

# Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Aotearoa Section Newsletter: October 2016



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## ***Farewell to Joan Macdonald***

Joan Macdonald was farewelled by hundreds of people at Mahurehure cultural marae in Auckland on 19 August. Her family were joined by friends, and representatives of peace groups, Treaty workers, women's networks, human rights and social justice organisations, and other areas of Joan's life, including her work as a Plunket nurse. Kuia Titewhai Harawira and Nganeko Minhinnick spoke warmly of Joan's committed support.

*Celine Kearney delivered the following eulogy on behalf of WILPF.*



*Joan in the Quaker meeting house (Photo: Del Abcede)*

Joan, we bring you love from Te Waipounamu, from Otautahi, from Poneke, and from all around Tamaki Makaurau.

As I was thinking about you I kept hearing *Bread and Roses* in my mind. So here's a verse for you:

As we go marching marching  
In the beauty of the day  
A million darkened kitchens  
A thousand mill lofts grey  
Are touched with all the radiance  
That a sudden sun discloses  
For the people hear us singing  
Bread and roses, bread and roses

Your life Joan has been lived around that commitment to fairness and justice (bread) and to dignity and respect (roses).

We think it is about 40 years since you were first introduced to WILPF at the United Women's Convention in Wellington in 1975.



(L-R) Tamaki Makaurau WILPF members Bertha Delgado, Pat Jackman, Ruth Coombes, Joan, Megan Hutching, Jill Greer giving good advice to the NZ Defence Force on International Women's Day. Photo: Del Abcede

Pauline Tangiora rang last night and said you'd been a great mentor since the mid 1970's, and a wonderful support for Pakeha Treaty supporters. She is in Wellington negotiating the final treaty settlement for her people and cannot be here, but she sends her aroha, and remembers that she knew some of your family in Kaitaia.

Forty years Joan, attending, running and organising WILPF meetings. You've held every office and position, local and nationally, and been a strong link to WILPF International. You travelled for WILPF attending conferences locally and internationally. You've written letters, and submissions to government, attended National Council of Women meetings and written remits, always challenging the status quo. You networked and built strong relationships between older and younger generations.

You were helping to organise garden fundraisers for WILPF, long before it became popular. You cooked for WILPF, catering for functions and offered us hospitality at your home.

I met you in 1980 at Te Hui Oranga in 1980 at the Anglican marae at the top of Symonds St. It was one of a series of gatherings of Maori and indigenous activists from around the Pacific sharing their struggles to regain control of their own land and communities, cultural traditions. You were in the kitchen, Joan, and I learned very quickly never to

underestimate the power of women in the kitchen working for social change.

Your focus for WILPF was clearly on the Treaty of Waitangi here in Aotearoa, and on the wider Pacific, building and maintaining links with women around the Pacific, in Australia, Bougainville, West Papua and wider Polynesia, supporting indigenous sovereignty struggles.

We remember, Joan, that you would often meet someone, invite them to a WILPF meeting, and the next thing she'd be recruited onto the committee. It was nigh on impossible to say no to you.

Joan was a caring and thoughtful friend to the many she supported. Her deep humanity encompassed her strong principles, all part of her dedication to peace. She was committed to her work for people and a just society, as a Plunket Nurse, with Pakeha Treaty Workers, human rights networks, and many others.

Joan, you seemed so gentle and unassuming but you had a backbone of steel. You were warm, with a wonderful smile and laughter in your eyes. You were generous and hospitable, sharing your home with us for WILPF meetings.

We farewell you on your journey, confident your spirit will find rest. Your WILPF sisters Pat and Helen are not long gone before you. We'll continue the work Joan, singing bread and roses, for you.

We thank Joan's family, Andrew, Gavin and Beth, for sharing Joan with us. Our hearts are with you as you farewell your mother.

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There are plans to meet in a year's time to review efforts to continue the work Joan was committed to. A memorial for Joan will also be discussed.

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Below is one of the songs sung for Joan: *Nga Iwi E*

## Nga Iwi E –

Nga iwi e! Nga iwi e!  
Kia kotahi ra te Moana-nui-a-kiwa

e-i-a-i-e -----

Kia mau ra! Kia mau ra!  
ki te mana motuhake me te aroha

e-i-a-i-e -----

Wahine ma! Wahine ma!  
Ma-ra-nga mai, Ma-ra-nga mai, kia kaha

e-i-a-i-e -----

E tama ma! E tama ma!  
E tama tu, E tama tu, tama ora!

e-i-a-i-e -----

Nga iwi e! Nga iwi e!  
Kia kotahi mai te Moana-nui-a-kiwa

e-i-a-i-e -----

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### *English translation*

All you people! All you people!  
Be united as one, like the Pacific Ocean.

"air-ee-ah-ee-air"

Hold on firmly! Hold on firmly  
to your inheritance, and to compassion.

e-i-a-i-e

All you young women! All you young women  
rise up, rise up, be strong

e-i-a-i-e

All you lads! All you lads!  
Stand up tall and live like men!

e-i-a-i-e

All you people! All you people!  
Be united as one, like the Pacific Ocean.

([http://www.folksong.org.nz/E\\_I\\_A\\_I\\_E/index.html](http://www.folksong.org.nz/E_I_A_I_E/index.html))

## Wairoa Iwi settlement signed



*Negotiator Pauline Tangiora initials the Deed of Settlement (right). Photo: RNZ / Story Laura Bootham. May 26, 2016, Radio New Zealand.*

Wairoa iwi have initialled their deed of settlement with the Crown as a powerful milestone in addressing the terrible injustices inflicted.

More than three decades after Wairoa lodged its claims with the Waitangi Tribunal, the iwi is set to secure \$100 million as well as cultural redress.

It was a momentous day for the kuia, kaumatua and whānau who flew from Wairoa in northern Hawkes Bay to Wellington to ensure they were part of the process of negotiation that had gone on since the 1980s. Treaty Negotiations minister Chris Finlayson said mana whenua there had endured grievances that were 'very, very serious'. He said those were grounded in the 'loss of the vast majority of their lands'.

Pauline Tangiora was a negotiator since the outset and said the event was very moving, with the Crown admitting its wrongdoings being the thing she treasured the most. "It's not the money for me, it is the case that the government has acknowledged and accepted that they had not fulfilled their obligations in the last 175 years."

The esteemed kuia hoped future generations, including Pākehā, would learn about the Crown's transgressions and the settlement. "It is a token gesture, but for me it will be written into history of what the government did and if we hadn't had this hearing it would never have been written into history for our children of the future to be able to say 'ooh this has been done'.

"I believe Pākehā should read the history of what happened and the mamae will always remain, but we must move on for our children and the future."

Treaty Negotiations Minister Chris Finlayson acknowledged Pauline Tangiora's contribution, describing her as "tough, principled and you take her on at your own risk'. He said she had provided great leadership.

Mr Finlayson also acknowledged the Crown's confiscation and exploitation of the tribe's lands and said there had been intense military campaigns conducted against Wairoa that led to socio-economic deprivation that still existed.

"The foundations of these grievances are that the Crown did not take Te Tiriti of Waitangi to the Wairoa rohe so the iwi and hapū had limited opportunity to consider whether or not to sign it.

"The Crown did not always adequately survey the blocks it purchased or fully investigate who had customary rights to them nor did it set aside adequate reserves.

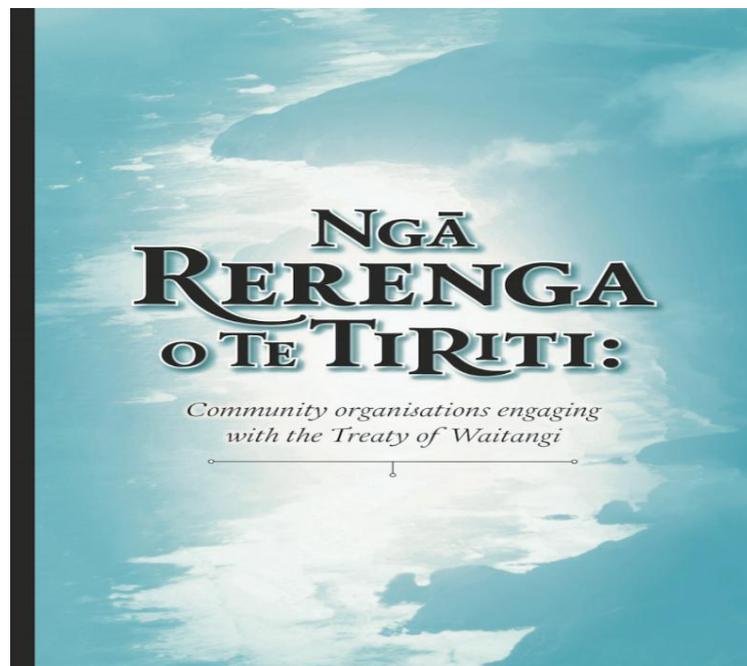
He said the outbreak of the war that began with the Crown attack on Christmas Day 1865 resulted in severe loss of life and property and the iwi and hapū who opposed the Crown were unfairly labelled as 'rebels'.

"In April 1867 some Wairoa Māori agreed under duress to cede 42,000 acres to the Crown, some people from the iwi and hapū who did not consent to the cession had their interests effectively confiscated.

In 1875 the Crown acquired 178,000 acres of land near Lake Waikaremoana by exploiting confusion about the legal status of the blocks."

"Since the 1870s the Crown has compulsorily taken more than 500 acres for public works purposes... every (Treaty) settlement involves the dreaded Public Works Act.

Mr Finlayson noted since 2001 nearly 90 percent of the iwi and hapū lived outside the rohe and many of those who remained suffered from very serious social and economic deprivation.



Committed Treaty worker Jen Margaret has made us aware of this new resource – Available at

<http://www.trc.org.nz/application/nga-rerenga-o-te-tiriti>

### ***Women's Studies Journal Article***

The current issue of the Women's Studies Journal, includes a story by Celine Kearney and Megan Hutching reflecting on the work of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in New Zealand.

To find out more you could visit The Women's Studies Journal website:

<http://www.wsanz.org.nz/journal.htm>, or check our WILPF Aotearoa website where you will be able to read the article.

***News from around the Section:***  
**WILPF Hawkes Bay – A new group**



The inaugural meeting of WILPF Hawkes Bay took place in August. It was initiated by Liz Remmerswaal (standing back right). Pauline Tangiora (seated left) spoke about WILPF.

**Report from Otautahi: Prue Stringer  
Otautahi Hiroshima and Nagasaki  
memorial**

On 6 August we held our annual event to commemorate the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Since the earthquakes we haven't been able to use the Victoria Square venue to float our lanterns on the river, and have been gathering instead at the Peace Bell in the Botanic Gardens. Due to a clash with a night time festival there all that week, we moved to a daytime event for the first time, and that worked well and brought a good crowd. It also meant we could ring the Bell at the exact moment that bells would be rung in Japan, to mark the time of the dropping of the bomb on Hiroshima.

We were grateful to have a karakia to begin the ceremony, and several speakers, together with the beautiful singing of Lucy Boanas Hiku, and a Japanese choir, followed by the lighting of candles around the Bell. The whole event was filmed by a

Japanese TV film crew who are making a documentary.

40 years ago Mia Tay was the main instigator of these events that we hold to remember those who died, and those who suffered from nuclear testing, but also to reaffirm our commitment to work towards a nuclear-free world, where such atrocities can never happen again. A cherry tree was planted near the Peace Bell in memory of Mia, and it was very special to have many members of her family there for the occasion.

At the end flowers were scattered on the river, a moving scene as they floated off into the distance.



*Mia's daughter, Kim Tay (left), Prue Stringer and Kate Dewes (further right)*

Liz Remmerswaal, our new vice-president visited Christchurch, shared her ideas and listened to the experiences of WILPF Otautahi women.

**Tamaki Makaurau Hiroshima memorial**

There was coverage of Tamaki Makaurau's lantern floating ceremony at the Auckland Domain Wintergarden, in the *New Zealand Herald* newspaper, including video coverage. See it at:

[http://www.nzherald.co.nz/national/news/video.cfm?id=1503075&gal\\_cid=1503075&gallery\\_id=163921](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/national/news/video.cfm?id=1503075&gal_cid=1503075&gallery_id=163921)

## *Update from a wandering WILPF Ōtautahi member: Anna Claire Hunter*

It was saddening to hear of the passing of Joan Macdonald, who has been such a staunch, determined and hard-working advocate for peace, justice and treaty education. News came to me at the end of a month long walk through the northern goldfields region, Western Australia, along with news of rioting in Kalgoorlie in response to the murder of Aboriginal teenager by a white man.

The Walkatjurra Walkabout is in its 6th year. We are walking in support of local traditional owners who have been fighting for over 40 years to keep uranium in the ground, protecting sacred land, water, people and animals. Days before the walk started, we received word that the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA), which usually just rubber stamps mining developments, had recommended the state Minister of Environment NOT approve a uranium mine at Yeelirrie. This is due to the potential extinction of Stygofauna, tiny under water creatures endemic to the area, whose habitat would be completely destroyed if the mine went ahead. It was amazing to be out on country to celebrate this win, though unimpressed that the traditional owners' right to say no to the mine wasn't respected on its own. It was not all good news: the EPA did recommend approval for Mulga Rocks, a proposed mine 300 km east of Kalgoorlie. And we found out on the last day of the walk that the extended uranium project of Toro, including at the proposed site of Lake Way close to where we started the walk, also received a EPA recommendation for approval. There is a push from the companies to get approvals through before the next state election, with a likely win for Labour and return to a ban on uranium mining in WA.

You can find more information about the walk here: <https://walkingforcountry.com/walkatjurra-walkabout/walkatjurra-walkabout-updates/>

After we arrived in Kalgoorlie on 6 September, we walked as a group into the Sorry Camp at Gribble Creek, site of the murder of Elijah Doughty, who died at just 14 years of age. He was run down in an act of racist vigilante revenge, after the man found him on a stolen motorcycle. The stories from the family there were devastating. This is not just an act of extreme

violence from one person, but one of police indifference, incompetence and disrespect, of Facebook messages inciting racial violence before the murder and after it, and of an indigenous community fed up with the culture of racism and violence in Kalgoorlie that has taken and continues to take Aboriginal lives. We gave the family the Aboriginal flag that we walked with throughout the month, and it was placed with the memorial for Elijah.

On the way to the walk and on the way back, my trip was bookended by anti-nuclear events in South Australia and the North Territory. Beforehand I attended the "Lizard Bites Back" protestival at



*Anna Claire with Liz Remmerswaal at Pine Gap in September, 2016*

Olympic Dam uranium (and copper and gold) mine, Roxby Downs. The mine is the biggest uranium mine in Australia, and has been consistently opposed by local Kokatha traditional owners since it was established in the 1980s. Uncle Kevin Buzzacott, Arabunna elder, initiated the event - his land and the mound springs sacred to Arabunna people are being devastated by the mine's theft of 37 million litres of

water from the great artesian basin every day. I met women involved in the resistance to construction of the mine in the 1980s, participated in a zombie march and peaceful occupation of the road leading to the mine that lasted all day. After ANFA and the walk, I will be going to a protest gathering in Alice Springs to mark 50 year anniversary of the Pine Gap US spy base there in late September. (See picture on previous page)

Then I'll be heading to 'Yanakanai Ngarpala Yarta - Come here to our country', a campout hosted by local Adnyamathanha traditional owners near Wallerbidina Station (also known as Barndioota) in South Australia, proposed site of a national nuclear waste dump. This is the third attempt to force a nuclear waste dump on a remote Aboriginal community in Australia over the last 20 years. Yappala Station, next door to the site, is an Indigenous Protected Area, recognised for its high heritage value, and a sacred women's site at Hookina springs is on the proposed property itself. There is a Day of Action on 15 October against this nuclear waste dump proposal and the push from the South Australian government to start an industry importing international high level nuclear waste into the state.

So the work continues. The best way to honour Joan's life, playing our part in creating a just and decolonised world.

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## Lay Down Your Arms

Wanganui art therapist, Deirdra McMenimin, took her art project, called *Lay Down Your Arms*, to WILPF's centennial gatherings in The Hague last year. Her project began twenty years ago in her hometown of Derry (Londonderry), Northern Ireland, after an incident in which three members of one family were killed when a Catholic and a Protestant got engaged.

She workshopped the project idea with teenagers on both sides of the community, who came up with a comprehensive list of the main people across the divide who were part of keeping the fighting going. This included bishops, Catholic and Protestant, and others including politician, leaders of paramilitary groups, doctors, MPs, teachers, police, and army.

Deirdra aimed to get these people together to be plaster cast. The children she was working with had been stood down from school, then had a career trajectory to join a paramilitary on either side.

She has done the arms of hundreds of people. In a New Zealand context, she explains, her work would have been the equivalent of getting leaders of the Mongrel Mob and Black Power to sit down and get their arms cast together. "We got the chair of the Rainbow coalition - representing lesbian and gay members - cast with one of the most right wing fascist men in town. We worked through the issues with them and they agreed to have their arms cast together, shaking hands. If you work from the micro to macro, in the end it's the same because they're both human. If you take away the fear of other, you realise people have more in common than they have differences."

Plaster casts were made up in clay and later raku fired. When exhibited each cast was anonymous. There was a list of the names, and the stories were there if people wanted to share them. There were displays in the community arts centre in the Bogside, the Catholic area of Derry, and Ebrington Business Centre in the Waterside, the equivalent Protestant community.



*Deirdra (second from the left) at work doing plaster casts in 2015. (L-R) Joan Macdonald, WILPF International Secretary General, Madeleine Rees, Kara Nelson, and Rae Martell. Standing behind is Irene Johnson.*



Otautahi WILPF member Lois Webster was a recent guest editor on The Daily Blog about the Women's Boat to Gaza. She also spoke briefly to a WILPF meeting about the boat. "It's a story of women of conscience around the world determined to highlight the ongoing suffering particularly Palestinian women," she explains. "All Palestinians are, and have been, cruelly oppressed (and lied about) for decades. The situation in Gaza is especially horrifying." For her, one of the fascinating aspects of the international women-only participants is that they include: a Benedictine Sister and physician from Spain (Teresa Forcades), a Muslim doctor from Malaysia (Dr Fauziah Mohd Hasan), and the wife of a United Church minister from Canada (Eva Manly). Nobel Peace Prize laureate Mairead McGuire and New Zealand Green party politician Marama Davidson were also on the boat.

(The Daily Blog is an electronic forum which brings together left-wing thinkers from 42 countries. )

Read the story on <http://thedailyblog.co.nz>.  
(<http://thedailyblog.co.nz/2016/09/07/guest-blog-lois-griffiths-women-around-the-world-in-solidarity/>)



*Green politician, Marama Davidson, pictured above, was on the Women's Boat to Gaza.*

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