

# The Encourager

The magazine of Elevate Christian Disability Trust

Issue 179 | July 2024



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## Welcome



Change can be exciting but at the same time, it can be hard. It is also something that we can't avoid in life. This year has felt like a roller coaster for our trustees and staff. Many are facing big changes in their personal lives. Implementing our Strategic Plan has also meant a lot of change. I am so grateful for our trustees and staff. They give so much of themselves and are committed to our vision.

Jean speaks so beautifully in her devotion to how we can turn our eyes to God and be still, during difficult situations or change. I am reminded of how much we need to trust God and that we can rely on Him to be unchanging.

Our main article in this issue is in honour of Hugh Willis. As most of you will know, he passed away at the beginning of this year. His life was one of service and commitment, to his God, his wife, and the Elevate community. Thank you, Hugh, for all the years you gave to seeing the vision of Elevate outworked. As you read this article perhaps you might even learn something new about him.

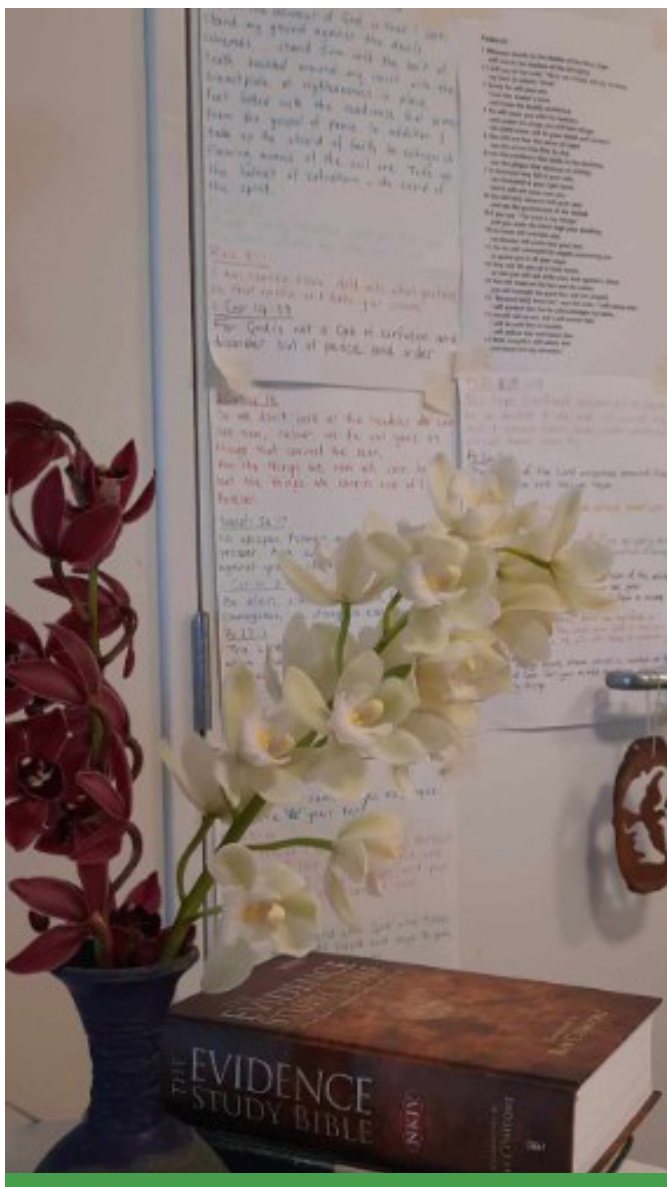
Two large-scale Christian events that happen annually are Festival One and Northern Easter Camp. It is so encouraging to see the intentionality put into making these events inclusive of people with disabilities and those who are neurodiverse. I hope you are also encouraged.

I am excited about presenting our organisational values to you in this issue. They capture the heart of Elevate and how we are, in a simple way. Many articles in this issue express these values well. It was a privilege to interview Ross Bay, Hamish Muir, and Debra Dorofaeff. You will enjoy reading about their lives and involvement with Elevate.

Be encouraged, God is moving in our nation and the lives of many individuals. Let us continue to fix our eyes on Christ and trust in Him.

**Nāku noa, nā**

**Kirsty Armitage | Director**



## Being Still

By Jean Griffiths

I have been contemplating the story in Exodus 14; God used Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery, crossing the desert into the chosen land of milk and honey. They had been enslaved under Pharaoh for many years. The Lord provided and protected them throughout the journey.

The Israelites had seen many miracles along the way, but they were still in fear. Before reaching the Red Sea, the Israelites saw Pharaoh and his men in the distance pursuing them, causing much terror in their eyes. At that moment, they had forgotten all the miracles God had performed to get them out of Pharaoh's grip. They started to moan and grumble and said that it would have been better that they go back to Pharaoh's land.

They were angry with Moses for taking them out into the desert to die. They were focusing on their circumstances instead of putting their trust in God. I love Moses' answer in Exodus 14:13-14 (NIV); "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the Lord will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again. The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." And of course, that is when God parted the sea for them to escape the Egyptians.

Oh, wow. How many difficult situations have we been in and been ready to give up? Sometimes we might think it's much easier to go back to familiarity, even if it's back to bondage, rather than walk into the unknown and trust God.

Certainly, on a much lesser scale to the Israelites.... for us, it may even be the simplest of distractions that can get one frustrated and angry; this can then fester. So how does one try to be still in God?

My date with God is often at my dining room table. This morning, I hear the noisy roadwork sounds, planes flying overhead, sirens blaring, neighbours throwing abuse, footsteps upstairs, disruption of a fire drill, the lawn mowers, the temptation of my fridge and goodies...Arghh all these noises together drive me crazy! Grrrrr...anything that can distract me immensely from my time with God. And at the same time, I sit here surrounded by beautiful orchids, a small eagle plaque, special verses stuck on the wall, bibles, a canvas painting of a colourful butterfly, and a little angel, where these bring warmth of comfort and peace.

I turn my eyes to these affirmations of God's awesomeness and beauty. I begin to feel at peace. I sit at my table reflecting and thanking God for his goodness for far too long. The noises and temptations blur into the distance.

When the heart becomes still and calm, the lens changes, and thankfulness and gratitude become the focus. Let's pray Psalm 100, a Psalm of Thanksgiving, together. Lord, yes, I do want to make a joyful shout to you and come into your presence with singing. What a great way to enter your gates, with Thanksgiving and Praise. You are good: your mercy is everlasting, and your truth endures to all generations. Thank you, Lord, for this great reminder of turning turmoil into stillness. Amen



## Salvation Message

Do You Want to Hear Some Good News?

God loves you dearly! John 3:16 “For God so loved the world that He gave His one

and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.”

He offers you freedom and a new life by His grace, you are no longer held by the wrong things you may have done. Ephesians 2:8 “God saved you through faith as an act of kindness. You had nothing to do with it. Being saved is a gift from God.”

You can belong to His family and have a fresh start! 2 Corinthians 5:17 “Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.”

God wants you to have hope! Romans 15:13 “May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

If you would like to become a Christian (a follower of Christ) you could pray something like: Lord, I admit that I have made mistakes. Thank you that you died on the cross to forgive me. I receive your forgiveness now. I want to live for you and live life with you, every day. Thank you for loving me. I receive your love. Amen

Did you pray this prayer? We would love to connect with you and help you find a church to connect with. Feel free to email us at [prayer@elevate.org.nz](mailto:prayer@elevate.org.nz) or phone us on **09 636 4763**.

## Resources

Did you know that Elevate has lots of free resources that you can access on our website? Not only can you read the latest Encourager magazine issue, and easily share it with others, you can read previous issues as well! We also have digital versions of our amazing books ‘Everybody Welcome’ and ‘Beyond Disability’; these resources are great tools for churches seeking to create places of belonging for people with disabilities within their congregations.

Or are you looking for some encouraging devotions? We have those too (most of which are available in audio)!

And for those who like reading individual articles, head over to our articles section



on our website. We have a large selection of articles on various topics, including our latest Christian Leader’s articles which are aimed at people within leadership roles to encourage, inspire, and challenge perspectives around disabilities.

**Make sure you go to [elevate.org.nz](http://elevate.org.nz),** check out our many resources, and share them today!



## **Hugh Willis and His Journey with Elevate**

**By Onne Hiemstra**

On January 11th, Hugh Willis took up citizenship in Heaven. The funeral service at City Impact Church, attended by over 700 people, was a celebration of his life and a testament to his faith. Many more watched the service online, 'zooming in' from the Elevate branches nationwide and from overseas.

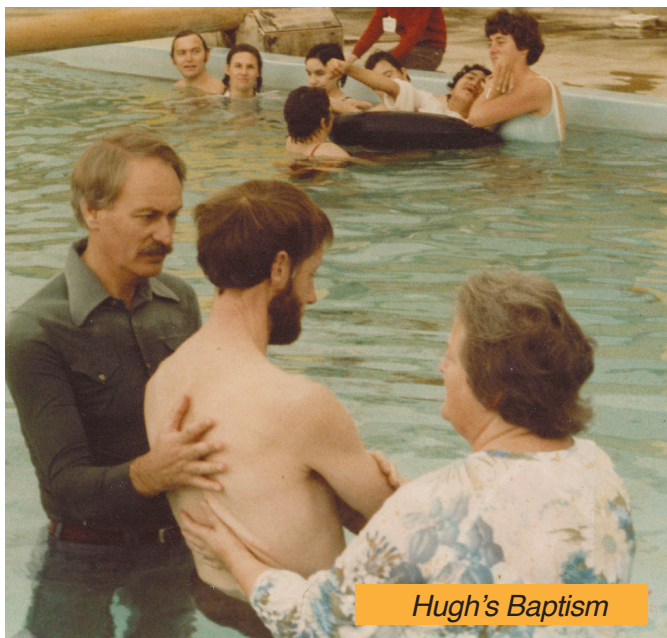
There's a lot to say about Hugh Willis, beloved husband, Dad and grandfather. A man who loves a game of cricket, driving cars, hot pools, quality chocolate, sudoku puzzles (the complicated ones), plants, biscuits, tramping, and pudding more than the first course. A Mathematics teacher for over four decades, and a bush-man who built tracks in the Awaruku Bush Reserve.

For most of us, Hugh was the behind-the-scenes person to keep the Elevate Christian Disability Trust (previously known as CMWDT, Christian Ministries with Disabled Trust, or CFFD, Christian Fellowship for the Disabled) going. The story of Elevate Christian Disability Trust is now nearly 50 years old. It was the vision and mission of two very determined ladies, but a lot of it would never have

happened if it wasn't for the loyal commitment of Hugh Willis. He was Di's rock and supporter.

Di shares, *"It all started so small, in our living room, and we had to learn everything when it became an official thing. We had no clue what we were doing, but Hugh would work into whatever hour of the night... I don't think I ever asked his permission. I don't think he has ever tried to stop me. He never said 'no' to any of my ideas. Hugh would say; if you heard from God, we should do this, it will happen."*

Hugh Petrie Willis was born on 8 July 1934, the son of the Anglican minister at St. Andrews in Epsom. Teaching was his career-to-be. Hugh had done Mathematic teaching stints in Canada and the UK, before he returned to New Zealand, and settled in Torbay. He took over his father's house, close to the beach. It wasn't until a tramping trip on the South Island in 1968 that an English-born, fellow trumper caught his eye. She pretended to be interested in mountain plants, just like him, but Di could not play that card very long. Both were not Christians yet and independently from each other, they came to faith during the now famous



Hugh's Baptism

Billy Graham crusades a little later. They married in May 1970.

*"Hugh was unflappable. He was very steady, strong, with this wonderful dry humour...God was his spark, to guide him, to let him know what he had to do",* Di says.

Hugh did it all over the years: chairman and treasurer of the Trust, editor of the Encourager Magazine, host of many meetings, taxi driver, visiting camps and branches, the author of eight books and pamphlets, photographer, and keeping Di of track. Di recalled, *"He was called out once for taming the Tornado: me! He received a certificate for that during one of the camps."*

Often, he was found behind a camera taking photos. In that first year the meetings in their

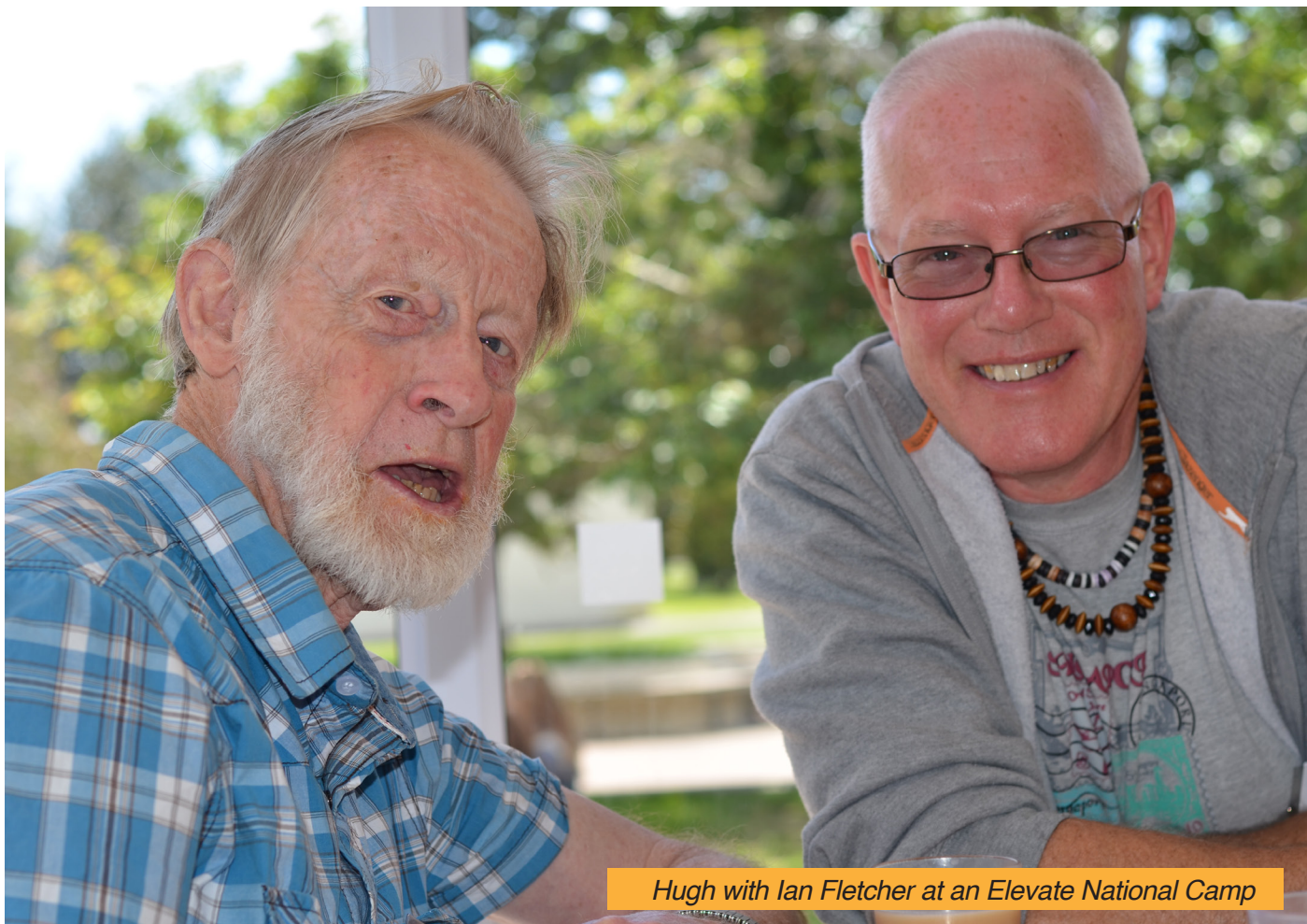
home had 81 people crammed in the living room; including 9 wheelchairs. Hugh complained there was no room for his camera to take a photo. It was a rare occasion when Hugh was in the photo. One of those occasions was at the first CFFD National Camp at Totara Springs Christian Centre, Matamata, in 1982. Hugh was baptised during that camp. *"It was the only time he was in that pool",* Di laughs. Hugh rarely missed a National Camp since and we were thrilled that Hugh was able to visit the 40th camp, Labour Weekend 2023, with his daughter Jenny.

One of the toughest responsibilities for Hugh was the quarterly publication of The Encourager magazine. *"Hugh was always on the lookout for good stories,"* says Di. *"Sometimes there was not much to start with, but then it would fall in place. It is God's magazine after all. The magazine has made its title proud. It's been an encourager for many people, not just in New Zealand; many a copy has been sent overseas."* The message was always as in the quote from 1 Samuel 16:7, the church and we as Jesus' followers should see as God sees: not focusing on the outward appearance, but on the precious soul within, to look at the heart. All believers are a part of the body of Christ. A church without disabled people is a disabled church.

The hours have been rewarded. Di and Hugh both have the Queen Service Medal. *"I don't think Hugh was a perfectionist, but he was thrilled and satisfied to see a job well done."* When recently sorting through things before the sale of their home, Di found Hugh's QSM



Hugh receiving the Queen's Service Medal



Hugh with Ian Fletcher at an Elevate National Camp

certificate among a pile of papers. This speaks volumes of the humility that Hugh had.

Hugh fully understood the importance of the ministry he was in. As quoted in his book *On The Knife Edge of Faith*, from a testimony given by Margie Willers, during one of the many church services: “She surprised the congregation by stating that the most disabled person was the one who had no faith in Jesus Christ. The whole congregation was shocked by this assertion from a woman who was confined to a wheelchair, ... and who spoke with great difficulty.”

On their 30th wedding anniversary, Hugh spoke of the personal importance of his involvement in the ministry. *“The fact that both of us are heavily involved in the work with people with disabilities has been of tremendous value to our relationship.”*

Over the years Hugh has impacted many people’s lives; the number of people who attended his funeral is a testament to this. He met many different people over his lifetime, some famous and many not. Regardless of who he was talking to his humour was the same.

Di recalls when Joni Eareckson Tada visited New Zealand on an invitation from Elevate (then CMWDT). *“When Joni sat at our dinner table, Hugh came out with a pot with a live rabbit inside; so funny. In reality, Hugh had “never cooked a meal since he married!”* We will leave you with a response from Joni Eareckson Tada on the news of Hugh’s death and the beautiful words from the hymn *Be Still My Soul*.

**RESPONSE FROM JONI EARECKSON TADA**  
- on the news of Hugh’s death (with permission from Di)

When I received the news last night, about Hugh’s homegoing to Heaven (...) I thought of the words of the old hymns, that I turn to when my heart is hurting. I am singing these words over you from *Be Still My Soul*:

Be still my soul, your God still undertakes,  
To guide the future, as He has the past.  
Your hope, your confidence let nothing  
shake, All now mysterious shall be plain at last.  
Be still my soul, the waves and winds still know  
The One who ruled them when he dwelt below.

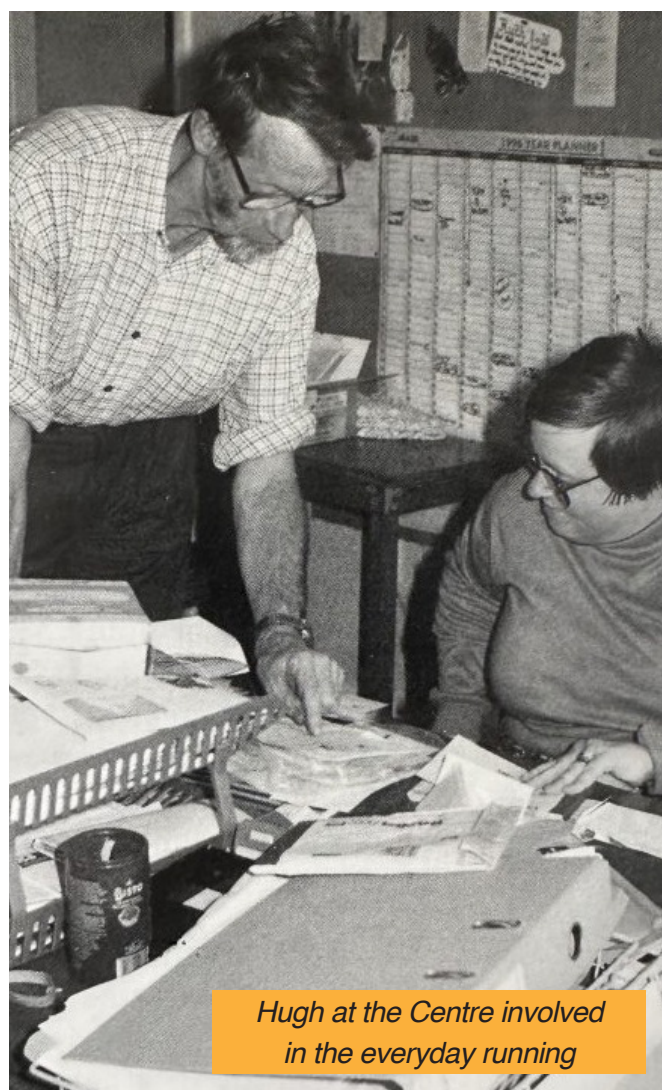


*Hugh receiving some chocolates from Ps Geoff Wiklund at Elevates 40th Celebration*

And aren't you glad that we all know the Lord Jesus? Soon and very soon we shall all be with our wonderful Saviour and with their loved ones, with no more death or disability or old age. What a glorious day that shall be when we will jump up and down and laugh for joy! Until that time, may God's comfort be your consolation, and may the hope of heaven strengthen your heart!"

**BOOKS WRITTEN BY HUGH WILLIS**

1. The Knife Edge of Faith - stories behind the ministry
2. The First 21 Years - history of the trust, 1976 – 1991
3. For Bitter or Better - 11 testimonies by people with disabilities
4. I Hammered on the Gates of Heaven - poems by Beverly Henry
5. He Lifted Me - poems by Yvonne Hammond
6. He is Altogether Lovely - poems by Yvonne Hammond
7. Superb Walks in Albany East Coast Bays
8. The Awaruku Bush Reserve



*Hugh at the Centre involved in the everyday running*





# Respect Welcome Come Alongside Serve

## Values

By Kirsty Armitage

When we began creating our current strategic plan, we asked ourselves this question: “How can we ensure Elevate is still around in another 40 years?” This has continued to be a guiding question for us as we outwork the strategic plan. An important element of ensuring the future as an organisation is that our vision and values (our way of doing things) remain true to the original heart of the organisation.

Last year we began the process of defining our organisational values. In our process, there were opportunities for staff, members, ministry leaders, and partners to contribute their thoughts about what our values could be. All of these were collated to present to the Board of Trustees at the beginning of this year when we met to identify the core values. We then worked on refining these and deciding on a word to capture each value. We kept the description as simple as possible and aimed to capture the behaviour that we think displays each value.

I think we have captured the core values of our organisation well and I hope you do too.

Blessings,  
Kirsty Armitage

**Respect** – we treat each other with kindness and equal importance.

This speaks of the value we all hold as humans made in God’s image and that we all deserve to be treated with respect and dignity.

**Serve** – we look for ways to help each other

This speaks of how we all have something to contribute. The way we do things at Elevate is that we all chip in how we can, and we look for when others need a helping hand.

**Welcome** – we are warm and friendly to all people

This speaks to the atmosphere we seek to create at all our events of acceptance and welcome. We can come as we are.

**Come Alongside** – we share our knowledge and encourage each other

This speaks to journeying with people, churches, and other Christian organisations. It’s supporting each other to grow and taking whatever time that needs to.

# Large Christian-led Events & Accessibility



Gathering together is a core part of the Body of Christ; we sharpen each other, encourage each other, and learn together. Across Aotearoa, groups gather with one thing in common: Christ. Two significant gatherings Elevate has loved having connections to are Northern Eastern Camp and Festival One.

Festival One is an intergenerational Christian festival that gathers people around faith, art, and music. Nestled in Hartford, Karapiro, and spanning four days in January, you'll discover a large event with a huge desire to make its space and experience accessible to people with disabilities.

Elevate has accepted the invitation to partner with Festival One to host the Soul Lounge during the four-day Hartford experience. Coming alongside organisations to create spaces that include people with disabilities is a priority for Elevate. We are thrilled to create a space of refreshment amid Festival One for people with disabilities in 2025 and continue the Soul Lounge at the Festival.

The directors and team of Festival One pour hours of thought, logistical juggling, conversation, planning, and quick-thinking to adapt and support people with disabilities to engage in Festival One to the best of their abilities. The Elevate National Support Office team has witnessed their care and deep consideration of ways people can experience the Festival.

Festival One and its leadership are an outstanding example of an event team that has committed to learning from past events, adapting, growing, and seeking out people with the strengths needed to bring their vision to life.

23.9km away and a few months later, you'll find Northern Easter Camp (E.C.). 4,000 young

people gather to celebrate Easter and share positive experiences that shape their future and walk with Christ. Blue Bradley and his team are hosting a camp that allows people who are neurodiverse to take time out of the hustle and bustle of the camp when they are feeling anxious, overstimulated or overwhelmed. They are supported by their youth group leaders back at their own groups' campsite in a comfortable environment.

The moment of quiet away from the rest of the party can enable young people who are neurodiverse to do what they need to do to regulate and care for themselves well. Northern Easter Camp fosters a sense of safety, belonging, and care in local community groups who then take their camp experiences back to their towns and cities. Young people and their leaders can livestream the main session, speaker, or worship time from a familiar space.

Moments of silence continue at Northern E.C. with the 'silent disco'. Approaching the marquee, you might think you've missed the party. There are no vibrations from the speakers or music that grabs you before you even enter. Headphones that sit snugly on your head replace large speakers, and you control your party.

Northern Easter Camp and Festival One listens to the experiences of their participants and uses their resources, skills, and capacity to continue growing their events to become more inclusive of people with disabilities and people who are neurodiverse.

If you are a leader of an event and want to enquire regarding making your event more accessible for people with disabilities and people who are neurodiverse, reach out to us through our contact information on our website.

# Disability Awareness Sunday



**Disability Awareness Sunday (D.A.S)** is an opportunity to be intentional about disability awareness and education within the church. We each have a significant contribution to make to the Body of Christ. Disability Awareness Sunday extends beyond the second Sunday in June each year; it is also a life-long invitation to continue learning about how we can love people different to us.

The 2024 theme “Just Love”, allows you to dive deep and reflect upon how you can “Just Love” in your interactions with others. “Just Love” may raise questions for you: what does that even mean? How do we show love to each other? How are actions, I understand to be loving, received by others?

The Elevate National Support Office Team selected five concepts that sit paramount in how we can “Just Love”:

1. We all need Jesus: He whanaungatanga tāngata te mea nui ki a Ihu Karaiti.
2. We all have a story: Whakatika ōu arotahi.
3. We all need connection: Hononga tāngata.
4. We all want to belong: Kaua e whakawehewehe.
5. We all make mistakes sometimes: Kia pai tō korero hē.

The five concepts encourage us all to not over-complicate disability inclusion. They remind us to recognise that we each have different experiences of life, different perspectives and the same need for genuine connection. We encourage you to reflect personally or collectively; within your life group or church; on these five concepts using our free “Just Love” Bible Study series, available on our website.

You can explore more Disability Awareness Sunday resources on our website, including posters and videos.

# Volunteer Spotlights



## Debra Dorofaeff

Everyday challenges vanish as they cross paths with Debra; a problem-solver, leader, and initiator, with an eye for detail. You'll find her moving quickly between tables in the Auckland Drop-in centre, or serving at her local op-shop. Wherever small hiccups in an operation crop up, or support is needed, Debra is involved in showing care and bringing solutions.

Moving through her day, Debra provides practical help and leaves people feeling supported, informed, and cared for in her wake. Often, the smallest actions show a thoughtfulness that extends beyond the surface levels of a relation-

ship or interaction. If you've been around Debra, you may have had the privilege to receive a warm greeting, a wave through the window or across the room, or her problem-solving in action. You may have had a plate of food saved just for you from a special morning tea or a hot drink you love delivered to your seat.

Life can be hard, and Debra is an individual whose actions and presence ripple into people's lives with hospitality, service, and compassion. These three characteristics transform your day and help you feel welcomed, loved, cared for, respected, and like you belong. What underpins the heart of Elevate Christian Disability Trust, is modelled in Debra.

Debra, we thank and honour you for every cup of tea, every interaction supporting someone and providing service, every early morning or busy day. We recognise and celebrate your long service to the Trust that has spanned the Tauranga and Auckland regions, celebrated people's birthdays, supported Torch Outreach, and coordinated volunteers on camps. You have supported the Encourager magazine, spoken in Church services, and helped to grow awareness of physical and intellectual disabilities.

Thank you, Debra, on behalf of the entire community of Elevate, for making Elevate exactly as you describe it: "it's not just a place, it's a family."



## Hamish Muir

"A security guard" is a role that would never aptly capture the incredible character of Hamish Muir; an entire magazine and fifty volunteer role titles may do his contributions to Elevate some justice.

Hamish would strike you as a hilarious, well-respected, and beloved man. The beginnings of his involvement with Elevate were hesitant – to say the least; Di was persistent, and Hamish's annual "no, I will not help out" was worn thin. He found himself at Elevate's National Camp as a security guard, apprehensive at the vast number of people charging around the camp-

site with physical and intellectual disabilities. He was off to a fantastic start as a volunteer.

Hamish is a smart man, with a quick wit, and undeniable love for seeing people become all they can be. He recovered from the initial shock and became an essential piece of the camp tapestry. You miss him when he's not there and National Camp is even more National Camp when he is there.

Poolside, Hamish has spent long afternoons hoisting people in and out of the water. Amazingly, he's never taken a tumble into the pool. When asked why he's so willing to tackle the hard and repetitive labour, he says he wouldn't take "no, I can't get in" (because of physical limitations) as a response. "Nothing is impossible", he echoes.

Amid recently journeying challenges with his physical health, he laughs over fond memories from camp. A curious leftover suitcase after delivering all the luggage to their owners, to learn an unfortunate young man on a school karate trip had his suitcase stolen by Elevate Christian Disability Trust at the airport.

You could call Hamish any of the following roles across his 25 years of service: a fantastic coach, an MC, worship leader, luggage-deliverer, boundary-enforcer, impromptu dancer or skit participant, chair-setter-upper-er, camp-food-consumer, sleep-schedule supporter, and a virtual camp leader during the COVID-19 lock-down.

Hamish, we are so grateful for all you have contributed to the ministry.

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## **The Leadership of Ross Bay**

**By Ella Kirby**

Ross Bay was "born very young,"; and laughter will cause your sides to hurt when you spend time with him. Immersed in family and Christian camping from a young age, you would have found Ross as a young boy in Nelson on his family's home farm; otherwise known now as Teapot Valley Christian Camp. During his Nelson-based childhood, it was not uncommon for him to be around family or other people with different abilities, or who faced challenges that were different from his own life experience. He recalls watching his Aunt sign their church services to those in the congregation who were deaf or hard of hearing.

His father was integral to Christian camping in New Zealand and helped scout land for campsites across the country, eventually taking the Bay family to the North Island. Ross was exposed to the challenges of large camps on farmland when most young people were learning to ride a bike. His current role in supporting the site logistics of Festival One with his fast-thinking engineer-like mind is well depicted in a 1962 story: a young Ross rushed into the bush after some unfortunate events one Easter Camp to retrieve Koromiko leaves to make a tummy-soothing tea for the uncomfortable camp attendees.

The passion for camping, strengths, and



*Ross with Margie Willers (Elevate Co-founder)  
at an early Elevate National Camp*

leadership capabilities formed in Ross throughout his upbringing is a testimony to the hand of God training him for his impact internationally in helping to create places of fellowship through camping. His testimony and story thus far are echoed in these snippets of his life: pushing a wheelbarrow or pouring concrete as a young boy in the very beginnings of Tōtara Springs Christian Centre, to in time become its director. Ross has continued the Christian camping legacy of the Bay family; his father who was one of three trustees for Tōtara Springs Christian Centre, helped to establish the campsite in 1967...*Continued on the next page*

The mission and passion in Ross' life were exemplified in the life of his wife-to-be, Gaylene, who was a camp pianist for Tōtara Springs Christian Centre. The two married and made serving in camps a core part of their lives together from 1976. They tackled the "thick and fast" holiday camps together with three camps stacked back-to-back, Tuesday to Thursday, Thursday to Saturday, and on repeat the following Saturday to Tuesday. The pair loved leading others in everything from sports camps to canoe camps.

Papa New Guinea came knocking; in 1984 Gaylene and Ross accepted an offer to bring their campsite, logistical, hospitality, and leadership skills to support talented missionaries who were helping keep airstrips open and focused on practical work. They made the move with their kids aged seven, five, and one; a brave one-way ticket and planting of their family to where they felt held the next chapter. In Papa New Guinea they were put to good use and honed their skills, returning to New Zealand to begin serving at Tōtara Springs on close to a daily basis, completing bible college in 1986 and going full-time with the campsite in 1987.

Gaylene and Ross' approach to directing Tōtara Springs Christian Centre was hands-on with every camp they hosted. They made being present for their guests their utmost priority, and through their value of hospitality, they connected with Elevate Christian Disability Trust. Working with Di and Hugh on camps each year, the Tōtara team continued to adapt their campsite to suit the accessibility needs of Elevate camps; removing walls in the toilets, adding accessible showers in each new build, ramps to buildings, and fundraising with the local Rotary to install a Hydralift at the pool.

Ross has been an advocate for Elevate Christian Disability Trust and accessibility. He shares a hilarious memory of the early days of camps at Tōtara Springs, where busloads of

people would arrive from Auckland and the luggage compartment would be filled with prosthetic limbs, mobility equipment, and pieces of wheelchairs for the long weekend camp. The system for these first camps saw a pile of plastic human appendages and metal gear ready to be claimed by their respective owners...quite the sight.



On behalf of the Elevate Christian Disability Trust community past and present, we acknowledge the longstanding contribution and cornerstone Ross and Gaylee Bay have been to the ministry. Last year Gaylene and Ross faced a huge health challenge supported by prayers from across their communities; Ross miraculously survived an aortic dissection. He is thrilled to be celebrating his and Gaylene's wedding anniversary this year, and their lives so far together – the best is yet to come! Ross and Gaylene continue to influence and lead in New Zealand Christian camping and festivals, and overseas, specifically in African nations, in four different associations and fifteen countries.



Ross with Siobhán Jansen, Elevate staff member and former Tōtara Springs Staff



Di Willis, Ross Bay and Chris Kinman (current Tōtara Springs CEO) At the 40th National Camp Celebration



## Get involved!

### How can you be involved with Elevate?

There are many ways that you can become involved with Elevate Christian Disability Trust.

**Prayer** - Pray for the ministry, the people, the provision, the opportunities!

**Promotion** - Let others know about us! Give The Encourager magazine to someone who needs it today. Like and share our different Facebook pages and posts. Read our blog articles and share them with your church, friends and whānau.

**Practical** - Come and volunteer at the Drop-in centre, regional branches, national or regional camps or at the national support office in Onehunga.

**Provision** - by donation, automatic payment, sponsorship, bequest, or through goods and services.

Contact us at [info@elevate.org.nz](mailto:info@elevate.org.nz) to find out more or to register your skills/abilities so we can link you in to our next suitable project or event. Also, get in contact to find out where we have regional branches around New Zealand.

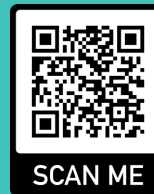
#### Donate

To make a donation to Elevate Christian Disability Trust using a Credit Card please visit <https://elevate.org.nz/support-us/> or Internet Banking.

#### Our bank account details are:

Elevate Christian Disability Trust  
**Account:** 01-0142-0029706-00 (ANZ).  
Please include your name and the word **“DONATION”** as a reference.

DONATE



SCAN ME

### Share Your Story

Have you been encouraged or impacted by one of our articles? Do you know someone whose story would encourage others?

Email us at [encourager@elevate.org.nz](mailto:encourager@elevate.org.nz) | Phone us on **09 636 4763**

### Sign Up to our E-Newsletter

If you would like to sign up to receive our monthly E-newsletter you can do so by scanning the QR code or by contacting us at the office.





## Elevate Christian Disability Trust

For over 40 years we have been working to create places of belonging, hope and encouragement, to empower people with disability to live to their full potential in Christ.

### Our Ministries:

- **CFFD** (Christian Fellowship for Disabled) mainly for people with physical disabilities
- **Joy Ministries** mainly for those with intellectual disabilities
- **Emmanuel Support** for families with children who have disabilities
- **Torch** for those who are blind or visually impaired
- **Drop-in Centre** in Auckland where we run a day programme for people with disabilities

“We  
welcome  
your  
enquiry”



CFFD



JOY  
MINISTRY



EMMANUEL



TORCH  
MINISTRY



DROP IN  
CENTRE

### NATIONAL SUPPORT OFFICE

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