

# Quakers

The Religious Society of Friends - Aotearoa/New Zealand

*Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri*

Yearly Meeting of Aotearoa/New Zealand

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Aotearoa/New Zealand

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For June Monthly Meeting 2011

Kia Ora

What a joy it was to look on your faces during Yearly Meeting. Thank you to all those who held Yearly Meeting in the Light and to those at Yearly Meeting for holding the spirit of worship.

In Love and Peace

Claire Gregory and Linley Gregory

Co-Clerks YM of ANZ

## 1) Yearly Meeting

### This year's

Hopefully the minutes will be with your meetings before the end of June.

We plan to send each worship group a copy of Gold Papers if no-one from that group attended Yearly Meeting.

### Next year's

Please put into your calendar now Yearly Meeting at Totara Springs, Matatmata

**May 11 – 14, 2012.**

## Matters for Decision

Please minute your responses.

## 2) Nominations Committee

(Please also send minutes re nominations to [nomcomclerk@quaker.org.nz](mailto:nomcomclerk@quaker.org.nz))

## Part 1

We have nominations for the following positions  
i) SHSA (Sexual Harassment Sexual Abuse) committee

Mairi Jay is undertaking a period of discernment in becoming a settler at the Quaker Settlement. She has been an attender of the Waikato-Hauraki MM since 1998. She has recently retired from the position of Senior Lecturer in environmental planning at the University of Waikato.

## Part 2

Names are sought for the following positions  
(Each MM has a file of YM Job Descriptions.)

i) YM representative on AVPA (Alternative to Violence Project Aotearoa):

A Friend for this position is sought.

ii). Handbook Revision Committee:

We need 2 more people for this Committee.

iii). Quaker Investment Ethical Trust (QIET):

There is still room for 2 more Trustees.

iv) Yearly Meeting and Summer Gathering Coordinating Committee

We need at least 1 more person for this Committee.

v) YM Clerk(s) from YM 2012.

This position needs to be filled before YM 2012. Please be open to a leading to serve the Religious Society of Friends in this capacity.

## 3) Quaker Lecture

At Yearly Meeting 2009 we minuted that we would "have a three lecture series. After this the

situation will be reviewed and decisions made regarding continuation". Now is that time.

From David Elms on behalf of the Lecture Committee:-

Should the Quaker Lecture continue as an annual lecture?

In responding to this question, MMs might care to consider:

1. In what way did the first three lectures go to fulfilling the original vision? (Note 1)
2. To what extent do they suggest that the concept has enough validity to be continued?
3. What grounds might they give Friends for abandoning the lecture or amending the vision underlying it?
4. Is this the best use of Quaker resources in money and people? (Note 2)
5. How could practical considerations e.g. publicity/format of the lecture be adjusted in order to make it more effective? (Note 3)
6. If there were to be changes to the original vision, what might they be?
7. What information is available on attendance, costs and audience response? (Note 4)

Notes: The Lecture Committee comments as follows:

1. The original vision was, in essence, to provide a means by which Friends could influence thought and action in Aotearoa New Zealand on matters of social and spiritual concern, aligned with our testimonies and concerns. Many Friends are involved in such matters on an individual basis, but collectively we have not been particularly active. We do not have the profile of, say, the Salvation Army or the City Missions. Partly this is because we are few in number. The Lecture is a means by which we can, as one Friend put it, "punch above our weight". Remember also that it was never expected that the Lecture would have a strong influence initially. Rather, it was hoped that as a series, the Lectures would grow in influence as people – the public, the Government or whoever – came to expect substantial discussions and suggestions. In a sense, it would be speaking

truth to power. And even though secondary to the main aim, an important spin-off would be outreach.

2. As to money, see below on costs and how they are distributed. As to people, those currently involved, the members of the Lecture Committee, are strongly supportive of the aims of the lecture, and all members have said they would like to continue on the Committee to work towards a Quaker Lecture in 2012, should Yearly Meeting allow it.

3. We need to reach more people to increase our effectiveness. This year we have had some very helpful ideas from the Committee on the Media, and we are working with the Web Manager and the CoM to get effective material on the Quaker website. However, there is more that could be done in this direction.

4. As to attendance, the first two Quaker Lectures were presented in a number of locations beyond the initial lectures at the time of Yearly Meeting. Some were put on by local Monthly Meetings, and others were sponsored by other groups who invited the lecturer on their own behalf. We were happy to see this development. Bill Willmott's lecture, *The Kiwi Dragon*, was presented six times. Attendance at the initial presentation in Wellington was about 250, while lectures presented in Dunedin and Christchurch had attendances of about 40 and 50 respectively. Kevin Clements' lecture *Honouring the Other* was presented a number of times – see Documents in Advance for details – with a total attendance of more than 800 people. (Attendance at Tony Taylor's 2011 lecture during YM was approximately 160.)

The printed versions of the lectures have been widely distributed, mainly in New Zealand but also in Australia and the UK. To date (sales are still ongoing) about 240 copies of the first lecture have been sold and 180 of the second. Beyond that, free copies were given to university libraries and public libraries throughout New Zealand, and in addition to high school libraries in the case of *The Kiwi Dragon*.

Costs are distributed in three ways. The cost of the initial lecture has been covered by

Yearly Meeting, the costs of printing and distribution of the hard copy versions have aimed at breaking even on sales, that is, with no net cost, and individual Monthly Meetings and other groups have paid for additional presentations of the lectures.

Specifically:

(a) *Yearly Meeting Costs*: The cost to Yearly Meeting of the Wellington lecture was \$6976.81 – an unexpectedly high figure arising mainly because the original venue booking was cancelled by Victoria University of Wellington and it was necessary to move to the far more expensive Ilott Theatre. We do not know the cost of the Dunedin presentation but have assumed it was effectively zero due to joint sponsorship by the university-based Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies. We do not yet know what the cost at Whanganui will be. There is obviously considerable variation (Should we have supper? Are fares needed?), but based on the Christchurch experience (see (c) below) the annual cost to Yearly Meeting should be in the range \$500 to \$1000.

(b) *Printing and Publication*: This has been underwritten by Christchurch Monthly Meeting with the aim of breaking even. Thus there is no cost to Yearly Meeting with the present arrangement. The cost of printing, publication and distribution for *The Kiwi Dragon* was \$2582 and sales to date have been \$2443, leaving a deficit of \$138. The PP & D cost for *Honouring the Other* was \$1356 while sales have brought in \$1059, leaving a deficit of \$297 to date. The P & P cost for the 2011 Quaker Lecture is \$2027.29.

(c) *Costs of other lecture presentations*: We simply do not know the total cost here. It was often incurred by other groups. As an indication, though, Christchurch Monthly Meeting hired the Christchurch Art Gallery for Bill Willmott and Kevin Clements to present their lectures in 2009 and 2010. The total costs for these were \$459 and \$673.20 respectively, the latter including Kevin's return air fare from Dunedin.

#### **4) Investment for Strong Sustainability**

From Bay of Plenty Auckland Monthly Meeting (BOPA MM):-

In June 2010, Robert Howell brought to BOPA MM his concern that “strong sustainability” should be an absolute requirement for investment by all Quaker bodies, both in Aotearoa New Zealand and internationally. In other words, whatever other ethical features an investment may have, Quaker funds should not go to it unless it also contributes to the health and resilience of the Earth. Robert's concern was tested by a clearness committee and the BOPA MM has appointed a group to support him.

Following a report from this Investment Concern Group, the MM has minuted (Minute 4, April MM) to ask our YM through YM Clerks' Letter to consider giving its support to Robert's concern. We believe that his concern is both timely and necessary. Right ordering of our money and investments is a long-standing matter for Quakers, going right back to our early beginnings in England.

Some overseas Friends in Britain and USA have responded very positively to an article by Robert that has been published in *Friends Quarterly*. The issue is both local and international, and Robert is pursuing it internationally by correspondence and by meetings linked with his journeys to the Quaker UN Committee for Geneva.

The purpose of seeking YM support is twofold. Friends overseas would regard such support as an indication that Robert is acting from a concern which is recognized by his own Friends' community. And for Robert to pursue his concern as fully as he would wish would require funding for project expenses and for some living expenses so that he can be released for this service. Overseas sources of Quaker funds which might assist would perhaps expect that some seed funding should also come from his YM. BOPA MM has agreed to support this concern with \$5000. We ask YM to consider a similar sum. These sums would serve as that seeding funding. The elements of Robert's concern pertaining to Aotearoa New Zealand Quaker Investments have been accepted for further action by BOPA MM.

## 5) AVP in Guatemala

In part Waikato Hauraki MM minuted:-

We heard the application from Saskia Schuitemaker and Val Liveoak regarding support for their AVP work in Guatemala. We understand the needs of this project and agree to donate \$1000 this year. However, we would like to see this as a New Zealand wide Quaker project.

WH MM has agreed to contributing \$1,000 for this year to set up a scholarship fund for participants that do not have other resources. WH MM hope YM will agree to pay similar amounts for successive years.

From Saskia:

I am a spiritually led full time volunteer with Friends Peace Teams initiative "Peacebuilding *en las Americas*", as Guatemala co-ordinator expanding and developing AVP with the aim of sustainability. I have made a commitment to work with FPT for 2 years, and I anticipate extending this for 2 years, as I wish to work here until AVP is established and sustainable in Guatemala. For the next 2 years my focus will be on developing a strong well trained pool of facilitators who are available to travel and facilitate workshops nationally. I anticipate organizing and facilitating an average of one workshop per month for the coming year. I also intend working to develop AVP Latin America infrastructure (network, website) and improve the quality of the manuals. In 2011 I will lead / coordinate the translation and adaptation of AVP youth manual, and consider AVP for children, in response to the great need that people identify to work with young people as well as with adults. I work closely with the AVP regional co-ordinator Val Liveoak.

Guatemala has been identified as one of the most violent societies in Latin America. Youth gangs, involve crimes including extortion, drug trafficking, are a major problem. Guatemala has a high percentage of people living in poverty and extreme poverty - the second highest in Latin America next to Haiti. Opportunities for education are inaccessible for many and in general the quality of education is low. Rural communities are very marginalized through lack of infrastructure. Sixty percent of the population lives rurally.

During the past year, since June 2010 I have facilitated the following workshops:

1 basic in Honduras, 4 basic workshops Guatemala, taster workshop, trauma healing workshop. 2 advanced workshops (1 basic and 1 advanced with CEDEPCA). I trained as a Trauma Healing workshop facilitator (costs covered by QPSANZ) and cofacilitated a Trauma Healing workshop in Guatemala with CEDEPCA.

I have 4 workshops planned for June, July, August 2011. Scholarships cover the workshop fee, travel and accommodation, to enable people on subsistence incomes to attend the workshops. I am on the AVP International Gathering organising committee for the Gathering in 2-8 October 2011, and am taking a major role in local logistics, visas and general co-ordination. My hope is that this focus will strengthen AVP in Latin America and Guatemala.

## **M a t t e r s   f o r   M e e t i n g s decisions/actions/consideration**

### **6) Quaker Lecture**

Copies of the Quaker Lecture 'Changing the Prison System' are available from Quaker Book Sales at \$12.00, postage included.

### **7) YM Budget**

Can YM Committees please let Murray Short, the YM Treasurer, [ymtreasurer@quaker.org.nz](mailto:ymtreasurer@quaker.org.nz) know what is required in next year's budget for your committee. If Monthly Meetings have suggestions let Murray know. Please do this by the end of June.

### **Matters decided via YM Clerks letter**

Any in this category are in the Standing Committee minutes which are appended to the Yearly Meeting minutes.

### **Matters for Information/Action**

#### **8) Money for Japan YM**

If you are wishing to contribute towards a donation for Japanese Friends in the wake of the earthquake, etc please send your contribution to the YM Treasurer, Murray Short before the end of June.

**Also included in the envelopes for MMs or worship groups:-**

- = At YM a copy of 'Common Good' was given out to MMs
- = Worship Groups who did not have someone at YM have a copy of Gold Papers
- = PMA report to YM
- = Asia West Pacific Section Handbook

**Dates**

**June 19** YM Clerks will be putting together the letter for July Monthly Meeting.