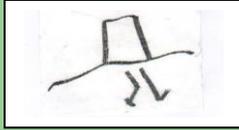


APRIL 2022

WALKING CHEERFULLY

FOUNDED 1926



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NEWSLETTER OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
(QUAKERS) SOUTH AUSTRALIA - NORTHERN TERRITORY
REGIONAL MEETING.

The effects of our actions are largely beyond our control. Any happening they may influence has multiple causes that can never be unravelled; the contribution of what we did is as hard to assess as that of a single strand of rope. We must have faith that if we purify our hearts making our motives more compassionate, what we do will strengthen unimaginally the great forces that can save humanity.

Adam Curle.

Quakers strongly condemn the attack on Ukraine.

A violation of international law and the Charter of the United Nations.

We know that war leads to unimaginable suffering, in particular, exposing children to violence can have lifelong damaging effects. All sides should commit to establishing and respecting humanitarian corridors allowing civilians to flee the fighting. We also appeal for conduct that avoids embedding grievances and injustices that will become the seeds of future violent conflict. Crucially, this means doing everything possible to avoid and resist the creation of enmity between peoples. It also means persevering with efforts to engage in dialogue and preparing the ground for the return of people to their homes.

Statement of Britain Yearly Meeting.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDING CLERK TO FRIENDS IN UKRAINE.

Dear Friends in Kyiv,

Australian Friends send our loving support to you and all in Ukraine at this challenging time. We support your efforts to build peace through active and creative non-violence as our Quaker way of life. Like you, we know violence is not the cure for our broken world. Responding to violence with violence results in enormous suffering as vast resources are diverted to military ends and away from the everyday needs of people, and the death of many others. We join with you in non-violently working for global justice and caring for our common home.

On 24 February, this reply was received from the Quakers of Kyiv, Ukraine, in response to our message:

Welcome to you, our dear Friend Jacque, dear Australian Friends. What a pleasure to receive your message, full of optimism, support, the light of God, and His love! We have been living for eight years, and that is a very long time, under the pressure of hate from our neighboring country. In addition, our country is subjected to constant information attacks and powerful anti-Ukrainian propaganda. Our people are presented as the hideout of hell, the Nazis, and the enemies of everything called belonging to Russia. It is a paradox that Ukrainians have never been enemies of Russia. But throughout history, Russians have oppressed and despised us. Our President came on the slogan of peace that he would not give the order to shoot. And despite his pacifism and his belonging to the Jewish people, Russian propaganda attributes him to belonging to a fascist clique. It's hard to love your enemies when they're so lying, but we try and we do it. Because we know that when the time comes and the light of God shines over the Russian Federation, we will live in peace. Violence is not the answer, war is evil. Ukrainians were always used as soldiers by different rulers, and when we became an independent country and gave up nuclear weapons in the name of peace, part of Ukraine's territory was taken away. But we believe in God's justice. And justice is peace, love, and hope for all people! Bless You, our Friends in Australia

We are informed that at least two of the Quaker seekers in Ukraine have fled: one to western Ukraine, the other to Poland. Others are still in Kyiv and the surrounding area as far as is known. One Kyiv Quaker is being looked after by Polish Quakers. Warsaw Friend Kasia Kaczmarkiewicz, who is assisting as an interpreter, said: 'Many Poles are helping with their work, time and money. I myself am amazed that we can act so spontaneously and communally.' Another Quaker in Estonia is trying to find accommodation for refugees, while a Friend in Georgia is collecting donations to send to Ukraine. 'Hundreds and hundreds of men are going to the Ukrainian embassy in Georgia and signing up to join the Ukrainian army,' Some Russian Quakers have been involved in anti-war protests and at least one was detained by the police, although is now released.

For updates on Australian Friends' response to the Ukraine situation Friends should consult the QPLC (Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee) website. This important committee has Action Alerts as well as Watching Briefs.

NEWS OF FRIENDS

Yarrow Goodley is to deliver the Backhouse Lecture 2022.

The Lecture will be centred on the key issue of climate justice, and how to journey through despair to a sense of hope about what we might do. Yarrow says: “This Backhouse ‘Lecture’ aims to be a Backhouse journey, in which I have conversations with Quaker and non-Quaker activists about firstly, how they are acting in response to the climate crisis, and secondly, how they find hope in this process. In this journey I will draw on their wisdom and insights to think about my own climate despair and actions, so that I can speak with Friends about this issue.”

This will be the third Backhouse Lecture to be delivered by a South Australian. The first was Mary Woodward in 1977 and then Charles Stevenson in 1998.

Yearly Meeting 2022

Saturday 2 July - Sunday 10 July

To be held online and in local on-ground pods

Yearly Meeting will be held over 9 days, in three parts:

Days 1-3 will focus on business Days 4-6 will focus on spiritual nurture, education and community gatherings Days 7-9 will focus again on business

The theme for this year’s Friendly School is “Caring for Humanity in Interesting Times”.

Christine Bellen.

We are sorry to report the death of Christine Bellen who died recently at a great age. She had been an active Friend in the early 1980s. She is remembered as a cheerful, sincere and loving Friend, devoted to her husband Henk.

Rosemary Claring Bould.

Rosemary died on 28th February aged 96. She was descended from notable Yorkshire Friends, including Jonathan Backhouse who was the brother of James Backhouse. She could entertain with many exciting anecdotes of her forebears.

Wendy Hartley writes:



garden, please contact the Shop. 8333 2804.

The plant section at the Quaker shop, I am happy to let readers know, has expanded considerably in the last year. Kind and anonymous customers donate plant cuttings, plants of all types and varieties, posies, pots, soil, and ideas which can all be incorporated. Recently I visited one of Charles Stevenson’s friends who had just downsized and I was able to help him with a number of garden ideas and fill gaps in his garden with our pots -a win-win situation. If anyone would like help with their

World Quaker Day is to be celebrated on 2nd October with the theme ‘Becoming the Quakers the world needs’.

Holding Vladimir Putin in the Light

Elizabeth Magarey wanted Friends to hold Vladimir Putin in the Light. She believes in the power of Light. It could have a better effect if it were done with as many Friends as possible at the same time. She suggested Thursday the 17th at 7pm as a suitable time, with no need to meet on Zoom. Elizabeth says “this may seem like a radical idea, but I think it is worthwhile. I do believe in the power of the Light.” Elizabeth adds, “of course, Friends may well be holding Friends in Ukraine in the Light also.” The idea was conceived during the recent meeting for worship of Friends around the world with Ukrainian Friends.

SANTRM Futures Report - March 2022

We recommend:

1. Searching for a member of our Regional Meeting willing to undertake a paid clerking and secretarial role, in a part-time capacity, for twelve months, to help support and manage the Regional Meeting during this time of change, with the expectation that they would undertake the tasks outlined in the bulleted list above.
2. Consolidating some or most of the administrative functions at RM level, particularly those such as finance which currently involve a significant amount of duplication, and which would benefit from shared thinking. We acknowledge the need to address the issue of property in such a process, and hope Friends will continue to discern individually and collectively on a way forward for our Regional Meeting on this issue, which has divided us for decades.
3. That these decisions be reviewed in nine months and Friends be invited to discern a way forward, to consider whether and how we extended this model, how many hours of work do we need to fund each week, and what supports are needed to ensure our regional meeting flourishes. We note that holding the review in nine months time allows for a decision to be made prior to the end of the twelve month experiment and to allow for succession planning. It also moves it a little further away from Yearly Meeting business, which may help reduce the pressure on SANTRM Friends.

We look forward to discerning a way forward with concerned Friends in our April Meeting for Worship for Business.

Emily Chapman-Searle and Yarrow Goodley, SANTRM interim co-clerks

ACCOMMODATION AT DEVONSHIRE STREET



Friends' House at Devonshire Street in Sydney welcomes accommodation bookings from travellers. We have Covid-safe precautions in place, and are currently taking bookings. Please contact volunteer wardens Brian and Marie on RMNSWBookings@quakersaustralia.info; 0466 265 915; or 02 9698 7158 to make a booking enquiry.

the international day without news.

Robin Sinclair.

It was a day without news.
Wars simply stopped.
Nobody was murdered, bashed or raped.
No traffic accidents occurred,
or fires, or floods.
As the news receded,
flowing out and disappearing like the tide,
the space was filled with gentle sunlight,
kind and unassuming people,
hopes and aspirations for a better life,
hand-knit jumpers
bird song,
gardens and gardeners, paddling in the sea.

No sport occurred
except for hopscotch, backyards cricket,
marbles, doodling and a little Scrabble.

TVs and radios were quiet.
MPs and commentators drifted to the beach.

The world was heard to sigh and then relax.

From *Upside Down World*,
Ginninderra Press, Adelaide, 2021.

ELDERING AND OTHER THINGS

Kerry O'Regan

For most of my life as a Quaker, the word 'elder' has been used as a verb, as in someone being 'elderred', or needing to be. It meant being taken to task for some misdeed, some 'unquakerly' behaviour, by someone who was acting rather like Head Prefect of the Meeting. It was not until I became involved with the Silver Wattle Quaker Centre, that I encountered another use for the word in a Quaker setting.

There's a word in the Irish language (well, two words), *anam cara*, which translates as 'soul friend'—not as in soul mate, more like spiritual companion—and the elder role at Silver Wattle is something along those lines. I have been part of the Silver Wattle Elders

Committee for the past three years, and that committee has worked with those taking on the elder role to help them fill that role in the Silver Wattle context.

At a recent session which the committee offered for SWQC elders (and others) David Johnson presented this table which describes the various roles of Minister, Elder, and Overseer. While we may or may not find those titles helpful, I found the model most illuminating in that it identifies and clarifies the various ways we can nurture and support each other in our meeting (and in life). Reflecting on it, individually or as a group, might prompt us to ask if this is happening with us, and how we might identify and draw on these various gifts within ourselves and each other to assist us in the spiritual nurture of each other:

	MINISTERING	ELDERING	OVERSEEING
Type of Gift	Prophetic	Discerning	Pastoral
Main method	Mouth – Speaking Speaking words given by God - deeply about beliefs & sacred texts, to encourage an immediate relationship with the Divine. Beware of politics and personal agendas Spiritual teaching and guiding	Ears – Listening Deep listening to a person or situation. Especially listen to what the Spirit is saying underneath the surface words, both in the others and in oneself. Spiritual nurture, friendship and guide	Hands – Making Creating the supportive physical environment and context. Practical pastoral care for those sick or in need of help, doing it personally and ensuring it gets done. Spiritual setting and safety
Emphasis	Content	Process and Discernment	Practicality
Birthing Image	Mother – delivering God’s message	Midwife – encouraging, clarifying, holding accountable to a gift, admonishing	Assistant – preparing the bed, supplies and equipment
How	Typically public and general	Typically private and personal	Both public and personal

(From *Traditional Quaker Christianity*, Ohio Yearly Meeting , 2014)

We need tellers, we need doers, and we need listeners. We need listeners. We also need to treat each other with reverence—but that’s another story.

FRIENDS WHO HAVE INFLUENCED MY LIFE

FRED WILLIAMS.

Charles Stevenson



I had only been attending meeting for a few months when I was accused by the librarian, Fred Williams, of having pinched a book – it was ‘The Centenary of Australian Quakerism’. When my teenage sensitivity had been healed, and the misunderstanding sorted out, Fred Williams took me under his wing as a librarian helper.

He was an eye specialist with rooms in East Melbourne. He always wore a suit and waistcoat, and on his lapel he displayed a huge green star. This, he was always eager to explain, stood for Esperanto, an international auxiliary language, for which he was the Australian president.

Fred Williams and his wife, Edith, had spent some years in Hankow, China, where he was superintendent of the London Missionary Society Hospital, until the British Consul ordered their evacuation. The Chinese were taking back Hankow which had been a European Concession. He then became the Chief Medical Officer in Port Morseby until ordered once again to evacuate, at the outset of World War Two hostilities in the Pacific.

Back in Melbourne, Fred Williams had an active sense of justice. He distributed pamphlets about the need for a decent pension (this was the 1950s), Anti-smoking – he was the president of the Anti-Smoking League. The building of dams to avoid flooding was another issue. And supremely was his anti-war material. It was he who gave the notices after meeting at Toorak in his dignified and clear voice.

Edith Williams was a plump woman with a wicked sense of humour who was unruffled by these evacuations. She came from a staunch Quaker family for her father, Thomas Miller, had been one of the few Friends who were active in the anti-conscription campaigns of 1916 and 1917. (Friends had been active in the years leading up to the First World War in the Australian Freedom League which campaigned against the compulsory clauses of the 1909 Defence Act. The Freedom League was established in Adelaide in 1912 by three Friends - Edward Ashby John Hills and J Herbert Thorp.) Thomas Miller’s memoirs, *Some Reflections*, were published in 1938.

Fred Williams loved books and after our misunderstanding he got me to be his helper in the library which I enjoyed, being enthralled by the two great and ancient cedar bookcases, relics from the Russell Street Meeting House, in which bookcases the rather extensive library was housed.

Alas, Fred Williams died in 1961 at the early age of 67. The Albrecht family of Melbourne meeting are descendants, through Fred and Edith’s daughter, Ruth.

Always Read the Smaller Print 'Provide arms of love and care to Ukraine'.

Margaret Hunter

When I read in Adelaide Local Meeting Notices of the Peace Rally, March for Ukraine, I figured I could dovetail attendance there with my Sunday activities. It would mean a first trip to the city for a VERY long while, a serious trial of my new, D95 heavier duty masks and my stamina.

Sunday morning went as planned, so I started feeling very smug.

I have been to enough rallies to confidently know exactly what to take. The email with details of the rally said there would be flags and banners available at the mustering point. I donned a bright blue shirt, and ratted through my stash of gift wraps for a bright yellow scarf. (I stockpile a collection of fabric and scarfs which can take the place of disposable gift wrapping paper.) Locked up, and off to the railway station- just in time. Whew! Just settled in the train, I thrust my hand into the front pocket of my backpack for a pen, so I could try the crossword I'd brought to do on the journey. Ugh! A ball point pen had vomited its ink over the pocket's contents. In discovering this, I spread the ink copiously. Of course in these Covid times, I carried sanitiser, excellent for (partially) cleaning off ink. My tiny bottle of sanitiser was.... in the very bottom of the main section of the stuffed backpack.... By the time I started to delve for the sanitiser, both my hands and a

hanky and.... and... and... were.... well, inky!

At the Hindmarsh Square mustering area, I sought, in vain, for a Quaker Flag or Banner. Someone thrust a card, well attached to a long stick into my hands. In the MMMMMMellee I DIDN'T READ ALL THE LETTERING, but hastily agreed to carry this. I settled on my little three legged camping stool on the fringe of the crowd, waving the placard enthusiastically. THEN I read ALL the text!!!!!! Point 5 in the smaller font read- 'Provide arms to Ukraine'. Horror!!!! This was not what I wanted to promote. More horror! What if any of the Quaker Friends saw me and read "my" placard! Sturdy board and a long stick was not the sort of thing one could hide, or put in a non-existing bin. How disrespectful that would be to the placard's makers? I WAS glad for the disguise that my anti Covid mask afforded.



My best bet was to be creative! With my super stained hands, I pawed through my backpack. Joy! By braille I located a "spare" but intact ball point pen. I used it to expand No 5 in faint spidery writing so it read, 'Provide arms of love and care to Ukraine'.

The route planned for the march, was from Hindmarsh Square, along Pulteney Street, down Rundle Mall and thence to Parliament House steps. I mentioned that it was a long time since I had been in the city. It took a while for me to realise that trees in the Mall had GROWN.- stronger and up and out! A placard on a long stick, carried in a moving crowd sits a deal higher than one's head- and above the height of the lowest tree branches! oops! Crash! I also learned it was unwise to walk behind folk enthusiastically waving large national flags on poles, who have also miscalculated relative heights of pole top and lowest tree branches. Oops! Crash! Collision!

In the efficient, low-key, quiet way that our Adelaide police "manage" rallies, the procession was guided, because of the large numbers involved, not to Parliament House steps and footpath, but to the Elder Park Rotunda area. I can't tell you what was said, because my hearing is operating poorly and my aids hinder where microphones are involved. My perception was that the whole rally was much quieter than any other I have observed- very little chanting and only a smidgen of singing (in Elder Park). I was struck by the attendance of participants from many ethnic groups, and the wide age range involved. Self-proclaimed Russians carried placards damning the actions of Putin. How conflicted must they feel?

It was so poignant to observe the way little children related positively to other toddlers-without guile. Why can't we all maintain that artlessness of curiosity and friendship with strangers, as we age?

From my tripod stool, to the time I spent in Elder Park and later the railway station, my "doctored" placard initiated many one to one discussions re the Point 5 message of peace and action, rather than the sending of arms. I tried to apologize to the holder of a placard made of similar materials for my need to alter their wording. The holder explained that these placards were the work of a Ukrainian working bee, and featured the wording of individuals.

I learned so much! e.g. Sunflowers are the national flower of Ukraine. "swift" may not mean "fast". Yes, despite the media coverage focussing on the outrage and implications of invasion, Covid is spreading in the conflict areas and beyond, just as, through the ages, other communicable diseases spread and killed wildly, in times of warfare, movement of troops, refugees, and supplies etc. I learned "ALWAYS READ THE SMALL(ER) PRINT" (and add to the list of essential things to take to a rally, "Thick felt pen with a VERY secure cap")

Online Meetings for Worship

Rainbow Friends and Allies is now held at 7:00pm AEST on the 4th Sunday of each month. You are welcome to join from 6:45pm, at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83253846845?pwd=K1MwS2Z3blZnRmo0WmQ1VE1UeTZZZz09>
Meeting ID: 832 5384 6845/ Passcode: 457636

The FWCC-AWPS Section Meeting for Worship Online is held every week on Thursday 6pm AEST (Sydney time). Contact Michael Searle for details at michaelsearle@iinet.net.au or visit the FWCC- AWPS website.

Friends in Myanmar welcome visitors to their online meeting held at 8:30pm Yangon time. (From Adrian Glamorgan, FWCC-AWPS Secretary)

Silver Wattle Quaker Centre UPCOMING COURSES

- Autumn Gardening & Landcare Week Friday April 22 to Thursday April 28.
You are invited to join a small Community for the Autumn Gardening and Landcare week: sharing skills and learning new ones. There will be time for worship, work, rest and fellowship. We can expect warm days and cool nights. Gardening weeks are free (donations are appreciated to cover costs.) Whether you wish to spend the week or part of it, you will be welcome.
- Listening to the Landscape: Earth's stories at Silver Wattle led by Anne Felton and Peri Coleman. Thursday, 28 April 4:00pm & Sunday, 1 May 1:30pm.
This course is for people wanting to connect more deeply with the land that sustains us.
- Towards Makarrata led by Michelle Howard. Thursday 12 May 4:30pm & Sunday 15 May 1:30pm
This course is for non-Indigenous people who want to reflect deeply on the role they can play to support relationships with Indigenous Australia, with both people and place.
- The Pilgrim's Way led by Nila Chambers. Friday 20 May 10:00pm-Sunday 22 May.
In this retreat participants will draw on Celtic spirituality as a guide for an exploration of inner knowingness.
- A Year Long Course: Food for the Soul Silver Wattle is offering a new kind of course next year: Food for the Soul – A Year of Spiritual Deepening. This one-year program starts with an initial one-week residential retreat 22-28 July, followed by monthly Zoom sessions and weekly offline reading & video materials. The topics follow inward and outward movements of the spirit concluding with an exploration of your own calling to contemplative action.



As a radical, visible sign of peace-making presence, respect, solace and harmony, this Walk will be in silence, with our banners as our voice. We walk for many areas of injustice.

This year's Key Foci are:

Reconciliation & Statement from the heart
Justice for Refugees
Environment & Climate Change
Peace & Conflict Resolution

The Walk

1. Gather at Tarntanyanga/Victoria Square from 1.30pm for a 2pm start
 2. Bring Banners, wear symbols or statements as a visible presence
 3. Welcome to Kaurna Country
 4. The Walk - travel down King William St, turn at North Tce and return to Victoria Square
 5. Speakers on the key foci will share information
 6. Engage with the Sponsors & Endorsers via the Promotion Tables & enjoy the music.
- Two of the Palm Sunday speakers will be Peri Coleman and Lynn Arnold.

**OVER CONFIDENT, NO ...
ISN'T IT NORMAL TO STRUT
IF YOU ARE A MAGPIE?**

ROBIN SINCLAIR

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide: 10.30 am every Sunday and 1st Wednesday of month 5.30 pm

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

Clerk: Geoff Greeves.

Fellowship of Healing: 2nd Wed and 4th Fri of month 12.30 pm

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: Topsy Evans 0417 517 471 WMSEastern@quakersaustralia.info

Fleurieu: 11 am second Sunday of each month. Contact: Chris Collins (08) 8552 1654

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 Diana Campbell 0422 472 918 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.

Clerks: Emily Chapman-Searle and Yarrow Goodley RMSANTClerk@quakersaustralia.info

Treasurer: Lee Harradine RMSANTTreasurer@quakersaustralia.info

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