

Brown, Rosemary Madge 30 June 1925 - 18 July 2021

Testimony to the Grace of God in the Life of Rosemary Madge Brown

Rose and Lindsay Brown were warmly welcomed into Membership in August 1983. Their Visitors said that Rosemary and Lindsay were in sympathy with Friends' testimonies. Indeed, Rose, supported by Lindsay, trusted in the promptings of truth and love in her heart and let her life speak.

Rosemary Brown, the youngest of Frank and Madge Edwards' six children, grew up in Ulverstone, North West Tasmania. She met and married Lindsay Brown after the war and they built a home on the Berriedale foreshore near Frying Pan Island. They had four children: Nicholas, Sally, Craig, and Simon. Rose worked in graphic design and after completing a Bachelor of Arts she taught English in a number of high schools including the Friends' School.

During the 1960s and 70s Rose was drawn to the emerging Aboriginal movement and became active in the Aboriginal Treaty Support Group. In the 1980s Rose had a concern about the impending Bicentennial celebrations because of the injustices suffered by Aboriginal people. Supported by the Hobart Quaker Peace and Social Justice Committee, Rose and Friend, Jennie Herrera, took this concern to Regional Meeting and Yearly Meeting (January 1987). They were asked to convene a short-term committee, the 1988 Committee, which focused Friends' attitudes concerning participation in the observance of the Bicentennial celebrations in view of the Federal Government's lack of progress in granting Land Rights to Aboriginal people. Also it provided Friends with continuing information. This work led Friends to take a stand not to play any official role in the Bicentennial celebrations because of the effect on Aboriginal people of the coming of white people to Australia.

Rose continued to work for Friends on Aboriginal and other concerns through the Tasmanian Council of Churches, serving on its Justice and World Development Committee.

In addition, Rose started adult education classes on racism awareness. She helped establish the Glenorchy Reconciliation Group, which was committed to educate the community to understand and respect cultural heritage. One of the Glenorchy Reconciliation Group's ongoing major projects has been the rehabilitation and conservation of Frying Pan Island, a favourite spot of the Mouheneneer people, as well as Rose and her family.

Working towards reconciliation was fundamental to Rose though she certainly had other concerns: refugees, conservation, the banning of toy armaments, saving the Berriedale Community Centre, and working with Eve Masterman to create the Berriedale International Peace Park. Rose used to write tirelessly to MPs and the newspaper, drawing attention to things that mattered.

Underlying Rose's passion to struggle for justice was love: love for her family, people and life itself. This is clearly seen in her two books, *Madge's People* (written with and about her mother) and *there's life in the old dog yet* (written with her sister Eliza about their father). Rose's love was also seen in the way she and Jennie helped Val Nichols collate and publish Val's poems *A sort of therapy* (1989), then Eve Masterman's *Poems* (1999).

Rose was surely a pattern, an example, letting her life speak and walking cheerfully

over the world, answering that of God in everyone.

Notice

There will be a Meeting for Worship to give thanks for the Grace of God in the life of Rosemary Brown on Saturday 13 November at 10.00am in the Meeting House, Hobart.

Tasmania Regional Meeting e-Notices, 3 November 2021

Minute of Record

We have heard a Testimony to the Grace of God in the Life of Rosemary Brown read by Sally McGushin. We acknowledge with gratitude her life of service to the meeting and the community, and hope that these memories bring comfort to her family and friends. Tasmania Regional Meeting, 3 October 2021, Minute 5.

Minute of Record

We have heard of the death of our Friend Rose Brown on 18 July, 2021 and are thankful for the grace of God in her life and for her membership of this meeting. We ask Ministry to bring forward the names of two Friends to prepare testimony to the grace of God in the life of Rosemary Brown. Meeting for Worship for Business Minutes, Tasmania Regional Meeting, 8 August 2021, Minute 4.

Notice

Our Friend Rose Brown died on Sunday 18th July at home, age 96, with her family present. Both she and her husband Lindsay, who died in 2018, became members in 1983. She had been living at Strathaven, Hobart. She was an activist for the rights of women, the indigenous and refugees and for the environment and against war. Tasmania Regional Meeting e-Notices, 28 July 2021.