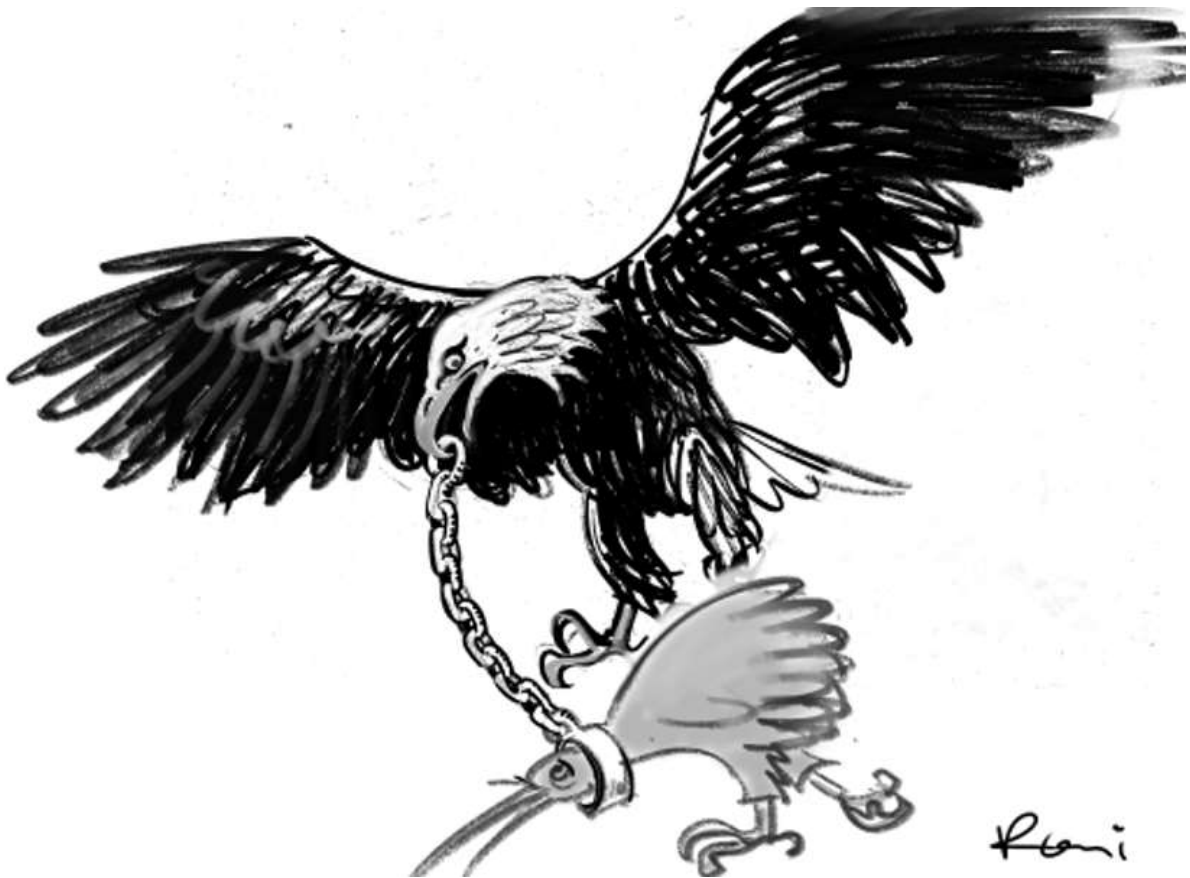


# SCRAPBOOK



**A History of the Anti-Bases Campaign**

**1982 – 1999**

# The ABC Scrapbook



A collection of photos, reportage and contemporary writings, recording the history of the Anti-Bases Campaign, 1982 to 1999.



Compiled by Warren Thomson

December 2025

*Above: Fence cut for access to American Base at Harewood Airport 1988.  
Previous page: Gathering of longtime campaigners at the main gate, Waihopai, 2013.  
Cover page cartoon, Ron Currie.*

## The Emergence of the Anti-Bases Campaign

As part of a mass movement in New Zealand against the Vietnam War, there were large and militant protests against the various specialist US military installations already in New Zealand, or proposed to be set up here, from the late 1960s onwards.

These included the proposed Omega [navigation] station, which was stopped by NZ protests, and relocated to Australia; the US Air Force's top secret Project Longbank at RNZAF Base Woodbourne, which closed in the early 1970s; and the USAF's Mt John observatory, which was civilianised in the 1970s and relocated to Hawaii in the 1980s.

Protests against the US Navy and Air Force base at Christchurch [Harewood] Airport and its communications facility at RNZAF Weedons were a central part of early actions against American operations in Aoteroa/NZ. Anti-Bases concerns and actions also included protesting the Black Birch Observatory built in 1984-85 for the US Navy near Blenheim. It was closed in the 1990s.



Citizens for the Demilitarisation of Harewood (CDH) was formed in 1982 to research, educate and protest about American military operations at Christchurch International Airport (Harewood). The local group evolved and expanded into a national Anti-Bases Campaign (ABC) in 1987. Major public protest at Harewood took place in the early 1970s but waned for several years until concern was revived about possible nuclear weapons on US military aircraft. US Air Force Starlifters and Galaxy's serving military/intelligence bases in Australia were capable of carrying nuclear weapons through Christchurch on any of their regular weekly flights.



The Spies Picnic: A demo against the Pine Gap flights through Harewood, October, 1986

Some U.S. military flights through Harewood continue to this day and are covered by the infamous “neither confirm nor deny” nuclear weapons policy. American military hardware [and data] now probably passes much more directly from the U.S. to its major bases in Australia. However, non-Antarctic related flights with undisclosed cargoes do violate the spirit, if not the letter, of New Zealand’s Nuclear-Free Law, passed in 1987.

In the 1980s, ABC attention focused on communications interception stations; spy operations at a GCSB base in the Manawatu, Tangimoana, [outed by the work of ABC co-founder Owen Wilkes] and one near Blenheim, Waihopai. The bases were considered to be foreign controlled bases on NZ territory with direct or indirect involvement of British and American military and/or intelligence agencies and likely involved in location/targeting as well as data collection.

The satellite spy base at Waihopai, near Blenheim, became the main focus of ABC attention in the late 80s with active groups in Wellington and Christchurch. Opposition in NZ/Aotearoa was due in large part to the groundbreaking research of ABC member Nicky Hager who revealed the GCSB operations in his book “Secret Power” in 1996. In the book Prime Minister David Lange admitted that he had no idea what the base did when it was set up during his administration.

Waihopai is part of the international Five Eyes spy network [formerly UKUSA] that sparked outrage in 2013 when Edward Snowden revealed the incredible extent of the global spy operations of the U.S. U.K. /Canada/Australia/NZ group.

Numerous non-violent direct actions have taken place at Waihopai over the years in an attempt to educate the public and our legislators about this highly secretive, foreign-controlled spy facility. Snowden's revelations confirmed that ABC's condemnation of the base was completely justified. The base is run by the Government Communications Security Bureau [GCSB] and is an integral part of Five Eyes surveillance operations. ABC protests, aimed at exposing these operations, met with some success, both nationally and internationally, in publicizing the existence and activities at the site.



Activists 'uncover the base'. Nude protest, January 1994

**In 2024 it was revealed that for many years the base hosted targeting operations by an overseas agency that the Minister responsible was not informed about.**

According to [RNZ News](#), "The operation—that the Government Communications Security Bureau (GCSB) did not tell government ministers about—ran from 2013-20, but was only exposed by an official watchdog last month [March 2024]. Intelligence documents strongly suggest the bureau hosted—but exercised virtually no oversight over—a system run by the U.S. National Security Agency [NSA] to help acquire targets classified as terrorists for killer drones, bombs and raids using GCSB data."

**Since 2021 ABC has focused on the operations of Rocket Lab. This Aotearoa/NZ startup became a fully-fledged American rocket launching company which sends military/intelligence satellites into orbit from Mahia near Gisborne. The Pentagon's efforts to dominate space surveillance mean Rocket Lab embeds this country in frontline U.S. military operations. These parallel Waihopai's location, tracking and targeting activities for Five Eyes.**

# ABC protests and events, 1982 – 1999

**1982:** Antecedent group 'Citizens for the Demilitarisation of Harewood' (CDH) formed to research, educate and protest about the American military occupation of Christchurch International Airport (at Harewood).

**Oct 1984:** Weekend protest encampment at Harewood Airport. Demonstrations against American use of Harewood as a transit for military/intelligence operations.

**Feb 1986:** CAFCINZ [Campaign Against Foreign Control in New Zealand] protests at Black Birch Ridge. Some of the group were ABC founders in 1987. "Peace activists tramped for three hours 1500 metres up Black Birch Ridge in Marlborough on Saturday to protest against the United States Naval Observatory there. Members of the CAFCINZ group attached two banners to the building which said: 'Star gazing yes, Star Wars no'. Accurate star maps could be used from the station to help guide nuclear missiles spokesperson Murray Horton said" [Chch Press, 17 Feb, 1986].



Pam Hughes at BBR

**May 1986:** Wellington women set up banners, some with anti-bases messages, as a peace action at NZ Defence Headquarters.



**1987: ABC [Anti-Bases Campaign] is founded with active groups in Christchurch and Wellington**

**20 February 1988:** First Waihopai protest. Demo with speeches in a large painted CNL sign on the GCSB land. 150+ protestors.



First Waihopai camp 1988. Photo Budyong Hill





Waihopai, Defence land 21/2/88. Standing around a 18m diameter peace circle, the size of the planned dish. Listening to speeches. There are more people not in the photo.



Waihopai, Defence land 21/2/88. LIMIT's houses in the circle.

Women's peace group Limit placed 366 model houses on the site, representing the number of homes that could be built for the cost of the base. Pre-construction survey pegs removed.

**2 May 1988:** Early morning protest occupation of earthworks on the construction site. Richard Frizzell, Iain McDougall, Ron Smith, Kevin Hackwell and Bruce Craigie chain themselves to equipment, then a culvert, and are arrested for trespass, convicted and fined \$200 each. A later successful appeal meant there were no convictions.

“We got to the site at about 6.30am and set up a couple of tents at the side of the partly formed road, next to the large digger which was on the base side of the culvert excavations. Ron Smith, Richard Frizzell, Ian McDougall, and I chained ourselves (separately) to the tracks of the digger, while Bruce Craigie and Will Foote went over to a grader, which was further up the paddock, closer to the base. Bruce chained himself to the grader, and because of his age Will sat on it without chains. There were several other people with us, one of these had volunteered to be the liaison with the police.

At about 7.30 a truck arrived and the driver asked that we unlock ourselves from the digger, because they wanted to take it away to another job. We allowed them to do this, and the four of us chained ourselves together and moved to the culvert construction where we chained ourselves to one of the profile lines. The two workmen radioed their office to get them to call the police to get us removed.

At about 10.00 the police arrived and after about half an hour the five of us who were chained to the construction and the digger were arrested. We were convicted in the District Court on 1 July of trespassing and then won the appeal in the Blenheim High Court later. While we made arguments about why the original arrests were wrong, the appeal was won on the technicality that the police had failed to complete the chain of authority from the Ministry of Defence to the arresting officers who carried out the arrests” [Kevin Hackwell].



Group meeting at one of the early Wairau riverside camps

### **Harewood, [Christchurch Airport] 1988**

**11 May 1988: Harewood.** “Two people slipped through security at Chch airport and wandered around a US Starlifter aircraft unnoticed ...” [Star. 11 May 1988]. This may have been a ‘spy’ activity by persons unknown. Owen Wilkes and other ABC activists often crept into the U.S. Base looking for information about what the Americans were doing at this time.

# Flights 'part of intelligence run'

By Nick Early

Weekly American military stopovers at Christchurch Airport are part of an intelligence collection run, says the Citizens for the Demilitarisation of Harewood.

An Australian television documentary on the American Pine Gap intelligence base near Alice Springs, proved Christchurch was part of a military operation, said a CDH spokesman, Mr Murray Horton.

Mr Horton's claim centres on cargo on the weekly Hercules C141 flights labelled with the code name "Credible Dove."

The "Credible Dove" cargo has been seen by CDH members on board United States Navy Hercules at Harewood.

According to the Australian Channel 9 documentary "Inside Pine Gap" the "Credible Dove" crates contained military intelligence tapes.

Mr Horton said that made the weekly flights — which arrive at Harewood on Sundays and leave on



Mr Horton

Mondays — a military operation.

"These flights aren't delivering supplies of cola machines, burgers and baseball caps," Mr Horton said.

The Australian documentary screened in Australia in November but a tape of the programme was studied by CDH only two weeks ago.

Pine Gap was one of the most important American military installations outside of the United States, Mr Horton said.

He said the film confirmed CDH's belief that the Harewood base of the United States Naval Support Force was a "medium level multi-purpose American military base."

The United States Embassy in Wellington reacted to the latest militarisation claim with an attack on the credibility of CDH.

The embassy's information officer, Mr Mike Gould, said Mr Horton and another leader of CDH, Mr Bob Leonard, had a long history of attacking Operation Deep Freeze with claims which were usually wrong.

However, he said he did not know what "Credible Dove" was, and had "no idea" if the cargo loaded and unloaded during the Hercules stopovers included electronic surveillance information.

The United States Government denied all claims that the Harewood Operation Deep Freeze base was a military operation.

The [Chch] Star, 17 Feb, 1988 Murray Horton, secretary/organiser for ABC, explains the U.S. Harewood operations. [The photo used by the media was ten years old!]



**March 1988:** Waihopai Tender. LIMIT with the giant envelope tendering an alternative use of the money spent on Waihopai. On the 12<sup>th</sup> floor of the Defence Building in Wellington [the Freyberg, or 'Spyberg', building] 17 March, 1988. Top photo: June Gregg, Jean Robertson, Julie Crossland, Robyn Dann, Lisa Thompson. Bottom photo: The spokesperson for the GCSB is taking the envelope from the group which includes Jenny Easton.

# N.Z. 'proxy for Australia's espionage'

By  
**CHRISTOPHER MOORE**

The establishment of a satellite communication interception facility in the Waihopai Valley, Marlborough, suggested that New Zealand was acting as a proxy for Australia's espionage apparatus, said the national co-ordinator of the Australian Anti-Bases Campaign Coalition, Mr Ken Mansell, in Christchurch last evening.

Mr Mansell will be among the guest speakers at a protest meeting in the Waihopai Valley tomorrow morning.

"New Zealand's actions in establishing this facility mean that this country is acting as proxy for the Australian spying apparatus. A similar station is proposed for Geraldton in Western Australia.

"The two facilities appear to be connected. They were announced within a short time of each other and their dish construction is similar," Mr Mansell said.

While the Australian Government had an-

nounced the establishment of the Geraldton base in a defence White Paper, the New Zealand Government had failed to make any public statement on the Waihopai facility. But the two stations were designed to intercept satellite communication, including private telephone calls.

"I see this as an extension of general spying activities in the region. There is no doubt that the Australian and New Zealand Governments are concerned about recent events in the Pacific.

"The Fijian coup caused particular concern — and Waihopai is definitely capable of intercepting private telephone calls from Fiji. New Zealanders should now demand that their Government comes clean about spying activities in the region."

Although the security questions were difficult to penetrate, the public had a right to know details of the station and whether it infringed on civil liberties.

Press-19/2/88



Australian activist Ken Mansell speaks at one of the first protest camp meetings



Nicky Hager addresses the protestors at the base.



Owen Wilkes, an ABC founder speaks to the group

**7 May 1988:** First women's camp established for one week on farmland opposite the base. About twenty women camping in winter conditions.

**Womens' Camp, Waihopai Valley:** The women's camp was a major organisation/event in Waihopai protest history, operating separately from ABC but cooperating on some actions. Many times the women carried out actions at the base and were removed by the police and/or arrested.

[See Video: 20 Nov 2021, Newshub Nation:

The Waihopai spy base through the decades]

# 'Spying' protest

New Zealand should not be spying on its Pacific neighbours, say three women protesters camping near the Waihopai satellite communications intercept base.

"New Zealand has a nuclear-free independent policy, so why is it building a base that can be used to link into the wider arms race and nuclear infrastructures?" said Ms June Gregg.

"Given the Government's official posturing, it is supposed to be working for a peaceful Pacific yet its first overt step is to build a facility to spy on its neighbours.

"Spending money on something so unprofitable seems ridiculous when social spending is being reduced and New Zealanders are being asked to tighten their belts."

Ms Gregg and two other women, Ms Jane Sorensen and Ms Wilma van Hellemond, were in Christchurch yesterday to speak about their experiences at the camp during an Anti-bases Campaign meeting at the Canterbury Public Library last evening.

Ms Gregg was among three protesters who were arrested during a scuffle between protesters and contractors. The women were discharged without conviction, on a technicality.

About five women remain on vigil at the camp near the base.

Ms Sorensen, who lives in Waihopai Valley, said the general feeling in the community was against the base being built, and supportive of the women protesters. Farmers closest to the base were particularly against it.

Waihopai Valley was a beautiful scenic valley "until you suddenly come across this huge sinister base," said Ms van Hellemond.

The valley was also of spiritual significance to Maori people, said Ms Gregg.

"The name means 'leave it good,' which is what we intended to do."

The women were determined to keep up their protest, but whether they would retain a presence in the valley would be decided at a gathering for women at the camp on August 21 and 22, said Ms Gregg.

The gathering would lead up to a national demonstration at Waihopai on August 27 and 28.



Three women peace campaigners, who have maintained a vigil at the protest camp near the Waihopai satellite communications intercept base, reflect on their campaign during a visit to Christchurch yesterday. From left are Jane Sorensen, June Gregg, and Wilma van Bellemond.

**12 May 1988:** Around forty women associated with the women's camp occupied earthmoving equipment at 7.30 in the morning. The workers' reaction was hostile. Some women were roughly dragged away. Even worse, some machines were driven off with women still on them. May Bass's life was threatened as a manic driver took off at speed across the bumpy paddock with her hanging on to the top of the cab. Amazingly no-one was injured. [Some video available]. Local construction boss said he had had several calls threatening to interfere with trucks and equipment. Along with June Gregg and Jacki Byrd, May was arrested for trespass. The charges were later dismissed in court.

**14 May, 1988:** Almost 200 people came to protest, many camping ....where? A large CND sign was constructed from rocks. Fence posts erected for the new compound were loosened.

**29 May 1988:** A farm fence erected around the site was cut in many places, said by the contractors to have caused \$1000 worth of damage.

**23-30 June, 1988:** Power cables laid in a 4 foot deep trench were severed.

**6 July, 1988:** Protestors at the women's camp were staging many demos in Blenheim and at the base. Women's camp visited by 4 hostile men in a pick-up truck. Stones were thrown.

**12 July, 1988:** Sixteen women and children held a protest vigil outside Parliament. Five women stood in the Gallery with N-O S-P-Y on shirts before being evicted.

## SECRET BASE HIT

[Chch Press 28 August 1988]

**THE Government's controversial top-secret defence base at Waihopai was at the centre of a major security scare yesterday.**

More than 120 protesters busted their way through the 3m-high security fence to hang flags and banners from the buildings.

Others managed to gain access to the highly sophisticated computer room.

A small contingent of police and security guards could do little but watch as the large group moved on to the base.

Protest leader Fergus Wheeler says the protest was aimed at the Government, which they believe will use the base to spy on civilian toll calls, facsimile messages, and telexes.

Mr Wheeler says protesters marched to the front gate of the base shortly after 2pm.

Confronted by six police

**By PETER RICHARDSON**

officers and two security guards at the entrance, they hoisted two flags — one American and one Australian.

Meanwhile, another band was cutting through fencing at the rear of the base. When police diverted to that breach, the main contingent lifted the front gates off their hinges and more than 120 swarmed onto the compound.

Mr Wheeler says some

managed to get into the buildings to have a "look around".

"We managed to get into the computer room," he said. "It really was quite spectacular."

Police warned protesters they would be arrested if they didn't leave within 10 minutes.

The protesters complied with police requests, but last night Mr Wheeler's band was determined to do it again.

"All our talk is not get-

ting us anywhere — we may need to carry on with this direct action," he said.

A security guard at the centre yesterday confirmed about 120 protesters had breached security.

He says they did not cause any damage, except for cutting the fence in a few places.

Construction on Waihopai began in May this year and it is due to be completely operational by August next year.



Photo: Budyong Hill, Riverside Community

**26-27 August 1988:** A large number of people camped across the road from the base. “About 100 protestors at Waihopai Valley yesterday lifted the large gate at the satellite base entrance off its hinges and continued their rally inside the fenced compound” [Chch Press, 27 August 1988]. Speeches were made on the slab of the operations building under construction.

Two protestors were able to climb onto the roof of the main building via a ladder left by builders. They agreed to come down when the police said they would not be arrested. People walked around the perimeter fence in the night, throwing stones and making minor fence cuts, but not entering the base. In the early hours of the 29<sup>th</sup>, protestors blocked the road entrance, but the shift workers entered the base via a neighbouring farm.

## October 1988: Harewood Action:



Harewood protestors sit in the sun before the action. Second from left, May Bass, a co-founder of the Waihopai women's camp, Centre, Jacqui Barrington, Greenpeace, and second right Tim Jones, non-violent action proponent and Peace Movement Aotearoa activist.



Left: June Gregg, co-founder of the Women's camp and long-term peace activist, with right, Elsie Locke, writer and lifelong anti-war campaigner. Photos: Steve Smith

ABC action against U.S. military operations at Harewood airport. Murray Horton, Warren Thomson, Neil Mouat and Owen Wilkes were arrested for going through a hole cut in the fence. All were convicted of trespass and fined \$100. Below: Murray and Warren arrested.



Photo: Steve Smith

#### INTRODUCTION:

In 1988, members of the Citizens for the Demilitarisation of Harewood-Anti Bases Campaign group in Christchurch decided to challenge the US military presence at Chch airport by initiating a court case on the issue of sovereignty. The US claimed the base to be under their control. The intention was to trespass on this 'US sovereign territory' and challenge any conviction under NZ law.

#### THE ACTION:

At Midday Sunday a group of about 200 people began to demonstrate along the perimeter fence outside the Military Airlift Command hangar. Inside the wire there was a strong police presence with a 'warm-up' routine proceeding inside the hangar.

While demonstrators carried out small actions and songs, the fence was cut. One pair of activists waited near the cut while 2 others stationed themselves some distance away near a vulnerable gate in the next yard.

'Assault ladders' (lengths of 100x50 timber with crosspieces) were produced from a strategically parked van, and placed against the fence. While this diversion proceeded, two activists slipped through the wire and the other two rolled under the gate and ran through the neighbouring yard to join them. After a brief struggle over possession of a flag symbolising NZ/Aotearoa sovereignty, all four were arrested and placed in a police van.

There were no warnings, no police identification, and no charges laid until the arrestees were processed at the police station.

**THE RESULTS:**

The action worked very well, and achieved the aims intended. The issues were raised and it was a first for the local American commanders to be questioned about the base in court.

The magistrate allowed a full hearing, but then decided that the defendants were guilty because of trespassing when there were clear signs against this on the fences - the issue of sovereignty did not become a matter for judicial decision.

Defendants were fined \$100 each. The biggest cost was the hire of the lawyer. Generous donations from sympathisers helped cover the costs incurred.

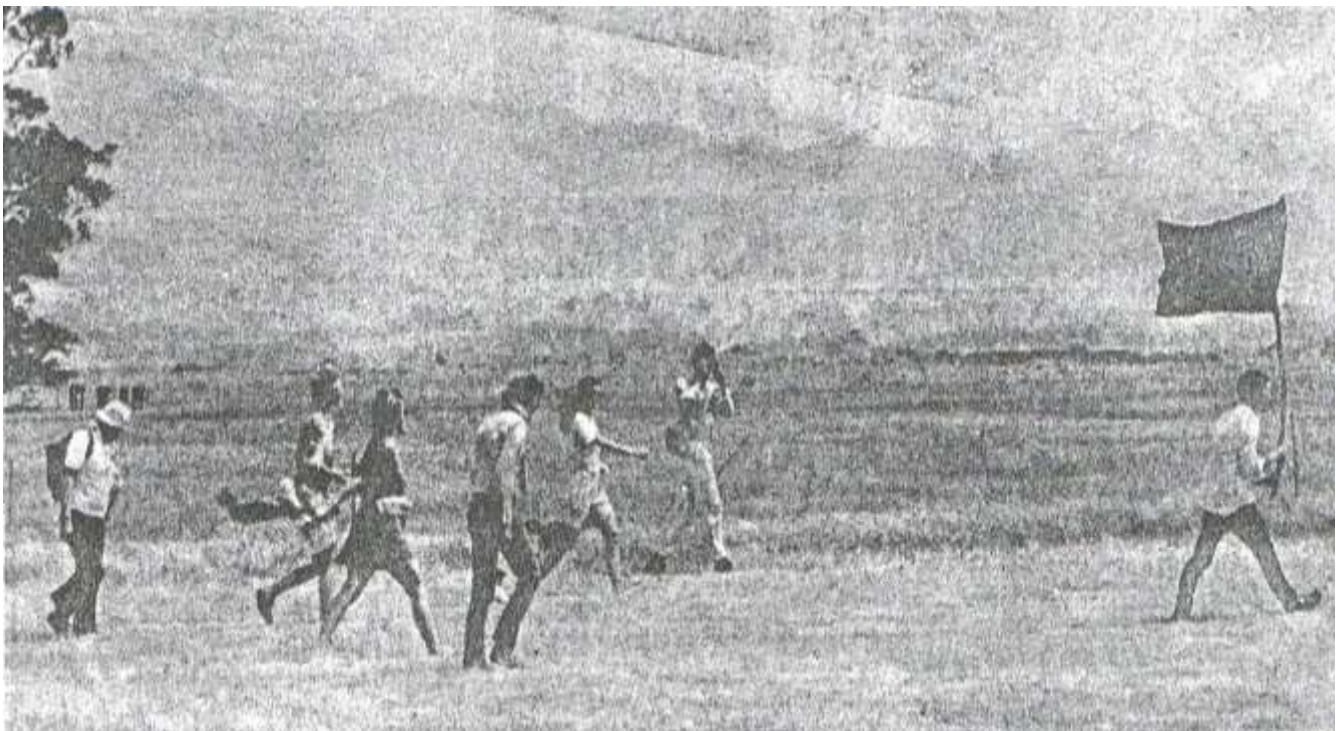


NSA pallets, labelled 'Fort George C Meade' [NSA HQ] at Christchurch airport

While NZ governments denied the UKUSA [now Five Eyes] spy connections, pallets photographed at Harewood were marked 'Ft George C. Meade' [home of the National Security Agency, NSA]. A pallet label – 'CREDIBLE DOVE' which was pinched off a pallet inside the US Base hanger, similarly connected the cargoes with UKUSA activities. Some pallets carried the huge computer tapes then used by the spies to store data.

**8 November:** Launch on Parliament steps of Jim Chapple's Waihopai van tour. Jim held meetings and talked to local media about Waihopai in dozens of North Island towns over the next few months.

**26-27 November 1988:** Waihopai. Began with protestors and local families erecting Australian and U.S. flags at the base gate. Picnic atmosphere but large police presence. [See Weekend Star pictures below.]



Photos from The Weekend Star.

Protesters make a determined charge across a field that separates the security fences at the Waihopai station. Their banner-carrier leads the way. Inset: Two women carry a makeshift ladder that had earlier carried a man to the top of the inner fence. Below: Two protesters carrying a teddy bear try to attach it to the top of the inner security fence. Bottom: The final act — the teddy bear is firmly in position.

[Weekend Star]



During a dawn raid the following morning, six protestors were arrested after climbing over the gate or going through a hole cut in the security fence. One activist needed 5 stitches in a finger after police pulled him off the fence. Charges of being unlawfully in an enclosed yard for Jack Ecroyd, Doug Craig, Daryll Reid, Kevin Makin, Warren Thomson, and June Gregg, were later dropped when police offered no evidence.



**6 December 1988:** A group from the women's camp entered the base compound through an open gate and barricaded themselves inside the guard's hut. They rang politician's numbers – including David Lange – to try and talk about Waihopai. Jacki Byrd, Joanne McLean Liz Franklin, Ann O'Brien, Kathleen Rimmer, Kim Wright and Alex McMillan were charged with intentional damage and being illegally in a building. They were convicted but only ordered to each pay \$20 costs and discharged. Police began an appeal against this result, but then dropped it.

**5 January 1989:** Katie Dewes hosted Australian Senator Jo Vallentine on a trip to the base.

**10 March 1989:** Owen Wilkes and another Wellington peace activist visited the base and drove in through open gates, waving to the guards. They observed progress in the admin complex then departed. On the 9<sup>th</sup> Owen and Mark Roach confronted Dr Hughes, the academic promoting the project, at a scientific conference and later in the month Fergus Wheeler and Becky Bates were warned for trespass at the base.

**6 May 1989:** Waihopai. Nine people arrested after 100 people overran the base at 2.30 am and went through 9 large holes cut in the security fences to invade the base. Lots of protestors then wandered around the buildings and construction containers holding antennae parts. The nine went through a thick window which had been broken and refused to leave the main base building – which was almost completed.

They were charged with being on enclosed premises without reasonable excuse. Amanda Kerr, Sheila Cameron, Terri Dane, Warren Thomson, Marcus Collinge, Sam Bosshard, David Grieve, Neil Mouat and Mark Roach were convicted in the Blenheim Court and fined \$300 or ordered to do 30 hours community work. One also had to pay for wilful damage.

“About 2.30 a.m. about 20 vehicles carrying an estimated 100 peace activists arrived at the main gates of the base. Sgt Russell North of Blenheim said protestors spread around the perimeter security fence and cut nine large holes to get inside. He said graffiti was spray painted on the main building and on nearby containers which held the satellite dish due to be installed next week” [Nelson Mail, 6 May, 1989].

ABC spokesperson Fergus Wheeler commented: “... marine flares were used to light up the area during the assault and the handful of police and security guards on duty could do nothing but watch as more than 100 demonstrators overran the base” [Nelson Mail]. Mr Wheeler also said: “... inside the main building ... it was discovered that British and American equipment was installed which confirmed the overseas input into the satellite station.”



# Nine arrested at Waihopai

6 MAY 89 Nelson Mail

Nine people were arrested early today after a commando style raid on the top secret Waihopai satellite station being built near Blenheim.

About 2.30am about 20 vehicles carrying an estimated 100 peace activists arrived at the main gates of the base.

Sgt Russell North of Blenheim said protesters spread around the perimeter security fence and cut nine large holes to get inside.

He said graffiti was spray painted on the main building and on nearby containers which hold the satellite dish due to be installed next week.

Sgt North said nine people gained access to the main building and were arrested and taken to the Blenheim police station.

They had been charged with intentional damage and being unlawfully in a building and, after being processed during the night, were released this morning.

The six men and three women, aged between 18 and 40, are from Wellington, Marton, Christchurch, Dunedin and Whakatane.

They will appear in the Blenheim District Court at a later date.

This morning's raid was part of a weekend of protest against the base which is being built by the Government Communications and Security Bureau.

Anti Bases Campaign spokesman Mr Fergus Wheeler said today the action was intended to reveal more information about what was happening at Waihopai.

He said marine flares were used to light up the area during the assault and the handful of police and security guards on duty could do nothing but watch as more than 100 demonstrators overran the base.

He said once inside the main building, it was discovered that British and American equipment was installed which confirmed the overseas input into the satellite station.

The campaign has consistently ridiculed government claims that the base is an independent New Zealand controlled operation, maintaining instead that it will have close links with other countries, especially Australia and the United States.

Mr Wheeler said the raid was carried out on behalf of all New Zealanders who were paying for the base and whose reputation was suffering because of it.

The weekend of protest began last night with a march through Blenheim and was to conclude this afternoon with a demonstration at the base.

At 2.30 a.m. on Saturday the 6th of May 1989 this defendant, along with about 90 others, converged on the Defence Satellite Communications unit at Waihopai near Blenheim.

The group, en masse, walked and chanted around the high perimeter fence. Some of the group cut the wire netting allowing entry to the grounds. The whole group then entered the ground and moved about the installation. Slogans and words were spraypainted onto the walls of the buildings, on steel containers, and on equipment throughout the grounds. A heavy plate glass window pane was marked with a glass cutter numerous times, then smashed with a rock.

This defendant with 8 other then entered the main building through this window and walked through an office and sat down on the floor of the foyer area.

One of the group attempted to phone the media but the phone was removed by staff. They were all asked to leave but a spokesperson replied that they wished to remain in the building. They were advised of the consequence of remaining, that they could be arrested, but they remained sitting on the floor.

They were then individually arrested and conveyed to the Blenheim Police Station.

Above. Statement to court by police officer

**3-6 June 1989:** Nails driven in to Telecom cables and wires cut inside cable box at Waihopai Valley turnoff.

**2 July, 1989:** Amanda Kerr arrested for spray-painting Blenheim and Grove Rd bridges.

**3 July 1989:** Amanda Kerr, Sam Bosshard and Richard Frizzell caught posting anti-Waihopai material. No arrests.

**4 July 1989:** Demos in Blenheim and at the base.

**4 July 1989:** In Christchurch, ABC protest against the presence of the propagandist U.S. Information Service centre in Christchurch.

A bucket of brains was purchased [for 'brainwashing'] and deposited at the office door [with the assistance of the local constabulary who accompanied us to the door while we put the bucket in place. They thought it was quite amusing!]



Warren Thomson brought the bucket of brains from a local butcher. Murray Horton stands behind the washing machine. Don Murray supplied the washing machine; Brian Patchett with backpack left of the flag. A young Graham Leonard, son of ABC co-founder Bob Leonard, is behind the machine . [ See *Peacelink*, August 1989]

**August 18-20 1989:** 30 people visit the Waihopai base at midnight and throw stuff at the dish. Next day, Saturday, Protestors “flung dung on the dome which now covers the satellite dish” [Press, 21 Aug 1989] then lit a bonfire outside the perimeter gate and sat to 3.30am. The electric fence was cut.

**23 August, 1989:** During the evening three underground Telecom cables were located and cut, which effectively cut the base link. It took 10 hours for workers to locate and repair.

# Dung flung at base during protest

Anti Bases Campaign demonstrators left their mark on the satellite communications intercept base in the Waihopai Valley on Saturday.

They flung dung on the dome which now covers the satellite dish.

About 40 protesters, most of whom had travelled to Blenheim from Christchurch, threw bags of cow manure and water bombs on to the dome from outside the perimeter security fence. No damage was done although the white dome was struck many times.

Mr Warren Thomson, a

spokesman for the group, said afterwards that the population of New Zealand had been given so much manure about the base that the Anti Bases Campaign had decided to return some.

"We held a competition and awarded points for direct hits.

"The dome looks awful and this certainly expressed our feelings about it," he said.

Protesters made several visits to the site at the week-end, culminating in the lighting of a bonfire outside the perimeter gate on Saturday night. They

stood around the fire blocking the gate until the police ordered them to leave the Ministry of Defence property. No arrests were made.

Although the national protest planned for the week-end was called off because of the campaign's preoccupation with the frigate issue, the demonstration at Waihopai was no surprise to the Blenheim police. About five policemen, including the acting area controller, Inspector Peter Roose, were present during the afternoon and again at night.

Chch Press 21 August 1989

## **8 September 1989: The Waihopai spybase is officially opened by Geoffrey Palmer during a secret visit**

**10-11 November 1989:** Protestors crept onto the base fields at 11.00 pm and fired off sky rockets from all corners. Finished off with smoke bombs and a couple of marine flares. 70 people at the protest. After this GCSB announced extra guards being employed [Press, 17 Nov, 1989]

**21 April 1990:** Someone crashed a Holden Station Wagon into the main gates of the base. No-one apprehended.

**May 11-13 1990:** During the weekend 53 protestors blockaded the gates to prevent a shift change. One of the vans carrying base workers ran into the protestors. [No injuries reported.] A small amount of paint was spattered on the dome. On the Saturday night, some tents were moved onto the base land. When protestors refused to move, police literally carried them away one by one [except for a couple of large individuals who agreed to walk]. "A weekend protest at the Waihopai satellite base resulted in the police forcibly removing 38 protestors from the site, however, none was arrested." [Chch Press, 14 May 1990]. [Time of actions in dispute.]

SUMMONS TO WITNESS

(1) Full Name

To: (1) MR. R.F. PARKER.  
(DIRECTOR)

(2) Address and occupation

of: (2) GOVT COMMUNICATIONS SECURITY BUREAU.  
FREYBERG BUILDING, MULGRAVE ST, WELLINGTON

YOU ARE SUMMONED at the request of the informant/complainant/defendant/to appear as a witness at the District Court at BLENHEIM

on MONDAY day the (SIXTEEN) 16<sup>TH</sup> day of OCTOBER 1989, at 10 a.m.

and on such other days as may be directed by the Court to give evidence in respect of a charge of/complaint that (particulars of charge or complaint): THE DEFENDANT WAS IN A BUILDING WITHOUT REASONABLE EXCUSE.

(3) Name of informant or complainant

laid/made by (3) BLENHEIM POLICE.

(4) Name of defendant

against (4) WARREN HUGH THOMSON

You are required to bring with you and produce (specify what is to be produced): DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE FUNCTIONS OF THE WAIHOPIA DEFENCE COMMUNICATIONS STATION.

Dated at CHRISTCHURCH this 6<sup>TH</sup> day of OCTOBER 1989.

Justice of the Peace.

Deputy Registrar.

Efforts to question GCSQ officials in court were largely ruled out by judges!

## Tangimoana 1990

In the early 1980s peace researcher Owen Wilkes and Christine Dann uncovered a secret GCSB base at Tangimoana, near Palmerston North. The enormous antennae at the base were used to track radio signals, and used primarily to listen to signals emanating from Russian [or Russian associated] vessels across the Pacific. ABC was part of a widescale campaign to expose the base and its relationship with Pentagon war strategies.

**19 August 1990:** Protest weekend at Tangimoana [GCSB spy base in the Manawatu]. Wellington and Christchurch activists organised a surprise raid on the base. It was completely unexpected and about 30 protestors were able to cut the padlock on the 'security' gate, enter the compound and roam freely about the grounds. Protest messages were spraypainted on the buildings. Some documents were found in a signals processing building, including a GCSB manual which clearly showed that the GCSB base was an integrated element of UKUSA [now Five Eyes]. No arrests.



Tangimoana main building after the protestors invaded the base

# *Anti-Bases campaign: De-Fencing New Zealand*



*High security at Tangimoana.*

# 'Spy-base' manual taken

WELLINGTON (PA) — Protesters say they have taken a large operating manual from the Government's Defence Communications Unit at Tangimoana, between Foxton and Bulls, after a night break-in through the unit's security fence.

According to peace researcher Owen Wilkes, who said he had no

connection with the break-in, copies of the 150-page manual had been distributed to peace activists around the world.

The document, describing the installation and operation of Tangimoana's 73-pole direction-finding aerial, was believed to be the first manual in the world from such a spy-base to reach the protest

movement, he said.

Detective Grant Nicholls, of Palmerston North, who is handling the inquiry, said that police were treating the matter as a burglary. There were no leads so far.

Police had been told by Government agencies that the papers taken were of little importance, he said.

While the GCSB claimed "papers taken were of little importance" this was not true. Researcher Nicky Hager confirmed the 'acquired' base documents clearly demonstrated how Waihopai was totally integrated into the UKUSA [Five Eyes] operations.

**Waihopai:**



For 2 or 3 demos one of the local cops turned up on his horse and chased protestors about the base fields. However, it quickly became apparent that although he could easily catch up with offenders there was nothing else he could do while he remained on his horse! *Photo: Budyong Hill*

**20 November 1990:** International activists from Fiji, the Philippines and Australia visit Waihopai on an anti-bases ANZ tour organised by ABC. They also visited Black Birch Ridge and the American Base at Harewood Airport. In the picture below, some of the visitors have concealed their faces from their homeland authorities.

## bases tour ber,1990

Most rewarding for several of the women was our escape from the male-dominated tour to visit the former sites of the Waihopai Women's Camps. The power that was generated amongst us as we gathered around the fireplace was a buzz! Together and individually we have been empowered as women.

Moving to Christchurch we visited Harewood and gathered for a tour of secret Christchurch. At the public meeting we heard first hand the experiences and struggles of our new found friends from throughout the Pacific. An impromptu evaluation session provided an important opportunity to absorb some of the week's events, and all who were open to the experiences learnt heaps.

I will remember this Tour more for the little impromptu things that happened along the way, than for the more structured Base visits. The visit to the women's camp, the Gulf protest in Blenheim, the evaluation session and pub visits were all more or less spontaneous, and enriched all who were there.

I would like to acknowledge the participation of Moana Kohu on this tour. Moana's challenge to the Peace Movement is to support Maori struggles. Moana informed us that "if (we) are not part of the solution (we) are part of the problem". Moana's challenge was essentially one of respect and active support for each other's struggles.

Well, that was my view of the Tour, it was great!

*Sheila Cameron, with support and contributions from Alex McMillan, Becky Bates, Zohi de Ishtar and Moana Kohu.*



A sign proclaiming the presence of the military was transformed into an anti-Gulf war statement. Participants also discovered a sign listing actions which were offences under US Federal and military law- confirmation that the US enjoys de facto sovereignty in its Christchurch base.



A tour of secret Christchurch included a fact-finding visit to the SIS district office. There didn't seem to be anyone in.



Balaclavas were indicative of temperature rather than of pro-Rabuka inclinations.

Balaclavas were indicative of temperature rather than of pro-Rabuka inclinations.

# TOUCHING THE BASES TOUR

November 1990:

At the end of 1990 ABC organised a tour of military/intelligence related sites across Aotearoa/NZ. Funding assisted the participation of several activists from various Pacific locations, including the Philippines, Fiji, Bougainville, and Australia. Very cold weather was a challenge for Pacific visitors, including a retreat down Black Birch Ridge with snow in the offing. [We should note the assistance of some concerned constabulary.]

On the previous page is an excerpt from 'Peacelink', the national peace movement magazine that was published in the 1980s and 1990s. The extract indicates the occasionally fraught relationship between the 'Bearded Patriarchs' of ABC and some of the women from the Waihopai women's camp.

## Protesters face freezing ascent

Police and staff at Black Birch were concerned today for the safety of the protesters who planned to walk up to the observatory.

Ted Rafferty, speaking from Black Birch this morning, said weather conditions were atrocious with a light dusting of snow, 30-knot winds and freezing temperatures.

The protesters faced a four-hour climb up to the observatory and Mr Rafferty said he was quite concerned for their safety and wellbeing.

"Conditions are very poor even for experienced hikers," said Mr Rafferty, who added it could be difficult to take people down off the mountain if they got into trouble.

Similar concerns were expressed this morning by the police, who feared the visit had the potential to turn into a search and rescue operation.

Detective Sergeant Wayne Stringer said he was particularly concerned about how some of the Pacific Island visitors, who were not used to such cold conditions, would cope.

Mr Stringer was planning to walk up with the protesters while other officers were to travel to the observatory in a four-wheel drive vehicle.

The road to the observatory runs through private land and could technically be closed to the visitors.

However, the police would not favour such a move in case it prompted the visitors to try climbing across country, in which case they might soon be in trouble.

A small group of the protesters gathered at the Waihopai Valley satellite communications base yesterday afternoon to demand its closure.

The 35 people included New Zealanders from all over the country, Australians, Filipinos and Pacific Islanders. Some of the overseas members were in New Zealand for a peace conference held recently in the North Island but had also planned to take part in the Anti Bases Campaign protest tour because its purpose has international implications.

The aim of the eight day tour, which began in Auckland on November 15, is to focus attention on "nuclear free" New Zealand's foreign military ties. One of the organisers, Murray Horton, of Christchurch, said that while this country claimed to be nuclear free and out of Anzus, the continued operation of bases like that at Waihopai indicated the opposite.

He said the issue of foreign military bases was one which affected many Asia-Pacific countries, hence the support from overseas. The group was joined by about 12 Blenheim people yesterday.

The protest at Waihopai was low key. Carrying banners proclaiming their mission, the group walked

up the drive to the main gates. A police presence, including 14 from Nelson and about four from Blenheim, ensured that they went no further. Various members of the group spoke for about an hour before they turned and walked away.

The Anti Bases Campaign has as its goal the closure not only of the bases at Waihopai Valley and Tangimoana, but also the Black Birch observatory and the US Navy and Air Force base at Harewood, Christchurch.

Mr Horton said the protest tour was delayed until after the election so the new government could be "confronted with our demand that New Zealand break all Anzus ties." The group has already protested at Tangimoana and on Monday of this week members were taken on a tour of "Secret Wellington". They plan to leave Blenheim for Christchurch tomorrow and on Saturday will tour the US military base at Harewood.

Some of the anti bases protesters display their message outside the entrance to the Waihopai Valley satellite communications base yesterday afternoon.

Photo Jacqui Gates



Marlborough Express November 21st '90

**19-20 January 1991:** Protest focused on Gulf War intelligence ties with the Pentagon got good support in Blenheim. In a night raid on the base 25 people threw paint bombs at the domes and blockaded a van of workers. Isabelle Teresa and Fergus Wheeler were arrested for breach of the peace then later released with banning orders.

On Sunday morning after the protest 2 people from the Canterbury University Peace Group crossed the [GCSB] field to get some photos of the paint on the dome. One was thrown to the ground by an aggressive policeman who came out of the inner area. When the activist took the police officer's photo he was assaulted, and both students were threatened with arrest. The students stood firm. The situation was resolved when cooler heads – on both sides – arrived.

**6-7 June 1992:** ABC organise a *Radical Activist* meeting Governor's Bay, Christchurch.

**The weekend activist meeting brought together a number of activists from groups across the country, including environmental reps, members of unemployed workers organisations and others. Names and photographs omitted here as some might prefer to remain anonymous.**

**13-15 November, 1992:** 30 people, including a large contingent from the Canterbury University Peace Group, camped at a new site 10 km past the base. Protestors walked around the base, noting more cameras installed – some with little screen washers on them! [In previous demos cameras had been disabled by throwing cow shit on them.] Fired off a few sky rockets late Sat night in the rain and superglued all the accessible locks, painted some signs.

**28-30 Jan 1994:** Eighty people camp at Wairau River site. Visited the base on Friday night. Major action when 9 were arrested for breaking into the base on the Saturday night. Warren Thomson and Matthew Kidson charged with intentional damage. People demonstrated their opposition to the base by deliberately diving through a hole cut in both the security and electric fences and straight into the arms of the constabulary. On the Sunday morning people walked onto the land to plant a garden, then 19 women and men stood naked in front of the security gate with U-N-C-O-V-E-R T-H-E B-A-S-E painted on their bodies. [See photo at the introduction to this booklet.]

Matt and Warren were charged with wilful damage and the police boss wanted them kept in the cells. "We were given the choice of sharing a cell, and together we settled down with plenty of blankets [wearing light clothes]. We were given coffee; no food available because of the hour. Rather surprisingly officers came late at night and processed us, probably because of the intervention of the liaison officer" [Warren]. The other seven who went through the fences were later discharged without conviction.



The nine sitting were those arrested, January 1994.



## Nine Waihopai base protesters arrested

NINE protesters were arrested on Saturday night after they broke into the Waihopai communications base west of Blenheim.

Two were charged with wilful damage after a wire mesh perimeter fence was cut. They were held at Blenheim police station overnight and freed yesterday.

Seven were charged with breach of the peace. All nine are to appear in Blenheim District Court on February 15.

The two-day protest ended yesterday with some of the group pa-

rating naked outside the perimeter fence with slogans painted on their bodies.

Group spokesman Nicky Hager said the protest was symbolic because security had been increased at the base recently in a bid to keep people in the dark about its operations.

Protesters believed satellite information received at the station was being used to help the United States exert global control.

"If New Zealanders knew what was going on at Waihopai they

DOMINION 3/1/94 P3  
wouldn't support it," Mr Hager said.

The Government should lift the veil of secrecy which had surrounded the base since it opened in 1989, Mr Hager said.

A police spokesman said the 60-strong group had initially been quiet. Most were from out of town.

Before the fence-cutting incident, Nelson MP John Blincoe supported the group's protest, saying international circumstances had changed and it was time to take a fresh look at the station. — NZPA

26-27 Jan 1994: Another weekend *Radical Activist meeting* held in Picton



Christchurch Airport: Warren Thomson, Moana Cole, Melanie Thomson, Ciaron O'Reilly. Protest at Harewood open day, 1994, against links to Pine Gap spy base.

7/8/94



By MATT CONWAY

MOANA COLE and Ciaron O'Reilly are led away after the break-in

**K**IWI peace activist Moana Cole, jailed for a year in 1991 for attacking an American B-52 bomber primed for Gulf War action, was yesterday arrested for trespass at the United States Air Force Base in Christchurch.

Ms Cole (25), and Australian Ciaron O'Reilly, members of the Ploughshares peace movement, targeted a hangar used to service Starlifter planes which carry intelligence information to and from Australian-based US spy bases.

## Activists raid US base

One of their placards read: "Harewood — A Pit Stop For The US War Machine".

Supported by 30 banner-carrying demonstrators from the Anti Bases Campaign, the pair marked the anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by entering the base and spray-painting a "nuclear blast shadow" on the ground.

They stuck pictures of vapourised Japanese bomb vic-

tims to the hangar walls before kneeling in prayer. "These shadows are in memory of the innocent civilians cremated by the nuclear bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," Ms Cole said.

"We are brought here today by the US government's refusal to repent for those bombings and to resist the nuclear assembly line."

Anti Bases campaigner Bob

Leonard said the Starlifter stopovers are made under a "neither confirm nor deny policy" — highlighting a loophole in our no-nukes legislation.

Police arrested Ms Cole and Mr O'Reilly, who were jailed for 12 months for their part in the B-52 sabotage at the Griffiss Air Force Base in New York State 3½ years ago.

They were bailed to appear in court tomorrow.



Mark Roach and Wellington activists used enormous signs in their anti-bases activities in the 1990s



**Jan 1995:** Four arrested – including 3 people acting as police liaison – after a sit-in in front of the inner gates with protestors padlocking the gates. Warren Thomson bolted through the security gate when it was opened by the base personnel and was quickly tackled by the police. Although the protestors had decided this would not be an arrestable action they supported the arrestee, but police also arrested people designated as police liaison who tried to discuss the episode with officers. Alan Cumming took a stand against this breach of well-established protocol and insisted on being permitted to walk to the main gate and present a letter of complaint to a senior GCSB official.





Above: Wellington ABC supporters action at the airport

**27-28 Jan 1996:** 6 people arrested on charges of trespass at Waihopai after deliberately walking up base road towards the inner fence. At June trial, 3 convicted, one got diversion and two cases were dismissed because warning or ID was not clear.





Two arrestees chained to the fence while the police round up the others

Below: One defendant's explanation to the defence lawyer:

Herein my account of the events surrounding the arrest for trespass at the Waihopai spy base.

On Friday 26th January, about 9.00pm, a dozen people left our camp in my van and another vehicle. After travelling less than 3 km a police car (almost certainly posted to watch us) pulled out from the opposite side of the road. We proceeded for several minutes until we were on the Waihopai Valley Road heading for the base. Three police cars then raced up behind us with all lights flashing and we pulled over to the side of the road.

Police officers approached us, checked vehicle WOF and Regn (no problem). I got out of my vehicle and an officer asked to see my driver's licence which I produced. Other officers then talked to all the passengers asking for their names and addresses. There was some argument whether in fact everyone had to do this, but my impression is that the situation was not too tense. Apparently those in the van (and probably those in the car following us) were warned that going on the base would result in arrest. While this was going on in the van I spoke to a constable and to Sgt Verry who made it clear that I would be arrested if I went on the base.

After about 15 minutes we went on to the base accompanied by some police. We stopped on the road, looked at the base and talked about it before going back to our camp.

On Saturday 27 January, while we were meeting to discuss our protest, a liaison officer DC Graeme Collinge of Wellington) came to visit us. He told us that the Blenheim Police were not going to allow us on the base but that he would talk to them and see if they would allow us to walk up to the security fence (Which has always been permitted before). Later he returned and told us they would not change their decision and he was disappointed by their attitude.

We departed from the camp and went to the base around 12 noon. There were about 24 protestors. We again looked over the base from the road, talked, ate lunch, and played cricket on the road. DC Collinge asked a Blenheim DS to request that we be allowed on the base. However it took so long for any clear response to come back that we packed up and went back to camp.

At a subsequent meeting we decided that we would not allow the police decision to restrict our entry onto the land to go unchallenged. Five people who were prepared to be arrested planned to go over the road gate and walk straight up the internal road to the base. About twenty other people were prepared to fan out in the surrounding field (on base land) and support us.

We arrived at the base shortly before 4.00pm. It was clear the police expected something like the activity we had planned. Three vehicles were drawn up across the internal road, with about a dozen police spread in front of them. A dog and dog-handler stood nearby. After a quick gathering we went ahead and five of us climbed the fence beside the gate. We approached the police who were about 15 metres inside the gate. We had only gone a few paces when each of us was confronted by a police officer and arrested.

I was approached by an officer who said "You are under arrest!" (I think it was Const Armstrong but have forgotten) He pulled my arms behind my back and handcuffed them with plastic cuffs. I asked what I was arrested for and he said "Trespass". I was put in a van with three other protestors.



Saturday, 27 Jan, 1996. Warren, Bob, Katherine and Amy in the van. Successful negotiations have just taken place to remove Katherine's steel handcuffs. [Note slogan on the van: 'Safer Communities together']

Jan 17-19 1997: Waihopai annual protest. MPs Rod Donald and Marion Hobbs attended [their requests to visit the base had been turned down]. 20 protestors - 10 men and 10 women - arrested for trespass. The atmosphere at the Blenheim Police Station was very relaxed as the 'prisoners' mingled and patiently lined up to get their details and fingerprints recorded. Defence later by Auckland QC Peter Williams unsuccessful.

## Conviction for Waihopai 20

**BLENHEIM** — Nineteen of the 20 protesters charged with trespassing at the Waihopai Valley satellite base in Marlborough were convicted and discharged when they appeared in the Blenheim District Court yesterday.

The twentieth, Warren Hugh Thomson, aged 47, a teacher, of Christchurch, was convicted and fined \$300 because he had previous convictions of a similar nature.

The defendants had sought to be discharged without conviction on the basis that their actions had not truly been criminal.

Their counsel, Peter Williams, QC, said the protesters had been morally motivated to show their concern about the base. There had been no violence or damage to property.

— But Judge Pat Grace said that, despite these arguments, he did not consider it appropriate to discharge the protesters without conviction.

— NZPA



Above: Steve Dixon, Mark Roach, Kathy Cave, Warren Thomson, inside the police van, January 18, 1997. Kathy's sister Julie and William Nash part view.

Below: Protestors in the women's cell



# Waihopai protesters convicted of trespass

ALL but one of the 20 protesters charged with trespassing at the Waihopai Valley satellite base in Marlborough were convicted and discharged without further penalty in Blenheim District Court yesterday.

The remaining defendant, Warren Hugh Thomson, 47, teacher, of Christchurch, was convicted and fined \$300 because he had previous convictions of a similar nature.

The defendants had sought to be discharged without conviction on the basis that their actions had not truly been criminal.

They were: Stephen Roger Dixon, 30, community worker, Wellington; Hugh Gordon Cave, 25, student, Upper Moutere; William Nash, 20, student, Palmerston North; Gregory John Jones, 45, community worker, Christchurch; Anthony John Suddaby, 41, taxi driver, Christchurch; Yani Johanson, 21, public servant, Christchurch; Mark John Roach, 37, exhibitions manager, Wellington; Robert Anthony Hanlon, 26, chef, Wellington; Hamish Lyndon Noel Bruce, 27, technical engineer, Ashburton; Melanie Lorna Thomson, 23, student, Christchurch; Christine Lesley, 69, retired, Wellington; Donna Marie Wall, 29, apple worker, Lower Moutere; Katherine Ruth Cave, 29, student, Lower Moutere; Julie Mary Cave, 27, student, Upper Moutere; Marie Frances Leadbeater, 51, social worker, Auckland; Katrina Mary McPherson, 28, health worker,

Wellington; Gwendolyn Jessica Struik, 65, retired, Nelson; Emily Jane Lees, 24, sickness beneficiary, Takaka; Anna Karen Fenwick, 25, policy analyst, Auckland.

Defence counsel Peter Williams, QC, said protest was a legitimate part of society and the Waihopai protesters had been morally motivated to show their concern about the base. He said there was no violence or damage to property during the action.

But in his decision Judge Pat Grace said despite these arguments he did not consider it appropriate to discharge the protesters without conviction.

He said they had deliberately gone beyond what was lawful in their efforts to draw attention to the issue.

He said the legal system was not the appropriate forum in which to advance political philosophies.

Spokesman for the protesters Mark Roach said later that the decision would not stop their campaign.

"Most people will be back because we're not in this for the short haul. The Government Communications Security Bureau will have to come out of the closet."

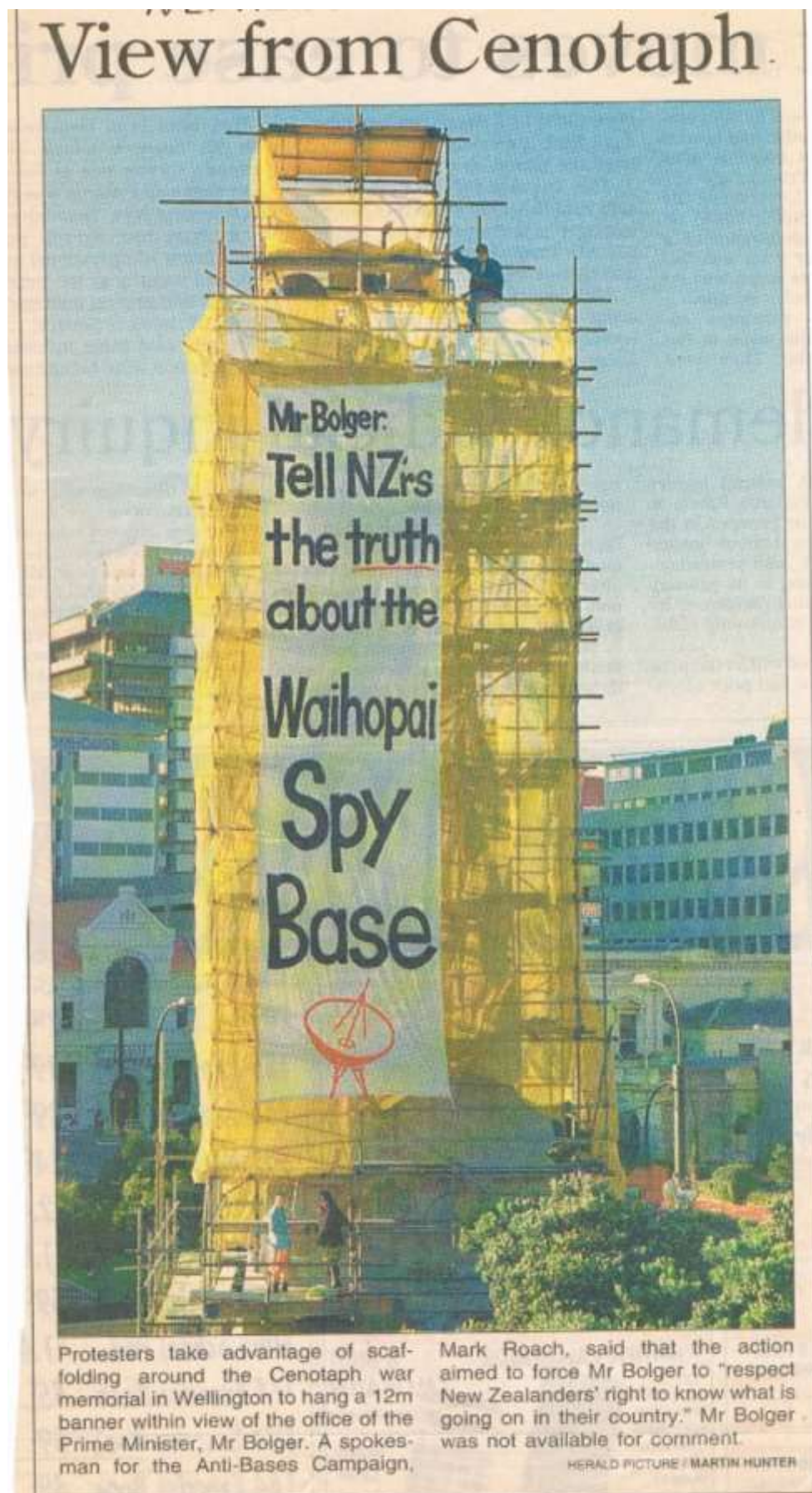
He said support for their campaign was growing and it would not be long before change came.

Mr Williams, who defended the protesters without charge, said he would remain interested in the Waihopai issue. — NZPA

The trial defence by one of Aoteroa/NZ's leading lawyers attracted a lot of publicity but there were some differences of opinion between Peter Williams who aimed to get the defendants off and some defendants who wanted to argue the criminality of the base. In the end the judge shut down any 'political' submissions.

Dec-Jan 1997-98: ABC organised a NZ tour by Duncan Campbell, a leading rights campaigner in U.K and a well-known critic of the spy system.

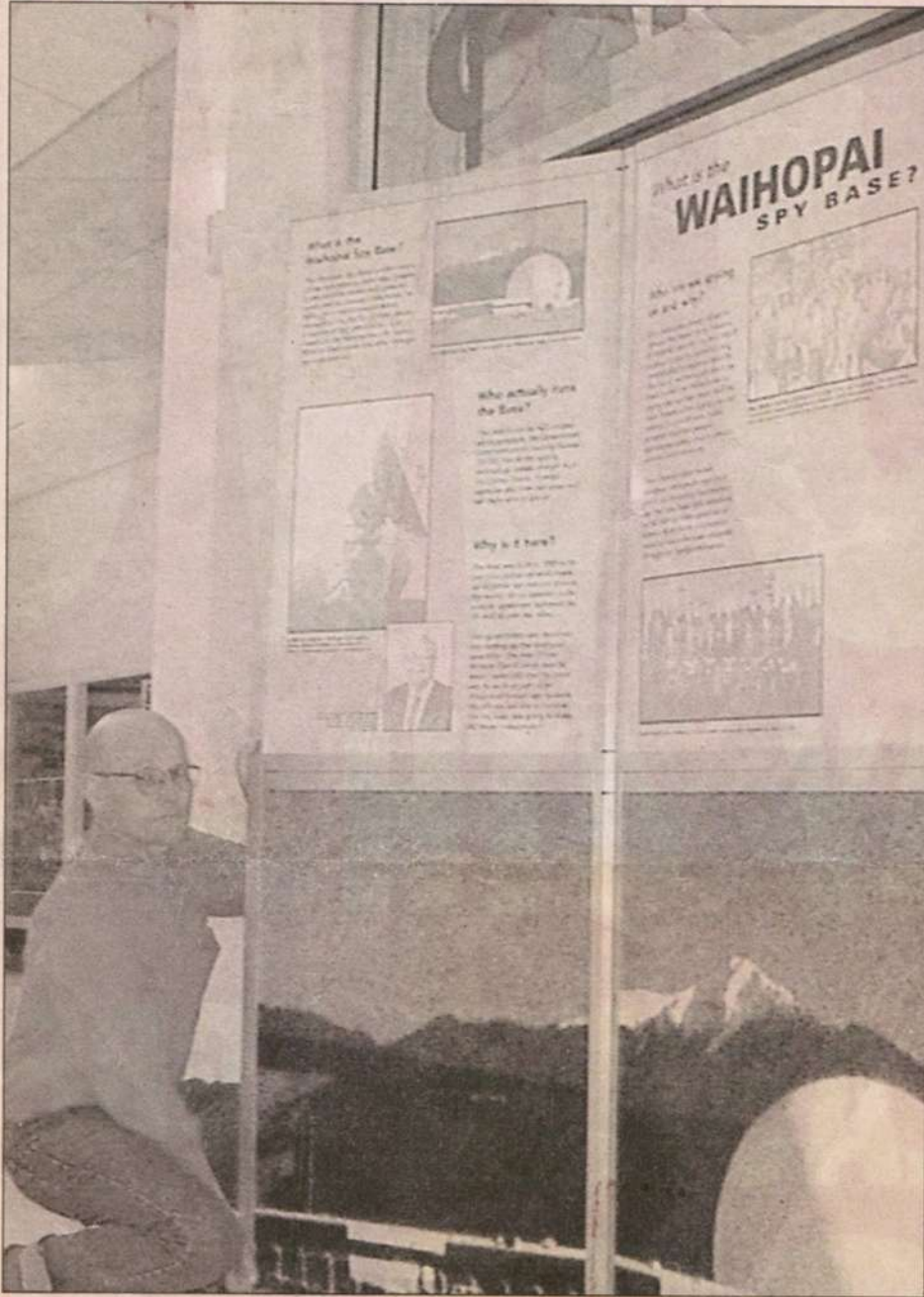
Another dramatic protest by Wellington activists:



28 January 1997; Wellington action. [NZ Herald]

Mar 16 Express  
3.24.98

# Anti-base display finds a new home



A display about the Waihopai "spy base" — evicted from the public library last week — has been put up in Centrepoint Mall.

Marlborough spokesman for the anti-bases coalition Evin Wood said the display would stay until

next Thursday. A controversy erupted after the display had been in the library a few days. Librarian Glenn Webster took it down because complaints from people had said it was "too political".

In the late 1990s, a large professionally made tri-panel display board was made and couriered around the country by Mark Roach to explain what Waihopai does. It received mixed reactions!

# PAST TO FUTURE

In the 1960s there was an international outbreak of youth rebellion against the politics and warmongering of the day. In Aotearoa/NZ, protest against the Vietnam War and the imminent dangers of nuclear war fueled a national tide of activism that linked past radical movements with renewed demands to make this country, and the world, a better place. [For an excellent description of the times and events, see Maire Leadbeater's book 'Peace, Power & Politics.].

Radical protests frequently erupted in the seventies, eighties and nineties, some resulting in notable successes; for example, in nuclear free legislation, the breaking of South African apartheid, significant advances in the place of women and Maori.

This collection of articles, media excerpts, photos and comment, aims at preserving the history of one stream of radical of protest action. It has been motivated by two things: one is the regrets of the compiler that he never fully appreciated the human stories of this country's pre-WWII activists, and the other is the hope that the commitments of a dying generation of activists are not lost to a new generation facing some of the biggest challenges in human history.

This booklet is part one of two; another collection covering the years 2000 onwards is being compiled in 2026. For both editions, the story is not considered completed. If anyone has comments, stories, photos or media material they think important, please forward these to ABC. Significant contributions, comment, corrections etc could be appended in part two.

A big thank you to all who contributed to the Scrapbook. And an even bigger thank you to those who put themselves on the line in the causes that ABC believes in.

Warren Thomson, for ABC.

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