

# TRM Earth Care Working Group

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## MINUTES Meeting 15 June 2020

*Peace and Justice Committee, Tasmanian Regional Meeting*

ZOOM Meeting, 15 June 2020, 2:30 PM. Janice and Stephen Blakeney, NW Coast Recognised Meeting, convenors

**Welcome.**

**Present at this meeting:** Jan, Steve, Maxine, Sally, Lucy

**Apologies:** Karen

### Recognition of Indigenous Landowners

*I/We acknowledge and pay respect to the Tasmanian Aboriginal people as the traditional and original owners, and continuing custodians of this land on which we gather today and acknowledge Elders – past and present.*

### For Reflection

“We cannot doubt that we too have been given the intellectual vision, the spiritual insight, and even the physical resources we need for carrying out the transition that is demanded of these times, transition from the period when humans were a disruptive force on the planet Earth to the period when humans become present to the planet in a manner that is mutually enhancing.” (Thomas Berry, *The Great Work*, p. 11)

## RE: Vision Statement

The following has been offered for consideration from Jan and Steve: **“Earth Care Working Group will work to discern, bear witness and act on our convictions to halt the degradation of the earth.”**  
*Members were in unity as to the wording of this statement with minor changes to include full title of the group and remove the word “duty”.*

## RE: Background Profiles

Karen suggested we submit a brief profile on ourselves and our interests so others may know our backgrounds.

Jan & Steve have submitted their brief and uploaded to Drive file.

*Members shared that working with the Google Drive files presented some challenges. It was considered that using the TRM Website might be easier. Sally O’Wheel as the IT person for the Website offered to create an “Earth Care Working Group” page where minutes and documents could be uploaded and thereby accessible to all Friends. It was considered helpful if members could also submit a thumbnail portrait/photo of themselves to go with their information.*

## RE: Summaries of Documents uploaded to Google Drive

As per suggestion from Karen, members are encouraged to summarize content of documents that they upload to Google Drive.

*Members were encouraged to continue to do summaries of documents and highlight specific items for attention. TRM Website page would be available for lodging documents. Sally O’Wheel as TRM*

Webpage manager has created a file space for the Earthcare group where we can upload documents: Link to this file is <https://www.quakersaustralia.info/organisation/regional-meetings/tasmania-regional-meeting/tasmanian-friends-earth-care-working-group>

## List of Areas of Concerns

- Human population and its impact of consumption on the world's finite resources (Janice & Stephen)
- Injustice of and lack of sharing those resources with the developing world's peoples (Janice & Stephen)
- Development at the expense of native habitat in ignorance of the recognised conservation practises of Tasmania's native peoples and species extinction (Maxine)
- Acknowledgement of the great harm humankind has imposed on the planet with particular reference to the Australian situation (Maxine and Lucy)
- Realizing our duty to discern, bear witness and act on our convictions to halt the degradation of the earth that is the cause of climate change. (Sally)
- animal rights, contribution of animal agriculture to climate crises (Lucy)
- our duty in Tasmania to protect these forests and the incredible natural environment we have here. (Lucy) (Sally)
- Promote regenerative agricultural practices ( including common land usage) (Maxine)

## New Business/reports:

1. From **Maxine Barry**: Briefing on content of "Active Hope" by Macy/Johnstone. Steps to prioritizing actions.
  - to consider the usefulness of vows as a commitment, using the Macy ones or our own.
  - to consider the Co-intelligence method for setting priorities and action steps.

The Vows should be in the folder –

Considering the points outlined in "Active Hope", members were in unity that the processes described as "Co-Intelligence" would be constructive to the Working Group's goal setting and action plans.

- 1) Member will contribute to a list of "visions" of what an ideal would look like for the earth's sustainability (White Board)
  - 2) Member will contribute a short list of actions that would be needed to progress or bring about the required changes needed to fulfil the vision
  - 3) Member will identify what would be needed for the actions to happen
  - 4) Member will create statements (pledges or vows) to commit into actions. These to be filed together on TRM Website for access of those volunteering action and those seeking to help instrument actions.
2. From **Jan & Steve**: We are Legacy members of the Australian Conservation Foundation as well as subscription members of SPA (Sustainable Population Australia). SPA has been notified by one of its members, the Port Philip Conservation Council, that it is considering withdrawing membership from ACF because the latter has no policy on human population contributing to climate crisis or environmental destruction. We have contacted SPA and offered to be voices to ACF on the issue. As members of both organisations, we have voting rights. SPA is considering our offer. Further contact with SPA has confirmed that whatever

organization is approached with the need to acknowledge population pressures on the climate and earth's resources has little chance for expression because funding from the public (or government or business) shies away from controversy which may put at risk ongoing campaign funding. Jan & Steve will continue to monitor this topic.

3. **From Sally:** activities in her schedule include being conveyor of the Braddon Greens and participation with Extinction Rebellion (Northern Tasmania Branch) in distrusting logging activities.
4. **From Maxine:** Participated in auditing several ZOOM meetings: (1) Religions for Peace, International (2) Bushfire Consequences of Climate Change (with Greg Mullins, former fire chief, and Cheryl Currant former Defence Department employee now member of Climate Council). Latter identified three areas of best advocacy: Local Government, State Government and Business sector. (3) Farmers concerned with Climate Action. Maxine also reports she is a member of Extinction Rebellion Hobart group.

## Closing Reflection

### Close: Next Meeting Monday 20 July 2020 at 2:30 PM

Topic: TRM Earthcare Working Group

Time: This is a recurring meeting 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday monthly at 2:30 pm

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83935888045?pwd=NFpLdmw0WHIOMkd3SEZzSXdkSTRiUT09>

Meeting ID: 839 3588 8045

Password: 5EPYfr