

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

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**Newsletter August 2006**

Now Spring is here it is time to look back on the winter work done to advance the establishment of an Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre. Discussions with people on the mailing list and meetings with university administrators have mostly been encouraging. We have also met with people active in peace and antinuclear organizations based around the professions in the 70s and 80s such as physicians. Each of these groups is pleased to hear that Peace and Conflict Studies will have a designated Centre.

**So what have we been doing ...**

Approaching universities

In July letters were sent to Vice-Chancellors of all the universities inviting them to consider entering into collaboration with our trust in the establishment of a Peace and Conflict Studies Centre at their university, or for a partnership with the Centre if hosted by another university. We included draft strategic and academic plans prepared by Peter Lineham, Peter Greener, Peter Wills and Margaret Bedggood. Four universities invited us to meet them and a further two have indicated that they would cooperate with a host university.

Meetings with universities:

Auckland University - On June 15 Margaret Bedggood, Chris Barfoot, Maui Solomon, David Williams, Warwick Tie and Dorothy Brown met with a group from Auckland University lead by Prof. Raewyn Dalzeil with Tom Barnes, Deputy Vice Chancellor (research) and Prof. John Morrow, Dean of Arts. Following this meeting they wrote that they were impressed with the commitment of the Trust to the establishment of such a centre, but they must decline our invitation to host it.

Victoria University - On July 20 Chris Marshall, Peter Lineham and Dorothy Brown met with Prof. Pat Walsh, Vice Chancellor; Ian McIntosh, Deputy Vice Chancellor (research); Andrew Ladley, Director of Victoria University's Institute of Policy Studies and Trisha Walbridge, Executive Director of the VUW Foundation. They expressed interest in hosting the Centre.

Auckland University of Technology – Margaret Bedggood, Chris Barfoot, Chris Marshall, Peter Greener and Dorothy Brown met a group from AUT led by the Vice Chancellor Derek McCormack on August 21. Also present were Rob Allen, Pro Vice Chancellor, Learning and Teaching and Dean of Applied Humanities and Richard Hall Head of the Vice Chancellor Planning Directorate. They expressed interest in hosting the centre

Otago University – On August 30 Margaret Bedggood, Chris Barfoot, Dorothy Brown and Chris Marshall had a series of meetings. First with Clive Mathewson, the University's Development Officer, then with the Vice Chancellor Prof. David Skegg and next with Prof. Alistair Fox, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Division of Humanities. We also met with the Dunedin support committee and with a group of staff and students interested in peace studies. Otago is also willing to host the centre.

#### The Steering Committee/Advisory Group

There are now 19 people on the Steering/Advisory Group and it last met in February 2006. The group is now too large for efficient decision making on day-to-day matters. A letter was sent to the nineteen people on July 31 asking for comment about the formation of a smaller Executive/Management Group to deal with ongoing administrative tasks. As no member of the Steering Committee objected to this suggestion a smaller Executive Management Committee has been meeting regularly, sometimes additional people come to the meeting to consider special issues, e.g.: publicity, investment and banking. (List appended)

The next meeting of the Steering/Advisory Group is on Saturday 23 September. The meetings with the universities will be reported on and a discussion will follow. Also the Finance Group will report back on their recent work.

#### Future work for the Executive/Management Committee

Peter Crellin, the speaker from Rotary at the Auckland public meeting, has agreed to chair the Executive Management Committee for six months. Its responsibilities will be

- to coordinate fundraising
- to invest money
- to prepare information to be given to sponsors
- to liaise with people and organisations and
- with the trustees to negotiate financial arrangements with the university that hosts the Centre.

#### Getting Legal Advice

George Wadsworth, a solicitor from the Auckland firm Wadsworth and Ray, continues to give legal advice to the group. We have discussed with him the increase in the number of trustees after a host university has been decided, the pros and cons of working with fundraisers, and how bequests can be made in favour of the trust.

#### Working at gaining financial support

Both individuals and universities have stressed the need for a generous endowment of the endeavour to ensure a Centre large enough to have significant impact at the host university and in New Zealand. At first the Centre should provide post-graduate teaching and research and then incorporate undergraduate courses and links to community peace groups. All this requires several members of staff so we hope that we will have generous financial support from individuals, foundations, organisations and the government. We will need to have a major fundraising campaign in the near future

### Two New Helpers

- **Shireen Shah**  
Shireen recently came to New Zealand from England where she did her MA at Bradford Peace Studies Centre and she is currently enrolled as a PhD student there. She has worked in conflict resolution in educational, medical and community settings.
- **John Patolo**  
John from Samoa is studying at AUT for a BA in Social Science and is gathering information to inform discussions with potential donors. His work is supervised by Peter Crellin and Heather DeVere.

### Other Meetings/Contacts

- **Pax Christi and Bishop Leamy**  
On June 6 three members of the committee met with Bishop Leamy, Kevin McBride, David Tutty and Father Peter Murnane. A good discussion covered the support that Pax Christi gives to ANZPCSC. David Tutty will join the advisory group to represent Pax Christi.
- **Anglican Synod**  
A motion in support of the Centre was passed at the May General Synod. Also a sub-committee of the standing committee is now exploring ways of making this support tangible.
- **The Peace Movement Aotearoa**  
Peace Movement Aotearoa (PMA) co-ordinates many peace initiatives in the community and is governed by a working group who have decided Edwina Hughes will represent them on our Steering/Advisory Group.
- Chris Marshall and Dorothy Brown ran a workshop at the inaugural NZ FOCaL Conference. (FOCaL - Forum of the Christian Left) in Wellington in July, from which further people were added to our database.
- Waiwhetu Lower Hutt Peace Group wrote telling of their meetings since 1983. We have agreed to keep in touch with them.
- We have been in touch with the organisation Many to Many which produce a quarterly publication called 'Operation Peace through Unity'. They are centred in Wanganui.

### Internationally

We have been in contact with

- Eastern Mennonite University, Virginia, USA has been in touch with Chris Marshall about the possibility of establishing a relationship once we are established.
- A person from Hong Kong has been in touch and said that "since there is a lack of peace study courses here at the moment, I believe it would be a wonderful opportunity for the Peace Centre to bring in peace study courses

to Hong Kong which I feel could broaden the network between New Zealand and Hong Kong, as well as contributing to world peace by sharing the knowledge and experience on how to maintain and create a peaceful society.”

We continue to hear of new Centres being established in other parts of the world. For example two universities in the United Kingdom are launching courses:

- The Open University
- Stirling University. It seeks to produce future leaders able to understand the past, intervene nonviolently in the present and hope for a more just, fair and equitable world.

### **This Email List**

Marjory Lewis continues to update this list as more people become aware of the project and want to receive information. We have had several enquiries from over seas. If you know anyone who wishes to be added to the list please email – [info@peacetrust.org.nz](mailto:info@peacetrust.org.nz)

#### **Peace and Conflict Studies Centre – Steering/Advisory Group**

Margaret Bedggood, University of Waikato, Trustee

Chris Barfoot, Trustee

Dorothy Brown, Trustee

Anthony Dancer, Anglican Social Justice Commission

Heather DeVere, Auckland University of Technology

Kate Dewes, Peace Foundation Disarmament and Security Centre

Peter Greener, Auckland University of Technology

Najib Lafraie, University of Otago

Marjory Lewis, Trustees secretary

Peter Lineham, Massey University, Auckland

Chris Marshall, Victoria University

Maui Solomon, Hokotehi Moriori Trust Board

Warwick Tie, Massey University

Rick Towle, Refugee Status Appeals Authority

Alyn Ware, The Peace Foundation, Wellington

David Williams, University of Auckland

Peter Wills, University of Auckland

David Tutty, Pax Christi

Edwina Hughes, Peace Movement Aotearoa