

Aotearoa
New Zealand

Friends Newsletter

July 2021 Vol 103 No 3



Go forth like the toroa...

Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri | Quakers in Aotearoa New Zealand

Editorial

“The Toroa is a symbol of peace. It soars across the sea and then comes to land onshore, at its nesting place and place of regeneration.”

Stories of Belonging by Anjum Rahman

Friends at 2021 YM spoke of the spiritual home that YM afforded, of the connection that Friends felt. The YM Epistle published in this newsletter speaks of that as it also serves its purpose of keeping us connected and at home with each other.

When I first joined Quakers, it was because of an advert in the Listener which described joining Friends as like ‘coming home’. We must not lose that sense of groundedness in a tradition and a culture of peace and hope and love.

Young Friends at YM spoke of burnout through constant activism. We must support our sojourning young and active Friends to journey in pilgrimage and in their voyages of discovery. We at home can tend the home fires to which they can return and regenerate.

We all need to be like the toroa and have that home we can return to- in the words of Gelineau psalm 23, “to revive my drooping spirit”.

Brian McNamara

Aotearoa New Zealand Friends Newsletter is published bi-monthly in 2021 from March to November. Deadline for contributions for the September 2021 issue is 1 August. Word count for articles: Full page: 750 words (fewer words if there are illustrations). Double page: 1600 words (fewer with illustrations). Submissions may be edited. Please send submissions attached to email documents. Acceptable file suffixes include: .doc, .docx, .txt, .rtf, or .odt. Please avoid sending .pdf files as we can't format them to fit into the newsletter. Please send photos as files suffixed: .jpg, .tif, or .eps. High resolution images reproduce best. Wherever possible, please caption photos (first names and surnames of those in the photo), and ensure that those evident in your photo are happy to have that photo appear in the ANZ Friends Newsletter.

All email correspondence regarding the *Aotearoa New Zealand Friends Newsletter* to: newsletter.editor@quaker.org.nz. You should receive timely acknowledgement of your submitted material. Please contact us again if you do not hear from us.

All postal correspondence to: *Aotearoa New Zealand Friends Newsletter*, c/- Auckland Friends Centre, 115 Mt Eden Rd, Auckland 1024.

Advertisements: Contact newsletter.editor@quaker.org.nz for information. Annual subscriptions for non-Friends within New Zealand: \$20; overseas airmail: NZ\$35.

The Editorial Group: Brian McNamara, Marilyn Head, Anne Wicks, David Wicks and Sue Stover.

Layout for July edition: Liz Bridgeman

Contents

3. Epistle of the Yearly Meeting 2021
4. Yearly Meeting 2021 Reflections
7. Quaker Faith & Practice by Vincent Wijesingha
8. Photo Montage
10. The Jade Speaks Up Trust by Elaine Dyer and Andrea O'Hagan
10. Māori Wards by Marilyn Head and Graeme Storer
11. A Sense of Community by Christabel Jackson
12. Peace in our Meetings by Mary Rose
13. Pebbles and Boulders by Rosemary Tredgold
14. News of Friends
15. Junior Young Friends Camp by Anne Dunford
18. Covid Vaccination by Helen Kingston
19. The Quaker Handbook by Elizabeth Thompson

Quakerism and the Environment

Care for the Planet: A monograph

BY MURRAY SHORT

Friends will note that accompanying this newsletter is a printed version of the deep reflections on Quakerism and the Environment presented by Murray Short at Summer Gathering 2021. This has been produced in response to numerous requests by those who attended.

Murray's insightful analysis and discussion of the way spiritual beliefs have shaped our relationship with the environment is enlightening and timely. The editorial committee had no hesitation in recommending its publication in full as a standalone document and important contribution to the existential environmental challenges we face.

Printing and distribution: Palmerston North Friends.
REMEMBER: You can receive your newsletter through email as a PDF file. This saves paper and reduces costs. Contact newsletter.editor@quaker.org.nz to arrange this.

Photo credits: Front cover: Brian Sullivan, MacCaulay Library
Back cover: Anna Dunford, Waiheke Beach; Elizabeth Thompson. Inside pages: YM photographer Deborah Williams – P4,5, 8,9,11; Mary Rose – P9 top; Philippa Fletcher – P5; Allan Greenslade-Hibbert – P6; Vincent Wijesingha – P7; Online pictures – P13; Anna Dunford – P14; Marilyn Payne – P15; Anne Wicks – P17; Orlando Endicott – P19

Epistle

Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa New Zealand Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri

Greetings to Friends everywhere,

Some 90 Friends gathered at Waikanae, 14-17 May 2021 under the care of Palmerston North and Kāpiti Monthly Meetings. In welcoming us to Waikanae they began by acknowledging the tangata whenua, the local first peoples.

We rejoiced in the opportunity to be fully present ‘with each other’ after 2020’s online-only meeting for worship. While giving thanks for the privileged position of Aotearoa/New Zealand, we were reminded of the perilous state of other nations, especially as we heard of the serious impact of Covid-19 in India.

The value of connection was strongly felt among Friends and we heard how the new use of technology had enabled the Quaker community, as never before, to extend its reach to remote and unwell Friends.

The importance of connection was explored further in the Quaker Lecture, “Stories of Belonging”, delivered during Yearly meeting by Anjum Rahman, a founding member of the NZ Islamic Women’s Council. She made reference to the whakataukī (Māori proverb) of the toroa (albatross) that journeys out onto the ocean and then returns to the land, its nesting place, where it regenerates.

She challenged us to go forth like the toroa, to listen and change, and to endure the discomfort of confronting our privilege. Those in dominant positions need to be willing to give away some power to allow others to resource their own communities. Her words lent weight to a call by Young Friends, for Yearly Meeting to be active in the move towards decolonisation, which requires more equitable sharing of power with the first peoples of Aotearoa.

The same sense of community and spiritual strength that Quakers at Yearly Meeting valued, was enhanced by the input from Young Friends on a number of subjects. Their creative and thoughtful contributions were heard and showed us a clear way forward.

Wiki Walker, a recipient of the Loxley Award, spoke of self-healing to help ourselves and others, seeing the feminine in our culture and politics, understanding the impact of colonisation on us as a people, and connecting ourselves and others with the natural world. Her project, Te Reo o te Whaea (The Voices of Mothers, Grandmothers and Aunties), sought to preserve the wisdom and the place of Māori women in nurturing community.

We were captivated by the story of how the board game called “Kaupapa” came into being supported by our Quaker Testimonies fund. The game, developed by Kuruho Wereta and Rosie Remmerswaal, a Young Friend, aims to make learning Te Reo Māori fun. We also experienced our own brief moment of fun in a lively impromptu session on pronunciation.

As the meeting drew to a close we remind ourselves that we should let the Spirit guide us and that we must have faith that we will be given the means to follow such promptings. Like the toroa, we now go back to our Quaker communities enriched by the aroha that has embraced this Yearly Meeting, and its attendees, both present and remote.

Editor’s note: this version is slightly different to the earlier version sent to all Monthly Meeting Clerks as errors were identified in the use of macrons on the Maori words.

Yearly Meeting 2021

Reflections

BY ANN BANKS
Auckland Resident Friend

Our hearts, as well as our minds, were invited to be well and truly prepared for Yearly Meeting.

The Preparation Day, *Invitation to Presence*, was held over the afternoon of Thursday 13 May, and the morning of Friday 14th. It was spacious, generous, reflective, challenging, and skilfully facilitated. Totally without judgment. We were invited to look at what we were bringing with us, were we able to be fully present?

Were we like the birds who flit and fly, but when they land, often on the most impossibly tiny twigs, are instantly, perfectly aligned, balanced, still, alert and ready for whatever comes next?

Were we able to respond to the invitation to Presence? What had we left behind? Were we still only partly present?

What was in the burdensome rucksack we were carrying? How did these resentments, fears, inhibitions, maybe left over from earliest childhood, prevent us from showing up wholeheartedly?

Were we open to feeling uncomfortable? Is there a resistance to becoming the best we can be?

The two half days progressed, full of what I can only describe as grace, through sharing, creating images, stories, laughter, poems and the invitation to make a temporary frame with our fingers, to look through it and find beauty, awe, wonder, delight.

One of the last sessions was to choose a quote from slips of paper, passed round the group. The one I chose spoke deeply to me. I am concerned about the censorship of many wise people, themselves scientists and doctors, some of whom I have followed for a number of years – suddenly they are banned from their social media platforms and all their data removed. Their voices have been for me beacons of hope during these days as we struggle to emerge from our collective human chrysalis into the freedom of our unbounded consciousness. The quote was a Mexican Proverb: ‘They tried to bury us. They didn’t realise we were seeds’!

The Yearly Meeting minutes give a record of the proceedings, and the Epistle an overview, but these gatherings are always much more than the minutes can convey. The experience of new understandings for each one of us personally can be profound. It certainly was for me.

Val Bone and I were invited to be part of the Pastoral and Spiritual Care Committee for the Meeting. It was a role I was familiar with, having convened just such a group

at Meeting for Sufferings in England for three years: upholding the Meeting, microphone running, door-keeping, generally keeping an eye out for any difficulties.

As a newbie, I was struck by the inclusion of greetings in Te Reo Māori at the start of all the sessions, and by the absence of the Britain Yearly Meeting’s formal ‘I hope so’ when accepting a minute! The minutes went through on a nod, or grunt!!

Much of the business was as would be expected: reflections on the effects and learnings from Covid, Climate Emergency, Children and Young Peoples’ activities, Education Fund items, Respect and Safety (safeguarding), QPS (peace and service) ANZ, outreach, Asia West Pacific Section and FWCC matters, etc. And, given the brutal flare up of hostilities in Palestine/Israel, an open letter to go to any newspaper and to the Prime Minister.

There was an inspiring Quaker Lecture: *Stories of Belonging, a journey across Aotearoa* by a Muslim woman, Anjum Rahman. She leads a project exploring the experience of belonging by collecting stories from people of diverse backgrounds, disabled, migrant, non-binary and many others. This was open to the public and about 30 local people joined us for the lecture and refreshments afterwards.

There were two reports that, to me, were outstanding. The first from the recipient of the Loxley award, Wiki Walker, a woman working to empower Māori women, mothers, grandmothers and aunties, to reconnect more fully with their culture and ‘sing their souls back into being’.

The second, funded from the Testimonies Fund, was about a collaboration by Rosie Remmerswaal, a Young Friend (joining us on Zoom) and her friend Kuruho Wereta. They had enjoyed playing board games together and, out of this friendship, has emerged the creation of their own board game, Kaupapa, designed to encourage people of all ages to have fun with learning te Reo.

The game has been through several incarnations as the idea has developed and is now in production having been beautifully thought through, using sustainable materials and New Zealand manufacturing. The Testimonies Fund is now paying for 200 copies of the game to be distributed among the Monthly Meetings to be donated to groups who would find it useful for their young people and who may find it difficult to buy a copy from their own funds.

The impact of both speakers has been profoundly moving. I can only give an example of why this is so from comparing the experience of reading the Lord’s Prayer

in the King James version and the many interpretations of the same prayer possible from the Aramaic. We move from 'Our Father, which art in Heaven' to 'O thou, the breath of life.' We move from static to dynamic and the dynamic seems to me to be the essence of the Māori relationship with the whole of creation.

Hard to describe, but I felt myself as if drawn through 'wormholes' into different dimensions as they spoke. The tears sprang unbidden! These are the precious, vigorously sprouting seeds of our indigenous peoples which colonial powers have tried to bury across the world. But this consciousness is alive and well and waiting for us to catch up with it at a new turn of our evolutionary spiral!



Wiki Walker,
Loxley Award winner



Niwa Short,
respected kuia



Kuruho Werata
talking about the
game Kaupapa

BY PHILIPPA FLECHER

Wellington Worship Group

Who am I to judge? I am the one who attends three yearly meetings in thirty years of being involved with Quakers. I am the one for whom even the initial reflection time is too much, and I sneak off to the coffee shop down the road. I come because it is the right thing to do even though my choir has a concert, and my workplace is having its annual meeting.

There is awe – for Kāpiti/Palmerston North/El Rancho's care; for the beauty of sun-glowing leaves on the trees; for the patience and stamina of our clerks and clerks to be, and all those people who faithfully engage every waking hour.

There are worries – as we squash a much-loved and respected kuia into five minutes of our time; and later decide to publish a well-intended letter on the Middle East without deep contemplation.

There is gratitude – for time to engage with treasured friends from around Aotearoa, up close, faith to faith, face to face. For all those people who do so much to make Quakers happen.

There are things to hold in the light- the ageing of our people, the growing pains of our relationship with AWPS/ FWCC, and the place of Meeting for Worship at Yearly Meeting.

Amongst all the above I create my own little reflection. Thank you, Friends.



Philippa Fletcher's reflective art

Historical Aside

The first annual gathering of Friends to conduct the business of the Society took place in Wellington in 1909, and from that time onwards there have been regular meetings. From 1914-1963 this annual meeting was recognised as a General Meeting (with the status of a Quarterly Meeting of London Yearly Meeting). In 1963 New Zealand Friends decided to become an independent Yearly Meeting, as from January 1964.

Quaker Handbook

BY ALAN GREENSLADE-HIBBERT

Wellington Worship Group

The personal, profound and not so profound experience of a first timer.

Travelling up by train from Wellington with Friends, even masked up, was a comfort. I was looking forward to Yearly Meeting, even though I knew it would be a heavier experience than at my first Summer Gathering at the same venue. I was grateful for being allocated a room immediately next to a shower, but sorry that the room received no sunshine. I felt joy at the oak tree in full red autumn dress. I wore one of its leaves on my name badge.

More joy at greetings and hugs from Friends made at Summer Gathering. Warmth and smiles from new Friends, and eye contact from others with conversations yet to come. A sea of grey hair and many more women than men. Just two young adults, oh dear.

No one had told me what to expect or how tiring and emotional it would be. Preparation Day!

The aim was of freeing ourselves for the job, but too many mindful metaphors for me to value but a few. Feeling honoured at chosen to be on the Standing Committee despite being so new. As a newbie, it was for me to watch, listen and learn.

And then, YM really started, and it was weird. It felt like a tribunal, with the clerk and assistant clerks sitting at the top table like gods, still and silent, laptops open ready to call us into session - but nothing happened. The silence just went on and on. It was, of course, a Meeting for Worship for Business, but over four days! Silly me.

Then we were off.



Oak tree in full red autumn dress

BY CATHIE MACFIE

Invercargill Worship Group

For participants, Yearly Meeting seemed to flow effortlessly and that is simply a reflection of the huge amount of preparation and forethought invested by the Local Arrangements Committee and YM Clerk. You looked after us so well - thank you!

I have come home, my mind buzzing with ideas and positive memories. Among them:

- the thoughtful quality of many of the contributions to the business sessions
- inspirational speakers that made some presentations unforgettable
- unexpected conversations, often at mealtimes, that triggered exciting opportunities
- appreciation of how well an increasing number of Quakers practise 'te reo'
- a wrap-around feeling of community and aroha that embraced us all
- unhurried time for silence and reflection.

Above all the renewal of precious (albeit remote) friendships and the sparking of new ones have made this Yearly Meeting a precious time for me.

The God of my understanding is not an oak tree

The God of my understanding is not an oak tree though it might be tall, wide, stout and strong and shelter all beneath its canopy. My God is not an oak tree.

The God of my understanding is not omniscient, omnipotent or omnipresent though there are times when I wish it could be. My God is not that trinity.

The God of my understanding is not a personality - a male-focused Father Son and Holy Ghost. My God doesn't have that identity.

The God of my understanding is that loving quality which binds together humanity and the biosphere into a unity and reveals in the very planet and the life it sustains, its sanctity.

CHRISTINE GILLESPIE

Quaker Faith & Practice

Second Edition Planned

BY VINCENT WIJEYSINGHA

Two decades after publishing *Quaker Faith and Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand*, Yearly Meeting has decided to produce a second edition. A small committee has gathered to undertake the task. We invite Friends to accompany us along the way so that the eventual publication will be, in the truest sense, the story of all Aotearoa New Zealand Friends.

A wonderful summary of New Zealand Friends' insights was brought together in the first edition. No doubt, there is much new material out there to inspire a future generation. A Palmerston North Friend recently reflected that on the journey of life the search for God is an adventure in all directions. Our task as a Yearly Meeting is to discover these journeys, pausing here and there to select inspirations that may be of worth to others as they navigate their own adventure.

Our committee is slowly working its way into the task, guided by Sue Stover. She led the committee that produced the first edition and, therefore, offers good continuity into the second. Our work, still in its infancy, is exploring questions like how to expand from the first edition; moving beyond text to include other expressions of Spirit such as photography and drawings; making the text representative of Friends of all demographics, including the children; and how to draw on our unique spirituality which has benefited from mātauranga Māori (Māori wisdom).

We would like to take advantage of the insight and creativity of Friends across the Yearly Meeting as we explore these questions. You will have knowledge of likely sources to draw on, including sources in the possession of your Monthly Meeting or the personal papers of Friends. We invite you to join us on this journey of discernment.

Our committee consists of the following, with whom you can make contact locally:

- Carril Karr, Mid-north Island MM
- Elaine Ludwig, Northern MM
- Marion Sanson, Whanganui MM
- Sue Stover, Northern MM
- Annabel Taylor, Christchurch MM
- Vincent Wijeyasingha, Palmerston North MM
- Deborah Williams, Christchurch MM

We have also set up an email address. Please use it to get in touch:

faith-practice@quaker.org.nz



Variety of past versions of "Faith and Practice"

How you can get involved:

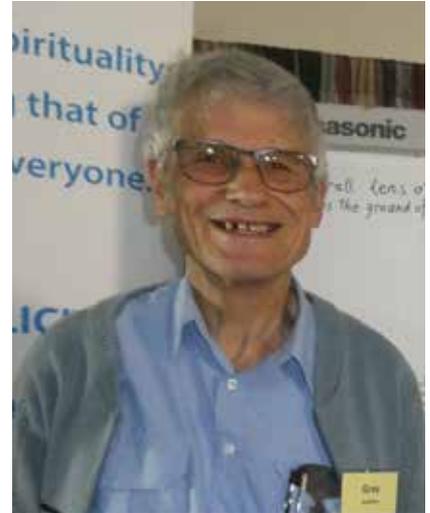
- Talk to us about how you can help with this project
- Contribute thoughts on how the process should run
- Send your ideas on format, content, and presentation
- Offer your own writings (or those of departed Friends in your possession) for possible inclusion
- Locate or direct us to possible (private and public) sources
- Identify publications and academic theses (eg. in libraries) that may be relevant
- Liaise with collections and potential contributors
- Link between the committee and your Monthly Meeting or Worship Group
- Read, select, and edit contributions (see page 153 of present edition for editorial guidelines)
- Word process drafts
- Edit and typeset the final manuscript
- Deal with administrative tasks like obtaining copyrights or permission to quote and applying for the ISBN

Yearly Meeting 2021

Participants



Susan Patrick, John Highton, Brylin Highton



Gray Southon

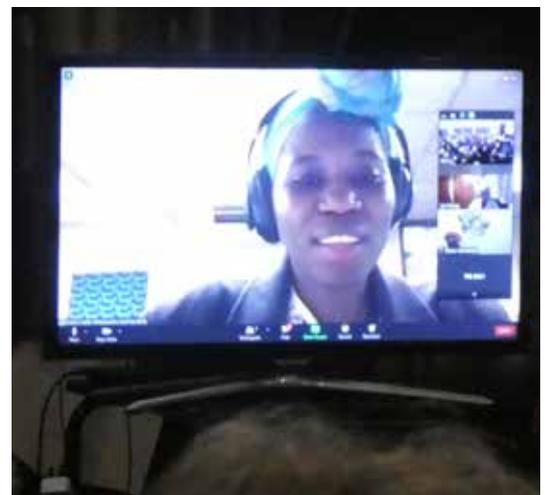
Viola Palmer, Jude Zwanikken, Patricia Macgregor



Liz Remmerswaal and Saskia Schuitemaker



Jos Rossel, Alistair Hall, Roisin Whelan



Marie-Joëlle Nininahazwe,
Australia YM Representative on Zoom



An interest group at the Climate Change workshop: Back: Susan Hamel, Graham Chapman, John Schmidt, Elizabeth Thompson, Philippa Fletcher Front: Marion Sanson and Mary Rose

Michael Short



The clerks: Anne Hall, Lesley Young, Alistair Hall



David Minifie



The three Alans:
Allan Harvey, Alan Reynolds, Alan Greenslade-Hibbert

The Jade Speaks Up Trust

Loxley Award Recipient



BY ELAINE DYER AND ANDREA O'HAGAN

Jade Speaks Up (JSU) is an in-school approach towards preventing family harm through local communities developing sustainable long-term local solutions. In the short term JSU is educating children to de-normalise violence in the home. Children develop skills and plans to keep safe around any violence or bullying.

Teachers have reported higher number than usual of anxious and stressed children in their classes due to home situations because of the Covid 19 stressors. We train classroom teachers to implement the programme with their classes. We also provide ongoing supervision for them as they deliver this course.

We are the co-developers of the programme. It is our intention to expand our team of trainers and reach more school communities with a wider range of cultural diversity in the team of trainers.

As a result of teachers requesting extra support for the children who need help, especially in terms of their re-engagement with learning after the COVID-19 lockdown, we began developing a new resource for teachers to help children unpack anxiety and learn strategies to be calmer and more resilient.

The new resource: *You Good? You Good!* is based on two of the principles of coping with trauma:

- understanding of self: how do I understand what is going on inside me?
- developing self -agency: how do I control what's happening within, when I can't control what's happening outside of me?

This is a stand-alone resource and will also be an ideal deepening of the work already done through JSU containing effective and gentle processes which teachers will be able to implement with their students. Professional guidance will be given to teachers through initial coaching days and online supervision sessions during implementation. In these times of so many challenges to the wellbeing of our community, such strategies are needed by children more than ever.

We are very grateful to have been awarded the Loxley Award which is enabling us to engage with Māori and Pasifika educators and develop culturally sensitive approaches and activities. We will also be able to work with some teachers of Years 5-8 to trial a selection of lessons with their students, providing us with feedback and recommended changes. Please see our website for more information on the work we have been doing www.jadespeaksup.co.nz

Māori Wards

Upholding Te Tiriti Waitangi

BY MARILYN HEAD

Though the issue of having Māori wards in local government has been debated and generally rejected several times in the past, this year has proved different.

At least 24 local authorities have made the decision to proceed with them, following the determined advocacy of Minister Mahuta. This surely reflects a maturing understanding that the new wards ensure representation of Māori in line with Te Tiriti O Waitangi, rather than the previous misplaced notion that Māori wards would reflect a 'race-based' voting system.

For more information read the following excellent article: <https://thespinoff.co.nz/atea/04-02-2021/the-truth-about-maori-wards/>

BY GRAEME STORER

Whakatāne Experience

On Thursday, 20 May, the Whakatāne District Council decided unanimously to establish Māori Wards for the 2022–25 district elections.

Mayor Judy Turner, writing in the local newspaper, described the decision as the most significant opportunity for the Council in her 11 years as a councillor. "Māori Wards is in law a Treaty of Waitangi matter...and not an inconvenient truth." The Council had previously voted for Māori Wards in 2018, but their decision was undone by "a poll of a relatively small number of people." This time there will be no undoing, thanks to a change in the rules made by the Ministry of Local Government.

The decision was met with waiata and hugging. The joy on the faces of kuia sitting together in front of me at the public hearing was palpable. But, as the mayor noted, not everyone at the public hearing was happy. We can expect to hear more from those who spoke of 'not fair' and 'the death of democracy.' Conversations about privilege and our colonial past are not easy.

These conversations call on the ability to listen deeply to one another without judging, the ability to acknowledge each other's views, and the ability to promote the best of ourselves as a nation.

Graeme Storer attends Whakatane Worship Group and is a facilitator for Inclusive Aotearoa Collective Tāhono (IACT) founded by Anjum Rahmun.

Anjum Rahman,
Quaker lecturer for
Yearly Meeting 2021



A Sense of Community

Otaki Township

BY CHRISTABEL JACKSON

The Annual Lecture at Yearly Meeting was given by Anjum Rahman; the title was Stories of belonging: A Journey Across Aotearoa. Her simple, clear delivery of the stories of people in this country was very moving and brings to mind the experiences I have had moving into this small town and living here now for fifteen years.

Otaki Township, the old town halfway to the beach, not the shop-on-shop district up on Highway One, is nothing much to look at. Until recent renovations to our Civic Theatre and the conversion of a big department store into The Maoriland Hub, the old township had a tired, slightly derelict look about it.

This town and community is not, however, about its buildings. It's about its strong sense of community and inclusiveness. People talk to each other. People sit on chairs kindly put out on the pavement at each café, or on the seats provided when Main Street was upgraded. We use this street as our communal lounge. Chatting to strangers is what we do.

There is also a strong culture of knowing who is who, asking people whose faces are new to the town who they are and where they come from. One is expected to divulge. So many people when they heard where I lived (just round the corner from Main Street) said "That's a handy pozzie," so I named it that with a painted board put on the gate.

Everyday life here is one of interactions. When I shop at the local supermarket, the women there observe what I buy, ask if that's nice to eat, and say "That's a lot for you to spend" if I spend over \$30. A prominent member of this community is becoming forgetful and when she goes in to buy flour and sugar for scones, the staff say, "You came in earlier, you've already bought what you need."

There was a colourful character here known as Tall Margaret, an ex-Vogue model, who liked to dress in the fashions of the 1950s complete with net stockings, extremely high heels, little fur tippet, and arresting outfits. When she went to the nearby convenience store for her frequent bottles of wine, the owner, a kindly unjudgmental Hindu, would see if she was more than one sheet to the wind and decide whether to accompany her back to her flat and see her safely inside.

It is considered 'cool' to ride one's bike on a wet day, holding the handle bars with one hand and an umbrella with the other. It's an unpretentious town. The wearing of odd socks is common, or track suit pants with a decent suit jacket. 'Swannies' and gumboots pass unnoticed. I call it, "Otaki Chic".

Up the road to the golf course is a Catholic Worker Community which takes in homeless people – those who have been released from hospital for mental health problems, people recovering from addictions, people who are unstable and have suffered abuse from families. Their housing is basic.

When a complaint was made to the council, who came to look around with a view to closing all thirty houses down, the local Māori spoke clearly to them. "Touch them and you'll have a Hikoī on your hands." The community thrives and many lives have been turned around.

This town has embraced me with its warmth and caring. I have the sense of belonging. I longed for it while away for thirty years working in difficult, lonely circumstances. Long may we remain a bit of a secret, down here in the old township.

Peace in our Meetings

Listening to Understand

BY MARY ROSE

I write with apprehension about peace, scared that I will be seen as a 'trouble-maker', that my passion for finding ways of achieving peace among Friends will remind Friends of the times when I have been engaged in difficult conversations, even some that might be called 'conflict'. My Quaker journey has not always been peaceful!

Some months ago, with great hesitancy, I spoke at a Mid North Island (MNI) Monthly Meeting about my longing that Friends would consider what processes would be used among us when difficulties and conflict occurred. Difficulties occur without warning, over unexpected and surprising matters. Some have been the source of long periods of distress and bewilderment in a community committed to peace.

Friends at the meeting suggested writing to the MNI Pastoral Committee with my concern, which I did. The committee acknowledged my letter. Then I waited. More apprehension and wondering filled the waiting. So did memories of when I had been on a pastoral committee that received letters asking what we, as Friends, would or could do about certain conflicted issues and the challenge that presented.

Eventually I heard from a pastoral committee Friend that the committee was seriously considering my concern and would be in contact with me when they could reply. What would the pastoral committee suggest? Their suggestion came in the form of a letter brought to me by a member of the committee. I read of their idea that a workshop be offered at the March residential gathering of MNI MM and that the focus of this workshop be ways of dealing with conflict among Friends.

Hooray! What a gift!! I really liked that idea.

The pastoral committee suggestion was accepted at the next MM business meeting and on the first weekend in March, in the gracious surroundings of Poripori Homestead, Lower Kaimai, the workshop, led by Carrie Barber and Raewyn Robinson happened. Hooray, hooray and hallelujah!!!

Twenty something Friends just fitted into the sitting room at the old house.

Raewyn and Carrie lead us through exercises that considered aspects of conflict. One was an exercise to write four words that came to mind when 'conflict' was mentioned. Then to meet with others to select four words from our combined efforts. Then to meet with four more people to again select four from all the words offered. It was an interesting exercise in talking through different points of view, the basic element of conflict.

The next exercise was a wider look at aspects of conflict. What are the advantages, disadvantages of various ways of responding to conflict? Ways such as competition, collaboration, compromise, accommodation and avoidance. I found it interesting to realise that even avoidance might have advantages as well as the disadvantages I had observed and experienced. I was so glad to be talking about these things with Friends!

The essence and highlight of the workshop came for me in the last exercise where we were paired with a person who had a different view about some Quaker practice. Each person was asked to have a turn at talking about their point of view, while the other listened. So, there we were, a roomful of Friends, each experiencing talking and listening through a difference between us and another, then reflecting together in the whole gathering on how that had been.

It was so simple: talking, listening leading to understanding. I was deeply moved by the experience.

Then another question came. Talking and listening about a difference of opinion worked in that exercise. What would happen when strong feelings such as anger, fear and hurt were part of the difference? Would talking and listening work then? I asked Carrie. She said, 'Practise on the small stuff'

Is this the process I have been longing for? Could Friends agree, when difficulties arise among us, when we are cross or critical with each other, even when strong feelings are involved, that we could talk and listen with the hope of finding understanding and peace?

Could Friends not involved in that particular conflict help the process towards peace by gently supporting those in conflict and encouraging each to talk and listen to the other?

I hope that happens!

For your diary!

Summer Gathering 2021-22

Dates: 29 Dec - 4 Jan

**Venue: Marsden Bay Christian Camp:
<https://marsdenbay.co.nz/>**

**Uphold the organisers:
Friends in Northern Monthly Meeting**

Enrolment details coming soon

Pebbles and Boulders

Paths of Peace

BY ROSEMARY TREDGOLD

Soon after the anniversary of the second violent event in Christchurch, the Mosque shooting, there was a short ministry in Meeting for Worship asking, “Which path of peace will you choose?”

Christchurch was reeling with the memories and effects of human and natural violence. Peace was in all our minds. The ministry caused me to wonder – a path seemed to convey activity along it, i.e. actions. As I struggled with the effects of a stroke and an unstable arthritic knee, I felt inadequate to pursue activities. Was this the only way? What about peaceful human relationships, appropriate conflict resolution and an environment of respect and safety?

I was reminded of the words of an African Bishop in a war-torn country who, when asked what we in the West could do, replied, “Persuade your government not to sell arms and make peace around the dinner table”.



Pebbles become boulders

As the Meeting for Worship continued, I had a strong image of a river flowing over pebbles and boulders, I wondered if pebbles could conglomerate to become boulders and inhibit the flow of water if they were not dealt with as pebbles? Sadly, I remembered instances of conflict where this had happened. So how do we prevent this happening? And deal with small conflicts as they arise?

Peacemaking for me involves valuing another person, listening to their reality without preconceived judgements. This may be difficult as we are not always in the space to listen. During another Meeting for Worship recently, a friend described how they had not been able to listen to family adequately because of many conflicting demands, and so had set up a family listening time over a shared meal.

Listening also involves an interest in, respect for and valuing of others’ contributions and stories, not insisting on being the centre of attention. If we find that our view of another becomes central it is our ‘shadow self’ emerging. We are not hearing the other as a unique human being. We are concerned with our view and our needs. Sadly, this behaviour often has the effect of humiliating and shaming others. As the effect of feeling shamed is to make the person want to run, hide, or die, it is an experience from which it is very difficult to confront the other.

It is in such circumstances we need support systems within the Society of Friends. Just as we need to explore our personal racism, we need to explore and own our shadow selves, so we do not project these onto others. We need to explore our communication styles and the effect they have on others, not to blame others for behaviour we do not like in ourselves.

I think we need peaceful relationships both as individuals and the organisation of the Society of Friends. One of the comments written about dealing with abuse and humiliation in a helping, caring organisation is that it is difficult to perceive the possibility of anyone being unpleasant, let alone having ways of confronting such behaviour. Respect and Safety committees have a place to play. But we cannot rely on them – each of us needs to make sure our pebble of discontent with another does not become a rock more difficult to move.

The side effect of writing, I found was to challenge my own behaviour. My shadow self is unpleasant. I was so grateful when I discovered Mary Rose was also moved to write on the same theme. After the comments in *White Papers*, Respect and Safety seems to need reevaluating.

QPSANZ News

Quaker Peace and Service Aotearoa New Zealand

BY STEPHANIE DU FRESNE

We have continued to work with our Loxley Award recipients. It was good that Wiki Walker could present her project at Yearly Meeting and sad that Elaine Dyer and Andrea O’Hagan were not able to present theirs as they were busy training schoolteachers.

Friends at Yearly Meeting approved our guidelines for accepting grant applications without any further discussion.

We accepted four local peace grant applications at our May meeting, including one to help local Myanmar refugees and their support team set up a Solidarity/ Myanmar concert in Dunedin, which was a great success. We have agreed that we can transfer money to Friends in India via the mid-India schools. We will consider how best to support peace in Palestine at our next meeting, although it seems Friends’ School Ramallah, which we already support, is being able to do some small but helpful stuff.

We hope that QPSANZ brochures will be displayed in Monthly Meetings. Our bank account number is in them, as are the dates for grant applications. Applications for our next round of local peace grants close on 15th September.

Junior Young Friends Camp

21-27 April 2021

BY ANNA DUNFORD

Young Friends (JYF) Camp at Friends House Waiheke (FHW) and Mt Eden finally happened. In some ways it was over-planned after all the potential permutations of 2020; in others it was less polished than optimal as the original planning team of Nicholas Jose, Ashley Macmillan and I managed to miss a few details that had changed a year later than originally planned. Thank goodness for cell phones, instant messenger and Nicholas acting as 'mission control' from home sorting out some real time logistics!

But it happened, and we sent home eight very tired, but generally happy JYFs who hopefully had a better idea of Quakerism than when they arrived.

We proved JYF Camp can be planned from a distance if you have supportive locals in the wings. We used Zoom as the core team was scattered from Kaitiāia to Dunedin. The leaders at the event came from Christchurch, Blenheim, Wellington, Kaitiāia plus Val Bone and Ann Banks, the Mt Eden Resident Friends, were there, and Nick Seaman who magnificently catered for everyone at Mt Eden. Huge thanks also to Waihi Friends Lorraine Gropper and Fiona Gregory - providers of a toastie machine amongst other important things!

The Quaker Education Funds grant covered leaders' travel and meant that we could keep the JYFs fees low, have a realistic budget for food and local travel, and have funds for those little extras that make a disproportionate difference compared to their cost. For example, a round of hot chocolates in a cafe after Waka Ama whilst thawing out awaiting transport back to Palm Beach. All much appreciated! Thanks also to the Monthly Meetings (MMs) who provided financial support to the JYFs who requested it - \$140 plus travel is still a lot for those without much disposable income. Nicholas approached the MMs on behalf of the JYFs to be more supportive to those in need.

With both Jos Rossell and Meghan Stewart-Ward as leaders there were good opportunities for meaningful dialogue with the JYFs both formally and informally. These fed in directly to the Children and Young People's Support Committee and the Enriching Engagement research project. Jan Schmidt brought her YM Outreach Committee hat, which left John Schmidt and me completing the team.

The programme included a planting working bee around FHW, helping with the food prep for Kai Conscious' Community Lunch on Waiheke, and time on Palm Beach. The traditional 'intro to the Quaker business method' session; a couple of Meetings for Worship for Business with a meaningful agenda and epistle; learning about Yearly Meeting; joining Waiheke Friends for Meeting for Worship plus sessions with Jos and Meghan made up the



Back: Jos Rossell, Meghan Stewart-Ward, Anna Dunford, Vittorio Rocco, Angelo Rocco, Juna Morrimire, Piper Look, Aila Armstrong-Clements, Hamish Jenkins (plus the all important toastie maker!). Front: Jan Schmidt, John Schmidt, Kei Ellis-Rose, Ruby Look

formal Quaker input. Craft activities, an outing to Ostend Market and traditions such as Mafia were fitted in along with a talent show, and a movie night at Mt Eden to which local Friends were invited. The turnout for the movie night was disappointingly low. If, as an older community, we want our young people to be more involved, that requires us to make the effort to engage with their activities, not just expect them to come along and join in with what we're doing.

JYFs had a choice of how to manage the tasks that needed to be done e.g. to ensure that we all got fed. They opted for volunteering, and it worked really well. It was a bit of a learning curve for some, but they all approached tasks willingly and saw them through. The older JYFs stepped up into leadership roles and led by example. Much of the programme was flexible as it was 'in house' so timings were negotiated and adapted through the day as required. It was very much a 'go with the flow' event, and that seemed to work.

As a teenager and into my 20s my MM in the UK paid for me to attend countless events. In exchange I'd report back to them about it. It got me involved with my MM, and as a low-income family we didn't have to keep asking for financial assistance. They invested hundreds and hundreds of pounds in me, even after I'd left home. They have not benefitted much in recent decades, but the wider family of Friends certainly has.

Next year JYF Camp is at the Quaker Settlement. It would be wonderful if Meetings across the country approached their JYF whānau offering to pay for the JYFs to attend and/or travel and being genuinely keen and creating opportunities to hear back from them about it afterwards. The friendships made at these events so often last a lifetime. Wouldn't it be great if the active relationship between the participants and Quakers lasted just as long?

News of Friends

Your Quaker Settlement

By Jill Burdett, Marilyn Payne and Heather Jan

We are all in good heart and full of energy, especially since we have been joined by the Marryatt family. Many of you will have enjoyed Grant and Tess's delicious cooking at seminars over the past years. Their children Mana, Olive, Daisy and Pearl bring their joyful spirits to our life here.

During the recent Penal Reform Seminar we celebrated getting back to the old routine that we had before the "lockdown". Twenty-one people enjoyed discussions and sharing their experiences of prison and voluntary work. A video was shown of the Peace Education Programme which is running successfully in many countries and prisons. Te Kai Po Ahuriri talked of his prison experience and his recent community work. Vincent Wijesingha outlined his work with the Salvation Army on their criminal issues policy.

We have also enjoyed having the Yearly Meeting committee staying here for several days while working on The Quaker Handbook.



Sheep keeping the Settlement's pasture at a manageable level

Twelve Araucana chickens have just joined our community and free-range eggs will be available soon. The sheep are keeping the pasture at a manageable level and our pet sheep Tama delights many of us. We have had a bumper crop of apples, feijoas and citrus fruit which we have put on "la carte" to share with our local community and we are grateful for the koha given in return.

We are looking forward to our annual Queen's Birthday Weekend with the 65 people of all ages enrolled to take part in the fun and work on the land here.

Dunedin

Brylin Highton

We are delighted to be able to share Ashley Macmillan and Grant Galbreath's news that they have become engaged.

Local Friends helped organise, and took part in, an alternate Anzac Day service at the Peace Pole in the Museum Reserve in April.

On Sunday 9 May, Ashley Macmillan gave a talk after Meeting for Worship about her current research on Proactive Peace (war prevention) which was really thought provoking.

Valerie and Kevin Clements spent a period in self-isolation recently because they travelled back from Brisbane on a flight which was affected by an airport health breach.

Several Friends attended a conversation on Wednesday May 26 at the Meeting House that Kevin Clements had arranged with Phil Twyford, Minister of Foreign Policy, Arms Control, Disarmament and New Zealand Security, to talk about new foreign policy directions. Kevin posed some questions on new foreign policy directions, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Lethal Autonomous Weapons and discussion followed.

Christchurch

Helen Ross

News on the personal front where health issues predominate: Steve Gardner is the recipient of a new kidney. Di Madgin has had a spell in hospital but has returned home.

Derek Carver took an uncharacteristic tumble. Arthur and Elizabeth Wells have downsized and moved to an over 60s unit in St Martins. We have been pleased to have Jane and Gregor Morgan join us after their move from Dunedin.

Those attending Meeting for Worship on the 30 May had the privilege of listening to Derry Gordon present his Spiritual Journey.

In terms of outreach and social action activities, our May Quaker forum was held on 12 May with a presentation from Penny Carnaby from the Banks Peninsula Conversation Trust.

On 22 May, several Quakers took part in a demonstration at the Bridge of Remembrance in Christchurch in support of peace and justice for the Palestinians.

The Christchurch Interfaith Society held an event on 27 May called Sacred Sounds. After a few words about the importance of silence to us, four Quakers 'presented' a very brief silence. It was clear that some people didn't know what to make of it, but there were also some very appreciative comments afterwards. It felt quite strange to be 'performing' silence.

The site adjoining the north side of the old Meeting House in the red-zone is now the home of the Dallington Organic Gardening Group.

Nelson

Jan Marsh

Our home discussion topics recently were: 'How to make new Friends, reaching out to people who haven't

found us yet' and 'Can poetry deepen our spirituality?'

In May, a Top of the South gathering was held in Motueka. Meghan Stewart-Ward led a discussion on the 'Engaging Young People Project'.

Members of the Meeting have attended three rallies in support of Palestine and on Anzac Day we held a vigil for peace on the church steps.

Elizabeth Dooley enjoyed her break in Auckland and Rotorua. She took a walk near Rotorua which was filled by the magical presence of kōkako.

Jan Marsh has returned from a visit to her daughter in Melbourne where she got to know her 16 month old granddaughter. Fortunately, she arrived back before the latest Covid outbreak over there so was able to visit her son and grandsons in Wellington.

Lawrence and Marie Carter returned to Nelson for Marie to have a hip replacement which has gone well.

John Michaelis has returned to Sydney for about a month. John attended Yearly Meeting in New Zealand, where he delivered a commentary and co-facilitated a workshop on the need for outreach in the Society of Friends.

Clive and Margaret Richards finished their apple harvest in mid-May and are refreshed by a week mountain biking on the West Coast.

Liz McLeod-Taepa and a Whanganui friend had a few days holidaying in the Meeting House accommodation. She enjoyed being right in the middle of the city.

Kapiti

Brigit Howitt

We have had several very interesting talks and discussions so far this year. Earlier Deb Gimpelson offered an in-depth and most enlightening talk on the life and times of Lucretia Mott. Lucretia's story left a lasting impression on Deb in her youth, and we all found the wider story of the circumstances of Lucretia's life most interesting.

Christabel Jackson offered a fascinating talk on her years of working in Lesotho, often in times

of great social and political unrest. Several of us had read her recently published book *Keeping up with the Goal Posts* and we are keen to hear a promised follow-up when she will talk more about the weaving enterprise she established there.

Anne Eustace-Bennett went through the *Advanced Care Plan* booklet with us and will be offering a follow-up in a couple of months when there's been time for those interested to go through what is required. We have also had two much appreciated discussions led by Viola Palmer on Prayer.

Barbara Mountier has recently moved from her flat in Robin Place in Parkwood Village to Room 1, The Lodge, in the village. She is already feeling comfortably settled. Her phone number and email will remain unchanged or will do after some initial Spark hiccups.

Whanganui

Jillian Wychel

Those of us from Whanganui who attended Yearly Meeting really appreciated the care and organisation that the Local Arrangements Committee had taken to make both the venue and the programming so comfortable. It was a joy to be able to meet face to face and to welcome one another with real hugs. The epistle was read as is customary at our Meeting for Worship when we returned.

Michael Payne had a nasty fall and is recovering slowly from concussion.

David James and Jillian Wychel took advantage of Jos Rossell's visit to the Settlement to record her oral history.

Our Soup and Dessert gatherings have started again and our first topic was 'What keeps you coming to Quakers'. For all of us the silence we co-create in Meeting for Worship was one of the factors.

Michael Haggie has now taken on responsibility for cleaning the Meeting House and is faithfully maintaining the high standard we have become used to. We all appreciate the service we receive from Friends that sometimes goes unrecognised.

Our initiative Trees for Rēkohu has been responded to generously by Meetings and individual Friends and our treasurer has sent \$2,375 to Maui Solomon at Manukau Land Trust to help fund the planting. Maui has responded with gratitude and the Trust is planning to name an area The Quaker Grove.

Taranaki

Alex St George

We welcome Eileen Gundersen who has transferred her membership from Wanganui Meeting. Margy-Jean has also moved her attender status to New Plymouth from Dunedin. We are grateful to her for facilitating the Spiritual Nurture study group which as some 9 members attending the monthly discussions.

Fridtjof and Joanna Hanson have been saddened by the passing of their doggie family member Rory. Fridtjof had an exhibition of his art in Raetahi. Both are facing challenges with failing health. Jackie McLennan and partner have bought Fridtjof and Joanna's previous house.

Liz Bridgeman has recently written, illustrated and self-published a children's book, primarily for her grandchildren, but is selling copies.

Geoffrey Steedman has been unwell. His son has recently married. Geoffrey is continuing to serve on WEST board. We thank him for his time knowing he's feeling quite tired.

Errol Spence has been very busy with family commitments but still finding time to do his Treasurer's role and complete the Charities Annual Return on our behalf.

We are planning a mid-winter dinner on 23 June. Alex St George is delighted as it is her birthday.

Greetings to all other Meetings.

Mid North Island

Jillian Yorke

Eleven members/attenders of the Mid North Island Monthly Meeting

attended Yearly Meeting, while Jillian Yorke listened to the Quaker Lecture on Diversity and inclusion in New Zealand society, via Zoom.

Thames

We have been continuing our discussions on the Questions and Counsel Quaker booklet and many other issues, especially crime and punishment and the ethics of medical research, as well as planning for the November residential weekend.

Several of us have made submissions for our local Council's Long-Term Plans. Mairi Jay is a central figure in Paeroa Streamcare, which restores local rivers and does extensive tree-planting. There have been several local newspaper articles about their activities.

Gwenyth Wright, who was recently presented with the Queen's Service Medal and a Community Services Medal and her partner Colin Broadley have moved to Ohinemuri Rest Home in Paeroa and are adapting well to their new situation.

Whakatane

Dave and Anne Wicks organised a handsome Peace Pole, which some of us helped Dave to plant at the entrance to their garden, while the rest of us gave enthusiastic moral support. We held a meeting at Barbara Doughty's new home for the first time. We explored a proposal of the group regarding the possible extension of Quaker Educational Funds so that they would be available to non-Quakers in need.

On Mothers' Day we met at Esther and John Malcolm's home where we talked about our mothers. What a variety of mothers we had! A blessing of rotating our meeting in each other's homes is the sound of bird life that accompanies our times of silence.

Recently several of our group have lost family members. It is good to be able to hold them in our thoughts and prayers.

We have sent a letter to the local paper to congratulate the Whakatane

Council on the approval of a Maori ward and see this a form of outreach.

Tauranga

Samuel Hartman and John Hardy are working towards the establishment of a Peace Pole at St George's Anglican Church. This church is on the site of the Battle of Gate Pa, a site important to both Māori and Pakeha, and a logical site for a Peace Pole.

Three members visited the local Sikh temple on Sunday 23 out of interest in how other religions experience spirituality. They were made to feel most welcome and were given an explanation of the Sikh religion.

Hamilton

Our same small group of Friends and attenders has continued to gather at the lovely Lady Goodfellow Chapel, where we are grateful to watch nature take its turn with the seasons.

Our friend Weiyang Luo, who has been attending Meeting and engaging us in interesting discussions of faith and life these last couple of years, has finished his Master's thesis in engineering—congratulations!—and is looking for work.

We have been talking with new attenders about Friends' practices and testimonies.

Carril Karr and Saskia Schuitemaker attended Yearly Meeting, and Carril enjoyed a night at the Settlement on the way south. Carrie Barber is enjoying holding 'first day school' monthly for energetic Dan McKeogh.



Dave Wicks, Keith Wicks, Ed Reid, Judith Graham, Mike O'Hagan, Andrea O'Hagan, Gizella Garden and Jose Mir.

Mt Eden

Heather Denny

On Friday 9 April at least thirteen people associated with Northern Monthly Meeting took part in the Student Climate Change Strike in Auckland. Several other participants asked various questions of us about Quakers as we walked behind the Quaker banner. On 25 May after Meeting, we were privileged to hear Alyn Ware give a talk and presentation on Peace, Disarmament and Covid-19: Building a safer and healthier world.

Marilyn and Graham Woolford, along with other concerned friends, attended a protest demonstration on the closure and pending sale of the Laura Fergusson Trust facility. This resulted in some questions in Parliament and the Board has now agreed to talk to the Ministry of Health.

Heather Joseph, Daphne Painting and several members of the Stover-Watts Gordon family have suffered injuries and illness recently but all have recovered or are recovering well. Martin Burton and Jack Woodward have had visits from family living overseas and Heather Denny's son, Simon, has recovered well from a Covid infection. Daniel Jose has just turned 21 and friends came from far and wide to celebrate. Anna Gilderdale and Hani have welcomed a new baby boy named Are.

At Yearly Meeting 2021 Kuruho Wereta gave an inspiring presentation about the board game Kaupapa which he and Rosie Remmerswaal have developed to help learners practice te reo Māori.

Our Fifth Sunday session helped us explore our thoughts about our testimonies through a guided meditation and art work.

Covid Vaccination

Answering Common Questions

By HELEN KINGSTON GP,

Is Covid-19 really that bad?

In the past year worldwide, there have been over 114 million people infected and over 2.5 million deaths from Covid; 22 million people are currently infected, with 90,000 of these in serious or critical condition in hospitals.

While Covid statistics are worse for those aged over 65, 5% of Covid deaths (125,000 people) have been aged under 45. Aotearoa New Zealand, while not experiencing the large waves of infection seen in other countries, is actively fighting Covid19 - the best protection for our communities in the future is to be vaccinated so we have immunity against any Covid infection we encounter. Covid19 is a virus that kills – our decision about vaccination can mean life or death for ourselves and others.

What are the four Covid-19 Vaccines on order for Aotearoa NZ?

The NZ Government has ordered four different Covid-19 vaccines, produced using three different scientific technologies, in sufficient quantities for Aotearoa NZ and our Pacific neighbours.

- Pfizer-BioNTech (EU) Aotearoa NZ has ordered enough for five million people. Approved by NZ Medsafe. Vaccinations of MIQ (Managed Isolation and Quarantine) and border staff are underway. Requires -80°C storage. Two doses several weeks apart.
- Oxford-AstraZeneca (UK) for 3.8 million people. Approval pending. Requires 4°C storage. Two doses several weeks apart.
- Janssen (Johnson and Johnson, US) for five million people. Approval pending. Requires 4°C storage, just 1 dose.
- Novavax (US) for 5.36 million people. Approval pending. Requires 4°C storage and two doses several weeks apart.

How do the different vaccines work?

All four vaccines use only the spike protein (a characteristic feature of the outer coating of the virus) of Covid-19 to prompt an immune response. The differences between the vaccines are whether it is the DNA or RNA

information for the spike protein, or the actual pre-made spike protein being used as the active ingredient of the vaccine.

Are any of these vaccines live or infectious?

No. Thus the vaccine cannot give you Covid. None of the vaccines contain any human or other cellular material from their production.

Have these vaccines been developed too quickly to be safe?

The global sharing of data and technologies has allowed discovery and production of vaccines in record time, while still ensuring full and careful testing, including the rigorous phase 3 human clinical trials required before commercial manufacture is permitted. In Aotearoa NZ, Medsafe is the agency responsible for checking the safety and effectiveness of medicines, before allowing their use here. Having contained the virus, Aotearoa NZ has been in the fortunate position of being able to observe how other countries go with their vaccinations before beginning our own, allowing Medsafe to fully assess vaccine applications informed by a large body of evidence.

Can DNA or RNA vaccines change our own human DNA when injected as a vaccine?

No.

What is the urgency to be vaccinated if I am young and healthy?

70-90% of people in a population need to be vaccinated to provide protective herd immunity (where the virus cannot infect enough people to keep replicating itself). A recent poll showed that currently 70-75% of New Zealanders would be willing to be vaccinated, while 20% were undecided. Older people and immunocompromised people (who cannot be vaccinated) are more susceptible to dying from Covid-19, but young, healthy people are still vulnerable to being infected and transmitting Covid-19 to others. Our individual vaccination decision very much affects others as well as ourselves.

Covid Vaccination

The Christian Response

What is our role and response as Christians and church communities?

- Being informed and proactive about sharing factual, evidence-based information with others so that Covid vaccination is fully understood by everyone.
- Understanding the life-saving benefit to all by being vaccinated against Covid.
- Using our unique influence to reach into the corners of our communities where other communications may not reach, to promote vaccine equity and access for everyone.
- Be witnesses of care in our communities by, openly discussing any ethical questions being asked, and assisting health officials in any way when it is our turn to be vaccinated.

SUPPORTED BY:

Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches of Aotearoa New Zealand
NZ InterChurch Bioethics Council,
<http://www.interchurchbioethics.org.nz/>

Editors' Note: Many thanks to Liz Bridgeman for stepping up to do the layout for this edition at very short notice. Our usual layout expert, Mavis Airey, had her computer stolen so she was unable to work on this issue.

The Quaker Handbook

Revision Progress

By ELIZABETH THOMPSON

The Quaker Handbook Revision group met at the Quaker Settlement after Yearly Meeting (YM). Our goal for complete approval of the revision during 2021 is in sight.



Handbook group Elizabeth Thompson, Elizabeth Duke, Claire Gregory, Linley Gregory and Murray Short

Some parts of the revision process have been accepted by YM. For other parts we have received Monthly Meetings responses and the revised texts are in preparation to be gradually offered during the rest of the year for comment. Then Monthly Meetings will be offered the revised text for approval.

There is much very helpful information and deep, thought-provoking material in the Handbook so our expectation is that Meetings will take the opportunity to study the material while considering responses.

Our hope is the printed copies of the fully revised Handbook will be available at Yearly Meeting 2022. It will also be available online.

Editors' Note: The Quaker Handbook is a practical and informative guide to Quaker practice in this country. It is not a rigid set of rules and regulations but a description of what seems to have worked best in the past, based on Quaker theology, values and experience. You can find it on the quakers.nz website under the menu heading Deepen.



*The Seeker in us is drawn to the horizon break,
Over and behind the line where sky, sea bond;
For promise and mystery lie entrancing beyond
This the journey humanity is called to make.*

BRIAN MCNAMARA

QUAKER EDUCATION FUND SCHOLARSHIP

Have you ever wished to take a Quaker Course at Silver Wattle (Australia); be of service here or abroad; or set up a data base of climate change actions? Or is there something else with a Quaker or spiritual connection that you have dreamed of doing?

The Margaret Caverhill Scholarship is offered biennially through the Quaker Education Fund and is valued at up to \$20,000. It is made available through the generosity of the late Margaret Caverhill whose bequest to the Society of Friends in Aotearoa New Zealand is used to support Friends and their families to participate in both Quaker and general education. Its substantial value enables participation in more significant educational experiences than would normally be possible. Depending on the number and calibre of applications, the money may be shared among recipients.

Applicants are expected to have been regularly involved in Quaker worship groups and/or Quaker community events such as Young Friends camps, Summer Gatherings, Settlement events, or Yearly Meeting activities. The QEF Committee expects that applicants will be supported by their pastoral care committee or others within the Quaker community who are familiar with the application and its relevance to the individual.

Details for this scholarship are found in the Quaker Education Fund Handbook held by Monthly Meetings or available online at www.quakers.nz You are welcome to email the QEF Convener at quaker.education.fund@quaker.org.nz for further information and a copy of the application form.

The closing date for applications is 30 September 2021. Decisions are announced in early November. Funding can be made available, where needed, from the start of 2022.



Cathie Macfie, Meghan Stuart-Ward, Viola Palmer at Yearly Meeting 2021. QEF Project: Engaging Children and Young People.