

FEBRUARY 2020

WALKING CHEERFULLY

FOUNDED 1926



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NEWSLETTER OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS
(QUAKERS) SOUTH AUSTRALIA - NORTHERN TERRITORY
REGIONAL MEETING.

Dear Father of our humankind,
Forgive our foolish ways!
Reclothe us in our rightful mind,
In purer lives thy service find,
In deeper reverence, praise.

John Greenleaf Whittier



A Gerard Hoffnung cartoon.

TESTIMONY TO THE GRACE OF GOD IN THE LIFE OF COLIN TALBOT



Colin was born in Trecenydd, near Caerphilly in August 1930 and remained a son of South Wales all his life.

The eldest of six, son of a coal miner who later joined the RAF, Colin's early life was tough but nurtured in the family and community of the valleys. Two bouts of rheumatic fever as a child badly interrupted his schooling and helped turn him into a voracious reader. He left school at almost 14, but was able to compensate to some degree by attending night classes. Early jobs included as a baker's delivery boy, and a bus driver. At 18 he was called up for 18 months National Service, like his father choosing the Air Force, and spending a year in Germany. On discharge he joined the police force, where he earned a commendation for single-handedly apprehending a pair of robbers.

He met secretarial college student Barbara Owen at a dance, and they were married in 1952 in St Martin's, Caerphilly. As Anglicans, they attended their local church, St Ian's. Sons Chris and Andrew arrived in 1954 and 1958, and Colin worked at a variety of jobs, including as an estimator for a plastics supplier.

In 1964, seeking a life with greater prospects the little family boarded the *Himalaya* and migrated to South Australia, choosing the new suburb of Christies Beach, to the far South of Adelaide, where some close friends and neighbours had settled. They lived in, and over time purchased, a Housing Trust house in Archer St, remaining there for some 20 years. The Talbots were soon heavily involved in fund-raising to build an Anglican church there, St Francis of Assisi, Colin serving there as a warden for 27 years. Always in work, including as a medical detailer for a pharmaceutical firm, Colin finally joined Hardie Industries as a salesman, then sales manager, eventually becoming its SA state manager. When Hardie Trading was sold, he started an import/export business dealing in chemicals to attract pollinators to orchard trees, and a side-line importing textile machinery for Actil.

In the mid-1980s, they bought a new family home at the end of Gilbert Road, sheltered but close to the beach, and there cultivated an amazing flower and vegetable garden. Colin was an outdoors enthusiast, taking off with Barbara and the boys on numerous camping and caravanning trips. The

most ambitious was a three-months rough expedition to WA, including the 'Railway Road' in the Hamersley Ranges. He and Barbara were stalwarts of the Southern Rock Hound and Fossicking Club, expeditions recorded in numerous photographs. Sailing and fishing were favourite recreations, his skills enabling him to build his own 16-foot Trailer Sailor in the backyard shed, and later an 18-foot fibreglass boat. A thwarted pilot, the family's birthday gift of a flight in a Tiger Moth later in life gave him immense pleasure.

Sport was another great love in his life. Centrally involved in the creation of the O'Sullivan's Beach Sports and Recreation facility, he accompanied local member Don Hoppood to Canberra to secure Federal funding and was able to ensure that two rather than one pitches were achieved by having spoil from the Lonsdale Highway project redirected. In the first summer, he was there every evening, watering the grass. A founding member of the Onkaparinga Rugby (Union) Club, a variety so dear to the Welshman in him, he played for many years, was made a Life Member and served as President for seven years. As a 'Crippled Crow', he represented SA in international contests in the UK, Canada and New Zealand.

Other community work included coaching of younger players, and being a volunteer guide at the Christies' Beach Court House. Of longer duration was his 10 years as a Volunteer at the Flinders Medical Centre, something which served him in good stead when he became a regular patient there himself as his health deteriorated.

As is the case for many who have migrated to a new country, family life was of the utmost importance. Colin and Barbara became devoted grandparents to Carla, Rebecca, Michael and Adam, warmly recalled for their nurturing kindness and encouragement of adventurous activities. There was no judgement as each took their own course in life and love. More joy came with the next generation, Lily, Spike, Zane and Willow.

Their connection with the Society of Friends came about in the 1990s, as both Colin and Barbara felt increasingly out of sympathy with aspects of the Anglicanism of the Diocese of the Murray. Barbara had had an indirect family connection with a German man whose father had driven ambulances during the Great War, and become a Quaker. Enquiries put them in touch with Friends in 1994/5, and, attracted especially by Friends' lack of dogma, practice of silence, and social conscience, they became members in 1996. The Southern Worshipping Group was then meeting monthly at Christies Beach, and in time the Talbots became its hosts, a small dedicated group meeting in their family home. This continued when they downsized and moved into River Point Retirement Village in 2012. They also attended North Adelaide, Colin serving as Treasurer 2001-04.

As the infirmities of age accumulated, Colin's final years were hard for a man who had always been so active. Fortunately, he was nurtured not only by Barbara, his devoted carer, but the wider family and friends from the community he had been so passionately involved in (especially the Rugby Club). After two months in care at nearby Onkaparinga Lodge, he died on 4 July 2019, his funeral two weeks later attended by a very large crowd of relatives, friends, and appreciative community and sporting comrades. All spoke movingly of his gifts of friendship, dedication to everything he took on, his zest for life and so much more.

THE STORY-TELLER
STARES OUT INTO THE DISTANCE
WHERE HER STORY LIVES

Robin Sinclair

LAMENTATION FOR AUSTRALIA

Charles Stevenson

Lamentations is one of the saddest books in the Bible. Jerusalem, the great Hebrew city, had been besieged, savagely. Death lay everywhere. The stunned survivors were desperate for food and shelter. The leaders were discredited, and it was believed the destruction was the result of past sinning.

Two and a half thousand years later it is surprisingly much same in Australia.

Unprecedented destruction. Uncontrollable fires have played havoc on the land, the inhabitants, their livelihood. Countless sheep and cattle have perished in the inferno, and no one knows what devastation to wild-life. And how does one measure the rampage to psychological and physical well-being. Today's mentality would not say we have sinned – yet our nation has steadfastly refused to believe the dire warnings of climate change.

“Her beauty and her terror” wrote Dorothea MacKellar in ‘My Country’. Any-one who has experienced bushfire knows that terror. How heartbreaking to lose your home, all your possessions and your livelihood. Our hearts go out to all who are suffering from the horrendous terror.

Hope is a deep-seated human trait. Lamentations ends in indomitable hope. That, too, must be our ultimate belief in Australia. It means reconstruction after the most serious catastrophe to our nation since World War Two.

From Lesley Young, Yearly Meeting Clerk, The Religious Society of Friends - Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri, Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Quakers in Australia are all very much in our thoughts as we receive daily news of the devastation being caused by the fires raging in your country.

We are shocked and deeply saddened at the loss of human lives, wildlife, human and animal habitats and irreparable damage to the landscape. Having seen some smoke pollution from as far away as here in Aotearoa, we can only guess at the respiratory distress and other issues which do not make the media headlines.

From our experiences of earthquakes in Christchurch we know that the trauma from the experience can last well past the time when buildings have been repaired. So we are aware that the pain will be ongoing into the future.

Please know that you are held in the Light by Quakers in Aotearoa.

Ann Zubrick, Presiding Clerk of Australia Yearly Meeting has replied:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Aotearoa/New Zealand Friends conveying sorrow and support for Australia Yearly Meeting Friends, especially those living in areas now devastated by ferocious summer bush fires. We also know that the crisis has not yet passed and the fire season still has months to run. The stories of human and wildlife suffering are devastating. The terrible human toll, the loss of native Australian plants, animals and their habitats has been horrendous. Many dense areas of bush now burning have never burned before and we hear that they may never recover and regrow. It helps to remember the Australian Friends who through their wonderful work and lives, continue to protect, manage and restore the natural systems in their parts of Australia. Such actions

are critical to the stability of our climate and fundamental to our way of life. We hold them in the Light and are inspired by their example and stories.

Our Junior Young Friends challenge us to question and change. Despite the devastation it is heartening to both see and experience the many ways in which people across the country are responding to immediate need, offering shelter to families whose homes have been destroyed and supporting firefighters, including volunteers on the front line. Communities will need continuing assistance for a long time.

As your own Christchurch community has slowly recovered and rebuilt following the earthquake, Australian communities will too, following these fires. We very much value love and support from the worldwide Friends at this time. We trust that you and your communities are safe and remain so.

FOSSIL FREE WORKSHOP

OLGA FARNILL

The Fossil Free workshop was held on January 25, 2020, at The Joinery Conservation Centre, 111 Franklin St, Adelaide. It was run by the 350.org.au group, inspired by Bill McKibbin. The aims of 350.org are to end the use of fossil fuels and make the transition to alternative energy, along with social justice.

Some previous actions of this group include running information stalls in the lead-up to elections and the School Climate strikes; aligning with other groups to protest against projects such as oil-drilling in the Bight (a Federal jurisdiction) or the Leigh Creek coal gasification project; asking homeowners to abandon gas power, along with asking local Councils to subsidise their change to electric power from green sources.

The current aims of the group are State -based. They are mainly:

- to persuade bodies who receive sponsorship from fossil fuel companies, to disassociate themselves from these (eg, bodies such as sports or theatre and arts groups)
- to undermine the disinformation given out by fossil fuel lobbies (eg Minerals Council, APIA, Business Council, Santos)
- to ask workers or investors to stop supporting fossil fuel-associated companies (KPMG, BHP, Rio Tinto)
- to write to the media, or make statements on social media, pointing to the need for and the benefits of alternative energies and the problems of the fossil fuels, including gas, which still a dirty fuel (especially if obtained by fracking, which releases much methane)
- to educate important figures who have the ear of the public, eg well-known people like Julian Burnside, journalists, etc
- to train people in having effective conversations with friends and the general public on the need to transition to green energy sources.

The group needs many more volunteers to act as organisers, researchers, or secretaries, to write letters or posts in the social media, to man information-stalls, paint, sew or carry banners, or to be skills-trainers, MCs, cooks or cleaners.

The workshop included skills-training in holding more effective conversations with friends or people generally, to begin some shaping of more positive attitudes towards supporting alternative energy sources.

Useful methods include:

- find common interests or concerns (eg, family , pets, garden, work, cost of power)
- listen to and acknowledge their views and motivations (eg, jobs, good future for their children),
- ask what they understand of climate change and energy sources (eg gas)
- share personal experiences or concerns and understandings about climate change's effects and various energy sources (eg finding out that gas is not the clean fuel it's advertised as)
- be aware of feelings of helplessness, hopelessness or guilt about inaction and avoid any suggestion of personal blame (eg if people have gas appliances)
- suggest possible solutions or actions (eg signing a petition, changing to clean power, taking more information, joining the group)
- if possible, get their contact details to send more information, and/or gain commitment to action (eg, sign petition, join the group).

Various useful conversation starters were listed.

Future actions were announced:

- Walk around SA Parliament House with Fossil Free banners, Friday 31 Jan, 4.30-5.30
- Planning meeting at the Joinery, 5.30pm-7pm
- Banner making at Joinery, and supporting student rally at Parliament House, Fridays February 7, and 14, from 4.30pm
- National Action Day on Fossil Free, February 22nd -- will be co-ordinated with other groups.

THE EXTINCTION REBELLION AND QUAKERS

HARALD EHMANN



**extinction
rebellion**

Extinction Rebellion has become a worldwide movement using nonviolent civil disobedience, direct action and large mobilisations of activists and protestors. It is pressuring governments to address the climate emergency decisively and quickly. The species extinctions crisis, and minimising the risks of ecological and social collapses are also key in the pressuring.

Extinction Rebellion (known as XR for short) arose in the UK in 2018 out of an organisation called Rising Up. The founding of XR has both overlaps and contacts with Quakers, including the application of peaceful civil disobedience, Alternatives to Violence Program, Non-violent Communication principles, and the provision of meeting spaces. The Bristol Friends Meeting has hosted XR meetings and even formed its own environmental reform group called Earthquakes.

The actions of XR are based solidly on the scientific research and literature about climate, ecology, sociology, human behaviour and politics. The many successful methods and literature for effecting social and democratic change are also applied. The use of periods of silence for reflection, and consensual decision making processes are very similar to Quaker practices.

In November 2018 XR-UK organised its first mass peaceful protests in London which included arrestable actions that were widely reported. In April 2019 larger mass protests were held in London and other UK cities which made world news headlines because of their size, peacefulness, traffic disruption, and novel protest methods.

Since late 2018 XR has spread rapidly and widely in the English-speaking world, including a working group in Adelaide that declared the climate emergency in March 2019. The North Adelaide Friends Meeting House has been and is a very suitable and welcoming venue for some meetings of Extinction Rebellion SA (XRSA).

During October 2019 there were worldwide mass actions in about 350 cities in over 40 countries, including a week of actions in Adelaide. In overseas actions several notable public figures were amongst the many arrested activists. Several local Friends are involved in XRSA, and actions and activities are planned to increase in the next two or more years at least until there are decisive and appropriate responses from governments at all levels.

There are significant similarities between the Quaker Testimonies and the Extinction Rebellion's three demands and ten principles. The three demands are specific, short and clear in their intent. The details of implementing them are partly for ongoing discussions, partly up to governments, and significantly depend on a return to more democratic processes using Citizens' Assemblies that are yet to be set up and run using sortition principles (ie the 3rd demand).

The three XR demands are:

1. Tell the Truth

Governments must tell the truth by declaring a climate and ecological emergency, working with other institutions to communicate the urgency for change.

2. Act Now

Governments must act now to halt biodiversity loss and reduce greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2025

3. Beyond Party Politics

Governments must create and be led by the decisions of Citizens' Assemblies on climate and ecological justice.

The ten XR principles and values are:

Guidelines for activists who align closely with the three demands. They are slightly more detailed than the three demands. The principles and values are discussed and refined in greater depth within XR at training and orientation events. They are:

1. WE HAVE A SHARED VISION OF CHANGE

Creating a world that is fit for generations to come.

2. WE SET OUR MISSION ON WHAT IS NECESSARY

Mobilising 3.5% of the population to achieve system change – using ideas such as momentum-driven organising to achieve this.

3. WE NEED A REGENERATIVE CULTURE

Creating a culture which is healthy, resilient and adaptable.

4. WE OPENLY CHALLENGE OURSELVES AND THIS TOXIC SYSTEM

Leaving our comfort zones to act for change.

5. WE VALUE REFLECTING AND LEARNING

Following a cycle of action, reflection, learning, and planning for more action.

Learning from other movements and contacts as well as our own experiences.

6. WE WELCOME EVERYONE AND EVERY PART OF EVERYONE

Working actively to create safer and more accessible space.

7. WE ACTIVELY MITIGATE FOR POWER

Breaking down hierarchies of power for more equitable participation.

8. WE AVOID BLAMING AND SHAMING

We live in a toxic system, but no one individual is to blame.

9. WE ARE A NON-VIOLENT NETWORK

Using non-violent strategy and tactics as the most effective way to bring about change.

10. WE ARE BASED ON AUTONOMY AND DECENTRALISATION

We collectively create the structures we need to challenge power. Anyone who follows

these core principles and values can take action in the name of Extinction Rebellion!



The shortness of the demands reflect the urgency of getting changes happening quickly. In the parts of Australia that SANTRM serves, we have

particular concerns about rising temperatures, droughts, storms and bushfires that are becoming more severe. Sea level and tidal increases have started. Rainfalls will always be welcome in this part of the world, but it is likely that future major rainfall events will be greater and more concentrated which will result in more severe flooding.

Hopefully you will seek out more information about the climate and extinction emergencies in the literature and on line. Hopefully you will be moved to support Extinction Rebellion actions to have the three demands met as quickly as possible. Your support might include participating in nonviolent direct actions, financial support (donations can be made on-line), or becoming involved in organising activities.

All XRSA activists are provided with appropriate training to ensure actions are safe and nonviolent. The next round of major XR actions will be in our 2020 autumn. Whatever you are able to do in helping the cause will be most welcome.

For further information about XRSA please visit the website xrsa.com.au which has details of planned and past actions. There are links to recent developments in climate and ecological science, as well as links to interstate and overseas working groups of the Extinction Rebellion.

NEWS OF FRIENDS.

Christine Colins is making steady progress as she recovers from a knee replacement.

Ralph and Katie Coupland have a baby daughter, Jemima.

Chris Madsen has moved out from his home of a lifetime at Semaphore; but is at present in hospital.

Barbara Mather is again out and about after breaking her arm in a car accident.

Brian and Anne Hodkinson who were very active Friends in Adelaide over forty years ago, attended meeting for worship at North Adelaide on Sunday 29th December, together with their daughter Rachel (an archivist for the BBC), and grandchildren, Bethan and Robert. They now live in London and attend Wandsworth Meeting.

NATIONAL REDRESS SCHEME

Topsy Evans

At the January Standing Committee all Regional Meetings agreed to apply to join the National Redress Scheme. This Scheme has been set up to redress some of the abuse suffered by children in institutions, including abuse that occurred either on property owned by an institution, or activities run by an institution involving children.

Before a group can be accepted into the Scheme it has to supply wide-ranging information about its structure, finances, child protection policies etc. This will need considerable investigation as we are asked to find records for 100 years if possible, and will include Meetings which are no longer active.

Jennifer Burrell of NSW will be the overall coordinator for Australia Yearly Meeting (which includes QSA, Werona as well as all the Regional Meetings. The Friends School is joining the Scheme as a separate entity. At an extraordinary SA – NT Meeting for Business on 12th January Topsy Evans was appointed to investigate Regional Meeting records and she will be assisted by Peri Coleman (Adelaide Local Meeting) and Kenise Neill (Eastern Suburbs Local Meeting).

If Friends have any queries about this, or have records which may assist the investigation, please contact Peri Coleman (peri@deltainvironmentalcom.au) or Kenise Neill (Kenise.Neill@sosj.org.au) Topsy Evans(tevens@c130.aone.net.au).

QUAKER SHOP NEWS

JO JORDAN



SUNDAY MAIL - 11TH JANUARY

At the end of 2019 one of the volunteers noticed an article in the Sunday Mail about an organisation which collects formal clothing for senior students. Their aim is to help older children who are in care to attend their graduation formal celebration.

The cost of buying new clothing to attend school formal functions is prohibitively expensive. The Quaker Shop had a surplus of formal clothing in December. Georgia Hyde, a dedicated volunteer at the Quaker Shop, bundled up all of the surplus formal clothing which was modern in style and in excellent condition, removed the price tags and delivered them to the organisation. The donation was very gratefully received. In future any modern, surplus formal wear from the Shop will be set aside for this purpose.

QUAKER UNITED NATIONS OFFICE SUMMER SCHOOL



Joelle Nininahazwe has returned back to Adelaide from the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) Summer School 2019 in Geneva .

For two weeks during the winter break, (Marie-Joëlle in company with twenty four other incredible young people from eleven nations witnessed the United Nations action at the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) in Geneva. They learnt more about Quaker work at the international level, related organisation the links of UNHCR, Doctors Without Borders, Red Cross etc and national delegates. The experience provided overwhelming moments of inspiration and joy. Difficult topics were explored and friendships developed. Joelle says “It’s an amazing opportunity and rewarding experience which I would like to encourage all Young Friends to think about taking part in.

The Quaker United Nations Summer School provides the opportunity for a group of 25 young people to come together to learn more about Quaker work at the international level, and to witness the United Nations in action, as part of a dynamic twelve-day residential programme. The programme is grounded in QUNO Geneva’s work, with a focus on Peace, Disarmament, Human Rights, Migration, Sustainable and Just Economic Systems, and Climate Change. Participants will be able to observe sessions within the United Nations, meet and hear from Civil Society leaders, and engage in facilitated dialogue with like-minded peers about the issues that are most pertinent for our global community today.

SILVER WATTLE QUAKER STUDY CENTRE

Up-coming courses:



Friendly Business (Sheila Keane and Julian Robertson, 26-29 March 2020). This course is for anyone who is interested in learning more about the Quaker tradition of Meeting for Worship for Business

Easter Family Gathering The Easter Family Gathering is a time of community building between Friends of all ages, planned and coordinated by Junior Young Friends.

Writing from the Heart (Kerry O’Regan, 8-14 May 2020). You will be invited to reflect on and write about small but significant events in your life that have led you to become the person you are today.

Intergenerational Education for Adolescents towards liveable futures. Cambridge Scholars publishing.

This is an outstanding book, packed from cover to cover with profound explanations of where the world is at the moment, and how our thinking must change if we value our planet. It is a project aimed at middle primary teachers and a transdisciplinary curriculum.

The authors want the present young generation to grow into happy and useful citizens, aware of the precarious functioning of the planet. It emphasises that we live on an amazing planet. Gone should be the fractured world view that separates mind and body for these must be seen as one whole. No longer can the concept of human beings being elevated above everything else survive - because all things go to make the planet. The alarming amount of junk, plastics in particular, that contribute to an enormous waste to be disposed of, is emphasised.

A list of outdated world views is pitted against how we must face the future. For instance, "I owe allegiance to one country" must change to the concept of belonging to whole earth communities.

Above all we need to be free from the subtle ways we are manipulated by powerful forces that benefit a capitalist-oriented society. What we need to recognise is that "a combination of mutually supporting resilient local and global trade." is sustainable. Short-term thinking needs urgent replacement by visioning a sustainable world.

The chapter I found most rewarding was on Activism: Earth restoration. It is packed with actions that can help sustainability.

I liked then reference to the 'lizard brain' – the deep parts of the mind which need needs to be connected to the rational. The book is packed with such gems to which no short review can do justice.

The lead author is Kathryn Paige, Senior Lecturer in Science and Mathematical Education in the University of South Australia.

QUAKER FAITH AND PRACTICE.

A priceless treasure is *Quaker Faith and Practice*. Some-one has said it is the continuation of the Bible for present day Quakers! In the sense that divine revelation is continuous. Here is an extract from the chapter on Personal Journey:
All our senses are given us to enjoy, and to praise God. The smell of the sea, of the blossom borne on the wind, of the soft flesh of a little baby; the taste of a ripe plum or bread fresh from the oven, the feel of warm cat's fur, or the body of a lover – these are all forms of thanksgiving prayer. I am sure it is as wrong to fail to delight in our bodies as it is to misuse them through excess. Not to be a glutton does not mean that we may not delight in good food: not to be ruled by lust does not mean that we must not enjoy the exquisite pleasures of sex: not to be slothful does not mean that we must never lie in the sun, not doing, just being. When Jesus said 'I am come that they may have life, and that they might have it more abundantly', I do not think He was speaking only of spiritual life – I think He meant us to have positive delight in all the good things in this wonderful world which his Father created.

Bella Bown, 1980.

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Adelaide: 11 am every Sunday and 1st Wednesday of month 5.30 pm
Friends Meeting House, 40a Pennington Terrace, North Adelaide.
Clerk: Geoff Greeves.
Fellowship of Healing: 2nd Wed and 4th Fri of month 12.30 pm
WMSAdelaide@quakersaustralia.info
Meeting House bookings: RMSANTBookings@quakersaustralia.info

Eastern Suburbs: 10 am every Sunday. Leabrook Guide Hall, Rochester St., Leabrook
Clerk: David Evans (08) 8338 2143 WMSEastern@quakersaustralia.info

Fleurieu: 11 am second & last Sunday of each month. Old Council Chambers, The Strand, Port Elliot. Chris Collins (08) 8552 1654 WMSFleurieu@quakersaustralia.info

Hills: 10.30 am second Sunday of each month. Various venues.
Contact: Robin Sinclair 0418 908 163 WMSHills@quakersaustralia.info

Southern: Third Sunday of month. Contact: Barbara Talbot
WMSSouthern@quakersaustralia.info

NORTHERN TERRITORY

Alice Springs:
Contact Katy Egger (08) 8953 0803 WMSAlice@quakersaustralia.info

Darwin: 4.45 pm first & third Sunday of each month. Salvation Army Community Centre. Cnr Lee Point Rd & Yanyula Dr., Anula, Darwin.
Contacts: John Duguid (08) 7978 7080 Barbara Sampson 0447 201489
WMSDarwin@quakersaustralia.info

REGIONAL MEETING.

Business meetings: 1 pm first Sundays of February, April, June, August, October, December.
Co Clerks: David Barry and Yarrow Andrew RMSANTClerk@quakersaustralia.info
Treasurer: Topsy Evans. RMSANTTreasurer@quakersaustralia.info

WALKING CHEERFULLY, South Australian – Northern Territory Regional Meeting Quaker Newsletter. February 2020.
Editor: Charles Stevenson. cestev@adam.com.au

Walking Cheerfully is published bi-monthly.