

March 2017

Australian Quaker Earthcare Committee

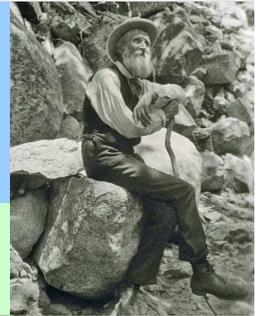
The AYM Earthcare Committee has produced this Earthcare invitation for all Quakers in Australia

Earthcare Invitation

Beyond Edges, Margins & Boundaries

"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."

John Muir (1838 – 1914) founder of Sierra Club in US, an immigrant from Scotland. (Not a Quaker, but still...)



P_{ray}



Littoral edge: Brenda Roy

We honour our own edges of interaction with the world and nature, and recognise we are not the same as another, that others' experiences of their 'edges' are different to ours. Like a riverbank with tiny inlets and estuaries our experience of the world are shaped by the activity and environment, sometimes quite mysteriously.

May we discover our 'edges', and open to the grace of moving where the mystery and tides and seasons call us, with gratitude and courage.

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}



Tree roots in pavement, unattributed

People and Permaculture, Looby Macnamara (pub. Permanent Publications, 2012)

Use and value edge and the marginal:

The interface between two ecosystems is the edge; it is an active and productive space. Edges are not sharply defined boundaries in nature: a forest perimeter peters out gradually, a river bank blends into the field, the sea moves with the tides. These fuzzy edges are dynamic places of interest that share and amalgamate characteristics from each of the adjoining places, as well as having a distinctive ecosystems with its own creatures.

We naturally find, use and create fuzzy edges in our lives like gradually fading out when singing a lullaby to a baby.

This We Can Do, Backhouse Lecture, 2015, Sally Herzfeld: I have had some fun with language differences in remote Aboriginal community workshops. One of our guidelines is 'We have the right to pass'. One woman said, 'What do mean? We know it's alright to die, but we don't expect to be doing it here!'

Quaker Quote

Do you uphold those who are acting under concern even if their way is not your? Can you lay aside your own wishes and prejudices while seeking with others to find God's will for them?

from Australian Quakers Advices & Queries (no. 39)

A_{ct}



South Perth wetlands: Elizabeth PO'

Go outside, explore; walk an edge nearby, find where two or more elements meet, and take photos or draw, chart or describe, perhaps write about the space where they meet.

Look for, or notice, an edge in your meeting, an ethical edge where Friends bump up against difficult decisions or new experiences/challenges.

Experiment with Light is a Quaker practice experienced as a guided meditation to explore perhaps hidden areas of one's life, holding them in the light, allowing for understanding and perhaps revelation. Information can be accessed online at www.experiment-with-light.org.uk

The Transition Movement around the world, started in Totnes UK, for whole communities coming together to find ways to live more lightly on the earth. We can find the nearest centre online at transitionnetwork.org/transition-near-me

C_{elebrate}



'Guardians' at Roe 8 rally, Fremantle: Adrian Glamorgan

Around Australia, people have actively chosen connectivity over freeway transport. At Bibra Lake near Fremantle, many Western Australians turned up to protest the Roe 8 road building through fragile, diminished wetlands, to witness and monitor the edges of legal and physical push by Government and contractors determined to clear the area before the state election. A huge upswelling of public protest saw people who would never have thought themselves able to protest joined by many professionals offering pro bono support. Now the new Labor government has stopped all contracts, the recreating of the complex ecology can begin - a long community process.

AVP's work (Alternatives to Violence) is providing supportive ways for people around the world to experience their own and others' edges in a safe way, and grow. We celebrate AVP, the volunteers who keep it happening, and those who find peaceful pathways in their lives through the use of 'transforming power'.

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!
