

WILPF OTAUTAHAI REPORT May 2023

While WILPF members do not meet in person as a group, we do gather annually for the commemoration for Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days in August organised by the Disarmament and Security Centre. In September last year members took part in the launch of the Peace Train rides in Hagley Park which was featured on [TVNZ and TV3 News](#) on the 12th anniversary of the September 2010 earthquakes. The City Council features [The Train](#) on their website alongside the [Peace City website](#) which we contributed to. The Train now chugs around the Botanic Gardens for two Sundays each month during the summer. Members have also been working with the Avon Loop group working with the Council to convert part of the Red Zone into a Peace Park which will provide spaces for reflection and a peace activity area for children. It is where Elsie and Jack Locke, and Rod Donald lived and will celebrate their contributions to peace and justice. Hopefully it will also have an interpretative board honouring the 9 Christchurch citizens who have [received a peace award](#), including Mia Tay.

In November 2022 WILPF members joined a protest at the World Peace Bell to highlight the killing by the brutal religious Iranian Regime of [Mahsa Amini](#) and others for not wearing a head covering. There was drama, a hair cutting ceremony (as women are not allowed to cut their hair), dancing, speeches, prayers and ringing of the bell in remembrance of the victims. Irinka Britnell did the beautiful floral displays. Irinka and Evie also held a WILPF stall in 2021 for Culture Galore where, due to Covid restrictions, they weren't allowed a tent or table so they had to organise the stall themselves. They gave away peace badges and spoke with attendees. The photo from 2021 Hiroshima Day commemorations shows a strong WILPF presence.



