

**YM23 Share and Tell Report**  
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<b>Name of Session:</b>	The Voice Referendum and beyond: Makaratta, Treaties, and are Quakers prepared?
<b>Date/Time</b>	Tuesday 4 July 1 to 2:30 pm
<b>Person submitting report</b>	Harald Ehmann
<b>Clerk/Convenor/Facilitator/s</b>	Harald Ehmann
<b>Summary (400 words or less)</b>  <i>include number attending your event</i>	<p>Thirty five people attended to gain further understanding of the issues around the Referendum question which seeks a national consensus and is to be answered with Yes or No:  "A Proposed Law: to alter the Constitution to recognise the First Peoples of Australia by establishing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice. Do you approve this proposed alteration?"</p> <p>Friends strongly agreed that our Testimonies were closely aligned with the Statement from the Heart. Each voter will need to find their own truth path to this question, and all will converge at the referendum day bridge in a few months. In the time remaining we can each consider the question as we would in MfWfB: await adequate or better information for our right decision and use stillness for discernment rather than forcing an insufficiency-informed decision with so much conflicting information about at present. The dust of confusion will settle as the time draws nearer. Surveys show about 80% of Original Australians support the Voice Referendum.</p> <p>This session included expert input from Nyamudy - Ngambri Elder Shane Mortimer particularly about the nature and basis of various Titles, from Crown to Allodial to Freehold to Native. His knowledge of this aspect of law highlighted many thorny problems with the legality of current titles, and he is presently opposed to the referendum process. He is strongly in favour of a peaceful transition to deliberative democracy.</p> <p>The Voice Referendum does embody a widely held wish and need to build connection and further the righting of past and current colonising wrongs. A Yes outcome will be a further strong step in the right direction. A No outcome will not be a stop light, and Friends will be ready to continue their support of Original Australians to recovery. They and Friends are resolute to be of good cheer and to continue in their shared seeking of truth</p>

and equality.

Readings:

Megan Davis and George Williams 2021 Everything you need to know about the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

<https://ulurustatement.org/the-statement>

<https://www.a-mission.org/resources/a-voice-in-the-wilderness/>