



June Issue 2019



### **Tzu Disaster relief distribution to Nelson forest fire victims**

Nelson forest fire in 2019 was the worst fire in New Zealand in sixty years. On 12th March, three Tzu Chi volunteers took a flight to Nelson to visit locals affected by the fire and to understand their needs.

On 7th April, ten Tzu Chi volunteers along with Rylee Petterson of the Civil Defence and four local volunteers carried out a disaster relief distribution ceremony in the Wakefield School Hall. The ceremony started with a Maori prayer followed by a speech delivered by Rylee. Tzu Chi volunteers gave an introduction about Tzu Chi Foundation and the story of the bamboo coin bank.

A letter from Tzu Chi NZ addressed to those affected by the fire was read to the attendees, everyone was moved to tears. The disaster relief distribution benefited 104 people of 31 families affected by the fire. The financial aid and psychological support delivered during times of vulnerability made a huge impact on the lives of individuals and families seeking hope. After the ceremony, Tzu Chi volunteers visited affected locals who were unable to attend the ceremony, during the distribution Tzu Chi volunteers listened as the locals described their painful experience and comforted them.

---

---



## **Jing Si Book Store Health Seminar: -Preventing Influenza and keeping well in winter-**

Winter is the peak season for influenza, 10-20% of New Zealanders are affected every year, although most people get well, some people can become seriously ill and require hospitalization, with a small number of deaths as a result.

Flu outbreak creates pressure at workplaces and health care services. In the past few years, winter flu peaked at the end of winter, hence the 2019 Influenza Vaccination program has been changed to April from March. This is to ensure the vaccination can remain effective until winter is over.

On 27th April Counties Manukau District Health Board and the Auckland Chinese Medical Association jointly organized the above health seminar and carried out a flu vaccination service on the spot. Auckland Chinese Medical Association is a non-profit organization started by a group of Asian doctors. The purpose of the association is to improve the health of the Chinese community. 7 doctors performed free health screening during the seminar, two staff members from Life pharmacy of Pakuranga administered the flu vaccine to participants. The service is free for 65 and above, 20 dollars for those under 65.

During the seminar, Dr David Wu talked about flu prevention and gave advice for winter health keeping, while Dr Derek Luo talked about gastrointestinal health and how to prevent colon cancer.







## Clean-up Pearl Baker Reserve

Every year Tzu Chi Auckland runs a park cleaning event. This year the title of the event was added with #TRASHTAG in order to attract more people. #Trashtag Challenge is a recent viral challenge spreading across social media which inspires people to clean up rubbish in the environment and to share before and after photos online using the hashtag #trashtag. This wholesome campaign promotes the awareness of environmental protection.

On Saturday, April 13, volunteers gathered at Pearl Baker Reserve and began setting up the tent and registration booth, and organizing cleaning appliances such as rubbish bag and gloves, first aid box etc.

Interfaith Friendship Group was invited to join the event. 55 volunteers and 60 Jing Si Chinese class students participated in the event.

Terry from the community read about the event from Facebook, together with his friends, Loong and Chris, they helped with pruning trees and eliminating weeds. Tracy was visiting her grandmother who lives by the park when she saw the volunteers working in the park, she came out serving drinks to volunteers as a sign of appreciation.

At the end of the day, volunteers gathered enough rubbish to fill up two supermarket trolleys and 40 rubbish bags from the seemingly clean reserve. Most of the rubbish were found caught in the bushes and near the river, there was a cot in the bush, a bicycle in the river, a cloth liner and a lot of PET bottles, broken glasses, plastic bags, diapers etc.





## 2019 Tzu Chi NZ Buddha Bathing Ceremony

On 12th May, Tzu Chi NZ celebrated the three-in-one commemoration of the Buddha's Day, Mother's Day and Global Tzu Chi Day.

At 10.30 Am Tzu Chi volunteers warmly welcomed attendees by the entrance and helped pin a carnation on all mothers that attended the event. Invited guests included Mr. Jeff Liu, the director of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Auckland and his wife and staff members, Lotu Fuli, Chair of Otara & Papatoetoe Local Board, Constable Kevin Deng of Counties Manukau Police, the representatives from the Interfaith Friendship Group, Global Federation of Chinese Business Women, Taiwan women association and the Korean Society. There were also participants from various ethnic groups, such as Indians, Yugoslavians and some South Pacific Islanders.

The Buddha bathing ceremony completed just before noon. Each participant received an auspicious peach bun while proceeding to the dining hall for a vegetarian lunch.

This year the event was conducted bilingually. Howick Stroke Club member, Slavko and Anka who are of Yugoslavia origin were able to enjoy the event without an interpreter. The event started with Master Cheng Yen's dharma talk. Venerable master Zhi Guo led 298 participants in this auspicious three-in-one ceremony. The harmonious singing and the co-ordinated movements from everyone at the event expressed our deepest respect to Buddha, sincere gratitude to all parents, peace and safety for all sentient beings. Meanwhile Tzu Chi volunteers offering fragrant water and flowers to the Buddha entered Jing Si Hall solemnly in perfect steps.

After lunch, there were interesting activities promoting environmental awareness which included eco-awareness games, enzyme making and tree planting to name a few.







## Whangarei South Rotary Visit

On 18th May 2019, Tzu Chi Foundation hosted a visit from Whangarei South Rotary. The friendship between the two groups begun in 2018 through the donation of clothes to be sent to Vanuatu and has since blossomed. Late last year, Tzu Chi volunteers visited Whangarei South Rotary for a wonderful night of dinner followed by sharing Tzu Chi's experiences around the community.

The event kicked off with a vegetarian lunch cooked by the culinary volunteers. The guests were surprised by the variety in vegetarian cooking and enjoyed the meal. After lunch, Tzu Chi Commissioner, Julie, took everyone on a tour around the foundation. At the recycling station, many of the Rotary members were fascinated by the equipment used for fixing and dismantling whiteware and stripping wires. The Great Love veggie patch also sparked a lot of interest as volunteers shared their eco-friendly methods used to fertilise and water the plants. At Jing Si Bookstore and Cafe, many of the guests bought some of the eco-cutlery sets and drink bottles to respond to the eco-living movement.

After the tour, volunteers and Rotary members sat down for some tea and coffee. Steve and Tiffany shared with everyone two of Tzu Chi's most recent relief projects. After watching the video on the international relief work in Mozambique and hearing the local relief stories from Pigeon Valley, the guests were touched by the work of the volunteers and was happy to hear that the bamboo banks full of donations that they have brought with them will be put to good use. Rotary member, Sandra, encouraged and praised the volunteers "You don't wait, you pay for yourself and go when you are needed. Not waiting for others to contact you. You light up the flame in people."

The visit ended with a display of Da Ai Technology products. With a compassionate heart to help people, Da Ai Technology uses recycled materials to produce clothing and other relief work products. Many of the guests commented on the importance of looking into eco-innovations and finding creative ways to use recycled products. As the visit came to an end, volunteers and guests exchanged promises to keep in touch and for the volunteers to visit the Rotary again at a later date. Gerard Skerton, the Chairman of Whangarei South Rotary, thanked Tzu Chi for hosting the visit. "Thank you for having us today. You are all lovely people. And more importantly, you are genuine people. People who put words into action."

---



## **Manukau Police and Public Community Visits**

On 25 June 2019 Tzu Chi welcomed 2 groups of visitors, the Asian Council on Reducing Crime organised a community cultural day which brought Rosa along with fifty-four general public in the community to Tzu Chi. Twelve Police officers also visited Tzu Chi New Zealand Auckland branch as part of their new officer onboarding day.

The police vehicles were painted in pacific island patterns. They also have maori patterned police vehicles, and they hope that there will soon be one with Chinese patterns, as this is one way to showcase New Zealand as a diverse and multicultural society.

Tzu Chi wishes to collaborate closely with the police to help maintain a safe community. Voltair Chang, CEO of Tzu Chi NZ says in his welcoming speech. Tzu Chi volunteers then went on to share Tzu Chi's humble beginnings with the bamboo bank story followed by what Tzu Chi has accomplished both in New Zealand and around the world.

The purpose of having our new hires visiting Tzu Chi is for them to understand the different cultures and organisations in their jurisdiction, says Kavin Deng from the Counties Manukau Police

Of the fifty-five general public visitors, Forty of them were Sikhs, the 70 to 80 years old ladies have never entered a Buddhist temple before and have no understanding of the Buddhist religion. They struggled to understand with their limited english abilities but a young Soni helped with translation which put a smile on the old ladies face, and were very active to contribute to the bamboo piggy bank. Soni shared with our volunteers that today they learnt that even small money can make big impacts, if you are persistent in accumulating your love, you can give to those in need and that it felt great to be able to help others. They felt Tzu Chi is doing an amazing job.

Although New Zealand government has now banned one time use plastic bags to encourage everyone to bring their own shopping bag, our work doesn't stop there. Through demonstrations of how we peel back the power cables to extract the copper inside, and seeing some upcycle products produced in our recycling station, Tzu Chi volunteers illustrate how thorough recycling efforts there is still value in what we consider as rubbish and encourages everyone to make a difference, starting from oneself.



Police officer Georgina thanks Tzu Chi for opening her eyes to a new definition of rubbish. Many visitors admitted that they now realise a lot of waste that they put to landfill can actually be recycled.

Rosa shared that the goal of bringing the public to Tzu Chi is to promote the concept of environmental protection, so that everyone can do their part for natural environment. To understand Buddhism as a religion and the responsibility towards society, we all have and to let them feel the joy of giving back to society through volunteering and charity work. Through understanding different religions and culture, that bring a much better vibe to the community.

The sign language song 'One Family' breaks down all language and religious barriers, everyone held hands and formed a circle and signed the song in unity. Sharing great love and respect in the Tzu Chi family. After enjoying a wholesome vegetarian meal, the visit was ended with a small gift of books of Jing Si aphorism, bamboo piggy banks and reusable shopping bags for all.



### **Jing Si Chinese Class Buddha Day Ceremony**

Each year Jing Si Chinese Class celebrates Buddha Day ceremony on the first Saturday after Mother's Day. As the Chinese class students entered the hall in a steady line, the Buddha bathing ceremony presenter explained the meaning of bathing the Buddha.

Buddha Day to the Buddhists is like Christmas to the Christians, it is an important day to the Buddhists where they celebrate the birthday of Buddha. Jing Si class teacher guided the students to bath the Buddha, and expressed gratitude to the Buddha, to their parents and to all beings. 7 non-Buddhist Chinese class students observed the ceremony quietly, as a great opportunity to learn to respect individual differences including religion, ethnicity and culture.

---



## Tzu Chi Scholarship Programme Briefing Event

On 14 June 2019, Eleven principals, teachers and social workers attended the "Tzu Chi Scholarship Programme Briefing Event" held at the Jing Si Bookstore. Volunteers introduced Tzu Chi's beliefs followed by the purpose of setting up the Scholarship Programme, as well as things to be aware of when applying for the Scholarship is criteria for nomination, date and way of presenting the scholarship and etc.



During the briefing, both parties participated actively in the discussions and raised questions and answers and achieved a common consensus on the way forward. And seek to continue our efforts and cooperation towards helping more children from deprived circumstances receive education.

## Latu - Home Visit

On 3 June 2019, volunteers brought some food items and visited Latu family who was referred to Tzu Chi from social worker Helen. For personal reason, Latu and her partner have to look after 8 grandchildren and are struggling to make ends meet as a result. Their old washing machine is broken so all laundry has to be taken to the local laundromat which is quite a big expense. The social worker hopes that Tzu Chi is able to donate a washing machine and microwave to reduce the burden on Latu's family.



On 15 June, 6 volunteers brought the washing machine and microwave along with love to the family in Otago Auckland. Not only were there warm welcomes by the elderlies with smile on their face, they also helped carried the washing machine into the house and thanked Tzu Chi for the contributions.



台灣佛教慈濟慈善事業基金會紐西蘭分會  
Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation NZ:  
9 Springs Road, East Tamaki, Auckland, New Zealand | +64-9-2716976  
Hamilton Branch: 11 Halcione Cres, Hamilton, New Zealand | +64-7-8541496



[www.facebook.com/TzuChiNZ/](https://www.facebook.com/TzuChiNZ/)



[info@tzuchi.org.nz](mailto:info@tzuchi.org.nz)



[www.tzuchi.org.nz](http://www.tzuchi.org.nz)