

# NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

December 2020

## Spiritual Thought

“Be patient toward all that is unsolved in your heart and try to love the questions themselves, like locked rooms and like books that are now written in a very foreign tongue. Do not now seek the answers, which cannot be given you because you would not be able to live them. And the point is, to live everything. Live the questions now. Perhaps you will then gradually, without noticing it, live along some distant day into the answer.”

Rainer Maria Rilke

## News of and for Friends

**Maia** is leaving Nelson, its beaches, national parks, mountains and our Meeting, reluctantly, in mid-January. She is heading up to Middlemore Hospital to further her study for a specialism in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. She hopes to return to Nelson sometime in the future.

**Lizi** has been preparing the notes for the touchpoints for the Embroideries when they are uploaded to the Nelson Quaker website. She has been assisted by Lawrence and Anne Potaka (Golden Bay). Her granddaughter Amelia is loving school and 2-year-old Ruby is loving life!

**Robert** has returned to Meetings. He started attending Quaker Meetings for Worship in Kaitaia following a spiritual awakening. He continues his personal development.

**Phillida's** husband John has shattered his shoulder in a fall and is in considerable pain. Please hold him in the Light.

**Ocean** is happy because she is going to Wellington to her cousin George's birthday.

**Joan and Elizabeth** have volunteered to be on the Library Team, and they will follow up borrowers to return overdue books (after 1 month) and shelve returned books.

**Kristine** is contemplating a visit in a couple of months' time to her ailing 83-year-old mother in Australia.

**Peter** has left for Australia for 3 months to spend time with his son and his family.

## **A message from Chichester Quakers:**

Dear Quaker Friends in Nelson, it's a Chichester Quaker here from the UK, mourning the death of Pat Morrisey too. I am so glad to read your news section [in the website quakers-in-nelson.org.nz] and find that she had integrated herself into your meeting in her inimitable way, with flapjack and words, love and attention. We remember her like this too, also as a nature lover who had previously bought a plot in a natural burial ground locally ready for this occasion but had to pass it on when she finally left the UK. I was undone by the wonderful poem; it really does seem right for Pat to be known as a person with bright wings.

In Friendship, Jenny Cole.

## **Diary of Events**

Friday 4<sup>th</sup>-Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup> December, Nelson Hospice Shop; Friday 4<sup>th</sup> – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 10am – 4pm, Stoke New World & Richmond Mall; Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December, Westpac, Motueka; Monday 14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> December, House of Travel, Motueka: 2020 Hospice Christmas Trees of Remembrance.

People can donate at the tree stalls and receive a remembrance card to write a message to a loved one who has passed on then place it on the trees. All donations go to Nelson Tasman Hospice and at the end of the event all remembrance cards are cremated.

Sunday December 13<sup>th</sup> 10am Motueka Family Service Centre, Talbot St. Motueka, Motueka Quakers Monthly Meeting for Worship All welcome.

Wednesday December 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm Home Discussion Group, topic and venue to be advised. All welcome.

Sunday December 20<sup>th</sup> after Meeting for Worship, 12.00pm Christine's place, 29 Waverley Street Richmond: Shared Lunch. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday January 6<sup>th</sup> 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Becoming Friends, Sharing Spiritual Journeys. All Welcome.

Wednesday January 20<sup>th</sup> 7pm Quaker Discussion Group. Topic and venue to be advised. All welcome.

Sunday February 14<sup>th</sup> 12.15pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile Street, Nelson: Meeting for Worship for Business. Please come.

## News from Business Meeting

**Premises:** we have decided to repurpose the sunroom/office facing the street into a small Conversation Room, which will mean downsizing the filing cabinet and rearranging furniture. Those outside users currently storing material in the space will be asked to remove it.

**Embroidery Roundels:** the third of three roundels is about to be framed. A query has arisen as to the best place to display them. Do you have an opinion? We have previously decided to display them on the east facing wall of the Meeting Room where they would get the least sun. But should they be alongside each other with the White Poppy Wreath on the north facing wall? Would that be too intrusive? Get prepared for a discussion in the New Year.

**Quaker Lecture Booklet, Maui Solomon, "Peace at all costs":** this is available for purchase at the cost of \$10.00. We will purchase one for the Library but if you would like one of your own please let Jim Flewitt know at [flewitts@xtra.co.nz](mailto:flewitts@xtra.co.nz)

**Roles in the Meeting:** it is time for Friends to consider roles they want to volunteer for to serve the Meeting. Here is the list of opportunities:

**Clerk**

**Assistant Clerk**

**Treasurer**

**Accommodation Coordinator & Team; laundry;**

**Children's Team**

**Climate Emergency Correspondent Contact/s**

**Nelson Meeting Contact Person/s**

**Library Team**

**Mail & email distribution**

**Meeting House Providores**

**Newsletter Team**

**Outreach Committee**

**Pastoral Care Committee**

**Premises Committee**

**Representative/s to Nelson Multicultural Council, Interfaith Group**

**Safety and Respect Committee Contacts**

**Social Media Administrators**

**Social Testimonies Committee**

**Treaty Issues Correspondents**

If you have previously missed the opportunity to serve on one of these teams – fear not! **Please put yourself forward - write your name up on the white board in the Meeting Room.**

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## Creating a short video for the national website:

We have room for many more short videos of just 1 - 2 minutes about you and Quakers: e.g. "I became a Quaker because... Or "One reason I am a Quaker is..." or "The reason I joined Quakers is....". Peter is willing to create your video with you when he gets back from Aus. You can contact him at [petermkemp@gmail.com](mailto:petermkemp@gmail.com)

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### Making the house ready for the Lord

Mary Oliver

Dear Lord, I have swept and I have washed but still nothing is as shining as it should be for you. Under the sink, for example, is an uproar of mice — it is the season of their many children. What shall I do? And under the eaves and through the walls the squirrels have gnawed their ragged entrances — but it is the season when they need shelter, so what shall I do? And the raccoon limps into the kitchen and opens the cupboard while the dog snores, the cat hugs the pillow; what shall I do? Beautiful is the new snow falling in the yard and the fox who is staring boldly up the path, to the door. And still I believe you will come, Lord: you will, when I speak to the fox, the sparrow, the lost dog, the shivering sea-goose, know that really I am speaking to you whenever I say, as I do all morning and afternoon: Come in, Come in.

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## 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 at [c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz). The cut-off date for items for the February newsletter is Friday, February 5th, 2021.

**On-line resources:** visit our website: [quakers-in-nelson.org.nz](http://quakers-in-nelson.org.nz); our Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson; and the national website: [quakers.nz](http://quakers.nz).

**Welcome to "Strange New World,"** a show about understanding the Bible, the world's most influential, misunderstood book — a podcast tailor-made for sceptics, believers, and everybody in between. From the Salt Project.

The show's title, "Strange New World," is borrowed from an essay written by a Swiss theologian a hundred years ago, in which he wrote of "the strange new world within the Bible," a world so ancient, so different, so familiar, so strange that it presses us to think new thoughts from new points of view, "to dare and to reach," and ultimately "to grow out beyond ourselves."

I (Christine) find them interesting, accessible, absorbing. Give them a try. I'll send on the final 2 podcasts when they arrive in my inbox.

<https://www.saltproject.org/podcast-strange-new-world>

<https://www.saltproject.org/podcast-strange-new-world/2020/11/24/understanding-christmas-part-one>

<https://www.saltproject.org/podcast-strange-new-world/2020/12/1/understanding-christmas-part-two>

#### **And another from Phillida:**

I thought this could be a cheerful addition to our newsletter. There are many friends who have limited mobility for whatever reason, who might enjoy this somewhat contemplative free and unencumbered diversion.

<https://www.healthrising.org/blog/2020/10/08/window-swap-a-way-to-view-the-world-from-your-bedroom/>

### **WindowSwap – Travel the World from Your Bedroom**

**But wait, there's more:** Subject: Knowledge is a blessing on your mind | Newsroom, sent by Heather Denny:

<https://www.newsroom.co.nz/anne-salmond-knowledge-is-a-blessing-on-your-mind>

**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.***