

HUPA

COMPASSION SOUP KITCHEN MAGAZINE

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compassion
soup kitchen
te pūaroha

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INTRODUCTION

Tēnā koutou katoa,

During the restrictions of the pandemic, the generosity of Wellingtonians continued to be overwhelming. The meal service continued. Take aways prepared by the staff team and volunteers were offered to the guests. There was a connection as the takeaway packet was offered as the guests knew that people cared.

The dawning of the day, 26 April, to return to the dining room began with prayer. I appreciated being with the guests, staff, and volunteers. Fabian led the prayer and a feeling of belonging emerged as we stood in silence. The service of warm soup and buns was as it has been for many years, and it felt as though the cloud of social isolation had lifted.

Thank you to all those who supported at a time when the work was tough and there was so much uncertainty. What remained certain when anxiety increased about health and a place to sleep, was a hot takeaway.



Sister Margaret Anne Mills
Congregational Leader

Tēnā koutou,

Having only recently stepped into the role of Duty/Kitchen Manager after 4 years of working at the Soup Kitchen, it's a great pleasure to work alongside such amazing Volunteers, Sisters, and Staff during such a challenging time as we continue to serve those most in need in our community.

We have recently reopened our dining room back to our whānau, after 8 months of serving takeaways during the ongoing pandemic. It's been wonderful to see the appreciation from our whānau and a joy to see the happiness that being together in the dining room brings.

Over the last 6 months we have provided over 26,000 meals to our whānau, using perfectly good rescued food that would otherwise be thrown in the bin.

We look forward to celebrating Meri Hōhepa Suzanne Aubert's birthday with our whānau on our June 18th dinner service and also to celebrate Matariki with a special meal being provided on Tuesday 21st of June.



Sam Johnson
Kaiwhakahaere Deputy Manager/ Kitchen Manager



Deacon Danny Karatea-Goddard,
Tumu Whakarae, Sisters of Compassion Group



KINDNESS AND COMPASSION IN GOVERNOR-GENERAL'S VISIT

The Governor General attempted to come *incognito* to the Soup Kitchen on Saturday 18th of June. With all the good intentions in the world this didn't quite happen. Her personal support staff arrived before her and parked in the small car park where our regular whānau guests were gathering for the evening meal. In this group were her personal bodyguard, two policemen in a New Zealand Police Car, her private secretary, a communications officer and her chargé d'affaires. Like clockwork, just 15 minutes later Her Excellency, Dame Cindy Kiro and her husband Richard Davies arrived in two sleek grey Crown Cars with flags.

In saying this, true to her word, both Dame Cindy and Richard wore casual clothes and reminded us they had come to serve. In fact, we were all a bit nervous, but her warm smile and her first words of gratitude put us all at ease.

Tumu Whakarae Deacon Danny Karatea-Goddard welcomed Kahurangi Cindy and her husband on behalf of the Sisters of Compassion Group. The Soup Kitchen manager, Sam Johnson, then introduced them both to the wonderful volunteers rostered on for the evening meal. After a health and safety briefing, Dame Cindy and Richard washed their hands, put on the protective clothing - masks, apron and gloves and then were on their feet serving meals, cleaning and talking with our whānau guests for the full 1 1/2 hours.

On Dame Cindy's Government House Facebook page she reported:
Today marks Suzanne Aubert's 187th birthday. Mother Aubert devoted her life to looking after those in need, and founded the Daughters of Our Lady of Compassion. Last night, Dame Cindy and Dr Davies visited the Compassion Soup Kitchen in Wellington, to help with the dinner service for Mother Aubert's birthday. The Compassion Soup Kitchen continues Mother Aubert's remarkable legacy by supporting people in need in our community, including those struggling with mental health issues, addiction, homelessness, and poverty.

During the evening our regular whānau guests slowly realized who Dame Cindy was and enjoyed having some down to earth kōrero with her. Her Excellency's one regret is that we didn't have a guitar on site as she wanted to share a waiata with everyone present. We are told she has a wonderful voice. I sheepishly said, 'Next time whaea next time'.

We're grateful for her visit and for her staff who pitched in drying dishes and helping with the tidy up. Like many others the experience in the Soup Kitchen had touched their hearts and a number of Governor General's staff showed an interest in signing up as volunteers.

We were left with the Dame Cindy's warm heart and a treasured memory of her act of kindness and compassion. In this 187th year of Meri Hohepa's birthday Suzanne herself would no doubt be smiling and rejoicing in being a witness to such servant leadership here at the Soup Kitchen, the oldest doorway to the kaupapa of pūaroha.

E te Kahurangi e Cindy, e te Puhi o te Taitokerau, te kanohi o Kuini Irihāpeti te Tuarua ki Aotearoa, e kore e mutu ngā mihi ki ā koe, otira koutou.



Her Excellency, Dame Cindy Kiro and
His Excellency, Richard Davies



Cupcakes donated by St.Patrick's Primary
School Kilbirnie



Her Excellency, Dame Cindy Kiro; His Excellency, Richard Davies; Danny Karatea-Goddard,
Tumu Whakarae of the Sisters of Compassion; Sam Johnson,
Soup Kitchen Manager; staff and volunteers.

THE MAGIC SOULS OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

Jenny Buxton

She is 85 years old, but that doesn't mean she can't help others. There is no doubt that Jenny Buxton is an inspiring example to many who have seen her come once a week for the last three and a half years to volunteer at the Soup Kitchen.

For Jenny, it's not a problem, as she likes to feel part of the group that comes to help, "all lovely people," she says.

Her relationship with the Soup Kitchen runs in the family, as her grandmother's sister was a nun, and she was lucky enough to work with Mother Suzanne Aubert, while Jenny's mother was lucky enough to know her.

Jenny says that she has always been looking to do social work in some way and that volunteering at the Soup Kitchen would be a great way to do something for people.

Yvonne Fisher

Yvonne Fisher has been a volunteer for the past 18 months at Compassion Soup Kitchen dining room, working every Wednesday.

She has known about the social work of the Sisters of Compassion since she was a child, as Yvonne attended a school across the street from the Soup Kitchen and occasionally visited the Home of Compassion during her childhood. Then, she decided it was time to get involved and help the Soup Kitchen.



Yvonne helping out at the Soup Kitchen

Today, for three hours, she helps chop vegetables and prepare dishes in the kitchen, which she considers an important task as it helps those who need it most.

Louise Goldsack

Louise is one of the volunteers in the garden and describes herself as a "passionate gardener in her other life", which is reason enough for Louise Goldsack to have spent the last 14 years helping at the Soup Kitchen.

Every Tuesday and Thursday, Louise comes to the veggie garden for two hours to enjoy what she does, even if it's raining or windy. She enjoys the company and the group of volunteers who give her the energy to go.

She likes the concept of community gardens in the city, "a fantastic thing," she says, although she only spends time in Soup Kitchen's veggie garden and the one she has at home. "I love the idea of gardens in the city," says Louise.

Louise adds that in 14 years, the place has changed quite a bit, but it has improved, and now they even have outdoor furniture built by the Soup Kitchen guests themselves.



Louise has spent 14 years as a volunteer at the Soup Kitchen

Liz Gibson

For Liz Gibson, coming to the garden is fun, as there is good company and lots of laughter. That has been one of the reasons she has been volunteering for four years at the Soup Kitchen, where she attends two days a week.

Liz enjoys helping Sister Telesia, who consistently develops the veggie garden. "I feel like I give back to the community and the Soup Kitchen with the vegetables," Liz says.

She also likes seeing the guests in the garden and making them feel welcome, especially in the summer, when they sometimes have barbecues, creating a great atmosphere in a great place like the veggie garden.



Liz helping out at the Soup Kitchen Garden



The dining room is open from Monday to Saturday between 7:45am-8:45am for breakfast and 4:45pm-5:45pm for dinner.

DINING ROOM REOPENED FOR OUR WHĀNAU

It was a great morning. At 7:20 am on that Tuesday, April 26th, the first guests gathered outside the Compassion Soup Kitchen to wait and enjoy breakfast in the dining room, which was reopening its doors after eight months.

Inside, our fantastic staff and volunteers were preparing everything for our whānau, who started to enter and receive their breakfast around 7:45 am.

Opening the dining room again was a great joy. It was long months and a big challenge for the Soup Kitchen, who despite the Covid-19 restrictions, never stopped the work and continued to deliver food, albeit in the form of takeaway. Despite the difficulties, our whānau arrived every day to collect their meal.



This is why we celebrate the opening of the dining room as an opportunity to meet and share again and to be able to help in a wider way all those who need it the most.

And so we will continue, from Monday to Saturday, offering breakfast service between 7.45 am and 8.45 am, and dinner between 4.45 pm and 5.45 pm.

Thanks to our wonderful staff and volunteers who worked hard to get everything ready and those who are supporting us to provide for those who need it most at the Soup Kitchen.



Thank you

Our Supporters



Whānau quotation

"I haven't had good food like that in a very long time"



\$200

Sponsor a meal for all guests for an entire evening



\$100

3 cartons of large diced tomato cans



\$75

Spices for one month



\$50

15L of cooking oil for one month



\$20

5kg of rice or pasta

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compassion *te pūaroaha*
soup kitchen

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Please send my receipt by email.

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Making a regular donation

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For more information on making an in-kind donation, visit: www.soupkitchen.org.nz/donate/

The Mother Aubert Home of Compassion Trust Board is the legal/parent entity that holds all funds on behalf of the Suzanne Aubert Compassion Centre Wellington Limited (Compassion Soup Kitchen)
Registration Number: CC10246

The Compassion Soup Kitchen has a rich history in the Wellington community. The Soup Kitchen team strive to ensure that the mission of Suzanne Aubert is kept alive through our Mahi, serving those who are doing it tough.

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