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Yearly Meeting Epistles

To Friends everywhere — Nina Marni

Australian Friends gathered at Westminster School, Marion, in South Australia for Yearly Meeting 2010. In our opening session, we experienced Kumangka ngadlu kumanendi (Together we become one) a sharing ceremony with the Kaurna (pronounced Garna) people. During part of the ceremony branches of eucalypt leaves were held and passed in silence among all those present. For the Kaurna people their natural connection with the land and each other and their innate respect for land and life involves deep trust, deep closeness, deep dependence and oneness with the land and the earth. These traditional connecting ways offer a path for healing between all peoples and the healing of the earth. The ceremony culminated in an exchange of gifts, of dance and music composed specially for the occasion.

Choosing life, living differently, we dare to hope

This year’s Summer School theme became a connecting thread for Yearly Meeting, from the cool quiet of early morning Meeting for Worship, to the larger gathering for Meeting for Worship, often punctuated by the sound of hammering and of ripping roof iron. The business of the Society has been conducted in lively Preparatory and Formal Sessions. Share and Tell opportunities enabled friends to share a diverse range of topics from Earthcare to war tax resistors. Epilogue each evening was interpreted by a different Regional Meeting, and one evening concluded with lively folk dancing. Our days have been full with silence and ministry, fun and laughter, enthusiasm and hope.

Young Friends gave a dramatic and unique presentation of the Backhouse Lecture: ‘Finding Our Voice: Our truth, community and journey as Australian Young Friends’. Speaking from and returning to the silence, Young Friends shared their story. The gathered meeting responded eagerly, and at one stage, we were invited by our Young Friends to dance in the aisles! The ‘elephant in the room’, or rather the elephant on the stage throughout the performance, represented those difficult and often unstated questions that during the evening were dealt with in creative, fun and honest ways.

The State of the Society address was eloquently delivered by Elizabeth Kwan from Darwin and drew our attention to five key areas; Caring for the earth; Placing children and Junior Young Friends at the centre of our Quaker communities; Involving smaller meetings in the wider Quaker community; Acknowledging and resolving conflict within the Quaker community; Developing the Australian Quaker Centre.

Children enriched our gathering with their active and lively presence, joining us in meeting and sharing our responsibilities. In the babies who charmed us with their playful innocence, we could see the responsible and confident young adults of the future.

Our Earthcare Committee continues its work, reflecting the commitment of Australian Friends to take urgent action in our daily lives that will contribute to the saving of our planet.

‘We dared to hope’, and now in 2010 there will be an Australian Quaker Centre program at Silver Wattle.

After a long and sometimes acrimonious journey over 35 years, we agreed to practise full marriage equality regardless of the sexual orientation or gender of the couple, within Meetings around Australia. Friends expressed their hope that the Marriage Act will be amended as soon as possible to allow Quakers to support all couples to full legal recognition.
Key committees that are to be laid down, and for the present not to be taken up, reflect the ongoing constraints upon Friends for their time and, inevitably, there are new concerns that emerge.

Visitors from overseas hailed from the UK, USA, Japan, Philippines, Aotearoa-New Zealand and the American Friends Service Committee in Cambodia. Their presence enriched and informed our deliberations. In particular, our friends from the Philippines shared with us the terrible destruction wrought by Typhoon Ondoy and their gratitude for the timely support they received from Friends all around the world coordinated by Friends World Committee for Consultation/Asia West Pacific section.

There were those who found time to take in the surroundings — tall trees and the choir of magpies, cockatoos and galahs; a bench to sit on; time to chat and reconnect; time to take a stroll around the expansive grounds. There were opportunities to join in shared activities such as the singing group and yoga.

In the Summer School’s meeting for music, in the opening and closing ceremonies, and in the Backhouse Lecture, Friends experienced unique and distinctive creations of music that brought joy and playfulness. Songs composed for, and performed at, the closing Meeting for Worship reflected both our Quaker roots and how our testimonies continue to resonate in the 21st century.

At the close of Yearly Meeting as we leave each other with hope for the challenges of the coming year, we are reminded of the words of Isaac Pennington (1667): ‘Our life is love and peace and tenderness and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another and helping one another up with a tender hand’.

Bilyanina yertungga (Let there be peace).

Note to the reader: The greetings at the beginning and the end of this epistle are written in the language of the Kaurna, the first people of the Adelaide plains.

Young Friends’ Camp Epistle

To Friends everywhere

Young Friends of Australia gathered in the last days of 2009 at Warradale Urban Camp School in Adelaide for the summer Young Friends’ Camp. In total, 32 of us gathered, although we came and went throughout the week. For some us it was a chance to renew old friendships, for others it was an opportunity to forge new bonds. For all of us it was an extremely amazing experience.

This year’s camp was very largely focused towards our presentation of the Backhouse Lecture — with meetings, practising, filming, craft activities and script work going on throughout the week. Time was spent making an elephant head out of papier-mâché and puppets for the delivery of the lecture, laboriously rewording parts of the script and rehearsing time and time again. The final week before the Backhouse Lecture was an especially important time for all of us, even those who weren’t involved in the process of writing the Backhouse until that moment, as it helped us realise what Young Friends meant to us. It has helped us find and express ourselves as who we are as Young Friends, and we have been extremely grateful for this opportunity.

Despite the demands of the Backhouse Lecture, we still found time to set aside for silent worship, giving us a much-needed stillness for a short while. This whole experience has helped
us come together as Young Friends and even though the process wasn't over, it let us reapply
the spiritual adhesive of our community. We were joined this year by representatives from New
Zealand and Japan, who became a very important part of the group and an important
contribution to the Lecture.

Young Friends saw out the end of the decade together on New Year’s Eve with a picnic on the
beach, watching the sun set and playing games up until midnight. In a flash of inspiration, every
person there crammed themselves onto a small piece of playground equipment in the last
minute of 2009 and counted down the last ten seconds of the year, and the early hours of 2010
saw us singing joyfully.

Young Friends’ camp really gets us ready for Australia Yearly Meeting, as it is a very important
break for all of us from the busyness of day-to-day life — work, university, school and family —
and lets us get in the mood for Yearly Meeting and re-oil our spiritual machinery. We ask you all
to hold us in the light and thank everyone involved with the whole Backhouse Lecture
experience.

With lots of love — Australian Young Friends.

Junior Young Friends’ Epistle

The JYF 2010 camp was held at Sandy Creek in the Barossa Valley. We began our camp with
a trip to the Central Markets for supplies. After a delicious lunch and a joint shopping effort, we
headed for our peaceful little house in the country.

After initiating our ground rules, we explored the surroundings and set about making dinner.
The next morning we were woken abruptly by Emma’s extreme gonging skills (breaking a
wooden spoon in the process). After a swift departure to the whispering wall, we stopped off at
the supermarket to stock up on bread and frozen peas to snack on.

A creative writing exercise started us off on a silent journey that continued through the night
until next morning. We all found this a challenging experience from which we all gained different
things.

Throughout the afternoon, we had several communication casualties — some of which were
more severe than others. A few of the positives of the silent afternoon included creating,
reflecting on our inner selves, reading and enjoying the wildlife. Our peaceful silence was
broken in the early hours of the morning when the faulty fire ala decided to end the quietness.
For those of us not woken by the ala, African drummers soon arrived. We enjoyed over an
hour of learning traditional African songs, dances, and beats whilst hearing about some of the
Ghana culture. Later that afternoon we made our way down to the local swimming pool for a
splash around and some Frisbee in the sun. Our evenings included a full lounge room as the
JYFs gathered around to discuss ideas and concerns of the day.

That evening, our last at camp, consisted of many bonding activities such as face painting and
henna. To make the most of our nights together we spent the last night sleeping under the stars
with glow sticks and blankets. The following morning proved difficult as we were all barely
awake.

Overall, JYF camp was a success as new bonds were created and old friendships
strengthened. A huge thank you to Mary, Kate and everyone else involved for a fabulous week!
Children’s Epistle

The kids’ meeting is better than the big one because the big one is so boring. Kids group is pretty fun, especially the water fights. Food fights are fun too.

- We made a tree and did a shadow puppet show.
- Harold brought in some animals.
- Rubbing a gum leaf can be used as mosquito repellent. That’s awesome.
- Mulberries taste really nice.
- We learnt that you can use pipe and wax as a didgeridoo.
- We learnt to make Alaskan snowflakes.
- The snowflakes and origami water bombs were really cool.
- The pool was a lot of fun. The pool was cold in the large pool and the small pool was hot. We had a massive water fight. The water got into my mouth.
- We made dream catchers. You write something nice to put in them.
- We learnt a song with Deb Munro called Prayer of Saint Francis, which we sang in the concert last night.
- We went on the slide forwards, backwards and sideward. We also had a water slide and that was really fun!

Other things we liked were: paper planes, scooters, hacky sacks, swimming, Meeting for Worship, DS, singing, eating, Aboriginal place, playing football, playing games, doing something new, everything.

We hope that next year some big people can go to the JYF camp.

Next year we could make bigger hacky sacks. We could do it better by having no mean people. I don’t want to fight again. I missed home and family. We should respect people bigger than you.

There were lots of feelings in this camp. We felt like we worked well together in the group and felt included. We had a lot of fun and we want to come back and do it again.
Yearly Meeting Minutes 2 – 9 January 2009
Westminster School, Adelaide, South Australia

Formal Session 1  7.30 p.m. Saturday, 2 January 2010

YM10.1  Kumangka ngadlu kumanendi; Together, we become one

On Saturday 2 January 2010 two Kuarna elders, Uncle Lewis O’Brien and Auntie Lynette Crocker, together with two South Australian Friends, Harald Ehman and Ann Rees, introduced a specially prepared ceremony of Kumangka ngadlu kumanendi in keeping with Kuarna and Quaker traditions, at which we were invited to affirm and build good relationships between all peoples and with the earth.

The ceremony included a gift exchange of music, dance and song provided by Kuma Karro group led by Jack Buckskin on behalf of the Kuarna people, and a set of three songs set to music composed by Peter Webb of South Australia RM on behalf of Quakers.

The following is the script for the ceremony:

About five minutes before the scheduled start of the session two Kuarna elders (Kauwanu translates as Uncle and Ngarpadla translates as Auntie) are seated in the place of the customary table that will later be brought in for the Australia YM. This represents the rightful and pre-European custodianship of the Land. They have with them 10 branches of gum leaves that are of an easily handled size and that are placed on two other chairs near their own.

Kumangka ngadlu kumanendi, which translates as ‘Together we become one’, begins at the scheduled start time of the session with silence. After the initial silence, two Friends (a man and a woman) approach the Kuarna Elders and take up the ‘ta murra’ (open hands) position. The Kuarna Elders invite them forward in the Kuarna way.

The two Kuarna Elders and the two Friends to the Meeting:

• Kauwanu (Uncle) to the Meeting: Friends, what we are about to experience is in keeping with Kuarna traditions.
• Ngarpadla (Auntie) to the Meeting: It is very different from what is called the ‘Acknowledgement of Country’ ceremony.
• Friend 1 to the Meeting: We invite you to take part in affirming and building good relationships between all peoples and the earth.
• Friend 2 to the Meeting: You are in safe and supportive company to notice any feelings that may stir within yourself and to give such feelings expression for healing, as works best for you. [There is a short period of silence.]
• Friend 2 (translates) to the Meeting: Excuse us. We ask to all sit together to meet on Kuarna Land.

Both Friends again take up the ta murra (open hands) position and turn to the Meeting in a gesture that invites all to do likewise. At this point other Friends in the Meeting who have previously been made aware and who are in visible positions also rise to their feet and take up the ta murra (open hands) position, thereby inviting others in the Meeting to stand similarly and in silence.

• Kauwanu (Uncle) to the two Friends: Bidnaingwa.
Documents in Retrospect 2010

- Ngarpadla (Auntie) translates to the Meeting: wait.
- Friend 1 to the Elders: Yakkalya.
- Friend 2 translates to the Meeting: We are sorry. [This is followed by a short period of silence.]

The Kaurna Elders and the two Friends signal the Meeting to be seated.

- Kauwanu (Uncle) to the two Friends: Parni kawaingwa. Tingkyo manmaingwa niwako meyunnaitya.
- Ngarpadla (Auntie) (translates) to the Meeting: Come forward. Take these leaves to your people.

The two Friends accept the 5+5 branches and hand them out evenly to the rows in the Meeting, and the branches are passed along the rows in silence so that all present can get to pass on one of the branches.

While the branches pass through the Meeting the Kaurna Elders may speak to the Meeting on a topic and in a manner of their choosing. For example: Kaurna and other Aboriginal communications of significance are, to non-Aboriginal ears and eyes, very understated and sometimes without words.

- We have holistic and ‘Deeply Elegant ways’ of communicating, of relating to each other, and the land.
- Our natural connection with land and each other involves deep trust, deep closeness, deep dependence and oneness with the land and the earth.
- We are aware of and concerned about separateness, over-independence and isolation from each other and from our natural environment.
- Kaurna and other Aboriginal peoples’ traditional ways model a path for healing between all peoples and the healing of the earth. [This is followed by a short period of silence.]

When the branches have been fully circulated they are returned to near the front for later.

- Friend 1 to the Elders: Ngadlu Kaurna mey-unnna tampendi.
- Friend 2 (translates) to the Meeting: We acknowledge the Kaurna people.
- Friend 1 to the Elders: Parna yerta mattanya buikki-un-angko.
- Friend 2 (translates) to the Meeting: They are the landowners since a long time ago.
- Friend 1 to the Elders: Ngadlu tampendi Kaurna mey-unnna burro purrana.
- Friend 2 (translates) to the Meeting: We acknowledge and affirm the survival of the Kaurna people and their culture.
- The two Friends read to the Meeting. One of them holds a highlighted copy of the Letter Patent.
- Friend 1 to the Meeting: We bring to your notice the single page ‘Letters Patent’ of King William IV of England. This page enacted and founded the Province of South Australia in 1836. About 70% of the page defines the Province, its boundaries and the document’s claims to legal authority.
- Friend 2 to the Meeting: About 15% of the page outlines English aspirations, and the rest, also about 15%, says as follows:

‘Provided always that nothing in those our Letters Patent contained shall affect or be construed to affect the rights of any Aboriginal Natives of the said Province to the actual occupation or enjoyment in their own Persons or in the Persons of their Descendants of any Lands therein now actually occupied or enjoyed by such Natives …’.

- [This is followed by a short period of silence.] After the silence the two Friends gather up the 10 branches of leaves.
- Friend 1 to the Elders: Itto bulto-tinkyo budnap-pin-didli niwad-litya.
- Friend 2 translates to the Meeting: We are returning these symbolic leaves to you.
- Kauwanu (Uncle) to the Meeting: Natta kumangka ngadlu kumanendi.
- Ngarpadla (Auntie) translates to the Meeting: Now together we become as one.
- The two Friends and the two Kaurna Elders to the meeting:
- Friend 1 to the Meeting: We invite you to seek an ongoing relationship with Kaurna people and with other Aboriginal Australians.
- Kauwanu (Uncle) to the Meeting: We invite you to be united in the common goal of caring for one another and for all peoples.
• Friend 2 to the Meeting: By healing the relationships between ourselves and others, we also heal the 
country and our environment.
• Ngarpadla (Auntie) to the Meeting: And we all together thereby secure our sustainable and enduring survival. [This is followed by a short period of silence.]
• Kauwanu (Uncle) to the Meeting: Towilla bukkiana meyunna naalityangga tikkarna
• Ngarpadla (Auntie) (translates) to the Meeting: May the spirit of our ancestors be with you all. Go well!
• Friend 1 to the Meeting: Bilyanina yartunga
• Friend 2 translates to the Meeting: Let there be peace.

Then the two Kaurna Elders and the two Friends stand in alternate positions and join hands, and the two as yet un-joined hands at either end of the group are offered to others in the body of the Meeting, who themselves link with others to ultimately form a whole-of-Meeting link-up. This link-up is held in silence for an appropriate length of time.

Then the two Kaurna Elders tell the Meeting about the Kaurna tradition of gift exchange — particularly of music, dance, and song — that is integral to Kaurna culture, art, law and life. Then they introduce the Kuma Karro group led by Jack Buckskin.

The Kuma Karro group led by Jack Buckskin presents music, dance and song.

Then the two Friends tell the Meeting of the Quaker tradition of expressing equity in different ways. Then they introduce the group of performers led by Peter Webb.

The group of performers led by Peter Webb presents music and songs composed and written by Peter for this event, integrating string instruments, voice and didgeridoo.

Then there is a period of silent worship (about 15 minutes) within which there may be ministry in the manner of Friends.

Kumangka ngadlu kumanendi: ‘Together we become one’ concludes with a short period of gathered silence.

**YM 10.2 Welcoming those participating in Yearly Meeting 2010**

The Presiding Clerk welcomed members and attenders by asking those from each Regional Meeting and overseas Meetings to stand in turn.

**Formal Session 2 7.30 p.m., Sunday, 3 January 2010**

**YM10.3 Assistant Clerk**

Standing Committee brings forward the name of Drew Thomas, Clerk of South Australia RM, for appointment as Assistant Clerk for Yearly Meeting 2010. We accept this name.

**YM10.4 Appointments for the duration of Yearly Meeting**

a. Pastoral Care

We accept Standing Committee’s recommendation of the following names for the Pastoral Care Committee:
b. Child Protection Contact People

We accept Standing Committee’s recommendation of the following names for Child Protection Contact People:

- Ronis Chapman, Canberra RM
- Gillian Lewis-Coles & Harald Ehmann, South Australia RM
- Brenda Roy, West Australia RM

YM10.5 AYM Nominations Committee

Nominations Committee recommends the following appointments:

- Paul Barnier, Victoria RM; Caz Bowman, West Australia RM; and Margaret Bywater, Tasmania RM to write the Yearly Meeting Epistle
- Jean Talbot and Julie Walpole, New South Wales RM to check the Minutes during Yearly Meeting

We accept these recommendations and make these appointments.

YM10.6 The Friends’ School Board appointments

Standing Committee recommends that Australia Yearly Meeting appoint the following to the Board of Governors, beginning after the Board’s Annual General Meeting in May 2010:

- James Cretan, as a nominee of the Executive Committee of the Board, for a first term of four years
- Garry Duncan, as a nominee of New South Wales RM, for a first term of three years
- Lyndsay Farrall, as a nominee of Tasmania Regional Meeting RM, for a first term of four years
- Michael Searle, as a nominee of Canberra RM, for a first term of four years.

We accept these recommendations and make these appointments.

YM10.7 Yearly Meeting Timetable and Agenda

a. Changes to the timetable

Friends are asked to note the following changes to the timetable published in Documents in Advance, page 3:

- The Children and JYF session scheduled for Monday, 4 January, 11:00 - 12:30 will be held after lunch on Monday, 13:30 - 15:00.
- A Preparatory Session parallel to Ecumenism & Interfaith will be held on Thursday, 7 January, 11:00 - 12:30 for Young Friends to bring their concern about marriage equality including same-sex marriage.
b. Testimonies

The timetable for reading Testimonies at Yearly Meeting 2010 is as follows:

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<td>09:30</td>
<td>Graham Hodgkin</td>
<td>West Australia RM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 6 Jan</td>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Win Howard</td>
<td>West Australia RM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 7 Jan</td>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Bill Sobey &amp; Richard Woodrofe</td>
<td>New South Wales RM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 7 Jan</td>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Laura Hill &amp; Mary Washington</td>
<td>Tasmania RM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fri 8 Jan</td>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Marjorie Arnold &amp; John Whitehead</td>
<td>South Australia RM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 8 Jan</td>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Ruth Beckwith</td>
<td>South Australia RM</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c. Meeting for Remembrance

The Meeting for Remembrance will be held Wednesday, 6 January, 08:30 - 09:30, and the Assistant Clerk, Drew Thomas, will read out the list of Friends who have died between Yearly Meetings 2009 and 2010.

d. Timeframe for greetings from Yearly Meeting

The Assistant Clerk will prepare cards for sending greetings from Yearly Meeting. Names for these greetings need to be provided to the Help Desk staff by Wednesday, 6 January, 6 p.m.

YM10.8 Attendance at Yearly Meeting

We hear that a list of all attending Yearly Meeting will be in Documents in Retrospect. Those not in membership, whose participation at this Yearly Meeting has been approved by Regional Meetings or by Young Friends, are listed in the Standing Committee Minutes on the notice board.

YM10.9 State of the Society address

Elizabeth Kwan of Darwin Worshipping Group, South Australia Regional Meeting, gave the State of the Society address. This address will be in Documents in Retrospect.

Elizabeth spoke of five significant challenges for Australian Friends within the reports in Documents in Advance. She asked that we address the issues as follows — Earthcare; how to make our Quaker activities better meet the needs of our children and young people; linking all Meetings and Friends, especially those isolated from the larger metropolitan Meetings; conflict resolution among us and the nurture of elders and overseers to help resolve conflict; and the future of the Australian Quaker Centre.

YM10.10 Welcome overseas visitors

The Presiding Clerk welcomed visitors from overseas including the following:

- Jo Beutrais, Young Friend representative, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
- James Gilderdale, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting representative
- Anthony Manousos, Santa Monica Monthly Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting
- John Ocol, Evangelical Friends Church, Philippines, Asia-West Pacific Section Guest
- Lois Ocol, Evangelical Friends Church, Philippines
- Misato Okubo, Japan Yearly Meeting
- Russell Peterson, AFSC Country Representative for Cambodia and Myanmar
- Bonifacio Quirog, Friends Meeting, Philippines, Asia-West Pacific Section Guest
- Amythe Strobell, Chena Ridge Friends, Alaska Yearly Meeting
YM10.11 Greetings

Many Friends are holding us in the Light as we meet here in Adelaide. Some have sent the Yearly Meeting greetings, including:

- Britain Yearly Meeting
- Asia West Pacific Section FWCC
- Ray Brindle, Victoria
- Anne Herbert, Finland YM
- Ute Caspers, German YM
- Rowe Morrow, New South Wales
- Cathy Walling & Scott Bell, Sophia & Sarah Walling-Bell, Chena Ridge Friends, Alaska Yearly Meeting

YM10.12 Future planning

(i) Yearly Meetings

The Presiding Clerk informed Yearly Meeting of the following plans for future Yearly Meetings:

(a) Yearly Meeting 8 - 15 January 2011, University of Wollongong Campus East, New South Wales

Yearly Meeting 2011 is to be held at the University of Wollongong Campus East. There is on-campus accommodation for 200 or more people and a variety of other types of accommodation available close to the Campus.

(b) Yearly Meeting 7 - 14 January 2012, Perth, Western Australia

Yearly Meeting 2012 will be held at Christ Church Grammar School, Perth.

(c) Yearly Meeting 2013, Canberra

Canberra RM has appointed a venue search committee for Yearly Meeting 2013.

(ii) Mid-year Standing Committees

The Presiding Clerk informed Yearly Meeting of the following plans for future mid-year Standing Committees:

(a) Standing Committee 15-17 July 2010, Hobart

Mid-year Standing Committee in 2010 will be held in Hobart, 15 - 17 July.

(b) Standing Committee 8-10 July 2011, Canberra

Mid-year Standing Committee in 2011 will be held in Canberra.

(c) Standing Committee July 2012, Melbourne

Victoria RM reports that Friends House, Melbourne, is expected to be the venue for Standing Committee July 2012. There is limited accommodation available within Friends House, and other Standing Committee members will be accommodated through home stay.

YM10.13 Statements and letters on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting

Letters sent on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting since Yearly Meeting 2009, and all replies, are on display during Yearly Meeting, and a list of these letters will be included in Documents in Retrospect.
YM10.14  Testimony

Caz Bowman and Gina Price of West Australia RM read a testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Graham Hodgkin, West Australia RM.

YM10.15  AYM Presiding Clerk’s report

(Documents in Advance page 13)

During this session the Presiding Clerk stepped aside, and the Assistant Clerk presided as Clerk for this section of the Meeting.

We are delighted to hear and receive the AYM Presiding Clerk’s report, and thank him for his service for the past four years.

In presenting the report, Lyndsay Farrall advised that he was interviewed by ABC Radio National on Monday. He shared a letter from the NCCA regarding violence against Indian students. We are asked to consider ways of supporting these groups at both local and national levels.

We ask Lyndsay to write to the bereaved parents, groups involved, and relevant authorities, indicating our support and concerns in this matter.

Lyndsay advised of the possibility of an NCCA peace delegation to Sri Lanka and hopes that we will support a Quaker presence in that delegation.

In response to a question on his involvement in NCCA on our behalf, Lyndsay spoke of both the complexities and possibilities of our presence in this group.

We thank Lyndsay (and his wife Stephanie) for the many energies and insights he has offered us as Presiding Clerk.

Formal Session 4  9.30 a.m. Wednesday, 6 January 2010

YM10.16  Testimony

Ruth Watson, West Australia Regional Meeting read a testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Win Howard of West Australia Regional Meeting.

YM10.17  AYM Secretary’s report

(Documents in Advance pages 14–16)

We receive the AYM Secretary’s Report in Documents in Advance, and note the ways in which she is preparing for the handover to the next Secretary in March 2011.
YM10.18  Summary of Epistles from other Yearly Meetings

During Formal Session 3, Anthea Nicholls of South Australia RM, based in the Northern Territory, read a ‘Summary of Epistles’ received from other Yearly Meetings held around the world. We thank Anthea for highlighting their celebrations of the Spirit moving among them.

Anthea asked Helen Gould to lead us in singing O Thou who brings forth all there is, (Dear Lord and Father of Mankind), a John Greenleaf Whittier hymn as sung in Ireland Yearly Meeting and mentioned in their Epistle.

We encourage Friends to read this summary, which will be included in Documents in Retrospect. The Yearly Meeting Clerk and Secretary would be glad to hear of specific ways in which we can respond to requests in these Epistles.

YM10.19  AYM Treasurer’s report

(Document in Advance pages 17 - 19)

a. Acceptance of Report

We receive the AYM Treasurer’s Report and accept the 2008/09 audited accounts. We note that the audited accounts are on display during this Yearly Meeting, and copies are available from the AYM Treasurer.

b. Appointment of the Auditor

We reappoint AH Jackson & Co as auditors for 2009/10.

c. Queries on carbon credit donations

Following discussions about Friends contributing their individual payments of carbon credit offsets to a suitable Quaker fund, we were told that QSA had a suitable project to which contributions could be sent.

YM10.20  Quaker Learning Australia Preparatory Session

(Document in Advance page 60)

The Preparatory Session asks Yearly Meeting to approve an annual budget allocation beginning in 2010/11 for Quaker Learning Australia to cover costs, for example, of travel and accommodation for Meeting for Learning facilitators.

It further recommends discussion take place between Quaker Learning Australia and the AYM Treasurer concerning access to and management of finances.

We accept these recommendations.

YM10.21  Australian Friends’ Fellowship of Healing Annual General Meeting

(Document in Advance page 31)

The Fellowship has had its Annual General Meeting for 2010 and advises Yearly Meeting that the positions of convenor and editor of the newsletter Wholeness remain vacant at present. The Fellowship will advise Yearly Meeting of any change.
Formal Session 5 9.00 a.m. Thursday, 7 January 2010

YM10.22  Testimonies

Oliver Greeves of South Australia RM read a testimony to the Grace of God in the life of John Whitehead, South Australia RM, his grandfather.

Ann Rees of South Australia RM read a testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Ruth Beckwith, South Australia RM.

YM10.23  FWCC AWPS Preparatory Session

Documents in Advance pages 50 – 51

We note the report on FWCC in Documents in Advance.

Michael Corbett, Queensland RM, read a minute of record from the Preparatory Session about FWCC Asia West Pacific Section (AWPS). This minute of record will be in Documents in Retrospect.

The session heard from Misato Okubo of Japan Yearly Meeting about her experiences with Quakerism in Japan; our AWPS guests John Ocol and Bonifacio Quirog, together with John’s wife Lois Ocol, presented detailed information about Friends in the Philippines and about Quaker responses to the recent disastrous floods caused by typhoons. We were informed that in excess of $20,000 was sent by Friends from around the world to provide assistance for those who suffered.

Our attention was directed to the Youtube productions about the disaster and Filipino Friends’ gratitude for this assistance —

• Disaster in Pasig http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Vr0c7rb7nIo, and
• Thank you Quakers http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3xS4ORaHTlg

We encourage Friends to attend the next AWPS gathering and related Young Friends’ gathering scheduled to be held in Manila in early April 2011.

YM10.24  AYM Nominations Committee

The AYM Nominations Committee recommends the following appointments:

AYM Committees that are continuing or being laid down:

• Australia-wide Quaker Fellowship (West Australia RM): Margaret Woodward to YM 2011
• Australian Quaker Children’s and JYF’s Committee (Victoria RM): to YM 2013
• Earthcare Committee (Canberra RM): to YM 2012
• Elders & Overseers Training Group: laid down
• Morrow Bequest: Committee: laid down; Janice Stensrude (West Australia RM) as contact person
• Peace & Social Justice Testimonies Committee: laid down
• Quaker Education Network (West Australia RM): Margaret Woodward to YM 2011
• Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee (Canberra RM): to YM 2013

New appointments:

• Backhouse Lecture Committee Madeleine Ball (Tasmania RM)
• Child Protection Review: Jane Sloane (Victoria RM) and Kyrstie Crane (Victoria RM)
• Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee: Jeremy Farrall (Canberra RM); New Co-convenor: Rob Holland (Canberra RM) (with Brian Turner, Canberra RM, continuing Co-convenor)

Nominations Committee — Regional Meeting recommendations:

• Jean Talbot, New South Wales RM to YM 2013, replacing Cathy Davies, New South Wales RM
• Taisoo Kim Watson, Queensland RM to YM 2013, replacing Duncan Frewin, Queensland RM
• Ronis Chapman, Canberra RM to continue till YM 2011

We agree, and appoint the nominees.

YM10.25 Indigenous Concerns Preparatory Session

(Documents in Advance page 52-53)

Chris Hughes, Victoria RM and Co-convenor of the Indigenous Concerns Committee (with Sharee Harper, Victoria RM), reported to us on the main matters contained in the report from the Preparatory Session on Indigenous Concerns. The full report will be in Documents in Retrospect.

We accept the Preparatory Session’s recommendation that we ask the following of Regional Meetings:

• Establish a Pay the Rent Committee (if not already active) and use this funding to build connection with local Indigenous communities
• Look for opportunities to participate in cultural events
• Investigate the implications of Letters Patent in their own States
• Organise and participate in workshops on lobbying

YM10.26 AYM Secretary Appointment Process

Roger Sawkins, Queensland RM, reported on the work to date by the Search Committee in the process of finding a new AYM Secretary to succeed Judith Pemberton in March 2011.

We agree to the Committee’s recommendation that Yearly Meeting delegate the power of appointment of the incoming AYM Secretary to a committee consisting of

• The immediate Past Presiding Clerk, Lyndsay Farrall (Tasmania RM)
• AYM Nominations Committee Convenor
• Two Regional Meeting Clerks who are unconnected to the candidate.

YM10.27 Meeting for Remembrance Minute of Record

During Meeting for Remembrance, held on Wednesday, 6 January, 8.30 - 9.30 a.m., we remembered the following Friends who have died recently:

• Marjorie Arnold, South Australia RM
  Ruth Beckwith, South Australia RM
• Gladys Bottomley, Victoria RM
  Geraldine Brown, South Australia RM
• Laura Hill, Tasmania RM
• Jan Hodges, Canberra RM
  Graham Hodgkin, West Australia RM
• Win Howard, West Australia RM
• Anne Livingstone, Victoria RM
• Kathleen Ross, wife of our guest from Santa Monica Monthly Meeting, Anthony Manousos.
• Ann Riney, West Australia RM
Documents in Retrospect 2010

- Bill Sobey, New South Wales RM
- Bonnie Tinkler, North Pacific Yearly Meeting [known to Gina Price, West Australia
- Mary Washington, Tasmania RM
- John Whitehead, South Australia RM
- Richard Woodroffe, New South Wales RM

YM10.28 Accepting reports where no decisions are required

We note and accept the following reports in Documents in Advance that have asked for no decisions from this Yearly Meeting:

- Regional Meeting Reports (Documents in Advance Pages 20 - 29 and those displayed at Yearly Meeting). The latter will be in Documents in Retrospect
- Australia-wide Quaker Fellowship (Documents in Advance Page 30)
- The Australian Friend (Documents in Advance Page 30–31)
- Australian Quaker Tapestry (Documents in Advance Page 35)
- Friends Book Sales (Documents in Advance Page 37)
- Morrow Bequest Committee (Documents in Advance Page 54)
- Quaker Education Network (Documents in Advance Page 60)
- Respectful Relationships (Documents in Advance Page 64–65)
- The Sanctuary Management Committee (Documents in Advance Page 65–66)

Formal Session 6 1.30 p.m. Thursday, 7 January 2010

YM10.29 Testimonies

Kerstin Reimers, Tasmania RM, read a testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Laura Hill of Tasmania Regional Meeting.

Stephanie Farrall, Tasmania RM, read a testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Mary Washington of Tasmania Regional Meeting.

YM10.30 First reading of the draft epistle

Paul Barnier of Victoria RM, Caz Bowman of West Australia RM, and Margaret Bywater of Tasmania RM read a first draft of the Epistle from this Yearly Meeting.

YM10.31 Peace Preparatory Session

(Documents in Advance pages 58 - 60)

We accept the Peace reports in Documents in Advance.

Harold Wilkinson, Canberra RM, outlined the report from the Preparatory Session on peace concerns, as follows:

a. Nuclear Disarmament

- Australia Yearly Meeting welcomes the initiative of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) and its commitment to removing nuclear weapons from the world.
We thank QPLC for preparing an Action Alert encouraging Friends to redouble their efforts to abolish nuclear weapons and encourage Friends to support the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (www.icanw.org).

We ask QPLC to follow up the report on ICNND with QUNO in preparation for the forthcoming Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference.

We ask the Presiding Clerk to write to the Prime Minister congratulating the government on initiating the Commission, commending it as an important step forward, urging adoption of an earlier timetable for the reduction and abolition of nuclear weapons, and supporting the proposed Nuclear Weapons Convention.

We encourage Friends to make representation to their Members of Parliament in the spirit of mutual sharing and listening.

We note that the issue of the use of nuclear energy needs further consideration.

b. Donald Groom Fellowship

Yearly Meeting expresses its appreciation for the Committee’s work in supporting those chosen as Fellows and notes that the Committee’s term will be completed after the present Donald Groom Fellow, Robyn Slarke, finishes her Fellowship. We suggest that any need for additional funds be sought from the Peace and Social Justice Fund.

c. Peace and Social Justice Fund

We note that no Regional Meeting has offered to assume responsibility for this Fund. We suggest that the Donald Groom Fellowship Committee, the Thanksgiving Fund Committee, and all Regional Meetings consider whether they feel led to take up this concern and report to mid-year Standing Committee. We note that in the meantime, the Yearly Meeting officers can make decisions on requests for funds in accordance with the Handbook.

d. Peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee

Although no Regional Meeting has offered to take on this concern, we suggest that all Regional Meetings consider the outgoing Committee’s proposal that the concern be kept alive.

The full report of this Preparatory Session will be in Documents in Retrospect.

YM10.32  Quaker Service Australia

(Documents in Advance pages 61 - 64)

Jackie Perkins, New South Wales RM, read the following report from the Quaker Service Australia Preparatory Session and the QSA AGM:

'We note the report from QSA in Documents in Advance.

'During the Preparatory Session attended by many Friends, Jackie Perkins and Aletia Dundas spoke on the positive impact of QSA’s projects. A PowerPoint presentation showed images of these projects and of changes and impacts brought about in Cambodia, India, Uganda, and Australia.

'Some of these examples included individuals and families enjoying better nutrition and health, improvements to homes, greater food and Water security particularly during times of prolonged drought, and greater links with traditional culture and respect for the Elders within Aboriginal communities.

'The year 2009 commemorates 50 years of QSA’s work, culminating in the release of Friends in deed, a comprehensive book on the history of QSA’s work written by Heather Saville. In the past year, the QSA Management Committee and staff have achieved an upgrade of QSA’s accreditation with AusAID from base to full level. This is in recognition of its professionalism and achievements.
‘The Annual General Meeting, held on 6 January, submits the following names for confirmation by AYM:

**QSA’s office bearers**
- Convenor Jane Drexler, New South Wales
- Treasurer Michael Wilson, New South Wales
- Public Officer Elaine Polglase, New South Wales

**Members of QSA until YM2011**
- Mavis Barnard, New South Wales
- David Cooper, New South Wales
- Therese Douglas, New South Wales
- Jane Drexler, New South Wales
- John Dundas, New South Wales
- David Liversidge, Canberra
- Jackie Perkins, New South Wales
- Heather Saville, New South Wales
- Michael Wilson, New South Wales

**Friends appointed by their respective Regional Meetings to membership of QSA:**
- Kay de Vogel, Canberra Regional Meeting
- Marilyn Hillery, New South Wales Regional Meeting
- Ian Stevenson, Queensland Regional Meeting
- Robin Sinclair, South Australia Regional Meeting
- Gill Fitzgerald, Tasmania Regional Meeting
- Helen Irvine, Victoria Regional Meeting
- Mike Hennessy, West Australia Regional Meeting
- Ex officio: Presiding Clerk and AYM Secretary.

‘It was agreed that the Statement of Purpose and the Project Selection Criteria remain unchanged at this time. We hear that possible amendments to the draft Strategic Plan from YM2010 to YM2013 have been suggested, and will be considered by the Management Committee.’

Yearly Meeting confirms the names brought forward for appointment.

**YM10.33 Handbook Revision Preparatory Session**

We receive the following minute of record from the Preparatory Session:

Katherine Purnell reported on the work of the Committee and other Friends to get the 6th edition of the *Handbook* to this point, and we heard a summary of the responses by Regional Meetings to the report in *Documents in Advance*.

We are grateful for the huge amount of work done by the Handbook Revision Committee over the last five years in producing this revised version of such a complex document.

We considered whether this draft should be adopted as the official *Handbook* of AYM now or should be used as an “interim working document” for a year.

Comments were made about areas of the draft which may need to be changed such as resolving conflict, QSA Concerns, and others.

We recommend that Yearly Meeting:
• agrees to distribute this draft and asks Regional Meetings, Committees and all Friends to use it and indicate areas where the draft may need amendment
• asks Regional Meetings to collate and prepare suggested amendments, as limited as possible, by the time of mid-year Standing Committee
• asks Nominations Committee to recommend a small group who will incorporate the suggestions into the final version, and
• asks the editor previously employed to check the alterations for style etc, and prepare a final version for adoption at YM 2011.

We accept these recommendations.

We heard the recommendations of the small group established by Standing Committee to consider the method of final publication of the *Handbook*. We include these recommendations in *Documents in Retrospect* with the suggestion that they be used when the Sixth Edition is published.

We thank the Revision Committee for all its work, and note that it has now been laid down.

**YM10.34  The Friends’ School Preparatory Session**

(Document in Advance page 53 - 58)

We receive the following minute of record from the Preparatory Session:

'We accept Principal John Green’s comprehensive report on the School in *Documents in Advance*.

'Robin McLean introduced herself as Presiding Member of the full School Board, and Bill Godfrey as Presiding Member of the Executive Committee. Jo Jordan, Taisoo Kim Watson, Garry Duncan, Lyndsay Farrall, and Michael Searle were introduced as board members or incoming board members.

'Robin and Bill presented exciting reports in which we heard of developments in programs, processes, and facilities. Major federal grants have allowed for improvements to the High School Library, and work has commenced on a multi-purpose hall. Extensive consultation with staff has produced a highly flexible design, which will satisfy many educational needs.

'Julian Robertson, Quaker Coordinator, reported on his work supporting the program of Gatherings which offers the students the opportunity to explore in diverse ways matters of the spirit. We also heard of the Quakers in Residence program. Julian also supports new staff in developing an appreciation of Quaker faith and practice.

'We heard that strategies are in place to ensure that the size of the school is compatible with a sense of belonging to a community.

'We noted a number of concerns expressed in Part B, and express our confidence in the Board’s dealing with these in creative and effective ways.’

We ask that Friends with suitable expertise consider applying for the full range of positions within the school.

We celebrate The Friends’ School as a vibrant educational and spiritual community.
A report from the Earthcare Committee will be included in Documents in Retrospect, together with Regional Meeting reports on earthcare.

We note that the Earthcare Committee is also connected with the FWCC (Friends’ World Committee for Consultation) Global Change Committee, through Tom Dundas, Young Friends, and that the Global Change Committee was represented at the Copenhagen conference.

We note that the Earthcare Committee is under the care of Canberra RM, and agree that the Committee continues until the end of YM2012. The membership of the Committee is as follows:

- Vidya Sutton, Canberra RM
- Jackie Perkins, New South Wales RM
- Phillip Toyne, Canberra RM
- Jo Temme, Canberra /Young Friends
- Harro Drexler, New South Wales RM

We note that the Committee has developed the following terms of reference:

The AYM Earthcare Committee in all its work

- Is guided by the Spirit
- Is a witness to the increasingly critical health of the environment
- Is mindful of the call for intergenerational equity and the co-existence of all species
- Creates and maximizes opportunities to educate and support Australian Friends in radical right living with the environment and all life on Earth
- Communicates effectively both with Friends and with the wider world.

The Committee presented its work plan for 2010 to the Preparatory Session, andFriends were supportive of the work foreshadowed.

We agree that the AYM Earthcare Committee, in consultation with AYM Committees and Regional Meetings, will develop a strategic plan that addresses the causes of and responds to the challenges of global change.

We request that each Regional Meeting establishes an Earthcare Committee, if there is not already one in place, in order to assist committees and individuals in the Regional Meeting to radically change their activities and lifestyles to be in right relationship with all life.

We request that each Regional Meeting

- discerns two or more correspondents to correspond with the AYM Earthcare Committee.
- reports to Yearly Meeting each year as part of an annual report on earthcare.

Mary Pollard, New South Wales RM, read testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of Bill Sobey and Richard Woodroofe of New South Wales RM.
YM10.37 Australian Quaker Centre Working Group

(Documents in Advance page 31)

Julian Robertson, Tasmania RM, reported on the three Preparatory Sessions about the Australian Quaker Centre (AQC). The full report from these sessions will appear in Documents in Retrospect.

We began a discussion of recommendations in this Session and agreed to continue this in Formal Session 8.

Formal Session 8 1.30 p.m. Friday, 8 January 2010

YM10.38 Australian Quaker Centre Working Group

(Documents in Advance page 31)

1. We agree that the Australian Quaker Centre continues the program proposed during 2010.

2. We agree that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Trustees of the Catholic Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia Incorporated, for the use of Silver Wattle in 2010 rent free in return for caretaking, should be signed by the Presiding Clerk.

3. We agree that the AQC Working Group be expanded to include members with expertise in marketing, law and accountancy.

4. We ask the AQC Working Group to co-opt members for ad-hoc committees where needed that will consider alternative models and invite concerns and leadings from the wider Quaker community through Regional Meetings.

The two areas of consideration should be:

- The ethos and offerings of the AQC. We note this is a four-year perspective.
- Possible models for the AQC structure, such as a mobile AQC, possibly with a small base or no base.

5. We agree that the resources of Yearly Meeting not be committed to the purchase of Silver Wattle at this time and that future plans for the establishment of the AQC be brought to Standing Committee and Yearly Meeting in 2010 and 2011.

The establishment of an Australian Quaker Centre is a significant event in the life of Australia Yearly Meeting and we ask that all of us hold the AQC Working Group in the Light as they continue their work.

YM10.39 Equality in Marriage Preparatory Session

We hear a report from Harold Wilkinson, Canberra RM, of a Preparatory Session on Equality in Marriage. We agree to incorporate this report into our Minutes.

Part A: Report

The minute from Young Friends' business meeting, 6 January 2010, was read, as follows:

Young Friends discussed the concern for marriage equality on 6 January 2010. This followed several months of discussion and discernment in person and on-line. Young Friends ask AYM to
agree that, in accordance with Friends’ testimony to equality, we will treat all requests for marriages within our meetings in accordance with Friends’ usages, regardless of the sexual orientation or gender of the couple.

We are inspired by the Quaker tradition of marriage as a religious commitment and our shared understanding that marriage is the Lord’s work and we are but witnesses. We recognise Friends have already made substantial steps towards supporting the equality of all people, including opposing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender. We feel that marriage equality is a natural next step on this journey.

We feel strongly that AYM should take up this concern, and seek a change to the laws relating to marriage to give full and equal legal recognition. We ask Yearly Meeting 2010 to make a public statement to this effect, and consider other ways to take this concern forward.

We are conscious that not all Friends will be comfortable with this approach and we have sought to bring forward this concern with love and openness to new light.

The clerk summarised the responses of Regional Meetings.

We noted that Britain Yearly Meeting 2009, at the prompting of Britain Junior Yearly Meeting, agreed to celebrate same-sex marriages in the exact same way as different-sex marriages, and that they have agreed to work to try to change the laws in Britain so that same-sex marriages can have legal recognition.

The Britain Junior Yearly Meeting Minute on committed relationships said:

*The feeling of the meeting was that marriage is more than a legal procedure, and to deny the spiritual aspect of marriage to committed couples, based upon their sexuality, is unjust. In light of the Quaker testimony to equality, we feel that denying the right to marriage to consenting adult couples is hypocritical. We feel that simply stating that we support these forms of marriage is not enough. We need to appropriately challenge the prejudices within the Society of Friends and the laws which we consider discriminatory; following the Quaker tradition of challenging what we feel is unjust.*

Our Friend James Gilderdale from Aotearoa-New Zealand Yearly Meeting identified the fact that New Zealand Friends now hold same-sex marriages within their meetings. New Zealand law has now changed to allow same-sex ‘civil unions’, which are equivalent under law to marriage. This has necessitated changes to the Aotearoa-New Zealand Yearly Meeting *Handbook*. New Zealand Friends are fortunate to have held several same-sex Quaker marriages, recognised by law as civil unions, in the last two years.

**Part B: For consideration by Yearly Meeting**

Over 50 F/friends from every Regional Meeting around Australia were strongly in unity in recommending the following to Yearly Meeting:

1. That Australia Yearly Meeting agrees, in accordance with Friends’ testimony to equality, to treat all requests for marriages within our meetings in accordance with Friends’ usages, regardless of the sexual orientation or gender of the individuals involved. We recommend also that the relevant sections of the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* be amended and forwarded to Regional Meetings for consideration. We request that Regional Meetings report any comments to mid-year Standing Committee, with a view to adoption of the amended text at Yearly Meeting 2011.

2. That Australia Yearly Meeting call for a change in the law to treat all marriages equally, including making a public statement on behalf of Yearly Meeting 2010, request the Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee to take this forward as appropriate, and request Regional Meetings to support Friends within their meetings who wish to take forward this concern.

3. We ask the group appointed at last Yearly Meeting to draft the revised section on committed relationships, Margaret Moreton, Dorothy Broom, Liz Field and Evan...
Gallagher, to suggest a revision of the appropriate section of the *Handbook* to reflect these changes and provide them to Regional Meetings by 30 April 2010.

We accept these recommendations.

**YM10.40  Second Reading of the epistle**

Paul Barnier, Victoria RM, Caz Bowman of West Australia RM, and Margaret Bywater of Tasmania RM read a second draft of the Epistle to be sent out from this Yearly Meeting.

**YM10.41  Backhouse Lecture Committee Report**

*(a) Minute of Record, Backhouse Lecture 2010*

This Backhouse Lecture, delivered by Young Friends, occurred 100 years after the first Young Friends’ camp, which was held in Australia in 1909.

This year, thirty-ish Young Friends of the fifty-four authors* presented the 2010 Backhouse Lecture in which they shared their journey of discovering who they are. This process included active community-building, being inclusive, offering mutual support to one another, performing especially composed music, dance, personal statements, games, puppetry, drama, a video montage and silent worship. Young Friends have found that by spending time together at Easter Camp and at Yearly Meeting they learn how to apply Quaker values in their lives, and through play they find God.

They concluded their lecture by saying:

> In such company, we are prepared to trust with our community, seek to live true to ourselves in every moment, forgive ourselves for sometimes failing in this, and work to create the Society of the future with joyful expectation and excitement about the possibilities ahead.

Young Friends would like to convey their deep thanks to Yearly Meeting and Regional Meetings for financial support, to their support committees, and to all who held them in the Light while they prepared their lecture.

The rest of Yearly Meeting would like to convey thanks to Young Friends. This is the first time that the Backhouse Lecture has been delivered by a large group acting in unity. People attending Yearly Meeting were impressed by the combination of many elements and voices into a coherent message of hope for Friends young and old.


In addition to the authors listed in the printed lecture, the following people provided important contributions: Josef Beautrais, Rebekah Geerling, Edward Greeves, Tetsugaku Ikegami, Peter Juchniewicz, and Misato Okubo.
Plans are underway to investigate producing a DVD of the Young Friends’ Backhouse Lecture performance as a companion to the written lecture.

**(b) The 2012 Backhouse Lecturer**

The Backhouse Lecture Committee recommends David Atwood, who retires mid-2011 from his position as Director and Representative for Disarmament and Peace at the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva, to deliver the lecture in 2012.

We accept this recommendation.

**YM10.42 Testimonies**

Ann Rees of South Australia RM read a testimony to the Grace of God in the Life of Marjorie Arnold, South Australia RM.

**Formal Session 9  9.00 a.m. Saturday, 9 January 2010**

**YM10.43 Third reading of the epistle**

Paul Barnier of Victoria RM, Caz Bowman of West Australia RM, and Margaret Bywater of Tasmania RM read a third draft of the Epistle from this Yearly Meeting.

With amendments, we accept this Epistle and ask that it be read in our final Meeting for Worship, published in *Documents in Retrospect*, and circulated to Friends worldwide.

**YM10.44 AYM Nominations Committee**

The AYM Nominations Committee recommends the following appointments:

**Australian Quaker Centre Working Group**

- Jane Sloane (South Australia RM) and Jim Neely (Canberra RM, STC) [Elizabeth Kwan and Kerry O'Regan (South Australia RM) are laying this down.]

**Representative to Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting (July 2010)**

- Jo Jordan, South Australia RM

**NCCA Appointments**

**Executive**

- Maxine Cooper, Yearly Meeting Clerk, ex officio
- Elizabeth Field, New South Wales RM
- Drew Thomas, South Australia RM (as alternate to the Presiding Clerk)

**Other regular NCCA Appointments**

- Gender Commission Barbara Lumley, New South Wales RM
- Safe as Churches Ronis Chapman, Canberra RM
- Faith & Unity Commission Gerry Guiton, Victoria RM
- Social Justice Network Wies Schuiringa, New South Wales RM
- Act for Peace Sieneke Martin, Victoria RM
NCCA Forum (July 2010)

- Presiding Clerk, Drew Thomas, South Australia RM, Elizabeth Field, New South Wales RM and Aletia Dundas, New South Wales RM. [Australia Yearly Meeting is allocated three representative places, and can also have a ‘visitor’ who can attend but not vote].

We agree and appoint the nominees.

**YM10.45 Young Friends report and appointments**

Alexa Taylor, Clerk of Young Friends read the report from Young Friends including a brief financial report. The full report will be in *Documents in Retrospect*.

**Young Friends Appointments**

- YF Clerk: Tom Dundas
- YF Communications: Rhys Dryzek
- YF Nominations Committee: Hannah Chapman-Searle (Convenor), Rhys Dryzek, Evan Gallagher and Emily Chapman-Searle
- AYM YF to A/NZ: Oliver Greeves

We note these appointments.

**YM10.46 FWCC nominations process**

Marion Sullivan, Queensland RM, presented a report from the AYM FWCC Committee Meeting held on 7 January. This report will be in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We agree to the recommendations that members of the FWCC Committee serve four-year terms with two representatives to step down each year.

Such terms are to be staggered to enable two Regional Meeting Representatives to step down each year, allowing for two new appointees each year who could be mentored by the existing Committee Members, thus preserving the experience and knowledge base of the Committee.

Term lengths are as follows, and representatives will step down at the end of the Yearly Meeting indicated:

- Canberra: YM 2011
- New South Wales: YM 2013
- Queensland: YM 2012
- South Australia: YM 2012
- Tasmania: YM 2014
- Victoria: YM 2011
- West Australia: YM 2013
- Young Friends: YM 2014

**YM10.47 Ecumenism and interfaith**

*(Documents in Advance page 49-50)*

Sieneke Martin, Victoria RM, provided a report on the Preparatory Session on Ecumenism and Interfaith. The full report will be in *Documents in Retrospect*. 
**Documents in Retrospect 2010**

**a. Safe as Churches**

The Preparatory Session asks Yearly Meeting to take forward a recommendation that the Safe Church project be transformed into another NCCA Commission, to carry forward the important work.

We ask our NCCA Triennial representatives to carry this forward.

**b. Friends working for NCCA**

With regard to those working for NCCA, Yearly Meeting was asked to approve the following statement:

*In accordance with Advices & Queries no. 6, ‘Do you work gladly with other religious groups in the pursuit of common goals? While remaining faithful to Quaker insights, try to enter imaginatively into the life and witness of other communities of faith, creating together the bonds of friendship.’ Friends welcome the opportunity to work and worship in an ecumenical context at state and national levels. Friends participate in the committees and commissions of the national Council and state ecumenical Councils. Australia Yearly Meeting expresses its support of these Friends and encourages them to continue to advocate for processes and practices that are compatible with Quaker Faith and Practice.*

We agree.

**c. Electronic network for ecumenical and interfaith work**

We ask that the Clerk and the Secretary explore ways of establishing an electronic network for those engaged in ecumenical and interfaith work, in order to share, to support, to advise, and to debrief. We agree.

**YM10.48  Australian Quaker Children’s and Junior Young Friends’ Committee Preparatory Session**

Tracy Bourne, Victoria RM, reported on the Preparatory Sessions on Children and Junior Young Friends. These reports will be included in *Documents in Retrospect*, and sent to all RM Children’s Activities Coordinators.

The Preparatory Session recommended a visit by two British Friends from Britain Yearly Meeting’s Children’s and Junior Young Friends’ staff as part of the program for Yearly Meeting 2011, and advised of the need to find approximately $6000 to cover the cost of travel and accommodation. We ask the Children’s and JYF Committee to take up the matter with the AYM Treasurer.

The Children’s and JYF Committee also brought the following recommendations:

- That Friends support adjusting the transition age for Friends moving from the JYF group to the YF group in the following way: that JYFs will be from 12-17 years of age inclusive, and that YFs will be 16-30ish years of age.
- That RM membership secretaries forward the names and contact details of Friends as they turn 16 years of age to the YF communications officer, so that they can be invited to be included on the YF email list.
- That the AYM Children’s and JYF committee seek to clarify the manner in which 16-year-old Friends are invited into membership and communicate this information to JYFs and other younger Friends.

We agree to these recommendations.
YM10.49  **Child Protection**

We heard a summary of the matters discussed at the Preparatory Session from Yoland Wadsworth, Victoria RM.

The Meeting heard that Jane Sloane and Kyrsite Crane have been appointed to continue the review of our Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

We thank Yoland Wadsworth for her work as the reviewer of the AYM Child Protection Policy and Procedures and note that the full revised edition of the Policy and Procedures will be included with *Documents in Retrospect*. A full copy of Yoland’s report is available from the Secretary.

YM10.50  **Respectful Relationships**

*(Documents in Advance page 81)*

We heard a report from Ronis Chapman, Canberra RM, on the Preparatory Session on Respectful Relationships. We agree that the full report be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

YM10.51  **Minute of Record: Summer School**

The theme chosen for this year’s Summer School was *Choosing Life: Living differently, we dare to hope.* It was inspired by an extract from *Quaker Faith and Practice* (Britain YM) 29.03.


All workshops were held on Sunday, 3 January, a full day of Summer School. The majority continued during the week for an hour each day between 5.00 and 6.00 p.m. An innovation was the method of reporting to Yearly Meeting. Instead of a series of reports, a ‘Summer School Fair’ was held on the evening of Thursday, 7 January, when the different groups showed what they had done, enabling Friends to have a ‘taste’ of each Summer School. Another innovation was a Skype interview, arranged by Ronis Chapman, with Laurie Michaelis of Britain Yearly Meeting, as part of the Earthcare Summer School.

Elizabeth Stevenson, *Convenor: Summer School Arrangements Committee*.

YM10.52  **Minute of Record: Share and Tell**

Material about the Share and Tell Sessions held at this Yearly Meeting will be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

YM10.53  **Greetings from Hong Kong Monthly Meeting**

We hear greetings from Julian Stargardt, Clerk of Hong Kong Monthly Meeting; a full text of this greeting will be included in *Documents in Retrospect*. 

29
YM10.54  Visit to the Children’s Meeting by Presiding Clerks

The Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk and Incoming Clerk, along with some members of the Earthcare Committee, met with the children at Yearly Meeting to report about and discuss the activities with which we are all involved in earthcare plans and actions.

YM10.55  Closing Minute

At the conclusion of Yearly Meeting 2010, we send our greeting of peace and love to those who could not be with us and those who have held us in the Light. We acknowledge the generous gift of time and energy given by the South Australian organizing committee and all who have worked hard to make this Yearly Meeting so memorable.

The Clerk informs us that a letter is being sent to Westminster College to thank those who have provided for our daily needs and that other letters of thanks will be sent on our behalf.

The Clerk notes that our final Worship began with the performance of music especially written for the occasion by Peter Webb (South Australia RM) and thanks him for this gift to Yearly Meeting.

In closing, the Presiding Clerk read the 21st and 30th entry of Advices and Queries (AYM):

21. Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognise the gifts they bring. Remember that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in its care. Seek for them as for yourself a full development of God’s gifts and the abundant life Jesus tells us can be ours. How do you share your deepest beliefs with them, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them? Do you invite them to share their insights with you? Are you ready both to learn from them and to accept your responsibilities towards them?

30. Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.

Lyndsay Farrall, Presiding Clerk
## Appendices

**Attendance at Yearly Meeting 2010**

Total registered for Yearly Meeting 2010 in Adelaide was 265, as listed below:

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### Australia Yearly Meeting Officers, Committees, Working Groups & Associated Bodies and Regional Meeting appointments

**AYM Officers**

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<td>Maxine Cooper, Victoria</td>
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<td>Lyndsay Farrall, Tasmania</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>Private email</td>
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<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Judith Pemberton, Queensland</td>
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**Committees and Working Groups**

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<td>Australia-Wide Quaker Fellowship, Australia</td>
<td>Margaret Woodward</td>
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<tr>
<td>Australia Yearly Meeting Secretary Search Committee</td>
<td>Julian Robertson (Convenor), Maxine Cooper (AYM Presiding Clerk), Jane Drexler (NSW RM), Jo Jordan (South Australia RM), Roger Sawkins (AYM Treasurer)</td>
<td>2011</td>
<td>search</td>
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<td>AYM Secretary Appointment Committee</td>
<td>Past Presiding Clerk, AYM Nominations Committee Convener Two Regional Meeting Clerks unconnected with the candidate</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Australian Friend, Queensland</td>
<td>Susan Addision (Co-editor), Anthony Arden (Co-editor), Duncan Frewin (Co-editor)</td>
<td>July 2010</td>
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<td>Australian Quaker Centre Working Group</td>
<td>David Johnson (Convenor), Queensland RM, John Baker, New South Wales RM; Helen Bayes, Canberra RM, Sheila Keane, and Mark McLeod, New South Wales RM; Jim Neely, Canberra RM; Jane Sloane, and Drew Thomas, South Australia RM; Matthew McClelland (Queensland non-Friend). Young Friends: TBA.</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>Australian Quaker Children’s and Junior Young Friends’ Committee, Victoria</td>
<td>Tracy Bourne (Convenor), Michael Jones, Cindy-Lee Harper, Kyrstie Crane, Justine Shelton, Meilikki Spratt</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>The Australian Quaker Tapestry Group, New South Wales</td>
<td>Cathy Davies (Convenor), Garry Duncan, Frances Love, Tessa Spratt, RM Contacts; Catherine Dabron, Canberra RM; Cathy Davies, New South Wales RM; Kaye Throssell, Queensland RM; Elizabeth Kwan, Northern Territory, South Australia RM; Robin Sinclair, South Australia RM, Tessa Spratt, Victoria RM; Trish Wood, West Australia RM.</td>
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<td>Dale Hess, Victoria RM (Co-convenor) Madeleine Ball, Tasmania RM Adrian Glamorgan, West Australia RM (Co-convenor) David Purnell, Canberra RM Alisa Wild, Young Friends Presiding Clerk and Secretary (ex officio)</td>
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<td>TBA, Kyrstie Crane, Victoria RM</td>
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<td>Ruth Watson (Convenor), Jo Valantine, David Watson</td>
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<td>Vidyta Sutton, Canberra RM (Convenor), Harro Drexler &amp; Jackie Perkins, New South Wales RM ; Jo Temme, Young Friends; Philip Toyne, Canberra RMRM</td>
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<td>Roger Sawkins (Treasurer), Colin Barnard, David Lowe, David Lowry, Marion Sullivan</td>
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<td>Garry Duncan, New South Wales RM Barbara Raulman, Victoria RM Bill Godfrey, Tasmania RM Lyndsay Farrall, Tasmania RM Siobhan Harpur, Tasmania RM Jo Jordan, South Australia RM Robin McLean (Pres. Member), Tasmania RM</td>
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<td>Michael Searle, Canberra RM Taisoo Kim Watson, Queensland RM Ann Zubrick, West Australia RM</td>
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**Please Note** — All email addresses in Italics end in: @quakers.org.au.

— AYM Committees laid down at YM 2010 as they had completed their tasks: Committed Relationships; Handbook Revision; Sanctuary Future Uses

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<td>Sharee Harper (Co-convenor), Chris Hughes (Co-convenor), Tracy Bourne, David Carline, Queensland RM; Alelia Dundas, Young Friends; John McMahon, Anthea Nicholls, South Australia RM; Lilian Robb (JYF) West Australia RM; Margaret Spong, Victoria RM; Waratah, Canberra RM</td>
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<td>Stephanie Farrall, Tasmania RM</td>
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<td>Margaret Woodward</td>
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<td>Quaker Learning Australia, South Australia</td>
<td>Kate Alessia (Contact), David Barry, Kerrie O’Regan, Elizabeth Stevenson, Drew Thomas, Julie Webb</td>
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<td>Fiona Gardner, Victoria RM; Jenny Spinks, Canberra RM and Sue Wilson, Queensland RM</td>
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<td>Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC), Canberra</td>
<td>Rob Holland (Co-Convenor), Brian Turner (Co-Convenor), Margaret Bearlin, Ronis Chapman, Margaret Clark, Jeremy Farrall, David Purnell, Harold Wilkinson</td>
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<td>RM Correspondents: TBA New South Wales; Delwyn Ross, Queensland RM; Jo Jordan, South Australia RM; Gill Paxton, Tasmania RM; Beverley Polzin, Victoria RM; Ed Garrison, West Australia RM; Kyle Purnell, Young Friends.</td>
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<td>Jane Drexler (Convenor), Michael Wilson (Treasurer) Elaine Polglase (Public Officer), Mavis Barnard, David Cooper, Therese Douglas, John Dundas, David Liversidge, Canberra RM, Jackie Perkins, Heather Saville, Michael Wilson AYM Presiding Clerk &amp; Secretary (ex officio)</td>
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<td>Kaye De Vogel, Canberra RM; Gill Fitzgerald, Tasmania RM; Mike Hennessy, West Australia RM; Marilyn Hillery, New South Wales RM; Helen Irvine, Victoria RM; Coral Coleman, South Australia RM; Ian</td>
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Documents in Retrospect 2010

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<td>Wies Schuiringa (Convenor), Mary Pollard, Aoey Teasdale, Bill Brennan, AYM Treasurer (ex officio)</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>Secretary’s Advisory Committee, Queensland</td>
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Australia Yearly Meeting Representatives

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<td>Jo Jordan, South Australia RM</td>
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<td>Sieneke Martin (Victoria RM)</td>
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<td>NCMA Faith and Unity Commission</td>
<td>Gerry Gulton (Victoria RM)</td>
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<td>NCMA Gender Commission</td>
<td>Barbara Lumley (New South Wales RM)</td>
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<td>NCMA Safe as Churches</td>
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Young Friends’ Appointments

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<td>Rhys Dryzek (Canberra)</td>
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<td>Oliver Greeves (South Australia)</td>
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<td>Hannah Chapman-Searle (Convenor), Rhys Dryzek, Evan Gallagher, Emily Chapman Searle</td>
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Associated bodies (Not appointed by Australia Yearly Meeting)

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<td>Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)</td>
<td>Rollo Brett, Canberra RM; Heather Milhouse, Queensland RM; Jo Jordan, South Australia RM; Katherine Smith, New South Wales RM; Beverley Polzin, Victoria RM; Jim Thom, West Australia RM</td>
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<td>Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing (AFFOH)</td>
<td>Margaret Jacobs (Co-ordinator), Tasmania RM; Barbara True, editor, Wholeness, South Australia RM. Local Convenors: Ruth Haig and Steve Alexander, New South Wales RM; Sue Doessel, Queensland RM; Enid Robertson, South Australia RM; Ruth Legg, Tasmania RM; John McMahon, Victoria RM; and Julie Bethell, West Australia RM</td>
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<td>Anne-Maree Johnston (Secretary)</td>
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### Regional Meeting Appointments, February 2010

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37
AQC Preparatory Session 1, held 4 January

David Johnson gave a PowerPoint presentation on the AQC. He offered four reasons for the importance of such a centre:

- Deepen and ground our Quaker faith
- Prepare us for public witness ahead
- Quaker nurture is needed locally and away from home
- Reach out to other faiths

He gave a brief history of the two years of AQC from his 2007 article in *The Australian Friend* to the activities of 2009. He outlined the expenses and income and noted that income was greater than expenditure, due, however, to the waiving of salary payments by staff.

He outlined proposed courses and activities for 2010, including costs. He noted the need for non-Quaker income streams and outlined some proposals.

He listed the challenges and possible answers of the proposal to purchase Silver Wattle as the AQC.

He outlined a proposed agreement with the owners of Silver Wattle which enable AQC to occupy the site for a year on a rent free basis, and that this agreement was drawn up in a Memorandum of Understanding.

Helen Bayes, Director of AQC, acknowledged the generosity of the Catholic Church in providing Silver Wattle at a concessionary lease, and the Quaker community for their prayerful and financial support of the AQC in 2009, describing the conjunction of events enabling progress so far to be miraculous.

Questions and comments included:

- Waratah: Expressed gratitude for the work of the AQC staff and the hope for its continuation
- Peter Wilde: Requested more information on the Memorandum of Understanding. It was agreed to seek a legal opinion as to the financial and legal liabilities to AYM of the MOU.
- The AYM Treasurer suggested that it was very unlikely that AYM could afford to purchase Silver Wattle, and that a separated legal entity would be needed.

Shortage of time required the arrangement of a second session, and that the feedback from Regional Meetings would be presented at the start of that session. It was agreed that the Preparatory session would re-convene at 3.30pm at the David Jarman Room, if available.

AQC Preparatory Session 2, held 4 January

At the start of this session, Julian Robertson gave a summary of the responses from Regional Meetings on the AQC report and recommendations in Documents in Advance. It was observed that the first session was an update on the report in DIA and gave more detailed information on the proposals for the future, the agreement with the Catholic Church on the use of Silver Wattle in 2010 and the timeline of the decision-making process.
Comments and questions during the open session included:

- Those who attended courses at the AQC spoke about the very positive and sometimes transformative experience at Silver Wattle.
- The need to separate the work of assessing the suitability of Silver Wattle as a permanent centre from the programme planned for 2010.
- Environmental issues associated with a fixed location that would require occasional extensive travel by participants.
- The need for a more detailed business plan including a market analysis of potential non-Quaker income streams.
- The development of an investment strategy that would actively pursue funding from benevolent foundations.
- The vision of a permanent centre has been part of Australian Quaker thinking for many years, and that we were encouraged to go ‘forward in faith’.
- The AQC centre at Silver Wattle was a ‘golden opportunity’.
- The similarity by participants of the spiritual experience at Silver Wattle and Meeting for Learning Courses was mentioned.
- The need for a longer time to consider broader possibilities, such as including the AYM Office, or looking for other faith organizations to work with.
- The difficulty of finding the human resources to run existing Quaker activities (e.g. The Australian Friend) may be made more difficult by the needs of a permanent AQC.
- The need to look at a range of models of spiritual learning.
- Concern that the developing plan is at a pace which does not allow full consideration using Quaker processes.

During the first session Alan Clayton was requested to review the proposed Memorandum of Understanding with respect to the level of obligation that the signing of it would commit Australia Yearly Meeting. He reported that the MOU contained the following obligations for AYM:

1. The insurance of Quaker assets at Silver Wattle
2. The undertaking of minor maintenance
3. Furnishing of the Manager’s cottage.

Alan observed that the document does not commit AYM to any financial obligation to purchase Silver Wattle, although the ‘recital’ section of the document does refer to the preparation of a detailed proposal ‘that a legal entity be established to purchase Silver Wattle and operate it as the Australian Quaker Centre’ for consideration by Yearly Meeting in Adelaide 3-10 January 2010.

In summary of the presentations by David Johnson and Helen Bayes, the responses from Regional Meetings and the comments and questions at the first two parts of the Preparatory Sessions, we observe that:

Although there was recognition of the values and benefits of the Australian Quaker Centre, there was caution about immediate purchase of Silver Wattle as a permanent AQC. There is a desire for the further exploration of models for the AQC, including the Silver Wattle model. Whilst there is caution with regard to the financial and practical aspects of purchase of Silver Wattle, we have a strong sense of the need to face the ‘spiritual’ risk in an AQC, of ‘going forward in faith’.

We recommend that

1. The AQC continue the program proposed for 2010.
2. The AQC Working Group be expanded to include members with skills in marketing, legal documents and accounting.
Documents in Retrospect 2010

3. The need for further exploration of models of the AQC

We suggest that the third session should include recommendations on:

a) The signing of the MOU, including the granting of authority to the Director of AQC, Helen Bayes, to sign on behalf of AYM
b) The way in which further models may be explored

Whether an independent entity for the purchase of pursuing the purchase of Silver Wattle should be established and, if so, how this would be done.

Julian Robertson, Clerk

AQC Preparatory Session 3, held on 6 January

Summaries of the first two sessions were read and small amendments made.

The following comments and questions were considered:

• Having an AQC is contingent on its being able to achieve its purpose or purposes, and the achievement of these may be compromised by the capacity of the AQC staff to review and develop curriculum whilst also having to attend to the demands of the practical aspects of running the centre.

• What is relationship between Australian Quaker Centre (AQC), Meeting for Learning (MfL) and Quaker Learning Australia (QLA)?

• Would the AQC working group be able to pursue other models whilst focusing upon the development of Silver Wattle?

• Should we have a clear position on the involvement of AYM in the purchase of Silver Wattle, and the nature of an independent legal entity that would be set up for the purchase of Silver Wattle?

• Do we not need to be mindful of the historical experience of Quakers in setting up structures and organisations only after lengthy periods of soul searching and pragmatic consideration?

In response to these questions David Johnson replied:

• Searching for a new venue for AQC each year would be very demanding on human resources.

• A permanent place would allow the development of a Quaker ethos and enable Friends to strengthen their spiritual base.

• Other models that could be used to guide the choice of a legal entity would include those used by The Friends School, Quaker Service Australia, Woodbrooke and Pendle Hill.

• Two models that were possible for the separate entity were:
  o An incorporated body that operates under state legislation, which varies between states. He noted that these were set up for the purposes of selling services to their own members. Exemptions for non-profit organizations can be obtained to sell services to non-members.
  o A company with limited liability that can sell services to other organizations and is a Federal jurisdiction. This was recommended.

• Legal and financial advice was available at reduced rates by lawyers involved in setting up similar organisations – an Anglican priest and lawyer were given as examples.

Further comments and questions included:

• A passionate appeal to purchase the centre in time, with the development of an intentional community that would be:
  o a place of healing
  o a place of learning
  o a place of outreach

• Regional Meetings need all the information that has been presented in the last few days and consideration should be given to enabling a member of the AQC Working Group to visit Regional Meetings.

• Indigenous communities have found from previous experience that involvement with a community is not worthwhile until a long-term commitment is undertaken.
Documents in Retrospect 2010

- Confirmation that the MOU does provide time to consider whether Silver Wattle is appropriate for the AQC.
- Whilst supportive of a permanent AQC, Silver Wattle is not an appropriate venue because the high demand for building and land maintenance and the climate conditions of the region would make sustainability challenging.
- It would be sensible to wait another year before making a commitment as this was not the time in the history of the planet and Australia Yearly Meeting.
- It was a huge and exciting opportunity for Friends that should not be missed.

In summary of these points, it was agreed that we support the purpose and goals of an Australian Quaker Centre. Our response to the proposal for the purchase of Silver Wattle ranges from deep concern about the financial sustainability, the availability of capital within Australia Yearly Meeting, the cost for individuals to attend the centre through to a strong vision of the potential for spiritual strengthening of the individuals who attend courses, the possible intentional community, and the wider Quaker community. We note that some consider the property unsuitable in a range of ways.

After further consideration of the wording of the Memorandum of Understanding, particularly Section 1.4, it was agreed to recommend the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding by Helen Bayes on behalf of Yearly Meeting.

We recommend that:

1. The AQC continue the program proposed during 2010 at Silver Wattle;
2. The AQC Working Group be expanded to include members with skills in marketing, law and accountancy;
3. There should be further exploration of models for an AQC;
4. The MOU is signed by Helen Bayes on behalf of Yearly Meeting; and
5. The resources of Yearly Meeting not be committed to the purchase of Silver Wattle and that an external legal entity should be set up if the decision to purchase a property is undertaken.

Julian Robertson, Clerk

Australian Quaker Children’s and Junior Young Friends’ Committee

The purpose of this second meeting was for JYFs and Young Friends to discuss ways in which JYFs can be assisted in the transition to YFs.

JYFs spoke about not feeling ready to move up to the YF group at 16. They felt that they didn’t know enough about YFs. They liked the idea that was suggested in the previous meeting of JYF being a 12-18 age range and YFs a 16-30ish age range. They felt that they had friendship groups that they wanted to stay with to support them when they moved up to the YF group.

YFs suggested that they might like to organize a combined JYF and YF camp at some point to facilitate friendship between groups. This suggestion was positively received, although it was acknowledged that such a camp would require a considerable amount of organization and possibly support from other Friends outside of these groups. YFs did not feel ready to organize such a camp in the near future.

The idea of a buddy system was discussed. However, the preferred model was that a ‘special Friend’ be given to JYFs at the beginning of the camp to support them. YFs felt that they already gave a lot of thought to supporting newcomers to camps by organizing introductory activities at the beginning as well as other pastoral care. First-time YFs spoke at the meeting.
about how well they were included in the group at the camp this year. All Friends agreed that
the camp was great fun, and there were rarely problems, and that the problem was mostly
about how to encourage people to come along.

Young Friends also suggested that JYFs be automatically invited to join their email group at the
age of 16 so that they can keep track of YF activities and get a sense of the way the group
operates.

Young Friends suggested that as Friends turn 16 years of age, their names be forwarded to the
YF communications officer and that he/she would then include them in the email
correspondence. They asked that the membership secretary be responsible for forwarding
these names as well as RM clerks because there are some JYFs who regularly attend events
who may not be listed, such as grandchildren of Friends whose parents don’t attend. When a
Friend first joins the email group, an introductory statement about Young Friends will be sent to
them by the YF communications officer.

There was some confusion about the process of inviting 16-year-old Friends to consider
membership, and we ask that this process be communicated to JYFs through the AYM children
and JYF committee and to YFs.

The meeting acknowledged their commitment to child protection requirements that all Friends
are required to follow when caring for children under the age of 18. Kyrstie Crane will be in
contact with YFs in 2010 in her role as appointed child protection reviewer for Friends.

There was further discussion about ways in which JYFs could find out more about YFs before
moving up, including putting epistles from camps on the web page and a general focus on
community building amongst Friends of all ages at Yearly Meetings. The meeting expressed a
hope that organizers for YM 2011 might support a day in the Yearly Meeting that was
specifically focused on young people.

Recommendations:

- That Friends support adjusting the transition age for Friends moving from the JYF group to the YF
group in the following way: that JYFs will be from 12 to 17 years of age inclusive, and that YFs will be
18-30ish years of age.
- That the AYM membership secretary and RM clerks will forward the names and contact details of
Friends as they turn 16 years of age to the YF communications officer, so that they can be included
on the YF email list.
- That the AYM Children’s and JYF committee seek to clarify the manner in which 16-year-old Friends
are invited into membership and communicate this information to JYFs and other younger Friends.

Clerk: Tracy Bourne

Child Protection Policy & Procedures Review

Part A: Report

The Meeting heard from the inaugural reviewer Yoland Wadsworth of a comprehensive multi-
stage process undertaken over two years and of the findings and recommendations;
implementation of which commenced in Regional Meetings after Yearly Meeting 2009.

The Meeting is pleased to confirm support for the eight recommendations (spiritual basis, clearer
better-known network of those with responsibilities, better communication of knowledge,
training, records management, procedure if incident or allegation, relationships to Respectful
Relationships; and additional process recommendations), especially as they see child protection in a broader spiritual community sense and in the context of the work of the Children’s and Junior Young Friends’ Committee.

Some matters for further attention and action, will be referred by the inaugural reviewer to the 2010 Reviewer Jane Sloane and assisting reviewer Kyrstie Crane.

**Part B: For consideration by Yearly Meeting**

- That the full final Report for YM2010 of the Child Protection Policy and Procedures Review be appended in *Documents in Retrospect*.
- That Yearly Meeting may support the confirmation of the review’s recommendations for immediate implementation, including use of the revised (2nd edition) of the Child Protection Policy & Procedures by all Regional Meetings.

*Co-clerked by Yoland Wadsworth and Margaret Moreton*

*Note: The full final report of the Child Protection Policy and Procedures Review, volumes 1–3, are on the Australia Yearly Meeting website in the Members Page, [http://www.quakers.org.au/login.cfm](http://www.quakers.org.au/login.cfm). These are also available as printed documents from the AYM Office on request.*

**Earthcare Committee**

*Follow-up report after Yearly Meeting 2010*

Our current membership is Vidya Sutton (Convenor, CRM), Jackie Perkins (NSW RM), Phillip Toyne (CRM), Jo Temme (CRM, YF) and Harro Drexler (NSW RM) continuing until Yearly Meeting in January 2012. All our members are from Canberra RM or New South Wales RM and we are under the care of Canberra RM.

We liaise with the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Asia-West Pacific Section (AWPS) Global Change Committee through Tom Dundas (NSW RM).

Our terms of reference are that:

*The AYM Earthcare Committee, in all its work:*

- is guided by the Spirit
- is a witness to the increasingly critical health of the environment
- is mindful of the call for intergenerational equity and the co-existence of all species
- creates and maximises opportunities to educate and support Australian Friends in radical right living with the environment and all life on earth
- communicates effectively both with Friends and with the wider world.

Our workplan for 2010 is to do the following:

1. Identify, develop and provide resources to encourage and support Regional, Local and Recognised Meetings, Worshipping Groups and individual Friends to:

   - use fewer resources and generate less greenhouse gases in their Meeting Houses, homes, workplaces, transport and lifestyle choices; and
   - conserve habitats and protect native species and the water quality and soil health in their local area.
We will purchase and print resources to provide an Earthcare Information Kit to Regional Meetings. We anticipate that this will include: the Low Carb(on) Diet guide, the Quaker Moral Economy Project book Right Relationship: Building a Whole Earth Economy, selected Pendle Hill Pamphlets, and information on the Britain Yearly Meeting initiative Quaker Living Witness and the North American Quaker Earthcare Witness network.

2. Encourage Regional Meetings to establish an Earthcare Committee and Local and Recognised Meetings to establish an earthcare working group to educate their meetings and support them in taking practical actions that guide them into right relationship with the environment and all life on earth.

3. Establish effective communication with Regional, Local and Recognised Meetings, Worshipping Groups and isolated Friends through a network of earthcare correspondents and concerned Friends.

4. Develop a strategic plan that addresses the causes of and responds to the challenges of global change.

We anticipate working with Quaker Service Australia (QSA), the Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC), the AYM Indigenous Concerns Committee, other interested AYM committees, The Friends’ School in Hobart, the Australian representatives on the FWCC AWPS Global Change Committee, and all Australian earthcare committees and working groups and Regional Meetings in this endeavour. We also hope to liaise with overseas Quaker earthcare and global change committees.

5. Support all Regional Meetings to become energy neutral by December 2012.

6. Commence work to bring about fundamental social change to bring human societies into right relationship with all life so that habitats are conserved and support the rich variety of wildlife into the future and the planet has a safe climate.

We understand that a safe climate would probably be achieved if we stabilised atmospheric greenhouse gases at 350 parts per million of carbon dioxide equivalents.

We understand this to mean supporting clean and safe alternative energy sources and taking practical and ethical actions to reduce per capita consumption and the world’s population in an effective and socially-just way.

This could mean changing the way our economies create and measure wealth and supporting more cooperative participative decision-making in countries and globally.

Earthcare reports from AYM Committees and Regional Meetings

Australian Quaker Children’s and Junior Young Friends’ Committee

The AQ Children’s and JYF’s Committee is very concerned about the threat of climate change to the future of the planet that we live on. We support the fostering of ‘right relationship’ with our earth in our homes, meetings, and daily lives.

We note too that Earth care is an issue for our children. We remember the statement written by the children at Australia Yearly Meeting at Canberra in 2009 (From DIR 2009):
'We need a safe climate. Please adults, we need you to fix things up very quickly. We want to help too. Our suggestions for action:

- STOP climate change!
- Recycle paper instead of cutting down trees.
- Use more solar power and wind power.
- Ride your bike or walk when you can (< 2km)
- Don’t pollute the Earth
- 3 Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle
- Always turn off electricity when not in use.
- Use green bags and bio-plastic.
- Write to the government to fund research into electric cars, solar cars and all non-petrol cars.
- Stop wasting food, use worm farms.
- We are sad. START NOW! PLEASE!'

Junior Young Friends offered a short statement, saying ‘We are concerned that it will be too late soon’.

In 2009, the work of this committee has largely been about establishing our role, and improving structures for communication amongst Australian Friends. So, we have not been especially proactive about the issue. Some children’s meetings have taken this issue up of their own accord, and we have distributed information as it has come to us. We hope to be more active in the future.

However, we have made an effort to cut our travel this year with an eye on the associated carbon emissions. Members of this committee live right across Victoria, so our travel is potentially significant if we meet face-to-face on a regular basis. Instead, we organized to meet in person only twice; once over an intensive weekend in Mansfield and another time in Broadford. Other meetings and correspondence have been by Skype and email.

Children and young people will live the consequences of the actions that we choose today. We hope that all Friends will actively support peaceful change towards a sustainable existence on the Earth for the Sake of ourselves, our children and the children that come after them.

**The Friends’ School — Contributions to Earthcare**

Environmental education is embedded in the curriculum throughout the school e.g.

- Science, Studies of Society and the Environment (SOSE),
- Connections and, especially,
- Year 10 week ‘How shall we live?’

Increasing level of awareness among Board members, staff and students e.g.

- installation of water tanks, use of grey water on sports oval
- purchase of Far South bush campus in late 2007
- strategic plan for Far South 2009-2014
- will trigger new initiatives in environmental education
- hopes to make the camp more environmentally sustainable, students who designed a plan for this won a ‘Green T’ award in 2008
- plans to develop programs at Far South for Years 5, 7 and 9
- intention to extend Year 9 period of stay from 12 days in 2010.
- Energy audit of buildings conducted in 2009 to be extended.
- New buildings must comply with sustainability rules.
Documents in Retrospect 2010

- High School Landcare Group has been in existence for many years.
- 2009 initiative involved raising awareness by putting reminders in every High School room to switch off lights.

Clemes (Years 11/12) Environment Committee undertake local initiatives e.g.
- Ride to School Day

It is hoped that the students who attended the Global Change Workshop in Canberra will be leaders in this group in the next two years and will use the ‘Low Carb(on) Diet’ program.

Many service activities have an earthcare focus e.g.
- Conservation Volunteers Australia.

The letter from the AYM Earthcare Committee was presented to the Board in December 2009 with the intention of planning a response early in 2010.

Mary Beadle, Teacher, December 2009

Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC) on earthcare

When the QPLC initially considered the scope of its mission, matters related to climate change (particularly legislation) were seriously considered, but we thought that we would have enough on our plate without that, considering the small size of our Committee. We also thought that the earthcare group would be the more appropriate committee to keep in touch with global warming related issues.

The Canberra Global Change-Earthcare Workshop reasonably broadened out the area of concern to ‘Right Relationships’ and considered the interactions between population and poverty and the economic system and natural resources and the environment and the need to keep a balance among all these factors at the global level. Clearly ‘peace’ is related to these too.

In 2010, I hope we can spend some time in our QPLC Committee meetings contemplating the relationship between peace and the changing global economy and environment and how proposed national legislation and international agreements on climate change amelioration, etc, relate to peace and human rights issues.

Brian Turner, Co-Convenor
21 December 2009

Quaker Service Australia (QSA) —on ways it is responding to changes to climate

Within Australia – the office

- Management Committee members attending regular meetings and staff coming to work do so by using public transport.
- Overseas travel essential to program monitoring has a component of carbon offset.
- Carbon offset program within work by project partner in Tamil Nadu, whereby trees are being planted for longterm growth.
- Recycling of office toner cartridges, paper and cardboard.
- Reports circulated by email rather than printed version.
**Proposals**

- For all new proposals considered for funding, environmental aspects is one of the criteria for approval.

**Aboriginal Concerns projects**

- No current projects have environmental sustainability as their primary objective.
- Selection criteria reads 'encourages sound environmental and ecological practices where relevant'.

**Overseas programs**

- Food and water security, along with environmental sustainability are three out of the five sectors in which QSA works.
- Project partners in India, Uganda and Kampong Thom Province in Cambodia providing training in organic farming techniques, raising environmental awareness, environmental education and restoration in a sensitive bioregion of wetlands, soil improvement and water management.
- Current programs running — all include some discussion with participants on changes they have observed due to climate change and how they might address these in the future, i.e. water table levels, change to when rains come, type of crops that currently are growing well, seed bank creation, reduction of waste especially of plastic rubbish.
- Component of programs delivered address birth spacing as a method of population control.
- QSA in December 2009 obtained funding from Australian Government, via AusAID, for a one-year program working with Joss Brooks at Pitchandikulam Bio Resource Centre in Tamil Nadu to address eco-friendly housing; with solar lighting in homes, women’s centre and street; access to safe drinking water; smokeless stoves; waste management; interns to study alternative technology and building design, water and energy construction, maintenance and repair of equipment – all as showcase within the region.
- Growing of seedlings encouraged in leaf containers rather than plastic.

**Fundraising**

Fundraising efforts involve re-using and re-cycling items, clothing etc. via opportunity-shop and street stall and garage Sales.

**Regional Meeting earthcare reports**

**Canberra Regional Meeting (C )**

Canberra RM has submitted a development application to renovate and extend the Meeting House (other than the main meeting room). We plan to insulate the renovated and new rooms and will seek quotes on a variety of green features including ceiling fans and double glazed windows. (Shading from the large oak trees could make solar photovoltaic panels a less effective investment.)

In Bega, three Quaker families have been active in making the Bega Eco-Neighbourhood Development become a reality. Friends in Canberra have provided loans and other support to the development at various stages.

Four individuals/couples in Canberra reported on their actions to lower their ecological footprint:
I drive a very light, petrol-sniffing car — a tankful lasts generally about three weeks. I try to combine several visits or errands on any trip.

I grow some vegies. I have devised arched ‘cathedrals’ of sticks to hold flexible pipes covered by mesh to protect the plantings from marauders (possums and rabbits).

I mulch all weeds in a tumbler composting bin. I have no grass.

I bought a big ‘trug’ for the shower recess and save most water for the toilet cistern. Also save all washing water. Whites water is re-used for darks. Together those waters provide most of the flushing water for the week.

I installed double glazing on the top storey. Installed mesh blinds over the lower floor windows for extreme days. The lower level stays delightfully cool.

I shop at the Farmers Market for low food miles.

We try to follow two principles: ‘Re-use, repair, reduce, recycle’ and ‘Live simply’.

Transport:

We drive a small car which does 5.6 litres to 100km (not much more than a Prius).

One of us rides a bike for local trips whenever possible.

We walk to the shops, except when we have a large shop to do (once a month).

We purchase carbon credits to cover car and our very limited air travel (one overseas trip since 2003).

House renovations:

We installed insulation in the walls, and new insulation in the ceiling.

Installed a ‘whirlybird’ on the roof.

Put insulating blinds in the lounge, bedrooms and dining area.

Put external canvas awnings on the west-facing bedroom windows.

Removed the large windows on the west wall of the lounge room to keep out the summer sun, and blocked up that wall except for two small, high windows.

Opened the north wall, which had one small window, and replaced this with two windows and two glass doors which let in the sun in the winter.

Installed a sail over these doors and windows, which keeps out the summer sun.

Installed mixer taps in the bathroom and kitchen, and a low flow shower head.

We are having solar hot water (evacuated tubes) installed.

Day-to-day:

We share our small house with two others which reduces our per capita energy and water consumption, as well as the embodied energy of another house.

We put all possible food waste in the compost. We grow a few vegetables.

We recycle whenever possible. One of us picks up recyclable rubbish in the streets.

We use recycled paper for kitchen rolls, toilet rolls and office paper.

We re-use paper which has only been printed on one side, either in the computer or for scrap, and avoid using new paper whenever possible. We use the back of used envelopes for notes, lists, reminders, etc.

Turn off stand-by power for appliances. Turn off lights when we’ve finished using the room.

Use LED Christmas lights.

Have installed compact fluoro bulbs in all outlets, including lamps.

Use ‘grey-water-safe’ washing and cleaning products, safe for the ground and plants.

Turn the water on low when we shower, and so don’t use much.

Collect water when we shower and use it on plants etc. and to flush the toilet.

Collect rainwater (esp. from the sail) for use on the plants, to wash the car, etc.

Unless there are guests in the house, we don’t flush the toilet unless necessary.
In hot weather we open the access cover into the roof, and the whirlybird takes out much of the house's hot air. We cool the house at night by opening doors and windows, then close them and the blinds in the morning before the outside temperature is higher than the inside one.

- Buy previously-owned clothes from op-shops where possible.
- Have used Freecycle both as donors and as recipients.
- Eat meat infrequently.
- Prefer to buy organic produce, as well as local produce.
- Look for low transport miles on everything, not just food.
- When we remember, use the microwave to cook e.g. vegetables, not hotplates.
- Wash fruit and vegetables in a bowl of cold water (not under running water) and use that water on plants.
- Buy carbon credits for our birthday and Christmas gifts to each other, and request them as gifts from others.
- Make regular donations to environmentally-based projects.
- Very rarely buy luxuries.
- We rinse and re-use plastic bags.
- I sold my Landcruiser and bought a diesel vehicle which does 4.3 litres per 100km.
- I installed solar water heating, solar electric panels, grey water harvesting for the garden and water efficient toilets.
- I shower only 1-2 times per week. I wash daily in a bucket and put the water on plants.
- In cold weather, I wear more layers and use a hot water bottle, rather than use room heating.
- I walk and use public transport more.
- I am more reluctant to fly.
- I walk to and from work most days.
- My house uses passive-solar strategies as far as possible to maintain the air comfort.
- When I am meeting friends for entertainment or at a restaurant, I propose venues to which I can walk or take a bus.
- I use public transport to attend meetings near town centres or other accessible places.
- I still struggle with air travel.

New South Wales Regional Meeting

There is no earthcare committee but a good level of awareness about earthcare issues, particularly among individuals who have made personal lifestyle changes, teach permaculture, sustainable community techniques, bush regeneration, environmental education etc. Within the Regional Meeting, teleconferencing is encouraged, email rather than printed material, and VOIP.

Blue Mountains Local Meeting

- Garden beds with vegetables and herbs growing
- Recycling via weekly garage sale as fundraiser
- Changed to ‘green’ light globes
- Meeting House let for holidays so building is well used
- Use of public transport / car pool whenever possible

Devonshire Street Local Meeting

- Energy audit in process
- Worm farm
- Changes to ‘green’ light globes
- Monthly stall recycles anything and everything, as a fundraiser

Hunter Valley Local Meeting

- Has done a number of things but also has been active in voicing their opposition to a local coal mine
Kangaroo Valley

- Composting toilet
- Rainwater tanks for all water supply
- Land care block with active bush regeneration happening

Wahroonga Local Meeting

- Donation to QSA to compensate for use of non-green energy as low energy use
- Bush regeneration in the Sanctuary and Meeting House grounds
- English Quaker Children’s Program (which has some environmental content) will be used in 2010.
- Changed to ‘green’ light globes
- Meeting’s priorities are repair, use it until it wears out, and recycle
- Participate in Local Council’s recycling via 4 bins

Queensland Regional Meeting

2009 Activities

- Installation of a 4 KVA photovoltaic system at the Brisbane Meeting House.
- Construction of better paths through the forest at the Brisbane Meeting House. Much of this work was organised by external volunteers. We held a public open day as part of Australia’s Open Garden Scheme and showed our greening activities to 285 visitors.
- Continued nurture of the forest which we calculate sequesters about 170 tonnes CO$_2$e
- Tree planting on a farm in the headwaters of the Mary River. The aim was to make a positive contribution by planting trees that will remove CO$_2$ from the air. Additional benefits were the expansion of the precious riverine rainforest and a very pleasant picnic lunch
- a waste battery collection organised by a young friend
- group discussions organised by Peace & Social Justice Committee on nuclear and alternative energy sources.

Comments:

- Queensland Regional Meeting has long record of earthcare activities. Although QRM set up an Earthcare Committee in response to the request of AYM 2008, the greening of the Brisbane Meeting House has been organised by our Premises and Rainforest Committees for at least 20 years.
- These activities have relied on the dedicated work of a few Friends. However the speed and cheerfulness with which funding requests have been agreed by Q.R.M. Business Meetings shows that there is widespread support within the Meeting.

2010 and beyond.

No firm plans at present. Planning will begin in January drawing on ideas generated at the Canberra Global Change Workshop and AYM 2010.

South Australia Regional Meeting

Adelaide Local Meeting: Photovoltaic panels have been installed on the library building. An underground rainwater tank is planned. The Meeting has joined St Peters Cathedral, St Marks University College and the Adelaide Parklands to form a ‘green precinct’.

Eastern Suburbs Local Meeting: An Earthcare Group has been meeting for two years discussing the potential for individual and household changes in relation to energy, food, transport, water and waste, encouraging goal setting. The children’s meeting has regularly included activities related to earthcare.

The Quaker Shop is enabling large volumes of goods to be recycled and reused. Until business processes changed recently, the shop has been collecting considerable volumes of soft plastic
for recycling by an Adelaide factory.

Community activities: A number of Friends are active in one or more environmental organisations.

**Tasmania Regional Meeting actions towards reducing Carbon Footprint in 2009**

Tasmania Regional Meeting has attended to its earthcare commitment in the following ways:

- Regular earthcare articles in the Tasmania Quaker Newsletter.
- Reduction in number of operating hot water heaters in Meeting House.
- Switching off heaters in foyer area.
- Researching ways in which photovoltaic panels could be installed on the roof of the Meeting House building.
- Researching costs and method of double glazing Meeting House windows.
- Tasmania Regional Meeting financially supported the Transitions Training weekend in June, organised by Sustainable Living Tasmania, by donating the use of the Meeting House, and minuted a willingness to do so again for future such weekends.
- Various F/friends have been involved in local community groups and a range of protest and publicity campaigns, including anti-pulp mill actions (Sally O’Wheel imprisoned at the Pulp the Mill protest), Climate Action Hobart, the e-mail Climate Action Network, Climate Action Forum (10 October) and will be joining the walk Against Warming in the Florentine using sustainable transport (12 December to coincide with Copenhagen). Walter Sigrist lent an old wind propeller as a symbol for renewable energy to Climate Action Hobart for use at the main rally in June.
- It was planned (but prevented by ill-health) to include a program of cooking and serving Friends their own vegetables after Meeting for Worship.
- Sharing and preserving garden produce.

**Victoria Regional Meeting**

A lot of sustainability work is already occurring in the Regional Meeting simply by f/Friends living out the simplicity testimony in the way they behave at home and in their meetings but it was recognized that changes in the way we do things like travel and use resources would be needed to respond properly to climate change.

As most meetings and worshipping groups do not own their own properties, retrofits of Meeting Houses to install photovoltaic panels and the like are not an option. For the one property owned by Friends, Friends’ House, uncertainty about its future also precludes retrofitting.

As one part of the work to find a new Friends Centre in Victoria, a new meeting location was trialled during the year. The primary attribute of the meeting room in Docklands in central Melbourne was its ready proximity to public transport.

A conversation evening on earthcare was held at Friends House with around 25 Friends in attendance. Friends discussed themes around sustainability and shared experiences of work they were doing in this area – some at home and others reaching out further into the community. A list of people interested in continuing this work was put together and we will meet again shortly to continue our learning and sharing and to work towards concrete actions.

Individually, two members of the Regional Meeting worked extensively to engage their communities in the issue of climate change. The first, Yoland Wadsworth, reached out to neighbours in her Richmond street to begin the discussion of how they could respond to climate change while Andrew Bray worked with a local environment group in Ballarat to increase understanding of the issue and build personal and political momentum for change.
Some of the Children’s Meetings also undertook programs around environmental issues. Iced biscuits highlighted the number 350 to correspond with the International Day of Climate Action in October 24.

West Australia report to AYM Earthcare Committee, December 2009.

During 2009 the following activities related to earthcare have been undertaken by West Australian f/Friends:

- Reduced paper usage through the electronic distribution of Quaker News.
- Tips for being green in each issue of Quaker News.
- Bridgetown weekend which had earth care as a theme and where the Earth Charter was explored.
- Low attendance of West Australian Friends at Yearly Meeting because people are trying to reduce their environmental impact.
- Plan to put photovoltaic cells on the Meeting House roof in 2010.

Ecumenism & Interfaith

Many Friends shared their involvement in ecumenical and interfaith activities during the year. We encourage other Friends also to engage in ecumenical and interfaith work and to report back next year.

The Prep Session asks Yearly Meeting to take forward a recommendation that the safe Church project be transformed into another NCCA Commission to carry forward the important work so far and into the future, especially with the newer member churches.

A major focus of this Preparatory Session was hearing of the involvement with the NCCA at national and state levels, where the input of Friends is valued and important.

Friends reported on meetings of Heads of Churches and the Executive Committee and of various Commissions. The NATSIEC website was recommended as an important resource for information and advice on indigenous issues within Australia

www.ncca.org.au/departments/natsiec

With regard to the NCCA’s ACT for Peace Commission, we ask Yearly Meeting to endorse the following statement:

In accordance with A&Q no. 6 Friends welcome the opportunity to work and worship in an ecumenical context at State and national levels. Friends participate in the committees and commissions of the National Council and State Ecumenical Councils. Yearly Meeting expresses its support of these Friends and encourages them to advocate strongly for processes and practices that are compatible with Quaker Faith and Practice.

We heard a report from the rich experiences of the Parliament of World Religions and encourage Friends who participated to share these experiences through their broader networks.

The United Religions Initiative was presented by Bonifacio Quirog, Philippines, who encouraged Friends to look at its website and to form URI cooperation circles with seven persons from at least three different religions or faith traditions www.uri.org

Anthony Manousos, USA, presented his work of encouraging Quakers in the interfaith movement to promote peace, justice, and deeper spiritual understanding. He is a member of the Christian Interfaith Committee of Friends General Conference. He recommends ‘interfaith
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cafes’, where people get together to worship share in the manner of Friends
interfaithquaker@aol.com

We ask that the Clerk and the Secretary explore ways of establishing an electronic network for those engaged in ecumenical and interfaith work, in order to share, to support, to advise, and to debrief.

FWCC Committee

A large number of F/friends gathered to hear of the happenings in our section. We heard that Julian Stargardt, Hong Kong MM, had attended the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen. He is in the process of preparing a report for AWPS and we will give this the widest possible distribution, depending on the size of the report.

Valerie Joy brought us dates of a three-day Gathering in Kenya in May this year to which two Friends from AWPS have been invited. With the AWPS Gathering in Manila, 1-7 April 2011, plans are underway, a venue has been booked (see photo www.FWCCAWPS.org) and Filipino Friends are here observing our Yearly Meeting and collecting information and ideas to aid in the local planning process. We hope that as many F/friends as possible from Australia Yearly Meeting and Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting make an effort and plan to attend this Gathering. The Friends World Gathering will take place in Nairobi in 2012 — AWPS has been allocated 40 places and these will be shared around the section.

Misato Okubo [Japan Yearly Meeting] spoke to us about her journey from being a student at Friends School at Tokyo to her involvement with Young Friends’ Camps in Japan, her attending Young Friends’ Camp prior to Yearly Meeting and her part in the presentation of the Backhouse Lecture.

Topsy Evans (South Australia RM) told us of the gift of $2000 from an anonymous donor in India to enable the production of an essay of ‘What we can learn about the mystical experience of other faiths in the region’. This has been awarded to John Cartwright (Geraldton Worshipping Group, West Australia) and we eagerly await the completion of his essay after his return from a Buddhist monastery in Taiwan. It is hoped that we may receive other donations, so this may be repeated in the future.

Ronis Chapman, Canberra RM, told us of her and Sue Ennis’s plans to visit the two Meetings in Korea, hopefully in May this year, with the possibility of returning via Japan. If anyone has an interest in traveling with these Friends as an inter-visitation, they are urged to contact Ronis.

John and Lois Ocol (Philippine Evangelical Friends Church) gave us a Powerpoint presentation on the structure of Evangelical Friends Church, their beliefs and philosophies. With over 4,000 members in 55 churches spread throughout the 7,100 islands of the Philippines, their numbers continue to grow, with a Pastor and Bible College providing their spiritual background. The other presentation they gave was full of raw emotions, bringing tears to many when they showed us slides of the damage done to their suburb in Pasig, Rosales, Baguio and North Luzon in Pangasanan by four typhoons. In Pasig, the flood waters reached 15 feet high and stayed that way for some days. The death and destruction continued after the flood waters receded, clearly showing the devastation to thousands of people who were poor to begin with, but ended up with only the clothes on their backs. John sent out an emergency email in late September to some of his contacts in different parts of the world and this was forwarded around the world.
We were able to assure Friends that these pleas for money were genuine and arranged for funds to be transferred to AWPS bank account in Adelaide (PEFC’s bank was under 15 feet of water). We were able to collect in excess of $20,000 from F/friends around the world, sending approximately $10,000 to PEFC to enable them to prepare food parcels for hundreds of Filipinos; $4,000 to Tina Montiel, Professor of Psychology at Ateneo University, of unprogrammed Friends in Manila, to run a course for post-trauma counseling for Filipinos. We hold the balance of funds in trust, awaiting instructions from Filipino Friends as to how and what they would wish to fund. A special video was made by PEFC sending their thanks and gratitude, particularly to Australian Friends for making these donations possible but also to Friends around the world for their generosity.

Boni Quirog (unprogrammed Friends, Philippines) showed us pictures of the island of Bohol on which he lives and of other UPF F/friends in Manila. He was also able to show some graphic pictures of the recent massacre of approximately 55 journalists, civil rights lawyers and politicians on the island of Mindanao, southern Philippines. Not only did those responsible bury the bodies in a huge pit, they also buried cars they hoped not to be discovered. The Philippines army as well as US troops have been deployed.

We are grateful to our Filipino guests for showing us so much of their lives, happiness as well as grief. We trust their lives are enriched as they travel to Friends in Melbourne, Sydney, Newcastle and Brisbane on the return leg of their Australian trip.

AYM FWCC Committee Minutes, 7 January 2010

Present: Alan Clayton (Victoria Regional Meeting), Michael Corbett (Associate Secretary, Queensland Regional Meeting), John Edwards (Darwin Meeting), Eleanor Evans (AWPS Treasurer), Valerie Joy (AWPS Executive Secretary), David Purnell (Convenor, AWPS Nominations Committee), Boni Quirog (Philippines), Marion Sullivan (Recording Clerk), Barbara True (Convenor), Taisoo Kim Watson (Associate Secretary, AWPS)

After a brief period of worship, the Convenor opened the meeting of the Committee.

Structure of AYM FWCC Committee

In view of the fact that FWCC has moved from holding regular triennials towards world gatherings every five years, and that the records indicating the term lengths for the Regional Representatives appear to have been lost, the Committee meeting agreed to recommend to Yearly Meeting that the Committee structure be amended to:

- Provide four-year terms for each Regional Meeting Representative
- Such terms be staggered to enable two Regional Meeting Representatives to step down each year, allowing for two new appointees each year who could be mentored by the existing Committee Members, thus preserving the experience and knowledge base of the Committee
- Term lengths be allocated as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>YM</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>2011</td>
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<td>New South Wales</td>
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<td>Queensland</td>
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<td>South Australia</td>
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<td>Victoria</td>
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<td>West Australia</td>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>Young Friends</td>
<td>2014</td>
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AGM of AWPS (Inc)

Barbara True (Clerk) opened the AGM of AWPS (Inc). All present agreed to defer the business of the AGM to a later meeting of the AYM Committee to be held by Skype in February 2010.

AWPS Visitors to Yearly Meeting January 2010

It was agreed that the objectives for selecting the 2010 visitors (Boni Quirog, John and Lois Ocol) from the Philippines (i.e. to support Filipino Friends in their preparations for hosting the 2011 AWPS Gathering, and to introduce Filipino Friends to Australian Friends) had been most satisfactorily met.

2011 AWPS Visitor to Australia Yearly Meeting

Agreed to offer an invitation to Pradip Lamichhane of Nepal. If Pradip is not able to accept, we will consider inviting a visitor from either Singapore or Indonesian Friends. We will also bear these Meetings/Churches in mind for visitors to future AYM Gatherings. John Edwards (Darwin Meeting) offered to host any visitors passing through Darwin.

AWPS Archives

Valerie Joy (AWPS Executive Secretary) reported that the Australian National Archives has decided not to accept any further material from AWPS because it is an international body and no longer fits the criteria for their holdings. Alan Clayton (Vic RM), who is the AYM Archivist, believes this problem can be resolved and will meet with Valerie and the AYM Secretary to address it when he visits Brisbane later this year. Offer accepted with gratitude and relief.

‘Blue Book’ for AWPS Gatherings

Agreed that the AWPS Secretary and Associate Secretary will commence collating information on the experience of Friends hosting AWPS gatherings for the use of Friends hosting future gatherings. All those with relevant information and suggestions will be encouraged to forward it to the Secretaries as soon as possible.

Draft Strategic Plan for AWPS 2009-2011

The Draft Plan was tabled and will be submitted to the AWPS Executive Committee for adoption at its next meeting.

Africa Section Gathering 2010

An invitation for two representatives from AWPS to attend this event has been received and a call for applications circulated. Adequate applications have been received and the AWPS Executive Committee will decide on the Sections representatives at its meeting (by Skype) on 10 January 2010.

Supplement in the March 2009 Australian Friend on FWCC/AWPS

Marion Sullivan asked for feedback on this experiment. Committee members had found it to be a useful tool in raising awareness among Australian Friends. Marion undertook to prepare another one for the June edition of the *AF*. It was also noted that holding the Open Preparatory Session at which the international visitor(s) spoke early in our Yearly Meeting Gathering also
contributed and the Committee will continue to ask for an early timeslot at Yearly Meeting gatherings.

2014 AWPS Gathering

We noted that AWPS Handbook recommends that every alternate gathering be held in India ‘if possible.’ We recommend to the AWPS Executive Committee that Indian Friends be asked if they wish to host the 2014 Gathering but that if they are unable to do so, the Committee consider Hong Kong, Darwin or Cairns as possible locations. We suggest that these locations be also remembered when planning the 2017 Gathering.

Tapestry Panel

Valerie described the AYM Tapestry Project and suggested that a panel on AWPS be designed for it. Agreed that a working group of Valerie, Jim Palmer (subject to consent) and Robyn Sinclair (subject to consent) be formed to perform this task.

2011 AWPS Gathering in Manila

Valerie reported on the organizing committee and the status of planning and preparations. John Ocol is meeting with Australian Young Friends to discuss organizing the AWPS Young Friends Gathering (2011). Any Friends interested in assisting with either of these events are asked to contact Valerie.

Feedback from 2010 Yearly Meeting Visitors

Boni thanked Australian Friends for offering the opportunity to visit Yearly Meeting and reported that our visitors had found the experience very helpful, both in preparing for the 2011 Gathering, and in nurturing their own meetings. They will provide more extensive responses in forthcoming articles in The Australian Friend.

After a brief period of worship, the Clerk closed the Committee meeting.

FWCC Global Change report

Pollution makes the air of many cities dangerous to breathe. Forests which produce the oxygen we breathe are felled at a devastating rate leading to falling oxygen levels in the atmosphere. To see the consequences of deforestation and air pollution, place a lighted candle or a hamster under an inverted glass and watch. We rely on Forests to produce oxygen and water. They store carbon dioxide. They are the lungs of the world and the cheapest most effective way to capture and sequester carbon. So why are we cutting them down?

In the wake of Copenhagen, Friends want to know what we as a worldwide religious society are doing about what we call global change*, i.e. climate and related changes. In 2010 – 2011 Friends around the world will hold local Clusters on global change. Later in 2011, Friends will hold a World Consultation on Global Change. The purpose is to worshipfully discern Friends’ voice on global change, ahead of the 2012 Friends World Conference in Nairobi, Kenya. The Clusters and Consultation are organised by FWCC, Friends’ worldwide umbrella organisation. FWCC defines global change as the inter-connection and unity of all change*, including, for example, environmental and climate change, economic change, social change. The Clusters and Consultation are a worldwide exercise in Friends’ spiritual discernment of our message on issues like the environment, equality, social and economic justice, and climate change. Clusters are local and regional meetings with a concern for global change where Friends share personal experiences of change in their communities and lives, where local and regional groups of Friends seek and find discernment of what their message is for Friends and the world. Cluster messages
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are to be sent to FWCC and will be available on the FWCC website and will form part of the basis of the Consultation. FWCC will use all Cluster messages from around the world in a deepening process seeking the commonality and themes of Friends voices from around the world. The work of the Clusters and the Consultation is rooted in Friends' spirituality and Testimonies and the purpose is to worshipfully discern the voice of Friends in every part of the world on global change. Documents in Advance will be distributed to Meetings soon and will also be available online from the FWCC websites.

Information on Friends and global change is available on the following websites: www.fwccglobalchange.org; www.fwcc.org and on the FWCC Asia West Pacific Section website www.fwccawps.org.

In 2008, Asia West Pacific (AWPS) Friends established a Global Change Committee meeting monthly by Skype phone conference as a virtual Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Global Change. In late 2009 Australian Friends held a Yearly Meeting Earthcare Meeting in Canberra, Australia. Europe and Middle East Section (EMES), of which Britain Yearly Meeting is a part, is establishing a Global Change Committee. Many other Meetings are also active in this important work. Friends everywhere are encouraged to network, share experiences and focus on the spiritual discernment of the way forward for Friends in these challenging times.

• FWCC is reorganising its www.fwccglobalchange.org website to be more user friendly and to provide an online forum as a market place for Friends views, insights and ideas on global change matters.
• FWCC seeks Cluster Facilitators. Please email friends.hk@gmail.com if you are interested.
• FWCC actively seeks funding for the Global Change project and welcomes donations.

*The definition of global change is from “Friends and Global Change” by Julian Stargardt, published by FWCC-AWPS in 2008 and available at www.fwccawps.org

By Julian Stargardt, Hong Kong Friends Meeting

Handbook Revision Committee

Record of discussion of working group requested by Standing Committee to consider ways forward on the format and publication of the 6th Edition Handbook.


We agreed that the overall cost of the Handbook, including publishing and printing, needs to be kept at a level that is easily affordable. We acknowledge the vision of the Handbook Review Committee that the Handbook is a companion to ‘this we can say’, and that together both books represent the inspirational and procedural tradition of Quakerism.

We propose that:

1. Design Edge be requested to produce a front cover for the Handbook as a pdf document.
2. That the rest of the Handbook be formatted using an existing template owned by AYM, such as that used for the 2009 Backhouse Lecture.
3. A number of copies be printed, depending on demand from Regional Meetings.
4. The complete pdf file of the Handbook will be lodged with a publisher that provides a ‘print on demand’ facility, from which Yearly Meeting, Regional Meetings and individuals can purchase copies when needed at a commercial rate. This file will be updated as needed.
5. The cost of the cover page, editing, layout and any other formatting be paid for from the Publication Fund and recouped from Regional Meeting quotas next year. The cost of printing will be recovered in the price paid for the Handbook by Regional Meetings.

6. We note that the Handbook will continue to be available as a download from the Quaker website. We also note that technical advice may be needed to transfer the Handbook between A4 and A5 formats.

Julian Robertson, Recorder

Handbook entry on Grievance Procedures

The following entry on Grievance Procedures is to be considered by Regional Meetings for inclusion in the Handbook 6th Edition:

4.5 Resolving Conflicts

4.5.1 Quaker process

On occasion dissension may arise either between members of a Meeting or Committee, or between an individual and the broader Quaker community. Conflict within the Quaker community needs to be considered in the light of the Peace Testimony, our community life and responsibilities to Regional and Yearly Meetings. It is the expectation that Quakers experiencing conflict would move towards resolution using all of the resources and processes available to them and that they would be supported to do so by the commitment of both individuals and the broader community of Quakers.

It is helpful to bear in mind Quaker principles in dealing with conflict, such as respect for all persons, openness to new light, seeking common ground, approaching the matter prayerfully, seeking the guidance of the Spirit and expecting to be led to a way forward. The principles of natural justice also underpin these efforts to restore our relationships to proper order.

4.5.2 Natural justice

Regard for the principles of natural justice helps to ensure procedures are fair and trusted. Natural justice means that everyone involved:

- has adequate written information about the facts, issues and circumstances of the matter
- has enough time to prepare for any discussion
- has the opportunity to participate in the process overall
- has an assurance that matters are kept appropriately confidential.

Another aspect of natural justice is that it is prompt. So, any person or body, when asked to support resolution of a conflict should:

- acknowledge the request as soon as possible
- start proceedings as a matter of urgency
- tell the people involved in writing.

4.5.3 Resource people

The Quaker community includes many people who, through their commitment to peace have pursued training, qualifications and experience in facilitation of communication and conflict resolution.
To support the resolution of conflicts, a list of willing trained and experienced people should be drawn up by local meeting Ministry and Oversight committees, coordinated by Regional Meeting and published in the regional newsletter.

People who are registered with the Attorney General’s Department as Dispute Resolution Practitioners and other registered mediators and AVP trained facilitators should be considered for inclusion. Other practitioners could be considered in the list as local and Regional Meetings deem satisfactory.

People can withdraw from the list or be withdrawn from the list on the decision of Regional Meeting. This may be a temporary or ongoing removal.

**4.5.4 Dealing with difficulties, disputes or grievances between individuals**

Friends who are experiencing conflict may themselves initiate a resolution process or a group of concerned Friends or Elders from the meeting who are affected by the conflict may suggest that the conflicting Quakers participate in one of the following processes.

**Talking with each other**

Friends’ first preference is to raise any issues directly with the people with whom there is any difficulty. Ideally this would be as soon as possible, before thinking and feelings have become entrenched.

Before such a conversation, a Clearness Meeting (4.4) may be useful to discern deeper matters or individual issues and may bring insight about the individual’s contribution to the situation.

When undertaking such a discussion, it is useful to approach the other person in a spirit of curiosity and respect for the other person's feelings and views and to spend sometime preparing so you can express your views clearly and without blame or criticism. The goal is to come to a positive acceptance of the situation or to agreement about the way forward.

**Talking with an experienced Friend**

The prayerful exploration of the issue with a wise Friend who is not directly involved can be helpful to either person individually or both together. Clerks, Elders and Overseers are available for this service and generally experienced in Friends' ways. People of a Yearly Meeting committee not hosted by a Regional Meeting might consult the Presiding Clerk.

Ministry and Oversight Committees will be supported to become familiar with available Quaker processes and these new processes. They will be encouraged to use the identified resource people to support their ministry.

**Mediation**

People who are at odds can approach the Clerk of Regional Meeting, the Ministry Committee or Oversight Committee or consult the published list of resource people who are experienced, acceptable and independent of the issue, to act as a mediator. After an initial separate conversation with all of the people involved, a Meeting for Worship for mediation is arranged as soon as possible to which each of the involved people is encouraged to bring a congenial companion.

The format of the mediation meeting may either:
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- follow whatever practice is favoured by the experienced mediator and accepted by the people experiencing conflict
- be conducted in accord with Quakers’ usual processes (1.4.4).

Whatever procedure is used, the outcome sought is a written statement agreed to by everyone present, acknowledging the results of the meeting and signed by all. For important issues, the written statement is lodged with the Clerk or Presiding Clerk, as a record for the archives of whatever progress has been achieved thus far.

**Structured resolution**

In practice, it may be necessary occasionally to resort to a more determinative procedure. Once again, the participants meet in the spirit of worship, approaching the matter prayerfully and seeking the guidance of the Spirit. They might begin with a separate Clearness Meeting (4.4) to help define the problem.

To support Regional Meetings to reach a proper decision about an issue referred to it by either an individual or hosted AYM Committee the matter would be considered by a panel of three people, at least one of whom will be a resource person with facilitation and conflict resolution skills, set up by the Regional Meeting in collaboration with the people involved.

If that group cannot recommend a solution acceptable to all concerned, a second panel of three people may be formed, with the participation of the AYM Clerk if practicable, but containing no one belonging to the concerned Regional Meeting.

At any stage, those involved may agree to mediation or a Clearness Meeting (4.4). This step-by-step procedure is spelt out in Supplement 3. The procedure for dissension within an un-hosted Committee (5.3.1) would be a modified version of the above.

**4.5.5 Refusing to be part of the process to resolve the difficulty.**

When a person experiencing conflict refuses to be part of resolution processes they should be supported to explore other options that may be more appropriate for them. It is important that it is not accepted that people remain in conflict because of the commitment of Quakers to the Peace Testimony, our community life and responsibilities to Regional and Yearly Meetings.

Meetings can exert further efforts including holding the person in the Light, the use of silence and bringing to people's attention other possibilities for settling matters. It should be noted that:

- Local Meeting can call on resource people from Regional Meeting
- Yearly Meeting resource people can be called on for further support. (4.5.7)

Where a matter proves to be intractable, Yearly Meeting could consider giving direction using a panel process similar to the one above in Structured Resolution.

There is further sound advice on conflict resolution in the Bible (Matt 18;15) and in section 10.21 of the British Yearly Meeting’s 1995 handbook ‘Quaker Faith and Practice’.

**4.5.6 Disagreeing with a RM or AYM Committee decision**

A different kind of dissension arises when an individual member of a RM or of an AYM committee (5.3.1) disagrees strongly with the Meeting or Committee’s decision on a subject. In principle, this should not occur, because an essential feature of Quaker processes is the attempt to discern God’s will together (1.4.1), and each Friend is expected either to accept or, at least, acknowledge the corporate discernment to which the Friend has contributed. However,
disagreement does occasionally happen and this situation should be treated with serious
attention following the above processes.

**4.5.7 Differences within an AYM Committee that is not under the care of a Regional Meeting.**

Where there are differences in an AYM Committee that is not under the care of a Regional
Meeting, the resource people who are from the State or Territory where the Yearly Meeting is
held that year will form the resource people to support the resolution of the concerns. Where
there are insufficient resource people in a State or Territory the Yearly Meeting will appoint
other identified support people to support them.

_Sabine Erika, Convenor of Working Party_

**Indigenous Concerns**

The session began with a welcome, a silence and reading of Advices and Queries No 18:

_For thousands of years before 1788, this country was lived in by various
Aboriginal peoples, at one with the land. Through colonisation, much of
their land and culture has been lost to them, and their children have been
taken from them; they have suffered the injustice of racism, and material,
psychological and spiritual deprivation. Can we acknowledge with sorrow the
loss of life and the ongoing destruction of their languages, families and
communities, appreciate the depth and strength of Aboriginal beliefs and
values and learn from Aboriginal people and accept the gifts they have for
all of us? Can we all, as Australians, work towards living together as equals,
with mutual understanding and respect?_

The session acknowledged the Kaurna elders, past and present and thanked them for allowing
us to meet on their land and the magnificent welcome ceremony.

Chris Hughes, co-convenor, reported on activities since the report in _Documents in Advance_.

He outlined the key national issues for Indigenous peoples in 2010, including:

- The reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act
- The new national representative body
- The continuation of the Close the Gap Indigenous health program
- The inclusion of real consultation with Indigenous communities by all levels of Government on
  programs that affect them
- The continuing failure to implement recommendations from reports such as _Black Deaths in Custody,
  Bringing Them Home, and Little Children Are Sacred._
- The ongoing struggles of Indigenous communities to have their culture and language not only
  recognized but embraced by the wider non-Indigenous communities.

Chris also drew our attention to the shoddy workmanship of outside contractors in the building
and repair of Indigenous housing and the lack of local Indigenous labour in its construction.

The Regional Meeting Correspondents’ reports were displayed during Yearly Meeting.

Other reports included:

- The session heard information about lobbying activities that came out of the YM09 Indigenous
  Concerns recommendations, particularly in Canberra and also in Victoria. The report by Margaret
  Evans, Canberra RM, will also be on display.
• Anthea Nicholls, Victoria RM, reported on the experience of the people in Ramingining when the intervention started. She also drew attention to the attack on bilingual education; the white people living in Indigenous communities who ignore the alcohol prohibition; the narrow channeling of government funds that has prevented funding of some Indigenous initiatives; and that she has three copies of a CD of Ramingining cultural music.
• Duncan Frewin, Queensland RM, reported on ‘whiteness workshops’ held in Brisbane focusing on the ways that we normalize the dominance of our culture.
• David Carline, Queensland RM, spoke of activities in Cunnamulla and at Murra Murra, expressing thanks for the ‘on the ground’ things he is able to do with the Pam Byde Bequest Fund monies.
• Harald Ehmann, South Australia RM, talked about the Letters Patent in regard to the founding of South Australia, and suggested that other Regional Meetings might look for similar Letters Patent in their states.
• Sharee Harper, Victoria RM, spoke about the need for housing and the need for accountability for money spent; about a ‘third era’ of culture building within Indigenous communities, and encouraged Friends to join in and learn from cultural events.
• Harald Ehmann suggested that each Regional Meeting have a Pay the Rent Committee, with a similar process to restorative justice.

The Committee’s priorities for 2010 will include lobbying on:
• NTER including reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act
• The new national representative body
• Action on unimplemented reports
• Housing
• Bilingual education

Matters for Yearly Meeting’s consideration

Regional Meetings are asked to
• Establish a Pay the Rent Committee (if not already active) and use such funding to build personal relationships with local indigenous bodies and organisations through shared activities
• Look for opportunities to participate in cultural events
• Investigate the implications of Letters Patent in their own States
• Organise and participate in workshops on lobbying

Clerk: David Purnell Recording Clerk: Margaret Spong

Indigenous Concerns Committee — supplementary report

Changes to Committee and correspondents
• Tracey Bourne has laid down her membership of the committee.
• Aina Ranke has laid down her role as the New South Wales RM correspondent and Cherylie Lloyd has laid down her role as the South Australia RM correspondent.

We thank Tracey, Aina and Cherylie for their work and their ongoing commitment to indigenous justice and reconciliation through other avenues.

We welcome Harald Ehmann as the new correspondent for South Australia and hope that New South Wales and West Australia are able to find Friends that are willing to perform the role of correspondents for their respective Regional Meetings.
Committee activities since our DIA report

Resulting from a workshop on the Northern Territory Emergency Intervention held at Friends House in Melbourne, where Michelle Harris, OAM, spoke about a lobby group, Concerned Australians, which she is part of. The Committee has become involved in their campaign to reinstate the Racial Discrimination Act. Concerned Australians are also concerned to ensure the Government does not use the special measurements clause to maintain the discriminatory practices imposed upon ‘prescribed communities’ through the Northern Territory Emergency Response (NTER) legislation.

The committee welcomes the government’s commitment to addressing the acute social and infrastructure issues that Indigenous Australians have been raising and requesting assistance with for decades. It also recognizes that elements of the Intervention have lead to positive outcomes for some individuals and communities within the NT. However, it also hears of the pain and suffering of others who have had different experiences of the intervention. It also has heard of those concerned about how the mining industry and others may use the umbrella of protecting vulnerable persons to pursue their own financial interests.

It is concerned that once again governments have chosen to ignore the recommendations of its own initiated enquires into how best to deal with complexity issues. The Little Children are Sacred report recommendations, which provided a way forward to build upon the successful programs already achieving results within the Northern Territory and a mechanism to involve communities in dealing with the issues affecting their communities was ignored and has led to unnecessary pain and division as well as conflict where harmony was possible.

We have called upon all levels of government to implement the recommendations of the Little Children are Sacred report as a priority, to ensure we can move forward together towards true reconciliation and ‘together becoming one’.

Concerned Australians and others have been monitoring the consultation process undertaken by Government in ‘prescribed communities’ to justify the continuation of some mandatory discriminatory elements of the NTER legislation under the special measurements clause based upon consultation with and agreement by affected persons. They have documented their concerns of what they describe as a very flawed process with a predetermined outcome in their report ‘Will they be heard?’.

The committee requested the Presiding Clerk to put together a statement, in line with those of other church bodies, requesting the Government to reinstate the Racial Discrimination Act in a form compliant with Australia’s obligations as a signatory to both the Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention of Civil and Political Rights, and its support of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The committee believes that adoption of the Little Children are Sacred report recommendations would achieve this rather more so than the current Bill before Parliament.

Other issues the Committee has become aware of and sent letters regarding are the Northern Territories Government Homelands Policy and the restructuring of Council Shires within the Northern Territory and the implications for those Aboriginal communities that may be affected by these policies. Some Aboriginal leaders have requested support in ensuring the ongoing support of the Homelands movement. The Homelands movement has enabled the continuation and strengthening of culture and has been shown to have a beneficial affect on both the physical and psychological health of those involved. The Federal government has stated none of its funding can be used to provide housing or other services to current homelands.
The committee has also been involved in the ongoing discussions between the Federal government, the NT Government and local Aboriginal councils in relation to the Aboriginal town camps around Alice Springs. The Minister has also revealed that not one house has been built under the NTER Strategic Indigenous Housing and infrastructure Program (SIHIP).

The attached correspondents’ reports will also provide Friends with activities of Regional Meetings and individual Friends since our last Yearly meeting.

Due to the campaigning of many Indigenous and non Indigenous people and bodies, including Quakers corporately and individually, the policies and actions of governments at all levels has seen alterations and increased consultations with Indigenous bodies and communities. This has included the continuation of bilingual education within the NT, commitments to maintain funding to existing Homelands, the establishment of the joint steering committee with Federal Government, NT Government and the Tangentyere Council and Lhere Artepe Aboriginal Corporation to implement the Alice Springs Transformation Plan (ASTP) to provide social services, improved housing and services to Town Camp residents and itinerant and homeless people, rather than the Federal take over the Minister announced earlier in the year to name but a few.

Indigenous people and communities continue to make major steps to the advancement of their peoples in spite of historical and continuing discrimination.

**Issues for 2010**

**Key National issues for Indigenous peoples coming up in 2010 include:**

- The reinstatement of the Racial Discrimination Act on 1 July 2010 via the current social security and other legislative amendment (welfare reform and reinstatement of Racial Discrimination Act) Bill 2009 introduced by the Government in November 2009.
- However, in its current form it will enable the current policies on income protection, prohibition of alcohol and pornography in prescribed areas, five-year leases to be maintained with some ability of communities to seek variations and exemptions with ministerial approval. The Government maintains that these measures are consistent with the Racial Discrimination Act as they are either special measures that enhance the rights of Indigenous people or not discriminatory i.e. the expansion of income protection to other social security participants in the NT with a plan of taking this policy nationally.
- The on going development of the new national Indigenous representative body to be called the National Congress of Australia’s First Peoples, which will continue its development through 2010.
- The continuation of the closing the gap on Indigenous health program instigated by the Federal Government.
- The inclusion of real consultation with Indigenous communities by all level of Governments on programs that affect them.
- The continuing failure of Governments to implement recommendations coming out of numerous government enquires such as the *Deaths in Custody; Bringing Them Home* and the *Little Children are Sacred* reports. Failures that result in ongoing suffering for Indigenous Australians.
- The ongoing struggles of Indigenous communities throughout Australia to have their Culture and language not only recognized but embraced by the wider non Indigenous community.

Friends can obtain further information on these and other matters by visiting the relevant Government and Ministerial websites: [www.nt.gov.au](http://www.nt.gov.au); [www.fahcsia.gov.au](http://www.fahcsia.gov.au);

These and other indigenous websites may assist Friends get a more full picture of issues facing Indigenous Australians and access some of the many success stories that are not reported in our major mainstream newspapers. Also your AYMICC correspondent would be a valuable source of information and advice.

The committee intends to continue its role as a national clearing house, to correspond with relevant Government department’s on issues relevant to Indigenous peoples as requested by them, support AYMICC correspondents and to provide funding, support, and assistance to Indigenous organizations and people from the funds generously donated by Regional Meetings and Individual Friends to the committee.

An area of concern raised recently is the shoddy workmanship of outside contractors in the building and repair of Indigenous housing and the lack of local indigenous labour in its construction. We intend to investigate how we as a national Committee may be able to assist in rectifying this situation.

As stated in our DIA Report the committee believes Trust, respect and community are created by individual people at the local level engaging with each other and learning from each other and cannot be learnt by reading a book or a newspaper article or achieved by sending letters or demanding Governments and their Departments to fix it.

We should be looking at what we do as individuals to promote and engage in reconciliation at our local level to build community with our Indigenous brothers and sisters and seek to inform ourselves of our own local history. If we become aware, engaged community members willing to hold our elected representatives accountable to their international obligations and for the type of society we wish to create, the path to real long lasting reconciliation will be walked. To this end the committee encourages all Friends to reflect on how their life speaks to our testimony of equality and what they may do to help manifest this testimony into their day-to-day life.

To help Friends start this journey the committee would suggest they could contact their local council for information on the Indigenous history of their local area and local Indigenous bodies in their area. Friends could also join or seek information from their State or Territory ANTAR bodies [nsw.antar.org.au, antarsa.auspics.org.au, antargld.org.au, antar.org.au/nt, antar.org.au/West Australia; antar.org.au/act, antarvictoria.org.au or Reconciliation Australia [www.reconciliation.org.au] which can advise Friends on how they can get more involved to the level of their comfort.

The committee would invite Friends to find out the traditional country that they are living on and acknowledge it on their postal address i.e

_Jane Citizen_
123 Hope St
Adelaide South Australia 5000
Kaurna country

**Indigenous Concerns Correspondents’ reports**

**Queensland Regional Meeting Pay the Rent Committee 2009**

**Reduce Indigenous Imprisonment Campaign**

- QRM agreed to support the Reduce Indigenous Imprisonment campaign initiated by ANTaR and the Bridge Network, by becoming members of the coalition being formed.
We contributed $1000 to bring Elders from North and Central Queensland for a strategic planning meeting. Once the strategic plan is developed organisations will be approached for funding for a project officer.

The campaign is now being driven by Indigenous organisations with ANTaR acting as secretariat. Notice of meetings is going out in the names of Murri watch and ATSIWLAS.

Maintaining existing relationships and building new ones

Educating ourselves

• Speakers - Monique Bond and Georgia Corowa, Aunty Jean Phillips
• Whiteness discussion group

Pay the Rent Fund

• Emergency relief, particularly while families are awaiting Centrelink payments for the care of children moved by Dept of Community Services.
• Support for the community work of Aunty Jean Phillips
• Support for Murra Murra, elders accommodation, cultural program for youth
• Support for out-of-pocket expenses of Elders attending opening of Ration Shed Museum at Cherbourg

Pam Byde Bequest fund

• University and high school study
• Driving lessons to enable employment as youth worker
• Car repairs to enable singing career
• Support for David Carline’s community work in Cunnamulla
• Reduce Indigenous Imprisonment Campaign

Meeting for Worship for Healing of, and between, Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians.

• Let people know if this is continuing. Second Thursday, 7.30pm

Living up to our plaque – what does it mean to do justice?

• How to pay for Welcome to Country at Open Gardens weekend

Duncan Frewin AYMICC QLD Correspondent on behalf of the Pay-the-Rent/Land rights Committee

South Australia Regional Meeting

As a South Australian region we have been concerned about the situation in the North Territory in regard to the intervention by the Commonwealth Govt. Along with people from the NT we have asked that there be greater listening to the communities – particularly the communities that were operating relatively successfully before the intervention. We have been concerned that successful community models be used for those communities that are struggling. Perhaps there needs to be more dialogue between government and communities to encourage people to work together and not a top-down approach to management which seems in conflict with meaning of reconciliation.

A small group of people, including several Quakers from Adelaide Meeting take part in the monthly candlelight walk around Government House to raise the issue of indigenous rights for our Aboriginal communities in South Australia. In particular, we would like to see the Letters of Patent be put into effect. These Letters were developed before white settlement in South Australia as a means of protecting Aboriginal people’s rights. Only last week retired High Court Justice Michael Kirby launched a book by Shaun Berg called ‘Coming to Terms’. This deals with the Letters of Patent and the lack of the South Australian Government and some parts of the Settler community to deal with the requirements of the Letters Patent. There is to be ongoing discussions with the present South Australia Government over this matter.
All Australian Aboriginal nations are still struggling with issues on their lands, whether it is social issues in the Antakirinja and Pitjantjarjara Yangkuntjatjara Lands in the north of South Australia or issues of water in the Ngarrindjeri Coorong areas to name two major areas of concern.

During NAIDOC week, various activities were held around Adelaide and some country areas to highlight and celebrate Aboriginal culture. These activities were done to inform the wider community about the importance of Aboriginal culture and the role Aboriginal people are playing in our society.

Finally a group led by Harald Ehmann working with people of the Kaura nation and Quakers from the South Australia Region have sought to develop a new and more meaningful welcome to country ceremony which will hopefully be a blue-print for other Yearly Meeting’s in the future as well as in the wider community. The ceremony is called Kumangka gnadlu kumanendi which literally translated is ‘Together we one become’ or contextually translated is ‘Together we become one’.

Reconciliation in this state is still in its infancy; we of the dominant culture still have a lot of learning to do about Aboriginal culture and their connection to the land before we can truly find a new way forward together. As Quakers, taking time to connect with Aboriginal people in your local areas will help advance the needed reconciliation

I have visited two remote communities in 2009 – Elcho Island and Mamadawerre Outstation – both in Arnhem Land, Northern Territory. I had a number of discussions with the women I met in relation to the NT Emergency Intervention (NTEI). The women are supportive of the Intervention, particularly in regard to feeling safer in relation to the threat of violence because of more police deployed in the communities. I believe much of the opposition to the NTEI comes from those who have never lived in remote communities or indeed town camps and therefore do not have an understanding of how terrible day-to-day life is for these women.

It is true that there are a number of shortcomings in relation to the NTEI. However, in the four years I have been resident in the NT I have come to see that the situation in relation to violence perpetuated by Indigenous people primarily against each other is out of control and something drastic had to be done. In my role as the Principal Psychologist in Darwin Prison I am aware that such violence is escalating and in many instances is perpetrated by, or allowed to occur, by the Elders in some communities. In my view, self-determination is unacceptable under these circumstances. For many Indigenous men who are imprisoned at Darwin Prison for violent and/or sexually violent crimes, culture and tradition is used as an excuse in order to justify an attitude and world view that women and children are lesser than themselves and therefore can be treated in a harsh and inhumane manner. Many women suffer chronic disability and others death because of such an attitude. I believe all Australian citizens of good will would not find this acceptable.

In many communities it is now the old people, primarily women, who have primary care of the children. Income management has been a positive intervention because now they are able to feed and clothe the children rather than be stood over for money for alcohol, drugs and/or gambling. Further, it is the old people who can read and write and speak English and are therefore the ones who can interact with the main white culture in order to get things done. The young people I see coming into the prison can hardly speak English and are illiterate. It is hard to see how they will be able to gain employment or indeed achieve a worthwhile future for themselves due to this lack.
Documents in Retrospect 2010

It would appear that over the years a great deal of money has been 'thrown' at the problem. However, whether it be Federal, Territory, NGO's or Indigenous Organisations distributing this money, most appears never to get to where it is needed — due to both incompetence and much dishonesty. It is certainly my hope and prayer that with closer scrutiny of where money is assigned through the NTEI in order to close the gap of disadvantage will go where it is needed and things will improve for all Indigenous people.

*Barbara Sampson, ICC NT Correspondent.*

**Tasmania Regional Meeting**

In 2009 our Indigenous concerns sub-group has been part of the Friends' national link-up (Jan Nedrika). We have

- written letters to Jenny Macklin,
- sent a small donation to I.C.C. and
- monitored national material (Rose Brown).

Jennie Herrera goes to the Uniting Aboriginal & Islander Christian Congress services once a month and Rose Brown is a member of the Glenorchy Reconciliation Group.

We hope to be more active in 2010.

In peace and love, Jennie Herrera & Rose Brown (for the Indigenous concerns sub-group, the Peace & Justice committee)

**Victoria Regional Meeting**

The Vigil has continued each Monday, with fluctuations in attendance during the year. It is wonderful to have 10 or 11 people there, and a strain when there are only two or three. We are considering replacing the word 'Indigenous' on the banner. The Vigil was listed in the program for Reconciliation Week and the Parliament of the World Religions, and is also one of the Meetings for Worship in *Quaker News*.

Three Friends have taken the opportunity to hear eminent speakers in Melbourne, e.g. Mick Dodson, Tom Calma, Richard Downs, Muriel Bamblett, and have also gone to Aboriginal events, e.g. the Black Arm Band, Bangarra Dance Theatre. Group outings were organized for ‘Samson & Delilah’ and a Six Seasons walk with an Elder at the Royal Botanical Gardens at Cranbourne.

We have given support to ANTaR, to the unsuccessful Reconciliation Victoria campaign for continued State Government funding, and to Sue Doessel’s leading, the Meeting for Worship for Healing of and between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people. Financial donations from a number of Victorian meetings have gone towards items needed personally by students, or on Department Wish-Lists at Worawa Aboriginal College. The standard of art-work has been very high, so it has been satisfying to be able to provide paints and other items requested by the Art Centre. Victoria Regional Meeting has continued its ‘Pay-The-Rent’ arrangement, with a relevant account recently set up to be looked after by the Indigenous Concerns Group.

The Indigenous Concerns Group has written a number of letters during the year, e.g. about different aspects of the Northern Territory Intervention, the work of Reconciliation Victoria.

In August we held an information session at Friends House on lobbying, and a follow-up day workshop in September October focusing on the issues in the NT Intervention. This led to a
connection with a group called ‘Concerned Australians’, led by Michele Harris, who organized a Report on the mid-year consultation process undertaken by the Federal Government. Three of us were invited to its launch, Will They Be Heard?, by Malcolm Fraser, and followed up a request from Michele for the AYM Presiding Clerk to write and release publicly a statement in response to the Report.

In different issues of Victoria’s newsletter I have tried to encourage Friends to make contact with and get to know Aboriginal people, as it seems the best, and maybe only way to address the unconscious racism that our Western societal system has taught.

Margaret Spong, AYMCC Member and Vic RM Correspondent.

Peace Preparatory Session

Part A: Report

- Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (DIA p 56). David Purnell (Canberra RM) spoke of the activities of the committee – (a) ‘Preparing for Peace’, an initiative of British Friends now being carried forward by QPLC in the Asia-Pacific context. (b) Sri Lanka – a dialogue process is planned to bring together people from a range of backgrounds to focus on rebuilding and healing in Sri Lanka after the civil war. (c) Action Alerts and watching Briefs – these have covered issues such as human rights, asylum seekers, defence policy, global peace index, and nuclear disarmament. (d) Submissions – to government and parliament about religious freedom, nuclear weapons, and national security legislation. Friends expressed appreciation for the work of the committee and gave examples of how its resource materials have been used locally.

- Donald Groom Fellowship (DIA p54). Ruth Watson (West Australia) reported that Robyn Slarke, DGF Fellow for 2009, was unable to complete her intended work in PNG on a film, owing to pressures of her tasks with UNIFEM in the Pacific. The fellowship has been extended through 2010.

- Peace and Social Justice Fund (DIA p54). Liz Field and Jackie Perkins (NSW RM) spoke to the report. Applications for support need to be well documented and backed by a Regional Meeting or Yearly Meeting Committee. The present Committee is laying down the concern.

- Peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee (DIA p55). Dale Hess (Vic RM) spoke to the report. Appreciation was expressed to the committee, which is laying down the concern.

- Women’s Peace Conference. Christine Larkin (Canberra RM) and Julie Walpole (NSW RM) reported on their participation in an international conference in Sydney in October 2009 (arranged by ‘Initiatives of Change’). Women from many countries shared their experience of building peace, often in very difficult situations. A process of Circles for Peace is being used to enable such sharing. Copies of the conference report are available from those who attended

- Reports. The meeting noted that most Regional Meetings have peace committees or networks of concerned Friends. DIA includes some of the details.

- Alternatives to Violence Program (DIA p56). Sabine Erika (NSW RM) spoke of the ongoing work in several parts of Australia, in jails, schools and communities. The next national training will take place in Cairns, Queensland.

Part B: For Consideration by Yearly Meeting

- Reports. We ask Yearly Meeting to formally receive the peace reports in DIA.

- Nuclear Disarmament. We ask Yearly Meeting to adopt a minute along the following lines:

  ‘Yearly Meeting welcomes the initiative of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament (ICNND) and its commitment to removing nuclear weapons from the world. QPLC has prepared an Action Alert on the report which encourages Friends to redouble their efforts to abolish nuclear weapons and to support the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (www.icanw.org). We ask QPLC to follow up the ICNND report in 2010, in consultation with QUNO, with particular attention to the forthcoming Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference. We ask the Presiding Clerk to write to the Prime Minister, congratulating the Government on initiating the Commission, commending it as an important step forward, urging adoption of an earlier timetable for
the reduction and abolition of nuclear weapons, and supporting the proposed Nuclear Weapons Convention.

• Friends are encouraged to make representations to MPs in the spirit of mutual sharing and listening. We note that the issue of the use of nuclear energy needs further consideration among Friends.’

• Donald Groom Fellowship. We ask that Yearly Meeting express appreciation for the committee’s work in supporting those chosen as fellows, and ask the committee to complete its term to Yearly Meeting 2011 to support Robyn Slarke. We suggest that any need for additional funds be taken up with the Peace and Social Justice Fund.

• Peace and Social Justice Fund. We note that no Regional meeting has offered to assume responsibility for this concern. We suggest that the DGF committee and the Thanksgiving Fund committee and all Regional Meetings consider whether they feel led to take up this concern, and report to mid-year Standing Committee. We note that in the meantime any urgent decision can be made on requests for funds from PSJF by the Yearly Meeting officers in accordance with the Handbook.

• Peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee. Although no Regional Meeting has offered to take on this concern, we suggest that all RMs consider the outgoing committee’s proposal that the concern be kept alive.

• Reappointment of QPLC. We ask Yearly Meeting to re-appoint QPLC, based in Canberra RM, with the following members: Rob Holland and Brian Turner (co-convenors), Margaret Bearlin, Ronis Chapman, Jeremy Farrall, David Purnell and Harold Wilkinson. We hope the committee will serve for a further three years.

Harold Wilkinson, Clerk; David Purnell, scribe
### Quaker Service Australia Strategic Plan YM2010 – YM2013

#### Strategy 1 – Deliver projects that are effective, well managed and address the needs expressed by the communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.1 Identify clear guidelines for projects to be funded from the Aboriginal Concerns Fund</td>
<td>1.1.1 Guidelines refined, outlining strategic direction, selection criteria, monitoring and evaluation, and sustainability.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.2 Increase number of Aboriginal Concerns projects funded under the new guidelines</td>
<td>1.2.1 Explore funding opportunities for Aboriginal projects and project partners. 1.2.2. Review projects funded under Aboriginal Concerns Fund since 1959. 1.2.3. APO prepare plan to strategically increase number of project partners to be supported under the new guidelines by June 2010. 1.2.4. Consider option of study tour to Aboriginal community. 1.2.5. Culturally appropriate project information made available via written material and website.</td>
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<td>1.3 Review overseas project selection criteria and guidelines.</td>
<td>1.3.1 Program selection criteria documents and website, and program framework revised to accommodate new guidelines, including environmental impact assessment.</td>
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<td>1.4 Assess overseas projects with existing project partners for effectiveness and sustainability and as part of an exit strategy.</td>
<td>1.4.1. Development effectiveness and sustainability matrix prepared and tested.</td>
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<td>1.5 Draw up a strategy to examine the number of overseas project partners and countries supported.</td>
<td>1.5.1 Strategy devised to possibly increase number of overseas countries regularly supported and number of project partners by December 2010. 1.5.2. Prepare list of all project partners and projects supported since 1959.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.6 Continue to improve effectiveness and efficiency of project management.</td>
<td>1.6.1. Executive Administrator (EA) to draw up records policy to include what records to maintain; what to retain for current projects; archive schedule; regular computer backups. 1.6.2. Ensure QSA project guidance manuals are accurate and being followed. 1.6.3. Ensure continuous improvement in the management of projects. 1.6.4. Enhance monitoring and evaluation techniques employed.</td>
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#### Strategy 2 - Increase effort put into fund raising campaigns to enhance donations

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<th>Goal</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<tr>
<td>2.1 Increase number of individual and regular donations.</td>
<td>2.1.1. Education &amp; Fundraising Officer (E&amp;FO) to draw up a fundraising plan to increase the number of donors, and in particular the number of regular donors.</td>
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<td>2.2 Provide publicity material for Regional Meeting QS Committees to use to increase the profile of QSA within Meetings.</td>
<td>2.2.1. E&amp;FO to evaluate the fund raising capacity of each fund raising activity undertaken in recent years by QSA and QS Committees to form the basis for future plans. 2.2.2. E&amp;FO to prepare an annual fundraising strategy. 2.2.3. Increase links and fundraising opportunities for Friends. 2.2.4. Provide opportunities for greater understanding by Quakers and others on development issues and the work of QSA.</td>
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<td>2.3 Establish an effective database of donors</td>
<td>2.3.1. Obtain assistance from the Commonwealth Bank to create an effective database.</td>
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<td>2.4. Develop the profile of QSA in general community as a trustworthy agency for the delivery of funds to communities in need.</td>
<td>2.4.1. Website and printed educational material to reflect our ethos. 2.4.2. Study tours and visits by project partners seen as opportunity to personally see that QSA is a trustworthy development agency.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.5. Explore funding opportunities for domestic and overseas projects.</td>
<td>2.5.1. To apply for AusAID funding as applicable. 2.5.2. Grants sought from other government departments, philanthropic organizations and individuals.</td>
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</table>
Strategy 3. Increase links with Quaker and non Quaker Organizations to work together addressing social injustice issues

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Objective</th>
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| 3.1. Create and maintain links with Quakers in Australia | 3.1.1. Create links with QLA and AQ Centre.  
3.1.2. Develop info al dialogue with AYM Indigenous Concerns Committee and Indigenous Committees.  
3.1.3. Maintain link to Standing Committee through ex-officio members – AYM Clerk and AYM Secretary.  
3.1.4. Establish greater links with QPLC, Earthcare Committees, Friends’ School, and provide opportunities for greater understanding by Quakers and others on development issues and the work of QSA |
| 3.2. Create and maintain links with Quaker groups overseas | 3.2.1. Maintain good linkages with other Quaker organizations such as QUNO, FWCC as well as service organizations such as AFSC, A/NZ on areas of mutual interest |
| 3.3. Create and maintain links with non Quaker organisations | 3.3.1. Develop links with other NGOs working in similar projects  
3.3.2. Explore possibilities of working with inter-faith groups in advocacy campaigns relating to peace and social justice matters which relate to QSA’s activities and outlook.  
3.3.3. Continue our membership of ACFID, and make full use of training workshops and Member Information Forums |

Strategy 4 – Ensure capacity of human resources are sufficient for present and future demands of QSA activities

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<th>Goal</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4.1 Provide appropriate professional development for all staff</td>
<td>4.1.1. Provide staff with relevant experience and training as required</td>
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| 4.2 Ensure appropriate contingency plans are in place as risk management mitigation | 4.2.1. Provide opportunities for cross skilling training to occur.  
4.2.2. Draw up a data recovery plan |
| 4.3 Develop a plan for staff and volunteer pastoral care | 4.3.1. Ensure staff and volunteers feel supported and valued.  
4.3.2. Maintain a healthy and supportive workplace environment |

Strategy 5 – Maintain an effective management structure

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<tr>
<th>Goals</th>
<th>Objectives</th>
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| 5.1 Ensure MC Members are able to make informed decisions | 5.1.1. Review MC orientation package periodically.  
5.1.2. Maintain a list of frequently used acronyms.  
5.1.3. Ensure sufficient information is made available ahead of each SAA MC Meeting.  
5.1.4. Annual planning day for all QSA MC members  
5.1.5. Ensure ongoing education of MC members |
| 5.2 Discuss other management models to enhance current management approach. | 5.2.1. MC sub committee formed to explore management issues including the location of QSA |
Respectful Relationships

**Clerk: Ronis Chapman**

- Queries were read out that had been prepared by a Queensland friend and passed onto this group.
- Agenda accepted by meeting.
- At the moment, there is no committee. It has been requested that Respectful Relationships be separate from Child Protection contacts. This is still in process.
- AYM Presiding Clerk Lyndsay Farrall has taken an interest in this work. Two teleconferences on this topic, and records taken. These meetings have been found to be very useful. There is an expectation that there will be two contact people in regards to respectful relationships at each Regional Meeting. It is understood that there may need to be more contact people in some Regional Meetings because of distance and other issues. Contact people are there to provide information and identify appropriate methods for resolution.
- There have been some incidents in which RR guidelines have been used to resolve issues.
- A concern was raised that when dealing with RR that we also consider the meeting as a whole and how it is conducted and not just the two individuals concerned.
- Cliff Picton has undertaken a revision of the document. The process has begun, but not finished. This will be done and forwarded to meetings.
- Robin McLean spoke about a training package that she has prepared that might be appropriate for use in Quaker contexts.
- Important to finalise who the contacts are from each Regional Meeting.
- Training has not yet taken place, and Robin hopes to have a weekend for training in August-October.
- Hopes to have a male and female representative at the training session.
- Role of RR contact person is to support a person and informing them about their options. They are not the resolver of the conflict. They stand beside a person in an empowering way to support the person as they make choices. The conflict resolution would then be passed onto pastoral care.
- There has to be very clear boundaries provided for contact people so that they know the extent of their role.
- Confidentiality important.
- Contact people can help either side of the conflict, although this would not no ally be done by one person. This underlines the importance of having two contact people.

**Training needs**

Training would potentially cover the following issues:

- recording and what to report,
- legal issues,
- preventative measures,
- responsibilities of regional meetings,
- how to deal with third party reports,
- when to refer,
- the benefits of active listening,
- managing your own emotions,
- self care.

It is beneficial for contact people to ensure that support is available for themselves.

If the training is held in one state, it would be beneficial to hold it over a whole weekend. It was felt that it would be appropriate to have this training specifically targeted to RR reps. However, we may need to think of different and further training for those who will be resolving the conflicts.
Importance of the whole of the meeting fostering a sense of nurture and not just leave this work to the RR reps. When resolving conflicts, it is important for meetings to identify cause and not just deal with symptoms. We were reminded that Quaker Faith and Practice can offer guidance.

**Recommendations**

Robin McLean was asked in 2009 to develop a training course for Respectful Relationship (RR) contact people. Lyndsay Farrall, Val Boyd and Ronis Chapman were asked to assist.

- We ask Robin McLean to finish developing the RR orientation coursework and to organize delivery of this course in 2010 in cooperation with the AYM Secretary.
- It was suggested that a working party be found to develop resources, training and to facilitate further discussion. This working party will consist of Tessa Spratt, Robin McLean, Angela Were, and Ronis Chapman.
- It is hoped that the course can be delivered in 2010 and that participants will include child protection contact people, overseers and other interested Friends. The group will meet during Yearly Meeting to agree on how to progress this work.
- Friends are encouraged to establish contact with churches in their local area which have resource people who could offer support, advice and perhaps training.
- It is suggested that the report from this meeting be circulated to all Regional Meeting RR contact people.

**Young Friends**

In addition to the report in Documents in Advance, Australian Young Friends have some matters emerging from our business meetings at camp and Yearly Meeting to bring to Australia Yearly Meeting.

At Yearly Meeting 2009, Young Friends agreed on a new structure of having a centralised Young Friends Committee consisting of a Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Treasurer, Communications representative and Nominations representative, as well as a having a Nominations Committee. This structure was to be reviewed at Yearly Meeting 2010. While a more detailed review is still underway, Young Friends have agreed to keep the same committee positions for 2010.

In keeping with this, we have accepted the following nominations, to report to Australia Yearly Meeting:

- Thomas Dundas will be replacing Alexa Taylor as Clerk of Australian Young Friends for a one-year term.
- Rhys Dryzek will be replacing Myf White and Sally Stokes as the Young Friends Communications Rep for a two-year term.

Nominations Committee has yet to name an Assistant Clerk for 2010. The name will be put forward as soon as possible.

The members of the Nominations Committee approved by Young Friends are:

- Hannah Chapman-Searle
- Rhys Dryzek
- Evan Gallagher
- Emily Walpole

Hannah Chapman-Searle has agreed to be the convenor of the Young Friends Nominations Committee, and therefore the Nominations Rep on the YF Committee for a one-year term. Hannah Chapman-Searle has also agreed to be the Young Friends representative on Yearly Meeting nominations committee.
The Australian Young Friends Rep to New Zealand Easter Camp 2010 will be Oliver Greeves.

In financial matters, Young Friends would like to sincerely thank Australia Yearly Meeting and Regional Meetings from around Australia for the extra financial support extended during the year of Backhouse Lecture preparation: the increased attendance at Young Friends gatherings that this enabled was invaluable.

The Young Friends budget for 2010 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Budget 2010</th>
<th>Incoming</th>
<th>Outgoing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NZ Exchange</td>
<td>800</td>
<td>Flight to NZ 500/AUS400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Travel Assistance</td>
<td>1700</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Easter Camp</td>
<td>600</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YF Camp/Yearly Meeting</td>
<td></td>
<td>1300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Admin/Misc</td>
<td></td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>400</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>2900</td>
<td>2900</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Young Friends note that rising costs need to be addressed for future budgets. This was prompted by the fact that the $800 for the New Zealand exchange, which is intended to cover the airfare of an Australian Young Friend to NZ as well as the NZ representative’s camp and Yearly Meeting costs in Australia, was not even enough to cover a NZ representative’s living costs for camp/Yearly Meeting 2010 alone. Similarly, the budget for next years New Zealand exchange exceeds its funding, with the shortfall being made up by fundraising. In order to address rising costs such as these, Young Friends request that in future years the Yearly Meeting travel subsidy be increased from a total of $2500 to $3000, an increase of $500. We will also continue to fundraise as Young Friends at Yearly Meetings and within our own states to enable our gatherings to be as inclusive as possible.

Regional Meeting Reports that missed Documents in Advance

Canberra Regional Meeting

2009 has been a year blessed by service, searching and reflection.

The year commenced with the joyful labour of hosting the Yearly Meeting gathering, with Friends from throughout the region drawing great strength from being present in the loving community that formed in the first week of January. This experience has prompted reflection on possible alternatives to better nurture the business and the Spirit of Yearly Meeting.

As the new year unfolded, our community shared the emotions of the bushfires by opening the Meeting House for quiet reflection on the first Saturday in February. This ministry offered deep sharing of previous bushfire experiences for many Canberra Friends.

This was followed by an outreach day in April which attracted nineteen new enquirers and featured sessions on the role of silence in our Meeting, our faith expressed in action in our daily lives, a sample of the Quakers for 350 years display, a sausage sizzle and a Meeting for Worship. Other Canberra-based outreach activities included a Quaker presence at both a local community environment fair and at an inter-denominational stall as part of the annual gay/lesbian fair. We creatively used a number of outreach and inreach activities to promote and successfully raise funds for QSA.
Documents in Retrospect 2010

Our in-reach activities have included:

• a Quaker community building day entitled Discovering, Owning and Developing our Gifts in Community which allowed Friends to share experiences and insights on Quaker ways;
• conducting a series of sessions on You and the Quaker Tradition and Advices & Queries;
• the continuation of a monthly Creative Group in Friends’ homes; and
• devoting 3rd Sundays after Meeting for Worship to learning activities including a series of short lectures on ‘Quaker saints’ - both ancient and modern. The Quaker biographies featured George Fox, Margaret Fell, William Penn, Lucretia Mott, John Woolman, Elizabeth Fry, George Cadbury, Caroline Stephen, Rufus Jones, and Kathleen Lonsdale. Through learning something of their lives we have been able to draw inspiration for our own. The talks were also used on the Canberra Quaker radio program Dove Talk on Community radio 2XX.

Personal growth has also been supported by a number of activities including:

• a couple’s enrichment workshop;
• the re-establishment of a men’s group;
• the use of ‘clearness meetings’ to assist individual discernment;
• continuing the series of autobiographies ‘This is Your Friend’; and
• encouraging and expanding ‘spiritual nurture groups’ to support and inspire small self-organised meetings of Friends as we grow to know one another more deeply;

Friends from Canberra Regional Meeting continue to be active in a range of vital social issues. The much delayed opening of a new prison in the ACT was both an opportunity and challenge for Quaker witness as Friends’ commitments were multiplied to establish foundational Alternatives to Violence and Prisoners’ Aid work through the new facility.

We continue to explore issues of concern at ‘Friends Fridays’ where deep sharing often takes place after a shared meal. Some of the Friends Friday topics have included:

• meetings on the intervention into indigenous communities in the Northern Territory;
• support for Bougainville communities who may be impacted by renewed mining;
• nurturing mental health in our Quaker Community and the obligation for us all to provide a safe, supportive environment for those in need; and
• practical calls for action on climate change and earthcare.

At a national level, Canberra Regional Meeting has been privileged to have the Yearly Meeting Handbook Revision Committee under its care as it concludes drafting in preparation for Yearly Meeting 2010. Canberra Regional Meeting also continues to host the Peace and Legislation Committee, providing briefings and submissions on policy which concerns Quakers and Quaker testimonies. A number of these matters were canvassed when we enjoyed an evening with visiting students from The Friends School, sharing experiences as Canberrans living lives as Quakers.

We have been challenged this year by our inquiry into sometimes confronting issues. These include our differentiation between membership and attendership, our ministry, and our mental health. We continue to seek to discern that which unites us in the Spirit.

We also look forward in faith to work commencing on major renovations to the Turner Meeting House and to opportunities which may emerge from the Australian Quaker Centre.

Meeting for Worship continues to provide strength at the heart of our spiritual life. During the year Young Friends have met for Worship with increasing frequency to nurture the 2010 Backhouse Lecture. During the year we also recognised the Meeting at Goulburn as a Worshipping Group and confirmed Wagga Meeting as a Worshipping Group. The Bega Meeting is flourishing in its pursuit of outreach opportunities including holding a memorable
Meeting for Worship at the Cobargo Folk Festival. In what is becoming an annual event, Canberra Friends also hosted an early and spirited Meeting for Worship at the National Folk Festival in Canberra at Easter. The South Canberra Meeting continues to meet regularly as does the 9.15am and 10am Meetings for Worship at the Turner Meeting House in Canberra, with the trial parallel meeting at 10am (as an alternative to the Meeting Room gathering) continuing following positive feedback.

In considering how the Truth prospers among us, we give particular thanks for the children who enrich our Meeting and challenge us to report on what we are doing to improve the world which they shall inherit.

Jonathan Benyei (Clerk)

New South Wales Annual Report

Our year started with an outdoors Meeting for Worship and bushwalk in October through an area of Aboriginal rock engravings. Unfortunately the prolific wildflowers of the area had already finished.

Gatherings

During the year we held four gatherings. In November, Friends for Gay and Lesbian Concerns arranged a weekend retreat at the Woodford Quaker Cottage, with visitors also billeted with local fFriends. In March, Wahroonga fFriends hosted a non-residential weekend with Gerry Guiton on the topic of the Quaker Peace Testimony, again with homestay offered for distant fFriends. In April, we held our second JYFs and families camp at the Adventure Camp near Wisemans Ferry. We were pleased to have the attendance on that weekend of Mielikki Spratt - JYF member of the AYM Children’s and JYF’s Committee. We hope that this gathering will become an annual event, and that it will continue to attract members of the wider Quaker community – young and not so young. Our final gathering for the year was in June when Blue Mountains fFriends arranged a residential weekend writing workshop at Carcoar. As well as this, Kiama Recognised Meeting has visited Werona for day and weekend retreats on two occasions, and plan more in the future. Wahroonga Friends plan a visioning process to discern their future direction.

Frivolity

Blue Mountains fFriends continue to share together in social activities (frivols) arranged by their Frivolity Committee. Some wahroonga women began meeting socially for ‘coffee’ and this expanded to include women from other meetings as well. Coming to know each other on a social basis is contributing to building community within the Regional Meeting.

Website

A major change this year is the continuous maintenance of our NSW website. Events and photos are added as soon as the information is available.

Meetings for Worship

Our Regional Meeting currently has 13 regular Meetings for Worship (all listed on the website). Meeting patterns have evolved to suit the individuals attending. Weekly: Five Local and Recognised Meetings gather for worship every Sunday and a small group meets every Monday in the home of a Friend in the Blue Mountains. Twice Monthly: Four meetings have this meeting
pattern – with Kiama meeting once on Saturday and once on Sunday each month. Two small groups meet Monthly and Central Coast is again experimenting to find a pattern that suits them. Visits between Meetings by individual Friends help to foster our sense of a Regional Meeting. Such visits also help the smaller Meetings to develop their understanding of Quakerism. One elder committed herself to monthly visits to conduct Quaker Learning at a smaller Meeting. Devonshire St continues to be enriched by the visits of travelling Friends from around the world, and sometimes challenged by how to maintain the interest of some of the many local enquirers who visit.

Children

Most meetings have arrangements in place to care for children during Meeting for Worship, with monthly or weekly Quaker education opportunities where there are children who regularly attend. The Britain Yearly Meeting materials Journeys in the spirit are being used as a basis for many of the lessons. We are still working on formalising the approval of further Friends to assist with the children’s activities. The JYF’s and children’s camp was well attended and we hope that this will continue strengthen our links with and between Quaker families. At least one child from NSW RM is planning to attend the inaugural gathering of the World Children’s Choir for Peace with financial assistance from local meeting.

Quaker learning

Quaker learning opportunities continue to be arranged by most meetings – mostly after Meeting for Worship and usually on a monthly basis. Several meetings have invited Heather Saville to visit them and speak about Friends in deed, her history of the first 50 years of QSA. Harro Drexler has spoken of his earthcare concerns as expressed in his book Global Warming – just the tip of the iceberg. Devonshire Street are working to increase the spiritual strength of their meeting after the tensions arising from differences between the Jesus Christians and other Friends. They held a workshop on the theme unity through discernment led by two visiting Friends from other Australian meetings. Hunter Valley meeting have two small study groups meeting on a monthly basis for Quaker studies. Wahroonga’s Friendly Study Circles continue to support individuals in their ongoing Quaker learning projects. Armidale have completed the Hearts and Minds Prepared course. Bible reading groups have formed in two meetings. In January, a group of 15 Friends (mainly from Sydney) met Jean Hatton, the non-Quaker author of recent biographies of Elizabeth Fry and George Fox. Jean was keen to have her photo taken with the Quakers at her talk to a Uniting Church group.

Libraries

The libraries at most meetings provide individuals with learning experiences. Wahroonga and Devonshire Street libraries’ catalogues are now separately available on the internet.

Newsletters

Our Newsletters (both regional and local) continue to be a source of inspiration and news of Friends – keeping us in touch with each other whether or not we are able to attend Meetings for Worship.

Membership

We have had a quiet year in terms of membership – after large numbers of new members in each of the last few years, we need a time of consolidation. We have gained two new members
by application, and three by transfer. Two Friends resigned their membership, one transferred within Australia and we have had one member die.

**Outreach**

Our main Outreach activities continue to be the monthly Quaker Service NSW stall in front of Devonshire Street Meeting House, and the Quaker presence at Mardi Gras Fair. Both of these activities build community among the Friends involved as they prepare for and undertake the activities. This year dog biscuits, as well as human biscuits, in the shape of the letter Q were baked for Mardi Gras. Sufficient funds were raised to cover the hire of a space at next year’s Fair. The stall (with not a little effort from Friends and their friends involved) turns unwanted items into over $1000 most months. Much of this is donated to the QSA general fund, but other concerns within NSW are also supported from the stall. Incidental outreach occurs through the ongoing use of Devonshire St premises for a number of outside groups.

**Interfaith**

Interfaith activities have continued at Wahroonga with evening meetings during the warmer months and daytime outings to other places of worship during the cooler ones. We continue to have members in the World Conference of Religions for Peace and the Women’s Interfaith Network, as well as the NSW Ecumenical Council. We were also represented at the Sydney pre-Parliament event in the lead up to the December 2009 Parliament of World Religions in Melbourne. A Hunter Valley attender was responsible for much of the organising of the Newcastle pre-Parliament program. Hunter Friends are also involved in the local Multifaith Association.

**Property**

Maintenance of our five properties (owned and leased) is an ongoing issue for our local meetings who, although not holding title to the buildings themselves, are nevertheless responsible for the maintenance on behalf of Regional Meeting.

**The Sanctuary**

We have been exercised in the matter of the future of The Sanctuary since that property surrounds the Wahroonga Meeting House on three sides. We are working towards a discernment process based in Wahroonga Meeting, so that we are able to respond as a Regional Meeting to the suggestion that the property be sold. This will be a major item for us in the year ahead.

**Quaker tapestry**

Work is under way on at least three panels for the Australian Quaker Tapestry. Stitching is well under way on the panel about Sydney Parkinson (the first Quaker to visit Australia), and design work is progressing on panels about travelling in the ministry, Kiama Meeting, Werona, and Albert Morris’s work on revegetation at Broken Hill.

**Yearly Meeting activities**

NSW Friends continue to be involved in Quaker matters at the Yearly Meeting level.

- Over 20% of the attendees at Yearly Meeting in Canberra were from NSW RM.
- We are pleased to continue to host QSA and the Australian Quaker Tapestry. Our term hosting the Peace and Social Justice Fund will come to an end at Yearly Meeting 2010.
Several NSW fFriends have been and will be involved in the Australian Quaker Centre 2009 at Silver Wattle near Bungendore. Friends are involved at all levels – from retreatants to management of the centre. Meetings were involved in financing participants.

We were pleased to host the midyear Standing Committee at two Meeting Houses, and to host several representatives from other Regional Meetings in home stays.

We look forward to hosting Yearly Meeting 2011. The planning group are well along the way with initial arrangements.

**Young Friends**

Our Young Friends have been meeting more frequently this year as they prepare for the Backhouse Lecture in January 2010. This has involved them in three ‘camps’ this year instead of the usual two.

**Alternatives to Violence**

NSW Friends continue to be involved in leading roles in the Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), working in the community, prisons and schools, and also internationally.

**Support**

fFriends tend to be involved in many actions beyond Friends circles. Also personal issues have kept many of our key people very busy. One clerk sent out a heart-felt plea for help for and from her Meeting. She wrote ‘Your meeting needs you’. We need to support and strengthen our less active members so that they feel confident to take up the reins in some roles.

*Julie Walpole, RM Clerk*

**Secretary's Search Committee report**

*Report to Standing Committee on work of YM Secretary Search Committee 09Dec09*

The six members of the Search Committee are: Jane Drexler, Jo Jordan, Sally Kingsland, Maxine Cooper, Roger Sawkins and Julian Robertson (Convenor).

The goal of the Committee is to recommend to AYM 2011 a candidate for the position of AYM Secretary for appointment in March 2011. The process includes advertising the job, short listing applications, interviewing candidates and making a final selection for acceptance at AYM 2011. Interim progress reports will be presented at Standing Committee in January and July 2010.

The Committee has held three Skype conference Meetings, on 8Oct, 5Nov and 10Dec09, attended by all members of the Committee.

- A timeline was developed, with advertising commencing in December 09. Applications closing by 31 May, a shortlist completed by the July 2010 Standing Committee, and final interviews and selection completed by August 2010.
- A job description was prepared for placement on the Australia Quaker website. The 2004 job description prepared for the previous appointment, advice from past and present Secretaries, and recommendations from members of the Committee were used to prepare the job description. A salary of $50,000 pa was selected based on information from a survey of comparable administrative positions in NGOs in Australia.
- General advertisements and an article were prepared for the Australian Friend, distribution to Regional Meeting Clerks and Newsletter editors, and for overseas Quaker publications in the US, UK.
and New Zealand. These give a general description, but point applicants to the Australian Quaker website for further information and application forms.

Most of the Committee will be attending AYM 2010 and are planning to meet face to face.

Julian Robertson, Convenor

**Share and Tell Sessions**

**Tuesday 7:30 – 9:00 pm**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Russell Petersen</td>
<td>Bridging Ethnic Divides – The work of the American Friends Service Committee in Cambodia, Thailand and Burma/Mayanmar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Field</td>
<td>Friends and the Nomination Process</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chris Hughes, Tracy Bourne,</td>
<td>Indigenous Concerns</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Carline</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Ocol</td>
<td>Ministry in the Philippines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karmela Zandrou</td>
<td>Changing the Life of an Uncontrollable Girl</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sue Ennis</td>
<td>Visiting Local Meetings and Regional Meetings in 2010</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harald Ehmann</td>
<td>Working with and for Aboriginal people on their Lands</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Wednesday 3:30 – 5:00 pm**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Caz Bowman</td>
<td>Quakers and Ayurveda – Shining the Light on our path to wellness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cathy Davies</td>
<td>Australian Quaker Tapestry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Topsy Evans</td>
<td>The Quaker Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waratah &amp; Margaret Evans</td>
<td>Speaking Truth to Power – Face to Face with Our Members of Parliament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jane Sloane</td>
<td>Asia Pacific Breakthrough – The Women, Faith &amp; Development Alliance to End Global Poverty</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Share and Tell, Nominations**

A small group of Friends coming from most of the Regional Meetings met and discussed the Nominations process, its challenges and procedures. The discussion was based around a set of Queries prepared and presented by Elizabeth Field (NSW RM). During a very lively and helpful discussion, the group made some additions to the queries and asks that they be published in full in *Documents in Retrospect*.

_Elizabeth Field, NSW_

**QUERIES ON NOMINATIONS**

1. For individual Friends to Consider

a) How do we ensure that our Nominations Committees are fully aware of the gifts and talents of Friends, including our own, within their area of responsibility?

b) Do we refuse a task out of a sense of inadequacy; or on the other hand, do we accept a task, even though stretched for time to do all the tasks we currently have?

c) Are we willing to allow our names to go forward for consideration, on the understanding that another Friend, and not us, might be appointed?

d) Are we willing to lay down an interesting or absorbing task so that another Friend may have that experience?

e) When a name comes forward at a business meeting, are we able to set aside any personal feelings we may have about that person (negative or positive!) and consider their suitability for the task justly.
f) How can each of us, once appointed to a task, assist in the role of seeking and preparing our successor?

2. For Nominations Committee Members

a) Do we make ourselves fully conversant with the duties of any position under consideration; and do we consult the Handbook of Practice and Procedure, preferably having a copy available at all Nominations Meetings?

b) Are we fully able to set aside any difficulties we might have with an individual personally, if that Friend’s name comes to a Committee Meeting? Likewise, can we see clearly through our fondness for a person, and consider their suitability to the task.

c) Are we prepared and able to persuade a Friend to lay down a task which has become a burden to them, or to which they have become too attached?

d) Do we ask Friends to take on a second, or even third term, because they are doing it well, or at least adequately, and it is easier than finding someone new.

e) Are we willing to consider newer or younger Friends for positions, but still remain mindful of the experience and expertise required. A Committee, for example can operate with a mixture of experienced Friends with one or two newer Friends.

f) Do members of Regional Meeting and Yearly Meeting Committees consult with their Local or Regional Meeting members, or do they ‘go it alone’?

g) Do we ensure that no person is overburdened with too many tasks, no matter how willing and able they might be.

3. For Local, Regional and Yearly Meetings to Consider

a) Are we sure that all tasks are necessary and allocated to the most appropriate Committee or position. Are all of our committees necessary?

b) Does your Regional Meeting properly support its AYM Nominations Committee representative, by offering names or ideas about positions to be filled? Should that person be a current member of the Regional Meeting Committee?

c) How do we deal with nominations coming from the floor of the meeting? Are we able to express any doubts, even if the person nominated is present?

d) It had been our practice, particularly when a number of names were coming forward at the beginning of a triennium, for the names to come to a meeting, then ‘lie on the table’ until the next meeting, when the decision to appoint (or not) is made. Have we abandoned this? If so, was a decision to do so made and minuted, or have we just ‘let it slip’?

e) How do we nominate members of the Nominations Committee? Is it time for each to consider how it appoints its Nominations Committee?

f) Our Handbook does not give detailed procedures for the Nominations process. We have developed many good practices over time, but they can easily be forgotten. Can we ensure that we keep our best practices without becoming too prescriptive?
Songs written for Yearly Meeting

Songs from opening session

Texts of three Indigenous songs — music by Peter Webb.

1. Two Magpies.
Two magpies sang across the rising of the sun,
Exulting in its radiant glow.
Each sang to the other of love and peace.
Black and white, they sang together.
Then they swooped, and fought a bitter, bitter fight,
A fierce and angry fight,
A long and cruel fight.
And the sun beat down with a merciless glare, uncaring.

2. Red — The Lament of the Land.
Red is the colour of my land.
Red is the colour of my rising and my setting.
Red is in my mountains and my valleys and my deserts.
Red is the colour of my earth.
Red is the colour of my spirit.
Red is in my people and their inner dwelling.
Red is in their dreaming.
Red is the colour of my anger.
Red is the colour of a mother’s weeping eyes.
Red is a land of grief and silence,
A people invisible and strangers in their own land.
My land is stained with red.
Red is the colour of my land.

3. Dreamings. (text – derived from words by Kenneth Carroll)
If you would understand me, look to my dreamings.
If you would understand yourself, look to your own dreamings.

Songs from closing Meeting for Worship

Six songs reflecting on Quaker testimonies - by Peter Webb.

1. Walk Cheerfully.
Walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.
Be patterns, be examples in all nations, in all places.
Let your life speak.

2. Simplicity.
Simplicity is the soul of the little child.
Simplicity is the glow of an angel’s smile.
Simplicity is the gift of the heart that is pure,
To try to live with simplicity until we reach that final shore.

Justice, oh justice.
Whatsoever things bring justice, and honesty, and truthfulness, and purity, and loveliness,
Think on these things.

4. Truth.
Truth is a delicate bloom - so easily dies, yet lives eternal.

5. Equality.
Equality sees that of God in every one.

6. Peace.
Dona nobis pacem.
Nation shall not lift up sword against nation.
Neither shall they learn war anymore.
Dona nobis pacem.
Peace.
Standing Committee Minutes
Held 12.30 – 4.00 pm, 2 January 2010
Westminster School, Adelaide

Present

AYM Officers

Presiding Clerk Lyndsay Farrall
Incoming Presiding Clerk Maxine Cooper
Treasurer Roger Sawkins
Secretary Judith Pembleton

Standing Committee representatives

Canberra Jonathan Benyei (Clerk) & Harold Wilkinson
New South Wales Julie Walpole (Clerk) & Elizabeth Field
Queensland Susan Addison (Co-Clerk) & David Lowe
South Australia Drew Thomas (Clerk) & Kate Alessia (Asst Clerk)
Tasmania Julian Robertson (Clerk) & Barbara Wilde
Victoria Sieneke Martin (Clerk) & Jim Palmer
West Australia Allan Knight (Clerk) & Caz Bowman
Young Friends Thomas Dundas and Alexa Taylor

SC1.10.1 Opening Minutes
(a) Introductions of Committee Members

We each introduced ourselves to the assembled Standing Committee.

(b) A Short Period of Worship

The Presiding Clerk introduced a short period of worship by reading Number 18 from the Australian edition of Advices and Queries, which reads as follows:

For thousands of years before 1788, this country was lived in by various Aboriginal peoples, at one with the land. Through colonisation, much of their land and culture has been lost to them, and their children have been taken from them; they have suffered the injustice of racism, and material, psychological and spiritual deprivation. Can we acknowledge with sorrow the loss of life and the ongoing destruction of their languages, families and communities, appreciate the depth and strength of Aboriginal beliefs and values and learn from Aboriginal people and accept the gifts they have for all of us? Can we all, as Australians, work towards living together as equals, with mutual understanding and respect?

This advice acknowledges the custodianship of the land of Australia over thousands of years by Indigenous Australians.

SC1.10.2 Standing Committee Process

We agree to accept minutes marked in the Agenda with an asterisk without further discussion, unless a member of Standing Committee asks for them to be discussed.

SC1.10.3 AYM Committees under the care of Regional Meetings

Standing Committee reviewed the matter of Yearly Meeting committees that are being laid down and for which no Regional Meetings has offered to take responsibility. These Committees are
We ask members of the Peace and Social Justice Fund Committee to meet with members of the Thanksgiving Fund Committee to discuss possible ways of combining the functions of the two committees, either temporarily, or for the long term.

Regional Meetings are invited to explore the question of which AYM activities are our core commitment and to suggest possible amendments to our present committee structures and other administrative arrangements.

**SC1.10.4 Victoria RM: Name for Community of Friends -v- Meeting for Business**

We note the following minute from Victoria RM:

*Victoria RM October 09 Minute 5 Matters from Local Meetings*

5.1 In August Minute 5.1 we noted ESLM Minute 10, July 6. Name of Regional Meeting: At our last discussion group ‘What is Regional Meeting?’ the usual confusion arose about the difference between the community of Victorian Friends and the meeting that occurs every two months. We decided to ask Regional Meeting to consider using the name Quakers Victoria for the community to distinguish it from the Meeting for Worship for business. We should also consider when we should be using the term Yearly Meeting and when Quakers Australia, for example should we have Quakers Australia on the schedule?

Following discussion about this matter, Victoria has agreed to continue to use Victoria Regional Meeting for the community and Regional Meeting for the Meeting for Business.

**SC1.10.5 Backhouse Lecturer for 2012**

The Backhouse Lecture Committee recommends David Atwood, Director at the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva, who retires mid-2011, to deliver the lecture in 2012. We agree, and recommend his appointment to Yearly Meeting.

**SC1.10.6 The Friends’ School Board Appointments**

The Association of The Friends’ School, Inc. recommends to Standing Committee that Australia Yearly Meeting appoint the following to the Board of Governors, beginning after the Board’s AGM in May 2010:

- James Cretan, as a nominee of the Executive Committee of the Board, for a first term of four years
- Garry Duncan, as a nominee of New South Wales Regional Meeting, for a first term of three years.
- Lyndsay Farrall, as a nominee of Tasmania Regional Meeting, for a first term of four years
- Michael Searle, as a nominee of Canberra Regional Meeting, for a first term of four years.

Standing Committee agrees to recommend these names for appointment by Yearly Meeting.

**SC1.10.7 Appointments for the duration of Yearly Meeting**

a. Standing Committee recommends the following names of the Pastoral Care committee to Yearly Meeting 2010:

- Convenor Barry Sherwell
- Canberra RM: Christine Larkin
- New South Wales RM: Rob Walpole & Helen Gould
- Queensland RM: Heather Myers & Duncan Frewin
• South Australia RM: Harald Ehmann & Julie Webb/Deb Munro
• Tasmania RM: Barbara Wilde
• Victoria RM: Hilary Conway
• Western Australia RM: Gina Price & Caz Bowman
• Young Friends: Gareth Beyers & Bethany Growns

b. Standing Committee recommends the following names for Child Protection Contact people for the duration of Yearly Meeting.

• Ronis Chapman, Canberra
• Gillian Lewis-Coles & Harald Ehmann, South Australia
• Brenda Roy, Western Australia

c. Standing Committee discussed who might Clerk Preparatory Sessions at Yearly Meeting 2010.

SC1.10.8 Secretary’s Search Committee update

Standing Committee heard a progress report from the Secretary’s Search Committee, and asks that this be published with the Standing Committee Minutes in Documents in Retrospect. We ask the Committee to finalise procedures for the incoming Secretary’s appointment by making a recommendation to Standing Committee in July.

SC1.10.9 Visitors to Australia Yearly Meeting during 2010

The following visitors to Australia Yearly Meeting are expected during 2010. These will be reported to Yearly Meeting and included in Documents in Retrospect:

• Sarah Richards, Northumbria Area Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting

SC1.10.10 Participation of non-Members at Yearly Meeting 2010

RM Clerks have provided the following lists of those not in membership who have been given permission to attend Yearly Meeting 2010.

Canberra RM  Gareth Beyers, Heather Herbert, Chris Jacques, David Mills, Margaret Moreton, Tyrone Pasipanodya (C), Eve Pasipanodya (C), David Rosenberg, Judy Simpson, Joanna Temme, Aaron Toyne, Atticus Toyne, Ben Williamson, Julian Williamson

New South Wales RM  Susan Brock, Beth Growns (YF), Harro Drexler, Zak Growns (JYF/YF), Myra Hutton, Stephen Joseph, Peter Kneale (YF), Jasmine Payget, Kim Payget-Strathdee (C), Kiana Walker (C), Emily Walpole (YF).

Queensland RM  Antoinette Kwizera, Alaine Iremeyi Wacu; Aliere Iduhorimbere, Innes Iradukunda, Althemon Manirinika, , Oliver Nijimbere, Belly Nizigama, Annette Ormiston, Edrick Yarunkunze,


Victoria RM  Aileen Britton, Tess Edwards, Lloyd Godman, Angela Were, Connor Chaffey, Ellan Cooper, Kim Hendy, Rose Bray, Miles Bray, Emily Bray, Asher Lloyd, Felix Lloyd, Joshua Crane, Kaidan Crane, Mahelia Shelton, Renee Ellerton, Margaret Spong, Paul Barrie.

West Australia RM  Virginia Jealous, John Cartwright, Lilian Robb (JYF), Nansen Robb (C), Emma Crane (JYF) and Pauline Groggin.


SC10.11 Grievance Procedures

We receive a draft Handbook entry under the heading ‘Resolving Conflict’ from Sabine Erika, convenor of a working party, and ask Regional Meetings to consider this draft and provide comments on this draft to the AYM Office by the end of April.
SC 10.12 Handbook Committee

We ask Susan Addison, Jonathan Benyei, Julian Robertson and Roger Sawkins to talk to the Convenor of the Handbook Revision Committee to find a way forward for the formatting and printing of the new edition of the Handbook.

SC 10.13 Yearly Meeting Timetable and Agenda

Standing Committee allocates the Preparatory Session on Thursday, 11:00 - 12.30 for Young Friends to bring their concern about marriage equality including same-sex marriage.

SC1.10.14 Matters relating to Yearly Meeting 2010

(a) Assistant Clerk for Yearly Meeting 2010

Standing Committee notes that mid-year Standing Committee recommended Drew Thomas as the Assistant Clerk for Yearly Meeting 2010 and that his name will be brought to Yearly Meeting for approval.

(b) Testimonies

Standing Committee agreed to following timetable for reading testimonies at Yearly Meeting 2010

- Tue 5 Jan Formal Session West Australia (Graham Hodgkin)
- Wed 6 Jan Formal Session West Australia (Win Howard)
- Thu 7 Jan Formal Session 9:30 New South Wales (Bill Sobey & Richard Woodroofe)
- Thu 7 Jan Formal Session 13:30 Tasmania (Laura Hill & Mary Washington)
- Fri 8 Jan Formal Session 9:30 South Australia (Marjorie Arnold & John Whitehead)
- Fri 8 Jan Formal Session 13:30 South Australia (Ruth Beckwith)

(c) Meeting for Remembrance

Standing Committee noted that Meeting for Remembrance will be held Wednesday, 8.30 - 9,30, and the Assistant Clerk, Drew Thomas, will read out the following list of Friends who have died between Yearly Meeting 2009 and Yearly Meeting 2010:

- Marjorie Arnold, South Australia
- Ruth Beckwith, South Australia
- Grace Brown, South Australia
- Laura Hill, Tasmania
- Graham Hodgkin, West Australia
- Winsome Howard, West Australia
- Anne Livingstone, Victoria
- Ann Riney, West Australia
- Bill Sobey, New South Wales
- Mary Washington, Tasmania
- John Whitehead, South Australia
- Richard Woodroofe, New South Wales

Additional names should be handed to the Help Desk staff by close of business Tuesday, 5 January.

(d) Greetings from Yearly Meeting

Standing Committee noted that the Assistant Clerk will prepare cards for sending greetings from Yearly Meeting. Names for these greetings need to be provided to the Help Desk staff by close of business Wednesday, 7 January.
(e) Statements on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting

Standing Committee noted that the following public statements have been made on behalf of AYM since Yearly Meeting 2009, and these will be included in Documents in Retrospect:

30 January Letter asking Australian government to negotiate with Israel & Palestine re conflict in Gaza
5 February Letter supporting a political solution in Sri Lanka
4 March QPLC submission to the National Human Rights Consultation
12 May Commending Prime Minister’s measured response to asylum seekers
12 May Urging opposition to a more tempered position on asylum seekers
14 August Urging the Greens, Nicholas Xenophon, Steve Fielding, and the Opposition to support the Migration Amendment (Abolishing Detention debt) legislation in the Senate
14 August Commending the government on introducing the Migration Amendment legislation
10 November Signatory to letter to the Prime Minister on reinstating the Racial Discrimination Act
1 December Letter to Minister for Indigenous Affairs re reinstating the Racial Discrimination Act and the necessity for involvement of Aboriginal communities in any decisions.

(g) Documents in Retrospect orders

Standing Committee noted that following numbers of DIR will be sent to Regional Meetings:

Canberra: (12)
New South Wales: (15)
Queensland: Brisbane (5) Atherton (1) Sunshine Coast (1) Toowoomba (1) Gold Coast (1)
South Australia: Adelaide LM (10) Eastern Suburbs (10) Copper Triangle (1) Darwin (1)
Tasmania: Hobart (11) Devonport (1)
West Australia: (7)

Young Friends: Electronic copy to the Young Friends Clerk

SC1.10.15 Host Reports on Future Yearly Meetings

We note the following reports:

(a) Yearly Meeting 8 - 15 January 2011, New South Wales

The venue for Yearly Meeting 2011 is Campus East of Wollongong University, located at Cowper Street, Fairy Meadow, Wollongong. The site, which is level, is close to Fairy Meadow Beach, which could ensure sea breezes at this hot time of year. North Wollongong Beach and the Wollongong Harbour are within easy walking distance.

Accommodation consists of single rooms in clusters of four or five with toilets and showers. Some clusters have basic facilities with sinks, bar fridge etc, and a small number have full kitchen facilities. There are ground and upper floor rooms available. The University is open to a second person sharing a room, either supplying their own bedding, or with the University supplying mattress and/or bed linen. The rooms will be available on a bed and breakfast basis, with other meals available in the dining room. A limited amount of self catering is possible. Other accommodation options, such as caravan parks and hotels are available in the general area.

There is a railway station (Fairy Meadow) about 10 minutes level walk from Campus East There is also a free shuttle bus that operates between the Wollongong Station, the CBD and the various University Campuses. Airport shuttle buses also operate to Wollongong.

The adjoining Event Centre at the Innovations Centre has been booked for the Backhouse Lecture on the Monday night.

(b) Yearly Meeting at Christ Church Grammar School, Perth, 7 - 14 January 2012, West Australia

Christ Church Grammar School, Perth, has been booked for 7–14 January 2012.

Beth Reid, Ann Britton and Lesli Grant have been asked to form a Steering Committee to plan for Yearly Meeting in 2012.
Canberra has appointed a Search Committee that has begun work on finding a venue for Yearly Meeting 2013. Standing Committee agreed to the circulation of questionnaires by Canberra RM.

**SC1.10.16 Host Reports on Future Mid-year Standing Committees**

**SC1.10.16.1 Host Reports on Future Mid-year Standing Committees**

**a) Standing Committee 15 - 17 July 2010**
Standing Committee will be held in the Hobart Meeting House, and accommodation will be arranged through local homestay.

**b) Standing Committee 7 - 10 July 2011**
Canberra will host SC July 2011 at the Canberra Meeting House. Homestay accommodation will be offered to SC members. A working party will be appointed in 2010.

**c) Standing Committee July 2012**
Victoria reports that Friends House, Melbourne, is expected to be the venue for Standing Committee July 2012. There is limited accommodation available within Friends House, and other Standing Committee members will be accommodated through homestay.

**SC1.10.17 Matters from Yearly Meeting 2009 and Standing Committee July 2009**
Greetings from Darwin, a third of the way into the steamy wet season, whose threat of occasional cyclones ceases only after April. Australians are used to talking about the weather, especially farmers, I remember in growing up in country South Australia. But now, living with the effects of global warming, Australians are talking about the weather with alarm. Quakers especially – and our children – are taking seriously the challenge of caring for the earth.

This is the first of five significant challenges I see facing Australian Quakers, after studying the reports of Regional Meetings, and Yearly Meeting officers, committees, working groups and associated bodies. I come to this task of assessing the state of our Society as a Member since 2000, having taken that step while attending Canberra Local Meeting. A member of the Yearly Meeting Faith and Practice Committee, I was its convenor in 2002, the year it produced the first draft of this we can say. Now in Darwin I worship with a very small Quaker group, co-ordinate AVP workshops, attend South Australia Regional Meeting’s annual residential weekend and Yearly Meeting, and serve on Regional Meeting’s Ministry and Oversight Committee, and Yearly Meeting’s Australian Quaker Centre Working Group. By profession, I’m a historian with an interest in issues of national identity.

Caring for the earth

Yearly Meeting 2009 went beyond the Earthcare Statement of 2008 to establish an Earthcare Committee, asking it to use the terms of reference drawn up by the Summer School on Climate Change to draft a public statement on safe climate. Our children also wanted us to act. Standing Committee urged the Committee to seek ways of cooperating with non-Quaker organisations with a similar concern about the earth. We look forward to its report in this year’s Preparatory Session on Earthcare.

In the meantime Yearly Meeting Secretary has reduced money and energy spent on photocopying and postage by placing many resources on the Quaker website, making the library of Australia Yearly Meeting office widely accessible. Regional Meetings have responded to the call for change. Brisbane Local Meeting has installed rainwater tanks, and, with the help of a community solar power grant from the Australian Greenhouse Office and carbon offset payment from Yearly Meeting Finance Committee, solar voltaic panels which supply two-thirds of the Meeting House’s current electricity consumption. Local Meetings in Adelaide and Perth have installed or are installing solar panels, which Tasmanian Friends are also considering, along with double glazing.

Meetings have created a range of opportunities for Friends and their children to learn more about climate change and earth care: discussion of sources on global warming; practical action towards sustainability, including related children’s activities; and care of the native forest attached to a Meeting House.

Striving to care for the earth has also been a central consideration in Quaker Service Australia and in the wider Quaker community of the Asia West Pacific Region, where many Friends are likely to feel the immediate effects of climate change. QSA reported increasing difficulties with their projects in addressing issues of food and water security and environmental sustainability. The Global Climate Change Committee established by the Asia West Pacific Section of FWCC has been developing a global voice with other Quakers around the world, supporting two Friends from Japan and China to participate in the Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen.
The challenge for Friends to minimise our impact on the world’s resources is a huge one, as our children reminded us at Yearly Meeting last year. What shall we say to them this year about how we can further protect their future?

**Placing children and Junior Young Friends at the centre of our Quaker community**

A second challenge evident in the reports is to place children and Junior Young Friends at the centre of the Quaker community, a challenge the Children’s and Young Friends’ Committee recognised would ‘require a culture change for Australian Friends’. ‘Not many Friends’, the Committee noted after its survey of Meetings, ‘seem to take an interest in the children and JYFs’.

This view is a sobering indictment of our Society. Shouldn’t we be welcoming children, inspiring them with our testimonies to join us in serving them, too? Among the recommendations made by the Committee are two in particular, requesting: ‘a resource specifically designed for Australian children’ in educating them about their Quaker heritage; and the appointment by Regional Meeting of committed persons as children’s coordinators to support parents, carers, children and JYFs whenever Quakers meet. The plea is a reminder to us of Helen Bayes’ call in her Backhouse Lecture of 2003 to ‘find new ways to worship with children and young people so that we may more fully hear their Truth and nurture their capacity to speak and live by it.’ What more can we do to make that vision a reality?

**Involving our smaller Meetings in the wider Quaker community**

Most Regional Meetings reported camps or activity days during the year to draw together families and children from several meetings. They reflect the third challenge of involving the smaller, less experienced and more vulnerable Worship Meetings in the wider Quaker community.

The New South Wales Regional Report recognised that ‘Visits between Meetings…help to foster our sense of a Regional Meeting’ and ‘also help the smaller Meetings to develop their understanding of Quakerism’. The Queensland report mentioned regular visits by Brisbane Friends to ‘smaller, outlying meetings’ in the suburbs, and further afield to country Meetings. South Australia generously offers a travel subsidy to Friends in far away Alice Springs and Darwin in the Northern Territory to encourage us to come to the mid-year residential weekend in Adelaide, as well as to Yearly Meeting. Distant Friends themselves in rural and regional Australia have reached out to others. North Queensland Recognised Meeting included me from Darwin as well as another Friend from Townsville in a stimulating Quaker reflective weekend in Cairns led by Dale Hess from Victoria. In Western Australia, three meetings distant from Perth organised successful gatherings.

We need to remind ourselves, in meetings small and large – lest we forget – that our Membership in the Religious Society of Friends in Australia comes to us through membership in one of the seven constituent Regional Meetings, based in capital cities. This federal, highly urbanised pattern reflects the nature of the country as well as its invasion and settlement by the British. Further, within each Regional Meeting the one or two large Local Meetings – or Recognised Meetings in the case of Perth – play leading roles in the metropolitan areas. Queensland Regional Meeting acknowledged that much of its report ‘focuses on the activities of Brisbane Local Meeting from which most of the committees are presently drawn’. South Australia, mindful that ‘[t]he challenge of inclusive and supportive connections with groups beyond Adelaide is ever with us’, has welcomed the participation of these groups in its Committees. It also occasionally holds its Meetings for Business away from Adelaide. This is an
important practice in developing smaller meetings’ understanding of Quaker processes – but one easier to foster in country South Australia than in the far more distant Northern Territory.

The latest revision of the *Handbook of Quaker Practice and Procedures* in Australia reflects this more comprehensive view of the Quaker community. Where once the Preface spoke of ‘the Local Meeting and its satellite Recognised Meetings and Worshipping Groups’, it now speaks of ‘the various kinds of Worship Meetings’. Where once Chapter 2 spoke of the Local Meeting as ‘the foundation of the Society of Friends, the heart, brain and spirit of the Society’, it now speaks of the different kinds of Meeting from Worshipping Group to Australia Yearly Meeting, and the ‘threefold allegiance’ to one’s Worship Meeting, Regional Meeting and Yearly Meeting.

For Members of the Society, wherever we live, this threefold allegiance means the commitment of our energy, time and resources to all three levels to the extent that we are able. Some go further, contributing to the Asia West Pacific Section of FWCC.

I welcome this growing recognition of the importance of the Quaker network linking the smallest Worshipping Group via Regional Meeting to Yearly Meeting. How can Regional Meetings further nurture smaller meetings to ensure they are familiar with Quaker processes and just in using them? How can smaller meetings, in turn, contribute to the wider Quaker community?

**Acknowledging and resolving conflict within the Quaker community**

Acknowledging conflict within the Quaker community and using Quaker and other processes to resolve it is a fourth, and particularly demanding challenge for Friends. With a reputation for peacemaking in the wider society, Friends have found making peace within their own Society difficult.

Significantly, Regional Meeting reports this year indicate progress on this issue. New South Wales recorded Devonshire Street Meeting’s successful use of a workshop on unity through discernment by two interstate Friends in dealing with tensions between the Jesus Christians and other Friends. Yearly Meeting, having received a detailed report recommending its sale of The Sanctuary at wahroonga, New South Wales, is involving Wahroonga Local Meeting and the Regional Meeting in considering the impact of the sale on these Meetings. In Victoria and South Australia ‘a continuing return to Quaker process’, as the South Australian report expressed it, has seen longstanding difficulties in two Local Meetings begun to be addressed in a creative and healing way. Western Australians devised three Interpersonal Peacemaking and Conflict Resolution workshops to explore Friends’ attitudes and responses to tensions in Meetings.

In openly acknowledging conflict among Quakers and resolving it sensitively through Quaker and other processes, Friends are practising – and being seen to practise – what they preach. This year’s residential weekend of South Australia Regional Meeting examined conflict within the Quaker community, from the time of George Fox to the present, and the way Friends have dealt with it. The report of the weekend’s deliberations recognised Friends’ difficulties in resolving conflict within their own community, and their awareness that unresolved conflict deadens the life of Meetings. South Australia’s Ministry and Oversight Committee is now considering the report’s recommendation of a survey of Meetings regarding the use of Quaker processes in dealing with conflict among Friends, and the ways in which Ministry and Oversight Committees can assist.

Grievance Procedures for resolving conflict between members of a Meeting or Committee, or between an individual and the broader Quaker community have been revised by the *Handbook* Committee. However, a volunteer working group, asked by Standing Committee to carry out a further review, has taken a fresh look at the issue and made useful amendments for Yearly
Meeting to consider. How well these provisions can resolve conflict in small Worshipping Groups or Recognised Meetings far from Regional Meeting remains doubtful.

Related to this issue is the training of Elders and Overseers. When grievances arise, Ministry and Oversight are often called on to help resolve them. We need to ensure that these Friends have a sound knowledge of, and confidence in using, Quaker processes. Yearly Meeting 2009 asked the Elders and Overseers – Training Development Group to continue its work in developing a modular curriculum with the support of Quaker Learning Australia, and encouraged Regional Meetings to proceed with their own training and development.

Unfortunately the Training Development Group has been unable to meet this year. Regional Meeting reports made no mention of training programs, though two of them mentioned the work of Elders and Overseers. Canberra Regional Meeting held an Eldering weekend at the Australian Quaker Centre. Quaker Learning Australia has placed the Elders Pack produced by Victoria Regional Meeting on its website. Given the important role expected of Elders and Overseers in maintaining the health of our Meetings, it would be useful to know whether Regional Meetings have arranged training programs for their Members, and what use has been made of the Elders Pack.

**Developing the Australian Quaker Centre**

A fifth and final challenge I see facing the Quaker community in Australia this year are the two decisions surrounding the Australian Quaker Centre. Are we willing to develop our own inspirational study and retreat centre, rather than continue to pay the costs of travel to, and retreats and courses in, centres in Britain and America? If so, how can that best be done?

Growing steadily out of last year’s Yearly Meeting and the Working Group led by David Johnson, the Centre became a reality in September at Silver Wattle, leased near Bungendore, New South Wales, with Helen Bayes as director. This Centre is comparable to earlier moves in building Australian Quaker institutions, such as The Friends’ School in Hobart in 1887, the journal, The Australian Friend in the same year in Hobart, and the Australian General Meeting in 1902, which became Australia Yearly Meeting in 1964, independent from London Yearly Meeting. Quaker Service Australia emerged in the same decade. The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia became incorporated under ACT law in 1967 with its own Handbook of Practice and Procedure.

But it was not until 2003 that Australia Yearly Meeting published its own collection of writings, *this we can say: Australian Quaker life, faith and thought*, to join the long used and well loved *Quaker Faith & Practice* editions from Britain. Australian and British *Advises & Queries* followed in 2008 with Quakers Australia’s own logo, Aurora Australis.

We need to bear in mind this longer perspective, reaching back to the 1880s, when considering the role of the Australian Quaker Centre and the potential it offers to Quaker communities, not just in Australia, but in our Asian West Pacific region. In becoming an independent Yearly Meeting with a paid official as coordinator, in publishing *this we can say* and devising *Australian advices and queries*, Australian Quakers found their own voice. The Quaker Centre can help to develop that voice in defining the future of Quakers Australia by assessing our priorities and advising how best to pursue them in relation to our time, energy and resources.

Mindful of the Spirit which seeks to draw us together in unity, I hope that as we discuss and make decisions on a wide range of matters this week we’ll find ways of living ‘adventurously’ in caring for the earth, placing youth at the centre of our community, involving our smaller Meetings, acknowledging and resolving our conflicts, and developing the potential of the Australian Quaker Centre. These challenges go to the very heart of meeting the needs of Quakers Australia.
Documents in Retrospect 2010

Summary of Epistles from other Yearly Meetings

By Anthea Nicholls, South Australia RM

In 2009 at least 32 Quaker gatherings around the world (about a third of the Yearly Meetings), participated in the Quaker practice of writing an Epistle. Not just a letter, an epistle … with all its connotations of encouragement and the nurturing of community. In an epistle we expect to be reassured, inspired and challenged. We aren’t surprised if there is a homily or two. But most of all, we hope to find a sense of connection.

Accordingly, you wont be surprised if I say that the themes which resonate throughout these epistles take up words like spirit, faith and light … these are bread and butter to the Quaker life and it is reassuring to know that when Quakers get together they still turn for nourishment to these powerful guides. Their words too, reflect the underlying value placed on community and connection.

From Britain YM we read —

‘We have found our community of loving Friends to be a fellowship of smaller communities and groups, each arising from a common interest, each enhanced by listening to and respecting others.

We became conscious of the value of our connections: tender conversations in kitchens and corridors; deep connectedness in large meetings for worship; our complex relationships with Quaker history, traditions and the wider Quaker family; and our response to the beauty and pain of the world.’

We hear these written words, and I think we can summon up the writers, even see them; especially those of you who have been on epistle writing committees. Small teams of people, maybe late at night, trying to find words to capture and convey something beyond words … the deep joy and satisfaction of coming together with other like-minded travelers … to find strength and direction for going on. We define ourselves in these settings.

But since we define ourselves, not just by what we embrace, but also by what we turn away from and say no to … by what we other … we are not surprised to read that many of these meetings, like our own, have been grappling with questions of just how we might go about saying no … no to violence, to racism, and to other manifestations of inequality.

• When Young Friends met in Syria, so close to so much war and pain, they asked a representative from the UN to come and talk with them.

• In Johannesburg they chose a speaker whose life had been shaped by Apartheid. They grappled with their knowledge of what was happening in Zimbabwe and took assertive action in an AVP program … as did many others.

• Philadelphia writes, ‘We were urged to design specific non-violent campaigns that would enable us to force the institutional changes we need.’ They go on to say, ‘This is a time for Quakerism because the attention of the world at large seems to be turning towards values we cherish.’

• South Central USA chose the theme, Refining our witness, Peace the Military and us, While recognizing the discomfort it created for some, they believed that understanding the military was a key to pursuing peace and resisting violence.

And as expected, these letters tell many more ways these gatherings responded to this Quaker instinct, to turn away from inequality, and to find ways to undo it.

But we know that deliberately turning away is not the only way to ‘other’ something. Of necessity, we other even good things, when we make decisions to focus on something in particular. A number of meetings grappled with this necessity, and its twin, the problem of busyness.

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We also other something by choosing not to talk about it. We choose to not talk about something for all sorts of reasons … perhaps because this isn’t the time or place, or the appropriate language, to say something. None of the writers of these letters for instance, wrote, we had one hellova struggle last week. But they have said,

- Like the surface of the water, our work was sometimes ruffled by the stiff breeze of change;
- They used expressions like, ‘a bumpy road … requiring patience’;
- And again, ‘sadly we acknowledge that some of our actions deeply grieve some friends’.

These expressions, these ways in which people tried to be honest about the pain of struggle and difference, resisting pressures to ‘other’ by silence, were associated in particular with three issues. The ongoing realities of racism, even in our hearts, the inequities experienced in many countries by same-sex couples, and in the US, a personnel policy within one of the streams of Quakerism there. Several meetings were able to say they had come to the unity which enabled them to support same-sex marriages, while others reported the pain of remaining in difference … on one or other of these issues. It is reassuring, though, with what gentleness on the one hand and determination and courage on another these strong currents are reported. Dialogue is obviously happening, preventing these issues from being othered.

I have used this concept, of ‘othering’, to explore these epistles, but many of the meetings were exploring it too. Lake Erie, in the US, chose the theme: Reflecting the Light - Seeing ourselves in the Other. The YFs in Europe and the Middle East, chose the theme, Faith, the Divine and the Other. It took them out of their meeting place to go and meet, talk and even practice with representatives of other faiths. Northern YM in the US wrote, ‘We are learning as a community that much of the fear we attach to ‘The Other’ stems from our distrust within ourselves, of elements of which these ‘others’ remind us.’ And from the Netherlands we read, … a loving desire to come closer to the other is an important step in the prevention and healing of conflicts.’

In this sense we are choosing not to other, to stand with the othered. It is vital because of course, a classic way to other, is just to neglect. Quakers have a proud history of standing with people whom larger sections of society too often neglect, and these epistles carry on that history. They track a sensitivity to those who are poorer, weaker, smaller, younger, newer. It was terrific to hear the voices of children in these epistles, to find newcomers acknowledged, newcomers at these Yearly Meetings and newcomers/refugees in other settings. And even at a time set aside for Quaker reflection and fellowship, some went out and sought out others:

- South Central YM, having decided to face issues associated with the military, tell us that, ‘Several Friends travelled an hour … to open dialogue and lend support to a coffee house run by a military wife who is developing a … ministry to returning vets and their families.’
- And as we have just heard, Young Friends at the EME gathering went out and engaged in visits, discussions and practices with representatives of other religions.

This is what we need to hear, through these letters. That in these large tasks we are not a small isolated group, but part of a worldwide community of people who care.

But since these Yearly Meetings are times for reflection and these letters seek to capture some of that process, we can also ask, what else may have been othered here, perhaps this time not by necessity but for some other reasons which we might discern.

- For instance, while concerns relating to environmental and financial crises appear here, no epistles said that the concerns of the Indigenous peoples of that country had been raised in their meetings. None mentioned the particular difficulties of isolated Friends.
- Many Yearly Meetings around the world are not even represented here … only one represents the many Quakers in Africa. None are from South America. Could this be because it tends to be a practice using the English language?
- None were written from within prisons … and we might say, but of course. But then none were written from war zones either. In a sense we know why … but then, do we really know why?
I have been exploring these epistles from the perspective of the other, that othered either deliberately, of necessity, for strategic reasons or even sometimes, by neglect.

But I want to turn away from that perspective now and share some parts of these letters which touched me in a special way.

Something which clearly dwelled at the heart of these meetings was worship.

- ‘We pruned our business agenda, allowing more time to pray and listen,’ wrote New England YM.
- ‘We spent many hours in extended worship,’ they wrote, from New York.
- ‘The lengthened periods of worship created more space for the spirit to breathe and allowed time to absorb each ministry,’ wrote Pacific YM.

I noticed too how often the writers told us about meeting old friends and tried to find words to say what joy that meant. It came home to me how friendship is at the heart of this Society.

Remember those words from Britain YM: ‘tender conversations in kitchens and corridors’.

Lake Erie YM wrote that their concerts and talent shows had ‘revealed other, unknown sides of Friends, from teens to elders.’

And, yes, deepening friendship is always about learning more about each other. Something we learn about the youth and kids, for instance, as we read their letters, is how straight they can be, and logical.

New York YM tells us: ‘The difficult work we have been doing this week was in response to a prophetic call from our young f/Friends that we needed to live into the unity that we proclaim’.

‘A lengthy epistle is a waste of paper,’ said a younger group, and concluded their report.

Another group acknowledged some help they had received while learning about ‘the tedious Quaker process’.

The youngest group at New England YM wrote that, ‘when some people were not playing nicely, we talked about it to understand each other’.

And the Juniors there wrote, ‘Please write to us if you want instructions as to how to play JYM Ball or if you want the words to our song, called Community, It happens.’ I think we should take them up on that. It would be a great way to say we read and listened to their epistle.

And speaking of feedback from epistles, the meeting in Northwestern USA, wrote,

> We met during a week of record-breaking high temperatures, grateful for the luxury of air-conditioning. We felt some unity and received some comfort when we heard the words from Australian Friends, ‘Simmering at times in the extreme summer heat, we recalled the words of George Fox, ‘Be still and cool in thy own mind and spirit’. ‘

It’s great to hear an echo from something we have sent out. And I thought it would be lovely to send an echo too. Ireland YM told us that they sang together, the Quaker poet, John Whittier’s hymn, Dear Lord and Father. I think it must have been special to want to tell us about it and I thought that if we sang it too, then we could tell them that their song, and the joy it gave them, had reached us and inspired us to sing.

So let’s end our reflection on these letters by singing this song, which in many ways sums up the hopes and desires which have been expressed in these epistles.

You have the words with a gentle touch by Helen [Gould], to the first line. Helen is going to lead us.
Summer School Reports

Living Witness Sustainability Summer School

Living Witness Project

Living Witness began after a 'call to action' from British YM 2001 – the project aims to support local meetings to learn about climate change and sustainability issues and support each other to make changes in their individual lives and their Meetings. Laurie Michaelis works for the project that now has over one quarter of UK meetings as members (approx 100).

Summer School

The Summer School began with a Skype link up and we had a conversation with Laurie Michaelis that provided a rich offering to the participants who came from Canberra, South Australia, Queensland, Victoria, and Western Australia.

From our deliberations we identified five themes:

1. Practical needs for Australian Quaker local Meetings to ‘get going’ with Spirit-led earthcare work by:
   • Having some simple guidelines to galvanise our local Meetings;
   • Having ways for considering a Quaker response at this time of huge global change and how to use our Quaker spirituality and processes to develop our collective will for change;
   • Identifying what Friends are already doing (or planning) within their local Meetings; and also to know what other meetings are doing or planning; and
   • Knowing who the interested people are in our own and other local Meetings.

In the light of this first theme there was energy in the group to offer a modest two-three page resource based on the Living Witness UK project with some simple ideas and pathways for local meetings to get started. Such an ‘appetiser’ has been identified as consistent with the long-term Work Plan of the EarthCare Committee that came from the November national Earthcare Workshop.

2. Ways for Yearly Meeting and Regional Meetings to include a sustainability report as part of their annual report. This would include comparative measurement over time in order to look at trends in resource usage, particularly water and electricity. (For example how consideration has been given to the environmental impact of decisions to rent or purchase properties for Quaker activities; installation of water tanks or solar panels; the carbon footprint of the Meeting). We see the local Meeting activity identified in theme 1, as the basic building block on which and Yearly Meeting activities can take place.

We hope the Earthcare Committee will develop a framework tool that Meetings can use to measure their ecological footprint and be the key coordinating group to progress this theme.

3. Linking up with Quaker (and like spirited non Quaker) groups further afield - in the Asia West Pacific region, the United Kingdom, the United States etc. - to share ideas, learn from each
others’ experiences, and form alliances. We hope these will include sister relationships with local, regional and/or Yearly Meetings.

We particularly look forward to strengthening links that have been made this week with Philippine Friends.

It is hoped that the Earthcare Committee will be able to take this theme forward as well.

4. Encouraging the QPLC to consider taking on appropriate earthcare-related legislation. It is suggested that the QPLC could have a list of Friends who could be consulted to help with these tasks.

5. Supporting the Earthcare Committee to progress plans to engage an earthcare worker.

_Ronis Chapman, Yoland Wadsworth, Boni Quriog, Margaret Bearlin, Vidya, Molly Harris Olson, Margaret Evans, Phillip Toyne, Ray Melius, Tricia Fitzgerald, Rhys Dryzek._

### Statements and letters sent on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting since Yearly Meeting 2009

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Statement</th>
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<tr>
<td>30 January</td>
<td>Letter asking Australian government to negotiate with Israel &amp; Palestine re conflict in Gaza</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 February</td>
<td>Letter supporting a political solution in Sri Lankan</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 March</td>
<td>QPLC submission to the National Human Rights Consultation</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>Commending Prime Minister’s measured response to asylum seekers</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 May</td>
<td>Urging opposition to a more tempered position on asylum seekers</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 August</td>
<td>Urging the Greens, Nicholas Xenophon, Steve Fielding, and the Opposition to support the Migration Amendment (Abolishing Detention debt) legislation in the Senate</td>
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<tr>
<td>14 August</td>
<td>Commending the government on introducing the Migration Amendment legislation</td>
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<td>10 November</td>
<td>Signatory to letter to the Prime Minister on reinstating the Racial Discrimination Act</td>
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<tr>
<td>1 December</td>
<td>Letter to Minister for Indigenous Affairs re reinstating the Racial Discrimination Act and the necessity for involvement of Aboriginal communities in any decisions.</td>
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Yearly Meeting Photograph 2010