

NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

August 2021

Spiritual Thought

why some people be mad at me sometimes

they ask me to remember
but they want me to remember
their memories
and i keep on remembering
mine.

+ Lucille Clifton

Lucille Clifton (1936-2010) was one of the twentieth century's most prominent African-American poets, and her often brief, spare poems are packed with power and intimacy. She once remarked that "writing is a way of continuing to hope," and that "perhaps for me it is a way of remembering I am not alone."

This poem is at once a call to remember and a caution that what, who, and how we remember makes a world of difference. As we remember Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and nuclear testing in the Pacific and the sinking of the Rainbow Warrior, remembering can be a form of passivity — and it can be a form of action. It can be a form of lip-service — and it can be a form of rededication. It can be a form of "going along" with what the powers-that-be want us to remember — and it can be a form of fiercely insisting that a new world is possible.

NEVER AGAIN!

News of and for Friends

Elizabeth has been attacking the weeds and old man's beard growing in an untended section of her neighbourhood. She and neighbours have taken on this task to protect and preserve the native flora.

Jan is midway through her next novel. She has recently finished recording an audio book of her book on depression, which took many hours and was surprisingly tiring.

Marie is recovering well from her hip surgery and made it to her first post-operative peace vigil on Saturday.

Joanna has had her hip surgery finally after being delayed when someone else's medical emergency bumped her out of the queue. She is recovering at home.

Lizi has been making sure Joanna's needs are met now she is home.

John M finally made it back to New Zealand from Sydney last Monday. He was delayed there for many weeks by the closure of the travel bubble with Oz. He is currently in managed isolation and quarantine in Auckland and very grateful to be back.

Ann B (Motueka) is busy transforming a downstairs flat in the new home she has purchased with her daughter on Kina Peninsula. The bathroom and kitchen will be started soon. She will move into her new home at the end of August.

Rex is busy getting his garden / garden centre ready for a visit from the Brightwater Garden Club soon. He will be hosting a group of up to 80 visitors.

DIARY OF EVENTS:

Thursday August 12th 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: The Rainbow Warriors of Waiheke Island. Documentary Film reflecting back on the anti-nuclear protests in the Pacific in the 1980s, and the sinking of the Greenpeace ship. Rien Achtenberg, one of the crew, will introduce the film and answer question. Free. All welcome

Wednesday August 18th 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group. Venue and topic to be advised.

Sunday August 22nd, 1903, Square 1:30pm: March to Old St John's Hall in Hardy Street. **At 2.15pm:** Meeting to Remember 1981 Springbok Tour, with speaker John Minto. This event is to remember the Springbok tour and the protests 40 years ago. Perhaps more importantly it is to make the clear link between apartheid in South Africa and apartheid in Israel, and the boycotts that were called to end apartheid in South Africa and now the boycotts that are called for to end apartheid in Israel. Please bring a little cash for a koha & food. www.facebook.com/events/3929447933848325

Saturday August 28th, 2021, Mahi Tahī Colab A Block NMIT (Entrance off Hardy Street) 9.00am to 12.30pm:

Nelson Tasman Climate Forum Hui. More information below.

Register: <https://events.humanitix.com/nelson-tasman-climate-forum-august-hui>

Wednesday September 1st 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St. Nelson: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome, especially newcomers keen to learn more about Quakerism.

Wednesday September 8th 11am – 1pm NZST, online:
Exploring Spiritual Practices: meditation, Prayer, Presence.
Register here: <https://bhfh.org/> Beacon Hill Friends House

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 next newsletter to Elizabeth Dooley at elizdooley@hotmail.com. **The cut-off date for items for the September newsletter is Friday, September 4th, 2021.**

News from Business Meeting

Premises:

A **stick vacuum** has been purchased and is available in the Activities Room if you make a mess.

Pump Switch: Premises Committee will install a pump switch on the wall of the Guest Room so that it can be turned off at night when guests are in residence.

The Quaker Histories in Embroidery Project: The embroidery panels have been framed and James has installed spot lighting in the Activities Room to illuminate the panels. The artworks will be installed after Lizi has spoken to the local Embroiderers Guild about them. The Peace Poppies and pictures will then move into the Activities Room to leave the Meeting Room plain. A video of the making of the Embroideries starring Patricia is now available online at <http://www.quakers-in-nelson.org.nz/quaker-histories-in-embroidery/> Thanks to Peter Kemp for making the video.

An article about the Embroideries, Lizi and Patricia is in the *Threads* magazine April 2021 edition (Embroiderers Guild). The magazine is available in the libraries.

Telephone Tree: John L is to investigate creating a telephone tree for Friend's who would like to communicate that way, including in emergencies. You could let him know if this were something you would welcome.

On the parables of the mustard seed

Denise Levertov

Who ever saw the
mustard-plant,
wayside weed or tended
crop,
grow tall as a shrub, let
alone a tree, a treeful
of shade and nests and
songs?
Acres of yellow,
not a bird of the air in
sight.

No, He who knew
the west wind brings
the rain, the south wind
thunder, who walked the
field-paths
running His hand along
wheatstems to glean
those intimate milky
kernels, good
to break on the tongue,

was talking of miracle, the
seed
within us, so small
we take it for worthless, a
mustard-seed, dust,
nothing.
Glib generations mistake

the metaphor, not looking
at fields and trees,
not noticing paradox.
Mountains
remain unmoved.

Faith is rare, He must
have been saying,
prodigious, unique —
one infinitesimal grain
divided
like loaves and fishes,

as if from a mustard-seed
a great shade-tree
grew. That rare,
that strange: the kingdom

a tree. The soul
a bird. A great concourse
of birds
at home there, wings
among yellow flowers.
The waiting
kingdom of faith, the seed
waiting to be sown.

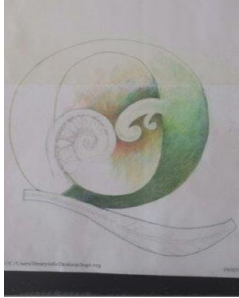
+ Denise Levertov



Hiroshima and Nagasaki Day Peace Vigil, Saturday 7th August, Church Steps, Nelson

We were blessed with sunny if breezy weather as 10 of us grouped ourselves around the Quakers for Peace banner on the Church Steps to commemorate the tremendous loss of life and destruction caused by the 2 atomic bombs dropped at the end of the second World War 76 years ago on the 6th and 9th of August. We imagined a like day in those cities, for them a mild, sunny day in late summer, bombers appearing overhead, and hell falling upon them. We were also mindful that although the Nuclear Weapon Ban Treaty is now in place, the 9

nuclear states have refused to sign it. Between them they have 13,000 nuclear weapons ready for use! In fact, only 55 countries have yet signed up to the Treaty. Christine had created leaflets which we gave out to passers by in Hardy Street. Most were glad to be reminded of this awful moment in history and the work still to be done to secure a nuclear weapons free world.



Meeting for Learning, Quentin Abrams, and Jan Marsh, Te Reo Māori – Essential for justice and equality in Aotearoa. Sunday July 4th:

Jan and Quentin engaged in conversation about their respective experience with the Reo. Quentin, who is from the UK, has a strong leading to preserve and extend the use of the Reo in Aotearoa, including among Quakers. He has been learning for many years and speaks only Reo on Saturdays. For Quentin language is a gateway to understanding fully the responsibilities we bear as a people committed to upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and to appreciating fully what the words in the Māori language version meant to the signatories and mean now.

Jan reminisced about growing up with a Pakeha dad who was a fluent speaker of te Reo Māori. Her regret is that she wasn't able also to learn the language as a child. She has taken academic course in it but feels unable to use it conversationally.

In the discussion afterwards we agreed to see if there is anyway to learn the language as a Quaker group. Our Friend Paula offered to approach a friend who is a Te Atarangi teacher. At our Home Discussion Group on July 18th, we discussed the question: "What is my responsibility to Te Tiriti o Waitangi? Is learning Te Reo Māori a contribution?" As a result of the discussion 11 Friends have agreed to join a Te Reo Māori class if one can be arranged for us. We await news from the Te Atarangi group with excitement!

Nelson Tasman Climate Forum August 28th Hui 9am – 12.30pm: everybody is welcome. Register today!

Location: Mahi Tahi CoLab A Block NMIT (Entrance on Hardy Street)
View map [here](#) .

We are excited to say that our August hui is going to be a bit different and dynamic this time round not least because we get to hold it in the exciting new venue, The Mahi Tahi Colab. We also look forward to hearing some entertaining and engaging new content during:

Celebrations of Success
Youth Spot

Arts Spot

The Science Spot will be bringing us up to speed on the latest climate science and of course we have a delicious shared morning tea to look forward to.

Scheduled activities: [Measure Your Household Carbon Footprint](#) with Lindsay Wood and [Formulate a Household Climate Action Plan](#)

On-line resources: apart from our own website: quakers-in-nelson.org.nz and our Facebook page: Quakers in Nelson, and the national website quakers.nz

Read a blog by **Stuart Masters** entitled "**James Naylor's political theology, the sword, separation and non-violence**". Dealing with Government and the State in early Quakerism.

<http://aquakerstew.blogspot.com/2020/01/government-and-state-in-early-quakerism.html>

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

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

Second Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Third Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm

Fourth Week of the Month: Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 10.00–11.00am

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