

Quakers, Peace and the White Feather

For many people the white feather, taken in the context of war, symbolizes cowardice and carries with it the stigma of shame.

The history of the white feather used in this manner is thought to date back to 18th century England when cock-fighting was a popular sport. Some of the birds tossed into the ring, not keen to fight, would turn away from their competitor showing their white tail feathers.

During the First World War (the 'Great War') a white feather was given to men who were not in uniform and considered to be 'shirkers' or cowards.

Many men and women refused to go to war and fight on moral, religious and humanitarian grounds. These people were also known as Conscientious Objectors (COs).

The irony in being presented with a white feather as a CO was that it afforded the recipient the stigma of cowardice when in reality it took tremendous courage to stand against the 'popular beliefs' of the time, i.e. that wars were "honorable", "God was on our side" and that the "end justified the means".

Furthermore the treatment meted out to COs, (or "Conshies" as they were nicknamed), by their military superiors was often brutal and life threatening.

For many COs life would have been easier and simpler if they had signed up and fought with their fellows. As it was, many suffered incredible hardship through imprisonment and social stigmatization as a result of their beliefs.

Many Quakers were COs, since one of their religious testimonies relates to peace and non-violent conflict resolution. In the majority of cases their Quaker affiliation exempted them from combative roles, and many served in 'other capacities' such as the Friends Ambulance Service, (FAU), and other front line non-combative roles, where some lost their lives or were wounded. Additionally, some remained in NZ helping provide essential community service work. Quakers have always supported those who work for 'Peace and Justice' and, during both World Wars, Quakers actively worked with COs, (Quaker and non-Quaker), in an effort to enlighten public thinking on the right of a human being to refuse to kill another.

Note: The Maori at Parihaka adopted the white feather as a symbol of peaceful resistance. This story is told in the movie "The Children of Parihaka".





Mt. Eden Quaker Gazette

June - July 2017



Welcome to Mt. Eden Meeting for Worship. We meet from 10am – 11am on Sunday mornings (for additional meetings and activities, see overleaf). We gather in silence - open to the leadings of spirit. This may lead to vocal ministry (when someone stands to speak) or it may lead to a silent meeting for worship. Rather than having one Minister or Pastor, Quakers believe that there is that of God in each of us and that in the gathered silence, any of us may feel the call to speak.

From 11-11:15 we have announcements and notices, and this is followed by morning tea and hospitality – please feel welcome to participate.

Children's Meeting and Programme for Young People: 10am -10:45am in the Annex

(the building behind this one). For more details, please see overleaf

Calendar of Upcoming Events

These events occur in June and July in addition to the regular events over the page.

- 6pm Friday 2 June Shared meal with David & Louise Tinsley, Wellington Resident Friends. (at the Friends Centre, next door , 115 Mt Eden Road). Please bring food contribution. All welcome.
- 11:30am— 1:30pm Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business, followed by a
Sunday 4 June shared lunch (at Mt Eden Meeting House)
- Sunday afternoon Working bee at Friends House Waiheke. Friends are
(2pm) 4 June - welcome to come for a day (or part day) or stay overnight.
Monday afternoon Bring your favorite gardening tools and some food to
5 June share. Contact Sue Stover, 09 378
- 5pm – 7pm Whanau Family Gathering, usually held at family homes.
Saturday 10 June Please see Charlotte Gordon for more information
0273756143, or charlimaar@gmail.com.
- 12pm Sunday 11 June The public celebration of Nuclear Free NZ 30th
June anniversary. Hundreds of people will create a giant
human Peace symbol to convey a message of support for
the Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty at the UN (Auckland
Domain behind the Museum)
- 11:30am Sunday 18 June Robert Howell will be presenting highlights from his
June book, "Investing in People and the Planet" followed by a
shared lunch at Mt Eden Meeting House
- 7:30pm Tuesday 20 June World Refugee Day - an evening of refugee stories and
June performance (The Depot ArtSpace, Clarence St,
Devonport).
- All of June The National Hikoi, led by Ian Upton and Friends who are
walking the length of the North Island, will be ending in
parliament. The aim is to change NZ's thinking about the
military. Petitions need to be handed in by late June. Go to
web.facebook.com/Ian.Upton1352 for more information.



Calendar of Upcoming Events Continued

- 11:30am – 1:30pm
Sunday 2 July Monthly Meeting for Worship for Business, followed by a shared lunch. (Hosted by North Shore Worship Group, in the Takapuna Library)
- 11:30am— 1:30pm
Sunday 16 July Third Sunday programme – TBA – followed by shared lunch
- Friday Dinner, 14
**July to Sunday
 Lunch, 16 July** Wanganui River Te Awa Tupuwa Treaty gives the river its own legal status. We will explore how this and similar laws will protect the earth and enrich our relationships among peoples, cultures and their local environment Contact: Marion Samson
 marionbsamson@gmail.com (held at Wanganui)
- 28-30 July (Friday
 dinner - Sunday
 lunch) The Radical Heart of Quakers – Rediscover Quakerism by exploring the birthplace of the movement and its earliest major figures. Held at Wanganui Quaker Settlement Contact Anne Hall: ahall@inspire.net.nz

Regular Events

- First Saturday of the Month**
 (Except 'long' weekends when
 moves to second Saturday) 5—
 7PM in at the home of a Friend Social event for families and
 F/ friends. Charlotte 0273756143,
 or charlimaar@gmail.com
- Every Wednesday, 10:30am in
 Friends Centre** Discussion group followed by
 Meeting for Worship at 11:30 am,
 followed by a shared lunch at 12:00
- Every Thursday, 7:30pm in Friends
 Walking Group** Discussion group and worship
 Meet at Friends Centre 9.30am
 each Tuesday for a walk and
 morning tea
- Woman's Group** Approximately fortnightly on a
 Tuesday. Contact Barbara
 Ph 09 836 5576
- Prayer Support Group** 9:00am 4th Sundays February to
 November in Friends Centre.



Young People

Children's Meeting

All children are welcome to stay with their parents in the Meeting Room during meeting for worship, if that suits them. There is also a Children's Meeting for those aged 10 and younger. While we say it starts at 10 am, in reality it is helpful for parents to bring their children to the Annex (which is located in the grounds of the Meeting House), a few minutes prior to 10 am so that parents may come into meeting for worship on time. Children are brought into the Meeting for Worship for the final 10-15 minutes before 'the rise of Meeting' at 11 am. Parents are responsible for their own children from that point. Contact person for the Children's Meeting is Sue Stover (stoverwatts@gmail.com).

Young people

All young people are welcome to participate in the Meeting for Worship. In addition, there is a monthly gathering of those aged 10 years or older. Nick-named the '10 and ups', this group – which also includes parents and other interested adults – meets at 9 am on 3rd Sundays at a local café (currently the Sierra Café, 418 Mt Eden Rd.), and then moves by 10 am to the Mt Eden Meeting House for meeting for worship, as well as a time of reflection/discussion. Contact person for 10+ group is Joel Hildebrandt (senorjoel@gmail.com).

National events

There are gatherings for young people occurring nationally including camps for Junior Young Friends (13-16 year olds) and Young Friends (16 years and up). There are also national family-friendly gatherings including Summer Gathering (which happens over New Years each year), and events at the Whanganui Friends Settlement. **For more details about activities for families, children and young people**, speak to the 'Elder on duty', contact the Friends Centre 09 630 6834, or email the contact people noted below.

Contact People

Children's Coordinator (Sue Stover)	stoverwatts@gmail.com
Ten and Up Coordinator (Joel Hildebrandt)	senorjoel@gmail.com
Junior Young Friends Coordination Team	jyf@quaker.org.nz
Friends Centre (Resident Friends)	AK.friendscentre@quaker.org.nz