



Rotorua Hospital:
Rev'd Ray Bloomfield QSM JP
Private Bag 3023
Rotorua, New Zealand
Phone: 07-348 1199, Extn 8793;
Fax 07-349 7853

Report for Anglican Diocese of Waiapu

Rotorua Hospital Chaplaincy Trust

The past year has been extremely busy with the opening of the new hospital. There has been a lot of work decommissioning the old wards and blessing the new wards and the new rooms in the hospital, together with the opening of the hospital itself. Chaplaincy members have played a significant part in all of these functions. Many of the blessings for decommission took place at 6 o'clock in the morning so that meant some early starts and long days.

The new hospital is such an improvement over the old one; the wards are bigger, the rooms are bigger, facilities are bigger and when going back into the old hospital, it causes me to wonder just how everybody coped.

A number of events occurred during the year which were times of celebration, including the Carolling through the hospital at Christmas time. We had a good representation of staff as we went through the whole hospital singing carols and handing out teddy bears to everyone who is in hospital. I have discovered that no one is ever too old for a teddy bear.

The Carol Singing concluded with a time of supper and fellowship in the Atrium of the new hospital.

I have been in my office, dressed as a Priest who I affectionately call "Father Ted". I understand it was from an Anglican Priest who did a CPE with me that Bishop Bear originated, who, as an aside seems to have been fairly quiet over the last two months.

The Chaplaincy Department has for many years run the ward Christmas Decorating Competition, at Christmas time. This year it was made a bit more difficult due to the clean wall policy in the new hospital. This meant that nothing was allowed to be attached to the walls and so staff had to be more creative. It was a fun time for everybody involved and the judging was a fun time as well with bribes being left for the judges.

This past year has been very busy for us because in addition to normal pastoral duties, as well as the migration to the new hospital, we have been involved in refurbishing the Chapel. We have repainted, re-carpeted, purchased new chairs, a new lounge suite, new curtains, refurbished the kitchenette, installed new storage cupboards, put the data projector into a ceiling cradle and had a screen installed.

We were also donated a wonderful Painting called "The Chief of Medical Staff". The picture shows the theatre staff in the middle of an operation with Jesus present with His

hands on the surgeons. It is something that patients and staff come in and look at and reflect on.

We have also purchased 2000 miniature copies of this picture with a scripture on the back, which we hand out to patients who are anxious about having surgery, and this is greatly appreciated.

We have a stable Chaplaincy team of 10 and I am currently training three new people who hopefully will come on the team at the end of the training process.

I ran a CPE unit at St James Anglican Church in Mahora this year and I am very grateful to St James for use of their wonderful facility. We had 5 students on the programme, 3 of whom were Anglican Priests. Students came from Central Hawkes Bay, and then North as far as Wairoa, and holding the programme in Hastings enabled them to attend. It also gave me the opportunity to experience what it was like to driving from Rotorua to Hastings for 18 weeks, as many students drive to Rotorua to undertake CPE. I will be running a CPE unit in Rotorua from February to June next year.

Now that winter is upon us and it is a time when the hospital is filled to capacity and staff are stressed, we are offering fortnightly relaxation sessions in the Chapel, followed by hot soup and buns. This is in the early stages, and the more people that come tell others about it, and thus far it has been well received.

The new hospital is further away from the Chapel, and we are now instituted very rigid visiting hours which has resulted in fewer people attending the Chapel service. We will be starting the services half an hour earlier in July to try to gather more people for the services, and we will be reviewing that at the end of the year.

It may be that, instead of the traditional Chapel service, Sunday mornings will be a time of taking communion to patients at the bedside.

One of our Chaplaincy Assistants is the Reverend Susan Cooper who is a Deacon at the West Rotorua Parish and we celebrate the news of her forth coming Ordination as a Priest at the end of November.

We would like to, once again, express our appreciation to the Diocese to the continuing support of this Ministry.

Reverend Ray Bloomfield, QSM, JP
Chaplain