

# Quakers

The Religious Society of Friends - Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri  
Aotearoa/New Zealand

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1 July 2016

Deborah Rowlands  
Clerk  
Britain Yearly Meeting  
The Religious Society of Friends  
Friends House  
173 Euston Road  
London NW1 2BJ

Dear Deborah

## **FUNDRAISING FOR FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE, WELLINGTON**



Our Wellington Monthly Meeting has recently embarked on a project to strengthen their Meeting House in order to reduce the risks of damage and injury in the event of an earthquake. A major fundraising effort is underway and this letter is an invitation to Friends to contribute. It would be appreciated if you could bring the invitation to the attention of Friends in Britain.

The Meeting House was built in 1929 and is listed under the *Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga Act 2014* as a building of "...historical or cultural significance or value." The building's heritage status makes it unique in Aotearoa/New Zealand, for Quakers and non-Quakers alike, and maintains continuity with our past and those that went before us. We are indebted to the energy of British Friends and the Australasian Committee of Britain Yearly

Yearly Meeting Clerk  
C/o 11 Cassley Crescent, Papakowhai, Porirua 5024, NEW ZEALAND  
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Meeting of the time, who persuaded Wellington Friends that New Zealand's capital city needed a Quaker Meeting House.

The strengthening project was initiated when Wellington City Council assessed the Meeting House as an earthquake prone building in 2012. This meant that the building was required by law to be strengthened within 15 years.

Wellington is known for being in a high earthquake risk region and Friends feel a sense of urgency to provide a safe place for worship and for community groups that use the facilities. The decision to proceed was made after several years of collective discernment and exploring all options, including the possibility of selling the property. The strengthening work started in March 2016.

The project will cost NZ\$505,000 and Wellington Friends so far, have saved, benefited from a substantial bequest, and secured small grants. Over half of the amount needed has now been raised and a loan of \$200,000 has been secured for the balance. The fundraising effort aims to repay this loan.

We invite Friends in Britain to support the stewardship of this building for our immediate community, those who regularly visit and for those who are to come. Donations large or small are very welcome and can be made in monthly payments or lump sums.

Yours in Peace and Friendship



Murray Short  
Yearly Meeting Clerk

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Personal cheques or bank drafts are acceptable payment methods provided they are for less than GBP£7,000.

Cheques (in GBP) or bank drafts (in NZD) need to be written in favour of "Wellington Monthly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends" and can be mailed to:

The Treasurer  
Religious Society of Friends  
7 Moncrieff Street  
Mt Victoria  
Wellington 6011  
NEW ZEALAND

To make larger payments by telegraphic transfer, then please email the treasurer at his work address, [nick.wright@kiwibank.co.nz](mailto:nick.wright@kiwibank.co.nz) for further details.

Please have "Quaker Meeting House" in the subject line.