NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

November 2026

Spiritual Thought

Testimony as a defence against the secular world: "Secular[ism] … saps our spiritual power and undermines our testimony to the sacramental nature of the whole of life . . . . That, I then conclude, is precisely why testimony is so vital to Quaker experience. Secularisation promotes an accommodation with the times, which destroys our ability to judge them in terms of faith. Testimony, on the other hand, enables us to approach the daily world through the prism of faith.

Testimony as a defence against the secular world", Jonathan Dale, Faith in Action Quaker social testimony. 2000.

News of and for Friends

Elizabeth reports on just some of her activism: "As a member of Nelson Sustainable Transport Inc. (NELSUST), I was involved in NYNCM (*Not Your Normal Candidates Meeting*), held on 8 October to give people a chance to meet the people hoping to be our next M.P.; *Working to agree a cycle route* - the East West Link - that gives safe cycling for children at 8 schools in Nelson. This route was planned with central Government money ($5m) set aside to pay for it in 2022. The money had a forfeit date and was lost. It will now be funded out of local rates. It has almost been finalised and should go ahead in mid-2027. Nile Street will be where the route begins and the Railway Reserve will be where it ends/joins up with the existing cycle way.
Other activities: Some leafleting and door knocking for the Green Party, gardening at the Women's Centre in Trafalgar Street, and attendance at rallies in support of Palestine.
Next week (Monday 9th) my constant companion, Patch Wigglebottom, is having some dental treatment under anaesthetic and due to her age (16th Birthday last month) it's all a bit of a worry so if it doesn't offend your sensibilities, please hold her (and me) in the Light."

Peter's vision has recently deteriorated. He is now unable to drive safely, read ordinary text, or see anything clearly in his direct line of vision, including faces. He is adapting where possible, being extra careful with sharp knives, listening to audio books, and routing his computer through a 40 in ch TV monitor. Luckily, he can still maintain his garden, and talk with friends! Any support you can give to work around visual impairment he will gratefully receive. Also, Peter has a **spare room in his house and would like a new housemate!**

John D. turned up to help set up Bridge Club rooms for the Parihaka Day breakfast and brought a tureen of savoury lentils on the day. He sent the following account of his recent activities:



I've been in Golden Bay, van dwelling,
and watching saltwater swelling.
I've attended Friends meetings,
and to cafe seating.
I've been dancing and prancing,
at the Mussel, so joy enhancing.
I've sketched and painted,
and been proclaimed as "sainted."
I've walked, talked and listened
along stoney beaches that glistened,
But today I just sit, quietly for a bit,
dry inside, as the weather does a fit.

Bronwen, fortunately recovered from the effects of her broken arm, now mended, was our Group Leader, caterer, and organiser for the parakuihi for 55+ gatherers at the Dawn Blessing on Parihaka Day. She received lots of positive feedback from satisfied guests.

Lawrence is pleased that his injured knee has improved to the point where he has been able to do some tramping in the Richmond Range. **Marie** and he are looking forward to catching up with family in Auckland, where Pocket Rockets Dance have their usual end of year show. There's also a fiftieth birthday coming up.

Rex is recovering from two broken rib bones after a cycling mishap. He has cancelled all commitments and is doing lots of reading. He says, "Ive been told it could take up to six weeks - two weeks in and still very painful, so I'm prepared for the long distance". Rex is looking forward to a political change – "I seem to have spent the last three years working on environment submissions to backward policies that wish to weaken our future security." Rex reports: " I have had a huge year with more Parihaka events than ever, and am quite enjoying my slower pace. I am very grateful for all of your friendships".

Jan missed out on her role as a ringawera for the Parihaka parakuihi as she was gifted a cycling trip from Charles to Westport on the same day. It was forecast to be very wet but wasn't too bad.

John M and David Ayre lead a discussion on the challenges of AI in October. We hope their presentation with be uploaded to the Nelson Qu website soon.

John M is planning three presentations to Summer Gathering this year. As soon as the SG is over, he relocates to Seattle where he has an apartment in a retirement centre.

Kataraina reports: "I had a wonderful month in the lower North Island being with family and friends. I took part with my two teenage mokopuna in a Weekend Taranaki Pilgrimage, around the sites significant to pre Parihaka Invasion on Nov 5th, 1881. Also, I got to perform with Crow's-feet Dance Collective Palmerston North at a Conference to celebrate the lives of those 5000 or so Eastern European Refugees who came to Aotearoa post-World War 2, and who had to learn the ways and language of Kiwis in a six-week crash course at Pahiatua Refugee Camp and then go and get a job! It was a fulfilling and memorable time away".

Phillida is looking forward to another 'Orphans'' Christmas. Last year she and her husband John provided hospitality to Quakers and friends in their beautiful historic home and will do so again this year. Their home has been included in an Historic Homes Tour this month.

Angus and Lynne were busy helpers at the Parihaka Day breakfast, and Angus was part of the set up team the evening before, along with others from the Meeting.

Linda organised the first Motueka Library Display of material on Parihaka this past fortnight. She used the new white dove Peace Poster from YM Outreach Committee as part of the display. The display was welcomed by members of the public.

Christine organised a display for Parihaka Day over the same period in the Richmond Library. As it was in the space where the public waited to cast their ballot for the election it might have had more browsers than usual.



DIARY OF EVENTS:

Sunday 8th November 10am Family Service Centre, Talbot Street, Motueka: Meeting for Worship. All welcome

Wednesday 12th November, 7pm – 8.45pm Home Discussion Group. Topic and venue TBA.

Sunday 29th November 10.30am Riverside Community Hall, Top of the South Meeting. We start with Meeting for Worship, then a shared lunch, followed by discussion which will be led by Golden Bay Quakers Helen Kingston and Jude Zwanekkin on living our Quaker values through Advices and Queries. All welcome.

Sunday 6th December 12.15pm Quakers in Nelson Business Meeting. Contact Jan with any agenda items.

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

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

Friday 25th December, 12 noon: Xmas Lunch at Phillida's home. 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 December letter to Jan at janmarsh37@gmail.com. **The cut-off date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, December 11th**

Welcome Morning

By Anne Sexton

There is joy
in all:
in the hair I brush each morning,
in the Cannon towel, newly washed,
that I rub my body with each morning,
in the chapel of eggs I cook

each morning,
in the outcry from the kettle
that heats my coffee
each morning,
in the spoon and the chair
that cry “hello there, Anne”
each morning,
in the godhead of the table
that I set my silver, plate, cup upon
each morning.
All this is God,
right here in my pea-green house
each morning
and I mean,
though often forget,
to give thanks,
to faint down by the kitchen table
in a prayer of rejoicing
as the holy birds at the kitchen window
peck into their marriage of seeds.
So, while I think of it,
let me paint a thank-you on my palm
for this God, this laughter of the morning,
lest it go unspoken.
The Joy that isn’t shared, I’ve heard,
dies young.

Some anniversaries:



November 8 is the birthday of American activist and writer Dorothy Day, born in 1897.

After a time as a radical journalist and activist in New York City, she converted to Catholicism and, along with the French Catholic activist Peter Maurin, began a publication called *The Catholic Worker* devoted to issues of justice, poverty, and human rights. The first issue, in 1933, cost one penny — and it still does today. In that inaugural edition, Day wrote that the paper was “For those who are sitting on park benches in the warm spring sunlight. For those who are huddling in shelters trying to escape the rain. For those who are walking the streets in the all but futile search for work.” The discussions provoked

by *The Catholic Worker* led to the creation of "houses of hospitality" in New York City and across the country, where people without homes, especially women, could seek shelter, companionship, and assistance.

Her autobiography, *The Long Loneliness*, published in 1952, is a modern classic. Here's the famous postscript, from which the book's title comes:

"We were just sitting there talking when Peter Maurin came in. We were just sitting there talking when lines of people began to form, saying, "We need bread." We could not say, "Go, be thou filled." If there were six small loaves and a few fishes, we had to divide them. There was always bread.

We were just sitting there talking and people moved in on us. Let those who can take it, take it. Some moved out and that made room for more. And somehow the walls expanded.

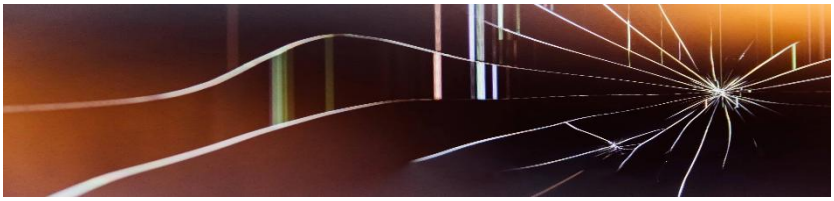
We were just sitting there talking and someone said, "Let's all go live on a farm." It was as casual as all that, I often think. It just came about. It just happened…

It is not always easy to be joyful, to keep in mind the duty of delight. The most significant thing about The Catholic Worker is poverty, some say. The most significant thing is community, others say. We are not alone anymore. But the final word is love. At times it has been, in the words of Father Zossima, a harsh and dreadful thing, and our very faith in love has been tried through fire. We cannot love God unless we love each other, and to love we must know each other.

We know him in the breaking of bread, and we are not alone anymore. Heaven is a banquet and life is a banquet, too, even with a crust, where there is companionship. We have all known the long loneliness and we have learned that the only solution is love and that love comes with community.

It all happened while we sat there talking, and it is still going on.

November 9 is the anniversary of Kristallnacht, "The Night of Broken Glass" in 1938 when German Nazis provoked, coordinated, and permitted assaults on Jewish synagogues, homes, and businesses.



Hitler and Joseph Goebbels used the murder of a German diplomat by a Polish man who happened to be Jewish as a pretext for the attacks, intentionally arranging them to look like spontaneous demonstrations. They ordered the police to allow the violence, and firefighters to put out fires only if they spread to adjacent, non-Jewish properties. Whether out of fear or bigotry, virtually

everyone cooperated. It was the first mass incarceration of Jews in Nazi Germany; many consider Kristallnacht to be the beginning of the Holocaust.

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

For random reading, poetry, biblical references from 'progressive Christianity' (like the two items above) you can sign up for a monthly email here:

https://www.saltproject.org/

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.
