I watch Michael play sport, then we'll go out for lunch or I'll stay with them for dinner.

I like to keep myself busy, so I've always got to be doing something. I really enjoy the activities we have here, particularly the indoor bowls, and I am part of the Kemp Kaumatua Committee. I also do a lot of pencil drawing, knitting, and crochet - all the old stuff! I also belong to a church group, and we make things for cancer patients and babies in the Neonatal intensive Care Unit (NICU).

One of my bigger projects has been creating a Kemp Marae. My art is one way I can keep connected with my whakapapa, which is important for me because of my upbringing. I was born to a 15-year-old girl, and put into a home for adoption. My mother and father, who were also Māori, took me home. They were the coolest parents I could ever wish for, but in those days there was a lot of contention about speaking te reo, so I was never allowed to learn it. Looking back, that's a real shame because my mokos speak te reo now, and I wish I could understand them.

I think with the way the world is today, loving thy neighbour and keeping an eye on each other really does matter. We should show that we care for each other, even in little ways, because as adults we set the example for who we want our children and grandchildren to be. As a grandmother to twenty-one and great grandmother to seven, I love seeing them helping the younger ones, and getting involved with the community.

To everyone who helps Kemp and The Mission, thank you for making this a 'home away from home' for me. I've got my little nest, and my whānau around me. I really enjoy my time here, and I know that whatever happens I'll always be looked after.



are currently provided with nursing care at Kemp Home & Hospital

kaumatua

I'M SO GRATEFUL TO BE HERE

IAN HAS FOUND PURPOSE AND COMMUNITY AT TE PĀ MARU

• Ian in the front of Te Pā Maru

When I think about the last ten years of my life there's one word that comes to mind, and that's grief.

My dad was my best mate, and when he died, I hit the bottle. For all my life I'd been an engineer, working hard and doing 60-70 hours a week, but the alcohol took over and I resigned from my job. I stopped eating and my health started failing to where I couldn't really walk and was in hospital a lot. I became very alone, and I saw myself as a waste of life. I really was going to drink myself to death.

God knows how I survived, but I'm so grateful that I did because that person just isn't me.

I don't even know how I got to The Mission and Te Pā Maru, but I love being here, and there's no other place like it. Being in a managed alcohol reduction place means I have a plan for my allocated drinks and I spread them throughout the day. I've really appreciated the kindness, interaction, and support from everyone. We have a beautiful community here, and being part of it keeps me strong. We do loads of stuff together, like board games and special outings – we played mini-golf at Carlucci Land the other week which was sensational! Today I even planted a kōwhai tree out the front, and I felt really good about that.

The biggest thing for me now is being able to do my passion again, which is art and poetry. I've put my heart and soul into my wall here. That's me expressing myself, and it's not just for me, it's for everyone here. It sparks me up big time, and I get a sense of achievement every day.

In the few months I've been here, I've noticed the



• Ian, working on a new piece for his wall of art and poetry!



• Ian, with Mission Kaiārahi, Jaz

change in myself. I'm thinking a lot more positively, and I'm seeing the brighter side of life. I feel warm at heart, and I wake up happy every day.

I know that if this whole system wasn't here, there'd be a lot of people out there who are lost, or worse. This is a safety net, but you've got to embrace it. Someone might come here who isn't quite ready, and that's fine, because they might be back when they are. I'm proud of what staff like Jaz have done for me, and I want to give it all back to them and others. So when someone new walks in the door, I make sure to drop everything and make them feel welcome.

We've talked about me moving back to the community, but at the moment I know I'm not ready. I need the support and companionship because I do get lonely, and I don't ever want to go back to that dark place. When I do eventually leave I will definitely be coming back every week to help out. That will be my own mission!

The Mission will always be a part of my life now. Te Pā Maru has absolutely saved me, and I'm so grateful to be alive and to be here.



Jaz,
Kaiārahi
at Te Pā Pori

"It's been a pleasure and an honour working with Ian, and the other whānau here at Te Pā Maru, and helping them on their path to wellness – whatever that looks like for whānau.

We've already seen an incredible change in Ian since coming under our korowai. He's significantly cut down his alcohol intake each day, and he's a genuine role model for our whānau. We can really see him growing into a peer support worker, because people with lived experience have so much to offer!"

Murray's Message

If, like me, you are a sporting fan, you will have loved the recent spectacle of the games of the Thirty-Third Olympiad!

The Olympic games represent a pinnacle of human effort and achievement, as we see athletes who have trained for much of their lives for what is often only a few seconds or minutes of intense competition. The Olympics stories that stand out for me are those of athletes who have overcome huge challenges and disadvantages to succeed in their chosen endeavour. It reminds us all that hope, belief and effort can achieve things that might not otherwise be possible.

In 2024, as the Wellington City Mission celebrates 120 years of serving the people and communities of Wellington, we can look back on so many people's lives that have been changed and renewed with the support of The Mission. There have been countless individuals and whānau over those years who have triumphed over adversity because the staff, volunteers and supporters of the Wellington City Mission cared. They cared enough to walk alongside them, to help them make the changes and decisions for themselves that improved their lives for the better.

In this newsletter, we read the wonderful stories of Andrew, Ian and Andrea. Each of them have had different pathways in life, and they have all found themselves benefitting from the care and commitment of the Wellington City Mission at the time they needed it most!

As they journey with the City Mission, we see them rediscovering who they are. Through artistic and creative endeavours, they have each found ways to live into fullness

of life for themselves, as well as finding opportunities to give back to others.

The most memorable images of the Olympics are almost always those of sportsmanship, generosity of spirit and, despite the competition, helping others to succeed! The Wellington City Mission has had the privilege of helping others to succeed for 120 years.

We know that athletes don't achieve on their own. Their success comes from their own effort and sacrifice, but also the commitment of coaching staff, and the loving support and encouragement of family and friends.

The love and care that the Wellington City Mission has shown to those who most need us has only been possible because of all those who have walked with us and supported our endeavours by prayerful encouragement, enthusiastic commitment, and generosity of giving.

Thank you for enabling us to do what we have done over the last 120 years, and are committed to doing, in the years ahead.

But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40:31



Ngā manaakitanga – blessings

Murray

Murray Edridge
Wellington City Missioner

WHAKAMARU

AFTER FOUR YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT, THE SCAFFOLDING IS COMING DOWN!



We are pleased to share that Whakamaru is close to completion. Whakamaru's official opening will take place on October 30, with operational services beginning November 18 and full 24/7 services starting December 9.

Staff and services currently based at Gordon Place, Newtown, will move to Whakamaru (Oxford Street, Mt Cook) in November, with the current premises at Gordon Place, Newtown, closing November 8.

This is one of the biggest projects since the Wellington City Mission began, and a fitting way to celebrate 120 years of serving the community.

(continued on next page)

Alongside existing Wellington City Mission services like the Social Supermarket and our network of Community Practitioners and Support Workers, Whakamaru will be home to 35 long-term transitional housing apartments, a medical centre and laundry/showers available to all. The building will be operational 24/7, with staff on site at all times.

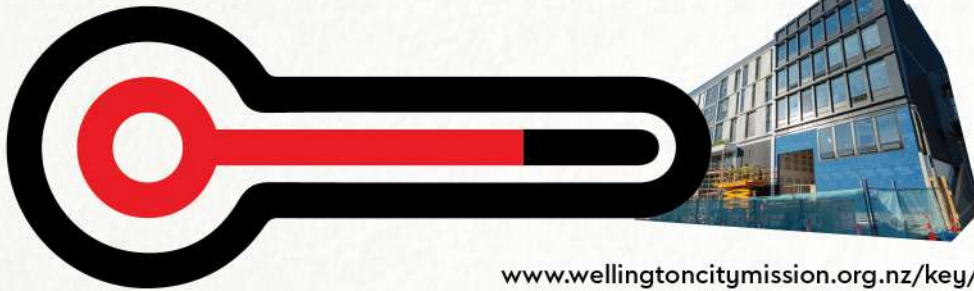
But in Whakamaru, Wellington will also gain a vibrant community hub where there is no 'us and them'. A pay-what-you-choose public café will bring our community together in one place, while a suite of well-equipped meeting rooms will make Whakamaru a centre for collaboration and connection across the wider community.

We would like to thank everyone who has supported this project. We wouldn't be here had it not been for the generosity of the community, our corporate sponsors and the funding from the government.

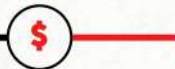
We made a public commitment to open this building without debt. We're now closer than ever to fulfilling that target, but we're not quite there yet.

Any donations towards this project will help to complete our new home and fund its life-changing operations.

WE ARE NEARLY THERE!



www.wellingtoncitymission.org.nz/key/



Thank you for your support

FIND US

Street Address:
19 Gordon Place, Newtown,
Wellington

CONTACT US

Phone number: (04) 245 0900
Email: enquiries@wcm.org.nz
Postal Address: PO Box 7200, Newtown,
Wellington 6242

DONATE TO US

Website: wellingtoncitymission.org.nz
Phone: (04) 245 0843

Internet Banking:

To our Bank account 03 0547 0296036 17
Email donations@wcm.org.nz
with details if you wish to receive a receipt.

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or call (04) 245 0843.



contact Carthi Gnanam, on (04) 245 0843 or
carthi@wcm.org.nz

If you ever want to make changes to your
regular giving, just give us a call.

THE CHANGE YOU ENABLE

During the months of
April - June 2024:



7,552

meals

provided for manuhiri
living in our Supported
Transitional Housing
accommodation



173

whānau and
individuals

supported with
Financial Mentoring



166

whānau and
individuals

supported through
our Registered Community
Practitioner Team



1,307

shoppers

supported
through our
Social Supermarket



2,000

manuhiri

welcomed into
Tā te Manawa, our
community lounge, where we
served home cooked meals and
great barista coffee