

October 2020

Australian Quaker Earthcare Committee

Issue 13

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

# Earthcare Invitation

## Earthcare Everyday Prophets



*“ At the first Yearly Meeting I attended, an experience of the Spirit's power to weaken the individual's resistance, so that we were all swept into a unity of Love and Truth, confirmed my faith in Quakerism's potential to "raise up the good in us" and change the world. Humble, abandoned prayer and silent waiting, with the expectation of being changed by the process, have the power to achieve the seemingly impossible, and any group of people, no matter how small, who meet together to align themselves with the Spirit of the Universe is a force to be reckoned with.”*

Susannah Kay Brindle from her Backhouse Lecture, 2000

“ Everyday prophets are people who listen for the Voice of the Light, who might walk humbly even as they come to speak boldly, following the path of compassion and justice... One of our great gifts is the potential for each of us to act with divine grace, that we might each be an everyday prophet. As such, we seek to listen on a daily basis for God's guidance. Doing this, we can be faithful prophetic voices in very ordinary ways—be it through prayer, caring for our neighbours, small acts of kindness—even as some of us are called to a larger, radical prophetic vision and voice. We do this best as part of a community that is able to carry a vision of the New Creation, the Kingdom of God, being formed on earth as we remind each other to listen for the movement of the Spirit and be open to a fresh way of being.”

Margery Post Abbott from her Backhouse lecture, 2016.

*We see this challenging time as an opportunity for opening to the possibility of Quaker communities allowing for their prophetic voices to be heard.*

*May we walk with renewed trust and strength.*

# Pray



Our thoughts and prayers are with all those affected by pandemic and war and environmental disaster.

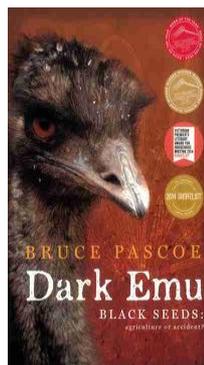
### And Watch...

**Craig Reucassel's "Big Weather (and how to survive it)" starting on ABC (iView):** Sharing stories from frontline disaster crews, experts and communities dealing with the effects of our escalating climate emergency, *Big Weather (and how to survive it)* seeks to answer some big questions: Why are these events becoming less predictable and more intense? And what can we do to prepare, survive, and adapt into the future?

# Read

The Heart of the Prophetic Message

**QuakerSpeak: How Quakers Can Transform The World**  
(~3 minutes)  
Featuring Noah Baker Merrill  
(New England Yearly Meeting)  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sDBva-1UFY8>

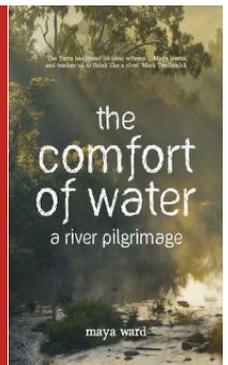
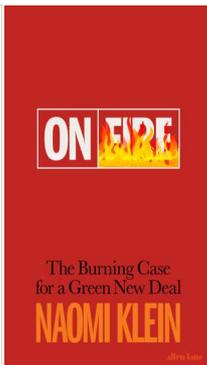
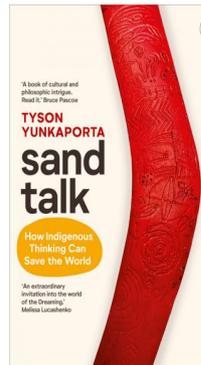


THE FUTURE WE CHOOSE



Surviving the Climate Crisis

Christiano Figueres and Tom Rivett-Carnac  
Architects of the 2015 Paris Agreement



And one more: theologian Walter Brueggemann's 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of "The Prophetic Imagination"... some diverse suggestions from the Earthcare Committee for your ongoing reading.

## Quaker Quote

*What I know is this: unless we use our pain in service to others, all of that muck will render our souls into acrid, useless lumps. But transformed, we become personifications of God as a verb, not as a noun, and the power is unmistakable.*

- Diane D'Angelo, hospice chaplain, Mountain View Meeting in Denver, Colorado (2020)

## Act



Quakers were part of a renewable energy action at Cottesloe Beach, WA

Act in collaboration with other Friends (in your Meeting or by more remote connection)? For example: letter writing around the issue of 'gas as a transition fuel'; ask Friends to write a submission with you. Websites for organisations active in affected communities offer ways to get involved.

Can you attend a rally or protest or visit a local member of parliament as a group of Quakers? Can you do an online action together? The Meeting House can be a hub for action and fellowship.

Can you contact a Friend you haven't spoken with for a while. Consider making space for checking in with how you are both feeling about earthcare issues. Share in their stories of achievement and resilience, as well as their capacities for engagement, whether bold and adventurous or gentle and quiet. Could this be a conversation after Meeting?

Engaging with others, whether we know them well or not, around topics of earthcare, resilience, capacity, understanding, and insight, can grow community and connect us in the spirit.

## Celebrate



We welcome the Proposed Expert Working Group for Quaker climate action brought forward by some members of Canberra Regional Meeting.

We are heartened to hear of discernment around the country for the continuation of the AYM Earthcare when WARM lays it down next July.

We notice the increased focus and attention on 'regenerative agriculture', including WA's Minister for Agriculture continuing to grow support and education for this in the primary production sector.

Nannas Protecting Native Forests in WA brought logging to a halt in Helms Forest between Nannup and Margaret River.

*"Everyday prophets are already part of our communities. We all might be such people. Everyday prophets are at once ordinary and radical, both humble and bold. They act out of a weave of mercy and justice, valuing each being on this earth. Might we cherish those among us who are so faithful."* - Margery Post Abbott

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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](http://www.quakersaustralia.info/Earthcare)  
The other twelve 'Earthcare Invitations' are available there.

Please be in touch with us at AYM Earthcare Committee [cearthcare@quakersaustralia.info](mailto:cearthcare@quakersaustralia.info)