

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

February 2020

Spiritual Thought

"If the only prayer you said in your whole life was 'thank you' that would suffice.

Meister Eckhart quoted in Simple Gifts by Jan Marsh.

News of and for Friends

Jan M has been in Melbourne to welcome her new granddaughter, born to Saradha and Jason on 20 January. She is Lotus Koirala Strachan. Jan said it was lovely to be part of Lotus' first 10 days and to leave knowing that the family is thriving.

John D is enjoying his summer house-sitting around Nelson.

Lizi has been creating beautiful paintings over the summer in her studio in Sequoia Way, Stoke. They are for sale. She continues to work on the second panel of the Nelson Quaker history embroideries.

Patricia, Lawrence, Marie and others enjoy their afternoon game of Scrabble at Pat's on Fridays.

Margaret, Clive's wife, broke her arm a couple of weeks ago. She is frustrated at the interruption to her normal activities and healing nicely.

Sue's son Matai is looking for odd jobs this week if anyone can use a strong young man around the house / garden / workspace.

Sandy and **Sam** from Maine, **Elizabeth** and **Adam** from Toronto and **Brian** and **Marjorie** from Minnesota are back for a few months and we welcome them. **Elizabeth** is sensitive to perfumes and so we ask Friends not to wear scents, after shave or perfumes to Meeting.

Quaker Parents' Home Group – otherwise known as the No-book Book Club: the current parents associated with our Meeting are gathering in Motueka on Saturday 15th February for the first time. They aim to meet monthly.

The **Motueka Worship Group** were joined by two newcomers on Sunday 9th February who are keen to continue. This is a great addition to the small fledgling group.



James enjoyed his birthday party with friends in early December last year. As you can see his cake was "splendiferous".

How many Friends have gathered for MfW this year: Average per week for the year to the end of January: 12.5

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Saturday February 15th 2pm – 4pm Richmond Aquatic Centre, off Salisbury Road, Richmond: Women's swim session, for Muslim and non-Muslim women who appreciate a women-only environment.

Monday February 17th, 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Birthday Quiz Night. Numbers limited to 30. RSVP right now to Lawrence on <lawrencecarter2@gmail.com> or call/text to 021 153 8583. Bring finger food to share.

Wednesday February 19th 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group. Venue and topic to be advised.

Saturday February 22nd 9pm: Online Sustainability Conference with Friends Worldwide, 5 speakers; find out more and register here (its free): [FWCC Online Sustainability Conference](#)

Wednesday March 4th 7pm, Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome

Sunday March 8th 9.30am: Motueka Quakers Monthly Meeting.
All welcome. Phone 027 648 1396 for confirmation of event and venue.

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 at elizdooley@hotmail.com. The cut-off date for items for the March newsletter is Friday, March 6th, 2020.

God's Grandeur

By Gerard Manley Hopkins

The world is charged with the grandeur of God.
It will flame out, like shining from shook foil;
It gathers to a greatness, like the ooze of oil
Crushed. Why do men then now not reckon his rod?
Generations have trod, have trod, have trod;
And all are seared with trade; bleared, smeared with toil;
And wears man's smudge and shares man's smell: the soil
Is bare now, nor can foot feel, being shod.

And for all this, nature is never spent;
There lives the dearest freshness deep down things;
And though the last lights off the black West went
Oh, morning, at the brown brink eastward, springs —
Because the Holy Ghost over the bent
World broods with warm breast and with ah! bright wings.

News from Business Meeting

Premises: our Committee continues its attention to the drains and to seek a solution with our neighbours to safely deliver their and our storm water to the Council's storm drains. At worst, repairing the tangle of drains among us and our neighbours will cost us \$15,000.

We intend to repaint the fence on the eastern side of the house which will require sanding and preparing the iron first. Watch out for a call to a working bee.

Budget: Clive tabled the accounts for 2019 which were emailed to Friends prior to the Business Meeting. The receipts etc are in the filing cabinet in the

office if you would like to read them. Our closing balance is \$29,206.34. We agreed to set our budget for 2020 as for 2019, with the addition of \$15,000 for drainage. This means we have funds allocated for Children's Meeting, Art Activities, the Library, Outreach and Pastoral care.

Children's Programme: we are still in the process of creating the programme to be based on our Testimonies. We intend to advertise the programme through the Nelson and Tasman Weekly News and on our Facebook page.

Meeting Roles for 2020: Clive and Jan continue to be Clerk and Assistant Clerk for a further year. Jan and Lizi serve again as our Pastoral Care Committee. Christine and Elizabeth D have responsibility for producing alternate Newsletters. Jan is following up volunteers to fill all our other roles. Once finalised they will be emailed to Friends and put up on the noticeboard in the Meeting House hallway.

Summer / Autumn Social: Jo and Peter Donovan have offered to host us again for our annual rural idyll, on March 29th, 2020. Everyone is welcome – car share. More details will be in the March Newsletter.

National Website Friends' Profiles: we are keen for all Friends who own or have access to a computer to upload their names, addresses, email addresses and phone numbers to the secure section of the new national newsletter. This will be the source of data for a future paper copy of the Members and Attenders Book. Elizabeth D is available to provide help to do that. Please ask Elizabeth to arrange a time to create your online profile.

Introduction to the history of Moriori and their 800-year testimony to peace and non-violence: John Swain is Moriori and he recently moved to live in Nelson. A friend of Lizi, John is willing to speak to us about the history of the Moriori including their peace testimony, the massacre in the 1830s – 1850s, and the signing of a deed of settlement with the Crown for loss of lands and historical injustices. We will arrange a time after Meeting for Worship for John to speak to us. The Quaker Lecture this year at Yearly Meeting in Auckland in late April is to be given by eminent Moriori Maui Solomon. If Maui is willing to travel afterwards, we hope to hold a public meeting in Nelson to hear the Lecture. You can learn more in this article by Maui Solomon here: <https://e-tangata.co.nz/reflections/moriori-still-setting-the-record-straight/>

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

A blog on the British Quaker website:

7 ways to welcome children and families to your Quaker meeting

Families and children are a vital part of the Quaker community. Mel Cook shares how meetings can extend them an even warmer welcome.



<https://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/7-ways-to-welcome-children-and-families-to-your-quaker-meeting>

Still open - an opportunity to star in your own movie – your website needs you:

The new national Quaker website which is currently in construction has space for short 'selfie' videos of just 1 minute on you and Quakers: e.g. "My name is ... I became a Quaker because..." Or "One reason I am a Quaker is..." or "The reason I joined Quakers is....". Please just do it! If you are willing let Christine Gillespie know, and **then just do it!**

The new national website is now online – go to quakers.nz

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. Children's Programmes are to be developed for 2020.