



## Yearly Meeting 2018 Children's Epistle of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Australia

*Thanks to those who helped in various ways this week to make it happen.*



This year's children's meeting took our inspiration from nature. We went outside and explored, as well as sketched and drew and painted the natural materials we brought back to our meeting room. Some of our time in nature was exploring the wider campus, including two (or three) bridges and some of the other interesting things to climb on and over, like stumps, stone blocks, or slowly rotting logs.

As Charlie said when asked about his favourite things - 'watching the goats was a highlight.' Who else saw the angora goats out on the main road into campus? Did you also wonder if they were sheep or goats or shoats (as we sometimes called them)?

We learnt many things during the week. Some deliberately and some accidentally. One unexpected aspect was that we all learnt about origami and Japanese culture. Friends had brought origami paper and books which was one of Will's favourite activities. Will and Charlie spent many hours making elaborate origami models, including some kirigami, which for those who don't know, involves cutting as well as folding. Your last piece of Japanese learning for today is that the special paper is called chiyogami, which replicates the traditional silk patterns on clothing.



We continued the Japanese theme with some Japanese watercolour painting with beautiful art materials that Wilma provided. We learnt about the different brush shapes which can produce different effects in watercolour. And there was always more drawing and sketching to do. Sometimes we almost had to beg to be allowed to sketch. We had long quiet moments of attempting to capture the right lines and shapes to match what we saw around us.

At times we got more rowdy, such as paper plane fights with the JYFs. Ryan and Miles and Samuel and Charlie had to fly paper planes at each other. When you got hit, you were out. In quieter moments with the JYFs, we played UNO - at one stage there were three games going at once. Games can be a great way to build community - we enjoyed playing Sushi Go Party (another of Charlie's favourite activities), a game where you work to build a hand of tasty and nutritious sushi (all with their appropriate scores), and is fun for all ages. Apparently the cutest sushi were the dumplings, the tofu, and the onigiri.

Even though the Children's Meeting was smaller in size this year, with four children attending at some point during the week, we know that it still matters deeply to those who attend. I will end with what Will said, when asked what he liked - 'I think... everything we did together. I just loved hanging out.'

