

## Formal Session 6: Thursday 11 July at 9.30am ACST

### YM2024.35

During the opening worship, the Assistant Clerk read the following

God of every beautiful thing

Make us people of wonder. Show us how to hold on to nuance and vision when our souls become addicted to pain, to the unlovely. It is far easier to see the gloom and decay; so often it sings a louder song. Attune our hearts to the good still stirring in our midst, not that we would give ourselves to toxic positivity or neglect the pain of the world, but that we would be people capable of existing in the tension. Grant us habits of sacred pause. Let us marvel not just at the grand or majestic, but beauty's name etched into every ordinary moment. Let the mundane swell with a mystery that makes us breathe deeper still. And by this, may we be sustained and kept from despair.

- Cole Arthur Riley, *Black Liturgies: Prayers, Poems, and Meditations for Staying Human*, 2024

### YM2024.36

A Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of John McMahon (VRM) was presented by Dorothy Scott

### YM2024.37

#### Meeting for Remembrance Minute of Record

The following names were read out at the Meeting for Remembrance on Wednesday 10th July 2024

**CRQ:** Heather Herbert, Peter Dwyer

**NSWRM:** Peter Imbriotis, Elaine Polglase, Geoff McLean, Greg Heathcote, Jean Gough

**QRM:** Margaret Bruce (former member of QRM, late of Britain YM), Åase Pryor, Pam Tooth, David Vaux (Formerly of QRM, late in USA)

**SANTRM:** Humphrey Tranter, Sonia Raupach, Diana Campbell, Michael Tolley, Patricia Nannes, Barbara Mather, Enid Ulbrich, Peter Clarke.

**TRM:** Beccán Jones, Stan Read, Sheila Given, Helgart Flitney, Betty McKenzie.

**VRM:** John McMahon, Diana Mannigal (NSWRM), Lloyd Godman, Beryl Holmes, Chris Mckenna, Helga Griffin, Peter Bennett, Maxwell Ketels.

**WARM:** Tony Noakes, Paul Martin, Heather Williams

### YM2024.38 NCCA Forum

We hear a report about the National Council of Churches Forum, held in June, 2024 from Ann Zubrick and Jenny Stock. A report about the Forum will appear in Documents in Retrospect.

### YM2024.39 Children and JYF Committee

We note that the report by Fiona Gardner 'Quakers and Young People at the Heart of Quaker Life' has many suggestions for bringing children, JYFs and their families into the heart of the Quaker Community; individual Friends, local and Regional Meetings are already putting some of the suggestions into practice. Other recommendations provide a roadmap for meetings and committees, including the Children and JYFs Committee, to follow in the coming year.

1. Yearly Meeting agrees to fund the position of **Children and Junior Young Friends Coordinator**, to be

appointed by the Children and JYFs Committee (a Yearly Meeting Committee) for a three-year term. We note that the coordinator would work across Yearly Meeting to foster inclusion of children, JYFs and families. This would include resourcing Local and Regional Meetings to provide activities as well as to encourage communication and mutual support between them. The Coordinator would be responsible to the Children and JYFs Committee and is expected to attend and report to monthly Committee Meetings. The hours of work will average out to one day a week over a year, with four weeks pro rata annual leave. The salary will be approximately \$20,000 per year plus \$7000 on costs

2. Yearly Meeting agrees to fund visits to Regional Meetings by the Coordinator, expected to cost \$2,000 per annum.

3. We support providing funding of \$2,000 per year to contribute to the employment of registered child carers for activities such as the Easter Family Gathering and Yearly Meeting or Meetings for Worship.

4. We support providing funding of up to \$8,000 per year to subsidise Children and JYFs accommodation at Yearly Meeting.

We support increasing the proportion of all-age activities at Yearly Meeting as practicable.

5. Yearly Meeting recognises that there are statutory obligations with respect to our care of Children that do not apply to Friends in general.

However, we accept the recommendation to align the work of the Safe Quaker Community with the Child Safety Committee.

## **YM2024.40 Associated Bodies**

In 2023, Yearly Meeting asked Alan Clayton to consult with other Friends and bring forward suggestions about the relationships between Quakers Australia and the various 'Associated Bodies' that share our name. Alan Clayton submitted a Report to DIA 2024.

The report recommends a three-level structure for entities associated with Quakers Australia/aym reflecting the differing degrees of connection between AYM/QA and related bodies which are not AYM committees or working groups:

(a) organisations which maintain a close governance connection with QA, particularly though coverage under the QA master insurance policy (such as QSA Australia Ltd and Kangaroo Valley Friends Properties Pty Ltd) as **affiliated bodies**;

(b) organisations whose organisational and operational structure demonstrate a significant degree of independence from QA as **associated bodies**. For instance, The Friends' School Incorporated and Silver Wattle Quaker Centre Limited.

(c) organisations that have had an historical connection with QA, and where there is a desire to maintain an acknowledged ongoing link, as **allied bodies**, for instance *Alternatives to Violence (AVP)*.

2. We hear the recommendation to reinstate the Handbook entry for QSA to that in the 6th edition.

We heard a short report of the Preparatory Meeting, presented by Kerstin Reimers. After some discussion, we deferred this item to the Formal Session 7 on Friday July 12.

The Meeting closed with a period of silence.