

JUSTICE & PEACE COMMITTEE June 20 2021

Present: Maxine Barry, Jo Petrov, Kay Allport, Sally McGushin, Felicity Rose, Katherine Purnell,
Apologies: Peter Jones, Janice Blakeney

Correspondence:

The Link (National Council of Churches)
MSF magazine and appeal letters
UNHCR appeal
MyState statement - dividend from franking credit
Disarming Times X 2 issues

Business/matters arising:

1. \$50.00 forwarded to Wangan & Jagalingou people - Resistance on Country, via Chuffed.org as they seem not to have an account of their own. Paid by Maxine and reimbursed by RM Treasurer. Minute had been accepted by the Committee via online consultation in May as follows:

“The Justice and Peace Committee of TRM supports the struggle of the Wangan and Jagalingou Traditional Owners of the land taken over by the Adani mine, and votes to send \$50 to assist with the associated expenses of the campaign.”

1. Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC)
2. Maxine attended two on-line organiser training workshops. Very useful, especially the concept of Circles of Commitment. Core, Committed... Final circle Crowd. Each level has a role to play. Helps to analyse who might be able to do something and what could be asked of them.
3. Campaign steps: letter writing to PM. Discussion: to use our next July committee meeting to encourage all attenders to join in a letter writing bee. Each letter to be individually handwritten with return address, Recipient is obliged to respond to each one. They will be sent to ARRCC to deliver en masse to PM office in Cronulla on August 11.
4. Visits to politicians' offices asking for a commitment on climate change action, with promise to return if no action. Maxine will prepare a signup sheet for Hobart attenders.
5. Public event in October t.b.a. (*Note: information to hand: religious vigils on Sunday, October 17, activities outside politician offices on Monday, October 18*)
 3. Letters to Tasmanian politicians, State and Federal: Clerks are agreed to allow Maxine to sign on their behalf so that the entire burden can be lifted from them. Maxine has arrangements in place to get the

letters printed on Thursday, Janice has kindly created and provided self adhesive address labels.

4. Janice is attempting to get an article into the Meander Valley newspaper, and has suggested she will pay for an advertisement in order to overcome their reluctance. J&P endorsed a Minute that Janice be reimbursed \$50 if that should prove to be necessary.

5. School Strike for Climate: Friends scholars were present in uniform. Gill Edmiston took photos of Maxine with the Earthcare Witness banner with students who gave permission for publication in the TRM Newsletter.

6. Regarding the RM Minute supporting the students: Maxine contacted Di Bretherton to find out if Psychologists had updated the research for Climate Crisis, regarding the psychological effects on young people of nuclear war concerns. Di was part of this in the 1980's, in Psychologists for the Prevention of Nuclear War. Di is now Administrator of Facebook page of Psychologists for Peace, focussing on Climate Change as a peace issue. This particular research appears not to have been reiterated, but concerned psychologists are offering online support for climate anxiety. A "climate grief" Zoom workshop was held on May 8. Website: www.psychologyforasafeclimate.org

7. No answer to the letter to Darren Chester reiterating our concerns about the AWM refurbishment. Maxine also sent an objection to the National Capital Authority (*Note: they have now rubber stamped the development, but the Australian Institute of Architects is still campaigning against it.*)

8. Kelly film: *Can Art Stop a Bullet?* Aim to try again to marshal enough viewers (56) to hold a showing in Spring.

9. QPLC report: Sally reported on the latest news from QPLC:

* Our attention has been drawn to ICAN's Ban School, which starts at the end of June. The aim is to inform students about the topic of nuclear weapons as well as to suggest ways they can take action to have them abolished. Sally to promote in the e notices.

* QPLC had a discussion with Lorel Thomas and Dale Hess who explained that artificial intelligence and autonomous weapons systems such as military robots and cyber weapons don't really fit with the Geneva Conventions and Hague Conventions which established international law for humanitarian treatment in war. These weapons reduce responsibility and accountability, and Dale and Lorel warned that governments will find it easier to go to war if they are risking machines rather than people. On the other hand, drones and artificial intelligence machines can be very useful in fighting extreme bushfires. This dilemma is being scrutinised by the UN with a view to possibly banning lethal or fully autonomous weapons under a new international treaty.

* Watching Brief on the **budget** (Federal) outlines some of the major factors, including an increase in defence spending, although a decrease in

defence workforce costs. Sally also notes the increase in immigration planned over the next few years but no increase in the number of refugees, who will be a very small proportion of the total number of migrants. This Watching Brief **21-4**, is available on the Quaker website.

* Watching Brief on **Australia's 2nd National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security 2021-2031** This builds on the first National Action Plan 2012-2018. Watching Brief **21-3** is also available on the website. It also includes a list of the Members of Parliamentary Friends of the Treat on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons.

10. Noted: Bridget Archer spoke in support of refugees but did not follow up by voting accordingly.

11. Witness K trial: pled guilty and was given 3 month suspended sentence, Bernard Collaery trial continues. They were pursued by AG Christian Porter.

Next Meeting July 18