

Tranter, Humphrey Lionel - 21 March 1934 - 25 October 2022

Testimony to the Grace of God in the Life of Humphrey Lionel Tranter

Humphrey was the second son of Adelaide and Alfred Tranter, born in Moulton, Lincolnshire England. Humphrey's family moved soon after his birth to Penrith in Cumbria, where he grew up close to his beloved lake District.

While attending Queen Elizabeth Grammar School in Penrith, where his father was Headmaster, Humphrey won a scholarship to attend the Quaker boarding school Bootham in York. Humphrey recalled with affection the peace and contemplation of the large old Meeting House in York. This experience sowed the seeds of an interest in Quakerism which grew later as an adult.

An outstanding student of History and English, Humphrey won a scholarship to attend Queens College, Cambridge to read English and he graduated with first class honours in 1955. While at Cambridge Humphrey spent his holidays hiking in the Lake District and working as a farm labourer.

After completing his education, Humphrey undertook National Service at Gottingen in Germany and it was there that he met Daphne Gibbeson, an Australian, who was working with the YWCA bookshop at the barracks. After a whirlwind romance, spent largely on the dance floor, they married at Penrith on 8th January 1957. Their first child, Deborah, was born later that year, in London, just after Humphrey completed his National Service.

Humphrey and Daphne made their first home at St Annes-on-sea in Lancashire where Humphrey was English teacher at King Edward VII Grammar School and where their daughters Penelope and Jennifer were added to the family. After moving to a new position as Head of the English Department at Nobel Grammar School in Stevenage, the family was completed with the birth of Andrew in 1963. It was during this time that Humphrey and Daphne began attending the Quaker Meeting in Stevenage, attracted by the peace and anti-nuclear activism of the meeting.

In 1967 Humphrey was appointed to a lectureship in English at the University of Sydney and the family began their new life in Australia. The family was warmly welcomed by Wahroonga Meeting where they soon became actively involved in the social and religious life of the Meeting.

Three years later, Humphrey moved again to join the new English department at the Flinders University in Adelaide where he taught for nearly 30 years. He is remembered with much affection by the many hundreds of students he taught there. Humphrey loved to teach. He had the skill to hold the attention of his audience with his deep knowledge and passion for English language and literature, his clear voice and enthusiastic delivery, which sometimes included a song or two. A former student said "Humphrey was old school in the best possible way, and I learnt a lot from him; some stuff about literature, but mostly how to think."

Unusual for the time, Humphrey was very actively involved as a father, perhaps because of his love of teaching but also because Daphne was unwell for much of the children's early childhood. He loved to read to the children, share songs with them, take them for long walks and bike rides and encouraged their home performances. With Daphne, he took the children to concerts and to the theatre and encouraged their music, drama and ballet lessons. He taught them to read music and to sing in harmony together and took great pleasure in their musical pursuits in adulthood. Later, he loved spending time with his six grandchildren as they grew up and proudly welcomed a further six great grandchildren more recently.

The natural environment was central to Humphrey's wellbeing. He grew up walking around the lakes and fells of Cumbria and loved the Adelaide Hills where he lived for over fifty years, especially the Belair National Park. Following his retirement, in 1996, he and Daphne walked there almost every day until the ends of their lives, taking great pleasure in the beauty of the changing

seasons. It is fitting that his memorial meeting was conducted there.

Humphrey was politically active and a strong advocate for Social Justice and for the Environment. He was a committed pacifist, leading a Quaker peace vigil in Victoria Square every week for over 10 years. The Tranter family were active members of Adelaide Local Meeting where Humphrey accepted a number of positions of responsibility in the religious and business life of the meeting. He especially loved his role as Registering Officer, taking special delight in marrying his daughter Deborah to her husband, Peter Sandeman in 1986.

As Parkinson's reduced his mobility, Humphrey attended his local Hills Worshipping Group. Humphrey's ministry, which often drew from literature and the arts, addressed current times, thought and concerns with insight.

Humphrey and Daphne became volunteers at the Quaker Shop in 1976, taking on a variety of roles and, for 36 years, Humphrey took home bags of donated goods for sorting and pricing. Humphrey and Daphne lived their lives according to their belief that all people are equal and that love and commitment to our fellow beings is fundamental to life and to the world.

Above all was Humphrey's deep and abiding love for Daphne during their 55 years together. During Daphne's last years Humphrey cared for her at home. After her death in 2012 Humphrey led her memorial meeting at the Friends' Meeting House in North Adelaide and drafted the testimony to the Grace of God in Daphne's life. He always recalled their life together with deep affection.

Humphrey enjoyed good health for most of his life but, in the last 10 years, Parkinson's disease made his life increasingly challenging. Nevertheless, Humphrey always maintained his positive attitude to life, his love of family and friends, and for the natural environment. In his final months Humphrey received additional support at Kalyra Belair Aged Care where he continued to enjoy beautiful vistas and regular visits to Belair National Park.

Humphrey died peacefully at Kalyra on the 22nd October 2022, surrounded by those he loved and who loved him. His life was testimony to the power of Love and the significance of teaching, the arts and family life. We give thanks for the Grace of God in Humphrey's life.

Minute of Record

We accept the Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Humphrey Tranter. We are grateful for the contribution that Humphrey made to this meeting with his gift for ministry, and to education. We ask the Clerk to forward this testimony to the AYM Secretary for inclusion in the Dictionary of Australian Quaker Biography and attach a copy to the minutes.

South Australia Northern Territory Regional Meeting, Meeting for Worship for Business, 23 February 2023, Minute 3.

Minute of Record

We are saddened to record the death of Humphrey Tranter on 25th October, at the age of 88. A largely-attended memorial meeting was held on 1st December at Karka pavilion, Belair National Park. Many of Humphrey's friends, colleagues and students spoke in celebration of his life of wide interests in literature, poetry, music, singing and participation in peace vigils. His four children

(Penny, Deb, Jenn and Andrew) featured prominently in the event.

We ask Jo Jordan and Jenn Tranter (subject to consent) and any other member of the family to prepare a testimony on the life of Humphrey Tranter.

South Australia Northern Territory Regional Meeting, Meeting for Worship for Business, 4 December 2022, Minute 1.

Notice.

Humphrey was a pacifist and when in Meeting, was a great orator. He worked in various positions for the Religious Society of Friends over many years, and belonged to North Adelaide and in the Hills Meetings. Humphrey's family are sad to share the recent loss of their dearly beloved father, grandfather, and great grandfather.

On Thursday 1st December 2022, commencing at 3pm, Friends are warmly invited by Humphrey's family, to a memorial service to celebrate Humphrey's life. This is an outdoor event at the Karka Pavilion, which was a favourite spot for Humphrey, in Belair National Park.

In lieu of flowers, a donation to Parkinsons SA would be appreciated at fightingparkinsons.org.au

Adelaide Local Meeting Notices, 16 November 2022.

Notice.

We are sorry to report the death of Humphrey Tranter on the afternoon of 25th October at Kylara, following a fall. His family were with him. We remember Humphrey as an outstanding member of our meeting for many years. Friends will want to hold the family in the Light at this time.

Adelaide Local Meeting Notices, 27 October 2022.