

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

April 2022

Spiritual Thought

I believe that there is a spirit that delights to do no evil. A spirit that yearns for me to be happy and to be able to connect on deep levels with other people. A spirit that wants me to search and to find and to act. A spirit that wants me to be responsible and at the same time to be bold and take risks.

George Lakey

News of and for Friends

We are generally being wary of gathering too frequently, but **Joan** has been enjoying having family to visit.

James has had an improvement in his health and is now going out for walks regularly.

John L, unfortunately, is back in hospital.

Rona (and Pat's dear friend Lein,) are both in the Green Gables retirement village and enjoying the occasional walk together.

Clive is coming to the end of a particularly busy period in the orchard.

Jan is our Assistant Clerk and has taken over John L's task of distributing emails.

Gwen is attending various committees using Zoom, as well as running something that resembles a fruit factory in her garden behind the Cathedral. If you visit her it's best to wear dungarees 'cos you might find yourself crawling under fruit trees gathering the harvest, which Gwen then either gives to her visitors and neighbours or drops off to various food banks - as much as she can carry on her bike! Her broken knee seems to be completely healed and she is walking and cycling regularly.

Christine keeps abreast of all Peace and Justice issues and updates our local Quaker Facebook page - Quakers in Nelson, as well as archiving material to our Quakers in Aotearoa website. She has sourced an interesting video on Bayard Rustin on QuakerSpeak, this comes via Friends Journal:

<https://quakerspeak.com/video/bayard-rustin/>

John D will be in America or three months at a retreat run by a university of the spirit, and then he'll be 3 months walking the length of Ireland [I hope he has a good map of the bogs...E (I come from one of them - and it was vast)]

John M is holding a Quaker choir gathering on Thursday evenings at 7pm at his home in Stoke and if you would like to attend (fully vaccinated of course), please bring along a song you would like us all to sing.

Anthea has just returned from an enjoyable tramp through the St James Walkway.

Barbara and Andy are staying quietly at home, but Barbara is still finding ways of serving the community. We at Quakers often use her banners and buntings - as we will for our Anzac Day Vigil.

Lawrence and Marie cross on the 1.30pm ferry returning to Nelson on May 19th.

Lizi is very busy with Grandmother duties during this time as her daughter Bex is working all sorts of strange hours at Auckland Hospital as they deal with staff shortages with COVID worming its way through our community. In her (very) spare time, she is working on several projects - examining the Climate Forum publication prior to a new edition, painting in her studio whenever time and Grandmother duties permit. Training her new little dog, Izzy, repairing the clothing and furniture partially demolished by Izzy despite the training - a work-in-progress perhaps. Fortunately, Izzy is a cute little dog - and Lizi maintains she was going to declutter anyway.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday April 6th 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St.: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. No vaccine pass required. Raewyn to facilitate. All welcome

Sunday April 10th 10am Decks Reserve, Motueka: Monthly Motueka Meeting for Worship. All welcome.

Wednesday April 20th, Home Discussion Group. Topic and Venue to be advised. All welcome

Sunday April 25th 12pm – 1pm Church Steps, Trafalgar St.
Nelson: ANZAC Day Peace Vigil. All welcome.

Sunday May 1st 1pm i-Site, Halifax St. Nelson: May Day
Rally for Cycle Justice. See more below.

Wednesday May 4th 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St.
Nelson: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. Led
by Raewyn. No vaccine pass required. All welcome

Sunday May 8th 10am Decks Reserve Motueka: Motueka
Quaker Meeting for Worship. All welcome.

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May Day Rally for Cycle Justice. 1pm i-Site

Quakers are among the many 'virtuous and vulnerable' people taking every opportunity to leave their car at home and walk and cycle - to reduce our carbon footprint and keep fit (and out of the hospital).

Unfortunately, this is dangerous. Large cars, and so many of them are causing people to think twice. We are tired of being overlooked and endangered by a lack of safe infrastructure. We need lower speed limits, safe cycle lanes, safer road crossings and safe school travel corridors and we need them now.

Therefore, please join us on May 1st. We will meet at the I-Site at 1pm. Walkers will walk up Trafalgar Street to the church steps and Cyclists will cycle along Halifax Street, Rutherford Street and Selwyn Place - to arrive at the church steps for 1.30. We are asking everyone to bring a note of the most dangerous part of their walk or ride and NELSUST will put this onto a large map to take to Nelson City Council in time to be submitted for the Active Travel Strategy and the Shape Nelson project.

Patch and I the dog will be wearing green tutus (courtesy of Barbara), but feel free to dress as you like - bright and colourful is good though - keeps you visible. Hope you can all come. Contact Elizabeth (elizdooley@hotmail.com - 03 777 0080).

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 or Christine at c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz. The cut-off date for items for the May newsletter is Friday, May 6th, 2022.

A reminder about Quakers Aotearoa Website

<https://quakers.nz/> is the database for the New Zealand Religious Society of Friends. It is a useful source of information on people and events. Please get into the habit of referring to the database, and please make sure your details are entered and up to date. This is where we go when we are looking for a Friend's phone number, etc. This database is only as good as the data you enter so please make use of this important communication tool. Nelson Meeting newsletters and lots of other material is posted and archived there.

Kindness.

By Naomi Shihab Nye

Before you know what kindness really
is
you must lose things,
feel the future dissolve in a moment
like salt in a weakened broth.
What you held in your hand,
what you counted and carefully saved,
all this must go so you know
how desolate the landscape can be
between the regions of kindness.
How you ride and ride
thinking the bus will never stop,
the passengers eating maize and
chicken
will stare out the window forever.
Before you learn the tender gravity of
kindness
you must travel where the Indian in a
white poncho
lies dead by the side of the road.
You must see how this could be you,
how he too was someone

who journeyed through the night with
plans
and the simple breath that kept him
alive.
Before you know kindness as the
deepest thing inside,
you must know sorrow as the other
deepest thing.
You must wake up with sorrow.
You must speak to it till your voice
catches the thread of all sorrows
and you see the size of the cloth.
Then it is only kindness that makes
sense anymore,
only kindness that ties your shoes
and sends you out into the day to gaze
at bread,
only kindness that raises its head
from the crowd of the world to say
It is I you have been looking for,
and then goes with you everywhere
like a shadow or a friend.

News from Business Meeting

This took place on Sunday 3 April - a mixture of in-person and Zoom.

Meetings for Worship:

We confirmed we will hold two Meetings for Worship on Sundays – the 9.00am for people who are fully vaccinated and willing to wear a mask, and the 10.30 am meeting open to all. We will discuss this again at the next Meeting for Business. John Michaelis has kindly offered to be the liaison person for the 9am meeting so that information can be channelled between the two meetings.

Roles for the Meeting:

Roles for the Meeting were also decided at this meeting. If you would like to be more involved, please let us know what role you would be most comfortable with and I'm sure it can be arranged. There's always lots to do.

Accommodation: Bookings: Jan; Meet and Greet: Jan and Raewyn; Laundry: Jan and Lizi

Clerk: Clive

Assistant Clerk: Jan (writing of Minutes & distribution, distribution of mail and emails)

Children's Team: Lizi, Phillida

Contact Person, phone book, Found Directory: Elizabeth

Contact Person, Interfaith & Multicultural: Raewyn

Correspondent, Treaty Relations Group: Phillida

Correspondent, Climate Change: Peter Kemp

Data Managers: Elizabeth and John M

Library: Christine & Marie

Newsletter: Elizabeth and Christine

Outreach: John M, Anthea, Lizi, Christine

Pastoral Care: Lizi, Jan

Premises: John D & Lawrence

Provedore: John D, Marie

Safety & Respect Contact People: Jan and Peter

Treasurer: Clive

The date for our next Meeting for Business is Sunday 29th May 2022. Please inform Clive or John Michaelis of any issues you would like discussed at this meeting.

Online Resources: as well as our own website quakers-innelson.org.nz, the national website quakers.nz and our Face Book page Nelson quakers:

Read a restatement of the Peace Testimony in light of the war in Ukraine:

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/ukraine-faithfully-maintaining-our-testimony-against-war>

Our Programme: below is a reminder of the different activities each month.

First Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 9.00–10.00am **vaccine pass required**
No vaccine pass required Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.30 – 11.30am
Wednesday: Becoming Friends, 7.00 pm – 8.45pm
No vaccine pass required

(Alternate Even Months) Sunday: Business Meeting 12.00 pm No vaccine pass required, Zoom participation.

Second Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 9–10.00am **vaccine pass required**
vaccine pass required Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.30 – 11.30am No vaccine pass required

Third Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 9.00–10.00am **vaccine pass required**
vaccine pass required Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.30 – 11.30am No vaccine pass required
Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm
host decides if vaccine pass required.

Fourth Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 9.00–10.00am vaccine pass required
vaccine pass required Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.30 – 11.30am No vaccine pass required

*Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship.
Activities will be provided for them.*