



NEW YEAR NEWSLETTER 2018

From our place to your place.

Welcome to 2018. Two months have flown by already.

We are ready to face another year on our perpetual grief journey. We all hope we can all find some peace and fortitude this year. What uncertain times? Weird weather, weird world events but still we must carry on without our loved children.

The end of the year is always a busy time and no less for The Compassionate Friends.

We in Wanganui, met in early December at the Aramoho Cemetery and decorated the lovely magnolia with small tokens in memory of our children.



The annual Worldwide Candle Lighting was held on the 2nd Sunday in December as it is each year and we commenced a global wave of candle light that went around the world remembering children who have died. We met in the peaceful and restful Logie Rose Garden.



We were thrilled some friends from Auckland travelled all the way to be with us. These friends had suffered the death of a beautiful son from cancer. They shared with us blue arm bands they had made remembering Peter who "loved fiercely"



Victoria writes

After a 15-month battle with cancer, our 18-year-old son, Peter, passed away in June 2017. Strangely, prior to him being diagnosed, Peter, had expressed he would always want to be remembered as a 'lover of life'

It was fitting then, when a friend suggested the idea of the bands and had thought of the wording **"LOVE FIERCELY FOR PETE'S SAKE"**.

For us as a family this depicted the fierce love Peter had for life and for all those around him. The play on words perfectly reflected Peter's humour and also allowed the bands to be generic for all to wear. They were a great reminder of Peter, for those that knew him, but we also wanted the bands to inspire others to notice the life they had and love those in it fiercely. Life can be too short, not to!

We hoped the bands would represent all the people you love and help keep them close to your heart. Perhaps, if we all loved a little more fiercely then the world might be a better and kinder place to live in.

We know that is what Peter would have wanted for everyone.

Love fiercely, for Pete's sake!

We will continue our casual Coffee Care and Chats...

every FIRST SATURDAY of EVERY MONTH at The YELLOW HOUSE Café in Wanganui.

"We talk about them, not because we're stuck or because we haven't moved on, but we talk about them because

we are theirs and they are ours and no passage of time will ever change that."

A quote I found somewhere... attributed to "Scribble and Crumbs"

I like the sentiment **except** for the "moved on" comment.

My hackles rise when I hear statements like 'moved on' and 'closure'

I don't intend or want to 'move on' and Simon's death has no 'closure' for me.

I am not stuck in *'the slough of despond'* to quote Pilgrim's Progress.

I grieve daily, in fact it is 10 years this week, since Simon died.

Those 10 years have raced by... and.....dragged by.... at the same time but we love to talk of him and do so daily.

My 5 year old grandson Bruno talks of Uncle Simon often. Simon's bedroom is where he plays a lot. I love to hear him say *"I'm in Uncle Simon's room Nana"*

Recently we were playing with Simon's rather outdated lego and Bruno asked me what some piece was for. *"I don't know"* I said and he replied

"That's OK, when I get to heaven I will ask him."

We in Wanganui wish all our TCF friends and contacts a positive 2018.

Keep in touch and check out the website too. www.thecompassionatefriends.org.nz

The NZ newsletter will be available on the website. This comes out bi-monthly and is an interesting and helpful read. If anyone would rather have a paper copy let me know and I can pass the details onto the South Island group responsible for the newsletter. It is free with just a koha to help with postage costs.

Aroha