

WIDER QUAKER FELLOWSHIP, AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND

LETTER 159 August 2024

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This isn't August, this is really April!

Well Friends, April was the time I was going to write this letter. April was an exciting month. I really don't know where the time went between then and now. But I didn't forget you.

The most exciting part of April was the release at Yearly Meeting of our new Faith and Practice book.

Each of the members of the F & P book group, and the designer, spoke a little of their participation and read an excerpt that particularly spoke to them. Since the conclusion of this project most of the members have gone on to other Quaker responsibilities in their Worship Group or Monthly Meeting or for Yearly Meeting.

If you haven't obtained a copy of the new book they are available to purchase from each Monthly Meeting or from Quaker Book Sales.

This photo shows the cover— front, spine, and back.



Not everyone wishes to take an active role in the Society. It was a long time ago that I started attending Meeting for Worship and despite reading all the introductory material available at that time, all I was looking for was a place to worship among people who were also real worshippers and not hypocrites. I don't think I'm anything special in this need. Many, many people are serious about their belief, philosophy, or faith, and wish to worship in company with other sincere people.

Having found Friends and feeling comfortable, after a while, I realized that, while I always put worship first, there were a number of chores attendant on keeping the Meeting going.

Quakers are a do-it-yourself religious group. At every level we have committees to accomplish some of the work, individuals for other jobs. We have books to provide sustenance and guidance such as the **Faith and Practice** we have just been discussing, and the **Quaker Handbook: The Handbook of Practice and Procedure**. The book of **Members and Attenders**, and the pamphlet **Advices and Queries** are very useful. And now we have an whole new range of single page pamphlets to introduce enquirers or new Friends to all the various facets of Quaker life.

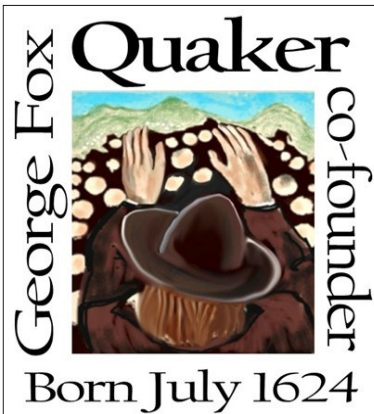
Aside from the work necessary to keep our Meetings alive many Friends are actively involved in outreach and community welfare.

New Zealand Friends have Meeting newsletters and the national newsletter to keep ourselves informed about Quaker affairs. Increasingly we are also using our New Zealand Friends website.

Most Quaker organisations around the world have websites. The New Zealand website is:

www.quakers.nz

At Yearly Meeting in April Mid North Island Monthly Meeting introduced the postage stamps they had produced to celebrate the 400th year since George Fox's birthday in July 1624. There have been good sales to Friends and to stamp collectors. If you get the posted out version of this letter you will find one of the Fox stamps on the front. This was a fun project that I took part in.



Different Meetings had different projects to celebrate the occasion. You can find information about these celebrations by searching FWCC online.

From the beginning Quakers were great writers and readers. You might look at George Fox's Journal. He also wrote many letters. I found this link below very interesting

<https://australianfriend.org/revisiting-the-journal-of-george-fox/>

Many quotes from George Fox are familiar to Friends. Here are two I find particularly uplifting.

Be still and cool in your own mind and spirit from your own thoughts, and then you will feel the principle of God to turn your mind to the Lord God, from whom life comes; whereby you may receive his strength and power to allay all blusterings, storms, and tempests. - George Fox, 1624-1691

"The Lord showed me, so that I did see clearly, that he did not dwell in these temples which men had commanded and set up, but in people's hearts ... his people were his temple, and he dwelt in them." - The Journal of George Fox

Yours in Friendship

Carril Karr

The Wider Quaker Fellowship is an association of persons of diverse backgrounds who wish to have ties with the Religious Society of Friends without necessarily being in its membership, or who, through isolation, illness or some other circumstance are unable to attend Meeting for Worship. The purpose of the Fellowship is to reflect Quaker life and thought.

Any person who finds the fundamental Quaker testimonies and the Quaker way of life, with its emphasis on sincerity and simplicity, compatible with his or her philosophy of life is welcome to join the Fellowship.

If you wish to make a donation to the WQF—

To make a donation on line, the YM Kiwi bank account number is 38 9001 0669022 02

Be sure to put your name and that the donation is for Wider Quaker Fellowship in the reference spaces.

For a tax donation certificate email: treasurer@ym.quakers.nz with the amount and date of the donation and your name and address.

Kiwi bank has stopped accepting cheques if you don't do internet banking you will need to deposit any donation directly into the YM account at a Kiwibank branch.

Seminars at the Quaker Settlement www.quakersettlement.co.nz

Experiment with Light

From Friday 06 September 2024 - 06:00pm

To Sunday 08 September 2024 - 01:00pm

Experiment with Light is thought to be the rediscovery of the foundational practice of early Quakers.

Exploring the journals and letters of Fox himself and other early Friends, Rex Ambler, a Quaker theologian, pieced together four distinct steps of a guided meditation. His drive to do this was to see if it was possible to resolve a difficult personal issue, using early Friends' practice.

This proved to be a revelation, and a solution to his troubles and he began to share the method and his personal experience with other British Quakers. For the last nearly 30 years it has been an inspiration to many Friends around the world.

Join us for a weekend exploring ways for centring and stilling the mind and learning or revisiting this simple practice.

Once learnt, it can be a resource to bring clarity and insight, even within a few moments.

In these days of change and uncertainty it can prove a support, both as an individual practice and often more so when practised in a group.

Information will be given about setting up a Light Group. There are tried and tested ways to provide a safe and confidential space, where participants can grow in trust; where we may truly know one another in the things that are eternal.

The weekend begins with dinner Friday at 6pm and ends with lunch and clean up on Sunday.

Facilitators: Ann Banks, Val Bone, Esther Bukholt

Contact Jess Mio: jessmio89@gmail.com

Compassionate Communities

From Friday 20 September 2024 - 06:30pm

To Sunday 22 September 2024 - 01:00pm

Supporting those facing death and their support network takes a community. This weekend will explore the aroha (compassion), whakanui (respect), tapu o te tangata (dignity) of this journey, and the practical and spiritual aspects through the lens of the international movement of compassionate communities to give everyone a chance to live their lives fully to the end.

Please review our PAL pricing before registering as you will be asked to indicate what payment you will be making. Payment can be made to our Seminar Account 03-0791-0490180-025

Facilitated by Val Bone and Anthea Michaelis

In Touch with Nature

From Friday 04 October 2024 - 06:30pm

To Sunday 06 October 2024 - 01:00pm

An inter-generational nature weekend which uses our senses to heighten awareness and deepen our enjoyment of natural beauty. The Settlement's beautiful surrounds are the perfect backdrop to activities which generate joyful enthusiasm, leading seamlessly to a more reflective engagement and sense of our place in nature.

Facilitated by Cathy Macfie with the help of Young Friends.