



Manaakitanga

Kaitiakitanga

Whakawhanaungatanga



Sharing news and ideas for ministry among churches serving in rural communities in Aotearoa New Zealand. And connecting with IRCA-Oceania, a regional arm of the International Rural Churches Association irca.online

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15-21 April 2018, Lincoln, Canterbury, NEW ZEALAND

Lay and ordained rural church leaders are invited to be inspired, encouraged and equipped to face the challenges and opportunities of rural mission and ministry.

Working with fellow practitioners from around the world, with a learning community approach at its core, participants will consider together the 'What is?', 'What could be?' and 'What will be?' for their rural church context. Prayerful reflection in country / region small groups will be inspired by stories and worship from different countries. Key note addresses will offer practical guidance on reconciling communities and collaborative ministry.

Participants will leave with action steps for their area, a set of resources for mission and poverty reduction, new friends and a network offering ongoing support.

WHY ATTEND?



- Take part in a rural church learning community, reflecting with others on our context and on their contexts.
- Gain insights into collaborative multi-church ministry drawing on international experience.
- Gain insights on community reconciliation.
- Receive materials for rural poverty reduction, mission and evangelism.
- Be part of an international forum sharing rural resources and case studies.
- Be part of a worldwide fellowship and grow international and ecumenical partnerships.
- Enjoy outings and share in cultural activities.
- Deepen fellowship by joining optional pre- and post-conference tours.

Note that as well as the main conference there is a young adult (16-25) stream.

IRCA is an ecumenical international fellowship that grew out of a meeting of rural church leaders in 1993. The organisation is administered by Germinate: The Arthur Rank Centre in the UK with an independent international steering committee.

For full details including timetable, speakers, cost and booking see:
www.IRCA.online



The cost is \$1,300 for the early bird (\$1,500 after 30 September 2017), which accommodation, food, and all conference activities from 15-21 April. A participant can opt to arrange their own accommodation with that part of the cost subtracted.

This may seem expensive compared with most church events. It is a significant period of time together and the fee includes some assistance for participants from countries that wouldn't otherwise be able to attend. It will therefore be a genuinely international experience for those who attend, and we won't have to find around double the amount in addition for travelling costs.

Let's take advantage of having IRCA at our place.

PRE- AND POST-CONFERENCE TOURS

Optional short pre- and post-conference tours have been arranged thanks to the tireless work of our brilliant local conference team.

Experience the Tranz Alpine Train to Arthurs' Pass; enjoy sitting in a hot pool under the stars; and travel to the Mount Cook National Park at the headwaters of Lake Pukaki. See for details can be found at irca.online/conferences/2018-conference-tours/.

MARAE VISIT

A visit is arranged to the Ngāti Moki Marae at Taumutu for Saturday 14 and Sunday 15 April 2018. We will be welcomed on to the marae at 10am on the Saturday morning and will enjoy a varied programme including farm visits in the afternoon and worship with the local community on Sunday morning. Transport will be organised to take people from Christchurch at 9am on Saturday and to the conference venue at Lincoln on Sunday afternoon. The cost is \$150. Please note that accommodation is on mattresses on the floor. If this is a problem for you, please don't let it stop you enjoying this marae experience. Just let us know. Contact Garth Cant now for further information at gandecant@xtra.co.nz. Book at the Conference booking page with or after your conference registration, cost \$150 plus booking fee.

CAN YOU HELP?

(1) Spread the word - please send the web link www.irca.online/conferences/ to your networks and ask them to forward it to their networks. We are especially interested in informing delegates from countries that currently have little or no contact with IRCA. If you have contacts with churches or rural communities anywhere in the world, let them know that this conference is happening at our place.

(2) Help others attend if you can - please help key rural leaders from less developed countries to attend the 2018 conference. We have church leaders we know from Malawi, India and Pakistan keen to come. You can:

- Give at www.givey.com/arcirca
- Add a donation to your own booking fee
- Contact Jerry at jerrym@germinate.net to sponsor an individual delegate.

Many thanks!



NEW INSIGHTS INTO RURAL MINISTRY

Written by Bill Bennett, one of New Zealand's most experienced rural ministers, this new short book looks back over times of significant change and helps focus future possibilities.

The challenges we face are also real opportunities for genuine ministry and mission to rural communities which share the same issues and challenges that the rural church does.

EBook version (<http://pgpl.co.nz/ebooks/when-the-tui-calls-ebook/>) available as well as <http://pgpl.co.nz/print-books/when-the-tui-calls-print-book/>.

IRCA-OCEANIA

The Trans-Tasman Rural Ministry Consultation in the Wairarapa in April 2016 appointed a new leadership group for IRCA-Oceania, the regional grouping with the International Rural Churches Association.

Jenny Dawson, Peter Harvey, and Robyn McPhail stepped aside from the Leadership Group appointed in Atherton in 2012, with Angela Dutton and Steve Thomson continuing.

New appointees were Katrina Graydon, John Merriman, and Erin Pendreigh.

The group has appointed Erin Pendreigh as their Chairperson/Convener, John Merriman as Secretary, and Angela Dutton remains as Treasurer.



Trans-Tasman Consultation May 2016

What is the group for? That was the key question for those who joined. In addition to liaising with IRCA and networking to enable a Trans-Tasman gathering in 2020, the purpose is open to development. Effectively open to the dreaming and scheming of the group. What could be worth pursuing as a network across our region? What could this group facilitate that would make a difference for rural churches and communities

Any ideas will be welcome. Get in touch with [Erin \(missionadvisor@synod.org.nz\)](mailto:erin@missionadvisor@synod.org.nz) or [John \(missionadvisor@synod.org.nz\)](mailto:john@missionadvisor@synod.org.nz) if you have thoughts to share.



Uniting Congregations of Aotearoa New Zealand

2017 FORUM

Onehunga Co-operating Parish, beginning with Opening Worship 7pm Thursday 26 October and closing after Morning Worship on Sunday 29 October

Speakers include Mary Caygill, Prince Devanandan, Viv Whimster, Jocelyn Armstrong, Paul Trebilco and Jo Randerson.

Booking can be by post or email and payment can be made by bank deposit or cheque.

Booking Forms are downloadable from www.ucanz.org.nz go to Resources and Biennial Forums. Early bird before 31 August. Registrations close end of September

Provisional Timetable can also be viewed through the Forum page.



A story from across the ditch:

Regeneration of a Rural Church in South Australia

The township of Cummins, situated on the Lower Eyre Peninsula of South Australia, is a vibrant and picturesque farming community. A place where you can leave your car unlocked or step outside the house and run into a familiar face.

For remote rural locations such as Cummins, the Church plays an important role in nurturing and gathering community together, particularly in farm settings where isolation is inescapable.

The Uniting Church SA Moderator Rev Sue Ellis was in the Western Eyre Parish before taking up her role as Moderator 8 months ago.

After bushfires devastated the region in 2005, a new worshipping community, "Cornerstone" was birthed at Cummins in 2008. After a couple of years of operating the worshipping community dissolved, and the regular congregation began to reduce in size. The elders of the Cummins church felt God was assuring them they would grow again.

Over a period of six months, Sue Ellis, Ann Challinger, (the Church Elder) and Scott and Mary-Anne Mickan (leaders from Yeelanna Uniting Church, who felt called to help the ageing Cummins church) formed a leadership team to connect, pray and explore what a new worshipping community in Cummins might look like.

Sue shares the musings of the leadership group, "As we explored scriptures together we saw that God was going to bring back people who had gone from this church for one reason or another. Together with God we planned to offer a more relaxed space for people to explore what faith means to them.

"We decided to keep the Cummins Uniting Church name but theme it "New Beginnings". The image of a charred stump shooting forth new leaves was chosen as a symbol of what the community was doing. "

The first service for New Beginnings took place on Sunday 15 May 2016. The leadership group had been planning the night for many months and launched the service with an opening drama that captured the way God has been working to build a new church through the Holy Spirit. The drama re-enacted the laying of the first stone on 8 May, 1912 and also the work of the former Cornerstone church plant.

The service combined singing and children dancing, contemporary worship and a Pentecost reading. Sue preached on Ephesians, about life in Christ. The preaching was reminiscent of the hopes of the leadership group for the New Beginnings community, Sue comments "we hope those who attended the opening service will share their experiences and people will return or come along to this new Church."

Cummins NB is a Church that believes in every member ministry. " I have seen God's hand in the development of these local ministries. The congregations that I have been serving are great examples of resilience in rural communities' particularly rural communities of faith," states Sue.

"The Yeelanna congregation is a large vibrant congregation and from their nurturing, people like Scott and Mary-Anne are able to be sent out and begin new things in ministry like New Beginnings in Cummins.

"Ordained Ministry leadership helps identify and equip people into the work needed in rural areas. Scott and Mary-anne Mickan are examples of people willing to dedicate themselves to the work of the gospel and take risks. Elders like Ann Challinger are examples of people willing to trust in a vision from God for a new beginning and make changes. Together they all show the power of the discipline of prayer in making vision become reality."

This intermittent newsletter comes as an e-Newsletter through Campaign Monitor, with hard-copy version printed by Anglican Diocese of Waiapu and distributed by a Hawke's Bay team. Contributions of news, views, insights on anything to do with the rural church and its gospel mission gratefully received. E-version available on request.

Editor: Robyn McPhail, 17 Campbell Lane, Kerikeri 0230, phone 09 4017554, email: robyn@chirmac.co.nz.