

MINUTES

Formal Session 7: Saturday 8 July at 11.15am AEST

YM23.34: Welcome and Opening Worship

The Presiding Clerk brought a reading from Richard Rohr:

Action in a community

Our Western culture leans toward self-sufficiency and independence, and we often need to be reminded that we are part of a greater whole and that we are not alone in our longings and efforts for peace, justice, and healing. This is one of the great gifts of what we usually mean by “church”—a gathering of people in solidarity of purpose, praying and seeking God’s presence together.

Find some way in which you can join in the life that is greater than your own. Participate in a vigil, sharing the grief and hope of your neighbourhood or world. March with others to bring visibility and voice to an important issue. Make a pilgrimage to a sacred or violated site to connect your small place in time with a history and a broader meaning.

Rest in the knowledge that God’s Spirit weaves your participation as a single thread within a life-renewing pattern. You are connected to the source of Life!

adapted from *A Spring within Us: A Book of Daily Meditations*

YM23.35: Items for Noting

We note the names of Friends whose Testimonies have appeared on the YM23 website:

QRM: Kathleen Merryweather

SANTRM: Helen Inglis, Colin Jordan, Roger Keyes, Humphrey Tranter

TRM: Harro Drexler, Ian Lewis

WARM: Margaret Rose Woodward Hodgkin

We note that Statements on Behalf of Yearly Meeting will be included in *Documents in Retrospect 2023*. The full list was available for Friends to read during YM23, on the YM23 website.

We note the full reports for the following activities will be available on the YM23 website (on the Reports from Activities page), and will be included in *Documents in Retrospect 2023*. We note them here so they can be minuted:

1. Information Session Reports
2. Preparatory Session Reports
3. Children and JYF Program
4. Share & Tell Sessions
5. Friendly School Report
6. Ecumenical and Interfaith Session Report
7. Peace Reports Session
8. Transition Implementation WG Session

9. Friends School for Girls in India

10. Home Groups.

Yearly Meeting notes further names of those not in membership who have been approved to attend YM23 by their Regional Meeting - names not already noted in Formal Session 1.

- **CRQ:** Charlotte Bullock, Gregory Parkhurst
- **NSWRM:** Vicki Bosisto, Daniel Buckmaster, Lynne Bullen, David Carter, Gabriela den Hollander, Lisa Geiger, Rose Griffith, Mary Jane Hogan, Anne Murphy, Anna Perston, Pia Reiersen, Kit Riley, Juan Roberson, K Woodhouse
- **SANTRM:** Jane Duguid, Olga Farnill
- **TRM:** Paul Friedman
- **VRM:** Belinda Hann, Alan Long, Ann Roberts, Jo Temme
- **WARM:** Ramon Andinach, Sara Croft, Virginia Jealous, Gracie Laneaux, Seren Rose

YM 23.36 Draft AUKUS statement

Yearly Meeting receives and accepts a Statement from Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC) which expresses concern at trends in Australia's defence policies which now incorporate the Australia, United Kingdom, and United States (AUKUS) agreement.

We encourage Friends to take appropriate action on the basis of this Statement.

YM 23.37 Letter to the Australian Government about Palestine

Yearly Meeting receives and accepts a draft letter from QPLC about Australian Government's policy with respect to relationships between Israel and Palestine.

We agree that the letter be sent to the Australian Government on behalf of AYM.

YM23.38: A/NZ YM23 Representative Report

We hear a report from Ann Zubrick with appreciation.

Ann's report will be included in Documents in Retrospect.

YM23.39: QA Coordinator

Yearly Meeting approves the appointment of David Tehr to the ongoing position of Quakers Australia Coordinator, from July 1st 2023.

YM23.40: QA Communications and Publicity Manager

Yearly Meeting approves the appointment of Holly Dhynes to the position of Communications and Publicity Manager, to commence 1 August 2023, initially for one year.

YM 23.41 Acknowledgement of the service of Jacque Schultze

The Presiding Clerk, two previous Presiding Clerks, and other Friends expressed gratitude for the faithful service of the out-going AYM Secretary, Jacque Schultze.

We hear that Jacque has regarded her work as Secretary of AYM as ministry.

We note that Jacque will continue work until September 2023 to allow a handover to new staff.

The Session closed with silent worship.