

DECEMBER 2020

WALKING CHEERFULLY

FOUNDED 1926



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

Meeting online had brought worship into her home. It means that there was 'that of God in every moment'.

A time to step aside from business life. A time to cherish time.

On online meetings, from the deliberations of Britain Yearly Meeting 2020.



Photo: Wendy Hartley

Charles Stevenson and Ann Rees.

Ann reminisces about the overland journey to her first Young Friends' camp while Charles recalls his time as clerk of Australian Young Friends in the early 1960s

THE QUAKER SHOP AND MOLLY SKINNER

Charles Stevenson

In a roundabout way the Quaker Shop owes its existence to Molly Skinner, a Western Australian Friend. This is because she introduced Ngaire Griffiths, later Thorp, to the Society of Friends. And as everyone knows the Quaker Shop was established through the efforts of our dear Ngaire.

Because she was nearly blind – Molly had eyesight trouble since childhood – she needed a typist for her various writings, and it was Ngaire who was given the job. Molly would not finish dictating sentences every now and again, telling Ngaire “you know how to finish it off!” which was rather disconcerting. However, Molly Skinner possessed a magnetic personality, and Ngaire soon found herself so impressed, that she started accompanying her to meetings for worship. It was here that she met another extraordinary Australian Friend, J. Elliott Thorp, whom she was to marry.

Molly was an extraordinary individual. She upset her family by taking up the career of a nurse;



for, in the eyes of one of the Western Australian first families, from which she hailed, nursing was rather despised. However, she had a gift for writing, and her best known books were *Letters of a V.A.D.* and a manual for nurses *Midwifery Made Easy*. The *Australian Dictionary of Biography* entry for her gives a brief outline of her career.

Her claim to worldly fame, however, was in her collaboration with D. H. Lawrence in *The Boy in the Bush*, written after his famous novel about Australia, *Kangaroo*. Molly was in England at the time of its publication, and enjoyed the publicity about whom M. L. Skinner might be. During his six weeks' stay in Western Australia Lawrence stayed at the holiday house which Molly was then running in Darlington in conjunction with another Friend, Nellie Beakbane. Molly couldn't believe that the unimpressive physical appearance of the man who had arrived at their holiday home with such acclaim could really be anyone significant. She was to change her mind! When Lawrence, one of the significant writers of the early 20th century, was told that Molly was an author, he sought her out and found her in the washhouse where he encouraged her to finish her manuscript based on the life of her brother, and to send it to him. Lawrence worked on it while travelling through America. No one knows how much was Skinner and how much was Lawrence, except that final part was definitely Lawrence because Molly was distressed at how her character ended up. *The Boy in the Bush* has rare insight into many aspects of



Australian life.

The account of Molly Skinner's extraordinary life is recounted in her autobiography, *The Fifth Sparrow*. From the strange characters she encountered when running her hospital at Katanning, and also, later, at Karridale, to her description of early life in Perth, and her impression of D. H. Lawrence, *The fifth Sparrow* is a gem.

It seems fitting that a person of such charm and fortitude as Molly Skinner possessed should have ended her days (she died in 1955) at an equally charming (and also historic) town as York, on the River Avon as the Swan is called inland – and not far from the setting of much of the story of *The Boy in the Bush*.

Had not Ngaire Thorp encountered Molly Skinner she would never have known about the Society of Friends. So, we can safely say that Molly Skinner sowed seeds that led to Ngaire Thorp establishing the Quaker Shop in 1968.

A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD WRITES ABOUT THE QUAKER SHOP.

Lily Azli.

“It all began with a friendship!” Christine told us when being interviewed on Tuesday about The Quaker Community Opportunity Shop. Looking out for each other in so many ways, from sending a birthday card to offering a place to stay when things get tough, giving a place for preloved items to be resold, to donating thousands of dollars to different charities all over the world. This community has a big impact on people’s lives.

“For a long time we knew about Quakers. We would donate our own goods to their OP shop



Lily Azli in Coober Pedy, October, 2020.

on Kensington Road there, and would sometimes even go shopping,” Christine began to tell us when asked how she became a part of this community, “One day we were donating some items and one of the helpers kept glancing at me strangely. After a while, she approached me and asked if I used to go by the name of Christine Crane. Confused I answered her that I had. Although we hadn’t been in the same year back in Tasmania, she still remembered me from our days in college. When she told me her name before she married, I remembered her too. After chatting for a while and only just beginning to catch up on the last 30 years, she asked me if I wanted to become a helper at the Quaker Community Op Shop. I accepted and I’m still there some 20 years later!” The Quaker Community OP Shop is not just a place where people meet and friendships are created, but also a

place where people are reunited and their friendships are continued.

“They [The charities we support] don’t just give money, but they teach skills.” The Quaker Community OP Shop donates over \$100,000 to charities every year, supporting local, national and international charities that aim to change peoples lives. A member for over 20 years, the current treasurer, and former manager of the Quaker Community OP Shop, Christine James explained why being a member of this community means so much to her. “It means a lot [to me] because I know that it is doing quite a lot of good for quite a lot of people”

Christine also shared with us examples of just how supportive the Quaker Community OP shop is. One of the ones that stood out took place just over 7 years ago. “Her [One of the volunteers] and her husband’s house had just been partly burnt and was unfit to live in” Christine told us “Fortunately, around the same time we were about to leave for a long overseas trip, and so without a second thought we immediately offered to let them stay at our place.” But in a community like this it isn’t just the big things that make a difference, something as small setting aside a book from in particular genre that another volunteer enjoys brings this group of people even closer together.

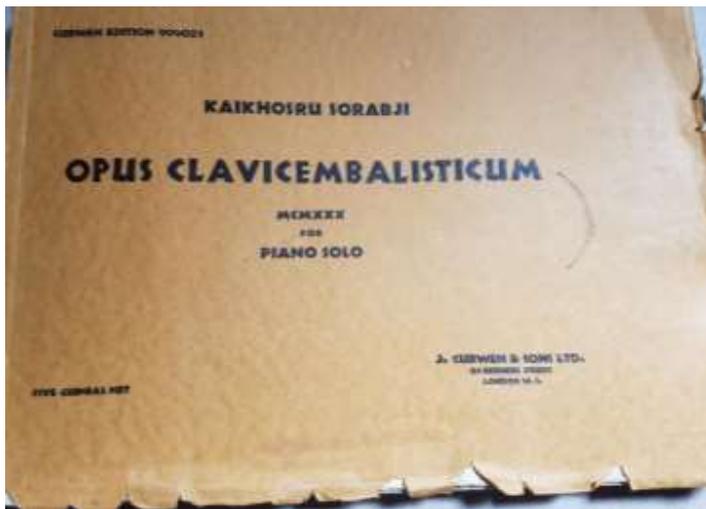
The Quaker Community Op Shop is so much more than just a shop. It is a place to where friendships are not only created but also continued, it is a place where people are always there to support each other and lend a helping hand, “It is such a close knit community” of people who are not only changing the lives of others locally, but nationally and internationally too. No-matter what situation brought people to The Quaker Community OP Shop, they have stayed there since first walking in. By conducting this interview, it has really enriched my knowledge on how being a part of a community can really change your life!

N.B. Lily Azli is the daughter of Christine and Norman James. She has given permission for this school assignment to be printed in *Walking Cheerfully*.

THE SAGA OF A QUAKER SHOP CURIOSITY

Kerry O'Regan

We never know what's going to turn up at the Quaker Shop - nor the story of how it got there. A recent example was an old music manuscript. It was in good condition, except for some damage to the cover, of non-standard size - something between A4 and A3 - and around two centimetres thick. The cover identified it as a "piano solo", composed by one Kaikhorsru Sorabji. A note in the front stated that it was one of twenty-three copies, "printed on Whatman hand made paper each numbered and signed by the composer".



Checking it out on the internet, it seems that this remarkable piece takes something like four hours to perform, so it's probably not in the repertoire of your average piano player. Besides, the music looks fiendishly difficult.

There were a few other curious things about it, including the dedication which said in part, "To my two friends Hugh M'Dairmid and C. M. Grieve". Another google search reveals that Christopher Murray Reid was a Scottish poet who wrote under

the name of Hugh McDairmid. The "two friends" were one and the same person. Curiouser and curiouser, as Alice would say. A little joke perhaps? Though, I must say, Mr Sorabji doesn't exactly come across as a jokey kind of guy.

What to do with such an item? Just put it in the shop for someone to buy?

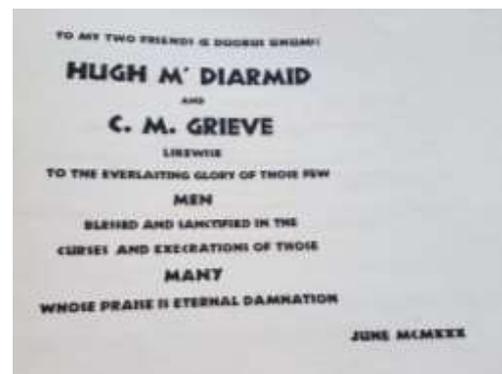
It occurred to us that the people at the Elder Conservatorium might be interested, so we contacted the Barr Smith Library who were very interested indeed. It now forms part of their Rare Books and Manuscripts Collection, viewable by appointment only.

But so many tantalising questions remain unanswered. Where has it been for the past ninety years since it was first published? How did it come to be donated to our little op shop in Adelaide?

If you are curious as to what the piece sounds like, here is a link to a segment. Imagine four hours of it!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OrAewTxBrC&fbclid=IwAR34z5A_QrFRgKRUtdjG_b-1VzQKFX4csVXNgdjHM4EbAGzxS8IUspj6UzZI

2020 continues to be a strange and challenging year, but an opportunity for some unaccustomed stillness as well.



QUAKER SHOP NEWS

The Quaker Shop will be closed 19th December to 25th January. There had been a sudden need to close the Shop in November, because of the Covid 19 virus outbreak.

Jo Jordan delivered about 40 business-type outfits, culled from the Shop, to 'Dress for Success'. This is a charity which makes available business outfits to women who have limited means, so they can present themselves for job interviews with confidence.

The Party in the Park on the 8th November was enjoyed those volunteers who were able to get together in the shade by the creek at Leabrook.

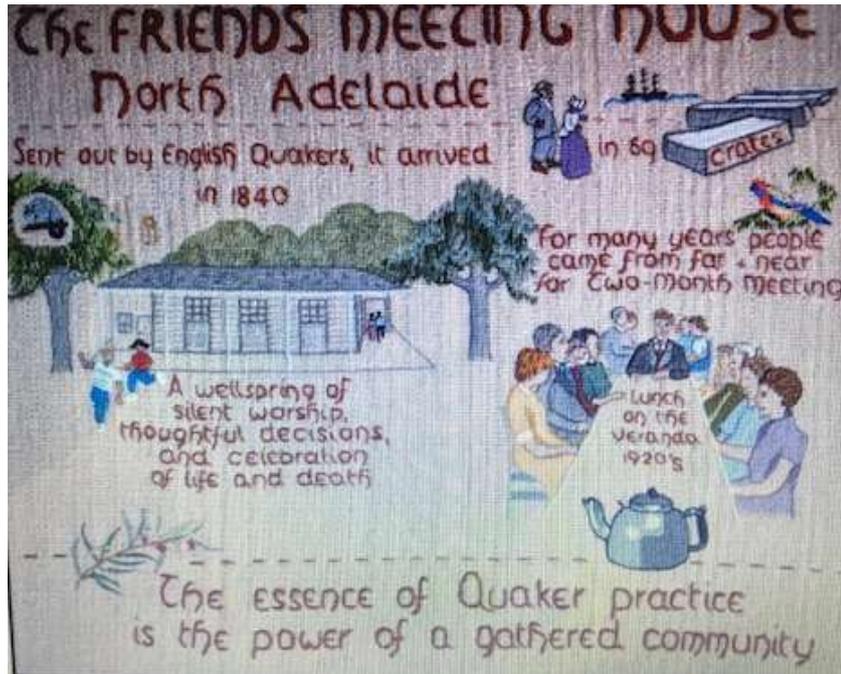


Photos of the annual Quaker Shop party kindly supplied by Wendy Hartley.

They show Topsy Evans and Anne Johnson relaxing at the party.

Richard McLean with Jo Jordan. Richard was thrilled to receive the 'junk shop dealer' medal. In actual fact Richard is an experienced antique dealer and cheerfully gives invaluable service to the shop.

The bottom photo is of Jo Jordan, the shop manageress, giving announcements. Next to her are Isaiah Gilbert, Ian Carpenter and Naomi Carpenter, grandchildren of Jo, who efficiently served afternoon tea. Isaiah was so thrilled with his name tag that he wore it to school the next day.



The Friends' Embroidery Group's panel about the Meeting House in North Adelaide was designed by Robin Sinclair from elements collected by Christine Collins, and was stitched by Ann Rees, Mary Loftus, Jennifer Mann and Robin Sinclair.

Emphasis on the Two Months' Meeting occasion is well deserved. Friends came from out-lying places to attend, William May (the Clerk for 28 years) riding on his horse out from Strathalbyn, a four-day event. Frederick and Helen Coleman, with their family, came from Saddleworth in the mid north. The luncheon on the verandah of the meeting house was an unforgettable event. Helen Coleman poured out the tea from the large teapot while Friends chatted, laughed and reminisced.

Most of the Friends were related, a product of the rule against 'marrying out – incomprehensible to present day thinking.

Friends in Stitches 2021 Calendars can now be ordered. They are \$20 each + postage. Please email CStitches@quakersaustralia.info with your order.



QUAKER ZOOM MEETINGS

ADELAIDE LOCAL MEETING:

Sundays. Meeting for Worship 11 am

<https://zoom.us/j/356246862?pwd=TFdPQ2xDQ3NKczB6S1BsRDhXWnk0UT09>

Meeting ID: 356 246 862. Password: 892435

Wednesdays 3.30 pm Quaker Chat

<https://zoom.us/j/356246862?pwd=TFdPQ2xDQ3NKczB6S1BsRDhXWnk0UT09>

ID: 356 246 862. Password: 892435

ADELAIDE EASTERN SUBURBS LOCAL MEETING:

Sunday. 10 am Combined In-House/ Zoom Meeting for Worship at the Leabrook Guide Hall.

Wednesdays 7.30pm. Discussion based on Christian Faith and Practice.

FWCC

A global Quaker webinar conversation takes place on the fourth Sunday of the month. Details can be obtained from APWS (Asia-West Pacific Section) of FWCC (Friends' World Committee for Consultation).

ANSWERS QUESTIONED:

A Yearly Meeting-wide Friendly discussion group, "Answers Questioned", will meet on Zoom the second Friday of each month from 7:30 pm EADT (UTC plus 11) (sign in from 7:15pm). All are welcome. The group seeks to deepen Friendships by "sharing the things that are eternal". Each month we will address a question for discussion. Regular participation is not required. We ask Friends to listen and participate respectfully, ensuring that everyone has an opportunity to share. Pamela Leach pamela.leach@hotmail.com and Katherine Purnell katepnl@hotmail.com.

Join Zoom Meeting www.zoom.us/j/95591305320 Passcode: 798651. Meeting ID: 955 9130 5320.

RAINBOW FRIENDS.

4 p.m. Australian Eastern Standard Time on the 4th Sunday of every month. Meeting for Worship will be for 30 minutes, followed by afterthoughts and time for socializing. we see this Meeting for Worship not as an alternative, but as complementary. If you would like to know more, or if you need some help, please email Mark Macleod at markmacleod@gmail.com or text him on his mobile 0425 233 144.

ACCOMMODATION IN SYDNEY

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

SILVER WATTLE QUAKER CENTRE COURSE OFFERINGS

Silver Wattle is COVID-safe with distancing and disinfecting protocols in place. Courses are limited to 12 people, single room accommodation only.

Upcoming Online Courses (registration fees may apply): Quaker Basics Online - led by Sheila Keane. Weekly Zoom sessions Saturdays 3:00-4:00pm Sydney time . 12th December

Sixth Day Readings: The Simplification of Life by Thomas Kelly - led by David Johnson (Free). Friday evenings, 7:00-8:15 AEDT: 4 & 18 Dec. - Limit 12 participants.

Is Our Light Their Light? 370 Years of Quaker Transformation Webinar-led by Paul Buckley (Free). Saturday 28 November 2:00-4:00pm Sydney time

• Monthly Epilogues by Zoom - on fourth Fridays of the month, 7:00 - 7:45 pm AEST. (Free) You will need to register to get the Zoom meeting joining information. You only need to register once - not every week.

• Zoom Play - Learning by Doing Wednesdays 6:00pm AEST (Free)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84915523502?pwd=WEhvNnM1OW0rMm1Gc1RiWGFFMnkxZz09>. Meeting ID: 849 1552 3502. Passcode: 005278

MIGHT YOU BE THE NEXT SILVER WATTLE QUAKER CENTRE COORDINATOR?

After some quiet months allowing discernment, the work and roles of Silver Wattle Quaker Centre have been reviewed, to share the load and to focus on our core leadings. We are now looking for a Centre Coordinator to work with the Silver Wattle Board to nurture Silver Wattle as a place of spiritual formation, study & healing. The role encompasses:

- Overseeing hospitality (with assistance from paid staff and volunteers)
- Managing the Silver Wattle calendar and courses (with help from Silver Wattle Committees)
- Overseeing staff, work health safety and other obligations (with support from the Board)

We acknowledge that we need to make the management of Silver Wattle a positive and rewarding experience for all involved. Our expectations must be realistic and we must remunerate some roles. This position is based at Silver Wattle with accommodation, food and vehicle provided. Other remuneration will be willingly negotiated to meet individual needs. If you would like to know more, please complete the Expression of Interest form an/or contact Jonathan Benyei at 0412 624 774 or email bell.benyei@bigpond.com

QUAKER PEACE AND LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

NEW! WATCHING BRIEF 20-11: SLIPPING THROUGH OUR FINGERS - PEACE THROUGH DIPLOMACY October 2020 The relevance of diplomacy in today's world has been muted by the growing focus on military defence and security. In Australia, both the Secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Chief of the Defence Force agree that 'diplomacy is our first line of defence against forces that threaten our way of life'. And yet, around the world political leaders are focusing on military rather than diplomatic solutions to a growing number of threats and challenges. This Brief looks at the origins of Quaker diplomacy and peacemaking, the current trends in global diplomacy, and the prospects of its re-emergence as a major means for achieving peace. To read the full Watching Brief go here: <https://www.quakersaustralia.info/QPLC>

Lying on the dirt
the rhubarb stalks, deflated,
flat as a tack.

Robin Sinclair

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide: 11 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

Clerk: David Evans 0419023775 WMSEastern@quakersaustralia.info

Fleurieu: 11 am second & last Sunday of each month. Old Council Chambers, The Strand, Port Elliot. 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: In recess, otherwise 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: David Barry and Emily Chapman-Searle. RMSANTClerk@quakersaustralia.info

Treasurer: Lee Harradine RMSANTTreasurer@quakersaustralia.info

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