

Nomination for 2019 Nobel Peace Prize (joint)

Commander Robert Green (UK Navy retired) and Dr. Kate Dewes

Christchurch, Aotearoa/New Zealand.

This amazing couple has worked tirelessly for nuclear disarmament over many years. Each began their journey in the mid seventies, from very different perspectives: she as a teacher researching music about Hiroshima for her students, which led her to becoming a peace activist, and he as a disillusioned Royal Navy Commander in the wake of the Falklands war. Their story is quite extraordinary, as it weaves strands between the establishment in Britain, and a no-nuclear warships campaign from the other side of the world – an unlikely couple!

Rob and Kate met while working , from opposite sides of the planet, for an International Court of Justice ruling on the illegality of nuclear weapons in 1996.

They married in 1997, and Rob moved to Christchurch, where they formed the Disarmament and Security Centre (www.disarm.secure.org), operating from their home, lobbying and educating, writing books and travelling in the cause of nuclear disarmament. Kate was appointed to Ban Ki-Moon's advisory committee on nuclear issues, so there were many trips to the United Nations, where Rob formed close and useful links with other former military minds, like Robert McNamara and General Lee Butler. Their combined voices have been powerful in arguing against the myth of nuclear deterrence over many years.

More recently, Kate & Rob were involved in ICAN's campaign for a Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, and were in New York on the historic day in 2017 when that treaty was adopted by the General Assembly.

Equally as important as their high level networking for peace on the international stage, Kate and Rob have worked hard as educators, ensuring that Aotearoa/ New Zealand's nuclear free status is not compromised, and encouraging a raft of young educators and activists to continue their work for peace. They have diligently archived their many documents, records of meetings and protests, so that this important aspect of social history can continue to inspire others to follow in their footsteps.

It is an inspiring legacy, and ongoing from a dynamic duo who deserve to be recognised, I believe, for their outstanding commitment and clarity in presenting alternatives to the madness of nuclear weaponry, for the sake of us all.

A recent example of Rob's effectiveness in getting his message across is in his TEDxTalk, Christchurch, August 29, 2018.

With best wishes, towards justice and peace,

Jo Vallentine, Perth, Western Australia.

former Senator in Australian Federal Parliament, 1984-92