

Peace and Justice Meeting 20/9/20

Attending in person: Maxine Barry, Peter Jones, Sam Nolan, Jenni Bond

Online attendees: Janice Blakeney, Kay Allport, Katherine Purnell

Apologies: Karen Dedenczuk, Sally Mcgushin, Julie Walpole (to send newsletter from Tamar Peace Trust)

From last meeting business

1. Excessive spending on war memorial. Darren Chester (minister for veterans' affairs) was contacted by Maxine, with no response as yet. William De Maria has a good article explaining the issue
<https://www.michaelwest.com.au/australian-war-memorial-from-keeper-of-the-flame-to-hider-of-shame/>
2. Elise Archer was contacted (by Maxine) about raising the age of imprisonment from 10 years old before the national meeting of Attorneys General. For context NSW attorney general has said that children should not commit crime without consequences apparently. Has been an outcry about this. The meeting of the attorneys general about this issue has been pushed back to next year. There is no record about how each of the AG's have voted on this issue.
3. Maxine has written to Penny Wong about Julian Assange's imprisonment. Details around the case have become more clear as the case is being fought. Google for updates.
4. Karen was going to contact Mercury about the Indue card. Members are encouraged to contact Jacqui Lambie to urge her to oppose the rollout of this card.
5. Reminder of survey for mobile phone bill is available on Jacqui Lambie's website
https://www.senatorlambie.com.au/advise_jacqui
6. Quakers Australia endorsed a letter from the National Council of Churches on the 75th anniversary of Hiroshima, calling on the Australian Government to support the outlawing of nuclear weapons.

This meetings business

1. Pokie reform- Karen to organise meeting with Rebecca White with P+J meeting members about this.
2. Karen suggested a bus tour to significant sites including massacre sites in Tasmania. Karen is a bus driver, also. Those present endorsed this as an excellent idea. A similar trip has been done previously with Quakers in the North, going to 15 sites. Sally O'Wheel has the addresses of the site.
3. Correspondence: Disarming Times has arrived (excellent publication)- headline articles on past three publications have been- Trump's definition of peace in Israel, Arudhati Roy on Covid in India, Richard Flanagan on Behrooz Boochani and Australia's stance on refugees. Maxine will forward copies to Northern members.

4. Maxine attended a conference on Earth at Peace (www.earthatpeace.org.au). Included a public forum with Behrooz Boochani
5. Maggi at Meeting for Worship mentioned about Religions for Peace meeting- talking about a program called Charter for Compassion. This was adopted by Australia in 2009- some cities around the world have adopted the Charter (in Australia, Ballarat and the Gold Coast). Lord Mayor Anna Reynolds supportive, as is business manager Tim Short. There is a TED talk by Karen Armstrong about this for those interested. She has had an interesting life, her biography is recommended. Reminder of meeting of Compassionate Cities meeting for interested peoples. Contact sussfam@bigpond.com for link to Zoom meeting at 12-1pm tomorrow (21/9/20)
6. Friend's Peace teams convenor (Jane Drexler) now living in Launceston. Keen to spread word about this. Will be invited to address our next meeting on the 18th of October. They work mainly in the Asia West Pacific.
7. At Yearly Meeting in 2016, Regional Meetings were challenged to become involved with elders in each state. Has been a difficult space to get into in Tasmania. Supporting Aunty Dawn Blazeley is an opportunity to act on this challenge. She is working in Tasmanian Catholic primary schools and will soon be working in state schools. She is doing art with classes at the same time at the same time as storytelling about Tasmanian Indigenous life. There has been a presentation to Aboriginal education workers about this and they are keen to involve her in their programs. With the increasing workload on Aunty Dawn she needs support, which would take the form of employing a PA for 1 ½ days per week. Looking at trialling this for 3 months so far. Committee accepted that this would be an excellent proposal for Quakers to support, through Tasmanian Regional Meeting.

Kay stressed the importance of getting into schools, and mentioned previous good work at Bowen Road Primary with Nathan Maynard and partner.

8. Peter brought up sending money to Wangan and Jagalingou people in Queensland. Committee agreed on sending \$50.
9. Jenni spoke about a group in East Timor suing the Australian Government about land and water degradation (possibly Jenni can provide a link for this)
10. Julie wants Tamar Peace Festival letter attached- see attachment