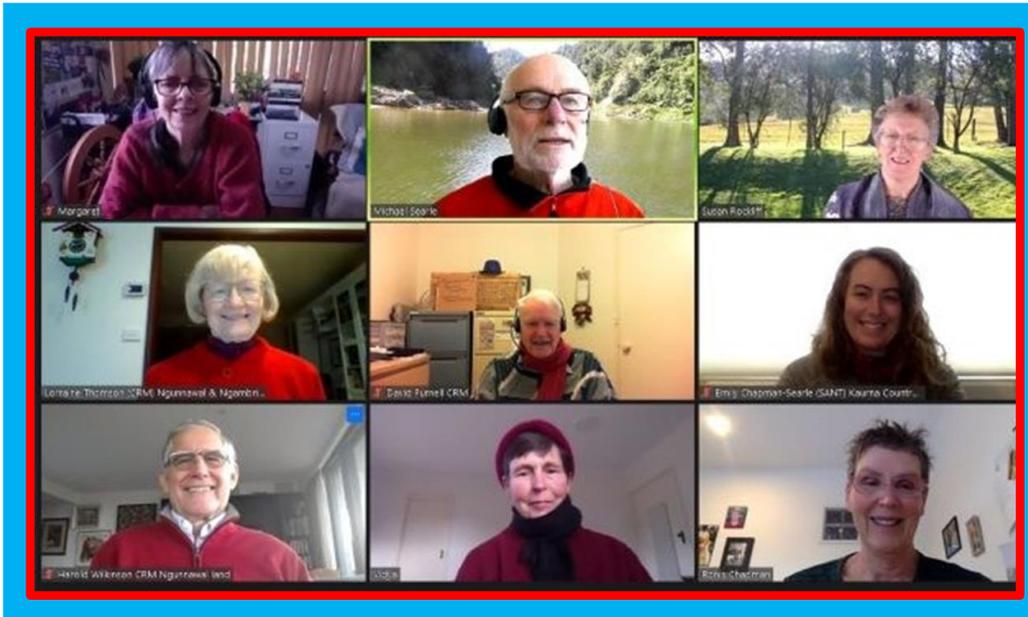


## July 2020

Welcome to our July Newsletter. We hope you will read and enjoy.

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter, or express an opinion about it, please email:  
<http://rmcanberranews@quakersaustralia.info>.

### Beyond Geography – Yearly Meeting Online



*Pictured from left* Margaret, Michael Searle (Co-Convenor), Susan Rockliff, Lorraine Thomson (Co-Convenor), David Purnell (AYM Assistant Clerk), Emily Chapman-Searle, Harold Wilkinson, Vidya, Ronis Chapman.

**Michael Searle** was Co-Convenor with **Lorraine Thomson** of the Hosting Group of Yearly Meeting 2020. Michael had a vision for how Yearly Meeting might be re-imagined. COVID19 gave extra impetus to this. "... we have a continuing opportunity to gain from the pandemic, to do things in new ways, and to break boundaries. In this case, to use our geographic structures to extend beyond geography into a new era." Read Michael's thoughts [here](#).

The above screen shot of the Red Team, aka the CRM Hosting Group, was taken near the end of Yearly Meeting. Perhaps therefore everyone looks so cheerful and relieved! This was the first virtual Yearly Meeting, necessitated by COVID19. The consensus is that it went surprisingly well. Everything that could be planned was carefully considered. Some innovations to the usual YM format, occurred, and much was learned - for next time!

**Oft-repeated phrase at YM2020: "Friend, you are muted."**

## On the Death of George Floyd



Friends of CRM, **Jean and David Rosenberg**, live in Middlebury, Vermont. The death of **George Floyd** in Minneapolis in May has led to a surge of protests in many countries of the world under the banner of Black Lives Matter. The Chief of Police in Middlebury wrote a letter to the local newspaper, in which he describes his own reaction to the death of George Floyd and expresses the values of the police department which he leads. We have permission to reprint this letter [here](#)



Canberra Friend **Evan Gallagher** gave an address by video during Yearly Meeting 2020. Evan delivered a challenging summary of the current state of the society, which included the expected statistics on membership. Evan also included some pithy observations, including that Quakers don't reflect the diversity of the community, being mostly white, middle-class, and educated. Evan asked, "Where are the missing Quakers?" Evan investigated the word "privilege", translating into Fox-inspired language "Wear the sword of privilege whilst thou canst". Evan asked, "Are we prepared to change inwardly as a Society?" One participant saw a link between Friendly School (below) and the State of Society

Address: Are Quakers clear about what we stand for? *You can read Evan's paper [here](#).*

## News of Friends



After about eight years in Canberra, **Peter Williams** and his husband **Gryff Jamieson Ballard** have just moved to Victoria. They are living temporarily in Bendigo, and in about twelve months will join a new community in The Paddock, an eco-village in Castlemaine. Whilst we miss their presence amongst us, this new venture is a life opening for them and a gift to the community they join. Read more about their plans [here](#).

Photo: Steven Lloyd



**The Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee** has published an Action Alert on the **Age of Criminal Responsibility**. You can read this alert, as well as other recent contributions to public debate, on the QPLC page of the Quakers Australia website [here](#).

## Yearly Meeting 2020 - First Nations Peoples Concerns Committee



At Yearly Meeting, a plenary session for the **First Nations Peoples Concerns Committee** was held. Eighty-two Friends attended this session, which was addressed by **Dave Johnson**. Dave is one of the first aboriginal people to obtain a degree in archaeology at the Australian National University. He also holds a Masters Degree from London and has been a consultant archaeologist for 27 years. Dave spoke about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander heritage, which he says is Australia's greatest unrealized asset. He sees this heritage as belonging to all Australians, but also that it's an uphill battle to protect it. Dave's generous and open-hearted approach was clear. Here are two **Office Of Environment And Heritage** videos which celebrate collaboration with the landholders: [The Quarry](#) and [Gollion Ochre](#).

### Silver Wattle Winter Gardening Week

#### Rob & John Do a Bit of Hard Yakka



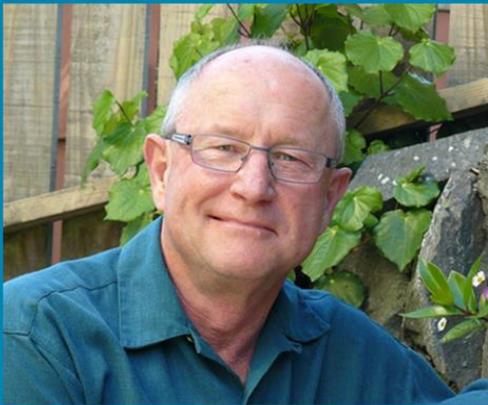
Winter Gardening Week at Silver Wattle Quaker Centre: **Rob** is removing a dead shrub, and **John** is whipper snipping weeds around the compost. Some other photos are [here](#).



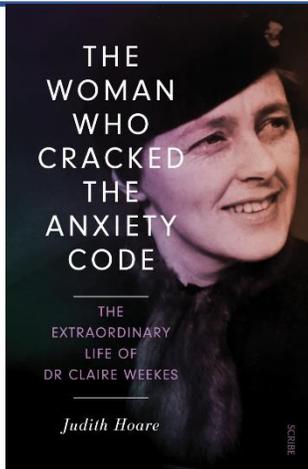
## Varieties of Personal Spiritual Practice

**Dorothy Broom** and **Wilma Davidson** have written a Quaker Sampler entitled "Varieties of Personal Spiritual Practice". Pre-COVID19, they would have facilitated a gathering of Friends at Turner Meeting House. Instead, it is offered for your consideration [here](#).

Photo: Alexandra Fuller



**Murray Short** gave the introduction to Friendly School at Yearly Meeting. The theme of Friendly School 2020 was "Unity of the Spirit: The Individual in Meeting for Worship for Business" and was attended by some 92 Friends. Murray's paper is [here](#).



**Dr Claire Weekes**, an Australian scientist, wrote a book in 1962 called "Self-Help for Your Nerves", about how to manage one's own anxiety. It was reprinted 23 times before her death in 1990. **Reg Naulty** has written a review of a new biography about Weekes by **Judith Hoare**. Read it [here](#).

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