

## Formal Session 2: Sunday 3 July at 6.30pm AEST

### YM22.8 Opening Worship

During a period of worship, Ronis Chapman (CRQ) read from *this we can say*:

*A spiritual community strengthens and steadies its members, nurturing them as they gain experience, and passing on a communal wisdom which a lifetime of individual searching may never uncover.*

Ursula Jane O'Shea 1993, *this we can say* 2.59 (excerpt)

### YM22.9 Minute of Record: Acknowledgement of Country

At the Opening Session Gedda Fortey (CRQ) introduced Ljudan Michaelis-Thorpe, a proud Bidjara/Dhungutti woman from central west Queensland, writer/producer and documentary filmmaker.

Ljudan Michaelis-Thorpe welcomed Friends. She paid respect to the elders of her country and invited us to focus on our own area of Aboriginal country, remember the traditional elders, and tap into the energy from land, sky and sea. We can learn to 'read the skies again' as Indigenous people have done over the years. The disconnect between today's world and the knowledge of Aboriginal wisdom can be overcome by being open to Indigenous astronomy which offers resilience and adaptability.

Ljudan drew attention to the theme for the coming NAIDOC Week – "Get Up, Stand Up, and Show Up". This emphasises the willingness of Indigenous people to bring forward their wisdom on today's problems and help find solutions. In the 'fight' for climate justice we have to work together, and regenerative agriculture is a way of connecting with Country.

Ljudan said the elders of her country sent blessings to us all. In response, the Presiding Clerk thanked Ljudan for helping us attend to the rhythm of life and the imagery all around us, and wished all Indigenous Australians a wonderful NAIDOC Week.

### YM22.10 Items for Noting

#### A. Appointments for the duration of Yearly Meeting

The AYM Nominations Committee has brought forward the following names:

- Minute Checkers: Stephen Hodgkin (CRQ), Kay de Vogel (CRQ), and Liz Field (NSWRM)
- YM22 Epistle Committee: Margaret Clark (CRQ), Christine Venner-Westaway (QRM), and Paula Paananen (NSWRM).

We accept these recommendations and make these appointments.

#### B. Documents in Advance Reports which have no Part Bs

Yearly Meeting receives the following reports from *Documents in Advance 2022* which had no Items for Consideration, for noting, acceptance and recording in *Documents in Retrospect 2022* (this list has been on the YM22 website for Friends to review):

1. AYM Committees, Working Groups, and others:
  - Australia North Korea Peace Support Group Report
  - The Australian Friend* Committee Report
  - Australian Quaker Narrative Embroidery Committee (Friends in Stitches) Report
  - AYM Working Party on the Role and Work of the AYM Secretary
  - Backhouse Lecture Committee Report
  - Child Protection Committee Report
  - First Nations Peoples Concerns Committee Report
  - Friends Online Recognised Meeting Report
  - Information Technology Committee Report
  - Peace and Social Justice Fund Committee Report
  - Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee Report
  - Quaker World Connections Committee Report
  - Rainbow Friends and Allies report
  - Safe Quaker Community Committee Report
  - The Sanctuary Management Committee Report
  - Thanksgiving Fund Committee Report
  - Yearly Meeting Organising Committee Report
  
2. Associated Bodies:
  - Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing Report
  - Friends Peace Teams-Asia West Pacific Report
  - FWCC-AWPS Report
  - Quaker Service Australia (QSA) Report
  - Silver Wattle Quaker Centre Ltd Report
  - The Friends' School Report
  - Werona (Kangaroo Valley Friends Properties Pty Ltd) Report
  
3. Other Reports:
  - APAN Representative Report
  - ARRCC Representative Report
  - AYM Archivist Report
  - AYM Treasurer's Report
  - IPAN Representative Report
  - NCCA Ecumenical Report
  - NCCA Safe Churches Network Report

C. Documents in Advance Reports with Part B Items which were resolved in Preparatory Sessions

Yearly Meeting notes the following items from Reports in *Documents in Advance 2022*, which were resolved through Regional Meetings and YM22 Preparatory Sessions (this list has been on the YM22 website for Friends to review). The full Preparatory Sessions reports will appear in *Documents in Retrospect 2022*.

We note that acceptance of DiA reports with a Part B that were agreed to by all RMs or through a Preparatory Session is a new process for YM22. This new process was shared with Friends ahead of YM22. Part B items that were resolved at Preparatory Sessions were shared with RMs prior to YM22 with a request to consider any items of concern to their RM and to bring this to the attention of the AYM Secretary. None of these Part B items was brought to the Secretary for further consideration at a Formal Session of YM22.

We have heard a concern that this process does not allow for discernment at a gathering of Friends during YM, which may not allow for a shift in the leading of the Spirit at a full gathering of Australian Friends.

We ask that this process be reviewed by RMs before future YMs.

Resolved Items were:

Climate Emergency & Species Extinction Working Group

Item 4: CESEWG proposes to hold a Preparatory Session in May 2022 to report on the Questionnaire they had circulated and to hear Friends' ideas as to future work of the WG. Outcome: This was done.

Item 5: Would RM's appreciate the WG holding a Zoom consultation with interested Friends as we prepare a plan for YM23? Outcome: This was supported.

Handbook Revision Committee

Section 4.5 Care of travellers: Outcome: Expanded section re Sojourners

Section 5.2.7 AYM Archivist: Outcome: Expanded section to cover the current legislation re Archival material.

Publications Committee

Item 1: Would Young Friends be willing to look at the Young People's pamphlet?

Outcome: No Young Friends attended the session.

Item 2: Would Friends forward suggestions for any pamphlets that need updating and/or subjects that could be considered for new pamphlets? Outcome: This was discussed and plans made.

Item 3: We invite feedback on the use of Creative Commons for AYM publications.

Outcome: Discussion held on possible ways forward.

Item 4: Are Friends happy for Silver Wattle Quaker Centre to illustrate Australian *Advices and Queries* and to sell these to raise funds for SWQC?

Outcome: RMs supported this. SWQC was advised to enquire of Interactive Publications (IP) regarding selling AYM publications.

## **YM22.11 Summary of Epistles presentation**

A Minute of Record for the Summary of Epistles presented by Heather Saville (NSWRM) will be brought to Formal Session 5 on Friday 8 July.

## **YM22.12 Child Protection and Other Safety Concerns Working Group**

Yearly Meeting asks that the Incident Report include the following amendments:

- direction to attach a formal receipt of acknowledgement of the Incident Report by those notified
- direction to attach any other relevant documents
- indication that injury may include physical and/or emotional injury
- use AYM where YM is used.

We accept this amended Incident Report and ask that it now be used by all Friends as appropriate.

The remaining items related to the Child Protection and Other Safety Concerns Working Group will be carried forward to a later formal session.

The Formal Session closed with a period of silent worship.