

YMOC(SA) Update on Yearly Meeting 6-13th July, West Beach

- Last updated 4th March 2024

Bookings have been made for the venues for YM24: the main meeting space at the Sea Rescue Headquarters, accommodation for Friends in 12 shacks at The Retreat, a packed lunch and dinner at the Westward Ho Golf Club. Bookings have also been made for Junior Young Friends and for children.

Most formal sessions and some preparatory sessions will take place in the Sea Rescue building. Friends can choose to attend in person or online. Smaller groups, such as Share and Tell and Friendly School, will be offered both face to face and online. Those meeting face to face will meet in the various lounge areas of the accommodation at The Retreat. Some sessions may be hybrid if Share and Tell facilitators are able to organise their I.T. support for their session.

Accommodation at The Retreat is in well-designed, comfortable holiday homes, called Shacks. Some of the Shacks are wheelchair accessible. All have well equipped kitchens which are perfect for self-catering. All have two bedrooms with either one king size bed or two or three single beds. It is possible to register for your own bedroom or to share with one or two others. A single bedroom will be more expensive than one which is shared.

Friends can choose to self-cater, or they can register for a take-away lunch at The Retreat and for dinner at the Golf Club nearby. Westward Ho Golf Club will be catering for vegetarian, gluten free and diabetic diets. Friends with less usual diets will need to self-cater. Friends are asked to organise their own breakfast. Regular small bus trips will go to Burbridge Centre about 1km away where there is a supermarket, chemist, post office and dentist as well as food outlets. There is a bus stop close to the entrance to The Retreat so Friends also have the option of travelling on the local bus to Burbridge Centre. (We learnt recently that the very large shopping mall at Harbour Town no longer has a supermarket, just many discount clothing outlets and coffee shops).

On Wednesday, in the middle of Yearly Meeting, there will be an afternoon for rest or an excursion. There will be a range of excursions available, so please let the organisers know if you are looking forward to visiting a particular venue which is not too far away. The CBD is about 20 minutes away by bus or car and the Adelaide Hills about 30 minutes by car.

JYFs and children have not had an opportunity to meet face to face at a Yearly Meeting for five years so the organising committee felt it was very important to encourage as many families to come to YM as possible.

For this reason, **all children and JYFs will be free** to attend YM24. This includes all costs of food, accommodation at The Retreat, the JYF Camp and the Children's program for children up to 12 years of age. (Please note that we cannot extend this offer for accommodation at the Big 4 Caravan Park close by) **We believe that offering to all children an opportunity to meet and grow in friendship within the family of Yearly Meeting is a valuable service to our Quaker community.** We are very grateful to the Grace Geraldine Brown Bequest Committee and to the Children and JYF Committee for making this possible.

Knowing how important JYF camps have been to Yearly Meetings in the past, a camp for Junior Young Friends has been organised at the Woodhouse Activity Centre at Mt Lofty, a property belonging to Scouts SA. We recommend that JYFs and their parents and consult the Woodhouse Adventure Park website, particularly the section where the Hooper Bunkhouse is described. This is where the JYFs will be accommodated and includes a useful packing list. The children will need to bring their own sleeping bags etc.

The camp will begin on the second day of YM, Sunday 7th July, and conclude on Thursday the 11th. In residence with the JYFs will be Tracy Bourne and Andy Bray, who are well known to Friends. Also in residence will be Mandy and Bruce Macky, who are experienced Guide/Scout leaders who are known and trusted by SA Friends. Bruce Macky and Vanny Irakoze will be doing the cooking at the camp. Vanny is a member of Eastern Suburbs Meeting and a qualified chef. In addition, experienced Rangers will visit each day to lead activities, including a campfire at night. When the camp is not taking place, JYFs will be accommodated in two shacks at The Retreat which have been booked for their use.

The children's program will take place at the Poolside Room at The Retreat, which is a spacious area with a playground close by. It will be staffed by two qualified childcare workers who have been engaged from 9am until 5.30 each day. Friends who have a SA Working with Children Check are welcome to help and spend time with the children, particularly over the lunch period. (To apply for a SA Working with Children Check click [here](#)) Additional activities will be offered to the children by Friends. Childcare will be available during the Backhouse Lecture.

More details about the program for YM24 will be circulated after registration for YM has begun and the Organising Committee knows who will be coming to YM24. If you have any questions about YM24, contact Jo Jordan josephinaj@icloud.com or Topsy Evans topsy104@icloud.com