

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

September 2022

Spiritual Thought

Karen Armstrong's book "Sacred Nature" talks of humanity's broken relationship with Nature. I quote "Hearts and minds need to change if we are to once more learn to revere our beautiful and fragile planet, and to stop polluting it. For this to happen we need to reconnect". To quote further "Spending a few minutes each day quietly absorbing the sights and sounds of nature can help remind us that we are part of the world around us and depend on it, as a child depends on its mother."

Upcoming event

[In August we commemorate Hiroshima and Nagasaki](#)

[Hiroshima Day 6 August. Nagasaki Day 9 August](#)

Please join us at the Church Steps on Saturday 6 August at 12 noon. We will hold a vigil until 1.00pm

Now more than ever, we must pray for Peace.

Recent Happenings

Here in Nelson, some of us have been busy with community issues. The land for proposed housing development beside the Maitai requires a plan change from rural to urban and parties for and against have spent the last couple of weeks putting their case to independent commissioners. We are always talking about land rights. What a pity the land itself, or in this case, the river, has no rights.

Another issue with Nelson City Council is feedback for the Active Travel Strategy:

<https://shape.nelson.govt.nz/active-travel-strategy>

The Council have supplied a helpful feedback form which can be filled in online or printed off and emailed in. Feedback was due to close by tomorrow afternoon but has now been extended until Thursday 28th. If, like me, you usually remain oblivious of council strategy papers, I have become interested in this one because I see it as a chance to get much needed travel justice for people like Ben. If enough people write to say they can live with a 30km speed limit around town, and that they would be happy to see this speed limit introduced sooner (say 2025) rather than later (Council suggests 2035) People like Ben might be able to cross the road safely. The newspaper article provides a video link which shows Ben's plight. Please have a look and perhaps encourage NCC to help Ben and all the people who struggle to walk around town because cars are fast, large and prolific: <https://www.stuff.co.nz/pou-tiaki/129115204/roundabout-might-as-well-be-moat-with-crocodiles-in-it-for-those-with-disabilities>.

Community Action Network have sent word about a new initiative to help women in need of a place to stay to connect with women who might like to share their home in return for some help around the place. Here is the link to the website <https://www.homeshareforher.nz/>. Home Share for Her would love to hear from you and assist you with your living arrangements either to open your home to share with someone else as a Home Owner or to find a home to share with someone else as a Home Seeker.

News of Friends

Phillida writes: John and I are at home with COVID. We were able to get Paxlovid anti-virals quickly by going to after hours at the hospital while I could still drive. They need to be begun within 5 of onset of symptoms. They are a game changer in terms of avoiding hospital and death. Until 10 days ago they were reserved for the unvaccinated because of their vulnerability to serious illness! But the government bought another 100,000 doses so they are now available for anyone over 75 or with other vulnerabilities. Available through your GP or after-hours service.

We found making physical provision for ourselves in isolation difficult and were not as prepared as I thought we were.

You need a good accessible contingency plan. Easier said than done, I know. Think about it now as it will likely happen to you eventually. Can you access the basics unaided? The basics may be hard for you to access and you will not have access to nursing or other home services. For us the difficult points were accessing food and toilets which were on different floors. You need to be able to reach both easily from your bed. you also need an oximeter to check O2 levels and batteries to run it.

Be prepared! Hope this helps

Lizi is 'on call' for Grandmother duties and is currently staying home since her young Granddaughter, Ruby is rather unwell. Unfortunate update – her house now has COVID – Son-in-Law Ryan.

John Liell reports :” Nothing special here carrying on with lots of support from, the social services. Have hired some extra help on a cash only basis for garage work etc.” He’d love us to call in as long as we let him know first so that we don’t clash with visits from the District Nurse (usually Monday, Wednesday and Friday mid morning).

Kataraina, currently in Wellington where she was enrolled in a Dance School, has, alas, caught Covid there and can no longer attend the course. A great disappointment for her.

From **John D:** Greetings friends, I'm just over 3 weeks into my Ireland walk now. Going well. I didn't think I'd be looking for shade on this adventure but it's certainly been the case lately. Rain for only the second night last night. Welcoming the cooler walking conditions today.

Attached is sketch of Tipperary where I watched the National Hurling final in a raucous pub last weekend. Limerick won. Must be a witty little verse there somewhere but can't think of it at moment





Go well all. John d Peace be with you

John and Anthea Michaelis are still away, catching up with family in America.

Maree and Lawrence are almost back (they came and went). While they were here, "It has been a busy time for the Premises Committee (Lawrence). In early June the Meeting House basement was found to be flooded over its entire area. Later, an accident with a heater almost led to a fire, and has caused us to rethink our heating strategy. We are looking at the possibility of installing a heat pump, which should help with our high levels of humidity. We have been measuring temperature and relative humidity in the activities room, and RH has been averaging 80% (desirable range 40 to 60%). An electrical inspection has just been carried out. In the meantime our new neighbours' building project has resulted in damage to the Meeting House, including broken windows, disconnected downpipe, and a large and unexpected fence. Nelson City Council helped to arrange a meeting to discuss the neighbours' plans for storm water, which include the use of a broken drain near to our already damp basement. Dye testing of the drain will help to show where the water is actually going, and discussions are ongoing. NCC parking wardens have been making a fortune recently by giving out tickets to people parking on the yellow lines in front of the Meeting House. We have tried to make the position a bit clearer with our new sign on the front gate. (They should be here again on 31 July and we'll try and have one or two little jobs lined up for Lawrence...)

Peter is helping with a photographic exhibition to be shown in October, at the Refinery Gallery, entitled *Earth Emotions*. Forty-seven photographers from our special place, Te Tau Ihu, the Top of the South, sent in photos for the exhibition. The images share personal experiences of the crises we humans have unleashed in Earth's climate, biodiversity, soils, atmosphere, freshwater, oceans, forests and in our own health. There are five categories of photo: [Insight](#), [Difficult Emotions](#), [Positive Emotions](#), [Response](#), and [Visions](#). You can see a preview of the exhibition by clicking on each of the latter categories. Peter has also been in touch with Nick Koirala, who will send us a quotation for the construction of the Phone App project, later in August.

He is also involved in the Climate Forum's sponsorship and judging of the next Cawthron Institute's Science and Technology Expo for students, in anticipation that some of the students' exhibits will relate to Climate Action.

Christine is busy organising a conference, which is proving quite taxing. Her reward, when it is all over, will be a trip to London in Mid August to see her son and partner and her grandson. It's been three years since Christine last saw them, so three weeks is going to fly by.

Gwen is enjoying a visit from her daughter, and is still managing to keep up with the Green Party and events at NCC like the Save The Maitai project.

Elizabeth (me!) is also busy with NCC happenings – Save The Maitai and the Active Travel Strategy. Tasman District Council have gone ahead with changes to bring safety to walkers and cyclists within a reasonable time frame, which is why it would be wonderful if Nelson City Council could be given a nudge to be just as bold in their travel strategy. Please consider supporting people like Ben by showing your support for lower speeds and more pedestrian crossings in Nelson – and soon!

An interesting story from The Guardian:

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2022/jun/30/earliest-pacific-seafarers-were-matrilocality-study-suggests>



[Earliest Pacific seafarers were matrilocality society, study suggests](#)

The world's earliest seafarers who set out to colonise remote Pacific islands nearly 3,000 years ago were a matrilocality society with communities organised around the female lineage, analysis of ... www.theguardian.com

From International Quakers:

An Invitation: The IPCC Reports & Quaker Advocacy

Dear

Friends,

We write to you with a mid-month offering. Next Tuesday, QUNO's Lindsey Fielder Cook will be joining in conversation with Susanna Mattingly, Sustainability Officer at Friends World Committee for Consultation, to speak about the recent IPCC reports. Please see event details below.

***Acting on our corporate commitment to faith-based climate justice
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Reports and Quaker
Advocacy***

Tuesday 26 July 2022, 19:00-20:30 (UK time)

To register please [click here](#).

The talk is hosted by the Quaker learning centre Woodbrooke and is offered on a pay as you are led basis. Any contributions you are able to give will be gratefully received.

We hope to see many of you there.



Deadline for next Newsletter 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 to Elizabeth Dooley elizdooley@hotmail.com The cut-off date for items for the August newsletter is Friday, August 21st 2022.

A reminder about Quakers Aotearoa Website

<https://quakers.nz/> is the database for the New Zealand Religious Society of Friends. It is a useful source of information on people and events. Please get into the habit of referring to the database, and please make sure your details are entered and up to date. This is where we go when we are looking for a Friend's phone number, etc. This database is only as good as the data you enter so, please make use of this important communication tool. Nelson Meeting newsletters and lots of other material is posted and archived there.

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

Our Programme: below is a reminder of the different activities each month.

Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 9.00–10.00am **vaccine pass required**

Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.30 – 11.30am No vaccine pass required

Next Meeting for Business Sunday 7 August, 12.00 pm No vaccine pass required, Zoom participation.

Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship.