

February 2019

Australian Quaker Earthcare Committee

Issue 9

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

Earthcare Invitation

Surviving Extremes



Junior Young Friends of Australia Yearly Meeting have a tradition of engaging with nature. At the JYF Camp this January at Gembrook in Victoria, they reflected on living adventurously, supporting animal rights and earthcare projects, focusing on issues of vegan/vegetarianism and how this lifestyle supports Quaker testimonies.

P ray



'In the Heat', E.P.O'

Over this summer, news continually beats down on us of 'natural' disasters around Australia – we feel confronted by the huge changes they bring to all lives in their wake. Intense prolonged heat and exhaustion across much of the country – terrible bushfires in Tasmania and 10 years since Black Saturday, floods in northern Queensland, and extraordinary droughts – affect us wherever we are with our need to respond in ways that can help.

We hold in our hearts and minds and in love all of those affected by this elemental devastation.

May we pay attention to and honour the place in which we live, may we love it for its gifts and for its intrinsic, and for the mystery of its sometimes devastating, patterns of weather and landscape which may not make human existence easy.

May we develop ways of being in community that support us all through heat waves, drought or other extreme weather.

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

R ead

Richard Flanagan: Tasmania is burning. The climate disaster future has arrived while those in power laugh at us.

Online at theguardian.com/environment/2019/feb/05/tasmania-is-burning-the-climate-disaster-future-has-arrived-while-those-in-power-laugh-at-us

"Active Hope" a book by Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone.

Active Hope is about finding, and offering, our best response to the crisis of sustainability unfolding in our world. It offers tools that help us face the mess we're in, as well as find and play our role in the collective transition, or Great Turning, to a life-sustaining society.

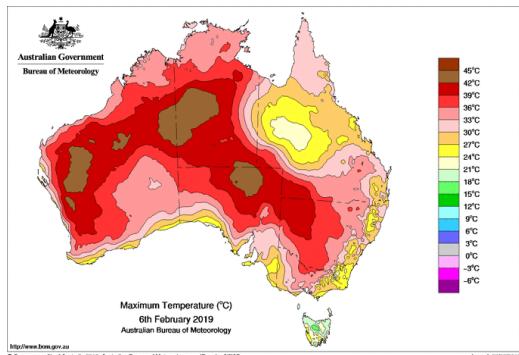
Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) resources on climate change are excellent and available via an excellent website at quakersandclimatechange.com

Quaker Quote:

There are times when God seems not to speak to me at all, times when I feel rejected, not worth considering. People in the meeting help, the ones who are quietly centred down, and the ones who are coping with situations that seem intolerable, old friends to whom one can talk unreservedly, friends who with their loving natures and their gift of friendship, all speaking to me of God.

Barbara Wright, 1996 (from This We Can Say)

A ct



Temperature chart, Australia
February 6, 2019. (BOM.gov.au)

Try to make spaces where needed within your Community, within the Meeting, within your own life to hear people's stories of grief and loss, confusion and suffering, listening with a simple presence, without feeling the need to find solutions. Happy faces can cover ongoing trauma, hurt, distress.

Can we plan ways to live responsibly and still comfortably, with care and creativity, in the reality of our climate, conserving energy and water? With rising temperatures our bodies suffer, so we look at taking extra care: to rehydrate, to celebrate in gentle ways that nourish ourselves, our garden, birds and others.

Let's practise the teachings about local seasons identified by the First Peoples of our areas.

We are relieved to note that climate change is being acknowledged more broadly as its effects are felt. Let us take the opportunity of the upcoming elections to bring climate change issues to the fore. To include it in our conversations, however awkward that may seem at the time. It's not about having the latest data at our fingertips so much as sharing our perplexities, anxieties, questions; and discovering we're not alone!

Settling on some effective actions that support the long term health of our living world, we may have plenty to share with others – please share your ideas & actions with us at cearthcare@quakersaustralia.info

C elebrate



We CELEBRATE selflessness and courage in emergency service volunteers and all those who work with them to save and succour people affected by disasters around the country. And we celebrate those who, against all odds, practise care of earth: conserving energy and water, planting and speaking up for the importance of trees, reducing their consumption of meat, growing vegetables at home, and more

Rowe Morrow continues to provide essential permaculture training in extreme areas, currently preparing to travel to Bangladesh, supported by Quaker Service Australia. We celebrate Rowe and all those who practise these skills, in our own communities also.

The WARM Summer School brought people together in the Mount Lawley Meeting House in January to learn and share experiences, news and techniques in five sessions over four days. Quakers and others celebrated this opportunity of integral topics for our age. The program may inspire others to help build their own communities and celebrate the work of Quakers in peace and social justice, indigenous and environment, and is still available to be seen online at the link <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/quaker-peace-creativity-summer-school-2019-incl-film-evenings-tickets-53337742624>

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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