



March Issue 2021



South Auckland Cultural Festival

Auckland City Council held a two-day cultural festival on 19th and 27th of March at Te Puke Community Centre in Otara; celebrating South Auckland's rich diversity through a range of performances, stalls and exhibitions.

Participated communities included Taiwan, Korea, Iraq, Vietnam, India, Maori and Pacific Islands. Tzu Chi NZ was invited to talk about how vegetarianism helps to save the environment and the planet; and provided free vegetarian meals on the day.

On 19th of March at 10.30 in the morning, the organizer and the Maori tribal elder conducted a karakia at the beginning of the festival. This was followed by prayers by two Buddhist masters from Vietnam. The Korean Positive Ageing Charitable Trust performed a traditional dance and a modern dance. Punjabi Indian Drumming group also performed beautiful and vivid Indian dances.





When the presenter invited sister Deng to share Tzu Chi's story, everyone quiet down and listened intently to the story of the "Bamboo bank" and how everyone can help the earth by eating a vegetarian diet. Tzu Chi NZ volunteers attracted a crowd to give a donation and tried the tasty and healthy vegetarian dishes. About 150 people attended the half day festival which ended at 1p.m.

The second day (27th March) of the South Auckland Cultural Festival was held outdoor, hoping to attract shoppers from the nearby Otara flea market. The festival started at 11a.m., multicultural performances included Korean drum, Pacific Islanders dances, Indian dances, Maori dances, Chinese Tai Chi and et cetera.

Tzu Chi NZ volunteers enthusiastically promoted vegetarianism during the event and served the vegetarian meal to people from all nationalities. Korean elders, Yongrahn Park from the Korean Positive Ageing Charitable Trust thanked Tzu Chi's effort in promoting vegetarianism; she agreed with Tzu Chi on vegetarianism saves the planet.

After trying the delicious vegetarian food, many were motivated to take the OMD (one vegetarian meal a day to save the planet) challenge, Tzu Chi NZ received 101 signatures from the 2-day event for the OMD movement.

PPE Donation

New Zealand government imposed a lockdown for three days on 14 th February after the discovery of a UK variant coronavirus infection in a family in South Auckland. The government asked people to stay home; schools were closed; people were told to keep social distancing; limit on social gatherings were imposed; and et cetera.

The first batch of Pfizer vaccine arrived in New Zealand on 12 th February, the vaccine is free for all New Zealanders with the priority given to front line workers and their family members, medical workers and other high-risk groups. Tzu Chi NZ donated personal protective equipments to 5 clinics under Procure-Pacific Health Trust and two general practitioners: Fono Henderson and Fono Blockhouse Bay. In compliance with government regulations, Tzu Chi NZ also cancelled the Chinese New Year celebration, and temporary closed Tzu Chi community services.



Hot food distribution at Christchurch Delta Community house

New Zealand commemorated the 10 th anniversary of the Christchurch earthquake at the Avon River on 22 February this year. Tzu Chi NZ had helped the earthquake's victims for the past 10 years provided emergency relief, school lunch for affected school, study grant, hot food distribution and other programmes. Hot food distribution had been suspended last year due to Covid-19. On 23th February Tzu Chi NZ resumed the hot food distribution programme.

Support case – A.Hape

On 23 February three Tzu Chi volunteers visited Hape. She was a domestic violence case referred to Tzu Chi by social worker. Hape lives with son and daughter. And also looks after old father who suffered from multiple illnesses. The pressure of life had led her into drinking, smoking and other bad coping methods. This year Hape decided to pull herself up by quitting smoking and alcohol, and start doing exercise. Tzu Chi volunteers hope to support her so that she could stand on her own feet in the future.

Support case – Marina

Ngarimu, the social worker from School referred Marina, a single mother of three children to Tzu Chi. She moved to Auckland from Waikato few weeks ago, she shares a house with a friend. Marina received weekly support from the government, however, there is not much left after paying rent and power bill. They need food urgently while her son was looking for a job. Both her daughters are under vocational training. On 12th March, Tzu Chi volunteers visited Marina with food parcels to relieve the family's urgent need.



Jing Si Book Store Seminar: Water Safety

In New Zealand, beaches, rivers, ponds and pools are places of interest for people especially during summer. Unfortunately, water accidents happened frequently. Drowning is New Zealand's third-highest cause of accidental death. Thus, New Zealand Government created an e-learning platform to provide information on good water safety practices to the general public (<https://www.dpanz.org.nz/e-learning/>).

In recent years Asian migrants involved in water accidents more often than other races. In this regard, Tzu Chi NZ invited Mr Madison Chang, Community Advisor from Drowning Prevention Auckland to run a seminar on water safety to the Asian community on 23rd January. About 50 people from the Asian community attended the talk. The seminar was divided into theory and practical parts. The practical part of drowning prevention was reported to be especially beneficial.

During the seminar Mr Chang shared the 4R in the drowning prevention procedure: Recognise, Respond, Rescue and Revive. The audience also learnt that wearing a life jacket is one of the best ways to prevent drowning; and giving the victim a floater is the safest way in rescuing. The participants further learnt and practiced bystanders rescue and revive during the practical part of the seminar.





Mobile Water Purification System Presentation

In recent times natural disasters occur more frequently worldwide due to climate change. New Zealand too had experienced more natural disasters such as earthquake, floods and fires.

Over the years Tzu Chi volunteers had dispatched disaster relief in person to the victims in collaboration with the local civil defence. As clean water is indispensable in a disaster area, Tzu Chi Foundation spent the last ten years working with the Water Resource Department of Taiwan in creating a water purification system for disaster relief.

The third-generation "Q water" is created which is light and small. The water purification system can be fixed in a disaster area, and provide safe drinking water to the people.

On 12th March at 11am, 4 Tzu Chi volunteers presented the Q Water System to the representative from Auckland watercare and Auckland Civil Defence.



A big thank you to the 60 students from Omiston College who committed to "One Meal A Day Without Meat" on 26th March 2021 at Barry Curtis Park Flat Bush.



Environmental Protection Seminar on DIY Bokashi composting bin

Tzu Chi Educational Recycling Centre held an environmental protection seminar on do-it-yourself Bokashi composting on 6 th February. About 30 people attended the seminar.

Bokashi is a Japanese word meaning “fermented organic matter”. It is a Japanese way of composting food waste. In the seminar, Brother Lu explained about the difference between bokashi composting and conventional composting; and showed the attendees a near zero-waste lifestyle by turning kitchen waste into useful garden materials. The liquid end product, bokashi tea can be used as a fertilizer as well as a weed killer when uses undiluted.

At the end of the seminar, the attendees visited the vegetable garden created by Tzu Chi volunteers, everyone was impressed by the beautiful and eco friendly vegetable garden.



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