

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

June 2023

Spiritual Thought

Nature has its own means of balance. If you observe nature, you will see that the five elements that form its basis are opposed to each other. Water destroys fire, fire destroys air. Then there are so many species in nature — the birds, reptiles, mammals — and all these different species are hostile towards each other, yet nature balances them out. We need to learn from nature how to balance opposing forces, both within ourselves and in the world around us. (F P Daversa, 2015)

News of Friends

John D. on being asked for a word, quoted David Lange, who, when asked the same question, replied “Wombat!” John went on to say how much he is enjoying his new car and is thankful for any work to help pay for it...

John M – is zooming around somewhere...

Elizabeth along with her NELSUST colleagues held the second “Rally for Travel Justice” on 28 May. Below is a photo of the cyclists taking part. Elizabeth and Patch were with the walking contingent. She would dearly love suggestions to make the phrase ‘Travel Justice’ understood. It is about sharing the streets safely with people who are not in cars. Walkers, wheelchair users, cyclists, auditorily or visually impaired. We’re looking for some clean safe space to meet each other and become a community again. In fact, Elizabeth would like to lobby for a car-free city centre....



Maree and Lawrence enjoyed a recent trip to Farewell Spit, via Collingwood.

Peter, in his role as our Treasurer, has recently sent out our donation tax certificates. Also, he has just hastily written and sent off a submission on the Taxation Principles Reporting Bill. He has on behalf of those he was able to contact quickly) asked that:

- 1) That the words “should” and “ought” are replaced by “must”.
- 2) That the word “minimise” is replaced by “eliminate”

Rationale for these changes

The “principles” as currently stated are only a wish list rather than a set of requirements. We are in a time of crisis. Accordingly, Quakers support the government to take firm ameliorative action, in many areas, taxation being one of them. The ever-widening gap between rich and poor is a forerunner for social unrest (rioting, looting, and sabotage) at best, and civil war at worst. Quakers are traditionally focussed on the prevention of such outcomes and believe that early measures for their prevention are the most effective in the long run. We think the six outcomes are laudable, but we wish to see them enshrined as legal requirements, rather than as hopes.

Nga mihi, Peter.

Gwen, has just learned from her granddaughters (1 at Auckland Uni and 1 at Canterbury) that the Bray-Curtis method is in use at both Universities. This method was first published in 1957 by Gwen's Husband, Roger Bray and his Professor, John Curtis. The Bray-Curtis method can compare many forest stands or fish population samples to see which are more similar or dissimilar and arrange them on a continuum. You can read about the method on Wikipedia but I understand it was quite a breakthrough for botanists who were saved a lot of time ‘in the field’.

Gwen also harvests her many fruit trees and last week sent two banana boxes of Sturmer and Granny Smith Apples, and Feijoas to Victory Community Centre.

Christine is caring for the library and keeping our website up to date with a number of interesting posts, as well as keeping interested Friends up to date with the Transgender debate. In August she is off to the UK to spend time with her dear family and we will miss her.

Phillida and John have been rather poorly for the last 2-3 weeks. Phillida is exiting from Covid (again). We are all looking forward to her surfacing soon!

Rex: “I've been ask to head a landscaping team for the new Wakata Presbyterian church in Champion Rd. I said yes, so I am taking a break from Friends until it's finished.”

Jan's son Nick Koirala will be the speaker at the next Spirited Conversation on 'ChatGPT and the AI boom'. The talk is at 7.30pm on 28th June at Yaza Cafe. Come earlier for a meal and meet other attendees.

For Interest:

Clive quoted from this at our last MfB – it is, in effect, the Society of Friends “Sermon on the Mount” and worth a read!

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Epistle_from_the_Elders_at_Balby,_1656

A Tantalising Invitation...

Our Friends, Jo and Chris Appleton who worshipped here some years ago, are passing on an advertisement from their Meeting House in Lincoln. It includes a photograph of the Meeting House. Note the closing date and get your skates on!



increase the lettings of this unique, flagship building.

Lincoln Local Meeting seeks Resident Volunteer(s) to join us from August 2023

Our Meeting is in a busy city-centre location where we seek to be a Quaker presence along with providing space for hirer groups.

Rent-free accommodation in unfurnished flat above the Meeting House in return for 12-15 hours service per month.

Applications are welcome from individuals or two people applying together.

Please send an email and appropriate CV to Mary Elliott (clerk) at lincoln.laqm@gmail.com who will provide more information and role description.

Closing date: 30th June 2023
Interviews: early July

Luton Quaker wardens/careers

We are a small or two warden welcoming pre users, starting

The role involves

- understanding Quaker values
- managing and actively seeing
- overseeing of Meeting
- 20 hours work National Lit holiday plus
- optional: living adjacent 2 rent-free/re

At this stage of interest, re applications flexible. If in luton.quaker before the e

Upcoming Events: Top of the South: We agree to hold a Top of the South meeting in Nelson on the first Sunday in September. We will communicate this with Top of the South Friends and discuss a topic for the Meeting at our next Meeting for Business on 6 August.

Spiritual Nurture: Nick Koirala will be the speaker at the next Spirited Conversation on 'ChatGPT and the AI boom'. The talk is at 7.30pm on 28th June at Yaza Cafe. Come earlier for a meal and meet other attendees, Koha appreciated.

Home Discussion Group

Our 4th Meeting to discuss Te Wheke, or The Octopus model of health, as developed and presented by Rangimarie Rose Pere, will be held at the Meeting House on Wednesday 21st June at 7.00 pm. It is Winter Solstice that day at 9.16pm. Here is further reading on Te Wheke: <https://onedrive.live.com/edit.aspx?resid=8C9C1CC118567024!3933&ithint=file%2cdocx>. Shall we share a bowl of soup for Winter Solstice? RSVP Elizabeth elizdooley@hotmail.com

A seminar and workshop on a crucial aspect of peace. On-Line, 28th June and 12th July, free.

[REGISTER HERE](#) or bit.ly/2gWT4qU

Details of Seminar: - **Wednesday, 28th June, 7pm on Zoom**

Speakers from different backgrounds

Academic/Strategic	Professor David Capie
Diplomatic	Colin Keating
Academic/Peace	Emeritus Professor Kevin Clements
Commercial/cultural	Suzannah Jessep
MFAT	David Evans

Talks will be followed by a panel discussion based on your questions. This is a Quakers Aotearoa Initiative

A poem for our times?

What Kind of Times Are These

There's a place between two stands of trees where the grass grows uphill
and the old revolutionary road breaks off into shadows
near a meeting-house abandoned by the persecuted
who disappeared into those shadows.

I've walked there picking mushrooms at the edge of dread, but don't be fooled
this isn't a Russian poem, this is not somewhere else but here,
our country moving closer to its own truth and dread,
its own ways of making people disappear.

I won't tell you where the place is, the dark mesh of the woods
meeting the unmarked strip of light—
ghost-ridden crossroads, leafmold paradise:
I know already who wants to buy it, sell it, make it disappear.

And I won't tell you where it is, so why do I tell you
anything? Because you still listen, because in times like these
to have you listen at all, it's necessary
to talk about trees.

Adrienne Rich, "What Kind of Times are These" from *Collected Poems: 1950-2012*. Copyright ©

Permanent Notices

<https://www.quakers-in-nelson.org.nz>

<https://quakers.nz> - the National Quaker website – where our newsletters are archived. And our address details are kept. Simple to access and safe as a Quaker's word.

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

Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 8.45–9.45 am

Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00 – 11.00am

Next Meeting for Business Sunday 6 August; shared lunch at 12.00 pm, begin meeting at 12.30.

Children are welcome at all Meetings for Worship.