

**YM23 Preparatory Session Report:
Thanksgiving Fund Committee**

Preparatory Session: Thanksgiving Fund Committee	
Clerk: Jo Jordan	Note taker: Mary Butler
<p>Report:</p> <p>During discussion of the Thanksgiving Fund Report Part B, responses by Regional Meetings were shared on screen as well as SC Minute SC5.23. The following minutes agreed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Friends agree with the Thanksgiving Fund Committee’s policy that each Regional Meeting, or AYM Committee, supporting a successful grant application ensures that a report of the outcome and acquittal of the funds provided be sent to the Thanksgiving Fund Committee and the Regional Meeting.2. Several Regional Meetings supported the postponement of a decision that the two unagreed items from the Finance Committee report be set aside for 24 months. Others expressed the hope that Standing Committee on 13th May would find some resolution. <p>Standing Committee minute SC5.23.2 requests that the formation of a new working group, which includes a member from the Finance Committee and a member from the Thanksgiving Fund Committee, consider these items and report to YM24. This Preparatory session welcomes that decision and the report from that working group at YM24.</p> <p>There were seven presentations by recipients of grants from the Thanksgiving Fund (please see a more detailed report about these projects below).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Faith Coleman: Past present and future: addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and social equity through wetland histories and restoration. A study towards her PhD.2. Lisa Wriley: Care for Creation – listening to first nations and Celtic voices (a Wellspring and Iona listening pilgrimage 29th Sept – 1st Nov 2023)3. Dorothy Scott: Manus Lives Matter, supporting the remaining men on Manus Island to move to countries where they are safe.4. Diane Bretherton: Seeds of Peace, peace training based on the principles of AVP to be made available in universities.5. Valerie Joy (from London) Friends Peace Teams Asia West Pacific on peace training for two applicants and keeping safe the children of peace activists.6. Dale Hess and Rowe Morrow: A new integrated refugee settlement project: international team of peace workers and permaculturalists from Australia, Portugal, USA and UK.7. Justin Simpson: Journey Companions, publication of Justin’s poetry	
<p>Recommendations in your Report which you will bring to Yearly Meeting:</p> <p>a) That Minutes 1 and 2 above be accepted:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Friends agree with the Thanksgiving Fund Committee’s policy that each Regional Meeting, or AYM Committee, supporting a successful grant application ensures that a report of the outcome and acquittal of the funds provided be sent to the Thanksgiving Fund Committee and the Regional Meeting.	

2. Several Regional Meetings supported the postponement of a decision that the two unagreed items from the Finance Committee report be set aside for 24 months. Others expressed the hope that Standing Committee on 13th May would find some resolution.

b) That the above concerns, supported by the Thanksgiving Fund, be more widely known among Friends.

Quote by Sieneke Martin “What middle aged people with sensible shoes can do...”



Presentations of Projects funded by Thanksgiving Fund Grants

Faith Coleman: Past Present and Future: Addressing climate change, biodiversity loss and social equity through wetland histories and restoration.

Aim to come up with a new vision of the present/future based on the past. Coorong was once dominated by stonewort for 3,500 years - and disappeared in the 1970s. It used to stand 2.5m tall. There were 6000 tons of birds (v 50 tons currently) i.e millions of birds in decline since the 1960s. It was the largest black bream site. The drivers for the change have been increased salinity; a change of PH; change in carbonates; water clarity has been lost; without the algae the sediments poison the shore and eventually shellfish poisoning. Faith has been collaborating to build dialogue about liming trials (to shock the phosphate out the water) and maximising delivery of water.

Lisa Wriley: Care for Creation - listening to first nations and celtic voices (a wellspring and Iona listening pilgrimage) (29 Sept - 1 Nov 2023)

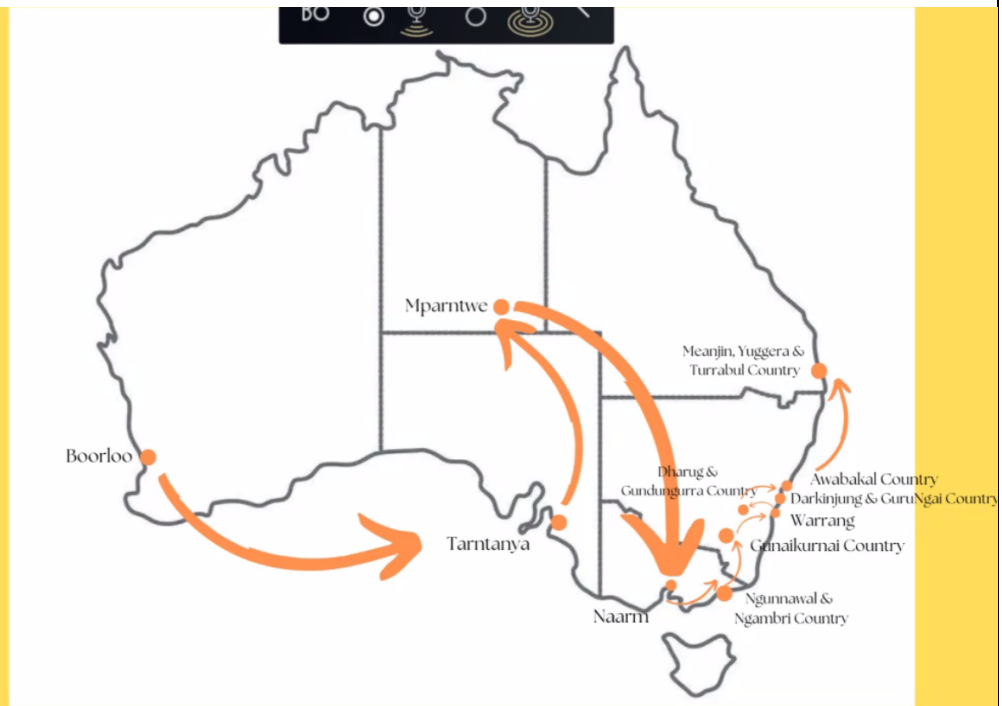
The Wellspring community set up in the 1990s, inspired by Iona community of the mix between sacred and secular. An invitation to the Iona community leader led to this deep connection about 'Care for Creation'. The Listening Pilgrimage will be carried out by Brook Prentis, Ruth Harvey and Lisa Wriley.

Ruth Harvey will then go to NZ/Aotearoa. There have been extensive preparations - the learning is an important part of this and has started already. Presence will bring about dialogue in local areas about caring for the earth. The timing coincides with the referendum.

Wellspring Community began a Year of Conversations in late October 2022 with a webinar on Identity & Country in a First Nations Context:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b0DIWgearIQ&feature=youtu.be>

Where is the Listening Pilgrimage traveling to?



Tarntanya (Adelaide), Kaurna Country 1 - 6 October

Sunday 1/10 Worship am: Ruth Harvey preaching at Blackwood UC; Lisa Wriley at Eastern suburbs Quaker meeting; Brooke Prentis preaching, Brougham Place UC.
1.00 pm: Meeting at Colebrook Reconciliation site for Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony followed by conversation around a campfire.

Monday 2/10 Kuarna Walking on Country along coast, Warriparinga, Kingston Pk, Hallett Cove, Noarlunga, Moana with Uncle Frank Wanganeen as guide.

Tuesday 3/10 3.00pm: Wee Sing at Adelaide West UC
7.00pm Public meeting with panel: Rev. Dr Aunty Denise Champion, Ruth Harvey, Brooke Prentis, Bishop Chris McLeod, National Aboriginal Bishop in the Anglican Church (still to be invited) and chaired by Lisa Wriley.

Wed. 4/10 Visit to Raukkan, Ngarrindjeri country - to be confirmed



Uncle Frank Wanganeen



Brooke Prentis and Rev Dr Aunty Denise Champion

Dorothy Scott: Manus Lives Matter.

Since 2013 "Operation Sovereign" people got moved to places like Manus. Sister Jane Keogh started the Manus Lives Matter. There is a 'not forgotten' project - which has helped to support the remaining 25 men - some of whom have been there for 10 years. They are expected to go to Canada from PNG

Diane Bretherton: Seeds of Peace and Sue Ennis

Peace work moved to choosing and training local facilitators, which is called Eco Training. The next step is to find local peace builders and work with them. Yusuf is a well-respected Arabic scholar. Peace training was Christian, then moved to integrate Islamic and Arabic references. Now moved to Indigenous, and creative pedagogies that can include women.

The aim of the current project is to increase the capacity of other facilitators.

The aim is now to generate more facilitators - embedding it into university curricula, establishing a network across universities. Currently assessing the 200 students who have been trained, in order to run more courses in first year university. It is based on AVP model. Somalians see peace as the restoration of normal services - it means being able to go to school safely.

The link for Yusuf's talk on his Seeds of Peace Program will be at 3.00 PM EAST on June 11:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85218395594?pwd=ZIRITEY3NVY2bnFVd1BuOEtWc1FBQT09>

Meeting ID: 852 [1839 5594](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85218395594)

Passcode: 044479

YouTube video of Yusuf's program https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fccwRajY_X4

Valerie Joy (in London)

Reporting on behalf of Friends Peace Teams Asia West Pacific. They use AVP and started it in West Papua. They sponsored two people to get peace training. Children of peace activists are often orphans. The original person passed and two others started in August 2022.

Dale Hess and Rowe Morrow: A new integrated refugee settlement project: international team of peace workers and permaculturalists from Australia, Portugal, USA and UK.

Afghan refugees in Portugal through an integrated multidimensional plan for settlement - including education, training, support and integration (cultural and social).

Some learning includes: group dynamics (body behaviour, learning to introduce yourself - being comfortable); community participation; learning new skills (e.g design with google maps); AVP has played an important part; becoming self-sufficient in financial literacy for living in the cities; cultural exchange opportunities

An important part of the approach is to bring together groups, rather than focusing on individuals. Everyone has a program.

Justin Simpson: Journey Companions

This is the title of a poetry book, the result of a project that grew from Justin sharing his poetry in the Friends Online Recognised Meeting, part of NSWRM. Journey Companions is a collection of contemplative poems and reflections, intended to help the reader grow in their own contemplative practice and journey. The Thanksgiving Fund assistance enabled the design, editing and publication.

Justin is facilitating an online contemplative poetry group for 5 weeks in May-June, which helps participants explore their own contemplation and creativity. It is envisaged that we will run a similar group for 5 weeks each term, and we are beginning to explore the possibility of a Silver Wattle course.

- www.journeycompanionsbook.com
- justin.joshua.simpson@gmail.com