NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

March/April 2026

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** have returned from Auckland after several months of family time. They are keen to resume Maori language practice on Monday mornings at the Meeting House from April 6th.

Rex spent five weeks in February/March working with DOC as a volunteer ranger, a treasured late summer occupation.

Jan leaves this coming week to spend time in Melbourne with her daughter and family, including two mokopuna. Her children's father passed away recently so it will be a poignant time for them all.

Bronwen and her partner Ali enjoyed their first ever attendance at the celebrations at Waitangi, bringing home many reflections on the experience. Bronwen has given the Meeting hours of her time stock-taking the Meeting's library. More of this below – we have 35 unaccounted for, missing books. Sadly, many are irreplaceable, though we will do our best to find replacement copies. Bronwen and Ali are grieving the passing of their dear old dog.

John M left last week for Nepal where he was last in 2008. He has been invited by AVP to train new trainers, he will be running workshops in the Peace and Justice department of one of the universities, and in schools. From there he will go to the US for three months to spend time with extended family.

Phillida is as engaged as ever with her 11-year-old granddaughter Ocean, who recently helped her to problem solve issues with her computer. It seems a new laptop is needed!

Adele & Chris held their housewarming party on 17th March, at their property in Parere Street. This is an exciting venture for them.
Clive and Margaret are preparing to host their extended family over Easter, which they are very much looking forward to.

Christine has been devoting her spare time to reviewing and rewriting material on the public pages of the website on behalf of the Yearly Meeting Outreach Committee. She was also involved in the Library stock-take.

John D is travelling around the motu, currently in Invercargill. This is an activity that calls to him periodically.

Angus and Lynne are rapt to have secured a new state house, and are happily busy preparing to furnish it and move in.

Sam and Sandi left New Zealand on 29th March to return to Maine. We will miss their serene presence at Meetings for Worship and wish them all the best for their journey and the challenging situation awaiting them in the US.

Gwen is a very proud of her 17 year old grandson who participated recently in his first international junior triathlon in Tasmania. She is also celebrating a granddaughter's remission from cancer after chemotherapy.

Gregor is hoping to lead a home discussion on spiritual development some day soon. His own journey has been most varied, from Catholicism to Anglicanism to Buddhism to Quakerism.

The Meeting continues to hold **Lizzie** in the Light as she recovers from her recent health event.

Elizabeth has returned from her holiday which included attending a Quaker Meeting for Worship in Melbourne.



DIARY OF EVENTS:

Saturday 11th April 7.30pm Castle 1 Lecture Theatre, University of Otago. To be livestreamed at https://otago.zoom.us/j/92393572913?pwd=UOtmwvlB6PecDDnLcnk7RtEd6IZ260.1 Password: 148804: 2026 Quaker Lecture, Gumboot Anthropology - a Conversation with Anne Salmond. Dame Anne Salmond and Quaker Maddy Ash (Taranaki, Ngāruahine) offer a kōrero to discuss some of the big issues of the time: Te Tiriti and recent political contentions, Te Taiao and the climate crisis, language, meaning and the negotiation of different tikanga and world views. There will be an opportunity for questions and

discussion after the lecture. A recording will be available subsequent to the lecture. If Friends wish we could have a listening party at the Meeting House.

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

Saturday 25th April, 12noon – 1pm Church Steps, Trafalgar Street, Whakatu Nelson: ANZAC Day Peace Vigil. Honour the war dead by ending war. All welcome.

Sunday 3rd May 12.15pm Christchurch Monthly Meeting, get the Zoom link here: meeting@christchurch.quakers.nz

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

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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, May 8th.**

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.



Business Meeting, Sunday 29th March:

Meeting House Repairs: the process of loving the Meeting House never ebbs: we have realised it is time to repair the interior paintwork both downstairs and upstairs. Lawrence and Jan have offered to scout out what needs attending to and Elizabeth will get quotes.

Twinning with two Quaker Meetings, one in England and one in the USA: we enjoyed the presence in our Meeting of Friends from Barnt Green & Redditch (near Birmingham) and Portland, Maine. Jan has had conversations with the former, and we will seek conversation with the latter through Sandi and Sam, with the idea of developing a special relationship with those Meetings. Our first intention is to offer an exchange of newsletters, and to see where we might be led.

Junior Young Friends Camp, 6th – 12th July 2026, Bethany Camp, Kaiteriteri: Although it is a wee while away yet, 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. More information is to come.

Making the Zoom work again: with John M's departure to Nepal and Seattle we need to rediscover what components we lack and the expertise we need to be able to use Zoom on our large screen – ideally before the Quaker Lecture on 11th April. Lawrence has offered to find this out for us. If you are tech savvy and can help, please be in touch with Lawrence.

Next Business Meeting is on Sunday 7th June.

How to be a poet

By Wendell Berry

(to remind myself)
i
Make a place to sit down.
Sit down. Be quiet.
You must depend upon
affection, reading, knowledge,
skill — more of each
than you have — inspiration,
work, growing older, patience,
for patience joins time
to eternity. Any readers
who like your poems,
doubt their judgment.
ii
Breathe with unconditional breath
the unconditioned air.
Shun electric wire.
Communicate slowly. Live
a three-dimensioned life;
stay away from screens.
Stay away from anything
that obscures the place it is in.
There are no unsacred places;
there are only sacred places
and desecrated places.
iii
Accept what comes from silence.
Make the best you can of it.
Of the little words that come
out of the silence, like prayers
prayed back to the one who prays,
make a poem that does not disturb
the silence from which it came.

April 1 is April Fools' Day, a day for benign foolishness, tricks, pranks, and other nonsense. In 1983, Professor Joseph Boskin, an historian at Boston University, explained

that the practice dates back to the Roman Emperor Constantine, whose jesters challenged him that a fool could run the empire as well as he could. The emperor accepted the challenge and appointed a jester "king for a day" — and one of the new king's first actions was to decree an annual day of tomfoolery.
After interviewing Professor Boskin, the Associated Press published the story nationally — and only later realized that Boskin, true to the spirit of the day, had made the whole thing up!

April 3 is the day in 1968 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his last public address, now known as his "I've been to the mountaintop" speech. King had come to Memphis in support of a sanitation workers' strike, and was not scheduled to speak — but the workers clamored to hear from him, and so, though he was exhausted and under the weather, he came to Bishop Charles Mason Temple that evening to say a few words.
Speaking without notes, he said, "All we say to America is, 'Be true to what you said on paper.' If I lived in China or even Russia, or any totalitarian country, maybe I could understand the denial of certain basic First Amendment privileges, because they hadn't committed themselves to that over there. But somewhere I read of the freedom of assembly. Somewhere I read of the freedom of speech. Somewhere I read of the freedom of the press. Somewhere I read that the greatness of America is the right to protest for right. And so just as I say, we aren't going to let any injunction turn us around. We are going on."
He spoke of death frequently in the speech, recalling an episode a decade earlier when he was stabbed at a book signing, as well as the many death threats he'd received over the years. Even the flight he'd just taken, from Atlanta to Memphis, was delayed for an hour because of a bomb threat.
He ended this way: "Well, I don't know what will happen now. We've got some difficult days ahead. But it doesn't matter with me now. Because I've been to the mountaintop. And I don't mind. Like anybody, I would like to live a long life. Longevity has its place. But I'm not concerned about that now. I just want to do God's will. And He's allowed me to go up to the mountain. And I've looked over. And I've seen the promised land. I may not get there with you. But I want you to know tonight, that we, as a people, will get to the promised land. And I'm happy, tonight. I'm not worried about anything. I'm not fearing any man. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord!"
As he finished, he nearly collapsed — and had to be assisted back into his seat. Tears were streaming down his face.

He was killed the next day, April 4, 1968, at the age of 39.

April 22 is Earth Day,

first observed in 1970 — which makes this year the 55th anniversary. Inspired in part by Rachel Carson's work, among many others, the original Earth Day was a widespread, bipartisan response to the negative impacts of industrial development — and President Nixon, along with Congress, responded quickly to the popular pressure, establishing the Environmental Protection Agency that same year, and landmark environmental

legislation followed close behind. With something like one billion people now participating annually, Earth Day is considered the largest civic-focused day of action in the world.



This year's Earth Day theme — "Our Power, Our Planet" — is both timely and pressing. If the original Earth Day spurred unprecedented environmental action and coordination, the 56th must do the same!

Learn more here: https://www.earthday.org/earth-day-2026/

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

Online Courses from Woodbrooke: The latest newsletter from Woodbrooke includes information on a number of online courses including:

Exploring Our Quaker Roots: Moving Towards Repair - Thursday 2 April - Thursday 3 September

Are you interested in exploring how we, as Quakers, can take responsibility for the actions of those who came before us and move towards repairing the future? Join this six-month programme to deepen your personal and collective engagement with Quaker reparations.

Millennials, Gen Z and the Quaker Way - Thursday 16 April - Thursday 23 April

Are Millennials and Gen Z really too busy munching on sourdough, avocado sandwiches and watching TikTok to care about spirituality? This course explores what draws younger adults to Quakerism, what might put them off, and how our meetings can remain welcoming spaces for spiritual exploration.

Quakers in Wartime: The Friends Ambulance Unit and Children of the China Convoy - Tuesday 31 March

In this session we will explore the Friends' Ambulance Unit (FAU) and its humanitarian work in post-war China. The FAU was a volunteer ambulance service organised by Quakers that provided an alternative mode of wartime service focused on relieving suffering and promoting peace.

Quaker Concern: From Awareness to Action - Tuesday 28 April

People of conscience often feel drawn to take action in the world. Some actions are personal, while others reflect a wider Quaker concern. In this session, we will explore how to recognise the difference and how different pathways can emerge from being led by concern.

For more information and bookings visit the Woodbrooke February Newsletter:
https://mailchi.mp/woodbrooke/woodbrooke-february-newsletter-26

List of missing library books:

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

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.
