

Aotearoa NZ Peace and Conflict Studies Centre

News letter

February – September 2005

- 1.** An initial working group of Dorothy Brown, Professor Margaret Bedggood and Chris Barfoot arranged a series of small meetings with interested groups, university staff and individuals in the early part of 2005.
- 2.** In June Professor Margaret Bedggood visited the Department of Peace Studies at Bradford University.
- 3.** On 30th June a public meeting at MacLaurin Chapel Hall in the University of Auckland was addressed by Professor Kevin Clements, Director of the Australian Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at Queensland University. The chairman was Sir Douglas Graham. Professor Margaret Bedggood spoke of her visit to Bradford University. Peter Crellin of Rotary described the Rotary World Peace Scholarships which are available to students of seven Peace Centres worldwide. 70 people were present including university staff and professors from the three Auckland Universities, peace organisations and church groups.
- 4.** Following this meeting a steering group was formed including the three members of the original working party together with Dr Kate Dewes (Peace Foundation and Canterbury University), Professor Kevin Clements, Professor Peter Greener (Auckland University of Technology), Professor Peter Wills (University of Auckland), Heather Devere (AUT), Associate Professor Peter Lineham (Massey University Albany) and Dr Warwick Tie (Massey Albany).
- 5.** Early in July Professor Margaret Bedggood, together with Alyn Ware of the Peace Foundation and the Reverend Robyn Cave, Ecumenical Coordinator for the Decade to Overcome Violence, met with members of the Hokotehi Moriori Trust who are looking to establish an International Peace and Reconciliation Centre in connection with the Peace Marae on the Chathams.
- 6.** On 19th August the Steering Group produced a draft Strategic Plan which describes the rationale for a New Zealand centre, its values and principles, goals and planning, structure, teaching and research.

7. The finance sub-committee of the steering group has drawn up a list of possible substantial donors. A draft letter has been drawn up to be sent out after possible patrons have been approached and have consented and a Trust Deed has been drawn up.

8. On August 29th a public meeting was held in Turnbull House, Wellington along the same lines as the meeting in Auckland. The speakers were Professor Kevin Clements, Professor Margaret Bedggood, Morris Robertson of Rotary and Maui Solomon of the Hokotehi Moriori Trust. The chairman was Terence O'Brien, former New Zealand Ambassador to the United Nations. About 70 people attended including government departments, quasi government and private groups, non-government organisations (NGOs), university staff and actual and potential peace studies students.

9. Following the public meeting an enlarged steering group met and those present were Professor Kevin Clements, Dorothy Brown, Professor Margaret Bedggood, Chris Barfoot, Dr Chris Marshall (Victoria University Religious Studies Department), Reverend Dr Anthony Dancer (Anglican Social Justice Commissioner) and Alyn Ware (Peace Foundation). It was decided to arrange meetings in Hamilton and Christchurch in the next two months, and a meeting of representatives of all supportive groups, say at the end of November.

10. The Hamilton meeting was on 27th September and the Chairman was Bishop David Moxon. The Christchurch meeting will be on October 31st.

11. George Wadsworth, solicitor of Auckland, has drawn up a draft Trust Deed for the Aotearoa/New Zealand Peace and Conflict Resolution Centre Charitable Trust.

12. Chris Patterson, Project Facilitator, has drawn up an organisational plan and a time line.

13. Vice-Chancellors are to be approached on a dialogue basis when the centre has broad public support and a significant amount of endowment money. Factors in choice of university are the willingness to consider a wide range of co-operating disciplines and inter-university collaboration, quality of research and sharing of the vision by key people.

14. Links are to be explored with both Rekohu Peace Marae (Chathams) and Parihaka.

15. Choice of location, raising finance, arranging of curriculum and appointment of staff will probably mean a start of teaching not earlier than 2008.