

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

May 2025

Spiritual Thought

"We are a people that follow after those things that make for peace, love and unity; it is our desire that others' feet may walk in the same, and do deny and bear our testimony against all strife, and wars, and contentions that come from the lusts that war in the members, that war in the soul, which we wait for, and watch for in all people, and love and desire the good of all... Treason, treachery, and false dealing we do utterly deny; false dealing, surmising, or plotting against any creature upon the face of the earth, and speak the truth in plainness, and singleness of heart."

— Margaret Fell, 1660, in a letter to King Charles II
Cofounder of the Religious Society of Friends

News of and for Friends

On ANZAC Day we bore witness for peace on the Church Steps in Nelson and at the museum in Motueka. Kateraina also attended the dawn service which she recommends as another opportunity to join those who agree, 'Never again!'

Note that the quote from Margaret Fell (above) still holds true. There continue to be needs for action and response. You can write to your MP about the increased military budget at a time of austerity, join faithful Friends to protest about the ongoing tragedy in Gaza on Saturday mornings in Nelson or look online at Action Station who cover many current issues, providing sound research and clear opportunities for activism.

Motueka Friends are planning an outreach event, inviting members of the public to meet some of our senior women Friends who have had interesting careers.

Comings and goings:

John M and Anthea are overseas now till August.

We welcome newcomers **Chris** and **Adele** who have moved to Nelson from Auckland. Lovely to have their lively energy.

Clive is coming to the end of the apple harvest, a busy time on the orchard. He comes to meeting when he can, bringing crates of fresh organic apples which are delicious.

Lizi celebrated her birthday on 1st May with a small gathering at the Meeting House.

Christabel is in AT&R in hospital. Lizi is in regular contact with her. Please check with with the hospital before visiting.

Phillida is in the UK, spending time with her sisters and visiting places significant to her early life.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Mayors for Peace exhibition A visitor to the meeting drew our attention to this exhibition of peace posters from the international group Mayors for Peace. It is displayed in the Tasman District Council office foyer. She hopes to find an organisation to bring it to Nelson.

Sunday May 18th After Meeting for Worship Visit of Adrian Glamorgan from Australia Yearly Meeting. He is their representative at Aotearoa YM and is keen to travel the country and meet local Friends. He will stay in the Meeting House guest room and speak with us after Meeting for Worship over a cup of tea on Sunday 18th May.

Wednesday 25th June To be confirmed Visit of Tim Gee, Secretary of FWCC, based in London. Tim is also keen to travel and meet NZ Friends to share his experiences in his work and to sing with us! He has a tight itinerary and we're waiting for confirmation that a visit to Nelson will fit. If he can come, we envisage a shared meal around 6pm, followed by his talk.

Poem

The Windhover

I caught this morning minion, king- dom of daylight's dauphin, dapple-dawn-drawn Falcon in his riding	Brute beauty and valour and act, oh, air, pride, plume, here Buckle! AND the fire that breaks from thee then, a billion
Of the rolling, level underneath him steady air, and striding	Times told lovelier, more dangerous. O my chevalier!
high there, how he wrung upon the rein of a wimpling wing	No wonder of it: sheer plod makes plough down sillion
In his ecstasy! Then off, off forth on swing,	Shine, and blue-bleak embers, ah my dear,
As a skate's heel sweeps smooth on a bow bend: the hurl and gliding	Fall, gall themselves, and gash gold-vermilion.
Rebuffed the big wind. My heart in hiding	
Stirred for a bird – the achieve of, the mastery of the thing!	

____ Gerard Manley Hopkins *As kingfishers catch fire* His poems were first published posthumously in 1918, in a volume edited by his friend Robert Bridges _____

Gerard Manley Hopkins came from a talented and well-read family and was firstly a skilled artist. Poetry came later, after studying at Oxford, but in 1868 he felt that poetry was getting in the way of his intention to 'be religious' and he destroyed his collection in a bonfire. Soon after, he began his studies to be a Jesuit priest and it was seven years before he returned to poetry. His desire to describe the natural world was expressed in poetry, sketching and he even wrote music, all the while trying to reconcile this self-expression with a tendency towards religious aceticism. The joy and wonder in his response to nature is often linked to praising God. His poetic style was innovative and influenced modern poetry.

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, June 8th 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.

