

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

April 2023

Spiritual Thought

“It is a bold and colossal claim that we put forward – that the whole of life is sacramental, that there are innumerable ‘means of grace’ by which God is revealed and communicated – through nature and through human fellowship and through a thousand things that may become the ‘outward and visible sign’ of ‘an inward and spiritual grace.’ A Barratt Brown, 1932. QF&P (Britain)

News of and for Friends

Peter K, Rex and John D have been meeting to review the NZ Faith and Practice entries and new material. They have completed one section and are moving on to three others.

Jan has been enjoying visits from family over Easter.

Lawrence is going on a tramping trip with his son and grandson in the Nelson Lakes area this week, and then he and **Marie** are on their way to Auckland to attend the memorial service for Auckland Friend Jack Woodward.

John M and Anthea have been busy with their daughter and granddaughter visiting from the US.

Gwen is recovering from Covid. Her daughters took turns to look after her and she is now back on her feet.

Christine also had Covid recently and was grateful for all the good wishes and help from Friends.

Elizabeth is busy organizing her second "Rally for Travel Justice" to be held on Sunday 7 May. She is hoping to make city streets safe for all people to enjoy, not just people inside cars. She is also involved fundraising for the Women's Centre which has lost Govt funding for their free counselling services. She adds she lost half a pound of cream cheese mid-baking - eaten by Patch the dog.

Shona and her partner are engaged in a big clean up as they prepare to leave Mapua to live in Nelson.

John L is currently recuperating in a retirement home and appreciated a visit from Peter K recently.

DIARY OF EVENTS:



Wednesday April 19th 7pm – 9pm

Quaker Meeting House: Home Discussion Group, on Degrowth. All welcome, please come.

Tuesday April 25th 12.00 noon – 1pm Church Steps, Nelson: ANZAC Day Peace Vigil.

Tuesday April 25th 12 noon – 1pm outside the Museum, High Street, Motueka: ANZAC Day Peace Vigil



ANZAC DAY PEACE VIGIL

Tuesday 25th April

12.00-1.00pm

Church Steps Nelson

outside Museum, High St. Motueka

HONOUR THE WAR DEAD BY ENDING WAR

Please come to add your voice against war.

News from Business Meeting

Premises:

We have agreed that up to \$20,000 can be spent on replacing our switchboard and doing necessary rewiring. We created a committee with a quorum of three who will approve any rewiring and alterations recommended by the electricians. Those Friends are John D, Lawrence, Phillida, John M, Clive, and Elizabeth.

Nelson Meeting's Concern regarding Transgenderism:

In December 2022, our Meeting published on our Nelson Quaker website our Minute of Concern regarding transgenderism. In March 2023 Chch Monthly Meeting asked us to take the statement down. They asked to meet with us to discuss it. At our Meeting for Business on April 2nd we decided as follows: "We welcome the suggestion that Nelson Meeting Friends engage in a discussion with Christchurch Friends on the topic of why Nelson Meeting has agreed to its December 2022 minute on transgender issues. We do not feel a Zoom meeting is an appropriate medium for such a discussion. The Clerk is asked to contact Christchurch Clerks to see if a face-to-face meeting can be arranged." We look forward to having the debate.

Rainbow Statement:

We agreed to changes upon which our support for the amended Rainbow Statement depends: that reference to 'gender identity' is replaced by 'gender expression' to avoid argument over the definition of the former, and that reference to 'traditional Pacific societies' as welcoming to transgenderism be removed as untrue and inappropriate.

Roles in the Meeting:

These were agreed at our MfW for Business in February. You can find them on the notice board on the left side of the hallway at the Meeting House. Clive continues as Clerk until a successor is found.

Top of the South Meeting:

John M is consulting with Peni Connolly to establish a date for a meeting soon in Golden Bay. As soon as it is known he will circulate the details.

Meetings for Learning in 2023:

In 2023 the Pastoral Care Committee will hold Meetings for Learning on the topics of "Quaker Process", "What it is to be a Quaker in 2023", and "What the Embroidery Panels can tell us about our history". The first will be an introduction to Quakerism and Quaker process for newcomers. The second will focus on envisaging what being a member or attender at a Quaker Meeting means for each of us. The opportunity to study the layers of meaning depicted in the Embroidery Panels will enrich our appreciation of the Embroideries as well as the history of Quakers in Whakatu Nelson. Watch this space for more information . . .

Additions to NZ Faith and Practice:

Yearly Meeting is working on additions to *Aotearoa NZ Faith and Practice*. Peter, Rex, and John D are already meeting as a group of Nelson Friends to help with the additions but there is much more work to be done. If you are willing to be part of a small group, please let Christine know.

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 May letter to Jan Marsh, janmarsh37@gmail.com **The cut-off date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, May 5th, 2023.**

On God and Love

Toni Morrison

Love is divine only and difficult always.
If you think it is easy you are a fool.
If you think it is natural, you are blind.
It is a learned application
without reason or motive

except that it is God.
You do not deserve love
regardless of the suffering
you have endured.
You do not deserve love
because somebody did you wrong.
You do not deserve love
just because you want it.
You can only earn — by practice
and careful contemplations —
the right to express it
and you have to learn how to accept it.
Which is to say
you have to earn God.
You have to practice God.
You have to think God-carefully.
And if you are a good and diligent student
you may secure the right to show love.
Love is not a gift.
It is a diploma.

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.**

Online Resources: visit our own website quakers-in-nelson.org.nz, the national website quakers.nz and our Face Book page [@Nelson Quakers](https://www.facebook.com/NelsonQuakers).

Quakers and Climate Change:

Many Quakers worldwide view climate change as a peace and justice concern. They seek to transform the human activities which feed environmental crises unprecedented in human history, including the rate of species extinction, ocean acidification, soil erosion, chemical pollution, and the rate of rising global temperature. Many Quakers view these crises as symptoms of a broken relationship with the Earth. In turn, they seek to live with hope and love, to live more sustainably and fairly in cherishing Creation.

This website is a resource portal for Quakers to share their actions, and to inspire each other:

<https://quakersandclimatechange.com/>

Our Programme: below is a reminder of the different activities each month.

All Sundays: Meeting for Worship, 8.45–9.30am, 30 Nile St Nelson

Meeting for Worship, 10 – 11am, 30 Nile St. Nelson

2nd Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10am, Family Service Centre, Talbot St.

Motueka

3rd Wednesday: Home Discussion Group, 7pm – 8.45pm. Topic & venue tba

Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship and activities will be provided for them.
