

August 2015

Australian Quaker Earthcare Committee

The AYM Earthcare Committee has produced this Earthcare invitation for all Quakers in Australia

Earthcare Invitation

Consider Climate Change



Image: Sydney Parkinson self-portrait. Illustrator Parkinson was the first Friend to visit Australia, with James Cook in 1770. At the time, global concentrations of carbon dioxide were about 270 parts per million. In 2015 ppm now exceed 400. (Images of Parkinson and his plants are from Wikipedia in public domain.)

P_{ray}



We invite you to consider daily practice that also connects with our precious earth. Listening to the Spirit through the breeze in the trees, or through appreciation of the light changing as minutes go by.....so that we remember who we are, where we are, and simultaneously, our insignificance, and our significance. Everything and everyone matters. A lot!

Over these two months we particularly invite you to consider daily prayers that include holding our decision-makers in the Light.

We are thinking about Paris in December, when the world will decide about a climate change treaty. We are mindful of the dire consequences of 3 to 4 degrees of warming.

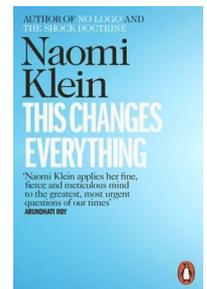
Our prayers can be mindful of global leaders needing to make decisions which are responsible, achievable, forward-thinking, so that future generations will be grateful for the people of 2015.

Praying each day for the decision-makers, including the ones behind the scenes, plus people in business and industry, as well as people in governments at all levels, is a good exercise in genuinely appreciating the good in every person, and care for our earth

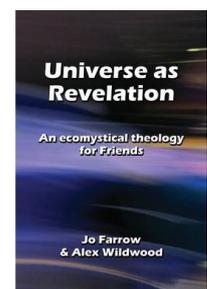
R_{ead}

Friends are probably amongst the most avid readers in our community. Here we enjoy you to extend into the connections that nurture our ecology.

This Changes Everything comes highly recommended – and given Naomi Klein is visiting Australia soon, quite timely. A Friend promises it “will both annoy and inspire. Probably many of you have read it already – you could help spread the word by getting your library to order it, or by buying an extra copy and giving it to people to pass round their networks.”



You have may already savoured the Quaker publication so strongly endorsed at AYM in Melbourne earlier this year, wonderful in bringing together much of the wisdom on the topic of our future as planetarians: *Universe as Revelation* by Alex Wildwood and Jo Farrow.



Quaker Quote

The produce of the Earth is a gift from our gracious Creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the Earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.

– John Woolman (1720-1772)

Act



No new initiative here, but recommending that you connect with others who are already very busy on this matter: that you join your energy with theirs:

350.org - a campaign that combines action on climate change at the local and international levels, with emphasis on divestment, on which Friends acted so splendidly at AYM in Melbourne.

ARRCC - Australian Religious Response to Climate Change, in which a number of Friends are already involved, offers spiritual reflection, policy and advocacy, guidance for action and a concerted faith-based voice, reaching out in all directions.

Visit your MP – for those who are living their life adventurously, and have read enough and prayed enough to feel they will be effective, book time with your federal MP or senator to talk to them about their approach to climate change and your own conviction that we must act on climate change together, for humanity's sake.

Celebrate



With so many environmental challenges, it can be revitalising to focus a little on things that are going well. One of our own local examples is the Vasse-Wonnerup Estuary near the town of Busselton.



The place is a designated Ramsar site of particular importance as a dry-season habitat for waterbirds. Perhaps 20,000 waterbirds use the estuary. There have been concerns about the declining health of the estuary, including mass fish kill incidents. Happily there are signs of improvement in the last five years. There's also just been an announcement of 30 different projects that aim to improve water quality and management of water through the entire catchment.

We invite you to celebrate a “good news” story in your locality! The Earthcare Committee would love to share details with other Friends in Australia.

(Photo: [CC BY-SA 3.0 Tsun-Thai Chai](#))

Australian Friends are involved in earthcare in many ways: individually, in our Meeting Houses, and in activities out in the wider community. You can read a view of Quakers on earthcare on the Quaker's website by going to www.quakers.org.au. Be in touch with us at earthcare@quakers.org.au. We look forward to sharing with Friends more of our investigations and contemplations!