

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

February 2024

Spiritual Thought

I like being a Quaker. I appreciate opportunities to share my faith and learn from others. I value what our lives have taught us. I believe our Quaker faith gives us freedom to grow, to question, to believe that everyone has a Spirit within that can help us get in touch with, and use, the gifts we have been given. We can develop our ability to 'live in the Light', both as individuals and with others. Sharing our lives, believing in one another, we can work towards decisions and actions far better than relying only on ourselves.

Faith and Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand 8.11

Ann Olsen 1999 *Quaker*

News of and for Friends

We send loving thoughts to **John D** whose mother died recently.

Some Friends have travelled to be with family over Christmas and New Year:

Peter was in Sydney to support his family and greet a new mokopuna.

Marie and Lawrence went to Auckland then Victoria on family visits.

Jan was fortunate to have her Wellington family come to her in Nelson.

Christine hosted her son, his partner and her grandson who came from London.

Our Friends **Sam and Sandy Jensen** have come back for the first time since 2020 when they rushed home to Maine to avoid being trapped here by our first lockdown. It was lovely to see them at Meeting and they brought two f/Friends who were staying with them.

A home discussion group towards the end of last year considered how to revitalise our Meeting. One suggestion, well-received, was to have more fun. As a result, we have had some social events. These included a pre-Christmas social at Christine's home and on Sunday 4th February some of us gathered at Founders Park to celebrate with four Friends whose birthdays fall around this time and remember our Friend Patricia Morissey who was one of that group. There was a jazz band playing and we danced on the village green with Gwen who doesn't let her 90+ years stop her enjoying any opportunity to dance. There is more fun planned – check out the diary of events below.

Susan Iskander from Plymouth, UK, came to stay in the Meeting House amidst her adventures around Aotearoa. She spoke with a small but very engaged group of Friends about her sabbatical

study in 2020 when she researched and followed the travels of early Quaker settler **Ann Fletcher Jackson** who arrived in Auckland in 1879 and later felt it her calling to write to visit the 'isolated and scattered' Friends. Her travels by sea and coach - and on one occasion by steam powered zip line! - were recorded in her journals. Susan's presentation sparked a lively discussion and thoughts of how the country looked and functioned in the 1880s.

Palestinian Rallies every Saturday at 10.30am, 1903 Square: Nelson Friends have faithfully attended the weekly rally for Palestine, carrying the 'Quakers for Peace' banner (first used in 2003 to protest the Iraq war.) Scott, the co-ordinator of Te Tau Ihu Palestine Solidarity, encourages us to persist 'it does make a difference.' Local Palestinians have gone on record to say they feel grateful for the support.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday February 21st 7pm-9pm Home Discussion Group, topic and venue to be advised.

Friday February 23rd, Millers Acre, Nelson City, 5.30pm the next Joy Ride, (cyclists reclaiming the City) For details contact Elizabeth.

Saturday 24th February 7pm at Victory Community Centre: 'A World beyond War – is it possible?' A talk by Dr John Reuwer. Koha entry. See more below.

Sunday 25th February, 11.30am after Meeting for Worship, John will speak to us about his peace work.

Sunday 10th March, 12.30pm at Clive and Margaret's home in Appleby, our annual summer social with a shared lunch.

Saturday 16th March 7.30 pm at the Meeting House: A quiz night, with Lawrence Carter as quizmaster. Family and friends welcome as part of your team.

Wednesday March 20th 7pm-9pm Home Discussion Group, topic and venue to be advised.

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 for the March Newsletter to Christine at c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz by March 2nd

A reminder about Quakers NZ Website: <https://quakers.nz/> is the database for the New Zealand Religious Society of Friends. It is a useful source of information on people and events. Please get into the habit of referring to the database, and please make sure your details are entered and up to date. This is where we go when we are looking for a Friend's phone number, etc. This database is only as good as the data you enter so, please make use of this important communication tool. Nelson Meeting newsletters and lots of other material is posted and archived there. **You can subscribe to the Aotearoa NZ Friends Newsletter there.**

Grampians

Kathleen Gallagher

Inside the roof of the mountains
the stars
the cicadas loud as horns
the tui liquid
I am not adolescent
I am bewitched
brought to my knees
I wish to touch trees
to hold the stars

From *Love at First Sight* Orchard Press 1997

Kathleen is a Christchurch Friend, writer and filmmaker, who lived for a time in Nelson.

'A World beyond War – is it possible?' A talk by Dr John Reuwer. Koha entry. Saturday 24th February at the Victory Community Centre.

Dr John Reuwer is a retired emergency doctor and a veteran of Unarmed Civilian Protection teams in Palestine/Israel, Ukraine, South Sudan, Haiti, Colombia, and Central America, as well as U.S. cities and elsewhere. Drawing on his experience with conflict resolution, nonviolent communication, and nonviolent action, his goal is to learn what in the New Zealand record of peacemaking (such as New Zealand's declaration of a nuclear-free zone) complements World BEYOND War's vision, and how we can best focus our work for the abolition of war. Please let all your family and friends know about this opportunity.

Online Resources: visit our own website quakers-in-nelson.org.nz, the national website quakers.nz and our Face Book page [@Nelson Quakers](https://www.facebook.com/NelsonQuakers).

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

All Sundays: Meeting for Worship, 10am, Quaker Meeting House, 30 Nile St. Nelson

2nd 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.
