FIRST EMAIL:

Kia ora

Thank you for registering for Summer Gathering 2022-23.  We trust you will enjoy sharing time with new and old Friends.

You are booked for

Full time (from 4 pm on Wednesday 28 Dec through to 11:30 am on Monday 2 Jan).

Part time (details)

Accommodation allocation

* Please note that you will need to bring your own bedding. The camp supplies a mattress and a pillow. If you’re booked into the family room, please note that the double bed is queen sized.

Dietary requirements

Transport requirements (van?)

 Be at Auckland Friends Centre (115 Mt Eden Rd., Auckland 1024; ph 09 630 6834) by 1 pm.

Soup and bread will be available at the Friends Centre from 12 noon.

Offers to help

Payment situation

**Additional information:**

* Please encourage other Friends and attenders (young and old!) to register for Summer Gathering. Sometimes an invitation is just what is needed to make the decision to come.

The final date for enrolment is 14 Dec.

* If you’d like to ‘extend Summer Gathering’ by having some adventures with other Friends pre- or post-Summer Gathering, check the ‘Forum’ on quakers.nz: <https://quakers.nz/friends-forum/extending-summer-gathering-2022> .

One event is already on that forum (there may be more by the time you read this!) –an offer from Margo Irvine to show Summer Gatherers around the new (and controversial) Hundertwasser Art Gallery in the early afternoon of Wednesday 28 Dec. So if you can make it to Whangarei by lunchtime on the 28th Dec, do consider joining in this group. All the details are on the forum.

* Can you contribute to the food for Summer Gathering? We’re open to offers such as home-made chutneys, baking. Please contact our chef extraordinaire Marion to let her know what you can bring: marionleighton@gmail.com. The food at Summer Gathering will be vegetarian and vegan, with meat only for those who order it in advance.
* If you’re planning to offer an interest group, please contact us about what resources are needed.
* Does anyone have a gazebo-like tent that can be transported to and erected at Summer Gathering? If so, do be in touch with the organisers.

**Covid situation:**

* We are very aware that this Summer Gathering will be happening during a pandemic. Please ensure that you’re ready to follow public health directives, including mask wearing, to test yourself prior to leaving home, and of course, plan to stay home if you are feeling unwell.
* Everyone will need to make their own call about whether travelling is wise during a pandemic. However, with sensible use of a high quality mask, travel should be possible without contracting Covid.
* In addition, **please be aware that the facilities are generally well ventilated** – lots of outside doors to open up to get air moving in the big meeting room and dining room. There is also an outside covered deck which can be used for eating al fresco. For smaller meeting groups, Friends can meet on decks or outside or in the well-ventilated big rooms. We are anticipating that Friends will wear facemasks, especially in indoor spaces.
* Private sleeping arrangements have been made available to everyone who has requested them (so far!). Once these are full, tenting is an option for those who need private sleeping spaces.
* We also have contingency plans. If anyone tests positive at Summer Gathering, we have isolation facilities arranged.
* *All this adds up to:* we’re doing everything we can to make this Summer Gathering as safe as possible for you. Please work through how to keep yourself safe coming to Summer Gathering, and if there is something more that we can do to help keep you safe, please let us know.

*E waka eke noa: we’re all in this together.*

As we get nearer the time, we will send more details (what to bring etc). We normally would include a list of all those who have enrolled for Summer Gathering. If you do not want your name included in that list, let us know ASAP.

We’ll also post generic information about Summer Gathering developments on the Summer Gathering webpage on the quakers.nz website and on Kiwi Quakers Facebook page.

We look forward to welcoming you to Marsden Bay Christian Camp in December.

In Friendship,

Contact details: email: summer.gathering@quaker.org.nz;

Phone: Sue on 09 378 8008

**COMMUNICATION #2**

**COVID POLICY**

**COMMUNICATION #3**

**DRAFT**

**LETTER – to be emailed out in mid December**

Kia ora e hoa ma!

Thank you for enrolling to attend Friends Summer Gathering 2022-23.

VENUE: Marsden Bay Christian Camp

               Address: 89A One Tree Point Road, Ruakākā 1071

               Camp phone: 021 686 397 (Camp managers are Trevor and Sue)

*If you need us to send a map, please contact the Summer Gathering organisers.*

TIMETABLE:

* Summer Gathering starts:
	+ Wed 28 Dec
		- 4 pm                     Registration desk opens
		- 6:30 pm               Dinner
* Summer Gathering finishes:
	+ Mon 2 Jan
		- 11 am                   Programme finishes
		- 2 pm                     Cleaning finishes
		- (Last 'meal' is morning tea)
* A full programme will be available upon arrival at Summer Gathering

TRANSPORT AND/OR BILLETING:

               If you’ve requested help with transport or overnight accommodation in Auckland, you should have already been contacted about this.

               If you have not been contacted, or have changed your plans, please urgently contact the Summer Gathering organisers.

               If you are travelling by electric vehicle, we’re advised there are outlets for recharging ‘at the marina’ which is 2-3 minutes away from Marsden Bay Christian Camp.

YOUR COVID RESPONSIBILITIES:

Please ensure that you’re ready to follow public health directives, including mask wearing, to test yourself prior to leaving home, and of course, stay home if you are feeling unwell.

Our Summer Gathering ‘Covid policy’ has been emailed out to all registrants. If you haven’t received this, let us know so that we can (re) send.

WHAT TO BRING (Essentials):

·        Your own clothing, bedding (Check the weather forecast before you pack!)

* Your own pillow, pillowcase, towels, toiletries, sunhat, insect repellent, sunblock

·        Essential medications

·        Closed footwear (required for those on kitchen duties)

·        Raincoat and warm jacket

·        Torch and water bottle for walks

·        Masks and Rapid Antigen Test kits (at least two per person)

WHAT TO BRING (Optional)

·        Reflective material to use and/or share

·        Dancing shoes (there’s a ceilidh on New Year’s Eve)

·        Togs

* Te Reo resources

·        Songbooks

·        Musical instruments

·        Board games/puzzles

·        Earplugs

* Charger (for your phone) plus a multibox so that a powerpoint can be used to charge multiple devices (a friendly thing to have available)

·        Wash powder and pegs, plus $2 coins (if you plan to do a wash or use the dryer; they each cost $4. The camp managers recommend using the clothesline, if possible, as it takes several $4 cycles to dry a load of laundry.)

LEAVE BEHIND

·        Covid

·        All alcohol and non-medicinal drugs (This is an alcohol- and drug-free gathering)

**SPECIAL REQUESTS:**

*PHOTOS*– There is a long tradition of Summer Gatherers taking photographs of the experience.  In addition, there is always a photo taken of everyone (or at least everyone we can round up!).

These are collected and then curated into a photo book which is held in the Quaker archives, and can be brought to subsequent Summer Gatherings. Some photos are used for Quaker purposes, such as in the Aotearoa Friends Newsletter.

If you would prefer to NOT be in photographs, please advise the organising committee.

*MUSIC MAKERS* -- As usual we would like to be able to provide live music for dancing on New Year’s Eve, so musicians! If you’d like to be part of the band, make sure you bring your instrument(s). Contact Alistair Hall (ahall@inspire.net.nz) if you have questions or would like copies of music in advance.

*CAVING –* Kevin Jose plans to give us an opportunity to go caving during Summer Gathering. However, the caves flood during wet weather – hence caving is weather dependent.

If you’d like to see glow worms and have a look around the opening to the caves, bring a headlamp, if possible. For those that want to go deeper into the cave (and get wet and muddy), Kevin is bringing helmets with lights. He recommends gumboots and rubber gloves, as well

*FAITH AND PRACTICE* – As Friends will be aware, we’re in the midst of discerning what to include in the revision of our Quaker Faith and Practice.

If you’re participating currently in the discernment process, do consider bringing the material with you. We are considering an ‘Epilogue’ which would include sharing some of the ‘new’ material that speaks to us.

In addition, if there’s sufficient interest, there could be a Summer Gathering Discernment Group meeting each afternoon. If you’d like to take part, contact Deborah Williams – debwnz@gmail.com .

**QUESTIONS? COMMENTS? URGENT ISSUES?**

               Contact details for Summer Gathering Organising Committee:

               Email: summer.gathering@quaker.org.nz

               By phone (PRIOR TO 28 DEC): 09 378 8008

               By phone (28 Dec – 2 Jan):  Val – 022 126 7076

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL VERY SOON!**

*YOUR SUMMER GATHERING ORGANISERS*

COMMUNICATION #4:

DRAFT

WELCOME PACK

 Whangarei PR resources plus bag – one per family group

 An envelope of SG-specific information one per person:

Photocopied: Programme

 Camp map

 Scavenger hunt (?)

 Home group allocation and jobs

(Note: it would be desirable to have contacted everyone about what jobs they’ve been given prior to SG)

DECISION NEEDED: Shall we pre-make name tags? Or ask Friends to make their own as part of registering?