

Canberra Quakers

The newsletter of the Religious Society of Friends, Canberra Region March 2017

Have you logged onto www.quakersaustralia.info yet?



The world has changed (the Australian Quaker world at least!)...

Now, the web address we have been using for the last few years, www.quakers.org.au, will lead you to a web page specially designed for inquirers and other people wanting information about Quakers. Inquirers can select from *Being a Quaker*, *Faith & Values*, *Quakers Speak*, *Find Out More*, *Australia YM Site*, and *Contact*.

Selecting the [Australia YM site](#) link will transfer you to our existing website where you will find all the information you have been used to. (You might want to bookmark this new location so you can go directly to it in the future.) The picture above shows part of the home page of the website for Quakers, www.quakersaustralia.info.

The Christian Conference of Asia is now advertising the annual training for Young Ambassadors of Peace in Asia, to be held 28 May – 3 June at Payap University in Chiang Mai Thailand.

Participants will be aged between 20 and 30 years. Further information and application forms are available at <http://cca.org.hk/home/news-and-events/cca-invites-applications-for-young-ambassadors-of-peace-in-asia-training-2017>. Deadlines for applications is 10 April.



If required, some financial assistance for fares may be available. It would be wonderful if one or two Australians were able to participate in the program.

Please reply to: canberraclerk@quakers.org.au phone: 02 6262 7389 or 0438 653 208

Garage Sale and Book Fair in aid of QSA

The garage sale held last weekend raised a total of \$2,839.35 towards a water tank for QSA's breakfast program in Uganda. Thank you to Friends who helped set up the sale on Friday, supervised on the day, made cakes, served morning tea and the barbeque, created games, performed, and cleaned it all away afterwards. Thank you to those who sold books and morning tea on Sunday, and raised \$146.45. Thank you to those who collected items for sale, and loaded the trailers and ute and took the remaining things away. It was a memorable day for the meeting, and the funds raised will make a big difference to QSA's breakfast program at Kitamba School, Uganda.

Also, thank you to Mardi Naulty and Jean Rosenberg for organising the event.



Miles and Andy Bray play a duet. More photos later ...

News of Friends

Bill Aldcroft's son John, aged 52, died on 27 February after a long illness.

Bob Douglas has moved with Rosemary to a villa in Calvary Haydon Retirement Village, 46/2 Jaeger Circuit, Bruce ACT 2617, with new landline 6253 4409. His mobile and email have not changed.

Erica Fisher's husband John died on 22 February, peacefully in Goodwin Village.

Pam Houstein's father died in late February.

Trish Roberts' father died peacefully last November. Trish has been busy as executor of his estate.

Are you last to leave the Meeting House?

Please ensure that the urn and all other equipment is turned off, and all doors and windows are securely closed, before you leave the Meeting House!

This is a reminder, as in recent weeks following Quaker meetings and other activities at different times, the front door and the sliding door to the rear courtyard have been left open, the kitchen urn has been left on more than once, and one of the air conditioners has been left on. Thank you, from our Meeting for Worship for Business.

To Book for YM2017:

Registration:

You can find registration links in three places on the website <http://www.quakersaustralia.info/>

1) On page left, a square that says **Yearly Meeting 2017 Adelaide Registration**

2) On the top bar of the Main page Menu, click **Calendar**; there is a drop down tab that says **Yearly Meeting 2017 Adelaide**.

Click on that. Once there, click on **YM17** and you will find the registration information.

3) On the Events page <https://rsfa.site-ym.com/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=858531&group=> you are able to register here also.

And please note: at the bottom of the Registration page is a note about the post-AYM workshop offered by AVP.

CRM Library — Helpers still needed!

If you have a little spare time every week, fortnight or month, could you spend some of it helping with our Library? The work is interesting and it's a good way to get to know what's in our constantly expanding collection, and discover some of its gems. If this appeals to you, and you'd like to help, contact Catherine Dabron, on 6247 6402.

YEARLY MEETING 2017 REMINDER!

It is fast approaching!

SANTRM Friends YM Organising Committee [Geoff Greeves (Convener), Yarrow Andrews, Kerry O'Regan, Topsy Evans, Peri Coleman, Matthew Lycos and Jo Jordan] have been busy planning for Yearly Meeting 2017, to be held at [Adelaide Shores Resort](#) West Beach SA, 8-15 July 2017.

*** Please let the Organising Committee know any mobility concerns in advance.***

Accommodation: Accommodation is in modern, self-contained bungalows, some with two bedrooms, and some with three. Each bungalow is air-conditioned, with a well-equipped kitchen, bathroom and lounge area. There are two single beds in each bedroom. Four bungalows have disability access. The lounge areas in bungalows will be used for small group meetings. If Friends want a single occupancy room, then they will need to be aware that this will incur an additional charge, as all rooms are currently dual occupancy.

Adjacent to the site is the Adelaide Shores Caravan Park where Friends may choose to book their own alternative accommodation: campsite, caravan or cabin. The main meeting room will be a short walk from the bungalows, in the **Sea Squadron** building, which overlooks the sea.

Backhouse Lecture: The lecture will be held at the **Westward Ho Golf Club** (opposite the Adelaide Shores Resort)

For Children & JYFs: In a central location, there is a children's playground and bungalows have been set aside for children and JYF activities. An offsite camp for JYFs is also planned. We will be hiring a marquee as a central location for the JYF group, and available for the children's group when the JYFs are on camp.

Registration / Help Desk / Displays: At the centre of the complex is the **Garden View Room**, which overlooks a large deck, lawn and recreation area. This building will be for Registration on the first day, Help Desk, bookshop and groups needing display space.

Meals: The venue is perfect for families and for Friends who choose to self-cater. A simple packed lunch and a hot evening meal will be provided each day for those who request and pay for these at registration. The evening meal will be provided at the Westward Ho Golf Club, which is opposite the site, a short walk away.

Earthcare: The Adelaide Shores complex, which includes the caravan park and the golf club, takes pride in its environmentally responsible management. All lawns are watered with recycled water, recycling is encouraged and green waste and kitchen waste are composted.

Parking: Onsite parking is available, with parking space adjacent to the bungalows. Shops and restaurants are a short drive or bus ride away. If you have access to a bicycle, or wish to bring one, Adelaide is an excellent city for cycling, being almost entirely flat, and not overwhelmed by powered vehicles. There are bikes available for hire at very affordable rates through the Adelaide bike scheme.

Transport: There is a bus stop at the Adelaide Shores entrance. Travel from the airport to Adelaide Shores by bus takes 20mins. Travel from Adelaide Shores to the city by bus takes about 40mins. Travel from The Shores to Harbour Town, a large, retail outlet including Woolworths, takes 7mins.

IT: Free Wi-Fi is provided throughout the site.

Activities: Several excursions will be on offer for the free-time slot on the program. These may include visits to The Quaker Shop at Norwood, The Friends Meeting House in North Adelaide, The Living Kurna Cultural Centre at Bedford Park as well as visits to historic Quaker sites in the Adelaide Hills.

Winter School & Share & Tell: The YM17 Organising Committee welcomes offers from Friends interstate to run a Winter School on the theme "What does love require of us?". Friends are also welcome to offer a Share and Tell session. Please contact [Kerry O'Regan](#) with details about your proposed Winter School or Share and Tell topic.

Book Review: *Paths of Faith in the Landscape of Science: Three Quakers Check their Compass* by George M. Strunz, Michael R. Miller, Keith Helmuth

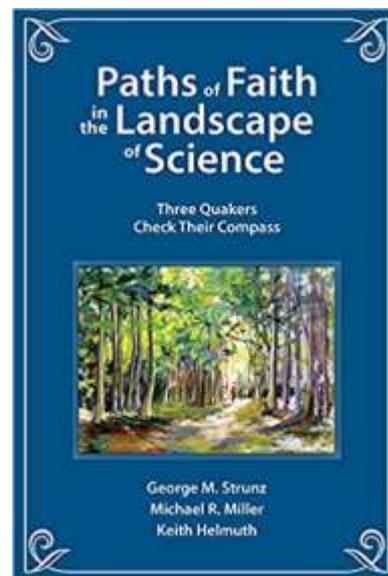
The three authors, now retired, come from diverse backgrounds: one was a biochemist, one an artist, pianist and composer, and the third a market gardener who has taught environmental studies and social ecology. This book grew out of their ongoing dialogue.

They comment on the continuing challenge that concepts about the evolution of life and the origin of the universe present to traditional religious beliefs, whereas Quakerism, because of its belief in continuing revelation, has never felt threatened by science. All three find Quakerism “a religious path that is entirely at home in the landscape of science”.

As an undergraduate, George Strunz came to believe that “it should be possible to apply scientific reasoning to religious questions”, and he describes the influence of Tom Harpur (*The Pagan Christ*), Richard Dawkins, Brian Swimme, and Thomas Berry on his spiritual journey, and concludes, “For me, it is sufficient to know that deeper levels of consciousness and awareness are accessible through meditation, either alone or in fellowship with others.”

Michael Miller, the composer, was influenced by Chet Raymo’s *Skeptics and True Believers: The Exhilarating Connection between Science and Religion*. I found his section the most original, provocative and, at times, whimsical. Miller sees imagination as the unique attribute of humankind and suggests that we could imagine God as the All of reality, comprising spirit (which is the energy of all matter) and a body (which is all the matter of the universe). Like energy and matter, spirit and body are two aspects of the same entity. To separate them is a mistake: Creator and Creation are one such that God continues to create us through time and we continue to create God in our imagination. Religion is a communal art work: all religions offer interpretations of reality based on the experience and values of a particular time, place, and people.

Keith Helmuth’s essay concerns a search for ecological guidance, an ecology of faith that is at the core of cultural adaptation. As opposed to traditional religious faiths, Helmuth is interested in a “faith behind *Canberra Quakers Newsletter— March 2017*



faith”, a positive “zest for life”. The human future, he believes, depends on rebuilding economic activity within the integrity of the Earth’s ecosystems. He considers this task in the light of four tracks: James Lovelock’s Gaia hypothesis, Thomas Berry’s “New Story”, Barry Commoner’s “Closing Circle” and Aldo Leopold’s “Land Ethic,” and he gives very clear summaries of each of these approaches. He concludes that although “modern life is based on the assumption that the environment is part of the economy”, the converse is true. “A sense of home is the origin of our sense of the sacred.”

I found these personal statements both moving and full of wisdom. They could provide the basis for an interesting discussion group.

Ros Haynes

Paths of Faith in the Landscape of Science: Three Quakers Check their Compass. George M. Strunz, Michael R. Miller, Keith Helmuth. Woodstock, Canada: Chapel Street Editions, 2014.

ISBN-10: 0993672507

ISBN-13: 978-0993672507

Review published in *Tasmanian Quaker Newsletter*, December 2016.

[ED: I have seen this book on an Australian website for \$17.60]

Here is an extract from the recent submission by the Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee (QPLC) to the Government White Paper on Foreign Policy.

QUAKERS SPEAK ON FOREIGN POLICY

PART A: OUR VISION

1. The Quaker peace testimony offers a vision – of a world where we deal with each other and the planet with love, respect and trust. It emerged at a time of serious civil strife, division and violence (1650s in England). Yet it expressed what early Quakers saw: the possibility of transformation in the hearts and minds of all people through the Spirit of Christ. The founder George Fox’s testimony that he lived “in the virtue of that life and power that took away the occasion of war” affirmed that peace was the natural order of things. Many of the principles expressed in Jesus’ life have been mirrored in the lives of other great faith teachers and leaders, and have been included in international standards of human rights, development, ecological harmony and conflict prevention.

2. In 2013 Quakers issued a report called *Towards a Vision of a Peaceful and Sustainable Australia* which included a commitment to: (a) replacing the old-fashioned notion of war with an emphasis on removing the causes of violent conflict through negotiation and mediation; (b) giving priority to promoting autonomy especially for women, youth and children in development programs, and in humanitarian response to disasters; (c) ensuring that all military resources are used as part of internationally-controlled programs to achieve conflict prevention, protection of civilians and peacebuilding; and (d) our foreign aid policies give priority to self-determination and human rights.

3. The United Nations remains a vital repository of global vision for a peaceful world. Despite regular criticisms of its reality, the organization does provide a core set of values that point us all as individuals and nations toward what might be, and sets goals and standards to which we can aspire. The most recent example is the Sustainable Development Goals whereby all countries can be held to account for their efforts to raise living conditions and achieve justice for minorities, as well as pay close attention to environmental impacts of growth and exploitation of resources.

4. We are encouraged by the approach of the World Beyond War group (Kent Shifferd, Patrick Hiller, and David Swanson) in their report *A Global Security System: An Alternative to War*. (2016). Their vision includes good

education, healthy economy, halt to global warming, ecological restoration, voluntary service for the common good, civilian-based defence, and mutual respect of cultures.

5. It is our belief that, unless Australia’s foreign policy seeks to build a global order based on a culture of peace, it will fall short of meeting without violence the challenges of the current world. This means giving much greater attention to the alternatives to military force, and strengthening the capacity of our diplomats, trade officials and aid workers to create opportunities for peaceful initiatives.

PART B: OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendation 1: The Australian Government’s foreign policy should be based on a clear commitment to removing the causes of war and using all available human and other resources to create the conditions of peace within and among countries and peoples.

Recommendation 2: Australia’s policies should focus on nonviolent approaches, fostering co-operation and mutual respect, the rule of law, and democratic governance.

Recommendation 3: Australia should assert its independence in foreign policy by ensuring greater transparency of our defence arrangements through ANZUS, reviewing the role of Pine Gap and the Darwin deployment of US troops, and making it clear that we will not be party to aggressive moves that threaten our good relations with countries in our region.

Recommendation 4: Australia should work in support of democratic processes in Indonesia and other countries of our region, negotiate fairly with East Timor over the maritime boundary, and support moves within the South Pacific Forum to advance the claims for autonomy of West Papua.

Recommendation 5: At the United Nations, Australia should increase its resources to follow through the greater profile its membership of the Security Council in 2012-3 has given it in engaging with the international community on global issues.

Recommendation 6: Australia should allocate more human resources to reporting to UN bodies and following

...continued from page 5

through their recommendations on our policies, especially in relation to refugees, human rights, environment, and responsibility to protect civilians in areas of crisis.

Recommendation 7: Australia should review its acceptance of investor-state dispute settlement clauses in trade agreements. The aim should always be for fairer trade.

Recommendation 8: Australia should re-commit itself to the UN target of 0.7% of GDP for aid, and should increase the transparency of its aid program.

Recommendation 9: Australia should follow UN guidelines for its policies on countering terrorism, and should consider adopting a charter of human rights to achieve a proper balance between dangers to the community and individual freedom.

Recommendation 10: Australia should reverse its opposition to the UN General Assembly plans for negotiating a nuclear weapons ban, and offer its full diplomatic support to ensure that the nuclear weapons powers play a constructive role.

Recommendation 11: We urge the Government to increase funding where possible for peace-related

research on alternatives to war, and on ways to build a peace culture here and world-wide.

Recommendation 12: Australia should use its influence with other nations (including through multilateral forums) to seek the abolition of the death penalty, or at least a moratorium on its use, especially in our region.

Recommendation 13: The Government should strengthen DFAT's capacity to contribute to the decision-making on climate change, especially in relation to countries in our region most likely to be adversely affected.

Recommendation 14: Australia should resume its earlier efforts to achieve progress in negotiating arms reduction agreements through the United Nations and other avenues, in response to growing world concern for arms reductions.

Recommendation 15: The Government should explore the idea of civilian-based defence as an alternative to offensive based defence, to complement foreign policy initiatives for a more peaceful world.

Recommendation 16: The Government should review its refugee policies to ensure compliance with international standards such as the Refugee Convention when dealing with those detained on Nauru and Manus Island.

News of Bega Valley Recognised Meeting

Their Meeting agreed (informally), as a form of outreach, to see if the local newspaper was interested in doing a story of the Meeting taking on the responsibility of the Peace and Social Justice Fund. You can see the result at:

<http://www.begadistrictnews.com.au/story/4326453/quakers-take-over-care-of-100000-fund/>

Sunday 9 April – Palm Sunday Rally to Welcome Refugees, 1pm

Close the Camps Rally, Civic Square, ACT
Assembly

Radical Spirituality: The Early History of the Quakers, starting 22 May

A free course on Quaker History, 3 hours a week for 3 weeks, by Ben Pink Dandelion. Find out about what lies at the heart of Quaker beginnings, who its main characters were, and how in a few weeks during the summer of 1652 the Quaker movement was formed in the north of England. Almost from nothing, the Quakers were to become the most successful sect of the 1650s and 1% of the population of England were to become Quakers. It was a radical spirituality which appealed to thousands of people, hungry for new ways of thinking. See how the events of 1652 unfolded and visit the key sites of Pendle Hill, Firbank Fell, and Swarthmoor Hall in the northwest of England. Each of these places marks a critical piece of the dramatic story of May and June 1652. To find out more and to join the course copy this link into your browser:

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers>

QSA Garage Sale photos



Evan Gallagher and his viola da gamba



Wilma Davidson and David Rosenberg



The busking audience

More QSA Garage Sale photos



Left: David Purnell and Kay de Vogel in the kitchen

Below: Ronis Chapman gets a fun pass to play arcade games

Friends Friday on 24 March: Equity in Health Services

(6pm for shared meal; 7pm for presentation followed by discussion)

Valerie Albrecht Speech Pathologist, Educator of Health Practitioners and Author Biographer of Indigenous peoples, will share her experiences working in remote Aboriginal communities. The core question her experiences have raised for her is how to set out to “make a difference” towards equity in health services through teaching and knowledge sharing inclusive of traditional, time honoured Aboriginal ways of looking.

www.theoceansofenergy.com

Sunday 16 April, Meeting for Worship at the National Folk Festival, 9 am

Hosted by Canberra Regional Meeting. Join us at Easter to meet F/friends who travel to Canberra for the National Folk Festival. Often festival performers attend and sometimes enrich the worship with music. Carnival Stage in the Kids Fest.

For more information contact Michael Searle
0428 630 691.

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Pierre Spoerri: *Frank Buckman and the Germans*

Translated and edited by Peter Thwaites. Caux Books.2016. 118 pp. ISBN 978-2-88037-528-7.

Frank Buckman, a German-American, was born in Pennsylvania in 1878. He became a Lutheran minister, but was disillusioned and resigned. He went to Britain where he was converted at an Evangelical gathering. He settled in Cambridge where he began a Christian renewal movement, then moved to Oxford, and thereafter, he and his followers were known as the Oxford Group.

Mindful of his German heritage, Buckman began networking in Germany. Perhaps because of its Oxbridge origins, the Group followed the maxim that it is just as important to influence kings as it is to help beggars. In 1931 in Holland, after one of the famous house parties which they used to attract followers, Buckman and some friends drove to nearby Doorn to see the ex-Kaiser who was in exile there. He declined to see them, but he asked about them. Buckman replied "we want to put into modern language the truths which turned the early Christians into revolutionaries." [p.20]

In 1932, there were 20 million people in Germany without enough to eat. Buckman was hoping for a grand Christian alliance there, ideally led by someone like Luther, which would keep Hitler out of office, but in 1933, he was voted in. Even so, things were still fluid for a while.

In 1933, Heinrich Himmler spirited away Frau von Cramon, an aristocrat and a leader of the Group in Germany, to his home for a three-day meeting. He was genuinely interested in being led by God. The discussion swung to the role of Christ:

"It is Jewish to make someone else responsible for your guilt", asserted Himmler. "That's why I don't need Christ."

Frau von Cramon put in the hard sell:

"But Reichsführer, what do you do with your sins when no one can relieve you of them, and you cannot restore for them?" Himmler replied "You have your chance through you own strength to alter your destiny in a new life." p.56.

Despite their theological differences, Himmler offered Frau von Cramon a senior position on the welfare side of the SS, which she refused.

Members of the movement survived the consolidation of the Nazi regime and the war. After the war, the Oxford Group established a centre at Caux, in Switzerland. Legislation passed in 1952 in the German Parliament to facilitate the integration of hundreds of thousands of refugees from Germany's eastern provinces was substantially influenced by men who had been at the Caux conferences.

This booklet tells the fascinating story of a religious movement operating in difficult circumstances. The movement lives on under the name Initiatives of Change. David Purnell tells me that the Australian branch not long ago brought Archbishop Tutu to Vanuatu. Peter Thwaites, who edited and translated this book, lives in Canberra.

Reg Naulty

Sunday 26 March, CORE Gathering: The Bundian Way, 2-4pm

The Committee on Racial Equality (CORE) invites you to hear John Blay at the 7th gathering at the Turner Meeting House. John will talk to us about the Bundian Way and stories of early interactions between First Nations people and settlers in the Eden, hinterland and the Snowy Mountains. **John** is an Australian writer and naturalist. Since 2001, he has researched the Bundian Way, an ancient Aboriginal pathway, in association with local Aboriginal communities. For more information see invitations in the Woolman Room.

*To help plan refreshments please **RSVP**
by Friday 24 March to Gedda Fortey,
6247 4824 or gtfortey@gmail.com*

Bega Valley Meetings for Worship:

Second Wednesday, 8 March, 10 - 11 am: Jeanie Gough's home, 5 Union Street, Bega. Please phone 6494 7530 if attending.

Second Sunday, 12 March, 10.30 – 11.30 am: Mumbulla School library.

Last Sunday, 26 March, 10.30 – 11.30 am: Mumbulla School library.

Mumbulla Steiner School is on the corner of Parker and Bega St, Bega. The library is in the northern-most building, towards Mumbulla/Biamanga mountain, away from Bega St. There is a wheels-accessible pathway.

Hosting

March

- 5 Heather Herbert, Paul Pollard, Muriel Edwards
- 12 Gedda Fortey, Paul Maharg, Rob Dolamore
- 19 Shelini Harris, Arthur Davies, Vidya
- 26 Marka Selmes, Wilma Davidson & Children's Meeting

April

- 2 Rosina Wainwright, Stewart Betts, Harold Wilkinson
- 9 Margaret Bearlin, David Liversidge, David Purnell
- 16 (Easter) Joon Garfit, Tim Johnstone, Ray Sutherland
- 23 Margaret Clark, Pam Houstein, John Symond
- 30 Chris Larkin, Mary-Lou Pentony, Bluey Haig

Back up when available: Stephen Hodgkin.

If a date won't work for you, swap if you can with someone else on the list already, and tell Heather Herbert that you have done it.

Hosting Duties

These are described near the roster on the foyer notice board. If you cannot come on the day, please arrange a swap with someone else ASAP. Ideally, approach someone rostered on another week. Contact the others in your hosting team, before Sunday, to arrange who will bring the flowers and the milk (usually 2 litres). By custom, volunteers have paid for these items when it is their turn on the roster. Other hosting expenses can be reimbursed from Meeting funds. Receipts should accompany any claim to the Finance Committee.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

PO Box 6063, O'Connor, ACT, 2602



Your Newsletter Submissions

can be sent to the editor, Peter Farrelly

Email: farrelly.peter@yahoo.com

The publishing deadline is:

The first Sunday of each month.

Meetings for Worship

Canberra Northside:

cnr Condamine & Bent Streets Turner
9:15-9:45 Early Meeting for Worship
9:55 for 10:00-11:00 Main Meeting for Worship
Children's Meeting on 4th Sunday
Meeting for Healing: last Sunday 9.00—10.00 am
Midweek Meeting: Wed morning, 8.00-8.30am

Canberra Southside:

2nd & 3rd Sunday, 8:30-9:10am, followed by a cuppa.
Seniors Centre, Tuggeranong Town Park. For directions contact Adie Price on 6161 0742

Young Friends

An active group of Young Friends (16-30yo), including some with children, gather regularly for meals and welcome newcomers.

Please contact: Stewart Betts, 0409 674 791

Wagga Wagga Recognized Meeting: 3rd Sunday at 10:30am, at Riverina Gums, 44 Dalman Parkway, Glenfield Park, Wagga Wagga. Contact Michael Bayles on 0408 291 999

Bateman's Bay: Contact Lesley on 4472 2768

Goulburn: At various venues, 3rd Sunday of the month 11.00am Meeting for Worship. Contact, Elaine Cornwell, mobile phone 0447 320 656, mecornwell10@gmail.com

Bega Valley Recognized Meeting:

See article inside for detailed information.

Silver Wattle Quaker Centre:

Meetings for Worship are on the 2nd Sunday of the month.

Enquiries: Tracy Bourne (6238 0588).