

Quakers and Climate seminar 19 – 21 July 2024

Purpose: This seminar provides opportunities for conversation, contemplation and connection as Quakers, to help inform and encourage our climate action and environmental engagement. It's a highly participatory weekend, enabling us to share our knowledge, experience, questions and creativity. Together we will seek to learn, support and inspire one another around how we bring our spiritual gifts to individually and/or collectively care for our common home.

Process: While the seminar will be based at the Settlement, we are also open to Quaker communities across the motu participating in their own ways over the weekend from a distance, with a few seminar sessions being available online: Friday evening, 7 – 8.30 pm, the panel discussion on Saturday 11.30 – 12.30 pm and the Sunday morning final session 11 - 12.30 pm. These timings will be confirmed along with further detailed information about the process once we know how many want to take part online. To support our preparation around your interests, **please register by June 14th.**

Preparation: To get the most out of the weekend, we encourage you to review this programme, explore the links, and reflect on what you would most like to get out of this seminar. We warmly invite you to think about what you would like to share with the group - particular questions, resources, issues, opportunities, skills, activities.

If you are short of time, then a key priority would be exploring the Active Hope website: where you can get an overview of this book that has informed our weekend process: <https://www.activehope.info/book-contents> and find videos and other resources.

Programme Outline:

You are welcome to arrive anytime in the afternoon to walk in the gardens, relax in the library and to settle in before dinner at 6 pm.

Friday evening: 7- 8.30 pm Welcome, introductions, activities that introduce *Active Hope* and the *Spiral of Work that Reconnects* that underpin our seminar design and enable us to share what we each would like to offer and receive this weekend.

Saturday morning: Meeting for Worship. Drawing on our community strengths to imagine a different future and look at strategies that can help us get there.

What's the part we want to play in living and enabling a transition to a different future? Participants to identify issues/opportunities that we care deeply about as the basis for forming small groups that will continue, using [Open Space](#) process, into the afternoon, and potentially for the rest of the seminar.

11.30 am – 12.30 pm: Panel conversation with three changemakers about their vision for 2050, the priorities/strategies they focus on and what they are learning about how we effectively work for change:

- John Michaelis (Nelson Climate Forum)

- Cathy Breed (Climate Club)
- Dr Mike Joy (international science communicator and freshwater ecologist)

Saturday afternoon: Digging deeper into strategies that can amplify our sphere of influence around the future we want to be part of growing. Small group time to explore *Why? What? How? Our role?* around issues/opportunities of common interest.

An option to visit Piwakawaka Farm to hear about how they developed their vision for the [Learning Environment](#) and experiencing what they are now doing on the land. Pot up some native seedlings in their nursery. Join in conversation around how their journey might inform ours.

Saturday evening: This will be a flexible time to have fun, share music, play games, watch a video/ resource someone has brought, sit and talk - whatever feels right. Send us any ideas you have about how you would like to share this time and any resources needed to make it happen. We will wait till the weekend to work out the details.

Sunday morning: Meeting for Worship. Debrief and sharing: where to next?

Small group time to clarify what, if anything, you are committing to/asking of each other

Full group sharing of what you can now see is possible, what you are going away with, what support you might need, sharing any final inspirations.

Lunch and depart or maybe stay on a little longer?

You are welcome to stay a night before the seminar (Thursday 18th) and/ or the night after the seminar (Sunday 21st) at no extra cost. You would be responsible for your own meals at this time. Please contact Marion if you would like to take up this option.

Further programme details will be available, with more specific details and timeframes for all participants, including those joining online by late June.

Contact details:

Registration queries: marionbsanson@gmail.com

Programme queries; ideas for Saturday evening; issues/opportunities you would like to collaborate with others in the small groups: margyjean.malcolm@gmail.com

A few further resources: and of course there are heaps more every month from Philippa our Climate Correspondent and out there in the wider world! 😊

Finnegan, Lynn (2022) [Embodiment of the Quaker testimonies in service of a living planet: the challenge of asking beautiful questions](#), Public Lecture for Ireland Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), Belfast. This is an inspiring talk which can deepen our questions about how we show up as Quakers in this environmental/eco-justice movement and the spiritual gifts we can bring:

<https://quakersireland.files.wordpress.com/2022/08/iym-2022-public-lecture-lynn-finnegan.pdf> A recording is [here](#)

https://quakersireland.files.wordpress.com/2022/08/gmt20220812-180729_recording_640x360.mp4

Jahren, Hope (2020) *The story of more: how we got to climate change and where to go from here*. New York, Vintage Books - beautifully written, simple and inspiring. Friends provide a review at <https://www.friendsjournal.org/book/the-story-of-more-how-we-got-to-climate-change-and-where-to-go-from-here/>

Merz, Barnard and Sutherland, et. al., 2023, *World scientists' warning: The behavioural crisis driving ecological overshoot*, Science Progress Volume 106, Issue 3, July-September 2023 <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/00368504231201372>

Ministry for the Environment (2024) [Briefing for the Incoming Ministers](#)

Quaker United Nations Office (2024) *Governments need to urgently and equitably transform root causes driving rising temperature:*
<https://quno.org/timeline/2024/1/governments-need-urgently-and-equitably-transform-root-causes-driving-rising>

Take the Jump Website (N.D) *Less Stuff More Joy: helping individuals across local communities try seven lifestyle shifts to protect our earth and live with joy.*
<https://www.takethejump.org.nz/>