

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

October 2020

Spiritual Thought

“When you plant lettuce, if it does not grow well, you don't blame the lettuce. You look for reasons it is not doing well. It may need fertilizer, or more water, or less sun. You never blame the lettuce. Yet if we have problems with our friends or family, we blame the other person. But if we know how to take care of them, they will grow well, like the lettuce. Blaming has no positive effect at all, nor does trying to persuade using reason and argument. That is my experience. No blame, no reasoning, no argument, just understanding. If you understand, and you show that you understand, you can love, and the situation will change.”

Thich Nhat Hanh, quoted in Theologians Almanac, Salt Project, Oct 6th,

2020

News of and for Friends

John M and Anthea moved into their new home in Stoke, backing onto the Railway Reserve, on October 7th. They are busy with painting, flooring, buying second-hand furniture, and John is building a table for his 'office'.

Patricia and Jane (from the Embroiderers Guild) have completed embroidering the last of the 3rd embroidery panel. It depicts the colonisation of Nelson including the arrival of the first Quakers, and decolonisation. Lizi has one last element to add, which is the original name of the Mahitahi River.

Barbara has had a very hectic week with her 10-year-old grandson and a friend staying, after not being able to see him for almost a year. Barbara is delighting in her spring garden which is full of blossom on the fruit trees. **Andy** is dealing with a chest problem which is being investigated. Barbara asks us to hold him in the Light.

Phillida will host the 3rd evening to share the teachings of Rose Pere in Te Wheke - A Celebration of Great Wisdom on Wednesday 21st October.

Marie and Lawrence have moved into “The Doll’s House”, a wee cottage at the top of the same lane they have been living in for the past year. They love it. Their excess stuff is being housed in various garages and basements.

Jan M has been hosting her son and family this 2nd week of the school holidays. She is very grateful to have such easy access to her son and grandchildren.

Maggie and Edwin are enjoying the fecundity of spring in the farming cycle. They have welcomed the swallows; calving has finished and the bulls are about to go out to consort with the cows; they will be tailing the lambs this week; baby weka, paradise ducklings, and hen chicks are arriving. Poplar trees are leafing filling the valley with their fragrance. The wild piglets get chased off. The grandchildren came to stay this week – they fed eggs to the happiest eels.

Sue B and friend are about to travel around Fiordland and Southland over two weeks in a campervan, calling in on 19-year-old Maitai in Chch on the way. Sue says she is taking Maitai to cast his first vote. She is enjoying having no responsibilities apart from the neighbour's kitten who has adopted her as a "bit on the side".

Diary of Events

Sunday October 11th 10am Motueka Family Service Centre, Talbot St. Motueka, Motueka Quakers Monthly Meeting for Worship All welcome.

Sunday October 11th 10am – 5pm Riverside Community Lower Moutere, Nelson Tasman Climate Forum Hui. [More information on the Nelson Tasman Climate Forum website.](#)

Saturday October 17th 12.30 -1.30pm Quaker Meeting House Meeting for Week of Prayer for World Peace. There will be a short meeting, followed by refreshments. All Welcome. See other events below.

Wednesday October 21st 7pm Phillida's house, 51 Dommatt St. Nelson: Te Wheke Part 3. "We are both human and divine" - Broadening our understanding of key Maori Spiritual Concepts. "Te Wheke" draws attention away from the warrior and towards the importance of Mother energy. PDF papers available for study prior. All Welcome.

Sunday November 1st Blenheim venue and times to be advised Top of the South Marlborough Meeting. More information to come. Car-pooling. All welcome.

Wednesday November 4th 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Becoming Friends, Sharing Spiritual Journeys. All Welcome.

Thursday November 5th Parihaka Day 5.30am Anzac Park Dawn Peace Blessing over the City, followed by breakfast at the Quaker Meeting House All Welcome

Thursday November 5th Parihaka Day 7pm Theatre Royal: Te Oro Haa perform 'Parihaka, my story, your story, our story' by Donna McLeod. Entry fee \$10.00. Book at Theatre Royal or Eventfinda.

Sunday November 8th 10am Motueka Family Service Centre Talbot St. Motueka, Motueka Quakers Monthly Meeting for Worship All welcome.

Programme for Week of Prayer for World Peace

Sunday 11th October 4pm - Queens Gardens, Nelson (Hardy Street entrance – through the gate and turn to the right)

Wednesday 14th October 6pm - Nelson Cathedral, Nelson

Saturday 17th October 12:30 – 1:30p - Quaker Meeting House, 30 Nile Street, Nelson

Sunday 18th October 2:30pm – Broadgreen Gardens, Stoke, Nelson. (on the right of the building looking from Nayland Road)

“Otherwise”

Jane Kenyon, Salt Project.org

I got out of bed
on two strong legs.
It might have been
otherwise. I ate
cereal, sweet
milk, ripe, flawless
peach. It might
have been otherwise.
I took the dog uphill
to the birch wood.

All morning I did
the work I love.
At noon I lay down
with my mate. It might
have been otherwise.
We ate dinner together
at a table with silver
candlesticks. It might
have been otherwise.
I slept in a bed

in a room with paintings
on the walls, and
planned another day

just like this day.
But one day, I know,
it will be otherwise.

There are many poems about gratitude, about not taking the simple blessings of our lives for granted - but we've never come across a better one. In a kind of echo of the ancient Jewish "Dayenu" prayer, with its refrain, "It would have been enough," Kenyon retrospectively reframes her day, moment by moment, as a series of non-necessary events - which is to say, a cascade of gift after gift. Can we do the same? Even in and through our struggles, there are treasures to be found. A peach, for instance. Or a candlestick. It might have been otherwise.
Salt Project.

News from Business Meeting

Parihaka Day: we are grateful to have received a Local Peace Grant from the Quaker Peace & Service Committee of \$650 for advertising and poster costs for the events on Parihaka Day November 5th and for the breakfast following the Dawn Peace Blessing. The day's activities are outlined in the diary above.

Embroidery Images to be uploaded to Website

Our Meeting has agreed to have the images of the Quaker Embroideries uploaded to the Quakers in Nelson website, with touch points enabling visitors to read explanations for the imagery. There will be up to 20 touch points on the 3rd embroidery for example. This artwork is a magnificent record of the Quaker history in Nelson, and of the stitch work of all those who have contributed.

Nelson Monthly Newsletter

We considered whether the newsletter is appreciated and should be continued. The conclusion was that it should be continued, and [we invite Friends to let us know if they agree. Please let the editors \(Christine and Elizabeth\) or the Clerk \(Clive\) know of any satisfactions or dissatisfactions you have.](#)

We also decided to provide 6 paper copies each month for those who prefer to read it that way. They will be available in the Meeting House.

If you want to read the newsletters online rather than by email you can find them on <https://quakers.nz/node/4667>

Clerk's role in Business Meetings

We discussed options for the clerkship and decided to stay with our current process of confirming annual appointments. We aim for a balance between formality and informality but also reminded ourselves of the tools available such as speaking through the Clerk, waiting to be called by the Clerk to speak, trying to speak only once to an item of business, and seeking the will of God rather

than ego. We asked the Clerk to use a period of silence during Meetings for Worship for Business when we are struggling to find a way forward.

Morning Tea in the Quiet Garden

The garden in Rutherford Street is looking beautiful right now – pop up to see the huge variety of daffodils. We decided that we will visit the garden after Meeting for Worship on Sunday November 15th. Bring a flask!

Quaker Lecture 2020 – “Moriori – Peace at all costs”

The 2020 Quaker Lecture entitled "Moriori - Peace at All Costs" is scheduled to take place on Friday 20th November at St Andrews on The Terrace, Wellington, at 7pm.

The speaker will be Maui Solomon of the Hokotehi Moriori Trust who has played a leading role throughout his adult life in the renaissance of the culture and identity of the indigenous Moriori people of Rekohu (Chatham Islands).

We decided to see if we can arrange for Maui to present the Lecture in Nelson.

A book review: [KEIR HARDIE](#) by [Caroline Benn](#). Published by Hutchinson, London (1992) Reviewer: Elizabeth D

Since this book was published nearly 40 years ago, it is necessary to arrange an inter-library loan, or purchase a second-hand copy.

Caroline Benn's biography was informed by her knowledge of the British Labour Party and early Socialism. Rather than ending the biography at Keir Hardie's death, she continued in order to trace his legacy to Socialism and to the Labour Party, which were not apparent at the time of his death.

Hardie never went to school, having become the family breadwinner at 8 and working in the Scottish mines at 14, but he had a great thirst for knowledge and once he learned to read in his teens, he studied widely. When he arrived in parliament wearing tweed instead of a morning coat and top hat, Liberal MPs believed he would be a walkover to seduce and corrupt as earlier Labour members had been. It seems he was so incorruptible and steadfast in his cause, that he was vilified in the press and ambushed in parliament. He was a Socialist, a Pacifist and a Feminist - an unholy trinity in 1900 - but nothing swayed him. He described himself as an agitator and never held back, whatever the cost. He never defended himself when attacked and when he lost his seat in parliament following an attack on the future King (Edward VIII) he simply returned to organising unions in Scotland and attending the conferences of the International Labour Organisation.

Caroline Benn herself, as wife of a controversial Labour politician, knew the cost paid by the family of politicians and her biography takes care to show the life led by Keir's wife, Lilly, and their children. This biography also takes pains to reveal the work of people like Rosa Luxemburg and Eleanor Marx. Hardie befriended

the suffragists and took on the role of asking questions on their behalf while he was in Parliament (and they, of course, were not!)

He was bitterly disappointed that workers would fight workers in WW1. He died in 1916 but his whanau included four politicians, and some became conscientious objectors. Benn wrote of the network (the No Conscription Fellowship) set up by the Society of Friends to assist imprisoned CO's. Quakers made sure there was someone available to track the movement of COs as they were taken, without notice, to courts and tribunals, and help family members keep in touch. They also lobbied to get the CO's removed from the brutal military prisons to civil prisons.



I found the book an absorbing read and Keir Hardie to be an exceptional man for any time. Below is a link to a famous speech he made to Parliament.

<https://speakola.com/political/keir-hardie-socialism-labour-1901>

In late August during the sentencing of the Christchurch terrorist Jan bought flowers to give to the local Muslim Community on our behalf. "I asked the Greenery florist to make up two little boxes of flowers (attached) which I delivered on behalf of us all to the Islamic Centre in Trafalgar St and the mosque on Hardy St, each with a card saying 'To our Muslim friends with kindness and support from Nelson Quakers'. At each place I spoke to one person and each one was very grateful. The florist is excellent, and I think did a little more when she knew where they were going.

Greetings of World Quaker Day Sunday October 4th:

Dear Friends,

I am happy to send my greetings for World Quaker day. May we grow in the love of Lord and make this world a better place to live. I pray for all to stay safe from all kinds of pandemic.

May God bless you all

In Love and peace of Christ

Ronald Titus

Clerk Asia West Pacific Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation

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. You can contact him at petermkemp@gmail.com

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 at elizdooley@hotmail.com The cut-off date for items for the November newsletter is Friday, November 6th, 2020.

On-line resources: visit our website: quakers-in-nelson.org.nz; our Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson; and the national website: quakers.nz

Read Jim’s account of his spiritual journey to discovery of the god of his understanding on the quakers-in-nelson website home page:

quakers-in-nelson.org.nz

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

<p>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</p> <p>Second Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am</p> <p>Third Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm</p> <p>Fourth Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am</p> <p><i>Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship. Activities will be provided for them.</i></p>
