

BE KIND, CALM AND SAFE

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In light of COVID 19 Bridgebuilders Trust wishes everyone good health going forward this year. New Zealand is currently in its third week of lockdown and we anxiously await for updates and information on the transition into Alert level 3. Along with measures put into place while in level 3 it allows us to move a little bit into our normalisation of routine. This year has affected all of us in different ways and has brought families and friends closer together, while being quarantined. Staying positive, calm and kind to each other is important as we are all facing this epidemic as a global nation.

Our prayers and blessings are with our local and international members, and we hope that you all keep healthy and social distance yourselves. Together we can all break the chain of transmission.

As we near the end of April we also reserve time to remember those who served for our country. Anzac Day is a important day for both Australia and New Zealand nations in commemorating the huge sacrifice made, in order to preserve freedom and peace.

GREETINGS FROM PRESIDENT

By: *Rose Tauetule, QSM*

These are extraordinary times and we're all in it together. We are all stepping up to the challenge as New Zealanders. The challenge to do our part is to stay home in our bubbles and save lives. Therefore, we are helping to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 virus. No one saw this coming but God.

We are people of faith, so we are hopeful and not fearful. This virus has changed a lot of people's lives but it's for a short period only-as we know it-we have all come together as a nation to support, and uplift each other through this crisis. The old cliché, 'I am proud to be a Kiwi' kicks in, and this I believe is true. It hasn't been a smooth sailing, but we have tried and made the effort as New Zealanders to show our true spirit of being good sports by adapting to the changes made.

This was not an easy ask by this government, but we understand the bold actions they have taken. They have put the nation's health and well being at the front line of priorities, ensuring testing areas are provided and those affected are supported. As the leader of this nation the Prime Ministers position on this wouldn't have been an easy one. Therefore, as a women and leader we salute and commend her for taking this bold led, and all those in government that have stood alongside her in making this decision. The hard decisions made will benefit us and our nation in the long term.

Therefore, I am grateful to lead such an amazing and dedicated board with many talents. Though we are few in numbers, we make an impact on the lives of the families and individuals we touch. Let's continue to uplift each other in our work as Bridgebuilders for 2020 and remember all our Bridgebuilders International sisters and their families, around the world who also are going through this crisis. World wide we will all come out standing strong from this experience.

Depending on our faith, more than ever before our prayers for all that have been impacted by this COVID-19 pandemic spread locally and globally.

We continue to promote hope, faith, love and encouragement into everyone that crosses your path. Sometimes the small bright spot they need to make a difference and you're the one making it happen for them.

The following bible passage I want share was from one of my mentors, which fits so well in this situation: - Psalms 91 "God Our Protector". It gives a sense of peace and Trust in God. This is a journey of faith and hope and we are doing it together as a nation that believes in the goodness of humanity.

God's Grace and Love to you all

Rose Tauetule, QSM
President



BOARD MEMBERS AREA



Distance learning?

By: *Genieva T-Fakalaga*

No more 5:30am alarm bells, packed buses, full on runs from one class to the other – New Zealand is officially on lockdown for 4 weeks. Requiring all educational institutions to transfer its learning to online platforms, from primary aged children to tertiary students.

Universities have been quick to adapt into shifting courses online, allowing students to continue their degree with wide access to a range of online services. Zoom, Canvas, Blackboard and Student networks are few of the systems that are currently being used in opting out on onsite classes. In an expanding world of technology, it is evident to see how it has benefited educational sectors especially this year with COVID-19.

The accessibility to online platforms has allow students to work through courses without penalties in repeating it another semester. Several benefits in learning at home have not only saved me money but also time to spend on learning and be with my family.

It has been a big learning experience moving classwork and labs online, as I consider myself to absorb more in a classroom environment. Reliable internet minimal distractions and a strong motivation to keep going are the main elements when relocating online. Though I find myself struggling to keep sane with the numerous times in reconnecting to the internet. Nevertheless, now on a two week break I can enjoy staying inside watching films, cooking and playing with my cats. (The black cat is not mine it's my neighbors)

The Bridge

There are times in life when
we are called to be bridges,
not a great monument spanning a distance
and carrying loads of heavy traffic,
but a simple bridge to help one person from here to
there over some difficulty such as pain, grief, fear, loneliness, a
bridge
which opens the way for ongoing journey

When I became a bridge for another,
I bring upon myself a blessing,
for I escape from the small prison of self
and exist for a wider world, breaking out to be a
larger being who can enter another's pain
and rejoice in another's triumph.

I know of only one greater blessing
in this life, and that is, to allow someone else
to be a bridge for me.

Joy Cowley
"Aotearoa Psalms"

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UPCOMING EVENTS

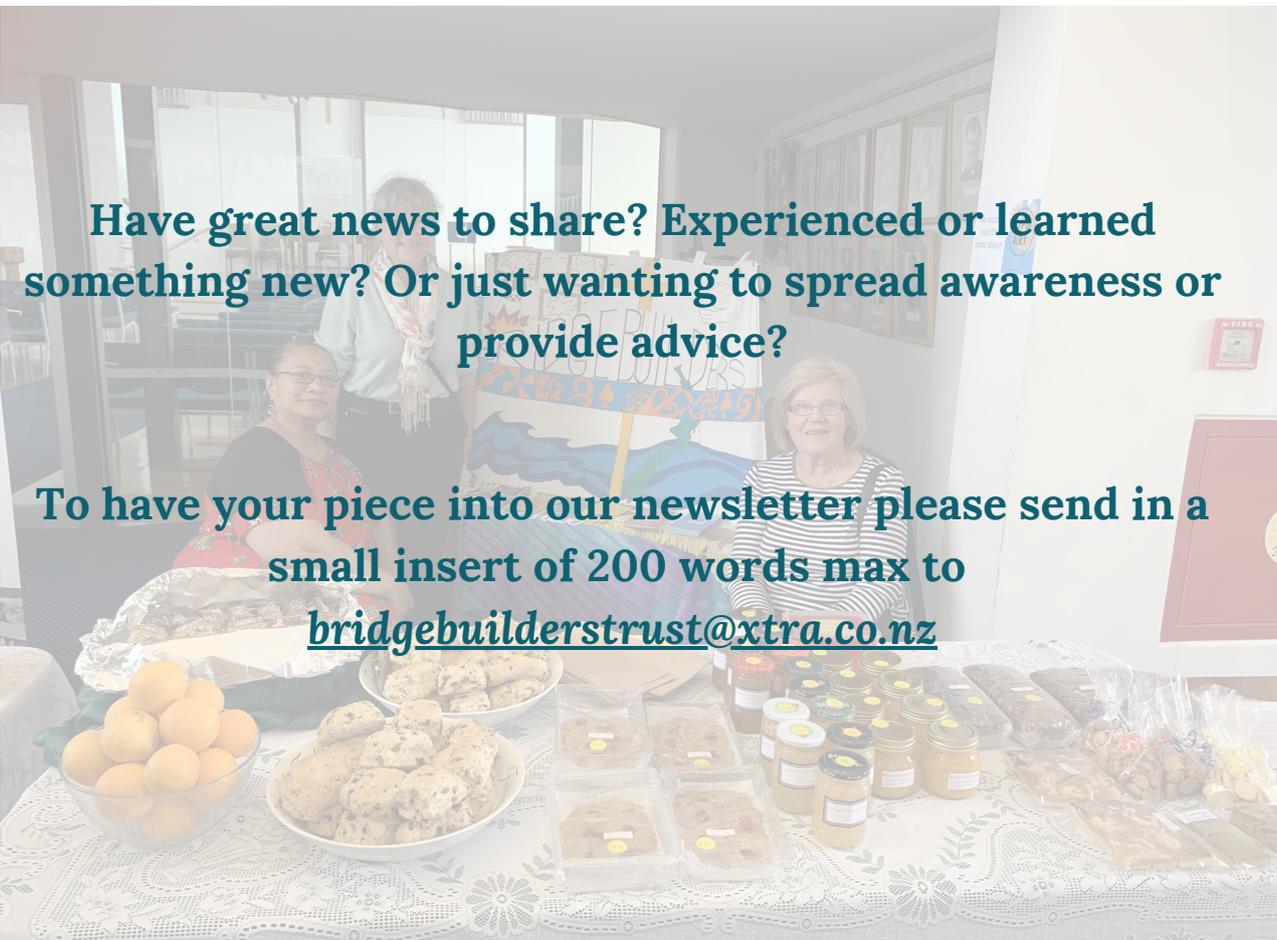
This year have put a hold on all of our events till further notice. Bridgebuilders Trust will be shifting to our online platforms.

Keep an eye out for upcoming Facebook Live sessions and zoom conferences ongoing through the year

Facebook name: Bridge-Builders NZ(Bridgebuilders Trust Inc)
<https://www.facebook.com/bridget.builder>

Website: <https://bridgebuilderstrust.weebly.com/>

HAVE YOUR SAY?



Have great news to share? Experienced or learned something new? Or just wanting to spread awareness or provide advice?

To have your piece into our newsletter please send in a small insert of 200 words max to bridgebuilderstrust@xtra.co.nz

MEMBERSHIPS

Thank you to the members and organizations that have sent their membership fees. If you have not yet paid your annual membership. Please send in your payment of \$20, this assist with cost of newsletter distribution, administration and communication by the office.

Please note that when making payment the name of the banking account is: -

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