

## **Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre**

### **Newsletter September – November 2005**

- 1** We continue to find new people who are interested in this project some of whom are becoming actively involved.
- 2** The members of the steering committee are Associate Professor Peter Wills (University of Auckland), Associate Professor Peter Lineham (Massey University Albany), Dr Warwick Tie (Massey University Albany), Peter Greener (Auckland University of Technology), Heather DeVere (AUT), Dr Chris Marshall (Victoria University), Dr Kate Dewes (Peace Foundation Christchurch), Professor Margaret Bedggood (formerly of Waikato University), Dorothy Brown, Chris Barfoot, Reverend Dr Anthony Dancer (Anglican Social Justice Commissioner) Alyn Ware (Peace Foundation Wellington), Richard Towle (Refugee Status Appeals Authority) and Professor David Williams (University of Auckland).

We keep in touch with Professor Kevin Clements (Director of University of Queensland Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies).

- 3** The members of the finance committee are: Peter Greener, Dorothy Brown, Chris Barfoot, Marjory Lewis, Peter Lineham and Peter Crellin.
- 4** Sometimes a joint meeting between the finance committee and the steering committee has been held as that seems more efficient.
- 5** The draft Strategic Plan is still in draft form but many more people have now read it.
- 6** The Trust Deed to establish a Charitable Trust has been finalized. The name is the Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre (ANZPCSC). The signatories are now Barfoot, Brown and Bedggood. This could be altered in the future. We thank the solicitor, George Wadsworth, who has helped receive donations.
- 7** We now have a box number. This is PO Box 56 719, Mt Eden, Auckland 1446. Any correspondence or donations can be sent to this address.
- 8** We do not as yet have a website.
- 9** On October 31 2005 a meeting was held in Christchurch at the University. This added over fifty names to our list of interested people. The meeting was chaired Professor Jacob Bercovitch shared how he has taught Conflict Resolution at Canterbury University for 22 years. Margaret Bedggood spoke about other Peace Studies Centres around the world particularly Bradford and Queensland. She outlined

some of the components of a NZ Centre. Gerald Austin spoke about how Rotary International supports scholarships to students studying at designated Peace Studies Centres in different overseas tertiary institutions.

Many members of the meeting spoke. Here are three examples:

\* There is a need to build academic respectability from the beginning

\* It is good to have some courses which are free so people with low income can access them.

\* Murray Parsons quoted the Maori proverb: *Oma huruhuru te manu ka rere.* (By feathers does the bird fly) and suggested its meaning in the situation of establishing an Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Centre was money is needed to make the bird of peace fly.

- 10 On Tuesday November 1, 2005 Margaret and Dorothy met in Christchurch with Rev Maurice Gray. This was organised by Kate Dewes.
- 11 A meeting in Dunedin will be held on February 15 2006. If you know anybody in Dunedin who would like to attend this meeting please let us know.
- 12 The three initial members of the working group went to the Labour Weekend Conference of Peace Movement Aotearoa and talked with the people there about the proposed centre.
- 13 Six members of the steering committee attended the meeting at the Auckland Museum on November 10, 2005 on the Legacy of Armistice *Why Afghanistan?* and talked with the other participants
- 14 So far a member of the steering committee has spoken to two U3A groups at Parnell and Ponsonby and to one church group at St Heliers. The purpose of speaking at such groups is just to keep on building the numbers of people who wish to be informed about and may support such a centre. If you know any group who would like to have a speaker about beginning a Peace and Conflict Studies Centre, ring 09 815 0228 or send an email to [dflbbrown@orcon.net.nz](mailto:dflbbrown@orcon.net.nz)
- 15 On the 22 November 2005 the tertiary chaplains in NZ met in Auckland and Margaret Bedggood talked to them about the possibility of establishing a Peace and Conflict Studies Centre in NZ.
- 16 An article promoting the centre appeared in a recent edition in Law Talk. This resulted in several enquiries from lawyers who had read it.

Thank you for your support so far.