

Formal Session 7: Saturday 9 July at 11.15am AEST

YM22.33: Opening Worship

Elizabeth PO' read:

*All life on earth is **interconnected, interdependent, and valuable**. People around the world are already experiencing dangerous impacts of a rapidly changing climate. Those most vulnerable are usually the least responsible for environmental destruction, yet pre-existing inequalities worsen as climate instability and food insecurity rise. The urgent need to transform the root causes of environmental destruction and climate change also presents an opportunity to create a fairer, healthier and more equal society.*

from Quaker United Nations Office, *People's Climate Empowerment*, Introduction: Climate Justice

YM22.34: Items for Noting

We note the full reports for the following activities will be included in *Documents in Retrospect 2022*. We note them here so they can be minuted:

- a) Explanatory Session Reports
- b) Preparatory Session Reports
- c) Children and JYF Program
- d) Share & Tell Sessions
- e) Friendly School
- f) Coffee and Chat Sessions
- g) Ecumenical and Multi-faith Session
- h) Home Groups
- i) QWCC International Dinner
- j) Peace Session Report

We note the names of Friends whose Testimonies have appeared on the YM22 website:

CRQ: Marka Bonnici Selmes

NSWRM: Helen Ekin, Len Smith

QRM: Mary Grbavac

SANTRM: Ruth Campbell

TRM: Elisabeth (Beth) Bennett, Rosemary Brown, Miriam Sayer

VRM: Dorothy Benyei, Darryl Dykes

WARM: Michael Hennessey

We note that Statements on Behalf of Yearly Meeting will be included in *Documents in Retrospect 2022*. The full list was available for Friends to read during YM22, on the YM22 website.

YM22.35 Child Protection & Other Safety Concerns Working Group - continuation

YM accepts the draft *Code of Conduct* and draft *Community Agreement for Online Events* for circulation to and use by AYM and Regional Meetings and for sharing in all their meetings.

Further feedback on wording of these documents can be forwarded to Ronis Chapman and Jonathan Benyei.

We note that use of the draft *Community Agreement for Online Events* is not mandated but all Friends are encouraged to use it.

We hear that Ronis Chapman and Jonathan Benyei will meet or liaise with RM contact Friends for feedback on how these draft documents are being promulgated and used over the next year.

YM22.36 Climate Emergency & Species Extinction Working Group

We ask RMs, local meetings, and AYM and RM committees to consider whether the ecological crisis might be a standing item on each business meeting agenda. We also ask RMs to consider how they might acknowledge the ecological crisis at the start of their business meetings.

The Backhouse Lecture, Friendly School and CE&SE WG all speak to the concern of Australian Friends on this issue and the urgency for action by us as individuals, meetings, nationally and internationally. The CE&SE WG has prepared a draft Public Statement that has been available during YM for comment.

We ask the Presiding Clerk and AYM Secretary to finalise the statement for public release.

The CE&SE WG is due to complete its work at YM23. YM encourages the Working Group to engage widely with Friends in this important work. However, in recognition of the urgency for action, this YM encourages all Friends and their Meetings to explore ways to take sustained action on the intertwined issues of climate emergency and species extinction.

YM22.37 Presiding Clerk's Report

The Presiding Clerk presented her report. A Minute of Record will be brought to Formal Session 8.

The Formal Session closed with silent worship.