



Photos: Peter Hogg and Toby Reid

How to Donate

Please make payments via bank transfer to the following account:

Account Name: Victoria Regional Meeting
 BSB: 313 140
 Account Number: 1207 2881

Use the reference "BF" followed by your name eg "*BF John Smith*". If you wish to make an anonymous donation simply use the reference "BF".



Target
\$162,000

Bequests

It may be that you don't have spare funds to contribute to Friends' causes, but that you could leave a bequest to the Regional Meeting in your will. If you would like to explore this idea further, please talk to a member of the Regional Meeting Finance Committee.



Quaker Victoria Regional Meeting **BUILDING FUND APPEAL** for the **Victorian Friends Centre**



The Victorian Friends Centre at 484 Williams Street, West Melbourne, 3003.

-0-0-0-0-0-

"Be patterns, be examples, in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come; that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone; whereby in them ye may be a blessing, and make the witness of God in them to bless you" (George Fox, 1656)

Our Journey

- **23 July 1843:** First Meeting for Worship at Edward and Deborah Sayce's house in Little Bourke Street.
- **March 1860:** The Friends Meeting House at 20 Russell Street opened.
- **1953:** Melbourne Friends moved to Friends House, 631 Orrong Road Toorak.
- **1960s:** Addition of four flats at the rear of the Orrong Road property.
- **2013:** Sale of Friends House.
- **June 2014:** Remembrance and Thanksgiving weekend.
- **2014/2015:** Temporary Accommodation in Toorak Road South Yarra.
- **August 2015:** Purchase of The Victorian Friends Centre, 484 William Street, West Melbourne.
- **October 2015:** The Building Committee begins work with the architects.
- **July 2016:** Stage 1 commenced (completed in March 2017).
- **April 2019:** Stage 2 commenced (completed in April 2020).

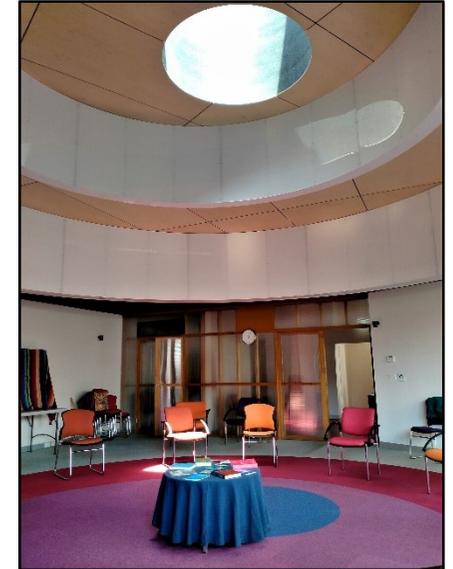


Photo: Bob Thomas

The Financial Need

The Friends Meeting House in Russell Street was built using money largely contributed by British and Irish Friends. The Orrong Road Meeting House was funded from the sale of 20 Russell Street. The current Victorian Friends' Centre was purchased for \$2,650,000 using proceeds of the sale of the Orrong Road property.

When Friends bought the VFC, it was essentially two separate office premises, and it needed to be reconfigured in order to suit our needs. We removed partitions to give us larger spaces and we put in disabled access bathroom facilities, a lift, a kitchen, and staircases. Stage 2 of the renovations transformed the Meeting Space into an area which is bright, open and welcoming. All up, our renovations cost more than \$2,000,000



Friends were advised when we embarked on Stage 2 that it would cost more than we had in our building funds, but we went ahead knowing that we could have a building appeal to recover the shortfall. At the end of the building works, this shortfall turned out to be about \$162,000. Much of this cost was devoted to preparing the building for a potential future additional floor. Short term expenditure was approved in the interests of long term economy.

This means that about 92% of the cost of the renovations was met by what we had in building funds. The additional cost drew down on our investments and we are asking the present generation of Friends to contribute the last 8% of the cost in order to put the building fund back into credit. Please consider carefully how you might contribute to this Building Fund Appeal.

The Courtyard

We have not yet been able to undertake any large scale work on the courtyard. Individual Friends have begun work and some plants and pots have been donated, which is wonderful, and this has begun to transform the space. We would love to be able to really turn this area into an oasis of green. Development of the courtyard is an ongoing project.