

December 2022

Walking Cheerfully

Founded 1926

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

We are called to work for the peaceable kingdom of God on the whole earth, in right sharing with all peoples. However few our numbers we are called... To be a light in the darkness of greed and destruction... We have heard of disappearing snows of Kilimanjaro, and glaciers of Bolivia, from which come life-giving waters... We have heard of forests cut down, seasons disrupted, wildlife dying, of land hunger in Africa, of new diseases, droughts, floods, fires, famine, and desperate migrations – this climatic chaos is now worsening. There are wars and rumours of war, jobs loss, inequality, and violence. We fear our neighbours. We waste our children’s heritage... All of these are driven by our dominant economic systems – by greed, not need, by worship of the market, by Mammon and Caesar. Is this how Jesus showed us to live?

Oliver Sewell Ridley and Gill Sewell. the Friends Quarterly, November 2022.

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LIFE'S JOURNEY IS SO UNIQUE TO US ALL

Elsbeth Hull.

Life's journey is so unique for us all, with such a variety of individual experiences and influences. In times of crisis, when we are pushed to our limits, sometimes we crack and sometimes we find a new place in ourselves, a strength we have not previously experienced. Having studiously observed these processes in myself and others over time, it seems to me that which way it goes is a bit random. Some of us suffer unimaginably, and appear to be deeply upheld by unfaltering grace. At other times in our lives, a smaller upset might bring us to our knees and trigger deeper wounds, making us question our *raison d'etre*. As I age, as my friends age, as I am more exposed to people at the end of their lives - young or old - it seems to me that whether we can see any rhyme or reason to the twists and turns is almost irrelevant. At the end, the only thing that matters is love. It is what keeps us here, and it is what enables us to let go. How freely and wholly we can be present to love informs whether we go peacefully into God's arms or whether we wrangle painfully with the experience of feeling unmet.

As we face life's daily challenges, let us surrender ourselves tenderly into God's loving embrace. As we pray for healing for those we love, those relentlessly suffering the immediate effects of climate disasters and those impacted by the interminable disaster of decades of war, let us be vehicles for mercy. Let us bring in the light that it may spread around and among us, for as "The King will say, whatsoever you do to the least of your brothers and sisters, you do unto me". Matthew 25:40

Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing, 19 October 2022

The Australia Yearly Meeting Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC), on behalf of Australian Quakers, have contributed a Submission to the Government's Defence Strategic Review, signed by Presiding Clerk Bruce Henry .

The major areas of our concern are the expansion of production and export of weapons, increased participation in preparations for war (e.g., RIMPAC, Pitch Black, Pacific Vanguard, Talisman Sabre), the commitment to offensive strategies rather than territorial defence, and the focus on bilateral rather than multilateral relationships. We have reached a stage where the costs of waging war have exceeded the capacity of people and the planet to survive.

We have doubts about Australia's official defence and foreign policies, and about the alarmist commentary by some public officials and media to confront China over Taiwan. Public opinion shown in Lowy Institute Poll in 2021 reflected this growing concern. 57% opposed military conflict with China, and 72% said good relations are possible with both US and China.

The other major threats facing humanity include environmental crises (shortages of water and food, collapse of ecosystems, pollution, climate change), the increasing production and stockpile of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction, the potential for significant ongoing pandemics, and powerful and uncontrolled technology.

Australia's support for AUKUS is misplaced and should be reviewed and reversed. Its purpose is contrary to the real needs of defence policy, is too closely linked to US global military strategy, and reduces our capacity for independent approaches. It also increases the likelihood of Australia being drawn into a war with China.

Elephant in the hospital

Margaret Hunter

Over past months I have needed to attend our local hospital frequently. Thankfully, not with any contagious disease, but let's just say, I am familiar with the general layout of the building.

One enters a front foyer from the car park from which there are several options through large glass doors. One day, my need was to turn right, into the larger, better lit secondary foyer and thence along a corridor.... to 'my' clinic.

I entered the outer foyer bearing myriad thoughts, and not well tuned into observation. Suddenly I stopped, confused, as I noticed through the glass door, a large (late adolescent) elephant in the secondary foyer. This puzzled me lots! It seemed 'wrong'. Was what I 'saw' real? Was I really losing the sanity I thought I still had? I decided to ignore the anomaly, in the hope that it was not a forerunner to a mental collapse. Maybe Covid stresses had really hit me?

In recent years, as I have previously described elsewhere, my personal response to 'difficult' situations has been to ask, "What would a Quaker do?" Nothing helpful came to mind!



I strode past (externally confident, but internally - jelly!). I pretended not to notice the animal, but risked a side glance. In the clearer light, I realised that 'it' was actually a blow up plastic pachyderm. Further en route to my clinic, I was ridiculously relieved I saw other animals, alive or plastic.

On my return along corridors and into the 'foyer of the elephant' it became obvious why the elephant was in the hospital. Tied to the trunk was a sign... which read **It's time to start talking about mental health. Mental Health Week**

Figuring that some of my family and friends (and I) probably wouldn't believe me, I photographed the elephant and its sign from rear and front views. Smug, smart move!

Elephant was still in place on my next visit, but, a day or so later THE ELEPHANT WASN'T THERE! The inner foyer hospital 'Enquiries' desk is a couple of metres from where the elephant was, giving to its staff clear vision of the animal's side (when it was there).

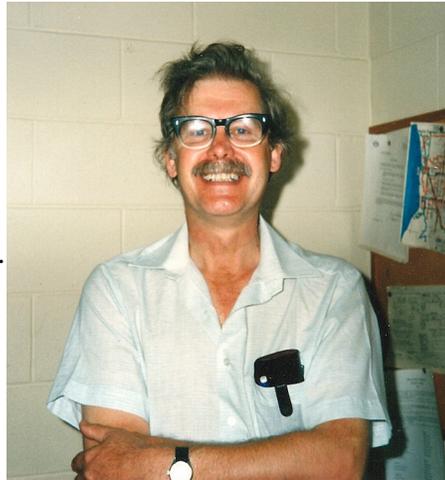
Con conversationally, I remarked to the person at 'Enquiries', "Oh the elephant has gone!"

She looked at me with a very peculiar, worried and very sad expression. "Oh?", she asked sincerely, "What elephant?"

My friends and family just laugh when I recount this tale, which doesn't do a great deal for MY ongoing mental health. But, I HAVE PHOTOS!

NEWS OF FRIENDS

Humphrey Tranter. We are sorry to report the death of Humphrey Tranter on 25th October. Humphrey was greatly loved for his positive and caring attitude. He was a very significant part of Adelaide meeting for several decades, since 1971. He is remembered for his knowledge of poetry, his music, his work for many years at the Quaker Shop, and for his inspired ministry in meeting for worship. A memorial meeting for Humphrey is to be held on Thursday, December 1st at the Karka pavilion, Belair National Park, at 3pm.. If those who attend tell the attendant at the entrance gate that they are attending, there will be no charge.



Humphrey Tranter in 1988

The Quaker Shop. After three demanding years as manager of the Quaker Shop Jo Jordan has been succeeded by Virginia Phillips. Both volunteers and the Quaker Service Committee for South Australia acknowledge the dedicated work that that Jo has put into the job, not least of which has been filling in for many shifts because of illnesses. This has arguably been the most difficult time in the whole history of the shop – because of the demands of Covid. In spite of Covid lockdowns the shop has made record profits all of which go to Quaker Service and the Refugee Association.

Alan and Jenni Kendal. It has been a delight to have Alan and Jenni Kendal in our midst in recent days. From Peterborough, they have been in Adelaide for medical reasons.



Ann Head's painting

Inga Tolley recently went to see Ann Head's painting at the exhibition called 'Life Among Trees' at Burnside Civic Centre. The exhibition is in the Main Atrium space next to Burnside Council's reception desk, the exhibition hours are limited to the hours that the Council offices are open, namely: Monday to Friday 8.30 am – 5 pm (Closed on Saturdays, Sundays & Public Holidays.)

The third Sunday study of Quaker spirituality led by Kerry O'Regan at the Meeting House continues to be inspiring. A Friend wrote "The study group today was super lively and fantastic. Spinoza came up as did can a Jewish be "excommunicated" We joyfully wandered afar!"

Jane Sloane works for the Asian section of the women's empowerment program. The program is concerned for women's rights, their security, and for girls' education. She works closely with local workers in various countries. In Afghanistan the Taliban have crushed women. Schools are closed to girls. Although this is devastating the organisation does offer overseas scholarships. There are digital schools and mentors where older educated women can help. The organisation assists women to leave Afghanistan. Their 200 staff moved from Afghanistan to work from Cambodia where there is a staging post for refugees. Jane spoke to Eastern Suburbs Friends on 30th November. She is in Adelaide for some time, though her work is based in San Francisco.



Friends in Penola

Charles Stevenson with Kevin McFadden, Max McFadden and Nicole McFadden who is the busy and thorough Chemist at Penola (in the South East). Kevin is a member of Canberra meeting. Max is in year 2 at the Penola Mary McKillop Memorial School.

The last 2022 issue of the Friends Quarterly has four articles of importance to Friends at this time of COP27 in Egypt. The articles range from 'Naming Spiritual Aspects of the Earth Crises' by Paul Hodgkin to 'Towards a New Creation' by Stuart Masters.

The 2023 Quaker Calendar reflects the devoted work of Sally O'Wheel. There is a detail from the Friends in Stitches embroidery panels for each month. January depicts the post World War One appeal for the relief of stricken Europe, one of the major Quaker campaigns in Australian history which was initiated by Friends in Adelaide. May depicts some workers at the Quaker Shop – particularly Humphrey Tranter and Edwin and Jennifer Mann. The September picture concerns Darwin Friends concern about the difficulties of Timor Leste independence. The calendar costs \$20 and is available from Robin Sinclair.

Mary Harris: *God in the Landscape* (Bloomsbury 2021). hardback now and will be in paperback early next year. <https://www.bloomsbury.com/au/god-in-the-landscape-9781350181489/> Hardback \$170. Paperback \$59.99, Ebook \$153.

Kerrie Handasyde explores the history of religious Dissent and Evangelicalism in Australia through a variety of literary responses to landscape. It draws the links between landscape, literature, and spirituality with imagination and insight. The final chapter 'Landscape of Timeless Beauty: Quaker essays on beauty in art and the painting of nature, 1922 to 1963' features Mary Harris, a well-concerned Adelaide Friend of the last century.

Visit of Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby to Adelaide

Jo Jordan reports. Church representatives and members of the Anglican church were invited to a reception for Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, at Government House in the afternoon of Friday 1st October.

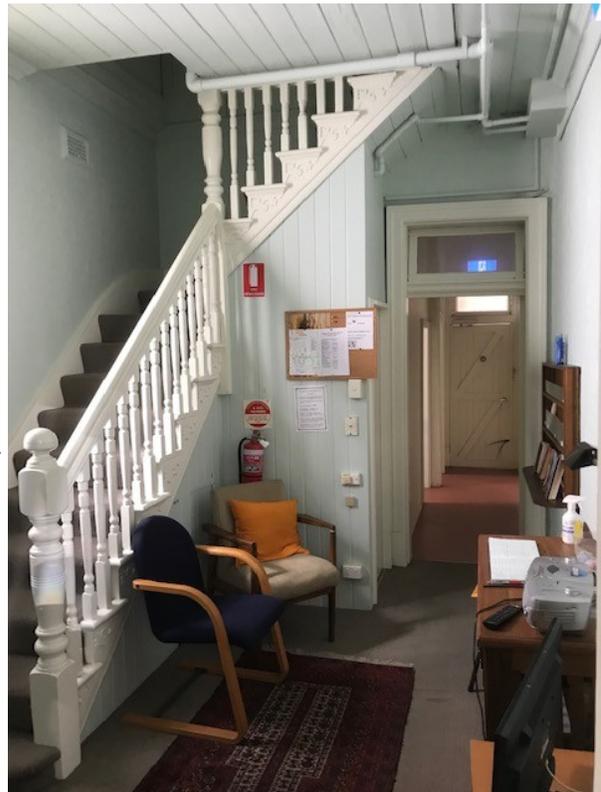
During this visit to Australia the archbishop had meetings with First Nations people, refugee groups and those in flood affected areas. In Adelaide Justin Welby took part in the 175th anniversary of the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide.

In her speech of welcome the governor, Frances Adamson, reminded those present that SA was founded as a “paradise of dissent” where people could practise their faith freely. The governor referred to the archbishop’s sermon during the funeral ceremony for Queen Elizabeth when he said that “people of loving service are rare in any walk of life and leaders of loving service are still rarer. In all cases those who serve will be loved and remembered when those who cling to power and privilege are long forgotten.” The governor thanked Justin Welby for his leadership, offering an example of hope and faith. Faith, she said, “is hope with boots on the ground”.

ACCOMMODATION AT DEVONSHIRE STREET

If you want an absolutely quiet place to stay in the heart of Sydney then the Devonshire Street Meeting House is the place for you. You will be greeted by a more sincere warden than any hotel concierge and taken to a spacious and comfortable room. The kitchen has not only a full compliment of breakfast requirements but also a washing machine and dryer. The dining area is charming and adequate. Surry Hills is a pleasant inner suburb close to Central Station and other transport It is a place to thoroughly recommend. Moreover, the payment for accommodation goes directly into the funds of the Society of Friends.

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.



Olga Farnill (8431 6161) is offering a free exercise bike. I have a bike which doubles as both a normal exercise bike, and a pedalling while -you-stand machine which exercises your arms at the same time. I haven't used it much, because of my back, which developed problems since I bought it at the start of Covid. So it's in great condition. Free to someone who'd like to take it away. They'd need a ute or trailer because it's too heavy to attach to a car roof. It's an example of "Pedalling Cheerfully".

Meeting for Learning Retreat 2022

Jo Jordan



After two years in which Meeting for Learning retreats were in recess because of Covid, the opportunity to meet again was welcomed by 11 participants, four facilitators and four former participants, who stayed close by and joined the group for daily Meetings for Worship.

Some participants travelled in a minibus from the Meeting House in Adelaide to the Sevenhill Retreat Centre at Clare on Saturday 8th October for a six day retreat. Others arrived by car and by public transport from interstate and country areas of SA. On arrival we were allocated our rooms in the historic, stone building which had once been a secondary school. The building, which has been substantially renovated, provides comfortable, quiet bedrooms and meeting areas as well as modern bathrooms. Each room had a reverse cycle air conditioner so we were always comfortable. The one challenge for some were the number of stairs to reach the meeting area.

The retreat programme has a gentle pace, allowing time for reflection as well as for relaxation and exercise. There are times when the large group gathers to hear one facilitator and other times for speaking and listening in pairs and in small groups. Those present are encouraged to develop a deeper knowledge of Quaker writings and beliefs as well as to reflect on their own spiritual journey.

I found the experience of the retreat enriching and rewarding. We all need time to be still, away from pressing everyday responsibilities. The retreat offers that and more. We were led through activities by experienced and empathetic facilitators and found energy and enlightenment from these sessions as well as daily conversations with fellow participants. It was possible to meet and to connect about matters that are truly important.

The one day of silence in the middle of the retreat was a time of calm and serenity for some, and more of a challenge for others. There was always time for daily walks through local bushland carpeted with wild flowers and along country roads beside rows of newly sprouting vines. Always there was birdsong.

The aim of the retreat is to offer participants “support for our true selves – nurturing the space where leadings flow”. (Jenny Spinks) At the conclusion of the retreat most of the participants had identified leadings which they planned to pursue with a small support group during the coming year.

There will be another retreat at Sevenhill in Clare in October 2023. If you are interested in finding out more about what it’s like to attend the retreat you are welcome to speak to me or to one of the other five Adelaide Friends who attended

REVIEW OF *HAPPY TOGETHER: Bridging the Australia – China Divide* by Australian historian, David Walker, and Chinese translator, Li Yao, with Karen Walker, Carlton, Vic., Melbourne University Press, 2022

Elizabeth Kwan

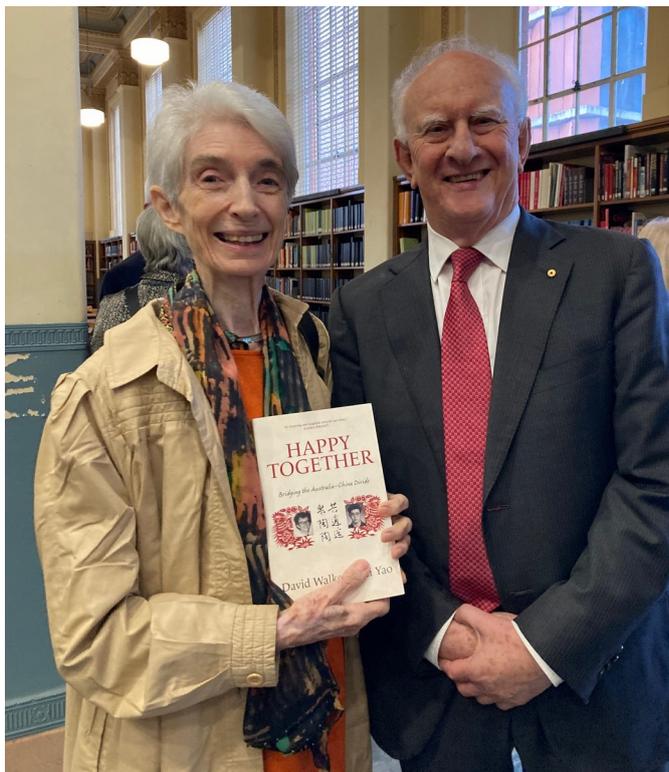
Happy Together, launched in Melbourne, Adelaide and Sydney in 2022 offers an engaging and optimistic alternative to pessimistic and careless talk of war between Australia and China. These two authors had worked together as professors at Peking University's Australian Studies Centre: Australian David Walker, a highly respected historian; and Chinese Li Yao, the recognised leading Chinese translator of Australian books since he began translating in 1980.

Their journeys together in China from 2013 made possible this unique double biography, opening windows not just on their lives, but importantly on the circumstances shaping them, and the histories of their countries. Their work as historian and translator offers Australians and Chinese a rare opportunity to understand their nations' histories, and to enjoy relating to each other more fully. Many family photographs, in this context, were a real pleasure.

David had long researched Australians' developing views of Asia and the Pacific in two books published in 1999 and 2019. In *Anxious Nation: Australia and the Rise of Asia 1850 – 1939*, Australia was a small nation in a vast continent seeking to develop and protect its emerging government as a democratic beacon in an Asian neighbourhood it both feared and didn't understand. In *Stranded Nation: White Australia in an Asian Region*, from the 1930s to

the 1970s, Australia was now more prepared to begin to engage with Asia. However, as new Asian nation states emerged from European colonies, white Australia found itself excluded.

Although David became legally blind in 2004, he published a further book, *Not Dark Yet: a personal history* in 2011. Li Yao translated it into Chinese. They became friends. Li Yao, now familiar with David's history, wanted a history of his own family, yet wondered how that would be possible, given the turmoil the Chinese nation had experienced during the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Where could they find his ancestral village? What evidence remained there of his family? David was encouraging, telling Li Yao that he and his wife, Karen would help look for the village and the journey would be fun. It was. In 2016 they travelled by train and bus to explore Shanxi in the north of China and further north to Inner Mongolia. Li Yao made sure he had a constant supply of snacks to keep them



Elizabeth Kwan and David Walker at the Adelaide launch in the Barr Smith Reading Room

going, especially for David, passionate for fresh fruit. Luckily, watermelon was plentiful. Historical family photographs marked their journey, adding to Melbourne University Press's care in presenting Li Yao's family in the book.

The first stop was at an Engineering College where David and Li Yao presented a lecture on the writing and translation of *Not Dark Yet*. Some 500 staff and students poured into the lecture theatre. Many had questions on climate change, and the Australia – China relationship. Li Yao had recognised similarities between David’s family and his own, despite their different backgrounds. Both men were born near the end of 1945, the year of the rooster in the Chinese Zodiac. Both families had been shaped by migration: David’s great grandparents migrated from the north of England to South Australia in the 1870s. His parents, both teachers, lived in several country towns. Severe drought in the northern Chinese Province of Shanxi in the late nineteenth century had driven the Li family from their land to Inner Mongolia’s grasslands. Li Yao’s grandfather worked very hard and became a landholder. Like David’s parents, both Li Yao’s parents were teachers. David and Li Yao compared a range of family traditions and practices. Confucian principles were the basis of Li family values: honouring the ancestors, keeping the family together, even when challenged by the Communist Party, building a family cemetery and caring for family graves. David, avoiding emotional display in offering respect, watched Li Yao and his sister honour their late mother at the graveside, where Li Yao loudly and emotionally called out to her, telling her about his journey with the two Australians, seeking her forgiveness, her blessing, tears running down his face. David had visited his mother’s grave only once, and in silence. Dementia had troubled her life’s end as a lost soul. David was raised on Biblical sayings by his father: the importance of working hard, completing his homework, avoiding distractions to ensure a good outcome, summarised as ‘reap as ye shall sow’.

Li Yao was the second of five children and the first son. Born in winter on 8 December in 1945 seemed very fortunate: 8 is a lucky number for the Chinese, and being in December, the twelfth month, it marked a Buddhist festival, *La-Ba*, celebrated for more than two thousand years: a time to pray for the year’s bountiful harvest to come. Li Yao’s mother told him a story of a magpie, which had flown over the village to the family’s roof on his birthday, singing with great joy. To mark the good omen, Li Yao’s parents gave their son a pet name: *Zhao-lin*, *zhao* for omen and *lin*, ‘short for *Qi-lin*’, an imaginary animal. *Qi-lin* also suggested ‘a high moral purpose and the selfless pursuit of wisdom’. These were auspicious signs for their son: in David’s words, ‘He was a Rooster born at *La-Ba* and escorted into the world by the magical *Qi-lin*.’

Regarding childbirth, there were significant differences in practices ensuring the safe recovery of the mother and development of the new baby. For the first month after childbirth, a Chinese mother had to stay home in bed, following a strict dietary regime, keeping warm and avoiding drafts. David’s mother, like many progressive western mothers, relied on the advice of the American, Dr Spock. She fed David by bottle at 3 hourly intervals, not breast feeding on demand. Within Li Yao’s first month, when PLA soldiers were camping in the Li’s courtyard house, a huge bang was heard as a soldier was cleaning his rifle and a shot went through the ceiling. Li Yao’s mother feared for her young son’s brain. But later at only three years of age, Li Yao began learning Chinese characters.

David’s parents, in naming their son, could have told him the story of David and Goliath: David a brave leader of his men in battle, a musician who played the lyre, and was skilled with words. But his parents’ choice was simpler. David owed his name to an uncle, Alan David Walker in the RAAF, just returned from war-torn Britain. Unlike Li Yao, David’s childhood was not touched directly by war, though another uncle in the RAAF had gone missing over the small island of Ambon in the Indonesian archipelago. His Uncle Laurie, one of eleven Australians left behind on the island with a damaged plane were captured and brutally killed by Japanese soldiers. Later, Australian troops found mass

graves holding the remains of about 340 men including Laurie and men from his RAAF squadron. The ninety-one Japanese held responsible were later tried for the massacres.

Massacres of civilians were common in China under Japanese occupation. At times the Li family hid in small country villages to avoid having to teach Japanese. After the defeat of Japan, and as the civil war between the Communists and the Nationalists continued, Li Yao's mother was extraordinarily brave in dealing with soldiers who occupied the Li Family's house. When they demanded hot dumplings, Li Yao's mother, tired and heavily pregnant, could not immediately provide them. Facing them, she stood her ground, pointing out how Chinese citizens had waited eight years to be liberated and welcomed the arrival of the PLA. Her people did not deserve to be bullied.

At Middle School in the 1950s from the age of 11, Li Yao began entering poetry competitions earning the nickname 'Little Literary Giant' and his parents' pride. In summer he stayed with his maternal grandparents, where he found his mother's books, including the classic *Dream of Red Mansions*, by Xueqin. Li Yao also spent time with his maternal grandfather, who loved telling folk tales, drinking and watching Peking Opera. Encouraged by his frugal mother, Li Yao began visiting the library to borrow books. Librarians came to know him, recommending books to read. He managed to read many of the novels published in China before the Cultural Revolution. David as a boy was less interested in books. He would rather ride his bike. Coming home for tea, there was just time to listen to the ABC Radio's Argonauts Club, which introduced so many wider aspects of life to him. Li Yao became widely known for his ability to write well, often winning first or second prize in the school's yearly literary competition. His teacher, in charge of propaganda, came to like him, appointing him editor-in-chief of the school's blackboard newspaper. At fifteen, the 'Little Literary Giant' worked hard on his new responsibilities.

David was then at Enfield High School, along with many of the new immigrant children from Britain and Europe, learning a different use of English. For David, high school led to a training course at Wattle Park Teachers College for future primary school teachers, combined with an Arts degree at the University of Adelaide, where he gained entry to an honours program in English and History. His university years challenged him to think beyond the opinions he had grown up with on a wide range of issues. Books and visiting bookshops now gave him enormous pleasure. Success in his honours degree led to several invitations from interstate universities to join a PhD program. He chose the Australian National University, arriving in his Holden in March 1968 and staying at University House. Li Yao's journey was quite different. In 1962 at the age of 16 he had been accepted at the Inner Mongolia Normal University, achieving his long-held dream, despite the growing emphasis in the Chinese Communist Party on continuing class struggle as long as different social classes remained. Graduating in 1967, Li Yao was invited to be a journalist. These were Cultural Revolution years. In 1969 Li Yao and thousands of other Inner Mongolian cadres were sent to classes in Mao Zedong Thought under PLA supervision: Li Yao survived the education in what seemed like cruelty and treachery, until they were released in 1971. Later assigned to another Cadre School, where he spent his time raising pigs, Li Yao soon returned to journalism. During these years Li Yao feared for his parents' survival, as they were targeted as landlords and regularly beaten. He wished he lived closer to give them more support.

Despite Li Yao's pessimism about finding his family's ancestral village, the three travellers did find Li Sanquan, whose name translates as Three Springs, as told in a story going back two thousand years to the Han dynasty, when a general managed to save his men from dying of thirst by finding water and beginning a village in that place. At

Sanquan, Li Yao was shown a copy of the official Li family tree; a record referring to the family's migration to Inner Mongolia; and met welcoming relatives. Li Yao immediately turned to thank his Australian friends, who had made this possible for him.

The three travellers found that Shanxi had an intriguing history. Under the Qing Dynasty, in times of good rainfall and plentiful harvests imperial supervision ensured the proper management of water and the storage of grain for later years of drought. However, during the late nineteenth century, the imperial government became increasingly weak, unable to maintain that essential supervision and the province suffered. Challenged by the Taiping rebellion in the south and a Moslem rebellion in the north, the central government struggled to maintain control of the country. In the south European powers, especially Britain at Canton, were breaking down China's traditional tribute system. The British trade in opium from India to Canton grew, encouraging wider distribution of opium in China, weakening Chinese officials, encouraging corruption and leading to lower living standards. European pressure to open up Chinese ports further weakened the Chinese government's control of its borders and protection of its people. After military pressure, from 1842 China began making treaties with the British and other powers preparing the way for the new order in foreign relations. In Shanghai, where Britain gained concessions in 1843, other European powers followed. Not yet satisfied, in 1860 British and French troops marched on Peking, targeting the Old Summer Palace, *Yuanmingyuan*, set in beautiful gardens. Misunderstanding on both sides escalated, until the foreign troops ransacked the site, large palaces, full of treasures from the previous three centuries being torn down and burnt.

David and Karen spent time at a revealing exhibition at the *Yuanmingyuan* which was not far from where they lived at Peking University. Traditional paintings and models showed the layout and beauty of the gardens before their destruction. The exhibition, pointing to the future of *Yuanmingyuan*, warned that the Qing dynasty had been too weak to defend its borders, feed and protect its people and that 'This would never be allowed to happen again.'

David found the years 2013 to 2016 were a good time to be living in Beijing, as Australia and China were getting on well. President Xi Jinping addressed a special joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament in Canberra and celebrated the China—Australia Free Trade Agreement. In China new Australian Studies Centres were opening in four more cities across China, with the support of the Australian ambassador, Frances Adamson. These were encouraging signs of a more respectful relationship between the two countries of the north and south. Certainly, the many journeys undertaken by Li Yao and the Walkers revealed the rich understanding they gained, drawing on the similarities and differences they shared. David Walker reminds us that there are 'many ways in which we do not see', and that 'Not knowing the history of a place is a common form of sightlessness.' *Happy Together: Bridging the Australia – China Divide* is a book for us to enjoy and value.

SILVER WATTLE

REGISTRATIONS OPEN FOR EASTER FAMILY GATHERING 2023

The Quaker Easter Family Gathering will again be held on the shores of Lake George at Silver Wattle, 6-10 April 2023. This will be a time for children, Junior Young Friends, Young Friends and adults to come together for worship, nourishment, fun and time on the land together. The program will be developed in collaboration with participants, with the possibility of constructing a labyrinth on dry land. Accommodation will be in cabins and BYO camping/caravans. This is heavily subsidised by Silver Wattle. All children under 18 will be free of charge, all adults are asked to contribute 50% of normal food tariff (ie. \$40/ per person/per day). Additional information will be sent to participants prior to the event. All queries please contact Anna Wilkinson annagreenthumb@gmail.com
Registration: <https://forms.gle/KPuFbdzy1aFgS7ny5>

Please register your interest asap to help us support and accommodate those who would like to come. We are happy to discuss support for you if there are financial/transport or other barriers to your attendance

Silver Wattle Quaker Centre Seeks New Coordinator from March 2023

This is an invitation to help nurture Silver Wattle into the future. We are looking for a Centre Coordinator from March 2023 work with the Silver Wattle Board to nurture Silver Wattle as a place of spiritual formation, study & healing. The role encompasses:- Facilitating hospitality for courses, events and venue hire- Managing the Silver Wattle calendar and emails- Overseeing contractors, volunteers and the operations of Silver Wattle. If you are interested, please complete the EOI form at <https://forms.gle/q7UaNgXssGijgr3Q9> or share this with someone else who you think might be interested. Applications close on 30 October 2022. More information below. The management of Silver Wattle should be a positive and rewarding experience for all involved. This position is based at Silver Wattle with accommodation, food and vehicle provided. Other remuneration may be negotiated to meet individual needs. If you would like to know more about this position, or perhaps know someone else who may be interested, either complete the form at [Volunteer Resident Friend](#) or contact Jonathan Benyei at jonathan.benyei@silverwattle.org.au or by mobile [0412 624 774](tel:0412624774).

Poetry and Spirit: Judith Wright - Environmental, Indigenous and Spiritual Concerns 4 pm Friday 2 December to 1.30 pm Thursday 8 December A week-long session on the Poetry of Judith Wright will be held with Michael Griffith focussing on her environmentalism, her concern for Aboriginals and her spirituality. You can find details of this at the Silver Wattle Quaker Centre: <https://www.silverwattle.org.au/upcoming-courses>

Silver Wattle is the meeting place for Friends in a leisurely way not possible in after meeting quick conversation. One would not expect a place of such quality and fulfilment at the end of a six kilometre dirt road, rather rough in places. But it is in a peaceful bush setting beside the still waters of Lake George.

ROGER KEYES

About 160 persons attended the Memorial meeting for Roger Keyes in the Latvian Hall, Wayville, on Saturday 8th October. It commenced with the playing of Bach on an acoustic guitar, followed by Peter Webb on the didgeridoo. Amongst the tributes was Roger's friend from Navy days when they met at the age of 15. The final speaker was one who was at St Michaels with Roger when they were both in their 20's. He spoke briefly and beautifully, and closed with 'Amen'. Others echoing the 'amen' was a fitting end to the meeting.

Roger had obviously made an impression on Kerry, who met Roger when he was ten. He wrote

To Dear Roger,

I wanted to write to you to express my thanks for the many lessons, ideas and thought-provoking conversations we have shared – reflecting now, I don't recall having done so. So, now I write: Thank you Rog, for all of those moments.

You are one of few whose company always offers wise insight and careful, genuine respect. I've always looked forward to your visits to Old Brisbane.

You are a principled man who sticks to his heart. For that alone, you have my respect.

I only wish I could have said this in person – perhaps my message would then be more precise – but my intention is simple; I wish to offer my sincere thanks.

God bless, Rog, and Thankyou.

Yours sincerely, Kerry.

Roger Alfred Keyes was born at *Wendouree* in Wayville on 27 January 1938, the first child of William David Keyes and Mary Alice Keyes. His mother, Mary, had a lively social conscience and political awareness. She was great friends with Norman Crawford and his wife Sadie who were friends of Friends. His mother was clearly a very significant influence, in his social and political views, his spirituality, his love of music, and some of his ideas about parenting.

Roger attended Adelaide Technical High School. At the age of 15, he won a scholarship as a midshipman cadet at the Royal Australian Naval College in Flinders, Victoria. He enjoyed his time in the Navy, not only because it was where he became a master sailor, which brought him joy throughout his life, but paradoxically because it crystallised his deep commitment to pacifism and anti-imperialism.

As a sub-lieutenant in HMAS Tobruk he was the officer of the watch, when, struck by a sudden moment of clarity, he saw the error of his military ways. The next morning he applied to resign his commission. He remained a committed pacifist ever after.

In 1959 he entered the novitiate of the Society of the Sacred Mission to train for the priesthood at St. Michael's House at Crafers in the Adelaide Hills. He was ordained in Rockhampton in 1964 and was appointed to the new Anglican mission district of Bougainville, Papua New Guinea. Roger became interested in the liberation theology movement, and became involved with Bougainvillean independence groups.

In 1976 he was appointed rector of St Christopher's, Kilburn in Adelaide. The following year Roger decided to leave his marriage and the church. He took a job as a gardener at the Highways Department and became a road design draftsman. He was a very active member of the Transport Workers' Union. He was also a member at different times of the Communist Party of Australia and its successors, the New Left Party and the SEARCH Foundation, as well as the Australian Democrats and when they disbanded, the Australian Greens.

Roger took an early retirement from the Highways Department - to devote more time to his political and social activism, and to build PALOMA BLANCA, a very unconventional Phil Bolger-designed micro-cruiser. Over the next 16 years, Roger cruised the tough little ship on extended voyages to all corners of the Backstairs Passage, the Investigator Strait, the Gulf St Vincent and Spencer Gulf and the intervening landmasses of the Fleurieu Peninsula, Kangaroo Island, Yorke Peninsula, Eyre Peninsula and adjacent islands. These are wild waters and rugged coasts, not for the fainthearted sailor.



Roger on the Paloma Blanca off Port Vincent.

While living in Goolwa Roger stood with members of the Ngarrindjeri community against the construction of the bridge to Kumarangk (Hindmarsh Island) and was the Public Officer of the Friends of Goolwa and Kumarangk. He became close to the Ngarrindjeri people and visited them at Camp Coorong near Meningie several times. Roger made a point of attending every year the Proclamation Day Ceremony at Glenelg on Kurna land, and would stand with First Nations people. For many years Roger very proudly wore every day his “neck tie” of red, yellow and black plaited woollen yarn. This was given to him in

Adelaide by a First Nations Elder as a symbol of acceptance, or as a mark of respect.

He was accepted into membership of the Society of Friends in 1996. His final home was with Ann Rees. Roger had a longstanding concern about climate change, and his involvement in Climate Rebellion. He was active in a large number of community organisations, reflecting his strong commitment to peace, equality and social justice. In the past few years, Roger has been standing in Rundle Mall almost weekly, for Julian Assange, Friends of Palestine and Friends of Cuba. He has also been on the steps of Parliament House in North Terrace for Peace rallies and for the Schools Strike for Climate Change.

He leaves great a legacy of social conscience and environmental responsibility, somewhat subversive and rebellious, but deeply rooted in love for Humanity and for Earth. Where he saw injustice, suffering or systemic inequality, his instinct was to begin work; observers would agree he never really stopped.

Roger greeted the world at large with a compassion and generosity of spirit which informed the way he lived, and poignantly, the way he treated others.

FAMILY GET-TOGETHER

We are gently navigating our way to encourage connection by families and would appreciate your help with (informally) identifying families who might be interested in getting to know one another.

We are acutely aware of our moral, spiritual, legal and insurance obligations as Quakers, but some events may not sit squarely under the formal Quaker insurance umbrella.

Therefore, I am sending this note out in an informal capacity.

Tina Bell, Raina Emerson (Naulty) and her husband are enthusiastic, well organised, wonderful people. They have well regarded professional, child-friendly backgrounds and will likely comply with most of Australia Yearly Meeting Child protection policy requirements. However, at this late stage, they will not have full child-protection accreditation and have agreed to proceed as a family get-together with others welcomed to attend (rather than a formal Quaker event).

If you know of other families who might enjoy a family weekend in January, we would be grateful if you could please offer them the following invitation:

Tina Bell and Raina Emerson and their families are getting together at Werona in Kangaroo Valley from 6-8 January. They would be very happy for other families to join them. This is a privately organised, informal family event and not an activity under the care of Australian Quakers (Australia Yearly Meeting). If you would like more details about the event and about the due date for registration then please contact Tina ([0428 228 165](tel:0428228165)) or Raina ([0403 602 952](tel:0403602952)).

Call for Expressions of Interest.

Children and Young People at the Heart of Quaker Life.

The Australian Yearly Meeting (AYM) Children and JYFs Committee (C&JYFS) is inviting expressions of interest for a part time paid position for 6 months in 2023 to help design, conduct and report on a project with families and young people, local and regional meetings, worshipping groups and isolated Friends to:

- identify and consider the needs of Quaker meetings, families and young people
- facilitate building community and relationships and support for those working with families and young people in Quaker activities
- map the connections to relevant Quaker organisations and committees
- connect people with similar challenges, ideas and needs, and
- consult with other Yearly Meetings and learn from their experiences

The report could then propose a way forward for the C&JYFS Coordinator and Committee to support families and young people within AYM.

For further information contact Di Bretherton, Convener of the C&JFS Committee at cchildrenjyf@quakersaustralia.info.

Seeking Resident Friends for Auckland, Aotearoa New Zealand

You are invited to spend a year or so as Resident Friends in Auckland where you will be part of a lively Quaker community.

We're looking for a Quaker couple to live in the Friends Centre from the beginning of April 2024 for a period of a year or more and be involved in the spiritual and social life of Northern Monthly Meeting. Duties include running the 4-bed accommodation facility for travelling Friends.

For information and a job description please contact Barbara barbmmca@outlook.com

**Forgetting to turn the calendar
I find I've lost a day ...
or gained one.**

Robin Sinclair

Meetings for Worship

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide: 11 am every Sunday.

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 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 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.

Clerk: Charles Stevenson RMSANTClerk@quakersaustralia.info

Treasurer: Lee Harradine RMSANTTreasurer@quakersaustralia.info

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