

# NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

October / November 2021

## Spiritual Thought

“To do evil that good may come of it is contrary to the doctrine of Christianity ... when times are so cloudy that we cannot go forward in the way of clearness and purity, it behoves us in the depth of humility to wait on the Lord to know His mind concerning us and our children.”

John Woolman 1720 - 1772

## News of and for Friends

**Jan** is grateful to have been able to have a family holiday in Wellington recently.

**John M, Peter, Amanda,** and others have started a singing group which meets every Thursday at 7pm at John’s place. They sing 4 part harmony and are specialising in songs of peace. New singers are warmly welcome.

**Amanda** says hello: a newcomer, Amanda says she had heard of Quakers and did an internet search including reading the Quakers in Nelson website and felt it right to join us at Meeting for Worship.

**Lawrence** is restoring radios for ReStore, 166 Tahunanui Drive, Tahunanui. ReStore is a 2<sup>nd</sup> hand store run by Habitat for Humanity – they welcome volunteers.

**Marie** is busy making masks and will make them for other people.

**Lizi** spoke to the Nelson Embroidery Group about the Embroidery Panels on October 14<sup>th</sup>. There were about 50 people present and a great deal of interest.

**Gwen** is keeping contact with her daughters weekly and her sister every 3 weeks through Zoom. She recently went dancing at the Tasman Bays Blues Club which has a barn next to the Honest Lawyer in Monaco, Nelson. They have Sunday afternoon jazz sessions and Thursday evenings a blues band.

**Phillida** has put in a submission to the Conversion Prohibition Legislation Bill and is supporting others who have done so. She will speak to her submission to the Justice Select Committee this coming Wednesday. If you are interested in the question oral submissions are live streamed and available on You Tube.

Phillida has a contribution published in a book Not Dead Yet about 2<sup>nd</sup> wave feminists.

**John D**, currently working tirelessly as project manager for this coming Friday's Parihaka Day post-Dawn Blessing breakfast, has been visiting all 70 huts in the Kahurangi National Park, and sketching them. He is happy for Friends to join him on his walks.

**Rex and Joanna** have been busy putting up posters in Richmond and Nelson to advertise the Parihaka Day Dawn Blessing, 5.30am Friday November 5<sup>th</sup> in Anzac Park. **Christine** has created a display about Parihaka Day, which is currently on show in the Richmond Library.

**Motueka Friends** have been unable to meet in their usual place, the Family Service Centre, because the Centre has closed to outside users until a return to Alert Level 1. They may be forced to return to meeting in private homes.



**Asbestos Cottage by John D**

## DIARY OF EVENTS:

Monday November 1<sup>st</sup> to Sunday November 14<sup>th</sup> online: Climate Crisis Film Festival 12.00am – 1.00am. Register here: <https://www.climatecrisisff.co.uk/#register>

Wednesday November 3<sup>rd</sup> 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome, especially newcomers keen to learn more about Quakerism.

Friday November 5<sup>th</sup> 5.30am Anzac Park: Parihaka Day Dawn Blessing. Bring along a prayer or reading if you wish.

Friday November 5<sup>th</sup> 6.15am Nelson Bridge Club, Haven Road Nelson: Parihaka Day Breakfast. Everyone is welcome. See notice below about making food to bring.

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November 9am Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Working Bee to spring clean the house and property. John D will let us know what tools to bring.

Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup> 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group. Venue and topic to be advised.

Saturday November 27<sup>th</sup> 9am start (venue to be advised)  
Nelson Tasman Climate Forum Hui (kanohi a kanohi) Christine will be co-facilitating a workshop for those new to or distressed by the issue of the climate emergency.

Wednesday December 1<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto:c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz). **The cut-off date for items for the December newsletter is Friday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021.**

## News from Business Meeting

### Covid-19 and our Meeting:

We have been debating in many different forums how we should respond as a Meeting to the Covid-19 Delta environment. There are as many diverse views as there are Friends about what we should do – should we welcome all strands of thought, “thinking it possible that we might be mistaken” in our personal version of the Right Thing to Do? Should we take a stand and uphold the need for all to be vaccinated so that all can be protected? Should we close our doors to the unvaccinated? Must we wear masks? Can we reverse our policy and live stream

our Meetings for Worship and Meetings for Worship for Business so everyone can participate equally without being at risk from the unvaccinated among us?

The outcome of the discussion at Business Meeting is that we are not in unity about changing our current policy regarding having Zoom in our Meetings for Worship. Our policy therefore remains that we won't livestream our MfW.

We will be mindful of the guidelines for faith-based gatherings at Alert Level 2, we will have masks and sanitiser available for people coming into the Meeting House and those of us who choose to, and can, will keep our masks on during the Meeting. We won't exclude unvaccinated people.

We decided to explore holding a Zoom Meeting for Worship separate from the MfW at 10am in the Meeting House.

**We ask all Friends to consider the following questions and let Clive, Jan or Christine know your preferences:**

1. no thanks, I would not attend a Zoom MfW.
2. yes, I would like to attend a Zoom MfW (by phone or by video link) and I would like it to be held weekly at the same time as the MfW at the Meeting House.
3. yes, I would attend a Zoom MfW, but I would like it to be held weekly at a different time from the MfW at the Meeting House. The time I suggest is \_\_\_\_\_, the day I suggest is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. yes, I would attend a Zoom MfW but not weekly. The interval I suggest is \_\_\_\_\_, the time I suggest is \_\_\_\_\_, the day I suggest is \_\_\_\_\_.

The Business Meeting was mindful that we need to be open to change as the Covid situation in Nelson changes.

**Premises:**



**Working Bee:** on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> November, please come along and join the fun of giving our property a bit of love. The agile can clean the gutters, clean the basement pump and sump, and clean the drains, the rest of us can wash the outside walls and fence, clean windows, de-cobweb indoors, sweep the yard, and generally tidy up. There may be food!

**Outreach:** our main activity in the next week is preparing our contribution to the commemoration and celebration of Parihaka Day on Friday November 5<sup>th</sup>. It is one of the primary ways we can also celebrate and grow our connection with the people of Parihaka, Te Ātiawa, and the Nelson Maori Anglican community. See below a call for volunteers to help by preparing food, serving, and cleaning up.

## Donation to Auckland Point School and the Young Parents

**School:** because few of us carry cash anymore, the box for donations remains empty. However, we decided we do want to continue our support for these organisations and their kaupapa. We will donate \$150 to each from our general fund. If Friends wish to, they are able to specify a donation to Auckland Point School and the Young Parent School in their annual contribution to the Meeting.

**Children's Roster:** while we wait upon the Lord to bring our Meeting more children, we discussed taking turns to spend Meeting for Worship with Ocean. If you are willing to serve on a roster, please let Phillida know.

**Yearly Meeting Clerks' Letters: Paid Outreach Worker:** we agreed that Outreach is an important historical activity of the Society of Friends, and that if volunteers are unavailable to carry the responsibility of this work on a national level that Friends continue to explore having a paid outreach worker.

**Use of the Meeting House:** we agreed that we encourage Friends to use the Meeting House when it is not being used by other groups and there are no guests.

**Next Business Meeting: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December.**

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## Parihaka Day this coming Friday 5<sup>th</sup> November – needs you!

John D is Project Manager for the breakfast following the Dawn Blessing at 5.30am. If you want to be involved there are a variety of ways to help, and John may have others not on this list. Please contact John by email today on [simplydone@hotmail.com](mailto:simplydone@hotmail.com) :

- Help to set up the Nelson Bridge Club rooms at 10pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>.
  - Offer toasters, jugs, ladles, or any other thing John has on his list
  - Offer to buy masks, sanitiser, cleaning wipes (you'll be reimbursed)
  - Offer to make food. John will let you know what we need (you'll be reimbursed) and get it to the Bridge Club either by arranging someone to take it or bringing it yourself by 6am.
  - Offer to help with the washing up during and after the event.
  - Offer to be 'on the floor' if needed during the breakfast, to welcome people, show them how to sign in, to take a mask and use the sanitiser, show them to a table, etc.
  - Offer to help to clean up the premises after the breakfast to leave it spic and span for the next users at 10am.
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## Lizi introduces the Quaker History Embroidery project to the Nelson Embroiderers Guild.

By Lawrence Carter.

In October, Lizi gave a talk on the Quaker History Embroidery project to the Nelson Embroiderers' Guild. There was a big turn-out at Warnes Stadium in Stoke, with perhaps fifty people present, including Anthea, Gwen, Joanna, Marie, Lawrence, and Patricia's son Donald.

Peter's video about the project was shown first, and made an excellent introduction to the talk, emphasising the inclusive and bicultural nature of the project, in which contributors of all skill levels were encouraged to participate. Lizi spoke of her collaboration with Pat, the significance of some of the roundel elements, and her use of colour. Afterwards people had the opportunity to view the framed embroidery and some of the design materials, and there was a lot of interest. Lizi was thanked and given a copy of Threads magazine for April 2021, which contains an article about the embroidery.

### The Hidden Singer

Wendell Berry

The gods are less for their  
love of praise.  
Above and below them all  
is a spirit that needs  
nothing  
but its own wholeness, its  
health and ours.  
It has made all things by  
dividing itself.  
It will be whole again.  
To its joy we come  
together –

the seer and the seen, the  
eater and the eaten,  
the lover and the loved.  
In our joining it knows  
itself. It is with us then,  
not as the gods whose  
names crest in unearthly  
fire,  
but as a little bird hidden  
in the leaves  
who sings quietly and  
waits, and sings.

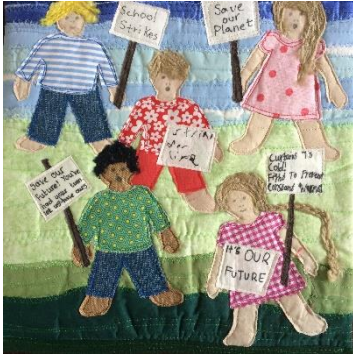
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**On-line resources:** apart from our own website: [quakers-in-nelson.org.nz](http://quakers-in-nelson.org.nz) and our Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson, and the national website [quakers.nz](http://quakers.nz)

**The Loving Earth Project:** A portal for Quaker climate action across the globe

*Is there something, someone or somewhere that you know and love which is endangered by environmental break-down? How does your*

*lifestyle contribute to that threat? What could you do, or are you doing, to help reduce that threat?*



The Loving Earth Project, started by Friends in the UK and now expanding internationally, invites participants to explore these three questions. The community project “celebrates people, places, creatures and other things that we love but which are threatened by growing environmental breakdown.” It offers online resources and events to help guide through this exploration and welcomes contributions to its community textile project, which encourages participants to create a visual reflection of their response.

<https://quakersandclimatechange.com/2020/12/03/the-loving-earth-project/>

**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.***