NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

June 2026

Spiritual Thought

Testimony is a way of living not a creed. It is not a form of words, but a mode of life based on the realisation that there is that of God in everybody, that all human beings are equal, that all of life is interconnected.

Jonathan Dale, Faith in Action, Quaker social testimony, 2000.

News of and for Friends

Lawrence, Marie and Christine have been meeting each Monday morning at the Meeting House to practice te Reo. One of their resources is an Ako Maori You Tube course which is excellent and easy to follow. You could join in, everyone is welcome.

Christine leaves is a week to spend 8 weeks with family in London. She is looking forward to a week in Prague at the end of July!

John D continues his travels. He intends to spend 3 months in Greymouth over winter.

James led and Friends discussed different ways of caring for ourselves in our May Home Discussion.

The Meeting holds **Lizzie** in the Light. She has moved to a retirement village in Richmond where she continues to recover. She enjoyed a day with Friends after a recent Meeting for Worship.

Elizabeth continues her activity in Nelsust with a focus on reclaiming the streets from over-sized vehicles for the protection and safety of cyclists and pedestrians.

Phillida is an on-going support to all her family members in Nelson who are experiencing different health challenges.

Kataraina is back on her feet after a painful back condition put her in bed for a week – this happens periodically.

Linda in Motueka Worship Group has organised for the first Parihaka Peace Display to be held in the local library on November 5th this year.



DIARY OF EVENTS:

Sunday 14th June 10am Family Service Centre, Talbot Street, Motueka: Meeting for Worship. All welcome

Wednesday 24th June 7.00pm – 8.45pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile Street: Home Discussion Group. Topic and venue to be advised. See below for a poll on when to hold this event in future.

Sunday 5th July 12.15pm Christchurch Monthly Meeting, get the Zoom link here: meeting@christchurch.quakers.nz

Sunday 12th July 10am Family Service Centre, Talbot Street, Motueka: Meeting for Worship. All welcome



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 at janmarsh37@gmail.com. **The cut-off date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, July 3rd.**

Check out the changes to the quakers.nz website. 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.

Twinning with a UK Quaker Meeting: we have enjoyed exchanges of newsletters with Barnt Green & Redditch Quaker Meeting. Friends receive them via email.

Junior Young Friends Camp, 6th – 12th July 2026, Bethany Camp, Kaiteriteri: this event is just around the corner. We have been asked to assist by providing transport for campers from the airport and hosting them at activities in the Meeting House and at the Quiet Garden. The theme for the week is "Peace-making". If that appeals to you and you are available, please make a note now in your diary.

Videos for the national website, Why I am a Quaker: Thanks to Peter who brought along his video camera and recorded six short videos with Friends. And thanks to those Friends who volunteered to take part. The videos will be uploaded soon.

There is a vast array of cultural events available in Nelson through June and July including arts, crafts, music, and other activities, you can find them here: https://www.nelsontasman.nz/explore/events/



Anzac Day Peace Vigil

Friends and supporters – more than 30 of us gathered on a beautiful April Day (Anzac Day) for a peace vigil. We were grateful for the support from the Palestine Rally organisers and other members of the public who joined us.

Photos by Jan Marsh.

Below is an image from a recent Palestine Rally soon after Israel announced its intention to execute Palestinian prisoners



Business Meeting, Sunday 7th June:

Making the Zoom work again: Lawrence has solved the Zoom problem, and it is now available for Friends who wish to attend Meeting for Business online.

Meeting House Repairs, the process of loving the Meeting House: we have a new microwave after the previous one died. Lawrence and Jan have been scouting out what needs attending to in the house, which with John D now living away on the West Coast means engaging commercial services. We appreciate all that John has done for us over the years.

Peace Vigils – Hiroshima and Nagasaki Days: we will hold our customary commemorations of these days at 12 noon on Thursday August 6th and Sunday August 9th at 12 noon – 1.oopm. Please come and bring your friends.

World Quaker Day, Sunday October 4th: After our success last year we decided to repeat our offer to our neighbours to attend Meeting for Worship and to join us for morning tea. The theme is **'Let there be Peace among us'.** We decided to extend our invitation to all who attend Palestine rallies, who came to our Anzac Day Peace Vigil, members of the Parihaka Network, and others working for peace.

Pastoral Care: Bronwen and Jan are providing pastoral care to those in need. They are also planning a discussion to be held one Wednesday evening based on Respect and Safety Queries on **how to make our Meeting community safe and inclusive**. Date to be advised.

Poll on which Wednesday to hold Home Discussions: traditionally, we have held discussions on the third Wednesday of the month but after a request for change we agreed to move to the fourth Wednesday, thereby creating a clash for another Friend. Could you please let Jan or Bronwen know if you could come were the Discussions to change to the second Wednesday. Thank you.

NCC plans to create an East/West cycleway to connect the two sides of the city, including our part of Nile Street. Our neighbours are concerned to preserve their residential parking spaces and parking for their businesses (a b&b and a lawyer's office). We want to protect cyclists and pedestrians affected by large vehicles angle parked and occluding views, and we want to support our neighbours.

One version of the cycle way would not affect our section of Nile Street: Beginning Nile Street,

Cross Tasman St, left into Collingwood st (@ dairy/ncma), avoiding our section of Nile St., cross Bronte St, Rt into Brougham St., cross Fairfield Park, join Van. Dieman St., left into Waimea Road (at Hampden St School) and stopping at the Hospital where Franklyn St leads to the Railway Reserve. We will have opportunity to learn more and contribute later in the year.

Summer Gathering: we are mindful of the need to assist Christchurch Meeting in organising this event at the end of the year at Teapot Valley. We will maintain a watching brief and be ready to contribute what we can.

Next Business Meeting is on Sunday 2nd August.

On Beauty and Religion

By Albert Einstein

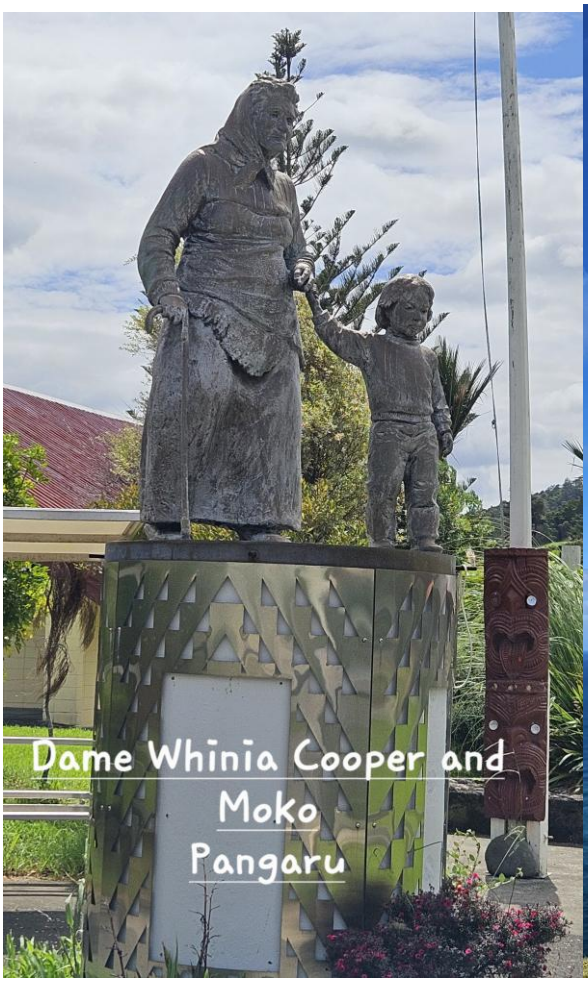
The most beautiful thing
we can experience
is the mysterious.

It is the source of all
true art and science.

He to whom this emotion
is a stranger, who can
no longer pause to wonder
and stand rapt in awe,
is as good as dead:
his eyes are closed.

This insight into the mystery of life,
coupled though it be with fear,
has also given rise to religion.

To know that what is
impenetrable to us
really exists, manifesting itself
as the highest wisdom
and the most radiant beauty
which our dull faculties
can comprehend only
in their most primitive forms —
this knowledge,
this feeling,
is at the center
of true religiousness.





Kataraina writes about her 2½ week pilgrimage to Te Rerenga Wairua/Cape Reinga

21st Feb-9th March 2026.

This was a solo trip - a bit like a pilgrimage as I hadn't been there before. I planned my itinerary and booked all the accommodation before leaving. Along the way I connected with my Dance Group, Crowsfeet Dance Collective, I visited old childhood memories and where i went to primary school, Waihi Catholic School, at the southern end of Lake Taupo. Caught up with family and friends. Walked in the Redwood Forest in Rotorua and visited the Treaty Grounds in Paihia, before heading to Ahipara where I left for Te Rerenga Wairua.

I wrote this in the car afterwards:

Calling ... Longing ... Drawn ... Hikoi begins ...Taken 70years ...To reach you ...Wind purifies ...Step by step ...I am Led ...

Te Rerenga Wairua

Sacred of all places

Deeply imbued with the Wairua of those gone forth.

On my return journey I travelled to Pangaru in the Hokianga where there is a statue of Dame Whina Cooper and her moko.

When I got home, I made a Photo Book of the trip because it was so special for me.

Online Resources: visit our own website quakers-in-nelson.org.nz, the national website quakers.nz and our Face Book page @Nelson Quakers.

Woodbrooke online course: here's one you might find helpful: Quaker Ministry.

Sunday 14 June 2026
12:15-13:15 (UK time)

https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/sunday-sessions-quaker-ministry/

List of missing library books: yes, still missing.

Please search under or beside your bed, in your own bookshelves, under the sofa, to see if you have any of these books, before we buy replacements. Even if you are convinced you don't have any of them, you brought it back years ago, or you know you would have written it in the book.

Thich Nhat Hahn, **At home in the world.**
Canadian Friends Service Committee, **Being a Quaker, being an activist**
Foote, W.J., **Bread and Water**
Rhiannon, Grant**, Deep Hospitality**
DiCapua, Adria, **Embracing Spiritual Gifts**
Taber, Frances Irene**, Finding the taproot of simplicity**
Steere, Douglas V., **Gleanings, A random harvest**
Elkington, Bianca et al, **Imagining decolonisation**
Unitarian Universalist Assn, **In our hands**
Wilson, Ian, **Jesus, the evidence**
Brown, Valerie, **Living from the Centre: mindfulness, meditation & centering**
Gulley, Philip, **Living the Quaker Way**
Tutu, Desmond & Tutu Mpho, **Made for Goodness**
Haines, Pamela, **Money and soul**
Thomas, Anne, **Only fellow voyagers: creation stories as guides for the journey**

Willistown Friends Meeting, **Quaker Flavours**
Weaver, Harold D. Jnr, **Race, systematic violence, and retrospective justice**
Loukes, Harold, **Seeking and finding in the Society of Friends**
Vessey, Donanld, **Sir Arthur Stanley Eddington**
Griffins, George, **Spurious Maori placenames**
Vipont Foulds, Elfrida, **The birthplace of Quakerism: a handbook for the 1652 country**
Marrow, Norman, **The Four Gospels: newly translated from the Greek**
Penney, Norman, **The journal of George Fox**
Chevalier, Tracy, **The Last Runaway**
Crum, Thomas F., **The magic of conflict: turning a life of work into a work of art**
Kavanaugh, John (ed), **The Quaker Approach: to contemporary problems**
Murphy, Michael N., **The wisdom of dying: Practices for living**
Williams, Sue**, The world in a sentence**
Kelsey, Jane, **Transforming Neoliberalism**
Eder, Donna, **Travelling in the dark, a memoir**
Kapleau, Philip, **Zen, dawn in the West**

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

4th 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.
