

# **Aotearoa NZ Peace & Conflict Studies Trust Newsletter**

**November 2007**

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

## **Official Launch**

We are delighted to report that the Chair in Peace and Conflict Studies to be established at the University of Otago was duly launched on 26<sup>th</sup> of October at the University's Auckland premises by the Prime Minister.

The Chair has been endowed by a grant from the Aotearoa New Zealand Peace and Conflict Studies Centre Trust, matched by government funding from the University's "[Leading Thinkers](#)" Programme and this position will be advertised very shortly. (See [www.otago.ac.nz](http://www.otago.ac.nz))

But the Chair is only the first stage in the planned establishment of a National Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. At the launch Professor David Skegg, Otago University's Vice-Chancellor, spoke to the audience of some 100 supporters of the broader vision behind the Centre and looked forward to the increasing participation of tangata whenua, and especially tangata whenua peace centres, and to collaboration with other universities in the Centre's development. Trustees Dorothy Brown and Maui Solomon highlighted the need for availability of local opportunities for peace education and the rich peace heritage which can be drawn on in these islands.

## **Symposium**

The following day the Trust held a symposium on the theme of '**Peace Past, Peace Future**' which drew an attendance of about 100 people. The symposium was opened by Sir Paul Reeves, a patron of the Trust. The programme covered such varied topics as "[The Moriori Peace Covenant](#)", a panel of speakers on the challenges posed by military aggression, another on interfaith peace building and a presentation on the "[Cool Schools](#)" programme with a most effective contribution from students from Mt Roskill Grammar School.

The Trustees would like to thank members of the Otago University staff in Dunedin and Auckland for all their help in arranging this day.

## **Acknowledgement of Steering Committee's contribution**

The Trustees would also like to take this opportunity to express their very sincere thanks to the 18 members of the Steering Committee who have given freely of their time, advice and expertise to bring this first stage of the Peace Centre project to such a satisfying conclusion.

## **Changes within the Trust**

At our most recent Trust meeting Maui Solomon and Dorothy Brown were elected as co-chairs of the Trust and Anne Ackerman as a new Trustee with responsibility for development of the next phase. It is our intention to direct the Trust's attention towards raising funds. Our aim is to ensure that additional staff can be appointed as soon as funds are available so that the Centre can have more impact.

If you are aware of any funding opportunities for the expansion of the Trust could you please contact us and let us know?

## **Patrons**

We are also very pleased to announce two new Patrons. The Honourable Anand Satyanand, Governor General of New Zealand and the Honourable Eddie Taihakurei Durie have both agreed to support the Trust in this way.

Thank you all for your continuing support.

We are happy to be ending the year on this positive note.

Me rongo,

from the Trustees:

Dorothy, Margaret, Chris, Maui and Annie.