

Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre

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Newsletter March 2006

Email List

Our list of contacts is up to nearly 600. It is now being regularly updated by Marjory Lewis in Auckland. Emails will now come directly from info@peacetrust.org.nz and not via Sue McLeod's email at Waikato University. Many thanks to Sue for keeping our organization running from January 2005 until now.

After each meeting our list grows and others are added by personal contact. If you know someone who would like to be included, please contact us, by writing or clicking on the link above (a blank email will appear).

Steering Committee

There are three new people on the steering committee;

Maui Solomon, representing the Rekohu Peace Marae with people from Wellington & Christchurch

Dr Najib Lafraie from The Political Studies Dept., Otago University.

Marjory Lewis, a Reg. Nurse

Meeting in January

On January 25 a group of the Auckland part of the steering committee met and decided to keep to the Patterson plan and not to approach universities until later in the year.

Meetings in February

On February 10 Helen Bowen facilitated an all day meeting at All Saints, Ponsonby Parish Hall, Auckland, of the Steering Group. Three members of the Steering Committee have drawn up a list of ideas and requirements that could be discussed with universities who showed an interest in being part of the establishment of a New Zealand Centre of Peace and Conflict Studies.

On February 15 we had a good meeting in Dunedin at the University. More than 70 people attended and there were several apologies. The chair was Emeritus Professor Richard Sutton. First, the three trustees, Dorothy Brown, Margaret Bedggood, and Chris Barfoot – spoke briefly about the reasons for starting a Peace and Conflict Studies Centre in New Zealand.

A panel of Dunedin people commented on the ideas:

- Russell Quin spoke about Rotary International and Peace Centres in other countries
- Dr. Najib Lafraie, from The Political Studies Department

- Professor Mark Henaghan, Dean of the Law School of the University of Otago
- The Reverend Peter Frost, Presbyterian Minister and psychotherapist
- Christina Gibb of the Christian Peacemaking Team.

They all gave the proposed centre their wholehearted support.

On February 16 Margaret & Dorothy had two morning meetings. The first was with Dr Rod Alley, Tamara Sundberg, Alyn Ware & Dr Chris Marshall. Tamara gave us some information about The United Nations Affiliated University for Peace.

The second meeting was with Maui Solomon who reported on recent developments from the Rekohu Peace Marae, including a projected 2008 meeting on the Chatham Islands of international guests to celebrate peace initiatives. After some discussion of the roles of the Steering Committee, Maui accepted an invitation for either himself or another representative to be a member of the steering committee.

There was also some discussion of preparing an article on the proposed centre for Maori publications.

March

Warwick Tie, a member of the Steering Committee, attended the **Parihaka Peace Festival** from March 10-12. Warwick has emailed Te Miringa congratulating him and his group on the festival and expressing interest in meeting with him in the future to discuss common aspects of our respective visions.

March 25

Dorothy Brown went to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Aotearoa Section AGM to give an update of progress about The Centre.

Legal Issues

We now have the Certificate of Incorporation of the Trust: **Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre Trust** which was incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957 on January 10 2006. We also have an IRD number. We have received a letter from the New Zealand Trustees Association inviting the Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre to become a member.

Media

An article by Margaret Bedggood was printed in the October 2005 issue of *LawTalk*, and several people wrote to us having read it. We would like to have further publicity in professional and semi-professional journals. Any assistance with this through your contacts and networks would be appreciated. Please contact us if you would like a copy of Margaret's article.

Finance

The Finance Subcommittee has opened a bank account for the Trust and has put the money at a favourable interest rate. We are happy to receive cheques payable to *Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Trust* at PO Box 56 719, Mt Eden, Auckland 1446. Receipts will be sent promptly.

We can supply the bank account number if you wish to arrange deposits or automatic payments.

We have already raised about \$1 million by personal donations and our plan is to raise at least another \$1 million within the next 6 months. A strong fundraising committee is required and we ask you to click on the link below if you can help in the fundraising campaign. A blank email message will appear. Tell us how you can help and press send:

info@peacetrust.org.nz

Benefactors' support (both private and business) could come by way of immediate cash donation or a pledge over a three year period.

Meeting in Palmerston North

A meeting is planned in Palmerston North on Friday April 28 at 5pm in the meeting room of the Public Library. Professor Mason Durie, Deputy Vice Chancellor Maori, will chair the meeting. Auckland Members of the Steering Committee will outline the proposal for the **Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre**. Rodney Wong, will speak about Rotary support for peace centres overseas. Some people will be invited to comment on the proposal and then general discussion will follow.

If you know of anyone or any group who would be interested to come to the meeting could you contact Dorothy Brown, at dfldbrown@orcon.net.nz or phone 09 8150228.

Thank you for your support so far. We expect this year to be a very important one for decision making about the Centre we will keep you informed.

Intellectual Rationale

Peace and Conflict Studies demand a rigorous commitment to truth, compassion, and a deep appreciation of our interdependence. They are not peripheral interests. They should lie at the heart of all academic endeavour.

The non-violent resolution of conflict is the greatest intellectual challenge of the 21st century—it requires committed people who are unafraid of combining heart and intellect.

From Kevin Clements at the Wellington and Auckland Meeting