Silver Wattle Share & Tell Report – AYM 2020

The session began with a presentation.

COVID

- It's been a challenging year, with bushfire smoke, drought, and of course COVID.
- COVID provided both risks to manage and opportunities to explore.
- The Centre was shut down entirely from March 2020 to protect our resident Friend, Felicity, and to enable a deep clean in preparation for re-opening.
- SW is gradually re-opening; Small gatherings such as a Board retreat and Gardening week are going ahead, and longer term sojourners are welcome. Courses scheduled from September onward will also go ahead but with a restriction of 12 participants to be able to maintain physical distancing.
- The financial risks have been managed by a combination of accessing government supports and making some organisational changes, particularly changes in staffing arrangements.
- Our financial position is stable. Year to date figures show a small profit, but we remain heavily
 dependent on donations. As a general statement, the loss of venue hire income is offset by the
 decision to stop having paid staff for the time being. The future is too uncertain to sustain the
 current staffing arrangements, but it is clear that as operations ramp up we will need to add back
 some staffing.
- The shut down has given SW opportunity to review and strengthen governance and undertake strategic planning.
- We have revised the Centre Director position (reduced responsibilities) and distributed tasks to other volunteers. The emphasis has been on building the Resident Community.

Partnership with AYM

- COVID also provided an opportunity to partner with AYM to provide skill building in Zoom so
 Friends could join together first in worship and then grow into enough ability to be able to have a
 successful online Yearly Meeting 2020. Two ongoing joint offerings included as basics session –
 "Zooming Into Zoom", and a more advanced session "Ready Set Zoom".
- As Emily Chapman Searle led the AYM efforts in the direction of preparations for technical support
 of business meetings, Silver Wattle supported continuing skill development for more advanced
 users with "Zoom Play" sessions, and established a weekly Zoom Epilogue offering through May &
 June.

Courses

- The last year saw 7 courses offered: Nurturing our Elders, Universal Spiritual Teachings, Celtic Spirituality, Listening to the Landscape, Silver Wattle Dreaming, End of Year Retreat, and John's Gospel. The Clerking Course was cancelled due to COVID.
- Courses for the remainder of 2020 will be going ahead both online and at Silver Wattle.

Courses 2020

- o Introduction to Simple Living, Su-Rose McIntyre (Zoom) Sat pm, August 29 , Sept 19
- Quaker Prayer Cycles, David Johnson (SWQC) Fri 10-Sun 13 September
- Confronting Climate Change, Finding Renewal, Marie Jamieson, Christine Larkin (SWQC) Sat
 3- Thurs 8 Oct
- Coming Right Way; White Privilege, Course leader TBC (Zoom) Sat 1 Sun 15 Nov? (3 sessions?)
- o End of Year Retreat, Fiona Gardner and Drew Lawson (SWQC) Mon 28 Dec- Sunday 03 Jan

Courses planned for 2021

- Primitive Quakerism Revived, Paul Buckley (USA) at SWQC
- o Friendly Business, Julian Robertson, Sheila Keane
- o Indigenous Spirituality, Leader TBC
- Becoming a Fuller Quaker, David Johnson (SWQC)

Other courses being considered for 2021 are

- Writing Course (Zoom?/SWQC?)
- Transforming Grief (SWQC)
- Quaker Basics (Online)
- Past & future Backhouse lecturers

Community

Silver Wattle continues to develop and support its community through shared work, worship and fellowship.

- Gardening weeks were held in Spring and Summer, but the Autumn gardening week was cancelled by COVID. The Winter Gardening week will go ahead, but will be much impacted by the closing of the VIC/NSW border as key volunteers live in the Melbourne area.
- We held two planning retreats last year and engaged the big questions like Who are we serving at SW? What is our relationship with the Land? What work should NOT be done by volunteers? etc....
 These planning retreats are fun, energising, and affirming to those who help to keep SW going in all sorts of ways; from supporting course development to fixing broken pumps; providing prayerful support to advising on policy and financial management.
- Ongoing community support also happens through a weekly Zoom meeting for worship (which has been going for a long time), and a new weekly reading/study/worship group.
- We have turned our attention to better supporting our volunteers, and recognise there's a lot more
 work to do there. We also joined the National Redress Scheme and have established a COVID
 Working Group authorised to make quick decisions to keep us all safe.

Resident Friends

• Friends come to stay at Silver Wattle for shorter and longer periods of time. The longer the stay, the more transforming the experience. There is a lovely rhythm of worship, uncomplicated work, shared meals, deepening conversations, and personal retreat. When groups are there, of course, it gets quite busy, but then the rhythm returns. We encourage Friends to consider living at SW for several weeks to months... or even years.

Care for Land & Property

- There's never a shortage of things to do to look after the land & property. Kitchen lights needed replacement, commercial stove hood needed cleaning, water tank pump broke, weeds are never ending, garden needs watering and harvesting...
- We finished some important projects this year, including solar panel and inverter installations, low carbon heating & air conditioning, and efficient hot water heating throughout.

New Access Unit

An exciting property development is planned to build a new "Access Unit" to support people who
have mobility challenges. This is to be funded by a generous anonymous donor and will be built
with eco-friendly features such as good insulation and double glazing. There will be a common
room and three bedrooms, each with an ensuite bathroom. Two of the bedrooms have wheelchair
accessible bathrooms. When not needed for guests with a disability they could be used as
accommodation for silent retreatants, volunteers or as overflow accommodation

"Yes" means more when there is also a "No"

The year has also been marked by things we have said NO to:

- Housing refugees at SW (too isolated)
- Repairing shearing shed to make safe (too far gone, too expensive to do it right)
- Recruiting new Centre Director following resignation of Catherine & Brendan (instead, establish a resident community instead, with many of the leadership functions distributed to others)
- Offer of donation of Subaru (one car and a ute are sufficient to our needs)
- 8-week venue hire from Lachlan Macquarie Institute (could not support the training of far right wing political leaders)
- Pastured egg production (Chicken Caravan) partnership (scale of operation was not consonant with operating a retreat centre)

Breakout groups were invited to respond to these topics:

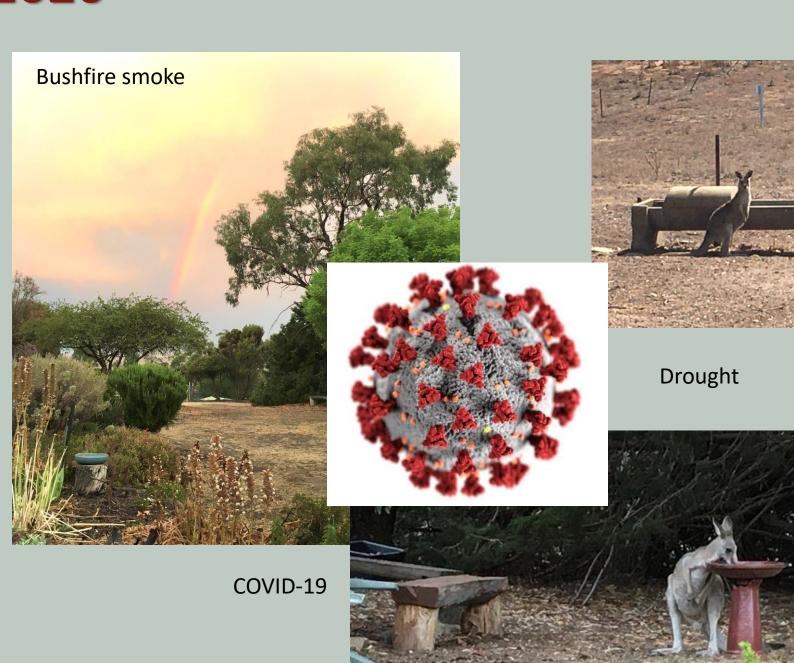
- Building the Resident Community
 - o Daily rhythm: Shared meals, work, worship, and renewal
 - Creature comforts
 - O Supportive relationships: FiRs, online community involvement
 - O What else should we think about?
- Caring for Country
 - How do we know what the land needs? Are we inadvertently doing harm?
 - o How can we strengthen our spiritual care for the land?
 - What would enable First Nations people to be on country practicing ceremony?
- Serving the needs of Australian Friends
 - o What does Silver Wattle offer that cannot be found elsewhere in Australia?
 - o How could we improve our integration with other sources of spiritual nurture?

Responses were collected by group facilitators and through Zoom chat messages.

The session closed with a period of worship.



2019 - 2020 Bushfire s





COVID Risks

- 1) Shut down, then staged re-opening
- 2) Access government support
- 3) Organisational changes
- 4) Strategic planning

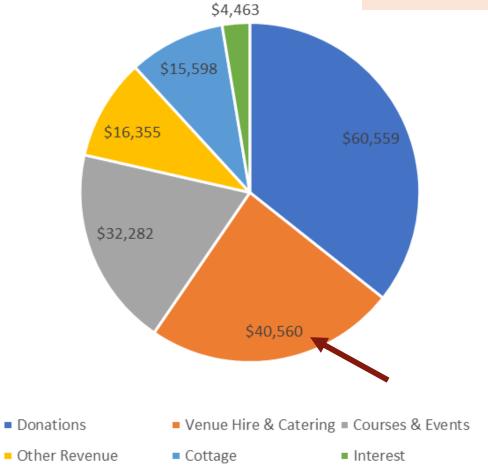
Organisational Changes

- No paid staff
 - IT assisted streamlining of office systems
 - Task distribution to a range of volunteers (while in shut down)
- Revision of Centre Director position
 - Reduced responsibilities, distributed tasks
- Emphasis on building the Resident Community
 - Shorter term FiRs & Longer term Resident Friends
- Strengthened Governance
 - Policy revisions, active Advisory Committee
 - Board appointments
 - Attention to supporting all volunteers (e.g. committees, FiRs, Director) There is more work to do here

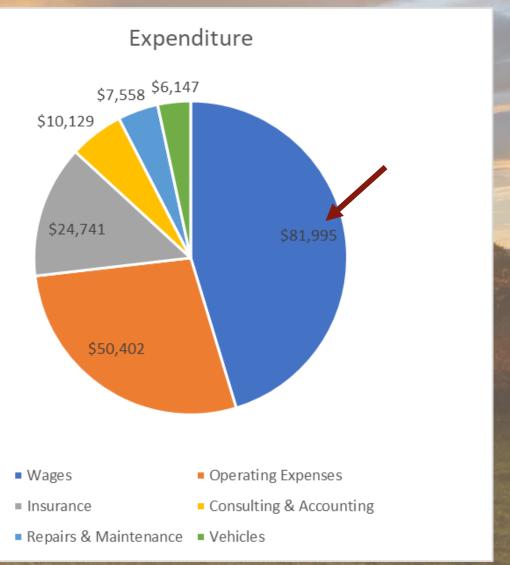


Financial response





Shut down
Lost income vs Staff costs







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COVID Opportunities

WEBINAR - Ready set Zoom! Hosting Quaker meetings using zoom

Friday, March 27, 2020 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM

Google Calendar · ICS

This is not a Silver Wattle event but we are posting it here to make it widely known. If you have ideas for or can offer a webinar or have ideas for how Silver Wattle can offer

July 2020

WEBINAR - Zooming into zoom - basics for Quakers

Thursday, March 26, 2020 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Google Calendar - ICS

This is not a Silver Wattle event but we are posting it here to make it widely known. If you have ideas for or can offer a webinar or have ideas for how Silver Wattle can offer online spiritual nurture, please contact us.

Led by Emily Chapman-Searle

This session is perfect for brand newbies, relative newbies, skeptics and those who love to know more! We'll go through all the things you need to know to be able to participate effectively in a zoom meeting. The session will run for about an hour and will go through all the basic functions and controls in zoom. I've done this with a few groups, and every time I learn something new too!

This webinar will be run twice, covering the same content in each, so you only need to attend one. Note that there are different links for each session

Time: Mar 26, 2020 18:30 Adelaide, 19:00 ACT/NSW/VIC/TAS https://zoom.us/j/343754773 Meeting ID: 343 754 773

Time: Mar 27, 2020 08:30 Adelaide, 09:00 ACT/NSW/VIC/TAS https://zoom.us/j/421963689 Meeting ID: 421 963 689

You do not need to register for this event. To join the webinar, just click on the link at the time listed.

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Nurturing our Elders Friday 10 May, 2019 4 pm to Thursday, 16 May 2019 1 pm with Sheila Keane

This course is designed to encourage new and experienced Quaker elders.

This course is for

 Newly appointed elders and those so Experienced elders wanting renewa . Those with a concern for the spirits

This course will cover some essential inform sion in the state of being that is the s

- Clarifying the roles of eldering, past
- Exploring ways to nurture the Life o
- Spiritual discernment: openings, lea
- Oversight: right holding of meeting Encouraging next steps in the spirite
- · Nurturing gifts in others as spiritual

Space will be given for shared worship and a reflect on your experience. Come and enior learn from each other's experience and exp



Course Costs: Single Room

Registration Online: https://www Course Enquiries SILVER WAT dungendor ... www.si AP

QUAKER CENTRE

Universal Spiritual Teachings: Asian faiths

Friday 30 August, 2019 4 pm to Thursday, 5 September 2019 12 pm

with Arthur Wells and Helen Gould

How can the three great Asian spiritual traditions, enrich our own practice and insight? How well do these profound practices and beliefs fit with and confirm our experience as Quakers and/or Christians? We invite you to experience the practices but of course it is your choice!

Hinduism: we will practice Hindu absorptive medita and maintain a simple yoga routine. We will study p and recent such as Shankara and Ramanujan, Rama

Buddhism: We will engage in a daily practice of the "insight" and "lovingkindness." We will study passa present such as Nargariuna and Chandrakirti. Thich

Tapism: we will practice simple Tai Chi daily and als subtle way the Taoists saw the natural world. We w Tzu, and see how Zen Buddhism is essentially a sync main way that Taoism has been brought into our m





eting in New Zealand and a Zen Buddhist eacher. He retired eight years ago from unselling and leading stopping violence rogrammes for men, in order to focus on aching meditation. He has led countless neditation retreats including some for Quakers erested in Buddhism. He has degrees in English, Religious Studies and Social Work, and versities for many years.

> Course Costs: Single Room \$85 Includes all meals, accom-

Registration Online: https://www.s

Course Enquiries: I

SILVER WATTL PO Box 337 Bungendore NSV www.silv



Celtic Spirituality 4 to 6 October 2019 Led by Nila Chambers

This course uses Celtic imagery, text, music, and verse as a springboard to get more in touch with your heart's knowing; your intuition. Ritual, meditation, artwork, and structured exercises will help participants to get out of the rational mind and seek the knowledge that only the heart can

In the Celtic world, wells were seen as sacred places, thresholds between the deener unknown and the outer world. The Celts knew that to have knowledge we must drink from the sacred well which lies within us. It links us to the divine heart of Spirit, and is the source of intuitive knowing.

This course is for anyone who seeks to get bey understanding of how God uses intuition to soand a willingness to suspend judgement and di strong, it is harder to penetrate. Those familiar contemplation will be good candidates.



Nila Chambers Studies) is a life passionate abou wellsprings with and groups an primary school s currently worki experiences of a



Course Costs: Single Room \$42 Transfers: Airport \$50, E

Registration Online: https://www.s Course Enquiries: Sheila

> SILVER WATTL PO Box 337 Bungendore NSV www.silve



Listening to the Landscape: Earth's stories at Silver Wattle

Thursday, 21st to Sunday 24th November 2019

with Anne Felton and Peri Coleman

This course is for people wanting to connect more deeply with the land that sustains us.

Find out what happens to the water in Weereewa (Lake George). Meet the plants, soils, rocks, and landscape features around Silver Wattle. Hear the spirit and substance of what the rocks tell us about how they were formed, and what has happened to them before and after they appeared at the land surface

Learn how plants are uniquely adapted to different parts of the landscape. Visit a mother tree, Elder trees and rare plants and find out why they are so special. Discover and appreciate the Rock-Soil-Water interrelationships that sustain all plants and animals, including us.

Peri and Anne's approach is both pragmatic and contemplative. You will walk around absorbing how the land is; spending time with each different kind of rock, plant and landscape feature and asking them to tell their stories. Looking, listening, touching and feeling, you will learn something of their birth and life.

This course is suitable for all ages, young and old. Adaptations will be made for those who have difficulty with mobility



Peri Coleman - Peri Coleman is a lifelong botanist with an abiding love of plants and animals of salty environments, and a member of the North Adelaide Quaker Meeting. Her work takes her all over Australia (and sometimes overseas) surveying habitats in order to develop an understanding of how the world manages

Peri is currently working on understanding the response of saltmarsh species to sea level rise, producing a series of regional field guides, and assisting with the reintroduction of the Yellowish Sedge Skipper Butterfly to the restored Gahnia



Anne Felton - A Quaker for 27 years, Anne Felton was a professional geologist, then a full-time caregiver. She is currently studying Spiritual Direction through the WellSpring Centre in Melbourne. This background enables her not only to interpret earth history from a western science viewpoint, but also to connect with the wonder of creation. "For me, rocks soil, water and landscape underpin a life-support system for plants and animals, including us".



Silver Wattle Water Dreaming: **Aboriginal Spiritual Ceremony**

6 to 8 December 2019 Led by Ceane Towers & Shane Mortimer

Experience quiet reflective times, sharing stories and Aboriginal Practices to become one with self, each other and the land around you. Slow down to 'bush time' away from your busy everyday life. The simplest things are often forgotten in this busy world; we forget our own Identity. It's time to remember where we Belong

People who attend this spiritual retreat Ceremony will experience being one with self, each other and the land around them. The work shop will focus on Self, Family/Community and Country Healing that will be achieved through connection with oneness and deep Listening Skills. We will connect with our free creative spirit and express our well intent to our futures whilst learning and utilising Aboriginal Practices.

This course is part of Silver Wattle's annual Indigenous Spirituality series.

Ceane Towers is an Aboriginal woman with roots from the Wiradjuri, Gamilaraay, and Darug region in her mother's tongue. Her father is an Australian from European heritage. She has



studied, performed and taught Aboriginal dance for over 25 years and is an artist and a healer. She has a Bachelor of Education in Indigenous Education; and Masters Degree in Indigenous Social Policy. She has studied Narrative Therapy Counselling and encourages you to tell your own stories. She says, "Just because a million people think one way and one thinks the other way, does not necessarily mean the one is wrong". She is a believer of reading between the lines.

Shane Mortimer is a Namadji Nation Ngambri man, and Allodial Title holder of the land also known as Canberra. He is passionate about his ancestral connections to Ngambri country since the beginning of time. Shane (Mingky) has a Bachelor of Counselling and has worked to



CT

/Concession \$280 station \$15

//courseregistration/

tle.org.au

NTRE 1 (0)2 6238 0588

Course Costs: Single Roc Registration Online: www

Includes all meals, a

Transfers: Airport

Course Enquiries

SILVER W PO Box 337 Bungendo



End of Year Retreat: Reviewing the Old, Dreaming the New

Sunday 29 December 2019, 4 pm to Saturday, 4 January 2020, 1 pm

led by Sue & David Woods

This "End of Year Retreat" provides a space for you to reflect on the year that has been and the year that is to come

The retreat will take a contemplative approach embracing communal worship and meditations on scripture and poetry. The daily rhythm will include early morning worship, breakfast, meditation on scripture, personal reflection, group sharing, lunch, rest time, contemplative walking, silent meditation, dinner, and night prayer.

Each day links with the elemental themes of Land, Water, Incarnation, Fire, and Air.

There will be daily walks on the property to ground us in the earth's wisdom and in our own bodies. There will also be ample use of silence, allowing as much time as possible for connection with the land, personal reflection, journaling and rest.

Sue and David Woods manage Compfire in the Heart Retreat and Conference Centre in Alice Springs. They are experienced retreat facilitators having led numerous Wide Skies

and Open Hearts retreats at Campfire in the Heart over the past 10 years.

> Sue founded the St Joseph's House of Prayer community in Goulburn which later shifted to Silver Wattle in 2005 until Quakers purchased the property in 2009.

Sue attends Quaker meetings that are held at



The Gospel According to John: Refreshment and Challenge

A Retreat with David Johnson

4pm Thursday 12 March - 1pm Wednesday 18 March

This course is suitable for any person, of any age, of any denomination, Anglican, Catholic, Quaker or otherwise, who feels drawn to learn about the operation of the Light Within.

We will not focus much on doctrine, rather seeking to experience the Spirit by which these words were written, and which is come again to teach us now.

John presents Jesus as an earthly man and a heavenly man - a human being totally obedient to the divine will, and also filled with the Spirit of God.

In John's Gospel, the universal Light is central, extending across all worldly barriers of class, gender, and race. Jesus is a model for us - of humility and obedience. We will read and explore together the spiritual messages of John's teachings. We will also open up selected topics in more detail, using small group sharing, reflective readings and prayer time



David Johnson is drawn to contemplative prayer and learning what the Spirit of God is teaching him through prayer, engagement with the scriptures and immersion in the natural world. He has led many retreats, both in Australia and in the USA. His short video on prayer is available on https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gZxGL2GQgZ0.

David is a retired earth scientist, with a long commitment to peace work, nonviolence and opposing war and the arms trade. He worked with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines in SE Asia. One of the founders of Silver Wattle Quaker Centre in Australia he served as Co-Director with Trish for 2013-14

David is a convinced Quaker of Conservative nature. David delivered the 2005 Backhouse Lecture to Australia Yearly Meeting on Peace is a Struggle, wrote A Quaker Prayer Life (2013), and Jesus. Christ and Servant: Meditations on the Gospel According to John (2017), His Pendle Hill Pamphlet #459 is on the Workings of the Spirit of God Within.

For a review of his book Jesus, Christ and Servant: Meditations of the Gospel According to John, see https://www.silverwattle.org.au/upcomir

courses/2020/3/12/the-gospel-according-to-john Course Costs: Single Room \$860 Shared room/Concession \$685



Courses 2020			
Introduction to Simple Living	Su-Rose McIntyre	Zoom	Sat pm, , August 29 , Sept 19
Quaker Prayer Cycles	David Johnson	SWQC	Fri 10-Sun 13 September
Confronting Climate Change, Finding Renewal	Marie Jamieson, Christine Larkin	SWQC	Sat 3- Thurs 8 Oct
Coming Right Way; White Privilege	TBC	Zoom	Sat 1 – Sun 15 Nov? (3 sessions?)
End of Year Retreat	Fiona Gardner and Drew Lawson	SWQC	Mon 28 Dec- Sunday 03 Jan

Planning for 2021 (Possibly a mix of Zoom and Residential courses)				
Primitive Quakerism Revived	Paul Buckley (USA)	SWQC	late in year? Covid-	
			19 permitting	
Friendly Business	Julian Robertson,	???	?	
	Sheila Keane			
Indigenous Spirituality	In discussion	SWQC?	November?	
Becoming a Fuller Quaker	David Johnson	SWQC	?	

Also in discussion for 2021

- Writing Course (Zoom?/SWQC?)
- Transforming Grief (SWQC)
- Quaker Basics (Online)
- Past & future Backhouse lecturers





Summer Gardening Week



Autumn Gardening Week



Winter Gardening Week 17th – 22nd July Help!!!



Spring Gardening & Land Care Week

Friday, October 18, 2019, 4:30 PM – Thursday, October 24, 2019, 1:30 PM

Google Calendar · ICS

You are invited to enjoy the beauty of spring at Silver Wattle Quaker Centre at the Spring Gardening & Landcare week. The days will include time for worship, work, rest and fellowship. No skills are required; you can work with others or at your own pace. Act on the Quaker testimony to Earthcare and learn more about making compost, the care of a worm farm, seedlings, and fruit trees. Or you can assist with preparing walking trails on the property.

Gardening & Landcare weeks are free, but a donation to cover costs is appreciated.

Whether you spend a day or two, or more you will be welcome. Please register here so we know you are coming.

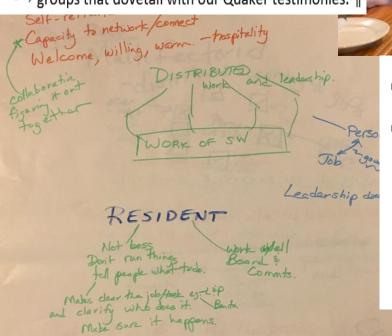
Contact us if you have any questions.



Two Planning Retreats

Who are we serving at SW?¶

- Quakers and non-Quakers ¶
- → young·people·(especially·young·adults),·¶
- → peace and social justice groups, ¶
- → Indigenous·people,·¶
- → contemplatives, ·¶
- → those·with·a·concern·for·earth·care,·¶
- → seekers·of·all·kinds·(e.g.·12·step·groups),·¶
- → groups·that·dovetail·with·our·Quaker·testimonies.·¶





Relationship·with·the·Land¶

- What-is-the-land-asking-of-us?¶
- → Learn¶
- → Do·no·harm¶
- → Regeneration¶
- → Spiritual·care¶
- → Aboriginal·care¶

What work should NOT be done by volunteers?

Things which need a qualification

- Installing arronditioning

- Maintenance & renovation.

Things that require on-site continuity

Solving that record local knowledge

Jobs that require specific skills

(training time can be lost when a volunteen leaves).

oes Q leadership look SW?

distributed according to 91/4.

Possion of the person who has been as had participatory and harmone.

Ongoing Community Support

- Weekly Meeting for Worship
- Weekly reading group
- Improvements in volunteer induction & support*
- National Redress Scheme
- COVID-19 Working Group & new protocols

* Needs lots more work!





Ongoing maintenance

- Garden, land care, rabbits, weed management
- Removal of livestock
- Property maintenance (painting, cottage stove, kitchen lighting, slider door, pellet heater, etc)
- Library management
- WHS: handrail into the lounge, fire emergency preparation

Volunteers having trouble keeping up with mowing and other property maintenance in the absence of paid staff

Completed installation of

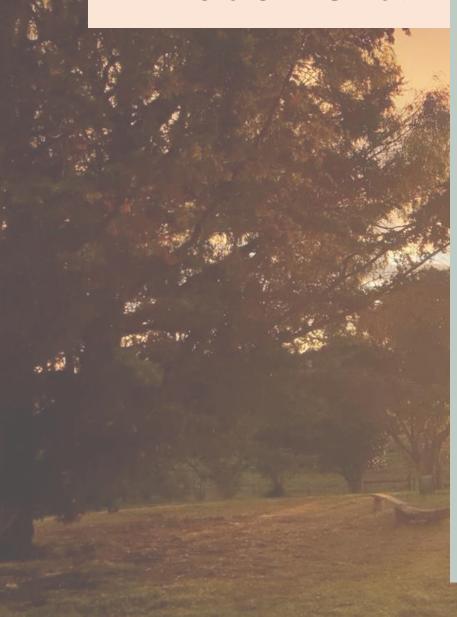
- Efficient hot water system in guest wing & cottage
- Efficient, low carbon air conditioning in the accommodation and staff wings and sitting room
- 57 solar panels and 2 inverters
- New pellet heater in the dining room

New Access Unit

- Anonymous donor to fund
- Eco-friendly features such as good insulation and double glazing
- A common room and three bedrooms, each with an ensuite bathroom
- Two of the bedrooms have wheelchair accessible bathrooms
- When not needed for guests with a disability they could be used as accommodation for silent retreatants, volunteers or as overflow accommodation

Things we said 'NO" to... Housing refugees at SW Repairing shearing shed to make safe Recruiting new Centre Director following resignation of C&B Offer of donation of Subaru 8-week venue hire from Lachlan Macquarie Institute Pastured egg production (Chicken Caravan) partnership

What's next?



- Building the Resident Community
 - Daily rhythm: Shared meals, work, worship, and renewal
 - Creature comforts
 - Supportive relationships: FiRs, online community involvement
 - What else should we think about?
- Caring for Country
 - How do we know what the land needs? Are we inadvertently doing harm?
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