

Connecting with our Children through Nature

The Quaker Settlement Whanganui

21-23 January 2022



Starting with a shared meal on Friday at 6pm and ending with lunch on Sunday

Facilitated by Cathy Macfie and Jos Rossell with the Children and Young People's Support Committee.

A Family Weekend and some!

For families and those interested in enriching children's programmes around Aotearoa/NZ to build connections both with one another and with Nature. Drawing on the *Engaging our Young People* project, we will explore a toolbox of ideas, and, above all, have fun! Come and help us develop the Toolbox. There will be All Ages Meeting for Worship.

The weekend will have something for grandparents, uncles, aunts, JYFs and YFs, people on committees; wherever you give a hand.

If you've not visited the Settlement, you'll want to experience the Food Forest, the Garden of Peace, the Swimming Pool, Widge's sprinting track, meet the chooks and the sheep, help water young plants, worship in a quiet place out of doors.

What to bring

Bring your ideas and, if possible, resources for activities and experiences that children have enjoyed!

The nature awareness activities will be outside as much as possible, so please come prepared for any weather! Sunhat and sunblock will hopefully be needed, also sturdy footwear and old clothes will be an advantage.

Those attending who are over 12 years of age, need to bring their Covid Vaccine Pass.

Send any queries about the programme to josphil@orcon.net.nz

Registration Form

Connecting with our Children Through Nature

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Transport:

Arriving: Day _____ Time _____

I can offer ____ seat(s) in my/our car OR

Please collect me/us from:

Intercity Bus Depot Whanganui Airport

(Note: we will only collect out-of-towners from Whanganui arrival points)

Catering:

Simple wholesome vegetarian fare.

Gluten free catered for if indicated here:

Adults may claim QEF funding to cover half of your Settlement costs. Primary and secondary school children's Settlement costs are fully funded by QEF.

Full costs are shown here:

Accommodation and Total Costs (including registration and food) Tick choice please

Units

Made up beds and towels provided \$178

Sleeping House

Bring sleeping bag, pillowslip and towel \$142

Camping (caravan/tent) \$124/118

Living out \$110

To Register

Either, Online via www.quakersettlement.co.nz

Or email: marionbsanson@gmail.com with all details requested on the above form.

Bank account details for payment:

"Friends' Settlement Seminar Account"

03 0791 0450066 00. Last date to register: 14 January. We appreciate early registrations.

What to expect

This weekend has been inspired by the *Engaging our Young People* project. To complete its first stage, Meghan Stewart-Ward has reported how we as a Quaker community can enhance and improve our engagement with children and young people to better serve the needs of both them and their families and to include their gifts in the life of our community.

We aim to take her report a step further by exploring opportunities for a toolbox of ideas and initiatives. We will do this through the participation of families, children, young people and those who already enrich children's programmes around Aotearoa/NZ. We will try different styles of Meeting for Worship (with children), share ideas and, above all, have fun!

One potentially valuable part of the toolbox will feature activities that bring us closer to nature, by using our senses to heighten awareness. They start by awakening enthusiasm; then bringing into focus things we might not otherwise notice. Through first-hand experience, the activities lead us towards a deeper enjoyment of Nature and our place in it. Previous participants (from 5 years upwards) have found this programme both enjoyable and uplifting.

The *Engaging our Young People Report* is available at <https://quakers.nz/sites/default/files/documents/Engaqing%20our%20Young%20People%20Report%20-%20August%202021.pdf> or <https://quakers.nz/engaqe-whakauru/children-and-young-peoples-support-committee>

and your Worship Group will have a copy.

Quote from the Report -
"The silence of Quaker Meetings out of which ministry comes can be particularly difficult for Quaker parents to navigate" How can we make it less difficult?

