

# NELSON RECOGNISED MEETING NEWSLETTER

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

January / February 2022

## Spiritual Thought

Our life is love and peace and tenderness; and bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against the other; but praying one for another and helping one another up with a tender hand. **Isaac Pennington, 1667**

## News of and for Friends

### Gwen's Birthday Party

Saturday 12 February was Gwen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday and her daughters arranged a party at Fairfield House. It was a wonderful experience. Gwen has been involved with Fairfield House



for decades and talked of the history of the renovation and the remarkable man whose determination made it happen, Alan Stanton, who wrote "Anything is Possible: The Resurrection of Fairfield House" (a copy of which is now in our library). Gwen's guests represented so many of the causes Gwen cares about it was a privilege to meet them. Banners from many demonstrations and peace marches were erected all around the house. We were spellbound listening to the reminiscences. But of course, Gwen was there to dance, and dance she did, while Jazz music wound its way around the house and through the trees. A fellow-guest turned to me at one stage

and said, "I hope I live long enough to attend Gwen's 100<sup>th</sup>". Here are some photos from a most joyful experience:





### **Christmas Shared Lunch**

A shared lunch was held in the garden at the Meeting House after our last Meeting of 2021.

### **Waitangi Day**

As Waitangi Day fell on a Sunday, Kataraina prepared a karakia to begin the 9.00 Meeting for Worship and led us all in a Waiata to close our meeting. It made for a very special Waitangi Day for those present. Kia ora Kataraina.

### **DIARY OF EVENTS:**

Wednesday February 16<sup>th</sup> 7pm – 9pm: Home Discussion Group. Raewyn's place, topic: Early Quaker writings – what have we lost? All welcome. No vaccine pass required.

Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> 7pm Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St.: Becoming Friends, sharing spiritual journeys. All welcome. No vaccine pass required. Raewyn is now convenor for this group.

Sunday March 6<sup>th</sup> 12.00pm, Quaker Meeting House 30 Nile St.: Meeting for Learning on Sustainability. All welcome. Vaccine pass required, Zoom participation. Contact John M for link.

Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> 10am Decks Reserve Motueka: Monthly Motueka Meeting for Worship. All welcome.

Sunday March 13<sup>th</sup> 12.30pm, Rabbit Island: Summer Social. Exact location to be advised. All welcome. No vaccine pass required. Feel free to ring Elizabeth Dooley 0212130719 or 03 7770080 for further information.

## 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 to Christine at [c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz](mailto:c.gillespie@xtra.co.nz). [The cut-off date for items for the March newsletter is Friday, March 4th, 2022.](#)

## News from Business Meeting

### Meeting Roles:

Meeting for business was held on Sunday 13 February and Minutes have been distributed. One of the main items was finding people to fill the Meeting roles and a Nominations Committee was selected – Jan Marsh, Christine Gillespie and Lizi McLeod Taepa. Below is a list of the various roles and in some cases, people have put their names forward, but it would be good to see new volunteers in these roles so if you would like to volunteer or find out more about the roles, please contact Jan, Christine or Lizi.

**Accommodation Team**

**Booking**

**Laundry**

**Children's Team**



**Clerk**

**Assistant Clerk/Recorder**

**Contact Person** (point of contact for visitors or local non-Quakers)

**Library Team**

**Mail and email distribution**

**Provedore**

**Newsletter Team**

**Outreach Team**

**Social Testimony Committee**

Remember, if you take up a role and find it 'doesn't fit' you can arrange to lay it down again. The important thing lies in being of service to other Friends.

**Next Business Meeting:** Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2022 in person and by Zoom.

"Dust if you must"

By Rose Milligan

Dust if you must, but wouldn't it be better

To paint a picture, or write a letter,  
Bake a cake, or plant a seed;  
Ponder the difference between  
want and need?

Dust if you must, but there's not  
much time,  
With rivers to swim, and mountains  
to climb;  
Music to hear, and books to read;  
Friends to cherish, and life to lead.

Dust if you must, but the world's out  
there

With the sun in your eyes, and the  
wind in your hair;  
A flutter of snow, a shower of rain,  
This day will not come around again.

Dust if you must, but bear in mind,  
Old age will come and it's not kind.  
And when you go (and go you must)  
You, yourself, will make more dust.

Especially for Gwen who doesn't like  
disturbing spiders

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## Quakers Aotearoa 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 database is the safest, most secure database in New Zealand. If you

don't want to make your entry yourself, Elizabeth will do it for you, but please consider the poor administrators trying to make sure everyone is informed and consulted and add your phone number.

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

**Every Sunday: Meeting for Worship, 9.00–10.00am, vaccine pass required**  
**Meeting for Worship, 10.30am – 11.30am No vaccine pass required**

**First Week of the Month: Wednesday: Becoming Friends, 7.00 pm – 8.45pm**  
**(Alternate Even Months) Sunday: Business Meeting 12.00 pm**

**Second Sunday of the month: Meeting for Worship, Motueka, 10.00am**

**Third Week of the Month: Wednesday: Home Discussions, 7.00 pm – 9.00pm**

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