

Earthcare Invitation

Meeting the Planetary Crisis Together



The Quaker Meeting allows for deep stillness and reflection, and Australia Yearly Meeting provides a space for sharing and discerning on critical issues by the Australia-wide membership of The Religious Society of Friends. Yearly Meeting 2019 is in Hobart from July 6 to 13. (This photo: Yearly Meeting 2017 Adelaide)

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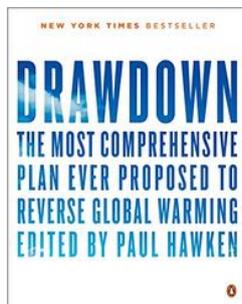
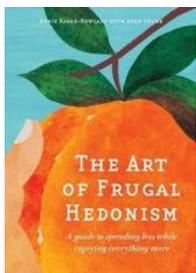


"I saw also that there was an ocean of darkness and death, but an infinite ocean of light and love, which flowed over the ocean of darkness." George Fox

In these times of crisis we lift our concern, our fear and our intent up to the spirit. We ask for strength, determination and faith as we hold each other tenderly to account, finding new ways to reduce our harmful impacts on our earth, and embracing regenerative alternatives.

Supporting each other and holding each other accountable, may we help bring light to the truth, the extent and enormity of the predicament humanity has bought about; seeking not to blame but to acknowledge, to own our part in this, to continue in active discernment and develop individually and collectively more peaceful, interdependent practices to properly care for our planet

R ead



Seeking solutions to what we hear is different from listening to most news, and we are encouraged by the amount and variety of readings available.

The Art of Frugal Hedonism is a manual for living more joyfully while consuming less. Rather than spending long days earning money for possessions and services, the authors advocate working less and using the time to do more for yourself. Full of humorous tips and helpful tools for living creatively, building community and enjoying a simple yet wickedly indulgent lifestyle while caring for the Earth.

Drawdown comes from an international coalition of researchers, professionals, and activists who offer a set of realistic and bold solutions to climate change. One hundred techniques and methods are described here - some are well known, some may surprise you, but together the publishers claim you will find "the most comprehensive plan ever proposed to reverse global warming."

Quaker Quote

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.

- Isaac Pennington, 1667

A ct



Tobias Busch and his daughter, with Uncle Ben 'Cuirmara' Taylor and Jo Vallentine at the Perth Extinction Rebellion rally ('die-in' below) on June 22, 2019.



Everything we do has consequences – let us find the best way to act so our effects on the planet are as healing as possible, with little or no disturbance.

In times of crisis people can draw closer and act more as a community. We can also succumb to fear and out of panic, seek to protect ourselves and those close to us, disregarding others. As Friends, how do we face the truth that we are now in a climate crisis with strength and compassion? How do we embrace interdependence, engage with change and encourage others? Shockingly, Australia is the world leader in extinction of species, something about which we cannot be proud. But we can help to reverse this downward spiral

We can **attend or start an Extinction Rebellion group**, which is inclusive, non-partisan, supporting regenerative community, asking people to bring their vibrancy to the actions that bring their three demands to governments and corporations. Check them out on <https://rebellion.earth>

Some Friends may be led to be out and about with this group, or other groups working for change such as <https://www.arcc.org.au>, while others may be able to support financially, holding activists in the Light, considering creative ways of supporting the community around them.

Quakers have a history of journaling. Some Friends might find reflecting and documenting of these times and activities is a way to navigate new paths through emerging crises.

Other Friends may consider forming a supportive accountability group to help each other stay on track through the challenges of changing our own or our Meetings' lifestyles and patterns. Naming 'the elephant in the room', or 'the smell from the attic', is part of our truth-speaking. Finding ways to speak of the climate crisis that also care for those around us takes focus and discernment. Using appropriate language to the truth of our newly documented planetary situation is essential, yet challenging.

Celebrate



We see an uprising of concern in the community, reflected in more mainstream media coverage of species extinction and climate crisis. This is something to celebrate as people shift towards new ways of engaging in the world.

We are encouraged by/ cities declaring climate emergency around Australia and beyond, as part of this shift and celebration. Recent encouraging news including:

*** **Investors** managing more than **US\$34 trillion in assets**, nearly half the world's invested capital, are **demanding urgent action** from governments on climate change, piling pressure on leaders of the world's 20 biggest economies, the Group of 20 (G20) as they meet this week. In an open letter to the "governments of the world", groups representing 477 investors stressed **"the urgency of decisive action" on climate change** to achieve the United Nations sponsored Paris Agreement target. (June 26).

*** **More than 150 religious leaders**, including the heads of the Uniting Church in Australia, the Federation of Australian Buddhist Councils, Muslims Australia, the National Council of Churches, and Quakers Australia, sent an open letter to Mr Morrison declaring that **the climate situation is an emergency** and urging a **halt to all new coal and gas projects**, starting with the proposed Adani mine. (June 25)

Australian Friends are involved in earthcare in many ways: individually, in our Meeting Houses, and in activities throughout the wider community. See more of a Quaker view of earthcare at www.quakersaustralia.info/Earthcare

Please be in touch with us at AYM Earthcare Committee cearthcare@quakersaustralia.info