

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

May 2023

Spiritual Thought

In the olden days we knew each other as a community because we lived near one another and often had to depend on each other. Now we are an urban group from scattered areas often with little in common except the silence. Worship on its own is not enough. To know each other in the life eternal, we also need to know one another in 'practical' life. The query of how are you...what is important to you right now...what are your hopes and fears...are your finances ok...are bits we need to listen to. Also when have we had sheer fun together?

Myra Giese 1998 in Quaker Faith and Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand 2003

News of and for Friends

Gwen went to a family celebration of the 21st birthday of twin granddaughters in Auckland. Both granddaughters attend University - at Auckland and Canterbury- and have told her that the Bray Curtis method is being used by them or their classmates. Gwen's husband, Roger Bray, devised the method of statistically sampling populations so the populations could be compared as to which are more similar or dissimilar. Originally, this was used on stands of vegetation e.g. forests, prairies, savanas, but nowadays it is used sampling fish populations and in the instance cited by granddaughters, used in a biology lab and in nutrition comparing gut biome populations.

Clive and Margaret are finishing up the apple harvest, hoping to get the last fruit picked between rain events. We have all benefitted from crates of pears and apples which Clive brings to Meeting to share.

Christine is also processing the bounty of nature – her garden has provided abundant grapes and feijoas and is still producing tomatoes!

John and Anthea leave for Australia and the US on the 11th May, returning on the 3rd August. They will visit family in both countries.

ANZAC Day saw Friends take part in Peace vigils in Motueka, for the first time, and in Nelson on the Church Steps as we do each year. Several other members of the community joined us.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Tuesday 9th May Climate Equity at the Meeting House

John Michaelis is hosting a new group of the Climate Forum to talk about Climate Equity. Friends are welcome. The meeting will begin at 5pm and can be attended in person at 30 Nile St or by Zoom. Contact John john@michaelis.net for the link.

Sunday 14th May Top of the South Regional Meeting in Golden Bay

This meeting was postponed from 7th May due to adverse weather. Peni Connolly is hosting it and here are the details from her:

The Top of the South Meeting will be at my home (25 Nyhane Drive, Ligar Bay) at 10am on the 14th May. We will wind up at approximately 3 to 3.30pm. The Topic will be: What is spiritually meaningful in your life? The Topic is based on Section D.1. in Advices and Queries - Take time to learn about other people and their spiritual lives. Let your life speak. Do you use all opportunities for sharing, in a spirit of worship, what is spiritually meaningful in your life?

Format: Meeting for Worship 10am to 11am - early lunch - then a discussion in the spirit of Meeting for Worship for approx 1 hour on the above topic. Any queries, call Peni on 027 697 8018.

PS My house is easy to find - I have a Maori Sovereignty Flag flying high.

Wednesday May 17th 7pm – 9pm Quaker Meeting House: Webinar: The Limits of Degrowth by Rod Oram

In this session, Rod will examine the weaknesses of degrowth in particular; and offer some other ways humanity can re-establish its right relationship with the Living Earth.

A group will gather at the Meeting House to watch this on the big screen and discuss it afterward. Or you could follow it at home: ZOOM LINK

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82975895583?pwd=ZU1SMUU0RGtBSzBrTysrZTQ3ZXhZdz09>

Meeting ID: 829 7589 5583

Passcode: 199129

Invitation to join by Zoom: Meeting for Worship at Yearly Meeting Sunday 21 May 11:00 am to 12 noon

All Friends are invited to join in this semi-programmed Meeting for Worship, which is being held as part of Yearly Meeting. We realise that the time is later than most Worship Groups usually meet, and hope that arrangements may be made so that Friends and families can join by Zoom, either from their homes or as a Worship Group. We would like to encourage Worship Groups to join with

their children in the centre.

The theme for this Meeting has been inspired by the contributions for the discernment of Chapter 3 of "Quaker Faith and Practice in Aotearoa New Zealand". Please encourage your children to think about sharing experiences of the beauties of Sight, Touch, Hearing, Taste and Smell in nature and elsewhere. We could also encourage bringing examples of these into Meeting and passing them around. We can ponder "Is it possible to have similar feelings about getting dressed, doing the dishes, going to school?" and out of the silence share our thoughts.

Our younger members may struggle to sit in silence for a full hour so have a few things available for them to do like drawing or colouring in simple outlines of beauties of nature. Some of these could be collected to consider for inclusion in Quaker Faith and Practice. If we don't encourage our children to partake of the stillness of Meeting for Worship we lose a uniquely Quaker aspect of spiritual development.

Zoom Link : <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83075145015?pwd=eHgwVXp4RTRBbnFQaWp5aDB1V3hVdz09> Meeting ID: 830 7514 5015

Passcode: 254230

Yearly Meeting 19-22 May

It is still possible to register for Yearly Meeting to attend by Zoom. Further information and a link to the registration form is at

<https://quakers.nz/ymlac/events/yearly-meeting-2023>

Business Meeting 28th May

Our next Meeting for Worship for Business would usually be on the first Sunday of June. However, that will be a long weekend so we have chosen the previous Sunday 28th May. The Business Meeting will take place about 12 noon after Meetings for Worship and an early shared lunch. All welcome. Please let Clive know if you have any items for the agenda, which will be circulated a few days prior to the meeting.

News from Business Meeting

Premises:

After some excellent work from the Premises Committee obtaining quotes and liaising with electricians, the electrical work on the Meeting House is scheduled for Friday 12th May. Please stay away on that day as one of the jobs is to remove asbestos. The sub-committee appointed at the April Business Meeting may be contacted to advise about the work while it is in process.

Meetings for Learning in 2023:

Dates for Meetings for Learning on the topics of "Quaker Process", "What it is to be a Quaker in 2023", and "What the Embroidery Panels can tell us about our history" will be confirmed at Business Meeting.

Additions to NZ Faith and Practice:

Yearly Meeting is working on additions to *Aotearoa NZ Faith and Practice*. Peter, Rex, and John D are already meeting as a group of Nelson Friends to help with the additions but there is much more work to be done. If you are willing to be part of a small group, please let Christine know.

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 June letter to Elizabeth Dooley elizdooley@hotmail.com by the first Friday in June.

Wherever Glory Dwells Psalm 26:8

Saradha Koirala

I smile at the song you sing to the sky
for we are all in awe of this, the same
miracle: life. We hum praises in a
tabernacle, or observe light through
telescopes, through microscopes through our own
silent self reflection. Well worth the praise,
of course, the inspection, respect and con-
stant veneration. Each hymn, each question
directed towards whom? To each other?
Or to some mystic being? Wondrous, great
invincible, omniscient, but still
in need of this assertion. Look inside,
it's you. I love this house, and in us swells,
the place where, oh, your glory dwells!

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.**

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).

Quakers and Climate Change:

Many Quakers worldwide view climate change as a peace and justice concern. They seek to transform the human activities which feed environmental crises unprecedented in human history, including the rate of species extinction, ocean acidification, soil erosion, chemical pollution, and the rate of rising global temperature. Many Quakers view these crises as symptoms of a broken relationship with the Earth. In turn, they seek to live with hope and love, to live more sustainably and fairly in cherishing Creation.

This website is a resource portal for Quakers to share their actions, and to inspire each other:

<https://quakersandclimatechange.com/>

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

All Sundays: Meeting for Worship, 8.45–9.30am, 30 Nile St Nelson

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.
