

# MINUTES

## Formal Session 6: Friday 7 July at 4.30pm AEST

### YM23.31: Welcome and Opening Worship

After a period of Worship, Catherine Heywood read a passage from *Living the Way: Quaker spirituality and community* by Ursula Jane O'Shea.

...to live out the Quaker Way faithfully in our own time and land is not to try to repeat what early Friends were called to do, or to cling to whatever Quaker forms we have inherited in this Yearly Meeting. What we share with Friends who have gone before us is a task and some fine tools. Our task is to inaugurate the Way of God in this time and in this land; our tools are our personal experience of the Light Within, and our corporate experience in using collective guidance to discover and enact God's will in the world. To do this we must not become more like early Friends, but more like ourselves as we are in the eye of God.

*this we can say*, 1.84

### YM23.32: Meeting for Learning Working Group Report

We hear a report by Julie Webb about the MfL Preparatory session. This report will appear in DIR.

Yearly Meeting accepts the following recommendations:

1. That the Meeting for Learning Program continue in its current form, but that the QLA Committee be laid down.
2. That a new AYM Committee called the Meeting for Learning Support Committee be established as an 'interest' committee of four Friends, from anywhere in Australia
  - 2.1. with the main tasks of prayerful oversight and administration of Meeting for Learning, including handling finances, publicity, timelines, liaison with the facilitators and the host Regional Meeting Report to AYM.
  - 2.2. to meet as often as the work requires.
3. That the current Working Group provide a role statement and promote among Regional Meetings the need for members for a Support Committee.
4. That the Working Group forward to the Nominations Committee the role statement and a list of previous precious participants.
5. That the Host RM and the facilitators continue in their roles, as explained in their report.
6. We hear a suggestion that the Working Group or new Committee might consider utilising the resources of Silver Wattle. However, we feel it is beneficial for Regional Meetings to continue to offer to host the two retreats of Meeting for Learning in their area. We encourage the current Working Group and the MfL Support Committee to continue the dialogue with Silver Wattle.
7. That the Meeting for Learning Support Committee consider having its own email address. and, if appropriate, manage a Meeting for Learning webpage.

8. That the current Facilitators and David Barry as member from SANTRM (host RM) and Sharon Mathews from WARM continue as a Working Group to support MFL for 2023 in the interim.
9. That the new MFL Support Committee liaise with the Treasurer to recommend to Standing Committee a process whereby QLA funds will be allocated in a way that supports both MFL and the other functions of QLA. This may also include Silver Wattle.

### **Possible Alternative Minute 23.19 from Formal Session 3**

The Climate Emergency and Species Extinction Working Group suggests an alternative Minute instead of part of Minute 23.19.

Instead of:

*‘Due to real concerns about climate change, greenhouse emissions and in particular air and sea travel, Yearly Meeting feels AYM needs to develop guidelines for travel, including the consideration of Carbon offsets.*

*We ask AYM Nominations Committee to bring names for a group to develop these guidelines’,*

Yearly Meeting substitutes the following wording:

We hear the call for guidelines to be developed for travel for Australia Yearly Meeting.

The AYM Climate Emergency & Species Extinction Working Group (CESE WG) sees the call for travel guidelines linking into the AYM Climate Action Plan which has now been adopted at this Yearly Meeting.

The AYM CESE WG offers to coordinate the development of draft guidelines by liaising with the Finance Committee (present and incoming), the AYM Clerk and office and other Friends with recognised skills or concerns about this matter to develop a set of guidelines that can be accepted by Standing Committee or YM and implemented by Friends.

YM hopes that the draft guidelines will be useful to all Australian Friends.

We ask that the draft guidelines be submitted initially to September Standing Committee for consideration and for approval by YM 2024.

### **YM23.33: Public Statement re: The Statement from the Heart and the Voice to Parliament**

Yearly Meeting considered a draft Public Statement from the First Nations Concerns Committee (FNPCC) about the Statement from the Heart and the Voice to Parliament.

Friends commented on the draft, which is available on the YM website.

The FNPCC will consider Friends' suggestions and will bring back a revised draft to Formal Session 8 on Sunday 9th July.

The Meeting closed with a period of silence.