

## PRESS RELEASE:

Monday the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2010

The historic Coast Road Church and Cemetery in Wainuiomata is about to enter a new phase of its life. The Wainuiomata Pioneer Church Preservation Society is to become the new guardians of the one hundred and forty seven year old church, its grounds and the gravesites.

The Wainuiomata Pioneer Church Preservation Society will be holding a special Sunday service on the 11<sup>th</sup> July at the St. Stephens Union Church in Wainuiomata, commencing 10.30am , then moving to the Coast Road Church for the official handing over ceremony to acknowledge the role of the Methodist Church and more recently, the Hutt City Uniting Congregation Church in caring for the building and associated grounds over the years. A light lunch will be held after the service and before the handing over ceremony.

Those with family ties with the Church or the gravesites are encouraged to attend this historic event.

Originally built in the 1863 as a Methodist Church by the pioneer families who settled in the Wainuiomata valley, it soon became an important community building serving as a meeting hall, dance hall as well as a church for several denominations.

Church services, weddings and funerals have been held in the Church building up until recently. The Society has photos that show several changes to the back of the Church building including the installation of a metal roof after a storm blew off some timber shingles.

Information about the Church and its graveyard or the Society will be available at the door. Further information about the service or the Society can be obtained from the Society's Chairman Mr. Colin Prouse on 233 6565 evenings or from its web site [www.coastroadchurch.org.nz](http://www.coastroadchurch.org.nz) or from the St. Stephens Union Church web site [www.hcuc.co.nz/saint-stephens-wainuiomata.htm](http://www.hcuc.co.nz/saint-stephens-wainuiomata.htm)

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