



Newsletter September 2019

We are approaching the end of the first year of the digital newsletter.

What do you think, and how do you feel about it?

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, or express an opinion about it, please send your contribution to rmcanberranews@quakersaustralia.info



**This is a small section of the crowd at the School Strike for the Climate,
Friday 20 September, Glebe Park, Canberra**

Quaker Concern for Climate Change and Its Effects



The Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee is active in the Global Heating space and has produced an Action Alert which draws attention to the recent Pacific Islands Forum and the concerns of Pacific nations about how seriously climate change is affecting them and their future. It suggests action within Australia to support those concerns.

A link to all the Action Alerts and Watching Briefs is [here](#).

STEADY AS WE GO...

A strong, steady community of support – that is really another way to describe a church, the kind of Church Jesus charged his followers to build on a rock. In contrast to the moving and shaking of worldly powers, the building of such a house is something that all Friends can take part in, in our Meetings and churches, according to our various gifts and within our respective limits. In times of comparative calm, this is usually undramatic, often routine work. It can even come to seem frivolous or irrelevant if we let Jesus' admonition slip from our awareness. But when the storms come, and they will, the importance of these small, quiet acts of construction and reconstruction stand out clearly, because "the fain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and beat upon that house, but it did not fall, because it had been built on the rock." (Matthew 7:25)

We can't control or escape all the storms of history. But all of us have something important to contribute to the work of building churches and Meetings which will survive these upheavals, and then play a key role in redeeming the damage they do. And this is not only what we can do: it is what, as Quakers and Christians, we are called to do – one day, one brick at a time.

Charles Fager, 1980 (from Linda Hill Renfer Ed. Daily readings from Quaker Writings Ancient & Modern Vol.II (Oregon: Serenity Press, 1995) p.266



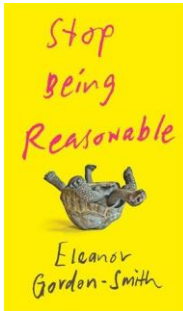
RECENT ACTIVITIES OF WAGGA WAGGA RECOGNIZED MEETING

A recent workshop on 'Knowing each other on the things that are eternal' was facilitated by Sally Kingsland from CRM. Friends are from Left; Cherry Lindsay, Michael Bayles, Geraldine Gradon, Andrew Gradon, Sally Kingsland, and Melanie Baulch. *Photo: Janet Wild*

The Multifaith Forum on the subject of end-of-life conversations was held in 3 August. The report from Michael Bayles is [here](#).

A very successful Farewell to Country was held on Sunday 4 August. Cherry Lindsay recently moved from the home that she and Robin and family had shared to the Grange Retirement Village. Over fifty people attended. There was an acknowledgement of Country and a smoking ceremony. Everyone enjoyed afternoon tea of damper and Johnny Cakes. Michael Bayles took this [photo](#).

David Parris led a workshop at Yearly Meeting in Hobart, which he called "A shared experience of the Light". David Johnson has recently made a video on Quaker Speak, in which he says, "The first language of God is actually silence." **Read more about both these [here](#).**



Reg Naulty has reviewed Eleanor Gordon-Smith's book *Stop Being Reasonable*. Reg writes:

"One is interested to find, at the end of her book about being rational, Eleanor Gordon-Smith concludes "that rationality itself may turn out to be as tangled, as knotty, and as rooted in reality as the minds it hopes to change."

Read Reg's review [here](#).



The Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC), along with other Quaker groups, especially in Britain, has had an ongoing concern about promoting peace in Sri Lanka. Harold Wilkinson, Convenor of the Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee, recently met with the newly appointed High Commissioner, Mr. J C Weliamuna (*centre*), together with Mr Willie Senanayake (*left*), a Sri Lanka colleague involved in our group. The High Commissioner was very open to the possibility of the Quaker group drawing together a number of Sri Lankans with members of the High Commission.

For more on the background to this initiative, and CRM's role in hosting meetings, [read this](#).



Children are a vital part of Canberra Regional Meeting, and the Children's Committee plans monthly meetings to cater for their interests. The Children's Committee has written this information to support Friends in facilitating these meetings. The theme for 2020 Children's Meetings is "Belonging". What would you like to contribute?

[Read more.](#)

Photo: Children at Yearly Meeting 2013, hosted by CRM.

LIVING THE BIG QUESTIONS: A YOUNG ADULT QUAKER SPACE



19-25 January 2020
Silver Wattle Quaker Centre

This 7-day course will be led by Tracy Bourne, Andrew Bray and Sally Kingsland. It is for young adult Friends who would like to deepen their spiritual life in a welcoming community of peers.

Questions include: Who am I? What is my life for? How can I make the world a better place?

Participants will be offered the opportunity to continue the spiritual journey through regular Zoom meetings and monthly spiritual direction.

[Read the flyer](#) for more details and contacts.



David Purnell spoke at the ringing of the Peace Bell in Nara Peace Park in Canberra on the anniversary of Hiroshima Day August 6th. Approximately 60 people attended the ringing of the bell, including Christine Larkin, Ronis Chapman, Jackie Smitheringale, Michael Hodgkin and Harold Wilkinson.

The ringing of peace bells around the world that day, including those in Cowra NSW and Christchurch NZ, was acknowledged.

The text of David's presentation is [here](#).



The photo above was taken at Yearly Meeting 2017, held at Avondale College of Higher Education, at Cooranbong NSW 2265. This will also be the venue for next year's Yearly Meeting, hosted by Canberra Regional Meeting.

[Read more](#) about why this venue has been chosen and start thinking about how you might help in the hosting of this event.

WORLD QUAKER DAY



OCTOBER 6, 2019

Friends World Committee for Consultation Asia West Pacific Section has a newsletter which includes news from all over our region about Quaker activities. What will you do to celebrate World Quaker Day this year? Read more [here](#).



Greetings from Friends at Devonshire Street*

The major works for the light rail in Devonshire Street have been completed, and it is expected to open in late 2019 or early 2020. In late August we are still completing essential work in the building and hope in the next few weeks to have it signed off. Accommodation for guests at the Meeting House depends on volunteer wardens being in place which we hope will occur early in 2020.

Best wishes, Mary Pollard
Acting Convenor, House Committee

*If you would like to volunteer for this role, send a message [here](#).



John Symond celebrated his birthday recently at the Thai Chiang Rai in Belconnen. Joon Garfit is helping him blow out candles on the magnificent tram cake made by Ronis Chapman. *Photo: Mardi Naulty*

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