CENTRE FOR PEACE STUDIES

A BRIEF HISTORY

History and Achievements 1988-2008

The establishment of a Centre for Peace Studies in the University of Auckland was approved by the University Senate in September 1988, and the centre was opened formally in November 1988 by the then Associate Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Hon. F. Wilde. The proposal to establish the centre was widely supported in the University. A copy of the proposal is included as Appendix Two.

The aims of the centre were:

1. to carry out research at the highest level and to publish this;
2. to develop contacts with other centres and groups, particularly in our region;
3. to exchange material with these organisations, and to make this and other information available as widely as possible;
4. to act as a resource centre for the community in general;
5. to promote peace related teaching activities, in Auckland University in particular, and more widely where possible.

The centre never had any permanent paid staff. Apart from research fellows appointed to the centre from time to time (see below), and funded by the centre, all work done for the centre was voluntary. The centre received no direct financial or other support from the University. Indirect support was provided by our Host Departments, Physics, and for two years Psychology, in terms of access to university facilities and services.

Staffing and Funding

The Director of the centre was Dr. Robert White except for the two years 2000 and 2001 when Dr. John Gribben held this position. A number of University staff accepted the position of Deputy Director at different times. Those who held this position were:

- Pam Oliver, Psychology 1989-90
- Alan Hemmings, General Biology 1991
- Peter Wills, Physics 1992-95, 2004-07
- John Gribben, Psychology 1996-99
- Robert White 2000-01

People from a range of departments within the University including Continuing Education, Law, Optometry, Philosophy, Psychology, Physics, and Sociology, and from the community generally, served on the Management Committee. All these positions were held unpaid. A list of the names of people who served on the committee is included as Appendix 1.

The centre was funded very largely by grants from the Public Advisory Committee on Disarmament and Arms Control (PACDAC) set up under our anti-nuclear legislation.
This government appointed committee of non-government community representatives, including academic representatives, has the role of advising the government on matters relating to disarmament and arms control, and is chaired by the Minister for Disarmament and Arms Control. It makes grants from the interest on a trust fund set up with money from compensation paid by the French Government in relation to the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior. We received a grant of $5,000 in 1988, a second grant of $4,000 in 1990, and a further grant of $5,000 late in 1992. We were awarded a three year Programme Funding grant in 1993 of $7,500 per year, and received this in 1993 and 1994 only. We have received no other grants from any source since.

We greatly appreciate the support received from PACDAC. We sought university funding in 1995 when the centre was reviewed, but with no success. We received a very generous donation of $1,500 in 1996 from the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha’is in New Zealand. We also received funding to support a Fulbright scholar while he worked in the centre. We are grateful to a number of individuals who made donations to the centre during its life. A difficulty we experienced was that some funding sources expected our funding to come from the university, a body they saw as well funded. Further, for research funding, our active membership was not such as to allow ready formation of group programmes appropriate for funding applications to government funding agencies.

Achievements – Peace Studies Teaching

One of our main aims was to encourage and further the teaching of peace studies in the university. For several years after the centre was opened our contribution in this area was the publication of a free booklet for students outlining existing courses in the university that offered material related to peace studies. This was well received by students, but was discontinued because of our limited funding.

In 1994 for the first time we subsidised a course in the Centre for Continuing Education on conflict resolution. This was very successful and the centre continued to subsidise this activity until 1996, when funding limitations meant support could no longer continue.

For much of 1994 and 1995 the committee was involved in planning for a possible graduate diploma in conflict resolution which, if it had proceeded, would have represented a significant contribution to peace studies in the university. Unfortunately this proposal did not proceed.

The centre contributed books received from reputable overseas centres to the university library, the centre had no space in which to keep and display these. The centre also contributed some publications to the Political Studies library, and contributed material to the New Zealand Foundation for Peace Studies for their library and for distribution.

Achievements - Research and Publication

A second major aim of the centre was to carry out research of the highest level, and to publish the results in a readily accessible form. To further this goal, the centre
established a series of Working Papers presenting the results of research carried out by
centre members and others, and by research fellows appointed by the centre. These
working papers were sold at not much above cost. Working papers published are listed
below. We had standing orders for these from most university libraries in New
Zealand, public libraries in the main centres, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
the Ministry of Defence, some overseas sources, and some overseas centres with which
we exchanged publications.

We also established an Occasional Paper series presenting the proceedings of seminars
and workshops organised by the centre, and other work carried out for the centre not
appropriate for presentation as working papers. Publications in this series are listed
below, and again we had a number of standing orders for these.

Both series were well received. Staff contributed to a wide range of journals and other
publications, see the publications list below.

The centre appointed and funded a number of research fellows to carry out specific
research. They are listed below, and the research carried out is described briefly.

The centre established a series of Pacific Issues Sheets. These were single A4 sheets
devoted to some topic of concern in the region, with sources of further information
indicated. About 400 copies were distributed free to schools in the Auckland area, to
politicians and to other members of the community, and to recipients in the wider
Pacific region. They proved very popular, and we wished to continue this series. The
sheets were prepared by a dedicated small group on the committee who got input from
acknowledged experts from within the university or from the wider community on the
topic under consideration. Nineteen sheets were distributed, they are listed below. The
aim was to prepare about four sheets each year. Unfortunately this series had to be
terminated when some members of the group left the committee, and we had
insufficient personnel to continue the research involved, which was considerable.

Achievements - Community Involvement

We see the centre as having successfully fulfilled the university role of critic and
conscience of society, and acting as a resource centre for the community, a further goal
of the centre. Members of the centre acted as critics of society through numerous
interactions with, and contributions to, government in relation to matters in the areas of
defence and security policy, foreign policy generally, human rights, social policy and
other areas, and through further activities outlined below.

These interactions with government took the form of individual contributions to, or
criticisms of, government policy making. We provided input to government through
seminars and workshops and associated publications, for example our seminars and
workshops on The Safety of Nuclear Powered Ships: Critiques and Analyses of the
1992 Report; New Zealand Foreign Policy Challenges in 1993; New Zealand's Future
Defence, and Human Rights and Foreign Policy in 1994; our seminar with the
Foundation for Peace Studies in June 1997 to mark the tenth anniversary of the passing
of New Zealand's nuclear free legislation, and in our working papers, and earlier issues
sheets. Through these activities the centre developed links with government, and sought to have input to government policy.

We held public meetings at times at which topics of public concern were discussed. Members of the centre have presented contributions at a variety of conferences considering issues of concern to the local or international community, see below. Our seminars and workshops were open to all comers at little cost, and were generally well attended by people from outside the university, thereby contributing to the intellectual life of the community.

The courses we helped organise in the Centre for Continuing Education provided an opportunity for continuing community education as well a serving as a source of instruction for professional groups. These were well represented at the courses.

Our contributions to the library and to Political Studies, and to the New Zealand Foundation for Peace Studies provided material for the university community and the wider community.

We hope that through our research publications we helped to convey to government and the wider community the importance of university research to New Zealand.

**Achievements - Contacts with other Centres**

We developed contacts with a wide range of other centres and related or similar bodies, another of our aims. The major organisations with which we had continuing contact are listed below, roughly by geographical area. Most of these are in the Asia-Pacific region, this being the main region that was of interest and concern to us. We had arrangements for exchanging publications and research material with most of these organisations.

**Centre Closure**

The centre closed on 18 November exactly twenty years after it was opened. The decision to close the centre was taken for several reasons. From 2000 on it became increasingly difficult to find university members, staff or students, or members of the wider community able to serve on the centre committee. Funding was becoming increasingly difficult for even the limited range of activities being undertaken by then, so that funding for research fellows or to support research generally was not available or was very limited. And in 2008 a new National Centre for Conflict and Peace Studies was opening in Dunedin in association with Otago University, the only university interested in supporting this centre.
Centre Activities – Details

Centre Meetings, Seminars, Workshops

1990
March general meeting. Talk by Ray Galvin on ‘Recent developments in Eastern Europe and their importance for New Zealand’.

June. The first annual general meeting was held and reports on recent conferences presented.

September general meeting. Peter Wills spoke on 'Chemical Weapons in the Pacific'.

1991
27 March general meeting. Talk by George Howley, lawyer, 'Background to the Middle East.' About 15 present.

17 July general meeting and annual general meeting. Talk by Alan Hemmings, 'Faltering(?)Steps Towards a New International Regime for the Antarctic.' About 25 present.

30 September general meeting. Talk by David Lange on 'New Zealand's Nuclear Policy'. Over 200 present. Excellent meeting.

1992
15 September general meeting. Panel discussion on 'Prospects for Peace in Yugoslavia' by Dr Ivanica Vodanovich, Assoc Prof Hans-Peter Stoffel and Prof Barry Gustafson.

1993

25 August, P R Wills met with the Political Counselor (K McCormick), the Defense Attaché (R Norwood) from the US Embassy, and three staff from the US House of Representatives Subcommittee of Asia and the Pacific (House Foreign Affairs Committee) to discuss New Zealand's nuclear free legislation, and the report on the safety of nuclear powered shipping

11-12 September, workshop on 'New Zealand Today: Foreign Policy Challenges'. About 35 people attended on Saturday 11, and 18 returned on Sunday 12. People generally found the workshop informative and useful, although the discussion period on Sunday could well have been longer. Proceedings to appear as Occasional Paper No.2.

I October, arranged a meeting for visiting group from Taiwan, Professor Ming-min Peng; Senators Gin-Fu Yuen, One-Jean Chen; Pei-Long Shu MP; Shen-Shung Lee, human rights lawyer, to meet people from groups in Auckland concerned with human rights, at the request of Mr L K Lee, retired journalist.

1994
16-17 July, workshop on 'New Zealand's Future Defence'. About 55 people attended on Saturday 16 including a good representation from the local military, but only 11 people took part in the discussion period on the Sunday. Proceedings appeared as Occasional Paper No.3.

8 October, seminar on 'Human Rights and Foreign Policy'. About 50 present. The discussion session was very active and the seminar was generally appreciated. Proceedings appeared as Occasional Paper No.5.

1996
A series of three lectures on 'Arms and Security in the Asia-Pacific Region' by Dr Andrew Mack, Professor of International Relations at the Australian National University, Associate Professor Daizo Sakurada, Associate Professor of International Relations, University of Tokushima, Japan, and Dr Rouben Azizian, Political Studies, Auckland University, was arranged late in the year, and published as Occasional Paper No.7, with the same title.

1997
12 May, lecture on 'The United States in the Gulf: Is It Containment or Enlargement?' by Dr Ahmad Shikara, visiting scholar in Political Studies.

7 June, one day seminar in conjunction with the Foundation for Peace Studies to mark the tenth anniversary of the passage into law of New Zealand's nuclear free legislation. Seminar entitled 'A Celebration - 10 Years of Nuclear Free Legislation', published as Occasional Paper No.6.

1998
6 August, talk on 'The Zen of War', by Daizen Brian Victoria, lecturer in religious studies, University of Auckland. Sponsored by the centre with the Foundation for Peace Studies.

1999
One day seminar in September on ‘Human Rights and New Zealand Law’. The proceedings were published as Occasional Paper No.8.

Centre Conference Involvement, Visits and Other Activities


1989.

Australian Institute of International Affairs Conference. November 1989 Hobart. Alan Hemmings presented a paper, 'Is Antarctica Demilitarised?"
1990

Law and Society Association Annual Conference. May 1990 Berkeley, California. Pam Oliver attended. Covered a wide range of issues relating to the social aspects of law. Topics of particular relevance to peace included law in relation to family and neighbourhood mediation, dispute resolution, the prevention and treatment of domestic and other violence, environmental protection and planning, international human rights, law in the struggle against apartheid, peacekeeping and law enforcement, distributive justice, and law reform in the welfare state.

Public Advisory Committee Consultation. May 1990 Wellington by Peter Wills to advise PACDAC concerning Black Birch and New Zealand's military agreements with other countries, particularly the United States and the United Kingdom.


European Nuclear Disarmament Convention. July 1990 Helsinki, Finland and Tallin, Estonia. Robert White invited speaker to present a paper on the Neither Confirm Nor Deny Policy.


1991

Engineers for Social Responsibility Conference. February 9 1991 Auckland University. Robert White invited speaker on 'Pacific Nuclear Issues'.

University of Waikato, Centre for Continuing Education. March 26 1991, Peter Wills with Owen Wilkes invited to speak on chemical weapons.


BHIBI Current Issues Lecture Series, Medical School, Auckland. Lecture, 'Protecting the Poles - Just What the Doctor Ordered?' by Alan Hemmings. Alan was also involved in a lecture in this series relating to the medical significance of environmental issues in 1990.

Engineers for Social Responsibility. 15 August 1991. Alan Hemmings talk, 'Oil, Airstrips and the Protection of Antarctica'.

1992
Asian Peace Research Association Conference, Peace and Security in the Asia-Pacific Region. 31 Jan-4 Feb 1992, University of Canterbury, Christchurch. Peter Wills spoke on 'The Problems of Naval Nuclear Propulsion'.


1993
First Australasian Roundtable. Robert White attended the First Australasian Roundtable for heads and directors of peace studies and peace teaching centres and related organisations in Canberra, March 1993, organised by the Australian National University Peace Research Centre. This centre is now closed, and the roundtable meetings terminated.

1994
Peace Studies Association Sixth Annual Conference: Rebuilding Security. 7-10 April 1994, University of San Francisco, San Francisco, California, USA. Peter Wills presented a paper entitled 'New Zealand's Nuclear Free Status'.

1996
8-12 July, Brisbane, Pam Ringwood attended a conference organised by the International Peace Research Association on 'Creating Non-Violent Futures'. Robert White attended by invitation a Royal Society meeting to discuss the problems associated with the sites of French nuclear testing in the Pacific.

1997
18-20 April, Peter Wills was an invited guest at The 7th Annual Arms Control Conference, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

2000
Fifth Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions held in August was attended by Pam Ringwood.

2001
Robert White attended a UN Asia-Pacific Regional Disarmament Conference in Wellington in March as an official NGO representative. He also gave an invited paper on missile defence to a parallel NGO forum attended by NGO representatives and secondary school children who participated in a mock UN General Assembly session. He was keynote speaker in October at a Space Without Weapons seminar organised by the National Consultative Committee on Disarmament in Wellington.
2003
Robert White met with a group of National Party Members of Parliament in October to discuss aspects of New Zealand’s Nuclear Free Zone, Disarmament and Arms Control Act.

Centre Publications

Peace Studies Booklet  Published 1990 to 1993.

Pacific Issues Sheets

3. ‘Fish Poisoning in the Pacific.’ Prepared by Dr T Ruff, Monash Medical School, August 1990.
16. ‘Elections in Fiji - change ahead?’ Prepared with the assistance of Associate Professor Bill Hodge, Faculty of Law, February 1994.
Working Papers

No. 1 'The Neither Confirm Nor Deny Policy: Oppressive, Obstructive and Obsolete.' R E White, May 1990
No. 2 'Neither Confirm Nor Deny: Language, Logic and Morality in Foreign Policy.' M Goldsmith, May 1993
No. 3 'New Zealand in the United Nations General Assembly: A Comparative Survey of Alignment.' A Wills, April 1994
No. 4 'A History of New Zealand Chemical Warfare 1845-1945.' O Wilkes, August 1993
No. 5 'The Origins of Signals Intelligence in New Zealand.' N Hager, August 1995
No. 6 'Study of leakage of long-term radionuclides at Moruroa and Fangatuafa atolls.' R G Anstiss, August 1996
No. 7 'Nuclear Free New Zealand - 1984 New Zealand Becomes Nuclear Free.' R E White, July 1997
No. 8 'Nuclear Free New Zealand - From Policy to Legislation.' R E White, April 1998
No. 9 'Nuclear Free New Zealand: The Policy in Action.' R E White, July 1999
No. 10 'Preserving Space for Peaceful Use: A Case for a New Space Treaty.' R E White, July 2001
No. 11 'United States Missile Defence 2001.' R E White, December 2001
No. 13 'The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and US Nuclear Strategies: Are They Compatible?' R E White, September 2005
No. 15 'Nuclear Free New Zealand: Twenty Years On.' R E White, December 2007

Occasional Papers

No. 2 'New Zealand Foreign Policy Challenges: Workshop 11-12 September 1993.'
No. 3 'New Zealand's Future Defence: Proceedings of a Workshop held at the University of Auckland 16-17 July 1994.'
No. 4 'A Sample of Attitudes in the New Zealand Peace Movement 1993.' a Research Paper, Fiona McMahon, University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, October 1994.
No. 5 'Human Rights and Foreign Policy. Proceedings of the CPS Seminar held at the University of Auckland 8 October 1994.'
No. 6 'A Celebration - 10 Years of Nuclear Free Legislation. Proceedings of a joint Centre for Peace Studies/Foundation for Peace Studies Seminar held at the University of Auckland 7 June 1997.' June 1997
No. 7 'Arms and Security in the Asia-Pacific Region.' November 1997
No. 8 'Human Rights and New Zealand Law.' J Gribben ed., September 1999
Other


Wills P R 'From Germany to Johnston Atoll and from there to the Persian Gulf - Planning for Chemical Warfare'. Psychologie und Frieden (Munich), vol.5a, 1990, pp.22-25.


Hemmings A. 'What has the US Agreed to in Antarctica?' Peacelink 95, 31-32, 1991.

Hemmings A. 'Antarctica, Voices in the Wilderness.' The Dominion June 27, 1991.


Wills P. 'Sudden Progress on Chemical Disarmament.' *Peacelink* July, 22, 1991.


Wills P. and Sinton E. 'When Nuclear Power Goes Awry.' *The Dominion* 7 November, 6, 1991.


White R.E. 'Submission to the Special Committee on Nuclear Propulsion', March 1992, 119 pages.

Wills P.R. 'Submission to the Special Committee on Nuclear Propulsion', March 1992, 31 pages plus appendices.


Lorimer P. 'A critique of some parts of 'The Safety of Nuclear Powered Ships'. ' In *Occasional Paper No.1*, 3 July 1993 (see above).


Wills P R. 'The Safety of Nuclear Powered Ships: Criticisms of the Report of the Special Committee.' In Occasional Paper No.1, 3 July 1993 (see above).


Wills P. R. 'French Testing Figures Mean 20 = 8 = 3 or 4.' The New Zealand Herald, 4 August 1994.


White R. E. 'The Nuclear Free Policy, the Legislation, and Defence.' In Occasional Paper No.6, June 1997, 13 pages.


Centre Research Fellows/Fulbright Student

1991
Owen Wilkes An independent researcher in New Zealand, Owen was appointed as a Research Fellow for several months to work on a study of chemical weapons in the Pacific, and on the history of US naval visits to New Zealand and the possible introduction of nuclear weapons on these ships and submarines. A modified chemical weapons study has been published as Working Paper No.4, describing the history of New Zealand's involvement with chemical weapons. The second study remains unpublished.

1992
Professor Robert Jespersen. Professor of Business Law at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Professor Jespersen joined the Centre for a short time as a Research Fellow while studying New Zealand's Ombudsman system.

1993
Professor Robert Jespersen. Professor Jespersen spent some time with the Centre while he continued the above studies. He gave us the benefit of his experience in teaching peace studies, and in particular assisted in organising the course on conflict resolution begun in 1994 in the Centre for Continuing Education.

Fiona McMahon Ms McMahon from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland, was appointed as a Research Fellow for the first half of 1993 while she carried out a project as part of her Bachelors degree in peace studies. She made a study of aspects of the peace movement in New Zealand under the supervision of Dr C Crothers, Sociology, and this was published as Occasional Paper No. 4: A Research Essay.

Adrian Wills A former student in political studies in Auckland, Adrian was appointed a Research Fellow towards the end of 1993 and into 1994 to expand and update a study of voting patterns in the United Nations which he made as a research essay for his MA degree. The results of his work for the centre were published as Working Paper No.3.

1994
Catherine McNee Ms McNee from the University of Ulster, Northern Ireland joined us as a Research Fellow for the first half of 1994 to carry out a project as part of her Bachelors degree in peace studies. Her work here was supervised by Ms P Ringwood, Law, and consisted of essay presentations on selected topics related to peace teaching in New Zealand.

Owen Wilkes. Owen was appointed as a Research Fellow while he completed the study published as Working Paper No.4 described above.

Adrian Wills As above.

Fulbright Student
Anthony Fleury  A PhD student from Pennsylvania State University, Anthony joined us as a Fulbright Student in August 1994 for the US 1994-95 academic year. While here he changed his project from a study on rhetoric in the peace movements of NZ and the US to a comparative study of the use of violence in film media in NZ and the US. To allow time for him to develop this new project adequately here his Fulbright grant was extended to mid-August 1995.

1995
Anthony Fleury  As above. During 1995 Anthony also gave two courses in the Centre for Continuing Education on 'An Introduction to Rhetoric', and 'Violence in Film and Television: A Critical Approach', and occasional lectures in some courses in the university.

Centre Contacts

Organisations with which the centre developed contacts and exchanges and from which it received material

United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, Paris, France
United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, Geneva, Switzerland
International Peace Bureau, Geneva, Switzerland
University of Bradford, Department of Peace Studies, Bradford, England
Verification Technology Information Centre, London, England
Global Security Programme, University of Cambridge, England
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Solna, Sweden
The Hellenic Foundation for Defense and Foreign Policy, Athens, Greece
University of Ulster, Department of Peace Studies, Ulster, Northern Ireland
International Peace Research Association, covering a wide group of countries
United States Institute of Peace, Washington DC, USA
East-West Center, Hawaii, USA
Parliamentarians for Global Action, New York, USA
Centre for International and Strategic Studies, York University, Canada
Chinese People's Association for Peace and Disarmament, Beijing, China
Peace Studies Association of Japan, Tokyo, Japan
Pacific Campaign for Disarmament and Security, Canada, Japan, United States, Australia, New Zealand

Asia Pacific Peace Research Association, covering Asia-Pacific countries

Indian Ocean Centre for Peace Studies, Perth, Australia

Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, University of Sydney, Sydney, Australia

Department of International Relations, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia

The Peace Research Centre, The Australian National University, Canberra, Australia (now closed)

Other Australian university centres/departments

New Zealand Ministry of Defence

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Centre for Strategic Studies, Institute of Policy Studies, Victoria University of Wellington

Centre/Department of Peace Studies, University of Canterbury

Foundation for Peace Studies Aotearoa/New Zealand

National Consultative Committee on Disarmament, Wellington

Peace Movement Aotearoa, Wellington

Engineers for Social Responsibility Auckland Branch

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War

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Robert White, former Director, July 2009