The Kermadec Sanctuary – fruits of victory or bone of contention?

Celebrating diversity
The Green Party Charter/Te marautanga Kakariki

The charter is the founding document of The Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand. The Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand accepts Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand; recognises Maori as Tangata Whenua in Aotearoa New Zealand; and commits to the following four Principles:

Tikanga Toi Potapate – Ecological Wisdom
Kawenga Paporí – Social Responsibility
Whakariit Totika – Appropriate Decision-making
Aukati Whakarekere – Non-Violence

See more at: https://home.greens.org.nz/charter

And from Antonio Gramsci (1929)

“Pessimism of the intellect, optimism of the will”

“I hate the indifferent. I believe that living means taking sides. Those who really live cannot help being a citizen and a partisan. Indifference and apathy are pariahs, perversion, not life. That is why I hate the indifferent.”

Information for Contributors

Te Awa is published quarterly in February, May, August and November. Copy deadline is the 15th of the previous month. Before submitting material, please check with the Guidelines for Contributors, which you can obtain from the editor.

Opinions expressed in Te Awa are not statements of Green Party policy, but must not bring the Green Party into disrepute.

Remember please!

Copy deadline for the August issue of Te Awa is Friday 15 July.

Editorial

Dave Kennedy

L ate last year, Ma Chen published the findings of New Zealand’s first ‘Superdiversity Stocktake’. When once we considered ourselves a mostly bicultural nation dominated by European colonisers, it is now predicted that by 2038 51% of New Zealanders will be Asian, Maori or Pasifika. In Auckland 44% of the present population was born in New Zealand. The city contains over 200 different ethnicities and 160 languages are spoken.

If the Green Party is going to grow widespread support then we must embrace this increasing diversity in innovative ways. The National Government attracts entrepreneur immigrants (and substantial donations) through its blatant support of corporate interests and unfettered market forces. It has also shown a willingness to espouse bribery as a way of doing business, as evidenced by the recent scandal in Saudi Arabia. It is important that when the growing immigrant and refugee communities come to vote, they know who the Greens are and see us as a progressive party that will create a better future for their families.

While cultural sensitivity is important, it doesn’t mean we should downplay our differences in order to embrace new communities; we shouldn’t accept cultural practices that are discriminatory or corrupt.

Many new immigrants also experience the big issues that affect many other New Zealanders: low wages, poor housing, a degraded environment, gender discrimination and racism.

Actively promoting a vision for New Zealand that embraces diversity and fairness, and that will create a sustainable future for our children and grandchildren, should resonate with all those who have come here with that same vision. Refugees in particular will be hoping that New Zealand will provide a safe haven (as opposed to a tax haven) that is free of corruption and violence.

Of course there is much more to diversity than ethnicity. Within our population we have occupational diversity, regional diversity and diversity of wealth and power. Gender and sexuality, age, different levels of disability, education, spirituality and diet are all aspects of diversity. We humans are complex animals.

One way of connecting with all these different communities across New Zealand is through the groups that already exist within our party. Many of them can be identified through our established Networks.

https://home.greens.org.nz/about/green-networks

Not all groups are currently on the website but I hope this list is reasonably comprehensive: Te Rōpū Pounamu, Local Elected Greens, Young Greens, Union Greens, Rural Greens, Pasifika Greens, Inclusive Greens (representing those with disabilities), Business and Professional Greens, Multicultural Greens, Green Women, Rainbow Greens, Vegreens (vegans and vegetarians), Spirit Greens, Green Left and Green Geeks.

A good number of these networks organise face-to-face meetings, caucus at the AGM, have active Facebook groups and have formal structures with management committees. They are engaged with policy reviews and are working to raise the Green profile within the wider communities they are connected to. As editors, Jane and I want to ensure that the contents of Te Awa reflect the diversity of our membership, and we encourage contributions, especially with photos, describing Network activities. In this issue we include reports from the Union Greens and from the Business and Professional Greens. They both have exciting plans to enhance the Greens’ presence within these influential groups.

While growing Green connections with different communities, and keeping our Charter in mind, we must also recognize that there are differences and discords between groups within our own party, as well as in the wider community. For instance, we need to accommodate different diets and beliefs around food. Another example is the tensions that can arise between meeting conservation goals and giving proper effect to our tiriti obligations. We have published two different views in this issue regarding the process to establish the Kermadecs Ocean Sanctuary.

Being able to connect with diverse communities and to accept the differences between them, without abandoning our principles, is a major factor in determining if we are ‘fit to govern’.

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Editorial

Dave Kennedy
The Election Campaign is just around the corner! No, really! This year the Green Party will be campaigning to protect our environment, care for our people and transform politics through our Local Body elections campaign.

In September 2016 you will have the chance to elect to your local councils people who are committed to the same values and the same outcomes as you are. Some will be Green Party candidates and they will need all your support and help to get into or, in some cases, get back into council. Others will be people who strongly believe in the Green kaupapa and are looking for help to promote it. Whichever is happening in your area, this is an important opportunity to make Green issues the most central ones for your local community.

Local body decisions are critical to achieving the Green changes that we want. It’s at the local level that we can get improved public transport, safe walking and cycling, and child-friendly urban design. It’s at the local level that we create an inclusive and diverse community that is connected, safe and more equal.

At the last local government elections, the Greens had great success in electing representatives in Wellington and Dunedin. We need to build on those successes, increase our representation and make our Green principles and values a core issue for the whole campaign. Yes, it is 100% possible.

While your parliamentary MPs are setting the nationwide policies that will have a huge impact at the local level, it is your local body politicians who implement much of that work. So we need to be as engaged with this 2016 local election as we will be with the 2017 campaign to change the government.

For anyone who has never been to a Green Party AGM before, it might be a good idea to make your first the one coming up in Lincoln this June.

The Party is gearing up for a huge and exciting programme of policy work and campaigning that will take us through this year’s local government elections, and on to the General Election in 2017. And it all kicks off at the AGM.

Over the summer our MPs have been putting together the most comprehensive work programme we’ve ever had (according to Metiria, who should know as she’s been in Caucus since 2002). We now have five focus areas which will guide all our MPs’ work such as policy announcements, campaigns, Members’ Bills, questions in the House, and our media, social media and person-to-person outreach. These focus areas will provide the smart and inspiring solutions that will form the foundation for our campaign platform next year.

I won’t say more about it here – you’ll have to come to the AGM for that! But I am truly excited, after a year of transition and planning, to be getting down to work with the team here at Parliament and with you and the wider Green Party, to take our campaign to the country.

We have the opportunity to be a significant and distinct part of a truly progressive government after the 2017 election; an opportunity we must take if we’re going to deliver the Green vision of a cleaner environment, a fairer society and a smarter economy.

It’s time to get our house in order for the 2017 General Election.

Next year we’ll be going out to the public and encouraging people to Party Vote Green. So now’s the time for us to make sure we’re ready and up for the task.

Our ‘house’ is the Party. So what do we need to do to get it in order? The well-being of our internal structures, systems and finances is essential. So too is the strength of our members and their ability to focus on the campaign.

Your executive has turned its attention to getting ready for a big campaign. The Campaign Committee has added five new members and is operating under refreshed terms of reference. Kevin Hague and Danna Glendining are now the committee Co-convenors. It’s hard to imagine two more experienced and trustworthy pairs of hands to lead the group.

We are also ensuring the rest of our committees are at strength, pulling in the same direction, and with a plan for their role during next year’s campaign. Across the Party we aim to have all development work done by the end of this year so that we are focused and ready. This includes technical work with our database and website, as well as training. It also involves preparing the Party for political negotiations and possible alliances.

Campaigns don’t run well on the smell of an oily rag. So our fundraising efforts are critical this year to enable us to budget for the public-facing campaign we will need in 2017. Having major provincial and branch fundraising efforts completed before election year will help us to focus on the work to be done.

We’re also conscious of the need for provinces and branches to be at campaign-readiness. It’s time to start building your electorate teams for next year. Start piecing together the organisation and building the relationships that will lead to a strong electorate campaign team. Kate Mitaloff, our new Branch Development Co-ordinator, and Lou Sherrell, our Campaign Manager, will be in touch throughout the remainder of the year to assist in that process. But don’t wait to hear from them to start imagining the 2017 campaign in your electorates and bringing that vision to life. And of course the campaign pool is now open – prospective candidates are encouraged to get in early.

So in getting your house in order, look out for each other and support one another. Then we’re ready to welcome new people into the house of Party Vote Green! We are a Party based on shared values and welcome anyone who shares those values, regardless of background or means. Being Green is a generosity of spirit. We know Greens provide a welcoming place, so keep an eye out for new people at meetings – they might be your next helper. As the AGM draws near, consider how you might support members to attend. The more welcoming we are, the more helpers we have, and the more work we can do!
**Green Party staff**

**Who are the Party’s staff and what do they do?** The Party employs staff to help run the election campaign, fundraise, manage membership and support the Party’s development. We introduce them and their roles below. MPs and Co-leaders also have staff employed through Parliamentary Services, but they are not covered below.

**Julian Boorman**
*Administration Assistant*
If you call or email us about your membership, donations, and event activity you will probably be speaking with Julian. Julian has been with us for three years and he has an amazing knowledge of the Party. He also supports us with shop purchases and membership packs, and provides assistance to branches and committees.

**Kerry Warriner-Simpson**
*Accounts Officer*
Kelly was once a world champion of the Rubik’s Cube. Her brain is something to admire. Luckily we are able to harness her intelligence in the administration of our accounts. We process an enormous number of transactions, such as donations, membership fees and event registrations. And Kelly manages all of them.

**Leigh Friday**
*Finance & Administration Manager*
Leigh comes from South Africa, where she was a member of the ANC and latterly worked for, and was an elected local representative for, the Democratic Alliance. Since coming to NZ she has worked for MSD and IRD. Her work for the Green Party involves managing the finances and administrative staff, and guiding our finances and administrative work. Leigh is in the final stages of pulling together a new and improved set of accounts for the Party – a monumental effort to improve our transparency and internal reporting. Leigh also manages our reporting to the Electoral Commission.

**Greg Mason**
*Strategic Policy Advisor*
Greg has been involved in policy development, implementation and review for the past 16 years. Working with the Policy Committee, Greg brings incredible skill in threading together the diverse and often discordant views of members in order to help create the Party’s policies. He also works with the Parliamentary team to make sure that members’ views are incorporated into the policies Caucus presents to the public. Greg works from his home in Motueka.

**Lou Sherrell**
*Campaign Manager*
Lou started work with us this year on the election campaign. She has worked for us before both as part of the parliamentary issues campaign team, and on our last election campaign team. Lou has also done campaign work with Gen Zero and the Australian Greens. Her role is focused on supporting our grassroots campaigning, and on contact with voters. She is currently helping with the development of campaigns in local body elections.

**Sonja Deely**
*Funding Development Manager*
Sonja has more than 20 years of experience as a fundraiser. She has worked for Greenpeace, the Asthma Foundation, Women’s Refuge and more. Her work for the Party has been to develop our income streams in an ethical and focused way. She manages our assistant and our fundraisers, who we bring on for fixed term fundraising efforts. Last election Sonja raised more money for us than the Labour Party got! Tremendous.

**Introducing Kate Mitcalfe** – our new Branch Development Coordinator
The Branch Development Coordinator works to support and develop the Party’s grassroots organisation – our branches and provinces.

Hello! My name is Kate Mitcalfe and I am very excited to be starting as the Branch Development Coordinator. I have a long history of working in conservation, community, education and advocacy. This position enables me to bring all these threads together to assist the branches and provinces.

I trained as an environmental and Te Tiriti o Waitangi lawyer and worked as Forest & Bird’s national conservation advocate. I have taught environmental law and Te Tiriti at Auckland University and the Open Polytechnic. I have also led community-based training on participation and Te Tiriti o Waitangi for Forest & Bird, Playcentre and the Wellington Women’s Refuge. I have experience with working to support committed local people at the heart of Forest & Bird and Playcentre. I look forward to working with the Green Party’s branches and provinces and learning more about how I can help you to be more effective.

**Kate and family tramping in Tararua Forest Park**

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**Kelly Warriner-Simpson**

**Greg Mason**

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**Introducing Kate Mitcalfe** – our new Branch Development Coordinator

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**Sonja Deely**

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**Green Party staff**

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**Kate and family tramping in Tararua Forest Park**
Union Greens
Nicola Patrick

Our network continues to grow. At the last count we were heading for 150+ members, and we have an active Facebook page. To join the Union Greens network you need to be a financial Green Party member and a paid up union member. The current focus of our network is on reviewing the party’s Industrial Relations and Work and Employment policies. We have set ourselves a timeframe to do this by the end of 2016, to allow for full engagement by the Network but still keep in line with wider party timetables for election year.

Other things we are involved in include the annual May Day celebrations at Blackball, growing the network (watch out for us at the Greens’ AGM, Queens Birthday weekend!) and contributing to cross-union work on articulating a Just Transition for workers affected by climate change.

At the hui, we agreed that one of our priorities is to strengthen links between New Zealand business and professional sectors and the Party, particularly by supporting MP visits to the regions. Since the gathering, we’ve reviewed and tweaked our focus and set up 10 priority actions for the next year.

Network members plan to become familiar with the Green Party’s policies for A Smarter Economy – including policies on transport, innovation, energy, digital manufacturing, an investment bank, 3CT and business tax breaks for clean transport – so we can speak about them when taking part in networking events.

One main theme that emerged at the hui was our desire to challenge the stereotypes about Green Party members. We want to continue to participate in our various communities’ business networking and to be a human face for the Greens at these events. One small action some network members had undertaken was to buy a Green Party lapel pin so they could show their party affiliation in a professional way.

The network aims to hold three gatherings a year in each of Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch, to help strengthen links between the Green Party and New Zealand business and professional sectors. Groups in other parts of the country are also encouraged to create Green connections with local business networks.

The recent visit of Green Party Co-Leader James Shaw to my home town of Whanganui was an example of this. Party members had organised meetings for James with the local Chamber of Commerce, mayor and councillors, and their economic development arm, Whanganui and Partners. James also attended a private gathering with members, and a successful public event, with nearly 100 people attending.

Our network is looking forward to supporting our MPs’ connections with local business and professional networks – they are great ambassadors for the Party.

To find out more about the network or to join up, check out: https://my.greens.org.nz/biz-pro-greens.

We have a closed Facebook group for informal discussions, and network members can also hold email group discussions via biz-pro@mygreens.org.nz.

Email convenors Guy Hunt (Auckland) and Nicola Patrick (Whanganui): biz-pro.convenors@greens.org.nz.

Young Greens
Ricardo Menéndez March

Progressive political movements overseas have been able to harness the large base of young grassroots activists that are changing the face of their country’s politics. It would appear that the success of these movements lies, in part, in their ability to organize and to translate their efforts into effective grassroots campaigns. In New Zealand it seems natural that the Greens would be the leading force in the political revolution that empowers disenfranchised youth. However, this generational shift has yet to be effectively realised on our South Pacific shores.

The Young Greens have been working hard to transform the Party’s kaupapa into a youth-led grassroots movement. Earlier this year, we held a workshop for our campus leaders on how to transform their campus clubs into campaigning hubs. The focus was on developing effective organisational frameworks so that we could successfully mobilise by the time Orientation Week began around the country.

This involved having the right resources for our stalls during that very crucial first week. We found that asking students about whether they were getting a fair deal with rent, and describing our proposed solutions, were successful conversation starters.

Activities in the weeks following included the chance to meet our Co-Leader, James Shaw, in a casual and informal setting, and to discuss issues with Gareth Hughes and Julie Anne Center.

It was exciting to see new campus groups in Tauranga and Palmerston North come alive so quickly and remain so active throughout the first half of the semester. Our Green campus groups need to now capitalise on the high number of sign-ups and potential volunteers. Many of these are students who are engaging their first foray into New Zealand politics. They see the campus groups as their first opportunity to become truly active. They know about the issues and are eager to create change.
Barry Brickell, a Green member who died on 23 January 2016, did not like labels. He resisted being called a conservationist and refused to be called an artist. He lived both art and conservation in a life beyond categorisation. I knew him off and on for 42 years and he was always a unique creative force.

He had an extraordinary legacy for the nation, and for Hauraki/Coromandel in particular. I met Barry at Driving Creek pottery in the 1970s when there were young potters living there in order to learn the craft, help build the kilns and lay the foundations for the phenomenon which is now the Driving Creek Railway. Barry was always up at dawn or earlier, planting a new forest on his mountainside, or laying down his railway tracks or throwing pots. His work ethic was to work all the time, eat quickly, drink wine and sleep when necessary. The rumour was that he slept in sacks not sheets out of choice, but no one knew for sure. We did not question a man whose enduring legacy was to replant the land with native trees. Barry gathered exponents of steam power, engineering and railway construction. He built everything on site, sitting and reinventing to create the bridges and tracks. He extended the railway bend by bend, station by station, creating a truly eccentric and fascinating experience that takes you to a superb view from his Eyefull Tower. But the laboriously planted regenerating forest was always a crucial part of the experience. On every bend of the track, Barry wanted people to recognise and appreciate the value of a natural forest reborn.

Many people helped Barry create this dream, but there was only the one leader who took the ‘do it yourself’ ethic to a new level. This artistic conservation leader/entrepreneur created an ecotourism business which has strengthened the economy of Coromandel township. Barry also created a pottery shop and art gallery at Driving Creek for his own work and the work of friends from a truly international community.

He was more of a deer than a political animal, but he was a fervent letter writer and a published author. He was passionate about a genuine forestry that would sustain the land. In the last weeks of his extraordinary life Barry was campaigning for another dream. Instead of digging up the toxic mud in the Coromandel harbour for a ferry berth and marina, Barry suggested a long pier with a miniature ferry berth and marina, Barry also created a pottery shop and art gallery at Driving Creek for his own work and the work of friends from a truly international community.

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He really believed in creating projects that worked for the environment and the community. He knew this was possible because he lived it. His pottery and sculptures can be found in many places, including Parliament. They are as unmistakable as he was himself.

It is hard to believe he is gone. Few people leave such a positive, physical mark on their community as Barry has done. He has shown what is possible and what it takes to regenerate land and sustain an economic activity that is both fun and authentic. Driving Creek is a well established enterprise which will live on, but the master of creative individualism for collective good will be hugely missed.

One way to make change is to transform your local environment, but to do this with others for lasting benefit takes more than hard work and green values. It takes a sense of urgency and utter tenacity. Barry was also someone who made everything a craft; the craft of conservation illuminated by the craft of the potteries. He loved functionality and the organic even as everyone else embraced decoration. Not a man of fashion, but a man whose enduring legacy will be planted in the earth.

They took him up the railway to bury him and gave him back to the ground he nurtured. May he rest in peace.

Barry’s workshops. Dave Kennedy
Driving Creek railway
www.flickr.com/photos/nixit/2060789665

Barry grew up in the Christchurch area and completed his MSc at Canterbury University, specializing in ornithology. His research career involved travel to Antarctica and to China, and work at Waikato Hospital and the Raakura Research Centre.

Barry was a keen mountaineer and caver, involved in Canterbury Search and Rescue. However, he contracted ME from which he never fully recovered. He had to learn to walk and talk again. This led him to withdraw from his PhD studies and take up a teaching career. A former student remembers being led by Barry over the Southern Alps on foot and how, through his example, she achieved things she would otherwise never have attempted.

Barry’s workshops. Dave Kennedy
Driving Creek railway
www.flickr.com/photos/nixit/2060789665

Barry’s love of introducing people to the outdoors led to 50 years of support for the YHA. There are many other organisations he was involved with. He supported the Western Community Centre in Hamilton and the Alternatives to Violence Project. He was on the management board of Grey Power and was a member of the Waikato Historical Society. He was a consumer rep at the Electricity Consumers’ Association and fought against the earlier sale of WEL to Utilicorp. He had a deep concern about the consequences of foreign control and deregulation. He was a tireless campaigner for ICC on many issues; from fluoridation to pensioner housing.

City Councillor Gordon Chesterman remarked at Barry’s memorial service, “We have lost a good man; a gentleman and an activist who advocated.”

Many at the memorial service commented on Barry’s encyclopaedic knowledge. He could talk about anything and could put current events into a much broader historical and social context. He enjoyed Scottish Country Dancing and played in brass bands.

Underpinning Barry’s life’s work was a deep sense of the spiritual. He was a founding member of the Interfaith Council, and he was immensely proud of how many different faiths were represented there. For many years he was a member of the Quaker community and he spent 18 years with the Hamilton Theosophical Society. Barry was inclusive and holistic – as much Buddhist as he was Christian. He was a member of the Buddhist Temple and was involved with the ‘Touched by an Angel’ ministries.

During his battle with ME he went through a near death experience. He described to me the utterly profound sense of peace that came to him. The spiritual aspect of life was tangible and lived.

I am grateful to Barry for everything he taught me. He reminded me not to judge a book by its cover. Most of all, he always looked for the good in people. His philosophy was simple: be kind to yourself, to your family, to your community and to the world. Barry lived this truth. I will miss his constant reminders that I am a ‘lovely girl’. The fact that this title was bestowed on many never weakened the compliment. As he would say, “There’s only lovely people in the world. You’re all lovely people.”

No doubt wherever Barry is he will be late for a meeting and in a flap. He is dearly missed by the many of us who loved him, including 14 cats. Go well, Barry.

Barry's workshops. Dave Kennedy
Driving Creek railway
www.flickr.com/photos/nixit/2060789665

2016 Green Party AGM organisers inspect the venue... and try out the gym
Gareth Hughes

I was preparing a Green Party minority report on the Agricultural Commodities and Veterinary Medicines (ACVM) Amendment Bill, which is the first piece of blatant TPPA-related legislation, regardless of the fact that the TPPA is not yet ratified. The ACVM Bill would give agrichemical companies 10 years of data protection on new compounds, effectively allowing more pesticides with less public transparency. Under National, even without this permissive change, 110 new ACVM compounds have been registered, and just 239 cancelled or expired.

Mojo Mathers doin’ what a Green MP’s other countries. Meanwhile they are being phased out in Cruel eggs are stink, and it is appalling acceptable alternative to battery cages. It is repeatedly: colony cages are not an hens suffering horrendously. The footage the spotlight, with undercover footage of a fire in these systems, and the fact that fire sprinklers, despite the high risk of four at that farm) highlighted yet fire at a Waikato piggery (the third or 58x736)entertainment, and using electric prods, Zealanders by getting as much glyphosate keen to contribute to the health of New Bay of Plenty councils, and have several Plan the removal of glyphosate sprays and just 239 cancelled or expired. ACVM compounds have been registered, and probably carcinogenic. Since the campaign began, Christchurch City Council has voted to include in its Annual Plan the removal of glyphosate sprays from nearly all uses in areas open to the public. This week I am presenting to two Bay of Plenty councils, and have several more public meetings lined up. I am very keen to contribute to the health of New Zealanders by getting as much glyphosate (and other pesticides) as possible out of their immediate environment and out of the food chain.

I would like all Branches to be hosting public meetings on my pesticide reduction campaign: ‘Save Our Bees’ and ‘Spray-free streets and parks’. "

Steffan Browning

Animal welfare issues continue to dominate my work. Last month I received a major petition signed by over 60,000 people calling for a ban on rodeos, and I will be supporting that goal at select committee. Our policy is very clear. Animals should not suffer for human entertainment, and using electric prods, rope burning and other means to force animals to perform is unacceptable.

Factory farming is also very much at the top of my agenda. The recent tragic fire at a Waikato piggery (the third or fourth at that farm) highlighted yet again how factory farms are death traps. It is appalling that there are no legal requirements for factory farms to install fire sprinklers, despite the high risk of a fire in these systems, and the fact that animals trapped in cages cannot escape or be rescued easily.

Colonial caging has also come under the spotlight, with undercover footage of a brand new colonial cage farm showing hens suffering horrendously. The footage demonstrated something we have said repeatedly: colonial caging is not an acceptable alternative to battery cages. Cruel eggs are stink, and it is appalling.

Mojo Mathers doesn’t what a Green MP’s just gotta’ do

Mojo Mathers has just completed a big shift to our new home in the foothills of rural south Canterbury: I cut my political teeth in a rural electorate campaigning on water issues, so moving back out to the country feels like returning to my roots.

Animal welfare issues continue to dominate my work. Last month I received a major petition signed by over 60,000 people calling for a ban on rodeos, and I will be supporting that goal at select committee. Our policy is very clear. Animals should not suffer for human entertainment, and using electric prods, rope burning and other means to force animals to perform is unacceptable.

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Mojo Mathers doesn’t what a Green MP’s just gotta’ do
Julie Anne Genter

The first third of the year is behind us, and we are now more than halfway through the electoral term – time is flying!

After ending last year with the privilege of attending COP 21 in Paris, meeting with specialists at the OEC and visiting some very green towns in Germany and Switzerland, I’m working in 2016 with renewed energy and hope for what we can achieve in Aotearoa.

I am now the co-convenor of the Strategic Planning Facilitation Group (SPFG), and run consultations on political positioning at both summer policy conferences. Happy to say the Party seems quite united on our approach to the next election.

To that end, I am also working hard as the finance spokesperson to develop policy, collaborate with Labour and critique the economic mismanagement of the current National Government.

David Clendon

Pop quiz time – what does a Vespa scooter have in common with a .50 calibre bolt action sniper rifle? Answer – both may be legally owned and used in New Zealand by a person over the age of 16 with the appropriate licence.

What is different about the rifle and the Vespa? If you own the scooter, it must be registered in your name, to your address, and if sold to another person the transaction must be recorded on a national database. None of that applies to the rifle.

I’ve learnt a lot about firearms in the last couple of weeks since the Law and Order select committee undertook to enquire into issues relating to the illegal possession of firearms.

The enquiry was triggered (sorry . . .) by the recent shooting of police officers in Kawerau. Had the select committee agreed to my request last November that we look into gun control matters, the inquiry would be that much more advanced. But better late than never! It’s early days, and I am keeping an open mind, but already it seems to me that there is a lot of room to improve our firearms management regime. Initial briefings have revealed an apparently widespread agreement that most firearms start out being owned and used legally and responsibly, but that there is an awful lot of ‘leakage’ of firearms into the hands of those who ought not to hold them.

Public submissions should be called for in early May, then (possibly mid-June) there will be the opportunity for oral submissions. So watch this space – it’s sure to be a lively debate!

Green shooters

Marty Kavanagh

Have you ever attempted to defrost a slice of Mackenzie Station Seed & Grain bread in the microwave for 20 minutes instead of the intended 20 seconds? The resulting smoke and stench tends to end all happy thoughts of buttered soldiers dipping into breakfast eggs.

Careless thinking does that – it stuffs up your direction. I know many ‘greenies’ seek to own land and to use it to grow organic vegetables, fruits and free-range meats. There is no better way to guarantee chemical-free, natural, wild-reared organic foods than vegetables, fruits and free-range meats. There is no better way to guarantee chemical-free, natural, wild-reared organic foods than vegetables, fruits and free-range meats.

I am a pacifist. I marched with the British CND movement and have attended many peace rallies. I believe that peace is not achieved through violent means. I am a firm believer in non-violence. I think that those who argue for violence are the problem; not the solution.

I am now the co-convenor of the Strategic Planning Facilitation Group (SPFG), and run consultations on political positioning at both summer policy conferences. Happy to say the Party seems quite united on our approach to the next election.

To that end, I am also working hard as the finance spokesperson to develop policy, collaborate with Labour and critique the economic mismanagement of the current National Government.

The role of New Zealand Foreign Trusts in the leaked Panama Papers was the most recent occasion in which the Prime Minister looked exceedingly weak, and well-aligned with the global super rich, many of whom are unfairly amassing wealth, and avoid contributing their fair share to society.

Highlighting the damage – social, economic and environmental – of the current economic paradigm, and the inevitable consequences of rising inequality and dangerous climate change, will be the major political goal for all of us in the coming decade(s). My main preoccupations at the moment are building the movement for change and making the case for positive opportunities.

Although the polls do not yet reflect it, I believe we are making good progress in persuading many people that the Greens are a sensible alternative. All we need to do is to talk to more New Zealanders. And so we will.

(fortunately non-fatally) of police officers in an incident in Kawerau. Had the select committee agreed to my request last November that we look into gun control matters, the inquiry would be that much more advanced. But better late than never! It’s early days, and I am keeping an open mind, but already it seems to me that there is a lot of room to improve our firearms management regime. Initial briefings have revealed an apparently widespread agreement that most firearms start out being owned and used legally and responsibly, but that there is an awful lot of ‘leakage’ of firearms into the hands of those who ought not to hold them.

Public submissions should be called for in early May, then (possibly mid-June) there will be the opportunity for oral submissions. So watch this space – it’s sure to be a lively debate!

When you set out to obtain an NZ Firearms Licence you quickly learn how well regulated the whole process is. You will be checked and rechecked by the Police to determine if you are a fit and proper person, and you will have to satisfy their security requirements about keeping firearms in your home. Each extra licence and endorsement demands further in-depth checks and increased security.

The real headline problem is that law-breaking criminals do exactly that – they ignore laws. They are the problem; not the tools that they use unlawfully to commit crimes. A ban or law only affects the already law-abiding. You probably know the truism: ‘Locks only keep out honest people.’

I know there are licensees who feel a shadow of fear at the very existence of a firearm in the papers, such as their dread of violence. Rest assured that the shooters I mix with are mostly older parents and grandparents who enjoy the technical challenges of sport and target shooting in the fresh air.

Anyone who deliberately chooses to break the law – particularly firearms law – should expect to face prosecution and sentencing – for which we need properly funded law enforcement.

This is the nature of a civilised society.
A state in southwest Germany, Baden-Württemberg, held historic elections in mid-March. This was the first time in Germany that the Greens came first in a state election. They won over 30% of the vote, and the popular Green Prime Minister has been re-elected.

In 2006, the Greens were on 11%, the third party behind the centre-left Social Democrats (SPD) and the centre-right Christian Democrats (CDU). Sound familiar?

But in just two terms, they have become the most popular party in the state. Following concerns about the Fukushima nuclear disaster in 2011, the Greens saw a surge in votes from 11% to 24%, and went on to lead a coalition with the SPD, who won just over 23%. The Greens were already well-established in cities like Freiburg and Stuttgart where, thanks to MMP at the local government level, there had been popular Green mayors for a while.

So what is Baden-Württemberg like, with the Greens in charge? Is the economy collapsing? Are people living in hovels? Have roads been ripped up, and all cars banned? Are the inhabitants all a bunch of pot-smoking hippies?

The last few months have been enraging for many participants in Washington DC for a board meeting of GLOBE-International (http://globecongress.org) to develop a world-wide strategy of parliamentary action to pressure governments into meeting their Paris obligations. With the Board’s endorsement, I’m also putting forward a project that more clearly draws the line between the mechanism and the Paris obligations. With the Board’s endorsement, I’m also putting forward a project that more clearly draws the line between the mechanism and the Paris obligations.

The Greens first got into government in 2011, they took the portfolios of agriculture, transport and industry, and have been very successful in demonstrating the success of a green strategy. This has grown the Greens’ electoral support at the election. Ironically, the state has a conservative history. The centre-right CDU was the dominant party in the state for most of the second half of the 20th century. In 2011 that changed when the Greens and the SPD governed together with over 50% of the seats. However, in 2016 the SPD’s vote collapsed to 12%, so unfortunately the Greens will have to look elsewhere for coalition partners. The new anti-immigrant party gained 15% of the vote due to the backlash against Merkel’s very generous and progressive refugee policy. However, all the other parties have refused to work with them, and the Greens and CDU both campaigned with strongly progressive positions on refugees. This is likely to be the new coalition, but the negotiations will be challenging, according to a highly active Green councillor from Freiburg.

The success of the Greens in Baden-Württemberg certainly offers hope and a solid example of success for us in the Green Party of Aotearoa New Zealand!
Green Party Fundraising

Angela McPherson of Ilam Greens is concerned about new fundraising practices.

Last year the Green Party introduced a new fundraising model in which provinces are levied an amount (per financial member each year). In the Aoraki provincial electorate contributions are set on the same basis. Branches are encouraged to make regular payments to the province to cover this levy, and these are passed on to National Office. Previously the levy was set at a lower level and could be paid at any time.

I wonder if it is the right time to ask what are the implications of the new model for the three levels of the party? The implications for the national level are obvious: a more predictable cash flow for operations. But how is this impacting at the provincial and electorate levels? And is this regular cash flow to National Office coming at an unsustainable cost for other levels of the party? I have been an treasurer for our branch in Ilam.

Convenors John Ranta and Deb Martin respond:

Thanks for your letter and for all your work for the Party.

The agreed strategy we operate under is that fundraising needs to be a regular part of Party activities at all levels, just like campaigning. Fundraising is vital for any organisation that relies heavily on donations to operate, and to conduct major projects like election campaigns. That does not mean fundraising is the main focus of Party activities at any level, though there may be times in the electoral cycle when concentrating on raising money is the most useful way to prepare for the next election.

The branch or province budget determines the degree to which fundraising will be a focus at that level. The only financial obligation for branches and provinces to the national level is to pay the Annual Provincial Contribution (APC), formerly the electorate contribution or tithe. The Province Convenors agree the amount, in consultation with the provinces, based on a per capita, per member figure. The key difference from the previous tithing arrangement is that the amount is now spread more evenly over the electoral cycle in order to

Quality of Te Awa articles

Don Slater (Kaikawa, Northland)

Hi team, I greatly enjoyed my latest Te Awa read.

However, I am a little concerned that David Hedges gave Allan Savory a positive mention for his Holistic Planned Grazing system. Wikipedia includes a criticism section on Allan Savory that refutes that approach.

Is it possible to get contributions more widely reviewed to keep up the excellent quality of articles?

Te Awa editor Jane Young replies:

Hi Don, nice to hear that you enjoyed February’s issue of Te Awa.

Te Awa is first and foremost a members’ magazine, which aims to provide Party information and to be a vehicle by which members can share their ideas. It is neither an academic journal and articles aren’t peer-reviewed, although they do go through a rigorous copy-editing process. Contributors are encouraged to be concise and to provide a bibliography that will appear in an attachment to the online pdf.

Respondents are also welcome to provide links that will direct readers to opposing viewpoints.

Few contributions are rejected out of hand (though the failure rate is rather higher than that of applications to the Overseas Investment Office). We aim to present a wide range of members’ viewpoints, even when – or perhaps especially when – we don’t agree with them. Members of the Te Awa Board have editorial responsibilities and have the opportunity to read all articles before publication.

Communication problems

Christchurch East Convenor Torfrida Wainwright is concerned about the systems for managing branch volunteers.

As the Party gets more MPs and so much more work, many members are being asked to do more. What impact is this having on branches and members and on the Party as a whole?

As a branch convenor I assume that my job is, at a minimum, to make sure that leaflets are delivered, billboards up go, the tithe is paid and local members take part in the Party’s democratic processes.

When Metiria emails me an invitation to become a ‘neighbourhood team leader’ for distributing Green Times, I wonder – how does this fit into the Party’s system? Has the branch built up many other election cycles for distributing leaflets? Does it work at all?

Is it possible to get contributions more widely reviewed to keep up the excellent quality of articles?

John Ranta and Deb Martin respond:

Thanks for your letter and thank you for your considerable work for the Party. We agree that there is something of a parallel system between the Party and Parliamentary systems. This is partly because the Parliamentary team must adhere strictly to the laws that govern their work, limiting how they can conduct volunteer management – yet at the same time, try to deliver on the meaningful political campaigns that our members appreciate. That means we need to ensure there is a good system for working side-by-side. With the recent appointments of the Party’s Branch Development Coordinator (BDC) and Campaign Manager, we expect to see increased attention to this coordination – supporting that very dialogue you are seeking. Their assistance in managing volunteers in the branches and working in conjunction with the work being done by the Parliamentary team.

In addition, the revised draft of the branch have a role here? Will the parliamentary team (all 1.5 FTE of them in Christchurch) manage this process and look after these people? Will they collect all the volunteer names? Will these names be made available to the branch in time for the election?

My concern is that volunteers was built up in 2014 from phoning all our electorate’s Nation Builder contacts. I’ve had no way of updating it since then, even though I knew people we had phoned were no longer on our electorate or had been signing petitions and offering to volunteer.

The Green Party appears to be setting up two layers of management for managing volunteers, one run by the branches and one by the centre (I presume the parliamentary staff). I hear that there’s been lots of discussion in the central teams about this – but why are the branches not involved in this debate? Many branch members have years of useful experience of their local area.

We also bring a continuity that paid staff can’t provide.

We urgently need to build a way of communicating between these two groups of people that allows each to know and appreciate the strengths and roles of the other. That time has passed before the election year. If it isn’t, we truly risk branch members becoming demoralised and drifting away.

Party Cagcuss Agreement stipulates greater coordination between Party and Parliament through the Campaign Committee (CC), so that there will be more effective Party support for Parliamentary campaigns generally.

We recognize that, when it comes to volunteer management, strengthening bridges between the Party’s national operations and the branches is an ongoing task for us all. To leverage the vast experience we have in the branch and province teams, part of the role of the BDC and Campaign Manager the coming months will be to have those ‘connecting’ conversations. Campaign readiness will be high on the list of priorities for those conversations, which will of course include volunteer recruitment, management and retention. We hope that this will result in a more unified and effective means of managing volunteers. If it doesn’t, we need to hear about it.

Te Awa The River
Issue 50: May 2016
Good housekeeping is a joy; so economics, which means literally ‘household management’, should be too. In the last issue of Te Awa, Wendy Harper wondered why so few women participate in the Green Party economics policy groups. I suspect common sense has a lot to do with it, coupled with disgust at the disconnection of economics from reality, and perhaps awareness of how women have been largely excluded from the discipline for centuries. However, recent developments in our policy processes, strongly promoted by female members, suggest to me that this situation is changing.

Economics rules politics, as budgeting dominates government, and we must develop a new unorthodoxy that is fair, sustainable and freer than the free market. It should headline our policy, pervade almost every chapter of it, and be largely concerned with mitigating the twin evils of the financial system: growth and inequality.

Feasible is economic respectability, given that economics itself is not respectable? Research tells us that it has won us votes; but the votes we have yet to win are the ones that defy research. Steve Keen’s book, Debunking Economics, relentlessly lays bare the flaws at the heart of neoclassical economics and the academic cover-ups of any criticism. The state of the world shows its failure in practice. How much should we ponder a society where only those who can afford to treat as science what is mere blind faith, and is demonstrably false? Research also tells us that many voters make their choice over a year before an election, stopping their ears against all subsequent campaigning. If there is a time to speak about the evils of unfettered growth and the slavery of the so-called free market, it is the future of work.

It is part of the fundamentalism that passes for economics is the idea that we must provide jobs, and even – in what passes for long-term thinking – provide them for the next generation. I would rather provide liberty for the next generation.

Jobs by definition are something you do: to devote yourself to creating undone jobs is clearly sanically inefficient. We must do real work rather than make jobs. The distinction is only that ‘jobs’ are currently used to share out the wealth – gudgingly, inequitably and unequally – with Merit. ‘work’ addresses real needs without having to return a profit. A guaranteed income cuts to the heart of this issue, and suggests an altogether more inclusive, rational and enlightened economic system.

For most people, the daily worries are jobs and debt. These are the commonly perceived economic problems, the solutions to which will bring health, housing, happiness and security. However, the perceived solutions entail ongoing growth and more debt slavery. But jobs and debt are constructs – abstractions from the real problems of access to food, water and land, which in turn stem from over-population and over-production. Solving these basic problems entails slowing down, and discovering liberty.

We need a brief manifesto to bridge the gap between the Green Party Charter and the detailed policy. It should expand on the principles of the charter and give a guide to the policies. My feeling is that it would be a statement of economic principles.

We need a gift or koha economy – more accurately, a complex of local gift economies – as modelled by many indigenous peoples. We need to recognise that the limits to growth have been surpassed, and that growth must be reversed. We need increased equality, peace and sustainability, with all that these can mean for our creativity and family life, as well as for the big and dirty problems on the world stage. We need to repute the trappings of economics – money and trade, surpluses and luxuries – in order to share the basics in a more controlled and cooperative way. These basics are food, land, housing, health, freedom and dignity – the things that the free market makes scarce. Such a system would be more fair, reliable and sustainable than the enslaving free market; it would be a system that uses national and global protection to maximise local freedom and diversity. Such a system would be joyful economics.

**The joy of economics**

Gavin Cullerlie

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**Dark Money**

by Jane Jacobs, Random House, 2004

**Why read an old book by a largely, renegade economist/city planner?** Events since its publication suggest her thinking was ahead of its time.

The book begins: “This is both a gloomy and a hopeful” book. “A crisis foreseen and not averted nor ameliorated is depressing. The so-called ‘global financial collapse’ is such one. The abnormally foreseen climate crisis is another. If we attend to Jacobs’ examples, we see the events of the last decade in perspective.

Not a pretty sight.

First Jacobs describes what a dark age might be. ‘Western Civilisation’ could go down the tube the way we have seen so many indigenous cultures go: lost to the advances of NON-indigenous peoples through loss of memory, blockage from exercising traditional behaviour, and so on. She calls it ‘mass amnesia’, a feature of ‘a falling or conquered culture’. Archaeological evidence demonstrates that in Europe’s Dark Age the peasantry had forgotten how to farm, to the point of severe malnutrition. A healthy culture, Jacobs says, has self-correcting mechanisms that prevent its collapse or decline. She sees threats to the five pillars that hold culture firm: community and family, higher education, effective technology, subsidiarity and self-policing by the professions. The issues we usually think about in this context – racism, environmental degradation, low voting turnout, income inequality – she sees as symptoms of the breakdown of the five pillars.

Jacobs puts into perspective the current discussion of which tertiary courses are currently being cut. ‘Individuals’ are enabled by their merits in a corporate-empowering economy. This generation is fuming at the nested injustices that it has to overcome when reaching adulthood, just to get to the starting point of previous generations.

In the concluding chapter, Max Harris writes of the Politics of Love, exhorting readers to undertake activism from the heart, to de-individualise society, addressing the loneliness at the core of neoliberal structures. Collaboration, team building; not just buzz words but ways of doing and being that use the synchronicity of togetherness to create a leveraged outcome, pushing change exponentially.

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**Dark Age Ahead**

by Jane Jacobs, Random House, 2004

**Reviewed by Judi Reinken**

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**Reviews**

**The Interregnum:** rethinking New Zealand’s Morgan Godfery, Bridget Williams Books, 2016

Reviewed by Kerry Tankard

‘We’ve come to the point in life where I’ve met my grandchildren, investigated my ancestors, and developed a few opinions of my own about society and where it may be headed.

Morgan Godfery has herded together a talented group of writers who have pulled off a near-impossible task; give me hope.

These are the writers of the ‘Millenials’ generation. ‘They have a clear understanding of the transition that occurred in the late 20th century during their passage to adulthood, and the ways in which our society has been altered (for the worse, generally) by the decisions taken by the ‘baby boomer’ and ‘Gen X’ demographic cohorts before them.

As a society we face huge upheavals in the first quarter of the 21st century. Godfery sets the tone in the initial chapter, ‘Voices of a new generation’.

Each of the following chapters describes the deficits that have built up over time. Each chapter has identified limiting factors: Insecurity of access to employment, housing and social services Outrageous student loan debt – interest and principal Climate change as a cohort anxiety and a challenge to societal structures

In addition, issues of ethnicity, gender and religion have been bulldozed aside by the overwhelming neoliberal agenda that insists ‘individuals’ are enabled by their merits in a corporate-empowering economy.

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Te Awa The River

**Issue 50: 5 May 2016**

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**Power**

The process employed by the government when making plans to establish an ocean sanctuary around the Kermadecs is problematic. It seems to be leading to much soul-searching amongst Green members on the intersection of our conservation values and our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

So, what has the government done worse than setting out to establish this sanctuary?

Firstly it has acted under the coloured coat of arms. Essentially the government now has sovereign rights over all of the territorial seas of New Zealand and has the authority to declare a sanctuary like that proposed. Existing customary rights to fisheries and other kaitiaki responsibilities in the area, Te Tiriti does not envisage the Crown enunciating sovereign over these areas; it explicitly protects the fisheries of tangata whenua amongst other things. But the Crown a governance role as kawan

Secondly, the government has undermined the promise, if not the letter, of the Treaty of Waitangi (Fisheries Claims) Settlement Act 1992. This settlement was an acknowledgement of the fishing rights of Māori and the territorial seas in which the Crown had in the past ridden rough shod over these. It is also important to note that the settlement legislation removed any right to claims over fisheries in the future. Essentially the government is peeling back Māori rights while insisting that the government retained a right to prohibit fishing in certain areas, relations to the point above, namely that the government thinks it can unilaterally suspend Māori rights. This view manifests itself in the act of simply telling Te Ohu Kaimoana, just hours before an international declaration of the sanctuary’s establishment, that it would be happening. This is not the behaviour of a government which respects its Te Tiriti relationship.

Thirdly, the government considered that only two iwi from Te Tai Tokerau needed to be consulted and involved in any conversations relating to governance and management – by virtue of their Treaty of Waitangi settlements. However, a statutory acknowledgement in a Treaty settlement does not a customary interest make. The government’s approach to Treaty settlements is to limit the level of redress that iwi receive, where recognition mechanisms such as statutory acknowledgments are to be prioritised and carefully scrutinised by the Crown. As a result, it is likely that other iwi who have settled still maintain a customary interest in the Kermadecs and should have been consulted. Not to mention the many iwi who haven’t settled and other tangata whenua interests that won’t be included in the settlement process. Beyond this, there is simply nothing about a Treaty settlement that is needed to validate or legitimise iwi connections with and rights over any area, resource or taonga. Settlements are a tool to return to Māori a fraction of their previously held resource base and mana, and should never be viewed as resetting the clock on Māori interests or the Treaty relationship.

With this in mind, what would the approach to an ocean sanctuary around the Kermadecs look like for a government or a political party which valued and honoured the Te Tiriti relationship? It begins with a discussion, as in all honest and respectful relationships, about intentions and desires.

Greens have their say

We need to keep parts of our oceans for nature, for fishing, mining, drilling and other exploitation. The Green Party has long campaigned for the small marine reserves around each of the four Kermadec Islands to be expanded out to the Exclusive Economic Zone to better protect the extraordinary underwater geology, habitats and marine life in the region.

The Kermadecs are part of the largest volcanic arc in the world, with a dramatic underwater seacape of volcanoes and active hydrothermal vents. The proposed ocean sanctuary includes part of the second deepest ocean trench in the world (up to 10 km deep in places), home to animals adapted to the extreme pressures at those depths, and ones that scientists are only just beginning to describe and name.

As many as 35 species of dolphin and whale – including the blue whale, fin and sei whales – migrate through the area. They journey between the tropics and the cooler waters around New Zealand. Up to six million seabirds breed on the Kermadec Islands each year. The region hosts a wide variety of fish species and crustacea, some of which are endemic.

The human history of the Kermadec archipelago is significant too. The islands represent Rangitāku, the stopping-off place for ocean voyagers between eastern Polynesia and Aotearoa.

The Greens are allowed to want an ocean sanctuary that would protect our marine life and allow for sustainable fishing. We are inclined to value our marine environment for the many reasons. Fishing will be included in the settlement process. This is not the behaviour of a government that respects its Te Tiriti relationship. This is not the behaviour of a Green government.

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The Kermadecs and Te Tiriti Scott Summerfield

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The lakes we love

Is this what waterway protection looks like?

It’s time to **stand up** for lakes and rivers we can swim in.

- **Lake Horowhenua**
  “It is a poisoned lake but I would love my grandchildren or great grandchildren to be able to swim and fish in it once it is restored.”
  — Sarah Dean

- **Lake Kaniere**
  “Crystal clear, globally rare sand dune lakes in Northland under threat from runoff.”
  — Colin Sumner

- **Lake Brunner**
  “Family picnics as kids in the 70’s, blardy freezing water, weak sun, wekas galore stealing our towels... We loved it!”
  — Kirsten Etech

- **Lake Tekapo**
  “Kayaking on this beautiful lake that was as still as glass and fringed with flowering southern rata and hearing the chorus of native birds from the forest on the lake shores.”
  — Melanie Jane

- **Lake Wanaka**
  “Skimming stones. Such serenity and peace resonates out of that place. Absolutely breathtaking, tino ataaahua!”
  — Anika Young