

OCTOBER 2021

WALKING CHEERFULLY

FOUNDED 1926



SEE PAGE 15.

Residential weekend 5-7th November
Quakers coming together in a time of change.

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

There is One who, on that road out of Jerusalem to the little town of Emmaus, taught his companions of the road and of the table what it was to be present. "Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked with us by the way?" That same quickening presence still walks by our side. That same presence kindles our meetings for worship and reveals to us our failure to be truly present with our families, our friends, and our brothers in the world. It is there in his presence when we are again given the gift of tears, that we are once more joined to all the living, that hope is restored in us, and that we are rebaptized into the sacredness of the gift of life and of the gift of being set down here among fellow humans who in the depth, of their being, long to be truly present to each other. Not only is there "no time but this present," but there is no task God has called us to, as Friends, that is more exciting and challenging than being made inwardly ready to be present where we are.

Douglas Steere, 1967 Backhouse Lecture. 'Be Present Where You Are'.



The Meeting House in Pennington Terrace is a sanctuary of quietness in the centre of a rushing metropolis. It is a specifically Quaker place of peace, as well as a simple bastion for uniquely Quaker activity. It has been valued as an oasis for quiet inspiration for 181 years. It is a testimony to the significance of simplicity in our opulent world

YEARLY MEETING STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES.

20 September 2021

Scott Morrison, Prime Minister Parliament House Canberra ACT 2000

Dear Prime Minister,

I refer to your recent media statement (16 September) about the proposal to create a new trilateral security relationship involving Australia, the United Kingdom and the United States. We are concerned that this plan has received no public attention so far, and gives the impression that a major decision about our foreign relations has been made without sufficient explanation as to the reasons and the implications for our role in international relations.#

The principal focus of the announcement is the construction of nuclear-powered submarines for Australia's defence forces. At the same time, it includes reference to the purchase or production of other enhanced military weapons such as cruise missiles, anti-ship missiles, guided missiles and guided weapons manufacture. This raises questions about what impact such weapons will have on our relations with countries of our region, especially New Zealand and Indonesia, and on our capacity to advance the cause of nuclear disarmament.

See QPLC (Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee) Action Alerts on this and related topics.

Your statement says that the new alliance seeks to protect shared values and promote security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region. We consider that making nuclear weapons illegal under international law is essential to ensure a safe, secure and peaceful future.

We urge the Australian Government to demonstrate leadership as a sovereign state which chooses peace over war and humanity over greed, by signing with intent to ratify the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons. We note that a high proportion of Australians (78.9% in 2018 Ipsos poll) have voiced support for joining the Treaty. Although your statement does not single out a particular nation, it seems clear that the containment of China is a major factor in the formation of this new alliance. The priority given to a military response puts at risk the options for seeking a long-lasting improvement in Australia-China relations through diplomatic cooperation in trade, aid, education, health and environmental challenges. It also gives the impression that a group of Anglo-centric nations is forming a bloc to confront China, rather than using the established United Nations and other international fora to have dialogue and debate about issues of concern

Further, we regard the renewed commitment to a significant increase in defence spending as distorting the Federal Budget over the longer term, adding to the existing inequities. It also raises the prospect of an arms race in our region. This seems most unfortunate given the traumas (for Australians as well as the local people) associated with the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, the ongoing challenge of climate change for the environment, and the importance of taking steps to prevent the recurrence of violence and war.

Given the close proximity to major cities and critical water systems, it is essential that the Government put in place rigorous, accountable and transparent environmental monitoring and protection measures. We urge you to ensure that full Parliamentary examination of the proposal takes place, and that opportunities be provided for public contributions to that process.

Yours faithfully,
Ann Zubrick

Presiding Clerk The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

THE CRISIS IN AFGHANISTAN

Australia Yearly Meeting to Immigration Minister Alan Hawke

Dear Minister Hawke,

Thank you for granting over 300 Afghan nationals and family members Safe Haven Enterprise (SHEV) visas, and ensuring that most of them have already arrived in Australia. Like many Australians, we are increasingly alarmed at the potential harm or death that may come to those Australian citizens and Afghan nationals who worked with Australian personnel and are now stranded in Afghanistan. These people have demonstrated their belief in Australia as a generous country of freedom and opportunity.

It is now our responsibility to provide them with a safe refuge. They do not belong in detention centres or on uncertain Temporary Protection Visas. We realise that Australian defence personnel have been deployed to Hamid Karzai International airport. We are praying that they return safely with Australian citizens and Afghans who have supported our country, often in dangerous roles.

The Government also has a critical responsibility to engage with, and support, the Australian Afghan and Hazara communities who have legitimate and grave fears for their families still in Afghanistan.

We are concerned that the Government, at this stage, is only offering 3,000 visas to Afghans seeking safe haven in Australia. We strongly encourage the Government to expand the Humanitarian Visa program, similar to the Abbott Government's 2015 decision to permanently resettle 12,000 Syrian and Iraqi refugees in Australia.

We are keen to know how the Government might roll out the expanded program, what timeline is being considered and what would be the role for civil society groups in Australia-based resettlement programs? Of the 4,200 Afghan nationals currently living in Australia on temporary protection visas, we ask that permanent residency be granted to those who are eligible as soon as possible.

We are heartened to hear that the Government will not require these people to return to Afghanistan. What additional support will the Government provide to the humanitarian visa and resettlement programs to carry out this work? What, if any, impact would this have on humanitarian visa holders currently living in regional International Organisation of Migration resettlement camps, waiting to come to Australia?

The Government also has a critical responsibility to engage with, and support, the Australian Afghan and Hazara communities who have legitimate and grave fears for their families still in Afghanistan. How does the Department of Home Affairs intend to strengthen their community engagement programs to meet this need? We realise that this is a rapidly changing and volatile situation. However, we are hopeful that the Government will not shirk its responsibilities in providing a safe refuge and future to those Afghans who have stood alongside Australian defence, diplomatic and civil society personnel.

Sincerely,
Ann Zubrick,

Presiding Clerk, The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

BOOK REVIEW

Elizabeth Kwan

Robin Sinclair, *Upside Down World*, Ginninderra Press, Pt Adelaide, 2021, 78pp. \$20 available from the publishers online, or from the author.

Readers of *Walking Cheerfully*, SANTRM's newsletter, will know the delight of finding one of Robin's haiku, the tiny Japanese verse form of seventeen syllables or less, which she describes as a 'kind of poetic hiccup that manages to encapsulate an Aha! moment' (p 19). *Upside Down World* of 2021 is Robin's fourth book of poems, following *The Clouds Go Down to Heaven*, 2011, *Haiku Diary*, 2014 and *Now and Then* in 2017, all expertly published by Ginninderra Press of Port Adelaide.

The front covers of three of these collections reveal Robin as an accomplished artist as well as a poet, and this latest volume, from its first few poems, speaks about painting, how paintings happened and happen. She engages the reader in understanding how her sketching, then painting of an eye-catching clump of gum trees reflected in a river provided the most appropriate motif for the book's title. She concludes that Art 'The making of it and the loving of it keep us whole', that it is 'as necessary to our lives as bread and breath' (p 13). Those familiar with the Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery project will also know of Robin's designs and stitching for many of the panels

Moving from art to the haiku form of poems is a short step. The observant artist's eye challenges the poet to find the appropriate words and syllables, with the necessary 'lightness of touch', sometimes whimsy and humour. Practising haiku everyday as she walked in the hills surrounding her home, Robin found composing haiku helped her 'to become a keen observer'. Taking the draft home in her notebook, she reconsidered the choice of words and their place in the poem until satisfied. The haiku poem creates an immediate image. Two of my favourites are:

brown wren on a twig	two willy wagtails...
a small round fluffy bundle	a black and white expression
of contentment (p 22)	of chirpy confidence (p 29)

Robin found that reading haiku written years ago took her 'instantly and vividly to that time and place' (p 20). Such gems might entice others to follow Robin's example. Imagine that daily discipline until you've written hundreds of haiku!

Sometimes using prose, sometimes poems, Robin reveals the complexities for the artist in capturing the spirit of the trees on the book's cover (pp 10-11). An earlier poem had already marked the changed attitude in the artist. Once, when she was younger, it was enough to 'capture' on canvas 'a splendid gum', but as a more mature, reflective artist Robin found 'it's time enough to stand and wonder/take it in/make it a part of me' (p 7). She found that painting 'can be a meditative exercise', as she draws not just on 'technical knowledge and practice but upon the whole of the painter's life and experience and world view'.

Robin's interest in developing as a poet and artist, the then and now in her own background, invites the reader to explore other artists: the two friends who joined Robin on a painting trip, one delicately transcribing 'some whorls and arabesques of shedding bark', while the other was absorbed in 'watercolour, luminous and limpid' (p 18). About the famous colonial painter, John Glover, whose home and studio Robin visited in Tasmania, she reported how, making that transition from 'misty English skies and jewelled greens',

Glover ‘adjusts his palette and his expectations,/realigns his brain...to something different’ (p 15). Recognising the importance of ‘Saying Thanks’ to other writers was important to Robin: to those whose way of looking at life reflected hers; but also to those who have shaped the way others see the world (p 65). There were poems in memory of two other writers, who passed in recent years: Terry Pratchett, who helped the reader to ‘see with joy the interplay/of magic with the day to day’ (p 66). In memory of Mary Oliver there were two poems: one by Robin, beginning:

She taught us to see nature through her eyes,
Fresh and lovely and astonishing:
sometimes fierce: acknowledging that death
is part of life.

The other was by Kerry O’Regan, Robin’s friend, beginning:

Who will tell us now
to slow our pace
steady our gaze
be wild. Wilful.

A burst of haiku to take the reader through the four seasons of the year leads into a section on Writing and the considerations in choosing pencils, biros, pens, especially fountain pens. The poem *Spaces* is full of wisdom for the reader and would be poet: taking ‘time to breathe,/to taste the words,/to let the subtleties that passed you by/catch up and take you by surprise/making you draw a breath/or chuckle/or sit back.’ At its end, the poem advises: ‘If boredom strikes/discard the poem/and then reread yourself.’ (p 32)

Robin’s delight in finding the funny side of life draws the reader on, whether in trying to become a poet or taking selfies. The poem *Take a Photo Day*, leading an observer to write ‘Lots of people must have known about it/because there they were, /taking photos of themselves, /each other and their pets...’ and concluding ‘Perhaps they need to tell themselves/that they were there/ and that they saw it/ so it must be real. /And so must they. (p 36)

Robin’s mother loved photos and had collected and received many over the years. Confined to a nursing home after a stroke she received a photo-montage of her children and grandchildren from Robin, hoping to make her mother feel more at home. In a few weeks her mother had found a large display board with more than ten times photos on it, marked, highlighted, re-sized in a way that pleased her (pp 37-38).

We see just how versatile poems can be in Robin’s hands, whether she’s in the garden with plants and birds, (see *Ladybirds* drifting into the house in autumn p. 50), visiting a Free-range Zoo (pp 59-64, her Quaker retreat in New Norcia in 2018 (pp 52 - 55) or *Election* (p 43). Towards the book’s end poems explore the fading memories of old age, the ‘Upside Down World’ of 2020, our planet’s fate, Ageing and death and our attitudes towards them. In *Twice Upon a Time* at the book’s end, Robin reflects on her journey so far, and can declare in the poem about turning eighty on the book’s back cover, that ‘Now I’m here I’m not afraid of old./ Old is OK.’ It’s the triumphant declaration of one who enjoys living in our world, so much of interest to understand and absorb, so much to amuse her. Her book might inspire you to explore haiku poems for yourself, or simply to enjoy those Robin has presented for us here. There’s one for almost every occasion.

NOTICES AND NEWS OF FRIENDS

The Talks weekend – Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th October. It is hoped to see as many Friends as possible for this weekend. The brochure about this gathering has been widely distributed. Don't forget to let the organisers know if you intend to be present.

A Residential weekend – Saturday 6TH and Sunday 7th November at Victor Harbor is also open to all Friends and Attenders. See p 15.

The Secretary's Newsletter. This is essential reading for all Friends. In fact, it should be read in conjunction with *Walking Cheerfully*. It is in the *Secretary's Newsletter* that you will find what Friends are doing for
Climate Emergency and Species Extinction
The First Nations' Concerns
Peace and Social Justice
as well as the purpose of the Thanksgiving Fund.



MARGARET BOWKER

Margaret Bowker. We are sorry to record the death of Margaret Bowker on 29 July at the age of 94. She had been living in later years at Resthaven, Bellevue Heights. She was a regular attender of the Hills meeting, and earlier of Adelaide. She joined Friends in membership in 2000. Her cheerful and down-to-earth attitude will be greatly missed.

Ruth Campbell died on She was accepted into membership in 1999. "Ruth is a caring and compassionate person who has given thoughtful consideration to her application for membership" wrote the Friends who visited her on her application. Ruth was well-loved and practical. She was a regular writer to *Walking Cheerfully* (2002-04) about her experiences as a volunteer working with the Women's Humanitarian Organisation in a Palestinian Refugee Camp on the outskirts of Beirut. She worked as a qualified physiotherapist, and was strongly supported by Friends. Her sister has written a full summary of her life which appears on p. 11.



Beverlie Hopkins has been on the List of Members longer than anyone else in South Australia. She has a ready memory of many Friends and Attenders long since past. In this photo Beverlie is arriving at the Hills Meeting, having been driven there by the ever-obliging Chris Madsen.

Many older Friends remember with affection her parents Leslie and Helen Hopkins.

Quakers Australia videos: There is another video, about Meeting for Worship, which has been developed and is available for us to use. This and all the “Quakers in Australia” videos can be found at the link

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLWM-zbY-cn1_WG63eOX_hoD9eIKDBW_Y



DAVID EVANS is a concerned Friend of Eastern Suburbs Meeting. He arrives very early for meeting for worship each Sunday to set up the zoom facility so that out-lying Friends are able to join in, and arranging the chairs so that everyone can be seen on the screen. Zoom’s effectiveness has been by trial and error over a year or more; but it is now down to a very effective service.

David is a person of imagination: he is always pursuing some new concern. He was recently interviewed by Peter Goers in radio talk back about his concern for the plight of those permanently living in refugee camps. The latest being masks than can be tied behind the neck rather than the ears – to eliminate the danger of using earrings and hearing aids when tied around the ear. More importantly, David has been working on a new version of his masterpiece: Love and Honour? See p. 10

JOHN OVENDEN who attends the Hills meeting will be remembered by the older generation as the ABC news reader. These days he writes a weekly column *Looking at Life* and about the theatre for the *Weekender Herald* which circulates in the Adelaide Hills.

A BIT OF HISTORY

Geoff Greeves recently met Amy Roberts who was anxious to see the Meeting House because her family is wanting to restore their Manning Cottage. It had been erected near Greenock in the Barossa Valley in 1845. The family business was later bought by a wine company and the house went into disrepair. Now the family are buying back the building and will restore it.

Amy and her many family members were excited to see the good condition of the Meeting House. Their Manning construction differed in some respects. Theirs has an iron roof. They had square posts supporting the veranda rather than round poles.

James Rackham was amongst the visitors. His grandmother was Marion Rackham, an isolated Friend (she lived at Wynarka), but she always attended General (now Yearly) Meeting. She was a descendant of Joseph and Hannah Barritt who were outstanding Friends in early Adelaide. Marion’s sister, Connie Williams, was the conscientious editor of the Circular Letter (now Walking Cheerfully) from 1934 to the mid 1940s.

The very first business meeting of Friends in South Australia was to ratify the marriage of Joseph Barritt to Mary Ann Harrison. The gravestone in the Meeting House grounds concerns the tragic death of their little son who fell off a bridge on his way to see Charlotte Coleman who lived on the other side of a creek. Mary Ann died in 1848 and Joseph Barritt subsequently married Hannah Sophia May.

Quakers on Songs of Praise. In the latest episode of BBC Songs of Praise, presenter Sean Fletcher headed to Pendle Hill to discover the story of George Fox and the founding of the Quaker movement. It can be watched on BBC iPlayer.

Royal Shakespeare Company and Coventry Friends Meeting House. As part of Coventry City of Culture 2021, the Royal Shakespeare Company staged four outdoor moving plays. Coventry Quaker Meeting House was chosen for one of the scenes, staged on the forecourt. You can view the play (look out for the meeting house at about 40 minutes). It features a young Sikh couple, newly arrived in 1978 – they found Quakers organising a jumble sale in aid of CND. During the dialogue, some of our main Quaker standpoints were voiced. The full production is available on YouTube:

<https://centralenglandquakers.org.uk/.../rsc-production-take.../>

Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge has been appointed Director of QUNO Geneva. She is a South African national and a member of the Quaker Community in the Western Cape Meeting. She has broad experience in her home country and distinguished and influential service in government, civil society and advocacy.

Tim Gee of Britain Yearly Meeting has been appointed as the new General Secretary of FWCC (Friends' World Committee for Consultation). He has worked for Amnesty International. He was the Campaign Strategy Lead at the UK Christian development organisation, Christian Aid.

At St Peter's Cathedral on Tuesday evening, 21st September, an interfaith and cross-cultural community gathered to celebrate International Day of Peace. The programme was full, vibrant and engaging. Lynn Arnold gave an inspiring key note address, supported by prayers, reading and music focusing on peace-making, and creating a just and equitable society that enabled a community of equals who are all respected, safe, educated and flourish to be the best that they can be. A time of delight, connection and collaboration.

World Quaker Day: Sunday 3rd October. Theme: Resilience and hope: drawing strength from our Quaker faith.

The Secretary's Newsletter for September has been creatively revamped by Emily Chapman-Searle. It should be essential reading for all Friends! It has much to say about Defence Alliance concerns and several pages about the Afghanistan situation.

SILVER WATTLE QUAKER CENTRE UPCOMING COURSES

All residential courses are now open within COVID restrictions. Anyone whose registration is cancelled due to COVID will receive a full refund. The Centre is also open for individuals to stay, including as Friends in Residence.

Spring Gardening & Landcare Week, 8-14 October

Towards Makaratta, 21-24 October

A Force More Powerful: the Spirituality of Nonviolent Action, 31 October-3 November

Contemplative Practice Series, 12-19 November

For more information, visit the Silver Wattle website



The Hills Meeting is a lively group of scattered Friends. This is a photo of a segment of the meeting on Sunday 12th September. The Hills meetings for worship alternate between the Stock and Sinclair homes. Somehow the meetings for worship set the mind unusually aflame. Is that because nature is so close and everywhere through the window? The trees shaking in the breeze is akin to Spirit refreshing the busy-weary mind: and the rain cleansing the bushland is, by implication, like the cleansing of “the jangles and hurries” of the soul .

Amongst those who attend the Hills Meeting is Humphrey Tranter, a stalwart of the Meeting over many years. And also Barbara Mather a concerned Friend of many years standing, and once the conscientious editor of the newsletter.

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.

ZOOM MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP.

Adelaide Local Meeting for Worship: every Sunday 11.am Meeting ID: 356 246 862
Password: 892435

Eastern Suburbs Meeting for Worship: every Sunday 10 am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5483289502>

RAINBOW FRIENDS AND ALLIES (LGBTIQ + allies)

Fourth Sunday of month 4 pm AEST. Zoom Link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83253846845?pwd=K1MwS2Z3blZnRmo0WmQ1VE1UeTZZZz09>

Meeting ID: 832 5384 6845 Passcode: 457636

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

FRIENDS ONLINE RECOGNISED MEETING. Peter Hillery Co-Clerk.

4:30pm for SA and NT Sundays: Australia-Wide (& Beyond)

The link is [Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 356 116 8530, Passcode: 849491

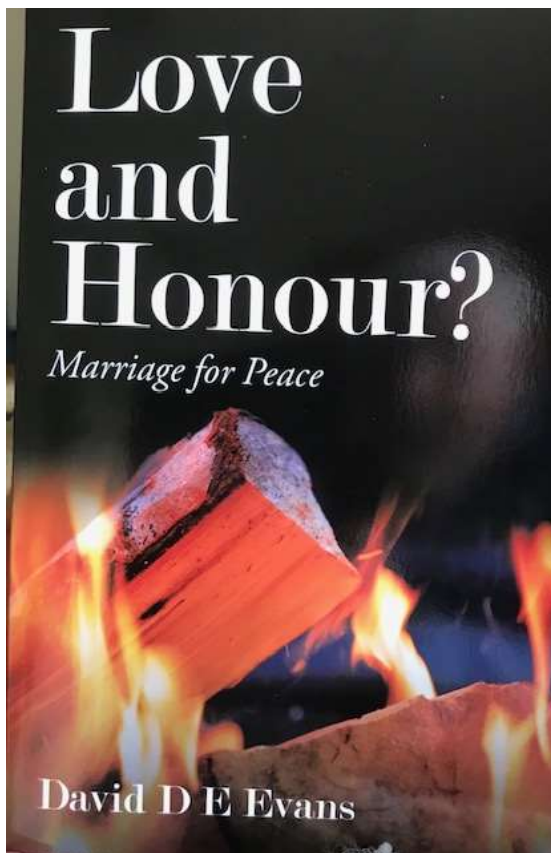
THE FWCC-AWPS SECTION MEETING FOR WORSHIP Online is held every week on

Thursday 6pm AEST (Sydney time). Contact Michael Searle for

details at michaelsearle@iinet.net.au or visit the [FWCC-AWPS website](#).

LOVE AND HONOUR? By David Evans, Balboa Press

<https://www.balboapress.com/en/bookstore/bookdetails/828571-love-and-honour>



Love and Honour? Married for Peace, exposes the ongoing phenomenon of Romeo and Juliet style romance tragedy: families killing their own and other families' daughters, sons, sisters and brothers in the name of family 'honour'.

Professor Anoop Swarup, Chairperson, Centre for Global nonkilling, writes:

Amazing indeed, David traverses us through Nepal and India, east and west, to bring out, so wonderfully, our struggles of human bondage in romance and sufferings, in the killing fields of pride and prejudice in his superb storytelling style, *Honour and Love: Marriage for Peace*. The book is fascinating but factual, beautifully narrated, a compulsory reading for all, particularly the discerning, And the students of human psychology and sociology.

RUTH CAMPBELL.

Ruth's sister, Nina Campbell, writes:



Ruth Campbell, Leicester, UK, 2003

Ruth Campbell died 20th August whilst in palliative care

Ruth lived a big life and she lived it on her own terms, right up to her very last breath. She bested dyslexia to follow her passion into the health sciences, into international aid and finally into academia. She pushed back against the cancer that tried to make her life small - refusing to let it defeat her powerful will and spirit. When they told her she had 3-9 months to live, she packed her bags and went travelling.

She had an insatiable hunger for knowledge, devouring books on topics so diverse that there was rarely a conversation she couldn't contribute real information to. She had a passion for foods from all over the world, and her cookbook collection stretches over many shelves and she has cooked something amazing from everyone of them. In her last weeks, when she was wracked with exhaustion, she still managed to perch on a stool beside the stove to cook tempurah veggies on a whim and asked me to buy her fresh oysters which she warmed with herb butter she kept in the freezer.

She was a powerful advocate for the planet, an early adopter of solar power, a determined recycler and a supporter of so many earth based charities. She's been an avid bird watcher and even in the hopsice, she'd point out the birds outside the window by name.

She was also a committed advocate for communities and individuals seeking justice in a world that so often ignores the plight of the dispossessed. Her connection to the Palestinian people was as deep as her connection to the country of her birth, England, and the country she came to as a teenager, Australia. I think she would list the camps in Lebanon as one of the places she felt most at home.

Ruth did nothing by half measure. Her life was an enthusiastic and passionate exploration of our beautiful planet and the many people who live upon it.

She's going to leave a large hole in many of our lives, one I believe she would want us to fill with an energetic pursuit of our own passions. In her last days she told me that she had lived a selfish life - doing only what she loved and doing it with her whole self. I said I thought the word uncompromising might be better than selfish, but never one to mince words, she said she liked selfish.

And perhaps that is the best wisdom she can leave us with. To selfishly embrace our lives and our loved ones with passion and energy. To do the things we love with our whole hearts and to appreciate and acknowledge the birds outside our windows.

FRIENDS WHO HAVE INFLUENCED MY LIFE

Charles Stevenson

ELLIOT THORP

Elliot Thorp sat under the meeting house clock every Sunday morning at the North Adelaide Meeting House. His ministry came from very wide culture and knowledge. A young friend, Kenneth Graham, said about Elliot “the tall, straight figure became part of the meeting which somehow had become ‘incomplete’ without him - it is only now that he has gone that many of us realise what a true and gallant person he was”. Elliot died in September 1959

He grew up in Liverpool in England and was descended from John Cam, a very early Friend. As a mischievous boy he added the name of Queen Victoria to the meeting’s visitors’ book!

Together with Wilfred Littleboy, he was sent out to Australia in 1909 by Meeting for Sufferings, the executive body of London Yearly Meeting, to visit Australian Young Friends. This resulted in memorable camps, first at Lawson in New South Wales, and at Hectorville in South Australia. He was described as “the life of the party”. Elliot, as well as his parents, Herbert and Annie Thorp, and his sister, Margaret Watts, made Australia their home. Elliot was a journalist. He was music and drama critic for the Hobart *Mercury*. Among his very many interests he helped and encouraged young artists.

He was never afraid to speak truth to power. I remember a Friend, a twinkle in her eye, saying about Elliot “but for the grace of God his life would have been a shambles.” On the other hand, Mary Harris wrote, “My first memories of Elliott Thorp in 1922 were of his cultured activities amongst Friends in arranging meetings and discussions amongst us inspired by ‘the breath and finer spirit of all knowledge’. Never did he miss any expression of the striving of the Spirit in art and music and worship.”

I knew Elliot in his retirement. He was the president of the Howard League for Penal Reform and was very active in ‘the Stewart Affair’. This was a campaign to save a First Nation’s person from capital punishment. Six times his sentence of hanging was postponed before his reprieve. Elliot chaired several clandestine meetings in the meeting house when the Stewart campaign was developing. Indeed, the very first meeting was held in the Magill home of Dr Charles Duguid. I was with Elliot when he engaged first the Lord Mayor and then the police commissioner in conversation. He had an easy way from years of journalistic experience in knowing how to engage people in conversation.



Elliot moved to Adelaide from Perth in 1953 with his last wife, Ngaire, whom he had married in Perth. His youngest son, Derrick, married Dawn Griffith, the daughter of Ngaire. In Adelaide Elliot organised leaflets about Quakerism to be available in the cinemas when ‘The Friendly Persuasion’ was being shown. He organised meetings of the Wider Quaker Fellowship when the meeting house packed for lively meetings.

It is funny the odd things we remember. Once in Monthly Meeting the subject of the Quaker burial ground at Echunga came up. It adjoined the Anglican cemetery. The meeting took up Elliot’s suggestion that we donate it to the Anglicans. Some years later I discovered that this had never belonged to Friends! It was land donated to the Sanders family by Jacob Hagen for their burial! (unbaptised Quakers could not be buried in consecrate ground!). There has been a wonderful procession of remarkable Friends whom I have met over the years. Elliot Thorp remains high on my list.

THE HUMAN SPIRIT

Christine James writes: The following is the transcript of our granddaughter Lily Azli's speech given at Parliament House Adelaide at the state finals of the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition. Lily was the State winner and later was judged (on the same speech) as the National winner in the junior section (under 14 - Lily will turn 15 soon so next year she'll be entering in the senior section). There were a total of 800 entries in combined junior and senior groups and the other finalists also gave impressive speeches so it is great to know there are so many inspiring young people in our midst.

The Human Spirit

Lily Azli



The Human Spirit, what makes up every human being that has lived, will live or is living on Earth. What makes Humans... Humans... A mystery.

I like to understand *everything*. Whether it be how to find the missing angle in a triangle, how to read sheet music, or even how to solve the Rubik's cube. So, on instinct, I wanted to understand... to *define*... the Human Spirit. However, when attempting to do so... I *struggled*.

According to the dictionary, there are around 218, 632 English words. But... none of these words seemed to cover the *entirety* of the Human Spirit's definition. Sure, there are words like emotions and creativity, passion and determination courage and resilience. They fit... but they

didn't seem to cover *everything* that makes up humans... everything that makes up the Human Spirit.

And thus, my quest began. My quest to find the definition of the Human Spirit.

After scanning through the pages of the Oxford English dictionary and still not satisfied with what I'd found, I started looking for inspiration in other languages.

Some of the words that stood out through this search were:

- Gunnen, a Dutch word which means to find happiness in somebody else's happiness because that's how much you love them and
- Gokotta a Swedish word which means to wake up early in the morning with the purpose of going outside to hear the first bird sing.

Both of these words connect with the human spirit. They describe love and joy and happiness. But still there's more to the human spirit that isn't quite captured in these words.

What about that feeling of joy when a grandparent is able to reach out and touch their grandchild in person again, after being separated for weeks and weeks due to COVID?

What about that feeling of pride when you cross the finish line at a school sports event, even if you don't come first?

Even words from other languages didn't cover these aspects of the human spirit.

So...I kept searching.

Next, I decided to look to humans themselves. Surely there was one person, one human who showcased all the different elements of the human spirit.

I learnt about Greta Thunberg a young woman who continues to challenge world leaders on their response to the growing issue of climate change. I learnt about Adam Goodes an ex-AFL star who continues to fight the battle of racism, both on and off the field.

And I could tell that I was getting close... close to the definition of the human spirit. So, I dug deeper looked to the lesser well known people. The ordinary people challenged by extraordinary life circumstances, and yet... they continue to face everyday with courage, determination and resilience.

People like Justin Yebury, a man who has dedicated his life to researching Motor Neuron Disease as he's watched it claim the lives of family members all around him. People like my friend's mum, Kate Eliza, a woman who is going through yet another round of Chemo Therapy and yet... she's able to remain positive about...life! A woman who's smiling every time I see her.

But... with these examples of what I believed to be the entirety of the human spirit fresh in my mind, I started noticing that this sort of inspiration is around me every single day. Like when my dad tells me a not-so-funny joke, trying to make me laugh when it's clear I'm upset. When a random stranger offers you a coin to get a trolley because you can't find one in your purse. When whole communities come together, during a drought, after a bushfire, after a flood. These actions from ordinary, everyday people...

Their actions make up the Human Spirit too.

And *that* was when I finally realised.

Although through this search there were common traits. Traits of courage and resilience, determination, kindness and love. My quest to find the definition of the Human Spirit would be one I would never complete.

Why?

Because over 117 BILLION people have ever existed. Have ever lived on this planet. And although of these people there have been activists and movie stars, royals, politicians, inventors, leaders and story tellers.

Not one person.

Not one human.

Not one word is the definition of the Human Spirit.

Because the human spirit is so complex and unique. So ever changing, growing and expanding that every single person that has lived on this planet adds slightly to its *undefinable* beauty.

So...

After this long quest, I ended up back where I had started.

Still unsure of the exact definition of the Human Spirit.

But now?

Now I know that this unknown... Is a beauty in itself.

The Human Spirit. What makes up every human being that has lived, will live or is living on earth. What makes humans...human. A beautiful and undefinable mystery.

QUAKERS COMING TOGETHER IN A TIME OF CHANGE

EASTERN SUBURBS MEETING INVITES ALL FRIENDS TO A
RESIDENTIAL WEEKEND 5 - 7TH NOV 2021.

PROGRAM

Friday 5th Nov

7.00 pm arrive at the venue: 24 Esplanade Victor Harbor
7.30 acknowledgement of country and introduction: Kenise Neill
8.00 **Session 1.** “Constancy and Change in the Society of Friends” led
by Charles Stevenson
9.00 Tea/coffee and light refreshments

Saturday 6th Nov

7.30 am Early morning Meeting for Worship
8.00 Breakfast
9.00 **Session 2** “Managing Change” led by Topsy Evans
10.30 Morning tea
11.00 **Session 3** Being Creative: writing, drawing, singing ...
12.30 lunch
Afternoon: Free time / excursion
6.30 dinner at the Red Orchid Noodle Bar and Restaurant

Sunday 7th Nov

7.30 am Early morning Meeting for Worship
8.00 Breakfast
9.00 **Session 4** “Hope in a time of change”, panel discussion
10.30 Morning tea
11.00 Meeting for Worship
12.00 lunch: fish & chips then fruit salad
1.00 Worship Sharing
2.00 Conclusion
Pack up, clean up and depart

The Venue: 42 the Esplanade Victor Harbor

A red brick home gifted to the Catholic Church by Bert Edwards in
1920

The house has accommodation for up to 11 people, 3 showers and 2
toilets. Air conditioning throughout. Seating for up to 20 people.
Spacious carpark close by.

Accommodation: Eleven beds only are available at the venue free of
charge – first come first served! The venue is available for an additional
night’s stay on Sunday 7th.

Those staying at the venue bring their own sheets, pillowcase and
towels. Blankets are provided

There is space for groups to gather both inside and outside the house.

Cabin and caravan accommodation is available for booking at nearby caravan parks:

NRMA Victor Harbor Beach Front Holiday Park (2 min walk)

Victor Harbor Holiday and Cabin Park (4 min walk)

Excursion: Options for excursions: walk by the sea, drive to Nangawooka Flora Reserve, drive to the barrage, Goolwa, visit a revegetation project on Hindmarsh Island, see the Murray Mouth from Hindmarsh Island, walk to Granite Island

Creative session: Christine Collins will bring art materials and provide local dried flora for those interested in art. Robin Sinclair will offer guidance for those interested in creating haiku. David Evans will lead a singing group. Other creative offerings are welcome! Please bring musical instruments and any other creative materials you would like to share.

Meals: Self-catering for breakfasts

Please bring a plate of food to share for lunch on Saturday

An evening meal on Saturday will be at a restaurant nearby, The Red Orchid Noodle Bar

Fish and chips followed by a refreshing fruits salad will be served on Sunday for lunch

Cost: \$25 per adult for morning and afternoon teas and lunch on Sunday

The accommodation at the venue is provided free of charge. However there will be accommodation costs for those not staying at the venue

(If Friends wish to make a donation to the Sisters of St Joseph, they may do so through the ESLM treasurer, Topsy Evans)

Registration: We need to know exact numbers attending during the weekend in order for this event to be Covid Safe. If you would like to attend the whole weekend, or just for part of it, or seeking accommodation at the venue, please phone, send a text or email to either

Jo on 0403 913 179 or email jojordan@ozmail.com.au

Please understand that all of the above arrangements are pandemic permitting and subject to change or cancellation.

Getting Citizens Assemblies into government

Harald Ehrmann

Citizens Assemblies and Quakers

This communication asks you as an individual to support a pressing change to the regular working of governments by instituting Citizens Assemblies in SA and federally.

Citizens' Assemblies (CAs) have a fine legacy as well as remarkable successes in good governance. Their structures, processes and results are well established and proven (see

below for web-accessible information). They share many similarities with our own Quakerly processes in discernment and decision-making, and especially our Meeting for Worship for Business.

Quakers have long recognised and countered the failures of governance policies at federal, state and even local levels in key areas such as arms race reduction, excessive ruling class and corporate powers, inclusive social justice, genders equality, institutional racism and more recently in emissions control and global warming (climate change).

Citizens Assemblies have provided policy and response pathways out of some of the most intractable issues worldwide: reproductive rights in Ireland, constitutional reform in Iceland after the GFC, the demise of a proposal for a high level nuclear waste industry in South Australia, and many others (see below for web-accessible information). They readily and effectively provide pathways out of stagnated and politically intractable dilemmas.

In Australia we do not have effective policies to tackle the Climate Crisis, Genders Justice, and the Uluru Statement (Makarrata) to name just three. These have great urgencies that cannot be solved with the inherent delays in 3-4 year election cycles. Citizens Assemblies would remedy the political stagnation on these most pressing and life-threatening issues.

How can Citizens Assemblies be instituted into good governance in Australia?

One potential and peaceful fast-track pathway is to force governments to institute CAs through the political power of the cross benches of the Upper Houses.

The fastest way for this to happen here is by having one or preferably two independent candidates who stand for the Upper Houses on the single issue of realising Citizens' Assemblies. Setting up a specific CAs Party is too difficult (applications closed in mid September) and resource-costly at present. However the nomination date for independents in the next State election is 21 February 2022. This allows the time needed.

The express purpose of the independents is the winning of seats in the SA Legislative Council, and sooner or later in the Federal Senate. If there is enough groundswell support it may even be possible to contest some ethics-vulnerable seats in the Lower Houses eg Waite (state) and Boothby (federal).

An elected CAs member is mandated to use the power of their seat to require the governments of the day to create Citizens' Assemblies on pressing issues, initially Climate Crisis, Genders Justice, Makarrata (Uluru Statement), followed by (as examples) Green Work Futures, and Ethical and Safe Foods.

Quakers in the present

The Society of Friends does not engage in politics, however many Quakers choose to engage as individuals exercising their democratic right to participate in the political system informed by the Testimonies. This is an invitation for you to consider doing so.

Using cross bench power is not the only way to achieve Citizens' Assemblies, but it is potentially effective and fast. The chances of success of this approach in the upcoming elections is not as high as we might hope. But considering how little time our planet and life on it now have left, the raising of CAs within the imminent elections processes is definitely worthwhile. At the very least, campaigning for CAs in coming months will bring them into better and wider public awareness in readiness for future elections.

With mounting disquiet over the past year's failings particularly in Canberra, and the likely looming climate extremes this summer, there has never been greater urgency to get better policies and outcomes working. Citizens Assemblies can bring back the good sense and values of everyday people into decision-making through discernment. Furthermore they can effect responsive and responsible policy changes for the better within election cycles.

Please consider

As an individual would you please consider helping out with this personally and by asking others to support CAs candidates? We need 250 signatories who are enrolled voters in SA to officially register each candidate. At this time it is not advised to have named candidates in SA due to the need to lodge intention notices to be eligible for potential reimbursement of election costs, but this will be done as soon as possible. Your signature does not oblige you to take part in any election day activity.

Please advise by email to Harald at gurti@protonmail.com with your name and the contact details required by the Electoral Commission, ie a street address in your electorate. A phone number and email address will help us to contact you in early February to obtain your signature on the Electoral Commission's nomination form.

For a wealth of information about CAs and how they work:

Web search "Brett Hennig TED talk" for a short YouTube video

Also web search the terms: "Citizens Assemblies", "What is Sortition?", "Deliberative Democracy", "Sortition Foundation", or "The Knowledge Network on Climate Assemblies (KNOCA)".

Supported by Jo Jordan, Charles Stevenson, Peri Coleman and Harald Ehmann

For further specific details about our efforts please make initial contact with:
Harald Ehmann 0428 257 585

This process and communication can be adapted in all Australian jurisdictions: local, state/territory and federal.

**CRICKETS WAKE ...
THEIR EXULTATION
DROWNS OUT THE RAIN**

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.
Clerk: David Barry RMSANTClerk@quakersaustralia.info
Treasurer: Lee Harradine RMSANTTreasurer@quakersaustralia.info

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