

Raincliff Trust Board

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Raincliff Youth Camp and Conference Centre

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5th May 2021

SYNOD Report 2021

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 50 years as a Christian Camp. We intend marking this milestone with a 50th Celebration Service and Luncheon on Sunday 17th October 2021. We will bring together those who were involved in the early days of the camp and have memorabilia on display.

It is with great sadness that we note the passing of our wonderful groundsman John McHaffie who kept the grass mown and the camp maintained to a high level for many years. Our heartfelt thanks and condolences were sent to his wife Helen, who also helps at the Camp.

However, 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. A recent project was installing Heatpumps in the Main Hall.

The Trust Board also maintains and looks after St David's Church and graveyard as detailed in the Diocese lease. The Church has been repainted and essential maintenance 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 with the help of a ride on lawnmower. 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 867 Adults and 968 Youth stay at Raincliff from 39 different groups for a total of 122 nights. There were also 201 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 47,352 adults and 49,446 youth have now stayed at the camp over the last 50 years.

Juliet Shallard
Secretary Raincliff Trust Board