

# NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

Quakers - the Religious Society of Friends – Aotearoa New Zealand Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri

July 2024

## Spiritual Thought

If we ourselves remain angry and then sing world peace, it has little meaning. First, our individual self must learn peace. This we can practice. Then we can teach the rest of the world.

-The Dalai Lama

## News of and for Friends

**Kataraina** - provided a wonderful experience for Nelson Friends early in the morning of Saturday 29 June by conducting our first Matariki Ceremony at the Meeting House.

She has written an account in the form of a poem:

"We quietly gathered outside in the predawn light,

Peering into the Northeastern sky in search of Matariki.

Alas, she was not visible from our vantage point.

Making our way into the Meeting Room –

A sole candle provided twinkling light.

A poignant Matariki Karakia was offered.

We heard the names of those near and far who had left us

This past year.

Pause    Breath    Let go    Wish them well

A candlelit reading and silent reflection,

Provided space for Hiwa-i-te-rangi to enter our dreaming.

Dawn light was entering the room.

We faced West and let go of that which does not serve us

And turned to the Rising Sun, arms outstretched'

Welcoming in Loving Kindness, Compassion, Peace and Goodness.

We sang.

Our shared parakuihi was warming amidst laughter and togetherness.

The candle blown out, Hine-nui-te-raa filled the room.

We walked out into the day

Richer.”

The first photograph (taken by Lizi) shows Kataraina, who arrived very early to heat kai and prepare the rooms.



The second photograph (taken by Kataraina) shows us gathered around a laden table. Please forgive a little 'red eye'.



Kataraina brought water from Mahitahi for the ceremony and we did discuss perhaps going to the riverside in future. But perhaps we will climb Piki Mai for

a better view of the Eastern horizon. A profound experience which we hope to repeat.

**Christabel** will be back from holiday in August. Her cousin, David Grace, wrote a biography of his Great Grandfather, Thomas Samuel Grace (1815-1879): (Anglican Christian Missionary Society): A Driven Man. I am currently reading a copy borrowed from Cristabel. It is a fascinating read about a courageous missionary who, together with his wife, Agnes (nee Fearon) worked hard for justice for Maori. The whole family were fluent in Te Reo and formed strong relationships with Maori. His travels – often on foot for many days – were feats in themselves. Agnes was as brave as Thomas. She was often left alone with the children in some hardship. Their story is remarkable and deserves to be more widely known. More info:

<https://teara.govt.nz/en/biographies/1g16/grace-thomas-samuel>.

**Phillida** had an enjoyable trip to visit family in Wellington. She also spoke at a public meeting discussing New Zealand's position on trans gender. Phillida focused her paper on gender medicine and informed consent.

Back home in Nelson, her life is fraught managing health issues (with the need for John to isolate) and school holidays – Granddaughter Ocean is enjoying herself walking beside Mahitahi Grandmother and the dog.

**Jan** has her Grandson, Oliver, staying for part of the school holidays, "meeting the challenge to find pre-teen fun in Nelson when it is cold and a bit rainy."

**Lawrence** and Marie are currently in Auckland, catching up with family, and enjoying time with their grandson, who has just celebrated his eleventh birthday. They have also reconnected with North Shore Meeting who now meet in a lovely old villa at Northcote Point. It has been surprisingly cold in Auckland, and Friends were interested to hear of our experience with a heat pump in Nelson.

**Peter** reflected on his submission on the Fast Track Bill, which he found a useful experience: "Yes it was a surprisingly safe process by Zoom, with a good facilitator and good listening going on by the select committee members. Marama Davidson was especially encouraging, giving me the thumbs up quite a few times. Good questions were asked by the other members. I came away feeling that democracy has not died in Aotearoa, and that the little people can have their say in a meaningful way. "

**Clive** and Margaret have become grandparents! Their son Eric and his wife Amy have had a son, Ewan, born in Christchurch. Clive and Margaret are currently in Italy and are excited to meet him when they return in August.

**John D** is working to replace an area of rotted windowsill in the upstairs flat at the Meeting House. He is also busy rescuing my little front garden which was sliding down a steep slope. John discovered rainwater from the neighbour's driveway was accidentally being channeled into the garden causing something of a miniature chasm. He's a pretty good problem solver, is John.

**Lizi -** While living at the Quaker Settlement, Lizi designed small Peace cards for distribution in Whanganui and to sell to raise funds for Peter Watson who made several trips as a volunteer in Palestine. Lizi's intention with the cards was to

raise awareness of the need for social justice and to work for a peaceful cooperation between Palestine and Israel. In our Whakatu meeting, we have included these words "If Justice succeeds, Peace will follow, benefitting both Palestinians and Israelis." Lizi will be supplying the cards to the Gaza Bazaar for fundraising.

**Gwen** is preparing for the 2024 AGM of the Friends of Nelson Haven and Tasman Bay Inc. The Friends began in the early 1970s when it was necessary to oppose Nelson Council plans to infill a large part of the Nelson Haven for industrial and residential development and Gwen is a foundation member. She is the current co-chair and main correspondent. There are two booklets "The story of the Friends of Nelson Haven & Tasman Bay" which I'm sure Gwen still has copies of. The Friends have fought legal battles and submitted on countless issues. The people of Nelson have much to thank them for. There will be a public talk at Hearing House on September 4 at 7pm and the speaker will be Stew Robertson, DoC Ranger for our two local Marine Reserves – Horoirangi and Tonga Island.

**Christine** is leaving on 14 August to spend 7 weeks with her London-based family (which I know will fly by) ending with a three-day conference in Lisbon before returning to us on October 3. She usually fills her suitcase with Quaker publications for the return journey – hence the healthy state of our Library. Until her departure, she will continue attending the Rallies for Palestine, Carrying the Quakers for Peace banner with help from **David, Gwen, Elizabeth** and **Daniel. Jan** and **Phillida** join us when possible.

**Elizabeth** (me!) is very much being challenged in her attempts to practice Non-Violent Communication (NVC) through a fortnightly online book group (Zoom). Marshall B Rosenberg wrote the text we use "Speak Peace in a World of Conflict" in 2005, following on from his original Work "Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life" published in 2002. The concept is deceptively simple. 'All' you need to do, for each conversation, is practice observation, recognise the feelings (yours and the person you are conversing with), become aware of the underlying needs beneath the feelings, and make a request. Simple! Well, not quite. However! When we succeed – we make life more wonderful. The book club is convened by Janie Banfield from Northern Monthly Meeting who helped us source the text and continues to supply us with links to articles and videos (Youtube) which enable us to experience NVC in action. I hope I will one day be practiced enough to use the skills when I am at various rallies and writing to local and central Government submitting on issues of concern. It's difficult but will be worthwhile. Do get in touch if you feel like learning more along with me.

## DIARY OF EVENTS:

The **Gaza Bazaar** takes place on Saturday 27 July, 12 noon to 3pm at Victory Community Centre – raising funds for Gaza relief. Interesting stalls and delicious baking!

**Nelson Womens Centre** is offering a Weekly Personal Growth Group "Living Your Authentic Life" on Thursdays 10 – 12 30 (started 18 July - Contact: Ali Watersong 027 276 5992 <https://aliwatersong.co.nz>).

**Founders Heritage Park** is holding a series of Illuminate Light and Sound shows – first one 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 5.30 - 9pm

**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 July Newsletter to Elizabeth at [elizdooley@hotmail.com](mailto:elizdooley@hotmail.com) by July 5<sup>th</sup>.

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**A reminder about Quakers NZ Website:** <https://quakers.n z / 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.**

**Celebrating nearly 400 years of Quakerism:** Meetings throughout NZ are planning celebrations on the anniversary of George Fox's birth year, this year. Mt Eden Meeting have events planned for June/July; Christchurch Meeting is making its plans. We have chosen November for our celebrations which will be based in the Nelson Library. Phillida will give a public address on the role of Quaker women in the abolition of slavery in the US. We will use the Nelson Quaker Embroideries and Lizi will outline their genesis, execution, and meaning.

**Using Zoom for Meetings for Business:** we were unable to broadcast the Meeting this month as those with the requisite skills were away. We hope more people will be willing to learn how to do that so we can always join the Meeting by Zoom.

Untitled

by Ruth Fawell 1965

Unlike the flower  
We can refuse or choose  
Our turning to the light  
Which enlightens all of us,  
The light which is your light.  
So let me today  
Be open to your radiance  
Be discovered by it, walk freely in it,  
Face its harsh definition,  
Trust its clear revelation,  
Its warmth, its loving touch  
Its most mysterious glory.

Science and

Poetry

By Rachel

Carson, 1951

The aim of science is  
to discover and  
illuminate truth. And  
that, I take it, is the  
aim of literature,  
whether biography or  
history or fiction.

It seems to me, then, that there can be  
no separate literature of science... The  
winds, the sea, and the moving tides are  
what they are. If there is wonder and  
beauty and majesty in them, science will  
discover these qualities. If they are not  
there, science cannot create them.

If there is poetry in my  
book about the sea, it is  
not because I deliberately  
put it there, but because  
no one could write  
truthfully about the sea  
and leave out the poetry.

*Rachel Carson won the National Book Award in nonfiction for her best-seller, The Sea Around Us (1951).*

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### Just in case you would like to know:

Today, June 9 is the birthday of the novelist and peace activist Bertha von Suttner, born in Prague in 1843, the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Suttner became a major figure in the peace movement of the day, publishing a bestselling novel, *Lay Down Your Arms*. She and her husband, Arthur, were devout Christians, and established the League Against Anti-Semitism in response to the pogroms and growing antisemitism in Eastern Europe. True religion, she wrote, is "neighbourly love, not neighbourly hatred. Any kind of hatred, against other nations or against other creeds, detracts from the humaneness of humanity." For a short time, she had served as administrative assistant to the industrialist Alfred Nobel, who made his fortune by inventing dynamite and developing weapons of war — and she maintained an extensive correspondence with him until his death. She is widely credited with influencing his decision to include a peace prize among those he established with his fortune, and in 1905, she became the first woman to be awarded it, and the second female Nobel laureate ever (the first being Marie Curie).

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

Read the Quaker Statement on Gaza here:

<https://fwcc.world/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/quaker-statement-on-gaza-10-172023.pdf>

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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

2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10am, Family Service Centre, Talbot St.  
Motueka

3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

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