

## **Short biographies of speakers at 5<sup>th</sup> Quaker Penal Reform Seminar held at Quaker Acres in Whanganui 28<sup>th</sup> February - 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2015.**

**Alison D** is a mother and grandmother who became addicted to alcohol later in life and now enjoys remission from the disease. She attends Kapiti Quaker Meeting and speaks with experience from both sides of the fence: she visited Arohata women's prison for about two years with Alcoholics Anonymous before serving 14 months of a two year four month sentence there herself. Today she will share some of her reflections on addiction and prison life. She looks back without acrimony, appreciating the power and fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), and the help prison staff and Quaker visitors to control her addiction.

**Coralea Easter** is currently the District Manager for Whanganui/Taranaki Community Corrections. Her career began in mental health and then with people with disabilities. Twenty-three years ago she entered the Criminal Justice environment as a Probation Officer, and rose steadily through the ranks. Her particular interest lies in enhancing the safe and ethical management of high-risk offenders in the community. She has a post-graduate qualification in Applied Social Science.

**Mike Hinton** is the General Manager of Restorative Justice Aotearoa, and has been working as a restorative justice facilitator for 15 years. Before then he spent 20 years in the military. He was instrumental in developing restorative justice services in one of the largest courts in New Zealand, the Manukau District Court, as well as servicing courts in Papakura, Pukekohe and Auckland. Recently he featured in a documentary about restorative justice produced by Maori Television. He would like you to know that he is 'still enjoying the fast paced world of change that Restorative Justice is experiencing at the moment'.

**Alan L** is another person willing to share his experience of life in prison, having spent many years behind bars in this country. On looking back, he summarises what he has to say with the words 'shift from attitude to gratitude, and from dark to light'. At short notice he has agreed to step in to fill the spot vacated by someone else whose commitment to a new job obliges her to work on the seminar week-end. We thank him for being so forthcoming, and look forward eagerly to his contribution.

**Murray Short** is indeed a 'weighty' Friend. After completing degrees at Victoria University, including MA (Applied) Social Work, he worked for 10 years as a Maori Community Officer and Probation Officer before moving into a managerial position in the Department of Justice and then Department for Courts to lead the Probation, Fines Collection and Courts services. He is currently on the Board of the Robson/Hanan Trust.

**Kim Workman QSO** is of Ngati Kahungunu and Rangitaane descent. His State Service career spans the Police, the Office of the Ombudsman, State Services Commission, Department of Maori Affairs and Ministry of Health. From 1989 – 1993 he was head of the Prison Service. After that for eight years he was National Director of Prison Fellowship. During his time the Fellowship made history by establishing a) the first faith-based prison unit in the British Commonwealth, b) a mentoring programme for released prisoners, and c) the principal provider of in-prison restorative justice services.

In 2005, Kim was the joint recipient (with Jackie Katounas) of the International Prize for Restorative Justice. In 2006 he joined Major Campbell Roberts of the Salvation Army to launch the 'Rethinking Crime and Punishment Strategy'. That project now comes under the Robson Hanan Trust, of which Kim is a trustee. Then from 2008 – 2011 he served a three-year term as a Families Commissioner. In 2013 he became an Adjunct Research Fellow at the

Institute of Criminology, Victoria University of Wellington, and currently he is about to take up a Stout Fellowship there a) to document the history of Māori in the criminal justice system and b) to examine the relationship between punitiveness and neoliberalism.

**James Young-Drew** represents the *YouthJustice* organisation that has particulare concerns about the punitive focus of our society on young offeders. He is a 25year old Law Clerk at a Wellington-based law firm. He has a law degree from Victoria University of Wellington, and currently is studying towards the bar exam. As a student, Jamie was heavily involved in a community law education programme directed at schools and young offenders. He has spent the last 18 months working with youth in Italy, and returned to New Zealand at the end of 2014 to resume work in Wellington.