

ADCOSS Annual Report 2016 - 2017



By *Beate Matthies*, Chair, Auckland District Council of Social Services

For almost 20 years *Richard Northey* was Chair of ADCOSS. He has been engaged in social policy and housing issues and had a particular interest in advocacy work. His submissions on different social issues have made ADCOSS visible far beyond the Auckland Isthmus.

After he stepped down from his position as Chair in 2016, *David Haigh* chaired ADCOSS for almost a year and was bringing his passion for community work to the organisation. He initiated a *Forum on Community Gardens* which was organised mainly by volunteers

from the ADCOSS Executive Committee and *Mitiana Sio* and her student friends from *Unitec*.

Both chairpersons had long experience – *Richard* in politics and *David* as sociologist and lecturer. *Richard Northey* had been granted the honour of ONZM and *David Haigh* the honour of MNZM.

These are big shoes to fill.

However, we have well experienced Executive members who have been actively supporting ADCOSS and their communities for many years



ADCOSS members take an interest in the society in which we live and seek to contribute towards a just society.

and whose commitment has been recognised and honoured with a QSM: *Joan Lardner-Riolin, Laurel Taufauata, and Thurai Thuraisundaram.* Their energy, passion and striving for our diverse society in Auckland is just awesome!

Our Executive Committee is made up of a group of men and women who are highly committed and engaged in Auckland communities. A special thank you goes here to *Joan Lardner-Riolin* and *Rika Werner* from our Executive and to *Richard Northey*, our former Chair, all of whom have hardly missed a meeting of the *Inner City Network (ICN)* and who have set up a new ICN Advisory Panel which will certainly help working **with** the groups in the Inner City – rather than working **for** them.

Since *Angela Maynard* resigned her position end of 2015, we have relied mainly on the Executive Committee volunteers to do the work of co-ordinating and organising events and forums. We acknowledge the

contribution of *Bronwyn Walters* as ICN Co-ordinator. At the end of September 2016, *Bronwyn* resigned and moved on to *DIA*. We contracted *Peter Wilson* on a five months fixed term agreement to ensure that *ADCOSS* was able to meet its obligations to its funders.



Apart from the regular *ICN Network* events, further events were held in 2016:

- **Age-friendly City**

On 17 March we organised a very well attended forum with the title *Towards an Age-friendly Auckland / Tāmaki Makaurau: The missing links.* The forum’s programme evolved from a Seniors Advisory Panel meeting with *Mayor Len Brown* in December 2015. The members had observed a missing link regarding the planning between local government, the three *DHBs* who operate in the Auckland region, and central government.



ADCOSS Vision:

An inclusive society with active citizenship, active participation, mutual respect, valuing everybody equally, with opportunity for everyone to develop their full potential and to live a dignified and fulfilling life.



Auckland Council's Senior Advisory Panel. From left: Richard Northey, Janet Clews, Sonny Niha, Margaret Devlin (Chair), Russell Rigby, Joan Lardner-Rivlin, Roger Fowler, and Judy Blakey.

The event, which was attended by more than 100 people was opened and blessed by Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei representatives, *Esther and Paul Davis*.

We especially acknowledge here the contribution of *Judy Blakey*.

- **Community Gardens**

On 11 October we held a forum on *Community Gardens* which was promoted in conjunction with *Gardens4Health*.

Following the *Auckland City Council* policy on community gardens in 2002, "Flowers grow in flower gardens, vegetables grow in vegetable gardens and people grow in community gardens", ADCOSS organised this forum in Western Springs.

About 60 people listened to the presentations of the three speakers *Richard Main (Gardens4Health)*, *Wayne Walker (Auckland City Councillor)*, and *Cissy Rock (Kai Auckland)*. The presentations were followed by discussions and exchange of tips and experiences.

Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei representative *William Davis* opened the event with a karakia.

- **Elder Abuse**

On 9 December we had a very successful meeting on discussing challenges related to *Elder Abuse*. This meeting was chaired by *Judy Blakey* and more than 20 people of different ethnicities exchanged experiences and ideas. The



ADCOSS Mission Statement:

Building networks of contact and activism and creating platforms for public discussions to elicit innovative and relevant ideas and information.

participants were concerned that *Age Concern* needed a substantial increase in funding for its work, and aspects such as emergency housing for older persons was often not available – especially for women over 65 years. It was agreed that it had to be made known that neglect is rampant, complex and subtle – and shows all cultural complexities.

This meeting will be followed up with a forum.

After each forum or special event, a detailed report is produced and published in the following *ADCOSS* magazine so that members stay informed.



An editorial committee of *Joan Lardner-Rivolin* and *Beate Matthies* reviewed the monthly magazine. It was decided to enlarge the number of contributors over a wide range of subjects and to revamp the format, including the cover page. Artists were approached from different



hobby groups to donate the permission to use their art work – thus having a different cover every month. The feedback on this new format has been very positive.



ADCOSS is member of the umbrella organisation *Community Networks Aotearoa (CNA)*. In order to stay connected, members of the Executive represented *ADCOSS* at the *Regional COSS* meeting in *Waiheke* on 1 March and participated in the annual *CNA Hui* in *Wellington* in October 2016.



Last, but not least, on behalf of the Executive I would like to thank *Lucia Davis* as a representative from *Auckland Council* for her support.



Who Are We:

ADCOSS is an incorporated society building networks and platforms that include organisations and individuals committed to our Vision and Mission.

ADCOSS AGM 2017

12:00 noon – 2:00pm Thursday, 29 June

Western Springs Garden Community Hall



The guest speaker will be *Dr. James (Semisi) Prescott*, CPA, COP, CTTng, B.Com., M.Com(Hons), PhD, Senior Lecturer Accounting and Finance, Academic Leader Postgraduate – Business Practice Pathway at *Unitec Institute of Technology*. A Tongan specialist accountant, he is also a member of the advisory panel of *MSD* and the *Ministry for Vulnerable Children*.



The title of his speech for this year's AGM is:

**The Importance of Relationships in the Social Services Sector:
Managing the new wave of challenges for funders and providers**

Dr. James Prescott was certainly one of the most fascinating speakers at the *International Community Development Conference 2017* in February, where he spoke on "Measuring outcomes using the balanced scorecard". He challenged the concept of measuring outcomes on counselling – are we counting the right things? Whereas the balanced scorecard for businesses is based on cardinal measuring, the NGOs should be able to follow ordinal measuring, and ask questions like: how much is the target population engaged? And how effective and relevant is a certain programme really? The dimensions of the traditional balanced scorecard include finances, innovation and growth, internal process and the customers. The scorecard for NGOs should include a social/political/environmental dimension!

