

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

August 2023

Spiritual Thought

Cherish friendships so that you grow in depth, understanding and mutual respect. When we love, we may risk hurt as well as finding joy. When we experience great happiness or great pain we may be more open to the workings of the Spirit.

Advices and Queries Aotearoa/NZ 2013 D6

News of and for Friends

Our travelling Friends are beginning to return, with **Jan, Lawrence** and **Marie, John M** and Anthea, **Clive** and Margaret all back and **Christine** is due home soon. With many Nelson Friends who used to attend the early meeting now joining us at 10am, the Meeting Room looks satisfyingly full and our tea times are lively with conversation.

Gwen drew our attention to the Peace Panels at the Peace Grove north of the Marae and Miyazu Gardens which were vandalised. Nelson City Council has now reinstated them. Two of the six panels are about Nelson Quakers and include the white poppy wreath which is in the Nile Street Quaker Meeting Room. The Panels are worth a visit - and maybe some time in the future we could have a ceremony to welcome them back. Access is from Atawhai Drive, down a path North of Miyazu Gardens.

Peter broke his thumb in a fall from his bike. He is coping well with most tasks but cutting up vegetables is a challenge. After Meeting recently a group of Friends rallied to chop vegetables which he had thoughtfully brought, along with knives and chopping boards. A good supply of ready-to-cook veges went home with him!

Isabella and Hayley described going outside at night to see the Perseid Meteor shower with their family. Those of us who missed it will need to wait another year and hope for a fine night!

From Business Meeting

Children's Meeting: We are enjoying having children attending Meeting on a

regular basis and a small group of Friends will create a roster and plan some activities for them. Contact Lizi 021 067 4266 if you wish to be part of that group.

Greeting and ending MfW: We decided to share the tasks of ending Meeting for Worship and of meeting and greeting people at the door as they arrive. John Michaelis offered to draw up a roster. A sign-up sheet will be in the meeting house from this Sunday. Please add your name if you can do one of these tasks sometimes.

AVP: John M. sounded a call for those interested in attending an Alternative to Violence (AVP) basic workshop, potentially followed by second level AVP workshops and a training for facilitators. For those unfamiliar with AVP, it was started 45 years ago at a prison in New York State. AVP USA presently facilitates about 2,000 3 day workshops a year in prisons and many more in schools, universities and in the communities and about 7,000 workshops a year around the world in more than 50 countries. AVP workshops are experiential. No lectures! The activities provide unique experiences that are often different depending on where you are on your journey of life. They are extraordinarily effective. Prison inmates who have experienced AVP are 46 percent less likely to reoffend after their release according to three separate studies, and schools that provide AVP workshops to staff and students typically experience an 80% reduction in bullying. Dates and times for Nelson workshops have still to be worked out. A sign up sheet to express interest will be in the meeting house this Sunday.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Wednesday 23rd August at Yaza Cafe: Spirited Conversation with Jackie Cook 'China in the 1980s, real life stories from a time of transition'.

Saturday 2nd September: Tasmonics, a four part a capella harmony group of which John M. is part, and Nelson Bays Harmony Chorus which is a women's a cappella group (of which John is not part) are performing for friends and family at the Club Waimea on lower Queen street in Richmond. Nelson Friends are invited. There will be a small Koha. Both choruses are quite good even if John says so himself. There will be a poster on the notice board.

Sunday 3rd September at the Meeting House 30 Nile St: Top of the South Regional meeting. We will gather at 10am to greet those who have travelled from other areas, have Meeting for Worship at 10.30am followed by a shared lunch and a discussion till about 2.30pm. Please bring food to share.

Sunday 1st October: World Quaker Day. A picnic is planned to be held in the Queens Gardens, with community members invited. Contact Shona if you would like to help with planning or assist on the day.

Christchurch Meetings for Worship and Business Meeting: we are warmly invited to join in with Christchurch Friends at their regular meetings. Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83437803425?pwd=Zmx6RWNZZ21OcVNyN1hiNVhhVng5QT09>

Meeting ID: 834 3780 3425

Passcode: 510179

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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 for the September letter to Elizabeth Dooley elizdooley@hotmail.com.

The cut-off date for items for the next newsletter is Friday, September 12th, 2023.

A reminder about Quakers NZ 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. **You can subscribe to the Aotearoa NZ Friends Newsletter there.**

Farewell Presence

By Judith Child

Unable to claim years of faithful service
in my new habitat, I am astonished
at what some hasty scheming has produced
by way of a valedictory presentation -
(and so appropriate, as if someone guessed
what novelties I would find most appealing):
the novelty of extravagant flaming sunsets
and soft pink unpredictable streaky daybreaks,
a firmament flooded with layer on layer of song;
the novelty of being girdled round
by criss-cross folded hillsides, ever-receding
into violet distances, Wordsworthian, hazy;
the novelty, instead of a sun-bathed beach,
of a walk on a green path beside a river
of murmuring water, eddies, limpid pools,
communing with itself on the way to the sea,
yet urgently outstripping all my strolling,
all my refectations on its never-ending
and my awareness of mortality.

Judith was a much-loved Friend who moved from St Heliers in Auckland to Nelson in the early 1990s, when she retired, in order to be within walking distance of a Meeting House. You may recognise parts of Nelson, especially if you know she lived on Waimea Rd and walked everywhere, including to Meeting.

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

Chuck Fager is a US Quaker who compiles a weekly blog, called A Friendly Letter. He often publishes articles by Gwynne Dyer on climate change and other matters.

<https://afriendlyletter.com/gwynne-dyer-two-long-range-weather-reports/>

Our Programme: below is a reminder of the different activities each month.
All Sundays: Meeting for Worship, 10 – 11am, 30 Nile St. Nelson

2nd Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10am, Family Service Centre, Talbot St.
Motueka

3rd Wednesday: Home Discussion Group, 7pm – 8.45pm. Topic & venue tba

Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship and activities will be provided
for them.
