

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

September 2020

Spiritual Thought

“Happiness comes from within. It is not dependent on external things or on other people. You become vulnerable and can be easily hurt when your feelings of security and happiness depend on the behaviour and actions of other people. Never give your power to anyone else.”
Anon

News of and for Friends

Gwen has been working on the Annual Report of Friends of Nelson Haven & Tasman Bay which is a coastal watch organisation for the Top of the South. The report is now on the website (www.nelsonhaven.org.nz). Gwen can provide a photocopy on request. Each Sunday she takes part in an extended family zoom meeting. Incidentally, did you know Gwen makes a point of picking up cigarette butts to prevent them polluting the sea – especially her beloved Haven.

Patricia and **Clive** are working on embroidering the bee into the last of the embroidery panel

Joanne is working very hard for the Green Party in the run up to the next election.

Lizi has been researching Maori pre-colonial history in Wakatu and wondering how city artwork could show Maori lives alongside the various depictions of European settlers' lives.

Phillida has hosted the second of three evenings to share the teachings of Rose Pere in Te Wheke - A Celebration of Great Wisdom. Here's her report:

“We had six people and enjoyed a far-ranging discussion. This session involved three friends who were not present at the first one, so we looked once more at some of the basic spiritual concepts such a 'Aroha' before reading sections on attachment to family, place, and community. We all agreed that the sophisticated language and broad perspective of Te Wheke was very helpful in deepening our understanding.

John Michaelis and I agreed to hold a zoom Meeting to go over this second session once more with the friends who joined us for the first session. No date yet as haven't been too well, but once there is I will make sure anybody who wants 'to catch up' is able to join in.”

Jan, Christine and John M attended the Top of the South Meeting held in Motueka and hosted by the Motueka Worship Group at the end of August.

Marie and Lawrence are about to move to a new house – but only about three doors away.

John D, James and Lawrence have managed to complete the concreting at the Meeting House following the drainage work recently undertaken. John undertook organising the work and liaising with the plumbers. Let us hope we and the neighbours will enjoy the improved drainage for many years.

Elizabeth D: "I decided to go on an expedition to Picton, taking the bicycle and leaving the dog. However, I ended up taking the dog and leaving the bicycle. Looking at the road through to Pelorus, that was perhaps a good thing. The dog and I stayed at "Riverside Rest" near Pelorus where Patch swiftly discovered a flock of chickens...The trip to Picton was to visit The Stevenson Art Collection – my third attempt. I had to turn up with Patch but Mark Stevenson, (owner/collector) decided she was less trouble than children of a similar age (9). Its a great collection of New Zealand and Australian art so it was worth the effort".

Diary of Events

Friday September 11th 7.30pm – 9.30pm Zoom Nelson Tasman Climate Forum Hui. More information on the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum website.

Wednesday September 16th 7pm Phillida's house, Domett St. Nelson: Te Wheke Part 3. An introduction to basic Maori concepts and their spiritual meaning. "Te Wheke" draws attention away from the warrior and towards the importance of Mother energy.

Wednesday September 23rd 7pm – 9pm at Jim's house, The Blue Room, Tasman Street: Discussion on the two referendums accompanying the election in September on the end of life choice act and decriminalisation of marijuana. The Blue Room is around the rear of Jim's house and across the wooden deck. Friends and friends of Friends welcome.

Sunday October 4th 12pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Meeting for Worship for Business after a shared lunch. Everyone is welcome.

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

Report on Top of the South Meeting August 30th – Jan Marsh

Ten Friends gathered in Motueka on the last Sunday of August for our Top of the South meeting. We came from Nelson, Golden Bay, Motueka and - Whanganui! Michael and Merilyn Payne were in the area visiting family and took the opportunity to join us.

The Family Service Centre made a peaceful, well-equipped place to meet and Meeting for Worship was calm and settled with the sun shining in and the garden outside the window. We had an excellent shared lunch, sitting outside and braving a slight breath of snow on the wind, then came back together to discuss the two referendum topics which will be part of October's election: the legalisation of cannabis and the end of life acts.

Our various points of view were thoughtful and informative as we prepare for these referendums which will have far-reaching effects on our society. While acknowledging the need to still take care because of Covid-19, and those who for that reason couldn't join us, we felt grateful to be able to get together.

Thank you, Linda and the Motueka Friends who arranged it.

Review of the poetry & writing of Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan by Elizabeth D

Following the sentencing of the terrorist, I went looking for writings of Muslim women and came across a very talented British Pakistani writer who performs slam poetry. Her name is Suhaiymah Manzoor-Khan and here is an award winning slam poem she performed in Edinburgh:

<https://www.farrightwatch.net/2017/06/this-is-not-humanising-poem.html>

Suhaiymah has published three books and writes a blog:
<https://thebrownhijabi.com/>

Her latest essay there is "Reflections on a panel talk: the violence of white fragility and the erasure of its victims" This was the first time I had heard the phrase "White Fragility" and it is now the title of a book Nelson Library has just obtained (by Robin di'Angelo) which is quite difficult to read, as a white person who is mostly unaware of my privileged position not being seen as 'the other'.

Suhaiymah discusses how the panel discussion was 'hijacked' by three white men who clearly believed if a woman wears an hijab, she is available to take all criticism white people wish to heap onto 'other' people.

Over the Great City

Edward Carpenter
1844 - 1929

Over the great city,
Where the wind rustles through the parks and gardens,
In the air, the high clouds brooding,
In the lines of street perspective, the lamps, the traffic,
The pavements and the innumerable feet upon them,
I Am: make no mistake- do not be deluded.

Think not because I do not appear at the first glance- because the centuries
have gone by and there is no assured tidings of me- that therefore I am not
there.

Think not because all goes its own way that therefore I do not go my own way
through all.

The fixed bent of hurrying faces in the street- each turned towards its own light,
seeing no other- yet I am the Light towards which they all look.

The toil of so many hands to such multifarious ends, yet my hand knows the
touch and twining of them all.

All come to me at last.

There is no love like mine;

For all other love takes one and not another;

And other love is pain, but this is joy eternal.

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

The quakers.nz database will be the information source for the next printed book listing members, attenders, and meetings, so please make sure your name has been entered. If in doubt contact Elizabeth (elizdooley@hotmail.com or 021 213 0719) to check your entry.

John M has also created a Google.doc for all Nelson Friends including those who don't want to be listed nationally on the website. If you want to check you are on our local list, please contact John on 027 361 7023. If you don't want to be on

any internet-based list but do want to receive emails & newsletters, please make sure John Liell has you on his list.

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 September newsletter is Friday, October 9th, 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.

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.