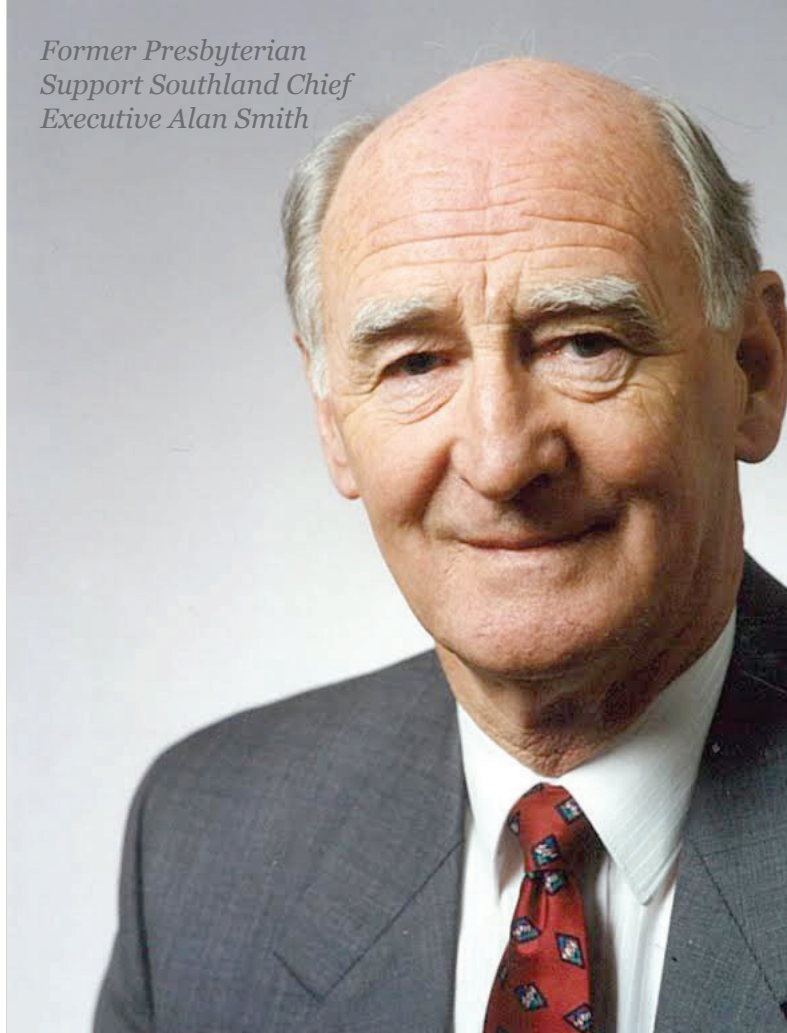


Former Presbyterian
Support Southland Chief
Executive Alan Smith



Former PSS Chief Executive Alan Smith Remembered

It is with sadness Presbyterian Support Southland acknowledges the passing of former Chief Executive Alan Smith

Alan Smith spent 25 invaluable years at the helm of Presbyterian Support Southland.

From 1970 to 1995 he led the organisation as Chief Executive, growing it considerably and achieving much, due to the dedication he poured into the role.

Among many highlights under Alan's leadership, Walmsley House was developed (later the Smith Lounge was added and named in his honour), Vickery Court was purchased and Family Works was developed. His vision for the need to establish Family Works showed immense foresight; evident today in the growth and development of the services offered within PSS that impact numerous Southland families every year.

It is with sadness we acknowledge Alan's recent passing.

His contribution to PSS will always be remembered; not only for his public contributions but for the input he made to people's lives in his own, quiet way.

Staff Survey

Thank you to staff who took the time to complete our staff survey.

The survey was conducted electronically and will be conducted every two years. Your contribution ensures we get a good insight into the staff who work diligently across all our services. We have some very preliminary data at present but expect to have a full report for each area by October.

A selection of Fiddle Twiddles donated to Presbyterian Support Southland



Fiddle Twiddles making residents smile

Craft donations well-received

The creation and donation of more than 45 Fiddle Twiddles is putting a smile on the faces of residents in Presbyterian Support Southland homes.

Fiddle Twiddles are hand-crafted items where no two are the same. Each has attachments that keep restless fingers busy and can provide stimulation and conversation for those who have dementia. The Fiddle Twiddles help focus attention, stimulate senses, exercise hand muscles and entertain users.

The items have been crafted by ladies from the Georgetown Bowling Club as well as some Peacehaven Cottage/Townhouse residents and have been donated to Presbyterian Support Southland.

Peacehaven Hospital and Residential Manager John Boleyn said the items had been well received.

"The residents love the concept and it was great to see them having a play with them, looking inside and – with a smile – realising they keep their hands warm," he said.

Te Reo a learning curve for Family Works staff

After finally deciding to pursue a long-time interest in Te Reo, Rosanne Wybrow took her Family Works colleagues along for the journey.

Five staff at Family Works now boast a new qualification completing the Level One Te Reo course at the Southern Institute of Technology.

It was a move prompted by Buddy Programme Co-ordinator Rosanne Wybrow, who had harboured an interest in Te Reo for many years.

"I've always had a keen interest, it was only last year the timing was right to do something about it," she explained.

Keen to further explore the language Rosanne, her husband Garth, and four fellow Family Works staff members – Maree Sellars, Glenda Sadlier, Anna Kirkwood and Rochelle Smith – signed up for the 36-week SIT course, which Rosanne says has only heightened her love of Te Reo.

"There was a lot of learning, not only about the language but about the culture and about whakapapa, which was so interesting," she said.

"It was fantastic having my colleagues join the course as well. We would often get together over a lunch time and go over what we had learnt, or study for a test."

Rosanne, who has already signed up for the Level Two course, says while learning about the Maori culture and language was a genuine passion for her, she believed it would also have huge benefits in her work.



Doug Johnstone, his new daughter-in-law Gugu, and his son, Brian, after the couple's wedding in the chapel at Peacehaven Village.

Wedding bells ring at Peacehaven Village

When Doug Johnstone's son, Brian, said he wanted to get married in Invercargill Doug knew the ideal venue – and he didn't have to go far to get it all organised.

Doug Johnstone was delighted when his son Brian called him from Cape Town in South Africa, to say he and his fiancé Gugu had been married.

But he was even more thrilled when Brian told him the couple wanted to get married again, in Invercargill, with his Southland-based family in attendance – and he knew just the place.

Doug, who has lived in his Peacehaven Village cottage for six and a half years, organised the date (6 June), the venue (the chapel at Peacehaven) and the wedding celebrant, former Presbyterian Support Southland Chaplain Lynley McKerrow.

"We had the photos afterwards at the

chapel, then all went to my place, then headed to the Paddington Arms for a meal," Doug said.

"To have it all here at Peacehaven was just great and it was a really special time. My late wife, Joyce, passed away in 2010 and she would have just loved it, and loved Gugu."

Gugu's parents were unable to attend, having stayed at home in Durban.

Brian and Gugu, along with Gugu's 5-year-old daughter Kenina stayed in the visitor's cottage at Peacehaven so saw plenty of Doug during their trip. The couple and Kenina now plan to move to Melbourne, so Doug is hoping to see plenty more of the newlyweds in future.

New feature

Getting to know...



Nanette Benington

Role with PSS:
Buddy Programme
Coordinator –
Wakatipu Basin

Started in: 2007

Give us a quick overview of your role:

It involves recruiting and training Big Buddy volunteers to match with Little Buddies aged 4-12 years who are in need of extra adult support. It's also about providing support for the Little Buddy families and liaising with groups in the community such as schools, agencies and sponsors.

What's the number one thing you love most about your job?

Reading the Little Buddy reviews such as one from yesterday; "I like how my Big Buddy is trusting in me and how she is always organised and how she is wonderful." Obviously seeing the changes in the children is up there as well.

What do you enjoy outside of work?

Walking, skiing, book club and I have just started playing golf with my husband!

What's the one thing, you can't live without?

My two children aged 19 and 21! Oh, and my two cats Batman and Louie.

What's your favourite quote or saying?

"No problem" (It's hard to have a "real" problem when you live in one of the most beautiful places in New Zealand and have such a great job!)