

# NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

February/March 2023

## Spiritual Thought

Our kindness may be the most persuasive argument for that which we believe.  
(Gordon B Hinckley)

## News of Friends



**Lizi** is in the process of repairing and re-stuffing pretty much all her beautiful cushions and pillows after Izzy (tiny dog, sharp teeth) found herself alone and at a loose end in Lizi's once-tasteful bed-sitting room. Fortunately for her sanity, Lizi also has a lovely garden with a prolific tomato plant and a wide range of other vegetables, plus her two little grandchildren who are also growing successfully. Amid all her Gardening and Granny duties she still finds time to provide pastoral care to those of us who can't make it to Meeting, as well as preparing spiritual readings to share with us on Sundays. Lizi is planning a small group of

workshops based around the embroideries, focusing on our Quaker values. She is also furthering the Parihaka 2023 design posters and initiatives in schools.

**John D:** has been examining the outside of the Meeting House since his return from the Emerald Isle and has a formidable list of repairs that will need undertaking. I think as soon as the weather settles over Autumn, he will be gathering us up for a working bee while we apply a little paint and polish.

**Christine** provided a link to a very interesting declaration by people from around the world searching and working for a just society:

<https://www.commondreams.org/news/santiago-declaration-our-future-is-public>

It fits in very well with the discussion some of us are having about 'degrowth' because it is going to be so important to have basic utilities in public ownership. Building toward "a sustainable social pact for the 21st century" in which "our rights are guaranteed, not based on our ability to pay, or on whether a system

produces profit, but on whether it enables all of us to live well together in peace and equality."

**John M and Christine** have just spent the weekend of 17-19 February at the Settlement working on outreach with Young Quakers and Quakers with young families. This forms part of the YM Outreach programme.

**Christine** has written up an account of her travels around South Island worship groups, it is up on the national website for logged in viewers, on the YMOC page.

**Marie and Lawrence** are here briefly in Nelson and both are once again working to keep the Meeting House in good condition as our Meeting House for Worship, a home for our tenant, Jan, and temporary accommodation for visiting Friends (or friends of Friends). I popped into the Meeting house last Friday and found **Clive, John D and Lawrence** labouring mightily on the grounds and outside of the house. I quickly popped out again...

**Peter** has been working on the development of a phone App as an outreach to young people. Following discussion at MfB on Sunday (12<sup>th</sup>), he is exploring whether there is another way of reaching young people who are struggling through mental health issues. He will go ahead and get costing for the app, plus trialling it, as much as possible.

**Gwen, Phillida and Rex** spent Saturday 18 February at Waihopei spy base, protesting this and the rocket lab site at Mahia Peninsula. This from Gwen:

"Outstanding for me were Teanau Tuiono and Murray Horton (vast store of information) and Paul Watson (in the audience First Union) In this case it was an information sharing with several experts, with the audience providing very knowledgeable people. This was fortunate since the cyclone made it impossible for some featured people to attend. Green MP Teanau Tuiono has a private Bill lodged in Parliament to prevent the launch of military payloads from Rocket Lab. The book "Peacemonger" with essays about Owen Wilkes an International Peace Researcher was available (I bought a copy and had Owen's partner May Bass, who co-edited the book, sign my copy). Of special interest is the Acknowledgement "for the generosity of the Quaker Education Fund" (Hurrah for Quakers!!) Also in the Acknowledgements is a Nelson connection -"thanks to Robbie, Denise and the rest of the crew at Potton and Burton for their work of design and production".

I recommend local Friends purchase the book. The publisher is Raekaihau Press and "distributed by Steele Roberts Aotearoa Publishers info@steeleroberts.co.nz and [www.SteeleRoberts.co.nz](http://www.SteeleRoberts.co.nz). the price was \$35.

Gwen has been involved with "Friends of Nelson Haven and Tasman Bay Inc." since its inception in 1973. It is possibly the longest running local group of its kind in the country. Its major aim is to protect the ecological integrity of the coastal marine area of Tasman Bay, Golden Bay and the Marlborough Sounds. Over the years this has involved, for example, fighting aquaculture over-development in the

Marlborough Sounds and other places, and working with Port Nelson on pollution issues.

Unfortunately, the people, like Gwen, who have been the mainstay of Friends of Nelson Haven for many years, are now advanced in years. It is too much work for the people involved to shoulder alone and so Gwen is asking if Nelson Friends would please think of anyone they know who could help with this important work. Please ask your friends and acquaintances and text or telephone me, Elizabeth on 0212130719, either to ask for more information or perhaps to volunteer yourself or name someone we could approach. Nga mihi from Gwen.

## **Diary of Events**

### **Wednesday 15 March - Degrowth discussion**

The second Wednesday evening discussion/home group on this topic will be on 15 March at the Meeting House. If you would like to come along, we meet from 7pm until 9pm. There is a great deal of information online, or I can send you links to some of the documents we have discussed. (elizdooley@hotmail.com). There are also Youtube links to podcasts you might like to have a look at.

### **Saturday 18 March - Death Matters**

Valerie Bone was our clerk here in Nelson years ago. She and Ann Banks are current Friends in Residence in Auckland. They will be coming to Nelson Province from 10 to 20 March. While they are here, they will hold a workshop "Death Matters". Phillida will send out material pertaining to the Workshop in a week or so.

While we are on that topic, you may know that we can leave information with Quakers in Nelson about our wishes around burial. I had a look on the Nelson City Council website to check prices for a natural burial (like the one we had for Patricia Morrisey). There is an online application form for a burial plot and the fees at present are \$2486.00 for a plot and about \$1,000 burial fees - plus gst.

### **Sunday 19 March - Meeting for Healing**

Valerie Bone and Ann Banks will hold a Meeting for Healing at the Nelson Meeting House on Sunday 19 March at 12.30 pm., following a shared lunch at 12.00pm. The Meeting focus is 'After Covid: Overcoming divisions and hurts.' Everyone who attends will have a chance to speak. The meeting will end at 2.00pm

## **Our help is needed - Cyclone Gabrielle**

We have all been moved by what is happening to our friends in the East Cape. So often it is the Marae who somehow manage to throw open their doors (and hearts) and take people in. Stuff.co.nz is taking donations, as is Red Cross and the Nelson

Mayoral Relief Fund. I had a look online and found Marae who are taking donations for the flood victims:

<https://en.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz/gabrielle-fundraisers>

	<p><a href="#">Cyclone Gabrielle: hapori Māori fundraising pages</a> Here is a list of fundraisers for hapori Māori in Aotearoa affected by Cyclone Gabrielle. <a href="https://en.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz">en.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz</a></p>
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Amid heavy National and International events, here is something a little lighter:

## A Poem

“Hope” is the thing with feathers            By Emily Dickinson

“Hope” is the thing with feathers -  
That perches in the soul -  
And sings the tune without the words -  
And never stops - at all -

And sweetest - in the Gale - is heard -  
And sore must be the storm -  
That could abash the little Bird  
That kept so many warm -

I’ve heard it in the chilliest land -  
And on the strangest Sea -  
Yet - never - in Extremity,  
It asked a crumb - of me.



The Nelson Meeting House Garden (photo: Phillida)

**Online Resources:**

<https://www.quakers-in-nelson.org.nz> (plus our Facebook page)

<https://quakers.nz> - the National Quaker website – where Christine has posted an account of her recent visit to South Island Meetings.

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

Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 8.45–9.45 am

Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00 – 11.00am

3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month, Home Discussion Group 7pm – 8.45pm

Next Meeting for Business Sunday 9 April, 12.00 pm

Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship.