

Earthcare Invitation

... and then, Recovery

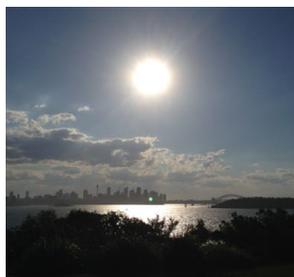
Advices
& Queries

A compilation of
Australian and British
Advices and Queries

Australian Study Meeting
English Province of Friends in Australia

"...In order to secure the survival of all, including ourselves, are you prepared to change your ideas about who you are in relation to your environment and every living thing in it?" (Advice and Queries, number 44)

Pray



Sydney Sun
by Adrian Glamorgan

After the summer heat and bushfire ravages we are faced with a global health challenge, which can feel overwhelming. How do we bring grace into this time? Where do we find or offer hope, and where do we find strength for recovery and stepping into what comes next?

We offer our willingness to be steady in this time, looking for learnings about how we can work to protect and heal our planet and our relationship with Earth, while attending to what Love requires of us in our communities.

Help us to give and do what we can for all people, indeed for all beings who suffer the effects of fire, drought, flood; from loss, illness, and fear. Our understanding of how these stresses are linked with global warming, and so with our corporate historical actions, can strengthen us in our earthcare work.

Help us to be strong and compassionate and generous.

<https://www.quakersaustralia.info/news/australian-quakers-respond-messages-concern-following-recent-bushfires>

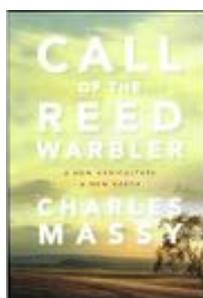
From the bushfire response letter by AYM's Presiding Clerk "... It is a painful time, reminding us that we are all experiencing a shared calamity, one that makes new demands on every citizen in Australia, as it does on people all around the world..."

"Radical Joy for Hard Times: Finding Meaning and Making Beauty in Earth's Broken Places" by **Trebbe Johnson** (also online at radicaljoy.org) is renewing the well of inspiration for activists and earthcarers.

"Call of the Reed Warbler: A New Agriculture, A New Earth" by **Charles Massy**, considers: "What is it that makes a landscape, and how in the face of Australian summers that now year by year seem to be fiercer and more desiccating, do I continue to manage and regenerate this extraordinary world around me?"

While warnings and dire emergencies are rife, let's keep reading to buoy and re-energise ourselves and open those spaces to others. We hold in mind the power of Spirit to lift us up, and open us.

Read



Quaker Quote

We are called to consider the world as an enspirited whole, to accept no boundary to repairing and sustaining the Earth for the future, and to appreciate more deeply the creative energy in all living things and life processes. We seek to mend what has been hurt, and to strengthen our courage to discern and bear witness to this spiritual care for the Earth. (From AYM Earthcare Statement, 2008)

Act



T shirt available from ARRCC

Living the Change, initiated around Australia by ARRCC (Australian Response to Climate Change) has events and activities to grow our sense of belonging with community; and personal responses, which support recovery from the feelings of overwhelm or disconnect. Their website, www.arrcc.org.au/living_the_change, has inspiring words and ideas for action from religious leaders and spokespeople.

As Shelley Tanenbaum, General Secretary of Quaker Earthcare Witness (US) says: "It helps to feel confident that I am on the right path, even when the goals seem daunting. It also helps to be aware that I am part of a larger movement towards positive change, and that change may take more than my lifetime to ever be accomplished. I am sharing this journey with faith-based and other change-makers, most of us working on different threads of action, all based in love."

With spreading global uncertainty, how do we keep a focus on Earthcare and 'living the change'?

While we are maintaining contact with Friends who may be isolated or vulnerable through the COVID-19 epidemic, let's share ways to do this.

What one thing would make an environmental difference when we shop?

How can we keep our sense of connection with nature and the natural world?

Celebrate



Climate protest Perth
by Desire Mallett

In the wake of the bushfires we see growing openness to indigenous knowledge of firestick agriculture, and perhaps more willingness to listen to traditional custodians of this country.

Serious attention is evident across community, industry, business, media and even government to the true state of climate emergency; a significant shift since last we wrote.

Also after the bushfires, there has been a wave of concern and growing awareness of the vulnerability and possible extinction of wildlife in Australia. Outpourings of support, evidenced in crafters making marsupial pouches, and monies from worldwide, have flowed to supportive organisations.

In response to ongoing concerns, another big Australian student strike is planned for May 15, 2020 - young peoples' alarm for the future of the Earth is being aired and growing support across former divides.

An international shift we celebrate: China's legislative body, the National People's Congress Standing Committee, approved a permanent nationwide ban on the consumption and illegal trade of wild animals, part of an effort to stop the spread of the most recent strain of coronavirus, which is thought to have originated in a 'wet' market in the city of Wuhan.

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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

The other eleven 'Earthcare Invitations' are available there.

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