

# Rainbow Weekend

Gather with like-minded people, some who have had a lifetime of experience of being 'different', some who are learning to be comfortable with their sexuality and others just beginning to explore the possibilities of their sexual expression. We are all at different stages in our journeys of self-discovery and we meet as friends. Could this weekend be for you?

Those of us who have experienced or still are subject to 'othering' out in the world often need to find a safe group in which to feel that we can be our authentic selves without criticism or judgment.

Whanaungatanga refers to the Maori concept of developing respectful, reciprocal kinship-type relationships that foster a sense of belonging and connection among individuals and communities. It emphasises the importance of positive relationships and interconnectedness, extending beyond biological ties to include wider community bonds. These ways of being have a great resonance with Quaker values and testimonies.

We have developed a sense of this over the few years when we have come together, initially to help recreate our Quaker statement on Rainbow issues in 2023 called 'Walking in the Light under the Rainbow'. For some it has been a revelation and a relief to finally be in a group where one's sexuality is accepted and the person valued and understood.

We will be looking at ways forward for the group, identifying what our needs are and how we can bring our unique spiritual perspective to those who

are looking for a spiritual home, but may still feel excluded from mainstream religious groups.

## FRIENDSHIP, FUN, FOOD!

### Costs

These are the all-inclusive rates for accommodation, meals and registration for the weekend from Friday dinner to Sunday after lunch:

Fee Scale for the weekend (inc GST inc.)	Weekend	Extra night
Unit, linen provided, ensuite facilities	\$230	\$55
Cabins/ Bunkroom/ Family Room – bring own sleeping bag, towel	\$190	\$35
Caravan, 2 powered sites. Tent	\$170 \$160	\$25 \$20
Own accommodation	\$150	

The account for payment is:  
WEST, 03-0791-0490180-25

There are several ways that financial support may be available - your Worship Group or Monthly Meeting may be able to offer assistance. For one seminar you attend each year, the Quaker Education and Testimonies fund offers a 50% reduction on the fee.

### Registration Form Rainbow Weekend 19-21 June 2026

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Transport:

Arriving: Day \_\_\_\_\_ Time \_\_\_\_\_

I can offer \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) in my/our car OR

Please collect me/us from:

Intercity  Airport (Note: we only collect from Whanganui arrival points but may be able to connect you with others travelling to the weekend)

#### Catering:

Simple wholesome vegetarian fare.

Gluten free catered for if indicated here:

*If you need special foods, please BYO.*

Please indicate arrival and departure times if you are not here for the full weekend.

#### Preferred accommodation (tick):

Unit (towel and bedding provided)

Sleeping house (bring own towel and bedding)

Let us know if you would need help to move to a place of safety in an emergency

Camping  Living out

Please register by 12 June  
online at: [www.quakersettlement.co.nz](http://www.quakersettlement.co.nz)

Or email: [valbone@friend.quakers.nz](mailto:valbone@friend.quakers.nz)

Or return this form to: 76A Virginia Rd  
Whanganui 4500

## A Bit of History

Quakers have been exploring same-sex issues since the 1950s when a group of interested Friends questioned the standard response to homosexuality which was seen as something shameful and secretive and not mentioned in polite circles. For a religious organisation to be questioning entrenched attitudes in this way was radical, to say the least!

Their work over several years produced a booklet published in 1963, called 'Towards a Quaker View of Sex'. This brought the subject of relationship into focus which had previously been largely ignored in any discussion of the subject.

The work was undoubtedly controversial but was a courageous early contribution to the acceptance of diversity in sexual behaviours, both human and animal. We, at least in large parts of western society, enjoy freedoms which would have been unthinkable in earlier times and is still a distant hope in many parts of the world.

While much progress has been made, many people who don't fit into the hetero norm still struggle with the social legacy of being 'different' and fearful of the responses personal disclosure might bring.

## The Quaker Settlement available for

Retreats

*Holidays*

Hold an event for your group

*Birthday parties*

Memorial meetings and Tangi

*Wwoofers welcome!*

Daily Meeting for Worship 8.30am

*4 self-contained Units (10 beds)*

Family Room (8 beds)

Bunk Room (11 beds)

3 Cabins (6 beds)

*Areas for camping*

powered sites for caravans

*Beautiful Peace Garden and*

*native bush*

Catering kitchen

*Large meeting room seats 80+*

[www.quakersettlement.co.nz](http://www.quakersettlement.co.nz)

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Please note: we are smoke, vape and alcohol free

## Rainbow Weekend



19-21 June 2026

Quaker Settlement 76 Virginia Rd,  
Whanganui

**Contact person: Val Bone**  
**valbone@friend.quakers.nz**

The weekend begins with dinner on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> at 6.30pm and ends with lunch and clean up on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup>.