NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

October 2026

Spiritual Thought

> "We totally oppose all wars, all preparation for war, all use of weapons and coercion by force, and all military alliances: no end could ever justify such means.
>
> We equally and actively oppose all that leads to violence among people and nations, and violence to other species and to our planet.
>
> Refusal to fight with weapons is not surrender. **We are not passive when threatened by the greedy, the cruel, the tyrant, the unjust."**
>
> — Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa/New Zealand, 1987

News of Friends

John D has been in Nelson and has made some repairs to the Meeting House.

Lynn and Angus continue to offer support and advocacy to James.

John M has been working with Friends who are AVP facilitators in Nepal, following the devastating floods there. He has raised the needed funds to train 20 or so Nepali facilitators for Trauma Healing workshops. He is planning to travel again to Nepal early next year.

Peter has room in his house for a new house-mate – if you know of anyone please let them know and pass on his email address: petermkemp@gmail.com

Christine is reading Gangsta Granny to her mokopuna every Sunday morning. She's encouraged that he enjoys David Walliam's books because there are 37 of them!

Elizabeth is taking her dear friend Jackie to the Wellington Jazz Festival for an 80th birthday gift. She will also do the catering for the 'Not your normal candidates' meeting', a fun opportunity to meet the local candidates, which is looked forward to by many every election season.

From Business Meeting

The Meeting House insurance has been renewed after discussion with YM Trust Board. The joint scheme does not cover our tenant as well as our current scheme does and it has a very large excess, so we have decided to stay with our existing insurance.

The outdoor bench is now in place for Friends to sit in the sun and chat. Thank you Lawrence and Peter for sourcing and assembling it. It looks great.

The Whakatu Parihaka Peace Network Nga Manu Korihi extend an invitation to the Nelson Quakers to provide the Parakuihi- breakfast for Nov. 5th 2026. More soon about how to take part in this very special annual event.

We approved a donation to John Michaelis' AVP group and support his application to QPS for a project which will offer trauma support to the people of Nepal who were affected by the recent catastrophic flood.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Sunday 4 October: World Quaker Day. Join an FWCC /Asia West Pacific region meeting for worship at 8pm NZ time. Theme: Let Peace be among us

- Bible passage: Hebrews 12:14, “Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy.”

How to get involved: We’re holding an online worship at 7am UTC (12:30 Delhi | 15:00 Manila | 18:00 Melbourne | 20:00 Auckland) where you’ll hear from representatives from Myanmar and Korea. This is a chance to specifically connect with other Friends in Asia South West Pacific. You can sign up here: https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/OdHbbYhjRy2TP11hz1U6vw#/registration

Wednesday 14 October 7.30 – 9pm at the Meeting House: Due to popular demand and a fast-changing scene, John Michaelis has offered a follow-up discussion on Artificial Intelligence, with support from David Ayre.

Thursday 5 November Parihaka Day: Bronwen will co ordinate again this year. Please be in touch if you can help with set up, food preparation or clearing up. A more detailed request will come out soon. Contact Bronwen at bronwen.pelvin@gmail.com

Sunday 29 November Top of the South Regional Meeting at Riverside (near Motueka). Golden Bay Friends will facilitate the discussion. Details to follow.

Looking ahead:

Monday 28 December 2026 to 4 January 2027 Summer Gathering at Teapot Valley Christian Camp, near Nelson which is set among vineyards, lifestyle blocks and farms. See https://www.teapotvalley.co.nz/.

For more information, contact the SG organisers at: sglac@ym.quakers.nz

Enrolments for Summer Gathering are now open!

Click on this link to find out more: https://mailchi.mp/e8ce8cb9445e/atm-updates-summer-gathering-registration-is-open?e=c16f498da7

Other Opportunities

From Te Tau Ihu Palestine Steering Group's Julie Jones:

I just want to let you and Nelson Quakers know that in association with the Global Alliance for Palestine (GAFP), local action planning is underway for Saturday, 10 October, 1903 Square, 10.30am.

Oct 10 2026 marks three years (1,100 days) of what can only be described as Israel's systemic genocide against the Palestinian people.

The Global Alliance for Palestine is an international platform bringing together movements, trade unions, NGO's and civil society coalitions worldwide to mobilise public opinion, demand political accountability, uphold international law, and support the rights dignity and freedom of the Palestinian people.

The Alliance cites what we already know - a devastating death toll in Gaza. Official figures record at least 73,000 Palestinians killed, including >18,000 children, with around 70% of all structures and buildings damaged or destroyed. These figures are understood to be conservative, the true death toll likely to be significantly higher when including those who remain unaccounted for or who have died indirectly as a result of the collapse of Gaza's health, food, water and sanitation systems. In the occupied West Bank mounting state-backed settler violence is an extension of the same ongoing genocide.

We have been so grateful for your support, and that of the Quaker community, over the past three years.

From Peace Movement Aotearoa:

Election 2026: Join Dame Lynda Topp, vote for the environment

We're happy to share today an initiative started by one of our long-standing members: Vote for our Environment (VFOE) - make the most of the power of your votes!

"VFOE is all about maximizing the power of our votes by using them now and at the election. It's about enabling public will and public demand to be expressed in a way that turns it into political will. That's how Nuclear Free NZ was achieved in the 1980s and it's the best way now to see democracy working to rescue our beleaguered lands and waters."

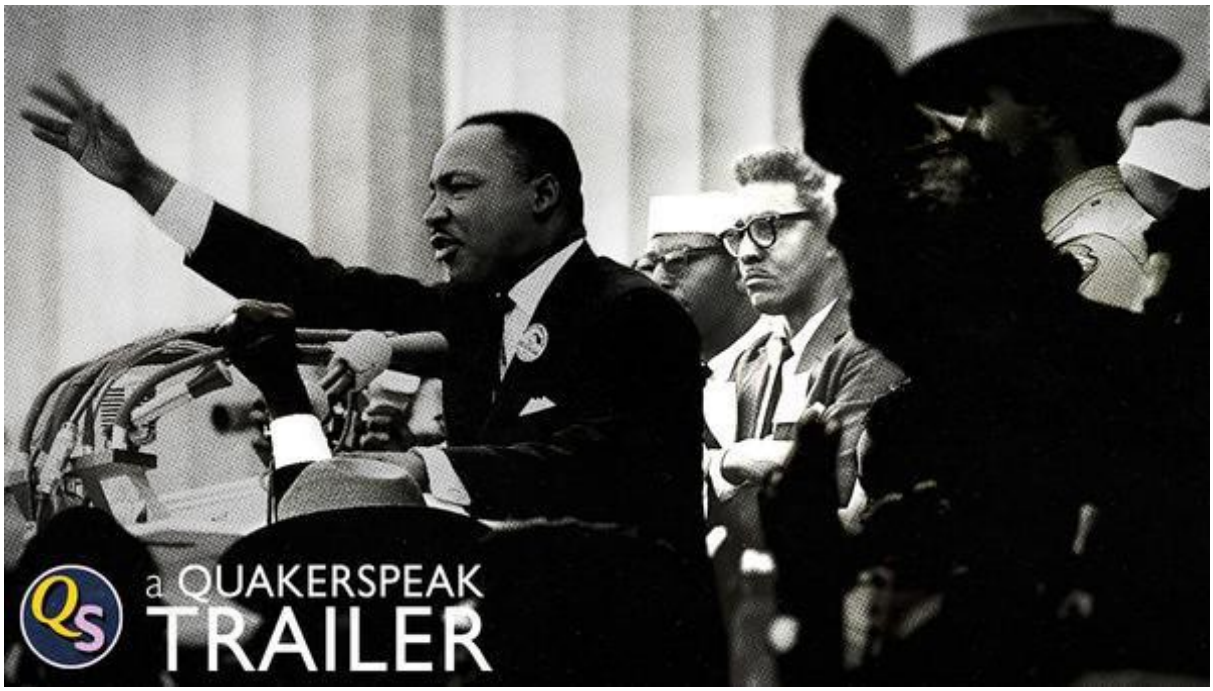
Join Dame Lynda Topp and sign the Election Environment Pledge at https://voteforourenvironment.good.do/

From Friends' Journal QuakerSpeak:

Keep your eye out *next* Friday for a mini-documentary about the life and legacy of Bayard Rustin, a biographical study similar to our video earlier this season about Smedley Butler.

For now, we *can* share this preview...

WATCH NOW



Poem

The Man in the Moon

He used to frighten me in the nights of childhood,

the wide adult face, enormous, stern, aloft.

I could not imagine such loneliness, such coldness.

But tonight as I drive home over these hilly roads

I see him sinking behind stands of winter trees

and rising again to show his familiar face.

And when he comes into full view over open fields

he looks like a young man who has fallen in love

with the dark earth,

a pale bachelor, well-groomed and full of melancholy,

his round mouth open

as if he has just broken into song.

Billy Collins *Taking off Emily Dickinson's Clothes* 2000

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, 6th November 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.