

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

9 August 2024

Spiritual Thought

We can follow the wisdom and knowledge of tradition up to a point, as an artist studies art of the past, poetry, music, etc., but one comes to a point where one has to develop alone – strike out a new path. Jesus forged ahead from the traditional Jewish teaching, which he knew well. So must we. The past you share with others, the future is all your own.

Doris Addis-Smith 1959 *On These Islands QF&P Aotearoa New Zealand 7.44*

News of Friends

Lawrence and Marie have returned from Auckland where they enjoyed time with family, including a birthday party for their 11 year old grandson. They were also able to attend North Shore Meeting while there, and catch up with old friends.

Clive and Margaret have been cycling in Europe. They met Friends, Brian and Marjorie, who used to come to Nelson from the US each summer. Their first grandson was born in Christchurch while they were away and they look forward to meeting him on their return.

Phillida went to Auckland for a conference and enjoyed catching up with her old friend Sandra Coney.

Lizi has been supporting family through a run of winter illnesses, fortunately staying well herself. It has been isolating for her though and she is grateful for her studio where she can spend some productive time.

Christine leaves soon for the UK to visit her son, his wife and her grandson. She has also been caught by winter illness and is striving to be well for the journey.

John Michaelis has returned from the US. Three days after arriving there he had a stroke but in the time since he has made a remarkable recovery and is happy to be at home and back at Meeting.

We held vigils on the Church Steps for Hiroshima and Nagasaki days as we do every year.

Coming Events

A webinar will be held by Ben Pink Dandelion at 7pm on 21st August. Registrations were due on 7th August but if you missed the information, you could contact Michael Winter directly to plead your case. Ben is an excellent presenter. His topic is “Quaker Spirituality and Activism - What is our Ministry?”

Non-violent Communication

Elizabeth is finding the Non-violent Communication programme helpful. She writes:

There are a group of us currently looking at the book 'Speak Peace in a world of Conflict' by Marshal Rosenberg - written around 2000 and actually available to download.

The Peace Bookclub meets every fortnight via zoom. The problem for me is it is necessary to practice and so I am hoping we could form a group around the concept.

The practice is seemingly simple - in a conversation (or confrontation) we:

Slow down

Observe

Note our **feelings** (note their feelings)

Become aware of our **needs** (what lies behind what is happening/apparent disagreement)

Make a **request**

Simple as that! But of course it means changing ingrained habits in a way that encourages peace for all - personal or political.

Elizabeth has the two original books: Non-Violent Communication: A Language of Life by Marshal Rosenberg (2003) and an accompanying workbook.

She invites us to a home discussion group on Wednesday 21st August to discuss the background and see if anyone is interested in taking it further.

JYF camp

Jos Rossell is on a mission to bring Junior Young Friends back to the South Island and would like to host JYFs in the Top of the South in the April school holidays in 2026. If Friends are interested in being part of the planning and carrying out of this gathering she would be very glad of the help. Contact Jos Rossell: josphil@orcon.net.nz if you can help.

Top of the South

Our next regional gathering will be held on 1st September at Riverside. We look forward to getting together with Friends from Te Tau Ihu, and Riverside used to be a favourite place to gather. It will be good to revisit. Meeting for Worship will be followed by a shared lunch and a discussion topic. Details will be circulated soon.

From Business Meeting

John D has done some repairs on the side wall and kitchen window of the flat. He was able to return the scaffolding (borrowed from Lawrence's neighbour) in a more usable state due to adding a platform and some supports, which the owners were grateful for.

The new sign on the Meeting House wall is almost complete, with some agreed modifications. It will replace the current one which is very shabby. We considered carefully how to add a parallel sign with the same wording in te Reo and will undertake that project with consultation.

Display space in the Nelson library has been booked for 13th-30th November to celebrate 400 years of Quakerism.

We have a number of cards emphasising peace and respect which we will use at relevant

occasions: the Gaza rallies, peace vigils, the display in the library in November.

World Beyond War has a peace pledge which can be signed. Go to <https://worldbeyondwar.org> to find out more.

Poem

Pied Beauty

Glory be to God for dappled things -
For skies of couple-colour as a brindled cow;
For rose-moles all in stipple upon trout that swim;
Fresh-firecoal chestnut-falls; finches' wings;
Landscape plotted and pieced – fold, fallow, and plough;
And all trades, their gear and tackle and trim.

All things counter, original, spare, strange;
Whatever is fickle, freckled (who knows how?)
With swift, slow; sweet, sour; adazzle, dim;
He fathers-forth whose beauty is past change:
Praise him.

Gerard Manley Hopkins *As Kingfishers Catch Fire* 1918

Our Programme:

Here is a reminder of the different activities each month:

All Sundays: Meeting for Worship, 10 – 11am, 30 Nile St. Nelson

3rd Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10am, Family Service Centre, Talbot St. Motueka

3rd Wednesday: Home Discussion Group, 7pm – 8.45pm. Topic & venue tba

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

Online Resources:

visit our own website quakers-in-nelson.org.nz, the national website quakers.nz and our Face Book page @Nelson Quakers.

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. Please send newsletter items for the September letter to Elizabeth elizdooley@hotmail.com by the end of August.