

When it's all been said and done,
There is just one thing that matters:
Did I do my best to live for Truth?
Did I live my life for You?

<https://youtu.be/V2rjfabh49A>

TRUTH

Early in May, Ruth Gadgil, a member of Mid North Island Monthly Meeting, died suddenly. Ruth was a conscientious, hard working person. She was the monthly meeting clerk, first jointly with her husband



Scion scientists J Nairn and Ruth Gadgil check lupin growth in a glasshouse in 1969.

Photo Scion Photography

Peter, and then for several years by herself after his death. She retired from that job just 2 years ago.

Ruth was a member of the Prisoners Aid & Rehabilitation Society - Rotorua, and she was also a previous writer of the Wider Quaker Fellowship letter.

While I have no idea of Ruth's inner life, I can say that her public life leaves no question but that she did her best to live for Truth, as it says in the song.

Did you know that many years ago our Society's name was something like; The Religious Society of Friends , Seekers of Truth, Publishers of Truth?

While Friends aspire to many things, I believe that 'truth' may be an important underlying principal to all our testimonies.

So, truth? When I was young I believed white was white and black was black. A course on the writing of 'history' taught me about 'perceptions'. It wasn't until I was middle-aged and took up nursing that I learned, with some difficulty, how to lie. I already knew how to lie by omission, actually saying the lie was almost beyond me.

From the child saying why their homework wasn't done, to the basis for some international agreement, each of us can only say what appears to be the truth to us. Research for difficult questions can wiggle out facts for building an answer that is credible. But our individual perception of the 'facts' around a question can convince us that this is the truth, but another's perception may lead to a different 'truth'. Respect and acceptance of ours and others' fallibilities is the only thing that allows us together to walk a peaceful path.

For decades most of the disputes, outside of family, that I have been involved in, have been with Friends. I have great respect for those who feel some sort of calling to belong to a religious church or

group. That takes guts. And when it comes to Friends even more determination. I cannot believe that those who come to Friends and stick around, worshipping, taking up tasks, studying Quaker life and thought, would deliberately lie during disputes with other Friends. But too often what I perceive to be the truth of a matter is not what the other person sees. It may be that one of us is wrong, but it is just as likely that either we are both wrong or we are both right. The truth of the matter is that we understand and see even 'facts' differently from each other. This is when we need to come together and hold each other in the light. This is what Friends do.

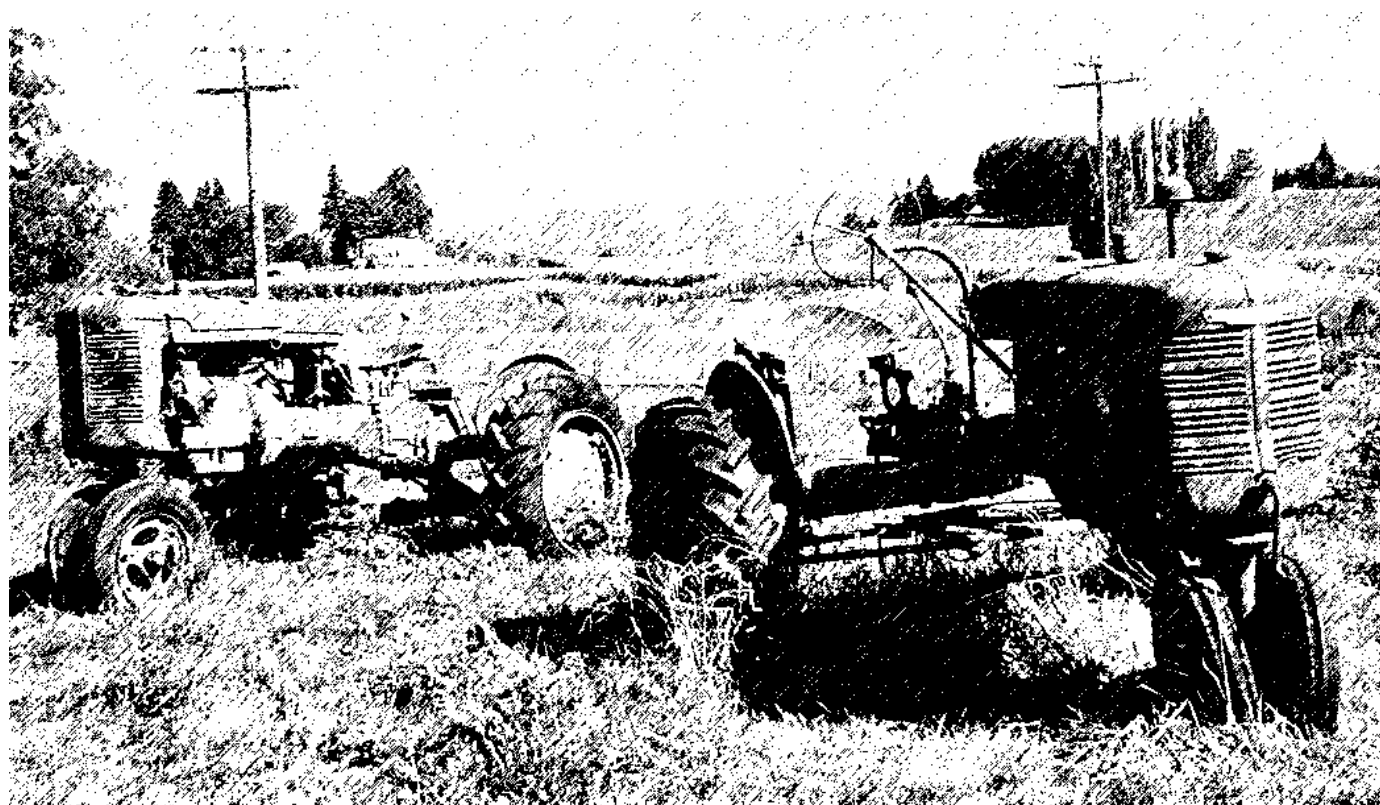
In 1999 Ann Olsen wrote, "I like being a Quaker. I appreciate opportunities to share my faith and learn from others. I value what our lives have taught us. I believe our Quaker faith gives us freedom to grow, to question, to believe that everyone has a Spirit within that can help us get in touch with, and use, the gifts that we have been given. We can develop our ability to live 'In the Light', both as individuals and with others. Sharing our lives, believing in one another, we can work toward decisions and actions far better than relying only on ourselves."

Zealand

8.11 Quaker Faith and Practice in Aotearoa New

Yours in Friendship

Carril Karr



Old tractors in the country back of Otorohanga, manipulated photo, Carril Karr c 1988

The Wider Quaker Fellowship is an association of persons of diverse backgrounds who wish to have ties with the Religious Society of Friends without necessarily being in its membership, or who, through isolation, illness or some other circumstance are unable to attend Meeting for Worship. The purpose of the Fellowship is to reflect Quaker life and thought.

Any person who finds the fundamental Quaker testimonies and the Quaker way of life, with its emphasis on sincerity and simplicity, compatible with his or her philosophy of life is welcome to join the Fellowship.

If you wish to make a donation to the WQF—

To make a donation on line, the YM Kiwi bank account number is 38 9001 0669022 02

Be sure to put your name and that the donation is for Wider Quaker Fellowship in the reference spaces. For a tax donation certificate email: treasurer@ym.quakers.nz with the amount and date of the donation and your name and address.

Kiwi bank has stopped accepting cheques so if you don't do internet banking you will need to deposit any donation directly into the YM account at a Kiwibank branch if you can find one.

Quaker Settlement Seminars

Family Fun Weekend

7 to 9 July

Come together for Puanga/Matariki celebrations. *Facilitated by Jos Rossell and others.*

Penal Reform

25 to 27 August

Friends continue the tradition of a concern for criminal justice and penal reform. This year we shine the light on issues that result in a disproportionate number of Māori in prisons. *Facilitators: Penal Reform Committee.*

Worship

8 to 10 September

If you have trouble with the word 'worship' this is the seminar for you. If you don't have trouble with the word 'worship' this too may be the seminar for you, as we look at what we understand by 'worship'. *Facilitated by Linley Gregory, Lesley Young, Jillian Wychel and David James.*

Te Tiriti Refresher and Weekend

13 to 15 October

For those with some background and also those new to Aotearoa New Zealand's Treaty history. The discussions and resources will help build our understanding of evolving Treaty relationships. The weekend starts with a refresher course on Friday morning. *Facilitated by the Treaty Relationships Group.*

Rainbow Weekend

10 to 12 November

This weekend will be for Rainbow Quakers and for Friends who are asking questions about their sexual and gender identity and orientation. As we listen to each other's stories and have fun together, we Rainbow Quakers can learn from one another, across differences in age and in sexual and gender identity and orientation.

Co-ordinated by Elizabeth Thompson.

For further information go to: <https://www.quakersettlement.co.nz/seminars> or contact the Quaker Settlement, 76 Virginia Road, Whanganui 4500, or email: settlement@quaker.org.nz Participation by zoom will be arranged for those seminars which suit online participation. See the particular seminar's brochure for details. The Settlement's pricing structure is "Pay as Led". For more information see the Settlement's Seminar webpage: <https://www.quakersettlement.co.nz/seminars> The Quaker Education Fund (QEF) subsidy is available to cover half of all accommodation, meal and registration costs for one seminar during the year per individual, for Quakers, Attenders, and their family members, participating in the seminar.



Summer Gathering 2023-2024 Dunedin

Date:

Friday, 29 December 2023 - Saturday, 06
January 2024



1 October 2023

World Quaker Day – 1 October 2023 – will be an opportunity to learn, reflect and act, as we prepare to come together as a global family of Friends at next year's World Plenary Meeting in South Africa and online, themed Living the Spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with Hope to God's Call to Cherish Creation and One Another.