



# SERVAS - NEW ZEALAND

*Servas for Peace*

## Newsletter – March 2013

**Tena koutou, tena koutou, tena koutou**

### **From the National Secretary**

We have just said bon voyage to a French couple at the end of their 7 weeks in NZ, including visits with 5 Servas Hosts. One impression they are left with was that there are a many War Memorial Halls in small and large communities throughout the country. They spoke of appreciating for the first time how many New Zealand men and women left this soil to support the fight for democracy in Europe in both world wars. Some may wonder about the import of these memorials, the wars having started 99 years and 74 yrs ago, with their message *'Lest we forget'* honoring those who have gone before us. The human mind does forget and yet our part in these wars is a fundamental part of our history and who we are as New Zealanders.

Times are changing - from war memorial halls to a movement to declare Communities for Peace. Auckland was declared a City for Peace on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2011. One of the ways Auckland City celebrates this declaration is with the Auckland Peace Heritage Walk – a self guided walk around peace sites in central Auckland. This walk was created as part of the World March for Peace and Non Violence, as a United Nations Association of New Zealand Peace Day event in 2009.

The peace walk offers 11 points of interest, starting at the corner of K Rd and Ponsonby Rd with the VAANA mural (Visual Artists Against Nuclear Arms). The walk ends in QEII square at Te Ahi Ka Roa. This rock represents continued tribal occupation, possession and guardianship by Ngati Whatua Ki Tamaki and their responsibilities as a host tribe. They are the keepers of the flame for Tamaki Makau Rau (Auckland).

On the way you visit Aotea Square, St Matthew-in-the-City, the Women's Suffrage Memorial, the Gateway sculpture, the Albert Park Band Rotunda, the original Peace Foundation offices, the Tiannamen Square Stone, the Peace Place and the Rainbow Warrior Mural. The brochure includes another 19 peace places in other parts of the City – including Devonport, declared NZ's first Nuclear Free Borough in 1981! Pamphlets are available at information centres or [www.civitrustauckland.org.nz](http://www.civitrustauckland.org.nz).

It is wonderful what we learn about our home town from our Servas guests!  
Are there any other Peace Walks and Communities for Peace in your area?

Marijke Batenburg

## From the Peace Secretary

**Constitution Review** - a chance for a regime of justice, peace, liberty and equality.

The constitution is the rules which set out how a country's government can use its power. It describes and establishes the major institutions of government, states the principle powers and regulates the exercise of these powers broadly.

New Zealand's constitution is scattered through formal legal documents, and in decisions by the Courts. It reflects and establishes New Zealand as a monarchy with a democratic parliamentary system. The Treaty of Waitangi is increasingly regarded in these documents as a founding document.

New Zealand is part way through a three year constitutional review process. A 12-strong advisory panel has been appointed, their role is to lead public discussion on the review and report to the ministers. Their schedule was for the panel to make its first recommendations later this year in September.

The present review and discussion, addresses many technical/legal issues around having a written constitution, the need for an amendment to NZ's informal constitution and the need for one binding document. But the review also offers the opportunity for us to consider many wider issues:

- New Zealand's institutions must increasingly have regard to international obligations and standards – to what extent should our Constitution give weight to our ethical standards as principles in our dealings with the world?
- Do we as a nation need to have a position on the well-being of all the world's people, the environment? Where should these sit with economic interests?
- What do we consider the equitable and inalienable rights and responsibilities of all citizens for freedom, justice and peace?
- Should it protect our right to participate and contribute to communal well-being and local decision making through a sound democratic system?
- Are political and economic autonomy to be safeguarded along with the right to set our own standards for health, food and customs?
- Can we, in our Constitution, endorse the South Pacific Nuclear Free Treaty signed in Suva in 1986 and or nuclear-free status. The Philippines, for example, "renounces war as an instrument of national policy."
- Could we commit for World Peace? for openly negotiated treaties? for only sending troops overseas after open public discussion and a vote in Parliament?

"There is no need to go to India, or anywhere else, to find peace. You will find that deep place of silence right in your own room, your garden, or even your bath tub."

Elizabeth Kuber-Ross

Should we, as members of Servas, enter the constitutional discussions?

Please contact me - [ael@tasman.net](mailto:ael@tasman.net),

Jocelyn Bieleski, Peace Secretary

## **From the South Island**

We have had some wonderful hosting experiences recently with travellers staying from France and Germany; lots of fun, laughter and amazing French cooking! I also recently travelled to Dunedin and stayed with a host who welcomes NZ travellers. This was my 1st time staying with a NZ host and I can truly recommend it. Last month, approx. 30 Servas members enjoyed a delicious Chinese meal in Christchurch. These gatherings are always a good opportunity to share Servas memories, to get to know one another and meet new members. I look forward to many more this year.

Bee (Birga) Ruder

## **From Auckland/Northland**

Greetings! It has been a slow start to the New Year with just 6 requests from travellers. But a lot easier to process forms with electronic forwarding of host lists. Just a reminder to those who do receive the host lists electronically: please remember that the same rules of security and confidentiality apply to electronic lists as with the paper lists. Once your travels are over, please destroy/delete the lists from your storage device.

As announced in the last newsletter I have taken over looking after the Servas website from David Minifie. If anyone has any good suggestions re improvements or enhancements, I would be pleased to hear from them.

It has been a hectic few months with my mother and brother visiting from India and weekend tramping trips. Christmas and New Year were quiet, catching up with a few friends and family members.

Jessica Andrades

### **Auckland Northland Biannual Meeting**

North Shore Thursday 19 May 2013 7.30pm

Senior Citizens Hall, Corner Ernie Mays St and College Rd Northcote

Contact person for apologies – Leanne Catchpole Ph (9) 418 2378

Please bring a contribution towards supper.

## **From the Lower North Island (Taranaki-Wairarapa-Wellington)**

This surely is the summer that IS ... ! How many times have I heard this summer is what I remember summers were like as a kid. Great for some but a trial for the gardeners and farmers amongst us. Won't be long though before we will be complaining about the wet and cold ... ? Never !

It has been a quiet start to 2013. We are picking up though, requests for those planning travel through the winter months ahead with Europe becoming the destination of choice.

### ***Travellers' Tale***

One Servas family back from a recent trip to France and Denmark last November through to January this year are very happy to share their experiences:-

“Travelling with 4 children we had no expectations of uptake. We emailed en masse to about 8 families in each country about 2 weeks prior to travel. We carefully selected those to ask and received one positive response each time.

Both experiences we were overwhelmed with host our hosts' generosity, and their desire to ensure we really got to understand their culture and country. They also embraced our children and were fully understanding and tolerant of their needs.

Friendships were formed that will never be lost and hopefully reciprocated as well. Because we had our own vehicle and all of our bedding, towels, etc, it was a little easier for people to host us I think.”

Under 'Helpful Suggestions', Carla offers the following advice:

“With children ... ensure that the time you are requesting to be hosted is a good time as far as the kids being ready to have new experiences, not feeling too exhausted from a prior 'adventure'.

Teach the children some of the language and encourage learning of the culture and language with the host family. We left playing cards, pendants (branded NZ), high bounce balls, NZ sweets, possum clothing, etc.

They were always appreciated, as well getting the kids to always make time to write a nice card to leave our hosts, was also appreciated.”

Carla and family concluded with, “What an awesome trip we had” with thanks for Servas NZ for their support. “We loved the brief Servas experiences we had and wish there was time and space for more. Thanks again.”

You will find Carla, Dean and family as one of our new Hosts this year, listed in our 2013 NZ Host List, Host #12343. If you are planning a trip, especially with children I am sure Carla and Dean will be only too happy to share their experiences with you.

Our thanks to you both and the children for sharing your Servas experiences. This is what being a member of Servas is all about. We hope it inspires other families to take up the challenge. An invaluable family shared experience to tuck away in the memory.

Do remember that the billy is always on the boil if you are passing through Masterton, and we can always find a bed if you are able to stop over. Take care.

Peter & Sandra Debney

**From the 'Central' Region  
(Coromandel/Waikato/Bay of Plenty/Gisborne-East Coast/Hawkes  
Bay/Rotorua/Taupo and Tairāwhiti)**

It has been a wonderful summer in our region with hot sunny days and little wind. The farmers are starting to complain about the dry so it must have been good! What a pity there were not more overseas travellers to share our magnificent weather with this year.

A few hosts have reported having some great Servas experiences in recent months but most have seen very few visitors if any. Many who have recently returned from overseas are so very positive about their Servas hosts and how so many have gone out of their way to make visitors feel welcome. Others who are planning trips in the near future are experiencing the joys and frustrations of trying to make contact with possible hosts around the world. It is not always possible to arrange a visit with every host one would like to meet as we all lead such busy lives. Keep trying, it is so very worthwhile, "the world is full of friends we haven't met."

In late February some of the Hawkes Bay members enjoyed a pot luck dinner at Ray and Janice Hambly's home in Taradale. Many tales of fascinating trips and interesting visitors were shared including that of a French visitor (who spoke little English), when enquiring about New Zealand whilst planning a trip here, was told that Maori was the official Language! He promptly set about learning the language and was told, when visiting a Maori community in Hawkes Bay, that he spoke the language very much better than many Maori! Thank you Win for organising the gathering and thank you Ray and Janice for hosting us all.

Sarah & Rodney Faulkener

## **A Tribute to Two Travellers**

### ***In Memory of Gloria Mastell and Rodger Wurr Servas visitors 2004***

I don't know how many NZ Servas hosts had the unique privilege of having Gloria and Rodger as Servas visitors but those lucky enough to do so will be saddened to learn that I recently received a message from one of Gloria's friends. She wrote to share the heartbreaking result of an automobile incident in Tampa, Florida on 25<sup>th</sup> January 2013. Gloria died instantly and Rodger died from critical injuries twelve days later.

When we were first contacted by Gloria and Rodger in February 2004 they spoke of their intention to spend some days in Wellington and, based on their pen-portraits, we suggested that we'd be happy to host them for more than the required Servas 2 days.

Immediately we met them we knew that we'd done the right thing. Gloria was an urban anthropologist living in St Petersburg, Florida and Rodger a sociology professor from Kiel in Germany but also an occasional mystery writer. Although living great distances apart these two had been travelling together for many years and knew Servas hosts in many countries. With Gloria's wit and vivacity interplaying with Rodger's serious, silent demeanour the couple melded wonderfully. They made delightful visitors and we had a joyous time with them.

As experienced Servas hosts, as well as travellers, they were fully aware of the potential strain on one's purse with visitors. They were keen participants in food shopping expeditions, and both did some of the cooking. Rodger was a dab hand at producing something delicious from penne pasta, garlic, olive oil and Parmesan cheese. Gloria was especially intrigued to research the different foods available. She also taught me that one can have hot water on muesli.

They brought completely new dimensions into our life and some stimulating ideas. Rodger was very tall with great long legs and squashing him into our small Fiat proved rather uncomfortable for him so touring wasn't quite the option it could have been. They did spend several hours on different days exploring together doing the classic tourist things but we also did some things with them. It was Rodger's keen interest in and knowledge of wine that led them to select New Zealand for this trip. Naturally we did the best we could to introduce our world class wines.

They were both extremely keen scrabble addicts and inveigled us into a game one evening. Actually, they'd taken us out to dinner and told us that payment for the dinner would be joining them in scrabble. I used to think I was quite good at the game but they inhabited a whole new scrabble world with numerous two-letter words that we didn't believe were words but they quoted their authority, the "Scrabble Dictionary". I quoted the "9<sup>th</sup> Shorter Oxford Dictionary", but several words they considered quite kosher are just not in our favourite authority. Like all good guests they reluctantly let us be guided by that good book. Between them they are fiercely competitive and it was like a comedy show listening to their repartee. It was great fun even though we were soundly beaten.

Friday was Waitangi Day and the start of a Rugby Sevens weekend so the city was very lively. Our visitors, although not rugby enthusiasts, were keen to see Wellington in party mode and together they spent most of the day out doing touristy things. I was very amused that they set off with Roger carrying their scrabble set in a little drawstring bag. He told me that sitting in the sun outside was a very good ambiance for playing scrabble and they thought our Botanic Gardens would be ideal.

That evening we'd invited a good friend for dinner. She'd been for a time our Human Rights Commissioner and was keenly interested to delve into the work Gloria was going on a US nationwide social survey. We'd also included a thirteen-year old grandson who was quite comfortable with adults, so we had a very lively and entertaining evening. Rodger and he got on particularly well.

On Saturday, despite the slight squash in the car, we drove our visitors across to the Wairarapa for some NZ wine sampling. It was Martinborough Fair day with 25,000 folk expected so it was very hectic and crowded indeed. We were able to sample wines from Mebus vineyard having a promotion in the village Wine shop and, after a brief look at some of the fair stalls, we headed out into the countryside particularly to two of our favourite places, Voss Estate and Ata Rangi. Both places had virtually sold out but as good customers we were able to get four of the last bottles that Gary Voss had secreted behind the counter.

From there we went to another vineyard, Vynfields, which has a lovely old two-storeyed house that had been cut into five pieces and trucked from Lyall Bay across the formidable Rimutaka Ranges for restoration. There we had local cheeses and a variety of bread rolls while we sampled their wines. Rodger in particular was pleased with his venture to the Wairarapa and his subsequent emails have always commented on NZ wines he'd found at home. That evening our entertainment was a fiercely fought scrabble match between Gloria and Rodger. Our grandson, who'd joined us again, was astonished by their vigorous by-play.

Next morning they left here at 7.10am to catch a ferry to the South Island where they had a rental car booked. We had so much on which to reflect. As an avid reader of mysteries I was disappointed that Rodger's stories had not been translated.

About 2 months after their visit we were heading to Sydney, Australia, to meet a new baby grand-daughter. Gloria and Rodger were by then travelling in Australia. We were truly delighted when they amended their plans and joined us in Sydney, taking an apartment in the same building where we were staying. It made us feel very special that they would make that detour to see us, and it was wonderful to see them again so soon. We have kept up with emails since that time and lived in hopes that either they would come to NZ again or perhaps we could visit them. Sadly that is not to be. We will deeply miss two of the most delightful people we've ever known.

Jan & Jack Carr  
Upper Hutt

## Events

If you are planning to travel in the next five months there are Servas events in India, Germany, Turkey, Spain, India and China that you could add to your itinerary:

### ***Servas India – Annual Conference Bangalore, India, April 2013***

It gives me great pleasure to invite you all for our SERVAS INDIA ANNUAL CONFERENCE which we are planning to hold in our Hi-tech city Bangalore, The venue is at Nature beauty place **Vishwaneedam International Sarvodaya Center campus, 13 KM Magadi Road Bangalore 560091** dates 26, 27 and 28 April 2013. Hospitality (accommodation) arrangement will be in dormitory to all members.

**This is being organized by the Reception committee:**

<i>Kumar M</i>	<i>Chairman Reception Committee of Conference</i>
<i>Jagadish C</i>	<i>Acting Chairman Reception Committee of Conference</i>
<i>Mr Pethu raja</i>	<i>Deputy Servas India, Committee Member</i>
<i>Miss Bina Sengar</i>	<i>Host Coordinator Servas India, Committee Member</i>
<i>Ruksana Hussan</i>	<i>Karnataka State Coordinator, Committee Member</i>

**Venue of Conference:** Vishwaneedam, International Sarvodaya Center,  
13 KM Magadi Road Bangalore -560091, India

**Telephone Contacts:** +91 80 2348 2589,  
Fax +91 80 2328 8788, Mobile +91 94 4884 0930

**Registration Fee:** Rs.1,000 (one thousand) per person (Including hospitality & food) under 10 year children's are free.

## **Servas Live with Us - Share with Us Volunteering Programme Ekinici, Antakya, Turkey July 6t – 16 2013**

I am so excited and happy to announce that we are going to hold the 5th Servas Live with Us Share with Us Children Programme in my village, Ekinici (3aydiy) in Antakya, Turkey. Within this project we ask servas people to come and volunteer in the village (Teach kids in an informal way anything they know), stay with parents and exchange experiences also with local people. Everyone is so friendly and welcoming and ready to hug the volunteers. :)

The children and the parents are already asking for this event like every year and want to know who is coming this year. We have created seeds of Servas with children (70 kids with their parents) and ask you to come and water these seeds next July 6<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>

Do you want to share your experience and knowledge with kids? Then come and live with us ... Please do visit the links first to see the broad outline of the event.

Any question is welcome... Spread this news everywhere please...

### **Facebook & Blog Links**

Here you can see what we have done for three years. With photos and activities.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/95345139652/?fref=ts>

In case it does not work search on facebook for "Live with us share with us".

To become friends with me find me on this email: [mehsevi@hotmail.com](mailto:mehsevi@hotmail.com)

Communication would be faster.

Read the story of the last experience with the kids, local people and volunteers....

<http://atesnaar.blogspot.com/2012/07/the-utopia-of-emracing-world-live-with.html>

We wish everyone inner peace to achieve peace outside ...

Mehmet Ates

Servas Turkey Peace Secretary

Programme Coordinator

TURKEY

## **Invitation to Servas Meeting Germany – Berlin, August 2013**

We would like to invite you to an international Servas Meeting in Berlin.

We will hold a Servas-Summer-Meeting between 17 and 22 August 2013, hosting 80 Servas friends from all over the world. It will take place at the Bildungszentrum Elstal (Elstal Educational Centre) near Berlin.

The meeting will focus on the rich and varied aspects of past and present-day Berlin under the motto: **“Berlin between War and Peace”**.

This is the 2nd Invitation replacing the one from January 2013.

There is a better description of the registration process, and new deadlines for the cancellation. For more information please see the website of SERVAS Germany.

<http://www.servas.de/cms/index.php?getlang=en&menuid=18&reporeid=94>

## **International Servas - Summer Camp for Families and Young People. Moraira-Alicante, Spain, August 2013**

Servas Spain is glad to invite you to participate in this International Servas Meeting from August 25th to September 1st in the Youth Hostel La Marina in Moraira-Teulada, Alicante. This Hostel is located 200 metres from the beach and 500 metres from the village. This event is for all ages, but especially for families and youngsters so that they can live the Servas spirit.

The focus of the event will be Interculture and Peace. In the event we will have the opportunity to know much more about the Spanish culture, with workshops like Spanish Cuisine, sevillanas o Spanish Lessons. We expect other workshops from Servas members from other countries, they can show us a bit of their cultures as well.

We will also have the chance to do watersports like windsurfing, scuba diving, kayaking, etc. ( All these activities are optional and are not included in the price).

A summary of the most relevant information:

- Date:** August 25th to September 1st  
**Place:** Youth Hostel La Marina Moraira-Teulada. Alicante ( Spain)  
[http://www.gvajove.es/ivaj/opencms/IVAJ/es/tiempo/instalaciones\\_GvaJove/lamarina.html](http://www.gvajove.es/ivaj/opencms/IVAJ/es/tiempo/instalaciones_GvaJove/lamarina.html)  
**Participants:** Servas member from 0 to 100 years old.  
**Prices:** 230 euros adults and 185 euros children and young people ( under 24 years old).

**Limited to 100 places. The registration is open from now.**

You can find all the information and the registration form link in the attached document or in our web page [www.servas.es](http://www.servas.es)

***The purpose of the meeting is to have fun, we are looking forward to seeing you there.***

**Servas China invites you to the 7<sup>th</sup> East Asia Meeting  
Guangzhou China , 15 – 17 November 2013**

Join us and deepen our friendship at the 7th Meeting of Servas East Asia.

**Date:** 15th to 17th, November 2013 ( Friday through Sunday )

**Venue :** Zi Jin Yuan Hotel( 紫荆园宾馆 ) inside Sun Yat-sen University.

中国广州市, 新港西路135号, 中山大学东南区259号

**Officers in charge of the 7<sup>th</sup> East Asia Meeting**

**Dr. Changxian Yi, National Secretary, Servas China**

E-mail: [zocycx@gmail.com](mailto:zocycx@gmail.com)

**Mr. Jack Huang**

Cell phone: 0086-18302039139 E-mail: [jack.r.huang@msn.com](mailto:jack.r.huang@msn.com)

**Miss Eunice Zheng and Tiffany Zheng**

Cell phone: 0086-18927477830 E-mail: [eunice94@163.com](mailto:eunice94@163.com),

**Expenses**

300 USD per person, including 3 nights ( double bed or twin bed room for two persons), three lunches, three dinners, and three breakfasts. Plus possibly an organized city tour.

**Notices**

- 1) Please make your registration to us **by the end of August**, through each National Secretary or a contact person.  
\* Names of participants, sex, age, double room or twin room
- 2) Please remit 300 USD for each person to the specified account.  
\* The account number will be sent to National Secretary as soon as possible.
- 3) Please arrive on or before Friday, 15th Nov, 2013.
- 4) We will meet our guests on 15th at the airport or railway station in Guangzhou. Please inform us as early as possible about your flight / train schedule.

***This is an edited extract from their invitation – for a copy of the full notice and programme contact the National Secretary, Marijke at [servasnz@pl.net](mailto:servasnz@pl.net)***