

# NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

December 2019

## Spiritual Thought

“The attempt to develop a sense of humour and to see things in a humorous light is some kind of a trick learned while mastering the art of living... it is possible to practice the art of living [even though] suffering is omnipresent... suffering completely fills the human soul and conscious mind, no matter whether the suffering is great or little. Therefore the ‘size’ of human suffering is absolutely relative... It also follows that a very trifling thing can cause the greatest of joys.

Victor Frankl, Man’s search for meaning

## News of and for Friends

**James** continues his activities in educating people to the dangers of 5G.

Our condolences go to **Jan** on the death of her mother in November.

Congratulations to **Elinor G** of Motueka on the completion of her 2-year Spiritual Direction studies. Elinor is now available for Spiritual Direction.

**Clive** is currently enjoying the company of his son Eric, holidaying from Holland.

**Lawrence and Marie** are again travelling around parts of the South Island.

**Patricia** spoke about the Quaker embroidery project at a “Fresh Focus” meeting and was very well received. Those present were eager to learn more about Quakers.

**Christine** is enjoying regularly interacting with her almost 2-year-old grandson by What’s App video to London.

**Liz, Beth, Eva and Phoebe** were new visitors to the Children’s and Families’ Meeting on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November, along with Will, Juliette, Elphine and Hamish. **Barbara** worked with the older children to create a Quaker kids banner for display on our Meeting House fence, which they greatly enjoyed.

**Quaker Parents’ Home Group** – otherwise to be known as the No-book Book Club: the current parents associated with our Meeting resolved to form a home group which will meet monthly in their homes between Richmond, Wakefield and Motueka. It will begin early in 2020.

**A team of Friends** produced a fulsome breakfast on Parihaka Day for those who chose to attend following the Dawn Blessing. 40 people including MP Nick Smith and Archdeacon Harvey Ruru enjoyed breakfast and conversations about Parihaka and about Quakers.

**17 Friends** attended the Top of the South Meeting in Motueka on November 10<sup>th</sup>, including 5 Friends from Nelson Meeting. The topic "The Wairau Incident and Parihaka Day happened. What now for Quakers?" elicited much thoughtful discussion about colonialism and its consequences. A flow on effect is the suggestion of opening our Meeting to learning about the massacre of and peaceful non-violence of Moriori.

**How many Friends have gathered for MfW this year: Average per week for the year to the end of November: 14.**

## DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday December 4<sup>th</sup> 7pm -8.45pm, Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome

Saturday December 7<sup>th</sup> 2pm – 5pm Room L218 NMIT: Amnesty International Write for Rights Letter Writing Event. RSVP via the Amnesty Website.

Sunday December 8<sup>th</sup> 9.30 am: Motueka Quakers Monthly Meeting. All welcome. Phone 027 648 1396 for address.

Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group with shared meal. Venue and topic to be advised.

Sunday December 22<sup>nd</sup> 8pm – 10pm Washbourn Gardens Oxford St Richmond: Carols in the Park, led by Christine's choir.

Wednesday January 8<sup>th</sup> 7pm, Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome

Sunday January 12<sup>th</sup> 9.30am: Motueka Quakers Monthly Meeting. All welcome. Phone 027 648 1396 for confirmation of event and venue.

Wednesday January 22nd 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group with shared meal. Venue and topic to be advised.

Sunday February 9<sup>th</sup> 12pm Quaker Meeting House: Meeting for Worship for Business.

## 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 Jim Batson [j.batson@xtra.co.nz](mailto:j.batson@xtra.co.nz). [The cut-off date for items for the February newsletter is Friday, February 7th, 2020.](#)

## Song of the Builders

by Mary Oliver

On a summer morning  
I sat down  
on a hillside  
to think about God -  
a worthy pastime.  
Near me, I saw  
a single cricket;  
it was moving the grains of the hillside  
this way and that way.  
How great was its energy,  
how humble its effort.  
Let us hope  
it will always be like this,  
each of us going on  
in our inexplicable ways  
building the universe.

## News from Business Meeting

**Premises:** our Committee continues its attention to the drains and will seek a solution with our neighbours to safely deliver their and our storm water to the Council's storm drains.

You will have noticed the Testimonies translated into Te Reo stencilled onto the wall of the Meeting House opposite the Testimonies fence in the same order:

Rongomau (Peace), Ngakau tapatahi (Integrity), Oritetanga (Equality), Ngawaritanga (Simplicity), Kaitiakitanga (Sustainability).

You can read an impressive list of other tasks to be undertaken in the Report attached to the Business Meeting Minutes for December. James, Lawrence and John D are doing their utmost to care for the building.

**Children's Programme:** after discussion with parents at the last Children's Meeting, Business Meeting decided to create a Children's Programmes of 10 sessions. Two programmes may be needed, one for under 7s and one for 7 to 12-year olds, to be run in association with Meeting for Worship. If the opportunity was to arise, we may be happy to create a teenager's programme. Anyone who would like to contribute to the process please get in touch with Clive or Christine.

**Meeting Roles for 2020:** we are calling for volunteers for the various roles in the Meeting for the next year. Clive will write the roles onto the whiteboard for you to add your name. Meanwhile you can read about those roles on the noticeboard in the hallway.

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## **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 like being 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](http://quakers.nz)**

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**On-line resources:** apart from our own website: [quakers-in-nelson.org.nz](http://quakers-in-nelson.org.nz) and our Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson.

### **A blog on the website [progressivechristianity.org](http://progressivechristianity.org):**

7 Reasons Why LGBTQ+ People Don't Want to Go to Your LGBTQ+ Inclusive Church

<https://progressivechristianity.org/resources/7-reasons-why-lgbtq-people-dont-want-to-go-to-your-lgbtq-inclusive-church/>

**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.***