

The Roskill Rag

100th ANNIVERSARY EDITION

SEPTEMBER 2023

Tena Koutou, Talofa Lava, Bula Vinaka, Malo e Lelei, Nihao, Namaste, Kia orana and warm greetings to you all. We are thrilled you could join with us to celebrate 100 years of proclaiming the Good News in this neighbourhood. It is not just this neighbourhood though; many have come and gone through these doors to serve in new places and we are richer for their time with us, and thankful for the extension of God's Kingdom beyond our borders.

Thank you to all of you who have travelled from near and far, especially those who have come from overseas to be with us. Today you will find us as an aspirational "Family of nations; followers of Jesus". We look forward together for the next 100 years in this place.

Revelation 7:9-10: After this I looked, and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and before the Lamb. They were wearing white robes and were holding palm branches in their hands. And they cried out in a loud voice: "Salvation belongs to our God, who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

This year is a time for reflection, restoration and reconnection. Many periods of the church's history have been joyful and hope-filled. However, we acknowledge that there have been broken relationships in our past and as we look back we can see that there have been periods of pain and disunity in the history of the church. Our hope is this new season brings with it the opportunity to reconcile, and to share the burdens of those past pains, while moving forward together keeping our eyes on Jesus and away from ourselves.

We celebrate this weekend with a concert because concerts are part of Roskill's DNA. Roskill has enjoyed drama productions, choirs, bands, (including a certain pastor singing from a bathtub) with young and old sharing and laughing together. These have been a wonderful expression of our whānau life, culture, and joy, and so we hope you enjoy being a part of that today.

Please do enjoy this weekend. Laugh, tell stories of how you've been shaped in this place, and pray for God's continued faithfulness and mission both here in Mt Roskill and to the ends of the earth!

Jenny Barker, Leadership Team Chair

Commencement of White Swan Sunday School and Fellowship, Later Mt Roskill Baptist Church

The following excerpt is taken from the White Swan Baptist Service Record Book, and was written in July 1952:

In the year 1923, Mr. Enoch Wood, who lived in Mt Albert Road, when driving through the May Road, Richardson Road, and White Swan Road area, noticed a number of children playing in the roads. When he attended Edendale Sunday School, he mentioned to the Superintendent, and to others, that he would like to see something done in that area, and if anyone was willing to try and start a Sunday School he would find, and give, an organ for the work.

During September of that year (1923), Mr Ross Penmen and Mr Scampton from Edendale (Sandringham) canvassed the area and obtained permission from Mrs Patterson Senior of Richardson Road to hold Sunday School in her front room. Mr Ross Penman commenced morning Sunday School early in October, 1923.

Services started in January, 6th 1924 and were held weekly in Mrs Patterson's house. A meeting of residents was held and a couple of collection books taken to gather funds towards a building.

A section was looked for in 1924 and Mr George Morgan, whose mother lived in Richardson Road, was prevailed upon to give the section which our building now occupies. Mr Morgan made two conditions. Firstly, an undertaking by one another to give the first £50 to start a building fund. This was arranged. Secondly, title would be given on the undertaking that the services would be held regularly for ten years. Honouring this undertaking, services have been held practically every Sunday since.

Mr A. Turner surveyed the section free of charge. The original building was completed with voluntary labour and occupied in June 1924. A large gathering of Baptists and local people attended the opening and a collection was taken. This, together with money collected, enabled the building to be opened free of debt.

Anniversary Weekend Programme:

Saturday 16th September

2:30pm | Formal Welcome
Outside Carpark

3:00pm | Afternoon Tea
Church Foyer and Carpark

4:00pm | Family of Nations Concert
Church Auditorium

Performers:

- May Road School Kapa Haka Group
- Mt Roskill Baptist Kindergarten
- Natalie Clark
- Litea, Salome & Taimalie Masila
- Ukelele Group: Karen, Andrew & Nathaniel Finn, Natalie & Alison Clark, Sarah & Sam Boasman, Halee Peng, Madeline Fleming, and Mike Barker
- Dilys Fong
- Annette Saverimuttu
- Wah Ng
- Elena Latoa
- The Sitters
- Melkitha Samuel
- Mt Roskill Youth Band

6:00pm | Sit down dinner
Church Auditorium

Sunday 17th September, 10am

A special Sunday service followed by morning tea.

Mt Roskill Baptist Trivia Questions:

(Answers on back page)

- 1) In what year did the 'White Swan Church' officially become known as 'Mt Roskill Baptist Church'?
- 2) Who is well known for their coconut ice squares?
- 3) How many people were in attendance at the original opening of the church in 1924?
- 4) What was the first vision/ mission statement of MRBC?
- 5) Who was the first global partner sent from MRBC?
- 6) What birthday did the Mt Roskill Baptist Kindergarten celebrate last Friday (8th September)?

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Beryl Butler's Apple Cake

The following is a 'world famous at Mt Roskill Baptist Church' recipe taken from the 75th Anniversary Cookbook, 1998.

Ingredients

- 3 large apples
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1 & 1/2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp cinnamon
- 1 tsp mixed spice
- 125g butter
- 1 egg (beaten)
- 1/2 cup of chopped dates (optional)
- 1/2 cup of walnuts (optional)

Directions

Pre-heat oven to 180° C.
 Line a 20cm cake tin with baking paper.
 Peel, core and coarsely chop the apples.
 Combine butter, sugar and egg.
 Sift dry ingredients into a mixing bowl.
 Add the liquid ingredients, walnuts, dates, then apples.
 Combine well. Don't worry if there looks to be more apple than anything else!
 Bake for approximately 50 mins until a skewer inserted in the middle is clean.
 Sprinkle with icing sugar.
 Makes a good pudding too when served with custard or cream.

Family of Nations; Followers of Jesus

Mt Roskill is known as the leading multi-ethnic suburb in Tamaki Makaurau (Auckland). Our local schools are evidence, and why should our local churches be any different?

Some churches have chosen to focus on a specific culture, be it Pacifica, African or Asian. This is particularly beneficial for first-generation immigrants, but creates challenges for their second and third generations. In contrast, Mt Roskill Baptist Church has chosen to gather as a Family of Nations. We've had to rethink our traditional ways of the church and cultivate an acceptance of other ethnicities and cultures. Our common language remains English, for pragmatic reasons, but we rejoice in the sound of multiple languages and cultures among us. We appreciate and celebrate this diversity, learning to converse and laugh together. Our vision is gradually taking shape, although we have much to learn and improve.

A Heart For Mission

18 October 1949- a group gathered to decide whether the White Swan Sunday School could become a Baptist fellowship... and after 26 years with a "mission status" they agreed to become a Baptist Church. This was an exciting step for the gathered locals, an acknowledgment of our mission roots. Mt Roskill Baptist was established as a community outreach and over the past 100 years has shared the love of Jesus locally and further afield. In fact, our first missionary sent overseas was Iris Cook. She was with the Christian Literature Crusade in Antigua and Barbuda, West Indies. She graduated from the Bible College of NZ in 1958. There are many references in AGM reports about "our missionary". Since Iris left NZ, there are at least 101 people who have served locally and overseas in a missional capacity (not including those who served on diaconates, elderships and leadership team or with our many years of Boys and Girls Brigade, Sunday School and many other voluntary roles).

The vibrancy and richness of our church community is strengthened as we partner with those in mission. Praying for them, supporting them financially and welcoming those who newly arrive in NZ.

The countries and places we have served in include; Tanzania, Ethiopia, Kenya and West Africa, South Korea, West Indies, India, Bangladesh, Japan, China, Cambodia, Thailand, Singapore, Papua New Guinea, the Pacific Islands and United Kingdom. Some of our people serve overseas from NZ and others are pastoring around Aotearoa. We know that God has led, shaped, blessed, refined and honed many people for His glory in those places. It is true that our suburb is multi-ethnic and people are coming to us, that is God's plan to make sure all will know about the glorious hope He has for them - but it is still His plan to send us out overseas to reach the most unreached places in our world.

Roskill is part of the "great commission" and this will continue to be our story both here and around the world into the future.

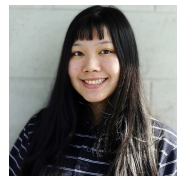
Our current global partners:



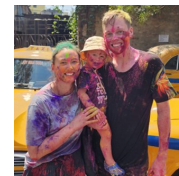
Lee-Anne
OMF



Paul & Barby
Langham



Bethany
Student Life



Joseph & Zoe
South Asia



Jay & Pauline
Missions Interlink



Sharon
Mercy Ships

In the gospels, Jesus receives criticism for eating with different people (Mark 2:16). Being followers of Jesus is more than having good morals. Shared meals with various company speak louder than wise words. A vision of diverse culture and social standing is a challenge, but is also rewarding in a gospel way.

One of the great Baptist traditions we hold on to at Mt Roskill Baptist is our high view of the Scriptures, our Bible. Followers of Jesus must be serious about the Bible. We don't claim to know it all, but we continuously study and read the Word. It is the foundation of all our teaching.

John 14: 23
"Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

SHARE YOUR STORIES WITH US!

Let us know what makes Roskill Baptist special for you.
 Send to office@roskillbaptist.com.

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Mt Roskill Baptist Trivia Answers:

(Questions on front page)

- 1) 1950
- 2) Colleen Sangster
- 3) 200
- 4) "Our Church is People", 1984
- 5) Iris Cook
- 6) 40th Birthday

Don't be a stranger! We meet weekly on Sunday's at 10am.

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