NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

September 2026

Spiritual Thought

Psalm 98: "Sing to God a new song, for God has done marvellous things. Let the floods clap their hands; let the hills sing together for joy." Staying together through the delights and struggles of life - being "together for joy" - has never been more important. And while change brings challenges in its wake, it also brings fresh opportunities to sing to God a new song, for God has done - and will do - marvellous things. SALT Project, August 2026

News of and for Friends

Lawrence and **Marie** have been in Auckland catching up with family and supervising the removal of a very large but dying and dangerous gum tree from their garden. They are sad to lose the tree, but happy to report that the operation was successful. They are back in Nelson now.

Rex has been distributing fliers on behalf of the Parihaka Network for the Concert for Peace He has also been working – along with Kataraina – bringing Parihaka Day celebrations together. Rex adds: "I said to a friend the other day. This job might take me a while my diary is looking full till Christmas.....! But I still think I have a reasonable community/ whanau balance. Concert for Peace, Nelson Tasman Climate Forum Festival, Whakatu Presbyterian Plant Sale, Parihaka Day, to name a few. I wake up every day with a feeling of gratitude and appreciation of my circumstances with supportive whanau and friends.

Peter has been processing our outward donations for 2026. We have donated $1000 each to Medical Aid for Palestine and Ramallah School in Palestine, $300 each to Teen Parents at Nelson College for Girls and Auckland Point School, and $100 to Nelson Community Food Bank. We will discuss the possibility of a donation to help Nepal at our next Meeting for Business. He has also planted a potato garden, and does a regular home school session with his grandsons in Australia, delighting in how they love learning!

Bronwen is recovering from a broken arm (details unknown to the editor). She is recovering well.

John M is back in New Zealand waiting for an apartment to become available in a retirement community in Seattle, where his daughter lives. John lived and worked

for several years in Redmond, a city 15 miles from Seattle where Microsoft is located.

Phillida recently led a 'home' discussion on the topic of caregiving that was enjoyed by those who took part in a wide-ranging conversation.

Clive and Margaret are preparing to host their extended family over Easter, which they are very much looking forward to.

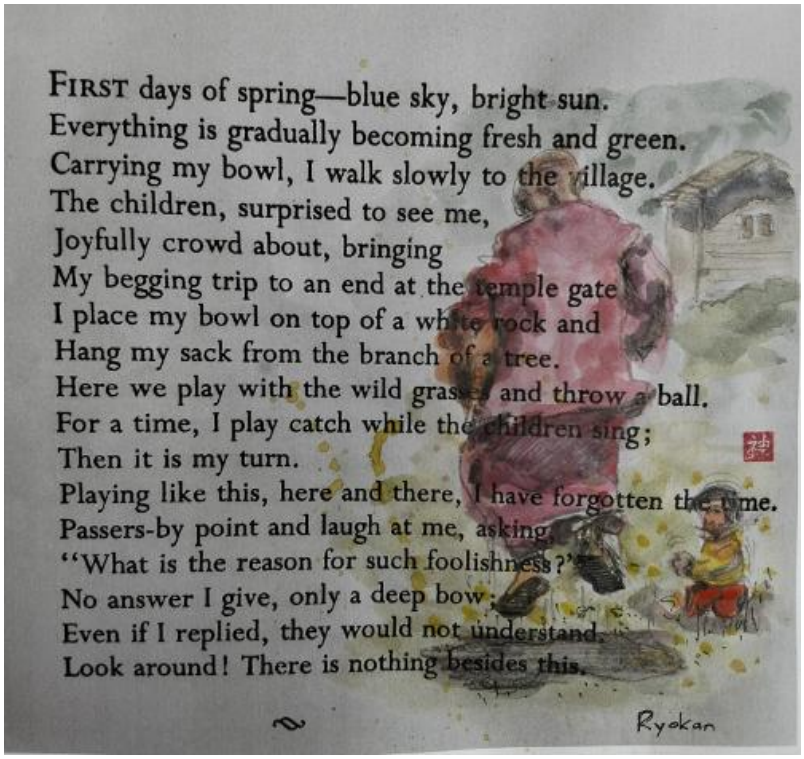
Christine is chasing her tail catching up on work, voluntary commitments and gardening that was neglected during her 8-week holiday abroad. She begs someone to volunteer to write "One Quaker's View" for the Nelson website which hasn't been changed in a year!

Gwen adds, "There is a documentary film entitled "Earth's Greatest Enemy" about the Pentagon. showing at WAA! - 183 Bridge Street on 13 September, Sunday, 7 pm. "documenting the environmental cost of history's biggest empire" - WAA! is Wakatu Artists and Activists (I think).

Robert is in the process of preparing his house for sale. He is intending to move to The Wood Retirement Village.

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

John D says, "Something for the newsletter (but not the website - it's my sketch of a photo off the web 😀) I'm enjoying the poetry of the Zen monk, Ryokan, these days. Hugs to all. Johnny D."





DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday 9th September 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile Street Whakatu Nelson Home Discussion Group: topic - The costs and benefits of AI, led by John M. All welcome.

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

Sunday 13th September 7pm WAA! 183 Bridge Street Whakatu Nelson: documentary film entitled "Earth's Greatest Enemy" about the Pentagon, documenting the environmental cost of history's biggest empire".

Tuesday 15th September 12.30pm Elma Turner Library, Introduction to Te Reo Maori as part of celebrations of Te Wiki o Te Reo Maori. Join the growing number of Quakers learning te reo!

Wednesday 16th September 1pm Elma Turner Library, Building on the Basics: Te Reo in practice.

Wednesday 16th September 7pm Victory Community Centre, Whakatu Nelson Pop-up psychodrama. For more information talk to Bronwen.

Friday 18th - 27th September Whakatu Nelson Tasman Climate Action Festival, a raft of interesting and informative activities from composting Saturday mornings to a movie, How to Live on Earth. Find out more here: https://collections.humanitix.com/nelson-tasman-climate-action-festival-2026

Sunday 27th September 3pm – 4pm Trafalgar Hall Whakatu Nelson Concert for Peace, featuring Maria Oxnam and Te Mana Haa, followed with kai, at the Trafalgar Hall, Whakatu Nelson.

Sunday 4th October World Quaker Day 2026: The theme is Let Peace Be Among Us, with the supporting Bible passage Hebrews 12:14, "Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy." FWCC is planning a massive online Meeting for Worship bringing together

Friends across borders and Quaker traditions with a shared focus on peace. **More details to come.**

Sunday 4th October 12.15pm Christchurch Monthly Meeting, get the Zoom link here: meeting@christchurch.quakers.nz

Sunday 11th October 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, 9th October.**

Below is an image from Gregor of the Nagasaki Day commemoration & peace vigil. It was a bitterly cold day but a few of us braved the chill that did us no harm but invigorated us all.



Beginners

By Denise Levertov



"From too much love of living,
Hope and desire set free,
Even the weariest river
Winds somewhere to the sea —"

But we have only begun
To love the earth.

We have only begun
To imagine the fullness of life.

How could we tire of hope?
— so much is in bud.

How can desire fail?
— we have only begun

to imagine justice and mercy,

only begun to envision
how it might be
to live as siblings with beast and flower,
not as oppressors.

Surely our river
cannot already be hastening
into the sea of nonbeing?

Surely it cannot
drag, in the silt,
all that is innocent?

Not yet, not yet —
there is too much broken
that must be mended,
too much hurt we have done to each other
that cannot yet be forgiven.

We have only begun to know
the power that is in us if we would join
our solitudes in the communion of struggle.

So much is unfolding that must
complete its gesture,
so much is in bud.

"I took heart from a snippet of dialogue", a recommendation from Elizabeth – she says, "for context, the second half of this interview" with Max:

Max Wolf Friedlich, American playwright was being interview on Saturday Morning on 29 August. He was asked his opinion on cutting off social media for teens. He said without SM we wouldn't know the gravity of situations - the truth about the genocide in Gaza. He is Jewish and remembers the teachings and example of his father and grandfather, therefore we are all human beings with eyes:

https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/saturday/audio/2019049662/humans-vs-algorithms-on-broadway

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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: there are many short courses available. If you are a newcomer to Quakers and want to learn about us and our history, there are courses just for you! If you are a lifelong Quaker and want to continue to deepen your spirituality, there are courses especially for you!

https://www.futurelearn.com/organisations/woodbrooke-quaker-study-centre

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE, a seminar:

Whanganui Settlement 9th – 11th October. Learn more here:

https://www.quakersettlement.co.nz/seminars/event-calendar/eventdetail/55/9,11,12/restorative-justice

The Quaker Penal Reform Group warmly invites friends and interested participants to join their upcoming seminar that will offer timely, thoughtful and inspiring discussions around criminal justice.

Quakers have a distinguished history of advocating for penal reform to influence government policies that will reshape the criminal justice system to be more safe, humane and effective.

This seminar will contribute to broader efforts and discussions for the Compassion Prison Project, by addressing trauma within communities and incarcerated populations.

Registered participants will benefit from presentations by Quakers and others with direct experience in the criminal justice sector.

Alongside informed reflection, the seminar will offer opportunities for fellowship - including time to explore the property and attend an evening film presentation.

Quaker Education and Testimonies Fund (QETF) funding is available for one seminar per year per person attending.

And, following that: CARING FOR THE WORLD WE LOVE, From Friday 23 October 2026 - 6:00pm To Monday 26 October 2026 - 2:00pm Whanganui Settlement

This is an opportunity for Friends to share their current concerns about climate issues and support each other. Also, time for stitching, weaving and repairing; tasks that bring us joy.

Learn more here: https://www.quakersettlement.co.nz/seminars/event-calendar/eventdetail/57/9,11,12/caring-for-the-world-we-love

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List of missing library books:

Sorry Friends – they haven't reappeared. Are you sure you don't have them?

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, Donald, **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

2nd 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.
