

Warkworth Christian foodlink

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kindly supported by
Warkworth Rotary & Lions Food Rescue, Kiwi
Harvest, Mahu Vision Community Trust

NEWSLETTER, 30 August, 2021

Church Support

Warkworth Christian Foodlink began in 1992 as a joint venture of churches in Warkworth/Mahurangi and today is supported by the Anglican, Baptist, Catholic, Methodist, Presbyterian and Ablaze congregations. We are grateful for and rely on their continuing support through the provision of both financial and volunteer help.

Purpose

One of the major goals of the Warkworth Christian Foodlink during the last 12 months has been to provide an increased level of food for people, families and whanau experiencing food insecurity due to financial hardships and the economic shocks caused by COVID-19. We have also been investigating what steps need to be taken towards creating a Food Secure Community here in Warkworth and the wider Mahurangi area. (Food security in developed countries is defined as access to nutritionally adequate, safe, and personally acceptable foods and the ability to acquire them in a socially acceptable way).

Highlight

A major highlight as reported in the last newsletter was the opening of a new 6m x 4.8m storage facility to house the foodbank operation. This was achieved with the help of the local community providing some materials, donating labour and making financial contributions. The building was completed at the end of February and fitted out with benches, shelving and new fridge and freezer space for a cost of less than \$20,000.

We held an official opening on March 4, when foodbank helpers, community partners, and members from local churches and service organisations were present for a ribbon cutting ceremony, karakia, followed by morning tea. Of special significance was the ribbon cutting by Ron Buckton & Diane Thompson who have been volunteers with the foodbank since it began operation in 1992.

Acknowledgement

Ron Buckton has done an excellent job managing the finances of Warkworth Christian Foodlink since it first began. Following some health issues Ron stepped down from this role at the end of 2020. We thank him for the outstanding contribution he has made to this work both in managing the finances and working tirelessly as a volunteer making up and delivering foodboxes over a 28 year period.

Management

In April 2021, with the approval of the ministers of the partnering churches, it was agreed that the finances along with the day to day operation of Warkworth Christian Foodlink be managed by Mahu Vision Community Trust. This has proven to be a positive way forward with the added benefit that donations to the foodbank will now officially qualify as tax deductible as from 1 July, 2021 as Mahu Vision Community Trust is a registered charity.

Warkworth Christian Foodlink was established in 1992 as an initiative of the churches in the Mahurangi and is managed by Mahu Vision Community Trust.

Food Parcels

Food parcels continue to be provided to families who are going through a tough time often due to life's circumstances - unemployment, sickness, housing, vehicle repairs, maintenance, electricity bills, family breakdowns. A recent trend has been more families taking care of extended family members and in some situations other complete households. There are very few homes available to rent in the greater Warkworth region and people on fixed incomes or benefits find it extremely difficult to find affordable housing

Covid-19

The Foodbank is operating as an essential service under Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. Staff are following the health and safety guidelines for the safe operation of a foodbank as outlined by MSD and MOH.

Numbers

In the 12 month period from 1 July, 2020 to 30 June, 2021

Warkworth Christian Foodlink provided

610 parcels to 1076 adults and 1212 children.

That was an average of 50 parcels **per month** to 90 adults and 101 children.

Note: For August 2021 lockdown, we have provided 88 parcels to 185 adults and 197 children

Thankyou

The Foodbank is one of the significant ways the Mahurangi community helps care for its people. Through the Covid-19 pandemic we have had 6 new volunteers from the community offer to help the foodbank on a regular weekly basis. There is also widespread support from community groups including Warkworth Lions and Rotary Club Food Rescue, Local Schools and Mufti Days, local Business Houses and generous individuals and families. This support comes in the way of donated goods, fresh fruit and produce as well as financial donations. Earlier this year a citrus orchard owner gave permission for volunteers to pick mandarins from his property to use in food parcels.

We are extremely grateful for the flood of donations in response to the August 2021 lockdown. If you have made or intend to make a donation to the Foodlink account, please include a name and contact address or email so that it can be acknowledged and a tax receipt issued.

Thank you once again for your partnership and support .

Blessings

Roger Mackay

Manager

Donations for the foodbank can be made to-

**Warkworth Christian Foodlink
ANZ 01-0482-0005321-11**

To receive a tax deductible receipt for your donation please send your name, address with date and amount given to food@mahu.org.nz