MINUTES OF AUSTRALIA YEARLY MEETING  
Held at Avondale College, Cooranbong, NSW, January 5-12, 2004  

Formal Session I  Monday, January 5, 2004

Minute 1  Bob Sampson, who comes with the permission of the Elders of the Awabakal people, welcomes us to country, with the words:

“Firstly I would like to give respect to the almighty creator spirit BIAME. Without his guidance through the ancestor spirits our fight for existence would be futile.

Through the great spirit we have been given our rules to live by.
One of our laws is to show respect to the land.
The keepers of this land are the Awabakal people.
As an elder permitted and on behalf of the Awabakal traditional owners I would like to welcome you here today.
Our spirits and people welcome you to the land of the Awabakal, our elders are your guide, you are now our guest.”

The Pondii performs selected dances as part of the welcome ceremony.

We appreciate this welcome and are pleased that some family members of the group are also able to be with us.

Minute 2  Welcome

Minute 3  Greetings
We hear Greetings from
Friends World Committee for Consultation World Office
Britain Yearly Meeting
Kathy Bodnar
Jo Juchniewicz
Sheila Given
Max and Sonia Raupach
Lloyd Williams
Sally O’Wheel
Roger and Tricia Walmsley

Oral greetings are received from
Rosemary Longhurst
Sandy Parker
Frances Nall
Sieneke Martin
Charles and Elizabeth Stevenson
Jeanne Bickert
Bronwen Meredith
We ask that letters be prepared in response to these and other greetings received during Yearly Meeting so that those present can sign them. Standing Committee agreed that names for greetings may be received until Friday January 9, 2004, and be available for Friends to sign on Saturday January 10, 2004 and Sunday January 11, 2004.

Minute 4 Visitors
The Presiding Clerk welcomes the following visitors:

Helen Hughes, representative Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
Ute Caspers, German Yearly Meeting, our Backhouse Lecturer

Other overseas visitors, present with us prior to the Triennial of the Friends World Committee for Consultation in Aotearoa/New Zealand, are:

Joseph Andugu, Nairobi, Kenya
Julia Kavulani Ombima, Kakamega, Kenya
Benson Simiyu Makhanu, Nairobi, Kenya
Evans Lumumba Nyanzo, Kakamega, Kenya
Wilson Shikali Shivachi, Mbale, Uganda
Khasufa Kutosi Silver, Mbale, Uganda
Tim Brown, UK
Connie Archbald, USA

We look forward to a special day of Friends World Committee for Consultation related activities on Thursday January 8, 2004.

We also welcome
Bob Barns, Pacific Yearly Meeting
Liz and Jim Anderton, West Scotland Monthly Meeting

Minute 5 Attenders at Australia Yearly Meeting
Standing Committee brings to Yearly Meeting names of non-members who have been recommended by the Elders of their Regional Meetings and given permission to attend Yearly Meeting 2004. Names of Young Friends, given permission by the Presiding Clerk to attend Yearly Meeting, are also included. Children are shown by ©. The list will be displayed in the foyer, and included, along with the names of all those present at this Yearly Meeting, in Documents in Retrospect.

Those listed now have full participatory rights in the Yearly Meeting. During Yearly Meeting business sessions anyone wishing to speak, member or attender, needs to be recognised by the Presiding Clerk. They should wait to be called, stand, wait for a microphone, and then give their name and Meeting.

Minute 6 Matters from Standing Committee
(a) Amendments to the Agenda
   (i) Friends’ Lodge presentation at 5.15pm on Saturday January 10
   (ii) Penn Friends afternoon tea at 3.30-4.00pm on Saturday January 10

(b) Testimonies
The following Testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of deceased Friends will be read during Yearly Meeting. We note the Friends who will read the Testimonies and when they will be presented.
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<th>DAY</th>
<th>TESTIMONY FOR</th>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday, January 7</td>
<td>Muriel Langford</td>
<td>David Carline</td>
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<td>Formal Session II</td>
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<td>Wednesday, January 7</td>
<td>Howard Brown</td>
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<td>Formal Session III</td>
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<td>Dennis Dorwick</td>
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<td>Saturday, January 10</td>
<td>Betty Martin</td>
<td>Geoff Greeves</td>
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<td>Formal Session V</td>
<td>Derek Adams</td>
<td>Duncan Frewin</td>
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<td>Formal Session VI</td>
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<td>Sunday, January 11</td>
<td>Warwick Everson</td>
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<td>Formal Session VII</td>
<td>Bruce Barnard</td>
<td>Jess Dundas</td>
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<td>Formal Session VIII</td>
<td>Maeve Coughlan</td>
<td>Jude Pembleton</td>
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A Meeting for Remembrance will be held on Friday January 9, 2004, from 8.30am until 9.30am before Formal Session IV. A compilation of Testimonies and Memorial Minutes, both those which are to be read before Formal Sessions, and those which are not to be read, will be made available for Friends to read at their leisure. Copies will be made available for each Regional Meeting and we hope these will be widely circulated among the members of Regional Meetings.

(c) Pastoral Care Committee
Standing Committee has noted the appointment by Regional Meetings of the following Friends to the Pastoral Care Committee for the duration of Yearly Meeting 2004.

- Canberra: Trish Roberts
- Queensland: Bevan Wiltshire
- South Australia: Topsy Evans
- Sydney: Anne-Maree Johnston, Graeme Stuart
- Tasmania: Liz Field
- Victoria: Dennis Dorwick, Sue Parritt
- West Australia: Margaret Woodward
- Young Friends: Kyle Purnell, Katharine Watson

(d) Future Yearly Meetings
West Australia Regional Meeting reports that Yearly Meeting will be held at Christchurch Grammar School, Perth from Saturday January 8, to Saturday January 15, 2005. It is planned that one day will be for excursions.

Canberra Regional Meeting is considering two options for 2006, either January in Canberra or the week after Easter at Lake Hume, near Albury. We ask that Friends discuss widely the idea of a post-Easter meeting and that comments be directed to Canberra Friends.

(e) The Friends’ School Board
The Association of the School has forwarded the following nominations to Standing Committee for appointment to the Board at Yearly Meeting 2004 and Standing Committee recommends them.

- Board Nominees: Roger Curtis (2nd term)
Regional Meeting Nominees
Canberra Regional Meeting: Pam Houstein (1st term)
South Australia Regional Meeting: Caroline Donald (3rd term)
Tasmania Regional Meeting: Simon Allston (3rd term)

We receive these nominations and make the appointments.

Minute 7  Statement of commitment
The Presiding Clerk reads a statement of commitment to relationship between Catherine Errey, Sydney Regional Meeting and Dennis Dorwick, Victoria Regional Meeting.

Formal Session II Wednesday, January 7, 2004

Minute 8
We hear the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of our Friend Muriel Langford (Queensland Regional Meeting) read by David Carline.

Minute 9  Greetings and Welcome
Greetings are received from Royal Buscombe and Bob McFarlane. We ask that these names be added to the list for greetings.

We hear a Travelling Minute from Minnesota Yearly Meeting on behalf of Connie Archbald.

Minute 10  Yearly Meeting Nominations (1)
We receive the following nominations and appoint:
(a)  Epistle Committee
    David Johnson, Queensland Regional Meeting
    Sue Parritt, Victoria Regional Meeting
    Jean Talbot, Sydney Regional Meeting
    Alexa Taylor, Young Friend

(b)  Handbook Revision Committee (until Yearly Meeting 2007)
    Canberra Regional Meeting: Stella Wilkie
    Malcolm Miller
    Erica Fisher

    We hope that Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee will bring forward more names for the Handbook Revision Committee.

(c)  Thanksgiving Fund (until Yearly Meeting 2007)
    Blue Mountains Local Meeting/Orange Worshipping Group
    Catherine Errey
    John Baker
    Laurel Thomas
    Katherine McNamara

(d)  Children’s Co-ordinators (until Yearly Meeting 2007)
    West Australia Regional Meeting: Margaret Woodward
    Graham Hodgkin
(e) **Outreach Working Group** (until Yearly Meeting 2007)
Victoria Regional Meeting
Ray Brindle
Maggie Dunkle
Steve Hope
Ruth Strachan

(f) **Indigenous Concerns Committee** (until Yearly Meeting 2007)
Canberra Regional Meeting
Ffionnan Brooke-Watson
David Purnell
Helen Bayes
Tim Cansfield-Smith
Deborah Faeyrglenn
Joon Garfitt
Rosemarie (Waratah) Gillespie
Barbara Meyer
Katharine Watson
Lloyd Williams
Moya Williams
David Carline (Queensland)

(g) **Insurance Working Group** (until Yearly Meeting 2007)
Ron Baneth (Victoria Regional Meeting)
John Dundas (Sydney Regional Meeting)
Paul Pollard (Canberra Regional Meeting)
Drew Thomas (South Australia Regional Meeting)
Roger Sawkins (Queensland Regional Meeting)

(h) **Backhouse Lecture Committee**
Roslynn Haynes (Tasmania Regional Meeting) until Yearly Meeting 2007
Mary Westbrook (Sydney Regional Meeting) until Yearly Meeting 2007

(i) **Friends World Committee for Consultation**
Maxine Cooper (Queensland Regional Meeting) to replace Gerry Guiton as our representative to the FWCC Triennial.
Maxine Cooper (Queensland Regional Meeting) as representative from July, 2004.
Aletia Dundas (Sydney Regional Meeting) as Alternate from July 2004.

**Asia-West Pacific Section Core Committee**
Valerie Joy (Sydney Regional Meeting)

**Minute 11 State of the Society address**
Jan de Voogd, Sydney Regional Meeting, presents the State of the Society address. He invites responses from assembled Friends. Jan leaves us with challenging questions. We ask that the address be included in *Documents in Retrospect.*
Minute 12 Further matters from Standing Committee
(a) **Compass program**
Standing Committee notes that there has been a very positive response to the ABC’s "Compass” program on Australian Quakers. We ask the Presiding Clerk to send a letter of appreciation to the producer of the program.

(b) **Quaker Service Australia Minute 23, Standing Committee, July, 2003**
In the light of subsequent consultation with David Cooper, Sydney Regional Meeting, the following Minute is written to supersede Minute 23 of Standing Committee, July 2003.

“We receive the report concerning an employee’s financial redress. We agree to recommend that Yearly Meeting underwrite Stage 2 payments on a contingency basis. Should the liability come due and depending upon the quantum of any eventual financial obligation, it is anticipated that Yearly Meeting would be able to use The Sanctuary as security against any need for a bank loan sufficient to discharge Yearly Meeting’s responsibilities under the Deed of Release”.

We hear the Minute and, after further questions, agree to delay acceptance until Session III.

Minute 13 Launch of "This We Can Say: Australian Quaker Life, Faith and Thought."
Katherine Purnell, Canberra Regional Meeting, gives us an account of the long and detailed process which has resulted in the launch of our Faith and Practice book "This We Can Say: Australian Quaker Life, Faith and Thought."

In launching the book, Bev Polzin acknowledges and gives thanks for the work of the committee in Canberra, who have worked with great faithfulness over a decade. She also acknowledges the input of Friends throughout Australia, who have been part of the creative process. We anticipate that “This We Can Say” will be widely used and appreciated both in the Religious Society of Friends, and the wider community.

We agree to submit the two presentations to the editorial committee of *The Australian Friend* for possible publication. Video tapes could also be made available, on request, from Margaret Bearlin, Canberra Regional Meeting.

Minute 14 Welcome
We welcome Rachel Malloch, Britain Yearly Meeting.

**Formal Session III Wednesday, January 7, 2004**

Minute 15 We hear a Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of our Friend Howard Brown (Victoria Regional Meeting) read by Barbara Rautman and Dennis Dorwick.

Minute 16 Further matters from Standing Committee
(a) **Quaker Service Australia Minute 23, Standing Committee, July, 2003**
We hear the Minute again and accept it.

(b) **Visit of David Hartshough, Nonviolent Peaceforce**
We note that David Hartshough of the Nonviolent Peaceforce will be in Australia from February 23, 2004, for 10 days. We endorse this visit and hope that Regional Meetings offer accommodation and support, as appropriate. We ask that his itinerary be circulated when it is known.

(c) **Appointment of a Yearly Meeting Secretary**
Part of **Standing Committee Minute 10 of this Yearly Meeting, reads:**
"We welcome the nomination of Judith Pembleton, Queensland Regional Meeting, to the position of Yearly Meeting Secretary from March 23, 2004, which will be brought to Yearly Meeting for ratification. We hear that Jude intends to work four days a week and that initially will be using part of her house as an office".

We accept this nomination. The Contract is signed by the Presiding Clerk, Judith Pembleton, Queensland Regional Meeting, and witnessed by Cathy Davies, Sydney Regional Meeting, as Assistant Yearly Meeting Clerk.

**Minute 17 Presiding Clerk’s report**
Ruth Watson, West Australia Regional Meeting, thanks Friends for the warmth of their support. The office of Presiding Clerk might be seen as a lonely position, particularly with Ruth’s isolated geographical home. Ruth, however, has not felt alone. Besides her personal faith, she has a wonderful Yearly Meeting Secretary, loving support from her Local and Regional Meetings, and her family. She asks “Where has this support taken me?”

On our behalf, she attends meetings of the Heads of Churches and the Executive of the National Council of Churches, Friends School Board, and Standing Committee. Travelling to these meetings gives her the opportunity to visit Friends, often in smaller meetings, and to listen to them.

At the request of Friends, and on behalf of Yearly Meeting, 13 letters and public statements have been sent, six of them following requests made at Yearly Meeting 2003. These have been circulated with the Secretary’s Newsletter and are displayed on the notice boards at this Yearly Meeting.

One matter Ruth Watson asks us to consider for the future is the appointment of a Presiding Clerk a year in advance. This may assist the incoming Presiding Clerk in preparation for the position.

**Minute 18 Treasurer’s report**

*(Documents in Advance page 48)*

We receive the report, and hear a verbal report from Rae Litting.

(a) We approve the audited accounts for the year ending September 30, 2003 as a correct overall picture of our financial situation. We note, however, that there are some inconsistencies between the accounts and the supporting documents. We ask the Treasurer to consult the Auditor to make the necessary adjustments before the accounts are lodged with the ACT Registrar of Associations. Corrected audited accounts will then be distributed to the Yearly Meeting office and to Regional Meeting Treasurers.

(b) **Auditor**
We appoint Geoff White and Associates of Penrith (Sydney) as auditors to Australia Yearly Meeting for the financial year 2003/2004.

(c) Oikocredit

We agree that our shares in Oikocredit (valued at $1600) be gifted to that organisation. We support the activities of Oikocredit, but find that the paperwork involved in holding the shares does not justify any income we could receive from them.

(d) Book-keeper

We agree that we should continue to hire the services of a book-keeper in the same location as the Yearly Meeting Secretary. We also agree that in future this person should be available more often than once a month, generally once a fortnight, so that the accounts can be kept up to date. We do not see that this will necessarily add to the number of hours required per month.

Minute 19 Secretary’s report

(Documents in Advance page 89)

We receive the report and again express our gratitude to Bev Polzin, Victoria Regional Meeting, for all the meticulous work she has done on our behalf.

Formal Session IV Friday, January 9, 2004

Minute 20 Meeting for Remembrance

During our time of worship, we remember the following Members and Attenders who have died since last Yearly Meeting. We are delighted that our children and young people have joined us for this Meeting for Remembrance.

Canberra Regional Meeting
William Buscombe
Warwick Everson

Queensland Regional Meeting
Derek Adams
Pam Byde
Maurie Carlson
Maevé Ann Coughlan
Muriel Langford

South Australia Regional Meeting
Betty Fernandes Martin

Sydney Regional Meeting
Norah Browne
Edith Croaker
Patricia Anne Wakeley
Elisabeth Walker
Erica Wohlwill

Tasmania Regional Meeting
Halvard Kelsey Aves
Margaret Agnes (Peg) Murphy
Susan Margaret Wells
Minute 21  Epistles from other Yearly Meetings
Brian Connor, Sydney Regional Meeting, presents a resume of Epistles from other Yearly Meetings, which have been received during the year. In hearing from these Epistles, we are drawn more closely into the world family of Friends.

We ask that this resume be published in Documents in Retrospect, and submitted to the The Australian Friend.

Minute 22  Welcome
We welcome Rachel Brett (Britain Yearly Meeting) a staff member of Quaker United Nations Office, Geneva.

Minute 23  Yearly Meeting Nominations (2)
Media Committee
Jane Sloane, Sydney Regional Meeting
Dave McKay, Sydney Regional Meeting (subject to consent)
Susan Addison, Queensland Regional Meeting

Secretary’s Advisory Committee
Maxine Cooper (Convenor)
Tony Arden
Helen Lucas
Marion Sullivan (until September 2004)
Bevan Wiltshire

These Friends were nominated by Queensland Regional Meeting, and are all members of Queensland Regional Meeting.

We accept these nominations.

Minute 24  The Friends’ School
(Document in Advance page 51)
We receive the report and the report from the Preparatory Session, which has been posted, and which we ask to be attached to these Minutes.

Minute 25  Donald Groom Peace Fellowship Committee
(Document in Advance page 37)
We receive the committee's report and the report from the Preparatory Session, which has been posted, and which we ask to be attached to the Minutes. We note the addition to the Committee of Moira Darling and Chris Hughes (Atherton Tablelands Meeting, Queensland Regional Meeting.)
The Donald Groom Peace Fellowship Committee ask that they be included on Regional Meeting schedules and we agree that Regional Meeting Treasurers be notified of this.

**Formal Session V Saturday, January 10, 2004**

**Minute 26** We hear the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Betty Martin, South Australia Regional Meeting, read by Geoff Greeves.

**Minute 27 Seventh Day Adventist Church Service**
Joseph Andugu and Ruth Watson were invited to a service at the Avondale College church, at which they spoke briefly.

**Minute 28 Travelling letter on behalf of Carole and Ray Treadway**
We hear a letter from Friendship Friends Meeting, Greensboro, and also receive a greeting from Friends in North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative.)

**Minute 29 Welcome**
The Presiding Clerk welcomes Kelly Ackerman and Christine West, Winnipeg Worship Group, Prairie Monthly Meeting, Canada.

**Minute 30 Peace Concerns**
*(Documents in Advance page 70)*
We receive the report of the Peace and Social Justice Fund Committee, report on the Quaker Peacenet, reports from Regional Meeting Peace and Social Justice Committees and Networks, and reports from the Alternatives to Violence Project. We also receive the report from the Preparatory Session, and the subsequent follow-up discussion, which have been posted, and which we ask to be attached to the Minutes.

The Peace and Social Justice Fund Committee remind us of their continuing need for funds.

(a) **Peace Worker proposal**
A recommendation has been received to create a one-year position for a nonviolence peace-worker and we note that this position could be shared. We also note that there is in-principle support from Regional Meeting Peace and Social Justice Networks for this proposal.

We approve the amount of $15000 from the Peace and Social Justice Fund to be used as part of the funding for the Peace Worker.

We ask David Johnson, Queensland Regional Meeting, and the Donald Groom Peace Committee to carry this initiative forward, taking care to liaise with appropriate Yearly Meeting committees and other groups.

(b) **An Australian Quaker Peace and Social Justice Committee**
We hear from Helen Bayes, Convenor of Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee, and agree that the matter of an Australian Quaker Peace and Social Justice Committee be considered by Friends and the matter brought to a later session of this Yearly Meeting.
Formal Session VI Saturday, January 10, 2004

Minute 31  We hear a Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Derek Adams, Queensland Regional Meeting, read by Duncan Frewin.

Minute 32  Welcome
We welcome Nancy Craft, Virginia Beach Friends Meeting, which is part of North Carolina Yearly Meeting (Conservative.)

Minute 33  Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) Day
Minute of Record
We have become aware of our place in the world family of Friends during the FWCC Day at Yearly Meeting 2004.

We gain knowledge of the work of FWCC, including:
• the work of QUNO in Geneva and New York, in providing opportunities for Quaker input into global peace-building;
• presentations by Joseph Andugu and other African Friends on the work of the FWCC office in Nairobi, and information on the work of Quaker institutions and meetings in Kenya and Uganda;
• hearing from American, British and Aotearoa/New Zealand Friends who bring fresh insight into Quaker issues.

Our Programmed Worship includes singing, spoken prayer, offerings and a sermon based on Acts 1:8. We are grateful for this opportunity to share in another form of worship. About $850 was donated during the service and will be sent to the African Section of FWCC.

Our love for one another ‘in the things which are Eternal’ has become deeper by this shared experience.

We acknowledge, and are grateful for, the hard work of Elaine Polglase, Sydney Regional Meeting, in the planning of this FWCC Day.

Minute 34  Energy and Resources Interest Group
(Documents in Advance page 42)
We receive the report and the report from the Preparatory Session, which has been posted, and which we ask to be attached to the Minutes.

We note that the Interest Group is pleased that it has been able to help Friends become more aware of the importance of considering how we sustain and use our energy and resources. We agree that the Interest Group be laid down at this time.

Peter Wilde, Tasmania Regional Meeting, Convenor of the Group, reported that the Preparatory Session felt that this is not the time to have a general review of our practices and procedures.

We note that Sheila Keane, Sydney Regional Meeting, offers to receive and consolidate responses from Regional Meetings and individuals to this concern. She will welcome responses to the nine areas of concern listed in the report in Documents.
in Advance, and is willing to travel to meet with Friends. We draw to Sheila’s attention the extensive responses from Regional Meetings to the report in Documents in Advance.

We are glad that Sheila Keane has made this offer and agree that any out-of-pocket expenses be met through Yearly Meeting funds.

**Formal Session VII Sunday, January 11, 2004**

**Minute 35** We hear a Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Warwick Everson, Canberra Regional Meeting, read by Erica Fisher.

**Minute 36** We hear the first reading of the Epistle by Alexa Taylor, and ask that any comments be addressed to the Epistle Committee.

**Minute 37 Werona–Kangaroo Valley Friends Properties Pty. Ltd.**

We receive the report, which is spoken to by Wies Schuiringa, Sydney Regional Meeting. David Carline, Queensland Regional Meeting, asks about the return of this land to the aboriginal people, which he had raised at last Yearly Meeting. A number of ways of moving forward are suggested, including:

- To work towards face-to-face meetings with traditional owners, which will require a person with special skills, acceptable to both parties.
- The basis of any resolution will be strong desire for right relationships.
- In the case of disagreements, to favour restorative justice rather than legal process.
- To actively listen to aboriginal people.

We ask the Werona Board of Management to seriously consider these and other suggestions, which have been brought forward at this Meeting.

We remind Friends of Minute 34 of Yearly Meeting 2003 which said, in part. “We suggest that Regional Meetings and Friends consider in the coming year how we may educate ourselves about the Indigenous perspective on land, how we can make contact with the traditional owners of land where we live, work and worship and what profits we enjoy from the dispossession of the traditional owners.”

There has been little response to this Minute.

We ask the Indigenous Concerns Committee to prepare a paper to assist Australian Friends to address, in a serious way, the above Minute.

**Minute 38 “The Sanctuary” Management Committee**

We receive the report.
Minute 39  Anniversary of Quakerism Exhibition and CD-Rom

We receive the report and note the exhibition has been part of the Devonshire Street celebration of their centenary, and is displayed at this Yearly Meeting. We understand that the CD-rom project is still proceeding.

We hear that the exhibition will be taken to Canberra after this Meeting where it will open in March, 2004. Later the exhibition will travel to Brisbane. There is a possibility that the exhibition will travel to Tasmania later this year, before it returns to Perth for Yearly Meeting 2005.

We agree to underwrite a further $500 if required, for the expenses of moving the exhibition.

Minute 40  Advices & Queries Working Group

We receive the report. We note that the Working Group includes Tony Arden, Kathy Damm, Rhoda Dorrell, Michaela Easton and Helen Lucas, all of Queensland Regional Meeting. We look forward to the results of their work. We hope that reference will be made to our responsibility with regard to the environment.

We ask Regional Meetings to appoint correspondents as requested, and encourage the Working Group in their task.

Minute 41  The Australian Friend Committee

We receive the report. We are pleased to accept the Committee's offer of a further term of service, from Yearly Meeting 2005 to 2008.

We note that some committee members may not be available for the whole of this period.

Minute 42  Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing

We receive the report, and a Minute Record, as follows:

"The AGM of the Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing and the Friends Charitable Trust, as well as a report from Friends' Lodge, New Norfolk, Tasmania, were enacted on Wednesday, January 7, 2004. Brian Connor of Armidale takes over from Ruth Legg as Co-ordinator of the Fellowship. Ruth Haig continues as Editor of "Wholeness". Peter Wilde, who is a member of the Friends' Lodge Management Committee presents a segment with further information about the Lodge. A Meeting for Worship for Healing was held and greeting cards and cards of support were prepared."

Minute 43  Australia-Wide Quaker Fellowship

We receive the report.

Minute 44  Backhouse Lecture Committee

We receive the report.
The James Backhouse Lecture “Growing Fruitful Friendship: A Garden Walk” was given by Ute Caspers, German Yearly Meeting, at Avondale College, Cooranbong, on Wednesday, January 7, 2004. The Hunter Valley Local Meeting’s quilt, which depicts the travels of James Backhouse and George Washington Walker, made an appropriate backdrop.

We receive the following Minute of Record:
In the 2004 James Backhouse lecture, our friend Ute Caspers took us through her friendship garden on a tour that resembled a guided meditation. She showed us how friendship needs tending as we would a garden, using appropriate tools, and taking time for reflection.

We are reminded that friendships, like the ubiquitous dandelion, can take root in the most inhospitable of places and that friendship has the potential to overcome longstanding enmities and misunderstandings.

We give thanks for the insight into the ways early Friends approached friendships. From this comes the challenge to live up to our name, the Religious Society of Friends, and to cultivate friendships based on unconditional trust and the acknowledging of God as our third partner.

We note that David Johnson, Queensland Regional Meeting, will be the Backhouse Lecturer at Yearly Meeting 2005, the subject being ‘Peace’.

Minute 45 Faith and Practice Committee

We receive the report, and note that the launch of “This We Can Say: Australian Quaker Life, Faith and Thought” is reported in Minute 13 of this Yearly Meeting. We note that 550 copies have been sold. We congratulate the committee on bringing us our first Faith and Practice book.

We note that copies were given to our African visitors at the FWCC Day, and we agree to give a copy to the Avondale College Library.

We encourage the Committee to continue to collect feedback and to document anything that could be of use to compilers of a later edition.

Minute 46 Morrow Bequest Committee

We receive the report.

Minute 47 Publications Committee

We receive the report. We note that copies of the ‘Simplicity’ pamphlet were not distributed at this Yearly Meeting. Printing will be held over until the new Yearly Meeting office is established.

Minute 48 Quaker Education Network/Children’s Meeting

We receive the report regarding the Quaker Education Network.

There is no report on the Children’s Meeting. There is continuing difficulty in providing material for a wide range of children's ages. There is also the problem that
some Meetings to whom material has been sent have returned it as they do not have functioning Children's Meetings. The Children's Meeting Co-ordinators will be happy to supply material for Children's Meeting, on request.

**Minute 49 Thanksgiving Fund**
The report, which has been tabled at this Yearly Meeting, is received, and we ask that it be placed in *Documents in Retrospect*. The present committee has come to the end of its term.

Friends are reminded that the *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* gives clear guidelines about how to apply for grants, and how bequests can be made to the Thanksgiving Fund.

**Minute 50 Indigenous Concerns Committee**

*Documents in Advance page 65*

We receive the committee's report, and the report from the Preparatory Session, which has been posted, and which we ask to be attached to these Minutes.

We note that, Minute 10(f) brought names for the committee. We note that additional names for this committee are Ruth Haig (Sydney Regional Meeting) and Susannah Brindle (Victoria Regional Meeting) We accept these names.

**Minute 51 Quaker Service Australia**

*Documents in Advance page 83*

We receive the report, and the Annual Report for 2002-2003. The report from the Preparatory Session, which lists the Projects and General discussion, has been posted, and we ask that it be attached to these Minutes.

The Project Selection Criteria have also been posted, and we approve them. We ask that the Project Selection Criteria also be attached to these Minutes.

Fifty eight Friends were present at the Annual General meeting of QSA Inc. held on January 9, 2004. The meeting agreed to present the following list of Friends to Yearly Meeting to serve as the Management Committee for the coming year.

Anna Bell  
Patricia Firkin  
Marilyn Hillery  
Annie Rooke-Frizell  
Heather Saville (Convenor)  
Michael Wilson

The Presiding Clerk and Yearly Meeting Secretary are ex-officio members of the committee.

**Regional Meeting appointments**

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<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Alan Clayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Australia</td>
<td>Amy Thom</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We accept these names, and note that Elaine Polglase has been appointed Public Officer.

**Minute 52  ** _Handbook Revision Committee_  
_(Documents in Advance page 61)_

We receive the committee's report, and the report from the Preparatory Session, which has been posted, and which we ask to be attached to these Minutes.

We hear from Peter Wilde, Tasmania Regional Meeting, who lists the following recommendations from the Preparatory Session:

(a) that the draft _Handbook_ circulated be adopted by Yearly Meeting, as the fifth edition of the _Handbook_, with the changes noted below;

(b) the final sentence of 4.1 (which refers to the Avon Valley General Meeting (Conservative)) be deleted, as this Meeting was dissolved on 8 October; 2003;

(c) Appendix B 'Quaker Publications' include reference to Sheila Given 1997 "In the Spirit of Family", and William Nicole Oats 1999 "Choose Your Dilemma".

We accept these recommendations.

We ask the incoming _Handbook_ Revision Committee in Canberra Regional Meeting to consider the further recommendations from the Preparatory Session.

**Formal Session VIII Sunday, January 11, 2004**

**Minute 53** We hear a Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Bruce Barnard, Sydney Regional Meeting, read by Jess Dundas.

**Minute 54  ** _Peace Building Seminar_

We receive information about a Quaker Seminar to be held in Canberra entitled "Peace Building in the Asia-Pacific Region" on Tuesday, January 14, 2004. Representatives from the Australian Government, United Nations Association and Non-Government organisations, together with some Friends, have been invited. A report will be circulated.

**Minute 55  ** _Yearly Meeting Nominations (3)_

Representative to National Council of Churches in Australia
Executive
Ruth Watson
Colin Wendell-Smith, Tasmania Regional Meeting (Alternate)
Patricia Firkin, Sydney Regional Meeting
Faith and Unity Commission
Bill Jaggs, Victoria Regional Meeting
Christian World Service
Acey Teasdale, Sydney Regional Meeting
Social Justice Network
Jane Sloane, Sydney Regional Meeting
Gender Commission
Not yet appointed

Minute checkers
Gwyneth Anderton, Tasmania Regional Meeting
Jim Anderton, West Scotland Monthly Meeting

We approve these appointments.

Minute 56  Child Membership
(Document in Advance page 35)
We receive the report and the report from the Preparatory Session, which has been posted and which we ask to be attached to these Minutes. We accept these amendments, which have had deep and careful consideration for some time. We ask the Handbook Revision Committee to bring forward an amended Section 5.2.1, in the light of this paper.

Minute 57  Letter concerning Asylum Seekers in Nauru
Following an informal Preparatory Session, we hear a draft letter to the Prime Minister and ask that it be sent with some slight amendments. We hear that a press release, based on the content in this letter has been released.

We also note that an on-line petition to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Immigration "To End Detention of Children and Separation of Families in Australia" is recommended to Friends.

Minute 58  Welcome
We welcome Shauna Curry and Marc Forget (both of Canada Yearly Meeting). Shauna is on her way to the FWCC Triennial and both of them will be attending the AVP gathering in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Minute 59  Young Friends
We receive the report from Young Friends, which is attached to these Minutes, and hear the following nominations, which we accept.

International Liaison
Jeremy Brown
Representative to New Zealand Young Friends Easter Gathering, 2004
Alexa Taylor
Young Friends Nominations Committee
Kyle Purnell
Amy Thom
NCCA Youth Network
Jess Dundas
Standing Committee representatives
Aletia Dundas
Hannah Chapman-Searle

Young Friends' regretted that no Young Friend from Aotearoa/New Zealand could come to this Yearly Meeting.

Minute 60  Share & Tell
We receive the following list of topics, together with the names of the presenter:
Right Sharing of World Resources
Bob Barns and Connie Archbald

UN Security Council Resolution 1325
Margaret Bearlin and Jane Sloane
Outreach: Resources and Co-ordination
Ray Brindle
War Tax Resisters
Ann Britton
Living in the Light in the Shadow of Sorry
David Buller
Stewardship of Resources
Jennifer Burrell
Aboriginal Kitchen Artists of Cunnamulla
David Carline
Australian Quaker Bibliography
Alan Clayton
Treading More Lightly on the Earth
Gerry Fahey
Living in the Light
Helen Gould
Australian Campaign Against the Arms Trade
David Johnson
Refugee Assistance Schemes
Cherry McKay
Spiritual Direction
Barbara Rautman
Teaching: a Test for anyone's mettle
Susan Rockcliffe
Aging
Annie Rooke-Frizell and Sue Wiltshire
Alternatives to Violence Project
Giri Sequoya
The Medieval Spanish Pilgrimage - the Camino de Santiago
Acey Teasdale
Interfaith
Monika Smith and Julie Walpole

We ask that copies of reports of the individual Share and Tell Sessions, where received, are printed in *Documents in Retrospect*.

### Formal Session IX Monday, January 12, 2004

**Minute 61** We hear the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Maeve Coughlan, Queensland Regional Meeting, read by Jude Pembleton.

**Minute 62** Minute of Record
We record with sorrow the death of our Friend, Norman Talbot, Hunter Valley Local Meeting, Sydney Regional Meeting. Norman died suddenly at home during the time of our Yearly Meeting, which he had been enjoying to the full. We rejoice in the gifts which Norman has shared with us over many years. His funeral will take place on Friday, January 16, 2004.

Friends are invited to sign the Book of Condolence, which has been prepared and which will be passed to Jean Talbot and her family.
Minute 63 Welcome
We welcome Stephen Guloba, Uganda Yearly Meeting, and present him with a copy of "This We can Say".

Minute 64 Epistle
We hear the Epistle read for a second time by Alexa Taylor.

Minute 65 Peace and Social Justice Committee (continued)
Further to Minute 30, we hear a report from a further meeting of the group considering offers from South Australia Regional Meeting and Victoria Regional Meeting, which has been posted, and which we ask to be attached to these Minutes.

Ray Brindle, Victoria Regional Meeting, speaks to this report. We agree that the scope of the work should include social justice issues as well as continuing to attend to the spiritual basis of our peace and social justice actions and our preparedness and abilities as peace makers.

Therefore, we agree to accept the offer of these two groups.

We ask South Australia Regional Meeting to host a Peace and Social Justice Committee, which will broadly attend to outward activities on our behalf. We understand Jon Moore will be the Convenor. We ask Victoria Regional Meeting to host a peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee to focus broadly on the spiritual basis of our work in these areas. We understand Ray Brindle will be the convenor.

Concern has been expressed about the gender balance in these two committees, in particular and in our committees generally. We ask Nominations Committees to take note of this concern, bearing in mind that we always seek to find the best person for the work being undertaken.

We encourage the groups to confer as soon as practicable to clarify their respective roles, responsibilities and relationships, and to begin to implement them. We ask the committees to consult widely with Friends in other Meetings.

We ask the two groups to report progress at Standing Committee, July 2004.

Minute 66 Yearly Meeting Nominations (4)
NCCA Forum
Ruth Watson, as Head of Church
Elizabeth Stevenson, South Australia Regional Meeting
Jenny Stock, South Australia Regional Meeting
Bill Jaggs, Victoria Regional Meeting (subject to consent)

Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
Elizabeth Stevenson, South Australia Regional Meeting

We agree to these nominations.

Minute 67 Meeting for Learning Committee
(Document in Advance page 67)
We accept the report, and the report from the Preparative Session, which has been posted, and which we ask to be attached to these Minutes.

We hear of the current programs. Meeting for Learning is looking at extending programs already offered, as well as seeking to offer new programs in response to the needs of Australian Friends.

One matter not discussed at the Preparatory Session was the matter of the "Effective Clerking and Eldership Project" which Sandy Parker agreed to undertake. The committee asks that this project be resumed when Sandy Parker completes his term as Victoria Regional Meeting Clerk in 2005. We agree to this.

**Minute 68 Ecumenism/Interfaith**

(Documents in Advance page 39)

We receive the report. A report from the NCCA Executive meeting in November, 2003, and the report of the Preparatory Session are also received, and we ask that these reports be attached to these Minutes.

We consider requests for funding.

(a) We agree to the NCCA request that we increase our contribution in line with the Consumer Price Index.

(b) "Safe Churches Consultation". While we are in support of this project, we cannot accede to the request for financial assistance at this time. We request more details in order that a decision may be made by the Presiding Clerk, Yearly Meeting Secretary, the Treasurer and a member of Standing Committee in accordance with our *Handbook of Practice and Procedure* reference 3.4.1(f).

We hear of a Siev X Memorial in Canberra, a memorial to be funded by an individual to the memory of the 353 asylum seekers who died while trying to reach Australia. We agree to support this project.

We note that various Meetings in Australia are actively involved in Interfaith dialogue and welcome this broadening of our Ecumenism.

**Minute 69 Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)**

(Documents in Advance page 58)

We receive the committee's report and hear a report from the Preparatory Session, which has been posted, and which we ask to be attached to these Minutes.

(a) We hear of the proposed composition of the committee, and proposed changes to the way in which the FWCC committee could operate. These changes will entail changes to our *Handbook of Practice and Procedure*.

We ask that the proposed changes be further discussed at Regional Meetings, and comments received, so that they can be further considered at mid-year Standing Committee.

(b) We agree that our financial contributions to the World Office be increased from $750 to $1000 and to Quaker United Nations Offices from $800 to $1000 in the next budget.
Minute 70  Public Liability; Public Liability and Young Friends

We receive the reports, and the report of the Preparatory Session.

(a) We agree that the Yearly Meeting Secretary continue to negotiate with EIG-Ansvar on the matter of Public Liability until the newly appointed group of Friends is able to take over this matter.

(b) We ask Young Friends, when they next meet, to work towards establishing a protocol for any camp or gathering, and to provide a check list of those matters which need to be addressed in relation to a good standard of care and procedures.

We are reminded that the aim of having a policy is to provide adequate, but not over-bearing, care and also to minimize negative legal outcomes or publicity should a serious accident occur.

Minute 71  Summer School - Minute of Record

'Signposts, Intersections, Detours and Ways that Open.'

Summer School 2004 began as a gathering of 200 people who then followed the facilitator/navigators into 15 small circles to explore the topics of:

- Moving With Spirit
- Job: Why do good people suffer
- Intersection: Poetry
- A day in the company of the living Christ
- Art as an expression of the spiritual journey
- Death and Funeral processes
- Journey as metaphor
- Life journeys
- Journalling the journal
- Being...Doing....Being
- Utopian Cubbyhouse
- Creating a healing space at Yearly Meeting
- F/friends and closeness
- Spirit-led bushwalk
- Silent Retreat.

The seeds of community germinated and grew in various ways in these circles, throughout the explorations of the week. We found that there are connections and intersections - meeting of like minds and of unlike minds. And always, there are detours.

Summer School 2004 concluded as a community sharing our various journeys, creations and insights. This final worship-sharing included vocal descriptions; theatrical offerings; practical demonstrations and a foyer display of many of the products of the week's togetherness.

With the death of Norman Talbot, one of our navigators and fellow-travellers, we have become more keenly aware of the gifts and place of each person in our community.

We close with three offerings of poetry from members of Norman and Jean Talbot's Summer School group.
Death of a poet.
Eyes.....ears.....mind.....
Taken away

A blue-eyed poet,
Summer Quaggle of Quakers,
Quiet death walks by.

Very present man,
White shirt and baggy britches,
Spirit Unforgettable.

Minute 72  Closing Minute
As we look back on the days we have spent together in the country we were welcomed to by the Arwarbukarl people, we reflect on the journey we have travelled. We have been enriched by the presence of our international Friends. We became aware of how fragile the flower of life can be and we have held each other tenderly. Now, as we once more leave one another and turn homewards we move with renewed spiritual vigour, aware of our own directions and our different but connected paths.

We farewell the Yearly Meeting Secretary, Bev Polzin, with affection and appreciation for the years she has served us.

We will meet once again in West Australia in one year's time.

Ruth Watson,
Presiding Clerk,
Minutes of Australia Yearly Meeting

Held at Christ Church Grammar School, Perth, Western Australia
8-15 January 2005

Formal Session I  Saturday, 8 January 2005

‘Keeping your mind on the light you will be a source of refreshment to one another, both individually and together. So may the God of power and love maintain you all in power and love so that, instead of finding fault with one another, you will refresh one another in the unlimited love of God. For it is this love that enables you to be truly aware of one another, to read one another’s hearts. So being held together in this love you cannot be separated from it, or divided among yourselves.’ (George Fox in 1651, from Rex Ambler: Truth of the Heart, an anthology of George Fox, 2001).

Minute 1  Welcome to country

We have enjoyed a welcome to Nyungah country from the Durum family dance group and we are also pleased that some of the family were able to be with us.

Minute 2  Welcome to visitors

The Presiding Clerk welcomed members to Yearly Meeting 2005, including visitors from overseas:

Alan Graham, representative Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
Thomas Watts, Young Friend, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
Louise Cook-Tonkin, our Donald Groom Fellowship Holder for 2004
Bob Barns, Pacific Yearly Meeting
Barbara Humphrey, Britain Yearly Meeting, and
Elizabeth Walmsley, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting.

Minute 3  Greetings

We heard Greetings from:

Max and Sonia Raupach, South Australia Regional Meeting
Ute Caspers, Germany Yearly Meeting
Dilawar Chetsingh, Clerk, Asia-West Pacific Section
Julian Stargadt, Clerk, Hong Kong MM
Ray and Susannah Brindle, Victoria Regional Meeting
Westmoreland General Meeting

Oral greetings were received from:

Bev Polzin, Victoria Regional Meeting

We ask that letters be prepared in response to these and other greetings received during Yearly Meeting so that those present can sign them.

Standing Committee agreed that names for greetings may be received until Wednesday, 12 January, and be available for Friends to sign on Thursday, 13 January and Friday, 14 January 2005.

Minute 4  Attenders at Australia Yearly Meeting

Standing Committee brings to Yearly Meeting names of non-members who have been recommended by the Ministry and Oversight Committees of their Regional
Meetings and given permission to attend Yearly Meeting 2005. Names of Young Friends, given permission by the Presiding Clerk to attend Yearly Meeting, are also included. Children of the Meeting are shown by (C). The list will be displayed in the foyer, and included, along with the names of all those present at this Yearly Meeting, in Documents in Retrospect.

Those listed now have full participatory rights in the Yearly Meeting. During Yearly Meeting business sessions anyone wishing to speak, member or attender, needs to be recognised by the Presiding Clerk. They should wait to be called, stand, wait for a microphone, and then give their name and Meeting.

### Minute 5 Matters from Standing Committee

(a) **Amendments to the Agenda**

Standing Committee confirmed the agenda for Yearly Meeting sent to Regional Meetings in Documents in Advance, noting the following additions:

- (i) The Sexual Harrassment and Misconduct Working Group will meet during Preparatory Session 9, Thursday.
- (ii) The Quaker CD launch will be at the end of Formal Session III, Tuesday morning, and the CD will be on sale during morning tea.
- (iii) The Young Friends CD will be launched at the end of Formal Session V on Thursday morning and the CD will be on sale during morning tea.
- (iv) A presentation on the Refugee Theatre project being developed in Western Australia will be held on Thursday evening 7.30 – 8.00 p.m. in place of the ‘Hearts and Minds’ discussion.
- (v) A Meeting for Remembrance will be held on Wednesday, 8.30 – 9.30 a.m. Laurence Smitheringale, West Australia Regional Meeting, will coordinate the Meeting and read out the names of those who have died during the past year at the beginning of the Meeting.

(b) **Testimonies**

The following Testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of deceased Friends will be read during Yearly Meeting. We note:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session/Regional Meeting</th>
<th>To be read by</th>
<th>Testimony</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Formal Session II Canberra</td>
<td>David Purnell</td>
<td>Lloyd Williams</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Session III New South Wales</td>
<td>Elizabeth Field</td>
<td>Collated testimony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Session IV Queensland</td>
<td>Rhoda Dorrell</td>
<td>Ivan Guy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Session V South Australia</td>
<td>Elizabeth Stevenson</td>
<td>Kathy Bodnar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Session VI Tasmania</td>
<td>Tasmanian Friends</td>
<td>Collated testimony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Session VII Tasmania</td>
<td>Patricia Wood</td>
<td>Erica Groom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formal Session VIII West Australia</td>
<td>Roger Walmsley</td>
<td>Laurent Olssen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A compilation of testimonies and memorial minutes, both those which are to be read before Formal Sessions, and those which are not to be read, will be made available in the Quiet Room for Friends to read at their leisure. Copies will be made available for each Regional Meeting and we hope these will be widely circulated among the members of Regional Meetings.
Pastoral Care Committee

Standing Committee notes the appointment by Regional Meetings of the following Friends to the Pastoral Care Committee for the duration of Yearly Meeting 2005:

- **anberra** Pam Houstein
- **queensland** Rhoda Dorrell
- **outh Australia** Barry Sherwell
- **ew South Wales** Catherine Errey and Brian Connor
- **tasmania** Jenny Seaton
- **ictoria** Tessa Spratt
- **west Australia** Brenda Roy
- **ung Friends** Aletia Dundas and Alexa Taylor

Future Yearly Meetings

(i) Queensland Regional Meeting, Yearly Meeting January 2006
Yearly Meeting 2006 will be held 7 – 14 January at St Joseph’s College, Nudgee (Brisbane), the venue used in 2000, near to Brisbane airport.

Yearly Meeting 2007 will be held at Lake Hume, near Albury, in July 2007. We ask Canberra to confirm this and to determine the dates. [Note: This was changed; see Minute 39.]

(iii) Intervals between Yearly Meetings
We ask Topsy Evans, subject to consent, to lead this discussion.

The Friends’ School Board

The Association of the School has forwarded the following nominations to Standing Committee for appointment to the Board at Yearly Meeting 2005 and Standing Committee recommends them.

Regional Meeting Nominees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Meeting</th>
<th>Nominee</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Regional Meeting</td>
<td>Fiona Gardner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Australia Regional Meeting</td>
<td>Ann Zubrick</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We receive these nominations and make the appointments.

Testimony

David Purnell read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of our Friend Lloyd Williams, Canberra Regional Meeting.

Greetings from Aotearoa/New Zealand

We heard from Alan Graham, the Aotearoa/New Zealand representative, who gave us (in Maori language) a call to be here in the Spirit of Life. Alan gave a brief account of relationships between Maori and Pakeha in his country and told us of his Meeting.
Minute 9  Yearly Meeting Nominations

We receive the following nominations and appoint:

**Presiding Clerk**  Lyndsay Farrall, Tasmania RM (2006–08)
**FWCC Convenor**  Maxine Cooper, Queensland RM (2005–07)
**Epistle Committee (Yearly Meeting 2005)**  Heather Saville, New South Wales RM
                                             Dennis Dorwick, Victoria RM
                                             Mary Webb, South Australia RM

**Media Committee**  Adrian Glamorgan, West Australia RM
                      (Yearly Meeting 2005)
                      Jo Vallentine, West Australia RM

**Minute Checkers**  Jenny Stock, South Australia RM
                      (Yearly Meeting 2005)
                      Kerstin Reimers, Tasmania RM

**NCCA Social Justice Network**  Wies Schuiringa, New South Wales RM
                                     Elizabeth Field, New South Wales RM

**NCCA Christian World Service**  Jackie Perkins, New South Wales RM

**NCCA Refugee and Displaced Persons**  Cherry McKay, New South Wales RM

**Yearly Meeting Nominations Convenor**  Helen Bayes, Canberra RM

**Young Friends**

**Epistle**  Mary Webb, South Australia RM
**Finance**  Ailsa Wild, Canberra RM (Treasurer)
             Emily Chapman-Searle, (new member) Canberra RM
             Pete Wild, Canberra RM
             Alexa Taylor, West Australia RM
             Grace, West Australia RM

**FWCC Nominations Committee**  Hannah Chapman-Searle, Canberra RM
                                    Mary Webb (new member), South Australia RM
                                    Jess Dundas, New South Wales RM
                                    Amy Thom, West Australia RM
                                    Pete Wild Canberra RM
                                    Kyle Purnell, Canberra RM

**Representative to Aotearoa/New Zealand**  Kate Barnard, Victoria RM
**Pastoral Care**  Aletia Dundas, New South Wales RM
                   Alexa Taylor, West Australia RM

**Sexual Misconduct and Working Group**  Kate Barnard, Victoria RM
**Standing Committee**  Peter Juchniewicz, South Australia RM

Minute 10  State of the Society address

Adrian Glamorgan, West Australia Regional Meeting, presented a stimulating assessment of the State of the Society, and leaves us with a challenge for the coming year. We ask that the address be included in Documents in Retrospect.

**Formal Session III  Tuesday, 11 January 2005**

Minute 11  Testimonies

Elizabeth Field read the collated Testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of Friends from New South Wales Regional Meeting who died during 2003–04.
Minute 12  Donald Groom Fellow

We heard from Louise Cook-Tonkin about her work. Louise grew up in a climate of violence and she believes that this influenced her to address many aspects of violence in her work as an adult. In the immediate past, this has been through working with Peace Brigades International (PBI). The Donald Groom Fellowship is supporting Louise in her research on ‘Moral courage in the face of ruthless repression’ based on interviews with people from Aceh, Indonesia.

Minute 13  Further matter from Standing Committee

(a) Statements and letters on behalf of Yearly Meeting

Since last Standing Committee, the following letters have been sent:

   20/7/04  To Senator Amanda Vanstone regarding policy on transit visas for Australia
   13/9/04  To leaders of all major political parties regarding the persecution of Sabean Mandaean families in Iraq and Iran.
   30/11/04 Follow up letter to Senator Amanda Vanstone regarding policy on transit visas.

Minute 14  Child Protection Policy Guidelines

We note that a document setting out child protection guidelines has been prepared by West Australia Regional Meeting and is current for this Yearly Meeting. This meets insurance requirements for this period.

Minute 15  Presiding Clerk’s report

Ruth Watson, West Australia Regional Meeting, spoke of the role of Presiding Clerk. Two aspects of her work have been particularly important to her during the past year: one is the opportunity which interstate travel gives her to visit Friends and attenders, particularly those in isolated places; and the other is representing Friends on the Executive of the National Council of Churches in Australia. Ruth thanks Friends for their support and looks forward to her third year of service.

Minute 16  Treasurer’s report

(Documents in Advance page 32–36)

We receive this report.

We agree that the Interest Free Loan Scheme be frozen and that no further deposits be accepted.

We agree that a gift of $3000 from Justpeace, earmarked for refugees and asylum seekers, be given to the Hotham Mission in Melbourne.

Formal Session IV  Tuesday, 11 January 2005

Minute 17  Launch of ‘Quakers for over 350 Years’ CD-ROM

(Documents in Advance pages 68–69)

Topsy Evans launched the CD-ROM ‘Quakers for over 350 Years’, which is now on sale. We appreciate the dedication of the team who brought this to fruition, and note the value of this CD-ROM for outreach, research, schools, students and children’s meetings.
Minute 18  Testimony
Rhoda Dorrell read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of our Friend Ivan Guy of Queensland Regional Meeting.

Minute 19  Greetings
We received greetings from Wahroonga, New South Wales Regional Meeting, in the form of an epistle from their retreat day. We will place this on a noticeboard.

Minute 20  Fourth Edition of Handbook of Practice and Procedure
(Documents in Advance pages 39–40)
We accept the fourth edition of the Handbook of Practice and Procedure, which was brought to Standing Committee in July 2004, and has been on the website since then.

Further alterations will be included in the fifth edition, which is currently being prepared. The outline of this edition is on display. Friends are asked to provide feedback about any proposed changes to the Canberra-based Handbook Committee: Stella Wilkie, Malcolm Miller, Pam Houstein, Erica Fisher, Katherine Purnell and Eddie Linacre.

Minute 21  Welcome
We welcome Anna Dunford, of Edinburgh Central Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting, who is visiting us on behalf of the planning group for the World Gathering of Young Friends.

Minute 22  Secretary’s report
(Documents in Advance pages 62–63)
We receive the report. We note that
• Australia Yearly Meeting now owns and has licences and warranties for all computer equipment and software used in the Yearly Meeting office;
• Standing Committee has agreed to the binding of back copies of The Australian Friend kept in the Yearly Meeting office; and
• the Yearly Meeting bookkeeping is now undertaken fortnightly.
• The archivist, Alan Clayton of Victoria Regional Meeting, is working on the documents from Bev Polzin’s period of service. These will be lodged in the National Library, Canberra.

Minute 23  Friends World Committee for Consultation and Quaker United Nations Office
(Documents in Advance pages 37 – 39)
We accept the report in Documents in Advance and the notes of the discussion held at Preparatory Session 2. We note that an Asia-West Pacific Section gathering is planned for 3–8 November 2005 in Seoul, South Korea. Information can be found on the website http://fwccawps.org/.
We endorse the revised AWPS Constitution which will be considered at the Section gathering in Seoul and may then be amended. We suggest that a 'grievance procedure' for employees and others should be added in the future.

We note that additional funding for travel to FWCC gatherings has been allocated in the budget. We hope that the financial needs of the FWCC World Office, QUNO and the AWPS office will be kept under review.

We encourage Friends who attend FWCC gatherings to report widely about their experiences.

Elaine Polglase has offered to send greetings to all the visiting international Friends who were with us at Yearly Meeting 2004, when a special FWCC day was held.

**Formal Session V    Thursday, 13 January 2005**

**Minute 24    Meeting for Remembrance**

During our time of worship on Wednesday, 12 January 2005, we remembered the following members and attenders who have died, or had testimonies written, since last Yearly Meeting.

- Canberra Regional Meeting
  - Norman Talbot
  - Margaret Tuck
  - Marjorie Turner

- Queensland Regional Meeting
  - Erika Wohlwill
  - Tasmania Regional Meeting
  - Helen Brooks

- South Australia Regional Meeting
  - Jane Drummond
  - Kathy Bodnar
  - Erica Groom

- New South Wales Regional Meeting
  - Joan Snook
  - Leigh Vickery
  - Stan Wells

- Victoria Regional Meeting
  - Joyce Freeman-Thomas
  - Rowland Gough
  - Frank Magee
  - Ron Stodden

- West Australia Regional Meeting
  - Laurent Olsson

**Minute 25    Testimony**

Elizabeth Stevenson read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Kathy Bodnar, South Australia Regional Meeting.
Minute 26  Australian Advices and Queries  
*(Documents in Advance pages 20–21)*

Friends from Queensland Regional Meeting presented the Australian advices and queries, which they propose to have inserted into the 1995 British *Advices and Queries*. We agree that this is a beautiful document that needs to be considered as a whole.

We ask the Yearly Meeting Clerk to request permission from Britain Yearly Meeting to use their 1995 *Advices and Queries* in this way.

We suggest that it be sent to all Regional Meetings in its present form and are reminded of George Fox’s words (in Rex Ambler’s *Truth of the Heart, an anthology of George Fox* page 37, para 92): ‘Lay aside all arguments about words, which are of no profit to anyone, and give your attention to the pure light of God inside you’.

We commend the working group for its enthusiasm and spiritual energy over the period of working on this document.

Minute 27  Donald Groom Peace Committee  
*(Documents in Advance pages 25–28)*

We receive the Committee’s report and the report from Preparatory Session 5, which has been posted. We ask that it be attached to these Minutes.

We have welcomed the current Donald Groom Fellow Louise Cook-Tonkin and heard of her work and the situation in Aceh. We note that it may not be possible to appoint a Donald Groom Fellow for 2005. If extra money is required for the National Nonviolence Gathering, then this should take precedence.

Preparations are well advanced for the National Nonviolence Gathering at Currimundi on the Sunshine Coast in April 2005. Of the $15,000 transferred from the Peace and Social Justice Fund for this purpose, $12,000 has been spent on the nonviolence training (run by Pt’chang: Nonviolence Training Project, Fitzroy Victoria) in February and March, which leaves $3,000 for the April Gathering’s expenses. While it is expected that this amount plus registration fees will cover costs, we agree to make available up to $10,000 as contingency funds for this gathering.

We confirm the re-appointment of the Committee members to Yearly Meeting 2007 and ask that they consider co-opting an additional member.

We accept the revision of Handbook Section 8.7 ‘The Donald Groom Fellowship’, with minor changes to the wording in *Documents in Advance*. We agree to use the phrase ‘military responses’ instead of ‘military solutions’.

**Formal Session VI  Thursday, 13 January 2005**

Minute 28  Testimonies

Friends from Tasmania Regional Meeting read a collation of *Testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of Tasmanian Friends whose testimonies have been written since Yearly Meeting 2004*. 
Minute 29  Epistles from other Yearly Meetings

Shona Verity, West Australia Regional Meeting, presented a resume of Epistles from other Yearly Meetings around the world, which have been received during the year. We welcome the opportunity to feel connected with the world family of Friends.

We ask that this be published in *Documents in Retrospect*, and submitted to the *The Australian Friend*.

Minute 30  Peace

*(Documents in Advance pages 47–55)*

We receive the report of the Peace and Social Justice Fund Committee, the Quaker Peacenet, and the two Yearly Meeting Peace committees and reports from the Alternatives to Violence Project, which were in *Documents in Advance*. We also receive the report from Preparatory Session 7, which was well attended. This report has been posted, and ask that this be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

The concerns raised in the Preparatory Session indicate the importance now being recognised in all Regional Meetings of the many strands of our Peace Testimony. We ask Friends to bring a Minute to a future Formal Session of Yearly Meeting to cover the many initiatives that have come from this Preparatory Session.

Minute 31  Australian Friends' Fellowship of Healing

*(Documents in Advance page 22)*

We receive the report in *Documents in Advance* and a record of the Discussion Session. This Session accepted the minutes of the Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing Charitable Trust Annual General Meeting held in Hobart on 13 May 2004.

Communications were received from South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria, Western Australia and New South Wales. We learn that a Healing Meeting may be established in Queensland.

Ruth Haig has laid down the editorship of *Wholeness*. May van der Heyden, (West Australia Regional Meeting, now living in Queensland) has agreed to become editor.

Brian Connor has forwarded his notes for a proposed Testimony of Healing to Fellowship of Healing groups in Regional Meetings and it is being refined.

There is a proposal for a Day of Healing workshop to be held prior to Yearly Meeting in 2006 and/or 2007.

Minute 32  Reading of the Draft Epistle from Yearly Meeting 2005

Dennis Dorwick, Victoria Regional Meeting, read the first draft of this Epistle.

*Formal Session VII  Friday, 14 January 2005*

Minute 33  Testimony

Patricia Wood, West Australia Regional Meeting, read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Erica Groom, Tasmania Regional Meeting.
Minute 34  The Sanctuary

(Documents in Advance pages 61–62)

We accept this report, and note the distribution of the profits from this property.

Minute 35  Faith and Practice Committee

(Documents in Advance pages 31–32)

We accept the report in Documents in Advance and note that the committee has now been laid down and that Adrian Glamorgan will collect contributions for a future edition.

Minute 36  Publications Committee

(Documents in Advance pages 55–56)

We receive the report in Documents in Advance and a report from the Preparatory Session. We note that two pamphlets on Quaker Business Methods have been produced.

We accept the offer from Tasmanian Friends present at this Yearly Meeting to host this committee subject to the consent of Tasmania Regional Meeting.

Minute 37  Yearly Meeting Nominations

We receive the following nominations and appoint:

| FWCC representative | Hannah Chapman-Searle, Young Friends (Canberra RM) |
| alternates          | Rob Ranzijn, South Australia Regional Meeting     |
| Australia Yearly Meeting representative to Aotearoa/New Zealand | Bev Polzin, Victoria Regional Meeting |

Minute 38  Indigenous Concerns Committee

(Documents in Advance page 40–45)

We receive the committee's report, and the report from Preparatory Session 4.

The Preparatory Session was very well attended and Friends reported the following recent activities:

- A workshop, convened by the Indigenous Concerns Committee was held in Canberra in October 2004. This was attended by both local and interstate Friends (and attenders). A booklet ‘Friends and the Land’ which reports the proceedings is available. We ask that the questions arising from the workshop be printed in Documents in Retrospect and that they are considered by Regional Meetings.

- Friends visited Jim Lloyd, Minister for Territories, to emphasize the importance of genuine consultation with the residents of the Tent Embassy in Canberra.

Representatives from Regional Meetings described a great variety of responses to Indigenous concerns. David Carline gave an account of his work with the community at Cunnamulla and the highs and lows of the past year.

The latter part of the meeting was given to work in small groups which identified priorities and possible actions for attention during 2005. These were based on
proposals generated by the Canberra workshop, and are detailed in *Documents in Retrospect*. We ask that these priorities and possible actions be discussed by members of Regional Meetings.

Financial Concerns:

- We agree that $5000 from the Peace and Social Justice Fund be made immediately available to the Committee.
- We ask Regional Meetings to consider contributing to the financial needs of this work.
- We ask that the Committee consult with the Treasurer concerning an adequate budget for its continuing work.

We agree to the continuation of the Committee until Yearly Meeting 2006.

**Minute 39  Intervals between Yearly Meetings**

*(Documents in Advance pages 71–74)*

We ask Tasmania Regional Meeting to host Yearly Meeting in January 2007, following Yearly Meeting January 2006 in Queensland.

We feel that we need to consider more fully the proposal of Canberra Regional Meeting for an 18-month cycle.

We note that Standing Committee July 2005 will be held at the Lake Hume Resort, Albury, concurrently with a residential weekend on 15-17 July to which all are invited.

**Minute 40  Morrow Bequest Committee**

*(Documents in Advance page 45)*

We receive the report and agree to the proposals.

**Minute 41  Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Working Group**

*(Documents in Advance pages 63–65)*

We accept the report in *Documents in Advance* and the report of Preparatory Session 9 and ask for the Preparatory Session report to be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

Young Friends have been discussing the issue during their time together. We note that Kate Barnard has been appointed to the Working Group.

The Working Group has been asked to write an article for use in Regional Meeting newsletters which would provide current and appropriate information. We ask Regional Meetings to hold discussion groups and also to appoint a correspondent to the Working Group.

**Minute 42  The Friends’ School**

We accept the report, which was not in *Documents in Advance*, and the report of Preparatory Session 8 and ask that these be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We note the positive growth in the school community this year, both in academic achievement and in the joyful spirit of community service. John Green emphasised the central role of an active adoption of Quaker values in these successes, with particular focus on the development of ‘inner discipline’ within each student. The initiatives introduced by Lyndsay and Stephanie Farrall as Quaker Community
Coordinators have been particularly valuable, especially their work in coordinating the Friends in Residence program.

We ask Regional Meetings to note the suggestion that a database be created of teachers in their Meetings who would be interested in working in the school in the future. We note that further information is available on the website http://www.friends.tas.edu.au/.

We ask The Friends’ School to report to Standing Committee about the number of Aboriginal students, and the availability of scholarships for Aboriginal children.

Formal Session VIII  Friday, 14 January 2005

Minute 43   Testimony

We have heard Roger Walmsley read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Laurent Olsson, West Australia Regional Meeting, and we have sung for him.

Minute 44   Young Friends

(Documents in Advance pages 66–67)

Young Friends have drafted a risk management package for Young Friends and ask that this be included in Documents in Retrospect. Comments are invited and further consideration will be given to the package at the Young Friends Easter Camp. It is hoped to present the final draft to Standing Committee mid-year.

The Administrator for the World Gathering of Young Friends (WGYF), Anna Dunford, spoke about her journey in the organisation of the Gathering.

Young Friends wish to set up a Canberra-based committee to administer the funding necessary to support Australian Young Friends and other Young Friends from the Asia-West Pacific Section to attend the WGYF. One Young Friend in each State would be the contact for this central committee. Australia Yearly Meeting, Regional Meetings and individuals are asked to give financial support to Young Friend representatives, each of whom will require £500. We suggest that a one-page summary of requirements and outcomes be sent to Regional Meetings to clearly explain these needs.

Minute 45   The Australian Friend Committee

(Documents in Advance pages 21–22)

We accept the report from the Preparatory Session, and ask that it be included in Documents in Retrospect.

We accepted the proposals that:

- The Australian Friend take paid advertisements in line with Friends’ ways, and publish guidelines for prospective advertisers.

- The number of issues be reduced to four of 28 pages each year, instead of five of 24 pages. This can be printed within the estimated budget, and permits a more reasonable reimbursement for the layout work ($10 an hour).

- We will continue with the Canberra firm, National Mailing and Marketing, for both printing and mailout.

We note that:

- A Tasmanian Friend with professional layout experience is willing to take over the layout.
• The layout software is available from the Yearly Meeting office, if needed.
• There may be interest from West Australian Friends to edit *The Australian Friend* from 2006.

**Minute 46  Reading of the Draft Epistle from Yearly Meeting 2005**

We heard the second reading of the Epistle by Heather Saville, New South Wales Regional Meeting.

**Minute 47  Energy and Resources**

*(Documents in Advance page 31)*

We have heard the report of this Interest Group, which we ask to be included in *Documents in Retrospect*. It contains many helpful ideas and suggestions and we hope that Regional Meetings will consider these.

We agree to ask that time be set aside for a Preparatory Session at the next Yearly Meeting which does not overlap with The Friends’ School Preparatory Session.

We accept Linda Lawson’s offer to collect the material on Energy and Resources from Sheila Keane and to write an article on this topic for *The Australian Friend*.

**Formal Session IX  Saturday, 15 January 2005**

**Minute 48  Quaker Service Australia**

*(Documents in Advance pages 57–60)*

We receive the report, and the Annual Report for 2003-2004. The report from Preparatory Session 1, which lists the projects and general discussion, has been posted, and we ask that it be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We approve the names of the following Friends from New South Wales Regional Meeting:

- Heather Saville (Convenor)
- Anna Bell (Treasurer)
- Jackie Perkins (Executive Officer)
- John Dundas (Book-keeper)
- Annie Rooke-Frizell
- David Cooper
- Maureen Steele
- Michael Wilson
- David Thomas
Minutes of Australia Yearly Meeting

Held at St Joseph’s College, Brisbane, Queensland
7-14 January 2006

Formal Session I  7.30 p.m. Saturday, 7 January 2006

No organization or planning can produce a good Yearly Meeting if those who attend come for an inadequate reason. When the Religious Society of Friends gathers for its annual assembly, it does so because it seeks to come to know the mind of God on the various affairs to be brought forward … We are ordinary people, with the shortcomings of ordinary people, and there is laid upon us the necessity of patience with one another in all our gatherings, and especially in Yearly Meeting, and the willingness to accept the imperfect arising from our human limitations. When therefore we find our Yearly Meeting falling short of the standard which it should reach, whether in worship or in deliberation, it behoves each of us to listen more intently for the voice of the Spirit, and to seek the more earnestly that every contribution, be it by spoken word or in silence, is that which is in accord with the divine leading. In our worship at Yearly Meeting, it is laid upon us with special weight to listen. It is not our ministry that is required in worship, nor our inspiration in deliberations, but we seek to hear the true word of God speaking through our frail humanity and leading us to the place where [God] would have us be. This is the right holding of Yearly Meeting. [Right Holding of Yearly Meeting Committee 1960, Quaker Faith and Practice 1994 6.06.]

YM06.1  Welcome to visitors

The Presiding Clerk welcomed members to Yearly Meeting 2005, including visitors from overseas:

- Dilawar Chetsingh, clerk of the Asia-West Pacific Section of FWCC. We look forward to hearing from Dilawar Chetsingh on Wednesday at 7.30pm.
- Bill Robinson, representative Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting. Bill Robinson is the incoming Clerk of A/NZ Yearly Meeting and we welcome this opportunity of getting to know him.
- Jim Green, Young Friend, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
- Scott Bell, Ann Mallard, Stan Read, Cathy Walling, Sophia and Sarah Walling-Bell, of Chena Ridge Local Meeting, Alaska

YM06.2 Greetings

We heard Greetings from:

- Britain Yearly Meeting
- Kenneth Co, Secretary of the Asia-West Pacific Section of FWCC
- David Carline and Marion Sullivan, Queensland RM (currently at Pendle Hill)
- Bronwen Meredith, Tasmania RM
- Katherine McNamara, New South Wales RM
- Payget-Strathdee family, New South Wales RM
- Anne Herbert, Finland Yearly Meeting
- Khasufa Kutosi Silver, Uganda Yearly Meeting

We ask that letters be prepared in response to these and other greetings received during Yearly Meeting and all present are invited to sign them.

Standing Committee agreed that names for greetings may be received until Thursday morning, 12 January, and be available for Friends to sign on Friday, 13 January and Saturday, 14 January 2005.

YM06.3  Matters from Standing Committee

(a) Amendments to the Agenda

Standing Committee confirmed the agenda for Yearly Meeting sent to Regional Meetings in Documents in Advance, noting the following amendments

- The Welcome to Country will be before the Backhouse Lecture on Sunday evening, rather than during Session 1.
- A discussion on Outreach will be held in Preparatory Session 6, Thursday.
- The Indigenous Concerns Committee booklet on Aboriginal Sovereignty will be launched at the end of Formal Session III on Tuesday morning and the book will be on sale during morning tea.
- The CD-ROM of *Poems for Peace* by Jane Vaughan Donnelly, Canberra Regional Meeting, will be launched at the end of Formal Session IV on Tuesday afternoon, and will be on sale during afternoon tea.

(b) **Testimonies**

The following Testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of deceased Friends will be read during Yearly Meeting:

- **Formal Session II New South Wales RM** Testimonies read by Helen Gould [this was changed at NSW RM’s request to Formal Session VI]
- **Formal Session IV Tasmania RM** Testimonies read by five Tasmanian Friends
- **Formal Session V Victoria RM** Donald Pescod read by John McMahon
- **Formal Session VII Canberra RM** Catherine Bradfield read by Jonathan Benyei
- **Formal Session VIII Queensland RM** Fred Harris read by Rhoda Dorrell

The Meeting for Remembrance to be held on Wednesday morning will be organised by Michael Corbett.

(c) **Pastoral Care Committee**

Standing Committee notes the appointment by Regional Meetings of the following Friends to the Pastoral Care Committee for the duration of Yearly Meeting 2005:

- **Canberra** Vidya
- **Queensland** Kathy Damm
- **South Australia** Roger Keyes
- **New South Wales** Ro Morrow
- **Tasmania** Delton Hedges
- **Victoria** Bruce Henry
- **West Australia** Brenda Roy
- **Young Friends** Mary Webb, Fran Gonzalez

(d) **Future Yearly Meetings**

(i) **Tasmania Regional Meeting, Yearly Meeting January 2007**

Yearly Meeting 2007 will be held 6-13 January at The Friends’ School, Hobart. Information about accommodation in Hobart will be displayed on a notice board in Ryan Hall. Further information will be in the June 2006 edition of *The Australian Friend*.

(ii) **Victoria Regional Meeting** is searching for a venue for Yearly Meeting January 2008.

(iii) **Yearly Meeting January 2009** will be hosted by Canberra.

**YM06.4 The Friends’ School Board**

The Association of the School has forwarded the following nominations to Standing Committee for appointment to the Board at Yearly Meeting 2006 and Standing Committee recommends them.

**Regional Meeting Nominees**

- **New South Wales Regional Meeting** Aletia Dundas (First term 2006–10)
- **Tasmania Regional Meeting** Robin McLean (Second term 2006–10)

**The Friends’ Board Executive Committee Nomination**

- John Hayton (Canberra Regional Meeting, second term 2006–9)

We receive these nominations and make the appointments.

**YM06.5 Non-members at Australia Yearly Meeting**

Standing Committee brings to Yearly Meeting names of non-members who have been recommended by the Ministry and Oversight Committees of their Regional Meetings and given permission to attend Yearly
Meeting 2006. Names of Young Friends, given permission by the Presiding Clerk to attend Yearly Meeting, are also included. Children of the Meeting are shown by (C). The list will be displayed in Ryan Hall and included, along with the names of all those present at this Yearly Meeting, in *Documents in Retrospect*.

Those listed now have full participatory rights in the Yearly Meeting. During Yearly Meeting business sessions anyone wishing to speak, needs to be recognised by the Presiding Clerk. They should wait to be called, stand, wait for a microphone, and then begin with their name and Meeting.

**YM06.6 AYM Nominations Committee**

We accept the following nominations —

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AYM Treasurer</td>
<td>Roger Sawkins (incoming by the end of February)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minute Checker</td>
<td>Julie Walpole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AYM Secretary’s Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Susan Addison (replacing Marion Sullivan)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advisory Committee (Tasmania RM)</td>
<td>Sheila Given</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morrow Bequest (WA RM)</td>
<td>Lucy Ridsdale (additional member)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCCA Alternate to Presiding Clerk</td>
<td>Mary Pollard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia Wide Quaker Fellowship</td>
<td>Graham Hodgkin and Margaret Woodward (to 2009)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quaker Education Network</td>
<td>Graham Hodgkin and Margaret Woodward (to 2009)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**YM06.7 Further matters from Standing Committee**

(a) Statements and letters on behalf of Yearly Meeting

Since last Standing Committee, the following letters have been sent

- 31 January 2005 UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and tsunami reconstruction in Aceh
- 16 August 2005 Statement on Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- 23 February 2005 Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty
- 26 May 2005 Intervention in Uzbekistan
- 10 November 2005 Opposition to the anti-terrorism legislation
- 26 October 2005 Opposition to death penalty in the Asia-Pacific region
- 23 February 2005 Letter of support to Quaker House, Lafayette, North Carolina

All these statements, and any replies, will be displayed on a notice board during this Yearly Meeting.

**YM06.8 Child Protection Policy Guidelines**

*(Documents in Advance page 67)*

We accept the AYM child protection guidelines for this Yearly Meeting.

**YM06.9 AYM Presiding Clerk’s Report (attached)**

We accept the Presiding Clerk’s report, and ask that it be attached to these Minutes. Ruth Watson spoke of her pleasure in being Presiding Clerk during the past three years and thanked Friends for their support.

**YM06.10 Sexual Abuse and Misconduct and Child Protection Policies**

This Minute carried over to Formal Session VI.

**Formal Session II 2 p.m. Monday, 9 January 2006**

**YM06.11 Welcome**

We welcome Judith Green, from Britain. Judith is visiting her Quaker family in New South Wales. She has permission to attend sessions of this AYM.

**YM06.12 FWCC Triennial issues from Australia Yearly Meeting**

We are asked to forward, for a planning meeting in March 2006, issues that Australia Yearly Meeting wishes to have discussed during the world Quaker forum for the Triennial in 2007. We ask Preparatory Sessions to consider this throughout Yearly Meeting and to offer these to the Convenor of the AYM FWCC Committee.
We ask the FWCC Committee to bring a list of suggested issues to Formal Session VIII. [These issues were recorded during the FWCC report in Formal Session IX.]

YM06.13 State of the Society address
This Minute carried over to Formal Session III.

Formal Session III 9 a.m. Tuesday, 10 January 2006

YM06.14 State of the Society address
David Lowry, Queensland Regional Meeting, presented an assessment of the State of the Society based on our membership statistics. A follow-up session will be arranged during Share and Tell on Wednesday.

David emphasized that we could increase the membership by living the Quaker way as individuals, by praying earnestly for the guidance of the Spirit, and by sharing between Regional Meetings the means by which we nourish and renew our corporate life.

A text version of this address will be included in Documents in Retrospect, and the complete address is available on CD-ROM from David Lowry.

YM06.15 Summary of Epistles from other Meetings
We have heard, from Heather Myers, a compilation of extracts from Epistles received during 2005. We ask that this be printed in Documents in Retrospect.

Heather augmented her address with a colourful chart outlining the major issues engaging Friends, in particular how to reach seekers and taking a deeper look at Testimonies.

We recognize many common themes in these letters and we rejoice in the same Spirit amongst Friends worldwide.

David McKay added a verbal greeting from Friends in Kenya.

YM06.16 AYM Treasurer’s Report

(Documents in Advance pages 3–5)

We receive this report and the additional information given by the Treasurer.

A donation of $3,000 has been received from Just Peace for the support of refugees. We agree that this sum should be held for the assistance of refugees from the Sudan. Cherry and Dave McKay will carry this forward.

We ask Standing Committee to appoint the auditor for 2005-6.

YM06.17 AYM Secretary’s Report

(Documents in Advance page 1)

We receive the report. We note that the Dictionary of Australian Quaker Biography is now on CD-ROM and that the Secretary is looking for assistance with transferring this into a searchable format for placing on the web. If any Friends can help with this, with converting the Yearly Meeting and Standing Committee Collected Minutes to searchable format, or with other technical issues, the Secretary would be pleased to hear from them.

YM06.18 Australia Yearly Meeting Nominations

We receive the following nominations and appoint

| Epistle Committee (Yearly Meeting 2006) | Brian Connor, New South Wales RM, Susan Headley, Tasmania RM, and Kim Gonzalez, Young Friends |
| Minute Checker | Elizabeth Field, New South Wales RM |
| Donald Groom Peace Committee | Brydget Barker-Hudson, Queensland RM |
| Peace and Social Justice Fund | Ray Corbin, Graeme Stuart, and Rae Litting, New South Wales RM |

YM06.19 Launch of Emu Feathers Publication No. 2
Minute carried over to Formal Session IV.
Formal Session IV  2 p.m. Tuesday, 10 January 2006

YM06.20  Launch of Indigenous Concerns Committee’s booklet on Sovereignty

Alan Clayton (Victoria Regional Meeting) launched the booklet About Aboriginal Sovereignty by Waratah Rose Gillespie, the second publication in the Emu Feathers series, an ongoing series of short texts on Quaker approaches, experiences and involvement in Indigenous concerns in Australia. We welcome this addition to our understanding of Indigenous Sovereignty and associated complex questions.

There are still many issues to be addressed before justice is done. The booklet tells us: ‘In searching for solutions, we can learn from the experiences of other countries’ (page 32).

The booklet ($7.00) is available from Regional Meetings, the Indigenous Concerns Committee or from the YM Secretary’s office.

YM06.21  Testimonies

Five Tasmanian Friends read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the lives of the following Friends of Tasmania Regional Meeting who died in 2004-5: Stanley Wells, Bob Knighton, Barbara Wright, John Williams and Winifred Curtis.

YM06.22  Fifth Edition of Handbook of Practice and Procedure

(Documents in Advance page 37)

We note the intention of the Handbook Revision Committee to produce two chapters a year of the revised Handbook of Practice and Procedure.

The first two chapters of this edition are on display. Friends are asked to provide written feedback on these chapters to the Canberra-based Handbook Committee: Stella Wilkie, Malcolm Miller, Pam Houstein, Erica Fisher, Katherine Purnell and Eddie Linacre.

YM06.23  Timing of Yearly Meetings

(Documents in Advance page 66)

Regional Meetings indicated that they did not wish to discuss further the issue of changing from January Yearly Meetings at this time.

YM06.24  Werona-Kangaroo Valley Report

(Documents in Advance page 63)

We accept this report, and note that communication with the local Indigenous Land Council has developed over the past years.

We ask the Werona-Kangaroo Valley Friends’ Cooperative to note that Young Friends’ camping activities are covered under the Yearly Meeting public liability insurance.

YM06.25  The Sanctuary Committee Report

(Documents in Advance page 60)

We accept this report, and note the distribution of the profits from this property.

YM 06.26  Child Membership matters

(Documents in Advance page 68)

We note that Membership Secretaries have been confused as to how to list ‘children of the meeting’ and other children. We have asked the membership secretaries and other Regional Meeting representatives to discuss this during their meeting on Thursday at 5.15pm and to bring recommendations to a later formal session.

YM06.27  Right Holding of Standing Committee

(Documents in Advance page 65)
All Regional Meetings felt it was important that they have two representatives at Standing Committee. We are encouraged to share the hosting of Standing Committee among different Regional Meetings.

Several Friends expressed pleasure at the organization of Standing Committee in July 2005 at Lake Hume in conjunction with a gathering of Canberra Friends and others.

YM06.28 Morrow Bequest Committee Report

*(Documents in Advance page 41)*

We accept this report. The Australia Yearly Meeting Treasurer notes that the Fund is diminishing and we may like to think of fund raising so that we can continue to assist Indigenous students in the future.

YM06.29 Launch of *Poems for Peace* CD-ROM to raise funds for QSA

Margaret Bearlin introduced a video of Jane Vaughan Donnelly, Canberra Regional Meeting, reading from her *Poems for Peace*, which have been produced on CD-ROM. Profits from the sale of these poems will go to Quaker Service Australia.

The *Poems for Peace* arise from Jane’s aversion to war, which developed during her childhood in the war years, and has stayed with her throughout her life.

Formal Session V 9 a.m. Thursday, 12 January 2006

YM06.30 Testimony

We heard John McMahon, Victoria Regional Meeting, read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the Life of Don Pescod.

YM06.31 Meeting for Remembrance

During our time of worship on Wednesday, 11 January 2006, we remembered members and attenders who have died, or have had testimonies written for them, since last Yearly Meeting.

- Barrett, Rubina Victoria RM
- Bellen, Henk South Australia RM
- Bradfield, Catherine Canberra RM
- Carman, Jean Queensland RM
- Curtis, Winifred Tasmania RM
- Davies, Gwyn New South Wales RM
- Gardner, Lorraine (Lorrie) Victoria RM
- Gartrell, John New South Wales RM
- Harris, Fred Queensland RM
- Hoskyns, Hettie South Australia RM
- Hughes, Jean Victoria RM
- Jones, Alfred (Alf) New South Wales RM
- Knighton, Robert (Bob) Tasmania RM
- Lubbe, Hannah Victoria RM
- Noble, Grace New South Wales RM
- Perry, Norman Victoria RM
- Pescod, Donald Victoria RM
- Rees, Basil South Australia RM
- Southall, Brian West Australia RM
- Payget Strathdee, Rian New South Wales RM
- Wells, Stanley Tasmania RM
- Williams, John Tasmania RM
- Wiltshire, Susan New South Wales RM
- Wright, Barbara Tasmania RM

YM06.32 Publications Committee

*(Documents in Advance page 55)*

We receive the report.

We note that Ros Haynes and Kerstin Reimers have resigned from the Committee and ask Tasmania Regional Meeting to nominate replacements.
Outreach

The Committee would like authorization to produce car stickers with www.quakers.org.au as the message. We agree, and suggest that a minimum of 2000 be produced.

We encourage the Committee to continue exploring the use of a consistent design and possibly a logo for our publications.

Travelling directory

We note that the Committee intends to produce an Australian Directory for Travelling Friends, which Valerie Joy has drafted. We ask all Regional Meeting Clerks to ensure that the names of all those willing to be hosts are sent to Valerie Joy. The Yearly Meeting secretary will circulate the format for information.

Backhouse Journal

We encourage the Committee to research more fully the feasibility of reprinting James Backhouse's A Narrative of a Visit to the Australian Colonies in an annotated version. This will be a long-term project.

Financial

The Publications Committee is willing to take responsibility for managing the Book Fund. We ask the Committee, in association with the Finance Committee, to prepare guidelines for managing the Fund.

YM06.33 The Australian Friend

(Documents in Advance page 24)

We accept the report. The names of the Queensland-based Editorial Committee are Duncan Frewin and Susan Addison. We note that the production team is now widely spread with functions taken up by individuals in several Regional Meetings. The editors are looking for ‘spotters’ in other Meetings to encourage Friends to contribute articles, poetry or illustrations.

We encourage the distribution of The Australian Friend to all attenders through their Regional Meetings, and ask Regional Meetings to advise if they need to receive more copies for this purpose.

We note that The AF is already sent to some libraries and encourage this practice.

The committee is further considering electronic distribution of The AF. Selected articles are already on the website.

YM06.34 Quaker Service Australia

(Documents in Advance page 56-59)

We accept the report. We note that preparations are in hand for the accreditation review by AusAID in the first half of this year.

A Review of Quaker Service Australia (QSA) by Australia Yearly Meeting is due for completion in 2008.

We are reminded that QSA will be 50 years old in 2009. It is suggested that this anniversary be marked by the publication of a history of the organization and its work. The Committee would like to receive historical records, photos and other relevant material which will be copied and returned.

We accept the following Friends from New South Wales Regional Meeting as the Committee

Heather Saville (Convenor)
Jackie Perkins (Exec. Officer)
Anna Bell (Treasurer)
John Dundas (Bookkeeper)
Elaine Polglase (Public Officer)
David Cooper
Annie Rooke-Frizzell
Maureen Steele
Michael Wilson

The Annual General Meeting was held. There the ‘Guidelines for working with Aboriginal communities’ was accepted.

YM06.35 Reading of the Draft Epistle from Yearly Meeting 2006

Brian Connor, New South Wales Regional Meeting, read the first draft of our Epistle.
YM06.36  AYM Nominations

We accept the following nominations:

- AYM representative to Aotearoa/New Zealand: Cathy Davies, New South Wales RM
- Meeting for Learning: Bev Polzin and John McMahon, Administrators, Victoria RM
- Book Fund Committee: Publications Committee plus Charles Stevenson, South Australia RM and Heather Herbert, Canberra RM

Formal Session VI  2.15 p.m. Thursday, 12 January 2006

YM06.37  Testimonies

Helen Gould, New South Wales Regional Meeting, read a testimony to the Grace of God in the lives of the following Friends from New South Wales Regional Meeting: Gwyn Davies, John Gartrell, Alf Jones, Grace Noble, Rian Payget Strathdee, and Susan Wiltshire.

Elizabeth Field, New South Wales Regional Meeting, read a letter from Jasmine Payget thanking Friends for their support following the death of her son, Rian, and injuries to her family.

YM06.38  AYM Nominations

FWCC Committee: Maxine Cooper (Queensland RM) to June 2006, Convenor Jonathan Benyei (Canberra RM) to 2011
- Hannah Chapman-Searle (Young Friends) to 2011
- Grace (Young Friends) to 2011
- Tony Noakes (West Australia RM) to 2011
- Lyndsay Farrall (Tasmania RM) to 2011
- Alan Clayton (Victoria RM) to 2011
- Barbara True (South Australia RM) to 2011
- Pat Firkin (New South Wales RM) to 2012
- Topsy Evans (ex officio) QUNO Geneva Representative to 2008
- Valerie Joy (ex officio) AWPS Associate Secretary to 2008

FWCC representatives: Hannah Chapman-Searle (Young Friends)
- Alan Clayton (Victoria RM)

Alternates: Barbara True (South Australia RM)
- Tony Noakes (West Australia RM)

Backhouse Lecture Committee: Margaret Clarke to 2009 (Convenor)
- Susan Addison to 2009
- Ros Haynes to 2007
- Mary Westbrook to 2007
- Dale Hess to 2012
- Ailsa Wild to 2012

AYM Peace and Social Justice Legislation Committee: Brian Turner and Barbara Meyer (Convenors)

Yearly Meeting Nominations: Elaine Polglase to 2007 (Convenor)

Young Friends
- Coordinator: Mary Webb
- Treasurer: Ailsa Wild
- Finance Committee: Mary Webb, Peter Wild and Emily Chapman-Searle
- Fundraising Committee: Myfanwy White, Emily Walpole, Kyle Purnell.
- Nominations Committee: Kate Barnard, Grace, Kyle Purnell, Mary Webb, Peter Wild
- New Zealand representative: to be decided
- Standing Committee: Anna Wilkinson, Peter Juchneiwicz (continuing)
- State Coordinators: Aletia Dundas (New South Wales RM)
- Emily Chapman-Searle (Canberra RM)
- Genevieve Smith (Tasmania RM)
- Anna Wilkinson (Victoria RM)
- Mary Webb (South Australia RM)
- Grace (West Australia RM)
- Mary Webb (Acting Queensland RM)
YM06.39  Peace

(Documents in Advance pages 43–54)

We accept the reports and appreciate the many verbal additions contributed during the open session. A full report of that valuable session will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

We have made decisions in respect to several matters

1. **Naming the Canberra-based peace and social justice legislation committee**: We agree to change the name of this committee to Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee.

2. **Committee Membership**: (Canberra Regional Meeting): We accept the names of Brian Turner and Barbara Meyer (co-conveners), Margaret Bearlin, Ronis Chapman, Margaret Clark, Jane Donnelly, Evan Gallagher, Andrew Glikson, David Purnell, Katherine Purnell and Harold Wilkinson.

   Regional Meetings are asked to appoint correspondents.

3. **Funding**: We encourage the Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee to seek funding from the Peace and Social Justice Fund.

4. **Supporting peace initiatives**: We encourage Friends to
   a) support the Quaker Forum as a means of electronic communication
   b) promote and use the discussion materials produced by the Peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee
   c) continue and increase involvement in the Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP)
   d) continue and increase involvement with the National Nonviolence Training Project
   e) consider how to maintain the Nonviolent Peaceforce network in Australia, and
   f) promote and celebrate the annual United Nations Day of Peace, 21 September, including a ceasefire and nonviolence. We ask that a letter be written to the Prime Minister reminding him of the Government’s obligations on this day.

5. **Surveillance of Friends**: We have heard from the American Friends Service Committee that the US government is spying on peace groups, including Quakers.

   We agree that we should make Australian Friends aware that our Government may adopt the same tactic.

   We agree to send a message of support to American Friends Service Committee and to Friends in Oregon in particular. We should be considering how we would support Friends and their families if a member should be detained.

6. **Letter of Support**: We agree to send a letter of support to Medical Officer Malcolm Kendall-Smith who has served in the RAF in Afghanistan and Iraq, and who is challenging the legality of the war in Iraq.

   In the letter we will forward Waratah’s offer to share evidence that she has documented from her time in Iraq that might support his case.

7. **Contacting Members of Parliament**: We are reminded that personal contact with Members of Parliament and other authorities is probably the most effective way of getting our voice heard.

8. **Creative and surprise actions**: We understand that creative and surprise actions, including humour, are effective ways of drawing attention to our views.

   May we let our Light shine.

YM06.40  Indigenous Concerns

(Documents in Advance page 38-39)

We accept the report. Additional reports were given at the Preparatory Session, and these will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

We accept the offer from the Canberra-based committee to continue its service until Yearly Meeting 2007. Committee members are —

   David Purnell (convenor), Ffionnan Brooke-Watson, Barbara Meyer, Joon Garfit, Waratah (all Canberra Regional Meeting), David Carline (Queensland Regional Meeting), and Ruth Haig (New South Wales Regional Meeting).

Meetings are asked whether they could offer to host this Committee after that date.

The Indigenous Concerns Committee has ongoing concern for the continuation of the Tent Embassy outside Parliament House. We note that there is to be a gathering at the Embassy site on 26 January 2006 and we
encourage Friends to attend as they are able, or to hold vigils on that day in their own places as a gesture of support.

Funds to bring Indigenous Elders from around Australia to a future assembly at the Tent Embassy may be sought, if required.

The Black GST Campaign (Genocide to end, Sovereignty acknowledged, Treaty to be made) wish to draw attention to the needs and concerns of Indigenous Australians. At the Commonwealth Games, called the ‘Stolenwealth Games’ by Black GST, a convergence of Indigenous people and their sympathizers is planned in Melbourne in March 2006. Friends are asked to support this initiative and to spread information about it.

We urge Friends to help distribute the Emu Feathers publication *About Aboriginal Sovereignty* as widely as possible.

### Formal Session VII 9 a.m. Friday, 13 January 2006

**YM06.41 Testimony**

Jonathan Benyei read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Catherine Bradfield, Canberra Regional Meeting.

**YM06.42 Donald Groom Peace Committee**

*(Documents in Advance page 26)*

We accept the report and ask that it be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We note that two applications have been received for the 2006 Donald Groom Fellowship and a decision on this will be made in February.

We agree that the priorities for the Donald Groom Peace Committee are

- continuing and expanding nonviolence work
- assisting with programs to curb the use of small arms, and
- opposing the increasing militarism in Australia.

We ask that, as part of the Donald Groom Committee’s three-year nonviolence training project, a National Nonviolence Gathering be organized in 2007 and relationships continue to be built between various NV networks and organizations.

We ask that the Committee should ensure that the training project

- encompasses a broad range of roles and activities in nonviolence
- emphasises the building of peace and civil society mechanisms, and
- does not involve government agencies in direct core funding of the project.

We ask the Committee to help Jason McLeod establish a support group to provide spiritual, strategic and financial assistance for his work in promoting a nonviolent future for West Papua.

We note that David Johnson is laying down his membership of the Donald Groom Peace Committee and the Australian Campaign Against the Arms Trade at the end of 2006 but will continue his anti-landmine work.

We ask Meetings to consider taking on the work of the Donald Groom Peace Committee and/or ACAAT by the end of 2006.

**YM06.43 Dilawar Chetsingh’s visit**

Dilawar Chetsingh, Clerk of the Asia-West Pacific Section of FWCC, was our guest at Australia Yearly Meeting. He is the first of a series of visitors planned from within the Section, in addition to our Aotearoa-New Zealand guests each year. He is to undertake visitation in most Regional Meetings following Yearly Meeting.

Dilawar addressed Yearly Meeting, providing us with a short history of Quakerism in India and giving us an insight into the social and religious context in which Indian Quakers live. His address prompted many questions and a wide-ranging discussion.

We are grateful for his presence at our Yearly Meeting and encourage Friends to take advantage of his visit to learn more of FWCC in general and Indian Friends in particular.
YM06.44 Sexual Abuse and Misconduct

(Documents in Advance page 61)

We accept the report. We appreciate the work done by the Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Working Group on our behalf. We accept their request that the group be laid down, noting that Ronis Chapman is willing to continue this work.

We ask Ronis Chapman, Canberra Regional Meeting, together with Lyndsay Farrall, Tasmania Regional Meeting, and Alan Clayton, Victoria Regional Meeting, who have indicated their willingness to assist, to find ways forward and to liaise with the Child Protection Policy Working Group to ensure the two documents complement each other.

YM06.45 Child Protection Policy — implementation

(Documents in Advance page 67)

We need to keep in mind that the care of one another is primarily about building right relationships. Children and adults who are involved in abusive situations need first of all to be held in our loving support.

We ask Regional Meeting Clerks to ensure that this policy is implemented and to report any problems to the Child Protection Working Group. We ask Regional Meeting Clerks to report on progress at mid-year Standing Committee.

Implementation of this Policy will be difficult for some Meetings, especially those in isolated areas. We encourage those Meetings to contact members of other denominations who have experience for training contact persons and who could also act as a person of first contact should an incident occur.

In respect of the Child Protection policy, Young Friends have appreciated consultation with the Sexual Abuse and Misconduct group. They will further consider how they can implement the regulations in respect of camps.

The Child Protection group offers to continue to work on the current document. The members of the group are

- Dorothy Scott, South Australia RM, Convenor
- Topsy Evans, South Australia RM
- Gillian Lewis-Coles, South Australia RM

We accept as additional members of this Committee, with particular responsibility to liaise in relation to the Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Guidelines,

- Ronis Chapman, Canberra RM
- Lyndsay Farrall, Tasmania RM and
- Alan Clayton, Victoria RM.

We ask that this group be given responsibility to investigate ways forward.

YM06.46 Letter to the Prime Minister about our environment

We ask Margaret Bearlin and Margaret Woodward, assisted by other Friends, to draft a letter to the Prime Minister emphasising the effect of global warming and other matters on the quality of life of our children. We ask that this draft be brought to Formal Session IX.

YM06.47 Australian Friends’ Fellowship of Healing

(Documents in Advance page 24)

We have received the following report and encourage the Fellowship in their discussions.

The Australian Friends’ Fellowship of Healing meeting heard written and oral reports of activities in relation to Meetings for Healing in Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales. Although meetings are held regularly in several capital cities, numbers are small.

May van der Heyden has agreed to continue as the editor for Wholeness on condition that she received sufficient copy and that the annual subscription of $5 per annum for each addressee is maintained. There are almost 50 people and groups on the mailing list.
This meeting which acted as the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Friends' Fellowship of Healing Charitable Trust heard the Minutes of the meeting of the Trust held in Hobart on Tuesday 13 December 2005. The minutes were accepted.

No Trustees were available to be present at the meeting in Brisbane.

In an accompanying email, the Convenor, Colin Wendell-Smith, notified the meeting that Friends Lodge in Tasmania has been sold and that settlement will take place on 27 January 2006.

There are three associated issues which need discussion

(i) The Trustees requested the views of the Australian Friends' Fellowship of Healing in relation to provision of subsidised travel for Friends in Australia requiring opportunity for respite. The meeting believes that we need clarification from the Trustees as to the exact meaning of their concept of "respite" and to the need to define the limits of funding to be provided in these situations.

(ii) The Trustees' concern about the legal relationships between themselves, the Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing, and the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia: The meeting believes that the Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing should review its objectives and terms of reference so that its relationships with Australia Yearly Meeting and the AFFOH Charitable Trust can be clarified and also that legal opinion be obtained with reference to the trust document and the actual responsibility of the Trustees — particularly in relation to reporting requirements. The Trust was set up in 1986 and the Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing is responsible (at its Annual Meeting at Australia Yearly Meeting) for the appointment, as required, of Trustees for the Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing Charitable Trust.

(iii) Any further proposals for a Home of Healing and opportunities for creative renewal in Australia: There is considerable interest in this issue and a report about this matter will be sent in the future to Queensland Regional Meeting.

The Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing is considering ways of increasing its networking ability and the promotion of healing amongst Quakers in Australia during 2006.

YM06.48 Ecumenism and Interfaith

(Documents in Advance pages 27-31)

Reports, both from Documents in Advance and presented at this session, outlined the many varied activities being carried out across the country, both interdenominational and interfaith. These reports showed that all Regional Meetings are involved in some way in this range of activities.

Mention was made of Quaker inclusion in the Journal of the Council of Christians and Jews Gesher, where four pages of information are included.

We ask that an interest group be formed to collect ideas that have been used by Meetings, within Australia or elsewhere, to encourage ecumenical and interfaith initiatives. These ideas could be recorded as a "resource bank" for others to access. We ask for an individual who, or Meeting which, may feel led to coordinate this activity and set up this interest group.

Formal Session VIII 2.15 p.m. Friday 13 January 2.15 p.m.

YM06.49 Testimony

Rhoda Dorrell read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Fred Harris of Queensland Regional Meeting.

YM06.50 Outreach

(Documents in Advance pages 42)

There has been a great deal of interest in this area during this Yearly Meeting, partly stimulated by the State of the Society address. A number of interest groups and discussions have generated many ideas and much enthusiasm.

We ask Regional Meetings to note and consider implementing some of the many suggestions made during a follow-up session. These are included in Documents in Retrospect.
We ask Regional Meetings to consider seriously how our concern can be carried forward, particularly in relation to research suggested in the report. We would also like to research why some members no longer attend Meeting for Worship. We ask for reports to be brought to Standing Committee.

The present small Outreach Group, based in Victoria, may wish to be laid down during 2006. The convenor, Ray Brindle, agrees to remain as a contact person in regard to outreach work. A Regional Meeting other than Victoria may come forward to take on the responsibility for coordinating Outreach.

YM06.51 Thanksgiving Fund

(Documents in Advance pages 62)

We accept the report and note the distribution of funds.

YM06.52 Canberra Regional Meeting request for AYM loan

Canberra Regional Meeting has asked Australia Yearly Meeting for a loan for extensions and renovations to the Canberra Meeting House.

The Canberra Regional Meeting Clerk has met with the outgoing and incoming YM Treasurers and members of the Finance Committee. They recommend that Yearly Meeting agree to make available up to $125,000 to Canberra Regional Meeting (about half the estimated total cost) on the proviso that

- Standing Committee approves the final detailed financial proposal when available from Canberra Regional Meeting;
- Australia Yearly Meeting is paid back in instalments as funds become available, and within a period of 10 years; and
- Canberra RM pays Australia Yearly Meeting the equivalent of investment income foregone by such a loan.

We agree to this loan.

YM06.53 Greetings

We welcome Marc Forget, Canadian Yearly Meeting, who has worked for Canadian Friends Service Committee in the area of Indigenous justice.

YM06.54 Young Friends

(Documents in Advance page 64)

We receive the report, and ask that it be included in Documents in Retrospect. A further Minute was carried over to Session IX.

YM06.55 Summer School

Summer School at Yearly Meeting 2006 had the theme ‘Me, You and Us’. Grant Sarra, an Indigenous trainer, led the group through a ‘hypothetical’ which explored Indigenous culture and the damage wrought by white settlement. We all came to understand more deeply the traditional culture of Aboriginal peoples and felt deeply the grief and pain caused by their loss of land and community. We recognize the great wisdom in the Indigenous values of caring, sharing and respect for land, community and people. Racism hurts all of us because it destroys the web of relationships between land, communities and peoples.

Grant emphasized that Australia is a young country; that while we do not have to bear guilt we must understand and accept the past to inform our present and build our future.

Seventeen small groups meeting during the afternoon allowed an environment in which Friends could process the emotions and understandings gained from the hypothetical and explore the challenges and opportunities for moving forward.

Among the many ideas for future action that occurred to us, we recognized that deep listening is a way of helping to repair this damage.

We note that Grant Sarra was paid for his work in facilitating the hypothetical, and chose to donate the whole fee to a Brisbane school for disadvantaged and homeless young women, many with an Indigenous heritage.
YM06.56 Child Membership

(Documents in Advance pages 68)

Five Friends met on Thursday, 12 January for the Membership Secretary’s discussion.

New South Wales and South Australia Membership Secretaries had asked for clarification in relation to the listing of Children of the Meeting. We did not hear from West Australia, Tasmania or Canberra.

If the 2004 amendments are gradually implemented, there should be no real problems with Annual Returns or the List of Members and Attenders if ‘Children of the Meeting’ and Child Attenders are undifferentiated in counting and printing.

However, Victoria is finding that implementation of the 2004 amendments has raised objections from some parents and resulted in unexpected difficulties.

The group feels that the whole issue is more difficult than first thought and that it should be brought back to the next Yearly Meeting after obtaining more information on Victoria’s experience.

David Lowry, Queensland Regional Meeting, has undertaken to email a draft document to Membership Secretaries exploring the problems, inviting Membership Secretaries to add to this before forwarding it to the Yearly Meeting Secretary.

Formal Session IX 9 a.m. Saturday, 14 January 2006

YM06.57 Integrating Children and Junior Young Friends into Quaker life

The Children’s Group Interest Group convened at this Yearly Meeting has presented a paper for our consideration. It outlines its purpose; to ensure that our children and Junior Young Friends (JYFs) are an integral part of Quaker life, especially at Yearly Meeting, and to ensure that we assist them to develop Quaker values.

They recommend

i) That each Yearly Meeting should include, in the report on the State of the Society, a report on children and JYFs and their development within the society;

ii) That more effective means of communicating on children’s issues between Regional Meetings should be developed;

iii) That Australia Yearly Meeting should ensure that each Regional Meeting Children’s Group has a copy of Elise Boulding’s 1996 James Backhouse Lecture, Our Children, Our Partners;

iv) That Australia Yearly Meeting should investigate ways of offering JYFs opportunities by which they can develop their skills in Quaker process;

v) That children and JYFs should be welcomed into, and encouraged to attend, Meeting for Worship at Yearly Meeting;

vi) That preparation and registration for Yearly Meeting should include a clear process that maximizes the involvement of non-parents in supporting parents at each Yearly Meeting; and

vii) That, in the course of 2006, Friends should develop a draft document that identifies suggested activities for a Yearly Meeting children’s and JYFs’ program that maximizes our children’s involvement and the involvement of adults.

We accept these recommendations and ask

• Regional Meetings and Yearly Meeting Planning Committees to incorporate these ideas;

• the Secretary to distribute a copy of Elise Boulding’s James Backhouse Lecture to each Regional Meeting’s Children Convenor; and

• the Secretary to collect ideas from parents at Yearly Meeting 2006, the AYM Children’s Committee convenor and others who have been responsible for children and JYF at Yearly Meetings and to circulate these to Regional Meeting Children’s Committees.

We thank those who organize the programs for our children and JYF at Yearly Meetings.
YM06.58  Share and Tell

Eighteen Share and Tell sessions were offered at Yearly Meeting 2006, where Friends could share their concerns, including —

State of the Society  Follow-up to David Lowry’s State of the Society report
Cleanliness and concerns  Delton Hedges
Graphic design in Quaker outreach  Rosina Wainright
The Quaker Forum  Sally O’Wheel
Video Documentary *How Iraqis experienced the invasion*  Waratah
Compassionate listening project  Alaskan Friends’ DVD on another approach to conflict resolution.
Life & Wisdom of Ham Sok Hon, Korean Quaker visionary  Helen Bayes and Alan Clayton
Light Group on eco-collapse  Empowering guided meditation to explore our unease about eco-collapse, Helen Gould
Quaker House of Healing  Mary Grbavac
Environmental Sacred Experience  (Boondall Wetlands tour) Helen Lucas
Uranium Mining  Iris Guy
Children’s groups in Regional and Yearly Meetings  Jim Levin
Quakers and Capital Punishment  David Purnell
Quaker House of Healing  Mary Grbavac
Quakers in Kenya — a Christocentric perspective  Dave McKay
Sociocracy  Gina Price
West Papua  Jason McLeod
World Gathering of Young Friends  Emily Chapman-Searle

We note that many valuable recommendations have come to Formal Sessions from these Share and Tell Sessions, including recommendations for liaison and planning among children’s groups and suggestions for inreach and outreach.

Reports from many of these Share and Tell sessions will be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

YM06.59  James Backhouse Lecture

(Documents in Advance page 25)

(i) Minute of Record

The James Backhouse Lecture, *One Heart and a Wrong Spirit: The Religious Society of Friends and Colonial Racism*, was given by Polly Walker from Queensland Regional Meeting on Sunday 8 January 2006 at St Joseph’s College Nudgee, Brisbane. The lecture was the culmination of a day in which we explored racism through Summer School activities.

Maroochy Barambah, songwoman of the Turrbal people, welcomed us to her people’s country before the lecture. In recognition that we are meeting on Turrbal land, Australia Yearly Meeting ‘paid rent’ of $500 to the Turrbal Association Incorporated.

In her lecture Polly drew on the stories of her Cherokee forebears and on interviews she conducted with Indigenous Australians to illustrate the damage and distress to Indigenous peoples caused by the continuing legacy of colonial racism in the United States and in Australia.

While acknowledging Quakers’ concern for Indigenous peoples as sincere, Polly challenged us to acknowledge the ‘wrong spirit’ of colonial racism that continues to shape our attitudes.

In the Backhouse Lecture follow-up discussion we were reminded of the privileges those of us with white skin enjoy in this country, and of the responsibility we bear, having heard Indigenous peoples’ stories, to act to redress inequality and injustice.

We were also reminded of a point in our Quaker history when just relationships between Quakers and Indigenous peoples seemed possible in an environment steeped in colonial racism. William Penn told the Lanape/Delaware people in 1682:

> We will be as one heart, one hand, one body, that if one suffers, the other suffers, that if anything changes one, it changes the other … We will go along the broad pathway of good will to each other, together.

(ii) Backhouse Lecturer 2007

We hear that the 2007 Backhouse Lecturer will be Jenny Spinks. Her theme is simplicity, and she has already submitted a working outline of her lecture.
YM06.60  Meeting for Learning Committee

(Document in Advance pages 40)

We receive the report of the Meeting for Learning in Documents in Advance and the report from the Preparatory Session. We note that the retreat program has just completed its tenth year and acknowledge with thanks the inspiration and energy which Frances Thorsen, together with Valerie Joy, brought to this program in the early years. We are glad that so many Friends have been enriched by the programs under the Meeting for Learning’s care over the years, and encourage it to continue its work.

We hear that the 2006 and 2007 retreat weeks will be in Adelaide.

We ask that the report from the Preparatory Session be included in Documents in Retrospect.

YM06.61  AYM Nominations Committee

We have heard the Regional Meeting nominations for the Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee, and note these appointments

Elaine Polglase (New South Wales RM) Convenor to 2007
Dorothy Benyei (Victoria RM) to 2008
Ronis Chapman (Canberra RM) to 2009
Topsy Evans (South Australia RM) to 2009
Rosemary Longhurst (West Australia RM) to 2009
Frances Parsons (Tasmania RM) to 2009
Queensland RM to be advised
Mary Webb (Young Friends) to 2009

YM06.62  Letters to Government

Further to Minute YM06.46 we have heard a draft letter to the Prime Minister about our children’s future and the threats of environmental destruction (attached). We ask that this letter be sent to the PM and a copy of the letter with a covering letter be sent to opposition and minor party leaders.

We ask that a copy of the letter be sent to Regional Meeting Clerks to use as appropriate, and if possible, for Friends to speak face to face with their politicians.

YM06.63  Friends’ World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)

(Document in Advance page 36)

Friends heard reports from the AWPS Gathering in Seoul from Dilawar Chetsingh, Clerk of the Section, and others who were present at the Gathering. Apologies offered by Japanese Friends for the behaviour of their country towards Korea and the consequent closeness between Korean and Japanese Friends was especially moving.

AWPS visitors to future Yearly Meetings

We agree that Sung Joon Park, Seoul Monthly Meeting, be invited to Yearly Meeting in Hobart in January 2007; with Sachiko Yamomoto, Clerk of Japan Yearly Meeting, as an alternate.

We are reminded that Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting is also a member of AWPS and that we have an exchange of representatives with A/NZ YM each time our respective Yearly Meetings are held.

We agree that the cost of financing a visitor should become a separate item in the AYM budget each year.

Topsy Evans reported that Adelaide Meeting, South Australia Regional Meeting, has agreed to provide $500 per annum for five years towards the cost of Section visitors to Yearly Meetings.

Political action

We are urged to act on the minute from the Seoul gathering which asks us ‘to speak out against reduction of legal, civil and human rights whenever and wherever these occur’. The Presiding Clerk wrote to the Prime Minister on our behalf about the introduction of anti-terrorism legislation in November, and we ask Friends to continue to monitor this issue.

FWCC 22nd Triennial in Dublin

We note that Alan Clayton and Hannah Chapman-Searle will be the AYM representatives at the 22nd Triennial in Dublin, 10-19 August 2007. Friends may apply to be observers at the Triennial, and such applications will be considered by the World Office in London.
We note that there are already several Friends who would like to attend the Triennial, including Valerie Joy, the Associate Secretary of the Asia-West Pacific Section. As the London office will make the final decisions on how many places Australia will have for observers, and who will take up these places, we ask Yearly Meeting to write to the London office in support of Valerie’s application for observer status.

YM06.64 QUNO

(Documents in Advance page 36)

We have heard of the re-organisation of the management committee of QUNO New York which has resulted in wider input from Quakers world-wide.

Under the new system there will be a member from the Asia-West Pacific Section on each of the QUNO management committees, in Geneva and New York. The Section Gathering in Seoul reappointed Topsy Evans to the committee in Geneva for the next three years. The FWCC International Nominations Committee has appointed Linley Gregory, from Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting, to the New York committee. These appointments will result in better two-way communication between Friends in the Section and QUNO.

In Geneva, the main areas of work continue to be Peace and Disarmament, Human Rights and Refugees, and Global Economic Issues. Very recently the first two of these have combined to begin a new project looking at ways to safeguard witnesses in war crimes trials.

Specific project proposals are submitted by QUNO to sympathetic governments and international groups, which are frequent donors to organisations which have a reputation for diligent and accurate research.

Undesignated donations from Friends are extremely useful as they can be used more flexibly than funds given for specified projects.

YM06.65 Peace witness, Yearly Meeting 2006

Around 100 people from Yearly Meeting 2006 took part in a silent peace vigil in King George Square, in the heart of Brisbane, from 4.30–5.30 p.m., Friday 13 January. The vigil has been a regular weekly and now monthly event for some years and attracts interest from those on their way home from work and those coming early to the city for a night out.

We were joined by representatives of other peace groups including Believing Women for a Culture of Peace and Just Peace.

YM06.66 Final reading of the Epistle from Yearly Meeting 2006

Kim Gonzalez, Young Friend, gave the final reading of the Epistle. We accept this Epistle, to be read during our closing worship gathering.

YM06.67 Green Yearly Meetings

Friends concerned about the environment have discussed ideas for holding Yearly Meeting in a greener way. We urge Tasmania Regional Meeting to take up the challenge of holding the greenest ever Yearly Meeting in Hobart 2007. We ask subsequent hosts to find ways to carry this concern forward.

We ask that suggestions be forwarded to the Yearly Meeting Secretary for collating and forwarding to Yearly Meeting Planning Committees.

YM06.68 Young Friends’ Minute of Record

We heard from those who attended the two World Gatherings of Young Friends in Lancaster, England and Mombassa, Kenya last year. We support future links between Young Friends within the Asia West Pacific Region and worldwide following the enthusiasm and learnings from these gatherings. We note that the Interim Young Friends Risk Management package is now in place to assist camp organisers and will be reviewed over the next year in consultation with others, including the child protection committee. We encourage a continuing dialogue with Young Friends regarding the issues of inreach and outreach.

YM06.69 Welcome Presiding Clerk

We welcome Lyndsay Farrall, Tasmania RM, as Presiding Clerk from the conclusion of this Yearly Meeting.
YM06.70 Closing Minute

Yearly Meeting 2006 has been a stimulating experience which has given us many ideas for developing and sharing our Quaker values. In particular, we have concentrated on reaching out to our children and Junior Young Friends and to the wider world.

True outreach will only happen if we all, as individuals and Meetings, nourish our Inner Light. May we practice listening to one another and hold one another in love.

During my three years as Presiding Clerk, I have felt wonderfully upheld and supported by the Grace of God in you all. It has been a time of much richness.

Many of us will meet in one year’s time in Hobart.

Ruth Watson, Presiding Clerk, 14 January 2006.
Minutes of Australia Yearly Meeting

Held at The Friends’ School, Hobart, Tasmania
6-13 January 2007

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**Formal Session 1**  7.30 p.m. Saturday, 6 January 2007

YM07.1  **Welcome of traditional custodians**

After a period of silent worship, the Clerk introduced Eva Richardson to the Meeting. Eva Richardson is a respected elder of the Palawa people, and she spoke about her family connection with the land in welcoming us all to Mouheneener land. [Amended in accord with Minute 07.73]

In welcoming her, the Clerk acknowledged the Indigenous people of this beautiful island as the first to find spiritual and physical nurture in this country. He expressed the hope that Friends will learn from the traditional custodians as we strive to make a secure inheritance for all children.

YM07.2  **Welcome to visitors**

(a) The Presiding Clerk welcomed members to Yearly Meeting 2007, including the following visitors from overseas:

- Claire Gregory, representative of Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting. This is Claire’s second trip to a Yearly Meeting at The Friends’ School.
- Linley Gregory, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
- Simon and Avon Lookmire, Young Friends, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting, and Rowan, their daughter.
- Patricia McGregor, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
- Scott Bell and Cathy Walling, Sophia and Sarah Walling-Bell, of Chena Ridge Local Meeting, Alaska
- Ann Mallard and Stan Read, Chena Ridge Local Meeting, Alaska
- Susan Seymour and Geoffrey Durham, Hampstead Monthly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting
- Barbara Mays, Middleberg Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting
- David & Jean Rosenberg, New England Yearly Meeting
- In her absence, we welcomed Christina Gibb, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting.

(b) The Presiding Clerk also welcomed

- Friends from Burundi now living and worshipping in Australia: Aaron Ntukamazina, Abel Sibonio, Aline Vyijigiro, Melchiade Nishimwe, Althemom Manirariha (C), living and...
worshipping in Queensland; and Kayanda Manase and Sylvia Ngendarimana, who live and worship in South Australia
- The Stone family, Gretchen, Phil, Katie, Woody and Peter, Friends from USA now living and worshipping in Tasmania
- Margaret Bywater of Tasmania Regional Meeting who is currently living in Phnom Penh in Cambodia, and
- Jarrod McKenna, the 2006 Donald Groom Peace Fellow.

(c) We hear that our Asia-West Pacific guest speaker Joon Park is, at short notice, unable to join us at Yearly Meeting.

YM07.3  Greetings

We have heard Greetings from:
- Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
- Britain Yearly Meeting
- Kenneth Co, Secretary of the Asia-West Pacific Section of Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC)
- Roger Keyes, South Australia Regional Meeting
- Anne Herbert, on behalf of Finland Yearly Meeting
- Ruth Watson, Past Presiding Clerk
- Dilawar Chetsingh, Clerk, Asia-West Pacific Section of FWCC
- Jo Juchniewicz, South Australia Regional Meeting (from Rochester, Minnesota)
- Ann Britton, on behalf of Wahroonga Local Meeting
- Nancy Shelley, Blue Mountains Local Meeting
- Erica Fisher of Canberra Regional Meeting.

We ask that letters be prepared in response to these and other greetings received during Yearly Meeting. All present are invited to sign them.

Standing Committee agreed that names for greeting cards from this Yearly Meeting should be given to Ron Martin, the Assistant Clerk of this Yearly Meeting, by Wednesday evening, 10 January. The cards will be available for Friends to sign on Friday, 12 January and Saturday, 13 January 2007.

YM07.4  Matters from Standing Committee

(a) Amendments to the Agenda

(i) We heard that Standing Committee had agreed to the following alterations to the timetable:
- An Open Session in relation to the future use of The Sanctuary will be held concurrently with the Preparatory Session on the Donald Groom Committee on Tuesday, 11.30am – 1.00pm.
- An Open Session on the proposal to hold a national conference to explore Quaker Voices in the 21st Century will be held on Monday between 2.45pm and 3.30pm.
- Michael Searle will be asked to conduct a session for Quaker funeral directors as part of the Share and Tell program.
- The Australian Friends’ Fellowship of Healing will hold an Open Session before its Closed Session on Friday afternoon, 4pm – 6.30 pm.
- The Elders and Overseers Session will be held on Wednesday 4.30pm – 6.00pm. A discussion on marriage and committed relationships will be undertaken at this time, and marriage celebrants are invited to attend.
- A session for Membership Secretaries and all interested Friends will be held on Friday, to discuss the transitions from childhood into full membership. Junior Young Friends and Young Friends are encouraged to attend this session.
- The Meeting for Learning Open Session will begin at 11.30 am on Friday and run concurrently with the Open Session on Ecumenism and Interfaith.

(ii) We note the following changes to the scheduled Wednesday night program:
- Our invited guest Joon Park is, at short notice, unable to attend this Yearly Meeting.
- The gathering at the University of Tasmania will be at 7.45 pm, and will include the launch of a book on Quaker history in Tasmania, and, subject to her consent, an
address by Christina Gibb on the Christian Peacemaker Teams’ work in Hebron and Palestine.

(iii) Timing of State of the Society address
We note that Sheila Given will present the State of the Society address on Monday at 10.30 am during Formal Session 2.

(b) Testimonies
Testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of deceased Friends are scheduled to be read during Yearly Meeting as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Regional Meeting</th>
<th>Formal Session</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Read by</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>9.30 am</td>
<td>8 Jan</td>
<td>Berta Monticone &amp; Sheila Morgan</td>
<td>Helen Gould</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9.30 am</td>
<td>9 Jan</td>
<td>Jean Carman</td>
<td>Susan Addison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Australia</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2.00 pm</td>
<td>9 Jan</td>
<td>No testimony</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9.30 am</td>
<td>11 Jan</td>
<td>Nancy Franklin</td>
<td>John Legg</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2.00 pm</td>
<td>11 Jan</td>
<td>Marion Arnold</td>
<td>Frances Nall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9.30 am</td>
<td>12 Jan</td>
<td>Valerie Edwards</td>
<td>Drew Thomas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2.00 pm</td>
<td>12 Jan</td>
<td>No testimony</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(c) Timing of Meeting for Remembrance
The Meeting for Remembrance has been scheduled on Thursday morning, 8.15 – 9.20 am, under the care of Ron Martin, Assistant Clerk for YM 2007. Friends were asked to give the names of those to be remembered to Ron as soon as possible.

(d) Pastoral Care Committee
Standing Committee notes the appointment by Regional Meetings and Young Friends of the following Friends to the Pastoral Care Committee for the duration of Yearly Meeting 2005:

- Canberra: Ronis Chapman
- Queensland: Susan Wilson and Marion James
- South Australia: Chris and Kaye Madsen
- New South Wales: Marion Armstrong
- Tasmania: Siobhan Harpur
- Victoria: Jim Palmer
- West Australia: Laurence Smitheringale and Caz Bowman
- Young Friends: Emily Walpole and Kyle Purnell

YM07.5 Non-members at Australia Yearly Meeting
Standing Committee brought to Yearly Meeting names of non-Members who have been recommended by the Ministry and Oversight Committees of their Regional Meetings and given permission to attend Yearly Meeting 2007. Names of Young Friends, given permission by the Presiding Clerk to attend Yearly Meeting, are also included. This list will be displayed on the noticeboard at the back of the main gathering area. Those listed now have full participatory rights in the Yearly Meeting.

The names of all those present at this Yearly Meeting will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

YM07.6 AYM Nominations Committee
We accept the following nominations —

- Epistle Committee: Ros Haynes, Jenny Seaton, Kathy Rundle and Mary Pollard [Jenny Seaton resigned from the Committee during Yearly Meeting]
- Minute Checkers: Elizabeth Field (with further nominations to be made)

Formal Session 2 9.30 am. Monday, 8 January 2007
YM07.7  Greetings
We have heard a greeting to Yearly Meeting from Sonia and Max Raupach, South Australia Regional Meeting.

YM07.8  Welcome to traditional custodians
Further to Minute 1, we wish to add a record of the welcome to country provided by Eva Richardson to the members of Australia Yearly Meeting. This Minute is carried over to a later Formal Session.

YM07.9  Testimony
We have heard testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of Berta Monticone and Shiela Morgan of New South Wales Regional Meeting, read by Helen Gould.

YM07.10  Appointment of Assistant Clerk
We appoint Ali Allfree, Tasmania Regional Meeting, as Assistant Clerk for Formal Sessions 4 and 6 of this Yearly Meeting.

YM07.11  Further matters from Standing Committee
(a) Future Yearly Meeting reports
The Clerk informs us that at Standing Committee —
(i) Victoria Regional Meeting reported that Yearly Meeting 2008 will be held at Mannix College, Monash University Clayton Campus, 5 – 12 January, and is residential.
(ii) Canberra RM reported that Yearly Meeting 2009 will be held at Rydges Eaglehawk Resort on the Australian Capital Territory-New South Wales border, 12 – 19 January. The venue will hold up to 350 participants, and offers a variety of kinds of accommodation.
(ii) South Australia RM reported that they have identified a potential site for Yearly Meeting 2010 and will report further details at Standing Committee in July.
(b) Reporting on Yearly Meeting Planning
We agree to ask future Yearly Meeting Planning Committees to add their reports on the Planning CD-ROMs, and to forward these to the next YM Planning Committee, and to send a copy to the AYM Secretary for inclusion on the website. We agree that the ‘Blue Books’ be archived in the Australia Yearly Meeting office.
(c) Statements and letters on behalf of Yearly Meeting
The Clerk reports that, since Standing Committee, the following letters have been sent:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Recipients</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>Philip Ruddock and Alexander Downer</td>
<td>Death penalty and exchange of prisoners with Indonesia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>Alexander Downer</td>
<td>Effects of war in Lebanon and Israel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>The Mercury, Hobart</td>
<td>Condemning death penalty in Singapore, Indonesia &amp; Vietnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>Alexander Downer</td>
<td>Effect of war on Sri Lanka</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These statements, and any replies are on display during the Yearly Meeting.

YM07.12  The Friends’ School Board appointments
The Clerk reports that Standing Committee has received nominations from the Association of The Friends’ School and recommends to Yearly Meeting the following appointments to the Board of Governors:

- Siobhan Harpur, as a nominee of Tasmania Regional Meeting, for a first term beginning in May 2007;
- Curtis Taylor, as Executive Committee nominee for a first term beginning May 2007;
- Taisoo-Kim Watson, as a nominee of Queensland Regional Meeting, for a first term beginning in May 2007;
- Bill Godfrey, as a nominee of Tasmania Regional Meeting, for a second term beginning in May 2007.

Yearly Meeting accepts these recommendations and makes these appointments.
YM07.13  Minute Checkers
Nominations Committee brings the names of Gwyneth Anderton and Julie Walpole to be appointed as additional Minute Checkers for Yearly Meeting 2007. We agree and make these appointments.

YM07.14  AYM Presiding Clerk’s Report
(Documents in Advance page 1)
We receive the report from the Presiding Clerk.

YM07.15  Quaker Education Network Report
(Documents in Advance page 64)
We accept this report, and thank Margaret Woodward and Graham Hodgkin for their continuing service.

YM07.16  Australia-Wide Quaker Fellowship
(Documents in Advance page 25)
We accept this report, and thank Margaret Woodward and Graham Hodgkin for their continuing service.

YM07.17  Morrow Bequest Committee Report
(Documents in Advance page 51)
We accept this report, and thank the Committee for its work.

YM07.18  Thanksgiving Committee Report
(Documents in Advance page 69)
We accept this report, and note the distribution of funds, which allowed individual Australian Friends to participate in the following:

- ‘Trek for Tibet’
- FWCC Gathering in Guatemala
- Pendle Hill courses
- FGC gathering in Seattle
- Quakers United in Publishing conference in New York
- ‘Light Workshop’ in Sydney, New South Wales

As well, a grant provided a video camera for workshops in Lithgow and other correctional centres.

We note the current Thanksgiving Committee’s willingness to administer this fund until Yearly Meeting 2008, and agree to extend their appointment.

YM07.19  State of the Society address
This Minute was carried over to Formal Session 3.

Formal Session 3 9.30 a.m. Tuesday, 9 January 2007

YM07.20  Testimony
We have heard the Testimony to the Grace of God in the Life of Jean Carman of Queensland Regional Meeting, read by Susan Addison.

YM07.21  State of the Society address
We heard the State of the Society address, given by Sheila Given of Tasmania Regional Meeting, on 8 January. The full text of this address will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

Her address was based on a wide reading of Australian Quaker newsletters, contributions to The Australian Friend, Regional Meeting reports and other Quaker writings. Sheila Given drew our attention to a number of heartening signs of health and growth in our Society across Australia, while also noting the many anxieties that Australian Quakers have about the state of our country and planet.
She commended to us a loyalty to past Friends’ concerns so that we may continue ‘to plant seedlings which will provide shade for the future’ as well as seeking to discern with other Friends worldwide ‘the prophetic voice for our time’.

In concluding, Sheila Given reminded us that we would do well to remember the advice of George Fox that ‘Ye have no time but this present time, therefore prize your time for your soul’s sake’.

In accepting this Minute, we acknowledge receipt of reports from all Regional Meetings within Australia.

YM07.22   Travelling Minutes from Overseas Friends

We have heard a travelling minute from Aotearoa/New Zealand Meeting, introducing Claire Gregory, of Bay of Plenty/Auckland Monthly Meeting. Claire brought greetings from her Yearly Meeting. She spoke about the Maori title ‘Te Haahi Tuuhauwiri’, which means ‘the church that shakes in the winds of the Spirit’. Claire also informed us of the concerns and organisation of her Yearly Meeting.

We have heard a travelling minute from Chena Ridge Friends Meeting, Fairbanks, Alaska, introducing Cathy Walling, Scott Bell, and their children Sarah and Sophia.

YM07.23   Letter of Introduction from Canberra Regional Meeting

Canberra Friends have provided a letter of introduction for Musa bin Masran, an active member of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Association of Australia, who is attending this Yearly Meeting.

YM07.24   Jarrod McKenna

We have heard a letter from members of the Peace Tree Community to introduce their member, Jarrod McKenna, who is our Donald Groom Peace Fellow for 2006.

YM07.25   Summary of Epistles from other Meetings

Rosemary Mattingley of the North-east Tasmanian Worshipping Group has presented a summary of epistles received from other Yearly Meetings held around the world during 2005–06. This summary will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

Rosemary drew our attention to the lack of epistles received from many parts of the world, and asked why this is the case.

We recognize that there are many Yearly Meetings which, like ours, strive to make connections between their inner lives and their daily activities.

She ended her summary with two quotations: ‘Love is a constant challenge, not a resting place,’ and ‘Indeed, it is when we are at our most powerless that we are most open to the force of truth and the power of love’.

We thank Rosemary for drawing our attention to the many inspirational passages in the epistles received from Friends around the world.

We request that our own Epistles be translated into Spanish and other relevant languages, where it is possible.

YM07.26   AYM Treasurer’s Report

(Documents in Advance pages 4 – 7)

We receive this report and accept the 2004/05 audited accounts, which we omitted to do last year.

We accept the 2005/06 audited accounts, and note that copies are available from the AYM Treasurer.

We reappoint AH Jackson & Co as auditors for 2006/07.

YM07.27   AYM Secretary’s Contract 2007–2010

Standing Committee recommended to Yearly Meeting that a new contract, for the Secretary’s next three-year term, be signed. We note that the Secretary will, in future, be working a nine-day fortnight including one day a fortnight for website development and media liaison.

The Clerk and the Secretary then signed the contract.

Formal Session 4    2 p.m. Tuesday, 9 January 2007
YM07.28  Travelling Minute
We have heard a travelling minute from Chena Ridge Friends Meeting, Fairbanks, Alaska, introducing Stan Read and Ann Mallard.

YM07.29  Indigenous Concerns Committee Report
(Documents in Advance page 48-49)
We accept the Indigenous Concerns Committee report in Documents in Advance, in which we are told of a variety of activities by Regional Meetings around Australia.

We note that Canberra Regional Meeting is laying down responsibility for this Yearly Meeting Committee, and that no other Regional Meeting has offered to take it up. We encourage Regional Meetings to give further attention to this urgent matter, and seek discernment as to whether they feel led to assume this responsibility.

We accept the proposal from the Preparatory Session that Yearly Meeting establish, as an interim measure, an Indigenous Concerns National Network consisting of representatives from all Regional Meetings.

We agree to ask David Carline, Queensland; Barbara Meyer, Canberra; Roger Keyes, South Australia; and Aina Ranke, New South Wales, to serve as co-convenors of this Network from Yearly Meeting 2007.

We note that the co-convenors will have power to take action after consultation within the Network, drawing on funds from the Indigenous Concerns fund.

We accept the recommendation to send a letter to the Australian government and other political parties urging Australia to support the approval by the General Assembly of the United Nations of a Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples which was approved by the United Nations Human Rights Council in June 2006. We also ask that a media release be issued about our support for the approval of this Declaration.

We accept the recommendation for a small group to draft letters in relation to the tragic death of Doomadgee on Palm Island.

YM07.30  AYM Secretary’s Report
(Documents in Advance pages 2 – 3)
We receive the report.

We note that Topsy and David Evans of South Australia Regional Meeting have offered to handle Australia Yearly Meeting publication sales from Adelaide. We accept this offer and ask the Secretary to make arrangements to relocate the stocks of Australia Yearly Meeting publications to the Quaker Shop in Adelaide, and the Treasurer to make suitable reporting arrangements for the finances.

We agree with the Secretary’s recommendation that we accept the quote from the Sydney branch of Affiniscape to develop a Content Management System with a secure Members-Only Section for the Australia Yearly Meeting website.

We note that the Dictionary of Australian Quaker Biography is gradually being translated into Word format, and will eventually be placed on the web in a searchable format, and that the Secretary is still seeking the best way forward in providing the past Yearly Meeting and Standing Committee minutes in a searchable form.

YM07.31  AYM Nominations
We have heard the following recommendations from Nominations Committee

- The Australian Friend Committee to continue with Queensland Regional Meeting until 2008
- The Handbook Review Committee to continue with Canberra Regional Meeting to 2010
- The Meeting for Learning Committee to continue with Victoria Regional Meeting until 2008
- The Morrow Bequest Committee to continue with West Australia Regional Meeting until 2010
- The Peace & Social Justice Fund Committee to continue with New South Wales Regional Meeting until 2010
- The Peace & Social Justice Testimonies Committee to continue with Victoria Regional Meeting until 2010
- The Sanctuary Management Committee to continue with New South Wales Regional Meeting until 2010
We accept these recommendations.

Nominations Committee recommends that

- Roger Callan, Queensland Regional Meeting, replace Frank Coughlan on the Australia Yearly Meeting Finance Committee
- Marian James, Queensland Regional Meeting, replace Maxine Cooper on the Australia Yearly Meeting Secretary’s Advisory Committee

We agree, and make these appointments.

**YM07.32  Representative to Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting**

Nominations Committee brought forward the name of Rosemary Longhurst, West Australia Regional Meeting, to be our representative to the Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting in 2007. We appoint her as our representative.

**Formal Session 5  9.30 a.m. Thursday, 11 January 2007**

**YM07.33  Testimony**

We have heard a Testimony to the Grace of God in the Life of Nancy Franklin, read by John Legg, Tasmania Regional Meeting.

**YM07.34  Outreach**

We note the report from the Preparatory Session, and agree that the Outreach Committee’s Report to Standing Committee July 2006 be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We encourage further discussion about the development of Regional Meeting websites.

We encourage the Outreach Coordinator to explore outreach activities to coincide with Britain Yearly Meeting’s Outreach Week in September 2007.

We appreciate the contributions that members of the Quaker Quest team of Britain Yearly Meeting have made to this Yearly Meeting.

**YM07.35  Quaker Service Australia**

*(Documents in Advance page 64–67)*

We accept the report in *Documents in Advance* and note the successful re-accreditation of Quaker Service Australia by AusAID. We have heard a report from the QSA Sessions at this Yearly Meeting, and note the following appointments:

(a) We confirm the appointment of Elaine Polglase as Treasurer, and confirm that the office bearers of Quaker Service Australia are

- Convenor – David Cooper
- Treasurer – Elaine Polglase
- Public Officer – Elaine Polglase.

(b) We appoint Robert Mayberry of Pritchard Adams as Auditor until the end of Yearly Meeting 2008.

(c) We confirm the appointment of the following Friends from New South Wales Regional Meeting as members of Quaker Service Australia Inc. until the end of Yearly Meeting 2008:

- David Cooper
- Jane Drexler
- John Dundas
- Halcyon Evans
- Jean Hart
- Jackie Perkins
- Elaine Polglase
- Maureen Steele
- Audrey Wilson

(d) The following additional f/Friends have been appointed by their respective Regional Meetings to membership of Quaker Service Australia Inc. We confirm them as members of Quaker Service Australian Inc until the end of Yearly Meeting 2008:

- Alan Clayton
- Coral Coleman
- Gill Fitzgerald
- Ros Hammond
- Rae Litting
- Gabrielle Watt
- Victoria
- South Australia
- Tasmania
- Western Australia
- New South Wales
- Canberra
We note that the Yearly Meeting Clerk and the Yearly Meeting Secretary are ex-officio members of Quaker Service Australia Inc.

We endorse the QSA Draft Strategic Plan for 2007 to 2010 that appears on pages 66 and 67 of *Documents in Advance*, with one amendment to the first item in Strategy 6. It now reads: ‘To educate Friends and the Australian community generally about our financial needs’. (The change was the addition of the reference to Friends).

We accept the draft Terms of Reference for the QSA review, which are on page 72 of *Documents in Advance*, and note that the Review Committee is asked to present a report with recommendations to be considered at Standing Committee in July 2007. We ask Nominations Committee to bring names for this Committee at a later time during this Yearly Meeting.

**YM07.36 Donald Groom Peace Committee**

*(Documents in Advance pages 28 – 29)*

We accept the report from the Preparatory Session of the Donald Groom Peace Committee.

We accept West Australia Regional Meeting’s offer to take over responsibility for the Donald Groom Peace Fellowship.

We agree to lay down the Australian Campaign Against the Arms Trade (ACAA) and ask David Johnson to assist with the redistribution of papers and equipment to groups that would find them useful, bearing in mind the need to archive historically valuable material. We note that Tony Noakes, West Australia Regional Meeting, has offered to reconnect with the Campaign Against the Arms Trade (CAAT) in the UK.

We confirm the importance of work in nonviolence, and note the Committee’s request for ongoing allocation of resources. We urge Regional Meetings and individuals to consider how this important work could be continued.

We agree with the recommendation that the Donald Groom Peace Committee funds be placed into the Australia Yearly Meeting bank account, and ask the Australia Yearly Meeting Treasurer to ensure that this happens.

We appreciate the work that this Committee has done, and ask that our thanks for his work on ACAAT be conveyed to David Johnson. We particularly thank him for his contribution to increasing Australian awareness of the need to stop the arms trade.

**YM07.37 Archiving Historically Valuable Material**

We note that David Purnell is willing to assist Friends in making sure that appropriate material finds its way into the relevant Archives.

**YM07.38 Backhouse Lecture Minute of Record**

On Sunday 7 January 2007, Jenny Spinks delivered the 2007 James Backhouse Lecture entitled *Support for our true selves — Nurturing the space where leadings flow*.

In a creative and inspiring lecture, Jenny combined her personal experiences with Quaker testimonies, including simplicity, to deliver a clarion call to Friends to live Spirit-led lives in a way which cares for Gaia, thus enabling each of us to be our true selves.

As reflected in the title of her lecture, Jenny was careful to emphasise the importance of nurturing the space which enables leadings to flow. Using personal examples, she spoke of how following one’s leadings, while not always the easiest path, is being true to our Spirit-led self.

Against a backdrop of projected images and quotes from Advices and Queries, three Young Friends sang their original compositions which reflected the value of being alive to the moment and accepting who we are. Jenny also asked members of the audience to stand and, with eyes closed, hold the hand of the person on either side. Through the most personal sense of touch we connected not only with each other, but also with the Spirit which binds us, the stardust of which we are composed, and the earth on which we stand.

It was from this connectedness that we as individuals, and corporately as the Religious Society of Friends, were challenged to nurture those spaces where leadings flow, enabling us to live each minute in a Spirit-led way which cares for Gaia.

**YM07.39 Backhouse Lecture Open Session Report**

Margaret Clarke reported to us on the Backhouse Lecture Open Session held on Monday 8 January, we ask that the report from this session be published in *Documents in Retrospect*. 
We hear that the Backhouse Lecture Committee has designed a form on which Friends can nominate potential future Backhouse Lecturers. This will be available on the website and from Regional Meeting Clerks.

YM07.40 Backhouse Lecturer for 2008

We hear that George Ellis of Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting has agreed to give the Backhouse Lecture in 2008.

George Ellis (born August 11, 1939) is the Distinguished Professor of Complex Systems in the Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics at the University of Cape Town in South Africa. He co-authored The Large Scale Structure of Space-Time with University of Cambridge physicist Stephen Hawking, published in 1973, and is considered one of the world's leading theorists in cosmology. He is an active Quaker and in 2004 he won the Templeton Prize.

Ellis was a vocal opponent of apartheid during the National Party reign in the 1970s and 1980s, and it is during this period that Ellis' research has focused on the more philosophical aspects of cosmology, for which he won the Templeton Prize (from Wikipedia, 11 January 2007).

YM07.41 Recommendations from AYM Nominations Committee

We agree to the following recommendations from AYM Nominations Committee:

- Outreach Coordinator: Sally O’Wheel, Tasmania Regional Meeting to 2010
- Backhouse Lecture Committee: Rob Ranzsin, South Australia Regional Meeting to 2012
- NCCA Gender Commission: Brett Trenery, New South Wales Regional Meeting to 2010
- NCCA Executive Committee: Cathy Davies, New South Wales Regional Meeting to 2010
- Thanksgiving Fund Committee: New South Wales Regional Meeting to 2008
- Secretary’s Advisory Committee: to continue to 2010
- Historic Peace Church Gathering: Pat Firkin for 2007

Formal Session 6 2.00 p.m. Thursday, 11 January 2007

YM07.42 Testimonies

We have heard the testimony to the Grace of God in the Life of Marion Arnold, read by Frances Nall, Victoria Regional Meeting.

YM07.43 Jarrod McKenna, Donald Groom Peace Fellow for 2006

We heard from Jarrod McKenna, the 2006 Donald Groom Peace Fellow, about the work of Empowering Peacemakers in Your Community (EPYC) among young people. Jarrod has been involved in a range of activities at this Yearly Meeting, and we appreciate his varied contributions.

Jarrod spoke to us about the challenges of living our faith in a post-modern age and the importance of ‘a spirituality of peaceful engagement’ empowering us to work for peace and justice.

He asked Friends to draw on our own spiritual resources in ‘thinking critically about fundamentalism’. He thanked us for the support for EPYC, which has come from his appointment as Donald Groom Peace Fellow.

Jarrod emphasized to us that Quakerism is needed in our present world, and encouraged us to rediscover the passion of the early Friends.

YM07.44 Reading of the Draft Epistle from Yearly Meeting 2007

We have heard the first reading of the draft Epistle from Ros Haynes, Tasmania Regional Meeting.

YM07.45 AYM Nominations Committee

New South Wales Regional Meeting brings forward the name of Cathy Davies (New South Wales Regional Meeting) for the Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee.

We appoint Cathy Davies to this Committee until Yearly Meeting 2010.
Quaker Voices in the 21st Century

We have heard a report from two Preparatory Meetings held during this Yearly Meeting, in which there was a ‘wonderful sense of excitement, seriousness and urgency’ about this proposal.

We accept the recommendation ‘to undertake a national process of discernment about our spiritual life, our testimonies to the world as it is today, and the challenges we face’.

We encourage the use of Quaker discernment processes and methods of participatory decision making similar to those used in creating the Australia Yearly Meeting publication, this we can say.

We encourage the use of the Australia Yearly Meeting website, Regional Meeting websites, the Quaker Forum, the Secretary’s newsletter, and visitation by Yearly Meeting officers, as being ‘effective means of encouraging deep exploration of the leadings of the Spirit among us’.

We agree to consider opportunities for travelling in the Ministry for those concerned to nurture and provide leadership in this process.

We encourage Regional Meetings to use their residential weekends and other events to explore ‘their present concerns, initiatives, visions and questions’, and encourage all Yearly Meeting committees to consider this process in the course of their work this year.

We ask that our children and Young Friends be clearly included in this process.

We ask Canberra Regional Meeting to care for this concern until Yearly Meeting 2008.

We ask them to create a document and other resources to start the process of discernment at the local and Regional Meeting levels. We commend the following list of questions in Documents in Advance as a beginning guide for discussion:

- What are the fundamental messages of Quakerism?
- How do we express our values today in response to the burning issues of the 21st Century?
- What are our strengths as a religious movement?
- How can we deepen our connection with each other and with the Spirit?
- How can we as individuals and groups develop ways to hear and nurture each other?
- What work are we led to undertake as a result of our faith?
- In what new ways can Quakers contribute to transforming the world?
- How can we speak to the condition of people in a world affected by fear and uncertainty?
- How can we tread more lightly on the environment?
- What are the really important questions we need to face and thus find a way forward?

We ask Victoria Regional Meeting to bear in mind this national process of discernment in planning a program for the 2008 Yearly Meeting and Summer School.

Child Protection Policy — implementation

We accept the report of the Child Protection Working Group as printed in Documents in Advance noting the four specific changes endorsed by Standing Committee:

- that the Child Protection Policy & Procedures be seen as a sub-set of related broader policy areas such as those dealing with Children, Safety and Right Relationships.
- that the Child Protection Policy and Procedures apply to Young Friends aged 16 and 17 years (in respect to those jurisdictions where the legal definition of ‘child’ is a person under the age of eighteen years).
- that amendments be made to the policy in response to concerns expressed by Young Friends; specifically, that the role of a ‘Young Friends Pastoral Care Person’ at YF camps be included as a substitute for ‘Child Carer’ in relation to Young Friends who are under 18. Any person appointed to this role would need to be eighteen years or older and it would be their responsibility to take all reasonable measures to ensure that the Society’s duty of care is fulfilled in ways that are mindful of legal requirements and respectful of the maturity of Young Friends aged 16 and 17.
- That the Child Protection Policy & Procedures are a template which needs to be tailored to fit the legislation and policies specific to each State and Territory, and that Regional Meetings be asked to confirm the date by which this will be done, and to provide a copy of their policies to the AYM office in time for the Working Group’s meeting on 21 September. The Child Protection Working Group is willing to assist the Child Protection Contact Person(s) in each Regional Meeting to do this.
We agree to include in *Documents in Retrospect* comments received from the West Australia Regional Meeting Child Protection Policy Committee. The Yearly Meeting Child Protection Working Group’s responses will be in *Documents in Advance* for Yearly Meeting 2008.

We urge Regional Meetings to give priority to the implementation of the CPP, first and foremost in the interests of children, but also to avoid the possible serious insurance implications of failing to implement the policy accepted by the Society’s insurers.

We agree to have a teleconference convened by the Presiding Clerk or nominee involving one of the Child Protection Contact Persons and one of the individuals responsible for child care within each Regional Meeting. The teleconference’s purpose is to support Regional Meetings in implementing the Policy.

**YM07.48 Against Sexual Abuse and Misconduct**

We hear a report from the Working Party developing guidelines Against Sexual Abuse and Misconduct. We agree to circulate the revised draft guidelines Against Sexual Abuse and Misconduct in *Documents in Retrospect*, and ask Regional Meetings to consider these in order to report to Standing Committee in July 2007. [The revised Guidelines were not available to be included in *Documents in Retrospect*, but will be provided to Regional Meetings for their consideration.]

We hear that several Friends from around Australia will be attending the NCCA Safe as Churches consultation in March.

**YM07.49 Marriage and Committed Relationships**

*(Documents in Advance page 71)*

We have heard a report of the Meeting of the committees for Ministry and Oversight at this Yearly Meeting. We agree to emphasize to Regional Meetings the responsibilities involved in the privilege of celebrating marriage according to the manner of Friends. Applications for such celebrations of marriage are made to, and approved by, the Regional Meeting and the agreed marriage takes place ‘in the care of the Meeting’. Registering Officers may legally conduct a marriage outside these conditions only if they are also registered as civil marriage celebrants.

We agree to refer to Regional meetings for their consideration, the nature and naming of celebrations of committed relationships between couples who cannot, or may not wish to, be legally married under present practice. In particular, this involves the extent to which the word ‘marriage’ may validly be used.

We note that the Meeting of the committees of Ministry and Oversight struggled with the terminology, but we are in unity in affirming the equal value and spiritual importance of all such committed relationships within the care of the Meeting.

**Formal Session 7 9.30 a.m. Friday, 12 January 2007**

**YM07.50 Minute of Record of the Grace of God in the life of Valerie Edwards**

We have heard a Minute of Record of the Grace of God in the life of Valerie Edwards, read by Drew Thomas, South Australia Regional Meeting.

**YM07.51 Reading of the Draft Epistle from Yearly Meeting 2007**

Mary Pollard, New South Wales Regional Meeting, read the second draft of the Epistle.

**YM07.52 AYM Nominations**

Nominations Committee brings the following recommendations

- That the Australia Yearly Meeting Children’s Committee remain in the care of West Australia to 2008
- That the Sanctuary Committee be expanded to include Bill Brennan, New South Wales Regional Meeting

We agree.

The following names are brought forward to serve on the QSA Review Committee:

- Mark Deasey, Victoria Regional Meeting
- Marie Martin, West Australia Regional Meeting
- David Purnell, Canberra Regional Meeting
- Anne Zubrick, West Australia Regional Meeting

We accept these names, and appoint this Committee.
We accept the report from the editorial committee of *The Australian Friend*.

We note that the tasks of the committee are now shared by specialists in several Regional Meetings, which will ease the transition when the present editors lay down their responsibilities. The present editorial committee will continue for another year.

The graphic designer who is preparing templates for Publications Committee will also prepare templates for pages for *The Australian Friend*. We agree to provide up to $500 in supplementary funding in case this task turns out to be more expensive.

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**YM07.54 Peace Reports**

We have heard highlights from the report from the Preparatory Session, and ask that the full report be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

(a) **Peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee**

Victoria Regional Meeting brings the following names to serve on this committee until 2010:

- Ray Brindle (Convenor)
- Moira Darling
- Gerard Guiton
- Dale Hess
- Chris Hughes
- Frances Long
- John McMahon

We agree to these names, and appoint them to this Committee.

(b) **Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee**

We note that Jane Donnelly and Andrew Glikson have laid down their membership on the Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC). The remaining Committee members will continue to 2009.

We agree that Regional Meetings be asked to appoint a correspondent for QPLC, if they have not already done so.

We agree to ask the Committee to continue to write and distribute Action Alerts. We agree to place the Alerts on the Quaker website. We ask the QPLC to place Alerts on the Quaker Forum. Individuals who would like to receive the Alerts directly can provide their email or other contact details to the Committee.

(c) **Palm Sunday National Day of Action**

Australia Yearly Meeting agrees to endorse the Palm Sunday National Day of Action for a peaceful and nuclear free future and asks Friends to consider how to most effectively reflect spiritual leadings in their planning and actions for this day.

We note that QPLC has agreed to compile and distribute an information sheet about this matter, and the Committee invites Friends to send suggestions for inclusion in the information sheet.

(d) **Other peace matters**

We note that David Johnson has asked for further information in order to complete his nonviolence calendar.

We ask Victoria Regional Meeting to consider including a public witness peace and social justice event at Yearly Meeting 2008.

We note that there is a current Parliamentary review of legislation proscribing ‘terrorist organisations’ and that QPLC will prepare an Action Alert in this matter.

We hear that one focus of QPLC’s work this year is to be Australia’s role in the Asia-Pacific Region. We ask that the Committee include the recent coup in Fiji as one of the topics to be addressed.

We encourage Australian Friends to continue to vigorously explore the implications of our Peace Testimony for our actions and witness today.

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**YM07.55 Publications Committee**

We have heard the report from the Preparatory Session.

We agree to the new Handbook entry for the Publications Committee, which has been on display at Yearly Meeting, and ask that this be forwarded to the Handbook Review Committee.
We approve the reprinting of up to 500 soft cover versions of *this we can say*.

We note that we failed to record the acceptance of the quote from Nick Gross for graphic design for Australia Yearly Meeting publications, at Standing Committee in July 2006. We note that this quote was accepted, and that Nick Gross has now produced a logo for Australia Yearly Meeting.

We agree that Publications Committee should now apply the new graphic design to Australia Yearly Meeting publications.

**Formal Session 8  2.00 p.m. Friday, 12 January**

**YM07.56  Meeting for Remembrance**

During our time of worship on Thursday, 11 January 2007, we remembered the following members and attenders who have died, or have had testimonies written for them, since last Yearly Meeting.

- Marion Arnold  Victoria Regional Meeting
- Laszlo Benyei  Victoria Regional Meeting
- Jean Carman  Queensland Regional Meeting
- Winifred Curtis  Tasmania Regional Meeting
- Valerie Edwards  South Australia Regional Meeting
- Lorraine Flack  Victoria Regional Meeting
- Nancy Franklin  Tasmania Regional Meeting
- Lorrie Gardner  Victoria Regional Meeting
- Bill Hoare  West Australia Regional Meeting
- Margaret Illing  South Australia Regional Meeting
- Elizabeth Loft  Victoria Regional Meeting
- Hanna Lubbe  Victoria Regional Meeting
- Robert McFarlane  Queensland Regional Meeting
- Dorothy Merkins  Victoria Regional Meeting
- Berta Monticone  New South Wales Regional Meeting
- Shiela Morgan  New South Wales Regional Meeting
- Jacoba Praag  Canberra Regional Meeting
- Kathleen Rayner  West Australia Regional Meeting
- Jeannie Rees  South Australia Regional Meeting
- Elizabeth Richards  South Australia Regional Meeting
- Christine Robinson  West Australia Regional Meeting
- George Smith  West Australia Regional Meeting
- Brian Southall  South Australia Regional Meeting
- Alma Wright  Queensland Regional Meeting
- Susan Wiltshire  New South Wales Regional Meeting

Those who attended this Meeting for Remembrance were very moved and the occasion reminded us of other dear Friends and family whose memories we cherish.

**YM07.57  Third Reading of the Epistle**

We have heard Ros Haynes, Tasmania Regional Meeting, read the draft epistle from Yearly Meeting 2007 for the third time. We accept this Epistle to be read in our final Meeting for Worship.

**YM07.58  Public statement on the incarceration of David Hicks**

We acknowledge that this month marks the fifth anniversary of the incarceration of David Hicks. We endorse the following public statement on the continued detention of David Hicks.

> Members of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia, meeting in Tasmania for their national gathering, add their voice to the growing number of Australians deploiring the government’s lack of action to protect our fellow citizen, David Hicks.

> We believe his illegal imprisonment in atrocious conditions has led to his mental and physical deterioration. His abandonment by the Australian Government is an example of its abrogation of its responsibility to ensure timely justice for all Australian citizens wherever they are.

> We call upon the government to facilitate the release of David Hicks from Guantanamo Bay where he has been held without charge for five years, and that, if appropriate, his case be heard in an Australian court.

> It is with great distress that we note that our government has failed to intervene successfully on behalf of an Australian citizen caught up in the ‘war on terror’.

> The Australian government’s lack of action implies a lack of commitment to the rule of law.

> Justice delayed is justice denied.
We agree to use this as a media release, and to send it to the relevant ministers and opposition spokespersons.

We agree that the Presiding Clerk should send a copy of this statement to David Hicks’ father, together with a covering letter.

**YM07.59 Young Friends report**

*(Documents in Advance page 70)*

We receive the report, and ask that it be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We note the following Nominations from Young Friends:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nominations</th>
<th>Tom Dundas and Alexa Taylor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Standing Committee</td>
<td>Amy Thom (with Anna Wilkinson)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative to Aotearoa/New Zealand,</td>
<td>Grace</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We note that Young Friends have changed the title of the position of State Coordinators and replaced it with the title State Liaison. The role is to be more of a contact person. The State Liaison people are as follows:

- Canberra: Hannah Chapman-Searle
- New South Wales: Emily Walpole
- Queensland: Vacant (Mary Webb)
- South Australia: Mary Webb
- Tasmania: Jess Dundas
- Victoria: Anna Wilkinson
- West Australia: Alexa Taylor

**YM07.60 The Sanctuary**

*(Documents in Advance page 68)*

We have heard a report from the Open Session on the future of The Sanctuary.

(a) We accept the recommendation that The Sanctuary continue to be rented, as has been done since 2001.

(b) We agree to the Committee’s recommendation to establish a Future Uses Committee for The Sanctuary, with the following terms of reference:

**Membership**
- At least one person who is familiar with the property
- At least one person who is not familiar with the property, but who should visit it, and
- At least one member who is from outside New South Wales Regional Meeting

**Timeframe**
- To last for two years

**Regular contact with**
- The Sanctuary Management Committee
- Wahroonga Local Meeting
- New South Wales Regional Meeting, and
- Those who have care of the Quakers in the 21st Century explorations

**Queries for decision making**
- Is the use financially viable and sustainable?
- Is the use consistent with Quaker values?
- Is the decision making according to Quaker processes?
- Will the bush garden and local environment be maintained?
- What will the effect be on Wahroonga Meeting?
- Is the use within our resources of energy?
- Does the use/decision restrict future options?
- Are decisions for the future of The Sanctuary made together with Wahroonga Local Meeting and New South Wales Regional Meeting?

**Tasks**
- To report on requirements and guidelines for use of the property, either for Quaker purposes or by another organization
- To make recommendations on the advantages and disadvantages of selling the property.
Issues to be addressed
- Drawing up a new boundary around the house to make it distinct from the bush garden and the grounds of Wahroonga Meeting House so that the option of selling the house as a separate property can be considered.
- The possibility of selling Wahroonga Meeting House at the same time if The Sanctuary were to be sold. Any consideration about selling property would be made in consultation with Wahroonga Local Meeting and New South Wales Regional Meeting.
- To consider the future of the bush garden if The Sanctuary house were to be sold separately.

YM07.61 The Friends’ School

(Document in Advance pages 38 –44)
We have heard this report, and ask that the full report be placed in Documents in Retrospect.

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

We have also heard personal statements from John Hayton (Presiding Member of The Friends’ School Board, who clerked the Preparatory Session) and many other Friends.

We hope that Friends will continue to keep the School Board, staff and students in the Light as they all seek to discern their future.

We must all remember that we have access through our Regional Meeting to our nominees on the School Board.

Formal Session 9  9.30 a.m. Saturday, 13 January 2007

YM07.62 Opening Minute

During a period of worship, the Acting Clerk read the words of Isaac Penington (1667):

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand, in ‘this we can say’ Extract 3.58.

It was agreed that the Presiding Clerk should resume the Clerkship of the Meeting.

YM07.63 Towards a Quaker Testimony on the Earth

We have heard a draft statement entitled Towards a Quaker Testimony on the Earth, developed for Australia Yearly Meeting at Yearly Meeting January 2007:

We affirm the Spirit in all things — all creatures, the waters, the air and the earth itself.

We open ourselves to learn from the Spirit in the whole of creation for it is the source of our wisdom and truth.

We acknowledge the need to replace our culture of domination and exploitation with a culture of community.

We affirm that our true community is with all life on this planet.

We acknowledge that our use of resources is threatening the survival of other species and damaging the health of ecological communities and the planet as a whole.

We acknowledge human-induced climate change as a result of our population and our personal and corporate consumption.

We acknowledge that time is limited, and we are called to inform ourselves, boldly discerning the way forward to act individually and collectively to heal and care for the earth.

We seek to engage with the wisdom of Indigenous peoples and affirm our responsibility to ensure that generations to come inherit a healthy planet.

We affirm that Quakers desire to strengthen their witness of caring for the Earth and we are inspired to act as guided by the Spirit.

We ask that Regional Meetings discuss this draft statement and include the views of children and young people, and to bring to mid-year Standing Committee comments and intended actions for witness on this matter.
YM07.64  Letters from this Yearly Meeting

Further to Minute YM07.28

Arising from concerns voiced at this Yearly Meeting, the following letters have been sent:

- To Peter Beattie, Premier of Queensland, re the failure to investigate fully cases of claimed assault on Indigenous people while in police detention and the need to deal with the underlying causes of this violence and the attitudes its reflects.
- To the Queensland Crime and Misconduct Commission re the assault Shane McNamee while in police custody at Doomadgee in 2004.
- Media releases and letters to the editor on the same matters have been sent to several Australian newspapers.

YM07.65  Friends World Committee for Consultation

We hear highlights of the report from the Preparatory Session of the FWCC Committee. We ask that a full report of the Preparatory Session be published in Documents in Retrospect.

We agree that the study booklet for the FWCC Triennial in Dublin in 2007, ‘Finding the Prophetic Voice for our Time’ be made available to all Regional Meetings, and that FWCC Committee members make efforts for the issues contained in this booklet to be made widely known among us.

We ask that feedback on the issues raised be conveyed to the convenor of the FWCC Committee.

We agree to ask the Thanksgiving Fund Committee to provide the sum of $2000 from the FWCC Travel Fund for travel assistance to the official representatives to the FWCC Triennial in Dublin and ask that this be allocated by the Committee on the basis of need.

We ask that the FWCC Committee bring recommendations to Standing Committee 2007 or Yearly Meeting 2008 about the nature and level of travel assistance to be made available for future FWCC triennial and section gatherings. We hear that Jonathan Benyei and Alan Clayton will carry this matter forward.

We ask the FWCC Committee to promote knowledge about the 2007 Historic Peace Churches conference scheduled for late 2007 in Sulo, Indonesia, among Friends in Australia and encourage contributions from Australian Friends in the form of papers to this conference. We ask the FWCC Committee and Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee and the Peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee to consult with Pat Firkin about how to contribute appropriately to this event.

We agree to invite Sachiko Yamamoto, Clerk of Japan Yearly Meeting, to come to Yearly Meeting 2008 as our Asia-West Pacific Section guest. We agree to invite Kenneth Co Ching Po if Sachiko Yamamoto is unable to accept our invitation.

We regret that Joon Park from Seoul Yearly Meeting was unable to be with us at this Yearly Meeting. We were fortunate that Christina Gibb, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting, was able, at short notice, to step in as our Asia West Pacific Section guest speaker. She presented slides and an overview of her work with the Christian Peacemaker Team in Palestine.

YM07.66  QUNO

We have heard a report from the QUNO Preparatory Session, and ask that this be placed in Documents in Retrospect.

YM07.67  The Handbook Review Committee

We note that the Handbook Review Committee has the draft of Chapter Five available for perusal and comment. We ask Meetings to consider these changes carefully, and to provide feedback to Pam Houstein, Canberra Regional Meeting, the coordinator for the review of this chapter.

We ask Regional Meetings and Young Friends to carry copies of Chapter Five back to their Meetings and encourage discussion.

YM07.68  Ecumenism and Interfaith

(Documents in Advance pages 30 –34)

We accept the reports in Documents in Advance, and ask that a report from the Preparatory Session be published in Documents in Retrospect.
We note that at Yearly Meeting 2006 we asked ‘that an interest group be formed to collect ideas that have been used by Meetings, within Australia or elsewhere, to encourage ecumenism and interfaith initiatives. These ideas could be recorded as a “resource bank” for others to access’. We ask for any individual or Meeting feeling led to coordinate this activity and set up this interest group.

We have enjoyed and benefited from the presence of our Muslim guest, Musa bin Masran.

YM07.69 Meeting for Learning Committee

(Documents in Advance pages 51)

We receive the report of the Meeting for Learning Committee in Documents in Advance and the report from the Preparatory Session. We ask that the full report be published in Documents in Retrospect.

We hear that the Quaker Basics resource book is currently available for $32 plus postage from Carol Holden, Victoria Regional Meeting, and that this has been a helpful resource for Meetings and individuals.

We hear that the 2007 retreat week will be in Adelaide, and the 2008 and 2009 retreat weeks will be in Perth.

We agree to reappoint Sandy Parker, John McMahon and Bev Polzin until Yearly Meeting 2008 as the Meeting for Learning Committee.

We accept South Australia Regional Meeting’s offer to take up this Committee at Yearly Meeting 2008. We ask South Australia Regional Meeting to bring names of Friends to serve on this Committee to mid-year Standing Committee 2007, and we further ask that they clarify at that time how they wish to proceed, whether they need to ask for ongoing funding from Yearly Meeting to under-write the program and any other matters.

YM07.70 Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing

(Documents in Advance Page 25)

We note the new convenor is John Legg, and ask that a report from the Australian Friends’ Fellowship of Healing Meeting be published in Documents in Retrospect.

YM07.71 Summer School

From Rosemary Epps we hear a report on Summer School on the theme: Finding the Way, and we ask that a full list of the Summer School workshops be published in Documents in Retrospect.

We hear that Summer School was greatly enriched by visits of Friends from afar and that many appreciated the opportunity to find their way forward with renewed energy.

YM07.72 Share and Tell

We hear a report from Siobhan Harpur about the Share and Tell Sessions at this Yearly Meeting and we agree to include it in full that in Documents in Retrospect.

We note the need to take into account the disabilities we all have in planning for future Yearly Meetings, and note that Robin Wilkinson is prepared to act as a consultant on this matter.

We are informed that the site for next year’s Yearly Meeting has greater access for those with mobility difficulties.

YM07.73 Welcome from traditional custodians

Further to Minute 1, we ask that the first paragraph of the Minute be amended to read:

After a period of silent worship, the Clerk introduced Eva Richardson to the Meeting. Eva Richardson is a respected elder of the Palawa people, and she spoke about her family connection with the land in welcoming us all to Mouheneener land.

YM07.74 Sequence of Future Yearly Meetings

We note that the sequence of Yearly Meetings has been altered [SC7.06.3 (f)]. The seven-year cycle will be

South Australia 2010
New South Wales 2011
West Australia 2012
Canberra 2013
Queensland 2014
YM07.75 Closing Minute

As Yearly Meeting 2007 draws to a close, we greet Australian Friends who have not been able to be with us, and acknowledge the value of their holding us in the Light.

The Clerk expresses our warm appreciation to all who have helped in the organization of this Yearly Meeting and our special appreciation to those who have worked (often unseen) to provide our daily needs and to put in place all that was necessary to conduct our many daily activities and meetings. He informs us that letters of thanks have already been sent to some who have worked on our behalf, and other letters of thanks will continue to be sent on our behalf.

In closing the final Formal Session, the Clerk read: True Godliness don't turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavours to mend it; not hide their candle under a bushel, but set it upon a table in a candlestick. William Penn, 1682. ‘Quaker Faith and Practice’, 1995 Extract 21.17.

And read the poem ‘Love Given’ from Val Nichols’ ‘a sort of therapy’ (1989)

Miserably she sits  
Hunched in her chair  
In the half-circle in front of the television set  
Vacant-eyed, unheeding, listening only to the glum recital in her mind.  
“This is the scrag-end of life. I have lost so much —  
Health, independence, dignity and joy …”  
Until a passing nurse pauses to give her  
A pat upon her hand, a gentle word, and to smile into her eyes.  
And in response there comes a twisting of the lips  
Which blooms at last into a smile.

What then is love? Is it a kind of sheen on daily living,  
Some kind of light passing unseen until it touches  
The shadowed, the unhappy place —  
And lo! New-born  
Spring, radiant, golden buttercups glowing in the dawn.  
A miracle.

I cannot tell you what love is,  
But only what it does.  
Loves makes small flowers grow  
In pavement-cracks  
Of rock-hard human woe.

Lyndsay Farrall, Presiding Clerk, 13 January 2007.
Minutes of Australia Yearly Meeting
Held at Mannix College, Monash University, Melbourne
5-12 January 2008

Formal Session 1 7.30 p.m. Sunday, 6 January 2008

YM08.1 Welcome by traditional custodians
The Presiding Clerk will bring a minute of record to a future Formal Session.

YM08.2 Appointment of Assistant Clerk
We agree to appoint Maxine Cooper, Victoria RM, as Assistant Clerk for Yearly Meeting 2008.

YM08.3 Welcome to visitors
(a) The Presiding Clerk welcomed members and attenders to Yearly Meeting 2008, including the following visitors:

Peg Norris, Christchurch Monthly Meeting, representative of Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
Hannah Newport, Wellington Monthly Meeting, Young Friend, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
Jim Green, Wellington Monthly Meeting, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
Sachiko Yamamoto, Tokyo Monthly Meeting, Japan Yearly Meeting
Chris Sear, Lincolnshire Monthly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting
Elaine Emily, Strawberry Creek Friends Meeting, Pacific Yearly Meeting
Chris Jacques, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
Cathy Walling, Chena Ridge Local Meeting, Alaska Monthly Meeting
David & Jean Rosenberg, Vermont Monthly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting
George Ellis, Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting (2008 Backhouse Lecturer)

YM08.4 Greetings
(a) Greetings received
We have heard Greetings from the following Meetings:

Britain Yearly Meeting, signed by Rachel Carmichael, Clerk of Meeting for Sufferings
Asia-West Pacific Section of FWCC, signed by Dilawar Chetsingh, Clerk
Finland Yearly Meeting, signed by Ann Herbert

We also heard greetings from individual Friends during this Yearly Meeting:

Bainito Wamalwa, Eldoret, Kenya
Katherine McNamara, New South Wales RM
Bronwen Meredith, Tasmania RM
Ron Darvell, Tasmania RM
Sonia & Max Raupach, South Australia RM
Ute Caspers, German Yearly Meeting
Margaret Bearlin, Canberra RM.
Jane Donnelly, Canberra RM
Rohan Wilkinson, New York
Jarrod McKenna, Western Australia

We joined in silent worship holding in the Light Kenyan Friends and all Kenyans suffering in the serious civil disturbance currently taking place.

(b) Greetings to be sent
We ask that responses be prepared to these and other greetings received during Yearly Meeting and all present are invited to sign these greetings.
YM08.5 Matters from Standing Committee

(a) Yearly Meeting Timetable and Agenda

We note the following alterations to the Yearly Meeting Timetable and Agenda:

- Treasurers’ Meeting at 5 pm on Wednesday, rather than 4 pm;
- Yearly Meeting photograph to be Monday at 10.30 a.m., not Friday;
- The two QSA Preparatory Sessions on Monday from 4.00 - 6.00 pm will be combined;
- A Publications Committee Preparatory Session at 11 a.m. Friday, added to Preparatory Session 12.

(b) Participation of non-Members

Standing Committee endorses the following names of non-Members who have been recommended by Regional Meetings or Young Friends to participate in the deliberations of this Yearly Meeting:

Canberra RM
Catherine Dabron, Wilma Davidson, Daniel de Smet, Heather Herbert, David Lance, Bob Meyer, Margaret Moreton, Christopher Purnell, Philip Toyne, Molly Toyne, Atticus Toyne (C) and Aaron Toyne (C).

New South Wales RM
Lara Baidoo, Mavis Barnard, George Barnes, Jane Drexler, Susan Freeman, Pauline Groves, Beth Grows, Zac Grows (C), Alicia Harris, Marilyn Hillery, Myra Hutton, Kate Jones (C), Lachlan Jones (C), Bobbie Miller, Chloe Neilson (C), Sarah Neilson (C), Jasmine Payget, Kim Strathdee, James Strong, Bea Tanner-Burgoine, Gwynne Travers-Barnes, Kiana Walker (C), Emily Walpole, Michael Wilson.

Queensland RM
Ann Bendall, Karen Luetsch, Suella Palmer, and Don Tugby

South Australia RM
David Barry, Edward Greeves, Oliver Greeves, Joseph Juchniewicz, Deb Munro, Liz Pyatt, Mary Webb, Jim Wilson.

Tasmania RM
Rosalyn Hunt, Benjamin Peelman, Walter Sigrist

Victoria RM
Daniel Allwood (C), Matthew Allwood (C), Barbara Argall, Thomas Ashton, Lizzie Bingham, Alexander Bingham, Emily Bray (C), Rose Bray (C), Miles Bray (C), Joanne Black, Joan Brewster, Connor Chaffey, Janet Code, Joshua Crane (C), Kaidan Crane (C), Sue Curwood, Tess Edwards, Renee Ellerton, Patricia Fitzgerald, Lloyd Godman, David Hall, Ayla Harrington, Bevan Harrington, Virginia Heller, Elaine Henry, Rick Holder, Paul Howard, Andrew Irvine, Felicity Jeffreys, Maxwell Ketels, Isabelle Kingshott (C), Sally Kingsland, Barbara Lawrence, Rob Lesley, Brett Lombardi, Asher Lloyd (C), Felix Lloyd (C), Linds Masterman, Tony McDonald, Sally McIlroy, Jason McIlroy (C), Lisa McKenna, Patricia Officer, Renate Officer, Mark Parritt, Lindy Patterson, James Perritt, Eli Powles (C), Ingrid Purnell, Sarah Purnell, Saskia Powles (C), David Rackham, Annette Robins, Yvonne Rooney, Alex Robins, Douglas Sarah, Deborah Schrader, Richard Sear, Mahalia Shelton (C), Wendy Salter, Elizabeth Smart, Margaret Spong, Aiden Stevens (C), Lorel Thomas, Annie Treacey, James Tran (C), Liam Tran (C), Maya Tran (C), Jenny Turton, Judy Umney, Zac Veno, Myfanwy White, Lylah Yates (C).

West Australia RM
Emma Crane (C), Ruth Geneff, Lilian Robb (C), Nansen Robb (C).

Young Friends
Connor Chaffey; Oliver Greeves; Peter Juchniewicz; Sally Kingsland; Mary Webb; Myf White

We agree to these recommendations.

(c) Non-member not recommended for participation in Yearly Meeting deliberations

The Presiding Clerk read the following statement:

For each Yearly Meeting, Regional Meetings and Young Friends send to Standing Committee the names of those who have been given permission to participate in the deliberations of Yearly Meeting in accordance with procedures laid down in our Handbook.

This year, Young Friends tabled a letter to Standing Committee asking that we approve the name of a person who had already been refused permission to attend by New South Wales RM. Following discussions between the representatives of Young Friends and New South Wales RM, it was agreed that Standing Committee should accept the New South Wales RM decision to refuse permission for this person to participate in the deliberations of Yearly Meeting.
In reaching this decision, members of Standing Committee heard that New South Wales RM had agreed to continue discussions about this matter with the person concerned in relation to possible participation in future Yearly Meetings.

(d) Pastoral Care Committee

We accept Standing Committee’s recommendations for appointment to the Pastoral Care committee at Yearly Meeting 2008, as follows:

- **Canberra RM**: Emily Chapman-Searle
- **New South Wales RM**: Robin Walpole and Frances Love
- **Queensland RM**: Anthony Arden
- **South Australia RM**: Roger Keyes and Julie Webb
- **Tasmania RM**: Madeleine Ball
- **Victoria RM**: Frances Long & Hilary Conway
- **West Australia RM**: Ruth Watson

(e) Child Protection during Yearly Meeting

Standing Committee was asked to nominate Child Protection Contact people for the duration of Yearly Meeting. It is recommended that the following Regional Meeting Child Protection Contacts be appointed as Child Protection contacts for Yearly Meeting 2008.

- **Canberra RM**: Ronis Chapman
- **New South Wales RM**: Wies Schuiringa
- **Tasmania RM**: Julian Robertson
- **Victoria RM**: Beryl Holmes
- **West Australia RM**: Lesli Grant

We ask participants at Yearly Meeting to take note of these contact people, whose names and contact details will be available from the Yearly Meeting office.

YM08.6 AYM Nominations Committee

We accept the following nominations —

- **Epistle Committee**: Lesli Grant, Jean Talbot, Evan Gallagher, Brian Harlech-Jones
- **Minute Checkers**: Elizabeth Field, Sheila Keane, Ruth Watson

YM08.7 Summary of epistles from other Yearly Meetings

Anna Wilkinson, Victoria RM, has presented a summary of epistles received from other Yearly Meetings held around the world during 2006–07. This summary will be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We thank Anna for drawing our attention to the many inspirational passages in the epistles.

YM08.8 Testimonies

Testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of the following Friends will be read during this Yearly Meeting:
Testimony
Elizabeth Walpole, Victoria RM
Alma Wright, Queensland RM
Shan Hoskins, South Australia RM
Jeannie Rees, South Australia RM
Dorothy Merkins, Victoria RM
Lorrie Gardner, Victoria RM
Lance Manning-Gordon & George See, Queensland RM
Laurence Smitheringale, West Australia RM

Session
Formal Session 2
Formal Session 3
Formal Session 4
Formal Session 5
Formal Session 6
Formal Session 7
Formal Session 8
Formal Session 9

Read by
Bev Polzin
Roger Sawkins
Drew Thomas
Judy Greeves
Dorothy Benyei
Tessa Spratt
Anthony Arden
Margaret Woodward

Formal Session 2 9.00 am. Monday, 7 January 2008

YM08.9 Testimony
Maxine Cooper, Victoria RM, read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Elizabeth Olive Walpole of Victoria Regional Meeting.

YM08.10 Future Yearly Meetings
The Presiding Clerk informed Yearly Meeting of plans for future Yearly Meetings, as follows
(a) Yearly Meeting in Canberra 3 – 10 January 2009
Canberra Regional Meeting reports that Yearly Meeting 2009 will be residential and will be held in Burton and Garran Halls at the Australian National University from 3 - 10 January.

(b) Yearly Meeting in South Australia 2 – 9 January 2010
South Australia Regional Meeting reports that Yearly Meeting 2010 will be held at Westminster College, Adelaide, from 2 - 9 January.

(c) Yearly Meeting in New South Wales 2011
New South Wales Regional Meeting reports that the venue committee has suggested the Tops Conference Centre (www.thetops.com.au) near the Royal National Park for Yearly Meeting 2011. New South Wales RM would welcome feedback on this possible site.

YM08.11 Future Mid-year Standing Committees
The Presiding Clerk informed Yearly Meeting of plans for future mid-year Standing Committees, as follows
(a) Standing Committee 11-12 July 2008
Queensland Regional Meeting will host Standing Committee 11-12 July 2008 at the Kelvin Grove Meeting House.

(b) Standing Committee 10 - 11 July 2009
New South Wales Regional Meeting will host Standing Committee 10 - 11 July 2009 at Devonshire Street Meeting House.

(c) Standing Committee July 2010
We were reminded that no decision has been made about the location of Standing Committee in July 2010, and that we are seeking offers to host this Meeting.

YM08.12 Statements and letters on behalf of Yearly Meeting
Since Standing Committee July 2007, the following letters have been sent:
YM08. 13 The Friends’ School Board Appointments

Standing Committee recommends that Australia Yearly Meeting appoint:

- Manty Arnott, as an Executive Committee nominee, for a first term beginning in May 2008;
- Tom Baxter, as an Executive Committee nominee, for a first term beginning in May 2008;
- Richard Doedens, as an Executive Committee nominee, for a second term beginning in May 2008;
- Steven McQueeney, as an Executive Committee nominee, for a second term beginning in May 2008;
- Jo Juchniewicz, as a South Australia Regional Meeting nominee, for a first term beginning in May 2008.

We agree to these appointments.

YM08.14 Australian Advices and Queries

Standing Committee recommends that the *Australian Advices and Queries* be published as they were intended, interspersed within the sections of the Britain Yearly Meeting *Advices and Queries*. We agree, and ask the Publications Committee to undertake this.

YM08 15 Presiding Clerk’s report

We receive the report from the Presiding Clerk, who spoke of his moving experiences representing Friends at a range of inspiring forums in diverse places. He spoke of exploring a range of complex social justice and peace issues including visiting a number of refugee sites in Palestine.

We appreciate his work, including the outreach activities nationally and internationally.

YM08.16 State of the Society address

We have heard the State of the Society address given by Drew Lawson and Fiona Gardner of Victoria Regional Meeting.

We appreciate their attention to the many ways in which the Spirit is made manifest and nurtured in Australia Yearly Meeting.

The full text of this address will be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

**Formal Session 3 9.30 a.m. Tuesday, 8 January 2008**

YM08.17 Testimony

Roger Sawkins read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Alma Wright, Queensland Regional Meeting.
YM08.18 Aboriginal welcome to country

[Further to YM08.1] After a period of silence the Presiding Clerk asked Margaret Spong of Victoria RM to introduce Winifred Bridges, a senior elder of the Wurundjeri people, to the Meeting. In welcoming us to country, Winifred Bridges spoke of her own heritage and of her concerns and those of her people seeking justice and reconciliation in Australia today.

The Clerk thanked Winifred Bridges for her welcome and assured her that Friends around Australia shared many of the concerns for social justice of which she had spoken.

YM08.19 AYM Nominations

AYM Nominations Committee convenor, Ronis Chapman, brought forward names for a group to draft a statement about Earthcare in keeping with a recommendation from Standing Committee July 2007. This Earthcare Statement will be read three times, in the same way our Epistles are prepared, and Yearly Meeting will be asked to adopt the Statement when it is read for a third time.

The following names were brought forward to be part of the drafting group:

- Adrian Glamorgan, West Australia RM
- Jo Vallentine, West Australia RM
- Gina Price, West Australia RM
- Jane Growns, New South Wales RM
- Margaret Clark, Canberra RM
- Vidya, Canberra RM
- Ronis Chapman, Canberra RM
- Ray Brindle, Victoria RM

Young Friends are asked to nominate a Young Friend to join this group. We accept these nominations.

YM08.20 Traveling Minutes from Overseas Friends

We have heard a minute of introduction from Aotearoa/New Zealand Meeting for Peg Norris of Christchurch Monthly Meeting. Peg brought greetings from her Yearly Meeting and informed us of new developments in relation to peace and social justice issues.

She told us that Young Friends in Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting now have a similar relation to their Yearly Meeting to that of Young Friends in Australia.

She also informed us that 2009 will be the 100th anniversary of their first general gathering in 1909.

YM08.21 Regional Meeting Reports

(Documents in Advance pages 2 - 22)

We receive the Regional Meeting Reports. We hear from Dave McKay, New South Wales RM, that he is concerned about the mention of Jesus Christians in the New South Wales RM report and that he is available for dialogue with Friends.

YM08.22 AYM Treasurer’s Report

(Documents in Advance YM Officers’ Reports pages 7 - 9)

We receive this report and accept the 2006/07 audited accounts. We note that copies are available from the AYM Treasurer.

We reappoint AH Jackson & Co as auditors for 2007/08.

YM08.23 AYM Secretary’s Report

(Documents in Advance YM Officers’ Reports pages 5 - 7)
We receive the report in *Documents in Advance*, and hear of the Secretary’s diverse responsibilities and activities. We assure her of our support in all her work as Secretary to Australia Yearly Meeting.

**Formal Session 4 2.15 p.m. Tuesday, 8 January 2008**

YM08.24  **Testimony**
Drew Thomas read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Shan Hoskins of South Australia Regional Meeting.

YM08.25  **First reading of the Epistle**
Jean Talbot, New South Wales RM, read the first draft of the Epistle from this Yearly Meeting.

YM08.26  **First reading of the Earthcare Statement**
Margaret Clark, Canberra RM read the first draft for an Australia Yearly Meeting Earthcare Statement.

YM08.27  **Quaker Forum**
The Presiding Clerk read the following extract from Standing Committee Minute SC1.08.11 concerning the Quaker Forum (which has been closed down for further consideration):

> We, as Friends, acknowledge the difficulty we have in coming to terms with using electronic forms of communication in Quakerly ways. We await a clear leading in this matter.

YM08.28  **Quaker Voices in the 21st Century**

*(Documents in Advance page 70)*

We hear a report from the Preparatory Session on Quaker Voices in the 21st Century and ask that it be printed in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We agree that Quaker Voices in the 21st Century continues to resonate as an Australia Yearly Meeting concern. Canberra Regional Meeting has agreed to continue to offer spiritual and practical support to Helen Bayes and Katherine Purnell in their work for this Yearly Meeting concern.

YM08.29  **AYM Nominations**

(a) AYM Nominations Committee convenor Ronis Chapman asked that we appoint the Meeting for Learning Committee under the care of South Australia Regional Meeting to serve until 2011.

The members of the Committee are

- Drew Thomas (convener)
- Kerrie O’Regan
- David Barry
- Kate Alessia
- Julie Webb, and
- Elizabeth Stevenson

We agree.

(b) We agree to an extension of the Presiding Clerk’s term until the end of Yearly Meeting 2010.

(c) We accept the name of Jenny Seaton, Tasmania RM, to be our representative to the Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting in 2008.
YM08.30  2008 Backhouse Lecture

(Documents in Advance page 25)

On Monday, 7 January 2008, George Ellis, Central and South Africa Yearly Meeting, delivered the Backhouse Lecture on the topic Faith, Hope and Doubt in Times of Uncertainty; Combining the realms of scientific and spiritual enquiry.

The Monash University Religious Centre filled with both Friends and visitors as the evening light streamed through the stained glass windows. A PowerPoint presentation of diagrams, quotes and photographs provided visual assistance as George explained how faith, hope, religious understanding and spirituality are important aspects of a full humanity.

Through his rich knowledge of, and passion for, both cosmology and Friends’ ways, George wove a pattern in which science and religion are in harmony and each contributes to humanity’s capacity to transform evil intentions into good.

YM08.31  2009 Backhouse Lecturer

We hear that Helen Gould, New South Wales RM, will be the Backhouse Lecturer in 2009.

Friends are reminded to nominate people as future Backhouse Lecturers. Nomination forms are available on the Quaker website.

YM08.32  Thanksgiving Fund

(Documents in Advance page 73)

We accept the report in Documents in Advance, and note that grants during 2007 have allowed Friends to

• participate in National Council of Churches in Australia events
• continue work on the QSA history
• attend the Young Adult Leadership program at Pendle Hill
• attend Meeting for Learning
• travel to the FWCC Triennial
• travel within Australia to share with Friends about Quaker Voices in the 21st Century
• promote sustainable development at a UK conference

We are thankful for the work of this Committee, and for the richness that is returned to our community through the activities that they fund.

We hear a concern that decisions relating to the disbursement of funds are sometimes made by telephone contact rather than in face-to-face meetings. We ask the incoming Thanksgiving Committee to consider whether the appropriate discernment of decisions would be better served by more face-to-face meetings.

YM08.33  Donald Groom Peace Fellowship

(Documents in Advance page 46)

Donald Groom Fellowship Committee convenor Ruth Watson, West Australia RM, reminded Friends of the inspiring non-violence work of our late Friend, Donald Groom, in whose memory this award is made and whose biography Peace Comes Walking is available from Friends Booksales.

(a) Ruth conveyed a message of greeting from the outgoing Donald Groom Fellow, Jarrod McKenna, and we ask the Assistant Clerk to prepare a response.

(b) The Clerk welcomed Hannah Middleton, the Donald Groom Peace Fellow for 2008, and asked her to tell us about the work that she will undertake. We heard from Hannah Middleton about the work that she and her partner Dennis Doherty have carried out through the Australian Anti-bases Campaign Coalition over many years. Their intention is to work in solidarity with the Chamoru people of Guam (Guahan Project) as they oppose the complete militarization of their
country. To this end, they will bring two Chamoru people to Australia on a speaking tour.

**Formal Session 5  9.30 a.m. Thursday, 10 January 2008**

**YM08.34  Testimony**

Judy Greeves read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Jeannie Rees, South Australia RM.

**YM08.35  Meeting for Remembrance**

During our time of worship on Wednesday, 9 January 2008 8.30 - 9.30 a.m., we have remembered the Grace of God in the lives of the following members and attenders who have died recently.

- Cate (Toots) Allen, Victoria RM
- Harry Bethune, Victoria RM
- Lorna Fenger, Tasmania RM
- Lorrie Gardner, Victoria RM
- Leslie Hopkins, South Australia RM
- Shan (Chandos) Hoskyns, South Australia RM
- Lance Manning-Gordon, Queensland RM
- Dorothy Merkins, Victoria RM
- Winifred Pitt, South Australia RM
- Fionnghal (Fiona) Pryce, West Australia RM
- Jeannie Rees, South Australia RM
- Laurence Richards, Victoria RM
- George See, Queensland RM
- Laurence Smitheringale, West Australia RM
- Margaret Tyler, Victoria RM
- Elizabeth Walpole, Victoria RM
- Wendy Williamson, Canberra RM
- Alma Wright, Queensland RM
- Derrick Woodhouse, New South Wales RM

**YM08.36  Second reading of the draft Earthcare Statement**

Jane Growns, New South Wales RM, read the second draft Earthcare Statement.

**YM08.37  Meeting for Learning**

(Documents in Advance page 45)

We accept the report in Documents in Advance, and welcome the new Meeting for Learning Committee based in South Australia RM.

Drew Thomas, South Australia RM, read the report of the Preparatory Session. The report will be published in Documents in Retrospect.

We heard of the Meeting for Learning's journey beginning with the leadings that formed Meeting for Learning, moving on through the experiences of retreat participants to a consideration of emerging directions. We give thanks for the vision of those who created this program 15 years ago.

We agree to accept the recommendation to Yearly Meeting that the incoming Committee be asked to undertake a staged and continuing journey of exploration of the possibilities for Meeting for Learning and report to Mid-year Standing Committee 2008.
We accept the report in *Documents in Advance*.

David Cooper, New South Wales RM, read a Minute of Record from the Preparatory Session held on Monday, 7 January 2008. This Minute of Record will be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We heard of the several reviews of QSA made during the last two years and we are pleased to hear that following a comprehensive review initiated by AusAID, QSA has been granted Base Level Accreditation for five years to 2011, entitling QSA to receive up to $150,000 per annum from AusAID.

Those at the Preparatory Session heard accounts of current QSA projects from those who have been involved with them. They heard of Heather Saville’s ongoing work writing a history of QSA to be launched during the year of its 50th anniversary in 2009. Friends are asked to suggest a title for the book.

Friends are encouraged to bring to QSA suggestions for projects with Aboriginal communities. We are reminded, however, that project proposals should be initiated and supported by the community involved.

(a) Office bearers

QSA nominates the following as office bearers for 2008:

- **Convenor:** Jane Drexler
- **Treasurer:** Elaine Polglase
- **Public Officer:** Elaine Polglase

We accept these names, and agree to these appointments.

(b) Management Committee

QSA nominates the following as members of the QSA Committee of Management until the end of Yearly Meeting 2009:

- Jane Drexler
- John Dundas
- Halcyon Evans
- Jean Hart
- Jackie Perkins
- Elaine Polglase
- Audrey Wilson
- Michael Wilson

We accept these names, and agree to these appointments. Additional names will be brought to Standing Committee for acceptance.

(c) Regional Meeting appointments

The following additional Friends have been appointed by their respective Regional Meetings to membership of QSA Management Committee.

- Alan Clayton (Victoria RM)
- Coral Coleman (South Australia RM)
- Gill Fitzgerald (Tasmania RM)
- Mike Hennessy (West Australia RM)
- Rae Litting (New South Wales RM)
- Ian Stevenson (Queensland RM)
- Gabrielle Watt (Canberra RM)

We note that the Australia Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk and Secretary are ex-officio members.
YM08.39  The Sanctuary Management Committee

(Documents in Advance page 72)

We accept the report and note the work that has been done on the property this year.

YM08.40  The Sanctuary Future Uses Committee

(Documents in Advance page 72)

We note the report and recommendations in Documents in Advance.

John Michaelis, New South Wales RM, reported for the Sanctuary Future Uses Committee that as the property value of the Sanctuary is several million dollars, renting the property cannot provide a return commensurate with the property value.

The Committee recommends a series of surveys they believe are necessary to determine possible uses of the property. The cost of these surveys is likely to be $15,000. The Committee points out that $15,000 is a small percentage of the property value.

We are asked to approve spending up to $15,000 from the Sanctuary Management Committee Fund for surveys and consultation, including

- cultural heritage survey
- fire survey
- boundary survey
- contour survey
- land feature survey
- ecological survey including endangered plant listing
- consultation regarding impact of the above surveys on proposed uses of the property

We agree to this recommendation. If it is necessary to spend more than $15,000 we ask the Committee to bring a request for extra funds to Mid-year Standing Committee 2008.

We ask the Sanctuary Future Uses Committee to include in their considerations the possible option of returning the land to the original Aboriginal custodians.

YM08.41  Australia Wide Quaker Fellowship

Margaret Woodward and Graham Hodgkin, West Australia RM, report that AWQF continued in 2007 in spite of a delay to the newsletter mid-year. A double issue was produced in August.

They remind us that contributions in all ways are much appreciated.

YM08.42  Quaker Education Network

Margaret Woodward and Graham Hodgkin, West Australia RM, report that they appreciate the support given during 2007 and the many responses to the QEN newsletter. QEN will continue to be published in 2008 and personal stories are very welcome for publication.

We note that even with the change of government, there are still some difficult legacies from the last Government e.g. compulsory benchmark testing and a prescribed syllabus that ignores outcomes.

YM08.43  Friends Book Sales, Adelaide

(Documents in Advance page 30)

We accept the report from Topsy and David Evans, South Australia RM, who are operating Friends Book Sales in Adelaide. We ask Friends to note their request for short reviews to assist in advertising Australia Yearly Meeting publications.
Formal Session 6  2.15 p.m. Thursday, 10 January 2008

YM08.44  Testimony
Dorothy Benyei read the testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Dorothy Merkins, of Victoria RM.

YM08.45  Second reading of the draft Epistle
Lesli Grant of West Australia Regional Meeting read the second draft of the Epistle from this Yearly Meeting.

YM08.46  Handbook Revision Committee
(Documents in Advance page 41)
The Handbook Revision Committee report in Documents in Advance states that Chapters 1, 2, 3 and 5 are at the provisional stage, although Chapters 3 and 4 are still being reviewed. Chapter 6, The Care of People in the Meeting, is expected to be ready for mid-year Standing Committee in July 2008.

YM08.47  Morrow Bequest Committee Report
(Documents in Advance page 45)
We accept the recommendation from the Morrow Bequest Committee and from mid-year Standing Committee that an amount of $3000 each year will be available for the Christine Morrow Scholarship until 2010.

YM08.48  AYM Nominations
AYM Nominations Committee convenor, Ronis Chapman, brought forward the following nominations:
Australian Quaker Tapestry Group  Cathy Davies and Garry Duncan to January 2011
Quaker Booksales  Topsy and David Evans to January 2011
Finance Committee  Marion Sullivan (to replace Roger Callan) to 2009
We agree, and make these appointments.

YM08.49  Report of the Preparatory Session on Peace
(Documents in Advance pages 47-52)
Harold Wilkinson, Canberra RM, gave an overview of the Peace Preparatory Session which included reports from the
Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC)
Donald Groom Peace Fellowship
Peace and Social Justice Fund Committee (PSJ Fund)
Peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee
World Council of Churches Historic Peace Churches Conference in Indonesia
Regional Meeting reports
Presiding Clerk’s trip to the Middle East as a member of an NCCA delegation
Christian Peacemakers Team in Hebron
International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
Nonviolent Peaceforce
Vine and Fig Tree Planters
Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP)
Victorian Peace and Social Justice Network.

The full report will appear in Documents in Retrospect.
We agree to the following recommendations from the Preparatory Session on Peace

- that the members of the QPLC committee for 2008 be Barbara Meyer and Brian Turner (co-convenors), Margaret Bearlin, Ronis Chapman, Margaret Clark, David Purnell, Kyle Purnell (YF) and Harold Wilkinson
- that interested Friends be encouraged to participate through the QPLC email contact list via Bobi Meyer, Brian Turner or David Purnell
- that Regional Meeting peace networks and committees provide ongoing input to QPLC about issues of common concern
- that Friends consider projects that might be funded through the PSJ fund
- that the statement by Australian Church leaders on the Middle East initiative be supported by Australia Yearly Meeting, QPLC and all Regional Meetings
- that Australia Yearly Meeting become a sponsor of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)
- that we change our status in the Nonviolent Peaceforce to that of a Supporting Organization
- that all Regional Meetings hold the Vine and Fig Tree Planters initiative in the Light and offer support where possible
- that Victoria Regional Meeting Peace and Social Justice Network continues to act as primary correspondent for Friends with the Interfaith Network with Papua New Guinea.

YM08.50 Training our Elders and Overseers

Fiona Gardner, Victoria RM, reported on the Preparatory Session. This report will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

We encourage individuals, Local and Regional Meetings to consider these possibilities and to act on those that speak to their condition.

We also ask that each Regional Meeting nominate a Friend to take part in an Australia-wide network to consider how to carry this forward at a Yearly Meeting level. This group is asked to report to Mid-year Standing committee in 2008.

We ask the Victorian RM nominee to convene this group.

YM08.51 Committed relationships

(Documents in Advance pages 75-76)

We agreed to hold this matter over until the next formal session.

Formal Session 7 9.00 a.m. Friday, 11 January 2008

YM08.52 Testimony

Tessa Spratt read the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Lorrie Gardner of Victoria Regional Meeting.

YM08.53 Third reading of the Earthcare Statement

Vidya of Canberra Regional Meeting read the final draft of the Earthcare Statement. We accept this statement and ask that this be included in Documents in Retrospect.

We hear a proposal for an Earthcare Action Committee and agree to consider it at a later session.

YM08.54 Committed relationships

(Documents in Advance pages 75-76)
Further to YM08.51, Jennifer Hole, West Australia RM, reported on an open session held to consider Wahroonga Local Meeting’s concern and Regional Meeting responses. This report will be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We agree to ask Regional Meetings to respond to the following questions:

- What does it mean to place a relationship under the care of the Meeting? What are the responsibilities of the Meeting (a) prior to commitment and (b) after commitment?
- Is it now timely to separate the legal and spiritual aspects, or should we continue to combine these?
- Who should conduct ceremonies? (If the legal and spiritual aspects were separated, there would be no need for Registering Officers.)
- What is the appropriate language? In particular, the legal and spiritual connotations of the word ‘marriage’ need to be examined. (One suggestion was that what we are doing is eldering a Meeting for Worship for marriage.)
- Should we make a distinction for different kinds of requests made to the Meeting; for example, are we asked for a marriage or commitment under the care of the Meeting or simply a ceremony ‘in the manner of Friends’?

We accept the offer of South Australia Regional Meeting to coordinate Regional Meeting responses to these questions. We agree that this should be a standing item on future agendas for Mid-year Standing Committee and Yearly Meeting.

**YM08.55 Child protection**

(Documents in Advance page 26)

We accept the report and agree to the recommendations that

- A clause be added to the AYM Child Protection Policy as follows: ‘Each Regional Meeting may include additional policies and procedures that reflect their governing legislative framework and the needs of such Regional Meetings provided that these policies and procedures do not in any way invalidate the AYM policy’. Any such adaptations should be forwarded urgently to the AYM secretary so that they can be put to the Society’s insurers for approval.
- The Child Protection Policy Working Group be laid down.
- Two teleconferences involving Child Protection Contact Persons from all Regional Meetings and the Presiding Clerk or their nominee be held during 2008 for sharing of experiences and the furnishing of advice on child protection matters.
- Nominations Committee be asked to bring a name for someone with appropriate expertise and experience to undertake a process of identifying desirable changes to the national template, including a telephone based survey late in 2008, and that these be considered by Yearly Meeting 2009.

We are reminded that our insurers require us to carry out an annual review of this policy.

**YM08.56 Right relationships**

Ronis Chapman, Canberra RM, reported on this Preparatory Session held on Tuesday 8 January. The full report will appear in *Documents in Retrospect*.

In giving her report she read extract 23.33 from Britain Yearly Meeting *Quaker Faith & Practice*, quoted in the Britain Yearly Meeting document, *Sexual Harassment? A Delicate Balance*.

Guided by the Light of God within us and recognising that of God in others, we can all learn to value our differences in age, sex, physique, race and culture. This enables mutual respect and self-respect to develop, and it becomes possible for everyone to love one another as God loves us. Throughout our lives, we see ourselves reflected in the facial expressions, verbal comments and body language of others.

We have a responsibility to protect each other’s self respect.

(a) We agree to accept the document *The Promotion of Right Relationships: Guidelines for Prevention and Management of Sexual Abuse and Misconduct*, with changes agreed by the Preparatory Session.

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(b) We agree that the current Working Group be extended to include the names of the Sexual Misconduct Prevention Contact People from each Regional Meeting.
(c) We agree to ask the Working Group to develop a training session suitable for use in Quaker Meetings and to consider the development of a brochure to complement the Guidelines.

YM08.57 Quaker Service Australia Review Committee

(Documents in Advance page 60)

Maxine Cooper, Victoria RM, told us of the Preparatory Session on the QSA Review Committee’s report. Her report will be published in Documents in Retrospect. We note the following recommendations:

- to accept Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 9 of the Review Report
- to ask the QSA Management Committee to consider recommendations 6, 7, 8, 10 and 11 in its future planning.
- to schedule the next review of QSA in order to report, if possible, to Yearly Meeting 2013.

Yearly Meeting agrees to these recommendations, and appreciates the work of the Friends on the Review Committee.

Formal Session 8 2.15 p.m. Friday, 11 January 2008

YM08.58 Testimonies

Anthony Arden and Iris Guy read the Testimonies to the Grace of God in the life of George See and Lance Manning-Gordon of Queensland RM, respectively.

YM08.59 Third reading of the Epistle

Evan Gallagher of Canberra Regional Meeting read the final draft of the epistle from Yearly Meeting 2008.

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.

YM08.60 AYM Nominations

(a) Terms of office, Yearly Meeting Clerk and Yearly Meeting Secretary

Nominations Committee drew to our attention that it is hoped the next Presiding Clerk will be appointed at Yearly Meeting 2009 to take up office at the end of Yearly Meeting 2010, and that the current Yearly Meeting Secretary’s contract ends at the end of March 2010. Nominations Committee suggests it is not desirable that a new Presiding Clerk and a new Secretary take office at the same time.

Following discussions with the Yearly Meeting Clerk and the Yearly Meeting Secretary about this situation, Nominations Committee recommends that the appointment of the Yearly Meeting Secretary be extended until the end of March 2011. Judith Pembleton has indicated that she is willing to serve an extra year and such an extension is in accordance with the Handbook Section 3.3.4.

We agree to extend Judith Pembleton’s appointment as Yearly Meeting Secretary for an extra 12 months until the end of March 2011.

(b) Australia Yearly Meeting representatives to NCCA

We agree to the following appointments to National Council of Churches in Australia committees:
(c) The Sanctuary Management Committee

We agree to continue the appointment of the current Sanctuary Management Committee until Yearly Meeting 2011. Members of the Committee are

  Wies Schuiringa
  Bill Brennan
  Mary Pollard
  Acey Teasdale
  Yearly Meeting Treasurer, ex-officio

(d) Indigenous Concerns Committee

We accept the offer of Victoria RM to host this Committee and agree to appoint the following until Yearly Meeting 2011

  Margaret Spong
  John McMahon
  Sharee Harper
  Chris Hughes
  Tracy Bourne

(e) Children’s Committee

We agree to ask West Australia RM to continue to host this committee until Yearly Meeting 2009. During this time, we ask that the current Committee draft a statement describing the work of the committee for presentation to Standing Committee July 2008. We ask another Regional Meeting to host this Committee.

(f) Thanksgiving Fund Committee

We note that the current committee has completed its term. We agree to ask New South Wales RM to continue to manage the committee until Yearly Meeting 2009, and ask another Regional Meeting to offer to host this Committee.

(g) Child Protection

We agree to ask Yoland Wadsworth, Victoria RM, to undertake a review of the Child Protection Policy and Procedures.

(h) Publications Committee

We agree to appoint the current Publications Committee, under the care of Tasmania RM, for a further three years until the end of Yearly Meeting 2011. The members of the Committee are

  Sue Headley
  Jenny Seaton
  Sally O’Wheel

YM08.61  Earthcare Action Committee

Jane Growns, New South Wales RM, reported on the proposal to establish an Earthcare Action Committee and an interim Earthcare Action Network to implement the Earthcare Statement.

We agree to establish an Earthcare Action Committee under the care of Yearly Meeting.

As it has not been possible to form this Committee during Yearly Meeting 2008, we agree to appoint an Interim Earthcare Action Network to undertake preparatory work and, in consultation with AYM Nominations Committee, to bring names for the Earthcare Action Committee to Standing Committee in July 2008.
We appoint the following to act as the Network organizers:

Jane Growns, New South Wales RM
Adrian Glamorgan, West Australia RM
Vidya, Canberra RM
Jasmine Payget, New South Wales RM

We ask the Network to identify people who have an interest and/or expertise in this area, so that all who wish to be involved can be offered the opportunity.

We ask each Regional and Local Meeting, Young Friends, Quaker Service Australia, Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee and the Indigenous Concerns Committee to appoint Earthcare correspondents.

We ask the Secretary to distribute the Earthcare Statement to Quakers nationally and internationally, to the National Council of Churches in Australia, to the Climate Institute, to church and other faith newspapers, and to Resurgence, Yes! and Utne Reader (http://www.utne.com/).

We agree to include a discussion paper developed by the Earthcare Statement Drafting Group in Documents in Retrospect.

**YM08.62 Carbon neutral travel within AYM**

*(Documents in Advance page 81)*

Jo Vallentine, West Australia RM, spoke of a proposal for offsetting the carbon emissions for flights for Australia Yearly Meeting purposes. We agree to adopt a Carbon Offset charge for energy efficiency or renewable energy for a trial period of 12 months.

We ask the AYM Treasurer in consultation with the Co-clerks of West Australia Regional Meeting to put this into practice.

**YM08.63 Ecumenism and interfaith**

*(Documents in Advance page 30)*

Ray Brindle, Victoria RM, reported on the Ecumenism and Interfaith Preparatory Session. He noted the enthusiasm with which Friends join in interchurch and interfaith activities across Australia. The Preparatory Session heard of a number of National Council of Churches in Australia social justice initiatives that should be better known among Friends.

He advised that the Parliament of World’s Religions will be held in Melbourne in 2009.

It was suggested that Friends include humanist and atheist societies when thinking of dialogue with other groups.

The full report will be published in Documents in Retrospect.

**YM08.64 Indigenous Concerns**

*(Documents in Advance page 42 - 44)*

Aina Ranke, New South Wales RM, reported on the Indigenous Concerns Preparatory Session. This report will be published in Documents in Retrospect.

We note that Victoria Regional Meeting has agreed to host the Australia Yearly Meeting Indigenous Concerns Committee and ask other Regional Meetings to appoint at least one correspondent.

The Preparatory Session suggested that the Victorian-based Committee may find a good starting point in the Canberra RM practices when they hosted the Indigenous Concerns Committee. We also heard a suggestion for convening a nationwide conference as was done by the Canberra group in 2004.

We agree that Yearly Meeting sends a letter to the Federal government expressing strong concern regarding the events resulting from the Northern Territory Emergency Response Bill.
We agree that the letter should include the following matters:

- That the community development employment program (CDEP) be reinstated
- That the permit system be reintroduced, and
- That the Federal government should not force Aboriginal people to lease their lands.

We agree to ask the Presiding Clerk to send a letter to the new Federal Government to welcome their intention to make a Sorry statement to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

Formal Session 9 9.30 a.m. Saturday, 12 January 2008

YM08.65 Testimony
Margaret Woodward read the testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Laurence Smitheringale, West Australia Regional Meeting.

YM08.66 Children’s Program
Tracy Bourne of Victoria RM, who was YM08 Children’s Program coordinator, reported that the children at this Yearly Meeting adopted the name ‘the Friendlies’ for their group. The children designed and built a model Quaker town with sustainable power and water, and a Meeting House at the centre.

The children enjoyed visits from many experienced Quakers who led sessions during the week.

The Children’s Coordinator recommends that in future Family Friendly Worship be limited to 15 minutes, which is the time the children can sustain their own silent worship, and given priority in scheduling so that other events do not clash with it.

We are encouraged to listen to the profound things the children tell us. A full report will be published in Documents in Retrospect.

YM08.67 Children and grandchildren of members or attenders
During a family-friendly Meeting for Worship with the children’s group in their space on Thursday 10 January, Friends heard the names on nine babies who were born to parents or grandparents involved in our Meetings and Worshipping Groups.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Names</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales RM</td>
<td>Felix Bowles son of Joy Bowles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gemma Carr daughter of Gillian and Richard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Abigail Croft daughter of Michael &amp; Tiffany</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia RM</td>
<td>Elisha Amelia Buetefuer daughter of David &amp; Yolande</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Naomi Carpenter daughter of Ruth &amp; Andrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria RM</td>
<td>Gareth Jones son of Michael &amp; Rebecca</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Alexander Bingham son of Jenny &amp; John</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gem Robins-Pitlock daughter of Mathew and Verity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lachlan Duggan son of Jocelyn &amp; Neal (in Queensland)</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Armidale Recognised Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Devonshire Street Local Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Wahoonga Local Meeting</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Adelaide Local Meeting</td>
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<td>Eastern Suburbs Local Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northern Suburbs Local Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geelong Worshipping Group</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Eastern Suburbs Local Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gippsland Recognised Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During the Formal Session we also heard of a number of grandchildren and great grandchildren born to members, including:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Names</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canberra RM</td>
<td>Cohen Sebastian Roberts, grandson of Trish Roberts, Canberra LM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gemma Farrall, granddaughter of Stephanie and Lyndsay Farrall, Hobart LM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales RM</td>
<td>Eve Jean Talbot granddaughter of Jean Talbot, Hunter Valley LM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland RM</td>
<td>Riley Kim Watson grandson of Taisoo Kim Watson, Darling Downs WG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmania RM</td>
<td>Marco Dougald McLean, great grandson of Carol and Dougal McLean, Hobart Local Meeting, and grandson of Annie Rooke, Hunter Valley Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Australia RM</td>
<td>Zaid Abdul-Wahab, great grandson of Ruth and David Watson, South Coast Worshipping Group</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Dorothy Benyei, Victoria RM, told us of a Minute of Melbourne Monthly Meeting in 1901: ‘The lambs of the flock are the most important part’.
YM08.68 Indigenous Concerns (continued)

(Documents in Advance page 42 -44 )

We receive the Indigenous Concerns Network report. We have heard from a Friend that he is concerned about matters mentioned in the general remarks of this report. We also hear that he has been able to discuss his concerns with the convenors of the Network at this Yearly Meeting.

YM08.69 The Friends' School

(Documents in Advance pages 31 - 37 and page 77 -79)

David Purnell of Canberra RM reported on The Friends’ School Preparatory Session. This report will be published in Documents in Retrospect.

YM08.70 Young Friends report

(Documents in Advance page 74)

Emily Chapman-Searle, Canberra RM, reported on the Young Friends’ Preparatory Session. The full report will be published in Documents in Retrospect.

We note the following Young Friends’ appointments:

- Myf White, Standing Committee representative (replacing Anna Willkinson)
- Emily Walpole, Nomination Committee (replacing Kate Barnard)
- Alexa Taylor, Convenor of Nominations Committee

We welcome the publication of Footprints and Echoes, a copy of which has been presented to every Meeting in Australia and we encourage Friends to read it.

YM08.71 FWCC and QUNO

(Documents in Advance pages 38-41)

We accept the reports in Documents in Advance.

Alan Clayton, Victoria RM, reported on a Preparatory Session on FWCC and QUNO which provided an opportunity for first-hand reports from the Triennial held in Ireland in August, and also of the Historic Peace Churches Conference held in Indonesia in December.

We hear plans for the FWCC Asia-West Pacific Section meeting to be held in Bhopal, India in November 2008.

We are encouraged by the participation of Australian Young Friends in FWCC activities and by reports of Aletia Dundas of her time as a program assistant at QUNO, Geneva.

The full report will be published in Documents in Retrospect.

YM08.72 The Australian Friend

(Documents in Advance page 23)

We receive the report in Documents in Advance. There are no matters for decision from the Preparatory Session.

YM08.73 AYM Publications Committee

(Documents in Advance page 53 - 55)

We receive the report in Documents in Advance.

(a) Backhouse Narrative

We heard support from Friends for the Backhouse Narrative project. We encourage the Publications Committee to proceed with the work of the Backhouse Narrative and to apply for appropriate financial support when publication costs are known.
We are confident that way will open to find the necessary funds as they become needed.

(b) Quaker contact card
We agree that a modified draft contact card be made available on the website for Regional Meetings to consider as a template to adapt and use. We agree that the words ‘The Religious Society of Friends’ be included on the card.

YM08.74 Outreach

(Documents in Advance page 45)

We receive the report printed in Documents in Advance.

We agree to Sally O’Wheel continuing as our Outreach Coordinator until Yearly Meeting 2009.

YM08.75 AYM Nominations Committee

West Australia RM brings the name of Ruth Watson to replace Rosemary Longhurst on the AYM Nominations Committee. We agree.

YM08.76 FWCC Asia West Pacific Section lecture

We have been thankful for the presence of Sachiko Yamamoto of Japan Yearly Meeting at this Yearly Meeting, and appreciate her address on Wednesday evening, 9 January, in which she shared her pathway to Friends and her experiences within the wider family of Friends worldwide.

She reported that while numbers of Friends in Japan have declined, a group of Young Friends who are being encouraged and supported gives hope for the future of the Society in Japan.

We are glad to hear of her plans to bring a group of young people to Australia.

We were deeply moved by Sachiko Yamamoto’s spirit of reconciliation in regard to past national wrongs. Many of us felt moved by this and wished to join her in this spirit of reconciliation.

YM08.77 Barrie Pittock on climate change

Barrie Pittock of Victoria RM and co author of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report on climate change presented a comprehensive summary of the state of knowledge on global warming on Wednesday, 9 January. He emphasized the need to take immediate action to reduce worldwide emissions by 2-3 per cent each year.

Recent measurements from a wide variety of sources seem to indicate that the impact is proceeding more rapidly than previously thought and is close to or exceeding the high end of model predictions. Barrie challenged us as Friends to consider the equity issues involved with climate change impacting more severely on the poor, and to be patterns and examples in our lives by reducing our carbon footprint both individually and corporately.

YM08.78 Australian Friends’ Fellowship of Healing

(Documents in Advance page 25)

John Legg, Tasmanina RM, reported that Bob Westwood, Canberra RM, was appointed coordinator at the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Friends’ Fellowship of Healing, held on Friday 11 January.

Brian Harlech-Jones, Canberra RM, was appointed editor of the Fellowship’s newsletter, Wholeness, which it is hoped to publish in a new format.

YM08.79 Summer School

Ray Brindle, Victoria RM, reported on this year’s Summer School on the theme of ‘Testimonies — spirit into action’. We ask that this report and a full list of the Summer School workshops be published in Documents in Retrospect.
YM08.80  Share and Tell

Anne Brown, Victoria RM, reported on Share and Tell sessions at this Yearly Meeting. We hear of the difficulties of finding satisfactory timetabling for Share and Tell.

We ask that this report, and any reports of individual Share and Tell sessions, be published in *Documents in Retrospect*, with a full list of Share and Tell sessions.

YM08.81  Closing minute

As we come to the end of Yearly Meeting 2008, we send greetings to those who could not be with us and thank those who have held us in the Light during our Meeting.

The Clerk expresses our warm appreciation to all of those who have helped in the planning and organization of this Yearly Meeting. We especially appreciate the work of those who have provided for our daily needs. The Clerk informs us that a letter of thanks has already been sent to Mannix College staff and other letters of thanks will be sent on our behalf.

In closing the formal session, and in acknowledgement of the presence of our Friend Sachiko Yamamoto from Japan Yearly Meeting, the Clerk read Inazo Nitobe’s prayer, printed as Extract 3.85 in ‘this we can say’:

I ask for daily bread, but not for wealth, lest I forget the poor.
I ask for strength, but not for power, lest I despise the meek.
I ask for wisdom, but not for learning, lest I scorn the simple.
I ask for a clean name, but not for fame, lest I condemn [sic] the lowly.
I ask for peace of mind, but not for idle hours, lest I fail to hearken to the call of duty.

Lyndsay Farrall, Presiding Clerk, 12 January 2008.
Yearly Meeting Minutes 3 – 10 January 2009
Burton & Garran Hall, Australian National University, Canberra

Formal Session 1  9.30 a.m. Sunday, 4 January 2009

YM09.1 Welcome by traditional custodians

On Saturday, 3 January, Agnes Shea as an elder of the Ngunnawal people, the traditional custodians of this land, welcomed us to Canberra and read to us from the Ngunnawal Council of Elders Charter, which will be included in Documents in Retrospect, with her permission.

[Note: The words from the Ngunnawal Council of Elders Charter were not available at the time of printing Documents in Retrospect, and will be published in a future issue of The Australian Friend.]

YM09.2 Appointment of Assistant Clerk

We agree to appoint Jonathan Benyei of Canberra Regional Meeting as Assistant Clerk for Yearly Meeting 2009.

YM09.3 Welcome to those participating in Yearly Meeting 2009

The Presiding Clerk welcomed members and attenders by asking those from each Regional Meeting and overseas Meetings to stand in turn. A list of those not in membership, whose participation at this Yearly Meeting has been approved by Standing Committee, will be available on noticeboards during this Yearly Meeting.

A list of all attending Yearly Meeting will be printed in Documents in Retrospect.

YM09.4 Incoming Presiding Clerk

(a) On the recommendation of Nominations Committee we appoint Maxine Cooper as the Presiding Clerk for three years beginning at the close of Yearly Meeting 2010.

(b) Following discussion with Maxine Cooper, Nominations Committee recommends:

(i) that she attend a suitable course, such as the ‘Advanced Clerking Clinic’ at Pendle Hill, as part of her preparation for this appointment and that her travel, accommodation and course expenses be met from the AYM Travel Fund;

(ii) that she consult with the Nominations Committee, the Presiding Clerk and others in order to bring a recommendation about the possible appointment of an assistant to the Clerk during her term as Presiding Clerk.

We accept these recommendations.

YM09.5 Welcome to visitors

The Presiding Clerk welcomed visitors from overseas including the following:

- Svend Henriksen, Copenhagen Local Meeting, Denmark Yearly Meeting
- Margaret Kendon, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
- Bokyom Jin& Sung Hun (Paul) Han, Seoul Monthly Meeting
- Kathy Walling, Scott Bell and Sarah and Sophia Walling-Bell, Chena Ridge Friends’ Meeting, Alaska
- Chris Hall (Young Friend), Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
- Jean Rosenberg, Middleburg Meeting, Vermont, New England Yearly Meeting
- Jonathan Tailby, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
YM09.6  Greetings

(a) Greetings received

We have heard Greetings from the following Meetings:

- Britain Yearly Meeting
- Eastern Suburbs Meeting, Adelaide, South Australia Regional Meeting
- Friends General Conference
- Hong Kong Monthly Meeting
- Japan Yearly Meeting
- Mornington Recognised Meeting

We also heard greetings from the following individual Friends:

- Jairaj Brown and the Brown family
- Anne Herbert, Finland YM
- Ruth Watson, Past Presiding Clerk

(b) Greetings to be sent

We ask that responses be prepared to these and other greetings received during Yearly Meeting and all present are invited to sign these greetings which will be displayed from Tuesday 6 January until Friday, 9 January.

YM09.7  Matters from Standing Committee

(i) We accept Standing Committee’s recommendations of the following names for the Pastoral Care Committee at Yearly Meeting 2009:

- Canberra Regional Meeting: Doreen Cope and Malcolm Whyte
- New South Wales Regional Meeting: Frances Love and Dennis Dorwick
- Queensland Regional Meeting: Heather Myers and Abel Siboniyo
- South Australia Regional Meeting: Kate Alessia and Roger Keyes
- Tasmania Regional Meeting: Robin McLean
- Victoria Regional Meeting: Hilary Conway
- West Australia Regional Meeting: Graham Hodgkin and Doug Matthews
- Young Friends Myfanwy Whyte and Herman Itangakubuntu;

(ii) We accept Standing Committee’s recommendations of the following names for Child Protection Contact people for the duration of Yearly Meeting 2009:

- Canberra Regional Meeting: Brian Turner and Ronis Chapman
- New South Wales Regional Meeting: Wies Schuringa
- Tasmania Regional Meeting: Julian Robertson
- Victoria Regional Meeting: Yoland Wadsworth

YM09.8  AYM Nominations Committee

We receive the following nominations and appoint

- Minute Checkers: Duncan Frewin, Queensland Regional Meeting, for Formal Session 1
- Epistle Committee: Bev Polzin, Victoria Regional Meeting, for Yearly Meeting 2009
Formal Session 2 9.00 am. Tuesday, 6 January 2009

YM09.9 Testimony

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Lister Hopkins of Canberra Regional Meeting was read by Julia Denton-Barker.

YM09.10 Testimonies

Testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of the following Friends will be read as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Regional Meeting</th>
<th>Read by</th>
<th>Formal Session</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lister Hopkins</td>
<td>Canberra RM</td>
<td>Julia Denton-Barker</td>
<td>Session 2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leonce Richards</td>
<td>Victoria RM</td>
<td>Dale Hess</td>
<td>Session 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tjarko Van Apeldoorn</td>
<td>Victoria RM</td>
<td>Helen Irvine</td>
<td>Session 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tom Evans</td>
<td>Canberra and West Australia RM</td>
<td>Margaret Woodward</td>
<td>Session 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Bryce</td>
<td>Queensland RM</td>
<td>Judith Pembleton</td>
<td>Session 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria Rigney</td>
<td>Tasmania RM</td>
<td>Topsy Evans</td>
<td>Session 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judith Parkhurst</td>
<td>Tasmania RM</td>
<td>Julian Robertson</td>
<td>Session 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie Hopkins</td>
<td>South Australia RM</td>
<td>Julie Webb</td>
<td>Session 7</td>
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<tr>
<td>John Newland</td>
<td>South Australia RM</td>
<td>Drew Thomas</td>
<td>Session 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miles Pulsford</td>
<td>South Australia RM</td>
<td>Roger Keyes</td>
<td>Session 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compilation from testimonies for Raymond Frederikson, Kerry Osboldstone, Derrick Woodhouse, Carmen Zammit</td>
<td>New South Wales RM</td>
<td>Elizabeth Field</td>
<td>Session 8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YM09.11 Travelling Minutes from Overseas Friends

We have heard travelling minutes introducing

Eileen Williams, from Littlehampton Meeting, West Sussex
Cathy Walling and Scott Bell and Sophia and Sarah Walling-Bell, from Chena Ridge Friends Meeting, Fairbanks, Alaska
Bo-Kyom Jin and Sunghun (Paul) Han from Seoul Monthly Meeting, South Korea.

We hear that the Presiding Clerk will add our greetings to these travelling minutes.

YM09.12 Future Yearly Meetings

The Presiding Clerk informed Yearly Meeting of the following plans for future Yearly Meetings:
(a) Yearly Meeting 2 - 9 January 2010, Westminster School, Adelaide, South Australia

The venue for Yearly Meeting 2010, Westminster School, can accommodate 130 people and a variety of other accommodation, including a campsite and motel, is available near the school.

(b) 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, and will hopefully have the University’s Innovations Centre for business sessions. There is on-campus accommodation for 200 or more people and a variety of other types of accommodation available close to the University of Wollongong Campus East.

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

West Australia Regional Meeting has made pencil bookings for two possible sites for our 2012 Yearly Meeting.

YM09.13 Future mid-year Standing Committees

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

(a) Standing Committee 9–11 July 2009, Sydney

New South Wales Regional Meeting is hosting mid-year Standing Committee July 2009. Standing Committee sessions will take place both at the Devonshire Street Meeting House and Wahroonga Meeting House.

(b) Standing Committee July 2010, Hobart

Mid-year Standing Committee in 2010 will be held in Hobart. Tentative dates (to be confirmed at Standing Committee July 2009) are 8–10 July.

(c) Standing Committee July 2011

West Australia Regional Meeting feel that it would be prohibitively expensive to hold mid-year Standing Committee in Western Australia even though they would like to do so.

YM09.14 Statements and letters on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting

We note that letters sent on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting since Yearly Meeting 2008, and all replies, are on display in Function Room 2, and a list of these letters will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

YM09.15 Nominations Committee

Nominations Committee brings the following recommendations:

(a) Minute Checkers

Susan Addison, Queensland Regional Meeting, Evan Gallagher, Canberra Regional Meeting, and Jo Jordan, South Australia Regional Meeting.
(b) Epistle

In addition to the appointment in Minute 09.8, Lorraine Thomson and Chris Jacques, Canberra Regional Meeting, Adrian Glamorgan, West Australia Regional Meeting.

We agree to these appointments for the duration of Yearly Meeting 2009.

(c) The Australian Friend Committee

Susan Addison, Tony Arden and Duncan Frewin, Queensland Regional Meeting.

We agree to these appointments until the end of Yearly Meeting 2010, and note that The Australian Friend Committee will give six months notice of its intention to lay down this responsibility.

(d) Representative to Aotearoa-New Zealand Yearly Meeting

David Evans, South Australia Regional Meeting.

We agree to this appointment for July 2009.

YM09.16 The Friends’ School Board Appointments

Standing Committee recommends that Australia Yearly Meeting appoint the following:

- Pam Houstein, as a nominee of Canberra Regional Meeting, for a second term of two years beginning in May 2008
- Barbara Rautman, as a nominee of Victoria Regional Meeting, for a first term of four years beginning in May 2009
- Ann Zubrick, as a nominee of West Australia Regional Meeting, for a second term of three years beginning in May 2009
- Mary Beadle, Tasmania Regional Meeting, as the staff nominee, for a second term of four years beginning in May 2009
- Michelle Fernando, as an Executive Committee nominee, for a first term of four years commencing in May 2009

We agree to these appointments.

YM09.17 Presiding Clerk’s report

(Documents in Advance page 19)

We receive the report from the Presiding Clerk, Lyndsay Farrall. He referred to his recent attendance at Japan Yearly Meeting in November. Japan Yearly Meeting would welcome contact from Friends travelling through Tokyo and other parts of Japan.

In the report, the Clerk draws attention to the more than 50 groups worshipping around Australia, and what seemed to him to be a common recognition that we need to devote more of our time and energy to the nurture and pastoral care of ourselves and others.

YM09.18 State of the Society address

Trish Roberts of Canberra Regional Meeting gave the State of the Society address. This address will be printed in Documents in Retrospect.

In concluding her address Trish Roberts challenged us as follows ‘Do less, not more; be faithful; care for each other; and have fun’.
Formal Session 3  9.30 a.m. Wednesday, 7 January 2009

YM09.19  AYM Secretary’s Report

(Documents in Advance page 21)

We receive the AYM Secretary’s Report in Documents in Advance, and agree to her returning to a four-day working week.

YM09.20  Summary of epistles from other Yearly Meetings

Pam Houstein has read a summary of epistles received from other Yearly Meetings held around the world. We thank Pam for highlighting both the challenges facing Yearly Meetings and their celebrations of the Spirit moving among them. We encourage Friends to read this summary which will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

Formal Session 4  11.10 a.m. Wednesday, 7 January 2009

YM09.21  Testimony

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Tom Evans of Canberra Regional Meeting (formerly of West Australia Regional Meeting) was read by Margaret Woodward of West Australia Regional Meeting.

YM09.22  AYM Treasurer’s Report

(Document in Advance pages 22-23)

(a) Investment update

'We hear that our investments have been affected by the economic downturn, and ask that the Treasurer’s update on this matter be printed in Documents in Retrospect.

(b) Thanksgiving Fund

We hear that the Thanksgiving Fund is in need of donations and that Standing Committee had agreed to the following changes in the Fund’s guidelines:

(a) that bequests be added to the income part of the Fund, unless the donor of a bequest specifically asks that it be added to the capital part of the Fund;

(b) in any one year the Committee may additionally make grants during a financial year totalling up to ten percent of the amount which was in the capital Fund at the beginning of that financial year with the agreement of the Presiding Clerk, the AYM Secretary and one Regional Meeting Clerk.

We hear from Friends that we have an expectation that we will give generously to the Thanksgiving Fund so that its capital will be built up. We acknowledge that successive Thanksgiving Fund Committees and Yearly Meeting Treasurers have been conscientious stewards of this Fund on our behalf and that we expect continued conscientious stewardship of this Fund.

We ask the incoming Thanksgiving Fund Committee to review the current guidelines and report the results of that review to Standing Committee in July 2009.

(c) Audited Accounts

We receive the AYM Treasurer’s Report and accept the 2007/08 audited accounts. We note that copies are available from the AYM Treasurer.
(d) Appointment of the Auditor

We reappoint AH Jackson & Co as auditors for 2008/09.

YM09.23 AYM Publications Committee Report

(Documents in Advance page 74)

We receive the report in Documents in Advance.

(a) Publication of the QSA history

The Preparatory Session recommends the following:

(i) that an interest-free loan of up to $20,000 be made to QSA in order for Friends In Deed to be published through the agency of the Publications Committee;

(ii) that QSA repay this loan by the end of Yearly Meeting 2010, with the understanding that QSA will pay any shortfall between the income from the sales of the book by that time and the loan.

We agree.

(b) Paid assistance for the Publications Committee

The Preparatory Session recommended the following:

(i) that $10,000 be made available from the Reserve Fund for the use of the Publications Committee to clear the backlog of existing publications being updated;

(ii) that Yearly Meeting ask the Publications Committee to prepare a proposal and budget for ongoing paid assistance for mid-year Standing Committee 2009.

We accept these recommendations.

YM09.24 Quaker Voices in the 21st Century (QVC21)

(Documents in Advance page 78–79)

We hear the following report of this Preparatory Session:

QVC21 has given AYM the best snapshot we have of ourselves and the questions we are asking today. In the context of potential conflicts over scarcities, Friends have much to offer a troubled world through our testimonies and processes.

We held these challenges in worship and considered the following questions:

• What are we called to say this year?
• How have we been constrained from acting?
• How have we been paying attention to what others are saying in our Meeting?
• Are we recognising our need for leadership and how are we equipping ourselves?

We heard that the Spirit is most active in the outer edges and that is where growth is happening. Each of us has something to offer. We were reminded of the shape of an iceberg. We need to discern the peculiar contributions that Friends can make, in a distinctive Quaker voice, often prophetic, and necessarily underpinned by patient upholding in a worshipping community.

Meetings are asked to proceed with this work in their own ways.

Yearly Meeting thanks Katherine Purnell and Helen Bayes, Canberra Regional Meeting, and their support committees for the work they have carried out under this concern.
YM09.25 Quaker Learning Australia

*(Documents in Advance page 75)*

We hear a report from Kerry O’Regan, South Australia Regional Meeting, about the Preparatory Session on Quaker Learning Australia and ask that the full report be printed in *Documents in Retrospect*.

The QLA Preparatory Session recommends that Australia Yearly Meeting takes out an appropriate copyright licence with Copyright Agency Limited. We agree.

The Quaker Education Network will liaise with Quaker Learning Australia on how their activities can be coordinated.

YM09.26 Australian Quaker Centre

*(Documents in Advance page 86 - 91)*

We hear a report from the Preparatory Session on the Australian Quaker Centre (AQC).

The Preparatory Session recommends

(a) that the Australian Quaker Centre be taken up as a concern of Australia Yearly Meeting, and

(b) that the AYM Nominations Committee be asked to bring names to this Yearly Meeting for an AQC Working Group, which will undertake the following:

- organise, in consultation with QLA, a program of courses to be held as soon as possible, and
- continue working towards a vision of a permanent centre.

We accept the recommendations.

YM09.27 Quaker Service Australia

*(Documents in Advance pages 76-77)*

We receive the report in *Documents in Advance*, and note that a report of the QSA Preparatory Sessions will be published in *Documents in Retrospect*. We also note that details of the Annual Report and of QSA projects are available on the website [http://www.qsa.org.au](http://www.qsa.org.au).

(a) QSA Management Committee

QSA recommends the following appointments to the end of Yearly Meeting 2010:

- Jane Drexler, Convenor
- Michael Wilson (Treasurer, subject to consent)
- John Dundas, Finance Officer
- Halcyon Evans
- Jean Hart
- Jackie Perkins, Administrator
- Heather Saville
- Audrey Wilson

We agree to these appointments.

We note that the Australia Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk and Secretary are ex-officio members. Elaine Polglase remains the Public Officer for QSA.
(b) Regional Meeting appointments

The following additional Friends have been appointed by their respective Regional Meetings to membership of the QSA Management Committee:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Name</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Canberra</td>
<td>Kay de Vogel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New South Wales</td>
<td>Marilyn Hillery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queensland</td>
<td>Ian Stevenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Australia</td>
<td>Robin Sinclair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tasmania</td>
<td>Gill Fitzgerald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victoria</td>
<td>Alan Clayton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Australia</td>
<td>Mike Hennessy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We accept these names, and agree to these appointments.

(c) Statement of Purpose and Project Selection Criteria

We note that the Statement of Purpose and Project Selection Criteria remain unchanged. A new Strategic Plan is to be prepared for Yearly Meeting 2010.

Formal Session 5  9.00 a.m. Thursday, 8 January 2009

YM09.28  Testimonies

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of David Bryce, Queensland Regional Meeting was read by Judith Pembleton.

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Leonce Richards, Victoria Regional Meeting, was read by Dale Hess.

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Tjarko Van Apeldoorn, Victoria Regional Meeting was read by Helen Irvine.

YM09.29  Meeting for Remembrance

During our time of worship on Wednesday, 7 January 2009 8.30 - 9.30 a.m., we have remembered the Grace of God in the lives of the following members and attenders who have died recently:

- Angelo Alexander, Tasmania Regional Meeting
- Ruth Beckwith, South Australia Regional Meeting
- Helen Chapman, West Australia Regional Meeting
- Tom Evans, Canberra Regional Meeting and West Australia Regional Meeting
- Raymond Frederikson, New South Wales Regional Meeting
- Laura Hill, Tasmania Regional Meeting
- Alberta Holt, Canberra Regional Meeting
- Leslie Hopkins South Australia Regional Meeting
- Lister Hopkins, Canberra Regional Meeting
- John Newland, South Australia Regional Meeting
- Kerry Osboldstone, New South Wales Regional Meeting
- Judith Parkhurst, Tasmania Regional Meeting
- Ian Penhall, Canberra Regional Meeting
- Miles Pulsford, South Australia Regional Meeting
- Leonce Richards, Victoria Regional Meeting
- Victoria Rigney, Tasmania Regional Meeting
- Tjarko Van Apeldoorn, Victoria Regional Meeting
- Derrick Fergus Woodhouse, New South Wales Regional Meeting
YM09.30  Regional Meeting reports

We receive the Regional Meeting reports and recognise the diverse range of concerns within our Regional Meetings.

We appreciate the significant use of these reports made by Trish Roberts, Canberra Regional Meeting, in the State of the Society address.

YM09.31  Backhouse Lecture Committee

Helen Gould, New South Wales Regional Meeting, delivered the 2009 Backhouse Lecture, *The Quaking Meeting, Transforming our selves, our meetings and the more-than-human world*, on Monday, 5 January. The lecture was deep ministry, which echoed in the hearts and souls of many present.

The 2010 Backhouse Lecture will be delivered by Australian Young Friends, and we look forward to hearing their ministry.

YM09.32  Outreach

*(Documents in Advance page 64)*

There will be a report from the Preparatory Session in *Documents in Retrospect*.

The Preparatory Session did not suggest the continuation of the national coordinator’s role.

YM09.33  Thanksgiving Fund

*(Documents in Advance page 82)*

We receive the report in *Documents in Advance*.

We accept Tasmania Regional Meeting’s offer to host the Thanksgiving Fund Committee from the end of this Yearly Meeting and we ask the Committee to include the question in Item 2 of Part B of the Fund’s report in *Documents in Advance*, and the responses to this item from Regional Meetings, in their review of the Thanksgiving Fund Guidelines.

YM09.34  Indigenous Concerns Committee

*(Documents in Advance page 62 - 3)*

We receive the report in *Documents in Advance*.

We hear a report from Chris Hughes, Victoria Regional Meeting, of the Preparatory Session on Indigenous Concerns, and ask that the full report be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

Yearly Meeting agrees to endorse participating in a national campaign to restore and promote respect for Indigenous rights in Australia, in particular:

- Restore the Race Discrimination Act
- Reinstate the Northern Territory Lands Act
- Repeal the Northern Territory Emergency Response Act, stop the intervention and initiate a consultative approach to resolving Indigenous issues
- Sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Retain and extend bilingual education in Indigenous communities
- Maintain Community Development Employment Programs
• Reinstate the right of Indigenous communities to stop uranium mining and nuclear waste disposal on their land.

Yearly Meeting agrees to the formation of an Indigenous Concerns lobbying network to facilitate this campaign.

The following advice is given to Friends participating in this campaign:

• It is envisaged that Friends will meet with their local Members of Parliament, Senators, Ministers and public servants.

• We request Friends to participate in this campaign and meet with their local members and state senators concerning the current racial injustices in Australia and urge that government consult widely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and nations with a view to resolving past injustices and finding a way forward which respects the human rights of all.

• We believe Friends can bring a loving faith-based approach to discussions with politicians and public servants that enables the acknowledgment of that of God in all people and the good intentions of all those involved in achieving a way forward. That speaking truth to power should be done with love, tenderness and understanding.

• Friends are also encouraged to make written submissions to, and attend the community round table consultations organised by the National Human Rights Consultation Committee to seek public opinion on how Australia could better protect and promote human rights. For more information see – http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au

• We ask that Friends living in the area be consulted if Friends are considering sending letters relating to particular locations.

YM09.35 Report of the Preparatory Session on Peace

(Documents in Advance page 65 - 73)

We hear from Jonathan Benyei, Canberra Regional Meeting, an overview of the Peace Preparatory Session which included reports from or about the following:

Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC)
Donald Groom Peace Fellowship
Peace and Social Justice Fund Committee (PSJ Fund)
Peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee
Conflict in the Middle East
Christian Peacemaker Teams
Nonviolent Peaceforce

We ask that full reports be included in Documents in Retrospect.

We agree to the following recommendations from the Preparatory Session:

• To donate a second instalment of $3500 from the Peace and Social Justice Fund to the International Fellowship of Reconciliation in Epworth, Zimbabwe, subject to a review confirming that previous funds were spent appropriately;

• That AYM confirm its support for the Nonviolent Peaceforce and Christian Peacemaker Teams (particularly the formation of the Australasian group of CPT), to be implemented by the Peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee, noting that there are no financial cost implications;

• That we do not join the Australian Human Rights group at this time, but ask QPLC to obtain further information on this organization and any obligations arising from membership;

• That Friends be encouraged to make submissions by 31 January to the Freedom of Religion and Belief in the 21st Century enquiry as individuals or through Regional Meetings (details available at http://www.humanrights.gov.au/frb);
• That Yearly Meeting ask the Presiding Clerk to write a letter to relevant politicians restating our abhorrence of war, the need to uphold the sanctity of justice for all people, and to observe the rule of international law. We ask that it be made plain that we stand in solidarity with all those who are suffering from the current violence in the Middle East and that we call for pro-active political support of non-violent approaches to achieve sustainable peace in the region;
• That the Yearly Meeting Clerk be asked to issue a media statement about the same matters.
• That the Yearly Meeting Clerk write letters of support to Jean Zaru, clerk of Ramallah Meeting; Jeff Helper of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions; and the Quaker school in Ramallah.

**Formal Session 6  11.00 a.m. Thursday, 8 January 2009**

**YM09.36 Testimonies**

The testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Judith Parkhurst of Tasmania Regional Meeting was read by Julian Robertson.

The testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Victoria Rigney, of Tasmania Regional Meeting was read by Topsy Evans.

**YM09.37 First reading of the draft Epistle**

Chris Jacques of Young Friends read a first draft of the Epistle from this Yearly Meeting.

**YM09.38 AYM Nominations Committee**

(a) The Sanctuary Future Uses Committee

We agree to extend the appointment of the Sanctuary Future Uses Committee until Yearly Meeting 2010, and are told that they will report to Standing Committee in July 2009.

(b) Australia-Wide Quaker Fellowship

We accept the recommendation that Margaret Woodward and Graham Hodgkin be reappointed until the end of Yearly Meeting 2010.

(c) Meeting for Learning Facilitators

We note that the Meeting for Learning facilitators are appointed by Quaker Learning Australia.

(d) Membership of Australia Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee

We note that Duncan Frewin has been reappointed to the AYM Nominations Committee by Queensland Regional Meeting, and that several members of the Nominations Committee finish their term at the end of Yearly Meeting 2009.

**YM09.39 The Sanctuary**

(a) The Sanctuary Management Committee

*(Documents in Advance page 80)*

We receive the report in *Documents in Advance*, which was introduced by Wies Shuiringa, New South Wales Regional Meeting.
(b) The Sanctuary Future Uses Committee

(Documents in Advance page 80)

We receive the report in Documents in Advance.

YM09.40  Australia Wide Quaker Fellowship

(Documents in Advance page 47)

We hear a report from Graham Hodgkin, West Australia Regional Meeting about the work of AWQF, and that they will undertake a review in 2009 and bring a report to Yearly Meeting 2010.

YM09.41  Quaker Education Network

We hear a report from Graham Hodgkin, West Australia Regional Meeting, about Quaker Education Network and a possible liaison with Quaker Learning Australia.

YM09.42  Friends Book Sales, Adelaide

(Documents in Advance page 52)

We receive the report from Topsy and David Evans, South Australia Regional Meeting, about Friends Book Sales in Adelaide, and express our thanks for their continuing work.

YM09.43  Morrow Bequest Committee Report

(Documents in Advance page 64)

We accept the recommendations from the Morrow Bequest Committee listed in Documents in Advance and note that the Committee will be in the care of West Australia Regional Meeting’s Peace, Social Justice and Environment Committee.

YM09.44  Elders and Overseers — Training Development

We hear a report from Dorothy Broom, Canberra Regional Meeting, about the Preparatory Session on the Elders and Overseers Training and Development Group. The Preparatory Session heard a detailed account of the experience of ministering with eldering support from Cathy Walling and the 2009 Backhouse presenter Helen Gould.

The Preparatory Session recommends

• That this group continues its work in 2009 to develop a modular curriculum for the corporate development of members of Ministry and Oversight and others who are led to participate;
• That Quaker Learning Australia supports the work of the group; and
• That Regional Meetings be encouraged to proceed with training and development of Friends in their own Meetings.

We accept these recommendations.

YM09.45  Australian Quaker Tapestry Group

(Documents in Advance page 46)

We receive the report from the Australian Quaker Tapestry Group in Documents in Advance and hear from Cathy Davies and Tessa Spratt about how the Australian Quaker Tapestry Group is an outreach activity for Friends within Australia.
YM09.46  The Australian Friend

(Documents in Advance page 46)

We are grateful for the work of The Australian Friend Committee and all who help with the production of The Australian Friend. We are pleased that they will carry this forward in 2009.

Formal Session 7  9.00 a.m. Friday, 9 January 2009

YM09.47  Testimony

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Miles Pulsford of South Australia Regional Meeting was read by Roger Keyes.

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Leslie Hopkins of South Australia Regional Meeting was read by Julie Webb.

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of John Newland of South Australia Regional Meeting was read by Jenny Stock.

YM09.48  Second Reading of the Epistle

Chris Jacques, Young Friend, read a draft of the epistle from this Yearly Meeting for a second time.

YM09.49  Committed relationships

(Documents in Advance page 84 - 86)

We hear the following recommendations from the Preparatory Session:

• That Yearly Meeting endorse the summary statement on committed relationships included in Documents in Advance, pages 85–86;
• That Section 4.3 of the Preliminary Draft of the 6th Edition of the Australian Quaker Handbook, The Care of Partners, be replaced by a more suitable statement that reflects both the statement in Documents in Advance and current practice within Australian Regional Meetings in regard to committed relationships;
• That AYM Nominations Committee be asked to bring the names of two or three concerned Friends to work on this task of drafting a possible replacement section;
• That Regional Meetings be asked to consider the practical implications for them of adoption of the summary statement.

We agree to these recommendations.

YM09.50  Earthcare

We hear a report from Maxine Cooper, Victoria Regional Meeting, of the Earthcare Preparatory Session. We ask that this report be published in Documents in Retrospect.

We hear a report from Vidyâ, Canberra Regional Meeting, of the outcomes from the Yearly Meeting 2009 Summer School on Climate Change. We agree to include in Documents in Retrospect the ‘Safe Climate Manifesto’ drafted by the Summer School.

We agree to establish an Australia Yearly Meeting Earthcare Committee. We ask the Earthcare Committee to use the Terms of Reference drawn up by the 2009 Summer School on Climate Change, and to report back to Standing Committee or Yearly Meeting any proposed changes to those Terms of Reference.
We ask the Australia Yearly Meeting Earthcare Committee to prepare a draft public statement on safe climate to be brought back to Standing Committee or Yearly Meeting for approval.

The Children at Yearly Meeting 2009 sent the following message to ‘our adult friends’:

- 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!

We ask that our actions responding to the children’s requests and suggestions about climate change issues be compiled and reported to the children at Yearly Meeting 2010, and that this be a standing item on our Local, Regional and Australian meeting agendas as we meet this year.

We agree to publish in Documents in Retrospect a document from the FWCC Asia-West Pacific Section Gathering in Bhopal, India, on Global Change.

We ask the Earthcare Committee to consider and bring to Standing Committee July 2009 a proposal for a Safe Climate Worker.

We ask the Yearly Meeting Clerk to meet with children and JYFs to explain how we are responding to the children’s requests at this Yearly Meeting.

**Formal Session 8  11.00 a.m. Friday, 9 January 2009**

**YM09.51  Testimonies**

A compilation of Testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of Derrick Woodhouse, Raymond Frederikson, Carmen Zammit, Kerry Osboldstone, and Earl Robinson of New South Wales Regional Meeting was read by Elizabeth Field.

**YM09.52  AYM Nominations**

(a) Morrow Bequest Committee

Nominations Committee recommends Lesley Barker and Sally Herzfeld, West Australia Regional Meeting, to carry forward responsibility for the Morrow Bequest for three years to 2012, within the wider Peace and Social Justice and Environment Committee of West Australia Regional Meeting.

We agree
(b) Thanksgiving Fund

Nominations Committee recommends Peter Hepburn, Peter Jones, Ron Martin, Julian Robertson, Felicity Rose, Colin Wendell-Smith, Barbara Wilde and Sheila Given (subject to consent), Tasmania Regional Meeting, for the Thanksgiving Fund Committee. We agree.

(c) Australian Quaker Centre Working Group

Nominations Committee suggests the following names:

- David Johnson, Queensland Regional Meeting;
- Helen Bayes, Canberra Regional Meeting; Elizabeth Kwan (subject to consent);
- Drew Thomas; Kerry O’Regan and Kate Alessia, South Australia Regional Meeting;
- Mark McLeod; Sheila Keane; Jane Growns; John Baker, New South Wales Regional Meeting; and
- A Young Friend.

We agree, and appoint these Friends until the end of Yearly Meeting 2010.

(d) AYM Treasurer

Nominations Committee recommends appointing Roger Sawkins, Queensland Regional Meeting, as Treasurer for a further three years to 2012. We agree.

Nominations Committee recommends the re-appointment for a further three years of the AYM Finance Committee: Colin Barnard, David Lowe, David Lowry, Marion Sullivan and Roger Sawkins. We agree.

We pass on to the Finance Committee the Nominations Committee’s suggestion that they arrange a teleconference with all Regional Meeting Treasurers before mid-year Standing Committee.

YM09.53 Child Protection Review

(Documents in Advance page 48)

We hear from Alan Clayton, Victoria Regional Meeting, that the Preparatory Session was devoted to feedback from Yoland Wadsworth who has been reviewing the implementation of our Child Protection Policy and Guidelines. Her report will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

YM09.54 Friends World Committee for Consultation

(Documents in Advance page 59-60)

We hear from Alan Clayton, Victoria Regional Meeting, a report of the FWCC Preparatory Session and ask for the full report to be published in Documents in Retrospect.

We note that a recommendation for a guest from AWPS to be invited to attend Yearly Meeting 2010 will be brought to mid-year Standing Committee.

We hear that Alan Clayton is laying down the responsibility of being convenor of this Committee and that Michael Corbett, Queensland Regional Meeting, and Barbara True, South Australia Regional Meeting, will be co-convenors.
YM09.55 **Ecumenism and interfaith** *(Documents in Advance page 49-50)*

We hear a report from Elizabeth Field, New South Wales Regional Meeting, of the Preparatory Session on Ecumenism and Interfaith. We ask that the full report be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We receive the following recommendations from the Preparatory Session:

1. We ask all Regional and Local Meetings to obtain and circulate the NCCA 2008 Social Justice report entitled ‘Faces of Poverty’.

2. We ask the Presiding Clerk to write to John Henderson thanking him for his service as the Executive Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia for the previous seven years.

3. We ask the Presiding Clerk to write an appropriate welcoming letter to the new General Secretary of the National Council of Churches when an appointment is made.

We agree to these recommendations.

YM09.56 **World Children’s Peace Choir**

We hear from Deb Munro of South Australia Regional Meeting about her concern to work towards a World Children’s Peace Choir. We note that South Australia Regional Meeting has asked to give this concern our blessing. We willingly do so.

We ask that the Planning Committee for the World Gathering of Friends in 2012 be informed about this initiative, and requested to explore a possible gathering of Quaker children at the World Gathering.

YM09.57 **Minute of Record: Peace Witness for Gaza**

Over 50 Friends attending the 2009 Yearly Meeting held a peaceful vigil at a public rally in Canberra’s central business area at lunchtime on Thursday, 8 January 2009, to protest against military action in Gaza.

The Australia Yearly Meeting Clerk addressed the crowd, expressing our abhorrence of armed conflict, noting a range of peace-promoting initiatives in the region, highlighting the irony of providing financial assistance after conflict had commenced, and calling on politicians to pursue peaceful solutions to political issues.

**Formal Session 9 9.00 a.m. Saturday, 10 January 2009**

YM09.58 **Third reading of the Epistle**

Chris Jacques of Young Friends read the final draft of the epistle from Yearly Meeting 2009.

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.

YM09.59 **AWPS visitors Bo-Kyom Jin and Paul Sunghun Han**

Hannah Chapman-Searle, Canberra Regional Meeting, gave an introduction in Korean when Bo-Kyom Jin spoke at Yearly Meeting 2009. A large audience of Friends enjoyed a presentation by Bo-Kyom on the history of Friends in Seoul. She mentioned some of their struggles and projects, and the intervisitation of overseas Friends. Photographs of the Meeting House in Seoul and of Friends in both the Seoul and Dae Jong Meetings, provided much
interest. We were delighted to see two photos of the recent wedding between Bo-Kyom and Paul Han.

We are glad to hear that the sister meeting relationships with both Canberra and Kapiti Meetings are developing to a deeper level. We also heard of the proposed visit later this year by Australian and New Zealand Friends to Korea and Japan, which will provide many learning experiences.

YM09.60  
Handbook Revision Committee

(Documents in Advance page 61)

We hear a report from Bev Polzin, Victoria Regional Meeting, about the Preparatory Session on the Handbook Revision.

We note that the Preliminary Draft of the Sixth Edition is not a revision of the content of the Handbook, but the placing of the content into a different form. This draft is available on the Australia Yearly Meeting website, http://www.quakers.org.au. We further note that a cross-referencing document to the previous edition will be made available to serve the purposes of this revision and not as a continuing Australia Yearly Meeting document.

We agree that a group of volunteers from each of our Regional Meetings take responsibility for considering one chapter (and relevant appendices and supplements) of this document, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Chapter One and the Glossary</th>
<th>Tasmania Regional Meeting</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Two</td>
<td>South Australia Regional Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Three</td>
<td>Queensland Regional Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Four</td>
<td>Victoria Regional Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chapter Five</td>
<td>West Australia Regional Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chapter Six</td>
<td>New South Wales Regional Meeting</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Regional Meeting volunteers and any individual Friends should direct comments about the draft chapters of the Revision to the relevant Regional Meeting volunteers. Yearly Meeting Committees should also forward comments on sections relating to them to the Regional Meeting volunteers responsible for particular chapters. We ask that the name of the Regional Meeting volunteers be made known to us.

We ask that the Preface be considered by all Regional Meeting volunteers, and we ask that all comments from volunteers be sent directly to the Handbook Revision Committee.

We ask that the following specific questions be considered:

• Has every important element been carried across accurately?
• Has anything been put into the Sixth Draft which was not in the Fifth, other than that approved by Yearly Meeting?
• Have all the changes approved by Yearly Meeting been incorporated in the new Edition?
• Is the new format clear?
• Are there any sections needing revision? (Any revisions will be included when the Handbook is next being revised.)
• Are there suggested changes to the wording (not the meaning)?

We ask the Handbook Revision Committee to send the next draft, based on the comments received from Regional Meeting volunteers, to mid-year Standing Committee in 2009.

We ask the AYM Secretary, in consultation with the AYM Treasurer, to bring a proposal about editing to Standing Committee July 2009, including costing.
YM09.61  Child Protection

We hear a progress report from Yoland Wadsworth, Victoria Regional Meeting, about her review of the Australia Yearly Meeting Child Protection Policy and Procedures [CPP and P], and we ask for her full report to be published in Documents in Retrospect.

We ask Regional Meetings and in particular Regional Meeting Child Protection contact persons

- to work with Local Meetings and Worshipping Groups to respond to the emerging recommendations raised by the reviewer in her report and listed below.
- to send responses to the reviewer by March to her email address, yoland.wadsworth [at] gmail.com.

Yoland Wadsworth’s recommendations:

- to revise the CPP and P to strengthen the spiritual and whole-of-meeting community basis of the policy;
- to make better known within all our Meetings the people with CPP and P responsibilities for those Meetings.;
- to improve communication about CPP and P in our Regional and Local Meetings and Worshipping Groups.
- to provide ongoing training for those in our Regional and Local Meetings and Worshipping Groups who have CPP and P responsibilities
- to improve our management of records in relation to CPP and P.
- to produce a simple guide to follow if an allegation or incident occurs.
- to clarify the differences between CPP and P and Respectful Relationships.
- to draft changes to the text of the CPP and P where necessary to put the previous recommendations into effect.

We hear a report from Alan Clayton, Victoria Regional Meeting, of concerns raised by parents about the implementation of our Child Protection Procedures in relation to the supervision of children and Junior Young Friends during unprogrammed time at Yearly Meetings. We are grateful for the help of Young Friends in resolving this issue at Yearly Meeting 2009, and we note that this issue needs to be attended to in our organization of future Yearly Meetings.

YM09.62  Respectful Relationships (formerly Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Prevention)

(Documents in Advance page 81)

We hear a report from the Preparatory Session from Ronis Chapman, Canberra Regional Meeting, about the prevention of sexual misconduct. We agree to the following recommendations:

- The name of the guidelines and the contact officers and the committee be changed to Respectful Relationships
- Regional Meetings be asked to separate the roles of Child Protection contact persons and Respectful Relationship contact persons.
- The names and phone numbers of these contact people, subject to consent, be placed on the Australia Yearly Meeting website and displayed in a prominent place everywhere there are Quaker Meetings for Worship.
- A leaflet that explains the respectful relationships guidelines be developed by that group, and published by the Publications Committee.
- That the guidelines be reviewed and updated.
- That a training package be developed.
- The Respectful Relationships Group be allowed to co-opt Friends to do this work.
YM09.63 The Friends’ School

(Documents in Advance page 53 - 58)

We hear a brief report from Drew Thomas, South Australia Regional Meeting, about the Preparatory Session on The Friends’ School and ask that the full report be published in Documents in Retrospect.

YM09.64 Young Friends report

(Documents in Advance page 83 - 84)

We are advised by the Young Friends Preparatory Session that the Young Friends (YFs) will change their structure after this Yearly Meeting.

There will be a committee consisting of a Clerk, an Assistant Clerk, a Treasurer, a Communications Coordinator and a Nominations Convenor. For a year, there will also be a Backhouse Lecture Liaison person from the Canberra Backhouse Lecture facilitating group on this committee.

We are advised of the following Young Friends appointments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Clerk (one year)</td>
<td>Alexa Taylor</td>
<td>West Australia Regional Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Clerk (one year)</td>
<td>Tom Dundas</td>
<td>New South Wales Regional Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treasurer (Two years)</td>
<td>Oliver Greeves</td>
<td>South Australia Regional Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communications Coordinators (one year in</td>
<td>Sally Stokes</td>
<td>West Australia Regional Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>the first year, and two years thereafter)</td>
<td>Myfanwy White</td>
<td>Victoria Regional Meeting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Backhouse Lecture liaison (one year)</td>
<td>A nominee from the Canberra Group</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We hear that all roles and nominations will be reviewed by Young Friends at Yearly Meeting 2010.

Young Friends ask Regional Meetings Clerks to advise the Young Friends Communications Coordinator of new attenders in the Young Friend age group, with their permission, and to advise new Young Friends attenders of the existence of Young Friends. New perpetual email addresses will be created and forwarded to all Regional Meetings.

We hear that Young Friends request up to $5000 for the costs associated with developing the Backhouse Lecture. We agree to a grant of $2500 from the Publications Fund and ask Young Friends to apply for further funds to the Thanksgiving Fund.

We agree that Regional Meetings be asked to support Young Friends in their Backhouse Lecture expenses.

YM09.65 Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing

We report that the Fellowship has held its Annual General Meeting for 2009. Their coordinator for 2009 is Bob Westwood. The editor of the newsletter, Wholeness, is also Bob Westwood.

YM09.66 AYM Nominations Committee

(a) Appointments to the NCCA

We agree to make the following appointments of representatives to the National Council of Churches in Australia until 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NCCA Executive</td>
<td>Alternates to the Presiding Clerk: Elizabeth Field</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCCA Act for Peace</td>
<td>Jackie Perkins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCCA Safe as Churches</td>
<td>Ronis Chapman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Justice Network</td>
<td>Wies Schuiringa</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We agree that Victoria Regional Meeting be asked to make a nomination to the NCCA Faith and Unity Commission, which meets in Melbourne.

(b) AYM Children’s Committee

We accept the offer of Victoria Regional Meeting to be the host of the AYM Children’s Committee.

We appoint the following to the Committee:

Tracy Bourne  
Michael Jones  
Cindy-Lee Harper  
Kyrsie Crane (Subject to consent)  
Justine Shelton (Subject to consent)

(c) Earthcare Committee

We agree to the appointment of the following to the Earthcare Committee:

Margaret Clark (Canberra Regional Meeting)  
Julia Denton-Barker (Canberra Regional Meeting)  
Jane Growns (New South Wales Regional Meeting)  
Jackie Perkins (New South Wales Regional Meeting)  
Philip Toyne (Canberra Regional Meeting)  
Vidyâ (Canberra Regional Meeting)

We ask New South Wales Regional Meeting and Canberra Regional Meeting to consult about which Regional Meeting will host this Committee.

(d) Committed relationships

With reference to Minute 09.49 Committed Relationships, we agree to appoint:

Dorothy Broom, Canberra Regional Meeting  
Elizabeth Field, New South Wales Regional Meeting  
Evan Gallagher, Canberra Regional Meeting and  
Margaret Moreton, Canberra Regional Meeting

We ask them to draft a suitable statement to replace Section 4.3 of The Preliminary Draft of the Australian Quaker Handbook, The Care of Partners, that ‘reflects both the statement in Documents in Advance and current practice within Australian Regional Meetings in regard to committed relationships’.

YM09.67 Visit of Presiding Clerk to Children’s and Junior Young Friends meetings

We hear an account from the Presiding Clerk of his visit together with Kerstin Reimers, Walter Sigrist and Philip Toyne, to the Children’s and Junior Young Friends’ meeting on the previous afternoon (Friday, 9 January) in order to respond to their request about what adults were doing about Earthcare.

YM09.68 Minute of Record: Summer School

An inspiration from a summer school at Yearly Meeting 2008 informed the prayerful discernment leading to the theme for YM09 Summer School: Continuing the Eternal Conversation.
Thirteen YM09 Summer School workshops explored the theme in various ways. Through processes such as singing, music, writing, poetry, painting, Bible study, exploration of Quaker history, meditation and discussion of shared concerns, more than 200 Friends delved into the Light and came to know themselves and others in the ways that are eternal.

Although many people were tired after long (and some hot) days, all groups continued to meet after the evening meal throughout YM09 and were renewed by the fellowship they found there. A number of Friends who were not present at Summer School on Sunday were grateful to join these ongoing meetings through the week to connect with a smaller group for spiritual nurture. The painters and poets added their creative contributions to the art exhibition. Meeting in the evening, some felt that reconnecting with their Summer School group functioned as a kind of epilogue.

The Summer School organisers are grateful to all those who were willing to share their gifts throughout the week, and to facilitators for their careful preparation.

YM09.69 Closing minute

As we come to the end of Yearly Meeting 2009 we send loving greetings to those who could not be with us and those who have held us in the Light during our Meeting. The Presiding Clerk acknowledges that the organizing committee has worked extremely hard on our behalf and expresses our heartfelt thanks for all they have done to make Yearly Meeting 2009 run smoothly.

The Clerk informs us that a letter of thanks is on its way to college staff who have provided for our daily needs and that other letters of thanks will be sent on our behalf.

In closing the final Formal Session, the Presiding Clerk reads the seventh entry in the recent Australia Yearly Meeting Advices and Queries.

Be aware of the Spirit of God at work, in the ordinary activities and experience of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways. There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and arts, in our work and friendships, in our sorrows as well as in our joys. Are you open to new Light, from whatever source it may come? Do you approach new ideas with discernment?
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 AYM. 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 handle-able 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
- 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 Kuarna Elders and the two Friends signal the Meeting to be seated.

- Kauwanu (Uncle) to the two Friends: Parni kawaingwa. Tingkyo manmaingwa niwako meynnaitya
- 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 meyunna tampendi
- Friend 2 (translates) to the Meeting: We acknowledge the Kaurna people
- Friend 1 to the Elders: Parna yerta mattanya bukki-un-angko
- Friend 2 (translates) to the Meeting: They are the land owners since a long time ago
- Friend 1 to the Elders: Ngadlu tampendi Kaurna meyunna 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 naalitiyangga 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.

YM10.2 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 pm. 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:
• Convenor: Barry Sherwell, South Australia RM
• Christine Larkin, Canberra RM
• Rob Walpole & Helen Gould, New South Wales RM
• Heather Myers & Duncan Frewin, Queensland RM
• Harald Ehmann & Julie Webb/Deb Munro, South Australia RM
• Barbara Wilde, Tasmania RM
• Hilary Conway & Dale Hess, Victoria RM
• Gina Price & Caz Bowman, West Australia RM
• Gareth Beyers & Bethany Growns, Young Friends

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 YM10 is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Formal Session Time</th>
<th>Name(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tue 5 Jan</td>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Graham Hodgkin, West Australia RM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wed 6 Jan</td>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Win Howard, West Australia RM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 7 Jan</td>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Bill Sobey &amp; Richard Woodroofe, New South Wales RM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thu 7 Jan</td>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Laura Hill &amp; Mary Washington, Tasmania RM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 8 Jan</td>
<td>09:30</td>
<td>Marjorie Arnold &amp; John Whitehead, South Australia RM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fri 8 Jan</td>
<td>13:30</td>
<td>Ruth Beckwith, 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 pm.
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 of 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 Beautrais, 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, Friends, 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
- Sarah Woodhouse and her children Grace and Joseph from Edgbaston Meeting, Britain 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 RM
- Anne Herbert, Finland YM
- Ute Caspers, German YM
- Rowe Morrow, New South Wales RM
- 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) Future 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 homestay.

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.

Formal Session 3 9.00 a.m. Tuesday, 5 January 2010

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.

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

In presenting the report, Lyndsay 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.

We accept this Minute.

**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 page 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**

*(Documents 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.
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.

The Fellowship has had its Annual General Meeting for 2010, and advises Yearly Meeting that the positions of convener and editor of our 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

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.

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 (see 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.

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 (WARM) 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, continuing Co-convenor)

Nominations Committee — Regional Meeting recommendations:

- Jean Talbot, NSW RM to YM 2013, replacing Cathy Davies, NSW RM
- Taisoo Kim Watson, QLD RM to YM 2013, replacing Duncan Frewin, QLD RM
- Ronis Chapman, Canberra RM to continue till YM 2011

We agree, and appoint the nominees.

YM10.25 Indigenous Concerns Preparatory Session Report

(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 Pembleton 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)
- YM 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
  Bill Sobey, New South Wales RM
• Bonnie Tinkler, North Pacific Yearly Meeting
• Mary Washington, Tasmania RM
• John Whitehead, South Australia RM
  Richard Woodroofe, 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). These 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 Report

(*Documents in Advance* page 58 - 60)

We accept the Peace reports in *Documents In Advance*.

Harold Wilkinson 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 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, 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 Preparatory Session Report

(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 RM
• Treasurer Michael Wilson, New South Wales RM
• Public Officer Elaine Polglase, New South Wales RM

Members of QSA until YM2011

• Mavis Barnard, New South Wales RM
• David Cooper, New South Wales RM
• Therese Douglas, New South Wales RM
• Jane Drexler, New South Wales RM
• John Dundas, New South Wales RM
• David Liversidge, Canberra RM
• Jackie Perkins, New South Wales RM
• Heather Saville, New South Wales RM
• Michael Wilson, New South Wales RM

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 YM 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 Report

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 ask 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 6th 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 Report

(Documents 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.

YM10.35 Earthcare Preparatory Session

(Documents in Advance page 36)

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’s Global Change Committee, through Tom Dundas, Young Friends, and that the Global Change Committee was represented at 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, CRM
- Jackie Perkins, NSW RM
- Phillip Toyne, CRM
- Jo Temme, CRM/Young Friends
- Harro Drexler, NSW 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, and Friends 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.

**Formal Session 7  9.00 a.m. Friday, 8 January 2010**

**YM10.36  Testimonies**

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, 9 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 their 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:
Austral 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

NCCA Appointments

Executive

• Maxine Cooper, Yearly Meeting Clerk (ex officio)
• Elizabeth Field, NSW RM
• Drew Thomas, SARM (as alternate to the Presiding Clerk)

Other regular NCCA Appointments

• Gender Commission Barbara Lumley, NSW RM
• Safe as Churches Ronis Chapman, Canberra
• Faith & Unity Commission Gerry Guiton, Victoria RM
• Social Justice Network Wies Schuuringa, New South Wales RM
• Act for Peace Sieneke Martin, Victoria RM

NCCA Forum (July 2010)

• Presiding Clerk (ex officio), 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 RM 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:
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.

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 Report

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 programme for Yearly Meeting 2011, and 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 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 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, concerning the matters discussed in the Preparatory Session.

The Meeting heard that Jane Sloane and Kyrsie 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 hear 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.

A wide-ranging series of twelve workshops were offered for those present to explore this theme. The workshops were ‘The Creative Adventure — exploring the mindset that leads to creativity’, ‘The Different Realities of Faith, Hope, and Wholeness’, ‘Quaker Perspectives on Social Justice and Vocation’, ‘The Living Witness Project (Quakers for Sustainability)’, ‘Transition to Zero Carbon’, ‘Parker Palmer and Circles of Trust’, ‘Living Differently. Dare to hope – examining the lives of Friends past and present’, ‘The Transformative Process of personal journey through Retreat’, ‘Meditation’, ‘Healing, Caregiving and Grieving in the Light’, and ‘Choosing life – tracking the Creative Process in Art.’

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 6.00pm. 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 January 7th 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, and a full text of this greeting will be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

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 of AYM 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 of thanks 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 Australia Yearly Meeting edition of Advices and Queries:

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
Australia Yearly Meeting

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YM11.1 Welcome to country

The Presiding Clerk thanked Jodi Edwards for her welcome to country. She thanked Jodi’s daughter, Taliah King, for the cleansing dance and the song to unite everyone in this welcoming.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of this area, the Dharawal tribe, and pay our respects to their elders, past, present and future.

YM11.2 Opening silence

Out of the silence, the Clerk read this we can say 2.1, William Oats (1990):

If Quakers were challenged by the question, ‘What do you believe in?’ I think it would be safe to say that the majority would reply, ‘We believe in the Inner Light’. From this central idea other implications follow: that in silence and meditation (individually and corporately in what Quakers call a Meeting for Worship), the Inner Light can illumine our own spirits, enlighten our conscience and reveal to us what God’s will is for us; that this light can illumine every area of life and that therefore there are no such divisions as secular from sacred, Sunday from Monday, human from divine; that we are all bearers of the light which is universal and that therefore we believe in the worthwhileness of each person in the sight of God and of each other.

YM11.3 Welcome to those participating in Yearly Meeting

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

A full list of all those registered for this Yearly Meeting will be printed in Documents in Retrospect.

Those not in membership who are participating at this Yearly Meeting and have been approved by Regional Meetings or by Young Friends will be listed on the notice board during this Yearly Meeting.

YM11.4 Assistant Clerk

We note that Standing Committee has appointed Rae Litting, Assistant Clerk of New South Wales RM, as Assistant Clerk for Yearly Meeting 2011. We agree to this appointment.

YM11.5 AYM Secretary appointment

We note that at Yearly Meeting 2010, Minute YM10.26 set up the Appointments Committee of the Past Presiding Clerk, Lyndsay Farrall of Tasmania RM; the convenor of AYM Nominations Committee, Ruth Watson of West Australia RM; and two Regional Meeting Clerks (Sieneke Martin, Victoria RM and Julie Walpole, New South Wales RM) and authorised them to appoint the Australia Yearly Meeting Secretary.

The Appointments Committee duly appointed Susan Addison, and signed a contract with her on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting.

We welcome Susan as the incoming Australia Yearly Meeting Secretary who begins her three-year appointment in March 2011.
YM11.6  Appointments for the duration of Yearly Meeting

The Presiding Clerk advises that she wishes to have a Recording Clerk for each of the Formal Sessions, and that the following members of her Support Group will fulfill this role — Ray Brindle, Dale Hess, Sieneke Martin & Beverley Polzin of Victoria RM.

We note the following names for the Pastoral Care Committee:

- Canberra RM: Judith Simpson
- New South Wales RM: Helen Gould, Mark Macleod,
- Queensland RM: Mary Grbavac, Trish Johnson
- South Australia RM: Keith Twartz, Trish Hensley
- Tasmania RM: Felicity Rose
- Victoria RM: Dale Hess, Gerry Fahey
- West Australia RM: Lili Bowes
- Young Friends: Eddy Greeves

We note the following names of Child Protection Contact Friends:

- Canberra RM: Brian Turner
- New South Wales RM: Wies Schuiringa
- South Australia RM: Barbara True

We note the following names of Respectful Relationships Contact Friends:

- Queensland RM: Tony Arden
- Canberra RM: Ronis Chapman
- South Australia RM: Kerry O'Regan
- Tasmania RM: Julian Robertson
- New South Wales RM: Acey Teasdale

We agree to the following names for clerks for Preparatory Sessions:

- Australian Quaker Centre: Julian Robertson, Tasmania RM
- Ecumenism & Interfaith: Rae Litting, New South Wales RM
- Friends School: Drew Thomas, South Australia RM
- FWCC & Earthcare: Allan Knight, West Australia RM
- Handbook: David Purnell, Canberra RM
- Indigenous Concerns: Ray Brindle, Victoria RM
- Peace: Harold Wilkinson, Canberra RM
- QSA: Jane Drexler, New South Wales RM
- Quaker Learning Australia & Meeting for Learning: Bev Polzin, Victoria RM
- Respectful Relationships and Child Protection: Lyndsay Farrall, Tasmania RM

YM11.7  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 4:

- the Yearly Meeting photograph will be taken on Monday at lunchtime.
- the All-age Worship will not take place on Saturday morning because we will all join together for the final Worship session.
- a Preparatory Session on the 6th Edition of the Handbook will be held on Wednesday at 11.30 am, as an alternate to the Preparatory Session on Friends’ School.
- Young Friends will not be holding a Preparatory Session at this Yearly Meeting.
- A Peace Vigil will be held 11.30 am – 12.15 pm on Friday, 14 January in the Crown Street Mall, Wollongong. This will be followed by a re-enactment of the presentation 350 years ago of the Quaker peace testimony to Charles II at 12.15 pm on Friday 14 January.
b. Meeting for Remembrance
The Meeting for Remembrance will be held on Wednesday, 12 January, 8:45 am - 9:45 am. Elizabeth Field, New South Wales RM, will read out the list of Friends who have died between Yearly Meetings 2010 and 2011.

c. Timeframe for greetings from Yearly Meeting
Friends are asked to give to the Assistant Clerk names and addresses for greetings from this Yearly Meeting. Cards for these greetings will be displayed for signing from Tuesday 11 January to Friday 14 January and then will be processed for posting.

d. Arrangements for the reading of testimonies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Formal Session</th>
<th>Testimony</th>
<th>Reader</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sunday, 9 Jan 7.30 pm</td>
<td>Ron Darvell, Tasmania RM</td>
<td>Julian Robertson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday, 11 Jan 9.30 am</td>
<td>Val Gargett, South Australia RM,</td>
<td>Elizabeth Stevenson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wednesday, 12 Jan 9.45 am</td>
<td>Eileen Mather, Tasmania RM,</td>
<td>Stephanie Farrall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 13 Jan 9.30 am</td>
<td>Waratah (Rosemarie Gillespie), Canberra RM</td>
<td>Barbara Meyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thursday, 13 Jan 2.00 pm</td>
<td>Geraldine Brown, South Australia RM</td>
<td>Topsy Evans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 14 Jan 9.30 am</td>
<td>Sandy Parker, Victoria RM</td>
<td>Sieneke Martin</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Friday, 14 Jan 2.00 pm</td>
<td>A compilation of testimonies from New South Wales</td>
<td>Julie Walpole</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday, 15 Jan 9.30 am</td>
<td>Erika Wolf, Victoria RM</td>
<td>Alan Clayton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

YM11.8 AYM Nominations Committee
Nominations Committee recommends the following appointments:
• Ronis Chapman, Margaret Woodward, Jenny Stock and Susan Addison to check the Minutes during Yearly Meeting 2011.

We accept these recommendations and make these appointments.

YM11.9 Support for research into Quaker humanitarianism
Standing Committee recommends to Australia Yearly Meeting that the Presiding Clerk send a letter of support to Penny Edmonds Ph.D. and her research team. We agree to this.

Penny Edmonds will be applying for an ARC research grant for a proposed project, By Deeds Of Peace: Quakers, Transimperial Humanitarianism and Early Histories of Human Rights in the Antipodean Colonies, 1800 – 1900s. This is a four-year research project on the history of Quaker humanitarianism and human rights to be conducted with the University of Tasmania.

Formal Session 2 7.30 p.m. Sunday, 9 January

YM11.10 Testimony
Julian Robertson of Tasmania RM read a testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Ron Darvell, Tasmania RM.

YM11.11 State of the Society address
Judy Henderson of Mid-north Coast Worshipping Group, New South Wales RM, gave the State of the Society address. Judy spoke of the reflection and action that underpins the Quaker way.
Out of her reflection and engagement with *Documents in Advance*, she identified a delicate balance in the lives of Meetings and individuals. Judy, as an isolated Friend, approached other isolated Friends in preparing her report and received valuable insights.

She reminded us that the heart of our reflection is the worshipping community and that Friends within these communities are reflecting and acting on the need to get to know each other more deeply.

We were reminded how our methods of engagement and our capacity for action have been transformed by the new technologies. These provide financial and environmental savings and ways of beating the tyranny of distance between and within small and scattered meetings.

Judy emphasised the importance of careful listening to one another and ‘the need for necessary and sufficient reflection prior to action’.

Through all this, Friends remain actively involved in a myriad of social justice and peace Issues, but up to this point do not have a corporate Quaker environmental witness.

Judy used the simile of threads and weaving our lives together like a panel of an Australian Quaker tapestry

She concluded that Silver Wattle Quaker Centre Centre clearly touches the lives of many who go there and search for clarity on the future of the Sanctuary at Wahroonga and the Silver Wattle Quaker Centre continues.

Judy left us with a reflection on the mystery of the connection to place and to places.

The full address will be in *Documents in Retrospect*.

**YM11.12  Welcome overseas visitors**

The Presiding Clerk welcomed visitors from overseas including the following:

- Valerie Clements, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting representative, who spoke of Friends’ activities in New Zealand
- Jeremy List, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting Young Friends representative
- Barsha Lamicchane, Evangelical Friends Church, Nepal
- Pradip Lamicchane, Evangelical Friends Church, Nepal, the Asia-West Pacific Section guest, and
- Pamela Leach, Canadian Yearly Meeting.

**YM11.13  AYM Nominations Committee**

Nominations Committee asked for the names of Friends who may be interested in serving on the Publications Committee. This committee could be made up of Friends from around Australia.

Nominations Committee recommended the following appointments:

- Kerstin Reimers, Tasmania RM; Philip Toyne, Canberra RM; and Jo Temme, Canberra RM, to write the epistle from this Yearly Meeting.
- Judith Pemberton, Queensland RM, as editor of *The Australian Friend* to Yearly Meeting 2012.

We agree to these names and make these appointments.
Formal Session 3  9.00 a.m. Tuesday, 11 January

YM11.14  Testimony

Elizabeth Stevenson of South Australia RM read a testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Val Gargett, South Australia RM.

YM11.15  Summary of Epistles from other Yearly Meetings

Heather Saville of Thirroul Worshipping Group, New South Wales RM, presented the Summary of Epistles from 21 Yearly Meetings around the world. The full text of this summary will be in Documents in Retrospect.

YM11.16  Greetings

Many Friends are holding us in the Light as we meet here in Wollongong. Some have sent the Yearly Meeting greetings, including: Hong Kong Monthly Meeting; David Atwood of QUNO, Quaker United Nations Office; Tara Curlewis, General Secretary, National Council of Churches in Australia; Kyogle Worshipping Group; Mornington Local Meeting, Victoria RM; Frances Nall, Victoria RM; and Ann Rees and Roger Keyes, South Australia RM.

YM11.17  The Friends’ School Board appointments

Standing Committee recommends that Australia Yearly Meeting appoint the following to The Friends’ School Board of Governors, beginning after the Board’s Annual General Meeting in May 2011:

• Ron Martin, as a nominee of Tasmania RM, for a first term of two years beginning in May 2011
• Siobhan Harpur, as a nominee of Tasmania RM, for a second term of four years beginning in May 2011
• Helen Irvine, as a nominee of Victoria RM, for a first term of four years beginning in May 2011
• Taisoo Kim Watson, as a nominee of Queensland RM, for a second term of four years beginning in May 2011
• Karen Davis, as a Board nominee, for a first term of two years beginning in May 2011
• Craig Stephens, as a Board nominee, for a first term of four years beginning in May 2011

We accept these names and make these appointments.

YM11.18  Statements and letters on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting

Letters sent on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting since Yearly Meeting 2010:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>To</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>27 January</td>
<td>Family of Nitin Garg</td>
<td>Condolences on the death of their son</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28 April</td>
<td>Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister</td>
<td>Delays in processing claims from Sri Lankan and Afghan asylum seekers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 June</td>
<td>Kevin Rudd, Prime Minister</td>
<td>International Conference on Nuclear Disarmament</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 July</td>
<td>Israeli Ambassador</td>
<td>Attack by Israeli Defence Force on civilians in waters near Gaza</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 October</td>
<td>Julia Gillard, Prime Minister</td>
<td>Over-emphasis on defence spending</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 December</td>
<td>Chris Bowen, Immigration Minister</td>
<td>Faster asylum claim processing; better options for asylum seekers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These are on display on the website, http://www.quakers.org.au, under Peace Action/Public Statements, and will be listed in Documents in Retrospect.
YM11.19  Future planning

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

(i) Yearly Meetings
(a) Yearly Meeting 7-14 January 2012, at Christ Church Grammar School, Perth
(b) Yearly Meeting January 2013, Canberra
(c) Yearly Meeting January 2014, Queensland

(ii) Standing Committees
(a) Standing Committee 14 – 16 July 2011, Melbourne
(b) Standing Committee 19 – 21 July 2012, Canberra
(c) Standing Committee July 2013, Brisbane

YM11.20  AYM Presiding Clerk’s Report

(\textit{Documents in Advance} page 13)

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

We are delighted to hear

• of the Presiding Clerk’s enthusiasm in learning even more about Yearly Meetings and the delicate balances between processes and contexts.
• that the Presiding Clerk has been interviewed by ABC Radio and the \textit{Illawarra Mercury} at this Yearly Meeting.

We receive the Presiding Clerk’s report.

YM11.21  AYM Treasurer’s Report

(\textit{Documents in Advance} pages 16 - 18)

\textbf{a. Acceptance of Report}

We receive the Treasurer’s Report and accept the 2009-10 audited accounts. We note that the audited accounts are displayed during Yearly Meeting and are available from the AYM Treasurer. We note that the budget was accepted at Standing Committee July 2010.

\textbf{b. Appointment of the auditor}

We reappoint A.H. Jackson & Co as auditors for 2010-11.

\textbf{Formal Session 4  \hspace{6pt}  9.30 a.m. Wednesday, 12 January}

YM11.22  Testimony

Stephanie Farrall, Tasmania RM, read a testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Eileen Walton Mather of Tasmania RM.

YM11.23  Children’s art gift to Yearly Meeting

The children of the Meeting, through Wies Schuirenga of New South Wales RM, presented us with a banner of their artwork that spells out ‘Yearly Meeting 2011 Earthcare’.
YM11.24  First reading of the Epistle

Kerstin Reimers of Tasmania RM read a first draft of the Epistle to be sent out from Yearly Meeting 2011.

YM11.25  AYM Nominations

The Australia Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee recommends the following appointments:

Australia Yearly Meeting Committees that are continuing:

- Australia-wide Quaker Fellowship (West Australia RM): Margaret Woodward to YM 2012
- The Australian Quaker Tapestry (New South Wales RM): Cathy Davies (Convenor), Garry Duncan, Frances Love and Tessa Spratt to YM 2014
- Donald Groom Peace Fellowship (West Australia RM): Ruth Watson (Convenor), Caz Bowman, Brenda Roy, Jo Vallentine and David Watson to YM 2014
- Indigenous Concerns Committee (Victoria RM): Sharee Harper and Christopher Hughes (Co-convenors), David Carline (Queensland RM), Aletia Dundas (New South Wales RM), John McMahon, Anthea Nicholls, Lily Robb (West Australia RM) and Margaret Spong to 2014
- Quaker Education Network (West Australia RM): Margaret Woodward to 2012
- Quaker Learning Australia (South Australia RM): Kate Alessia, David Barry, Kerry O'Regan, Elizabeth Stevenson, Drew Thomas, Julie Webb, and with an additional member, debra hackett to 2014
- The Sanctuary Management Committee (New South Wales RM) Wies Schuiringa, Acey Teasdale, Bill Brennan and the Australia Yearly Meeting Treasurer (ex officio) to 2014.

We agree, and make these appointments.

YM11.26  Appointments to AYM Nominations Committee

We note that Regional Meetings have made the following replacement appointments to the Australia Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee:

- Ruth Watson (West Australia RM) continuing to 2012
- Christine Larkin (Canberra RM, to replace Ronis Chapman) to 2014

YM11.27  Accepting reports where no decisions are required

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

- Regional Meeting Reports (Documents in Advance pages 19 – 26).
- Backhouse Lecture Committee (Documents in Advance page 34).
- Friends Book Sales (Documents in Advance page 36)
- The Sanctuary Management Committee (Documents in Advance page 50).

YM11.28  Earthcare Preparatory Session report

(Documents in Advance page 35)

We accept the report in Documents in Advance.

We have heard and accept the report of the Earthcare Preparatory Session. This will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

Previously, Regional Meetings have been asked to respond annually on their Earthcare actions. We request feedback on how they are responding to Earthcare concerns by the end of January, in time for Documents in Retrospect.
YM11.29  Meeting for Remembrance Minute of Record

During Meeting for Remembrance, held on Wednesday, 12 January, 8.45 - 9.45 a.m., we remembered the following Friends who have died since Yearly Meeting 2010:

- Canberra RM: Waratah (Rosemarie Gillespie), David Gough, Jan Hodges
- New South Wales RM: Ann Crosson, Betty Farkas, Dee Hughes, Pat Kerr, Salome Lamont, Barbara Linklater, Margaret Malone, Sheila Mason, Charles Monticone, Nancy Shelley, Susan Sobey
- South Australia RM: Julian Davidson, Val Gargett
- Tasmania RM: Terry Courtney, Ron Darvell, Eileen Mather, Doreen Walker
- Victoria RM: David Livingston, Anne Newell, Sandy Parker, James Perrett, Erika Wolf

No deaths were recorded within West Australia RM or Queensland RM.

YM11.30  AYM Secretary’s Report

(Documents in Advance page 14–16)

We receive the Secretary’s Report in Documents in Advance, and note the ways in which she is preparing to hand over to the next Secretary in March 2011.

We note that The Australian Friend is now online in colour as a readable document and encourage Friends to read this online.

YM11.31  FWCC/AWPS Committee

(Documents in Advance pages 40)

We note the report from the Australia Yearly Meeting Friends World Committee for Consultation Committee in Documents in Advance.

Allan Knight, West Australia RM, read a minute of record from the Preparatory Session, which will be in Documents in Retrospect.

YM11.32  Backhouse Lecture Minute of Record

‘A demanding and uncertain adventure’ is the title of the 2011 Backhouse Lecture which Rowe Morrow delivered at Yearly Meeting on Monday, 10 January, at the Events Centre, University of Wollongong. In lively engagement with an audience of Friends and visitors, Rowe shared her journey of discovery that Earth repair was to be her life’s work. Permaculture has been the toolkit she has used to help renew people’s spirits after disasters and help heal the damaged landscapes in which she has been led to work.

She introduced us to a number of Quakers from the past she came to know and admire in the process of writing the lecture. They included James Backhouse, who, like Rowe, crossed the world travelling under a concern; Bertie Morris who initiated the planting of a green collar around Broken Hill; Olive Pink who was a passionate advocate for Aboriginal rights and the value of desert plants in Alice Springs; and Red Mitchell who defended the rights of insects as part of Creation.

She told us of the spiritual solace she has found in cosmology, by accepting that ‘destruction and chaos have been part of all evolution and usually contain the seeds of future stability and richness’.

Rowe revealed insights she had gained from seeing how people and societies whom we might regard as ‘poor’ survive by living sustainably and sharing resources.
She left us with the hope that the Earth is ‘restorable and retrievable’, but warned that living simply is no longer sufficient to slow our species' descent to extinction.

Her message was that to restore our planet we must live frugally, build peaceful communities, and honour the Earth’s web of relationships. She challenged us to model sustainable living on Earth by living our Quaker testimonies.

In the follow-up discussion, Rowe reminded us that the Earth belongs to our children, and that it is imperative we restore it. She urged us to overcome feelings of disempowerment and despair and start the work of restoring the Earth where we find greatest joy and can make the biggest difference for the least effort.

Copies of the print version of the lecture are available from Friends’ Book Sales.

YM11.33  Australian Quaker Tapestry/Australian Friends in Stitches

(Documents in Advance page 33)

We accept the report in Documents in Advance. Cathy Davies spoke of their current projects, and we are delighted by the progress of the panels that are being created.

The Tapestry Group informed us of the change of name to ‘Australian Friends in Stitches; the Quaker narrative embroidery project’. We accept this change.

**Formal Session 5  9.30 a.m. Thursday, 13 January**

YM11.34  Welcome to General Secretary, NCCA

The Presiding Clerk welcomed the General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia, Tara Curlewis.

YM11.35  Testimony

Barbara Meyer of Canberra RM read a testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Waratah (Rosemarie Gillespie) Canberra RM.

YM11.36  Second reading of the Epistle

Kerstin Reimers of Tasmania RM read a second draft of the Epistle to be sent out from this Yearly Meeting.

YM11.37  Greetings

We have heard flood news from Rhoda Dorrell, Queensland RM; greetings from Sarah Davies, New South Wales RM, who is traveling in Europe; from Max and Sonia Raupach, South Australia RM and Tara Curlewis, General Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia, delivered greetings and flood commiserations in person.

YM11.38  Appointment of Assistant Clerk

We accept Jean Talbot, New South Wales RM, as Assistant Clerk for the rest of Yearly Meeting, as Rae Litting is returning home.
YM11.39 Testimony

Topsy Evans, South Australia RM, read a testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Grace Geraldine Brown, South Australia RM.

YM11.40 Peace Preparatory Session Report

(Document in Advance pages 44 - 46)

We accept the peace reports in Documents in Advance.

Harold Wilkinson, Canberra RM, outlined the report from the Preparatory Session on peace concerns.

We accept the suggestion from Documents in Advance that the Donald Groom Fellow be offered free registration and accommodation at each Yearly Meeting, as recommended by the Donald Groom Fellowship Committee.

Robyn Slarke, the Donald Groom Fellow for 2010, has been with us at Yearly Meeting 2011.

We note that the Donald Groom Fellow for 2011 is Maggie White, who will be working with an Aboriginal community in the Kimberleys in Western Australia. The focus of her work will be to prevent violence against women and children.

We note that the full report of the Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee will be in Documents in Retrospect, as an incorrect version appeared in Documents in Advance.

The full report from the Preparatory Session will be in Documents in Retrospect.

YM11.41 Indigenous Concerns Preparatory Session Report

(Document in Advance pages 42 – 43)

Sharee Harper, Victoria RM, reported from the Preparatory Session on Indigenous Concerns.

The Preparatory Session recommends that

- Regional Meetings be urged to report annually for Documents in Advance how they have engaged with and built bonds with local Indigenous people, and/or organisations, either through the Regional Meeting report or through their Indigenous Concerns Correspondent.
- And that meetings and individual Friends be encouraged, where known and with permission of the local custodians, to use the local Aboriginal language words for greetings before notices at the end of Meeting for Worship.

We agree.

We note the Indigenous Concerns Fund has less than $5000, and encourage Friends to contribute to the fund.

This report, together with reports from the Committee and the various Regional Meetings and the Northern Territory, will be in Documents in Retrospect.
Formal Session 7  9.00 a.m. Friday, 14 January 2011

YM11.42  Testimony

Sieneke Martin of Victoria RM read the testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Sandy Parker, Victoria RM.

YM11.43  Third reading of the draft Epistle

Philip Toyne of Canberra RM read a third draft of the Epistle from this Yearly Meeting.
We accept the epistle.

YM11.44  Silver Wattle Quaker Centre Preparatory Session Report

(Document in Advance page 29)

We accept the report from the Australian Quaker Centre (AQC) Working Group in Documents in Advance.

We heard a report on the two Preparatory Sessions.

We agree to the recommendations brought to us in Documents in Advance and from the Preparatory Sessions, going forward in faith even though some Friends expressed reservations and misgivings.

1. From Documents in Advance:

• That any money and interest remaining in the Australia Yearly Meeting Australian Quaker Centre Fund, after payments have been settled, be transferred to Silver Wattle Quaker Centre Limited.
• That books, DVDs and pamphlets donated to the library at the AQC be given to Silver Wattle Quaker Centre Limited.
• That the 5000 litre rainwater tank, sundry items of furniture, including bedroom desks and chairs, the melamine dining room trestle table, desk lamps and cleaning equipment, be donated to the Silver Wattle Quaker Centre.
• That the Silver Wattle Quaker Centre policy statements on Child Protection and Respectful Relations may be based on the policies of Australia Yearly Meeting.

2. From the Preparatory Sessions:

• That there be a strong relationship between Australia Yearly Meeting and Silver Wattle Quaker Centre and that Australia Yearly Meeting appoint three Friends who will research, consult widely amongst Friends, and make a recommendation on this relationship to Standing Committee July 2011 for consideration by Yearly Meeting 2012.
• That the Silver Wattle Quaker Centre may continue to use the word ‘Quaker’ in its name.
• That we offer our loving support for the leading of David Johnson, Helen Bayes, John Baker and others closely involved in the establishment and growth of the Silver Wattle Quaker Centre. We recognise the vision they have, and the benefit the centre has brought and may continue to bring Quakers in Australia and the Asia-West Pacific Region, as one of the ways that Quakers may deepen their spirituality and outreach.

A full report from the Preparatory Sessions will be published in Documents in Retrospect.

YM11.45  The Australian Friend

(Document in Advance page 29)

We accept the report in Documents in Advance.
We note that Judith Pembleton of Queensland RM has been appointed as editor of *The Australian Friend* in 2011, with assistance from a range of Friends around Australia.

We have heard a report from John Michaelis, New South Wales RM, about a Share and Tell which discussed a proposal from the Friends of the Australian Friend Online, under the care of the New South Wales RM. The group proposes to publish trial online editions of *The Australian Friend* during 2011, in parallel with the present formats.

Australia Yearly Meeting asks New South Wales RM to continue the care of this group working to manage and publish *The Australian Friend* as a web-based publication.

An interim report and budget will be provided to mid-2011 Standing Committee. The future of this proposal will be considered at Yearly Meeting 2012.

### YM11.46 Quaker Service Australia Preparatory Session Report

*(Documents in Advance pages 61 - 64)*

We accept the report in *Documents in Advance*.

Jackie Perkins, New South Wales RM, read a report from the Quaker Service Australia (QSA) Preparatory Session and the Quaker Service Australia Annual General Meeting (QSA AGM).

The QSA AGM, held on 12 January, submits the following names for confirmation:

**QSA office bearers**

- Convenor: Kay de Vogel, Canberra RM to 2015
- Treasurer: Michael Wilson, New South Wales RM to 2012
- Public Officer: Jane Drexler, New South Wales RM

**Members of QSA until YM2012**

- Mavis Barnard, New South Wales RM
- David Cooper, New South Wales RM
- Therese Douglas, New South Wales RM
- John Dundas, New South Wales RM
- David Liversidge, Canberra RM
- Jackie Perkins, New South Wales RM
- Heather Saville, New South Wales RM
- Michael Wilson, New South Wales RM

**Friends appointed by their respective Regional Meetings to membership of QSA:**

- Kay de Vogel, Canberra RM
- Mavis Barnard, New South Wales RM
- Judith Pembleton, Queensland RM
- Robin Sinclair, South Australia RM
- Gill Fitzgerald, Tasmania RM
- Helen Irvine, Victoria RM
- Mike Hennessy, West Australia RM
- Ex officio: Australia Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk and Australia Yearly Meeting Secretary.

Yearly Meeting confirms the names brought forward for appointment.

It is agreed that the term of appointment for all new appointees be extended from three years to four years.

Office bearers will continue to be appointed for a maximum of three years from the time of appointment.

As agreed at a previous Yearly Meeting, the report from the next review of QSA is due at YM2013. The QSA AGM suggests that:
The five-yearly review would complement, not normally duplicate, the reviews by external bodies such as AusAID.

Australia Yearly Meeting appoint a small ad hoc committee to determine the terms of reference for this review, and a timeframe of required actions to produce a report for YM2013. We ask the committee to bring the terms of reference and timeframe to Standing Committee 2011.

The Review Committee be appointed at Yearly Meeting 2012.

The Review Committee be required to enquire widely among Friends and bring a report to mid-year Standing Committee 2012.

We note that the auditor accepted by the QSA AGM was Robert Mayberry of Nexia Court & Co.

Formal Session 8 2.00 p.m. Friday, 14 January

YM11.47 Testimonies

Julie Walpole, New South Wales RM, read a compilation of the testimonies and memorial minutes to the Grace of God in the lives of the following Friends of New South Wales RM:

- Ann Crosson
- Betty Farkas
- Dee Hughes
- Salome Lamont
- Barbara Linklater
- Sheila Mason
- Susan Sobey

YM11.48 Handbook of Practice and Procedure Preparatory Session Report

Documents in Advance page 42

We accept the report in Documents in Advance.

David Purnell, Canberra RM, reported on the Preparatory Session on the Handbook of Practice and Procedure in Australia. This report will be in Documents in Retrospect.

The Preparatory Session made the following recommendations:

- The Handbook version prepared in January 2011 be accepted as the approved version of the Sixth Edition, for guidance on Quaker practice.
- Susan Addison be authorised to do the necessary editing work as soon as possible.
- The Australia Yearly Meeting Secretary be authorised to place the January 2011 version on the national website and make editorial amendments in accordance with Susan Addison's editorial suggestions.
- The online version, clearly dated, be regarded as the definitive edition of the Handbook.
- Printed copies of the edited Handbook be made available, in a similar format to the soft cover version of ‘this we can say’, to Regional Meetings and individuals for a charge that reflects the cost of printing.
- Any future suggested amendments to the Handbook follow the usual Quaker process of consideration by Regional Meetings or Australia Yearly Meeting Committees. These suggested amendments would then be forwarded to the Australia Yearly Meeting Secretary for consideration by Yearly Meeting.
- Once an amendment has been authorized by Yearly Meeting it will be dated and added to the national website version of the Handbook, and be included in The Australian Friend.

YM11.49 Young Friends’ Report

(Documents in Advance page 57)

We receive the Young Friends’ report in Documents in Advance.

Australia Yearly Meeting agrees to cover the cost of Young Friends’ Public Liability Insurance.

We heard a report from Young Friends including information from Oliver Greeves about his visit to Young Friends’ Aoatearoa New Zealand Young Friends camp.

Young Friends Appointments

We note the following appointments:

- YF Treasurer: Oliver Greeves, South Australia (continuing to 2012)
- YF Nominations Committee: Rhys Dryzek, Canberra
- Australian YF representative to Aotearoa/New Zealand YF camp: Gareth Beyers

YM11.50 Morrow Bequest Committee

(Documents in Advance page 43)

We accept the report in Documents in Advance.

Yearly Meeting accepts West Australia RM’s offer to administer the Morrow Bequest funds. We ask the Australia Yearly Meeting Treasurer to transfer the balance of this fund to West Australia RM.

YM11.51 AYM Nominations Committee

The Australia Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee recommends the following appointments:

- Australian Quaker Children’s and Junior Young Friends’ Committee additional members: Ann Brown, Victoria RM; Henry Esbenshade, West Australia RM and Beth Harcourt, West Australia RM until 2014.
- Friends Book Sales: Topsy & David Evans, South Australia RM until YM 2012
- Thanksgiving Fund: Lyndsay Farrall as an additional name until YM 2014.
- Backhouse Lecture Committee additional members: Elizabeth Kwan, South Australia RM, and Judith Pemberton, Queensland RM to YM 2014.
- Australia Yearly Meeting representative to Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting: Roger Sawkins, Queensland RM
- Working group on the relationship between Silver Wattle Quaker Centre-Australia Yearly Meeting: Jane Drexler, New South Wales RM; Lyndsay Farrall, Tasmania RM; and Sieneke Martin, Victoria RM.
- To take up the six places offered to Australia Yearly Meeting for the FWCC World Gathering in Kenya, 2012: Susan Addison, Queensland RM; Maxine Cooper, Victoria RM; Abel Siboniyo, Queensland RM; and Taisoo Kim Watson, Queensland RM, and two Young Friends to be nominated by Young Friends Nominations Committee.

YM11.52 Child Protection

(Documents in Advance pages 34 – 35)

We accept the report in Documents in Advance

Lyndsay Farrall reported on the Preparatory Session on Child Protection. This report will be in Documents in Retrospect.
YM11.53 Respectful Relationships

(\textit{Documents in Advance} page 50)

Lyndsay Farrall reported on the Preparatory Session on Respectful Relationships.

We agree to establish an Australia Yearly Meeting Respectful Relationships Committee, consisting of the Regional Meeting Respectful Relationships Contact Friends, appointed by Regional Meetings. This Committee would report on its activities to mid-year Standing Committee and to Yearly Meeting.

We ask that the committee report to Standing Committee on the March workshop and on its plans for further such training opportunities.

YM11.54 Ecumenism and Interfaith

(\textit{Documents in Advance} pages 36)

We have heard a report on the Preparatory Session on Ecumenism and Interfaith. The full report will be in \textit{Documents in Retrospect}.

YM11.55 Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing Annual General Meeting

(\textit{Documents in Advance} page 29)

Barbara True, South Australia RM, presented a summary of the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing for 2011.

A report will be in \textit{Documents in Retrospect}.

YM11.56 The Friends’ School Preparatory Session Report

(\textit{Documents in Advance} page 37 - 40)

We accept the report on The Friends’ School in \textit{Documents in Advance}.

Drew Thomas, South Australia RM, reported from the Preparatory Session. The full report will be in \textit{Documents in Retrospect}.

We note that Lyndsay Farrall is now Presiding Member of the Board.

Formal Session 9 9.00 a.m. Saturday, 15 January

YM11.57 Testimony

Alan Clayton, Victoria RM, read the testimony to the grace of God in the life of Erika Wolf, Victoria RM.

YM11.58 FWCC AWPS Guest for YM2012

Australia Yearly Meeting hopes to invite a member of Indonesia Yearly Meeting as one of Asia-West Pacific Section guests to Yearly Meeting 2012 in Perth. The Australia Yearly Meeting Secretary will write to the Indonesia Yearly Meeting General Secretary, Arbiter Simorangkir, to ask him to forward a name for the representative.
YM11.59  Thanksgiving Fund  

*(Documents in Advance page 56)*

We accept the report in *Documents in Advance*.

We note that two Regional Meetings have requested that the details of fund allocations be available in *Documents in Advance*.

We ask the committee to publish the current details in *Documents in Retrospect* or to advise us of their reservations in relation to this.

YM11.60  The Sanctuary Future Uses Committee  

*(Documents in Advance page 51)*

Australia Yearly Meeting accepts the report of the Sanctuary Future Uses Committee. Wahroonga Local Meeting and New South Wales RM have told us of their deliberations on this matter.

We ask the Presiding Clerk to continue consultations with the clerks of New South Wales RM and Wahroonga LM, and to report back to Standing Committee in July 2011.

YM11.61  Privacy issues and the use of database information

Standing Committee suggests that there is a need for a privacy policy in relation to access and uses of members and attenders’ contact details, and recommends that we ask a working group to explore the spiritual, legal and ethical issues in relation to the publication of these contact details, whether in the journal, the lists of members and attenders, in maintaining the database, or in other ways. We agree.

We ask those who presently maintain and update the database to form this working group, with power to co-opt. The working group would consist of the Australia Yearly Meeting Secretary, and, subject to consent: Stephen Hodgkin, Jim Palmer, and the Regional Meeting Membership Secretaries, plus a representative of Quaker Service Australia at their request.

We ask the group to report to Standing Committee July 2011, so that a recommendation may be brought to YM 2012.

YM11.62  Quaker Learning Australia and Meeting for Learning  

*(Documents in Advance pages 46 - 47)*

We have heard a report from the Preparatory Session on Quaker Learning Australia and Meeting for Learning. The report will be in *Documents in Retrospect*.

YM11.63  Australian Quaker Children’s and Junior Young Friends’ Committee Report  

*(Documents in Advance page 32)*

We accept the report in *Documents in Advance*.

Tracy Bourne, Victoria RM, reported on the Preparatory Session on the Australian Quaker Children and Junior Young Friends Committee. The full report will be in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We ask the organisers of children and JYF activities at each Yearly Meeting to liaise with the Australian Quaker Children’s and Junior Young Friends’ Committee. A working group will be formed to coordinate appropriate information. Justine Shelton, Victoria RM, will coordinate
this group so that we might learn from year to year and connect together the rhythm and content of planning.

We ask the Australia Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk to work with the convenor of the Quaker Children’s and Junior Young Friends Committee to prepare a letter to Regional Meetings requesting contributions for two Friends from Britain Yearly Meeting to travel to Meetings around Australia to enhance our work with children and young people.

YM11.64 Minute arising from the Peace Preparatory Session and Earthcare Summer School

We have heard a minute arising from the Peace Preparatory Session and the Quaker Toolkit Earthcare Summer School.

We encourage the Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee, together with the Australia Yearly Meeting Earthcare Committee, to develop a proposal for a Quaker Peace, Social Justice and Earthcare Worker and office to be located in Canberra. We request a progress report to be brought to mid-year Standing Committee.

We note that the Committees may apply to the Peace & Social Justice Fund for funds to further this work.

YM11.65 Minute of Record: Summer School

The theme chosen for this year’s Summer School was ‘Our Witness, Our Earth.’ Nine Summer School topics were offered, and reports from some of these will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

It was very helpful to have the link between the theme ‘Our Witness, Our Earth’ for the Summer School and the Backhouse Lecture, A Demanding and Uncertain Adventure; Exploration of a concern for Earth restoration and how we must live to pass on to our children — and their children, and all living things — an Earth restored.

YM11.66 Minute of Record: Share and Tell

A full list of the Share and Tell Sessions held at this Yearly Meeting, and any reports written about these events, will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

YM11.67 Minute of Record — Peace Vigil and Re-enactment

On Friday 14 January 2011, 11:30am-12.15pm, 30-40 f/Friends held a silent vigil for peace in the Wollongong Crown Street Mall. Next, Friends celebrated the 350th anniversary of the presentation of the Peace Testimony to Charles II with a short re enactment of that event. Children, Junior Young Friends and adults were involved in the re-enactment.

The report and the script of the re-enactment will be in Documents in Retrospect.

YM11.68 Further greetings and support regarding the floods

Greetings and letters of support expressing love and concern as floods devastate much of eastern Australia, from Queensland to Tasmania, have been received during this Yearly Meeting from

- Clare Dimyon, Ditchling Local Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting;
- Julian Stargardt, Hong Kong Monthly Meeting
- Peter Smith, Wells next the sea Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting
- Nancy Irving, Friends World Committee for Consultation World Office.
YM11.69  Minute for Judith Pembleton, AYM Secretary

Innovative, with a capacity to embrace change, especially in new technology.
Conscientious in her care and support of the officers and convenors of Australia Yearly Meeting Committees.
Supportive of a large number of Quaker concerns.
Skilful in bringing communication about Quakers to the wider community.
Offering responsive and steady guidance.

These are some of the qualities Judith Pembleton has brought to the Religious Society of Friends as the Secretary of our Yearly Meeting. We are grateful and honour the dedicated service Jude has given to us over seven years. Go well, dear Friend.

YM11.70  Closing Minute

In the final session, we send greetings of peace and love to all those Friends who could not be here with us, to those who have held us in the Light, and to all those people who have been affected by the devastating floods.

We acknowledge the generous assistance we have received from the exceptional staff working with us here at Campus East, University of Wollongong. Their support and concern for our wellbeing has been a gift.

We also acknowledge the wonderful energy and support that the New South Wales RM organizing committee have given us as they have worked to make sure the Meeting had the time and space for worship, business and the other myriad activities that have enriched our experiences of the Spirit here.

Our sense of diversity and community has been strengthened and have nurtured our deep connectedness with the Spirit.

Earthcare has framed our reflections and our actions. We have been surrounded by birdsong, gentle rain, the sea and the sand. The words, from a song at the concert, reminded us of our connections to the Earth:

I am the sea, and the sea is me.
Not other, but together we are one. (Kerry O'Regan, South Australia RM)

In closing, the Presiding Clerk read Advices and Queries No. 47:

We live in a land of unique grandeur and beauty, harsh and majestic, but at the same time fragile. Have you discovered its wonder and mystery, and has this awareness quickened your spiritual insight, and helped you to recognise that of God in everyday life? Rejoice in the splendour of God’s continuing creation.

Maxine Cooper  Presiding Clerk