

WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM

AOTEAROA SECTION

WILPF 100th anniversary



Send us your ideas for how to celebrate WILPF's 100th anniversary in April 2015

Women's Power To Stop War

In April 2015 WILPF will be 100 years old, making us the longest-standing women's anti-war organisation in the world. WILPF International is developing a plan to help us celebrate this great achievement, and there will be anniversary events throughout the year.

The theme of the anniversary is 'Women's Power to Stop War'. WILPF has set up a website: www.womenstopwar.org

which is being updated regularly, and where you can sign the Anniversary pledge.

The anniversary will have three main parts—the WILPF triennial Congress in The Hague, Netherlands in April 2015; then an international conference which will also be held in The Hague straight after congress, and what is being called the 'Movement'.

The Movement will commemorate the collective work that WILPF women have done over the past 100 years to stop war and create sustainable, global peace. It will also be forward-looking, so that we can celebrate our past, present and future.

The Movement will work at an international, regional, national and local level—just as WILPF itself does.

We need your ideas about how to celebrate the anniversary here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Please send them to:
wilpfaotearoa@gmail.com

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Remembrances

Mary Woodward (1924-2014) passed away in June.

Although she had been ill for the past few years of her life for many years Mary had been an active member of WILPF and many other related causes. She was also an active member of the Quaker community and her involvement in these two organizations led to many other interests. While living in Christchurch she and her friend Elsie Locke helped to found the NZ Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and she became the first National Secretary.

Mary and her family were living in Australia during the Vietnam war and Mary had a major responsibility for Quaker support for a hospital in Qui Non and also for the establishment of an Op-shop to raise aid funds.

When her husband Jack was working in Papua New Guinea, Mary was very active in teaching and research and writing about land

sales there.

Back in New Zealand she was appointed to the PACDAC Committee and was awarded a NZ 1990 Commemoration Medal for services to the causes of peace and disarmament.

Throughout her life Mary demonstrated the basic values of integrity and a belief in fairness and justice. A strong believer in peace and non-violence she was committed to action, her mantra being "if you want peace, work for justice."



Jean Smith

Jean Smith (1921-2014)

passed away in June.

Jean was a life member of the Tamaki Makaurau Branch of WILPF and a regular attendee at meetings held at the Friends' Meeting House until last year. She and her husband Neil were staunch pacifists and they suffered considerably for this as Neil, a conscientious objector, and still a university student, was imprisoned for the duration. When the war ended Neil was denied access to the sort of teaching or other academic work he would have been able to do, and like other Cos had to resort to farming to make living.

Jean served as secretary for the Auckland Branch of WILPF for many years and at that time was always active on information stalls and at peace demonstrations.

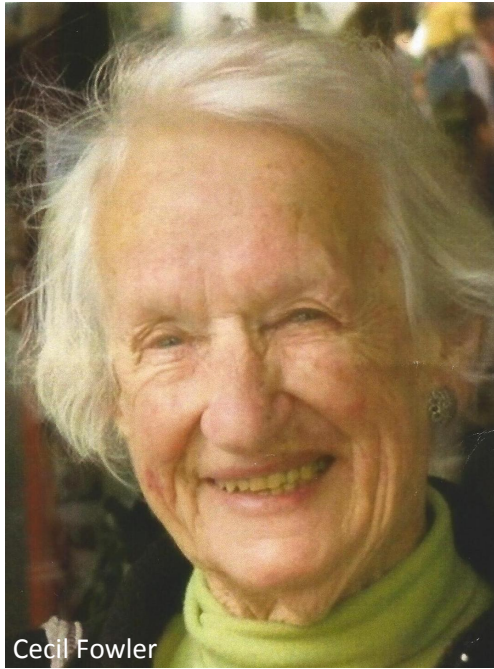
Cecil Fowler (1921-2014)

passed away in July.

Cecil was a staunch peace and justice activist with many and varied interests starting from her childhood in England where she recognized the inequalities in society. When she came to New Zealand she soon became involved in organizations working to alleviate poverty and inequality while pursuing her career as a teacher and mother. She worked for Corso in its earlier days and then with Trade Aid up until recently. We could rely on Cecil to provide the Trade Aid tea and coffee at our meetings as well as selling it.

Cecil was a pivotal member of the China Friendship Society and was still attending their meetings even when she became ill. A tribute was paid to her work by the





Cecil Fowler

Chinese Consul who attended her funeral.

Tribute was also paid to her as inspirational teacher.

Cecil represented the Aotearoa Section of WILPF at the International Congress in Bolivia in 2004 and she attended many peace and protest marches to carry the banner for WILPF.

Diana Unwin (1923-2014)

remembered by Chris Greenwood

Philanthropist, peace campaigner, feminist, human rights advocate: over the course of her long life Diana contributed, both financially and in terms of time and energy, to a vast array of humanitarian causes, directly and indirectly enabling many people around the world to enjoy a better life. In 1992, the Grace Memorial Trust was established by Diana in memory of her mother, and has been a generous supporter of many causes in New Zealand and overseas. The

Trust's focus on peace, dispute resolution, prison reform and restorative justice culminated in 2013 with the endowment of the inaugural Chair in Restorative Justice at Victoria University, Wellington. Appropriately, the Chair is to be named after Diana.

Diana was a strong advocate for the policies of WILPF and worked tirelessly to this end. Diana believed in the power of the individual, particularly in democratic countries like New Zealand. She believed that individuals could effect change, often more easily than structured organisations. She believed doing something had an effect and doing nothing had an effect. And that formed her personal philosophy, and that was how she structured her life.

After returning from her 'OE' in Europe during the 1950's and deeply committed to the cause of international peace, justice, and humanitarianism, she founded the South Canterbury branch of the United Nations Association. Diana organised a series of residential seminars for high school students highlighting the work of the United Nations and promoting the ideals of international understanding, world peace and human rights.

Diana was involved with numerous other international relief and philanthropic organisations, and campaigned to raise funds for development programmes, refugee associations, and child sponsorship. It was at this time Diana, through Save the Children, began to sponsor a girl from a family in Italy. This began a relationship

extending to three generations who she continued to visit over the next forty years.

In 1984, and one of the defining experiences of Diana's life, was her time at Greenham Common - one of the a peace camps set up by women from all over the world to protest against the Cruise missiles stored there. The fact that the peace women maintained non-violent but determined action earned credibility. And the symbolism of defenceless, unarmed women protesting against the authority of the United States Air Force and supportive British establishment had a huge impact on Diana. Each woman showed determination to withstand the primitive conditions, horrible weather, dreadful intimidation and official harassment, negative media attention, and derision by some of the local community. Some women ended up with a gaol sentence. There were many sacrifices but the women did not budge.

Diana continued to travel internationally in the cause of world peace. In 1986, she joined part of 'The Great Peace March' across America. People of all ages, their common interest being their opposition to nuclear weapons, walked from town to town. They were fed and welcomed by some, shunned by others. As with the Greenham Common experience Diana was impressed by the effort of each individual's contribution and the good will and cooperation that kept the moving city of 500 people fed, washed, healthy, and the children cared for and educated, and all of them on the road.

Remembrances

In 1988, Diana was one of a group from 24 countries, and represented the Pacific Institute of Resource Management on a Soviet Peace Cruise from Kiev to Odessa to the Black Sea calling at cities along the way. Through interpreters, the group had the opportunity to meet and share ideas. Mr Gorbachev spoke to them for half an hour and then asked for questions. Diana felt they were free to ask questions without political overtones, and New Zealand's anti-nuclear stance was enthusiastically received wherever she went.



Diana Unwin

Diana trained as a teacher, after gaining a Master of Arts with First Class Honours from Otago University with a thesis entitled, 'Women in New Zealand Industry'. She went on to work as a librarian, reporter, trained as a factory inspector, Diana's appointment to the South Canterbury Hospital Board influenced her decision to train as a nurse and at the age of almost fifty she was accepted for training at Wellington Hospital.

Ultimately, however, Diana's lasting legacy is in the individual lives she touched: the families she supported, her compassion for the disadvantaged, her befriending of the friendless, the

connections she fostered, her passion for peace, and her endless advocacy of social justice and the equitable distribution of resources. Her eloquent critique of the hierarchical, consumerist,

market-driven capitalist world order that can only lead to conflict and exploitation was mirrored in a life that turned aside from success on those terms and focussed on the individual acts of generosity, kindness and selflessness that are the foundations of the world she dreamed of.

She was a remarkable woman.



Mia Tay remembered by Katie Dewes

Mia Tay died from cancer on 25 June 2014 in Christchurch, aged 73. For more than 40 years she

was very active in the peace movement, both locally and nationally. Mia emigrated to New Zealand from Holland after the Second World War, and joined the Society of Friends and became a Quaker after attending the Quaker School in Whanganui. She protested against the Vietnam War, and in 1975 became the part-time organiser for the Christchurch Peace Office. In 1979, Mia was a founding member of the Christchurch Peace Collective, while in 1981 she helped found the Christchurch Peace Forum and in 1992, Women for Peace.

In the early 1980s she helped re-activate a dormant Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and build a Christchurch branch of WILPF. She also helped organise the first Peace Movement NZ meeting at Living Springs, and later served on the Peace Movement Aotearoa working group and the New Zealand Peace Foundation Council. Mia helped run the Environment Peace Information (EPI) Centre in the Christchurch Arts Centre, and was the Christchurch representative on the National consultative Committee on Disarmament for many years. The Quaker peace and service work was a particular passion for her.

In 1976 Mia also established and organised the annual lantern floating ceremony marking the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. She helped sew beautiful rainbow banners celebrating Christchurch as the first nuclear free city in 1982, and New Zealand's nuclear free status. She

Remembrances

also helped draft the Christchurch peace City proposal which was adopted in 2002. In 2005 Mia received a Peace City Award, in recognition of her lifetime commitment to peace making.

After a lifetime of hard work and advocacy for others,, may she now be fully at peace herself.

Pat Jackman *remembered by Megan Hutching*

Pat first became involved in WILPF in the early 2000s when we hosted an international meeting of WILPF in Auckland.

From 2010 to 2013 Pat was national president of WILPF Aotearoa. She was the Tamaki Makaurau branch delegate to the Auckland branch meetings of the

National Council of Women, and when she was WILPF president, she represented us at the national NCW meetings.



One of her interests was working with other groups which supported women after they left prison, and she organised a meeting with the Books in Prisons group and helped with fundraising

for that group.

She was also very important in helping WILPF Tamaki Makaurau raise funds—she made wonderful lemon honey for our sales tables and was pivotal in our catering fundraising activities.

In 2013 Pat and I travelled to Spain to attend an international WILPF meeting where we had a stimulating and thought-provoking time.

All Pat's friends will miss her kindness, her lovely smile, her gardening advice, her good sense and her ability to ensure that everyone felt that their opinion was heard and considered.

Rest in peace, Pat.

Wellington Branch report

With great sadness we acknowledge the loss of one of our life members, Diana Unwin, who dedicated her life to the cause of peace and social justice and died peacefully at the age of 91. Chris Greenwood has written a tribute to Diana, recording the remarkable diversity of her work.

Members attended the UNANZ National Conference in May which included the Secondary Schools Speech Contest on the subject 'Education for Peace: what is to be done?' and the Adcock Memorial Dinner in the Grand Hall

of Parliament. The guest speaker was Marilyn Duckworth.

At the invitation of the British High Commissioner to New Zealand, WILPF members took part in the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, held outside Te Papa on 12 June.

Members attended panel discussions in Parliament, organized by the newly founded Wellington think tank, 'Diplosphere'; on the 20 May on the subject, 'Drone Strikes are they in the best interest of New Zealand?' and on 29 July, 'Tensions in Iraq, and the implications for New

Zealand's candidature for a seat on the Security Council, later this year'.

On 4 August, members attended a candle lit vigil at the Cenotaph in Wellington, along with other peace and faith groups, to mark the start of World War One, organized by Peace Movement Aotearoa (PMA).

Following the NCWNZ AGM, the Wellington Branch meeting speaker Rae Duff, spoke about CSW 58-the Commission on the Status of Women meeting she attended recently in New York as representative for the International

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WILPF International, Geneva
www.wilpfinternational.org



Joan Macdonald (left) and others commemorate the beginning of the First World War at a vigil held in Devonport, Auckland. Photo: *Del Abcede*

Wellington Branch report cont:

Federation of Graduate Women. It meets annually for two weeks and is a principal UN global policy making body. Forty five member states are elected to the CSW on a four-year cycle: currently there are eleven from the Asia/Pacific region,

although there were none from the Pacific Islands, Australia or New Zealand. The theme was: 'The challenges and implementation of the Millennium Goals.

Some of the overarching themes were to:

- ensure gender equality - that must underpin all goals
- stop violence against women and girls
- strengthen women's participation in peace processes
- ensure and promote women's full participation in the economic world.

Joy Davies-Payne



Claire Gregory (right) making cranes at the 2014 Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations, Winter Gardens, Auckland Domain. Photo: *Del Abcede*