

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

June 2021

Spiritual Thought

“Live in the sunshine, swim in the sea, drink the wild air.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

In his book, *Nature* (1836), Emerson introduced the ideas that would later become known as Transcendentalism, including the conviction that spiritual insight could be gleaned directly through intuition, since divinity pervades all of nature, including humanity.

News of and for Friends

Elizabeth has recently enjoyed a break in Auckland and Rotorua. She took a walk near Rotorua which was filled by the magical presence of kōkako.

Jan has returned from her visit to Melbourne where she got to know her 9 month old granddaughter. Fortunately, she arrived back the day before the latest community outbreak of Covid-19 in Melbourne so was able to visit Wellington with her son and grandsons.

Lawrence and Marie have returned to Nelson. Marie is due to have her new hip fitted on Thursday.

John and Anthea have returned to Australia to sort out their affairs having spontaneously decided to stay in NZ when they were locked down last year. They will be away for about a month. John was impressed by his first Yearly Meeting in NZ, May 14 – 16, where he delivered a commentary and co-facilitated a workshop on the need for outreach in the Society of Friends.

John D has returned from a fortnight busking around the North Island. Apparently, he was a big hit in Te Kuiti!

Clive and Margaret finished their apple harvest in mid-May and are refreshed by a week mountain biking on the West Coast.

Lizi and a Whanganui friend had a few days holidaying in the Meeting House, Lizi's studio apartment being too small to accommodate a guest. She enjoyed being right in the middle of the city.

Phillida has become discomforted by painful arthritis and chronic pain syndrome. We hold her in the Light.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday June 2nd 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome, especially newcomers keen to learn more about Quakerism.

Thursday June 3rd 5.30pm for a 6pm start Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Peace Action Network Whakatu Meeting. All welcome

Saturday June 5th 7.30pm top of Trafalgar Street, 1903 Square, Nelson: Candle-lit vigil to mark the *Naksa*, remembering the 1967 war when Israel invaded the West Bank, Gaza, and the Golan Heights. Organised by Te Tau Ihu Palestine Solidarity

Sunday June 13th 10am Family Service Centre 27 Talbot St. Motueka: Monthly Motueka Meeting for Worship. All welcome.

Wednesday June 16th 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group. Venue and topic to be advised.

Wednesday June 30th 5.30pm Nelson Cathedral: Rod Oram speaks on: A Faith based approach to the Climate Crisis. Read more below. RSVP. Koha entry. Organised by Nelson Tasman Climate Forum.

Sunday July 4th 12.30pm – 3.30pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Meeting for Learning: Te Reo Māori - essential for justice and equality in Aotearoa. Read more below.

Wednesday July 7th 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome, especially newcomers keen to learn more about Quakerism.

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 next newsletter to Elizabeth Dooley at elizdooley@hotmail.com. [The cut-off date for items for the July newsletter is Friday, July 2nd, 2021.](#)

News from Business Meeting

Premises:

Use of our Meeting House by outside organisations: we discussed our policy regarding use of the Meeting House by the community. We reaffirmed that we are open to users from non-profit organisations whose kaupapa is aligned with Quaker concerns and which are closely associated with someone in the Quaker meeting. Requests to use the Meeting House will need to be approved by a Business Meeting, and users will be asked to contribute financially towards costs. Elizabeth will be our Reservations Clerk, recording the bookings for all meetings, so our tenant and House guests can be advised, and Friends can check when the House is in use.

We also decided to purchase a **stick vacuum** which will be stored in the Guest Room.

Pump Switch: Premises Committee will install a pump switch on the wall of the Guest Room so that it can be turned off at night when guests are in residence.

Decluttering the Meeting Room: The Peace Poppies and pictures will shortly move into the Activities Room to leave the Meeting Room plain. The embroidery panels are being framed. James will install spot lighting in the Activities Room to illuminate the panels.

BDS Boycott of Hewlett Packard

As the result of an approach by Te Tau Ihu Palestine Solidarity the Meeting decided to join a boycott of Hewlett Packard, the US company which provides technology used in the checkpoints controlling the movement of Palestinian people in occupied Palestine. This means the Meeting is asking you and others to not purchase any HP products – computers, printers, caterpillar tractors – and to spread the word to your family and friends. We will ask the Yearly Meeting Clerks to raise with Monthly Meetings that they too join the boycott.

Responses to misrepresentation of Quaker policies, history, or beliefs

The Meeting discussed whether we should make public comments in these circumstances. An example given was the reality of our colonialist past and the character of historical Quaker figures (e.g. the Quaker surveyors involved in the Wairau Affray). Options would be to write a letter to the Editor, a press release to Stuff, submitting articles to online news sites, etc. We did not come to a conclusion.

Peace Action Network Whakatu: This group will be gathering in the Meeting Room bi-monthly on the 1st Thursday of the month. All Friends are invited.

Nelson Tasman Climate Forum

We decided that our Nelson Quaker Meeting will become an associated organisation of the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum.

i thank you God for most this amazing

e e cummings

i thank You God for most
this amazing
day: for the leaping
greenly spirits of trees
and a blue true dream of
sky; and for everything
which is natural which is
infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive
again today
and this is the sun's
birthday; this is the birth
day of life and of love and
wings; and of the gay

great happening illimitably
earth)

how should tasting
touching hearing seeing
breathing any—lifted from
the no
of all nothing—human
merely being
doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears
awake and
now the eyes of my eyes
are opened)

e e cummings' father was a Harvard professor who left the academy to become the ordained minister of South Congregational Church in Boston. In this poem, cumming's own theology comes through — influenced by both traditional Christianity and the transcendentalism of Ralph Waldo Emerson — in a playful, modernist take on an Elizabethan sonnet (fourteen lines, closing couplet, and a rhyme scheme of ABAB CDCD EFEF GG).-

Meeting for Learning: Te Reo Māori - essential for justice and equality in Aotearoa

Sunday 4th July 12.30-3.30pm after a shared lunch following Meeting for Worship

Quentin Abraham and Jan Marsh are offering a half-day workshop:

Title: Te Reo Māori - essential for justice and equality in Aotearoa

Format: A conversation will begin with Jan and Quentin sharing their experiences with Te Reo. This will open out to the group and lead to some exercises to develop and deepen our korero.

Preparation: Quentin has proposed these questions for consideration throughout Aotearoa. Please give them some thought and come prepared to listen and share.

What is your Meeting already doing to uphold the first language of Aotearoa?
What additional steps would you like to take as a Meeting?
What would we like to achieve corporately as the Society of Friends in Aotearoa?
What can a Recognised Meeting, Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meeting commit to doing further?

Can we ask Monthly Meetings and Yearly Meeting to prepare a long/short term strategy?

**Book Review: *Conflicted* by Ian Leslie, a Guardian
journalist. By Elizabeth D.**

““Productive disagreement”, the journalist Ian Leslie writes in *Conflicted*, is something “we have never been more in need of.” I agree — fervently. I nodded and underlined my way through the book’s nearly 300 pages of eloquent, thoughtful advice about how “productive disagreement” might be achieved; how in arguments we should strive for emotional connection, how we should *actually listen* to what our opponents have to say, how we should be intellectually curious, humorous, aware of our cultural biases, ready to acknowledge our mistakes.”

The main reason for me to read the book (apart from my bad temper) is that I was curious to hear what he said about people who, despite clear, logical, scientific evidence, remain committed to such beliefs as being anti vaccination, for example, and how to converse with people whose views puzzle us but who have the right to be treated with respect.

One chapter which I will never forget discusses the events at Waco in 1993 when the FBI besieged a group of people with an unusual interpretation of the bible. Ian Leslie's research shows that the supposedly highly trained FBI negotiators were unable to 'hear' the sincerely held views of a group of tax-paying citizens. The resulting fire and deaths were entirely preventable but both groups just talked past each other, despite the FBI being able to call upon experts who would have been able to productively talk to this group.

By the end of the book, I was sadly aware that as long as I was prepared to belittle a group or person with views different to mine, peace would **not** prevail. A very worthwhile book and one that could be used for group discussion around peace and conflict.

Elizabeth writes more about her walk in Rotorua: When I wasn't reading, catching up with friends and eating delicious food cooked by others, I went on many pleasant walks. A highlight for me was a walk through a piece of bush near Rotorua 'adopted' by the local community and now the home of a small group of Kōkako, as well as other native birds, being kept safe by a dedicated group of local volunteers. The track itself is quite beautiful:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/bay-of-plenty/places/kaharoa-conservation-area/things-to-do/kaharoa-kokako-track/>



[Kaharoa Kokako Track: Rotorua Lakes tracks and walks - DOC](https://www.doc.govt.nz/parks-and-recreation/places-to-go/bay-of-plenty/places/kaharoa-conservation-area/things-to-do/kaharoa-kokako-track/)

Walk through beautiful forest to Onaia Stream, a tranquil and secluded spot that's ideal for a picnic or to cool off in - with geocaches as well this short walk has plenty to keep kids interested. Kōkako Track also known as the Hollow Track meanders its way down through some beautiful forest to ...

www.doc.govt.nz

THE NELSON TASMAN CLIMATE FORUM invites you to a presentation by Rod Oram on

“A faith-based response to the climate crisis”.

WHEN: Wednesday 30th June from 5.30 to 7pm talk and discussion followed by refreshments and fellowship.

WHERE: Christchurch Cathedral Nelson, 1 Trafalgar Square, Nelson

Entry: Koha for the Cathedral All are welcome. RSVP: carolynhughes@foulis.nz

Link and Profile of Rod Oram:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1kaZXdl6-QRa2IRP5F3cuURWm1qkMEPM9/view?usp=sharing>

Link to Nelson Tasman Climate Forum: [Welcome - Nelson Tasman Climate Forum \(ning.com\)](http://Welcome-Nelson-Tasman-Climate-Forum.ning.com) **Link to The Climate Action Book:** [8657487494 \(ning.com\)](http://8657487494.ning.com)

Meeting & Attenders booklet is to be printed soon. Will you be in it? Check with Elizabeth NOW if you want to be included, PLEASE.

On-line resources: apart from our own website: quakers-in-nelson.org.nz and our Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson, and the national website quakers.nz

<https://www.quakerearthcare.org/>

Quaker Earthcare Witness is a network of North American Friends (Quakers) and other like-minded people who are taking spirit-led action to address the ecological and social crises of the world, emphasizing Quaker process and testimonies.

While QEW supports reforms in laws, technology, education, and institutions, its primary calling is to facilitate transformation of humans' attitudes, values, identity, and worldview that underlie much of the environmental destruction going on in the world today.

Read about them here: <https://www.quakerearthcare.org/>

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

First Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Wednesday: Becoming Friends, 7.00 pm – 8.45pm

(Alternate Even Months) Sunday: Business Meeting 12.00 pm

Second Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Third Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm

Fourth Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

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