

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

Quakers - the Religious Society of Friends – Aotearoa New Zealand Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri

March 2024

Spiritual Thought

“Your soul is oftentimes a battlefield, upon which your reason and your judgement was against your passion and your appetite. Would that I could be the peacemaker in your soul, that I might turn the discord and the rivalry of your elements into oneness and melody. But how shall I, unless you yourselves be also the peacemakers, nay, the lovers of all your elements?”

The Prophet, Kahlil Gibran, 1967

News of and for Friends

Jan stayed in the Meeting House guest room for a week while having some renovations done at her home. It coincided with editing the Quaker lecture in tandem with Elizabeth Duke. Thanks to the use of our tenant Jan's Wi-Fi a lot was achieved as we sent emails and articles to and fro. Breaks included a declutter of the linen cupboard and the children's corner (every procrastinating writer knows how important it is for creativity to clean something!) At night there were crickets chirping and a resident morepork calling in the dark, in the mornings and afternoons the chatter of college girls and boys going back and forth. As long as we keep the house clean and tidy, I think we give our guests a restful and pleasant experience. Many say so!

Gwen slipped off her bike after the World Beyond War talk and got a rotator cuff injury which is healing fast with very little discomfort but is a bit tiring. Gwen is attempting to write a submission on the Nelson City Council Plan 29 about intensification of housing, which has serious faults if allowed to stand. With 880 written submissions the first time around the Council may hopefully re-think. What is hopeful is the concerned and well informed response of many people. Gwen also comments that the present government is putting through some appalling legislation which will degrade the coastal and marine environments, which is concerning. Consultation is minimal to non-existent..

Rex has recently biked the 200km Great Taste Trail with a cycling friend. He thoroughly recommends it. He and wife Helen are looking forward to their up and coming conservation work down the Sounds at Camp Bay with DOC. The drought has added a lot of extra stress and work for Rex with his Nursery and property, so he is looking forward to the Autumn.

Peter spent two weeks in January in Australia with family there, enjoying his new grandson, and the older two mokopuna as well. He has been going to wild coastlines and forests in search of messages from God; his cousin from Wales has since spent time with him, joining with the whole whanau to help her heal childhood-belonging wounds. Peter is now on solo retreat in the purity of the Abel Tasman national park.

Phillida assures those of us unable to make it that we missed a great party themed ‘staying alive’, the celebration of the privilege of being alive and growing old in this in this wonderful, safe, and beautiful place: a number Quakers and friends were able to gather on 28th February to enjoy the garden at 51 Domett Street to help Phillida and Jilly Blackman enjoy turning 80!

There was a summer pudding which made a wonderfully cheerful 'cake'.

Lawrence and Marie are preparing to bring the Birthday Quiz back to life. All being well this should happen at 7:30 pm on Saturday March 16th, in the Meeting House.

Christine wants everyone to go to the quakers-in-nelson.org.nz website and read the One Quaker's view because it took her many, many hours to type it in! On the home page click on Read more Views. She'd be so happy if you would write a short essay to upload next time. Any topic, your choice, start now!

Daniel has had his parents Robin and Heather staying with him from their home in Raumati South. They have joined the Palestinian rallies and joined us at Meeting for Worship while they are here.

James has returned to MfW having recovered from a stroke last year.

Kae has also been back to Meeting, as well as being a regular attender at the Palestine rallies.

It has been lovely too to catch up with Friends **Helen B** and **David A** at the rallies.

Palestinian Rallies every Saturday at 10.30am, 1903 Square, and sometimes at Tahunanui Beach: Nelson Friends have faithfully attended the weekly rally for Palestine, carrying the 'Quakers for Peace' banner (first used in 2003 to protest the Iraq war.) Scott, the co-ordinator of Te Tau Ihu Palestine Solidarity, encourages us to persist 'it does make a difference.' Local Palestinians have gone on record to say they feel grateful for the support. Check the Te Tau Ihu Palestine Solidarity FB page for venue.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

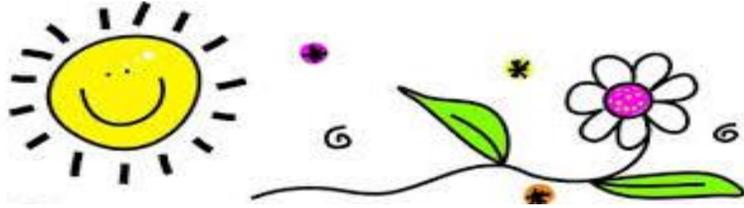
Sunday 10th March 12.30pm at Clive and Margaret's home in Appleby, our annual Summer Social with a shared lunch.

Saturday 16th March 7.30pm Quaker Meeting House, 30 Nile St. Quiz Night with Quiz Master Lawrence Carter and his lovely assistant Marie. Make up a team with friends and neighbours.

Wednesday March 20th 7pm-9pm Home Discussion Group, topic, and venue to be advised.

Friday March 22nd, Millers Acre, Nelson City, 5.30pm the next Joy Ride, (cyclists reclaiming the City) For details contact Elizabeth.

summer



Hi Friends,

A reminder note and details for the summer picnic TOMORROW Sunday 10 March.

Everyone is invited to a summer picnic at Clive and Margaret's home in River Road Appleby.

Please bring something to share for lunch. We will try to start lunch at 12.30 pm.

There will be plenty of teas, coffee, cordial, or water to drink.

ADDRESS:

We live in River Road in Appleby.

If you are coming from town then head towards Motueka. (Turn left at 3 Brothers corner).

Just after the bridge across the Waimea river turn left into River Road.

We are just before River road joins the Waimea West road.

Come down the drive, past the sheds and you will see our house - it is a 2 storey farmhouse. There is an area to park just before you get to the house, and you can walk through the garden to the house.

Hope to see you at our place, Clive and Margaret

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 March Newsletter to Elizabeth at elizdooley@hotmail.com by April 5th.

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.**

News from Business Meeting

Meeting opened with the following reading:

"In a true community we will not choose our companions, for our choices are so often limited by self-serving motives. Instead, our companions will be given to us by grace. Often they will be persons who will upset our settled view of self and world. In fact, we might define true community as the place where the person you least want to live with always lives!"

Parker J Palmer, 1977

We approved the **financial report**, the **budget** for 2024, and agreed to make an arrangement with our upstairs tenant to pay our share of the use of her **wi-fi**.

Trade Aid: we agreed to ask our Meeting providores, and encourage other Friends, to purchase what they can from the Trade Aid store in Nelson. Purchasing direct from the Trade Aid store, rather than a supermarket, gives a larger contribution to the producers, even though the price we would pay is the same.

Roles in the Meeting: we accepted those who had volunteered for roles and confirmed those who had volunteered previously. The job descriptions are on the eastern wall in the hall in the Meeting House.

Nelson Recognised Meeting Roles For 2024:

Accommodation: Jan Marsh, Marie Carter, Shona McLean, Elizabeth Dooley, Phillida Bunkle.

Assistant Clerk: Jan Marsh

Clerk: Clive Richards

Childrens' Committee: John Michaelis, Christine Gillespie, Liz McLeod-Taepa

Closing Meeting for Worship: Clive Richards, Liz McLeod-Taepa

Contact Person: Elizabeth Dooley, 021 213 0719

Email & Mail Distribution: Jan Marsh

Futures Committee: Correspondent Elizabeth Dooley

Interfaith Representative: John Michaelis

Librarian: Christine Gillespie

Meeting House Providores: Shona Mclean, Elizabeth Dooley

National Website Contacts: Elizabeth Dooley, Christine Gillespie

Newsletter Editorial Group: Christine Gillespie, Elizabeth Dooley, Jan Marsh

Outreach (Social Testimonies): Christine Gillespie, John Michaelis, Liz McLeod-Taepa

Pastoral Care Committee: Jan Marsh, Liz McLeod-Taepa, Shona Mclean

Premises Committee: John Dainty, Lawrence Carter, Paul Woodward

Rep to Multicultural Nelson Tasman: Elizabeth Dooley

Social Media Administrators: Christine Gillespie, Peter Kemp

Top of the South Contact & Organiser: John Michaelis

Treasurer: Peter Kemp

Treaty Issues Correspondent: Phillida Bunkle

As I can live: After Dr Refaat Alareer (1979 – Dec 7, 2023)

by Dr Melissa Casatillo Planas

As I can live
let me never unsee
children burying their
mothers, fathers, siblings
friends

let me never unsee parents &
grandparents burying
children that should have buried
them

let me never unsee hospitals,
schools, universities
homes, archives, memories
knowledge, history turned into
nothing but grey rubble

let me never unsee men publicly
stripped & paraded in their underwear
let me never unsee the pregnant &
menstruating
women with nothing to clean
themselves

& let me never unsee the tik tok
videos of Israelis celebrating
mass civilian murder
& mocking Palestinian humanity.

As I can live
let me never unhear
the wail of a Palestinian doctor
at work when her lifeless daughter
was wheeled past her (scroll down)

let me never unhear the cries
of children undergoing
surgeries without anaesthesia
let me never unhear the pain of a father
holding the blown apart pieces of a son
in a plastic bag

let me never unhear the rumblings of
stomachs
that have not been feed
the cracking of journalist voices
who have not had water
the Palestinians prayers
for their families

let me never unhear
the press conference of children
pleading to live
the nightmares of children
pleading to dream
& let me never unhear the sound
of bombs laced with genocidal words
of Israeli leadership
and the international silences
that killed them.

As I can live,
let me never unsmell
the wonder of fresh air
the warmth of Palestinian food
full of spices, fresh olive oil
friendship & love
and remember all they
smell is death
the decomposing of bodies

not given the dignity of a proper
burial.

But most of all,
As we can live
let us never unsee, unhear, unknow
the bravery of grieving families
turn to help others
the medics who stayed to die
with their patients (scroll up)

the journalists who used their last
breath to upload a report
and the poets who died
to bring us hope,
to be a tale.

-Melissa Castillo

Dec. 8, 2023



'A World beyond War – is it possible?' A talk by Dr John Reuwer.
Saturday 24th February at the Victory Community Centre.

John Reuwer's Tour of New Zealand Energizes Peace Activism:

Here is a link to an account of John's visit to New Zealand on behalf of World BEYOND War. It includes an image of his visit with us in Nelson.

https://worldbeyondwar.org/john-reuwers-tour-of-new-zealand-energizes-peace-activism/?link_id=1&can_id=d24302d7675efed3cdb9ce42564d8cda&source=email-new-zealand-february-peace-events-2&email_referrer=email_2222201&email_subject=update-new-zealand-february-peace-events

REMEMBER THE QUIZ NIGHT NEXT SATURDAY NIGHT 7.30pm - GET YOU GLAD RAGS ON!



Online Resources: visit our own website quakers-in-nelson.org.nz, the national website quakers.nz and our Face Book page @Nelson Quakers.

Here is one person's view of what could come after the end of the war on Gaza. The editor is not advocating it, since that is for the parties to determine:

<https://wagingnonviolence.org/2024/02/a-land-for-all-day-after-plan-progressives-can-get-behind/>

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

All Sundays: Meeting for Worship, 10am, Quaker Meeting House, 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.
