

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

March 2020

News of and for Friends

Birthdays! So many Friends share a Birthday in February, it is always a month of celebration and cake-eating! Patricia, Gwen, Joanne and Christine all have Birthdays in this month.

Marie and Lawrence organised a celebratory Quiz on Monday 17th, where about 30 of us shared kai and pitted our wits in teams to see whose general knowledge stretched the farthest. The smallest (in number) team won. Small is Beautiful!

Christine hosted her Birthday lunch at the Suter Cafe on Saturday 22nd

Gwen and Joanne celebrated their Birthdays at a Green Party Gathering on Monday 17th.

Elizabeth and Adam are heading back to the States. We will miss them and we will be holding Elizabeth In The Light.

Phillida hosted the February Home Discussion Group on 12 February, for which the topic was Love.

Elizabeth joined the third dharmasphere on Sunday 1 March: Peace in the Park, held on the first Sunday of each month from 10.00 am to noon in Anzac Park. This Sunday we learned the Parihaka Poi dance and Waiata before going into a shared meditation. The morning passed quickly and peacefully. The next harmonious gathering will be on Sunday 5 April.

Women's Swim Sessions: the first Women's swim session, held to facilitate Muslim women and others who appreciate a women only environment, was held on Saturday February 15th 2pm – 4pm at Richmond Aquatic Centre, off Salisbury Road, Richmond:

Women's swim sessions, for Muslim and non-Muslim women who appreciate a women-only environment will be held monthly. Our Meeting is contributing \$400 to the cost of the events.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday March 4th Meeting House 7pm – 8.45pm Becoming Friends – sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome.

Saturday March 7th Meeting House 9am – Working Bee to finish painting the back fences. Everyone welcome.

Saturday March 14th 2pm – 4pm Aquatic Centre, 161 Salisbury Road, Richmond: The Second Women's Swim Session. The women (& girls 12+) members of Quaker Meeting, friends, neighbours & whanau are warmly invited to attend the second Women's Swim Session. Entry gold coin donation. Enquiries to Wendy 027 390 6923, wendy.claire@gmail.com.

Sunday March 15th 1.30pm in front of Nelson Mosque at 320 Hardy Street, Nelson: Remembrance Service for Christchurch Victims. An invitation from the Nelson Islamic Cultural Society. The service will be as follow: Speech and Prayers: 1:30pm, Holding Hands: 2pm Olives Tree and Chair opening (Neale Park): 2:30pm www.nelsonmosque.co.nz

Wednesday March 18th 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group: Prejudice and 'isms' in the wake of the Christchurch Massacre commemoration and the Covid-19 outbreak. Venue Elizabeth D's house. All Welcome.

Sunday March 22nd 10.30am – 2.45pm: Top of the South Meeting, East Takaka Hall, Golden Bay Topic to be confirmed. Some Golden Bay Friends can offer accommodation on 21 and/or 22 March for those travelling from outside Golden Bay. Contact: Albie and Felicity albie.fill@gmail.com)

Sunday, March 22nd 11 AM – 4 PM Victory Square, Nelson: RACE UNITY DAY 2020, Culture, colour, food and performance - a global experience for all to enjoy. Lets Celebrate UNITY IN DIVERSITY

Sunday March 29th 127 Edward Street Wakefield: Summer / Autumn Social: Jo and Peter Donovan have offered to host us again for our annual rural idyll. A shared lunch will start from approx 12.30pm – to allow time to get from MfW to Wakefield. We usually spend the afternoon talking, or going for walks in the Wakefield area. Everyone is welcome – car share. There is limited parking down their drive so if you don't mind walking then park before the Church on Edward Street.

Save the date! Margaret and Edwin Foord would like to host Meeting for Worship at their home in Tui on 26th April. Instructions and a map will be posted in the April newsletter and car-pooling will be arranged as it is over an hour's drive from Nelson.

Working Bees: John Dainty has organised two working bees, Saturdays 29 February and 7 March. We may need to hold a further working bee to complete painting the fences in the back garden of the Meeting House. We are grateful to John and his Quaker Elves for their work.

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 Christine @ c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz. [The cut-off date for items for the April newsletter is Friday, April 3rd, 2020.](#)

Wild Geese

by Mary Oliver

You do not have to be good.
You do not have to walk on your
knees for a hundred miles through the
desert repenting.
You only have to let the soft animal of
your body
love what it loves.
Tell me about despair, yours, and I will
tell you mine.
Meanwhile the world goes on.
Meanwhile the sun and the clear
pebbles of the rain
are moving across the landscapes,
over the prairies and the deep trees,

the mountains and the rivers.
Meanwhile the wild geese, high in
the clean blue air,
are heading home again.
Whoever you are, no matter how
lonely,
the world offers itself to your
imagination,
calls to you like the wild geese,
harsh and exciting-
over and over announcing your
place
In the family of things.

Book Review by Elizabeth D: [Apeirogon](#) by Colum McCann

In geometry, an apeirogon (from the Greek word ἀπειρος apeiros, "infinite, boundless" and γωνία gonia, "angle") or infinite polygon is a generalized polygon with a countably infinite number of sides. I have read this definition several times and still

can't fathom it. However, the book is wonderful. I am actually listening to it being read online via the BBC in ten, 15-minute episodes:
(<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000fpmz>).

The novel is 'inspired by actual events' and the two protagonists are a Palestinian, Bassam Aramin, and an Israeli, Rami Elhanan – friends in real life following the deaths of their daughters and their subsequent search for peace and understanding which led them both to join Combatants for Peace.

There is a Guardian article about these two men:
<https://www.theguardian.com/lifeandstyle/2013/aug/03/men-kill-children-middle-east-israel-palestine>.

It is so strange to follow their journey – getting to know each other – studying the history of the 'other' - the Holocaust, the Occupation as they move closer to each other and work only for peace because "Their message to their communities is that the moment has come because the price of one more child is a price too far." The novel is told in 1001 chapters – some merely a photograph – and is a reference to 1001 Nights – telling a story to delay death. Nelson Public Library has just purchased two copies.

Roles for 2020

There are still some vacancies – check the noticeboard – and feel free to volunteer to make the tea on Sunday mornings. Thank you, Gwen for so often bringing milk – and thank you Patricia, another kind milk provider.

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

The new national Quaker website 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 know, and **then just do it!**

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 website, and to choose whether you want your details to be available to other Friends. This will be the source of data for a future paper copy of the Members and Attenders Book. You are also asked to choose how you would like to receive the national newsletter, monthly minutes and YM documents. **Elizabeth D is available to provide help to do that:** please contact Elizabeth at elizdooley@hotmail.com and get your entry up to date.

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

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

A Note Regarding COVID-19 from Lesley Young, YM Clerk:

I have received questions from some meetings about actions to take to prevent the spread of Covid-19. I would suggest that we are best to follow the NZ Ministry of Health information which is specific to Aotearoa and being updated as things change here. This link connects to their advice on public events and mass gatherings - okay Quaker meetings don't quite meet that criteria but it is a starting point and there is lots more on the site:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-advice-public-events-and-mass-gatherings>

COVID-19 - Advice for public events and mass gatherings | Ministry of Health NZ
COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) advice is for people planning, working at or attending public events or mass gatherings where many people are together in one place, at one time for a set period. www.health.govt.nz

Noho ora mai, Lesley

Our programme is currently taking place via Zoom and as long as Christine or Jan have your email, they will send you the information you need for connection to Meeting for Worship and other 'Zoom' gatherings

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.

