

# NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

May 2022

## Spiritual Thought

This is the word of Lord God to you all, a charge to you all in the presence of the living God; be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your life and conduct may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one; whereby in them ye may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you; then to the Lord God you shall be a sweet savour, and a blessing

**Journal of George Fox**

## News of and for Friends

**John L** has moved house and is now living in Richmond: 29c Talbot St, near the mall. His phone numbers remain the same: 03 5478441, cell 027 2468285 but his landline and email won't be connected until 5th June. He would appreciate phone calls or visits. He is enjoying feeling part of a busier community.

**Clive** and Margaret have been holidaying on the West Coast at the end of the year's harvest.

**Jan** has been playing mum and grand-mum to her daughter, daughter's partner and granddaughter visiting from Melbourne and her son, his partner, and their sons down from Wellington.

**Gwen** continues her work for Friends of the Haven. Her 90 year old sister who lived in the USA died recently, Gwen was able to attend her funeral service via Zoom. She is looking forward to the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Values Party in 1972. Gwen will be offering her reminiscences. She stood as the Nelson candidate for the Values Party in 1975.

**Christine** is busy organising a conference to be held in August that Friends will have an open invitation to attend (for a fee!) More on this soon. She is about to travel to Invercargill and Dunedin to co-lead a discussion on outreach with those worship groups on behalf of the YM Outreach Committee.

**John M** is sharing the facilitation of the outreach discussions in Invercargill and Dunedin. He has taken on the role of moderating a new comments and questions page on the national website. It may mean deleting a lot of spam!

**Anthea**, an avid tramper, has just returned from walking as much as is accessible of the Heaphy Track.

**Barbara** has returned to Meetings for Worship, which is enlivening and enriching her life, she says.

**Elizabeth** organised an excellent Rally for Traffic Justice on May 1<sup>st</sup>, attended by scores of cyclists and walkers. Wearing her green tutu, she addressed the crowd calling for cars to be discouraged from using urban roads in favour of walkers and cyclists, so she can 'dance in the streets.' Elizabeth and Nelsust who sponsored the rally got very good coverage in the Nelson Mail. You can find it on the Stuff website and reports on both the Nelson and national Quaker websites.

**Phillida** says she is "coping with daily life." She was recently in Wellington for a week with family. She and Ocean are studying metamorphosis. Phillida enjoyed a visit from Te Hira, Rose Pere's grandson. Together they are going through Phillida's archive of tapes made with Rose, and they are looking for a publisher for her autobiography and other resources.

**Kataraina** is enjoying contributing to Meeting by playing the ukulele and leading singing of waiata AIO ki te Aorangi, Peace to the Universe written by Rangimarie Rose Pere, following the close of Meeting for Worship. Kataraina continues to offer short-term accommodation in her warm, sunny, peaceful home close to the centre of Nelson.

**Rex** continues to keep his 3 acre native nursery and garden. He provided vegetables for two household. He has been enjoying working with his 10 year old granddaughter who is learning to propagate and raise native trees.

**Te Ataarangi course** starts Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May. Several of us are enrolled and eager to get started!

**Motueka Quaker Meeting is on pause at the moment.** Linda has recovered from her bout of Covid, but others are still wanting to stay close to home to avoid the virus.

## DIARY OF EVENTS:

**Wednesday May 18<sup>th</sup> 7pm by Zoom, Home Discussion Group.** Christine will introduce a discussion on "What should be "The Quaker View of Trans". In 1963 a group of Quakers in Britain released a landmark booklet entitled "A Quaker View of Sex". It distinguished Quakers from other Christian sects. What would we

want to say in "A Quaker View of Trans"? All welcome

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85927718734?pwd=mACgwvsSv8YF7318xCxyRdOKHMI0u6.1>

Meeting ID: 859 2771 8734 Passcode: 885294

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm – 8.30pm Brook Waimarama Sanctuary, at the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary Hub in Morrison Square: Screening of short film: The History of the Brook Waimarama Sanctuary. Free admission, no booking necessary.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May, 192 Rutherford St. Nelson Ngati Kuia Sites of Significance Bus Tour. Free. Bookings required. Contact [vanya@ngatikuia.iwi.nz](mailto:vanya@ngatikuia.iwi.nz) to book

Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May 12 noon Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St Nelson Meeting for Worship for Business. Agenda items to Clive the week before.

Wednesday June 1st 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. Led by Raewyn. No vaccine pass required. All welcome

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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 Elizabeth Dooley at [elizdooley@hotmail.com](mailto:elizdooley@hotmail.com) The cut-off date for items for the June newsletter is Friday, June 3rd, 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.

## What have I learned so far

By Mary Oliver

Meditation is old and honorable, so why should I not sit, every morning of my life, on the hillside, looking into the shining world? Because, properly attended to, delight, as well as havoc, is suggestion. Can one be passionate about the just, the ideal, the sublime, and the holy, and yet commit to no labor in its cause? I don't think so.

All summations have a beginning, all effect has a story, all kindness begins with the sown seed. Thought buds toward radiance. The gospel of light is the crossroads of — indolence, or action.

Be ignited, or be gone

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### **Notice: a community group will be using the Meeting House on the following dates:**

24th May and 11th, 21st and 28th June (3 Tuesdays and 11 June is a Saturday) for whole or half days. You may wish to choose another day to visit.

### Morning tea at the changing of the shifts:

Some of us have been missing our Friends who attend 'the other Meeting,' after we solved our problem of providing spiritual space for both vaccinated and unvaccinated by creating 9 o'clock and 10 o'clock Meetings. At Jan's initiative we enjoyed sharing morning tea together in the Meeting House last Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May, between the two Meetings. So lively was the chatter, so delicious the cake Jan made, and so heartfelt the time together that some of us found it much harder to centre down in the subsequent Meeting for Worship. We hope we can do this again soon as we wait for Covid to wane.

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Mt Eden Quaker Sandy Hildebrandt has been busy with Action Station creating this initiative, to be presented to Government. Do we want to be added to the list of supporters?



On Monday [2<sup>nd</sup> May], we were proud to release the 'Seven Steps for a Fairer Future' report, alongside 37 diverse and powerful organisations from across the motu!

As living costs soar, the need to release the pressure on people with the least is urgent. This seven step action plan outlines the key changes our welfare system needs for people to live with dignity, stay healthy and participate in community life.

While the Government has taken some steps to lift incomes and improve the system, significant change is still needed.

This report is the result of hours, weeks, and months of discussion within the Fairer Future collaboration. Over the last 18 months, we've coordinated this collaboration that includes communities, and organisations working and living on the frontlines of poverty, and those who support and serve them.

'Seven Steps for a Fairer Future' outlines tangible steps people in government can choose to take to unlock families from poverty. It calls for an immediate increase in core benefit levels to be liveable incomes - backed by research on what constitutes a liveable income in 2022. It outlines how increasing the minimum wage to the living wage can help people catch up with the rising cost of living, and the urgent need to increase the Disability Allowance. The other steps set out changes to policies and practices - like ensuring people can get

into relationships without their incomes getting cut, removing sanctions (where benefits are reduced, suspended, or cancelled, often for confusing, arbitrary, or demeaning reasons); the wiping of debt owed to the Ministry for Social Development; and improving supplementary assistance and urgent grants.

As the Assistant Māori Commissioner for Children, Glenis Hiria Philip-Barbara, said at our press conference - when 38 community organisations are calling for these steps, the Government needs to listen.

 READ: [The Seven Steps for a Fairer Future Report](#)

 WATCH: [The report launch press conference](#)

 READ: [Liveable incomes in 2022 findings](#)

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## Epistle of the Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa New Zealand

### Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri

held online 28 April to 1 May 2022

Greetings to Friends everywhere.

Some 100 Friends in Aotearoa New Zealand gathered online under the care of Christchurch Monthly Meeting and the Yearly Meeting Arrangements Committee. After the lingering Covid pandemic had made it unsafe and inequitable to gather in Christchurch as planned, we were moved to attempt as full a Yearly Meeting gathering as possible online.

We felt delight, excitement, and some trepidation, and also gratitude for the advantages of meeting online. We missed the face-to-face conversations, as we explored being able to make the most of our first completely online Yearly Meeting, yet we had confidence that the Spirit would lead us.

While not being able to be in Ōtautahi Christchurch we were treated to a partly bilingual presentation focusing on the history of Ngāi Tahu, the tangata whenua (indigenous people), of the land on which the city was built, and Tahu Pōtiki their important ancestor. We were reminded of the trauma from the land loss and colonisation that followed. There was also an overview of recent events which continue to shape that land and its people.

The online format allowed us to welcome visitors from Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) and the Asia West Pacific Section (AWPS) of FWCC. We were reminded of how much stronger we are from our international connections, made more possible with the online technology. We heard from our visitors Aletia Dundas representing Australia Yearly Meeting, Adrian Glamorgan the new Secretary of AWPS, Tim Gee, General Secretary of FWCC, and YangSu Park and Hyun-Duck Bae, from Seoul Monthly Meeting, AWPS. They spoke of their own journeys, the

people who had inspired them and the concerns they are working on in their part of the world. Tremendous energy is going into AWPS to build on the work already established and into exploring effective ways to nourish connections and collaborations in an area that holds half the world's population with many different languages. We are reminded of the necessity to work towards more language inclusiveness. We were inspired by hearing about the many activities arising out of concern, and ways of connection that are being planned and tried. Continuing the theme of connections, a tour of the riches of our website [quakers.nz](http://quakers.nz) offered us an insight into its potential for in reach and outreach and encourages us to take advantage of opportunities for adventures in the online world.

We are grateful for the vitality, insight and generosity shown by our Young Friends who are engaging in a way that their energy and numbers allow. Our current statement of affirmation of same sex relationships, written in 1992, is now being revised. Young Friends reminded us that the fact that we are a reconciling and affirming church needs to be highlighted to those searching for a spiritual home.

It was good to hear how the Loxley Award is supporting the Action Research of Jeremy Simons into how Restorative Justice social movements can help repair the harm from violence on the ground and in the online world.

"Children are important to our Society and to the world, not just for the future, but for the joy and wonder that they share in the present. Children remind us of the value of love, of fun, of the spirituality of play and of God in our bodies." Tracey Bourne 2014 Backhouse Lecture. We have been thinking creatively about how to engage better with our children and young people. This has resulted in the creation of a new paid role with a support group which will facilitate this process. The All Age Worship on the Sunday morning, based on the Faith and Play story of Gifts led by Melinda Wenner Bradley, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting, left us spiritually enriched and feeling grateful for the insights which children can give us.

As we leave this Yearly Meeting, we are mindful of the thoughts attributed to George Fox "Do not simply look at the temptations, confusions and corruptions of the world, but at the light that discovers them. For looking down at corruption and distraction, you are swallowed up in it; but looking at the light that discovers them, you will see over them and with the same light stand against them. 'There,' he said, 'is the first step to peace.'"

In Peace and Friendship Anne and Alistair Hall Yearly Meeting Co-Clerks

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**Online Resources:** visit our own website [quakers-in-nelson.org.nz](http://quakers-in-nelson.org.nz), the national website [quakers.nz](http://quakers.nz) and our Face Book page [Nelson quakers](https://www.facebook.com/Nelsonquakers).

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**  
Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.30 – 11.30am  
No vaccine passes required **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**  
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**  
Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.30 – 11.30am No vaccine passes required **Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm**  
host decides if vaccine pass required if in person, or may use Zoom

**Fourth Week of the Month:** Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 9.00–10.00am 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.*