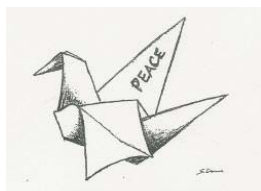


Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Aotearoa Section



Newsletter: October 2007



Tamaki Makaurau Branch Report by Pat Jackman

Tamaki Makaurau commemorated Hiroshima Day on the evening of Sunday 5th of August in the warm glass-house at the Auckland Domain. There was an opportunity for the children present to learn crane-making, which was followed by quiet and reverent ceremony attended by about 50 people including a representative from the Japanese Embassy. Maire Leadbeater spoke about the significance of the day; the story of Sadako and the cranes was read and we sang some peace songs as the candles were lit and floated on the indoor pond.

In August the Human Rights Foundation undertook a human rights training course for 23 human rights workers from Indonesia which was sponsored by NZ Aid. The Human Rights Foundation asked the Indonesian Human Rights Committee if they would like to cater for this course, which was held at the Maori Studies Department and the Marae at the University of Auckland. IHRC asked if we could help which we did so between us we provided morning and afternoon

teas and lunches for 7 days. Quite a big catering job for us as we also had to provide food for the trainers, but a worthwhile fundraiser.

What a wonderful experience for those-of us who were able to help. The twenty three people attending the course had not met before, only two of them had been outside their own country, and English considered adequate in their own country was hardly so for a course here.

What started as quite a tentative meeting of different cultures over morning, afternoon tea and lunch became a warm meeting of people sharing simple greetings in each others languages. We quickly learnt that what we thought of as suitable lunch food was different from what the Indonesian group found suitable. One of our members, who is Filipina came to our rescue and not only helped with the catering but became our chief adviser on what would be acceptable. Thank you to Del.

Advance notice of Section AGM

The Tamaki Makaurau Branch will be organizing the AGM next year and we have booked the Friends Meeting House for Friday 29 February and Saturday 1 March 2008. We are in the process of organizing what we hope will be an interesting meeting, so please mark these dates in your diary now.

Otautahi/ Christchurch branch report

In Otautahi, Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days were commemorated just the way they had been for the last 30 years, with music, speakers and lanterns on the Avon River. This year we had the honour of having Bun Hashizume speak, a hibakusha (radiation survivor) from Hiroshima. She spoke with unwavering strength, recounting her experience of the bomb, the devastation and her younger brother who died as a result. The crowd of over 200 was deeply moved by her words, and heard her plea for people to work towards total nuclear disarmament. Many thanks to all who contributed time and energy to the event, all the musicians, sound people, speakers and all those who attended. Special thanks to the Quakers who supplied us with lanterns, gave financial support and stepped in (literally!) when the city council failed to show up to collect lanterns out of the river.

Maggie Glover from Otautahi has been over to visit Sydney WILPFers (see report later in newsletter) and we are excited at the closer relationship with Sydney peace women this has created.

On September 21, the UN day of Peace, there was more lanterns on the water, this time beside the World Peace Bell in the Botanical Gardens. As part of the ceremony, Kate Dewes received a peace award from the city council. So well-earned, Kate! There was also the planting of a Camphor Tree, gifted to the city from the former Mayor of Nagasaki, Itcho Ito, who was killed last year and a peace walk pamphlet launched.

In early October, Otautahi WILPF had the joy of seeing Pauline Tangjora and we shared some tea and biscuits

and heard all the adventures she has been up to. This included working for peace with the Thirteen Grandmothers, a group of indigenous women who meet in various places around the world to perform healing ceremonies. Despite significant surgery this year, Pauline is energized and active and continues to travel the world to speak up for peace and indigenous rights. Go Nanny Pauline!



Kate Dewes receives a Peace Award from Deputy Mayor Carole Evans.

Conflict Resolution skills for Prisoners

By Elaine Dyer

In the middle of this year, I was invited to be part of a team with University of Auckland's Continuing Education and the Department of Corrections to develop and deliver a programme focused on building interpersonal skills and conflict resolution strategies to the prison staff of Rimutaka prison. The prison was seldom out of the headlines in media, and morale was low. Modules in the programme covered Relating to People, Crisis Avoidance, Self and Stress Management, Conflict Management and Resolution, Managing Threats and Intimidation and Alternatives to the Use of Force.

The model was to run the five day course for a group of volunteer officers, then after a few weeks, to train them to be trainers to deliver the programme to their peers, and then to be alongside each team of two, coaching them as they delivered their first programme.

The programme has been very successful, and is now running on its own. The unions support it, and the managers are looking at doing a course as well. Obviously as with any system that is in need of change, the skills of non-violence are needed both in client interactions as well as with other staff and the systems which hold them.

It was an interesting change for me to be working on the staff's side of the bars after all my experience in prisons working with inmates. Despite some initial nervousness I found the experience very affirming and grew to respect the staff enormously, particularly the brave men and women who stepped straight into training at such an intensive level.

More information about the course can be obtained from Anne Cave at Continuing Education, phone (09) 373 7599 ext 89541
www.cce.auckland.ac.nz/pdcourses

Hands and hearts across the Tasman By Margaret Glover

During a week's holiday in Sydney in August, I had a delightful all too brief get-together with some WILPF New South Wales members, including Stefania Siedlecky (President), Trudie Kallir, Dorothy Buckland-Fuller and Margaret Walker. They send very warm greetings to WILPF members in New Zealand, many of whom they have

met and remember well from WILPF conferences in Auckland and Christchurch.

WILPF has branches in the states of Queensland (the strongest group), South Australia, ACT and NSW. There are 45 NSW members, including a very active group of young people up in the mountains at Katoomba, 100kms north of Sydney; that group is producing pamphlets including one on nuclear energy, and engages with local politicians.

In Sydney itself members are feeling their age as some NSW founders are over one hundred, many are in their eighties and are involved in a wide range of other organisations and activities. For example, Michelle Cavanagh's book Margaret Holmes, the life and times of an Australian peace campaigner was published this year. Margaret, founder of WILPF NSW, is now 98. Michelle was unable to make our meeting but has kindly donated a copy of her book to WILPF Christchurch.



Although there is a shortage of young Sydney WILPF members, Hiroshima Day is marked, banners appear at demonstrations and newsletters come out. The branch is fortunate to have an office in a delightful house left to the peace movement and shared with other peace groups. This is the only WILPF office in Australia and has no paid or full-time worker. WILPF NSW relies on bequests, membership fees and donations, but finances remain strained: a situation we know well in New Zealand!

There is general depression about actions by the present Australian government, including the possible sale of uranium to India; the recently announced activity within Aboriginal territories; and the widespread cuts in government funding to church groups, women's groups or any group which openly disagrees with such government policies.

The nuclear question remains high on WILPF's worries, not least because there are stories of nuclear waste leaks into an open dam at Roxburgh Down. The mining of uranium in Australia uses 'masses and masses of water', taken from artesian wells.

I asked about women in Parliament and was told there are two good Green MPs, one at state level and one in the upper house, Christine Mill of Tasmania being one.

As with other peace groups I spoke to in Sydney, it was felt that the recent legislation allowing access into Aboriginal territories is about 'land grab' presumably for access to minerals, rather than about long-standing social issues, attempted solutions to which have been under-funded for decades. The new powers cover ANY Aboriginal territory, anywhere in Australia, not just suspected/known child-abuse areas,

and there has been no indication of what will happen to any abused children once identified. As I was told elsewhere: 'There is no planned Stage Two it would seem. Will the children become another Stolen Generation?'

Despite the many immediate problems they have, both in keeping WILPF up and running and in staying positive in the face of long-standing national issues, I felt inspired by the company of these warm, feisty, funny and loving women who have not wavered in their peace work over so many years.

We must endeavour to stay in close touch, by exchanging newsletters and encouraging letters, and by remembering always that WILPF thrives internationally and it is important to encourage and co-operate with sister branches, especially in Australia. Can or should our New Zealand voice be added to lobbying in Australia? Should we be discussing this amongst ourselves and with Australian branches?

The WILPF office at 499 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010, is a very short stroll from Sydney Central Station. (It is also round the corner from Quaker Meeting House, 119 Devonshire St, which has cheap, comfortable bed and self-service breakfast).

Sydney is only two and a half hours flight away and I would encourage anyone going there for other reasons to make time to contact WILPF in advance to have a similarly stimulating conversation.

Sydney WILPF contacts

Website: <http://www.wilpf.org.au>

Email : wilpf.n.s.w.@wilpf.org.au



The War of Terror arrives in Aotearoa

By Anna-Claire Hunter
Is dissent and protest now a form of Terrorism here in Aotearoa/New Zealand? Has the surveillance of us all now become routine? On Monday 15th October, the war of terrorism arrived at my door when police, without a search warrant, entered my property. I treated them with respect, offered them a cup of tea and gave them mung beans to feed the chickens. And yet they still ignored my request that they stay in the frontyard and snuck around the back like naughty children. The next morning a police car parked outside our house, but left when I confronted them about this harassment. My experience is minor in comparison to the terrorism inflicted on the Tuhoe nation and rural indigenous communities over this time. I watch the news and see a theatrical piece with shadowy political motivations of the government, which is using real people as pawns in their power games. This is the 'War on Terrorism' in action, its a War on Indigenous Rights, on our right to express political views, to voice dissent, to have our privacy respected, to freely associate with each other, to live a life free from fear. The War will affect us all sooner or later. Stand up and speak out now, before they arrive at your door.

<http://www.civilrightsdefence.org.nz>

Tautoko for Tuhoe Nation

Call out from Annette Sykes, Tame Iti's lawyer

We all need to tautoko the peoples that have been victimised and isolated by this process of invasion that has beset the peoples of Tuhoe. There are a number of planned events to express our dissatisfaction with the way that the peoples of Te Urewera have been targeted unfairly.

The first kaupapa is to be a hikoi by our tamariki and mokopuna who were harassed unfairly and who have now had the spectre of DARK VADER and the NINJA TURTLES terrorists boarding their WAKA on their way to KOHANGA REO implanted in their memories this week. Hopefully the hikoi will enable the vortex of evil energy that those memories were tainted by, to be replaced by the cleansing weapon of EMBARRASMENT and WHAKAMA which is an intrinsic tool in our world view from which those that would seek to do harm to the most vulnerable and innocent will now suffer.

YOU MUST GET UP AND SUPPORT. It is not enough to send your words of concern and sympathy and outrage.

NAU MAI HAERE MAI
RING, ARRANGE TRANSPORT,
FUNDRAISE FOR THE WHANAU
TRAVELLING TO COURTS TO OFFER
SUPPORT TO THEIR LOVED
RANGATIRA
KA WHAWHAI TONU TATOU
AKE AKE AKE

Report from National Council of Women Executive Meeting

By Joan Macdonald

Pat Jackman and I attended the NCWNZ National Executive meeting held at Manukau City on September 28–30. Pat was the WILPF delegate and I was present as the Convener of the Public Issues Standing Committee.

WILPF had two remits out of the six that were discussed and voted on and they were both passed unanimously. The first, which Pat spoke to, was That NCWNZ supports research into the process of reporting and investigating sexual violence complaints and the second, that I spoke to, That NCWNZ supports the development of a global treaty to ban cluster munitions.



We had discussed the ideas for the sexual violence remit at the AGM in Christchurch and our original remit was more strongly worded and asked for funding for agencies such as Rape Crisis and Women's Refuge. The issue of funding was discussed at the meeting, because one of the speakers was Heather Henare CEO of

the National Collective of Independent Women's Refuges.

Heather told us that they receive 40% of their funding from the government and have to find the rest from other sources. As a result of the increase publicity about violence against women and the latest advertising campaign the government has increased funding to its own agencies but not to NGOs doing this work. In the past 5 years referrals to Women's Refuges has increased by 50% and most of the referrals are from the police.

NCW has also been lobbying the government for more support for Women's Refuge and Heather is very appreciative of this. We need a more concerted effort from other women's organisations like WILPF and individual members to lobby the government about this.

The suggestion for the remit about cluster munitions came from Dame Laurie Salas and it was very worthwhile to proceed with this. New Zealand is part of a core group of seven countries that are currently steering the cluster munitions treaty process and they hope to achieve a ban by 2008. WILPF is also part of the Campaign Coalition working on this.

WILPF also proposed an Urgent Notice of Motion asking NCW to express its dismay that New Zealand was one of only four United Nations member states to vote against the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the General Assembly on 13 September and to call on the government to refrain from continuing to express their opposition to the Declaration in international and national human rights fora, and elsewhere. If they cannot bring themselves to support it, then they must at least remain

silent whenever the Declaration is discussed.

The NCW Board decided not to present this as they said it was already NCW policy but that they would like us to write a letter about this that they can use to write to the government.

There were some other very interesting speakers at the meeting including Jo Brosnahan, who has been a CEO of many local government bodies, who spoke about leadership.

Dr Ruth Busch, a law lecturer at Waikato and who has recently published a book with Neville Robertson "Living at the Cutting Edge: women's experiences of protection orders." about women victims of domestic violence. Ruth gave an impassioned address about the unsatisfactory way these women are treated by the judicial system, how hard it is to get a protection order and how dangerous it is for the women even when these orders are in place. She gave us some horrifying examples of what had happened to the women, that their case studies covered. We hope that following up on our remit by NCW will lead to more action on this.

There was a very long session on Saturday afternoon with women politicians from all the political parties, where they were all given an opportunity to tell us about their parties policies especially with regard to improving things for women and we then had an opportunity to ask questions. Pat was able to ask the question funding for agencies as a result of the Say No to Violence advertising campaign and I asked the other parties how they would have voted at the UN on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Another speaker on a topic of interest to us in our work was Lynne Dawson, who is founder and Programme Manager for the Books in Prison Trust. The Trust has now established libraries in the four women's prisons and runs a number of programmes such as workshops to deal with illiteracy and help mothers to read to their children.

The two NCW members who presented the NGO Alternative Report to the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) in New York gave us a report on this. NGO Reports were also given by the Maori Women's Welfare League and Pacific Women's Watch with Shakti. So the Committee got a very comprehensive report which they were able to use when they questioned the Government delegation about their report.

It was a very interesting and well run meeting, although very intensive and I think WILPF made a useful contribution as well as getting a lot of information which will be of help in our work.



New Zealand Superannuation Fund Investments By Joan Macdonald

A NZ Herald article of 8 September 'NZ Super Fund just grows and grows' states that the money invested by the fund has grown from \$2.4 billion in 2003 to \$13.3 billion in 2007.

The guardians of the fund are required to invest on a prudent, commercial basis. They must maximize returns without unduly risking the fund and must avoid prejudicing New Zealand's reputation as a "responsible member of the world community." But the legislation that created the Guardians of New Zealand Superannuation as a Crown entity in 2001 does not define what the terms of the guardians' investment mandate means. That is left to the guardians to decide. They cannot invest in a sector or asset which is illegal in New Zealand and they are also committed to a "responsible investment" regime, based on the United Nations' Principles for Responsible Investment to which the fund is a founding signatory.

The guardians' board members are appointed by the Minister of Finance, and the Minister has power under law to give them directions on the Government's expectations of the fund's performance but he cannot issue a directive which is inconsistent with the guardians' duty to invest the fund on a prudent commercial basis.

A number of peace and justice organization are concerned about some of the investments of the fund, such as investment in companies which are involved in the production of components for nuclear weapons and cluster munitions; in cigarettes; in large oil and mining companies

which have huge environmental and human rights impacts.

Representatives of some of these groups have recently had a meeting with some members of the Super Fund Board to express our concern about a number of the investments which we believe to be harmful to the wellbeing of the planet and to our regional neighbours.



The groups represented were the Indonesian Human Rights Committee; the Peace Foundation; Federation of Trade Unions, Burma; Aotearoa Lawyers for Peace; Pax Christi; Students for Justice in Palestine; and Peace Movement Aotearoa and WILPF.

The corporations we are concerned about in which the Fund is invested are Wal-Mart Stores, Boeing, BAE Systems, European Aeronautic Defence and Space, Finmeccanica Sp, Northrop Grumman, United Technologies Com., L-3 Communications Holdings, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon; Freeport McMoRan; Total and Exxon Mobil. Most of these corporations have been blacklisted from the Norwegian Pension Fund.

Adrian Orr the CEO of the Superannuation Fund says the Guardians are committed to responsible investment, but in our view this obviously falls far short of ethical investment. He says they have come off whaling and landmines and are looking into nuclear weapons manufacturing and cigarettes.

Although they are looking at these they made it quite clear that "engagement" is their first option, rather than divestment or exclusion. By engagement we think they mean trying to change the way these corporations work although how an organisation that is producing weapons, or destroying the environment and human life, is hard to imagine. Also it must surely be illegal, considering our nuclear free legislation, to be investing in companies involved with nuclear weapons production.

Total, the French oil company operates in Burma and in light of what is happening there at present it would be better if New Zealand were not involved, when there are calls for international sanctions to change a cruel regime.

Freeport McMoRan has an enormous gold and copper mine in West Papua which is having a devastating effect

on the indigenous people and the environment. I spoke about the effect on the women by the imported workers- the prostitution and HIV Aids.

I also talked about the irony of investing in companies involved with cluster munitions when the New Zealand Government is heavily involved in trying to get a treaty to ban them.

The meeting was cordial and they listened to our concerns, so it will be interesting to see if any changes are made. We have asked if we can have another meeting with them next year and on a regular basis.

WILPF Aotearoa

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WILPF Statement on UN Day, 24 October 2007
We the women of the United Nations

Sixty-two years ago, a generation that had experienced the horror of war devised the structure, aims and principles of the United Nations, by which peoples and governments commit to work together to prevent and eliminate war and cooperate to build conditions for peace. That war is preventable – that succeeding generations can be saved from the scourge of war itself – is a concept that 192 countries have affirmed by joining the UN. Some wars have been prevented; too many have not.

Through this essential international forum, all nations can meet on an equal basis to establish and implement international law and treaties. At the UN governments can and have promoted social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom. Human rights standards have been defined and defended, and enormous strides forward have been made to affirm and protect the equal rights of women and men through the UN.

The United Nations has achieved a lot, yet is maligned and denigrated. At the same time it is expected to resolve all the ills of the world, but in the name of efficiency, with reduced human and economic resources. While UN information centres are closed down, while translation services are cut that inhibit effective communication among governments, and while departments are cut and rationalised, military spending by governments soars to beyond the absurd Cold War levels.

Get back to the Charter: WILPF believes it is time to undertake a Universal Periodic Review of all UN Member States of how they live up to their commitments, not only in the human rights field, but under the United Nations Charter as a whole.

Women's participation in decision-making is essential for human security and human rights: As acknowledged by the Security Council resolution 1325, to be legitimate and democratic, decision-making must be shared; tables seated only by men, or a vast majority of men, are simply not acceptable in 2007.

Our world shows – you get what you pay for: If investment is made in war and weapons – war, death and mutilation are the result. If investment is made in real human security, development and equality – peace is the result. If the UN Charter were implemented, if economic cooperation took the place of military competition, peace would prevail.

The Security Council has failed: Sixty-two years after the fact the Security Council has failed to deliver on an essential task outlined in Article 26 of the UN Charter, which requires it to deliver a plan for the “least diversion of human and economic resources to armament.” Instead, the permanent 5 members of the Security Council have participated in arms races and weapons profiteering; they have promoted insecurity. Sixty-two years late is very late indeed, but better late than never – the Security Council must deliver the Article 26 plan to stop wasting the world's wealth on weapons that kill and mutilate.

Governments should reduce military spending and report annually to the UN's international standardized reporting of military expenditures, established under UN General Assembly Resolution 46/25. These resources should be reallocating to tackling the real daily threats to human security such as climate change, the distribution of wealth, hunger, organised crime, and trafficking in drugs, people and arms.

Peace in the Middle East must be on the basis of UN resolutions: Efforts for peace between Israel and Palestine should take place within the United Nations and be based on the principles established through UN resolutions: Security Council Resolution 242 (1967) calls for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied, Security Council resolution 252 (1968) highlights the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by military conquest, Security Council resolution 271 (1969) addresses Jerusalem, Security Council resolution 338 (1973), reaffirms resolution 465 (1980), addressing Israel's illegal demographic changes, resolution 476 (1980) and resolution 681 (1980) both similarly address fundamental issues related to Israel's illegal occupation. WILPF calls on Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon to convene a high-level negotiation and peace process within the UN, and calls on the international community to apply pressure and create an enabling environment for the negotiation of a zone free of nuclear and all weapons of mass destruction in the region.

If you are thinking of updating your will, and would like to leave a bequest to WILPF, the following clause can be used:

I give the sum of \$ _____ to Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) Aotearoa/New Zealand Section Inc to be applied for its general purposes. A receipt taken by my executors as being given on behalf of the organization will be a complete discharge to my executors for the legacy