

Candlelight vigil marks outbreak of war

A small group of Waiheke Quakers and supporters marked the centenary of the outbreak of World War One with a candlelight vigil outside the Ostend War Memorial on Monday evening.

Event organiser Erica Hailstone said the silent vigil's aim was peace.

"To honour their sacrifice, let us renounce all violence."

Quakers are known for their pacifist beliefs and many were conscientious objectors during the First World War, a position which often led to social ostracism, court martials, imprisonment and sometimes, death.

On 28 June 1914 Archduke Franz Fer-

dinand, heir to the throne of the Austro-Hungarian Empire, and his wife Sophie were assassinated in the Bosnian city of Sarajevo, triggering one of the bloodiest events in known history.

The war claimed the lives of 18,500 New Zealanders and wounded more than 40,000 from a population of just over one million. More than 2700 died at Gallipoli and almost 12,500 on the Western Front in France and Belgium.

The Waiheke Quakers worship every second Sunday of the month at 10.30am at Friends House, 70 Palm Road, Palm Beach, with all welcome. •

Julianne Evans



A group of Waiheke Quakers held a candlelight vigil for peace to mark the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War on Monday night.