

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

March 2025

Spiritual Thought

"Over the course of my years of Quaker worship I have learned that certain attitudes help me into worship – particularly humility and gratitude. Gratitude is easy; I can think of all that I am thankful for, and that's probably the best way into worship on a difficult, distracted day. By humility I don't mean grovelling and feeling awful about myself. It means, simply, remembering that I am not in charge, that I do not know what should happen (either in the meeting or beyond it) and so I am listening intently."

— Lucy Faulkner-Gawlinski, 2024

Quaker teacher

News of Friends

Parihaka Day: The Dawn Blessing, followed by breakfast, took place on 5th November. Quakers have provided the breakfast for many years, most recently under the smooth guidance of John D. This year Jan, Bronwen and Adele took it on and found out what a lot John did behind the scenes to make it look effortless. Incorporating some requests from the Parihaka Network for a bell ringing, pau and karakia to precede the breakfast and simplifying the menu, we made it happen. Many thanks to all those who took a role, from a late night setting up the room to an early morning preparing food, from shopping to doing running repairs on recalcitrant machinery, from sitting with and making welcome new friends who attended to swinging into the dishes with gusto to have everything clean and tidy by the time the sun was shining through the kitchen window. It was a great effort.

The song 'E ngā ringawera,' sung to us by one of the Parihaka Network, was fitting: 'To those in the kitchen, the food was good... if it's good out the back, it's good in the front, it's all good everywhere.'

Lawrence, his son and grandson spent Labour Weekend in the Nelson Lakes area on an adventurous tramp. They dodged over and under fallen trees on the side of Lake Rotoiti to Lakehead Hut, then went up Pinchgut Track to the ridge on Mt Robert in fresh, late season snow. It sounded energetic and magical!

Christabel is moving back to Otaki with the help of her friend Jo. Although she is reluctant to go into a resthome she accepts it is time. On the plus side she is

looking forward to the beautiful views of the Kapiti Coast and being among friends. She hopes to return to kapiti Meeting.

Lizi has been up to Wellington to see her grandson, probably for the last time as his illness has progressed.

For those of us who have continued to learn te Reo, the year's classes are coming to an end and we are preparing for next year. For some that will be with a different teacher. We'll miss Maria who has been an excellent kaiako and a great teacher of waiata, bringing music out of us all.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Sunday 16th November 6pm Palestinian Meal, 7.15 pm presentation, Trafalgar Hall, 67 Trafalgar St

Cole Martin, a photo-video journalist and Christian from Otautahi, has recently returned from the West Bank (Israel), documenting the realities of daily life there. Cole's trip received funding from QPS.

RSVP by 13 November to palestinenelson@gmail.com

Sunday 30th November at Riverside Community in Lower Moutere

Top of the South gathering with Motueka, Golden Bay and Marlborough Friends.
10am arrive, cup of tea,

10.30 -11.30 Meeting for Worship.

12-1 shared lunch.

1-2.30 discussion: 'Forgiveness and social justice'

Riverside Community is on the inland highway in Lower Moutere.

Turn off the highway and drive up past the restaurant .

The room we meet in is above the restaurant and access is a short walk up from the drive.

Parking is where there is room off the drive. The drive continues up to an oval surrounded by community houses, where there is further parking.

Sunday 7th December at the Meeting House approx 12.15 Meeting for Worship for Business, after a shared lunch. At this time of year our deliberations are usually to the background sounds of the Santa Parade – it's always later than you think!

Poem

September 29

(Feast of the Archangels)

**Every year on September 29
they gather.**

**Raphael brings the drinks,
while Michael and Gabriel
raid the pantry for caviar and taco
chips.**

**They congregate in the fireside room,
spread the food on the table,
pull out the Parcheesi board,
and take off their shoes.**

Then they sing.

They start with the old songs

- Psalm 100, the Magnificat,

“Behold I bring good tidings”

(a favorite after all these years) -

**work their way through Gregorian
chants**

and Martin Luther to the New World

Yankee Doodle, Southern gospel,

and somewhere in the process

they sing Happy Birthday to me.

With voices like whales

or Arctic wolves,

strange, far, and wholly holy,

the archangels celebrate.

“Don't be afraid,” they tell me.

Planets realign.

The juice of the sun flows free.

Nancy Thomas

**Newberg, Ore. (from Friends Journal
September 2025)**

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 December letter to Christine: c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz **The cut-off date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, 12 December 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.

Notice: there is currently a content freeze to allow us to transition to our upgraded website. If you have any questions, please get in touch with the helpdesk.

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.

