



The Voice of Compassion Te Reo o te Pūaroa

Supporters and Friends news
Issue 51 March 2021

 *compassion te pūaroa*



Sister Cabrini Tu'ipulotu, Tony Muollo and Sister Josephine Gorman

Tēnā koutou katoa

Dear Friends,

I enjoyed being with family and friends at the beginning of 2021. I had the opportunity to swim in the sea and go for seaside walks. It was refreshing and I am grateful. I had time to reflect on our blessings here in Aotearoa New Zealand. We have a freedom that our families and friends do not have in the Northern Hemisphere. Each day is a blessing and I give thanks to you all who contribute to the well-being of the Sisters of Compassion services.

Many of our friends have died during the year and sisters regularly pray for their families. We give thanks for the support received from those who have died.

Congratulations to Francis Fanning on receiving the QSO for his faithful commitment to the Sisters of Compassion. We also acknowledge Jenny, his wife, who has generously enabled Francis to volunteer to the Compassion Soup Kitchen and Compassion Housing for more than 40 years.

It has been a joy to see some of the usual activities continued with a new energy amongst the COVID-19 restrictions. The excitement of Sister Cabrini being able to return to the music session at the Vincentian Home in Berhampore with Tony Muollo and Sister Josephine is a blessing. The picture on this page shows the joy.

Sisters Sosefina and Colette were able to celebrate their Jubilees of Religious Profession. In our next issue, we will feature our 2020 and 2021 Jubilarians.

One hundred years ago, Suzanne Aubert Meri Hōhepa received a visit from Sir James Carroll. She was unwell and not receiving visitors. Sir James was confident that she would see him. On being consulted, Suzanne replied, "I will see him." They had a very close bond that began during her time in Hawke's Bay. In 1923, Suzanne Aubert went to the hospital to visit Sir James who was at the point of death and no visitors were allowed. Suzanne Aubert had a winning way and she was brought to Sir James's bedside. She prayed for him and got kai for him, she believed both would do him some good. Suzanne had a strong confidence in God's love and that all would be well. Sir James recovered and returned home. Suzanne Aubert Meri Hōhepa died 1 October 1926 and Sir James Carroll died 18 October during the same year. Let us continue to be inspired by her example of prayer and practical support.

Kia tau nga manaakitanga a te Ariki ki
runga ki a koe inaianei me ngā wā katoa.

May the Lord's blessings be bestowed on you now and always.

Sister Margaret Anne Mills

Sister Margaret Anne Mills
Congregational Leader

120 Years of the Soup Kitchen



The Soup Kitchen in the 1960s

2021 is a special year for the Compassion Soup Kitchen as it is our 120th Anniversary. There has been 120 years of continuous meal service for those less fortunate than ourselves. The kaupapa of Suzanne Aubert; serving meals in a safe hospitable environment and treating all our guests with dignity and respect, is still the same as when the kitchen served its first meal all those years ago. Much has changed over the years but that has not.

It is fitting we use this important milestone to remember once more the important contribution Suzanne Aubert made to support New Zealand's vulnerable, and how her legacy continues vibrantly to this day.

Please check out the Compassion Soup Kitchen website (www.compassion.org.nz) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/compassionsoupkitchen) to follow the events that will be held over 2021 to commemorate our 120th Anniversary.

Suzanne Aubert Catholic School

The Sisters of Compassion feel proud and honoured knowing the newest Catholic Primary School in the country is named after Suzanne Aubert, Meri Hōhepa. The Sisters of Compassion are thankful knowing Suzanne Aubert's spirit and legacy will live on in the minds and hearts of the teachers, pupils and parents at Pāpāmoa, Tauranga and beyond. The school, opened and blessed by Bishop Steve Lowe on the 3rd February, is a lovely school with a beautiful spirit.

The Foundation Stone

Last year the Trustees and teachers of the school did research on Suzanne Aubert, to enable them to form the charism of the school.

The School Brand

The school brand is displayed in the following piece of art.



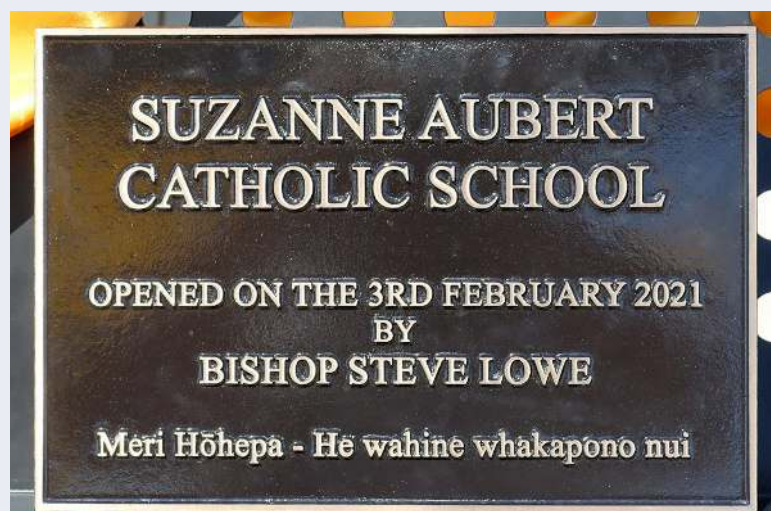
An explanation

The cross at the centre symbolizes our Catholic faith. The koru around the cross represents the charism of Suzanne Aubert. The heart shape symbolizes the heart of compassion. The three strands within the heart on the left represent the local Māori narrative of the three whales – Hikurangi, Mangatāwa and Kopukairoa, that in turn link the school to the land, the Pāpāmoa Hills. The native plants from left to right are kawakawa, koromiko (in front), pōhutukawa, kōwhai, puriri and harakeke (flax). The native plants refer to the healing native plants used in Mother Aubert's medicines. The school learning environments are named after kawakawa and harakeke.

The kawakawa leaf was a common ingredient in Mother Aubert's herbal rongoā. The flax plant harakeke is used by Māori to represent the whānau (family). The rito (child) in the middle, the new shoots, are surrounded by the awhi rito (parents) with the outer leaves representing the tūpuna (grandparents and ancestors). Future learning environments will be named after the remaining herbs. The names of the junior, middle and senior learning communities are named after the three whales.

Currently there are 82 students and by the end of next year this will grow to 150. The new school is welcomed in the area because principals in other schools are battling with ever-growing rolls and overcrowded classrooms.

It is encouraging to know that the children will have opportunities to make a connection with Suzanne Aubert through all aspects of their learning, especially when making a difference in the community. Last year when the teachers and board canvassed their community about their priorities for their children, compassion was listed as the highest.



Congratulations to Francis Fanning



Francis Fanning QSO

Our warmest congratulations to Francis Fanning on being awarded the Queen's Service Order (QSO) for services to the community. Francis Fanning has undertaken voluntary community service for 45 years through a range of organisations, including in leadership and governance roles. Mr Fanning began his involvement with the Sisters of Compassion in 1974, organising the annual Street Day Appeal raffle fundraiser for more than 20 years.

He began volunteering with Wellington's Compassion Soup Kitchen in the early 1990s, retiring from their meal services in late 2019, but continuing in a fundraising capacity. He joined the Soup Kitchen's Board in the 1990s, which later became the Suzanne Aubert Compassion Centre, which he chaired from 2000 to 2008 before retiring from the Board in 2010. In 2002, Francis joined the Compassion Housing Board, which he has chaired since 2017. He was instrumental in a joint venture with Willis Bond to purchase the social housing stock of Horowhenua District Council, bringing the total properties to 209.

Suzanne Aubert Tertiary Scholarship

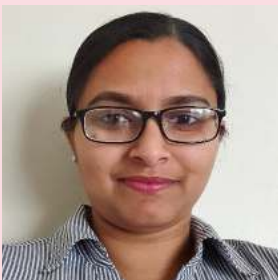
Suzanne Aubert knew the importance of tertiary education for young people. In 1992, the Centennial Year of the Sisters of Compassion, the Suzanne Aubert Tertiary Scholarship Grant was established by the Congregation. Since then, many students have benefitted from the grant and have gained national recognition in their respective professional careers.



Bonnie Fordyce is a student at Victoria University of Wellington, studying towards a Bachelor of Science in Psychology, Development Studies and Spanish. She plans to undertake postgraduate studies in Clinical Psychology.



Ashleigh Hutton is entering her third year of a Bachelor of Nursing at Whitireia. She is looking forward to completing her final year of study and working as a nurse in the community.



Jismy Kolathupadavil is a nursing student. Her first job in New Zealand was as a caregiver, which sparked her interest in nursing as a profession. While studying, Jismy is working as a mental health support worker.



Rosie Crowley is entering her third year of a Bachelor of Health Science at the University of Otago. She wishes to complete postgraduate studies in Public Health to promote better health outcomes and equity.



Katey Jewell is passionate about the learning and development of young children and supporting their wellbeing alongside their families. She is in her third year of a Bachelor of Teaching (ECE).



Maia Holman-Wharehoka is a building science student at Victoria University. She will be starting a Masters in Architectural Science, focusing on developing net zero papakāinga for Māori communities.



Elizabeth Kula aspires to be a doctor and address the disparities in the health system between the Māori and Pasifika community and the rest of the population. She is starting her second year of Medical School at the University of Otago.

How to donate

Banks will be phasing out cheques by July 2021. If you use cheques, you will need to donate a different way from 13 May 2021

Website - Visit <https://compassion.org.nz/support-us/donate>. There, you can make a secure one-off donation, or set up an ongoing gift using your credit card.

Phone - Call us on (04) 383 7769 to make a secure donation over the phone.

Donation Slip - Fill in your debit or credit card details on the donation slip attached to the order form that came with this newsletter, and post back to us.

Internet Banking - In your Internet Banking, Type 'Sisters of Compassion' (official name – The Mother Aubert Home of Compassion Trust Board) in the payee box and our account details will appear.

You can also make a donation into our bank account: *BNZ 02-0500-0017474-00*.

Please enter your name and supporter number (if known) in the 'Reference fields'.

Automatic Payment - You can set up an automatic payment through Internet Banking or at your local branch.

At your Bank - Your bank can help you with different donation options. Visit your local branch, or check their website.



Talk to us today about donations options to suit you. If you are concerned about how to continue to support Sisters of Compassion now that cheques are being phased out, you are welcome to contact us at (04) 383 7769 or email info@compassion.org.nz. We can advise you on how you can continue to support us in the future.

UNESCO Recognition for Suzanne Aubert's Māori Publication

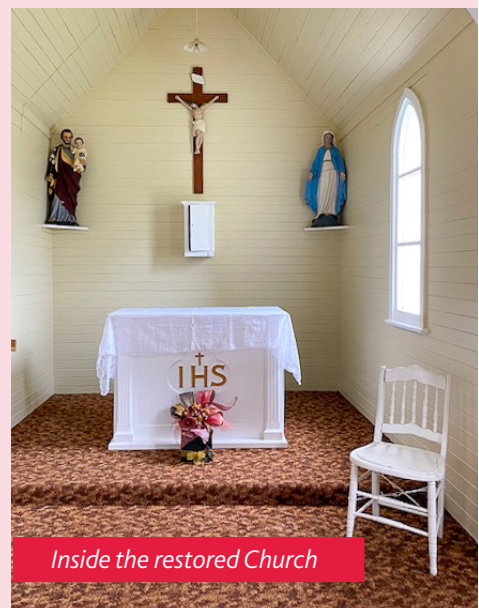
The New and Complete Manual of Māori Conversation and Vocabulary written by Suzanne Aubert has been accepted for registration on the UNESCO Memory of the World New Zealand Register. The Sisters of Compassion nominated the publication for inclusion in this prestigious register and will be provided with a Memory of the World 'title' that can be used on the Suzanne Aubert website or catalogue record. This will link to the Memory of the World register entry and will be used to promote the Sisters of Compassion and the importance of documentary heritage. The Sisters of Compassion will be presented with a certificate of inscription to the Aotearoa/New Zealand Memory of the World Register.

Blessing of the restored Sacred Heart Church

Sacred Heart Church at Ranana has recently been restored by Tim Tapa and his helpers. This restored church was blessed by Father Vaughn, before the Christmas vigil last year in the presence of the local people, six Sisters of Compassion and visitors. Following Mass, everyone enjoyed a beautifully prepared Christmas meal in the wharekai.

The church, standing on a bluff overlooking the Whanganui River, was built by the Māori people on land given by Te Metera and the chief, Raihania Takapa. They with others contributed generously towards the building costs. On 11 April 1891 the Church was opened by its architect, Father Soulas, assisted by Father Mailard. The choir was conducted by the Sisters of Compassion who had come from Jerusalem for the occasion. The Ranana Brass Band played both before and after the opening of the church.

This little church is important in the history of the Sisters of Compassion because it is where Suzanne Auber and the early sisters attended Mass and prayed. Later in 1898, a convent and school were built nearby also on Haami land. The school moved to a different site in 1949 and the sisters withdrew from teaching there in 1969. The convent and school have since been demolished. Sisters Philippine Dunn and Dorothea Mead are buried along-side the church.



Inside the restored Church