

March 2016

Australian Quaker Earthcare Committee

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

Earthcare Invitation

Consider Water



Image: Rosemary (Rowe) Morrow - "My priority was to become proficient in harvesting, using and maintaining water purity in all circumstances, because poverty is directly linked to access to water." A Demanding and Uncertain Adventure p24

P ray



*Ninghan Station water course, Murchison.
[Pic: Elizabeth PO']*

*We invite you to consider daily practice that also connects with our precious earth.
Listening to the Spirit*

The end of the summer is with us in Western Australia. We have survived a long searing dry time and hold onto the possibility of rain and cooler days. The earth and plants are all parched, the lakes and wetlands shrunk or dried up, the turtles dug into the mud. The waterbirds migrated. This time of year brings mindfulness of how precious is the water which refreshes and sustains all life. We give thanks for the water sources, the stored rain in tanks, the underground reserves, the people and technology safeguarding our waterways and our usage. Every time we turn on the tap, or water plants we give thanks.

At this time we pray for the return of the rain.

Across the land our water comes in different seasons and is held in different ways. What is your prayer of gratitude and care?

R ead



*Native well, South Australia.
[Pic: unknown]*

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

An inspiring and respected anthropologist who has been studying Indigenous culture and philosophy over many years, bringing Aboriginal wisdom to Australians, Deborah Bird Rose writes on water:

Jila is a place of 'living water'. It identifies fresh water that never dries up. Often unprepossessing, perhaps the water is secreted deep in a well that has been dug and maintained for generations, perhaps it is a spring that bubbles up quietly, or maybe the water forms a pool that remains after the flow of a river or creek has disappeared. Jila, the place of living water, commands respect and care; it gives life and thus is a source of life. Here on the driest inhabited continent on earth, knowledge of living water can truly make the difference between life and death. Living water is cherished; it is a blessing.

Read the full entry at

<http://deborahbirdrose.com/2016/03/14/lively-water/>

Quaker Quote

*“I feel the earth beneath me, ground of my being
I taste the running water, living water,
I feel the air around me,
The breath of God...”*

Helen Gould, 1989 “Walking and Praying in the Bush”

A_{ct}



*Some of the AYM Earthcare Committee members
at one of our bi-monthly river meetings
- Chidley Point on January 23, 2016. [Pic: Adrian Glamorgan]*

There is a supplier of water in your area, even if you are rural and self-sufficient – the dependence of all life on access to suitable water is obvious. Where does your local supply source from and how is that source replenished?

Water authorities: How does your locality handle water requirements?

Agriculture, manufacture and mining: This can be the biggest use of water in our environment, after household use
Share the question in your meetings: use of water is understood differently by others depending on their upbringing and working life. Share your experiences of water usage and conservation, of what water means to you and your families, and ways your meeting may honour water.

Water containers: It takes three litres of water to make one litre of bottled water. We can visually represent the energy embodied in a water bottle by filling one quarter of the bottle with oil; this is because it can take 250mL of oil to produce 1L of bottled water. Can your meeting find ways to reduce, reuse and recycle plastic water containers safely?

Celebrate



*Ducks and grandchild at Kings Park
[Pic: Brenda Roy]*

All across the country people are cleaning and restoring waterways, bringing people together in the environment.

Merri Creek in Melbourne:

Since 1975 many communities have contributed to the cleanup and beautification of Merri Creek. We can visit the exhibition, and view it online at <http://www.mcmc.org.au/>
The return of the kingfisher is a joyful part of this story – every year since the Sacred Kingfisher was seen again in the Merri Creek environment, people have gathered to celebrate it's seasonal pilgrimage down from Queensland. They also celebrate the great work undertaken to clean up, revegetate the Merri Creek and demonstrate how humans can support biodiversity, which encourages flora and fauna to thrive in the 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.

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!