



THE DOCTOR'S
WIFE

The Doctor's Wife

*"When you're a heart surgeon,
that's what you do...
If you are his wife, you tag along and
find something useful to do."*

A film about Dr Alan Kerr and
his wife Hazel in Palestine.

SUNDAY 7 SEPTEMBER 2.30PM
FIRST CHURCH MARTINBOROUGH
CORNER WELD ST & JELlicoe ST
FREE TICKETS (koha accepted)



WHITIORA
PRODUCTIONS

For your free tickets, scan the QR or go to:
whitioraproductions.com/the-doctors-wife

On Sunday 7 September at 2.30pm a remarkable documentary film will be shown at First Church in Martinborough.

Paula Whetu Jones is the director of Whitiora Productions and is best known for her 2003 documentary *Gang Girls* and for co-writing and directing *Whina*, the feature film about Dame Whina Cooper.

Dr Alan Kerr was a distinguished cardiac surgeon - during his 30 years at Green Lane Hospital he played a crucial role in the development of coronary artery and children's heart surgery in NZ. After retirement he led a Kiwi team to Gaza and the West Bank to operate on children with heart defects. A two week visit became an enduring 20 year commitment to Palestine, involving 40 medical missions and hundreds of operations.

Paula met Alan and Hazel Kerr in 2006 and decided to make a film to shine a light on their selflessness and dedication.

Dr Kerr has been recognised as the 'Father of Paediatric Cardiac Surgery' in Palestine. However, he couldn't have achieved this on his own. His wife Hazel travelled with him - bringing a different kind of healing to the people she met, using craft, dance and drama to connect with children and young people.

Alan Kerr has done for heart surgery in Palestine, what Ed Hillary did for education in Nepal. Paula Whetu Jones beautifully and movingly documents his and Hazel's work.

After visits to Palestine in 2007, 2008 and 2009, Paula's return in 2010 was halted by a rare autoimmune condition which left her paralysed. She eventually returned in 2012; life in a wheelchair was difficult but the warmth and support of the Palestinian people helped her continue filming, as funds permitted. The team started assembling the film in 2023, with completion in March 2025.

The humanity of everyday Palestinians is told through the eyes of a retired NZ heart surgeon and his wife. There is some remarkable archive footage of Palestine before 1948.

Dr Alan is now 91 and Hazel is 86. Humble and self effacing, their work over 20 years is nothing short of inspiring.

Paula and her team funded the film themselves, and a small number of donors made its completion possible. It's currently (July 2025) being shown at the Melbourne International Film Festival.

Admission is free, to ensure cost isn't a barrier. Koha is not compulsory but 50% of what's received will go to Palestinian Children's Relief Fund NZ (PCRF NZ), the charity set up by Alan and Hazel to enable NZ medical teams to travel to Palestine to help children in need.

The other 50% is accepted as a mark of respect for the filmmaker – and, importantly, funds further screenings.

We're showing this film to honour Alan and Hazel Kerr and their outstanding work and are delighted that First Church will host. There may even be people living in Martinborough who benefited from his skills as children.

To get your ticket..

Go to whitioraproductions.com/the-doctors-wife or send a text to Alison on 021 0898 5445.