

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

April 2021

Spiritual Thought

"I'm always amazed when people walk up to me and say, 'I'm a Christian.' I think, 'Already? You already got it?' I'm working at it, which means that I try to be as kind and fair and generous and respectful and courteous to every human being."

Maya Angelou

News of and for Friends

James (from Mahana) has art works he has offered to the Meeting for display in the Activities Room. He has recently planted 4 feijoa trees so is looking forward to his harvest in years to come.

Gwen gave her first ever power point presentation, to the Nelson City Council's Biodiversity Forum. Her theme was "How to Fix Tasman Bay". She was inspired by NZ Geographic magazine's article on 'How to fix Hauraki Gulf'.

Michael & Merilyn Payne from Whanganui Settlement have been staying in Nelson with their daughter and Joan for the past 6 weeks and have joined us for Meetings for Worship. They return to Whanganui on Tuesday. They will be back in June.

Jan leaves for Melbourne on 19th April for 4 weeks, to visit her daughter and granddaughter. She may or may not have to quarantine on her return!

Lizi is thrilled to have the Quaker Histories in Embroidery up on the Nelson Quaker website. Created by Lizi and stitched by Patricia, with commentary by Lawrence, and the help of the rest of the Meeting in one form or another, you can find them at quakers-in-nelson.org.nz/quaker-histories-in-embroidery/

Marcos has been worshipping with us for the past 3 weeks. He is from Brazil, living in NZ 4 years now. He hopes to find work here so he can stay in Nelson.

Glen is finally able to come to Meeting again after a forced 'lock down' last year when she broke her back - her knee gave way and she fell. She is pleased to be back at her spinning wheel. Glen used to have her own goats and still has hanks of mohair to spin. She intends to get back to her painting too.



Rona has had a hectic few weeks: in the last 3 weeks she has sold her house, spent 4 nights at a backpackers, and 1 week and 1 day ago she moved into Green Gables. Her apartment gives her a beautiful view of Fallwell House and the trees.

Jo and Chris in Oxford UK report they are well, starting to go a bit stir crazy from 12 months lockdown but the end is in sight. They both had their Astra Zeneca first jabs this month. They have booked several UK trips for later this year including a week away with Chris's parents on a nature reserve in Norfolk.

John D has returned from a visit to Rekohu Chatham Islands, where he made this sketch of a monument to Tommy Solomon. He is living in Motueka at present, preparing for a 3 – 4 week busking tour of the North Island playing his harmonica.

Sam and Sandy (Portland, Maine) are both fully vaccinated now with the Pfizer vaccine. After over 12 months in lockdown, they are feeling a bit more relaxed and willing to go into stores (with double masks on). They are planning on travelling in late July to go to Sandy's 50th college class reunion in Minnesota, then go on to Montana to visit their daughter and her fiancé for a couple weeks.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday April 7th 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St.:
Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. A spiritual nurture group and introduction to Quakerism for newcomers. All welcome

Sunday April 11th 12 noon, Quaker Meeting House, 30 Nile St.
Nelson: Meeting of Peace Action Nelson. Please come. All welcome.

Sunday April 11th 10am Family Service Centre 27 Talbot St.
Motueka: Monthly Motueka Meeting for Worship. All welcome.

Sunday April 11th 7.15pm Earth Hub, Haven Road, Nelson: Movie, *Imprisoning a Generation*, about Palestinian child prisoners. Koha entry, no bookings. Supper. Bring extra cash for a raffle. Organised by Te Tau Ihu Palestinian Support.

Wednesday April 15th 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group. Topic and venue to be advised. All welcome

Sunday April 25th 12pm – 1pm, Church Steps: ANZAC DAY PEACE VIGIL. This vigil will be silent from 12.15pm to 12.45pm.

Monday May 3rd 6pm, Phillida's place, Nelson: Potluck social. Bring food to share (or provide your own). Everyone is welcome.

Wednesday May 6th 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St.: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. A spiritual nurture group and introduction to Quakerism for newcomers. All welcome

Sunday May 9th 10am – 2.30pm Family Service Centre, 27 Talbot Street, Motueka: Top of the South Meeting. Megan Stewart Ward will lead a discussion on the Quaker 'Engaging Young People Project'. Bring food for a shared lunch. All welcome

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 Dooley at elizdooley@hotmail.com **The cut-off date for items for the May newsletter is Friday, May 8th, 2021.**

News from Business Meeting

Premises: Premises Committee will arrange for the old wire circuit breakers to be replaced with new switches. Guttering will be fixed.

Socials: we decided we want to have regular social time together simply to enjoy each other's company, so no agenda! Friends of Friends are also very welcome. The first one will be on Monday May 3rd at Phillida's. Thereafter we intend to hold them every second month. Hands up to host July.

YM Clerk's letter: we were asked to approve a letter to the Minister of Foreign Affairs, commending her 'maiden speech' in the role in February. We minuted the following: "We are concerned that the NZ military alliance with the USA is not acceptable to us as Quakers. This military alliance is supported by the Minister of Foreign Affairs and this is an important difference between us, as Quakers, and the Minister. This difference needs to be plainly spoken, particularly in a letter of encouragement to the new Minister."

REMINDER: Te Tau Ihu Palestine Support presents their first **film night** of the year at the **Earth Hub on Sunday, April 11**. Doors open at 7:15 and the movie starts at 7:30. The movie is called ***Imprisoning a Generation*** about Palestinian child prisoners. It lasts about 50 minutes, then we will have hot drinks and dessert. Entry is by **koha**, so no bookings. Bring extra cash for a Palestinian raffle.

What Motivates You? An account of a Home Discussion, by James C

Thanks to John and Anthea for their hospitality at their home in Stoke for our home discussion evening, Wednesday 17th March.

Thanks too for the challenging subject of "What motivates you?". 6 of us rose to the challenge and tried to unravel this question.

After we had defined that motivation was the driver that "gets you out of bed in the morning", there followed an interesting patchwork of ideas, but we found some common ground; children, grandchildren, hobbies, gardening, painting, creative writing, and research and "finding out how things work". Also paid work, contributing to society, company of friends, being part of something greater as per a project or being with like-minded people. Also recognised was the importance of the link to the turangawaewae, a place to call home.

There were moments of Ah-ha, when it was demonstrated that people can be motivated by oratory and the sense of confidence in another person.

It was surmised that other cultures may have other motivations but there was no way of testing this at this time. There were additional offerings of what demotivates one. As usual there were many moments of enlightenment and laughter.

Participate in your Democracy.

A couple of years ago, I went onto the New Zealand Parliament website and chose to subscribe to "submissions and advice". This allows me to check what submissions are going through Parliament that I might like to support - or not. I have found that, without effort, I am able to add my name to submissions that I support. It is amazing how many petitions go through with little or no support when they are for 'good causes'. You might like to sign up too.

Peace, Elizabeth.

Manifesto: The Mad Farmer Liberation Front

By Wendell Berry

Love the quick profit, the annual raise, vacation with pay. Want more of everything ready-made. Be afraid to know your neighbors and to die. And you will have a window in your head.

Not even your future will be a mystery any more. Your mind will be punched in a card and shut away in a little drawer.

When they want you to buy something they will call you. When they want you to die for profit they will let you know.

So, friends, every day do something that won't compute. Love the Lord. Love the world. Work for nothing. Take all that you have and be poor. Love someone who does not deserve it.

Denounce the government and embrace the flag. Hope to live in that free republic for which it stands.

Give your approval to all you cannot understand. Praise ignorance, for what man has not encountered he has not destroyed.

Ask the questions that have no answers.

Invest in the millennium. Plant sequoias.

Say that your main crop is the forest that you did not plant, that you will not live to harvest.

Say that the leaves are harvested

when they have rotted into the mold. Call that profit. Prophecy such returns. Put your faith in the two inches of humus

that will build under the trees every thousand years.

Listen to carrion — put your ear close, and hear the faint chattering of the songs that are to come.

Expect the end of the world. Laugh. Laughter is immeasurable. Be joyful though you have considered all the facts.

So long as women do not go cheap for power, please women more than men.

Ask yourself: Will this satisfy a woman satisfied to bear a child?

Will this disturb the sleep of a woman near to giving birth?

Go with your love to the fields.

Lie easy in the shade. Rest your head in her lap. Swear allegiance

to what is highest your thoughts.

As soon as the generals and the politicians

can predict the motions of your mind, lose it. Leave it as a sign

to mark the false trail, the way you didn't go. Be like the fox

who makes more tracks than necessary,

some in the wrong direction.

Practice resurrection.

A link from Phillida regarding the life of **Rose Pere**, whose book Friends studied last year:

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/300200293/rose-pere-born-to-push-against-the-current>

A tribute to James C from Elizabeth:

James has turned into Sir Galahad. Sandie was going to Wellington to work on a 'commission' to paint a mural onto someone's wall. She was so excited.

Sandie was leaving for Wellington this morning and her dog-sitter 'pulled out'. Sandie telephoned in a very depressed state. After much phoning and texting and goodness knows what, James agreed to head for Sandie's place this morning at 8.00 am. Lizi went along to lend moral support and I turned up to take Stanley the dog for a walk.

Not many people would jump into the breach like James did (of course he didn't know then that Stanley's bark can be heard in the North Island...).

Talk about "helping one another up with a tender hand". Bless you all.

On-line resources: apart from our own website: quakers-innelson.org.nz and our Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson.

Read about The Charter for Compassion in the USA and the many projects underway, including for social justice:

<https://charterforcompassion.org/partners/social-justice>

A link to a record of the Wairau Affray:

<https://www.findmypast.com/articles/world-records/full-list-of-australia-and-new-zealand-records/institutions-and-organisations/new-zealand-nelson-petition-after-the-wairau-incident-1843>

Thanks to Margot Haley for the links.

Today, April 4th is the anniversary of the death of Martin Luther King Jr.

On April 3, 1968 Dr Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his last public address, now known as his "I've been to the mountaintop" speech. King had come to Memphis in support of a sanitation workers' strike and was not scheduled to speak — but the workers clamoured to hear from him, and so, though he was exhausted and under the weather, he came to Bishop Charles Mason Temple that evening to say a few words.

Speaking without notes, he said, "All we say to America is, 'Be true to what you said on paper.' If I lived in China or even Russia, or any totalitarian country, maybe I could understand the denial of certain basic First Amendment privileges, because they hadn't committed themselves to that over there. But somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly. Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the freedom of the press. Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right. And so just as I say, we aren't going to let any injunction turn us around. We are going on."

He spoke of death frequently in the speech, recalling an episode a decade earlier when he was stabbed at a book signing, as well as the many death threats he'd received over the years. Even the flight he just taken, from Atlanta to Memphis, was delayed for an hour because of a bomb threat.

He ended this way: "Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!"

As he finished, he nearly collapsed — and had to be assisted back into his seat. Tears were streaming down his face.

He was killed the next day, April 4, 1968, at the age of 39.

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

First Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Wednesday: Becoming Friends, 7.00 pm – 8.45pm

(Alternate Even Months) Sunday: Business Meeting 12.00 pm

Second Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Third Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm

Fourth Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship. Activities will be provided for them.

