

DECEMBER 2021

WALKING CHEERFULLY

FOUNDED 1926



PRINCIPAL CONTENTS

Science and Faith – Faith Coleman p 2.
AVP Alice Springs – Jo Jordan p 4
The Talks Weekend p 6
Militarisation in Australia – Jo Jordan p 7
Notices and News of Friends p 8
Friends who have influenced me p 12

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

In calm and cool and silence, once again
I find my old accustomed place among
My brethren, where, perchance, no human tongue
Shall utter words ...

There let me strive with each besetting sin,
Recall my wandering fancies, and restrain
The sore disquiet of a restless brain;
And, as the path of duty is made plain,
May grace be given that I may walk therein ...

John Greenleaf Whittier 'First Day Thoughts'



Sunday, November 7th Meeting for Worship at Victor Harbor, sharing the 'balm and solace' of silence as well as the comfort of words and physical presence, in gratitude for the love we have known.

l-r: Bronte Collins, Di Shearer, Diane Cocetta, Christine Collins, Jo Jordan, Anne Johnson.

ARE THE PRACTICE OF SCIENCE AND FAITH NATURAL PARTNERS?

Faith Coleman



FAITH COLEMAN

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) has a surprising number of scientists and academics among its members and attenders. As a practicing ecologist and someone who is openly religious, I am often asked about how I balance religion and being a scientist, as if somehow the two can't co-exist. For me, they are one and the same. Quakerism for me is a recognition that there are some things in this universe that we don't know and never will know. However, on balance it is worth trusting that this unknowable force is benevolent and that the journey of striving toward a better understanding of it is a worthwhile one.

Science is no different. Science and the practice of the scientific method is the systematic practice of

constant truth-seeking, recognizing that we may never know any one thing for sure or that we will ever know everything, however the constant pursuit of truth is a worthwhile journey in itself.

It reminds me of a quote from Dan Seeger, that;

"To be dispassionate, not to let one's own needs or prejudices or emotions colour one's actions, is essentially to put truth before everything else. To love truth in this way is to love God, who is Truth."

There is another commonality between religion and science that we don't often talk about. That is the propensity for those practicing or using science to interact with the broader community in a manner that reminds me of the pomp and ceremony of the larger, more wealthy religious institutions in the world. I remember an employee of Adelaide University exclaiming with horror when I queried the conclusions of a report "You dare question the Scientists?" – Well, yes... Not only am I a fairly well-known scientist myself, but the practice of questioning is the whole principle behind science. If we think about the great debates held at the Royal Society in London about gravity and the shape of the world, it becomes apparent that research results that are not questioned and debated by those with competing views are not science at all.

We see the same tendency exhibited when policy writers feel that their policy is beyond reproach, because it is 'science-based policy' when in reality the policy is often no based on science, but rather a single person or team's opinion, which is quite a different matter. The political decree that "the environmental flows of the River Murray should be a NSW postcode", the various declarations about the sources of the water for the Coorong and the still unfolding disaster in the St Kilda mangroves and marshlands, are all evidence of what happens when the responsibility for discerning the truth becomes a hot potato, rapidly overwhelmed by political expediency.

I remember many descriptions of George Fox professing the following logic, that since everyone, men and women alike, could encounter God themselves, through Jesus, priests

were not needed. As this experience need not be in a church, the ‘steeple houses’, and therefore the tithes to support them, were unnecessary. This chain of thought was a huge threat to the churches of the day, so every effort possible was made to squash the dissenters.

Australian scientific institutions are doing great work, but the constant need to compete for funding has resulted in a similar tendency to trying to discredit research done outside of academia, because of the threat it poses to their existence. Somehow, in between this ongoing competition for funding, we have forgotten that good science does not need a university and highly paid academics, it just needs a well-trained mind, endless curiosity and a drive for truth. Resources for equipment and food while one gets your head truly around the discipline sure help, but just because a body of research was not conducted within the confines of academia, does not make it any less valuable.

In a similar vein, those that wave “science-based policy” around without the policy being clearly based on science and subject to open scientific review, are no different to those who would rock up in their Sunday best, yet sin on Monday, that so infuriated George Fox. Demanding truth is certainly a revolutionary act and one that is no less relevant today, than it was in George Fox’s time. It is an ongoing pursuit that seems to bring out the best and worst in people. I remember once coming home to a rose petals arranged in a heart formation on my bed, later finding out that a fisherman from NSW had a mental breakdown, which had led to him travelling over a thousand kilometers and breaking into my house to place those petals there. I am not sure if this was more or less disconcerting that the time I was told by a senior public servant that while I might think I wanted full transparency in relation to the Coorong, that “full transparency would lead to perverse outcomes” which I certainly would not like. I was too busy looking like a stunned mullet to get out Isaac Penington’s quote from the 1600s, that “Truth will not lose ground by being tried.” At the time, but it is a quote which has had much use in the time since. It is also equally true for science as it is for Quakerism, that knowing itself is not enough - action is also needed. In fact, it appears the more we know, the more we are driven by the spirit to act.

At Baroota, a group of concerned conservationists have been working with the Nukunu people in relation to a pumped hydro proposed on a highly sacred site, while also trying to restore flows along the Baroota Creekline and explore opportunities for reestablishing oyster reefs (the eyes of Woma) in Germain Bay.

At St Kilda Peri Coleman, with the support of the Save St Kilda Mangroves Alliance continues to struggle with an unfathomable resistance to removing dumped salt from the ponds south of St Kilda and the proper closure of the saltfields, as required by law.

At the Coorong, the proponents of the Coorong Environmental Trust, with the additional support from South Australian Quakers are attempting to untangle the ecological changes that have occurred throughout that estuary and identify the original causes, so that we can work together, toward restoring what we can and making the system atleast healthy where restoration is not possible. With the formation of the private Coorong Environmental Trust and the gradual passage of the supporting legislation, we hope that there will be a forever light, shining on the truth available for everyone, with regard to the estuary, so that future policy decisions made in relation to this area can all be based on the same foundation truths.

While these are the projects I am personally involved in, at hundreds of sites, within hundreds of organisations and on hundreds of issues, better informed community members

from all walks of life are being driven by their spiritual and scientific learnings, to do more and do better.

It would be wonderful to see more South Australian Friends pro-actively feeding our brains with the knowledge of what is happening around us, then following our individual callings into ways to help create God's Kingdom here on earth.

For an update on how my Coorong research is progressing, the following presentation will get you up to speed: <https://youtu.be/3MGLyvZKZDM>

For more information on the Coorong Environmental Trust, check out:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SMQItmpO-zk>

To keep up to date in regard to the St Kilda Mangroves, subscribe to the Save St Kilda Mangroves Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/savestkildamangroves>

And please get involved with organizations addressing climate change, such as Extinction Rebellion, as without climate action, humanity itself is at risk. <https://www.facebook.com/xradelaide>

DIANA CAMPBELL ON THE ALTERNATIVES TO VIOLENCE PROJECT (AVP) IN ALICE SPRINGS

Jo Jordan

Diana is an active Friend and an AVP facilitator in Alice Springs. Although there had been a number of efforts to get AVP established in Alice Springs in the past 20 years, it had not been possible to maintain the necessary number of facilitators. However, during the past two years, Diana and local facilitators have successfully conducted 16 workshops, both in the community and in the local prison.

It is a big commitment to undertake workshops in prisons where there is an expectation that, once begun, they will continue on a regular basis. Diana has been heartened by the success of the workshops and is determined to maintain that commitment. The agreement with the prison authorities is that those who attend choose to do so voluntarily as this is a key part of AVP philosophy that all attend by choice in prison and in the community so no one can be mandated to come. Diana has found that most are keen to join and that there have been significant gains in respect for each other and in self-confidence. Diana believes that a series of separate workshops for prison officers would be similarly beneficial.

Diana told a story about a prisoner who was to attend an appointment outside the prison, accompanied by a prison guard. There is a regulation that a prisoner wear handcuffs when outside the walls. This prisoner asked respectfully if the handcuffs could be removed during his appointment, but the answer was "No". The prisoner accepted the decision and made no further complaint. Shortly afterwards the prison guard removed the handcuffs.

Most of the prisoners in Alice Springs are Indigenous. An inmate facilitator, who is an artist, was so impressed by the AVP mandala, which is used in all workshops containing key phrases, that he created the mandala below using Indigenous designs and colours. Diana has been invited to bring a workshop to a local Indigenous community. She is looking forward to the experience and interested to work with Indigenous people to adapt it where necessary to be more inclusive.

Diana, who is a professional counsellor, is also a trained experiential learning facilitator and has facilitated a number of different such workshops. This experience has proved invaluable, serving her well since becoming an AVP facilitator. However, it has been challenging for her to commit time and energy to both counselling and AVP. It is a sign of Diana's dedication and her belief in the ability of AVP to bring about positive change that she has decided to set aside her counselling work in order to give priority to AVP.

We were fortunate that Elizabeth Kwan, who is an AVP facilitator in Darwin prisons, was able to be present to share her experiences with Diana and with us.



“Peaceful Pathways” Alice Springs Workshops

Run by the Alternative to Violence Program.
resolving conflict in a non-violent way

Run by trained volunteer facilitators for the *Alternative to Violence Program*, this workshop is a series of step-by-step experiences with discussion, games and activities.

The AVP provides an innovative, preventative approach to reduce violence and increase community harmony.

This workshop will:

- **Build personal skills** that prevent harmful behaviour and establish respectful communication.
- **Help to access our power** and transform conflict into peaceful exchanges
- **Create a safe space for us to learn together**
- Draw participants and facilitators from many different backgrounds, beliefs and cultures
- **Involve fun, laughter, looking within, listening, learning, asking questions, and finding answers.**



Community Workshops for 2022

Basic: Feb 12th & 19th - May 14th & 21st - Nov 5th & 12th

Advanced: August 6th & 13th

8am to 5.00pm

Venues: To be arranged

Cost: AVP is not for profit.

\$150 work-sponsored / \$100 full time workers
\$40 low income, unwaged / Group fees by negotiation
If you genuinely can't afford these fees, please contact us.
(Please register to confirm place)

Please bring your own lunch each day. Morning and afternoon tea will be provided.

For more information please contact:

Diana: 0422 472 918

Email: avp.alice.springs@gmail.com

Website: <https://avpaustralia.weebly.com/nt.html>

THE TALKS WEEKEND

Charles Stevenson



MATTHEW LYKOS

A highly successful occasion was our Talks Weekend (Saturday and Sunday, 9th and 10th October). It was both gratifying and inspiring to hear of the work being done in the community by various members of our Society. This was the more so because some of us have been burdened by the fact that we are a decreasing and ageing Meeting which presents the difficulty of finding suitable and willing Friends to fulfil positions. Indeed, this situation requires us to reinvent ourselves in a simpler format.

“It was exciting to hear about Faith Coleman’s work to save the Coorong interlaced with relevant quotations from Isaac Penington,” observed one Friend. We also heard of Diana Campbell’s demanding work in Alice Springs for AVP (Alternatives to Violence) an enterprise which reaches out to prisoners. Nina Namow, in her inimitable way, told us how her personal life experiences fitted her for the valuable work she has done in social work, not only for individuals but also as a community developer.

On the Sunday the weight of the ministry in meeting centred on the fact that we face unanswerable questions about life; but inspiration and support comes through nurturing each other. This was the unarticulated but fundamental theme of the weekend.

After a morning break Matthew Lykos spoke with utter sincerity about his love for music, how it comes from the heart and how he finds his Quaker faith is at the background of this passion for music.

The final session of the weekend was about the emergence of an Australian identity. This was presented by Elizabeth Kwan. We were fortunate indeed that Elizabeth could be present – and represent Friends far from our Regional Meeting’s epicentre in Adelaide. From being a part of the British Empire to being Australian was shown to us through the development of an Australian flag, and through the ever-developing required statements that children had to make at weekly school assemblies.

Identity was also the first speech of the weekend, given by John Edwards. A psychologist and a former Presbyterian-Uniting Church minister, John was able to ask some pertinent questions, indeed, unanswerable questions: “Did we invent God, or did God invent us?” “How do we interpret the momentous experiences of our life, and does it really matter how?” He thought our identifying mark as Quakers was in the mystery and power of silence.

Now that we are out of lockdown and the Covid virus is under much more control in South Australia it was decided that Friends should join together for a weekend seminar. It was a well-received idea. The Friend who conceived the actual plan of the weekend, and who worked tirelessly for its success was Geoff Greeves.

Militarisation in Australia, Normalisation and Mythology: a research report

Jo Jordan

I attended the online launch of this important research report by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) on 28th October, during the International Week of Disarmament.

This report is of particular interest to South Australians who live in the region promoted as the "Defence State" by both state and federal governments.

The present government has a preoccupation with war and military security which is prioritized above diplomacy. We learn that the annual budget for Defence increased by 50% in the last ten years.

Militarism is infiltrating all of our lives, promoted as a civic benefit. We see advertisements for the armed services everywhere., which is not surprising because Defence has the highest advertising budget of any single government department. We see military personnel coming to the aid of people affected by bushfires, floods and even the Covid pandemic. Is this the role the military should be playing? Why not fund civilians and invest in our community and jobs?

When public funding is not given to universities and other educational institutions, vested interests step in. Armament manufacturers fund non-military activities in universities, research institutes and public institutions, and this information is not widely known. Their influence is subtle and dangerous. It is not surprising that the Government's long term plan is to expand Australia's defence industry to become one of the ten largest defence exporters in the world.

Nicole George, a professor in the School of Political Science and International Studies at the University of Queensland, drew our attention to the aggressive, competitive and sexual language used by those in positions of power to promote the military. We are told that command and control will bring us peace and security. Really? What about the damage and consequences of weapons and war?

The real challenge is to build and maintain a peace which is worth living. The report is freely available to download from the WILPF website, : wilpf.org.au

FRIENDS IN STITCHES 2022 CALENDAR

Sally O'Wheel, the energetic co-ordinator of this group is pleased to announce:
Order your 2022 Friends in Stitches Calendar today!! CStitches@quakersaustralia.info \$20 plus postage. The banking details will be sent to you when your order is received.
November features the Ashby family. August features the Friends School.

NOTICES AND NEWS OF FRIENDS

A CELEBRATION FOR THE QUAKER SHOP.

Jo Jordan (Shop Manageress) writes:

Towards the end of the year The Quaker Shop celebrates the wonderful contribution that volunteers make throughout the year. This year there was a party in the park at Philps Reserve at Leabrook where over 40 volunteers gathered to share delicious food and good conversation. It is an opportunity for volunteers who serve on different days to meet with each other in an informal atmosphere. Jo Jordan expressed gratitude to all volunteers and in particular to two volunteers who were retiring: Anne Johnson after 10 years' service and Milli Stein after four years' service.

Jo was very pleased to announce that the Shop had made record donations to both Quaker Service Australia and to the Australian Refugee Association during this year. Quaker Service Australia has received \$87,000, and the Australian Refugee Association has received \$26,000. Wendy Hartley took photographs of the happy day.

The Quaker Shop has lots of Christmas goodies for sale, whether it's decorations for the tree or a gift for someone special.

THE FRIENDS' QUARTERLY, a sister publication of the British weekly, *The Friend*, should be essential reading for anyone interested in the problems of this age from a Quaker perspective. The current issue has four provocative articles on Truth Decay. While each article is profound, that of John Lampen 'Doing the Truth' is perhaps the most valuable. John Lampen, of course, is always worth listening to. Lampen shows how we have moved on from George Fox's truth that meant he could not accept a pardon to get out of prison when he had done no wrong! Lampen mentions Sigrid Lund, the Norwegian Friend who intentionally lied to the Gestapo in order to save the lives of hidden Jews. The Friends quarterly contains discussion questions which are a valuable basis for discussion groups.

WINSOME PAUL died on 12 October. She was born on 31st July 1931. She wrote a family history 'Blessed with a Cheerful Nature' in 2005. Several of her aunts became Salvation Army officers, notably Lieut.-Colonel Sadie McDowell who was in charge of the Army's Women's Social Work in Queensland in the 1960s. Winsome married Bruce Paul in 1954, and moved to Adelaide in 1972 where they were members of the Nunyara House Group which was a progressive gathering where both Winsome and Bruce could share their evolving and sincere reflections of life's experiences. Winsome and Bruce became valued Attenders of the North Adelaide Meeting in 1986. For a number of years they did a weekly afternoon shift at the Quaker Shop. Winsome is fondly remembered for her quiet wisdom.



BRUCE AND WINSOME PAUL

RUTH LEE-BOWIE.



Ruth Lee-Bowie died on 5 October. She had an astonishing life which will be recorded later in a Testimony. She was Born at Gumeracha on the 15th September, 1931.

The seeds of Ruth's spiritual and social conscience were sown by her mother Olivia, a Social Worker in the Salvation Army. The seeds of her political and creative self were sown and encouraged by her father. Both parents died of heart attacks on Anzac day, 1952.

In 1955, as a jillaroo Ruth was working at Purple Downs, adjacent on the Woomera Rocket Range when she was interrogated by the military police "because she MUST have been colluding with Communists to steal rocket secrets. This was because one of her friend's affiliation with the Communist Party was well known.

She married that same year to James Bowie, and they moved to Whyalla, where she lived for fifty years. She wrote much poetry and frequently contributed to newspapers.

After exploring Rosicrucian discipline she came to Friends, attending the Hills Meeting with her nephew, Chris Madsen. being accepted into membership in 2017.

LINDA CATCHLOVE.



Chris and Bronte Collins' daughter-in-law, Linda Catchlove, died on 27th October 2021. Friends may be interested in seeing her artwork. She had a passion for Australian flora and saw her art as a way to help others see, appreciate and protect it. Her art has been included in various botanical art books and exhibitions, including the Florilegium Exhibition in the Kew Royal Botanic Gardens in England. In some of her art she couldn't resist adding some 'wee faery folk'. Her work can be seen

at <https://www.lindacatchlove.com.au>. Her

beautiful photography, painting method and delightful but unfinished work for an exhibition at the Adelaide Botanic Gardens on Australian native bees, can be seen on her instagram account [lindacatchlove](https://www.instagram.com/lindacatchlove)

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.

RUDI (RUDOLF KARL) HERR was an occasional attender at meeting. He is remembered for his large and juicy apples! He died on 28th March last, aged 84.

NANGAWOOKA FLORA RESERVE.



EREMOPHILA CUNEIFOLIA

This is a remarkable botanical garden of hundreds of native flora species, all carefully annotated. It is situated near the corner of Waterport Road and the Victor Harbor ring road, opposite the Urimbirra Fauna Park.

At the end of the rather extensive reserve is a gazebo dedicated to our Friend, Alison Ashby. Her achievements are listed on a notice in the gazebo. Alison Ashby was the daughter of Edwin and Esther Ashby, and sister of Keith. She

lived at Wittunga when she was not on her extensive outback tours seeking Australian flora. Like the other members of her family she was immersed in botany from childhood. The gazebo was officially opened by Eric Ashby, Alison's nephew, and father of Christine Collins.

ALISON ASHBY MBE ACHIEVEMENTS

- Honorary Associate in Botany at the South Australian Museum.
- Foundation member of National Trust of South Australia.
- Served on the Nature Preservation Committee until 1960.
- Honorary Life Member of Society for Growing Aust. Plants, now Aust. Plant Soc.
- In 1959 made Life Member of the Field Naturalist Society.
- In 1960 made a Member of the British Empire.
- In 1972 presented to the Hunt Botanical Library in Pennsylvania, USA.
- In 1974 *Acacia ashbyi* named in her honour by the Western Aust. Herbarium.
- Developed 'Watiparinga' flora reserve, at Belair. Donated to National Trust SA.
- In 1975 Aust. Natural History Medallion from Field Naturalist Club of Victoria.
- Since 1957 gave 1,500 flower paintings to the SA Museum.
- 196 paintings have been reproduced into cards and postcards.
- Original paintings are held in the State Herbarium, SA Plant Biodiversity Centre.
- Her dedication in preserving and recording the heritage of Australian native plants is a legacy to her family and community.



Gazebo Dedication ceremony opened by Mr. Eric Ashby on 23rd Sept. 2001

WAR AND MILITARISM, A NEW QUAKER FILM.

This is an 11 minute reflection of World War 1 and current conflict. It weaves together discussions by adults and young people. It is a great piece to inspire further discussion. It can be watched online.

NEW QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE (QUNO) DIRECTORS

Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge , a South African Friend is the incoming director of QUNO Geneva

Sarah Clarke, of Canada, is the incoming director of QUNO New York.

FRIENDS HOUSE, SYDNEY - CALL FOR VOLUNTEER WARDENS

Devonshire Street Local Meeting (DSLML) is seeking two people who have a call for service on a voluntary basis as Wardens at the Devonshire Street Meeting House for a period of about 12 months, commencing March 2022.

Friends House, built in 1903, is not only a place of worship, but provides guest accommodation for travelling Friends and their family and friends, and halls are available for use by community groups. Accommodation is provided in order for the Wardens to perform their role. Located in Surry Hills, on the edge of the CBD and close to Sydney's Central Station, Friends House is situated in a mix of largely rejuvenated private and public housing, offices, cafes, restaurants and bars, hotels, clothing outlets, galleries and parks. The Light Rail in Devonshire Street opened in December 2019.

About the Role - The Wardens are important members of a group of volunteers who see to the general care and oversight of Friends House and manage its day-to-day use by Friends, guests and the local community. Volunteers are supported, and assisted, by the DSLML House Committee and DSLML Friends.

About You - Ideally, volunteers will be:

actively retired or in part time employment, financially independent, and able to have some flexibility to welcome guests and hall users;

able to develop relationships with Friends, the local community, social justice groups and overnight guests; interested in spending a period of time in Sydney and enjoying what inner-city living has to offer.

Volunteers do not need to be Members or Attenders of the Religious Society of Friends but should be in sympathy with Quakers and have an understanding of Quaker testimonies and processes. Volunteers should be Australian or Aotearoa/NZ citizens or permanent residents. Need more Information? More information can be provided by the Convenor of the House

Committee: Email: wardensearch@friendsnsw.net.

The appointment of Wardens, and uses of the Meeting House, are contingent upon COVID-19 restrictions in place at the time.

ZOOM MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP.

The Australia Yearly Meeting Online Meeting for Worship via Zoom is a weekly event. You can join either by computer or phone, details are available on the webpage:

<https://www.quakersaustralia.info/online-meeting-worship>

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 FWCCA WPS website.

Please consider keeping the Yangon Meeting in your prayers/loving attention. Friends in Myanmar welcome visitors to their online meeting held at 8:30pm Yangon time. (From Adrian Glamorgan, FWCC-AWPS Secretary) •

Rainbow Friends and Allies – new time Rainbow Friends are changing the time we gather for Meeting for Worship. Our Meeting for Worship will now be held at 7:00pm AEST on the 4th Sunday of each month. You are welcome to join from 6:45pm, and the Zoom details remain as below. As usual, a reminder will be sent out to those on the mailing list. With this revised time, we hope more Friends will be able to join us in worship. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask. You can email the coordinators at rainbowsunday@quakerway.com, or email us directly at (emchandler6@gmail.com) or markmacleod@gmail.com or text 0425 233 144. To join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83253846845?pwd=K1MwS2Z3blZnRmo0WmQ1VE1UeTZZZZ>

z09 Meeting ID: 832 5384 6845 Passcode: 457636 v Debating the Fate of the World with a Six-Year Old I had just arrived at my first client's house. Her name is Susan and she is a **BRAINBOW FRIENDS AND ALLIES** (LGBTIQ + allies)

Fourth Sunday of month 4 pm AEST.

Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83253846845?pwd=K1MwS2Z3blZnRmo0WmQ1VE1UeTZZZZz09>

Meeting ID: 832 5384 6845

Passcode: 457636

For further information: markmacleod@gmail.com or text 0425 233 144.

FRIENDS WHO HAVE INFLUENCED MY LIFE

Charles Stevenson

IRIS SCHULZ



Iris Schulz was an intense, incredibly conscientious and fun-loving Friend. She was a battler. Her death in 1972 at the age of 48 was a great loss. Her father, Rev Reginald Sobey of the Church of England, was heavily involved in First Nations affairs, hence Iris's devotion to the Aboriginal Advancement League. She worked closely with Dr. Charles Duguid and enlisted my help in the annual fêtes held in the Duguid residence in Magill. Iris

organised public awareness meetings on Aboriginal issues. I well remember her seminar on Aboriginal wages and employment. She enlisted my help in her successful petition to have removed from the Police Offences Act that it was an offence for anyone 'other than an Aboriginal native to consort with an Aboriginal native'. That was in 1957. She threw her energies into the Stewart Case. She adopted two Aboriginal babies, Deiter and Gladys.

Iris had some hilarious anecdotes especially about her years as a teacher at the Presbyterian Girls' College (now Seymour College). She was thorough in her work. I know that she would get up at 4 am to prepare her lessons.

Iris was a deeply spiritual person who was accepted into membership by Hampstead Monthly Meeting in the late 1940s when she was teaching at the Canberra Girls Grammar School. This was before a meeting had been established in Canberra. Her home was most decidedly in the Society of Friends to which she was thoroughly committed, as an overseer, in the children's meeting, with young Friends and Quaker Service. One of Iris's last acts was her donation towards establishment of the Quaker Shop.

As a newcomer Iris took me under her wing and involved me in various activities that consolidated my commitment to the Meeting.

**TODAY'S DILEMMA ...
AM I SMARTER THAN THIS FLY?
YES, BUT HE'S QUICKER**

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: 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

WALKING CHEERFULLY, South Australian – Northern Territory Regional Meeting Quaker Newsletter. December 2021. Walking Cheerfully is published bi-monthly. Editor: Charles Stevenson. cestev@adam.com.au or RMSANTNews@quakersaustralia.info