

Gwenith's Painting



In the first issue of *The Mission Participant* we asked if anyone needed a volunteer for a day. Rev Gwenith Alexander responded with her need for painting at the Heatherton-Dingley manse, and Mission Catalyst Charlie Navallo took up the challenge by introducing her to Alanee Henshaw and the Kombi Krew. This is the story of what happened next and it is just a small example of what is possible when we start to share our strengths.



Gwenith's Letter

Charlie,

The task taken on by the Kombi Crew was not any easy one and took hours of preparation. There is a wall of windows that could only be done by hand and that needed to have the glass masked out - hours of work with very little to see for it. The team was always bright and enthusiastic with no complaints about the onerous task - they just hopped in and did it. A couple of coats all round and hours spent on the old mission brown wood panelling: cleaning, filling, sealing, undercoating ...all followed by two top coats. They have no idea what a blessing it is to me! Talk about "angels in old painting duds!!!"

Every time I've walked into the house or even just gone into the lounge room since the lounge and the entrance way was done I have had a great sense of delight. The paint work is so fresh and new and to get rid of that old mission brown makes a huge difference.

I am one of those people to whom environment is crucial to our sense of well-being and mental health and the freshness and lightness of the new work lifts my spirits. I know the purple is a dark colour but it is also a fresh colour and goes well with the purple and turquoise I already had in the room.

Heatherton-Dingley, as you know, is a small congregation made up of mainly retirees. Our income is limited and that's the reason they can only afford to have a minister half time. Funds are also limited for any maintenance work that needs doing and so to have this practical ministry, introduced by the Mission Participation Resource Unit is a real blessing for the church and for me in particular.

It is easy for a church or a minister to feel isolated or discouraged when resources are limited and a project like this underlines the unity we have in the faith and in particular, in the UCA.

Everybody who has seen the work that has been accomplished so far has shown great delight and enthusiasm for what has been done.

Our thanks ... particularly mine, because I am the one who benefits most from it, cannot be expressed more enthusiastically. Thankyou so much. May our Lord continue to bless you as you continue to serve in this way.

Peace and joy,

From Gwenith Alexander and the congregation at Heatherton-Dingley



What is your vision?

This is one story of the change that can happen when we move from problem solving to sharing our strengths.

What else might be possible?

Do you have something you can share with others?

Can you find an opportunity for others to share with you?

We're here to help

For further information on this story or any other query relating to participating in mission - talk to us. Contact the Mission Participation Resource Unit (MPRU):

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