

# TIKANGA PAKEHA MISSIONS COUNCIL

## *Anglican Missions Board Grant for Short Term Mission Groups*

### REPORTING BACK FORM:

1. Name of Diocese  
Wellington
2. Name of Parish or Parishes (if more than one parish involved)  
Waikanae
3. Purpose or intention of trip

To partner with and bless the locals in a way they could not afford to do on their own, while introducing our team to a culture and people who have much less, for them to see another way of living.

4. Was the purpose or intention of the trip met? (please give details)

Yes! We were able to help build a new house for an older lady called Sabina, who had been living in a hurricane damaged house for 2 years.

We all stayed with locals and ran a childrens programme for the local village kids in the afternoons. Many of our team commented on how they had met people with much less, that were much happier, did community much better and looked after each other and showed love better than people at home. Many left more things in Fiji than they had planned to when seeing the need.

We met kids who lived in houses that more closely resembled "tin shacks" and always wore ripped, ragged clothes, yet were happy.

5. Highlights of the trip. (Please document x2 highlights with photos if possible.)

Getting Sabina's new house to a livable state. Although the water and power was not yet on, she was looking into getting this done and was excited and overwhelmed with the opportunity to move in.

Seeing community being built within the people in our team as well as with the locals. Living and working with locals we were able to build 'real' relationships with them and learn about their lives. As a team we also grew both over the year and the time away and built relationships with people we would've had no interacion with otherwise. The flow on effect of this is the faith and minstries of many individuals has been strengthened.

6. What challenges did you encounter?

Fresh water - we were advised by a doctor from our church who specialises in travel medicine to only drink boiled or bought water. A group of 20 people go through a lot of water! Apart from the cost factor, we were also aware of minimising waste in a village where they burn or bury rubbish. It took a while to work out a good system for boiling and cooling water, which was a stressful process amongst everything else happening.

Unreliablle sources of building materials - it is hard to turn up at a building site with 20 people expecting to work ,when relying on Fijians on Fiji time to get the worksite and getting materials ready. The first couple of days in the village were quite stressful getting the materials ready and to the site.

Sickness, tiredness and hot weather were also hard for some to adjust to.

7. What would you do differently?

Next time we would try to send an organiser over earlier to prepare for the team, getting drinking water, sleeping arrangements and the jobsite ready.

We will also look for better ways to pace the group, by having more down time or rest periods.

8. What is the next step for your group / parish?

We have just had two feedback/sharing times (one in a church service and one afterwards for other churches in the Parish) to hear about the trip. We are planning to take another large team in 3 years time with potentially a smaller team also going in 18 months.

We would also like to do a fundraiser as a team to help replenish our churches "Pacific Fund", which supported our team to go. There are also individual ongoing relationships with with the people we journeyed with.

I think out of this our church - and especially the team - will have a greater focus on mission, particularly cross cultural. This will feed into all areas of the church with such a diverse team.

9. What ways are you taking partnership forward?

We will continue to make trips to this town, village and people. On this trip, all of the team made new relationships with locals and those of us that had been before strenthened old friendships, many of which were with non-Christians. This brought the opportunity to show Jesus' love and bless them. We left many building and programming resources there for future teams to be able to benefit from. Many of the team are keen to return in 3 years.

10. Please attach a spreadsheet of financial money received and how it was spent.

As every member needed to come up with \$2000, we split the TPMC grant money evenly between 18 of the people on the team (there were 2 who didn't receive anything, 1 being an under 2 year old whose costs were a lot smaller and 1 who came along last minute from another church and wasn't involved in any fundraising).

The \$2000 each member needed included:

Flights	\$1330
Accommodation in Nadi	\$140
Travel Insurance	\$80
Village Food	\$100
Contribution for materials on the building project	\$200
Extra costs including local transport, water etc	\$150

As a team we managed to raise a total \$660 per person (inclusive of TPMC grant) and individuals covered the rest in private fundraising or savings.