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## Northern NOTES

SPRING 2015

# GIVING IS A WAY OF LIFE FOR 'MR TONY'

**Giving back is second nature to 88-year-old Duncan Munro who spent part of his childhood in the Onehunga Boys' Home, once run by Presbyterian Support Northern.**

Duncan was sent to the orphanage after his mother died and his father, a coalminer, became ill with tuberculosis. He has happy memories of summers spent at Mahurangi with the other boys. As a young man, Duncan helped out at the mission to homeless men in the city.

When he became an engineering apprentice during the World War II years, Presbyterian Support paid his board and supplied him with clothes, as his wages were "woefully inadequate".

"Fortunately I had a bicycle so there was no outlay for fares and about midway through my apprenticeship I was breaking even," he says.

Now living on the Gold Coast, Duncan is still actively involved in his own community. Twice a week, he volunteers as a teacher aide at Broadbeach State Primary School, where he's known affectionately as 'Mr Tony' by students and staff. He tells the children stories about the war, passed on to him from the returned servicemen he worked with, and he donates books and equipment to the school.

"I have loved it all, being privileged to serve. It's a joy to be with them and they're wonderful to me," he says.

Duncan has been grateful to Presbyterian Support Northern ever since his time of need, and is still interested in our work. He has made a bequest in his will so that future generations can benefit as he did from Presbyterian Support Northern.



# WALKING OUT THE PRISON GATE



Bequest funding means Family Works is able to give women an 'essentials' pack on their release from prison.

Many of the women lack the basics that enable them to reconnect with family or community services on release. The pack includes food items, toiletries, a change of clothes, and a contact card with vital phone numbers. Photo ID and a phone card can also be included if required.

The packs supplement the 'Out of Gate' service Family Works provides to help ease the transition for women back into the community and reduce reoffending.

Practical help can make a big difference to their wellbeing, giving them the best possible chance of making a fresh start.

One Waikato family worker says she loves seeing the women blossom. "I like supporting the women. They're the ones behind the kids, they're the ones who need strengthening."

Bequests, big and small, can make a lasting difference. The essential packs don't cost much but show the women that we believe they can turn their lives around, with practical support to meet their needs.

## WAIKATO FARMER'S BEQUEST LIVES ON

A bequest from former Waikato farmer Harry Fawcett is continuing to help people from all walks of life, from babies to grandparents.

Mr Fawcett's bequest to Presbyterian Support Northern represented three generations of hard work on the family farm. When he advised us of his intention to make a gift in his will he said, "Through my bequest I am able to leave a tangible memorial to those generations as well as help Presbyterian Support carry on its much-needed services."

Part of the bequest funds the Plunket Family Works pilot scheme in Huntly where our Family Worker Amanda Barron puts struggling young families in touch with the services they need. Another portion enabled the purchase of a van for one of Enliven Waikato's day programmes. The van is used to take older people on outings to interesting places around the region.

A bequest to Presbyterian Support Northern is an expression of your personal values and beliefs. Bequests marked 'for general purposes' allow us to put the money where it's most needed.



**"The purpose of life is a life of purpose." – Robert Byrne**

## INSTEAD OF FLOWERS...

A great way to honour the wishes of those who have passed on is to encourage friends and family to give donations instead of flowers. Like bequests, 'in memoriam' gifts help Presbyterian Support Northern benefit future generations.

When Gwennyth Wilson passed away in June, her family decided to offer people an alternative to giving flowers. Their mother had attended Presbyterian churches in Waiuku and Birkenhead so they knew Presbyterian Support Northern would be an appropriate organisation to receive donations. Since her funeral, several people have taken the opportunity to give a more lasting tribute to remember Gwennyth's life.

**To find out how easy it is to leave a bequest or arrange an 'in memoriam' gift, please contact**

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09 520 8628 or email  
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To donate, please use your personalised response slip,  
or send your gift to Presbyterian Support Northern, PO Box 99890, Newmarket, Auckland 1149.  
Alternatively visit [www.psn.org.nz](http://www.psn.org.nz) to donate online by credit card.