YM22 SESSION REPORT	
send to <u>secretary@quakersaustralia.info</u>	
Name of Event:	Home Groups
Date/Time	Introduction to Home Groups, 5pm AEST, Saturday 2 July 2022 Daily morning (9am AEST) and afternoon (5pm AEST) sessions from Sunday 3 July to Saturday 9 July inclusive
Person submitting report	Anna Wilkinson & Kerstin Reimers
Clerk/Convenor/s	Organisers: Anna Wilkinson & Kerstin Reimers
Summary (400 words or less)	The 230 Friends registered for YM22 were each allocated to one of 20 Home Groups. (Those who registered after the start of YM were also included.) Home Groups offered us a way to meet and get to know one another in a small group throughout the YM week. Friends expressed their enthusiasm for the idea and gratitude for the resources provided.  After an introductory session on Saturday 2 July 2022, Home Groups began on Sunday 3 July with the gracious help of Friends in each group being initial facilitators or back-up Zoom support, if needed. Thank you to these Friends and all who took part in this long-awaited experiment.  Intended as an opportunity for personal connection, sharing and mutual support in the isolation of an online YM gathering, Home Groups were not taken up by everyone. From what we heard, those who did join in deeply valued the experience. Feedback included a suggestion that Home Groups would also be good for face-to-face YMs. Here are some other comments:  "[Our group] was sparsely populated this morning [but] offered space for deep and worshipful sharing and was celebrated by each of us. The right number, the right people, the right time. For each of us an acknowledged gift."  "We had some deep sharing and some light-hearted conversation—a great way to connect outside formal discussions and larger more structured sessions."  "I found both [the first two sessions] to be enriching conversations which provided an increased sense of knowing the other people. I'm looking forward to future Home Group sessions: who knows who, and how the conversations will go."