

# TRM Earth Care Working Group

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MINUTES Meeting 19 October 2020, 2:30 PM on ZOOM

Present at this Meeting: **Janice, Maxine Sally**

Apologies: **Karen, Steve**

## *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, present and emerging.*

## **For Reflection**

“Perhaps the impatient voices among us are Spirit-led. For that matter, how do we know that God herself is not impatiently rolling her eyes when she hears another call to “season” something until next month’s or next year’s meeting?

Why do we seem to assume that the frequently heard statement “I do not feel led” is a sign of responsible, careful discernment, as opposed to a sign of unwillingness to listen?

But I wonder, could it be that our mechanisms of discernment are acting as overly powerful brakes on Spirit-led impulses? Could it be (as one Friend put it) that we are deifying Quaker process: elevating the architecture of decision making over the call of Spirit to help heal this beautiful, bleeding world?

Before demanding a long process of discernment, or running a modest idea through a gauntlet of committees and checkpoints, could we just say, “Yes! Give it a try! What do you need to bring that idea to life in our meeting?” Could we **do as Henry Cadbury suggested: stop consulting the seed catalogue; get on with planting our garden; and see what comes up? If it is weeds, we will know it. We can then take action as needed.**”

*Kat Griffith, member of the Winnebago Worship Group in east central Wisconsin and works with Quaker organizations at the local, regional, national, and international levels. Formerly a homeschooler and teacher, she is now pretty much a full-time volunteer activist and writer.*

## **Reports**

- Janice, as a member of ACRRC, reports that she (1) has written to the proposed Insurance Companies involved with the Adani Project to reconsider their participation to underwrite this ecologically and culturally destructive (2) has written to Tasmanian Senators asking them to insist on the careful framing of any EPBC amendment legislation, based on the full suite of recommendations from Graeme Samuel’s final report. ( See attached letters.)
- TRM Members Steve, Kevin and Janice attended a joint ZOOM meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2020 presented by David Tinsley of Birmingham Friends QCOP (Quakers Concern Over Population). Video of Sir David Attenborough’s 2018 address to the

Royal Society, London was viewed and discussions followed. Also attending the ZOOM presentation were 6 members of Aotearoa/New Zealand, Wellington Meeting and 8 members of QCOP from Birmingham Meeting. Sir David's address can be seen on line at <https://overpopulation-project.com/people-and-planet-sir-david-attenboroughs-take-on-overpopulation/> His concluding remarks: "It seems to me that every one of the ills of the past 200 years – hunger, famine, loss of identity, forests disappearing, loss of dignity, overcrowding, loss of countryside – it's all to do with increased population. Anywhere that women have control of their bodies and education and are literate and politically independent, the birth rate falls. Kerala in India is an example of that."

Sir David Attenborough

- Janice reports that she submitted two news items to the Friends Journal newsletter for next issue. (1) Report on the above ZOOM presentation with QCOP and (2) information on DVD documentary by Gardener Group, USA "Quakers the Quiet Revolutionaries," now available for purchase. Janice has alerted TRM librarian of the DVD and has purchased one herself.
- OTHER REPORTS – Pacific Yearly Meeting, August 4-6 2020 (virtual with on line sessions).
- **Sally reported Extinction Rebellion Devonport held a demonstration at major city intersection and displayed their banner. Lots of response (not all of it positive) and one incident of a high school student charging through the Rebellion's banner. No injuries or arrests. Sally reported similar demonstrations will be held weekly.**

**NEW BUSINESS:** Providing a social opportunity to re-address climate crisis matters including the over population issue. We heard that the documentary "2040" and David Attenborough's 2018 Address to the Royal Society were both options. It was agreed that the Attenborough presentation was more on point. Julie Walpole suggested holding a "Friendly Friday" or other Share and Tell meeting to learn more about ECWG's focus on climate change/population issues/species extinction etc. See Julie's email

#### **" Ideas for ways forward:**

- **Back to the video** – I'd encourage you to offer perhaps a discussion evening based on the video. Between David Attenborough, Kenneth Boulding (Quaker) who was mentioned in it as, and (you must be able to name a couple more names) there should be enough drawcards to start a discussion. I know that during Covid lockdown, there were groups doing simultaneous viewing of something on Netflix and then a Zoom group or a phone call to discuss the film. (Rather like going to a film with a friend and talking about it over coffee on the way home). There was a name for it but I can't remember it. Maybe a **Friendly Friday?**
- Friends agreed "Friendly Friday" gathering a good place to start. 29<sup>th</sup> January 2121 is next opportunity. Jan will contact David Tinsley (Birmingham UK) of QCOP to see if he could present, in a format such as QCOP used on 8<sup>th</sup> October via ZOOM, the David Attenborough video and hold discussion with Friends in a virtual setting (Hobart) on that date. Maxine will investigate bookings for 29<sup>th</sup> January. Sally and Janice will draft video introduction.

CLOSING REFLECTION

NEXT MEETING:16 November 2020, 2:30 PM on ZOOM

