

December 2015

Australian Quaker Earthcare

The AYM Earthcare Committee has produced this Earthcare as an Invitation to all Quakers in Australia

Earthcare Invite

Paris and Beyond



Image: Friend Margaret Emily Whittle (above right) writes “When people hear about the problems with the environment, they often start to feel hopeless: powerless, overwhelmed, that the problem is too big, there are too many issues, how will their children cope, and where would they start.? I suggest we start where we are at, and when we get stuck, use strategies to get unstuck: free us up again; sharing our emotions with a group is even more powerful.” (*Image:* www.quakers.org.au)

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We invite you to consider daily practice that also connects with our precious earth. Listening to the Spirit through the breeze in the trees, or through appreciation of the light changing as minutes go by.....so that we remember who we are, where we are, and simultaneously, our insignificance, and our significance. Everything and everyone matters. A lot!

The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference runs Nov 30-Dec 11. The World Council of Churches invites us to join the “climate justice movement.” There is a chance – just a chance – for the first time in 20 years of UN negotiations, for us to achieve a global and comprehensive agreement on climate justice and climate protection.

Many people will be there in Paris, seeking to listen, and to “speak truth to power”. Can you bring your loving attention during and beyond this time so that many of the innovations and promises are not forgotten?

Since 2011, [Quaker United Nations Office](#) (QUNO) has been observing climate change negotiations, engaging in “quiet diplomacy” with a diverse group of UN Framework Convention on Climate Change negotiators. QUNO’s particular focus is [the impacts of climate change on people’s lives](#). You can find briefing papers on some of the developments (including the Quaker Statement on Climate Change) by clicking [here](#) (or if reading this hard copy, google QUNO climate change.)

You may like to give all involved – and that is *all* of us here on Planet Earth – your loving prayers during this challenging era for world leaders, people in faith communities, as we bring love and mindfulness about the future of our ecological systems

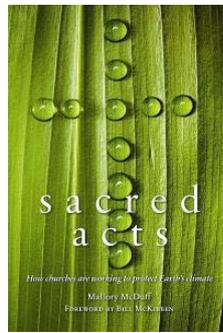


Australian Friends are involved in activities out in the wider community website by going to www.quakers.org.au look forward to sharing with Friends

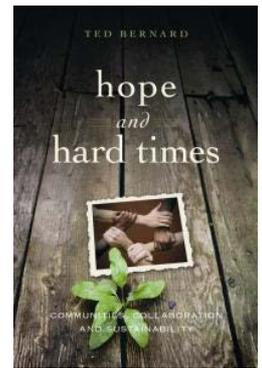
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Here we enjoy you to extend into the connections that nurture our ecology.



Sacred Acts: How churches are working to protect Earth's climate, by Mallory McDuff – the efforts in North America by church leaders, parishioners and church activists to define a new environment movement in practical ways.



Hope and Hard Times: Communities, Collaboration and Sustainability is Ted Barnard's follow-up on nine

communities he visited across the United States in 1997. How have they managed community-based sustainability initiatives? Advice on how to live on pieces of land without spoiling them!

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A big event in the last weekend of November was the People's Climate March Australia In many places around Australia, Quakers produced banners and joined the tens of thousands of people from cities to country towns calling on the Australian government to act in good faith in Paris on behalf of our future.



Divesting Australia Yearly Meeting announced at the beginning of this year that we would [divest from the Big 4 banks](#), drawing a significant amount of media. Now it is becoming conventional wisdom to question coal and other fossil fuels. The giant German financial services company Allianz announced last month “We will no longer invest in mining companies and utilities that generate more than 30 per cent of their sales or energy creation from coal.” Investments in that company are shifting towards renewables – doubling to 4 billion Euros. Much bigger climate funds and green bonds are being spoken about in Paris: in short, the financial world is in the middle of a seismic shift towards a low-carbon economy. Alas, Australia's own [Future Fund](#) has been [investing in nuclear weapons development](#) – there is work still to be done!

Walk Country How well do we know our own local landscape? There has been a revival of walks over Ngaanyatjarra lands in the Western Desert of Central Australia, since the first 2006, and annually since 2011. Every walk includes [community conversation](#) about where the track will be – near lots of bush tucker, with firewood and through some meaningful sacred sites and places that have stories for people, and inspire art and stories. At the same time Land and Culture staff do some patch burning, GPS training and rock hole monitoring. Could this be a model for the rest of Australia – not just in remote areas, but urban too, working with local elders?

C

elebrate

Earthcare Christmas: Is there a way to celebrate the birth of the Prince of Peace through some gentle witness? Quakers traditionally don't celebrate Christmas, but it is definitely part of many people's customs. If giving is part of your family culture, might this be an opportunity to connect with those close to us, especially children, through producing rather than buying gifts? Tips about climbing out of Dante's circle of Christmas consumerism are found in [The Case Against Buying Christmas Presents](#).