

World March for Peace Report

The World March for Peace and Non-violence heralded in our previous newsletter climaxed in Paekakariki one week after International Day of Peace, (marked at the Triangle Centre with a one hour sounding of the Great Invocation during the evening of the 21st September and during the 24 hour Peace Vigil organised by Intuition-in-Service – see <http://www.intuition-in-service.org/>

At the beginning of the year members of Operation Peace through Unity – see <http://www.peacethroughunity.info/> and the Triangle Centre began to talk and plan for the Contributory Peace March from Whanganui to Wellington, to link in with the actual World March for Peace and Non-violence beginning the 2nd of October, from Ghandi's statue at the Wellington Railway Station. A commitment was made by the Triangle Centre to support the Contributory March during its leg through the Kapiti Coast.

Then in August the New Zealand Peace Movement sent representatives to the Kapiti Coast to drum up support from the wider public for both the Contributory March and the World March. From an ensuing public meeting a committee was formed that took on the task of organising and supporting the Kapiti leg of the Contributory March for Peace from Whanganui. We prepared press statements and arranged food, accommodation and reception venues at Waikanae, Paraparaumu and Paekakariki.

We wish to especially acknowledge all those who formed the initial tributary which became the river of the World Peace March. Carla Donson shifted heaven and earth in Whanganui to bring aspiration into form. Then on the March with her was Krystal Boyes (Whanganui), Miriam Walker (Taranaki), Jenny Kendall (Wellington), Rosanna Galletly (Kapiti), and Manu Bennett – their only man! (Whanganui), who, through much rain, sun and dull days brought energy and enthusiasm to Wellington and the start of the World Peace March.

On Sunday the 28th September all was prepared as the marchers, six brave souls walked down through our warm and sunny coastal strip, somewhat worse for wear after many days walking, with the day previous bar one being characterised with horrendous winds and

rain. Needless-to-say, the very warm and welcoming experience from the Kapiti Coasters revived their spirits, with Triangle Centre co-workers and friends providing a Feldenkrais class, sumptuous food, foot baths, luxury bedding etc, which all augured well for the remainder of their march, despite the weather turning to rain again the next day.

Whilst with us, stories were shared and lives connected in deep friendship. But for one of the Triangle Centre co-workers it was not without incident. After receiving the Marchers in Paraparaumu for lunch, where proclamations and presentations were made, the Marchers left in the afternoon for Paekakariki to complete the day's march. Well, did they arrive on time for the Paekakariki reception, waiting patiently at the Peace Pole in the centre of the village? At the expected time of arrival there was no sign of them and communication by mobile phone somehow foundered so a search party (one erstwhile Triangle Centre Co-worker) was dispatched by car to search for and locate them. Despite driving north as much as half way back to Paraparaumu, there was not a single sighting of anyone anywhere. So back to Paekakariki he returned only to then receive a text message saying they were only thirty minutes away. This did not seem possible given they had for all intents and purposes, disappeared off the face of the earth! Fortunately our welcoming "committee" of Triangle Centre co-workers, locals, and Adrian Webster, the unofficial mayor and aka chairperson of the Paekakariki Community Board were prepared to wait until in due course there appeared on the horizon the brave and steadfast Marchers for Peace, carrying their weary bodies and flamboyant flags of peace. A great cheer went up as they arrived and we all realised a refreshing cup-of-tea was now only moments away. Next came speeches of welcome and warm embraces, then it was up a nearby driveway for that long awaited afternoon tea.

But to this day, there remains the unanswered question, the temporary disappearance, the mystery of the missing Marchers for Peace!