



TE KĀHUI KAIWHAKAWĀ  
WĀHINE O AOTEAROA  
New Zealand Association  
of Women Judges

**REPORT**  
**AGM / CONFERENCE NOVEMBER 2020**



**Attendees**

*Nā tō rourou, nā taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi*  
*With your food basket and my food basket the people will thrive*

The annual conference / AGM of the Association was held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2020 at Auckland District Court. A smaller number than usual were able to attend due to the challenges of COVID-19. In total we were a group of 30, including our guests, and five who joined by Zoom. We were very grateful for the support of the Chief District Court Judge, the manager of the Auckland District Court, the Auckland IT specialist Michelle Liu, and Emily Maguire, Auckland District Court Research Clerk for helping to make the day go smoothly.



This year has demonstrated what we can achieve through working together and drawing on the strengths of our members. We have our name in Te Reo and our new logo that together represent our core values of pono, tika and aroha: the pursuit of justice through truth and compassion.



We have welcomed 15 new women Judges, many Māori and Pasifika Judges within the group, to add to the diversity on the Bench and in our Association. We now have 111 women Judges across all the Benches representing 37.6% of the Judiciary, an increase of 6.6% in the last three years. We have been very fortunate that despite the COVID-19 pandemic, we have been able to continue working and embracing growth, diversity and change. At the AGM we agreed to extend our membership to include Community Magistrates and Coroners and we hope to welcome many of those Judicial Officers into our Association in 2021. We will continue to explore how to include other Judicial Officers in our Association.

Finally, the disappointment of the postponement of the IAWJ Biennial Conference in May this year has been overtaken by our goal for a superb IAWJ Biennial Conference 7 - 9 May 2021 in Auckland. This will be a combination of an in-person and virtual conference, streaming in our key-note speakers from around the world. We look forward to seeing you all there.



### **The Impact of COVID-19 on Women and Children**



*Lorna McIntosh, Tracey McIntosh, Lynette Hutson, Helen Robinson*

This year, 2020, has been a year of exceptional challenges and suffering for many in New Zealand and worldwide. In Aotearoa we have been very fortunate to have contained the impact of COVID well. However, the most vulnerable in New Zealand, in particular women and children have been those who have suffered most. We wanted to understand this better.

We were fortunate to have three inspiring speakers on different aspects of this topic. Lt. Colonel Lynette Hutson from the Salvation Army and Helen Robinson, General Manager Health and Social Services from Auckland City Mission spoke to us about the impact of COVID on women and children with the insight of their work and experience.



*Lt. Colonel Lynette Hutson*

Lynette has extensive experience of working with people affected by addictions and a particular interest in housing insecurity. The extent of housing insecurity and overcrowding in Auckland is a well-known problem for the Salvation Army. However, Lynette explained that it is an increasing problem in provincial New Zealand, in Waikato, Hutt Valley and Porirua in the wider Wellington region, in Christchurch, and on the West Coast of the South Island.



Lynette described the Salvation Army research undertaken this year in three communities, Rotorua, Queenstown and Johnsonville, North of Wellington, which led to the report “State of our Communities Report” September 2020.

These communities reported on increasing mental health issues for children and youth arising from COVID-19 and housing insecurity affecting women and children particularly. Many people are having to ask for help for the first time where one or more people in the household have lost jobs. Issues of increasing significance are homelessness, unaffordable rents, and overcrowding. Families are forced to live in very small homes, with garages and sheds becoming permanent dwellings.

Lynette described the increasing cost of rent in cities and towns outside Auckland where until 2020 rents had been affordable. She said in Auckland many families were dependent on two incomes in order to afford rent. During 2020 families that had never faced housing insecurity before were coming to the Salvation Army asking for help. Women are disproportionately affected because they have suffered greater loss across the key labour market measures since COVID-19 alerts began. Two thirds of new unemployed between May to September 2020 were women, and women were more likely to lose employment from tourism related industries, hospitality, domestic care and cleaning. These industries employ high rates of Māori and Pasifika women, leading to a disproportionate effect on those communities. Lynette urged us to be aware of the impact of COVID on women and children in our work.



Helen Robinson, General Manager, Health and Social Services for Auckland City Mission spoke to us on Food Insecurity. Helen explained that food insecurity is more than hunger. Food insecurity or food poverty is not having enough food that is necessary to maintain basic health. When it persists on a regular basis, food insecurity creates chronic physical and mental health issues.

Helen challenged us with the facts. She stated simply that it is mainly women who face food insecurity and bear the greatest burden of poverty. Information about food insecurity is sparse. Helen referred to the Ministry of Health’s report in 2015 assessed that 19% of New Zealand children experience poverty. Before COVID, Auckland City Mission (ACM) estimated that 10% of all New Zealanders experience food insecurity on a regular basis. This number is much worse through COVID. ACM now estimates that approximately 20% of all New Zealanders are experiencing food insecurity on a regular basis. At the time of the peak of the pandemic in April 2020, ACM were distributing 1,500 emergency food parcels each week.



*Helen Robinson*

Helen challenged us to do what we can to change the status quo. She reminded us that as Judges we are some of the most privileged



women in New Zealand. Helen urged us to understand that all those who are food insecure, especially women who are sole parents and raising children, particularly Māori and Pasifika women, do not have enough food each week. They put their children first and other family members. This leads to women being unwell and develop chronic physical and mental health problems.

2020 is Auckland City Mission's centennial year. The Mission began in June 1920 in the aftermath of World 1 and the Spanish flu pandemic. The Mission's motto then was "Not Charity but a Chance". This year, 2020, Auckland City Mission and sister Missions in Wellington and Christchurch have been hit with the greatest pandemic since the Spanish flu and at the height of the lockdown, the Mission was providing 1,500 emergency food parcels a week compared to the usual number of 500.



### **Women in Prison during COVID**



Professor Tracey McIntosh, MNZM, Professor of Indigenous Studies and Co-Head of Te Wānanga o Waipapa at Auckland University, returned to our Conference to speak to us about the impact of COVID-19 on women in prison. Naturally one of the greatest concerns for prison authorities was that COVID-19 might get into the prison environment. Had that occurred, the impact would have been severe and would have placed wāhine at risk. However women in prison experienced severe

*Tracey McIntosh* disadvantage as a consequence of COVID-19. This included being locked up for 23 hours and more in some cases, contrary to the Mandela Rules. Some of the protocols employed in the women's prisons, particularly Auckland Women's Prison, were more severe than in the men's prisons, including confinement, isolation and methods of restraint. Use of coercive action including confinement, restrictions and isolation became more embedded in Auckland Women's Prison. Some practices are likely to trigger trauma and adverse experiences that women have suffered.



### **Afternoon session**



We had important business matters to address in the afternoon. The Minutes of the AGM (prepared by Melanie Harland, our secretary) are attached.

*Mary O'Dwyer (President), Melanie Harland (Secretary)*

### **Reports**

A copy of the President's report and Treasurer's report are attached.



## Our name - Te Kāhui Kaiwhakawā Wāhine o Aotearoa

We drew on the wisdom of our Māori wāhine to achieve our name in Te Reo. The name was proposed by Caren Fox, Deputy Chief Judge of the Māori Land Court, following her consultation. We then drew on all our Māori women members to be part of the consultation and arrive at a decision. The use of Kāhui represents a flock and the dynamic sense of coming together of people of rank as women Judges. The name we will therefore be known by is Te Kāhui Kaiwhakawā Wāhine o Aotearoa / NZAWJ.

## Tohu / Logo



TE KĀHUI KAIWHAKAWĀ  
WĀHINE O AOTEAROA  
New Zealand Association  
of Women Judges

To accompany the name, we have drawn on the skills of an artist and graphic designer to create a new tohu or logo for our Association. Ngāti Porou artist, Kerry Johnston (who is Judge James Johnston's sister) created a beautiful symbol that captures our values, our objectives and our goals. Kerry's main influences are her tribal heritage and her relationship with her sacred mountain, Hikurangi. Here is Kerry's description of the meaning and logo:

*I have drawn from the courage and integrity of Hine-te-iwaiwa renowned for her expertise in women's affairs, and especially her protection of child birth and child rearing practices. Hine-te-iwaiwa faced and overcame many challenges as a female Atua and mother. The triangle shapes represent the strength of the mountains and acknowledging the relationship between the spiritual world, natural world and humankind. The three lines represent the values of pono - genuine / sincere, tika – true / right, aroha – compassion / empathy.*

Kerry's artwork was then developed into the logo we are presenting today by a graphic designer, Lisa Lodge, who worked carefully to capture and reflect the elements of Kerry's artwork in the logo. We hope that all our members consider that the logo is beautiful and captures key qualities of female leaders and the elements of our Association.



## **Regional Director – Asia Pacific Region of IAWJ**

We were grateful that Judge Tupman was able to be with us via Zoom from Australia. Judge Tupman reported on the countries within the Asia Pacific region that have been affected by COVID – Singapore, Papua New Guinea have done well but the Philippines’ and Indonesia’s experience has been difficult. The IAWJ is continuing to support the region through virtual meetings and mentoring. Judge Tupman congratulated our Association for being able to hold our Conference and AGM despite COVID. A full report from Judge Tupman’s report to the AGM is in the Minutes.

## **Extension of Membership**

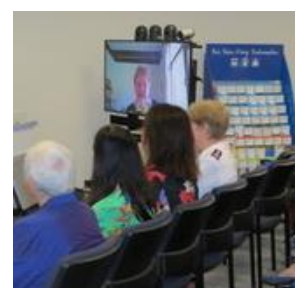
Through the hard work of the membership subcommittee (Justice Glazebrook, Judges Harland and Wills) we were able to discuss a proposal for extension of membership to other Judicial Officers. After discussion there was unanimous agreement that Community Magistrates and Coroners could be considered to be Judicial Officers with the ability to join our Association as full members. We discussed expanding membership to wider groups of women Judicial Officers and decided that we needed more consultation with our membership to embrace all views. We will progress that consultation through 2021.

The Constitution was amended to define Judicial Officer as including a Community Magistrate or Coroner.

## **Outreach and mentoring**

Nicki Mathers spoke to her report on behalf of the outreach and mentoring committee. One of our continuing projects is support for women in prison. The Association has donated books to the value of \$915 to Arohata Women’s Prison, following our visit to the prison last year. The AGM resolved that \$1,000 be donated to the Mother’s Reading Project through Stacey Shorthall as part of our support to women in prison.

Nicki reported on the goals for broader outreach and mentoring next year. In 2021 we look forward to seeing how those ideas develop with a new and vibrant committee.



*The hui – kanohi – ki – kanohi (face to face) and Virtual*



## Executive Committee

We thanked the outgoing Executive Committee members for their hard work over their term: Judges Carrie Wainwright, Dianne Partridge, Jane Farish, and Jo Bouchier. Each member has made a significant contribution and we value their continued support as members. We welcome the new members who will add energy and diversity to the Executive Committee: Judges Bernadette Farnan, Christina Cook and Robyn von Keisenberg.

The officers and members of the Executive Committee are:

Judge Mary O'Dwyer, President

Justice Susan Glazebrook – Vice President

Judge Melanie Harland, Secretary

Justice Christine French, Treasurer

Judge Jo Bouchier

Judge Nicky Mathers

Judge Sharyn Otene

Justice Ann Hinton

Judge Bernadette Farnan

Judge Christina Cook

Judge Robyn von Keisenberg



## The Dinner



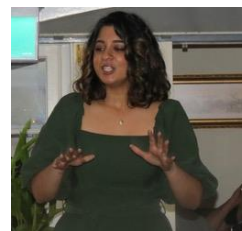
*Nicky Mathers*

The day concluded with a delicious and convivial dinner at The Java Room in Parnell. For the first time partners were invited and what a treat was in store for us. We are very grateful to Nicky Mathers for organising such a spectacular evening.

We were entertained and enchanted by Soprano Amina Edris, tenor Amatai Pati and pianist Rosemary Barnes. Without Covid they would have been overseas following their respective careers but their misfortune was our fortune. For those who were not able to attend here is some information on each of them.



Amina was born in Cairo, moving to New Zealand in 2002, where she attended school and university. She was awarded First Prize and Audience Prize at the inaugural Concours Bordeaux Medoc Lyrique in 2018, is a winner of the Deborah Riedel award in the Joan Sutherland and Richard Bonyngé Bel Canto Competition, and was a winner at the prestigious Sydney Eisteddfod McDonald's Operatic Aria Competition.



*Amina Edris*

Praised for her “lustrous tone (*Opera News*) and “beautifully polished” presentation (*San Francisco Chronical*), and having brought Bastille (Opéra National de Paris) “to their knees” (*Forumopera*) with her recent performance of Manon, she is quickly emerging as one of opera's most exciting young stars.



*Amitai Pati*

Amitai is Samoan and is probably best known to most New Zealanders as part of the trio Sol3 Mio along with his older brother Pene (Amina's husband) and his cousin, Moses Mackay. He won the Lexus song quest in 2012, going on to study in Wales, and he has been based mostly in America where he was part of the San Francisco Operas Merola opera programme and a recipient of the Adler Fellowship.

Earlier this year Amitai made his European debut as Nadir in a concert performance of Bizet's *Les pêcheurs de perles* presented by Les Grandes Voix at the Philharmonie in Paris. French critics said of his performance, “Amitai Pati performs a moving Nadir, endowed with a superb tenor voice, ideal in the role” (*Toute la culture*). In addition Amitai made his Canadian debut this past season appearing as the tenor soloist in Verdi's *Requiem* with the National Arts Centre Orchestra under Alexander Shelley. Amitai will also join the Auckland Philharmonia Orchestra, CAL Performances in Berkeley California, the Trondheim Symphony orchestra in Norway and Hawaii Opera Theatre, Covid permitting

## **Rosemary Barnes**

Rosemary Barnes was one of London's most sought-after accompanists and vocal coaches for 25 years. On the music staff of English National Opera from 1980-88, Rosemary also taught pianists and singers at the Royal College of Music.

Returning in 1993 as founding director of the DipPerfArts(Opera) at the University of Auckland, Rosemary continued her busy concert schedule. She has partnered all our leading singers including Dame Kiri Te Kanawa, Sir Donald McIntyre, Dame Malvina Major, Simon O'Neill, Helen Medlyn, Margaret Medlyn and Patricia Wright.



*Rosemary Barnes, Amina Edris and Amitai Pati*





## **A final word**

At the conclusion of this COVID year, we leave the final word to Judge Claire Ryan from the Auckland District Court who has an enviable collection of RBG masks



*If you have to wear a mask ... make it count!*

*Judge Claire Ryan honours RBG*

Warm regards,  
Ngā mihi ki a koutou,  
Mary O'Dwyer

