

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

August 2025

Spiritual Thought

Probably each Friend will find some of the ways of expression uncongenial, perhaps even hurtful. We invite you to practise loving hospitality to words which speak truth to others. As well as re-expressing them in ways which are right for us, each of us has opportunities to enter imaginatively into the experience of others, to share our treasures. (Quaker Handbook, p. 4)

News of and for Friends

Christine is in London with her son and his family.

Adele and **Chris** are on a mission to secure a property which will meet their needs for home and business and to stay in Nelson.

Christabel is now well enough to travel north to spend her 80th birthday with her long-time friend.

James is home after another stay in hospital and is doing well with daily support. He is keen to get out and about, for example to see an art exhibition, and using the buses to do so now that he no longer drives.

In other news:

A group of Friends and friends held vigils on the Church Steps to remember the atom bombs which were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Thanks to the work of Sophie who has visited our meeting several times, we were joined by Harvey Ruru, Mayor Nick Smith and MP Rachel Boyack who all graciously took time out from attending the fisheries conference to speak to the gathering. Gwen also read a moving piece against war and in particular nuclear war. Barbara lent the children's banners which she worked on some years ago and these made a strong, colourful impact on the Church Steps.



From Business Meeting

Thanks to the Premises Committee and John D in particular, a panel heater has been installed in the living room of the flat upstairs, to comply with the Healthy Home Standards and keep our tenant warm. She is reported to be very happy with it.

Upcoming events are noted in the diary below. We are keen to continue with the Parihaka Breakfast on 5th November. The Bridge Club has accepted our booking and if John D is not available we will ask for 'notes' and hope we can make it happen.

The symbolism of the rainbow – further thoughts

The rainbow is as old as the Earth's atmosphere and belongs to everyone and no one. Groups all around the world give it meaning. In the Bible story of Noah and the flood, God sets the rainbow in the sky as the sign of his promise to protect human life (Genesis Chapter 14.) From there it has gained meaning as a sign of peace and hope.

To indigenous Australians the Rainbow Serpent is the creator of water and the land. It is a powerful force and can destroy as well as create.

For Greenpeace, the Rainbow Warrior is a symbol of their campaign for the environment, especially the ocean. They are on to their third ship of that name after the first one was bombed by the French in Auckland as retaliation for their protests against nuclear testing in the Pacific.

From there it has become an anti-nuclear symbol.

For those who do not identify as heterosexual the rainbow is the symbol of diversity and celebration for LGBTI+ people. There is a Rainbow Quaker group in Aotearoa.

Recently it has been used more strongly by Transgender activists (who have been included as above for many years). We learned that for some that feels like appropriation and conveys a sense of challenge and even threat.

Perhaps the best way to deal with appropriation is to continue to use the symbol of the rainbow in as many ways as we are led to.

Setting symbolism aside, the rainbow itself is a wonder and one of the many joys of nature. I hope we can all continue to enjoy it.

Jan

Insight

by James Chappell

There is no plan we can choose that will not raise further challenges. As soon as we decide on a path forward, a wealth of other considerations arise. When we consider it, life is all about rising to the challenges. Of course, what we see as a challenge will not be the same for everyone, since it depends on our point of view. Where we stand, or where we are coming from, influences the view.

Artists in the graphic and plastic arts have shown that there is nothing fixed about the way we perceive the World. Perception is highly individual and keeps the arts buzzing with interest. It is not just in the way the artist sees the world but also in the medium and techniques used to depict it. How we look at any problem varies with the medium

and the tools available to work on it.
There is always a new way of looking at the mundane. Reality changes as we look at it. Perception is highly individual and is changing constantly. So the nature of the challenge changes too. We just don't know how it will present itself until the moment, nor how we will respond.
When all around is changing or even appears to be, it takes courage to launch into it. The ego wants to control but life goes on happening around and within.
It is no use trying to stop it. We just have to face the situation and deal with each challenge as it arises with the resources available.
Those who carry in their adult emanation, the confidence and safety of a secure childhood, have the advantage. They can approach the unknown with a light heart and flexibility to whatever presents itself.

Friends World News: August 2025

Dear Friends,

Over the last month around 6000 [World Quaker Day](#) posters departed the FWCC World Office, bound for Friends around the globe.

As I was sticking the many, many addresses to envelopes and boxes, I imagined their onward journeys like threads of a large, loving web connecting Friends both near and far.

In late June/early July, General Secretary Tim Gee was travelling in the ministry across Aotearoa (New Zealand) ahead of Australia Yearly Meeting where he gave the Backhouse Lecture, which is [now available online](#).

Meanwhile, a group of Young Adult Friends from Iglesia de Los Amigos Ciudad Victoria, Tamaulipas came to visit us at the World Office, sharing their plans to help incarcerated women in Mexico access sanitary products, in their demonstration of the World Quaker Day theme, Love Your Neighbour.

We're delighted to be learning of more events and activities across the FWCC Sections, which we are listing on our website and when we know more about them [here](#).

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Top of the South Regional Gathering Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th September 2025

This will be held in Golden Bay at Jocelyn Tracey and John Pemberton's Flophouse, 900 East Tākaka Road. For detailed directions contact Helen 03 525 9576 (home, voice msg) 027 525 9576 (texts) helen.derry@xtra.co.nz (email)

The programme: David Elms of Christchurch Meeting will lead two sessions on "prayer". The first sets out some grounding ideas, while the second follows on and gets deeper into the nature of prayer as well as practical ideas and issues. Both sessions are stand-alone, though coming to both would give greatest value.

Sat Sept 13th: 11am (Optional, and weather permitting) A contemplative quiet walk around Te Waikoropupū Springs. (More details later).

Sat Sept 13th at venue

2.30pm: Welcome, cuppa

3-4.30pm: First session: **Prayer – underpinning ideas**

Sun Sept 14th at venue

10am Cuppa

10.30 -11.30: Meeting for Worship followed by brief reflections, notices.

12noon: Shared lunch

1-2.30pm: Second session: **Prayer – going deeper**

World Quaker Day Sunday 5th October

The theme this year is 'Love your neighbour'. We will plan an event – suggestions welcome!

Poem

'As kingfishers catch fire'

As kingfishers catch fire, dragonflies draw flame;

As tumbled over rim in roundy wells

Stones ring; like each tucked string tells, each hung bell's

Bow swung finds tongue to fling out its broad name;

Each mortal thing does one thing and the same;

Deals out that being indoors each one dwells;

Selves – goes itself; *myself* it speaks and spells,

Crying, *What I do is me; for that I came.*

I say more: the just man justices;

Keeps grace: that keeps all his goings graces;

Acts in God's eye what in God's eye he is – Christ – for Christ plays in ten thousand places,

Lovely in limbs, and lovely eyes not his

To the Father through the features of men's faces.

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 June letter to Christine: c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz **The cut-off date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, September 5th 2025.**

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.

You can also update your details and preferences.

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

All Sundays: Meeting for Worship, 10am, Quaker Meeting House, 30 Nile St. Nelson

Christchurch MM Meeting for Worship can be attended each Sunday at 10.30am by Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87862680716?pwd=e1pt0MhuXXuUP9fawEaxbxLKPWzndE.1>

2nd Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10am, Family Service Centre, Talbot St.
Motueka

3rd Wednesday: Home Discussion Group, 7pm – 8.45pm. Topic & venue for this month, see above

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