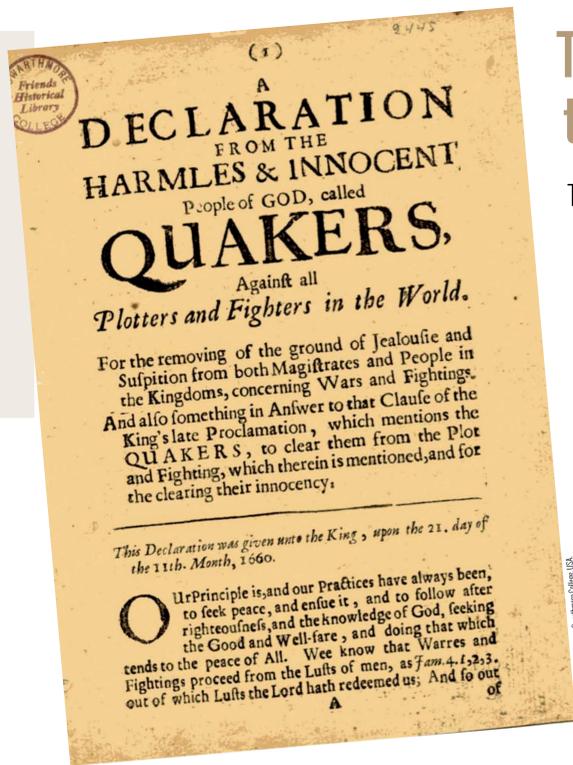




Bearing witness for peace

“We are a people that follow after those things that make for peace, love, and unity.”

to Charles II on persecution. Margaret Fell, Given forth the 5th of the 4th month, 1660.



The peace testimony

The testimony to peace by the Religious Society of Friends was first declared to Charles II in 1660:

‘Our principle is, and our practices have always been, to seek peace...

We... testify to the whole world, that the spirit of Christ... will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world...’

Bearing witness to peace

This commitment to the peace testimony has led Quakers to bear witness to the innate humanity within us all. Quakers speak out against injustice and war – issues that are incompatible with our faith and vision of a world in which peace and justice can prevail.

The 19th century peace movement

Quakers were among the founding members of the London Peace Society formed in 1816 to promote permanent and universal peace, including by means such as the reduction of armaments and agreed mechanisms for the peaceful settlement of disputes.

The peace movement began to grow in influence by the mid-1800s: the Peace Society in London convened the first International Peace Congress in 1843.

Seeking to avert the Crimean War

In 1854 Quakers in Britain became concerned about the anti-Russian fever being fanned by the press. They sought, and were granted, an audience with Czar Nicholas I of Russia in a vain attempt to avert war.

In one of the earliest overseas missions, Quakers helped arrange relief for famine-stricken Finland which had been caught up in the war.



Peace Vigil, Hobart pre-WW2.



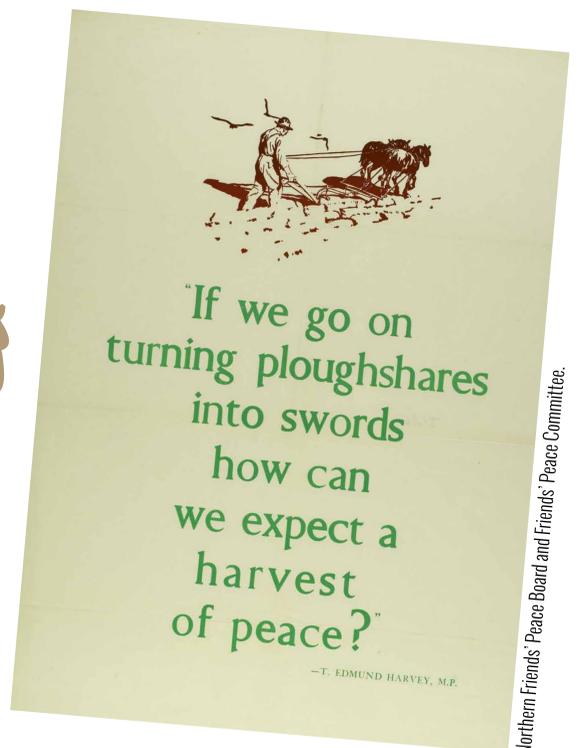
Quakers in Anti-war Protest, Perth – c. WW2 period

Australian Quakers post-Federation

‘We think it right, at this our first annual general meeting, to renew our protest against all war...

Preparations for war, instead of contributing to peace, produce suspicion, jealousy, and mistrust between the nations. It is better to sow steadily and consistently the seeds of goodwill and concord.’

General Meeting for Australia, 1902



Northern Friends' Peace Board and Friends' Peace Committee.

Exhibition prepared in 2014 by:
Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in NSW
www.quakers.org.au



Design by: ARMEDIA Pty. Ltd.