

Raincliff Trust Board

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Raincliff Youth Camp and Conference Centre

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SYNOD Report 2022

The Raincliff Youth Camp situated on Spur Road, Raincliff in South Canterbury continues to serve the community at large, as it has done now for 51 years as a Christian Camp. We marked the 50th milestone with a Celebration and Luncheon on Sunday 17th October 2021 at the camp where we planted a Black Beech and dedicated the Kitchen to Flo Carter and Shirley Quantock. We also put up a Commemorative Board for the early committee members. We brought together those who were involved in the early days of the camp and there were memorabilia on display. Despite the Covid restrictions which reduced numbers and the wet weather, spirits were high as memories of setting up the camp were exchanged. The early minutes had been located and distributed to Raincliff Committee members, which were all read beforehand, detailing fundraising, one being a trek from Washdyke to Raincliff. Reverend Warren chaired many of the early meetings and he and Cliff Robinson were two of the original instigators for building a camp. One of the options suggested was a camp at Tekapo but the site at Raincliff was finally settled on.

The buildings and grounds continue to be maintained to a high standard by a lot of voluntary helpers and some paid part time staff. Plumbing, painting and building repairs have all been funded from revenue and grants.

The Trust Board also maintains and looks after St David's Church and graveyard as detailed in the Diocese lease. The Church was repainted some time ago and essential maintenance continues to be carried out. A Christmas Carol Service, local Christenings and Weddings are held at St David's.

The playground is a great asset to the camp, as well as being enjoyed by the many children in the local area. The extensive lawns are mowed regularly and working bees of locals and committee members have kept the rhododendron garden and 110m native border on the stop bank mulched and sprayed for weeds.

The Earthquakes in Canterbury have caused no ongoing issues for the buildings at the Camp or St David's Church, the latter being a wooden structure and we have managed to secure ongoing reasonable insurance without earthquake cover.

During the last financial year to 31st March 2021, there have been 839 Adults and 640 Youth stay at Raincliff from 32 different groups for a total of 115 nights. There were also 108 day visitors. These figures are slightly down on last year due to Covid 19. However, many groups who had to cancel have rebooked for a later date. The camp is proving popular with Schools, Weddings, Reunions, Christian groups, Clubs and Seminars. A total number of 48,191 adults and 50,086 youth have now stayed at the camp over the last 51 years.

Juliet Shallard

Secretary Raincliff Trust Board