

April 2024

Walking Cheerfully

Founded 1926

Newsletter of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) South Australia - Northern Territory Regional Meeting.

'We are not for Names, nor Men, nor Titles of Government, nor are we for this Party, nor against the other, because of its Name and Pretence; but we are for Justice and Mercy, and Truth and Peace, and true Freedom, that these may be exalted in our Nation.'

~ Edward Burrough, 1634–1663

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Friends celebrate Jane Duguid's 91st birthday on Sunday 17th March at the home of Olga and Doug Farnill.

BARBARA MATHER

Formerly Harris, Nee Coombs



Barbara Mather in May 2011.

“Do you come faithfully to Meeting?” asks the long-standing Query. Barbara Mather certainly did that. She was a faithful Friend, first attending meeting about 1955 on the back of a motor scooter with her then husband, Quintin Harris. Small in stature, she was perhaps not widely known in the Society, but she was a long-standing member of North Adelaide Meeting, later, when she lived at Milang, of the Fleurieu Meeting, and in her last years, living at Mount Barker, she attended the Hills Meeting. She conscientiously edited the Newsletter 1998-2000. Although Quintin was accepted into membership in 1952, not so Barbara. She remained a long-standing Attender until her membership in 1986.

Barbara knew tragedy. Her husband Quintin, died in 1985. One of his sculptures stands in the Adelaide southern Parklands. He was a nephew of Mary Harris, a widely-known Friend of her era. He, as well as Barbara, and their elder son, Gavin, devotedly cared for their son and brother, Colum, who became severely handicapped from the age of five when a car hit him outside the family home in Stirling. Colum died at the age of 24, one year before the death of his father. Barbara, herself, had a brain tumour removed in recent years.

Barbara then moved to Mount Barker where she eventually married Ted Mather. They moved to Bulkeley Street, Milang, from where Barbara drove the 40 kms there and back once a fortnight to attend the Fleurieu Meeting in Port Elliot. Likewise, she travelled up to Adelaide to do her weekly stint at the Quaker Shop. When it was her turn for tea duty at the Meeting House, she again travelled up from Milang. Her tea-making, in the historic teapot (used in the 1920s and 30s for the Monthly Meeting luncheon on the verandah) was memorable.

She was born as Barbara Jean Coombe at Blackwood on 24th May 1936, the youngest, and now the only survivor, of thirteen children. She died on 27th February 2024. After a short funeral service in Mount Barker Barbara was buried in the little cemetery on Native Road, Wistow, next to the grave of her husband, Ted, and not far from the former Morning Star Hotel ,where Ted’s family had lived on arrival in South Australia, from Manchester. A spontaneous memorial meeting in her memory occurred at the Hills Meeting on Sunday 10th March. Several Friends spoke warmly of Barbara’s quiet stamina, perseverance, friendliness and dedication. Perhaps the finest tribute came from an Attender who spoke of the quiet ‘presence’ in meeting for worship that she felt came from the diminutive Barbara.

- Charles Stevenson.

An Evening with Asuntha



Jo Jordan and Maureen Arnott, who is the convenor of Support Association for the Women of Afghanistan, heard a talk by Asuntha Charles on Wednesday 20th March at the venue of Food on the Table at Hindmarsh. The event was organised by Micah Australia which is campaigning for a “safer world for all”.

Asuntha, who was born in rural south India and brought up Catholic, was determined to complete her education and become a social worker like Mother Teresa. The norm for young women in India at the time was to have an arranged marriage and to devote herself to her family. However, Asuntha’s calling was to be an advocate for human rights. Recruited by Oxfam, she became a voice for women and children in the Philippines, Sudan and Afghanistan. She was in Afghanistan when the Taliban took over Khabul. Rather than fleeing, Asuntha chose to stay to support women and children, a task which was suddenly urgent. Progress has been made for the education and condition of girls since she and others have been negotiating directly with the Taliban, although much still remains to be done.

In response to a question about how she deals with the Taliban, Asuntha said that it can be easier than dealing with local politicians. The response of the Taliban is predictable and the negotiator can be well informed and prepared but some local politicians give lip service to their support for women and children, but their actions contradict their words. What can we in Australia do to help those suffering from malnutrition, poverty and the effects of war? Asuntha said that if we truly appreciate and value all that we have, we will be more open to sharing with others. “Everyone deserves to be valued and everyone deserves an opportunity.”

The evening concluded with a talk by Tim Costello, the Executive Director of Micah Australia. Tim presented disturbing statistics about Australian Aid expenditure over the past decade. Australia has fallen from the 14th most generous OECD donor in 2015 to the 28th in 2022. He spoke about advocacy work that Micah has undertaken recently. “Micah Australia campaigns and builds platforms to connect and equip Christians to think and to act justly in engaging our nation’s political leaders to create significant change.” For more information about the campaign see <http://saferworld.org.au/>

Jo Jordan

Some of my thoughts on living a meaningful life.

Inga Tolley

As I was beginning to work through the grieving process after dear Michael's death, I pondered on how I would now live a meaningful life on my own, having had over 62 years of the sharing and loving support from my soul mate.

I am very fortunate to be able to have regular help with having my home cleaned. The kind person who regularly helps me is on extended leave visiting his family back in China. While he is away, I am having help from a variety of different people, mostly new migrants, and it has been a pleasure to meet them, and briefly hear about their stories.



Friends at an Eastern Suburbs Friendly Gathering

A couple of weeks ago, a lovely young lady came in the early afternoon, I'll give her the name of Esmarelda, and she looked as if she might have come from Africa. When we started chatting it turned out she came from Argentina, no doubt a descendant from one of the victims of the slave trade many years ago. I asked her when she had started work that morning, and she said 7am and would finish at 7 pm. I felt that it was about time she had a little sit down and suggested that we could enjoy a little chat before she got to the cleaning.

Esmarelda told me that after she and her husband got married, they decided that they would try to come to Australia to see if they could live a better life, as back home they and their families were struggling as they had done for many many years. I asked what her husband's work was, and was told that he was a musician, played the guitar and was teaching part time in two different schools, as well as having private pupils. Esmarelda's mother had taught her to play the viola, and cello, and they just loved music. I in turn shared a bit about my family and their love of music. When I asked what support she and her husband had here in Adelaide, she told me that they enjoyed fellowship with the Argentinian Society, and also from the Baptist Church which they attended.

When it came time for Esmarelda to leave, we both felt enriched by our time together sharing and learning a little about each other, our world had become bigger and happier through this simple interaction.

Later I remembered that soon after Michael and I were married, we talked about how we hoped to live a meaningful life together and within our community. We ended up feeling that if we endeavoured to be "Present where we were" in our daily lives, we would feel the "Promptings of Love" which would guide us to respond in some positive way in our different experiences. We found that when we did so, it opened up new paths and learning experiences for us. We were always thankful for the wonderful nourishment and support from our Meeting. I now feel that this is the path I will try to continue on, and I am so thankful for the wonderful support that you all give me.

Inga Tolley: My contribution at our Friendly Gathering in February.

.Meditation for Earth, Vigil for Survival, and Quakers are drawn together

Noon on Wednesday 6 March 2024 saw the debut of the Vigil for Survival, with five vigilants joining the Meditation for the Earth on the steps of Parliament House. They added colour, and markedly increased the interest of passers-by. Fliers for peaceful survival were handed out.

After the event three of the vigilants walked to the North Adelaide Quaker Meeting House to eat their lunches with Quakers who had had a Meeting for Worship at the same time as the Meditation. We found much in common and already plans are being laid to develop synergies.

The next 'appearance' of Vigil for Survival (V4S) is planned for the Fringe's Floods of Fire event in the afternoon of 16 March at the Torrens side of Adelaide University.

V4S will also be at the next Meditation at Parliament House on 3 April at noon and the North Adelaide Meeting can expect another visit.

There are plans for V4S to turn up (pop up?) at different climate and related focused issues including for example Peace, Palestine, Refugees, Ukraine, Myanmar, industrial farming etc.

If you are interested in joining this multi-faith peaceful witness Vigil for Survival please come to the next Wednesday midday Meeting for Worship on 3 April, or contact Harald Ehmann 0428257585.



The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network (PIEN) and Friends Online Recognised Meeting

- Quakers warmly invite you to a talk about Palestine and Israel by Mercy Aiken. The Palestine Israel Ecumenical Network are bringing to Australia in April Mercy Aiken, co-author of a book about the life of Bishara Awad (founder of the Bethlehem Bible College). Mercy lived at the BCC for five years and got to know Bishara and other Christians very well. With what is currently unfolding, now more than ever the Christian community in the Holy Land is desperate to be heard and supported. This is an opportunity to ask questions and delve into the complexities that exist for believers in the Holy Land. Meeting ID: 715 160 4648 Passcode: 385895. Sunday 14th April 2024 Time: 4:30pm Adelaide time for a 30-minute Meeting for Worship. Mercy's talk, including Q and A, will commence shortly after and last about 50 minutes. Join after Worship if you wish.



Jo Jordan attended the worship service 2024 on Friday 1st March at Scots Church. This year the service was prepared by a group of Palestinian Christian women on the theme “bearing one with another in love”, drawn from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians 4:1-5.

We heard stories about the plight and suffering of Palestinian families, displaced since 1949. Many still hold on to house keys in the hope they can return to their family home, a hope that is passed on through generations. There was also an account of a beloved aunt, Jazeera/AFP journalist Shireen Abu Akieh, who was killed in Jenin. She had stood courageously with all who were harmed, irrespective of their religion.

Priscilla Hein, the minister of Malvern Uniting Church spoke about her visit to Israel and Palestine lasting 10 days. She was shocked to see bomb shelters in playgrounds and she was moved by the peoples’ longing for hope and peace, written in graffiti the walls dividing Israel and Palestine.

We pray for all who are denied education and other basic rights. We pray for those who are abused and suffer violence.

The World Day of Prayer program is inspired by its motto “Informed Prayer and prayerful action”. Through informed prayer the organisation seeks out ways to act in solidarity with women and communities in need. More information about World Day of Prayer is available at www.worlddayofprayeraustralia.org

Palestine- Gaza, West Bank, East Jerusalem

To the Australian Parliament: Pleas for a Common Humanity

Prepared by Canberra Regional Meeting

In Gaza and the West Bank, we demand that Israeli slaughter, starvation, wasting of children, injurie to thousands, detention and torture of hundreds and destruction of hospitals must end. So too must Australian complicity in genocidal acts as identified by the International Court of Justice.

Silence and inaction over death and devastation in Gaza represents abandonment of the principles of a common humanity, and indifference to shared responsibility for the interdependence of all peoples and all living things on planet earth.

We plead with the Australian government and with all Federal politicians to cease favouring the benefits of siding with Israel against the supposed political costs of daring to take seriously the human rights of all Palestinians. Our leaders should instead start thinking about principles of a common humanity.

While women and children are being slaughtered and starved to death, we witness the cowardly politics of the government's decisions to pause humanitarian funding to UNRWA, its refusal to support South Africa before the ICJ, its failure to respond to the ICJ's genocide ruling, and its turning a blind eye to Australian arms sales to Israel. Our government fears to condemn the policies of a state intent on the brutal elimination of a whole people.

Australian governments have joined the United States' war against terror. Israel's carnage in Gaza is not as its leaders claim against Hamas but against all the Palestinian people. It is state terror, collective punishment and probable genocide. In defiance of the ruling of the ICJ, Australia has no right to support this Israeli policy.

Respect for a common humanity means that Australia vigorously advocates the attainment of the human rights of all Palestinians, a goal which also means the dismantling of any racist, apartheid Israeli regime. An implication of that goal is that adherence to principles of a common humanity will benefit all Israelis. Justice for Palestine means security for Israel.

Pleas for a common humanity

include urgent, practical objectives:

- Reinstatement of funding for UNRWA
- Implementation of the rulings of the ICJ
- Demands for a permanent ceasefire and an end to the siege of Gaza
- Expulsion of the Israeli Ambassador to Australia, recall of Australia's Ambassador to Israel
- Ending any Australian military support for Israel
- Developing plans for peace with justice in which Palestinians from all walks take a lead.
- No more unilateral solutions imposed by the US or Israel
- Support for a multinational UN force to ensure peace and security in Gaza & the West Bank
- Support for a UN led emergency humanitarian program to address the immediate medical food and housing needs of Gazans.

Let your lives speak Nonsense said the High Court of Australia

Charles Stevenson

“Let your lives speak” is a fundamental Quaker insight. As William Penn so aptly said: “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.” Certainly to Friends religion is not enshrined in a creed or indeed relegated to symbolic practices in a religious service

This core Quaker precept was considered to be nonsense by the High Court of Australia in 1912 when the Standing Committee of the General (now Yearly) Meeting tested the Australian Constitution. The constitution Section 116 said that the Commonwealth shall not make any law prohibiting the free exercise of religion

Joshua Rowntree, an eminent British Friend, who was anxious to stop Australia’s militaristic momentum before it reached Britain, thought section 116 of the Australian Constitution should be tested. Surely this should mean the end of incarcerating to solitary confinement fifteen year old Quaker boys, as well as other conscientious objectors, to the compulsory military training which then existed in Australia for all boys between the ages of 14 and 17. Rowntree worked closely with Friends in Australia

The case became before the Chief Justice (Sir Samuel Griffith) , and Edmund Barton (who had been the first Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of Australia). These judges made it clear that Section 116 meant only ceremonies during a religious service. Furthermore, the High Court thought this case was one of the weakest that had ever come before them. Friends had the case brought up as inquisitorial rather than adversarial.

The High Court said it was ridiculous to assume that freedom to exercise one’s religion should mean anything other than ceremonies by referring to rather outlandish examples: the religious polygamy of Mormons, and the Thugs of India for whom assassination was a religious belief! Therefore, the High Court strongly concluded , that military training was essential even if one were to join the ambulance corps. A clinical conclusion interested in implacable legal intricacies, it was a narrow interpretation as those who have subsequently looked into the case have said.

Ernest Krygger, the youngster whose conscientious objection was behind the High Court case seemed of no more value to the court than a scientifically examined spider.

There were those in the community who were stunned by the findings of the High Court. One of those was Leyton Richards, minister of the Collins street, Melbourne, Independent Church and later, as a Friend, the 1943 Swarthmore lecturer. He was a reasonable man who pointed out that conscientious objection was about the whole military system. In an increasingly militaristic dominated land it was brave to make a stand for peace, knowing that it was against the prevailing national war-minded ethos. Even some churches praised the High Court decision, “the great clarity of the bench”. Showing up “the strange confusion of thought of the conscientious objector.”

Meanwhile poor Ernest Krygger, was immediately committed to the custody of the Sergeant-Major and the futile attempt to make him do military drill, drowning one would think in the heaving waters of goodness only knows what psychological effects of this young teenage defiance. But Krygger was an interesting teenager. He was not a Quaker. At the time of the High Court case he was staunchly Pentecostal. Two years later he enlisted in the First World War, claiming to be two years older, and presumably joining the Medical

Corps. He later became a law clerk and lived to the age of 89. His father, who deserted the family, was a trooper of considerable courage in the Boer War.

Section 116

The Commonwealth shall not make any law for establishing any religion, or for imposing any religious observance, or for prohibiting the free exercise of any religion, and no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or public trust under the Commonwealth.

Meanwhile, Friends were somewhat stunned by the High Court's findings about the meaning of the exercise of one's religion. Indiana Allen of Melbourne Meeting, who attended many court cases where the naive unsophisticated 15 or 16 year old had their conscientious objection ridiculed by the experienced men of the court, felt great pity for these boys.

There are still those in high places who think that religion should have nothing to do with the affairs of the state. However, it remains fundamentally *sine qua non* that it is one's conduct in life, whether personal or corporate, that is crucial. It is fundamental to our Quaker faith. And to many other faiths too, and even to those of no religion.

Friends would be the first to challenge the High Court interpretation of the meaning of the exercise of religion. Yet! How daunting is our Quaker belief. That from the narrow bounds of the human heart should blaze "that of God"! for aren't so many of us hindered by inhibitions, hang ups of what we may not even be aware, in a word, fated by our human frailty? Nevertheless, we must speak our truth to power. Religion that can't be practised in daily life is quite contrary to Quaker thinking.

For those interested in this case see the Argus, Melbourne, 16 October, 1912; also *Krygger v Williams* [1912] HCA 65 - 15 CLR 366. See also *The Friend* (London) and *The Australian Friend*.

SILVER WATTLE QUAKER CENTRE COURSES

Quaker basics online, Saturday, March 30 until Saturday, May 25. The course comprises nine weekly zoom sessions, which supplemented with readings and guest presentations. Topics include exploring the light, experience, early friends, heart, and mine, prepared, meeting for worship, your voice in the meeting, leadings, and discernment, testimony, how Quakers are organised, and membership

Artists retreat, Tuesday, April 30 until Monday, May 6. This retreat is for anyone who would like to be creative. The intention is created a space that is supportive and nurturing to all, with time to focus on spirit and nature, to reflect on your creative practice, and rest in the spirit, knowing you are enough. we will immerse ourselves in the country and the spirit to be inspired to create. Some collaboration and sharing may occur as guided by the divine

Tree and planting Friday, 10 May until Tuesday, 14 May healthcare for the trees of Silver Wattle, remove cages, weeded around trees, clear paths, and maybe even plan a few.

The First Nations Peoples Concerns Committee Post Voice Referendum event weekend of May 17- 20 2024. The Workshop will be co-facilitated by two Original Australians. The aim of the workshop is to create a space for First Nations People / Original Australians to begin their healing in relation to the Referendum result and advise Friends on how we can be faithful allies in moving forward from the result.

YEARLY MEETING 2024

Join Friends from around Australia as we gather for Yearly Meeting from Saturday 6 to Saturday 13 July. The venue in Adelaide is close to the sand dunes of West Beach with open skies and the sound of the sea. Many of the sessions will be accessible to all, taking place within the venue and available simultaneously online. The program offers something for everyone — for a preview, use this link:

<https://www.keepandshare.com/calendar19/show.php?i=2974167&date=2024-07-06>

Help us to plan by registering early. Whether you are joining online or would like us to reserve accommodation for you, let us know how you would like to participate. The registration form is here:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/>

[1FAIpQLSen1NcZNN8KR_QghZlzGNM8xahnxB31ovL1416g2v5CeZCNkQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSen1NcZNN8KR_QghZlzGNM8xahnxB31ovL1416g2v5CeZCNkQ/viewform)



Friends at a recent meeting for worship at the Adelaide Meeting House.

Quaker World Plenary Meeting August 5th-12th

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Plenary Meeting is a meeting for representatives from all four FWCC Sections to tend to FWCC business, surrounded by worship and fellowship with Friends from around the world. All Yearly Meetings and other bodies that are affiliated with FWCC are invited to send delegates to the World Plenary Meeting.

The 2024 World Plenary Meeting will be hosted by Southern Africa Yearly Meeting, and held in South Africa and online. As the first ever ‘hybrid’ in-person and virtual World Plenary Meeting, our intention is that this will be the most inclusive FWCC event ever held.

The theme of the World Plenary Meeting is ‘Living the spirit of Ubuntu: Responding with hope to God’s call to cherish creation – and one another’.



**above the hill
an eagle floating
ready to strike**

Robin Sinclair

Meetings for Worship

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide: 11 am every Sunday.

Friends Meeting House, 40a Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide.

11.am New ALM Zoom Link. (Please use Chrome search engine for zoom to work best)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82235948640?pwd=cGdWM1NhNFRydXNFd3BMc0FyRE5hZz09>

ID: 822 3594 8640 Password: 521708

Clerk: Geoff Greeves.

Monthly mid-week meeting. 1 pm on first Wednesday of the month

Fellowship of Healing: in recess

WMSAdelaide@quakersaustralia.info

Meeting House bookings: RMSANTBookings@quakersaustralia.info

Eastern Suburbs: 10 am every Sunday. Leabrook Guide Hall, Rochester St., Leabrook .

Zoom link every 2nd and last Sunday of the month.

Clerk: Elizabeth Magarey 041 8895 955. WMSEastern@quakersaustralia.info

Fleurieu: 11 am second Sunday of each month. Contact: Chris Collins 0407 049 535

WMSFleurieu@quakersaustralia.info

Hills: 10.30 am second Sunday of each month. Various venues.

Contact: Robin Sinclair 0418 908 163 WMSHills@quakersaustralia.info

Southern: Third Sunday of month. Contact: Barbara Talbot

WMSSouthern@quakersaustralia.info

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Alice Springs: 4 pm every Sunday at Campfire in the Heart, Ragnesi Road, Alice Springs.

Contact Robyn Carey 0417 808 835 WMSAlice@quakersaustralia.info

Darwin: 4.45 pm first & third Sunday of each month. Salvation Army Community Centre. Cnr Lee Point Rd & Yanyula Dr., Anula, Darwin.

Contacts: John Duguid (08) 7978 7080 Barbara Sampson 0447 201489

WMSDarwin@quakersaustralia.info

REGIONAL MEETING.

Business meetings: 1 pm first Sundays of February, April, June, August, October, December.

Clerk: Jo Jordan RMSANTClerk@quakersaustralia.info

Treasurer: Lee Harradine RMSANTTreasurer@quakersaustralia.info

WALKING CHEERFULLY, South Australian – Northern Territory Regional Meeting Quaker

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