

# NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

Quakers - the Religious Society of Friends – Aotearoa New Zealand Te Hahi Tuhauwiri

June 2020

## Spiritual Thought

"I don't deny the need to learn from the past and prepare for the future, but our busy, over-stimulated lives often push us into time travelling at the expense of savouring the present moment. And yet, the only time we are really alive is now."

Jan Marsh, Simple Gifts.

We have been meeting together for Worship at our Meeting House, 10am 30 Nile Street Nelson since Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>. We have Zoom available [Nelson Friends Zoom link](#) during the Meeting, so please come by video link if you are unable to make it in person or prefer not to.

We are all grateful I am sure that we are safely able to meet in person again. We are observing all Covid precautions of distancing, hygiene and contact tracing.

## News of and for Friends

**Ann B** who is a Motueka Friend who has enjoyed attending the occasional Nelson Zoom Meeting for Worship during the Covid-19 alert levels. She is also enjoying the fact that her granddaughter Bella is active in the anti-racism and climate emergency movements in Wellington. She was energised by attending the Black Lives Matter protest at Parliament last week.

**Maira**, another Motueka Friend, is adjusting to post-lockdown life in Ruby Bay. She enjoyed the Level 4 lockdown for the quietness, the still streets, and seeing the birds reclaim the environment. She watched the unusual sight of a flock of 30 oyster catchers feeding together on the beach, and a kereru careening at shoulder height right down the curving street. Maira appreciated as much it being so quiet, she could hear the acorns falling from the nearby oak tree.

**Linda G**, Motueka Friend comments on lockdown: The past months managing the different levels of safety with Covid have worked well in our wee bubble of 2 - and spending days with routine activities cycling, walking, gardening and cooking have been enjoyable. It has been a learning curve for me, being a retiree, and having Sally in my space all the time - re-learning how we cohabit in a small space has brought some challenges whilst appreciating the richness and privilege of our lives together. It helped that we have enjoyed such glorious weather. I became quite weary of zoom meetings, some of them quite

exhausting being involved in community development projects and support for families with addicts - each week. I am happier now that I can meet face to face with colleagues!

**Margo C** is an occasional visitor to Motueka Meetings. Margo is a longstanding Quaker member and has strong links to Friends in Kapiti Meeting where she used to live. Margo appreciates very much being part of Friends and has also embraced Qi Jong as a life development path. She says both have a commitment to simplicity. Margo loves her connection to Quakers for which she gives thanks.

**Ruth F** lives in Ruby Bay and attends Motueka Meeting. Though able to Zoom in to either Golden Bay or Nelson Meetings Ruth instead found a quiet space in her garden each Sunday for a Meeting for Worship of her own. She says she had a wonderful time with the bellbirds on Sunday mornings. She is hopeful that as a community and country we are taking a collective breath and experiencing a change in spirit, appreciating how lucky, how privileged we are in NZ to have been able to lockdown. The other thing Covid teaches us Ruth says is that we never really know what is ahead. However, we know we can lockdown again.

**Patricia**, who has been embroidering the Nelson Quaker Embroideries wants to make a correction – it is the Chatham Forget Me Not she has been stitching. Patricia remains a magnet for Nelson Quakers and her neighbours with an interest and time for Friday afternoon Scrabble.

**Jan** has rejoiced at seeing her son and her grandchildren in Wellington last weekend for the first time since before lockdown.

**Christine** is glad to be a part of the Peace, Conflict and Reconciliation subgroup of the Nelson Tasman Climate forum, Zooming alongside young women working hard to create a transformative, egalitarian forum based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles of partnership and participation with tangata whenua. She is gradually returning to her work by a combination of video link and in-person sessions.

**Clive** is up to the fertilising part of the organic apple growing cycle with all his crop off for processing. The horses are enjoying the leftovers.

**Lawrence** continues his twin passions of restoring old radios and participating in the work of Engineers for Social Responsibility, among other things researching hydrogen as an alternative fuel (it doesn't look good).

Our Friend **David Jansen** has died. David made close friendships with Quakers in Nelson before becoming ill. If it is the wish of the family, we may have a memorial service for David in the near future.

**Margaret F**, a Friend with a smallholding - way out of town - was having her flock of chickens attacked. She has a lot of live traps so that she can release creatures that are native and humanely kill non-natives. The day before yesterday, one of her traps contained a NZ Falcon - a small and dainty creature. She released it but the Falcon doesn't wish to leave and is hanging around. Luckily for the Falcon, Margaret is a fan.

**Elizabeth D** has a meeting on Wednesday (10th) with a "Dog whisperer" from a company called "Dog Almighty" following a few 'incidents' involving a fleet of pudgy little canine and some terrified and dead birds, and a rabbit. Oh, and irate chicken, sheep and rabbit owners. Hopefully, Patch can be re-trained.

## DIARY OF EVENTS:

We hope to be able to once more plan events not confined to video link as soon as we are into Alert Level 1. A mid-winter potluck dinner is being imagined, as well as a social event for our children and parents. Watch this space!

Wednesday June 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm either in a Friend's home or by Zoom: Home Discussion Group. Topic to be advised.

Join Zoom here: [Nelson Friends Zoom link](#). We will advise venue a few days before the meeting. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday July 1<sup>st</sup> 7pm – 8.45pm either at the Meeting House or by Zoom Becoming Friends – sharing spiritual journeys.

All welcome. Join Zoom here: [Nelson Friends Zoom link](#). We will advise venue a few days before the meeting.

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## Deadline for next Newsletter

Our Newsletter is a way to share our lives – to help build our Quaker community. Thanks to everyone who has sent contributions. Please consider sending in your news, a book review, a quote that speaks to you.... Send newsletter items to Elizabeth at [elizdooley@hotmail.com](mailto:elizdooley@hotmail.com). [The cut-off date for items for the July newsletter is Friday, July 3rd, 2020.](#)

## Your website needs you:

The national Quaker website has space for short 'selfie' videos of just 1 minute on you and Quakers: e.g. "My name is ... I became a Quaker because... Or "One reason I am a Quaker is..." or "The reason I joined Quakers is....". **Please just do it! If you are willing, let Christine know, and *then just do it!***

## Morning Swim

Maxine Kumin

Into my empty head there come  
a cotton beach, a dock wherefrom

I set out, oily and nude  
through mist, in chilly solitude.

There was no line, no roof or floor  
To tell the water from the air.

Night fog thick as terry cloth  
closed me in its fuzzy growth

I hung my bathrobe on two pegs.  
I took the lake between my legs.

Invaded and invader, I  
went overhand on that flat sky.

Fish twitched beneath me, quick  
and tame.

In their green zone they called my  
name

and in the rhythm of the swim  
I hummed a two-four-time slow  
hymn.

I hummed "Abide with Me." The  
beat  
rose in the fine thrash of my feet,

rose in the bubbles I put out  
slantwise, trailing through my  
mouth.

My bones drank water; water fell  
through all my doors. I was the  
well

that fed the lake that met my sea  
in which I sang, "Abide with Me."

Maxine Kumin, poet, was born in Philadelphia in 1925. Growing up, she was an avid swimmer, and trained to become an Olympian as a teenager. She also loved writing poems, and eventually became a major poet and teacher of poetry; she won the Pulitzer Prize for Poetry in 1973. Here's one of her masterpieces, bringing together her interests in swimming and spirituality. And here's a glimpse of her teaching style: she would routinely ask her students to memorize 30 to 40 lines of excellent poetry a week, the better to internalize what great verse feels and sounds like. "The other reason," she said, "as I tell their often-stunned faces, is to give them an internal library to draw on when they are taken political prisoner. For many, this is an unthinkable concept; they simply do not believe in anything fervently enough to go to jail for it."

## Focusing on Racism and decolonisation:

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/saturday/audio/2018749550/imagining-decolonisation-in-aotearoa>



<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/52240802-imagining-decolonisation>

## Imagining Decolonisation

by Bianca Elkington, Moana Jackson, Rebecca Kiddle, Ocean Ripeka Mercier, Mike Ross, Jennie Smeaton, Amanda Thomas

Decolonisation is a term that alarms some and gives hope to others. It is an uncomfortable and often bewildering concept for many New Zealanders.

This book seeks to demystify decolonisation using illuminating, real-life examples. By exploring the impact of colonisation on Māori and non-Māori alike, Imagining Decolonisation presents a transformative vision of a country that is fairer for all.

BWB Texts are short books on big subjects by great New Zealand writers. Spanning contemporary issues, history and memoir, new BWB Texts are released regularly, and the series now amounts to well over fifty works.

He mihi mahana ki a koe i tenei wā. [Warm greetings to you at this time.](#)  
Deborah Williams

Read an article here on an example of everyday racism in NZ:  
[https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1&objectid=12337419](https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=12337419)

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**On-line resources:** our own website: [quakers-in-nelson.org.nz](http://quakers-in-nelson.org.nz); our Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson; and the national website: [quakers.nz](http://quakers.nz)

### "Get Home Safely: Ten Rules of Survival"

After Michael Brown's death in the US in 2014, an influential infographic, "10 Rules of Survival If Stopped by the Police," was developed by David Miller. With several community partners, including Trinity UCC on the south side of Chicago, SALT took Miller's rules and created an Emmy-nominated short film to help bring this critical information to an even wider audience.

Check out the post and film [here](#). The film is available for free download [here](#), for use in online worship (or any other use). Just look down and to the right for the "download" button.

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Our Programme: below is a reminder of the different activities each month.

<p><b>First Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am</b> <b>Wednesday: Becoming Friends, 7.00 pm – 8.45pm</b> (Alternate Even Months) Sunday: Business Meeting 12.00 pm</p> <p><b>Second Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am</b></p> <p><b>Third Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am</b> <b>Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm</b></p> <p><b>Fourth Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am</b></p> <p><b><i>Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship. Activities will be provided for them.</i></b></p>
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