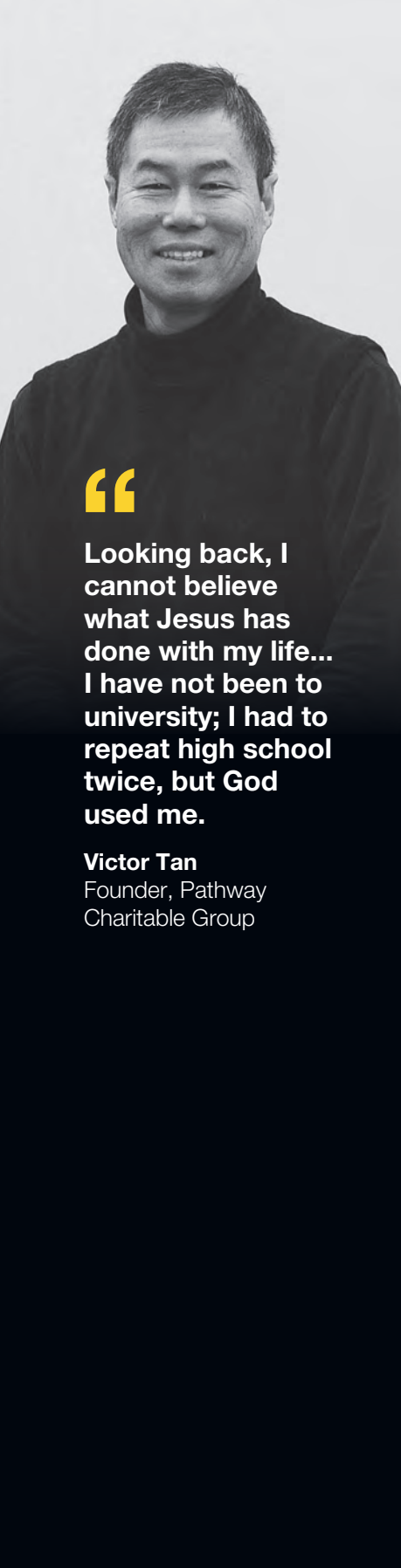


# pathway.



Reflecting on our journey | A steady year for PAH  
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Looking back, I cannot believe what Jesus has done with my life... I have not been to university; I had to repeat high school twice, but God used me.

**Victor Tan**  
Founder, Pathway Charitable Group

# Reflecting on my journey.

**Victor Tan - Founder, Pathway Charitable Group**

**As we wrap up the year, taking time to reflect on where we've been is always important. As part of this, one of our founders, Victor shares some insights about his journey and how it led him to founding Pathway Trust.**

“When I reflect on Pathway's vision, it is clear to me that God has had a plan for us. God's vision for Pathway has always been Isaiah 58:12. It's about raising foundations that have been destroyed, repairing lives and restoring families. I myself could identify with this verse because of my own journey of life transformation.”

“After asking Jesus into my life, I felt a heavy burden, like a big army bag being lifted off my shoulders. From that day onwards, I became a different man. That was at the age of 28. I'm 70 now, so God gave me 42 extra years to live.”

“Looking back, I cannot believe what Jesus has done with my life: one area was starting Pathway, being involved in taking care of people and encouraging them. I have not been to university; I had to repeat high school twice, but God used me.”

“I envision the possibility that the people we work with will not only experience God's love but also be

empowered to contribute positively to the lives of others, particularly by providing their families and children with a solid foundation for life.”

“I've learned that we cannot do this on our own; we need God in our lives. This remains my hope for everyone Pathway works with.”

**Victor's reflections remind us of the heart of Pathway's work, seeing potential where others might not, and providing the support and community that allows transformation to flourish.**

In the pages ahead, we share about Pathway Affordable Housing, our recent Supporter Thank You Night event and a donation with a rich history. We also highlight Oak Tree Australia, a recent community reintegration event and one of our Impact Investors. Lastly, we share a story of transformation and showcase Alloyfold's work in Australia.

**As always, none of this is possible without the generosity and commitment of our supporters. Thank you for being part of this journey.**

## \*Our Terminology.

**Tū Ora:** The men we work with through our reintegration services. Gifted to us by Te Taumutū Rūnanga (Ngāi Tahu), the term means 'To stand in the place of wellbeing'.

**Wāhine:** The women we support through He Kete Oranga o te Mana Wāhine and other services.



# Supporter thank you night.

**Last month, we held our annual Supporter Thank You Night at Silky Otter Cinema, bringing together our volunteers, donors, impact investors and supporters for an evening at the movies.**

The centrepiece of the event was screening our latest client video short film, Chantelle's story. Her candid account of her reintegration journey, the complexities she continues to navigate, the trauma she carries, and the ongoing barriers many women face when rebuilding their lives resonated deeply with many of our guests. For those in the room, it provided a sobering and necessary reminder of just how difficult the journey of reintegration can be, and why we never give up on people who want to make a fresh start.

We also heard from Pathway Affordable Housing Board Member, Renee, and Navigate Initiative Unit Lead, Uelese, in a short interview, where they offered their perspectives on reintegration and the latest updates about our work. Their insights, combined with Chantelle's story, created space for meaningful discussion about what effective reintegration support looks like on the ground.

After the interview, guests enjoyed a feature film of their choosing and went home with a bag full of goodies from our generous sponsors: New World Wigram, Arepa, Barkers, Mind Your Temper, Bacon Brothers, Coffee Worx, Bellbird Bakery and Coffee Supreme.

All in all, the evening was a great chance to catch up with so many people who are part of our Pathway Whānau. We want to thank all of our supporters for the time and resources they dedicate to this work. We really do mean it when we say they are our lifeblood.



## A steady year for PAH.

**As 2025 draws to a close, Pathway Affordable Housing (PAH) is reflecting on another steady year where every one of our homes continues to be tenanted.**

One of the key elements that makes PAH different from other housing providers is the wraparound support we offer, ensuring that both practical and well-being needs are met.

We're especially aware of this around Christmas, a time which can be difficult for those who are isolated or struggling financially. Recognising this, Wellbeing Coordinator Emma has been in touch with each of our tenants, providing small Christmas gifts and continuing to build connection with each tenant.



**"We care about our tenants as people," Emma explains, "Providing a gift at Christmas is a small but meaningful gesture to show them that they are seen, valued, and part of a caring community."**



# Roots of revitalisation.

**Nestled beside the Navigate Initiative's main meeting room inside the grounds of Christchurch Men's Prison, a small carving workshop is a real haven for some of our Tū Ora.**

Many of the men are highly skilled woodworkers who take the opportunity to create, others are learning the craft for the first time. Often, they show our support staff and volunteers how to carve, which is a great opportunity to teach and pass on expertise; a first for many of our Tū Ora.

The carving workshop, however, faces two challenges: the need for suitable wood, and the need to connect Tū Ora with the craft once they leave the unit. Due to our most recent collaboration, both of these challenges are now being addressed.

Earlier this year, the Christchurch City Council began a waterway restoration project around Addington Brook in Hagley Park. Some of you may have seen this work being undertaken on the corner of Deans and Moorhouse Avenues. After passing the works on her commute, Reintegration Navigator, Milly, reached out to the council to see if they would be interested in a collaboration.

To our delight, the council was indeed interested and kindly offered to donate wood from some of the trees that were going to be felled throughout the course of the project. Interestingly, however, these were not just any ordinary trees.

When European settlers arrived in the 1850s, they found the land "unprepossessing in appearance" and began landscaping a large area within the city, now called Hagley Park. English oaks and beeches became central to the park's character from the 1860s onwards, and many of the trees removed from Addington Brook likely date from this era of the park's development.

In recent years, Addington Brook has become overgrown and degraded, with steep banks posing a safety risk to pedestrians in the park. In order to revitalise the area, the council has levelled out the land and removed some of the trees and gifted them to our carving workshop. Project Manager Mark Mullaney reflected on the partnership: "We just wanted to help where we could, and hope that good things come from the donation."

The council's generosity means we now have a good supply of wood for the workshop and for the men in the community who want to continue carving. For Milly, who organised the donation, the significance is clear. "It means the world," she says.



**“Whakairo is a beautiful art that anchors some of our men. It's a skill they can use to pass time behind the wire; they can pass it on to other men and take it out into the world when they leave.”**

Ultimately, this donation will help our men on their journey to a fresh start. A journey of transformation and new life, not unlike the journey of the trees gifted to us. After being transported on a ship from across the world in the 1850's, they were planted and provided shade and a resting place for Cantabrians for approximately 175 years. Now, after being felled, they will be transported to Christchurch Men's Prison, where they will be transformed into ornate carvings and works of art; a real fresh start, you might say.



*The planting of a Coronation oak in the Christchurch Domain in 1911 (Photo Credit: Christchurch City Libraries)*



*A staff picnic enjoying the shade of the trees within Hagley Park, date unknown (Photo Credit: The Press)*





# Building on solid foundations.

**Earlier in the year, we made the decision to expand Oak Tree into Brisbane Australia. Leading the project is Grant Thomson, who has had the task of establishing Oak Tree in the Brisbane container services industry.**

While progress was initially slow, recent months have proven that our strategic approach to market entry is paying dividends. Rather than competing for every job available, Oak Tree Australia deliberately focused on logistics companies handling consistent workloads of 10 to 30 containers weekly. This allows the team to establish permanent crews at client sites and match local staff to specific operations, creating more sustainable employment pathways.



**“The time it has taken to understand the market and build trust with the right clients has been worth it,” Grant explains.**

“We wanted to avoid sending people all over Brisbane for sporadic work. By establishing ourselves with solid mid-sized companies, we’ve created the foundations for real career progression for our team members.”

The strategy has attracted significant attention. One major client recently tested Oak Tree’s capabilities with a challenging assignment. When two ships’ worth of product arrived simultaneously, doubling the normal weekly volume from 20 to 43 containers, the Oak Tree

Australia team rose to the challenge. The client was impressed with this responsiveness and has already recommended Oak Tree to potential customers.

Six months in, Oak Tree Australia has 23 active casual staff members and is on track financially. Grant’s vision for the year ahead is ambitious: establishing five or more large clients processing over 100 containers weekly, whilst growing the team to more than 50 employees.

Yet beneath the business metrics lies the heart of what makes Oak Tree a Pathway social enterprise. “True to our roots, we’ve been helping people get back into the workforce on the Gold Coast and Brisbane, whilst building a safe, encouraging and productive workplace,” Grant reflects. Several team members have returned to regular work after months of unemployment, and partnerships with local workplace agencies have helped individuals transition from benefit dependence to sustainable casual employment.

This is particularly important for our growth and shows that our purpose has remained consistent through the expansion. Ultimately, Oak Tree remains a key source of revenue for Pathway Trust, and provides employment opportunities for those who have barriers to employment. It’s awesome to see this mission continue as we gain ground with Oak Tree Australia.

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## A day to give back.

**In the past, many of our clients have been the opposite of what would be considered a ‘good neighbour’, and this often weighs on them. So, when there’s an opportunity to give back to the community, our Tū Ora get behind it.**

This was the case at our recent community day, where ten of our clients came together to help out with the maintenance of Drug Arm’s Art East studio building. Art East is a close partner of Pathway, particularly because they run an art group in the Navigate Initiative unit at



Christchurch Men’s Prison each week. Through these art groups, many of our Tū Ora have good relationships with the Art East team. “The level of respect that they have for the Drug Arm staff coming into the NI is huge,” Reintegration Navigator, Milly points out, “Which is why



it was super important for them to be able to go and give back to them and do something for that building."

The team of Tū Ora, alongside our staff and volunteers, rolled up their sleeves and got to work one Saturday morning. Windows were sanded and painted. Floors were undercoated and given fresh coats. Shelves were built and installed, and when the work was done, everyone gathered to share a meal together.

What made the day particularly powerful was the presence of volunteers. "I saw the smiles on the faces of our Tū Ora, the realisation that 'this person knows nothing really about me and we're building a shelf together,'" Milly recalls.

**"That's priceless for their self-esteem and self-worth. To have someone from the community who sees them as a person, not a prisoner."**

Milly noticed something else, too. "It's great to see so many men engaged and doing well, and some longer-term guys too." For many of these men, community support is sparse "The guys generally don't have community support," Milly notes. "So when they come to these events and see the community around them, they feel part of it, not separated from it."

We want to continue doing these community days, and Milly has her eyes on an adventure for the next one. "There's a lot of fear for the men, going out and trying different things on their own, so having a group makes it a lot easier. Fishing is a big passion for lots of them, so we'd love to do that next."

If you have fishing gear or expertise that you'd like to donate to this initiative, get in touch with us at [connect@pathway.org.nz](mailto:connect@pathway.org.nz)

## Navigate Initiative supporter profile:

**All of the work we do, everything highlighted in this very newsletter, would not be possible without an extensive network of supporters. One of these supporters is the local insurance provider Plan and Protect.**

Dan McKirdy, Director of Plan and Protect, has been an insurance adviser since 2012 and is well known for his honest assessments and integrity. He established his Christchurch-based insurance advisory business on the principle that people matter.

With this in mind, the team at Plan and Protect helps to negotiate insurance policies and ensure that clients understand their cover so that when the time comes, it works as expected.

Whether navigating personal insurance, business protection, KiwiSaver advice, or the complexities of ACC cover, Plan and Protect's approach is grounded in the fact that "You are your biggest asset, and we are there to help you protect that."

This has been true of our experience with Plan and Protect, who've been providing our insurance at Pathway for several years now. On top of this, they've also been helping to fund our community-led reintegration approach, the Navigate Initiative.

## PLAN & PROTECT

Protecting your biggest asset - you

For Plan and Protect, being part of an initiative that helps to make our community safer is a natural extension of the values that guide their work. "We're really happy to support Pathway, you guys do great work," Dan says.

We are very happy to recommend Plan and Protect to anyone in need of insurance or financial advice. You can find out more about their services at [planandprotect.co.nz](http://planandprotect.co.nz). Additionally, if you'd like to join Plan and Protect in supporting fresh starts, we welcome both individual and corporate investment. To learn more, visit [pathway.org.nz/ni](http://pathway.org.nz/ni) or contact [connect@pathway.org.nz](mailto:connect@pathway.org.nz).







# Kevin's story.

**After a life sentence and several recalls, Kevin\* has served approximately twenty-two years in prison. Now, a year on from his release, he reflects on his journey through the criminal justice system and the Navigate Initiative.**

"My upbringing was quite challenging with my mother. She would beat me because I was quite hard out, like probably ADD, and back then that wasn't even a thing. You were just a disruptive child, and you get told that you're stupid and that you'll never amount to anything. Sooner or later, you start believing it."

Substance use started young; cigarettes, alcohol, then cannabis. Kevin left school at thirteen and began working, but he was drawn into gang life. "I got charged with supplying cannabis from the clubhouse. I got sentenced to four years. After that, I was out for about eighteen months, and then I was involved in a murder and got sentenced to life, with an eleven-year minimum."

Following his life sentence, the cycle of release and recall repeated multiple times. "Once I got released, I stayed out for a year or so, then relapsed and got recalled. I served another two years and then got released. I was out for another twenty months and then got recalled."

During one period in the community, Kevin found his way to the Salvation Army church. "In my past, the message I got from church was that God was this big ogre in the sky waiting for you to do something wrong, and then he'll pounce on you, but that's not the case." After the Salvation Army team showed up for him when he needed it, his perspective shifted. "Now I see God as a loving, merciful and faithful father figure, who only wants good for you and is patient and, no matter what you do, will walk with you through it."

One of his recalls led Kevin to the Navigate Initiative, where faith-based support from people with lived experience made a difference. "My experience has been good with Pathway; they walk beside you. And it's good

because Matiu comes from a similar lifestyle to me, so if he gives me some wisdom, I can't say 'what the hell do you know, you haven't been from that world' because he has. So yeah, I find that helpful too."

**Reflecting on his life, Kevin has learnt something profound. "People aren't born bad; it's their circumstances that have contributed to the life they lead. If you're taught as a child that violence is the way to sort your problems out, well, what are you gonna do?"**

"I still have struggles because when I feel people disrespect me, that's a big trigger for me to go back to how I used to be. I'm still struggling with that today. But I'm up for the battle, and I want something different for my life. Because that's what I did, it's not who I am."

Kevin's gratitude is heartfelt.

**"I just thank the supporters of Pathway. The world needs more people like them. Now I want to be what the creator wanted me for, not what the world turned me into. Because he didn't want me to be a murderer, a gang member, a drug dealer and a lifer. He didn't want that for me."**

His philosophy is simple: "If I can be a better person than I was the day before, life will be good. And it is good."

*\*Name has been changed*





# Alloyfold at work in Australia.

**Whether in the USA, China, Europe or Australia, Alloyfold has touchpoints around the entire globe. Some of these locations are suppliers and customers, but others are where our key trade shows take place. Being a commercial furniture wholesaler operating in the 'business-to-business' space, trade shows provide the opportunity to meet with our target audience all in one place at one time.**

Recently, this has kept us busy in Australia where we have offices in both Sydney and Melbourne. Over the past few months, we attended three significant trade shows: the Australian Christian Churches conferences in Victoria and Western Australia, and most recently, the Australian International Movie Convention (AIMC) on the Gold Coast.

At each show, the Alloyfold team sets up a booth including a display of our products. Then, throughout the show, they remain on hand, discussing seating options and specifications with any patrons of the event who come to our stall. These touch points create leads that our sales team follow up on after the show, and eventually (with some skilful sales work), they become tangible sales.

The first two conferences in Australia included key stakeholders of churches across Victoria and Western Australia. Our team made several connections at each conference and came away with several leads for upcoming church build projects.

Likewise, the AIMC show produced good results. This show includes suppliers and customers from all

parts of the cinema industry, from Walt Disney and Warner Brothers to Popcorn carts; every element of the cinema experience is covered. Here, our team connected with several major industry players who have cinema builds on the horizon.



**“We had the opportunity to present a large range of existing products and future prototypes,”**

explains Ash Puri, Alloyfold Account Executive at our Sydney office. “Namely, the Luxury Double Recliner with a privacy shroud, and the Boutique Kubrick recliner received praise while being tested by clients on-site.”

With strong connections established and prototypes receiving genuine interest, the leads generated will now be pursued by the sales team, translating opportunity into tangible growth that benefits Pathway’s mission.



*Some of our new products on display at the AIMC.*

## pathway.

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