

Chaplains report April 2024

Despite January feeling like a very slow start, I still saw 13 staff for one-on-one meetings and took a workshop on self care and boundaries for the residential leaders from student accommodation. It was a great workshop with good engagement from the students and lots of questions and conversation.

It was good to get away for an extra break at the end of January/ start of February especially since we had Covid over Christmas and New years.

February and March have flown by with good numbers of students making contact, mostly through the website which has been nice to see. We already have a Christian students group up and running and I am planning to run an Alpha course starting on the 23rd of April on a Tuesday morning. Both of these were initiated by students who have shown an interest in growing in their faith. Five students came along on the first week and we are hoping to see the group grow as we advertise it more on campus. An advertisement is going out in the student newsletter shortly.

I have continued to keep up my connection with the international team and had a great time helping them out with their spring festival on both campuses, where I helped to serve food, make tea and with the arts and crafts. There was a great turnout to their city event with over 300 students participating.

O week was held in March on both campuses and the turnout was a little disappointing this year with a change to the way they ran the event meaning there was no incentive for the students to engage with each of the services. I had some good conversations with students in the city and 18 students taking flyers for the Christian students group. Rotokauri was a lot quieter with not a lot of engagement at all.

I have changed my day at Rotokauri to a Monday this semester and this is going well so far with a good amount of students on campus and some good interactions with their hospitality students who run a café on a Monday. This has been a good way of connecting with students which has always been more difficult at Rotokauri.

I have been keeping in regular contact with our aniwaniwa coordinator and have been supporting staff and students from our rainbow community this year.

I am doing toasties at the gardens again this semester and the first week was a big hit with new flavours added to the mix and great uptake from the staff and the students. It is a little difficult this semester as the two biggest classes aren't on campus the same day so I have gone with the day that has students who like to come for a chat too.

I am still feeling fatigued since having Covid as well as one of my autoimmune conditions flaring up as well so I have been trying to focus on self care this year.