

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

June 2025

Spiritual Thought

Quakers have always seen the outer life as an expression of the inner and therefore have been both mystics and activists. Deepening our spiritual roots is an ongoing process that gives our work in the world a greater integrity and authenticity.

Spiritual Nurture programme brochure 1998, in On these Islands 2024

News of and for Friends

Lawrence and **Marie** enjoyed the recent Book Fair, and managed to exercise some restraint in purchases. Lawrence is engaged in a campaign through Engineers for Social Responsibility to persuade the Government and RNZ that it is not a good idea to dismantle the AM network, as has begun in Nelson, because of its unique ability to provide communications in an emergency.

Paul is looking forward to celebrating Matariki, maybe a swim on the day, brr...; dancing, working at the Repair Cafe, Boat house events and Sangha get togethers.

Kristine: "I have started applying for jobs in Australia, so I might spend some more time near and supporting my elderly neighbour. I have appreciated coming to meetings. I am hoping to get up to the St Arnould soon."

Rex: "Helen has been off work on crutches, (disagreement with a sandpit), and I have been unable to walk freely with my femoratica, so we have been consoling each others pain. Had a house guest from Christchurch this week, so have been appreciating the warmth from the fire."

Peter reports: "Life has been productive at 'the monastery' ... John has built two sets of steps: one into the garden, so that we don't have to slide down the slope, and the other off the deck, so that we don't have to parachute down. And both of us have dealt to the hedge trimming (along with our neighbour's gardener) so that we can see the horizon again. "

Lynn says "James got me out of hibernation & I have been grateful to attend 2 Just Talk meetings. Preparing now for Mum & Dad's visit from Waiheke for Angus 19th Birthday on 24th June."

Angus says “great start to my bachelor’s course in Commerce at NMIT. Looking forward to my 19th birthday and seeing my grandparents.”

Christine is looking forward to seeing her London family again in early August.

Gregor is settling in to life in Whakatu Nelson having moved here recently from Christchurch

Adele and Chris are likewise settling in to Whakatu Nelson, having moved at the beginning of the year from Auckland. They are currently looking for a property to buy that will accommodate all their varied interests, especially music.



DIARY OF EVENTS:

Sunday 15th June 5pm by Zoom Recent Travel in the Holy Land, presenter Emily Provance NY YM, see details below. **Register here:**
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88634096177?pwd=IBZNx905hBmYWLpjhKFqaXEfLT04bY.1>

Monday 16th June 7pm by Zoom: Discussion of the Regulatory Standard Bill. Really Important! Submissions due 23 June.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88634096177?pwd=IBZNx905hBmYWLpjhKFqaXEfLT04bY.1> Meeting ID: 886 3409 6177 Passcode: 990961 more details below.

Friday 20th June, 11am – 9pm Trafalgar Centre & Rutherford Park: Te Huihuinga-o-Matariki, the Matariki Festival 2025. Learn more:
<https://www.nelsontasman.nz/explore/events/te-huihuinga-o-matariki-the-matariki-festival-2025/>

Wednesday 25th June, 6pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile Street, Whakatu Nelson: Shared Meal with General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation, Tim Gee. Tim will speak to us after dinner. See below a message from Tim.

Friday 27th – Sunday 29th June, Workshop, The Settlement, Whanganui: Walking Cheerfully over the Earth with Tim Gee.
Register @ www.quakersettlement.co.nz

Sunday 6th July 12.15pm Christchurch Monthly Meeting, get the Zoom link here: meeting@christchurch.quakers.nz

Sunday 13th July 10am Family Service Centre, Talbot Street, Motueka: Meeting for Worship. All welcome.

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Recent Travel in the Holy Land: in this hour-long online gathering, you'll hear stories and experiences from Ramallah Friends School, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, and the Tent of Nations. The presenter is Emily Provance, 15th St MM, New York YM, who participated in an April pastoral care trip to the West Bank with reps from FWCC Europe and Middle East Section and Friends United Meeting.

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WEBINAR: WHAT CAN WE DO ABOUT THE REGULATORY STANDARDS BILL?

Melanie Nelson

www.melanielsen.co.nz | melanielsen.substack.com



Melanie Nelson (Pākehā) is a researcher, writer, consultant, coach and educator on cross-cultural issues. She is also a licensed Māori language translator and interpreter,

She specialises in the application of te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Treaty principles to conservation and environmental issues.

Melanie is a graduate of Te Panekiretanga o te Reo Māori | Institute of Excellence in the Māori Language and holds a Masters in Māori Language Excellence – Te Tohu Paerua o te Reo Kairangi.

Melanie's podcast, [Weaving our Worlds](#), seeks to foster mutual understanding between peoples in Aotearoa. Her new podcast [Coherent](#), explores current political issues.

Melanie has been at the forefront of informing New Zealanders about the dangers of the ACT sponsored, dull sounding but incredibly important, Regulatory Standards Bill. The Bill is now before Select Committee and Submissions regarding the Bill are due 23 June, 2025. Join us for a discussion of the Bill and the risks it presents to equity, the environment, treaty relations, democracy, and law making in NZ. This is a great opportunity to inform yourself in preparation for making a submission regarding this dangerous Bill.

<https://melanielsen.substack.com/p/new-interview-with-melanie-nelson>
<https://e-tangata.co.nz/comment-and-analysis/the-dangerous-bill-has-been-updated-but-how/>
<https://linktr.ee/regulatorystandardsbill>

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Dear Friends,

Greetings from the Friends World Office in London.

From next week I am looking forward to visiting Friends in Aotearoa, including in Auckland, Dunedin, Christchurch and Wellington, building up to a weekend at the Quaker Settlement in Whanganui from 27-29 June.

The weekend at the Settlement is open to all, exploring Quakerism in different places, our similarities and differences, and an in depth study of the Epistle of James. We will also make time for fellowship, worship and singing!

For more information please visit the Quaker Settlement website or email Marion Sanson on marionbsanson@gmail.com. If you know someone who might be interested, please forward this email.

Afterwards I will travel to Australia to offer the Backhouse Lecture, called "The seed is in all: a journey through the Quaker world". I have some advance copies to share with Friends in Aotearoa first.

Thank you, and I hope that our paths will converge soon.

In Friendship, Tim Gee, General Secretary

June 15 is the birthday of Japanese poet Kobayashi Issa, born in Japan in 1763. He became one of the masters of haiku, a poetic form using 17 Japanese characters grouped in three distinct units. His subjects were often common, everyday details, the small wonders of daily life — and the success of his work is largely responsible for the popularity of haiku today. He often explored spiritual subjects from down-to-earth, relatable vantage points, with both insight and a twinkle in his eye. Here's one of his classics:

All the time I pray to Buddha
I keep on
killing mosquitoes.



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 July letter to Jan at janmarsh37@gmail.com. **The cut-off date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, July 4th .**

Check out the *new* Quakers NZ Website: quakers.nz. It is our national outreach tool for inquirers and the database for Quakers in Aotearoa. The Nelson embroideries are included – go to the NZ Quaker History page. If you have not got an account yet (which allows you to see content just for Friends, such as the Climate Emergency Correspondent’s newsletters) and you would like one let Christine know.



The Essence

By Rex Hunt

The meaning of life is the cycle of life
Stars are born – stars die

Planets are born – planets die
The tide comes in , the tide goes out
The sun comes up , the sun goes down
Construction and destruction go hand in hand.

In the natural world all is connected
All life forms are reliant on each other
There is a built in protection
Every cause has a purpose
Every relationship is symbiotic
It's a win win
There are no judgements made
Difference is affirming
So what of the meaning in our own lives?
To accept the cycle
Embrace it, act it, nurture it, live it
We are part of the cycle.
Respect, nourish, care for each other.
This is the essence of Jesus' teaching.

"For the Days I Stop Wanting a Body," by Andrea Gibson

Imagine when a human dies the soul misses the body
Actually grieves the loss of its hands
And all they could hold
Misses the throat closing shy
Reading out loud on the first day of school
Imagine the soul misses the stubbed toe
The loose tooth
The funny bone
The soul still asks
"Why does the funny bone do that?
It's just weird."
Imagine the soul misses the thirsty garden cheeks
Watered by grief
Misses how the body could sleep through a dream
What else can sleep through a dream
What else can laugh
What else can wrinkle the smile's autograph
Imagine the soul misses each falling eyelash
Waiting to be wished
Misses the wrist screaming away the blade
The soul misses the lisp
The stutter
The limp
The soul misses the holy bruise
Blue from that army of blood rushing to the wound's side

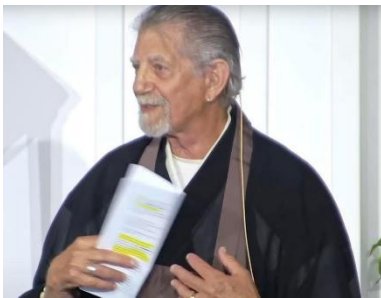
When a human dies
The soul searches the universe for something blushing
Something shaking in the cold
Something that scars
Sweeps the universe for patience worn thin
The last nerve fighting for its life
The voice box aching to be heard
The soul misses the way the body would hold another body
And not be two bodies but one pleading God doubled in grace
The soul misses how the mind told the body
"You have fallen from grace."
And the body said, "Erase every scripture that doesn't have a pulse
There isn't a single page in the Bible that can wince
That can clumsy
That can freckle
That can hunger."
Imagine the soul misses hunger
Emptiness
Rage
The fist that was never taught to curl, curls
The teeth that were never taught to clench, clench
The body that was never taught to make love, makes love
Like a hungry ghost digging its way out of the grave
The soul misses the un-forever of old age
The skin that no longer fits
The soul misses every single day the body was sick
The now it forced
The here it built from the fever
Fever is how the body prays
How it burns and begs for another average day
The soul misses the legs creaking up the stairs
Misses the fear that climbed up the vocal chords
To curse the wheelchair
The soul misses what the body could not let go
What else could hold on that tightly to everything
What else could hear the chain of a swing set and fall to its knees
What else could touch a screen door and taste lemonade
What else could come back from a war and not come back
But still try to live
Still try to lullaby
When a human dies the soul moves through the universe
Trying to describe how a body trembles when it's lost
Softens when it's safe
How a wound would heal given nothing but time
Do you understand
Nothing in space can imagine it
No comet
No nebula

No ray of light can fathom the landscape of awe
The heat of shame
The fingertips pulling the first grey hair
And throwing it away
"I can't imagine it."
The stars say
"Tell us again about goosebumps.
Tell us again about pain."

Contribution from Peter and John D:

Zen priest, Peter Coyote, on protest:

"I'm watching the Los Angeles reaction to ICE raids with trepidation and regret. Three years ago I taught a class at Harvard on the "theatre of protest"— designed to help people understand why so many protests turn out to be Republican campaign videos working directly against the interests of the original protest. A protest is an invitation to a better world. It's a ceremony.



No one accepts a ceremonial invitation when they're being screamed at.
More importantly, you have to know who the real audience of the protest is.
The audience is NEVER the police, the politicians, the Board of supervisors, Congress, etc.
The audience is always the American people, who are trying to decide who they can trust; who will not embarrass them.

If you win them, you win power at the box office and power to make positive change. Everything else is a waste.

There are a few ways to get there:

1. Let women organize the event. They're more collaborative. They're more inclusive, and they don't generally bring the undertones of violence men do.
2. Appoint monitors, give them yellow vests and whistles. At the first sign of violence, they blow the whistles and the real protesters sit down. Let the police take out their aggression on the anarchists and the provocateurs trying to discredit the movement.
3. Dress like you're going to church. It's hard to be painted as a hoodlum when you're dressed in clean, presentable clothes. They don't have to be fancy they just signal the respect for the occasion that you want to transmit to the audience.
4. Make your protest silent. Demonstrate your discipline to the American people. Let signs do the talking.
5. Go home at night. In the dark, you can't tell the cops from the killers. Come back at dawn fresh and rested.

I have great fear that Trump's staging with the National Guard and maybe the Marines is designed to clash with anarchists who are playing into his hands and offering him the

opportunity to declare an insurrection. It's such a waste and it's only because we haven't thought things through strategically.

Nothing I've thought of is particularly original. It was all learned by watching the early civil rights protests in the 50s and 60s. And it was the discipline and courage of African-Americans that drew such a clear line in the American sand that people were forced to take sides and that produced the civil rights act.

The American people are watching and once again if we behave in ways that can be misinterpreted, we'll see this explained to the public in Republican campaign videos benefiting the very people who started this.

Wake up. Vent at home. In public practice discipline and self control. It takes much more courage."

— *Peter Coyote*

Zen teacher and author/narrator, with Ken Burns

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

All Sundays: Meeting for Worship, 10am, Quaker Meeting House, 30 Nile St. Whakatu

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.
