

## President's Annual Report to the Annual General Meeting 2017

30 September 2017

The purpose of the UN Women National Committee Aotearoa NZ is:

**To support women in developing countries through the work of UN Women through innovative projects empowering women in the Pacific region in line with national and regional priorities.**

I have pleasure in submitting this Annual Report which outlines progress we have made towards achieving our purpose and its four underlying objectives in 2017.

- **Raise the Profile of UN Women throughout New Zealand**

Regular communication with our members and the public is through our newsletters, the website and Facebook. We published three newsletters in the past year. We have increased our facebook "likes" from 1,334 in September 2016 to 1,690 in September 2017. We have also increased numbers who regularly access UN Women NCANZ social media to 320. I would like to acknowledge our wonderful and loyal 165 members. You are the backbone of our organisation.

**International Women's Day** continues to be a major focus for increasing our profile, for fund raising and for collaboration with partner organisations. We supported 45 IWD events in 2017 and raised \$10,307, \$3,000 more than in 2016, for projects in the Pacific targeting ending violence against women and girls. Since IWD we have finalised an agreement with the UN Women Office in Papua New Guinea with all funds raised going to support the Meri Seif Bus (Safe Transport for Women and Girls) project in Port Moresby. A strength of IWD continues to be the collaborative partnerships with other women's organisations as we work together to celebrate the day. A significant feature of IWD events is that they attract and inspire young women who may be exposed for the first time to the wealth of experience and insight demonstrated by the women who speak at the events.

The **UN Women/UN Global Compact Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs)** continues to attract strong support from the private sector. The WEPS is a collaborative effort of the five organisations that comprise the Committee – NZ Federation of Business and Professional Women, Diversity Works NZ, Human Rights Commission, and Zonta District 16 in addition to UN Women NCANZ. WEPS has a part-time Administrator to support the 52 NZ organisations signed up and contributing financially to implementation of the Principles in their workplaces. The overall winner of the 2016 White Camellia Awards, which celebrates the business which best meets the criteria of a gender equal workplace, was UN Women Empowerment Partner ANZ Bank.

In 2017, we held **two lunch time seminars, one** on the Domestic Violence Victims Protection Bill led by MP Jan Logie and the other on the Equal Pay Amendment Act, led by a panel of four representing workers and the unions. VSA generously hosted both events which attracted 128 participants.

- **Working in Partnership**  
- **NGOs**

UN Women NCANZ is a member of the **Council for International Development (CID)**, National Council of Women and meets regularly with the **UN family**, a meeting involving the several UN affiliated organisations in NZ. Through active membership of these organisations, we strengthen our profile and increase our effectiveness. This is increasingly important in our promotion of **SDG#5** for gender equality.

We are close to finalising the CID Code of Compliance required of all CID members. This document provides a transparent description and undertaking by signatories to a series of publicly available and agreed standards which provide reassurance to the general public, potential donors and official funders. This is crucial for the credibility and good standing of organisations like UN Women NCANZ that seek funding for international development. While comparatively small, we have a significant influential role as an organisation with a strong mandate for gender equality and women's empowerment.

We have maintained an active relationship with **National Council of Women**. This year, most of our engagement focused on fulfilling our role as a National Organisation Member (NOM) during the process surrounding changes to governance at NCW. Former Board member Rae Julian continued to assist the NCW to finalise the CEDAW Alternate Report which will be submitted in 2018 alongside the official NZ Government report.

- **Government**

The Ministry of Women invites women's organisations including UN Women NCANZ to regular meetings of the **International Women's Caucus**. We attended three meetings in the past year. They continue to provide an excellent networking opportunity and also access to the Minister for Women. Given its broad membership, it is a very useful opportunity to keep up to date with the varying issues of concern to the sector. The meetings are crucial in the lead up to the Commission on the Status of Women meetings held each March in New York. Board member Kerry Maw represented UN Women NCANZ at CSW and the associated meeting of UN Women National Committees in New York in the past year.

Discussion on the NZ National Action Plan (NAP) on women, peace and security (**Resolution 1325**), a key element of UN Women's mandate, takes place at the International Women's Caucus, with representatives from the Ministry of Defence, NZ Police and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT). We look forward to enhancing our engagement on this with recent staff changes in MFAT. We maintain our links to the NGO consortium which coordinates activity around Resolution 1325.

- **UN Women**

Our key partnership within the UN Women family in the Pacific has traditionally been with the **UN Women Multi Country office in Suva**. Recently, at the suggestion of the UN Women Representative in Suva, and with the agreement of UN Women in New York, we

began developing a closer link to the UN Women office in Papua New Guinea. The immediate outcome of this new partnership is our support for the Meri Seif Bus project in Port Moresby. We are looking forward to continuing and strengthening our support for UN Women activities in PNG.

We continue to enjoy a close working relationship with the Executive Director of the Australian National Committee, Janelle Weissman, who provides advice as requested and offers opportunities which we can jointly support.

Vice President of UN Women NCANZ Barbara Bedeschi-Lewando represented us at the annual meeting of National Committees in Berlin in October 2016. We are able to participate in these important meetings only due to the personal generosity of our Board members. This is the opportunity to meet with representatives of the other 15 National Committees and to hear directly from UN Women staff members on their expectations and about the help that is available to us.

- **Fund raising for UN Women Projects**

Fund raising for our National Committee continues to be challenging, and depends on the energy and commitment of Board members supported by our Administrator, Dayna Berghan-Whyman.

We were fortunate that our Empowerment Partners **ANZ Bank** and **Trilogy International** continued to support us this year. In addition to providing generous financial support, ANZ was particularly helpful in sharing their policies and practices with us for our engagement on the Domestic Violence Victims Protection Bill. For the first time this year, Trilogy hosted a breakfast in their offices in Auckland for International Women's Day in conjunction with UN Women NCANZ and the National Council of Women.

IWD events continue to be the major focus for our fundraising efforts. This year, in addition to events hosted by our usual supporters around the country, we partnered with the Wellington City Gallery on a fund raiser for UN Women around the Cindy Sherman Portrait exhibition which was showing at the same time as IWD. This was a highly successful event, attended by 100 people, raising some \$1200.

- **Advocate for increased funding for UN Women**

We acknowledge the ongoing annual contribution of NZ\$2.5million from the New Zealand Government to UN Women. This is a core contribution which has been maintained for several years. While the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade engages directly with UN Women from the desk in Wellington and the NZ Mission in New York, we keep in regular contact with the Wellington based Desk Officer to use every opportunity for pushing for an increase in the core contribution. This is particularly pertinent in an election year. We also participate with CID to advocate for an increase in aid generally and for an increase in support to NGOs in particular. We continue to put pressure on government with CID for increased funding for and focus on gender equality particularly in the Pacific.

### **How we work**

Without the voluntary commitment of our Board members, supported by our part time Administrator Dayna Berghan-Whyman, the UN Women National Committee would not exist. This year, there were 15 elected Board members. We also had active support from our

contact in Christchurch, Jan Suckling and in Auckland, Hannah Reynolds. Board member Pip Jamieson and our Treasurer Beryl Matete resigned during the year. We were very fortunate in being able to co-opt a member, Joanne Lentfer, to undertake the Treasurer role.

The Board met four times during the year and the Executive which undertakes essential business between Board meetings met six times. This year the Executive comprised the President, Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President and the “Secretary in waiting”. Executive meetings are held via skype.

### **Appreciation**

I would like to acknowledge the active interest of our Patron, the Governor General, Her Excellency Dame Patsy Reddy in the activities of our National Committee. We were thrilled that Dame Patsy spoke at the Breakfast at Parliament on International Women’s Day and that she has agreed to host the annual White Camellia Awards at Government House.

Thank you, too, to our Empowerment Partners ANZ Bank and Trilogy International. Their financial contribution allows us to do much more for promoting gender equality in Aotearoa and in the Pacific. The direct support from Gina McJorrow from ANZ and Brooke Riley at Trilogy is particularly valued.

Sadly we are saying goodbye to several Board members this year – Deb Moran, Natasha Lewis and Rebecca Scollard, in addition to Pip and Beryl who left during the year. Deb and Rebecca have been on the Board for several years and have made a great contribution in their roles as Secretary and Newsletter Editor respectively. Natasha, despite being with us for only one year, has made a huge impression and has been a dynamic organiser and fund raiser for us. Thank you all for your support and commitment.

Our intrepid Administrator Dayna is not only highly efficient at helping us. She is also an expert Medieval fighter (poleaxes!). We were all delighted that she was selected to join a New Zealand team that went to Denmark to compete. And recently she won a bronze award in Hamilton. This is a fine example of activist feminism, even better for being unique in my experience though well outside my comfort zone! Thank you so much for your assistance during the year, Dayna.

Again, this year, I acknowledge the voluntary support provided by Victoria Spagnolo in helping us iron out glitches with our IT, the assistance from Hema Dullabh from the organisation Accounting for Charities with our financial reporting and from David Knightley, our Auditor.

We are only as strong as the support of our members. Thank you all. We look forward to engaging with you in the year to come as we develop a strategy for the next three years in line with the recently released UN Women Strategy, undertake a review of our Constitution, continue work on our website and strengthen our partnership with Papua New Guinea.

**Barbara Williams**

President UN Women NCANZ