



Steve & Jan Blakeney

As a couple, we have been “green” before it was a designer colour (we like to say) because our personal commitment to stopping the destruction of the earth goes back to the 1960s when we decided to leave the USA, travel to Australia, find land for a small homestead, be more self-sufficient and “walk the talk”. We are not “political” in that our energies have been directed to being working examples within community forums that support or organize constructive alternatives – for example, the Organic Gardening Society of Tasmania, which we helped found, or being early members of ZPG (Zero Population Growth – which is now “Sustainable Population Australia”). We have supported both the Australian Democrats and the Tasmanian Greens party.

We have both served on the local municipal council, and I have been a state representative for the national industry association (Complementary Healthcare Association) that represents Tasmanian natural health food store retailers. Steve and I were foundation board members of the Community Bank Branch of the Bendigo Bank in Deloraine and we are active members of the arts and crafts community in our district. Steve taught industrial arts at high school level for 15 years prior to opening his own furniture design/manufacturing business. I owned and operated my own health food retail store for 29 years. Since “retiring” we have continued to organic garden, use renewable energy, discover our Quaker heritage by convincement, support and donate to whatever charity/fund/organization that promotes the rescue of the earth and it’s most vulnerable creatures.

Where we see TRM Working Group being effective is in identifying where Quakers can best support – by ideological, physical or financial means – those actions in the community that are confronting the threats presented by human harm to the planet. Quakers have been “supporters” for decades. I think we need to be “workers” now. Time is running out.