



*"Peace the only way"*

## **Waiwhetu-Lower Hutt Peace Group**

### **Newsletter No.1, 2014**

Greetings! Our first meeting for the year will be held in the foyer, Waiwhetu Uniting Church, cnr. Grenville and Trafalgar Sts., Lower Hutt on **Tuesday 25th March at 7.30 pm**

Theo, our Chairman, introduces our Guest Speaker, and maps out some plans for the year ahead:

For the beginning of this year it is intended to do things a little differently if, and it is a big IF, I am able to get some members of parliament to inform us of their parties' policies, with regard to West Papua. Memories of Bougainville, East Timor and all too many others. As all of you are well aware, Theo is more than a little disturbed at the attitude of many Parliamentary members, because of their lack of concern for the plight of the people of West Papua.

The intention is to have a speaker from Labour, N.Z. First, and National to speak to the topic:

"Your party's policy toward West Papua, and the justification of it." I have indicated that we are willing to change the date to accommodate their timetable and that we are happy to hear from anyone in their party to speak to the topic. It is strange, as the Greens were willing to have any one of three to speak to the subject.

Having had Catherine Delahunty last year, I feel we are well aware of the Green Party's Policy with regard to West Papua.

To precede the politicians we will have the Ambassador from the Indonesian Embassy, and he is booked for the 25th March. He is a new ambassador and this could well be his first public address in N.Z. We had hoped to have him sooner but we had to fit in with his schedule. His name is Jose Antonio Morato Tavares born in Balibo in 1960. He is of the Catholic Faith, and has considerable educational qualifications which include an MA. Public Policy, Murdoch University Perth. Graduate Diploma Development Studies Murdoch University, Bachelors Degree, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Padjadjaran University, Indonesia.

Other areas of experience include summer school in Foreign and Security Policy of the European Union 1996.

UN Fellowship Programme in Peace-making and preventive Diplomacy, [UNITAR] Vienna, Austria. 1998.

Training of Intellectual property Rights by the World Intellectual Property Rights Organisation, Graduated 2009.

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David Shearer, as the Foreign Affairs Spokesman for Labour, is to speak to us on the 8th April.

I am in negotiation with Winston Peters' and Murray McCully's offices, for a speaker on the 13th May and 10th June respectively.

I am not impressed with the excuses given for not speaking to our group, and will persist to achieve same. I commenced negotiations in November. Wish me Luck.

As it is election year my aim is to get it looked after early in the year and that is why the meetings are scheduled just a month apart.

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The bank balance is not healthy \$153 and so we are appealing for early subs so that we can cover the cost, which will be \$55 per meeting, for hall hire. We have reluctantly increased the subs to \$20 and as you see we are in need of these now.

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On Tuesday 25th March (mark your Diaries!) - we should be in for an interesting as well as informative evening.

I am looking forward to it, and would be pleased to see some new faces, as this looks to be a most promising evening.

Theo Fink <theoanne@clear.net.nz>

Chairman

Anne Scott, Treasurer, Margaret Aitken, Grace Wood (Committee)