

# NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

November 2024

## Spiritual Thought

A prayer-poem by a US activist and feminist artist:

And then all that has divided us will merge. And then compassion will be wedded to power.

And then softness will come to a world that is harsh and unkind. And then both men and women will be gentle. And then both women and men will be strong. And then no person will be subject to another's will. And then all will be rich and free and varied. And then the greed of some will give way to the needs of many. And then all will share equally in the Earth's abundance. And then all will care for the sick and the weak and the old. And then all will nourish the young. And then all will cherish life's creatures. And then all will live in harmony with each other and the Earth. And then everywhere will be called Eden once again.

Judy Chicago, Salt Project.

## News of and for Friends

**Lawrence** and **Marie** are off to Auckland for their annual sojourn to see daughter Jane's end of year Pocket Rockets dance show and celebrate their son's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday. They return on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Recently, Lawrence, his son and eleven-year-old grandson spent two days walking in the Abel Tasman.

**John D** is pleased with how well this year's Parihaka parakuihi (breakfast) following the Dawn Service went on Parihaka Day, November 5th; he led a team of 10 of us to serve a varied menu to about 80 guests. John has perfected the preparations and organisation of the event and is a calm and positive team leader. He made a huge urn of porridge, and yummy fruit compote; Phillida provided a huge pot of lentil 'mince', we had an equal amount of savoury meat mince, and cereals and fruit.

**Jan** recently spent time with members of her family in Wellington, and with her mokopuna. She is looking forward to her fourth year of learning te Reo in 2025.

**Gwen** is pleased to have a new house mate, found through a Nelson initiative called "Homes for Her". Her flatmate is a good gardener and is a teacher of Feldenkrais and Alexander Technique.

**Lizi** was busy in the lead up to Parihaka Day designing posters to advertise the day's events, an annual joy for her. She reports her family of daughter, son-in-law and two granddaughters are all well, after a winter of illnesses. She visits Friends unable to get to Meeting for Worship as part of her Pastoral Care role. She is thrilled to have our friends Jo and Chris who have returned from Lincoln UK now living a few doors away in Omiao Stoke.

**Peter, Phillida and Lizi** have volunteered to form a renewed YM Treaty Relationships Group, and a second home discussion this coming week will focus on the Treaty Relations Bill shortly to be introduced into Parliament, the Hikoi in support of Te Tiriti, and what we can do as Quakers to support Te Tiriti. See the diary below, and your email in-box.



**Phillida** has been busy (when not making lentil mince) preparing her speech to be given on November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1pm in the Nelson Library as part of Nelson Meeting's celebration of 400 Years of Quakerism. It is entitled, "American Quaker Women who changed the World". See the dairy below. When Christine tried to boost the post of the talk on FB it was rejected because of the impending US election! The four women Phillida will speak about lived in the 18<sup>th</sup> century!

**Clive** is enjoying meeting and spending time with his grandson Ewan who is now three months old. Clive and Margaret's son Eric and wife Amy are staying with them for four weeks.

**Moira** (Motueka Meeting) is challenged by current events in the world – the election outcome in the US, the genocide in Gaza and war in Ukraine. She takes care of herself by limiting her exposure to Al Jazeera news and focusing on loving kindness. Her intention to spread kindness soothes her spirit.

**Ann** (Motueka Meeting) is similarly taking time every morning to walk on the beach with the dog and to connect with the natural world around her.

**Linda** (Motueka Meeting) writes: "It's definitely Spring in our small garden with masses of



passion fruit flowers in bloom and our dwarf nectarine tree is fruiting nicely. I'm loving my time planting some of our favourite seasonal veggies too. Last month Sally and I joined the Motueka DOC nursery as volunteers. Our work is pricking out native plants which, once they're bigger will find their home amongst the bush plantations around our district. A morning's work with our group of a dozen volunteers can produce a couple of hundred plants. There's lots of weeding of plants as they grow from seedlings to a size that are ready for their final planting.

It's a new network of people for us to connect with, lots of new learning and we know that our small service adds to the care of our surrounding whenua. It's a satisfying activity for us on a Monday morning each week."

**Angus** is preparing for his final school exams in Maths and Accounting on the 14<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> November. Best wishes to Angus for a successful end to his school career.

**Christine** organised a display regarding Parihaka Day at the Richmond Library using a striking poster created by **Lizi**, as part of the activities of the Parihaka Network in Whakatu, as well as washing lots of dishes at the Parakuihi alongside Jan. She is involved in the remake of the national Quaker website as part of the YM Outreach Committee and the Website Oversight Committee, which will occupy a lot of time through to February next year.

**John M** is now serving Quakers as part of the Quaker Peace and Service Committee, as well as being on the YM Outreach Committee. He has been involved with Jace Hobbs (a birthright Quaker) in creating a webinar on climate change, entitled, "Is there hope for a climate solution?" (Their answer is "we don't know".) John and Anthea's son Mark is visiting from the US in December. Mark is the major funder of a school in Ethiopia. John and Anthea had a few days away last week in Kaikoura.

**Daniel** is faithfully attending the rallies for Palestine each Saturday. His work at the Cawthron Institute continues sampling & testing algae from around the country, as well as plankton sampling for the mussel farming industry and non-commercial food-gathering.

**Elizabeth** returned from her overseas travels at the beginning of the month. Vienna was her favourite place, where she visited the Hundertwasser Museum. She says it is an enchanting paeon to the spiral. She also visited Prague, Cologne, Bonn, London, Solihull, Birmingham, Strafford and Nuneaton. She must have come home for a rest!

An aside, while Elizabeth was trying to help with the clean-up from Parihaka breakfast, Patch kept barking in indignation at being left outside. Phillida went to fetch something from her car and Patch followed her and jumped in. Phillida quickly locked the door, and Patch was quiet for the next 2 hours - stunned, but quiet...



## DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday November 13th 7pm-9pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile Street Whakatu Nelson Home Discussion Group, a second

round of deliberations on a Quaker response to the government's Treaty Principles Bill. (more below.)

Wednesday November 13<sup>th</sup> – November 30<sup>th</sup> Nelson Library Halifax Street Whakatu Nelson Public Display of Quaker books, pamphlets and posters, videos and the Embroideries, to mark 400 hundred years of Quakerism. Please drop in to support the display and talk to enquirers if you can.

Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> 1pm Nelson Library Halifax Street, Whakatu Nelson, public talk by Phillida on "American Women who changed the world". All welcome. See more below.

Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> 12.15pm after shared lunch at Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile Street Whakatu Nelson: Meeting for Worship for Business. Send agenda items to Clive.

Sunday December 1<sup>st</sup> Christchurch Monthly Meeting, Zoom link as per weekly Meetings for Worship.

Friday December 6<sup>th</sup>, Millers Acre, Nelson City, 5.30pm Joy Ride, (cyclists reclaiming the City) For details contact Elizabeth.



Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> 10am 6 Glenhill Drive Blenheim Top of the South Meeting. Discussion after a shared lunch: our notions of the origins of Christmas and our experiences of Christmas. If you would like to come the night before there are beds available and we would love to have a shared Christmas dinner.

Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup>, Christine's place, 12.30pm: Shared lunch to celebrate summer/xmas. Everyone is welcome even if you haven't made it to Meeting this year.

Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> 7pm-9pm Home Discussion Group, topic, and venue to be advised.

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## Quaker attention on peace in the Middle East (FWCC Europe & Middle East Section)

Friends across the Europe and Middle Section are deeply saddened by increasing violence in the Middle East. Their page is a resource and point of reference for various opportunities to get involved. It is updated regularly.

Statement from British Quakers: Quakers align with ICJ on Israel and occupied Palestine 23 October 2024

Statement from Brummana High School, Lebanon 2 October 2024

Eyewitness – the blog from the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine & Israel

Britain Yearly Meeting statement: October 7, one year on: a Quaker statement

<https://actquakers.org.au/fwcc-quaker-attention-on-peace-in-the-middle-east/>



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 December letter to [elizdooley@hotmail.com](mailto:elizdooley@hotmail.com). **The cut-off date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup> 2024**

## Phillida to talk on American Quaker Women who changed our world



### "American Quaker Women Who Changed Our World"

You are invited to a Talk in celebration of the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Quakers  
The Library Nelson Saturday November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 1 pm.

Tensions at the heart of the recent American election are long standing and go back to the early years of the American Republic. In 1783 when the War of American Independence ended and the new nation of the United States was established the central question facing the new nation was, (and still is), what would the new state stand for? Was it founded on violence of race-based chattel slavery, the sexual exploitation of women and the sale of their children. Or on free labour, equal opportunity and inclusion?

The Declaration of Independence of 1776 declared the 'self-evident' truth 'that all men are created equal... and... endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable Rights'. Quakers were the first and most consistent religious group to insist that 'all men' meant 'all' - women and men, black, white and indigenous people and that lasting peace required recognition of this simple fact.

Quakers, especially Quaker women, were at the very centre of the intense public debate about the nature of the democracy that emerged between 1783 when the American War of Independence ended and 1861 when the Civil War began. Abolitionist Quaker women worked tirelessly against war and violence. They challenged the violence and sexual exploitation endemic to slavery. They promoted temperance, non-violent resistance and the equal franchise and education for black and white, women and men.

Phillida traces four women whose remarkable lives are central to the debate about the nature of the new country. They established free schools, clinics and hospitals for the poor and opened the first medical schools for women. Will the opportunities they pioneered survive?

All welcome.

## 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.**

Notice: there will be a content freeze to allow us to prepare to transition to our upgraded website. If you have any questions, please [get in touch with the helpdesk](#).

## Parihaka Day – a day of commemoration and celebration:



Archdeacon Harvey Ruru led the Dawn Blessing on Parihaka Day, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024, in Anzac Park at 5.30am with the sun already reddening the sky in the east, and the birds in full chorus. It is always a special spiritual time. This year speakers drew connections between the non-violence

demonstrated at Parihaka in 1881 and wars unfolding in Palestine/Israel, Lebanon and the Ukraine. After the Blessing, Te Mana Hā, a Roopu of wāhine from different ethnic backgrounds who live and work in Whakatū welcomed those manuhiri able

to attend the Parakuihi across the road at the Bridge Club rooms with a karakia kai. Te Mana Hā are committed to learning Te Reo Māori and singing waiata Māori in our community. Maria Oxnam offered on behalf of the group to tautoko the Parihaka Day Dawn Blessing. Te Mana Ha sung beautiful waiata during breakfast for about 80 manuhiri.

At 1pm Donna McLeod spoke movingly to 30 members of the public gathered at the Richmond Library. Entitled My story, your story, our story she wove together her connections to Parihaka, the connections of local people to the constabulary which invaded Parihaka, and the time spent by Te Whiti and Tohu Kakahi under house arrest in Nelson immediately following the sacking of the village.

## Tautoko Te Tiriti o Waitangi

In preparation for our Home Discussion this Wednesday:

- i) Information from Yearly Meeting ... our YM Clerks are being active in collecting information to send out soon, particularly on making submissions to Select Committees, and on arrangements for joining the Hikoi mō te Tiriti, either when it is close to us, or in Wellington. They have attended a "National Dialogue for Christian Unity" meeting, at which Alistair Reese was the invited speaker. He covered much of the material from his book "He Tatau Pounamu" which we looked at in our last Home Discussion.
- ii) the Hikoi mō te Tiriti ... is anyone keen to go to Wellington, and would our Meeting consider funding for a contingent of us to be there on 19 November? (I haven't worked out what the logistics of that would be, possibly a return trip on the Ferry, which would involve an overnight stay in Wellington ... otherwise return airfares on the day.)
- iii) Contributing to a Quaker Statement on the Bill. Could we begin putting together a Statement? YM Clerks suggest that if we did that, it could be forwarded to our newly appointed Urgent Submissions Group (Gray Southon and Marilyn Head) to be distributed for approval by Monthly Meetings and then Yearly Meeting.
- iv) Generating public veneration of Te Tiriti. Could we initiate a "meme" campaign. We have the idea of a T-shirt with a slogan on it (e.g. "I love Te Tiriti"), or a hongī image similar to the one on our Embroidery. Could we design some posters? Other ways of putting memes out there?

We hope you can make it to this important discussion and planning meeting.



## The Call to Worship

Bob Hicok

The possibility that the zero gave birth to the universe,  
that all our somethings come from nothing, the fear  
of being alone like that, children of chance, orphans  
down to our atoms, is mother to the idea of god. God

is a dress we slip over solitude, a mask  
for oblivion to wear, a rule-giver in a world  
where no flower or bear cares that we are here  
or what we do.

I prefer a theology of silence, the eschatology  
of the shrug, a religion of holding my wife's hand  
for now.

But, if the industry of the church is what it took  
to give me bells ringing Sunday mornings,  
to which crows sometimes rise and deer turn,  
I'm grateful for a sound that pulls me out of myself,  
lifts my head toward sun and clouds, into the up  
and all, the blue, the on and on of it, when I bend  
the only knee I have to bend, feel  
happily small, contingent, and held, by what  
I can't say, short of everything.

### Summer Gathering 2024-25 - El Rancho, Kāpiti

Friday, 27 December 2024 - Thursday, 02 January 2025

**Summer Gathering** starts on Friday, 27th December 2024 from 3pm when  
registration opens, with Mihi Whakatau from Mana Whenua in The Elm Hall at

5.15pm. This will be followed by our first evening meal together and whangangatanga/getting to know each other and the camp.

**Our theme** of "Meeting in the Middle" is both a reflection of having a venue in the middle of Aotearoa and of connecting young with old.

Meeting in the middle points to a way of thinking and acting that reaches across divides, looking for the Light within everyone whilst remaining steadfast in our commitment to challenging injustice. How, for example, do Quakers with our Pākehā heritage, navigate the space between Tangata Tiriti and Tangata Whenua, at a time when that framework is politically challenged?

For more information including how to register go to <https://quakers.nz/sgcom/events/summer-gathering-2024-25-el-rancho-k%C4%81piti>

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**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.

*Who was George Fox? Find out in this video from QuakerSpeak:*

<https://youtu.be/YJmPdKrLMx0>

Events for the 400<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Quakerism have been taking place throughout 2024.



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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. Whakatu

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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