NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

August 2026

Spiritual Thought

> "**Value just being.** [Just being] is active, not passive. Being still is not 'failing' to move forward; things are happening in the seeming stillness… valuable things like rest, recovery, happiness; feeding body, heart, mind, or spirit; a period of calm before a time of use of energy; growth; learning; tasting and steeping in the truths and realities."
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> — Kim Edwards, 2018

News of Friends

John M is back in Nelson. He said he has healed well from the dog mauling in Nepal, although it took some time. He intends to stay for the for a while and has accommodation arranged.

Lizi is continuing to make good progress and is adapting to life in her community as she finds some havens such as the library, cafe and whanau room where she can do her art practice.

Paul completed the first stage of paint work in the Meeting House and will tackle the flat upstairs soon. It's good to see our house refreshed.

Christine is home after several weeks in the UK and Europe with her family. She's finding the sudden change of temperature from 30 degrees to 10 a bit of a shock!

A number of Friends attended a moving event at which Dr Yousef Khoury spoke about his life as a Palestinian Christian. It was moving to realise there have been Christians in Palestine since the time of Jesus and they have their own culture while also having had, over centuries, good relationship with their neighbours of all cultures.
From the Te TIPS newsletter came this summary of his talk:

On Tuesday this week, we had the privilege of welcoming to Nelson Whakatū Dr. Yousef Khoury, a respected Palestinian Christian theologian from Bethlehem, Palestine. Ngā mihi to Aotearoa Christians for Peace in Palestine for organizing this amazing event.

Yousef brought a message of peace and hope, grounded in his Christian faith. He shared deeply moving and heartbreaking experiences - his own, those of his whānau, and of friends. He spoke

of the loss of loved ones; the loss of identity as 50% of Palestinian Christians in Gaza have been either murdered or forced to flee by Israel; and moments so devastating that most of us might have been consumed by hatred. Yet instead of allowing sorrow to harden his heart, he transformed it into strength and resolve. A resolve that seeks liberation not only for Palestinians, but for Israelis as well. Although in vastly different proportions, both the victims of a genocide and its perpetrators will carry wounds. Both suffer under the existence of Zionism. From his Christian beliefs, Yousef reminded us that those who carry hatred in their hearts are also victims - victims of ignorance and prejudice - who will one day be judged by their actions.

Yousef also shared eye-opening data, including research not widely circulated, showing that over 83% of Palestinian Christians fear violence from Jewish settlers, denial of civil rights, and expulsion from their lands by Israel (Palestinian Centre for Policy & Survey Research, CPSR 2020). This directly challenges the widely repeated myth that the greatest threat to Christians in the Holy Land comes from Muslims. As Yousef made clear, the threat comes from Zionism.

Most importantly, Yousef offered a message of hope and faith - hope as an act of resistance, hope that inspires change, hope that one day he and other Palestinians will be able to live "ordinary and boring lives" instead of being born into resistance and the fight for self-determination. And faith that this future will come.

From Business Meeting

We recorded the discussion led by Bronwen and Jan which explored ways of making our Quaker community in Nelson a safe and embracing place.

We asked Rex to check with the Parihaka Network whether they would like us to continue to provide breakfast after the Parihaka Dawn Blessing on 5th November. He came back with this reply:

The Whakatu Parihaka Peace Network Nga Manu Korihi extend an invitation to the Nelson Quakers to provide the Parakuihi- breakfast for Nov. 5th 2026
We are deeply grateful for Quakers Nelson gifting of there time,energy and money to the feeding of approximately a hundred people following our Dawn Blessing and Remembering Parihaka ceremony.
May our relationship of peaceful cooperation be on going.
Te rangimarie Rex (on behalf of the Network)
Yours in Friendship.

Regarding our health: We encourage Friends to be aware of the health of one another. If a Friend attends when feeling unwell, s/he could let it be known. Friends can then choose whether to distance themselves or wear a mask. We encourage trust and compassion for each other.

From the Yearly Meeting Clerks: be aware that there will no longer be a monthly Clerk's letter. Communication will be in a different format with the title Around the Motu (ATM). Look out for a YM Clerks' email explaing this, and in future look out for ATM. The change will be seamless but you can unsubscribe if you wish.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Thursday 6th August 12 noon to 1pm: Vigil for Hiroshima on the Church Steps.

Sunday 9th August 12-1pm Vigil for Nagasaki on the Church Steps.

Wednesday 12th August at the Meeting House: Phillida will lead a discussion on THE INVISIBLE CARER.

"THE CARER IS IN THE BLIND SPOT" Dr. Rosey Daniels of Health Creation UK.

This week the New Zealand government announced that it was decreasing provision of the care of Disabled people. (See "Without Care: Moves to place even more onus on Whanau to support people with disabilities" This Listener,, July 18 2026 pp24-26.

The Government is reducing public tax payer paid care. Yet:

1. We will a need care at some stage in our lives.
2. Care is largely provided by women and
3. It is largely unrewarded labour.

Care is largely unseen and unrewarded but can involve huge costs to those who receive and those who provided care.

Upcoming, more information will follow:

Sunday 27th September at the Trafalgar Hall Concert for Peace by Te Mana Hā

Sunday 4th October World Quaker Day – see below from FWCC

Time TBC: Top of the South regional meeting, we hope at Riverside.

Friends World News August 2026

Hello Friends,

July has been very busy for us in the FWCC World Office as we continue to build our plans for World Quaker Day on the 4th October 2026. This is a very special event for me personally, as it will be my first time celebrating World Quaker Day and I'm excited to be a part of it in such a significant way, as well as seeing you all there.

Make sure to register here - and we'll send you the Zoom link on the day - as well as keeping you up to date with any announcements!

The theme for World Quaker Day is 'Let Peace be Among Us'. In Ephesians, Paul says that Christ is our peace. In Matthew we read that when two or three are gathered, Christ is with us. So when we gather in Jesus' name, Peace is with us. By joining as a global community we affirm that with Christ in our midst, we cannot be at war.

When Friends facing violence are asked how they can be supported, almost always the first request is that we pray. World Quaker Day is an opportunity to hold these Friends and their neighbours in the Light, and to pray that we each might be able to find ways to sow seeds of peace and justice, as well as to nurture the ground where they can grow.

Across the 8+ hours of worship we'll be hearing from people in parts of the world facing violence, including Friends from Cuba, Ukraine, Lebanon and Southern Africa. They'll be delivering prepared ministry, offering their perspectives on life and spirituality as they do what they can to make peace,

When I've discussed plans with our speakers for World Quaker Day, I've been met with enthusiasm and an earnest interest in sharing personal and spiritual experience, I am assured we're in for a deep day of sharing and learning from one another.

Please also help spread the word about World Quaker Day by watching and sharing the short videos promoting it on Facebook, Instagram or Bluesky (English version published, French and Spanish language videos coming soon).

To help promote the online gathering further, we have created this poster which you may wish to download and display in your local meeting or Friends Church.

If you're interested in experiencing a global online worship ahead of World Quaker Day you have the opportunity on the 9th-14th August. The Europe and Middle East Section are holding an All Age Gathering in Germany, with representation from every Section. Although all the in-person places are filled, you can join the global community for unprogrammed worship every day online, and also for global semi-programmed worship on 12 August.

Poem

Unseen

We have wires everywhere
some pushed under a heavy padded
easy chair the one
most easy in the room.

And what's most difficult
is how to move it and not break
the aerial connections nor the plugs
that keep us tuned to life.

Yes, it's out there – life,
most of it hidden and I never see -
stoats too quick for my vision
snails as slow as me.

Gordon Challis (a Golden Bay Friend)
in *Luck of the Bounce* 2008

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 March letter to Christine: c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz **The cut-off date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, 5th June 2026.**

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.

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

4th 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.