

December 2016

Australian Quaker Earthcare Committee

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

Earthcare Invitation

Simplicity & Sustainability



Jenny Spinks, Canberra Regional Meeting (Bega) "I have been led to explore the simplicity testimony - creating inner simplicity to be open to the Spirit and living outwards simplicity as much in harmony with Gaia as possible" (from Jenny's Backhouse Lecture 2007: Support for our true selves – Nurturing the space where leadings flow)

P_{ray}



Photo: Elizabeth PO'

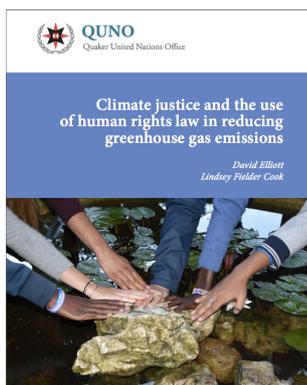
Though Quakers don't have a traditional celebration of Christmas, most Friends are drawn in by families, friends and workmates.

Coming into the holiday hype and hubbub we look for ways to build community in our meetings by centering ourselves in the things which are eternal rather than the ephemeral pull of the advertising realm.

Social expectations can cause anxieties and distress, and we open to the spirit/light and opening to the spirit/light in each of us. We hold to simplicity and the fundamentals of Quaker experience which inform our intention to see and respond to that of god in all others.

In times of busyness, whether from social or other upheavals we invite you to consider daily practice that also connects with our precious earth: Listening to the Spirit.

R_{ead}



QUNO publication on 'Climate Justice and the use of Human Rights Law in Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions', by David Elliott and Lindsey Fielder Cook (August, 2016), available at the Quaker United Nations Office website quno.org

Anne de Gruchy's writing drawn from one-on-one interviews with twenty-six people – mainly Friends aged from their twenties to seventies from a variety of backgrounds. Available at annedegruchy.co.uk/2016/11/15/complex-simplicity/

An alternative calendar of activists for peace and nonviolence is available at nonviolence.quakers.org.au/

Quaker Quote

Though I believe as a Quaker that all places, times and seasons are equally sacred, I at the same time believe – and no inconsistency in this – that there are places, times and seasons that are specially sacred.

John Ormerod Greenwood

A_{ct}



Artwork: Adrian Glamorgan

Are times of celebration opportunities for coming closer to friends and family or do they feel like times of obligation and an endurance test?

If Christmas is a time of giving, what is your gift to the earth?

Consider gift giving as a way of expressing love and friendship. Try making presents and creating gifts, even as a group. Don't limit your generosity to buying something material. Find new ways of caring for the earth in your gift giving: you can offer a service, write a poem, write a song, knit a sock or two, or make a pot of jam. Can you wrap a present in fabric, or in last year's paper?

Consider shopping where you would like your money to work, in service of the earth and justice – through organisations such as Quaker Service Australia, Oxfam, UNHCR.

Look at your traditional food consumption patterns – what carries tradition in your family and community in a meaningful way and what do you automatically perpetuate.

Share your stories of simplicity and creative sustainable gifting practices in your meeting.

Celebrate

WARM – a community textile art project



Keeping warm with wool, by knitters from around the world

Using less and focusing on sustainable practices around consumer practices bring great rewards to the planet and our future selves – celebrating the sense of achievement and the creativity of making and doing things that are the work of our own hands and minds, holding a particular person in mind.

There's been a huge uptake of 'giving your brother-in-law a goat', and minimalist options are widely mentioned on internet sites.

And who has seen the amazing art project from the Sustainable Environment Arts Movement, exhibiting around the eastern states – knitting and caring creatively for the world we share? "WARM" is a sustainable art initiative celebrating the beauty and practicality of wool as a way to keep warm. It's a strong and arresting statement about the redundancy of fossil fuels as an energy source, and was designed with an aim to "close the loop" of materials and energy use by recycling and reusing throughout the project.

- All knitted elements made from left over, reused or organic wool.
- All pieces from the project are wearable or useable elements; ie mitts, brooches or a knitted bouquet for a vase.
- Any unavoidable emissions created as a result of delivering the project will be offset by planting trees.

See it virtually on www.seam.org.au/warm.

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!