



## Association of Former United Nations Officials – New Zealand

~ Established with FAFICS in 1993 ~

~ Affiliated with the UNANZ in 2016 ~

~ Facebook  “Friends of AFUNO NZ” ~

## AUTUMN 20 19 NEWSLETTER

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*Kia Ora members*

*In this Autumn 2019 issue:*

- **Next round of Social Functions ..... almost upon us!**
  - Auckland Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> May @ 12-30 pm – luncheon
  - Wellington Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June @ 5pm – drinks –
  - Christchurch – TBA -
- **AFUNO-NZ Membership renewals**
- **AFUNO-NZ 2020 new membership fees**
- **AFUNO-NZ Questionnaire**
- **Update on our IRD submission re Tax on our UNJSPF benefits**
- **UNANZ News**
- **FAFICS News**
- **ILO Centenary & special message from our Prime Minister.**
- **Nominations please!**
- **International Law in Aotearoa – NZ researchers requests for your inputs!**

- **Social Function. – Auckland – Next week!!**

Apologies for this late notice but Auckland AFUNO member Julie Hilton warmly invites members (including AFUNO visitors from out of town) to her home for the **first AFUNO trial potluck lunch on 1 May 2019 the first Wednesday of the month, at 12:30pm. Yes next week!!**

The potluck lunch will be held in Julie’s back garden at **23 Cowper Street Devonport**. There is plenty of parking in Abbotsford Terrace, as Julie’s house is second house from the corner.

If the weather is fine, guests are requested to go around the house directly to the garden. If the weather is not fine then guests will be invited inside and kindly asked to remove their shoes. Please bring along a plate (savoury, salad or desert) and something to drink and Julie will provide nibbles, filtered water and make sure you are comfortable. Julie has requested that those intending on coming along to RSVP by 8pm of 29<sup>th</sup> April and to also let her know what they plan to bring along so we get the balance about right.

RSVP to [juliehilton\\_7@hotmail.com](mailto:juliehilton_7@hotmail.com) by 29<sup>th</sup> April

- **Social Function. – Wellington**

The Wellington get together is again kindly being organized by Jeff Buchanan (currently on a UNDP assignment in the Solomon Islands) and he has nominated Friday evening June 7<sup>th</sup> for drinks between 5pm and 6-30pm. Please note your calendar accordingly and Jeff will be further in touch when he has finalized the venue. Jeff's Email contact for the RSVP is [jeffreydb32@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreydb32@gmail.com)

- **Social Function. – Christchurch**

Pauline McKay who coordinates AFUNO members resident in the South Island is planning a coffee morning in the near future and will be in touch directly with members in her area. Pauline is National Director of Christian World Service - Action against Poverty and as well is the National Vice President of UNANZ and keen to have AFUNO members also benefitting from an association with UNANZ with whom we are of course affiliated. Pauline's contact is [Pauline.mckay@cws.org.nz](mailto:Pauline.mckay@cws.org.nz) and South Island members are welcome to email her with any preferred dates for the coffee morning.

- **AFUNO - NZ Membership renewal and an important questionnaire**

The 2019 membership renewal form is again attached as a separate file and was also sent out earlier this year with a very good response for the fundraising but an incomplete response for the annual fee renewals. We still hold the balance of your funds contributed towards the on-going costs for engaging a Tax Law Expert in a temporary account in the name of Anne Knowles. All donations received should ( according to our records) by now have been gratefully acknowledged.

An important questionnaire is also attached as a separate file as we need your views on some important and essential planned changes to AFUNO-NZ as we move on from being an informal group of former UN officials established with FAFICS in 1993 to being formally registered as a Non-Profit Society with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment with our own Bank account and Treasurer.

This being the start of a new year in which, we would now like to regularize matters as follows;

- **We need a Constitution or set of Society rules** (*please send in any recommended simple models*)
- **We need a Treasurer** (*Volunteers please!!*)
- **We need our application signed by 15 members to register the Society,** (*with signatures witnessed by someone who has not signed the application form as a member*)
- **We need a copy of the Society's rules** (*certified by an officer or solicitor of the Society*)
- **We then need to formally file our application** (*with the necessary fee*)

Only then can our Society secure IRD approval as a Not for profit organization and will we be able to open a Bank account in the name of our newly registered Society

- **AFUNO - NZ New Membership Fees from 2020**

Once we have our organization regularized as a Registered Society and we are able to open our bank account we expect to have a modest balance in our accounts for the first time. Details of this balance will then be formally released after the new Treasurer has had the chance to check on all income and expenditure from our membership and fundraising.

Depending on the size of that balance we may be in a position to also consider some modest support for possibly checking on the elder-care needs of our aged or infirm members without family support. Any member with ideas in this regard is asked to contact Mike Shone or their Regional coordinators indeed our membership according to the UNJSPF is already reaching towards 80 years so we should be looking out for each other.

From 2020 we would then like to simplify membership fee arrangements and like the Australian system adopt a one-off **Membership for Life** and in our case with a one-off payment of **NZD150** when joining on retirement from the UN.

To transition in to this change we plan to offer “free” **Membership for Life to all members who have already contributed more than \$200 to our appeal** and we will also make membership “free” also to any member who is over 75 years of age (provided of course they have informed us of their age). For this to work we will however need ongoing support from our “younger” members.

Members views of these proposed changes are most welcome as we do not want to get out of step with what members want, realising of course that currently less than half of members actually pay their annual \$5 membership fee and we do need basic funds to meet our annual capitation fee to FAFICS as well as our annual affiliation cost with UNANZ.

Please complete the following AFUNO- Questionnaire which seeks your views on this propose membership fee change from 2020. We will of course remain a volunteer organization with no benefits to office bearers.

- **AFUNO - NZ Questionnaire April 2019**

Kindly let us know your views to the following matters and email your view to [mishone@gmail.com](mailto:mishone@gmail.com) no later than 17<sup>th</sup> May 2019.

	Issue	Agree	Disagree	Comments
1	Establish AFUNO-NZ as a Registered Not for Profit Society			
2	Establish a Bank account in the name of the Registered Society			
3	Transfer the balance of all funds raised for the Pension Tax Relief Appeal to the new AFUNO account			
4	Provide Membership-For Life to all members who have contributed at least \$200 to the Pension Tax Relief Appeal			

- **Update on our IRD Submission drafting**

Firstly, our thanks again go to **Annex Knowles CNZM LLB (Hons)** for the extraordinary amount of work and effort she has put into being our legal advocate for the Legal Opinion and follow-up actions for our case for a fairer treatment of the current taxation position on our UN pension benefits.

More than 40 members (of some 170) have contributed so generously to our appeal and all 40 should by now have received a copy of the full Opinion by Mike Lennard the Wellington barrister specializing in taxation ([www.mikelennard.com](http://www.mikelennard.com)) we engaged. ***A Summary only of that Opinion by our very busy legal advocate Anne Knowles is now attached to this Newsletter*** as a separate file and members who have not contributed to the appeal may still do so and in return receive a full copy of the Opinion and of our submission to IRD when it is completed. The outcome of this on-going legal work is intended to benefit all members and future members.

Of course none of this work would have been possible without the impressive funding contribution made by many of our members and which we hope the current funds balance (following the payment in full for the Lennard Opinion and for the drafting of the IRD Submission) will also enable us to continue our work on our case with the IRD well into this year.

Any member who has contributed to the appeal and who has not yet received a copy of the initial Lennard Opinion should contact Anne Knowles or Mike Shone to secure a copy forthwith.

The Opinion as many of you will know received left us with 3 options as Ways Forward.

- **Option 1; Testing the situation through the Courts** – a process likely to take up to three years and as much as \$100,000.
- **Option 2; Formally participating in the IRD’s Public Rulings programme 2019, and/or**
- **Option 3; Lobbying for legislative Reform**

**Option 1** we have decided is beyond our means to pursue and **Option 3** is a matter for all of us to suggest ideas on and we would appreciate hearing from you (ideally through you regional coordinators) regarding how this can be successfully undertaken through your local MPs or other contacts in Parliament.

Members will be pleased to know that we are proceeding with **Option 2** and in this matter Anne Knowles has, after consultation with interested members here and abroad, now held meetings with Mike Lennard and that work is well underway. We hope to be able to report back on our draft submission sometime next month.

- **UNANZ News**

UNANZ have recently sent out their April Newsletter. Any member who has not yet received a copy is asked to contact Mike Shone to ensure that your name is on their email list. Members are also invited to visit the UNANZ website which has recently been updated. [www.unanz.org.nz](http://www.unanz.org.nz)

Wellington members especially are reminded that the **2019 UNA NZ Conference** will be held in Wellington on **Friday, 21<sup>st</sup> June and Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June**. This year's programme offers a platform for promoting dialogue and providing thought-provoking discussion. All members are encouraged to connect with and participate in their local UNANZ activities.

- **FAFICS News**

The following is the provisional Agenda for the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of FAFICS in Vienna June 2019. Unless there is any NZ member who plans to be in Europe at that time and who at their own expense is willing to represent us at that meeting, then we will ask our Australian counterparts to again represent us there.

Members may also now wish to re-visit the refreshed website of FAFICS. Their new Secretary Pierre Sayour is now starting to make a very noticeable difference!



FEDERATION OF ASSOCIATIONS OF FORMER INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS  
FÉDÉRATION DES ASSOCIATIONS DES ANCIENS FONCTIONNAIRES INTERNATIONAUX  
FEDERACION DE ASOCIACIONES DE EX-FUNCIONARIOS INTERNACIONALES

#### Provisional Agenda for FAFICS Vienna Meeting June 2019

1. Adoption of the Agenda
2. Election of the Presiding Officer and the Rapporteur
3. Membership matters
4. Report of the President
5. Pension issues
  - (a) Pension
  - (b) Situation of the former UNJSPF participants in the former USSR, Ukrainian SSR, and Byelorussian SSR
6. Meetings with the Acting Secretary/CEO of the UNJSPF and the RSG for Investments
7. After Service Health Insurance (ASHI)
8. Quadrennial report for ECOSOC for the period 2015-2019
9. Revision of the Rules of Procedure
10. Administrative and financial questions

- (a) Report of the Auditors for the accounts ending 2018
  - (b) Interim report on the management of the budget for 2019
  - (c) Proposed budget for 2020
  - (d) Appointment of the Auditors
11. Elections and Appointments
    - (a) FAFICS Officers
    - (b) Chair/Vice-Chair of the Standing Committees on ASHI and Pensions
  12. Appointment of FAFICS representatives on the Pension Board and other bodies in 2020
  13. Date and place of the 49<sup>th</sup> session of the Council
  14. Other business

### FAFICS Council meeting: Nairobi, Kenya 15-18 July 2019

The FAFICS Council will take place in Nairobi, Kenya from 15-18 July 2019, the week prior to the Pension Board which will meet in the same location. Any AFUNO-NZ member likely to be in Africa in July is invited to consider representing NZ at that meeting otherwise we will call on our Australian colleagues to be our voice and ears at that meeting.

Anyone considering attending that meeting should be aware that there was a security incident in Nairobi last month. Although it did not target UN staff, the UN Department of Safety and Security has been monitoring the security situation closely and has not advised cancelling UN meetings. There will also be a need for those attending to ensure they have the required immunizations as Mike Shone found even when transiting Bangkok recently when he undertook a short UN-ILO assignment in Uganda.

- **The Centenary of the International Labour Organization (ILO and special message from the Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern**

AFUNO-NZ (which has some 19 members who were former ILO officials) wrote to the NZ Prime Minister seeking information on the events planned to make this important anniversary and the reply from the PM follows.

If as a group we are to take advantage of the special opportunity now available for us to be involved in the NZ commemorations we **will need one of our former officials to step forward to act as our liaison person** with Ewan Lincoln, Senior Advisor Commemoration ([ewan.lincoln@mch.govt.nz](mailto:ewan.lincoln@mch.govt.nz))

Any member interested in undertaking this interesting coordination role should contact Mike Shone as soon as possible.

# Prime Minister

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MP for Mt Albert

Minister for Arts, Culture & Heritage

Minister for National Security & Intelligence

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



18 APR 2019

Mike Shone  
[mjshone@gmail.com](mailto:mjshone@gmail.com)

Dear Mr Shone

Thank you for your emails of 28 February and 13 April 2019 sent on behalf of the Association of Former United Nations Officials in New Zealand (AFUNO-NZ) regarding the centenary of the International Labour Organization (ILO).

I am very conscious of the important work of the ILO in setting labour standards and promoting decent work for all, and its status as the oldest United Nations specialised agency. As you note, New Zealand is a founding member of the ILO, and under the ILO's unique tripartite structure the Government works in partnership with organisations representing employers and workers.

New Zealand will be actively participating in the Centenary Session of the International Labour Conference in June 2019. The Chief Executive of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and officials will also be representing New Zealand at an Asia-Pacific regional tripartite conference in late April 2019 to discuss the recommendations of the report of the Global Commission on the Future of Work. The conference is being hosted by the Government of Singapore in partnership with the ILO.

Within New Zealand I am responsible as Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage for commemorations of historical anniversaries of national significance. The centenary of New Zealand's membership of the ILO has been recognised as one such anniversary.

As well as planning for the centenary of the ILO, officials from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (MCH) are currently working with relevant agencies on planning for other related anniversaries in 2019-2020, including the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of New Zealand signing the United Nations Charter (2020). Ministry officials would be happy to discuss these anniversaries with AFUNO-NZ, and you may wish to follow up with Ewan Lincoln, Senior Adviser, Commemorations via email at: [ewan.lincoln@mch.govt.nz](mailto:ewan.lincoln@mch.govt.nz).

In your email, you mention the Future of Work, one of the ILO's centenary initiatives. This is also one of Government's priority areas, working in partnership with businesses and unions. You may have seen that the Minister of Finance recently referred terms



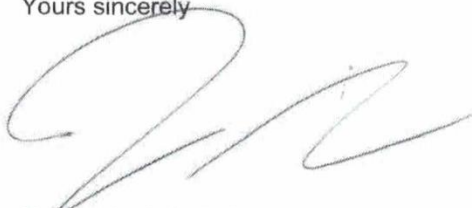
of reference for an inquiry into Technological Change, Disruption and the Future of Work to the Productivity Commission.

There is no single event focusing on the Future of Work planned for the ILO centenary year, however it is one of the themes of the Just Transitions Summit being held in New Plymouth on 9-10 May 2019. More information about this can be found at: [www.justtransitionssummit.nz](http://www.justtransitionssummit.nz).

I am proud of New Zealand's longstanding commitment to multilateralism, and to promoting collective action for peace, human rights, environmental sustainability and social justice through the United Nations and other international institutions.

Thank you again for writing, and please pass on my appreciation to the members of AFUNO-NZ for their service and important contribution to the vital work of United Nations agencies.

Yours sincerely



Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Minister for Arts, Culture and Heritage

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**• Nominations Please! (Yes..... you may self –nominate)**

Position	Name	Email/Telephone
AFUNO-NZ Treasurer		
ILO Centenary Celebrations Liaison officer - Urgent -		

**Note:**

1. For the information of members there will also be a call for applications mid-year for the position of President of our new Society once it is established and there will also be a call for members interested in supporting the work of their Regional Coordinators – Auckland – Wellington & Christchurch mid-year as well.
2. Members with suggested text for a short Constitution and or Set of Rules are invited to send in their ideas



- **Survey: New Zealanders in International Organisations**

AFUNO-NZ has been approached by **Dr Guy Fiti Sinclair and Eve Bain**, both of Victoria University of Wellington who are writing a book chapter on "***New Zealanders in International Organisations***". They wish to understand more about just how many New Zealanders have and/or are currently working for international organisations, and what career paths, networks and values this group of people may have in common.

Part of our research involves directly collecting information from individuals who have worked in international organisations - which we will do in the first instance through a survey (and possibly followed by interviews).

This questionnaire will be emailed separately to all AFUNO-NZ members by Eve Bain and those interested are encouraged to complete and return to questionnaire by completing the on-line Google-form. It is quite easy to complete.

#### **What is the aim of the project?**

This project aims to gain a better understanding of the extent of the contributions of New Zealanders to the development of international organisations (IOs) and international law more generally. The research will focus specifically on New Zealanders who have worked as international civil servants, i.e. in the administrative organs of IOs, rather than as representatives of the New Zealand government in the political organs of IOs. The research will inform a chapter for an edited book titled *International Law in Aotearoa New Zealand* and may be presented to academic conferences.

#### **How can you help?**

You have been invited to participate in this research because we understand that you have worked (and/or currently work) at an international organisation. We would like you to complete a brief survey about your work at the international organisation. The survey should take 10-15 minutes to complete. The survey asks 7 questions that only require short answers, such as your name, the international organisation/s you worked for, your role, and whether you worked with other New Zealanders at the organisation.

#### **What will happen to the information you give?**

The survey information will inform the quantitative analysis of the book chapter. It will be used in a table and otherwise referenced in the chapter to indicate how many New Zealanders have worked/currently work for international organisations. You will not be referenced by name in the chapter unless you consent as part of the interview or otherwise expressly give permission to do so. The organisation you worked for may be referenced in a general way (e.g., 20% of participants had worked for the World Health Organisation).

If you agree, we may subsequently contact you with an invitation to participate in an interview to elaborate further on your work at the international organisation. We will provide a new information sheet and consent form to you if we invite you to participate in any interview.

### **What will the project produce?**

The information from my research will be used in a chapter to be published in an edited book titled International Law in Aotearoa New Zealand. It may also be presented at academic conferences in New Zealand or overseas.

### **If you accept this invitation, what are your rights as a research participant?**

You do not have to accept this invitation if you don't want to. If you do decide to participate, you have the right to:

- choose not to answer any question;
- withdraw from the study before 30 June 2020 (if you withdraw, the information you provided will be destroyed or returned to you);
- ask any questions about the study at any time;
- read over and comment on a written summary of your interview;
- be able to read any reports of this research by emailing the researcher to request a copy.

This research has been approved by the Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee (application reference #0000027349).

### **Human Ethics Committee information**

If you have any concerns about the ethical conduct of the research you may contact the Victoria University HEC Convenor: Dr Judith Loveridge. Email [hec@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:hec@vuw.ac.nz) or telephone +64-4-463 6028.

For more information about this survey or the research more generally, please contact the researchers: Eve Bain ([miss.eve.bain@gmail.com](mailto:miss.eve.bain@gmail.com)) and Dr Guy Fiti Sinclair ([guy.sinclair@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:guy.sinclair@vuw.ac.nz))

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*Nga mihi*

*Mike Shone*  
*President - AFUNO-NZ*

**Membership Contacts:** P O Box 125086, St Heliers, Auckland, 1740; [mjshone@gmail.com](mailto:mjshone@gmail.com)

**Auckland:** Mike Shone Ph 0211184445, Rex Billington, Ph 09-8263489

**Wellington:** Jeffrey Buchanan (a.i.) [jeffreydb32@gmail.com](mailto:jeffreydb32@gmail.com)

**Christchurch:** Pauline McKay: [pauline.mckay@cws.org.nz](mailto:pauline.mckay@cws.org.nz)

**[\(Note: 2 Attachments to this newsletter\) – Membership renewal Notice resent & Summary of the Lennard Legal Opinion](#)**