



## June 2021

### AUSTRALIA YEARLY MEETING ONLINE 3-9 JULY

Registration is now open! Registration is open to members and attenders from Quakers Australia as well as to seekers and Friends from other meetings. The registration form is available here:

<https://forms.gle/AC5HW14WSPboF9B9A>.

Being an online event, this is very accessible for many Friends - you can pick and choose the sessions you are interested in. These include worship, Share and Tell sessions and social sessions as well as learning and business sessions. You can meet Friends from around Australia.



“The tree laid bare by winter reaches skyward. Hidden by summer’s leaves, its strength unrecognized in warmer times; but it is there – firmness that will uphold the beauty, splendour of a budding spring.”

Alvina Hill wrote these words. Alvina spoke to Friends online in the "This Is Your Friend" series in May. A summary of Alvina's account of her life, and the connection between her spiritual life and bipolar disorder, is [here](#).

**The First Nations Peoples Concerns Committee of Quakers Australia, and the Committee on Racial Equality (ACT)** hosted a Webinar on 29 May at which the speaker was Arrernte woman Auntie Christine Kngwarreye Palmer.

Auntie Christine shared the story of her life as an Indigenous elder. She spoke about her personal experience of the trauma caused to her family and community by the ongoing

incarceration of young people in places such as the Don Dale detention centre in Darwin. Read a report on this webinar [here](#).



A multi-faith Prayer Service on 15 May for the victims of COVID was organised by the Wagga Wagga Multicultural Council and the Potowas Buddhists. There were representatives from Bahi, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, Christianity, Quakers, Sikh and Yazidi communities. Our Friend Michael Bayles is fourth from the right.

#### **FORETHOUGHT - MAY 2021**

The Ministry Committee of the Canberra and Region Meeting is trying out a new element to Meeting for Worship once a month called “Forethought”. Each Forethought will be a brief reflection before Meeting on third Sundays about an aspect of the practice of Meeting for Worship. The forethought shared by elder Wilma Davidson on 16 May is [here](#).





Our Friend John (Bluey) Haig has been travelling in Eastern Australia and took this photo at the Mornington Peninsula in Victoria.

Reg Naulty has reviewed the recently published book by Dr Sarah Bachelard, a Canberra-based theologian and retreat leader, called **A Contemplative Christianity For Our Times**. Read Reg's review [here](#).

### **The Australian Friend - seeking new editors**

The Australian Friend committee recently indicated that they would like to lay down this work when their term finishes at YM2021.

As the Committee is now operating via Zoom, email and phone and do not have face-to-face meetings, it might be that Friends from different RMs could form the new AYM Australian Friend committee if no Regional Meeting. Because of the short timeframe, the present Committee are offering to continue until YM 2022 and have new Friends join so they can train them in how we organise each issue of the AF. David Swain has offered to continue putting the articles on The Australian Friend website and also to train another Friend to do so.

We hope that another Regional Meeting and/ or a group of three, four or five Friends can take over producing *The Australian Friend* after YM2021. You can find The Australian Friend here: <https://australianfriend.org/>





### **RALLY IN SUPPORT OF BERNARD COLLAERY AND WITNESS K**

About eighty people gathered in front of the ACT Supreme Court at 9.30am on Monday 17th May to support Bernard and Witness K. Bernard Collaery's hearing against the secrecy in his trial began on that day.

Speakers at the rally included Sophie Singh (Refugee Action Campaign ACT steering committee), Bishop George Browning (former Anglican Bishop of Canberra and Goulburn), Kieran Pender (senior lawyer from the Human Rights Legal Centre) and Kristine Klugman (President of Civil Liberties Australia).

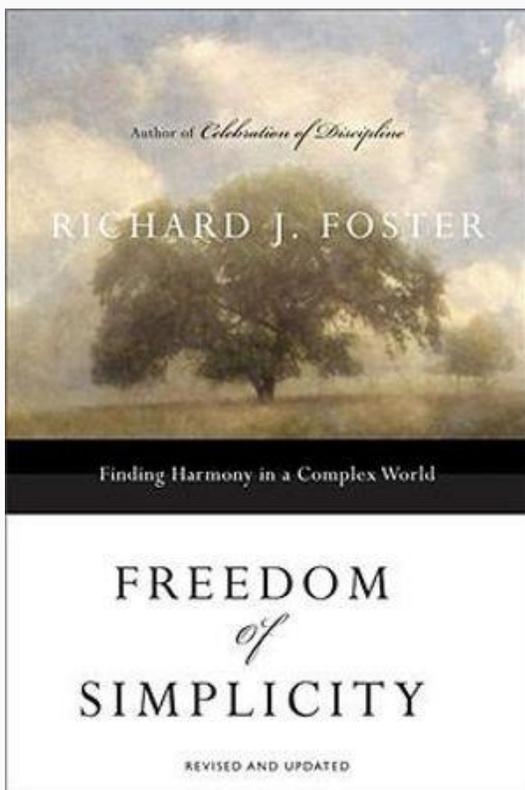
The rally was to protest the continuing prosecutions of Bernard Collaery and Witness K, and ADF whistleblower David McBride.

Kathryn Kelly, Co-Convenor of the Alliance Against Political Prosecutions wrote: "A justice system in a democratic society must be open, not be used in a political way to hide misdeeds and not be used to punish people who have done no wrong. These prosecutions fail on all these counts and the trust in our legal system is being harmed as a result." Several Canberra Friends continue to attend these rallies which are held regularly. Pictured are Bernard Collaery and Kathryn Kelly. Photo: Susan Rockliff

See also [Drop the Prosecutions Facebook page](#)

## SECURITY THROUGH SUSTAINABLE PEACE

This was the title of a webinar from the Australian Institute of International Affairs (AIIA) Victoria on 23 March 2021. The speakers were Dr John Langmore and Dr Tania Militec. They talked about the current priorities of Australia in regard to diplomacy and peacebuilding. Harold Wilkinson wrote a report on the webinar, which includes questions that are relevant for Quakers to consider. Read Harold's report [here](#).



I want to list ten controlling principles for the outward expression of simplicity. They should not be viewed as laws but as one attempt to flesh out the meaning of simplicity into twentieth-century life. First, buy things for their usefulness rather than their status. Second, reject anything that is producing an addiction in you. Third, develop a habit of giving things away. De-accumulate. Fourth, refuse to be propagandised by the custodians of modern gadgetry. Fifth, learn to enjoy things without owning them. Sixth, develop a deeper appreciation for the creation. Seventh, look with a healthy scepticism at all 'buy now, pay later' schemes. Eighth, obey Jesus' injunction about plain, honest speech. Ninth, reject anything that will breed the oppression of others. Tenth, shun whatever would distract you from your main goal. Richard J Foster, 1979  
Richard is a Christian theologian and author in the Quaker tradition. He has written several books, including *Freedom of Simplicity* (1981) The revised edition of 2005 is pictured left.

*Copyright © 2021 Canberra RM, All rights reserved.*  
You are receiving this email because you opted in via our website.

<https://actquakers.org.au>

**Our mailing address is:**

Canberra RM

PO Box 6063

O'Connor, Australian Capital Territory 2602

Australia

[Add us to your address book](#)

I wish to [subscribe to this list](#).

I wish to [unsubscribe from this list](#).