



## NEWSLETTER

May 2019

Our newsletter is published every two months. If you would like to contribute a story, poem, report, or photo, please send to:

[CRMnewsletter@quakersaustralia.info](mailto:CRMnewsletter@quakersaustralia.info).

We have a terrific website: [Canberra Quakers](#).

To find out about Meetings for Worship, look [here](#).



**Silver Wattle Quaker Centre** was purchased ten years ago. **David Johnson** writes about the achievements, and plans for the future. It's time to rebuild the reserves.

Read about how Friends can help ensure the future of the **Quaker Study and Retreat Centre** [here](#).



Here is a well-known member of our community, whose life story was shared with Friends in the Southside Meeting in March. **Les Hartshorn** is pictured astride his 1954 Ariel Square 4. Before Les bought it second-hand it was one of the bikes used by the ACT Police to escort the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh in and around Canberra during their first visit to Australia. Les' interesting life story (so far!) and reflections, including more historic photos, are [here](#).

The **Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee** is part of **Australia Yearly Meeting**. It produces regular action alerts, which are informative briefs on issues of importance, in which the Quaker perspective is highlighted. [Here](#) is a recent action alert on the proposal to increase funding to the Australian War Memorial by \$498M. QPLC action alerts are on the AYM [website](#).



### **Vietnam for Beginners**

Hoi An is an ancient city visited by **Marie and Brian Harlech-Jones** during their year in Vietnam as volunteers with Australian Volunteers International (AVI). Read about their experiences and reflections [here](#).

# QUAKERSPEAK

Many Friends may have heard of the **QuakerSpeak** series of videos that is produced by Friends Journal in the USA. I have watched every single QuakerSpeak episode since they first started being distributed and also now help fund them through [Patreon](#), which is a crowd-funding platform. I have also helped in suggesting speakers to be interviewed.

Many Quaker communities now have QuakerSpeak videos embedded in their websites, particularly to support newcomers, and various Quaker presenters are using the videos as part of workshops. QuakerSpeak is meeting a need that Friends have in the modern world to understand ourselves as a faith community and to help share that knowledge with others. Quaker Speak works with Friends World Committee for Consultation and other Quaker bodies to be broadly representative. Most of the videos present the views of a diverse range of Friends.

Many of the clips are really worth watching, one of my recent favourites is of a Friend of mine, David, who I introduced to the producer of QuakerSpeak to have him interviewed - see here: <http://quakerspeak.com/ministering-to-the-poor/>. Another great recent clip that I hope everyone will watch is this one: <http://quakerspeak.com/when-to-speak-in-quaker-worship/> I have copies of the first two seasons on DVD in case anyone wants to watch them that way but all the videos ever created are available, and searchable, on the Quaker Speak website: <http://quakerspeak.com/>.

I make a special plea to Friends in Australia not to reject or discount resources from other countries, particularly the USA, due to real, or perceived, cultural differences. Having adjusted to living with Americans and now returned, I have found that some Australians are disposed to write off American works because they perceive the American presenters as brash or too sure of themselves. I encourage us all to listen to the message in the ministry as there is real spiritual treasure in this resource for us in Australia. Our Quakerism is not so different to that in the USA even if our approach to communication is more reserved.

**Sally Kingsland**



**Reg Naulty** writes book reviews regularly for the newsletter. His poem called "Memories of Babies" is [here](#).



Our Friend **Ronis Chapman** is Secretary of the Asia West Pacific Section of FWCC. The recent newsletter includes the following: In order to secure a stable Asia West Pacific Section into the future, funding is needed from individuals and local meetings in addition to the funds that come from affiliated yearly meetings. Please consider supporting AWPS today.

It also reports on the Aotearoa/New Zealand Quaker Lecture, given by Terry Waite, British humanitarian, who talks about the issue of penal reform. [Here](#) is the link to the lecture "Crime and Punishment".

**From Julia Gibson, a teacher at The Friends' School:** I am writing to share with you information about an incredibly important new film about what our Australian doctors are saying about their experience of working with refugees in offshore detention centres. *[See my report next page.](#)*



In case you don't know, **Heather Kirkpatrick** is in the finishing stages of her new film *Against Our Oath*, after four years on the road. It's a compelling story and she has a strong belief she can make positive social change in our communities as did her first film *Mary Meets Mohammad*.

**Heather says:**

*"Have a preview look at the documentary: <https://chuffed.org/project/againstouroath>. There is also information about how to support the completion of the making of the film. I know *Against Our Oath* can make a huge social impact and it is my passion to make that the case."*

If you don't know Heather, she is an extraordinary woman with incredible integrity. She took Bob Brown down the Franklin for his 60th Birthday, has walked solo around the Siberian Lake Baikal, run across New Zealand and climbed incredible peaks. Her work now is focused on Human Rights, Social Justice and Environmental issues. If you are able to support her with even just a small donation I know she will be incredibly grateful.

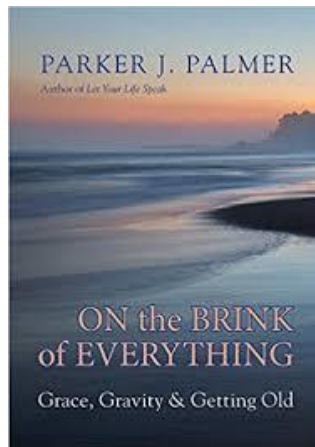
**Julia Gibson**



This is **Jill Sutton**, a member of the Turner Meeting. This photo appeared in the last edition, without the text which should have accompanied it. Jill is still doing her best to alert people to the pending climate catastrophe. [Here](#) is her recent letter to the editor.

**Wagga Wagga Meeting for Worship** is held on the first and third Sundays at 10.00 am at The Bridge Drop-In Centre, Uniting Church, 21 Johnston Street. Read more about the April meetings [here](#).

## BOOK REVIEW: Parker J Palmer, On the Brink Of Everything - Grace, Gravity and Getting Old



This weekend I have been reading Parker J Palmer: “On the Brink of Everything - grace, gravity and getting old” which has been a comforting, encouraging and affirming way to spend the weekend.

This is a collection of essays on ageing, reflecting on his life and what he has learnt. The short book is made up of seven chapters, each with a few essays and poems. Many references to Thomas Merton who has been a reference point and guide throughout his life.

He is challenging, saying that the motto for ageing is “nothing to lose” so go out and confront your fears and expand your horizons at an age when the temptation is to become more insular. He is frank about his experiences with depression and encouraging on the usefulness of writing as therapy and a creative outlet. He provides comfort and a way forward when the world does not turn out as we might have hoped.

Highly recommended.

**Mark Schipp**

(The ACT Public Library has a copy of this book: join the queue!)

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## COMPANY

Where two or three are gathered together, that  
is about enough.



**Les A. Murray (1938-2019)**

The Vernacular Republic: Poems 1961-1983, Angus & Robertson Publishers 1988

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