

Children and JYF Newsletter

February/March 2021

From the coordinators...

Hello again from the AYM Children and JYF Committee, and the Children and JYF coordinators...

It's been a quiet couple of months for our committee, as everybody returns to a version of normal at school, study and work, but we can't yet plan for our usual in-person gatherings at Easter and Yearly Meeting.

Our online Children's Meeting for Worship continues, and we've listed some resources you might like to use in your own meeting. Wherever you are, we hope you enjoy our latest newsletter.

Could you be the new CJYF coordinator?

Gina and Tania's two-year term ends in June 2021. The Children and JYF Committee will be seeking one or two Friends to take over the Children and JYF coordinator position. Contact Emily Chapman-Searle or Sarah Davies for more information:

Meet the committee

Hello Sarah Davies!

Sarah is co-convenor of the Children and JYF committee, alongside Emily Chapman-Searle. Sarah says...

As a child, JYF and Young Friend I was fortunate to be involved with an active youth programme within the Society with numerous F/friends of similar age.

Now that I have children of my own (Dana, age 8, and Elyse, age 6) I want to ensure that they also get the opportunity to learn about Quakers, have fun, learn about and live the Testimonies, make friends, get to know and learn from older Friends, travel and attend camps, just like I did. I feel being on the CJYF Committee is one of the ways I can support this.

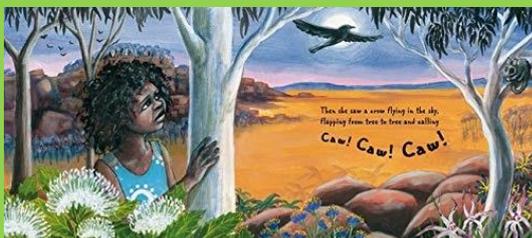


Family portrait by Elyse



What's been happening at Children's Monthly Meeting for Worship Online?

The 26th of January public holiday occupies an increasingly uncomfortable place in our minds and hearts, and our January Children's Meeting for Worship Online addressed this unease by encouraging us to learn more about Australia's First Nations. Emily Chapman-Searle and Yarrow Andrew taught us to sign an Acknowledgement of Country with Auslan, and share the names and languages of our regions' Aboriginal people with one another.



In February, Gina introduced us to a story by Ambelin Kwaymullina, "The Lost Girl". The girl in the story had wandered away from everybody and everything she knew. She needed to look and listen closely to the animals around her to find her way home. Gina asked us about our experiences of having an animal or bird "say hello".



Upcoming Children's Meetings for Worship Online: Save the dates

Sunday 28th March

9am (WA), 11am (QLD), 11:30am (SA/NT), 12 noon (NSW/VIC/TAS), 2 pm (Aotearoa/NZ)

Sunday 25th April and Sunday 30 May (after daylight saving ends)

10 am (WA), 11:30 am (SA/NT), 12 noon (QLD/NSW/VIC/TAS), 3 pm (Aotearoa/NZ)

If you would like to use some of our Children's Meeting Online resources, head to quakersaustralia.info - Young People - Children and click on the "Resources" link.

Yearly Meeting 2021

Save the dates! Yearly Meeting 2021 will be hosted by Victoria Regional Meeting on 4-10 July. It will be a virtual event and you can contact us for more information about the offerings for children and JYFs via email:

cjyfcoordinator@quakersaustralia.info



Resources for families

On Friday the 19th of March Tania set a very early alarm and attended the Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) Children and Young People's Support Network meeting via Zoom. It was 7:30 pm in the United Kingdom, and 5:30 am in Brisbane as we sipped our respective hot drinks and shared ways to facilitate meetings and worship for young Quakers.

We were joined by Oonagh Ryder, BYM's Activism Support Coordinator. Oonagh mentioned two projects that we can get involved with:

1. Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) has a Climate Action Penfriends project. Friends can sign up to exchange letters, postcards, emails or participate in online calls with others around the world to discuss plans for addressing the climate emergency and celebrate their actions and success. Children's' Meetings could join the Penfriends project as a group. The link is here: <http://fwcc.world/fwcc-news/climate-action>
2. The Loving Earth project is a collection of textile art pieces (30 cm calico squares embellished with embroidery, collage, drawings or applique) that will be displayed at COP26. Anybody can sign up to send in a square and there's a gallery of finished pieces on the Loving Earth Project website for inspiration: <https://lovingearth-project.uk/category/news/>

