

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

Quakers - the Religious Society of Friends – Aotearoa New Zealand Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri

June 2024

Spiritual Thought

In the deep water of silence, tangled and withered leaves and branches are disentangled, and, revived and refreshed, can wave about freely, while the root is firmly attached to the bedrock. Down there is where I need to be, to hear the still small voice.

Judith Child, 1995

News of and for Friends

Angus, 17 years old and in Yr. 13 at Nayland College, is planning to study for a bachelor's degree in commerce at NMIT next year. He says his favourite part of Meeting is the silence of Meeting for Worship. His favourite activity is just relaxing.

Christabel is back from holiday accompanying a friend on a family history search in Dungaville on the West Coast. Dungaville only exists on maps now. She is donating a book recording memories of a fascinating life to anyone who would like to read it. Christabel is going away again in June & July.

Lawrence and Marie head up to Auckland next month for their grandson's birthday. Lawrence is meanwhile gardening in the Nelson Community Garden and at home. He was reassured on a picnic recently in Cable Bay to find the cable. Their daughter is off to Bali to become a yoga teacher.

Peter had a Zoom appointment with the Select Committee hearing submissions on the proposed fast-tracking legislation. He had only got five minutes. He has had his sister Jan staying from Germany. She gave recitals at the recent Auckland Writers Festival, having recently published two memoirs "Raiment", and "To See a World"; they capture the times rather well he thinks.

His new grandson in Australia is now a strapping six months, with bags of personality! The family is doing well. Peter's "audio system" is deteriorating further, he asks, please speak up at meetings!

Clive and Margaret left on the 4th of June for a 10-week cycle tour of central Europe: Germany, France, Italy, Slovenia, and Austria. They get back in early August. Clive's son Eric and wife Amy are expecting their first baby in July.

John D is spending time on the West Coast building a fence. He is looking forward to time out from Nelson. The West Coast suits him, its elemental, close to nature. He has been earning his living painting houses, which carries lots of pressures, so he is looking forward to time out.

Daniel is remembering his family pet Blitzzy a fourteen-and-a-half-year-old greyhound, who died in his sleep a few weeks ago. Blitzzy had a good life. Daniel is a regular attender at the Palestinian rallies in Nelson every Saturday morning. He appreciates the silent procession through the market.

Cat (Daniel's sister) gives a shout out to Library staff everywhere. An ex-Librarian she was recently asked by a Waimea Weekly reporter for comment and championed libraries as 'rooms of requirement,' providing safe, welcoming, and equitable spaces for the community.

Lizi took two happy granddaughters to the Founders Park Book Fair on King's Birthday Weekend. They were thrilled with their choices.

Gwen also made a submission to the Committee considering the Fast Track Bill. She says there were 27,000 submissions altogether; 3,000 people asked to be heard. Instead of hearing all of those the Committee selected 550 organisations to speak for 10 minutes each, and 550 individuals were balloted and given 5 minutes. Gwen is exercised by the Bill's provision that matters will be decided by the Minister on the advice of "three experts," with no public input. She comments, "As John Key said in relation to restoring lowlands, I'll just find another expert." Gwen was recently invited, along with five others, to a public event, to speak for ten minutes on being "awestruck by nature." Though she has never had a 'peak experience' in nature, the idea that the molecules in a glass of water will represent four billion years of life, and some of those molecules were in the water Socrates drank is astounding.

Lynne is loving her new job as Export Administrator for a natural health products manufacturer and distributor in Omaio Stoke.

Christine is very much looking forward to 7 weeks with her London-based family from mid-August and ending with a three-day conference in Lisbon in late September.

Elizabeth continues to be a stalwart attender at the Palestinian rallies, accompanied by Patch. She and Gwen joined about five hundred other people at the rally against the fast-track Bill in Nelson on Saturday June 8th.

Palestinian Rallies every Saturday at 10.30am, 1903 Square, and sometimes at Tahunanui Beach: Nelson Friends have faithfully attended the weekly rally for Palestine, carrying the 'Quakers for Peace' banner (first used in 2003 to protest the Iraq war.) Scott, the co-ordinator of Te Tau Ihu Palestine Solidarity, encourages us to persist 'it does make a difference.' Local Palestinians have gone on record to say they feel grateful for the support. Check the Te Tau Ihu Palestine Solidarity FB page for venue.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Thursday June 13th March 12.30pm Nelson Centre for Performing Arts
Lunchtime Concert: Louis Lucas-Perry in Nelson

Friday June 14th 5pm Nelson Centre for Performing Arts [NBS Live Lounge: Loose Units in Nelson](#)

Sunday June 16th 6.30pm for supper, 7pm Trafalgar St Hall screening of the film 'Where Olive Trees Weep'. Te Tau Ihu Palestine Solidarity.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-VectWsWc1Q>

Wednesday June 19th 20th 7pm-9pm Home Discussion Group, topic, and venue to be advised.

Friday June 28th Millers Acre, Nelson City, 5.30pm the next Joy Ride, (cyclists reclaiming the city) For details contact Elizabeth.

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 for the July Newsletter to Elizabeth at elizdooley@hotmail.com by July 5th.

A reminder about Quakers NZ 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. **You can subscribe to the Aotearoa NZ Friends Newsletter there.**

News from Business Meeting

Premises: we have decided to purchase a small, low energy fridge to replace the elderly big one. We intend to leave the new one on permanently.

We also decided to pay Friends for voluntary work when the value of that work exceeds a reasonable contribution, is necessary for the upkeep of the property, and requires skill.

We are going to get a fresh new sign for the building! Lawrence is organising that for us.

Outreach: we will have our usual **Peace Vigils** to commemorate the horrendous loss of life on Hiroshima Day August 6th and again on Nagasaki Day on August 9th, both at 12pm – 1pm.

Top of the South Meeting, August: we will consult with Golden Bay Friends to decide a day for our next regional get together, and with our Motueka Friends to see if we can meet there.

FWCC Statement on Israel/Palestine: we agreed to sign up to this statement, and to circulate it to Nelson Friends. You can find the Statement below in the section, Online Resources. Ask someone if you would like a paper copy.

We also decided to produce \$200 worth of cards with a calligraphy message of Peace and Justice for Palestine /Israel, created by Lizi, to be used for outreach.

Celebrating nearly 400 years of Quakerism: Meetings throughout NZ are planning celebrations on the anniversary of George Fox's birth year, this year. Mt Eden Meeting have events planned for June/July; Christchurch Meeting is making its plans. We have chosen November for our celebrations which will be based in the Nelson Library. Phillida will give a public address on the role of Quaker women in the abolition of slavery in the US. We will use the Nelson Quaker Embroideries and Lizi will outline their genesis, execution, and meaning.

Using Zoom for Meetings for Business: we were unable to broadcast the Meeting this month as those with the requisite skills were away. We hope more people will be willing to learn how to do that so we can always join the Meeting by Zoom.

Untitled

by Ruth Fawell 1965

Unlike the flower
We can refuse or choose
Our turning to the light
Which enlightens all of us,
The light which is your light.
So let me today
Be open to your radiance
Be discovered by it, walk freely in it,
Face its harsh definition,
Trust its clear revelation,
Its warmth, its loving touch
Its most mysterious glory.

Science and Poetry

By Rachel Carson, 1951

The aim of science
is to discover
and illuminate truth.
And that, I take it,
is the aim of literature,
whether biography
or history or fiction.

It seems to me,
then, that there can be
no separate literature of science...
The winds, the sea, and the moving tides
are what they are. If there is wonder
and beauty and majesty in them,
science will discover these qualities.
If they are not there,
science cannot create them.

If there is poetry
in my book about the sea,
it is not because I deliberately
put it there, but because no one
could write truthfully
about the sea
and leave out the poetry.

Rachel Carson won the National Book Award in nonfiction for her best-seller, The Sea Around Us (1951).

Just in case you would like to know:

Today, June 9 is the birthday of the novelist and peace activist Bertha von Suttner, born in Prague in 1843, the first woman to be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Suttner became a major figure in the peace movement of the day, publishing a bestselling novel, *Lay Down Your Arms*. She and her husband, Arthur, were devout Christians, and established the League Against Anti-Semitism in response to the pogroms and growing antisemitism in Eastern Europe. True religion, she wrote, is "neighbourly love, not neighbourly hatred. Any kind of hatred, against other nations or against other creeds, detracts from the humaneness of humanity." For a short time, she had served as administrative assistant to the industrialist Alfred Nobel, who made his fortune by inventing dynamite and developing weapons of war — and she maintained an extensive correspondence with him until his death. She is widely credited with influencing his decision to include a peace prize among those he established with his fortune, and in 1905, she became the first woman to be awarded it, and the second female Nobel laureate ever (the first being Marie Curie).

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

Read the Quaker Statement on Gaza here:

<https://fwcc.world/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/quaker-statement-on-gaza-10-17-2023.pdf>

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

All Sundays: Meeting for Worship, 10am, Quaker Meeting House, 30 Nile St. Nelson

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.
