



# Hawke's Bay

June 2023

## Cyclone Clean-up

When the cyclone hit our area, we had plenty of opportunities to serve in the immediate clean-up and now in the ongoing recovery. We have been out helping where we can. Maria has been networking among churches (locally and further afield) and the community to connect volunteers to places that need practical help while aiming to be able to share the ultimate hope in Christ with people. It has been an incredible privilege and opportunity for people to be welcomed into the homes of people they may otherwise have never met while helping to clean out silt and damaged furniture. There is still plenty to do and we continue to keep in touch with those we have met along the way.

## Hope at Easter

Maria coordinated the Hope booklet delivery for Hastings in the lead-up to Easter. Between people from 5 churches and 8 individuals, the area was well covered. A highlight was when a pastor from Flaxmere offered to take on that whole area with his church (previously a harder area to cover), even despite the cyclone. Another highlight was that some schoolgirls joined Maria for the weekends to help deliver some to sections of Hastings - they are good workers! One day Maria was going to drop Hope booklets off to a volunteer, but she had accidentally been sent to the wrong address. She turned up at the house of someone displaced by the cyclone, which was a blessing and a good opportunity to be able to talk and pray with these people.

## School Holidays

Maria was involved with Easter Camp and Kids' Camp with her church. Both were full-on times but valuable as the gospel was shared and young people were discipled. At Easter Camp, two of the teenage girls she invited along were hungry to learn more from God's Word and there were some good discussions outside of small group times.

Maria and Kevin also took eight kids away for two nights to Ōtaki to share the gospel and give out literature. They were a big encouragement and help in delivering Hope Booklets in Palmerston North to some areas that still hadn't been covered. The team



RBC Kids Camp