

Peace and Justice Meeting 18/10/20

Attending in person: Maxine Barry, Katherine Purnell, Peter Jones, Kay Allport, Jenni Bond

Online attendees: Sam Nolan, Karen Dedenczuk, Jo Petrov, Julie Walpole

From last meeting/past business:

1. Letter to Darren Chester from Maxine has had no answer regarding spending on the War Memorial.
2. Concern was expressed again that there is no information about how Attorneys General voted on the issue of raising the age of incarceration, including Elise Archer.
3. Haven't heard from Penny Wong regarding the Julian Assange court case.
4. Indue card: Jacqui Lambie has been contacted by Maxine on behalf of the committee to express concern about this issue. Karen hasn't caught up with the editor of the Mercury but has also written to Jacqui Lambie.
5. Jacqui Lambie knocked off the mobile phone bill and also spoke movingly about the changes to higher education bill. A number of members have written to JL to express gratitude to her and in support of her stance on these issues.
6. Pokie reform- Karen going to organise meeting with Rebecca White after this week.
7. On the bus to sites of significance to Indigenous Tasmanians- waiting until COVID situation better, however Maxine will gauge interest for this.
8. Maxine has brought copies of Disarming Times to Meeting for distribution, and has also sent copies to Janice. Julie Walpole and Karen Dedenczuk to also receive copies.
9. Earth at Peace conference link provided in last month's minutes. A book is also going to be launched- contact Maxine if you are interested in attending a virtual book launch on the Tuesday 27th October.
10. Friends Peace Teams- Julie is going to ask Jane about addressing the November Peace and Justice meeting in Launceston on 15/11 at 11.30am.
11. Update on Aunty Dawn- she held another yarning circle in St Helens last weekend with mostly young people. Got down to business very quickly and was enjoyed by all present. Artwork made by students with some storytelling. This program will continue in early December with an exhibition early next year. Aunty Dawn contacted by Catholic schools up North, she also went to Devonport.
12. Zali Steggall- Jenni sent her a letter supporting her opposition to the "gas led recovery" and also spoke about a private member's bill to ban political donations promoted on Zali's website. See her website, it is fantastic <https://www.zalisteggall.com.au/> , and the proposed bill is available here: https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Finance_and_Public_Administration/BanningDonations with submissions closing 6 November. As a side note, Jenni also spoke about the sea bin project <https://seabinproject.com/> . Has contacted Anna Reynolds and Helen Burnet about organising a sea bin thing.

13. Julie reshared Peace Festival information

<https://mailchi.mp/ae7ba1127aac/international-day-of-peace?e=a512b3efe6> and spoke about the Peace Garden.

This meeting's business

1. Karen brought up the proposed Bushfire Mitigation Bill, which does not recognise Indigenous bushfire practices and also affects private land owners who use Indigenous burning practices. Submissions close today, 23rd October https://forms.dpac.tas.gov.au/bushfire_submissions.
2. Annual Arthur and Hilda Winch memorial lecture from Sydney University with Bruce Pascoe, which was held on the 19th October, entitled 'Perennial Soil' available on <https://www.sydney.edu.au/engage/events-sponsorships/sydney-ideas/2020/bruce-pascoe-perennial-soil.html>.
3. Sue-Neill Fraser appeal has been postponed to next March according to Jo.
4. Letter back from Roger Jaensch about Aboriginal Heritage- Jenni read this out. Katherine spoke about the limited power of Aboriginal people to object to developments.
5. Sally O'Wheel has asked whether Peace and Justice minutes should go on the Quakers Australia website. If so, should they be password protected? There was agreement that this should be the case, in that they will be available to Quakers only.
6. Katherine spoke about Foodbank with huge numbers of people added now that support programs are running out. Idea proposed that we as Quakers could support them with a donation, with a motion to be submitted from the P+J meeting to TRM. Julie says that the treasurer advises that funding is available.
7. Maxine had an email update from ICAN. Tuvalu has ratified the resolution on banning nuclear weapons, bringing the number of states supporting this to 47 out of the 50 required. See <https://icanw.org.au/>
8. Katherine spoke about the Saturday Paper warning that there will be big change to refugees brought from Manus island. The article (may have paywall blocking access) available at <https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/news/politics/2020/10/17/exclusive-war-refugees-moves-final-phase-onshore/160285320010560>
9. Kay spoke about MRC who are not expecting new refugees until later next year. Housing units are being given back to the state government, meant to be used as social housing for homeless in Northern suburbs. MRC to purchase Glenorchy caravan park for refugee arrivals. There has been a slashing of budget for refugees, with funding going instead to migrant workers. Concern that this work may be a missed opportunity for refugees.

Other business: It was noted that perhaps starting later than 11.30 would be helpful for future meetings, although next month's meeting will indeed start at 11.30am due to the presentation from Jane from the Friends' Peace Teams.