

# Women's International League for Peace and Freedom



Aotearoa Section newsletter July 2017

## In this newsletter:

- \*WILPF members involved in week of action for peace
- \*Remembrances: Laurie Salas, Maynie Thompson
- \*Reports for 2016: Section Executive members; branch reports; affiliate groups
- \*Women's March
- \*Photographic exhibition celebrating Nuclear Free Zone legislation 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- \*Visit by WILPF International president, Kozue Akibayashi



Kathy Ross at the Saturday 'Grannies for Peace' action in the Week of Action for Peace

## Week of action for peace, November 2016

*Liz Remmerswaal Hughes who helped organise and participated in the actions along with several WILPF members, reports:*

The Navy's 75th birthday celebration, which was coupled with the Lockheed Martin-sponsored arms fair in Auckland, sparked a flurry of peace activities, coordinated by Auckland Peace Action in November last year.

The Week of Peace began with the visit of veteran anti-nukes campaigner Dr Helen Caldicott, who spoke at the blockade of the arms fair at the Viaduct and was interviewed both by TV3's Paul Henry and Radio NZ's Wallace Chapman..

At the blockade, well trained protesters put their bodies on the line and managed to prevent most of the delegates getting in the building. Those who took part included veteran pacifists including members of WILPF, the Peace Foundation, Pacific Panthers, Peace Action Wellington, the Quakers, Pax Christi, Anglican Pacifists, Greenpeace, union members, climate activists, environmentalists, and many others. By the New Zealand Defence Industry's own accounting, at least 350 of the 550 expected guests could not get into the conference, and therefore the business of warmongering was disrupted, resulting in a small dent in the global military-industrial complex.

The 14 November earthquake, centred on Kaikoura, saw the deployment of Canadian, American and Australian warships to help, which meant the 1000 Sailors March down Queen Street was cancelled, though there

were still plenty of sailors from Indonesia, Japan, Chile and other countries in port.

Weather was cited as the reason that the Navy changed the day of the ceremonial harbour entrance of the ships, but the Peace Flotilla boats still came out in force on the windy Saturday, albeit having to cope with a much restricted area to sail in.

Also on that day several thousand people joined a happy peace march through the city headed by two 97-year-olds. (WILPF members Kara Nelson and Maynie Thompson are pictured over the page.) A 'Just War' study day in Parnell stimulated much informed discussion on that topic.

The Sunday warship open-day on the waterfront saw a collection of colourful real and pretend 'Grannies for Peace' making 'Tea Not War' and singing peace songs for the crowds.

Meanwhile, a more serious gathering took place outside the Holy Trinity Cathedral where the official naval commemoration was taking place, with an alternative service featuring Prayers for Peace, led by Reverend Emily Worman, daughter of David Lange.

Earlier in the week there was a ceremony called Karanga Tangaroa led by the Pacific Panthers to challenge the appropriation by the military of Maori culture - their exercise was called Operation Tangaroa. Unfortunately those taking part felt like the sacred ceremony was marred by the presence of the police and a noisy helicopter nearby.

It was heartening to see so many peace organisations working together to make things happen for this impressive Week of Peace, hopefully the sign of things to come in the future as we celebrate the 30th anniversary of a Nuclear Free New Zealand in 2017.



*Liz Remmerswaal Hughes as a Granny for Peace*



*The tea party with musicians to the left and performer to the right*



## Remembrances:

### Laurie Salas



*The first Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control appointed in 1987, which included (l to r) Dr Neil Cherry, Kate Dewes, **Dame Laurie Salas**, Dr Rod Alley, Dr Robin Briant, former Minister of Defence Frank O'Flynn. Other members were Manuka Henare and Mary Woodward (not in the photo). Chair was Fran Wilde, seated at front. Photo: courtesy Kate Dewes.*

It is with sadness that we record the death of Dame Laurie, a much loved worker for peace and social justice everywhere. We can though celebrate her rich and empowering life and give thanks for her enduring influence on the many organisations she worked so tirelessly for. They included Human Rights, Women's Rights, and Peace and Disarmament, especially the wide ranging brief of the United Nations. Community involvement was a natural extension to her life as a wife of Dr Jack Salas and her six children.

A founding member of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Aotearoa Section, she represented them at the 2<sup>nd</sup> UN Disarmament Session in 1982.

**Robin Halliday** (edited)

### Maynie Thompson



*Maynie, above right, at the march in the Week for Peace, November 2016. Photo: Ruth Coombes*

Selling tea and scones at the Saturday market to raise funds for peace activities, Maynie Thompson and Kit Nelson started campaigning for nuclear disarmament in 1984. With the Waiheke "Mum's Army", Maynie embarked on a 2 month *Walk for Life on Earth* to parliament steps to urge the Government to go nuclear free. In 1984 Maynie and Kit travelled to Europe and spent time at the Greenham Common Peace Camp in the United Kingdom. In 1986 she and Anne Macfarlane took part in the Great Peace March for Nuclear Disarmament, walking across the United States to protest against nuclear arms, and in recent years, she and Kit have been hip hopping and starring in the film, *Hip Hop-eration*.

See [www.kitandmaynie.com](http://www.kitandmaynie.com) for more about the film, *Tea, Scones and Nuclear Disarmament*.

**Megan Hutching**



## Reports for 2016

### **President's Report: Celine Kearney**

It is with a sense of relief that I am able to hand this role on. This year I have mainly written letters and submissions: to the Norwegian WILPF to ask their support to remove Norwegian oil company Statoil's oil survey ship from our waters; and submissions and letters to government about the parlous state of fresh water. As part of our WILPF centenary 'one hundred interviews' project I am editing an interview of Pauline Tangiora done through the Disarmament Centre in Otautahi. I joined the march in the Week for Peace and enjoyed the Grannies for Peace action.

### **Co- Vice-President: Liz Remmerswaal**

Since I was elected as WILPF Aotearoa Co-Vice President alongside Pauline Tangiora in 2016 I have:

- \*Organised from a Hiroshima Day function in Hawke's Bay at the Napier Cathedral attended by 30 people, and generated publicity for WILPF in local newspapers.

- \*Set up a new Hawke's Bay group of WILPF with 15 (official and unofficial) members and held two meetings, one of which was addressed by Pauline, spoken to Napier Zonta group about WILPF, been part of the Napier Cathedral's Environment Justice and Peace group and attended a November Peace week ceremony.

- \*Visited WILPF branches in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.

- \*Represented WILPF at National Council of Women conference in Wellington in September 2016.

- \*Attended Wellington City of Peace Mayoral/UN seminar on refugees.

- \*Taken part in national Week of Prayer for Peace.

- \*Attended the Independent and Peaceful Australian Network conference in Alice Springs unofficially representing New Zealand.

- \*Taken part in a 'Peace Convergence' at the 50th year anniversary of Australian spy base Pine Gap, near Alice Springs, along with many other Australian peace organisations and published an article on this for Anti Bases

Campaign 'Peace Researcher'. I also supported 'Quaker Grannies For Peace' presence at Pine Gap and Alice Springs.

- \*Assisted with the media for visit of Dr Helen Caldicott with Peace Foundation

- \*Organised Auckland Peace Action's 'Peace Ships not Warships' action outside The Cloud on the waterfront with a 'Make Tea not War' Picnic featuring assorted colourful Grannies for Peace and the revised Ukes Not Nukes Peace Band, took part in nonviolent actions during the blockade of arms fair. Also attended 'Just War' seminar in Auckland.

- \*Written an article on the 'Week of Peace' for *The Common Good*.

- \*Networked with the Peace Foundation, Auckland Peace Action, Swords into Ploughshares Catholic Worker group and Wellington Peace Action.

- \*Run a workshop on peace activities at Pine Gap at Waihopai during January 2017.

- \*Written media releases supporting an enquiry for incidents related in Nicky Hager's 'Hit and Run', and United Nations Nuclear Weapons ban treaty negotiations, and organising a Nicky Hager talk in Hawke's Bay on May 8.

- \*Co-facilitating an open Peace weekend at the Whanganui Quaker Settlement May 19-22, 2017 (upcoming).

- \* Co-facilitating an Australian Quaker workshop entitled 'Peace Witness in a Time of Endless War' in Canberra on 24-28 April.

- \*Planning a Hawke's Bay Peace Exhibition to celebrate 30th anniversary of NZ's Nuclear Free status during 2018.

(edited)

### **WILPF Aotearoa Section Coordinators' Report 2016**

The main role of the Coordinators is to keep minutes, organize meetings, present submissions and write letters on behalf of the Section on issues of concern to us.

Submissions have been made on:

- the Petition of Hon Maryann Street and 8,974 others, re end of life choices.

Letters have been written on: civil society parallel caucus on Women Peace and Security (Minister of Foreign Affairs)

The Section signed on to letters written about:

- US-led military exercises in South Korea (Minister of Defence)
- nuclear disarmament negotiations (Minister of Foreign Affairs)
- Open Letter to the Permanent Representatives to the United Nations on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security
- the production of cluster munitions by Poongsang Corporation (coordinated by the International Cluster Munitions Coalition)

We continue to support the Living Wage Campaign; Peace Movement Aotearoa and the national humanitarian disarmament campaigns it coordinates – ANZ Campaign on Military Spending, ANZ Campaign to Stop Killer Robots, ANZ Joint Working Group on Cluster Munitions and Landmines, and iCAN ANZ (part of the international campaign to abolish nuclear weapons), as well as White Poppies for Peace and the World War I Centenary Peace Project, in particular the peace vigils on key First World War anniversary dates.

Our work on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda has continued, and we are working with other NGOs to establish a WPS NGO Coalition.

We are members of, or support, National Council of Women of New Zealand, UN Women, the Asia Pacific Human Rights Coalition, Pacific Women's Watch (NZ), and the Human Rights Network.

We maintain contact with WILPF International, circulate information received from them to our members and provide them with an annual report of our activities.

### ***Megan Hutching and Edwina Hughes***

#### **Tamaki Makaurau branch**

In August, Joan Macdonald died which has left a huge gap in our branch. We spent time at our final meeting for 2016 remembering Joan and talking about how she had influenced our lives and our work.

In April 2016, we hosted the Section AGM at the Auckland Women's Centre, and organised a public meeting on the Women Peace and Security agenda. Members took part in the Anzac Day peace vigil in Auckland in April, and in a vigil in November to mark Armistice Day.

The branch AGM was held in May, and WILPF member Kathy Ross spoke on her work for the Prison Fellowship with women prisoners at Wiri prison.

At our Matariki meeting in June, we developed questions for members to ask at local body election candidates' meetings, and had an information session on WILPF and where the branch and Section fit into WILPF International.

The annual Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemoration organised by Ruth Coombes at Auckland Domain's Wintergarden on 7 August was very successful, with around 80 people there, including lots of children and Japanese people. The *New Zealand Herald* sent reporters, and a video of the event was posted on their website. The music was also excellent. It was nice to have member Jill Greer there helping to make paper cranes – her presence made more poignant because Jill died in December, just a few months later.

In October, we had a visit from WILPF Aotearoa co-vice president Liz Remmerswaal who reported on her activities since the Section AGM.

WILPF members took part in 'Week of Peace' activities organised by Auckland Peace Action to mark the activities around an arms trade conference and the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the New Zealand Navy being held in Auckland in November, for example, Liz Remmerswaal and branch members held a Grannies for Peace, 'Make Tea Not War' event on Auckland's waterfront during the week, and members took part in the Peace March down Queen Street. WILPF life members, Kara Nelson and Maynie Thompson came across from Waiheke Island for the march, and were interviewed for the *Herald* newspaper. This

was Maynie's last action in a long career of protesting against militarism, as she died in early 2017.

After the success of the 2015 event, Ruth Coombes again organised an afternoon tea to commemorate the first time women voted in New Zealand in November 1893, which was held at Devonport library on Sunday 27 November.

On 15 December, the Auckland Labour History group commemorated the centenary of the first imprisonment of men for sedition in World War One with a vigil at Mount Eden prison. WILPF member, Irene Johnston ensured that WILPF was involved in the event which consisted of a march with placards and photographs of the men imprisoned from the Friends meeting house in Mount Eden Road to the prison, speeches and street theatre, and then lunch back at the meeting house. At the event, we learnt of a ban by the prison authorities on Friends giving posies to the inmates as they have done for 100 years. After a public outcry at the unreasonableness of this ban, Corrections changed their minds, and a group of around 50 or so people, including WILPF members, gathered at the Friends meeting house to make up posies for the prisoners.

Members also womanned a stall at local festivals in Oranga (Onehunga) and Parnell to publicise WILPF. The Parnell stall was organised by Kathy Ross and was an opportunity for children to do peace crafts. Both were successful, although the weather for the Oranga festival was trying.

Members Ruth Coombes, Del Abcede, Mary Littlewood, Nola Smith, Helen Sumich, Rae Martell, Jude Lowry and Anna Lee have all helped with the various catering jobs that the branch has done as a fundraising activity during the year. We have continued to work as a partner organisation with a group in the Philippines to which we send donated goods. Del Abcede organises this work.

We have continued with WILPF representation and taken an active part at the Auckland Branch of the National Council of Women, the Auckland Human Rights Network, the Living Wage, the Pay Equity Coalition, Pacific Women's Watch (NZ), Asia Pacific Human Rights Coalition and Tamaki Treaty Workers.

***Megan Hutching***

### **Otautahi/Christchurch branch**

The Otautahi WILPF group is small and relatively inactive these days. However, we still keep in touch, and support each other in any peace-related activities we are doing individually.

We organised our annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki commemoration in August. For the first time we didn't have an evening event, but instead had a morning ceremony at the Peace Bell in the Botanic Gardens, with speakers, music, and a bell-ringing at the exact hour of the Hiroshima bombing. As always, a good-sized crowd gathered, and at short notice we hosted a Japanese film crew who recorded the whole event.

The 87-year-old director, prominent in Japan, then continued his filming by interviewing Kate Dewes and Rob Green in depth. He has returned recently to film them again, along with members of the nuclear test veterans group in Christchurch.

We were so pleased that Keith Locke came down for the occasion, continuing the tradition of there always being one of the Locke family there to speak. Lucy Hiku sang the moving song "I come and stand", and the local Japanese choir joined us as usual.

The Peace Bell event was followed by the planting of a cherry tree nearby in memory of Mia Tay, one of the founders of the lantern tradition in Christchurch.

A WILPF stall was held at an international day event in March.

Co-vice president Liz Remmerswaal came to visit, and Kate hosted an informal gathering for her to meet members.

WILPF members helped the Disarmament and Security Centre organise a big public event in July marking the 20th anniversary of the advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on nuclear weapons. This was a well-attended occasion, hosted by Canterbury University, with several well-known speakers, including two former Prime Ministers and the Mayor.

*Prue Stringer*



*Irinka Britnell (right) from WILPF Otautahi at the Auckland peace march in the Week for Peace*

### **Peace Movement Aotearoa Report**

We attended the Peace Movement Aotearoa AGM held in Auckland on 27 November 2016, where grateful thanks for the support WILPF has given to Peace Movement Aotearoa's work was expressed.

Since the last WILPF AGM, Peace Movement Aotearoa has continued to produce their own publications, to provide information on specific topics on request, to meet with peace and related groups around the country, to speak at local and national meetings, to regularly update their web site and Facebook page, to provide information for publications by others on a variety of peace related topics, and to publicise peace events and funding opportunities.

Peace Movement Aotearoa provides national coordination for five global humanitarian disarmament campaigns: International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons Aotearoa NZ (iCAN ANZ), Cluster Munition Coalition and Campaign Against the Landmines ANZ Joint Working Group, ANZ Campaign to Stop Killer Robots (ANZCSKR), ANZ Campaign on Military Spending, and the Network on Explosive Weapons; and for the WW1 Centenary Peace Project and White Poppies for Peace – all of which WILPF Aotearoa is involved in and supports.

They have extensive topic focused national networks for each campaign, and on other peace, disarmament and human rights issues; and provide web pages for member groups and others.

As well as providing resources for each of the campaigns listed above, Peace Movement Aotearoa has produced updates and alerts on a wide range of issues, including: NZ military spending, deployments and exercises; militarism, militarisation, divestment, climate change and climate justice; changes in social welfare and child protection provisions, child poverty, socio-economic inequality, deep-sea oil exploration and drilling, and private prison contracts; on legal action such as the Wallace family's Bill of Rights Act case, and five Waitangi Tribunal hearings; and opportunities for submissions on issues including West Papua and the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement, and to a range of UN bodies.

Peace Movement Aotearoa has continued to publicise and provide resources for specific national and international days throughout the year, from Waitangi Day in February to Human Rights Day in December; and provided information on a variety of UN peace, disarmament and human rights developments. The Coordinator, Edwina Hughes, has spoken and provided presentations at a range of meetings, conferences and events.

It coordinates the national Women, Peace and Security (WPS) network with WILPF Aotearoa,



and both are jointly working to establish an NZ WPS NGO Coalition.

Our grateful thanks to Edwina and the Peace Movement Aotearoa team for all this excellent work.

***Claire and Linley Gregory (edited)***

### **Cluster Munitions and Landmines Report**

Thanks to all of the Aotearoa New Zealand Joint Working Group on Cluster Munitions and Landmines (ANZJWG) members and supporting NGOs who signed the International Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC) letter urging Poongsan Corporation to stop producing cluster munitions - a copy of the letter is attached, and the media release is included below.

We're currently following up with campaigners in Canada and Britain on the other part of the campaign which is to stop Mints from buying coin blanks from Poonsang, while it continues to be involved in cluster munition production – New Zealand's coins are produced by the Royal Canadian Mint and the British Royal Mint. Once we have the information from Canada and Britain, the ANZJWG will write to the Minister of Finance and Reserve Bank.

We're also doing some work with Radio NZ at the moment on the NZ Cluster Munitions Prohibition Act 2009 in relation to investments in companies involved in cluster munition production, with information and advice helpfully provided by Pax in the Netherlands and Human Rights Watch - more on that later, probably next week.

***Edwina Hughes***

---

## **WILPF activities:**

### **Photographic exhibition celebrating 30 years of Aotearoa New Zealand being nuclear-free, in Devonport, Auckland**

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the Devonport Peace Group presented an exhibition of historic

photographs from Gil Hanly and John Miller at Devonport Arts Space gallery in May and June.

*A fuller report to come in our next newsletter*



*Organiser, Ruth Coombes (left) and Ema Tagicakibau, representing the Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific network, at the exhibition.*

More photographs here:

<http://www.wilpf.org.nz/30-years-nuclear-free.html>

### **Women's marches**

WILPF women took part in women's marches, in Christchurch and Auckland in January 2017. Pictured below are Linley and Claire Gregory, in Auckland.





## Brief news:

### Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty negotiations

WILPF Aotearoa members, Kate Dewes and Lucy Stewart have been part of the New Zealand NGO delegation to the negotiations for a nuclear weapons ban treaty at the United Nations in New York.

Lucy has been blogging about their activities. Catch up with them here:

<http://www.nuclearfreenz30.org.nz/blog/>

### Next WILPF Congress in Ghana

The next international WILPF triennial Congress will be held in Accra, Ghana in mid-August 2018.

WILPF Aotearoa president, Megan Hutching is part of the Steering Committee which is organising the Congress. Organisation is still in the very early stages at the moment, but we will keep you updated with details when they come to hand.

## WILPF International president, Kozue Akibayashi to visit Aotearoa New Zealand in early August

We're delighted to tell you that Kozue Akibayashi will be visiting us in early August, and will attend Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day commemorations in Auckland on 6 August, organised by WILPF Tamaki Makaurau branch.

We will be organising other activities for Kozue to meet WILPF members, and hope that we can get lots of publicity for WILPF and disarmament and human rights and all the other things that we work for while she is here.

***More to come about these initiatives in the next newsletter***

### Contact us:

WILPF Aotearoa  
PO Box 2054  
Wellington 6140  
Aotearoa New Zealand

[www.wilpf.org.nz](http://www.wilpf.org.nz)  
[wilpf@aotearoa@gmail.com](mailto:wilpf@aotearoa@gmail.com)

And see us on Facebook

[www.facebook.com/wilpf.aotearoa.newzealand](https://www.facebook.com/wilpf.aotearoa.newzealand)

**President:** Megan Hutching

**Vice-Presidents:** Pauline Tangiora  
Liz Remmerswaal

**Section Treasurer:** Claire Gregory

**Section Co-ordinators:** Edwina Hughes,  
Celine Kearney, Suzanne Loughlin



*Exhibition in Devonport, Auckland to mark the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Zealand's nuclear free legislation. Photo: Ruth Coombes*

