

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

September 2025

Spiritual Thought

"In a world of noise, confusion and conflict it is necessary that there be places of silence, inner discipline and peace. In such places love can blossom."

— Thomas Merton, 1986

American Trappist monk

News of and for Friends

Christine has returned from her visit to family in London which also included an interesting time in Denmark.

Lawrence and **Marie** have returned from Victoria and Auckland after touching base with family members and celebrating a round of birthdays.

Lizi, while dealing with health issues in the family, has enjoyed a visit to her brother in Wellington.

In other news:

Three Nelson Friends drove over the Hill to join Golden Bay Friends and six Friends from Christchurch for our spring Top of the South gathering. We were hosted by Jocelyn and John at their home in East Takaka where we enjoyed the manaakitanga, the beautiful view and a pot luck lunch of a very high standard. David Elms (Christchurch MM) led a discussion on prayer which was thoughtful and fruitful.

We were happy to host two of the Christchurch couples who, by co-ordinating their plans with each other, broke their long journeys home with some time in the Meeting House accommodation.

World Beyond War

Deborah and David, also from Christchurch, gave a short presentation about World Beyond War. Some Friends may remember this from John Reuw's visit where Liz Remmerswal introduced us to the organisation. She heads a North

Island chapter and the global committee. Deborah has founded the South Island chapter. The website has detailed and thorough information, including the pledge to reject war as a solution. Here is the link:
<https://worldbeyondwar.org>

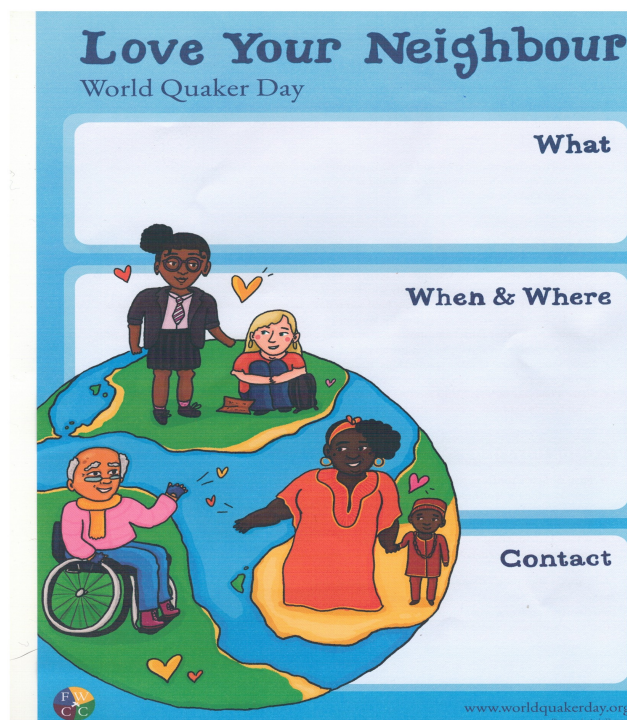
Deaths of Friends

We are sorry to hear of the death of Alan Reynolds (Kapiti, Auckland).
Also Eleanor Doig (Dunedin). We send loving thoughts to their families.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Sunday 5th October: World Quaker Day

The theme is 'Love your neighbour'. We intend to invite our neighbours in Nile St to join us for Meeting for Worship and morning tea. Bring along your neighbours or family members too! The invitation below will be attached to the email.



Sunday 12th October: Business Meeting

After Meeting for Worship and a shared lunch, we will start our Business Meeting by welcoming our friends from the Parihaka Committee to talk about Parihaka Day (see below.)

Note that this is the second Sunday of the month due to World Quaker Day.

Wednesday 5th November Parihaka Day

We will host breakfast as we usually do after the dawn blessing in ANZAC

Park. Or not quite as we usually do, because John D. who has made the process effortless for several years, will not be here to co-ordinate it. Those of us who have taken part over the years hope to step in and make it work!

Both the dawn blessing and the breakfast are heart-warming events which connect us to the community, especially to iwi Māori in ways which are to be treasured.

And...

Don't forget to vote in the **local body elections**. The closing date for votes to be in is 7th October for posted votes, or midday Saturday 11th October to deliver to polling stations eg libraries and other options. Check out your council website: Nelson <https://www.nelson.govt.nz> and

Tasman <https://www.tasman.govt.nz> for the list of candidates for your area.

For informations about the Māori Wards see here: <https://maoriwards.nz>

Although only those on the Māori roll can vote for a Māori Ward candidate, everyone can vote whether to keep their Māori Ward.

Make sure to have your say!

Friends World News: September 2025

Dear Friends,

“If you really keep the royal law found in Scripture, 'Love your neighbour as yourself,' you are doing right.” (James 2:8)

As I write this newsletter, I sense we are doing much in the name of Love in a world that so desperately needs it:

In late July, a number of Quaker agencies prepared a [statement](#) providing a stark description of what is happening in Gaza and urging courageous action. Informed by the experience of Quaker groups that are either based in the Middle East or know it very well through their work, we decided to sign the statement.

You can find it [here](#) – we hope that Friends can listen with love.

In other news of peace and justice work, QUNO and FWCC jointly held an online session in mid-August, [Discerning the Path Forward – Quaker Engagement in the UN Permanent Forum on People of African Descent \(PFPAD\)](#).

As a preparatory session ahead of the next Forum in Geneva 2026, it brought together Friends from a number of different Quaker agencies and groups, yearly meetings and FWCC Sections for deep sharing, listening and communal reflection on racial justice, historical accountability, and reparatory action. Read Justice & Peace Secretary Hezron Masitsa's report online [here](#).

This work takes action on one of the [outcomes of 2024 World Plenary Meeting \(WPM\)](#), to connect and collaborate with Friends who share concern for *Healing Historical and Ongoing Injustices*.

After hosting a successful online world premiere for the [2024 WPM Documentary](#) in August, we are delighted to announce that it is now available to watch online on our [website here](#), and on our [YouTube channel here](#).

You might consider organising a screening of the documentary at your local meeting or Friends Church on [World Quaker Day](#), Sunday 5 October, as it demonstrates how Quakers take action toward this year's theme, *Love Your Neighbour*. (Note the film is available in up to 4K, high quality enough to present a sharp picture on large screens.)

The [World Executive Committee of Young Adult Friends \(WECYAF\)](#) which emerged out of the 2024 WPM also held an international online event in August, in the form of a meeting for worship followed by song and conversation.

“It was great! As someone from South Italy, I just don't have a congregation in my city, so the opportunity to connect with Quakers from all over the world was amazing!” said Andrea, from Italy.

The meeting also included the launch of a new online space where Friends aged 18-35 can connect and have conversations about faith, community and more.

Young Adult Friends who would like to get involved and stay up to date on future activities can visit [WECYAF's website](#) or request a link to join the online space by e-mailing wecyaf@gmail.com. The WECYAF is independent and autonomous of FWCC.

The next opportunity to connect online with the worldwide family of Friends is the [Section of the Americas-led Global Online Worship](#), Saturday 11 October (or Sunday 12, depending on where you are in the world). Find out timings and more [here](#).

But before then, of course, is [World Quaker Day, 5 October](#). A growing list of events happening around the world in different FWCC sections is now available on our website [here](#). In addition to those mentioned in our last e-newsletter, the following are planned:

- World Quaker Day hybrid worship at Pendle Hill and at Berkeley Friends Church in the USA
- Eventos de Exploración y Familia en Guatemala Junta Anual de Amigos de

Santidad

- Bohol Quakers plan to share food, play AVP games for the children, and worship together in an underprivileged part of Tagbilaran City in the Philippines
- Malmö Friends, Sweden will visit Friends in Copenhagen Meeting in Denmark for worship and social activities as neighbours
- All-age meetings for worships on the theme of *Love Your Neighbour* will take place at both Oxford and Abingdon Friends' Meetings in England

To help promote your event or activity and have it included in our list so that others can know about it, please share the details with us by completing [this online form](#), or emailing comms@fwcc.world.

Thank you for all that you are doing to *Love Your Neighbour*.

In Friendship,
Ruby
On behalf of the World Office

Poem

Kissing the Ground Instead

1
Every school day morning of my
childhood,
I pledged allegiance, my hand on my
heart,

waited to feel the beat,
I was alive; I could make promises.

I did not understand what the words
meant

– individually or all together –

but absorbed the reverence around it,
the solemnity, my sacred duty.

2.
Every morning in this autumn of my life,

I pledge allegiance to my heart,

to keep it strong in health, soft in caring.
I pledge allegiance to the lilies of the field,

the white ginger,
to the sparrow that falls,

and the saffron finches
in the wet green grass;

I pledge allegiance to the children
who will show us the way to heaven,

to the Earth who feeds us,
who rains on good and bad alike.

Nancee Cline
Kona, Hawaii
In The Friend, April 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 June letter to Christine: c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz **The cut-off date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, November 7th 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.