

June 2022

Walking Cheerfully

Founded 1926



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

There is within each one of us a potential for goodness beyond our imagining; for giving which seeks no reward; for listening without judgment; for loving unconditionally.

- The Wheel of Life, Elisabeth Kubler-Ross.



Palm Sunday Peace Rally, Victoria Square.

l-r Peri Coleman, Charles Stevenson, Jo Jordan, Matthew Lycos, Jenn Tranter, Cleo Lycos

WORKING FOR JUSTICE IN A WARMING WORLD.

The 2022 Backhouse Lecture.

To be delivered by Yarrow Goodley

on Tuesday 5th July at 6.30 pm (SA & NT Time).

The 2022 Backhouse Lecture looks at the critical issue of climate justice – at how our responses to the climate emergency have the potential for great suffering, as well as great redemption. In a world where the rich pollute, and the poor suffer, we do not just need to address our rapidly-warming planet, but also the injustices which drive this environmental catastrophe. Yarrow, in conversation with Quaker and non-Quaker activists, explores the history of this crisis, and the despair and hope we must negotiate in coming to grips with a problem of planetary proportions. This crisis offers us an unparalleled opportunity to remake our political, economic and social systems, in ways that support a liveable planet, while addressing the profound injustices of our age, especially racial inequality. Yarrow asks us ‘what can we do?’ and seeks to offer ways forward that create hope not just for all people, but for all the living creatures on our small blue-green planet. Yarrow was nineteen years old in 1988, when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was founded, and the IPCC’s five-yearly reports have sounded ever more dire warnings throughout their adulthood. Having worked all their life as an early childhood educator, Yarrow is reminded every day of the uncertain future that awaits their young students. These children will be Yarrow’s current age in 2070 – a future that may be either apocalyptic or utopian, depending on our actions now. As a Quaker, an activist, and a gardener, Yarrow aims for that utopian future, even when the path to that place is murky. Join us via zoom: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/5968713127?pwd=dJJvVGdHeWxScm1XRFJqbC9VSE9tdz09>
Meeting ID: 596 871 3127 Passcode: 6477804 •

- from the Secretary’s Newsletter.

Yearly Meeting 2022 Saturday 2 July - Sunday 10 July

This event is to be held online. Registration is now due. If you are not in membership your registration needs to be acknowledged by your Regional Meeting Clerk.

The Secretary’s Newsletter is always a crucial source for information about the work of the Society of Friends in Australia, and elsewhere. It is obtainable on the web. It contains information about the work of the Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC), the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), Quaker Service Australia (QSA), as well as the Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC).

Another exciting new newsletter comes from Adrian Glamorgan which gives news and activities of Friends in the Asian area. It is published by QSCA-AWPS which means the Friends World Committee for Consultation – Asia-West Pacific Section.

Churches Together SA (CTSA) at the Friends' Meeting House

Jo Jordan

On Wednesday 11th May, during History Month, representatives from Churches Together SA, including the Coordinator Anne Hewitt, met at the Meeting House for an event which was advertised in the CTSA newsletter as "Listening with the Quakers". Members from Lutheran, Anglican, Catholic and Uniting Church traditions met with several Friends at the Meeting house at 7pm. Two members attended via zoom, which was organised very capably by Matthew Lykos.

After all members present introduced themselves, Jo Jordan introduced Bert Stock who gave a brief history of the foundations of Quakerism followed by a fascinating history of the Friends' Meeting House and how it came to be at the site in Pennington Tce. If Friends would like a copy of Bert's talk, based on his article "Adelaide's Quaker Meeting House" which appeared in the *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia* in 2007, you are welcome to email Bert for a digital copy, or ask to see a hardcopy which is in the Meeting House Library. Friends will already be familiar with Charles Stevenson's *The Millionth Snowflake*, which provides a detailed history of Friends and their Meeting Houses in SA.

Jo followed with a description of the ways that the Meeting House reflects Friends' testimonies and traditions. The meeting concluded with a time for questions and answers, then a time of worshipful silence.

All who attended in person on the evening met for conversation over supper, which was delicious, plentiful and much appreciated.

Sincere thanks to all those Friends who helped to prepare for this event and who attended on the night. It was good to have Friends from Eastern Suburbs Meeting, Hills Meeting and Adelaide Local Meeting present to lend support and to answer questions. Members of CTSA commented recently how much they appreciated the evening.

Seeking support for West Papuan students

Jo Jordan

I heard recently from Ann Hewitt, the Executive Office of Churches Together SA, that six students from West Papua had recently been left stranded when their scholarships had been cancelled suddenly and unexpectedly by the Indonesian government.

When I attended the Palm Sunday Walk for Peace and Justice on the 10th April I had the opportunity to meet in person the president of the Australian West Papuan Association – SA, Dave Atkins. Who was there with some of the students. Dave is well known to Jason McLeod, who was AYM Backhouse Lecturer in 2019 [Animating Freedom: Accompanying Indigenous struggles for self determination](#). The lecture informed us about his lifelong concern for the welfare of West Papuan people and his support for their non-violent struggle out of Indonesian occupation.

From the AWPA SA I discovered that the Indonesian government has suddenly ceased funding more than 400 West Papuan students studying abroad: 25 in Australia, 77 in New Zealand, 5 in Japan, 250 in USA and Canada, 38 in Russia and 5 in Germany.

These students are part way, some very near, to completion of their studies and will lose all their years of effort if they can't finish their courses. The students were suddenly told that the funding had ceased and they had to return to West Papua.

Dr Jim Elmslie, Convenor of the West Papua Project of the University of Wollongong, says that *“it appears to me that the explanation for the cancellation of the sponsorship program is to limit West Papuan students from travelling around the world, disseminating information about the actual situation in West Papua and possibly garnering support. It is also not in the interests of Indonesia to have educated Papuans”*

. The Australian West Papuan Association – SA (AWPSA) is assisting the six students to remain in SA. The association has helped them out with two weeks' rent and is working towards providing assistance with food and other living necessities. They have also received support through the Pacific Islands Council of SA

The Association says that, while the students are busy negotiating with the universities and exploring visa options, there is an urgent need for help with food and accommodation until they can find part time work and get up on their own feet. The president of the Association, Dave Atkins, assured me last Sunday that temporary boarding accommodation has been found, but there is an ongoing urgent need for funds for food and other essentials. Crowd funding is now operating through “mycause” on social media.

I hope we can offer support with a donation of \$2,000 to help these six students with their immediate needs and ask the president David Atkins to keep us informed about the welfare of these students. David has provided his contact details and bank details of AWPA SA if Friends wish to make a donation.

PERI COLEMAN ADDRESSES THE PSALM SUNDAY RALLY IN VICTORIA SQUARE / TARNTANYANGGA

The image of Jesus on a donkey always leads me to thinking of the journey we were asked to join him on. But today I cannot help but think of others, on other journeys. Climate-driven migration is on my mind.

Of one billion migrants world-wide on any year, roughly three quarters are internal migrants and one quarter (250 million) are moving across international borders. Migration is driven by social and economic reasons as well as by war and natural disasters. 50 million people were displaced internally or internationally by conflict in 2015, one of the worst years since World War 2. And an average of 27 million annually were displaced by natural disasters between 2008 and 2013. In 2020 the numbers displaced by natural disasters **alone** reached 50 million souls, and that does not take into account that many of the folk classed as “displaced by conflicts” are affected by conflicts that are driven by climate-related factors.

Part 2 of the 6th Assessment of the International Panel on Climate Change Assessment, a report titled “Impacts, Adaptation & Vulnerability” was recently released. And its 3675 pages, 18 chapters and 7 cross-chapter papers detail, horrifically, the powerful impact of climate change, which is already affecting the lives and livelihoods of billions of people around the globe.

Lead author David Wrathall writes “Climate change is rendering places uninhabitable. It is a complex problem and it is already happening in many areas.” He went on to detail the

displacement of 4000 people in the Oregon wildfires in 2020, many of whom have migrated as they sought to rebuild their lives.

Impacts of fires, of floods, of climate enhanced pests and diseases of agricultural crops, fall most heavily on the poorer developing countries and on the more vulnerable sections of society in wealthy industrialized societies. Wrathall emphasizes that vulnerability is defined by inequality, poverty and existence on the political and economic margins of society, without a voice.

In order to address vulnerability, the IPCC report says it is necessary to make our societies, communities and economies more equitable and inclusive. With a seat at the decision-making table for those who have been left out. Can we partner with vulnerable people and communities to prepare, and minimize forced migration? Rehabilitation of coastal defences, improved water security, crop diversification, circular labour migration schemes...

The report also addresses the adaptation gap – many communities are unable to address and manage the risks brought by climate change. They are likely to be forced from their homes and need places to go, ability to get there, and jobs, housing, healthcare and education when they do get there. Can we help with disaster preparedness and well-planned evacuation frameworks? Are migration pathways simple and secure? The report asks whether those better off will be our best, compassionate, open-doored and open-hearted selves, or whether we will close the door?

Avoiding the destabilizing effects of climate change, the report concludes, will only be possible with radical reduction in greenhouse emissions. And the window to holding the change below 1.5oC is rapidly closing. But we CAN do it. We start by making it plain that we expect Climate Action Now. At all levels of our lives. From our politicians and policy-makers. From our corporations. In our local communities and homes.

And while we work with speed to reduce the risk, I pray we will work with open hearts to put in place mitigation, adaptation and migrations processes to support those who bear the brunt of the impacts.

FAMILY MATTERS – TOM and ISOBEL GREEVES

James Marshall from Bradford-on-Avon Meeting wrote recently in the Friend (London) about Tom and Isabel Greeves, the parents of our Friend Geoff Greeves. (The Friend 1 April 2022, p. 13). Tom and Isobel were members of Cotteridge Meeting, Birmingham. Tom was an active Friend, for many years the treasurer of what is now Central England Area Meeting. He was an inspirational person and a keen Engineer who was highly valued in Birmingham, both by Industry and by the Birmingham City Council when they needed expertise in housing projects. The Northfield Eco Centre was an initiative that he very much supported when the use of the Northfield Friends Meeting House was being considered. He was one of a team of experts who were working on the Bournville Village Trust where developers in the area used their alternative housing development expertise for their developments in and around Birmingham. Solar energy was also an interest of Tom's. Friends in Adelaide will remember Tom and Isobel for their several visits to South Australia.

A person's spiritual journey can often start with an unexpected meeting, or a new relationship with an inspirational person. This was the case for me. It was when my partner of thirty-nine years, Kageha, introduced me to Quakerism and her welcoming Quaker relatives.

Perhaps the most influential of all these new Friends were her uncle and aunt, Tom and Isabel Greeves. Tom and Isabel were both that rare type of person, described in Quaker faith & practice so eloquently, who acted 'as a bridge between the past and the future, allowing space for Friends to dare to search within... To be a Quaker is by no means to say goodbye to myth, ritual and symbol, but rather to find myself set free to discover them as the very essence of the way I now experience' (Damaris Parker-Rhodes, 27.44). Not only had they provided Kageha with emotional and spiritual support, at the time when she lived round the corner from them at Woodbrooke College, but they also organised our wedding at Cotteridge Meeting in 1984.

In a wholly unselfconscious way they inadvertently modelled the kind of person perhaps all Quakers should aspire to be. Generous, kind and never judgemental;

'They modelled the kind of person perhaps all Quakers should aspire to be.'

They certainly helped us try to be better people. 'For a Quaker, religion is not an external activity, concerning a special "holy" part of the self. It is an openness to the world in the here and now with the whole of the self' (Harvey Gillman, Quaker faith & practice 20.20). Indeed, it was in the spirit of 'openness to the world' that Kageha and I undertook our journey to her country of birth, Kenya, in 1995. For Kageha it was an opportunity to be reunited with her birth father, after separation of more than thirty years; for me it was the chance to worship with Quakers in Kenya and to learn of the similarities and differences in our mutual faith. Throughout this journey it was hugely comforting to know that Tom and Isabel were holding us in the light.

Our visit led to a chance meeting with Musalia Mudovadi, the then finance minister for Kenya. He was a Quaker and a member of Kageha's birth mother's tribe, the Luhya. He told me that every Kenyan Quaker I met, I should ask the question, 'Who is your leader?' When I did this, most people I spoke with said, 'God is my leader.'

I have to say that when God has been 'busy elsewhere', or I find myself not easily finding a way to sit in the light, then the memory of how Tom and Isabel held us in the light, of how they lived simply – that is our path. Remembering them, and their loving kindness helps Kageha and myself every day as we try to emulate their ways.

James is from Bradford Upon Avon Meeting.

Quakers have survived, adapted and grown over nearly four centuries. Can the 400th birthday of George Fox in 2024 be a time of remembering and renewal?



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.

Quaker Whaling in Encounter Bay.

Charles Stevenson

Not everything that Friends have done in South Australia has been worthy - by today's standards. I refer to the whaling industry at Rosetta Bay near Victor Harbor. This was owned by our Friends John Barton Hack and Jacob Hagen together with some other investors.

One certainly wouldn't want Friends in Stitches to work a tapestry panel on it! Yet, our Friends in the 1830s and early 1840s saw whaling as a lucrative business (whale bones and whale oil) and yes, someone has said that it was better than the exploitation of the peoples of Africa, or flooding China with opium. To those early South Australian Friends whaling was human courage at its most thrilling: the human being pitted against the might of the leviathans of the deep. An exciting sight to behold, through 'glasses', from the Bluff as the harpoon was thrust into the body of the whale with the subsequent tussle with the rope as the whale plunged into the deep only to surface dead. "You will be glad to hear that the Fishery is going on most prosperously, 17 whales have been taken already," wrote Henry Watson in sixth month, 1839. Then there were the boiling down works. And we are told the bay was red with blood at times. For decades whale bones adorned the public parks, front gates and archways of Victor Harbor.

"Time makes ancient good uncouth," said Lowell. And certainly this is well said of the whaling industry. American Friends were heavily involved in whaling in Nantucket and such ports in the United States. Mind you, the Quaker whalers had strong scruples. (Obviously there was nothing wrong with whaling.) Their boats were teetotal so that when they met a passing ship the sailors would get "as drunk as glory" as Henry Watson wrote in his journal. (Henry and Charlotte Watson lived in the Manning cottage still to be seen on the left as one walks up the lane to the Adelaide meeting house.) The novel, Moby-Dick by Herman Melville is based on a Quaker whaling expedition. True to their Quaker testimonies, these Quaker whalers would take fugitive slaves aboard and transfer them to ships bound for Australia.

Today, thankfully, whaling is widely condemned. Indeed, Friends are in the forefront of conserving nature and we can be gratified by the significant work of various Friends.

Silver Wattle Quaker Centre

The application deadline for Silver Wattle's **Food for the Soul** course has been extended to 10 June 2022. This year-long course starts with a one-week residential retreat 22-28 July 2022, followed by a year of monthly Zoom sessions and weekly offline reading & video materials; a commitment of 2-4 hours per week plus monthly Zoom sessions on a Sunday afternoon.

Zoom sessions will include live presentations and opportunities to share what has been experienced over the month's preparation. The topics follow inward and outward movements of the spirit concluding with an exploration of your own calling to contemplative action.

A wonderful opportunity to share the journey with other serious seekers. Financial assistance is available if needed. Only 4 spaces left, first in best dressed!

To apply go to <https://www.silverwattle.org.au/upcoming-courses/2022/food-for-the-soul> or contact Sheila.Keane@silverwattle.org.au for more information.

Sheila Keane Sheila.Keane@silverwattle.org.au Mobile 0402 284 528

**Scene of the crime ...
half a fig under the tree
no fingerprints**

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 .
zoom link every 2nd and last Sunday of the month. HOWEVER, during June meeting for worship
will be held at 14 Union Street, Dulwich. This is due to renovations at the Guide Hall.

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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