

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

October 2025

Spiritual Thought

A Silent Morning: Silently the tide flows in Silently we listen for the voice of love Silently we open our hearts to hear Silently we commit to follow where it leads Barbara Mountier (2005) in On these Islands 2024

News of and for Friends

Rex is today leading a two-hour workshop on composting as part of the Climate Action Festival 2025.

Jan has taken on the mantle of Parihaka Breakfast organiser.

Phillida has been grandparenting in Wellington over the past few weeks. She is participating in a panel discussion with Helen Joyce at the end of the month, drawing on her experience of researching medical misadventure and the unexpected consequences of good intentions.

Peter has been contemplating next steps for our Meeting on the question of how we can best support the Palestinian people. He will lead a home discussion this week on the topic. See more below.

Christine is recovering from completing the work pile up that follows an extended holiday, so she is feeling rather happy about that.

John D is taking time out from his usual activities, including travelling to distant parts. We face the next Parihaka Day breakfast without his leadership, but are grateful for the full notes he has left us about what to do.

Bronwen is stepping into the breach along with Jan. Bronwen has a decade of experience catering for masses at Riverside Community, we appreciate her calm!

Lizzie has been busy working with the Parihaka Network designing the poster for this year's celebrations.

John M is due back from the US this month, after a long stay.



DIARY OF EVENTS:

October 16 – October 25: Climate Action Festival. see the full programme here:

https://www.nelsontasmanclimateforum.nz/2025-climate-action-festival-2/?fbclid=IwY2xjawNfquVleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETE0UkINU2Y5UWJsWjFwZURxAR6rQWJemVnyUclN4yMANonyeGjbYEzcD7JxsDH4kUUrVw7E1Lk68pbJVh1beQ_aem_Io7vJ6m3gtvwEO0HDtgs5Q

Saturday October 18th 6pm – 8pm Climate Action Festival, Whakatu Arts & Action (WAA Club) 183 Bridge St. Whakatu Nelson, Blockage Cinema

Evening: What is it like to spend a night in a coal bucket, and why do people do it? Find out about direct action against extractive industries.

Learn more here: <https://www.facebook.com/NTClimateForum>. Organised by the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum.

Sunday 19th October 7pm Waa! Club 183 Bridge Street, Whakatu Nelson

Documentary screening: Gaza: Journalists Under Fire, organised by Te Tau Ihu Palestine Solidarity.

Wednesday October 22nd 7.30pm – 9pm Home Discussion Group, Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile Street, How can we support the Palestinian people, an opportunity to share our thoughts and feelings and to consider political action. Peter Kemp will lead the discussion. All welcome

Sunday 2nd October 12.15pm Christchurch Monthly Meeting, get the Zoom link here: meeting@christchurch.quakers.nz

Wednesday November 5th Parihaka Day: 5.30am Anzac Park

Halifax St., Dawn Service, followed by Parahuika / Breakfast

6.15am in the Nelson Bridge Club. All welcome. Organised by Parihaka Network & Quakers.

Sunday 9th November 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 November newsletter to Jan at janmarsh37@gmail.com. **The cut-off date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, November 7th.**

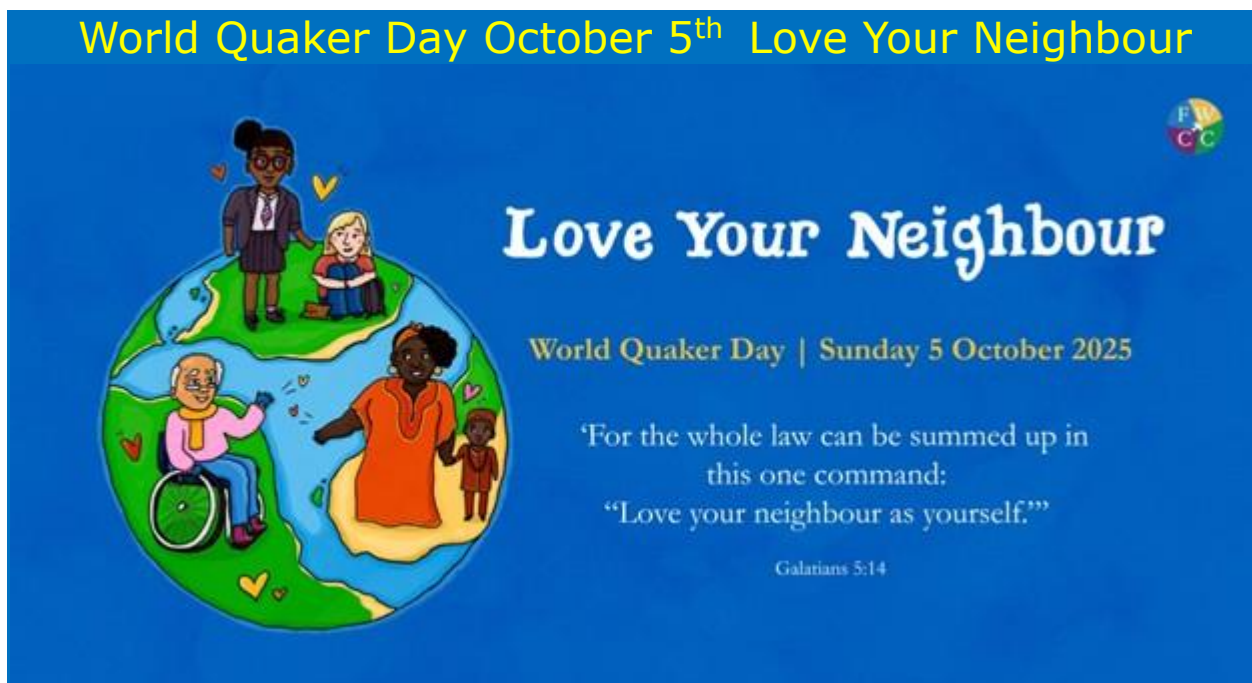
Check out the *new* Quakers NZ Website which went live on April 1st: quakers.nz. It is our national outreach tool for inquirers and the database for Quakers in Aotearoa. The Nelson embroideries are included, as is Phillida's talk on Quaker Women in 19th Century America – go to the NZ Quaker History page for the Embroideries and Snapshots of history for Phillida's talk.

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.



Nelson Meeting newsletters are posted on the national website on the Christchurch Monthly Meeting page or click on Find a Quaker Meeting.

World Quaker Day October 5th Love Your Neighbour



For those who don't access our website quakers-in-nelson.org or our Face book page, Quakers in Nelson, here are a few photos from our sociable Love your Neighbour event, in which Friends and neighbours shared tea, coffee, cake and conversation. See more on Facebook.



Quaker Meeting House sign in Te Reo

A long, often delayed process of creating a Maori language equivalent of our English sign is nearing completion! The final details of the design were agreed at our Business Meeting on October 12th. Look out for it soon.

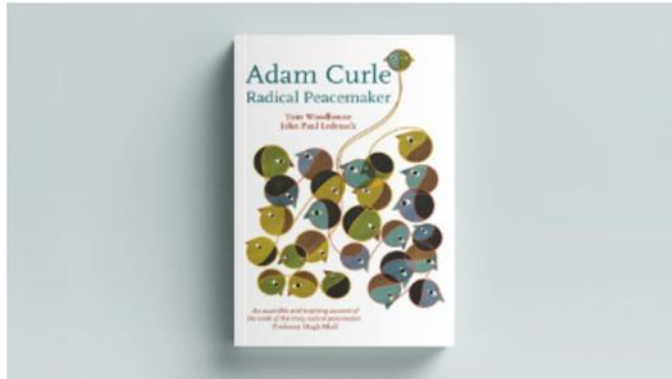
A review of two books about peace-making.

Adam Curle, radical peace-maker

&

Pursuing peace in Godzone

Reviewed by Jan Marsh



Adam Curle, radical peace-maker

by Tom Woodhouse and John Paul Lederach
Hawthorne Press 2016

Pursuing peace in Godzone

edited by Geoffrey Troughton and Philip Fountain
Victoria University Press 2018

Both books are in our Quaker library.

Adam Curle, known for his extensive writing and study of peace-making and his courageous mediation work in war zones around the world, was born near Paris in 1916. His mother had moved there from England in order to show solidarity with the French during WWI and to be near her brothers who were in the trenches and in the Navy. Perhaps he was destined from birth for a lifetime opposing war.

He was also part of a large family with strong roots in the English traditions of scholarship and the arts. His mother's sister married Ralph Vaughan Williams, the composer, and there were also strong connections with the Bloomsbury Group which included Virginia Woolf and Vanessa Bell. His mother, having lost three of her brothers in the war, was a pacifist and influenced Adam's politics to the extent that he became a Quaker in 1959.

This book provides a short biography of Adam Curle and also gives selections of his writings on peace-making and mediation, particularly during his time as Professor of the Bradford School of Peace Studies and at Harvard.

His work on the ground in Nigeria, South Africa and other conflict zones convinced him that mediation was not possible between hostile and unequal participants and that the first steps needed to build, maintain and enhance the channels of communication. He developed an explicit and well thought out process for mediators and peace-makers which is fully explored in the book.

Curle's a four-step process is: Research (understanding the background to the conflict and the positions of the parties),
Conciliation (trust-building and equalising imbalances),
Bargaining to get the needs of all parties met, and
Development (ongoing well-being and positive growth).

He points out that many approaches to conflict resolution focus only on bargaining and often regard success as what he calls negative peace ie the absence of war. Even without war, 'unpeace' can exist in states of deprivation and suppression where development is held back. For Curle, the goal goes beyond the end of war to establishing justice and development.

In places his writings jar a little, with an air of patronage which is of course 'of his time' given that he was born into Edwardian England at the height of its colonial mission. However, the humanity and thoroughness of his approach and his poetry which is included to illustrate certain points, make it easy to forgive those flaws and look instead to the legacy of his experience and work.

Pursuing Peace in Godzone looks at the role of Christianity in peace and war in New Zealand. Despite obvious Biblical injunctions such as 'Thou shalt not kill' and 'Blessed are the peace-makers', Christianity has not been whole-hearted in pursuing peace. Protestors and peace-makers within certain congregations have been criticised and even ex-communicated. However, many prominent and courageous activists have drawn on their Christian beliefs and persisted in spite of opposition from their faith communities who they might reasonably have expected to support them.

The book begins with an analysis by the two editors of Anzac Day and the way in which it has developed myth and meaning while also creating ambiguity and controversy. Does Anzac Day glorify war? Or does it mourn the loss, courage and sacrifice? Is it permissible to witness for peace on that day?

There are articles about a wide variety of movements, from the conscientious objectors of both world wars, the nuclear free movement and the flotillas which opposed US warships entering NZ harbours and nuclear tests in the Pacific, and the movement against Apartheid in South Africa which saw three committed New Zealanders become deeply involved.

The book also examines the 'just war' theory and asks where Jesus would stand on Anzac Day. Elizabeth Duke has contributed a chapter on the role of Quakers as a 'peace church' and also makes reference to Adam Curle. A final chapter by the editors puts all of this into context and perspective and brings us back to reflecting on the story and teachings of Jesus.

This is a very worthwhile book to read from cover to cover or to dip into the chapters which hold special interest. As an examination of an idea in the light of history, it has a lot to contribute to our present troubled times.

Untitled

By Ruth Fawell 1975

Taste, really taste
This slice of home-made bread,
Good for the taste buds, palatable,
On your breakfast plate.
Touch, really touch
Softly, as in childhood
This smooth old sheet beneath your fingers
Cool against your face.
Smell, really smell
These last cream and purple-red sweet peas,
Tender, delicate
Upon the table by your bed.
Look, really look
Steadily at this shapely silver spoon
This convoluted shell
Upon your windowsill.
Listen, really listen,
To the gentle sound of rain
Upon the roof, the nearby walnut tree,
The thirsting pleading earth.
Then praise with all your heart
These often only partly
Realised gifts
Upon your very doorstep.
Praise, too, your senses five,
Wonder-carriers of beyond-ness
Into your present.

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, 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Topic & venue tba

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