

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

July 2021

Spiritual Thought

There is no way to peace. Peace is the way.

News of and for Friends

Marie is recovering well following her hip surgery.

Joanna Plows however is having a different experience. She was waiting for her surgery on Monday morning and was sent home when the operating theatre set aside for her operation was taken over for urgent surgery on someone with a broken ankle.

Elizabeth attended the Matariki Festival at Victory Primary School (and nearly froze to death).

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday July 7th 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St.
Nelson: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome, especially newcomers keen to learn more about Quakerism.

Sunday July 12th 10am Family Service Centre 27 Talbot St.
Motueka: Monthly Motueka Meeting for Worship. All welcome.

Wednesday July 21st 7pm – 9pm Elizabeth's place: Home Discussion Group. The topic will be te Reo Māori as the path to partnership. This follows the Meeting for Learning workshop on July 4th.

Wednesday August 4th 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St.
Nelson: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome, especially newcomers keen to learn more about Quakerism.

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 August newsletter is Friday, August 7th, 2021.

Report on Meeting for Learning held on 4th July:

After MfW and a shared lunch **Jan Marsh and Quentin Abraham ran a workshop** looking at the role Te Reo Maori could play in growing a strong relationship between Maori and Pakeha. Quentin has been in New Zealand for around 20 years and decided that he needed to honour his new country by learning the first language of Aotearoa. He and Jan have inspired a group of us to take things further and 'dip our toes' into the idea of being sufficiently aware of Maoritanga to engage with Maori on a deeper level whenever the opportunity presents itself. To this end, I see there is a free online course:

<https://www.wananga.com/wananga-preparation-information-for-students.html>

Bearing The Light

Denise Levertov (1923 -1997)

Rain-diamonds, this winter morning,
embellish the tangle of unpruned pear-tree twigs;

each solitaire, placed, it appears, with considered judgement,
bears the light beneath the rifted clouds —
the indivisible shared out in endless abundance.

Compassion, a Home Group Discussion lead by Peter Kemp:

Here are Peter's recollections of the evening:

"Five of us shared our reflections on how compassion came into our lives, or not, in childhood and on into adulthood. There was a range of experiences of course: for some, compassion was felt in family of origin, for others it wasn't, but gradually flowered from "natural knowledge" (or other kinds of seeds) as life progressed. We went on to share stories of compassionate action significant in our lives, either as recipients or as actors. Some of the stories were akin to tough love. And then, the thorny issue of how to generate and enact compassion

for perpetrators of crimes against others took our attention -- a difficult but important topic.

All-in-all, a very thoughtful and stimulating evening."

Book Review: *Whale Oil* (2019) by Margie Thomson

By Elizabeth D

When Auckland businessman Matt Blomfield reached out to Nicky Hagar after being relentlessly trashed and attacked by Whale Oil blogger Cameron Slater, Hager put him in touch with Margie Thomson to chronicle his life from 2012 until 2019. The book reads almost like a thriller. Blomfield was unusually tenacious in hanging on for years through an unhelpful legal system while Cameron Slater was allowed an unbelievable amount of leeway. At one point Blomfield was attacked in his garden by a gunman and literally fought for his life. The police believed the lies on Whale Oil and have still failed to apologise for their treatment of Blomfield. After this marathon of a court case, Slater simply declared himself bankrupt and has paid no penalty for the grievous harm he inflicted.

"this story shows us how unprotected we are from digital attacks and how time-consuming and costly the path to justice is. This real-life drama has been taking place since 2012, with him finally winning the defamation case in March this year."

Rod Oram on "A faith-based response to the climate crisis".

Several Friends joined a large group at Christ Church Cathedral on the 30th of June to hear Rod Oram sadly point out how many ways we in New Zealand are failing to make the changes necessary to reduce emissions. In 2009, 350 ppm was considered the maximum amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere we could tolerate. This figure is now (Global Monitoring Laboratory, May 2021) 419.13 ppm. Rod pointed out that ethical investing is playing a significant part in drawing money away from petroleum companies and that Church organisations are investing to good effect, but that we need to do more. Pressure is being put upon Government agencies like ACC to withdraw from fossil fuel investment, for example, but most people have taken no action. Rod feels interfaith groups could work together throughout the world on behalf of humanity. (Rod's talk is available as a pdf which I will forward to anyone who wishes it. ED)

Meeting on a Wellbeing Economic Alliance, June 16th:

Community Action Network organised an evening at The Refinery Artspace to hear three New Zealand members of **WEALL** (Wellbeing Economy Alliance). a global collaboration of groups, movements and individuals working together to

“transform the economic system into one that delivers social justice on a healthy planet”. The current NZ Government released a Wellbeing Budget, but this still has a distance to go before transformation is seen ‘on the street’. For more information, check: <https://wellbeingeconomy.org/newzealand>)

On-line resources: visit our own website: quakers-in-nelson.org.nz and our Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson, and the national website quakers.nz

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

First Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am
Wednesday: Becoming Friends, 7.00 pm – 8.45pm
(Alternate Even Months) Sunday: Business Meeting 12.00 pm

Second Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Third Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am
Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm

Fourth Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship. Activities will be provided for them.