

WAIAPU ARCHIVES REPORT TO SYNOD 2013

The Diocesan Archives are now well set up in the Cathedral building. During the last year all the Parish and Social Services records have been sorted shelved and entered on to our computer base. This work has been carried out by Murray Mills on a volunteer basis, but with regular help from Jill King of the Diocesan Office staff, and Wendy Young from Anglican Social services.

It has given us great satisfaction that we are now able to answer with some confidence the regular requests for information that come to us. Interest in searching historical records comes from a range of parishes, organisations, researchers, families and individuals. The papers, plans, photos, publications we hold are becoming more and more significant as time goes on. A good example was the way we were able to make available very full correspondence and photos to help Kay Morris Matthews flesh out her recent exhibition on the work of St Hilda's and Abbotsford Children's Homes, held in Waipawa Museum.

It has been helpful that during the year, with the turnover of key staff as well as structural changes in Waiapu Anglican Social Services, we have been able to sort through the considerable minutes and correspondence of their first two long term directors, Duncan Macdonald and Caroline Llamp, together with the range of agencies they initiated and managed.

Equally it has been helpful that several ministry units that have undergone staff or building changes have lodged their older records with the Diocesan Archives – e.g Opotiki, Edgcombe-Kawerau, Holy Trinity Tauranga, St Augustine's, Otumoetai. Mount Maunganui, as well as significant records from Tokomaru Bay, Ruatoria, and the old East Coast centres. Most of these records have now been catalogued and we are in the process of emailing reports to those parishes or organisations who may wish to have a copy of what is now available in the archives.

We remind the diocese again that it is the responsibility of each ministry unit to care for its own current and semi-current records – those that are still useful for referring to in the course of parish life and work. All such archival records need to be kept in the right physical conditions to ensure their ongoing preservation. Where a parish lacks such facilities, or is undergoing structural or personnel changes that put older records at risk, it is recommended that they consider forwarding them to our "Parish Records" section for safekeeping. This is particularly true of anything dating back 40 years or more.

Jill King at the Diocesan Office is the contact staff person for all Archives enquiries.