

HOPE IS NEEDED AT THIS TIME

Global issues highlight a night of hope for UN75 anniversary-

The year 2020 marked the 75th anniversary of the United Nations and its founding Charter. However, that year, the anniversary fell in the middle of a global pandemic. It also comes in a time of great disruption for the world, compounded by an unprecedented global health crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with severe economic and social impacts.

But it is also a reminder that times of struggle can become an opportunity for positive change and transformation.

The message from the UN Secretary General is more important than ever at this time in 2021 for people everywhere to join together, and unite as one:

"While the current pandemic has reminded us of our shared humanity, art and music, sport, actresses, authors, health professionals and inspiring UC academics with politics have brought us together like never before, keeping hope and creativity alive. It is in this same spirit that we must reimagine a world that is "rebalanced" for present and future generations".

The UN has asked its representatives around the world to create an event to reflect this, and to unite the people in their community.

Hence: "Festival of Hope", Christchurch, 31 October 2020

Awareness of global issues was the theme of the night at the Festival of Hope showcased for the United Nations 75 Anniversary. Organiser Julie Meates' goal for the event was to remind audience members of major global situations which impact the footprint of life in all countries.

Opened by MP Dr Duncan Webb Duncan Webb, an adjunct professor at University of Canterbury who reminded those in attendance that just because we live in New Zealand, it does not mean we are not impacted by these topics. He went onto say, we do not have to be actively involved in a cause through volunteer efforts, as we can have just as much impact through verbal support and specifically through our buying choices, as commerce is a leading cause of all of these issues.

The night proceeded with video presentations by the likes of Jason Gunn discussing online bullying, and Simon Barnett referring to emotional bullying by words. Father Arsene Kapyra recorded a video while he was in New Zealand before he travelled back to the Democratic Republic of Congo where he originates from and works referencing the effects of gold, cobalt stripe mining in his home country, resulting in the war and violence which plagues his country and its people.

Professor Brett Robinson of the University of Canterbury spoke about Electronic Waste and CCA Timber health effects, while Dentist Lawrie Brett spoke about the health effects of mercury on the body and Dr. Nicholas Kadaras, a Harvard professor spoke to the Technology Effects of screen time on kids with the global label of Glow Kids.

The night concluded with a message of hope that together we can be the change we desire and extent the life of the planet for generations to come.

WHY CHRISTCHURCH? Christchurch has been the epicentre of challenging events and creative solutions to age old challenges. September 4th is the 11 th anniversary of the earthquakes and our shared humanity reminds us that we have answers.

The power of university and community led initiatives and weaving together storytelling and music, and empowering youth and community talent can be a catalyst for positive change.

This incredible group of amazing university professors, post graduate students, high-profile musicians, sportsmen, politicians, and community, education & health leaders, all performed and engaged at the “Festival of Hope”.

This event was a response to the UN’s request for communities to come together; to unite to discuss and reflect on our most prevalent social and environmental issues, yet all the while, to enjoy an evening of music, dance, discussion and connection.

Showcasing some of New Zealand’s most talented music and dance artists, performances weaved amongst the story-telling and meaningful conversations offered by well-respected local social, cultural, political and environmental leaders.

The line-up included:

Environmental & ecological experts and scientists:

Yulinda, an international PhD from Indonesia reminds us that student from land, because land is our life. And how we can protect our food, so we can save the food. And how we can protect the forest, indigenous forest and soil. So this way, it's not only for us today, but this is for the next generation.

Professor Brett Robinson, an inspirational Environmental Scientist, at the University of Canterbury reminded us that we have a large waste stream and a growing waste stream in the world of electronic goods, what you might think of as cell phones and computers. But in fact are also included things like toys, hairdryers, and washing machines. More and more objects are containing electronic waste. These are things that might be played with, for example, for a couple of weeks, and then discarded. What happens to this waste? Professor Brett Robinson explained: We're producing millions of tons of this waste. **About 50 million tons per year of electronic waste and growing, increasing.** This has doubled in the last 10 years. This waste is different than other types of waste. This waste contains a lot of chemicals that we know are very poisonous, such as mercury, cadmium, lead, and copper. The waste also contains a whole bunch of chemicals that we have no idea how they behave in the environment. Things like coltan, we heard about that contain niobium, tantalum.

Associate Professor Dr Arindam Basu (University of Canterbury) asked the audience and this is as relevant today as it was at the start of the pandemic.

So what do we do about it? What are we going to do when we're faced and we are living in a world which is warming every day? For the first time in history, 10,000 years of human civilization, we are seeing that the carbon emitted reaches a level which is unsustainable. Is it all for destruction? Is it all for loss? Probably not. So what can we do about it? And what we can do about it is something very simple and it is, surprise surprise, the only thing that we can do to get out of this morass is hope. Study after study conducted over the last five years have

shown us that if you can be hopeful, if you can instil hope, if you can motivate people to be optimistic about the future, then that leads to better discussions, better awareness about the situations. If information is transparent, then it creates a situation where people start talking about it and taking action. It may not happen right now, but it will eventually happen. We will eventually get there. And this is from a number of different studies and epidemiological studies that have been conducted worldwide, that have shown that if there's one thing that eventually leads to action, that can help humanity to overcome and sustain themselves, it is that element of optimism and hope and positive psychology that we can give to our children. It's a good idea to, at this stage, remind ourselves that we are not the first generation of human beings who are trapped in this kind of a situation.

Dr Colin Meurk- OMNZ , an ecological scientist who holds adjunct positions at Canterbury and Lincoln Universities and who founded the 360 Trail, that partially runs through university grounds and Ilam stream brought us hope and a vision for the future. Maybe the time is now. Colin reminds us: So our mission here, starting from this place, is to lift the spirit of our amazing compassionate city with hope and kindness. Let's be a beacon to Aotearoa and the world with hope to provide some ecological actions to feed this hope and spirit. This is built on a joined up ecological city, a national park city engaging our multiple histories of place and people.

Influencers and connectors:

Matt Brown, founder of local barbershop “My Father’s Barbers” and of anti-violence movement “She is Not Your Rehab”: Matt is an internationally acclaimed barber and hair artist, communicator, husband, and father of three children known for ‘giving great cuts’ and ‘inspiring great men.’ He is a survivor of family violence and childhood sexual abuse and shares his story with the men who frequent his busy barbershops. His aim is to foster vulnerability, healing, and connection.

Lema Shamamba: a former refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo - who founded "Women of Hope". Lema's community leadership has been documented in the book: "Womankind: New Zealand Women Making a Difference" where she is acknowledged alongside the Right Hon Jacinda Ardern and former prime minister Helen Clark. This book was a seed of hope purchased at the amazing University of Canterbury bookshop, along with [“Friends of the Congo”](#)

Fr Arsene Kapya who shares inspirational and heart-rendering stories relating to the current "Crisis in the Congo".

SUMMARY:

This concert is an action-call to the people of Christchurch: and New Zealand, even the world.

“If you're care about our environment, care about local & social issues, love to support, then this evening of musical talent, enlightened speakers and incredible conversation was a starting point.” The evening was filmed and footage along with an earlier event sent to UN headquarters where permission was granted for the event.

The purpose of Well World- Climate Change- -Unity or UNITED was for Peace in Aotearoa, New Zealand and our world. New Zealand has had such a challenging record with mental health and domestic violence statistics, as well as environmental impact and challenges for some refugees etc. It is complex. We live in technically such a beautiful country and with hope we can be a catalyst for positive change. The time is ripe. We have all sampled a taste in the lockdown during the course of the last year and its solutions and challenges. However, what if we united as a nation of 5 million with another common cause. It is our hope that we can do this again- under the shadow pandemic as Kate Winslet puts it for the UN Women or Benedict Cumberbatch and Neil Finn said- Help is On the Way.

Collaborating with health, Hector Matthews Executive Director, Māori and Pacific Health Canterbury District Health Board opened with mihi whakatau and waiata and the wondrous Lisa Tui- one day I'd love to see you sing this with Dave Dobyn. In a by gone era our rivers flowed clean.

Like the Emmy awards Covid has brought many changes to people and time. Dr Nicholas Kardaras, a Harvard Psychologist from USA was scheduled to talk, as well Fr Arsene Kapyra, a Congolese national. We had hoped for a live stream from Kenya, instead he has pre-recorded. Technology has blessings and stress.

Previously this event was scheduled for the 10th anniversary of the Christchurch Earthquakes on 4 September. We acknowledge the challenges, grief, stress and trauma that many suffered then and the challenges associated and maybe still do, broken hearts, broken homes but amongst it was rays of hope such as BAND TOGETHER. A Very Special Gift To The People Of Canterbury by one of the 2010 Organisers, kiwi music legend Jason Kerrison (Opshop) lead a choral rendition of Hallelujah with a community choir of multiple nationalities formed as Mary's Hope and performed a duet of hi song One Day with talented New Zealand artist Steffany Beck, who sang her award winning song, I have a dream. The festival was a chance for Cantabrians to come together in the wake of the earthquake and aftershocks that have struck the region since September 4, along with other natural disasters- and pandemic such as covid 19. Like Right Hon Megan Woods (changed to Dr Duncan Webb- Member of Parliament for Christchurch Central) says "It is our responsibility to make sure that we think about our long-term future and not the three year political cycle" and children from school and community say thank you. As seeds of Hope they perform Earth Song later under the tutelage of Vanessa Cole-from Dancing with the stars who will later in the night dance to Dave Dobbyn with ex black cap Chris Harris. They will remind us that who we are makes a difference. With a community vision of an eco-village they are once again served by both a local school and a local park- replanting garden with fruit and vegetables, bringing balance and a vision of hope.

You never know where a seed is sown. From a tiny acorn, an oak tree can grow and left alone Tane Mahuta protects us from climate change so thank you Robert Tait, an alumni from University of Canterbury in music.

Apollo Musicum members combining with selected Risingholme Singers and Transitional Cathedral choristers present Barbara Maguire's "*And We Will Stand With You*" (The song was written in support of victims and survivors of the 15 March 2019 Christchurch Mosque Massacre. Recalling the March Mosque Massacre) and Dorothy Buchanan's "*Peace Song*" as items in support of the Festival of Hope - Well? World Climate Change (an event endorsed

by the United Nations for the 75 anniversary). The current pandemic has reminded us of our shared humanity,

As the international press stated New Zealanders vow to stand together — but also to debate sensitive issues. While one of the many challenges Christchurch people have withstood, what is lesser known is the Australian perpetrator's, family separation, grief, father loss, addiction to computer games especially violent and the devastation that played out via social media and Facebook.

This is one of a raft of changes announced by Facebook, some of which were prompted by the Christchurch Call - a commitment by countries and tech companies to eliminate violent extremist content online - following the mosque attacks.

And we will stand

In May 2020 Facebook signed up to the Christchurch Call to Action in Paris, co-chaired by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern and French President Emmanuel Macron, and announced restrictions on who can use Facebook Live.

Furthermore as Jason Gunn, Canterbury media personality says something needs to be done. Lots of things need to be done as seen in his video message after we will stand.

We, as a tiny nation of 5 million united for covid 19. Our beautiful Pacific neighbours, Samoa still lead the way. Though seldom making the international headlines, they are an inspiration. At some many levels, one article sights the resilience of Samoan communities in the face of climate change is providing a blueprint for other nations to follow, according to Samoa and Otago researcher. However rather than despairing at the prospect, villagers have developed a pragmatic and positive approach to impending climate changes. It is one of the first studies to examine Samoa's grassroots ability to adapt to climate change, and its authors warn officials risk ignoring village expertise at their peril. He says exposure to serious environmental challenges has not made villagers 'fatalistic' or 'helpless', but instead has given them a more optimistic outlook on life.

Let us unite for other and bigger causes. Be the change. Make A Difference.

Unite for Global Peace- A well world and a climate change

After the video message from Jason Gunn, Peace Song will be Performed written by Dorothy Buchanan in 1994 and sung worldwide ever since to encourage world Peace. We must wake up look after our earth and our people. It is time in this global reset. As the song says It is now or Never. Do the inner work to create the outer gold. Be kind.

Let us introduce the song written by Barbara Maguire -And We Will Stand (5.'10")-written in support of victims and survivors of the 15 March 2019 Christchurch Mosque Massacre and performed by *Conspiro Chamber Choir led by Paul Ellis*

In the first half of 2020, almost a million people in the Democratic Republic of Congo were uprooted from their homes due to new violence. That is more than the whole population of Christchurch

Displaced persons across the DRC – numbering more than five million (equivalent to the entire population of New Zealand) – live in makeshift camps and urban areas with poor sanitation and healthcare, making them especially susceptible to COVID-19.

We have been given permission from the Nobel Peace Foundation for Ben Meates to read some of the Nobel peace prize

In Honour of Nelson Mandela and Climate Change:

Well-being of countries and humanity

“Nelson Mandela is best known for his fight against South African apartheid. However, his long walk to freedom also included steps toward solving this mammoth problem called climate change. He envisioned a world where all people are able to live a fully dignified life, with clean air to breathe and clean water to drink — and where poor countries are not left with the repercussions of rich nation’s impact- Deforestation, natural resources: Conflict minerals?

Professor Brett Robinson, an environmental scientist from UC followed by Drumming to stop e waste in our own country and others like Ghana.

Dr Lawrie Brett, a dentist from Whangarei with over 40 years of not putting toxic materials in our mouth. In 2002, with Lawrie, together we started Fulfil A Dream. You never know what can happen in a dentist chair. A reminder to look after our teeth, Prevention is the intention.

Dr Arindam Basu will be a voice to save the planet with Dr Colin Meurk with some rays of hope, starting her in Christchurch.

We ask that during the massed choir- Mary’s Hope that you turn on your lights. It is our light not our darkness that frightens us most. Let your light shine as a beacon of hope for the world.

The first half looks at climate change for our environment. Look after the earth and it looks after you, as the aborigine saying goes. The second half hopes to be a catalyst for change of another climate change. Resounding figures show NZ leading the way in shadow pandemics too. For years we do not discuss. High rates and staggering statistics are highlighted by Kate Winslet for UN Women and She is not your Rehab voice Matt Brown from Not your Father’s Barber inspires us with the challenges and the Hope.

As Victor Frankl said in Man’s Search for Meaning, 90% of drug and alcohol addictions come from a lack of meaning, purpose, of unemployment 100%. This is not the stuff for the faint hearted but all of it is true.

Steff Beck shares our dream, our hope. WE are the World, we are the people, let us make a brighter day, heal the world make it a better place for you and for me and the entire human race.

So sit back. The story begins.