

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

December 2021

Spiritual Thought

“Do not be content to accept society as it is. Seek to discover the causes of social unrest, injustice, poverty, and fear. Bear witness to the humanity of all people. Try to discern the new growing points in society.” Quakers NZ Advices & Queries 2013

News of and for Friends

Jan celebrated her 70th birthday this past week. Happy Birthday Jan.

Lawrence and Marie leave for Australia on Friday to visit their daughter and meet their newest grandchild. They hope to be able to get home again at the end of February.

Lizi is enjoying her contact with Friends in need as part of her role in the Pastoral Care Committee. Her ministry is much appreciated by those receiving it.

Phillida is staying close to home because of the vulnerability of her house mates and husband, especially now that we have Covid in our community. She continues to be involved in the response to the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill.

Christine is also involved in the same concern. She recently gave speeches to the associations of psychotherapists and counsellors on the subject pointing out flaws in the proposed legislation.

Elizabeth has been working in any way she can on the Save The Maitai project, to stop housing developments from ruining this beautiful valley.

Motueka Friends are back in their beautiful meeting room at the Motueka Service Centre and observing the orange traffic light rules. They are happy to have had several Quaker books donated to them by Margaret Woolgrove. Friends in Motueka welcome visitors to their Meeting for Worship and fellowship – they meet on the 2nd Sunday of each month.

Peter is an active volunteer for the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum, and today he organised for our Clerk to sign up Quakers in Nelson as an organisational

partner. Peter is also working on a project around spiritual needs of young people. More on that later.

Clive has let us know that he is ready to stand down from the role of Clerk which he has carried for the past 3 years. Time for someone else to step up.

Rex continues his commitment to pest control in the national parks.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday December 15th 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group. Venue and topic to be advised. Vaccine passes may be required, also to be advised.

Sunday December 19th and successive Sundays 9am Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Meeting for Worship. Vaccine passes required.

Sunday December 19th and successive Sundays 10.30am Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Meeting for Worship. No vaccine passes required.

Sunday December 19th 11.30am Queen's Gardens, Hardy St. entrance: Christmas Gathering/picnic. Please bring something to eat and drink (and give some thought to the sharing of food). There is limited seating so you may like to bring rugs or picnic chairs. Should the weather be inclement, Gwen has offered her home as a backup venue. You will need to be double vaccinated to go to Gwen's home.

Wednesday January 19th 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group. Venue and topic to be advised. Vaccine passes may be required depending on venue, also to be advised.

Sunday February 13th 12noon Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Meeting for Worship for Business. No vaccine pass required. The Meeting will provide for attendance by Zoom.

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 next newsletter to Christine Gillespie, c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz. **The cut-off date for items for the January / February newsletter is Friday, February 11th, 2022.**

News from Business Meeting

Covid-19 and our Meeting:

The Meeting has a desire to be guided by Quaker values of equality and unity, and to treat each other with love and compassion. All people who worship with us are valued by us. Accordingly, we have decided as follows: there will be two Meetings for Worship each Sunday. The first will be at 9am and a vaccine pass will be required for entry. The second will be at 10.30am and will not require attenders to have a vaccine pass.

Meetings for Worship for Business will be held as usual on the first Sunday of the month and will be open to vaccinated and unvaccinated Friends. We will ensure Zoom is available for those who wish to attend that way.

Those who use our House for meetings or accommodation will not need a vaccine pass but are expected to observe all requirements of the Covid Protection Framework.

A NOTE: AA will be using the premises on both Wednesday and Thursday lunchtimes (11.30 - 1.30) between 16th December and 10th January.

We agreed to the request from **Extinction Rebellion** to use our premises for their regular weekly meetings. Which day of the week still to be decided.

Meeting agreed to Raewyn Scott's request to be able to use the Meeting House for a weekly or fortnightly afternoon meeting of women mental health consumers. Raewyn will trial this between now and our next Business Meeting.

Premises:

The long planned **basement pump switch** has been installed in the guest room.

The **working bee** in mid-November gave the inside of the house a good spring clean, and outside walls, the fence, and stairs were also washed. The basement also got a clean-up. Great job all those who turned up to help.

Outreach:

Peter Kemp put a proposal to Meeting to research and develop a project of **outreach to teenagers**. The purpose is to orient young people towards spiritual values, and to provide guidance and build community. The outcome envisaged could be a book of 365 daily readings / commentaries, or a phone app which teens can download, or a set of daily emails to which teens could subscribe.

Meeting supported Peter's idea and will provide a grant of \$2,000 for him to begin a feasibility study, to consult widely with youth both inside and outside of Quakers, and to develop a specific proposal that could be taken forward to YM.

Our Meeting and Sustainability

The Pastoral Care Committee propose to organise a Meeting for Learning on this topic in the New Year. Date to be advised.

Christmas Sparrow

Billy Collins

The first thing I heard this
morning
was a rapid flapping sound,
soft, insistent—

wings against glass as it
turned out
downstairs when I saw the
small bird
rioting in the frame of a high
window,
trying to hurl itself through
the enigma of glass into the
spacious light.

Then a noise in the throat of
the cat
who was hunkered on the rug
told me how the bird had
gotten inside,
carried in the cold night
through the flap of a basement
door,
and later released from the
soft grip of teeth.

On a chair, I trapped its
pulsations
in a shirt and got it to the
door,
so weightless it seemed

to have vanished into the nest
of cloth.

But outside, when I uncupped
my hands,
it burst into its element,
dipping over the dormant
garden
in a spasm of wingbeats
then disappeared over a row
of tall hemlocks.
For the rest of the day,
I could feel its wild
thrumming
against my palms as I
wondered about
the hours it must have spent
pent in the shadows of that
room,
hidden in the spiky branches
of our decorated tree,
breathing there
among the metallic angels,
ceramic apples, stars of yarn,
its eyes open, like mine as I
lie in bed tonight
picturing this rare, lucky
sparrow
tucked into a holly bush now,
a light snow tumbling through
the windless dark.

Bayard Rustin: by Elizabeth Dooley

I've been reading about a remarkable African American Quaker, **Bayard Rustin** from Westchester, Pennsylvania, who went to great lengths to model non-violent protest. His biography shows a remarkable life, working for peace, including his work with Martin Luther King, and organising the 1963 March on Washington. One story told was, while he was in prison for refusing to fight in WW2, he was attacked and beaten. Other prisoners rushed to help him, and he told them to stay out of it. The prisoner beating him eventually collapsed in tears.

There are some videos on YouTube and American Public Broadcasting did make a film of his life, which I have seen excerpts from, but cannot find the complete film. Netflix have apparently started to make a series on his remarkable life. Rustin is an inspiration.

Te Ataarangi Information Evening

If you want to consider learning te Reo next year, please enrol for the Zoom meeting this Wednesday December 15th. Contact Anne on the email address akorumaki@gmail.com She explains all below:

Tēnā koe,
E ngā waka, e ngā reo, e ngā karangaranga maha o te rohe, tēnei te mihi nui ki a koutou katoa.

Ka nui te aroha mō tō koutou manawanui ki te whai i te reo Māori me ngā tikanga.

Thank you for your inquiry about Māori language classes, held under the kaupapa of Te Ataarangi, in Whakatū in 2022.

Thanks for your patience as our whakahaere team sort out our pathway through for 2022 with the safety of our kaimahi and tauira first and foremost in our minds.

“He waka eke noa”

The beginning course in Nelson for 2022 will run as a DAY class, held on Wednesday mornings, 9.30 - 12pm starting in March and continuing through to September.

We would like to invite you to an information evening to learn about what we offer, and your commitment should you be accepted into this class.

This year's info evening will be conducted via Zoom on **Wednesday 15th Dec at 6pm**

If you would like to attend, please respond to this email and I will send you the link.

If you are unable to attend via Zoom, please also let me know and I will arrange an alternative for you.

COSTS

To confirm this course entails a course fee of \$250 + GST.

\$100 deposit to be paid on confirmation of registration.

N.B. Te Ataarangi ki Te Tauihu o te Waka-a-Māui does not wish the necessary change to a fee structure to provide a barrier to learners. If the \$ are an issue and you would like to discuss options, please contact us. We have a support fund available.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Following the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021, Te Ataarangi ki te Tauihu o te Waka-a-Māui is taking all practicable steps to ensure the safety of its workers by undertaking the mandatory COVID-19 vaccination of their tutors. Further to this health and safety measure, anyone enrolling on this programme will be required to have a current Vaccine Pass, or a valid Exemption with a negative COVID-19 test.

Mauri ora
Anne Harvey
Pouwhakahaere Akoranga

As Friends will be aware, Summer Gathering has been cancelled because of Covid-19 restrictions. However, you can attend online workshops that would have been face to face. And there's a New Year's Eve party to go to too. Here is the programme:



Programme for the Online Summer Gathering

(For up-to-date information see <https://quakers.nz/quaker-learning/events/online-summer-gathering>)

Wednesday December 29 at 3.45pm – 5.15pm

Listening among Friends in a time of possible division.

In this workshop we will explore ways of listening to people who don't share our views. We will practice creating a space that is safe to share our different and perhaps strongly held ideas.

Carrie Barber and Raewyn Robinson will be the facilitators.

Thursday December 30 7.45pm – 9.15pm

Climate Change Workshop

Where are Quakers? – Where could we be? Gray Southon is leading this one.

Friday December 31 7.45pm – 12.30am

New Year Celebration

Whilst we can't dance online, we can come together and enjoy each other's company to mark the forthcoming new year. Bring a poem, a joke, a short story, a game that could work or let us know what music / song you would like to hear. Come with your favourite nibbles and something to drink. Do let Ann and Val, resident Friends at Auckland (AK.friendscentre@quaker.org.nz) know what you plan to bring.

Sunday January 2 10.00am – 11.00am

Meeting for Worship

Zoom Link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/639817289> with a waiting room.

Monday January 3 8.45am – 10.15am

Helping children navigate their way through anxiety and stress

With the support of the Loxley award Elaine Dyer and Andrea O'Hagan have collaborated with Māori and Pasifika teachers to develop a new resource for classroom teachers to help children understand anxiety and learn strategies to be calmer and more resilient. This presentation will explain some of gentle, effective processes which teachers are able to implement with their students, the process of collaboration and some of the results of the collaboration thus far.

Monday January 3 3.45 – 5.15pm

Treaty Relationships Discussion

Facilitated by the Treaty Relationships Group

Tuesday January 4 8.45am – 10.15am

Experiment with Light

An opportunity to experience the Quaker meditation practice put together by Rex Ambler from his study of early Friends practices. It can be used for personal and group insight and growth and is a simple but dynamic process. What it can reveal for us personally can also help us to understand

experientially what it was that made early Friends so sure, so centred, so willing to suffer privations to keep their faith alive.

Ann Banks and Val Bone will be the facilitators.

Tuesday January 4th 10.30am – 11.45pm

Finding the Quakers: How do/can we help those who share our values learn that we exist and discover a possible spiritual home with us? Facilitated by members of Yearly Meeting Outreach Committee: Christine Gillespie, Jan Schmidt, John Michaelis, Shaun Greenslade-Hibbert.

Zoom link for each time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81076165309?pwd=VzZHK2ZsK0R1QWduY1creWc2Mmtmdz09>

With Passcode: 2924

Meeting ID: 810 7616 5309

One tap mobile

+6498846780,81076165309#,,,,*2924#

+6436590603,81076165309#,,,,*2924#

Or Dial by your location

+64 9 884 6780 New Zealand

+64 3 659 0603 New Zealand

+64 4 886 0026 New Zealand

Roles in the Meeting: it is time for Friends to consider roles they want to volunteer for to serve the Meeting. Here is the list of opportunities:

**Accommodation Coordinator & Team;
laundry.**

Assistant Clerk

Children’s Team

Clerk

Climate Emergency Correspondent Contact/s

Library Team

Mail & email distribution

Meeting House Providore/s

Nelson Meeting Contact Person/s

Newsletter Team

Outreach Committee

Pastoral Care Committee

Premises Committee

**Representative/s to Nelson Multicultural
Council, Interfaith Group**

Safety and Respect Committee Contacts

Social Media Administrators

Social Testimonies Committee

Treaty Issues Correspondent

Treasurer

If you have previously missed the opportunity to serve on one of these teams – fear not! **Please put yourself forward - write your name up on the white board in the Meeting Room.** If you want to know what's involved the tasks are described on the noticeboard in the hall at the Meeting House.
