

## **WILPF Tāmaki Makaurau**

### **Report of 2022 activities**

Coming out the other side of COVID-19 lockdowns, we were able to hold in-person meetings of branch members during 2022.

Speakers at our meetings included:

- Susan Healy on the significance and importance of the 1835 He Whakaputanga/the Declaration of Independence (this was a hybrid meeting held in-person and online)
- Women from Ahmadiyya mosque (Masjid Baitul Muqet Mosque) in Wiri
- Frances Hancock from the group which supported tangata whenua during the struggles to protect Ihumātao

During other meetings we discussed the draft WILPF International programme in preparation for the international Congress in July; received updates on planning for Congress and contributed ideas for the WILPF Aotearoa workshop during that event.

We had planned an online discussion series with young women on ‘What peace means to me’ but this had to be postponed to 2023. At our branch meeting in September, we shared our thoughts on what peace means to us individually.

Our regular activities during the year included:

- *Annual commemoration of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945.* In the past we have held these events at the Wintergardens in Auckland Domain but these have been undergoing refurbishment for the past few years. This, along with COVID-19 and associated lockdowns, has meant that we have held the commemorations at the Ellen Melville Centre in central Auckland. Numbers have been smaller but we continue to mark the occasions with speakers, readings, an exhibition of photographs and candles to mark those who died during the two bombings.

This year we hope to return to the Wintergardens.

Special thanks are due to Ruth Coombes and other WILPF members who organise the commemoration.

- *Matariki lunch and branch AGM* held on 25 June. Del Abcede, Claire Gregory, Angelina Weir, Tamsin Kingston, Nola Smith, Ruth Coombes and Megan Hutching continued as the branch committee.
- *Peace stall at Parnell Rose Gardens during Auckland Council’s Rose Festival, 13 November.* Another successful craft stall for children making banners on the theme of world peace. Thanks to Kathy Ross for organising the stall and putting WILPF’s name in front of people who do not usually hear of us.
- *Celebrating women’s vote, 27 November.* Ruth Coombes organises this event at Devonport library to mark the first time, 28 November 1893, that women voted in a general election in Aotearoa New Zealand. There was music, speeches – and cake.

Members also attended the women’s peace conference held at Ahmadiyya mosque (Masjid Baitul Muqet Mosque) in June, and Lorri Mackness gave a presentation.

Del Abcede has agreed to become the Section representative on the WILPF Asia Pacific regional group.

Members also attended the WILPF international Congress in July.

Megan Hutching spoke at a webinar organised by NCW on 4 December about WILPF's contribution to international peace and justice efforts.

Megan also contacted the University of Auckland library about making a further deposit of WILPF Tāmaki Makaurau records to the archive. This was agreed and an initial donation was made.

Nola Smith and Beverley Turner continue to maintain the Auckland Human Rights Network by email. This was reorganised at the beginning of 2022 so that all messages go from a separate Gmail address (rather than from the individual addresses of Nola and Beverley).

Megan Hutching also helps with forwarding messages.

Our end of year get-together on 10 December was an informal occasion held at Helen Sumich's house.

As always, we thank all members for their input, activities, experience and enthusiasm for WILPF,

Megan Hutching (for WILPF Tāmaki Makaurau branch committee)