

YM22 Preparatory Session Report

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| AYM Committee / Working Group: Climate Emergency and Species Extinction Working Group | |
| Session Clerk: David Shorthouse | Session Note Taker: David Purnell |
| Number in attendance: 26 | Person submitting report: David Shorthouse |
| Session Report: Responses to Part B of DIA Report <u>Item 1:</u> We ask Young Friends to appoint a YF to our WG. We hope to hear that Young Friends have been able to appoint a Young Friend to our Working Group. <u>Item 2:</u> We ask for a TRM correspondent to be appointed. We hope to hear that Tasmania Regional Meeting has appointed a Correspondent for the Working Group. <u>Item 3:</u> We request that Meetings Australia-wide look to see what support they can provide members who are committed to working on these intertwined issues. This Preparatory Session has heard of actions taken by Friends as individuals, within Meetings with other groups. We encourage all Friends to seek support from their Meetings and where needed from appropriate AYM funds. <u>Item 4.</u> CESEWG proposes to hold a Preparatory Session in May 2022 to report on the Questionnaire and to hear Friends' ideas as to future work of the WG. The CESE Working Group's report on the results of its questionnaire circulated in the second half of 2021 was summarised by Elizabeth PO'. The Report is posted on the CESE website and will be sent to all Regional Meetings. We hope the report will encourage further action on this critical issue, and stimulate Friends to engage with the Working Group as it continues its work. A 'Friendly' School is planned for during YM 2022 to explore the concerns further. The WG reported that it had agreed to contribute \$2000 towards an application from Greg Rolles (QRM) for funds to support his nonviolence work with Blockade Australia. The application for support was also forwarded to QRM and NSWRM for consideration. Regional Meeting Correspondents were invited to give oral reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vivienne Dawes (WARM) spoke of various moves to reduce emissions, increase recycling, growing vegetables at the Meeting House, lobbying with various organisations for sustainable policies, encouraging protection of wetlands, sharing information and support among world-wide Quakers.• Kay de Vogel (CRQ) reported that individual Quakers were moving toward eating less meat, buying second-hand clothes, growing food, supporting food coops, using public transport. There is an environment section of the weekly E-Notices. | |

- Emily Chapman Searle (SANTRM) said the RM joined ARRCC to support pre-election action in the state and federally. Media attention has been drawn to pollution issues in Adelaide by Peri Coleman.
- Lindsay Veith (QRM) showed images of activism including a group of Quakers alongside a banner at the Meeting House 'There is no planet B' – words used in approaches to politicians.
- Maxine Barry (TRM) spoke of work with ARRCC to raise awareness in public spaces during pre-election period. TRM supported action of school strikers from Friends School. Young people are doing their own personal actions in the face of anxiety about the future.
- Adrian Glamorgan (FWCC-AWPS) spoke of QUNO being involved in COP 26 and World Trade Organisation meetings of civil society. In Asia-Pacific there is an emerging climate action network in areas that are currently affected by excessive heat and flooding.

Item 5: Would RM's appreciate the WG holding a zoom consultation with interested Friends we prepare a plan for YM23?

The Working Group is encouraged by the support it has received, and we will make arrangements to consult with Friends during our work to prepare a plan for YM23.

Item 6: Can all Meetings for Business, at YM, RM, local and committee level consider how they can acknowledge the Ecological Crisis at the start just as we acknowledge First Nations peoples?

We hear differing responses from Regional Meetings to this question and that it raises some concerns among Friends.

We note the varied views of Friends that have come from the breakout conversations* held about this item:

- (a) We are aware of the importance of the acknowledgement of country as a form of recognition of the prime position of first nations people. We hope that any acknowledgement of the ecological concern can be consistent with this practice, rather than be seen by first nations people as undermining the acknowledgement of country. There is a link between ecological concerns and first nations concerns that can be recognised.
- (b) To avoid repetition and formality, it could help if different Friends apart from the clerks could make the acknowledgements.
- (c) Note the value of Friends giving ecological concerns a focus of our business meetings.
- (d) The critical question is how do we acknowledge the climate crisis?

The Preparatory Session asks Yearly Meeting:

- (a) **to request Regional Meetings and the CESE Working Group to continue actively considering this matter, and to report to the next Yearly Meeting (2023). The**

Preparatory Session acknowledges that this may require deep exploration and even struggle to find the way forward in responding urgently to the CESE crisis; and

- (b) encourage Regional Meetings to move ahead with more action on the climate emergency and species extinction crisis.**

**Notes on this Item added through the Preparatory Session 'chatroom'*

- *some concern about it becoming rote. The question is how can we keep our interconnection with all life and our impact on all at the centre of our community processes?*
- *we expressed concern that such an acknowledgement could become a formality and not have much meaning. A suggestion is that each RM could be asked to have 'climate change' as an item for each business meeting and this could keep climate emergency issues before the meeting each month.*
- *This is the acknowledgement of Sovereignty that we in XRSA wrote: <http://xrsa.com.au/acknowledgement-of-sovereignty/> and a link to an excellent training I went to (online) recently about doing an Acknowledgement of Country - Highly recommend this course: <https://www.acknowledgethis.com.au>*
- *We do not see that we include this with the Acknowledgement of Country, but rather to have this as a standing item at each Meeting for business. Also, we need to re-emphasise the interconnection of many impacts on Climate and Species Extinction e.g., militarisation, agriculture, water supply, refugees, slavery in Australia. Also Business Meetings. The recent QPLC event has very useful suggestions - to be published in the Australian Friend.*
- *I commented in my group that I didn't find that people were formulaic at all in their acknowledgements of FN people and Country - both in ACT Quakers and Greens Party.*
- *There is as it were, an elephant in the room, namely the election. Vigilance and activism in whatever form will need to continue after Saturday, especially should the LNP be re-elected.*
- *Getting the sense that this group has the feeling of urgency and wants our motion to reflect this with emphasis on RM's reporting their members' active responses to the crisis*

Were any Items for Consideration RESOLVED in this Preparatory Session, and if so, you will NOT be bringing to Yearly Meeting 2022 for consideration?

Items 4 and 5

What are the Items that remain UNRESOLVED that you WILL be bringing to Yearly Meeting 2022 for consideration?

Items 1,2: Resolution lies with Young Friends and Tasmania Regional Meeting

Item 3: (links with Item 6)

Item 6: The Preparatory Session asks Yearly Meeting:

- (a) to request Regional Meetings and the CESE Working Group to continue actively considering this matter, and to report to the next Yearly Meeting (2023). The Preparatory Session acknowledges that this may require deep exploration and even struggle to find the way forward in responding urgently to the CESE crisis; and
- (b) encourage Regional Meetings to move ahead with more action on the climate emergency and species extinction crisis