Introduction

In December 2016, three New Zealand community organisations were successful in their bid to host the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex (ILGA) World Conference in Wellington, New Zealand. They were Intersex Trust Aotearoa New Zealand, Rainbow Youth and Tiwhanawhana Trust (the Host Rōpū).

In bringing ILGA World to Wellington the Host Rōpū provided the opportunity for;

- Increased participation by New Zealand, Australian and Pacific LGBTIQ+ groups, in particular, indigenous and youth, at this international forum.
- ILGA World to experience, witness and learn from New Zealand and Pacific experiences.

The conference also celebrated important milestones;

- the 1st World Conference held in Oceania
- the 40th anniversary of ILGA World
- the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising (and along with it, the birth of the modern gay rights movement in the west).

This report reflects what was achieved by the Host Rōpū, how it was done and why. Though brief, it provides a combined historical, pictorial and financial overview. Included is a special section on the work achieved by the Host Rōpū to participants from the Pacific. It is hoped this report provides a useful overview for ILGA members.

The 2019 ILGA World Conference was a resounding success notwithstanding the tragedies in Christchurch. It was achieved because of the generous support in kind, in sponsorship, in funding and advice from many sectors of New Zealand society. All this from a journey that began in 2016.

Wellington City, the Mayor of Wellington Justin Lester, the Cross Party NZ Parliamentary Rainbow Network through MP’s Jan Lo-gie, Louisa Wall and Chris Bishop, and the New Zealand Rainbow community can justifiably be proud of the role they played in the success of this event. To everyone that participated in this event, whether attending the conference or providing support or a service, thank you, ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.
ILGA is a worldwide federation of over 1400 civil organisations whose common goal is the pursuit of human rights based on sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics. In particular communities and individuals who face discrimination and stigma.

The ILGA World Conference is the premier gathering place for its members.

Timeline

2016

- March, ILGA Oceania Wellington NZ
- June, ITANZ, Tiwhanawhana Trust, Rainbow Youth form Host Ropu to bid for ILGA World Conference,
- Tourism NZ (TNZ), Mayor of Wellington and Wellington Regional Economic Agency support bid
- July, TNZ and Chrissy Witoko Trust finance Host Ropu travel costs to bid for conference in Bangkok
- December, Host Ropu successful with bid to host next ILGA World Conference, October 2018
- December, Wellington2019 website opens

2017

- March, negotiations begin ILGA and Host Ropu
- May, World Conference date changes from Oct 2018 to Mar 2019
- June-September, Host Ropu conduct professional conference organiser tender
- September, Host Ropu confirm Avenues Event Management (AEM) as Social Programme Conference Organiser (PCO)
- October, ILGA Host Ropu Service Level Agreement completed
- October, Michael Fowler Centre venue officially confirmed
- November, TNZ support Host Ropu to attend ILGA Europe conference, Warsaw

2018

- March, AEM confirmed as ILGA PCO
- May, conference logo confirmed
- June, conference website & registrations open
- August, ILGA site visit to Wellington
- Host Ropu/ILGA Conference launch,
- ILGA Oceania, Apia, Samoa
- December, Human Rights Day Launch, Kingdom of the Netherlands / Host Ropu collaboration

2019

- March, ILGA World comes to Wellington

Three years from inception to reality was the planning period for the Host Ropu to stage the ILGA World Conference. Success was built upon a framework of strong values, committed organisations and people. Crucial was the early support of Tourism New Zealand and the Sustainable Conference Programme.

The Journey 2016-2019

The Journey

© 2019 Host Ropu

Ara Waka  Journeying across oceans
People and communities gathering here and moving forward together
Celebrates migration and movement

Whakapapa  Celebrating our histories
ILGA - 40th anniversary
Cultural and community histories

Ngā kete  Sharing diverse knowledge
opportunities to share information, debate & discuss
Baskets of knowledge

Whakatupu  Growth and Prosperity
Where we go from here

Conference logo

Vigil for Christchurch, Basin Reserve

30 July 2019
How it worked

The 2019 ILGA World Conference was a collaboration between ILGA and the Host Rōpū... 500 people registered for 5 days of activities. The Host Rōpū, started each day with a call for unity and respect, then notices before handover to ILGA who managed general plenaries before breakout sessions. At the conclusion of daytime activities, the Host Rōpū provided dinner for all participants and a social programme. The mentorship provided by Tourism NZ and Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA) to the Host Rōpū was of inestimable value. They stimulated solutions for Host Rōpū concerns about hosting a successful world conference organised from a distance and locally.

Thank you to Jean Hendry/Sherylee Eyles (Tourism NZ) and Claire Martin (WREDA).

### The ILGA World Conference Programme

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 July</td>
<td></td>
<td>The ILGA World Conference Programme</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Monday 18 March**
- **9:30-10:00** Preconference and plenary meetings at Michael Fowler Centre
- **10:00-10:45** Preconference and plenary meetings at Michael Fowler Centre
- **11:00-11:45** Whakatau to begin the day
- **11:45-12:30** Co-Secretaries General video & keynote
- **12:30-14:00** Keynote: The ILGA World Conference Programme

**Tuesday 19 March**
- **09:30-10:15** Whakatau to begin the day
- **10:15-12:30** Whakatau to begin the day
- **12:30-14:00** Keynote: The ILGA World Conference Programme

**Wednesday 20 March**
- **09:30-10:15** Whakatau to begin the day
- **10:15-12:30** Whakatau to begin the day
- **12:30-14:00** Keynote: The ILGA World Conference Programme

**Thursday 21 March**
- **09:30-10:15** Whakatau to begin the day
- **10:15-12:30** Whakatau to begin the day
- **12:30-14:00** Keynote: The ILGA World Conference Programme

**Friday 22 March**
- **09:30-10:15** Whakatau to begin the day
- **10:15-12:30** Whakatau to begin the day
- **12:30-14:00** Keynote: The ILGA World Conference Programme

### 30 July 2019
How it worked (cont)

Securing a local Conference Organiser was the solution for the Host Rōpū’s dilemma. Following a tender process issued by the Host Rōpū, Avenues Event Management (AEM) was selected to assist put together the logistical information required by ILGA, organise the Social Programme, and seek sponsors. Later AEM was commissioned by ILGA to organise the material requirements of the conference programme, and organise accommodation and immigration needs once participants had registered. Both tasks were incredibly difficult and AEM responded magnificently. Special thanks to Melanie Walker, Chris Evans, Charlotte Carr and others from the AEM team.

The task of fundraising and sponsorship then became the biggest challenge. In 2016, the budget estimated was approx. $185,000. In 2019, over $208,000 had been committed by conference end.

The Host Rōpū owes a special thanks of gratitude to key people that lobbied for funding on its behalf to the corporate and government sectors; Dame Fran Wilde, David Rutherford and the Hon. Grant Robertson. Melanie and the AEM team again deserve a special mention for their role in sponsorship management, accounts receivable/payable and financial records.

Over three years the Host Rōpū worked hard at building strong relationships with all the organisations and people on which success for the conference would be based. Hard work which resulted in a hugely successful and satisfying world conference.

Listed below are the organisations that met the cost of the Social Programme and the Host Rōpū operations.

Below is a high level analysis of the funds received and how they were applied.

### Social Programme and Host Rōpū funders and sponsors

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Funds In</th>
<th>Funds Out</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Government 34%</td>
<td>Dinner 46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Authorities 17%</td>
<td>Host Rōpū Management Costs 6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community 0%</td>
<td>Conference Organiser Fees 33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate 43%</td>
<td>Community &amp; special events 30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trusts, Philanthropy 0%</td>
<td>Venue expenses (extra) 7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Funds were received through Tiwhanawhana Trust, ITANZ or Avenues Event Management.

All disbursements were accounted for through Avenues Event Management.

30 July 2019
The ILGA World Conference in Wellington was a significant opportunity for many countries across Oceania to be represented at this event. Thus it became a goal of the Host Rōpū to develop a proposal to provide scholarships for people, especially those from the Pacific, to attend the ILGA World Conference.

Diplomatic missions were targeted to fund this proposal. Following consultation, a special human rights forum for Pacific and Indigenous Rainbow people from Oceania was included. The budget proposed a target of $43,000 for 14 people.

The proposal was enthusiastically picked up by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands and they became its champion. Their support provided a generous base to which funds were added from Germany, the United States of America, Australia and the United Kingdom.

Over $50,000 in funding was granted. This enabled:
- Registrations, travel and accommodation for 16 participants to the ILGA World Conference from the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Fiji, Kiribati, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Australia.
- A Pacific LGBTI Human Rights Forum attended by 70 people. The Host Rōpū scholars were joined by others from the region who were sponsored by ILGA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, New Zealand; among them representatives from Palau and Nuie. Takatāpui and Pacific diaspora from New Zealand completed the attendance.
- Special guests of the Forum were diplomats and staff from the Netherlands, USA, UK and Germany, COC Nederland and United Nations Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity, Victor Madrigal-Borloz.
- Human Rights Statements were developed by the forum (see next page)

Funding for this initiative was received through ILGA, Avenues Event Management and Tiwhanawhana Trust (UK dealt directly with provider).

An analysis of the funds received and how they were used are shown here.
## Country statements

### Aotearoa New Zealand

**Barriers**
- Own stories, own future, own history
  - Tōku reo, tōku oho-oho – Our voice, our future
- Contribution
- Future
- Equality, Equity
  - Tōku reo Tōku oho-oho My voice
  - My future Our voice Our future

**American Samoa**

- Capacity building – providing people with the skills necessary to do the work
- Funding – providing people with the resources necessary to do the work
- Data – capturing our lived experiences so we can organise
- Link to USA (application of laws) – name/ gender change, marriage equality

### Cook Islands

- Seek support from ILGA as we seek/fight for the decriminalisation of the LGBTQTI Crimes Bill Act (Act 1969 Sec 154 & 155 – establish “indecent act between men punishable 5 years”, “consensual sodomy – 7 years”)

### Fiji

- Implementation of constitutional protection of Fijians with sexual and diverse needs
  - E.g. 2015 – Case of Application for Legal Gender Recognition
  - E.g. – generalisation of classification of national data – crimes, census, health services
- Marry, adopt, inherit
- Personal and economic security
- Do not harm
- Acceptance of LGBTQI identity

**Statement:** To review and reform national policies and legislation to be consistent with the Constitutional non-discriminatory provisions on protection on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity and expression

### French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Wallis and Futuna, Vanuatu

- Recognise the need to access to special financial resources to promote LGBTQI programmes for small Pacific island countries and territories
- Improving Pacific islands cultural identities’ visibility in international human rights forums
- Facilitate inclusion of SOGIESC issues in Pacific countries and territories’ public policies development

### Papua New Guinea

**Barriers:**
- Legislation
- Religion
- Donor funders with expectation

### Pasifika Diaspora Aotearoa, USA, Nuie & Indigenous Australia

- Develop a new narrative that explains how we would like to be identified in new technology, using our old technology (culture, ancestors, language, relationships, connection) to create the new technology – way forward
- It connects to the hearts and voices of the communities, and holds the systems and its representatives accountable for two-way communication and action
- Communication whereby First People sexuality and gender diverse people are not acknowledged for their knowledge, relationship with other Indigenous peoples
- Colonial white-washing is hindering our voices and choices
- Intersectionality is causing discrimination across different identities
- Invisible narrative has silenced us in our communities
- Racism and multiple discrimination

**Language preservation is being recorded by the eyes of the colonisers and the colonist system (white saviour)**

**Cultural disrespect of Indigenous understanding of sexuality and gender diverse or rainbow people**

**Indigenous peoples’ “connections” [land, family, culture] are ignored based on colonial labelling as LGBTIQ**

**Solutions:** from deficit to strength-based approach

**We need to use technology to shape our narrative for the future**

**Empowering languages**

### No more tokenism

We need one sexuality and diverse united language

### Samoa

- Lack of laws protecting people of diverse gender and sexualities
  - Sodomy
  - Gender recognition of diverse sexualities and identities
- Language – acknowledgement
  - Access - $$/networks/people
  - Approach – intersectional/interlinkage
  - Language – acknowledgement of cultural identities
- Access – money/networks/technical assistance
- Approach – intersectional/interlinkage eg climate disaster and justice
  - Colonial reparations

### Tonga, Kiribati, Tuvalu

**We, the representatives of Tonga, Tuvalu and Kiribati SOGIESC communities recommend inclusiveness SOGIESC communities in climate justice and decision-making, and we call upon Government to do a stock take of their “Leiti, Binabinaine and Pina” peoples, this includes our issues, challenges, barriers and policies and legislations that do not count us, or recognise us!**

**Tuvalu**

- Climate change – inclusive of Pina (SOGIE) in climate justice eg they may be included in the community but their visibility as SOGISC is not recognised
  - Kiribati and Tuvalu are living example islands
  - Priority or recognising SOGISC communities on climate justice movement
  - Kiribati & Tonga

**Law and decriminalisation**
  - Religion and belief (to acceptance!)
  - Access to policies changing
  - CSO to be involved in the making of decisions
  - Access to health rights
  - Inclusive of SOGISC in humanitarian response
  - Independent Experts to be continued in position
  - Lack of $$$

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*30 July 2019 (edit change Samoa 21 August 2019)*
Kua tutuki te kaupapa. The task has been achieved. Ngā mihi nui. A big thank you!

This conference was the success for the Host Rōpū because of the support and efforts of many people and organisations. We take this last opportunity to once again thank and honour some of the many involved.

Pacific and Indigenous of Aotearoa Human Rights Forum
Thanks to all diplomatic missions for the support of this initiative, including Chile and Argentina who were present at the conference. A big thank you to Ambassador Mira Woldberg and Embassy staff from the Netherlands. Likewise Dr. Timo Bauer-Savage, LLM., Deputy Head of Mission, German Embassy; Deputy Chief of Mission, Sue Niblock and Caroline Toplis, former Cultural Affairs Specialist, United States Embassy; Ashleigh Muir, Public Affairs Manager, Australian High Commission and Helen Smith, Deputy High Commissioner, British High Commission.

Thanks to the Human Rights Commission for co-facilitating the Forum through the guidance and leadership of Equal Employment Opportunities Commissioner, Saunoamaali’i Dr Karanina Sumeo and Taine Polkington and Tuiloma Lina Samu. Tiwhanawhana Trust also co-facilitated the Forum notably through Dr Elizabeth Kerekere, Tengāruru Wīneera, Richard Tankersley and the Kapa Haka whānau.

ILGA World Conference and Social Programme. Thank you to

ILGA
Andre du Plessis and the team from Geneva, Natalia, Julia, Daniele, Senka and Paula.
Acknowledged also is former Executive Director Renato Sabbadini and outgoing World Board co-Secretary Generals, Helen Kennedy and Ruth Baldacchino, and ILGA Oceania co-Secretary Tuisina Ymania Brown.
Best wishes to incoming ILGA World Board co-Secretary Generals, Tuisina Ymania Brown and Luz Elena Aranda and other Board members.
Thanks also to the many service providers and volunteers that made the Conference hum and shine in particular:
Food & Drink
Michael Fowler Centre, Sarah Searancke Catering and Coca Cola
Parliament event, ICON Catering
ILGA Birthday Celebration @ TSB Arena, Ruth Pretty Catering
Entertainment manager, Frank Stevens AEM
All the volunteers especially the main organiser Drew Hadwen, and Social media guru Jac Lynch. Mentioned also are the people who helped connect us and ensure our key people were given the right information on time; Jessica Beyeller, Sophia Shanks, Angela Bray, Waveney Parkinson, Raewyn Tate, Whetu-Kura Bennett.
There are many more and we thank them all.

A final tribute to the Host Rōpū members and also to each of their boards and trustees respectively:

Rainbow Youth
Frances Arns, Executive Director
Toni Duder, 2IC
Duncan Mathews (former ED)

Intersex Trust Aotearoa New Zealand
Mani Bruce Mitchell, Executive Director
Tom Hamilton, Treasurer
Georgia Andrews, Chairperson

Tiwhanawhana Trust
Elizabeth Kerekere, Chair
Kevin Haunui, Deputy Chair

Where to from here?

- The next ILGA World Conference will take place in 2021 in Los Angeles, CA, United States, hosted by the It Gets Better project. Tune in to ILGA.ORG for updates. Best wishes from the Host Rōpū.
- The shape, size and needs of future ILGA World Conferences is up to its members. It is a sizable task for hosting organisations and it is hoped this report provides food for thought. We have offered recommendations separately to ILGA.
- In Oceania, continuing to strengthen cohesiveness and connections through regional meetings of ILGA, is a priority.