

# Quaker <sup>Tasmanian</sup> Newsletter

November 2023

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Meeting for Learning in August of this year was held in the Jesuit monastery grounds of Sevenhill in the Clare Valley S.A. On page 2, Tara Ulbrich writes of her experience there.

From left: Front row: Jenny Spinks, Jenny, Fiona Gardner, Sejin, Catherine Heywood  
Back row: Tara, Drew, Suellen, Julie, Graeme, Sharon, Annie, David Barry, Di, Jo, Rob

## Tasmanian Quaker Newsletter

Tasmania Regional Meeting  
The Religious Society of Friends  
(Quakers) in Australia

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The image adopted as the logo for Quakers in Australia represents the Aurora Australis, a natural phenomenon of the southern hemisphere, associated with Antarctica, a fragile and magnificent part of the planet. The Aurora Australis is considered an appropriate logo because of its association with:

- pure light, the centrality of the Light for Quakers

- beauty, a quality many associate with God or the Spirit within
- nature, a permanent reminder of everyone's responsibility to care for the world
- the colour blue, used by the UN
- the ephemeral and intangible, a reminder that language is inadequate to describe God, the truth or the Spirit within.

## Meeting for Learning: Tara's experience

SOMETIMES MEETING for Worship feels like a discipline, sometimes there is grace and perhaps rarer still, there is a gathered experience. A Friend and I had once wondered what if Meeting was unprogrammed in its duration, as Early Friends had met. How would that be different?

And then I went to the Meeting for Learning in August of this year in the historic and contemporary Jesuit monastery grounds of Sevenhill in the Clare Valley SA. This stay provided a lived experience of Meeting held in a more continuous way. And as with weekly Meeting, I went along expecting to be transformed, without knowing how or in what ways.

UK Friend Ruth Harvey discussed on a recent ABC RN 'Soul Search' episode the difference between a dispersed community and an intentional community (<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/soul-search/iona-community-thin-places-strong-communities/102953468>). As a regular attendee, I experience a weekly glimpse of holding one another in love and truth, as a kind of dispersed community. Outside of Meeting I see each of us taking up individual service, albeit often with a parallel commitment to corporate service. But the MfL retreat was an entire week of practice together – a week-long experiment of living in an intentional community. This felt like a unique chance to experience Quakerism as a way of life, as I resided alongside other Friends (and seekers) journeying and acting with faith in the Light in all of us.

I have heard UK Friend and teacher at Woodbrooke, Stuart Masterson, speak of Quakers as seeking to create and maintain the minimal structures to ensure good order and free spirit. And the skilful facilitators – Fiona Gardner, Jenny Spinks, Catherine Heywood and David Barry did just that. Upon arrival we were invited to lay down the pattern of our daily life and turn inwards to attend to matters of the Spirit. I noticed for some that meant that the generous hours for personal practice looked like quiet sitting, or walking or drawing or reading. I was nudged by a common

recognition that spiritual retreat is work to honour with lots of rest – and I napped most afternoons! Meanwhile we shared meals, sat for daily Worship, had whole group sessions covering themes from the workbook that accompanies the program and, in the afternoon, we enjoyed small groups to grow holding one another in prayerful presence and deep listening.

Although the facilitators have a program, and delivered it thoughtfully, my sense was that this retreat was making itself. It was dynamically evolving as pilgrims shared and offered their presence to all that was emerging. The middle day of Silence was introduced with a wide range of possibilities that others have experienced and we had spiritual counsel available, if needed. Gathering together afterwards brought a unity that respected everyone's different experience. I for one, struggled to take up speaking again, whereas others were exuberant to reconnect in converse. It was all welcome.

As a first-year retreatant, I commence a year of undertaking Spiritual Projects that can be as small or grand, as inwardly expressed or outwardly, as I feel lead. One of the facilitators will regularly connect to check in with my sense of how the projects are going. I have invited a small group of local F/friends to meet up to help me into accountability, regularly participating in the kind of small group listening that made my retreat the transformative experience it was. Those small groups and hearing about the second-year retreatants' projects were my retreat highlights. I resonated with the humility that Friends shared and the learning they described.

We are very fortunate that for the next two years MfL will be based in Tasmania and I encourage Friends to consider taking up this opportunity to live as community and to deepen our personal and corporate practice. I am most certainly looking forward to attending in 2024 and sharing my year of MfL.

*Tara U  
forest dweller · textile maker*



Photo: Sue Headley

## Home retreat: 8–15 October 2023

THIS WEEKLONG Retreat gave six f/Friends the gift of some time apart from the normal busyness of life to be immersed in the Spirit, to discover deeper riches being offered to us, and to expand and deepen our relationship with Spirit and ourselves.

We met each morning in the Hobart Meetinghouse for worship, sharing and a time of spiritual guidance from our director, Drew Lawson. The rest of the day gave us time for reflection.

One Friend noted: “I found it structured simply, but with great depth possible. It continues to open for me.”

For another: “With time to consider the ways the Spirit is moving in me, new insights brought great encouragement and strength for the way ahead.”

Our grateful thanks to Drew for his offer to accompany us on this part of our journey, and to the Ministry committee and TRM for supporting Drew’s visit and this precious opportunity to revisit Advices and Queries No.1:

*Take heed Dear Friends to the promptings of Love and Truth in your hearts. Trust them as the leadings of God whose Light shows us our darkness and brings us to new Life.*

*Rosemary Epps*

## Before I knew to look

How often it is the fine detail,  
A small thing,  
That snaps me back into the here and now.  
Amber light coming through the trees  
The slippery soft sound of creek water  
Running beneath a tender filigree of ice  
My impossibly happy dog rolling in the fresh snow  
The give and chop of a carrot on the cutting board  
Luxurious as sleep and as rich as drinking cream,  
The image of two grown men  
Wiping tears of laughter  
From the crinkled edges of their eyes.

It is as easy to be lost  
As it is hard to be lost.  
But, I am growing bored with tomorrow,  
With what will be, and how I will be then,  
Of worried speculation or detached dreaming  
Phantoms only,  
The flip side of creative imagining.

I am happiest these days  
When yesterday is an old friend  
With whom I share much history.  
And tomorrow is willing to wait,  
For it’s own time above the horizon line.

I am most content  
When I find my own life,  
Right here  
In the bowl of my cupped hands,  
And sense that the hollow place  
Is actually filled with Light.  
Light that was already there,  
Before I knew to look.

*By Carrie Newcomer*

Carrie Newcomer is an American Quaker, poet, singer and discusses topics with Parker Palmer on YouTube.

*Felicity*

## News of Friends

• Our Friend **Martha Grace** is in hospital. On 9 October Martha suffered a stroke in Deloraine and was taken to LGH and spent a week in ICU. She was transferred to the stroke ward and then to rehab. Martha retains full mental capacity and speaks and thinks clearly. However, she has lost the use of her left arm and leg. There have been restrictions on visiting due to Covid – Martha tested positive to Covid (no symptoms) and is in isolation for at least a week.

I visited Martha on Thursday and she was able to wiggle her toes and also has the hint of sensation in her hand. Hoping for more recovery, which could be a long haul. Martha is held in the light. *Kevin Sheldon*

• **maggi storr** has been to Victor Harbour to meet the Collins, whom she first got to know through early morning M for W.

• **Julie Walpole** is recovering from a knee replacement.

• **Tara** and family have had COVID. So has **Jenny Seaton**. There is a lot of it around, be careful!



• **Jason McLeod** is in Indonesia continuing his nonviolence action work. This is funded by the Jan Der Voogd Peace Fund.

• **Sally O'Wheel and Margaret Bywater** went to Sydney in October to hold a workshop at Devonshire Street Meeting House with Friends in Stitches.

• 2024 Quaker Tapestry calendars are now for sale through **Margaret Bywater, Sally McGushin and Sally O'Wheel**.

## Aged Care consultations: New Aged Care Act and funding

ON MONDAY 28 August 2023, I attended the Aged Care Consultation to 'Have your say on the future of aged care', led by Patricia Sparrow CEO, COTA (Council on the Ageing) and Craig Gear CEO, OPAN (Older Persons Advocacy Network), regarding two major Australian Government care reforms:

- The new rights-based Aged Care Act.
- Funding principles for a sustainable aged care system.

The new Act assumes a person can make their own decisions, and that a person can expect to have access to appropriate support to make decisions.

Why do we need a new Act? The biggest problem identified is that Australia's current Aged Care Act (1997) is not rights-based. It is about how aged care problems are funded, not about the people accessing services and their needs.

The new Act will come into affect 1 July 2024, and will cover aged care services funded by the Federal Government, which include:

- Commonwealth Home Support Programme – basic home support.
- Home Care Packages – home support up to 12 hours a week.
- Residential Care – respite and permanent care, i.e. nursing home.

These joint Consultations will be held around

Australia with a report presented to the Australian Government.

The morning's session, 'Foundation of the Aged Care Act', covered subjects related to rights-based care, and focused on rights-based needs – the rights of the client to:

- have their past respected
- be treated with dignity and respect
- have their choices supported regarding their everyday care.

The afternoon's session, 'Aged Care Funding Principles', focused on the funding of the aged care system to enable and encourage participants to remain in their homes. Funding needs to be sufficient to provide quality and appropriate care delivered by a skilled workforce both in the home and in residential care. There is also the need for accountability for funding received from the government, and for the quality of services provided.

An Aged Care Taskforce has been formed to review funding arrangements and develop a set of draft guiding principles.

It was a full day of discussion and suggestions regarding every topic, and we were given ample time to have roundtable discussions and then share with the wider group.

*maggi storr, National Council of Woman, Tasmania*

# Climate Emergency and Species Extinction (CESE) Working Group

## – Action Plan

FROM YEARLY MEETING 2023, the Climate Emergency Working Group has been endeavouring to draft an Action Plan for submission to AYM 2024 – which is really only a few months away now – and, to this end, has held several Zoom workshops with participation from all regions.

The most recent online workshop was held on 18 October and attended by representatives from all states, including Robin McLean, Margaret Bywater, Kerstin Reimers and Jan Blakeney from Tasmania.

There was a considerable focus on what Quakers individually, as well as collectively, can do now. Taking Action and being Public Witnesses are more urgent than ever. While it is recognised that being seen in the public arena speaking as members of a faith group is important, creating change and reversing climate damage is as much a role for each person.

The working group has drafted an Action Plan with ideas to advance this commitment. This process has been both uplifting and challenging. November's workshop asked participants to nominate what their Regional Meetings were doing that engendered hope in the face of the climate crisis. We heard from Friends nationally that there are a great many activities being done, with the promise of

more personal involvement. Canberra, for example, regularly holds a 'Climate Café' for face-to-face exchanges of personal activities and ideas. Tasmania will hold a 'Green and Ethical Investment' workshop with Market Forces' Sue Ennis in March 2024, in cooperation with the Peace and Justice Committee. Individually Friends have been participating directly in Climate Action on many levels, and their efforts are supported.

The next step will be CESE holding a third online workshop in March 2024 before the Plan is submitted to AYM 2024 for consideration. Friends can expect a direct appeal to their earth care witness once the CESE Action Plan is circulated for general knowledge. However, it would be incumbent on Friends to make themselves familiar with the Plan as soon as it has passed the third review. Friends can obtain a copy of the working group's documents now by contact the TRM Clerking Team. If they are led to make suggestions, they may either attend the third online workshop in March or speak to the Tasmanian participants.

Watch the e-Notices for links to the March CESE Workshop online.

*Jan Blakeney, NW Coast Recognised Meeting*



Kunanyi Photo: Sue Headley

## Peter Jones on Ramallah

RAMALLAH, 16 kms north of Jerusalem on the West Bank, is today the headquarters of the Palestinian Authority, but it is also where you will find a small Friends Meeting House tucked between new large buildings and not far from the Friends School. The school started in 1887, the same year as our school in Hobart, after visiting Friends were asked to start a school for girls and later boys. Since then it has weathered many changes of administration.

Originally Ramallah was under Ottoman Turkish control but after the Great War, it came under the British League of Nations mandate territory of Palestine. Following what Israel calls the war of Independence and Palestinians call the Naqba (catastrophe), Ramallah passed under Jordanian control until 1967. Following the Six Day War, it became occupied territory, usually referred to as

the West Bank, but what Israelis refer to as Judea and Samaria. The school was closed for a year after the war because of the damage inflicted on buildings during that war, but has since been rebuilt, partly with US aid, somewhat ironically given the destruction was caused by US-supplied weaponry given to the IDF.

Today as another round of the conflict flares up, the school has been closed and the students sent home to use online learning to maintain their studies but no-one knows when it will open once again, though at least it is unlikely to sustain physical damage as in the 1967 war.

*Peter taught at the school, 1966–67, as part of the Quaker Overseas Voluntary Service programme, and survived the bombing of the school during the Six Day War when Ramallah was captured by the IDF.*

## Jason McLeod on non-violence

SALAM FRIENDS, I won't be at Meeting today but I assume others will be. I'll be back with you all next week. I'll be taking some silent time turning my thoughts to you all. Here's a wee reflection I wrote a few days ago in Indonesia.

Sitting before me are eleven incredible human beings, young people from West Papua, all active in the nonviolent struggle for freedom. It is a struggle that is similar in many respects to the struggle for peace with justice in Palestine and Israel, and to other anti-colonial struggles, including in our own country, Australia. One of the West Papuans before me, Warpo, is wearing a Palestinian shawl. It was a gift from a man, Shamikh Badra, who used to head up the youth wing of the Palestinian Communist Party in Gaza. I taught him nonviolent action at

the University of Sydney ... and he taught me. Next to Warpo are several ex-political prisoners, jailed for their relentless nonviolent resistance. One of them is Sayang, a woman who not so long ago was breastfeeding her fourth child while in prison for having 1,500 West Papuan flags in her procession. As well as being activists these young people are all nonviolence trainers. They have come together to develop a national curriculum for a West Papuan movement for self-determination. They finalised the draft curriculum yesterday.

Then I think of all of you. All the ways we be and do in the world. The truth is, any act of selfless love, no matter how small, brings more light into the world. Nothing done for love, truth, peace or mercy is ever wasted.



Photo: Sally O'Wheel

## White poppies for peace

THIS IS my embroidered white poppy which I wear for Remembrance Day. When the Devonport Embroiderers' Guild made red poppies a few years ago, I made this white one. It is called 'stump work', three dimensional embroidery, using fine wires to create the shapes.

White poppies remember everyone who died in wars, not just the armed forces but the civilians too. This is highly appropriate in today's wars!

Tim Arnold says on the White Poppy For Peace Campaign Facebook page :

*The white poppy has been worn in the run-up to Remembrance Day for ninety years, as a symbol of remembrance and peace. They were first produced in 1933 in the aftermath of the First World War, by members of the Co-operative Women's Guild. Many of these women had lost family and friends in the First World War. They wanted to hold on to the key message of Remembrance Day, 'never again'.*

Most Australians haven't heard of the White Poppy, but this year in the UK there has been a 60% surge in demand from the Peace Pledge Union suppliers. Wreaths of white poppies were laid at war



memorials with the slogan 'Never Again'. People marched in London in their thousands, calling for a ceasefire in the Middle East. Many of them wore a white poppy.

*Sally O'Wheel*

## A Prayer

Refuse to fall down

If you cannot refuse to fall down,  
refuse to stay down.

If you cannot refuse to stay down,  
lift your heart toward heaven,  
and like a hungry beggar,  
ask that it be filled.

You may be pushed down.

You may be kept from rising.

But no one can keep you from lifting your heart  
toward heaven  
only you.

It is in the middle of misery  
that so much becomes clear.

The one who says nothing good  
came of this,  
is not yet listening.

Clarissa Pinkola Estés, *The Faithful Gardener: A Wise Tale  
About That Which Can Never Die*

For me, the outcome of the referendum was searing in many ways. The negation of the people of our First Nations. The political opportunism. The clear exposing of a racist Australia. Distortions of truth offered as truth. And the dark science of manipulating public opinion through fear and spreading doubt. Some salve was offered to me by the arrival of this poem, offered by a Friend.

It challenges me to listening and resilience in moving on from an outcome that deeply disturbs me about the future of my nation. I invite you to spend some time with it.

And if way opens for a conversation around this within our Meeting, I'll be a willing participant.

*Drew Thomas*

## Hobart refugee stories: Part 1 – Hanif

AS WE constantly hear about the ongoing refugee struggles, internationally and within Australia, it might be nice to share two hopeful Hobart refugee stories, both closely associated with the Tasmania Regional Meeting.

The first story is about Mohammad Hanif Iqbal Zada, a young Hazara man, who travelled as an unaccompanied minor from Quetta, Pakistan, and was rescued by the Australian Navy while embarking on his sea voyage from Indonesia. He was taken to Christmas Island, then to Curtin Immigration Detention Centre in WA, and then to Pontville Alternative Place of Detention, which had become a detention centre for youths only. Within a few weeks of arriving in Tasmania, Pontville APD closed and Hanif was released into the community. He attended Claremont College. However, the following year, 2014, Hanif turned 18 and was not allowed to return to Claremont College. As an unauthorised maritime arrival, Hanif was faced with limited options. Hanif was not allowed to work but he was entitled to English classes at TAFE, and he was also entitled to a small allowance from Immigration, distributed by Centrelink. The allowance was not as much as a Centrelink allowance.

Fortunately, during this time, Hanif was befriended by our friend Kerstin Singleton and her family. With a son who was not much younger than Hanif, Kerstin was determined to ensure Hanif had more options. Kerstin approached the Friends' School. Thus it was that the Friends' School granted Hanif a bursary that enabled him to enrol for his TCE studies at Friends' Senior Secondary Campus, Clemes, with Kerstin acting as his 'guardian'. Using her Quaker connections, Kerstin was able to secure Hanif safe, conveniently located accommodation. Meanwhile he continued to receive a small living allowance from Immigration. Thus it was that Hanif was able to settle into life at the Friends' School. Hanif was supported and encouraged by his teachers, and fellow students. So with the stability provided by the Friends' School, Hanif had a clear educational pathway to pursue, and he completed his TCE studies in 2016.

During Hanif's time at Friends', the bridging visa rules were relaxed to enable Hanif and other unauthorised maritime arrivals to work. As a full-time student, Hanif was still able to receive his immigration allowance, which was sufficient for his

fairly frugal life style. However, once he was allowed employment, Hanif was able to start sending money home to his family in Pakistan.

During Hanif's second year at Friends', other moves were afoot at the University of Tasmania, in which our Friend Alison McConnel-Imbriotis played a role. A scheme was being developed to give some university options for unauthorised maritime arrivals, who were not able to pursue University studies because they were regarded as overseas students. This meant that they could not be given a HECS-funded place, and would be required to pay overseas student fees if they wanted to attend university. To get around this, the University of Tasmania established a few scholarships to be awarded to asylum seekers; these scholarships paid their overseas student fees. Initially, however, scholarship winners were expected to pay their HECs fees up front.

Hanif was able to start a Bachelor of Medical Research; he graduated and then continued to do an honours year. In the first couple of undergraduate years, Hanif was able to pay the HECs debt with support from the Red Cross and friends, and he continued to receive his student allowance. Also he was able to continue to undertake some work. However things got tough when the Federal Government suddenly decided that any unauthorised maritime arrival who was capable of working would have their living allowance removed, regardless of whether they were studying or even had a job. This was a very stressful period for Hanif. He was able to increase his work hours, but too many hours compromised his studies and he had very little money left to send to his family. Fortunately, the university revised and increased its scholarship benefits in response to this situation. The university started to pay the students' HECs accounts and it gave them a living allowance. Thus Hanif was able to complete his Bachelor of Medical Research plus study for an Honours year in relative security.

One might have thought that after graduating, the world was Hanif's oyster. Unfortunately, Hanif's lack of status meant that he was not eligible for any publicly funded positions in medical research. And as he had no work experience, Hanif was not able to find a job in the private sector. So he set up his own business: Hobart Tilers! A lot of Hazara people, in Australia, are experienced tilers, but many



of them lack confidence in English language skills, both spoken and written. Hanif's education certainly gave him the skills necessary to establish a company, advertise (both for work and for tilers, check out prospective jobs and work out a quote with an experienced tiler, complete all necessary paperwork, take on the job, and employ people. Hanif was also able to work as a trade assistant, and has now picked up tiling skills for himself. Since 2021, Hobart Tilers has become quite a successful business and Hanif has been able to send money home regularly.

In his spare time, Hanif has also had a go at repairing repairable write-offs, that is cars that have been written off by insurance companies but still have the potential to be made into roadworthy vehicles. Some cars have been easier than others.

There is no doubt that Hanif is a very enterprising young man. He has good reason to be proud of the way his business has developed, but it was not what he had hoped to do. Furthermore, his ongoing lack of status has always been there.

So it was a great relief when the Albanese Government announced, in February 2023, that it would move all those unauthorised maritime arrivals onto permanent visas (around 30,000 asylum seekers). That is, those boat people who arrived between 13 August 2012 and the end of December 2013, prior to Operation Sovereign Borders, which sent all subsequent irregular boat arrivals to off-shore processing centres. As their Safe Haven Enterprise visas or Temporary Protection visas have expired, they have been able to apply for a RoS visa, that is a Resolution of Status visa, which is a humanitarian visa that grants permanent residence status. RoS visa holders are entitled to full access to social



Hanif and Nelson File

Photo: G. McGushin

security, Commonwealth supported places in higher education and student loans. Other entitlements include becoming eligible to apply for Australian citizenship and being able to sponsor family members through the Migration Program.

Hanif's RoS visa came through in October 2023. This opens up so many more options for Hanif. He can continue his studies if he chooses: either in postgraduate medical research or apply for a graduate medicine program, without being charged overseas student fees and without having to pay his HECs upfront. If he is studying full time, he will be able to receive Centrelink benefits – depending on how much he earns, as he is already thinking that he can continue to manage his tiling business which facilitates work for tilers who may not have Hanif's literacy skills and business acumen. The point is: Hanif finally has security and he has options.

*Sally McGushin*

## Feedback on the 'new' TQN

We were delighted to receive so much positive feedback on the first issue of *TQN*, and so many contributions to this issue. We look forward to publishing more of your stories, poems, images, etc. Please send to: [rmtasnews@quakersaustralia.info](mailto:rmtasnews@quakersaustralia.info)

- I have only just read the Tasmanian Newsletter, and I wanted to say how delighted I am that you and Sue have brought it back to life.
- Oh wow Ladies! Great job on the newsletter, which I've just read cover to cover, in a moment of 'insomniatic' wakefulness. I loved every article. Thank you both for your hard work and dedication to this task. It's marvellous for me being new to Quakers, to see its broad interests and affects/effects. Thanks too for including the article on 'Militarisation'.
- Well done those two girls/women/ people. So far I've read Know thy Friend, and the headings of the rest and the photo captions. Now to read the rest of the TQN.
- Thank you Sue and Sally for the newsletter. I very much enjoyed reading it.
- Thank you so much for this resurrected newsletter and best wishes for future editions.
- Thank you so much for reviving the TQN. I thoroughly enjoyed it. Go well Friends.
- Excellent first newsletter, thank you both. A good spread of articles and just the right length.
- A BIG thank you for a great first edition!!

## Is it time for a new Quaker bank?

RECENTLY, a number of Friends and acquaintances have told me their stories about being scammed and their banks have not been supportive or helpful.

Recently I wrote in the *Tasmanian Times*, banks in Australia have closed branches, reduced services and rely on customers to be online.

It is a change that has dramatically shifted the risk of financial loss onto the shoulders of ordinary Australians. Bank customers now are faced with a deluge of highly sophisticated scams.

Savings from the closure of branches and the active redirection of customers to online banking have delivered massive savings to banks. The costs from these changes are experienced daily through customers losing millions of dollars to financial scammers. The banks are standing back harvesting the profits and blaming the customer for their failures.

Media reporting fails to draw the clear links between reduction in face-to-face bank services and the redirection of customers to online banking with the scams and major financial losses now occurring.

Somehow the customer is suddenly and wholly responsible if they lose through scams and the banks have woeful supports in place to assist.

In 18th century a number of banks were founded by Quakers, including Barclays, Lloyds, Gurneys and more.

*From the beginning, Quakers brought new standards of truth and honesty to the conduct of business, putting into practice the testimony to Integrity and Truth. People realised they could trust Quakers with their money and in the 18th century this led to the rapid growth of Quaker banks such as Barclays and Lloyds.*

*Priscilla Wakefield (née Bell) was an early Quaker feminist and philanthropist. She established England's first savings bank and wrote many books*

...

*Wakefield was born in Tottenham, London UK to a long-established and prominent Quaker family. She was the great-granddaughter of the Quaker mystic, Robert Barclay, the granddaughter of banker David Barclay, and the aunt of prison reformer, Elizabeth Fry. She married the Quaker businessman, Edward Wakefield, in 1771.*

Perhaps the principles of honesty and integrity that were the hallmark of early Quaker banks, eliciting trust from their customers, could be re-invigorated in the 21st Century?

Perhaps there is a young Australian Quaker economist banker with strong principles and a code of ethics, prepared to start a new bank or financial institution – built on looking after their customers, and keeping their money safe, rather than profits at all costs, and victim blaming when customers are caught by scammers?

*Kathryn Barnsley*

## Vale Ian Fletcher

ON 11 November, I went to a celebration for the life of Ian Fletcher, who died suddenly in September.

Ian, or Whitey, as he was known to many, wasn't a Quaker, but his life spoke more of 'that of God' than I can articulate. I met him through Pickleball, where he was kind, caring and a friend to all. To paraphrase his sister, he was at peace with his self, and therefore free to be himself with anybody and everybody. He was quirky and thoughtful – he brought jelly beans to share between games!

He was involved in climate change action, and in the YES campaign; was a mediator and volunteer with COTA, with a particular focus on eliminating elder abuse; and volunteered with Lifeline for 27 years.

He mentored youth, rescued and raised orphaned and injured wildlife, participated in Yatras in Tasmania, was involved in local land care groups, and was one of the founders of the Repair Cafe in New Town!

From the contributions of those who spoke at this gathering of well over 100 people, it was apparent that he did all this with an overarching love of people and with a sense of playfulness. I am in awe of a life so well lived, and wish I could have known him for longer. However, the celebration reinforced for me the ability of one person's life to touch and change so many other people's lives – even when that person is no longer physically present. I already feel that his life continues to change me.

*Sue Headley*