



PRISON CARE  
MINISTRIES

ANNUAL  
REPORT  
2009



# ANNUAL REPORT 2009



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## Prison Care Ministries Chairman's Annual Report September 2009

Alex Shepherd

Prison Care Ministries has now been in operation for 5 years and this year seems to have felt particularly good and satisfying. I think this is partly due to the way Geoff and Jill have narrowed their focus and haven't tried to do all the things they used to do. This has allowed Geoff and Jill to spend a bit more time with the guys, quietly coming alongside and helping them work through the deeper issues they face. The guys love being able to take a car or bike around to Geoff's work shop and work on it together. It's amazing how much personal progress can be achieved in that sort of casual low key environment and the better relationships mean better atmosphere's in the houses.

We continued to operate the three houses from the previous year being: Carey Street, Peachgrove Road and Queens Avenue. With this present accommodation we can comfortably accommodate

*"We continue to look for ways to expand our team of staff and volunteers with the goal of opening more houses."*

12 residents, but we need a minimum of 8 residents to cover operating costs. We began the year with a wait list of 49, we then received a further 115 referrals and finished up the year with a wait list of 53, of which 16 were actually from the 07-08 year.

We had a very successful fundraising dinner. Some of the guys volunteered to help make it a bit of a prison experience where guests got to experience a typical cell, see a typical bed and eat a typical meal in brown paper bags and talk to the guys a bit about their time inside. Most found it very interesting - particularly hearing from the guys first hand and also being entertained by some of them performing songs and giving their testimonies. We had 82 guests and raised \$1110.33 and received a lot of positive feedback.

During this year we changed our accounting software over to use MYOB. Geoff and Jill were able to attend a training course in Tauranga and Leonard Gardner kindly helped get everything all setup and working how they wanted. This has given the trustees better financial reports and has solved some of the issues we were experiencing previously.

We continue to look for ways in which to expand our team of staff and volunteers with the goal of opening more houses. This year we were encouraged to write up a job description for a Full-Time Social Worker /Mentor and apply for funding. Unfortunately we got turned down this time but we continue to seek out ways to make this happen.

We give much thanks to our funding providers (see page 7) and we are always grateful for the volunteers who assist us as it really does make a difference.

Respectfully submitted

Alex Shepherd





Over the years we have had men who have made an effort to apologize to their victims, and men who have wanted to “pay back the community” by doing repairs, and in one house painted every room with the permission of the landlord. All of the residents from one house helped the landlord strip a whole house, (not theirs), to enable him to do it up. Another had a goal to be out of prison for more than 12 months. Since a young teenager he has been in and out of prison for over 20 years with less than a year between sentences. He has now been out 3 years.

Many are only too keen to be able to help us by doing projects around the houses, and even help us personally. This shows a deep trust and respect for what we stand for and an appreciation of what we do. Many have no family at all; they have lost everything while in prison and have no option but to make a new start in life. Some have seen us as parent figures and sadly some men have us down as next of kin.

Over the years we have a constant frustration with funding, trying to stay afloat to be able to give our men things that are not “castoffs”, but to be able to show them that they are ‘special’ to us. A funder declined officially because “*it was the responsibility of the Dept of Corrections to fund us*”. Other funding providers have stood the test of time are always encouraging, and recognize the value of what we are doing.

This year we have received funding and purchased a new weed eater to share around the houses, a lawnmower for one house and replaced a washing machine at another. The guys [usually] take a pride in their house and they have no trouble in keeping it clean and tidy.

Geoff & Jill



# Funding and Support

Prison Care Ministries say thanks and wish to acknowledge the following who have supported us over the year:

Trust Waikato	Wages
COGS	Office and Volunteer costs
WEL Energy Trust	Computers
Hamilton City Council (HCC)	Photocopying
HCC Community Wellbeing	Travel
The Norah Howell Charitable Trust	Lawnmower
J R McKenzie Trust	Washing machine
Prisoners Aid & Rehabilitation	Bedding
NZ Post	Postage
Fastprint	Printing
Geocon Soil Testing	Newsletter
NZ Bible Society	Bibles
Rhema Broadcasting Group	Word for Today
Maori Postal Aotearoa	Calendars, magazines etc
Telecom	Residential rates
Interspeed	Internet domain
Bakers Delight	Bakery
Ellen Taylor	Auditor

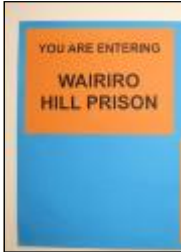
We also thank other Trusts, Churches and Individuals that have generously made donations towards office rent, wages and other needs as they arise.



We also give thanks to the support we have received from:

Work and Income New Zealand  
Community Probation & psychological Services  
Prison Staff  
Prison Chaplaincy  
James Family Op shop staff and other tenants  
Prison Care Ministries Trustees and Volunteers  
House Residents

## Fundraising Dinner



A three course meal (breakfast, lunch and tea) “*Prison style*” was attended by 82 *victims*!!!!. Guests were asked to wear typical prison clothes, e.g. track pants, jeans and jandels. 12 current or past residents and their family members attended. A current resident acted as the Principal Corrections Officer (PCO) through out the evening giving stories of life in prison.

Induction - All guests congregated in the foyer to be inducted by our acting PCO. He welcomed these 82 “*prisoners*” to Wairiro Hill Prison life and explained the hazards around prisons, how to address staff and the consequences of possessing illegal paraphernalia. We now had a “*captive audience*.”



Breakfast - “*Prisoners*” were then taken to their “*cells*” and were given information on the cell size and what is in them. Breakfast of cereal muesli bars was given. Our guys who had been in prison really got into the act and rattled the keys and banged the child security gate, calling out time for “*yards*”.

Lunch - All assembled together in the “*yard*” and were given lunch in individual brown paper bags consisting of sandwiches and fruit (bursts!) and grapes. We fined “*prisoners*” for wearing gang colors, possession of cell phones, and other illegal items.

Dinner - Residents served a typical “*prison dinner*” and “*prisoners*” were able to top up with extras. We made it a Christmas meal when prisoners receive dessert.



Residents practice

Entertainment - We thank our residents and past residents who have been imprisoned, for fronting up to people by serving meals, acting as PCO, and by providing entertainment in the way of music, poetry and sharing. We also thank Derek, Nicky and the music team.

A note from Ian Elliott, Chairperson Prison Fellowship, New Zealand.  
To Geoff & Jill - As PFNZ Chair I can pass on PFNZ deep gratitude for both of your commitment to, and care of ex-prisoners at one of their greatest points of need despite the health challenges you don't give up, well done.



## A Prison Cell

*F*our walls *to this my prison cell*  
*One window my only relief from hell*  
*No sun shines into this lonesome cell*  
*Distant lands starry skies, a story tell*

*I* made mistakes, *I'll do my lag*  
*Locked down days, time will drag*  
*Temper frays and my morale will sag*  
*Nothing to do, I don't have a tail to wag*  
*Caged like a beast I will do my lag*

*M*y mind and thoughts *still roam free*  
*To distant lands blue skies, I would like to be*  
*Fishing in a boat on a deep blue sea*  
*Or walking, that bush land path so free*  
*Watching the birds my thoughts may flee*

*M*y spirit *I let free from this cell*  
*My body for a time remains in this hell*  
*The time will come I will leave this hell*  
*That the time my sorry story will tell*  
*Of what it's like to live in deepest hell*

*R.H. Past Resident*

## THE “TACHOS PROJECT” Geoff

This has been a continual “magnet” for many of the guys. All have fallen head over heels in love with this and only too happy to get their hands dirty. There are many who have had an input, helping out with whatever is going on at the time. We have a couple of our friends who have the vision to use this as a means of training, developing skills and motivation for the men to help change the direction of their lives.



Friends car



Wellington kit

Whenever the question comes, “.. *how much longer is it going to take ..*”? the usual answer is, “.. *yes* ”, or “..*how long is a piece of string?..*” We have been building our TACHOS for several years, including supplying two other kits which are being built in Wellington and Taupo. There is no finish date, just a hobby when there is time, (what is that)?

Another question has been about the source of the name TACHOS. It comes from the Bible, Luke Chapter 18, Verse 8. Check it out and see if you can find the word that translates from the Greek, it is also where the word tachometer (rev counter) comes from.



Our car

There is an amazing amount of “bridge building” happening in the workshop, relationships grow in a special way when you get involved in people’s lives. Men have also brought their own vehicles to be worked on, and a well equipped workshop is helpful. The plan is not to do all the work but to instruct and demonstrate so men are better equipped in their future to tackle repairs.



Repairs

We wish to thank JR McKenzie Trust for their grant to replace a house washing machine.

## The Orbiter

The Orbiter Bus is another way of building relationships while at the same time helping with orientation with the City. 2/3 of our men come from “out of town”, and know little of the layout of the City. The Orbiter Bus circulates around the outer suburbs rather than coming into the City Centre. We use it as a part of our orientation plan for each resident, by taking them on this bus to get an idea of how the City “comes together”, as well as having some “boy time” together. A stop at the Base for a look around is enjoyed, as is a coffee break that just *has* to be! Food and drink is always a valuable time in *any* situation.



A celebration of Paul's life.

(Past resident, died suddenly 28th May 09, aged 53.

Motto - Live Hard, Die Young, Be a Good Looking Corpse

Service by Geoff McMillan - Friday 5th June. Chapel Hill Community Church

Early 2005 we first heard from you  
Needing somewhere to go for a month or two  
To start your new life to Queens Ave  
you did come  
You signed the rules and your journey begun  
You were first in that place and all alone  
In a large old house that you called home.

Rule number 1— No alcohol on the property  
We thought we could help you as a couple  
But the first night there you got into trouble  
You cooked your tea, bacon, eggs, onions,  
tomatoes and chips which was fine  
But in your first bath for years  
You took a bottle of wine

Rule number 2 — No smoking in the house  
Your curtains you ripped with windows open wide  
We knew you were smoking your poison inside  
A letter of warning did nothing at all  
You drove us to distraction and up the wall

Rule number 3 — 10pm curfew  
Months later arrived your bike and your leather  
To Coromandel you went regardless of weather  
We know you got home late  
And sometimes never.

Rule number 4 — Weekly bible study  
Your mates wont believe it but bible study  
you attended  
Polite you were and never offended  
We are sure you learnt something bout morals,  
values and life  
This did not however keep you from strife.

To sum you all up you were a bit of a tyrant  
You put petrol in our diesel and then you  
denied it  
At times you were grumpy and your health  
was not good  
And you stirred me bout my driving as only you  
would

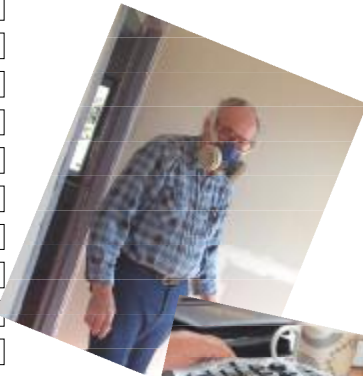
You tried to get me to ride on the back of your  
bike  
Your pony tail to part with would be my delight  
Four months you should have stayed but  
18 months later  
We asked you to leave officially by paper

Our support role had long come to an end  
And we both now considered you as a friend  
Our friendship remained as time would tell  
And so our friend we say farewell. Jill

We wish to thank The Norah Howell Charitable Trust for their grant to replace the house lawnmower.

# *In recognition of Volunteers*

The Trustees and staff wish to thank our volunteers for the work they do and the support they give to staff, those in prison and house residents.



Monthly house finances

House maintenance  
Trips to the tip



Thanks Geoff

Folding newsletters  
Building computer tables

Writing to prisoners  
Supporting residents

Help residents move  
Bible study



Taking residents to events  
Grocery shopping with residents



Thanks for being available when needed  
and being a friend

Your support is much appreciated.

**And from our volunteers.....**

**Peter Amor**



Over the past 12 months I have been helping at Prison Care Ministries as a volunteer. I have known Geoff since 2001 when I was involved with Open Air Campaigners. I was looking for something that could utilize all my skills, which include organizational skills, computer skills and ministry skills and I felt to contact Prison Care Ministries and make myself available to them. They told me they were looking for someone who could take some of the load of their shoulders and I had come at an opportune time.

I have to admit that it has been challenging at times as I have had to adapt to relating to guys who have just got out of prison. At first I felt like a fish out of water because I had not really mixed with guys like this before. I have been involved with going into prisons to take services in the past but that is so different to this type of work.

My job has been to take the guys grocery shopping once a week and that has been a challenge at times because some of the guys find it really hard to cope with making decisions and budgeting on a small budget. I also spend time with the guys on a one on one situation trying to help them in many ways. For example helping the guys find work, helping them shift into a new flat and to be a kind of a chaplain to them and listen to their problems they are facing. I have been able to have a positive input into some of the guys and it gives me a lot of satisfaction that they are appreciative of what I have done for them and I have seen some major changes happen in their lives.

I also help in the office by doing odd jobs like processing the mail outs, designing posters and other things for promotional events and certain things associated with Prison Care Ministries.

I have been involved in many things in the past but being involved with Prison Care Ministries has been one of the most fulfilling things I have actually been involved with.

## **Support Family Barry & Unice**

In early 2008 we were approached by Geoff & Jill McMillan of Prison Care Ministries and asked if we would like to support a prisoner at Tongariro Prison by writing to him. For a moment or two we were taken back by this request because we knew instantly that this would take us out of our comfort zone, and should we be drawn into any greater commitment than writing letters (from a distance), “no thank you...!”

However after much discussion and consideration we decided to take the plunge and we began writing with caution. Questions for us were what do you write to someone you don't know anything about? How would he relate to us?

By the end of 2008 the frequency of letter writing had increased somewhat to a regular 'rhythm' . Earlier in our writing experience it was a little difficult to keep the conversation ticking over at a steady pace, but once we were able to get to know this man, everything went extremely well.

We made our first visit down to Tongariro Prison in May 2009. We arrived wondering how this meeting would go, and what will we talk about? However we were impressed with both this man's openness and honesty in regards to his previous lifestyle and offending and his desire to make a fresh start and new life for himself after release. The frequency of his letters to us increased to some times twice weekly, but he understood that we could not always reply at the same frequency. Two further prison visits followed again both very successful.

The next step was attending his Parole Board hearing in September 2009. This again was something entirely unknown and new to us. His Parole was granted and this man is now in Hamilton in a Prison Care Ministry Support house. We consider him “our friend”, he comes to church with us and has met and been well received by a number of our friends. We are very happy to continue maintaining regular contact and support. For us this venture has been an interesting and rewarding journey.

We fully support the work being done by Geoff and Jill McMillan and Prison Care Ministries. They are providing a valuable and much needed resource for these men in helping them to re-establish themselves in the community.

## Support Family/ House Bible Study From P & J

I have learned much through taking bible study with these men. What I have learned for myself and also about myself. Not only has it been an opportunity to be careful with what I teach, but to also develop through it. These guys do ask challenging questions!

It is also a great opportunity to be in a different environment with people I wouldn't normally come in contact with. This is so good for my spiritual health an opportunity to live what I say I believe and through it God has taught me things about myself.

*P & J are also a support family for a young man recently released. They began corresponding during his last few months in prison and their friendship has continued as he resides in one of the Support houses.*

Challenges in every direction, thank you for the opportunity you have given us.

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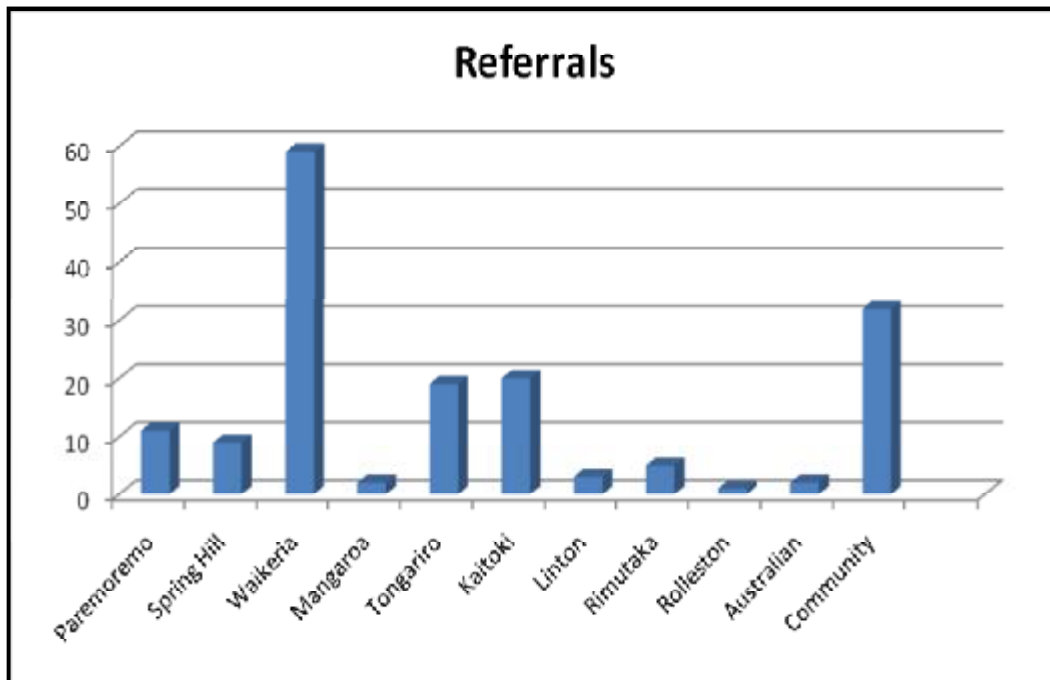
## Resident in reply to having a support family

*Many men in prison have lost their family and friends. It is our goal to have more support families who will correspond with the men during their time in prison and to continue the friendship on release.*

At times there was a bit of anxiety for me about having support people that I did not know write to me and when I did first meet them it was awkward and I wasn't sure what to talk about. As time went on the letters began to flow more freely.

Coming out from prison and having good strong support from people I hadn't met before was an experience I had never had. Today our friendship is thriving on and still the support is there and getting stronger.

We wish to thank WEL Energy Trust for the grant towards updating the office computers.



Prison Care Ministries received 164 referrals for both 132 men in prison and 32 men who had been released back into the community.

Referrals were received from:

Prison staff;	
Reintegration	29
Chaplains	7
Faith Based Unit	2
Social workers	2
Unit staff	7
Community Probation Services	25
Prisoners Aid & Rehabilitation Services	14
Family	11
Lawyer	2
Citizen Advice Bureau	1
Church	1
Self	55
Prison Fellowship	2
Other agencies	6



## Referral Outcomes

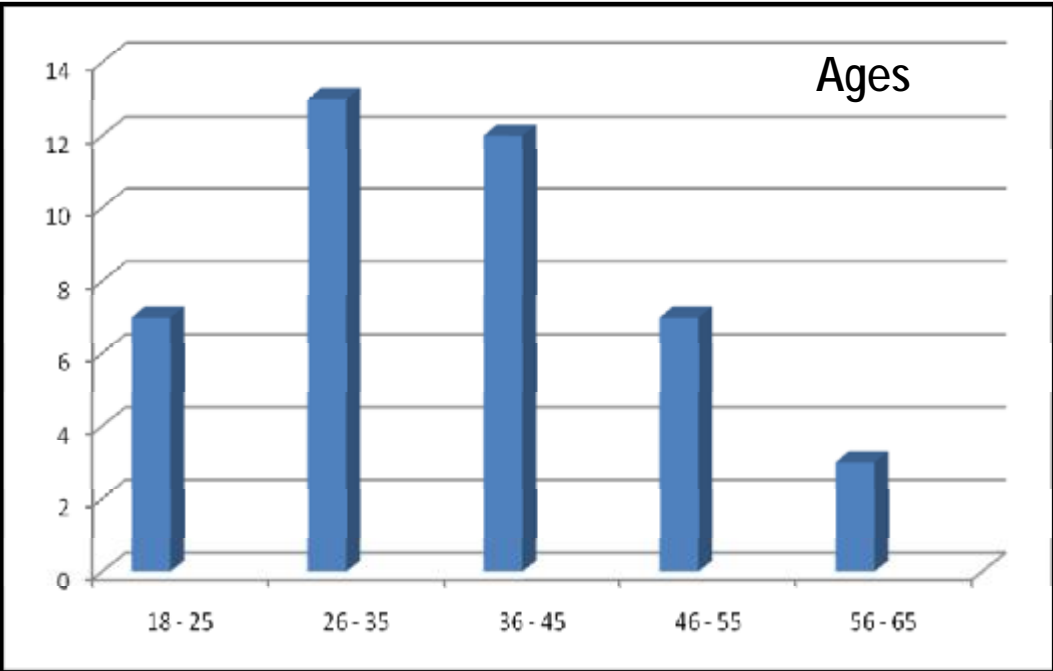
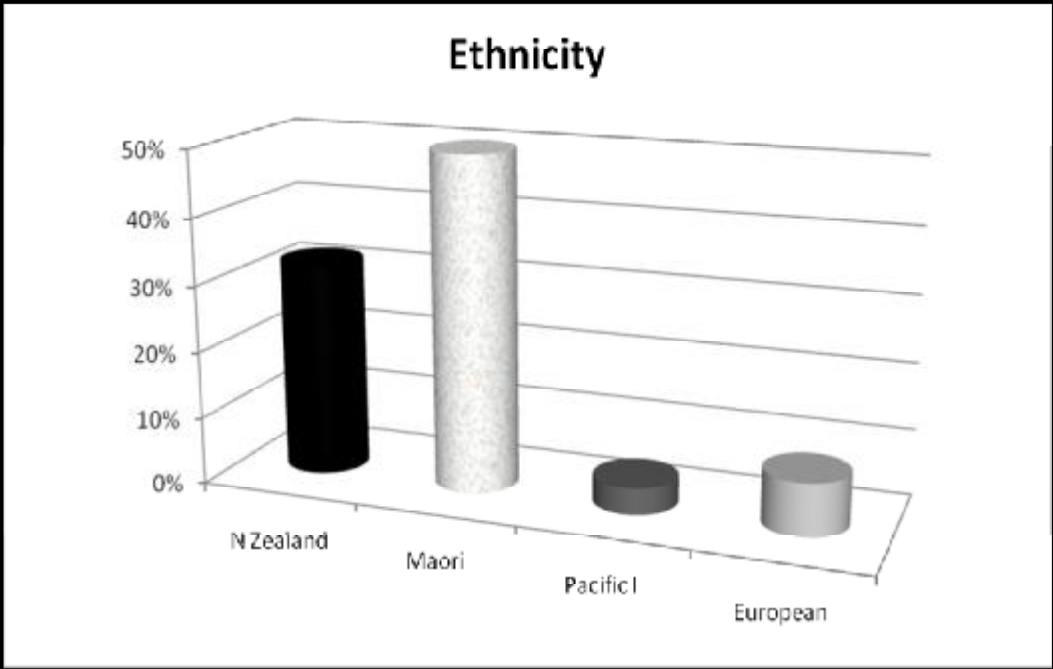


**We interviewed 61 new applicants in prisons. A further 13 men were already known to us from previous years. We continued contact with these men through visits and/or letter writing. This help to build relationships which makes it easier on their release.**

Prison	Visits	Applicants	Parole Board
Paremoremo	2	8	
Spring Hill	3	11	3
Waikeria Prison	5	22	4
Tongariro	1	9	
Kaitoki	1	11	

We wish to thank Hamilton City Council for their Community Wellbeing Grant towards travel costs.

# Residents



## **Residents**

### **Length of stay**

<b>1 day -2 weeks</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>2-4</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>1-2 months</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>2-3</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>4-5</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5-6</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>7-8</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>12+</b>	<b>1</b>

### **Current residents**

<b>1-4 weeks</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>1-2 months</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3-4</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>6-7</b>	<b>1</b>

**7 residents in at the beginning of year.**

**35 new residents from referrals**

**Total 42 residents.**

**Finishing year with 8 in houses**

**5 residents stayed twice**

**47 placements**

### **Short term stays (12)**

**1 day -4 weeks**

**1 disappeared after a day**

**6 until planned accommodation became available**

**1 emergency as no accommodation available**

**1 emergency after surgery**

**2 reoffended and imprisoned**

**1 moving between flats**

**We wish to thank Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) for their grant towards Office, Training and Volunteer Expenses.**

## **Residents**

**Attended Hamilton District Court  
on 14 days for 8 residents or past**

**18 Found employment  
4 Released from prison to work  
1 Attending Waikato University**

**3 Written warnings  
2 Asked to leave  
1 Disappeared**

### **Residents moved to:**

<b>Boarding house</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Rental flat/house</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Family/Friend</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Farming</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Residential Program</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Private Boarding</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Unknown</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Other Agency</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Prison</b>	<b>8 Reoffended/breached conditions 3 Released back to the houses</b>

### **Current client list of 155**

**Consisting of:  
Prisoners with applications in for accommodation  
Prisoners being given support only  
House Residents  
Past Residents  
Released Prisoners  
Family Members**

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**We wish to thanks Trust Waikato for their grant  
towards wages towards a support worker.**

## Trustees

### Alex Shepherd - Chairperson.



IT Consultant, AJ Systems Ltd. - Alex and Judi have 3 children. They attend Chapel Hill Community Church and Alex is part of the Mission Team. Alex is currently an approved visitor to Waikeria Prison.

### Len Caley



Barrister - Len and Devina have 2 children and attend Hamilton South Baptist. Len specializes in criminal law. He was previously an approved volunteer to Waikeria Prison in a Church team for Sunday Church services.

### Maraenui Taituha



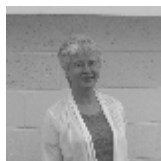
Customer Support Agent - Maraenui and Alison have 3 children and attends a Home Church. He is a qualified Legal Executive (NZ Law Society) and is an approved volunteer to Waikeria Prison for Sunday Church services.

### Geoff and Jill McMillan



Geoff first visited a prison on a Church team 42 years ago. Earlier a Motor Reconditioner and a Secondary School teacher. During 22 years with OAC Ministries they became involved in a Prison Church team. Geoff later became an Associate Chaplain at Waikeria Prison.

Geoff and Jill were foster parents for 14 years prior to Jill's 18 year employment by Parentline Trust as the Fostering Co-coordinator. During their 5 years with Prison Fellowship NZ (Waikato) they were a part of a search group with a concern for the needs of prisoners on release. They then established Prison Care Ministries which became a Charitable Trust in 2004.



Geoff and Jill have 4 adult children and now have 12 grandchildren. They attend Chapel Hill Community Church and are approved visitors to NZ Prisons.

