

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

November 2020

Spiritual Thought

"We must learn to live together as Friends or perish together as fools."

Martin Luther King (with a minor adjustment from Ed.)

News of and for Friends

Our Dear Friend Patricia died at her home on Wednesday 21 October. She is remembered on our website <https://www.quakers-in-nelson.org.nz/news/> and in our hearts, of course. We will hold a memorial at a future date.

Marie and Lawrence are returning to Auckland for perhaps two or three months while they prepare and sell their home. We look forward to welcoming them back as real Nelsonians and Mainlanders. Marie has been our very reliable provedore for some time now, having taken over from Patricia. If there is someone who would be willing to take over this duty, it would be appreciated.

Kristine has returned from a month visiting her son in Christchurch where she was delighted by the opportunity it gave her to live very close to what felt like an unbounded sea as she drew her caravan onto the beach.

John D led a team of **Christine, Jan, Clive, Phillida, James, Gwen, Lawrence and John M** in preparing the Meeting House and food for Parihaka Day breakfast for those attending the Dawn Blessing.

Diary of Events

Sunday November 8th 10am Motueka Family Service Centre, Talbot St. Motueka, Motueka Quakers Monthly Meeting for Worship All welcome.

Wednesday November 18th 7pm Jim's House, Home Discussion Group, topic: Grief and Grieving. All welcome.

Friday November 20th 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile Street Nelson: 2020 Quaker Lecture, Maui Solomon: "Peace at all Costs". (the story of Moriori). By Zoom. All welcome

Wednesday December 2nd 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Becoming Friends, Sharing Spiritual Journeys. All Welcome.

2020 Quaker Lecture

Moriori

Peace at All Costs

Presented by Maui Solomon on Friday 20 November from 7.00pm – 9.00 pm

In a change from custom, this year's lecture will be delivered via Zoom. Since the Meeting House can now access Zoom (thank you John Michaelis) it is Nelson Quakers' intention to suggest that we watch it together, perhaps inviting others to join us. This can be discussed next Sunday, 15 December. You can also watch it at home, of course. It is necessary to register in advance for the lecture. Here is the link for registering:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZllcuqgqzMrHt2apn5Jln14SPTxskVdPkhM>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

The Week of 11 to 18 October was the week of **Prayer for World Peace** and among several interfaith meetings, **Jan Marsh** arranged for Nelson Quakers to welcome visitors to the Meeting House on Saturday 17 October between 12.30 and 1.30pm.





PARIHAKA DAY

Parihaka Day was commemorated on 5 November in Anzac Park with a much larger attendance than in the past, Lawrence counted about 150. About 50 people came to the Meeting House for breakfast afterwards. **Jan** has written her account of the day (and evening) below:

“The alarm went off at 5am and I dressed quickly to drive down to ANZAC Park. It was still dark as I joined the trickle of people walking into the park and gathering at a spot halfway between the war memorial and the Māori Battalion waharoa (gate). With the dawn chorus creating a backdrop, we stood together to hear speeches and prayers in Māori and English, including one from a uniformed police officer who spoke from the heart.

By the time the speaking and waiata had ended, the day was light enough for us to see each other clearly and recognise friends in the crowd. Next stop the Meeting House and a slightly uneasy wait for our breakfast guests. John and his team had the tables set, the kettles boiling and the toast popping. A generous menu was there for any who took up the invitation to join us and they came and were visibly happy to be there, talking in little groups over plates of porridge, fruit and cereal or savoury mince on toast. It was a cosy, convivial atmosphere. People left as they needed to for work or school and the team carried on clearing up, washing dishes and setting aside leftovers. Two big baskets of cereal, milk, bread and fruit for the Auckland Point School breakfast club were received enthusiastically by the Principal.

The third event for Parihaka Day was a play at the Theatre Royal. This was sold out and the gathering audience had an excited buzz. The play was cleverly presented by three actors and two musicians, telling the story of Parihaka, the prophets Te Whiti and Tohu and the significance of the albatross, weaving back and forth in time. The Nelson connection was clearly made by bringing our attention to the fact that 200 volunteers from Nelson went to join the troops who invaded and destroyed Parihaka and that towards the end of the nearly

two years the men of Parihaka were taken from place to place around the South Island Te Whiti and Tohu came to Nelson. They were eventually released to return to the ruins of Parihaka under certain conditions and to rebuild as best they could. Throughout the play the woman behind me, who had white feathers in her hair, cried softly.

As we left we were offered a white feather to take, with a card listing the values of Parihaka.”

“Dirge without music”

Edna St. Vincent
Millay

I am not resigned to the shutting
away of loving hearts in the hard
ground.
So it is, and so it will be, for so it has
been, time out of mind:
Into the darkness they go, the wise
and the lovely. Crowned
With lilies and with laurel they go;
but I am not resigned.

Lovers and thinkers, into the earth
with you.
Be one with the dull, the
indiscriminate dust.
A fragment of what you felt, of what
you knew,
A formula, a phrase remains—but
the best is lost.

The answers quick and keen, the
honest look, the laughter, the love -
They are gone. They are gone to
feed the roses. Elegant and curled
Is the blossom. Fragrant is the
blossom. I know. But I do not
approve.
More precious was the light in your
eyes than all the roses in the world.

Down, down, down into the
darkness of the grave
Gently they go, the beautiful, the
tender, the kind;
Quietly they go, the intelligent, the
witty, the brave.
I know. But I do not approve. And I
am not resigned.

Rest in peace Patricia.

Creating a short video for the national website:

We have room for many more short videos of just 1 - 2 minutes about you and Quakers: e.g. "I became a Quaker because... Or "One reason I am a Quaker is..." or "The reason I joined Quakers is....". Peter is willing to create your video with you. You can contact him at petermkemp@gmail.com

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 Christine at c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz [The cut-off date for items for the December newsletter is Friday, December 4th, 2020.](#)

On-line resources: visit our website: quakers-in-nelson.org.nz; our Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson; and the national website: quakers.nz.

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

<p>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</p> <p>Second Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am</p> <p>Third Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm</p> <p>Fourth Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am</p> <p><i>Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship. Activities will be provided for them.</i></p>
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