

*Imprisoned for pacifism*

# Archibald Charles Barrington

**b. 8 May 1906**

**d. 4 March 1986**

In 1940 Barrington made a tour of the North Island, speaking outdoors in parks and reserves. His anti-war message was not always well received: returned soldiers marched him out of Stratford, Te Kūiti and Tauranga; tomatoes were thrown at him at Stratford and eggs in New Plymouth. He was arrested, convicted and fined in Wanganui, Auckland and Gisborne for his anti-war writings and speeches.

By 1941 even advertisements for pacifist meetings were prohibited. Barrington, undeterred, spoke two sentences at Wellington's Pigeon Park and was arrested, along with several others who had attempted to speak. He was sentenced to a year's imprisonment at Mt Crawford with hard labour.



*Member of the Christian  
Pacifist Society  
Secret diarist of prison  
life at Mt Crawford*

***Conditions in the prison were fairly primitive, but I couldn't call it producing suffering in any way. We were deprived of our families... but it was certainly not real hardship, except of course that you were locked in your cells for 17 hours out of the 24... it was only the fact that you weren't able to carry on your work.***

After the war, Barrington and his wife Jan and their children joined the Riverside Christian pacifist Community in Motueka, where they settled into the shared life and work of Riverside. Jan cared for the children and attended to the constant stream of visitors to the household, which Archibald (known as Barry) assisted in managing the community's finances, and worked on the farm – pruning and planting apple and pear trees, tending the animals, grubbing gorse, and driving horses, wagons, trucks and tractors.

Barrington was undeterred by criticism and hostility. For three successive weeks in Nelson in July 1949, when speaking alongside other Riverside members against compulsory military training, he was verbally abused by an angry crowd, and on one occasion physically manhandled. In the early 1950s he and two others made three tours of the South Island with a 'peace caravan' (the community car covered with posters), travelling thousands of miles and speaking out against racial discrimination and war.