

## Formal Session 9: Saturday 13 July at 9.30am ACST

### **YM2024.55**      **Reading**

In the opening silence, the following reading was brought to us by the Assistant Clerk, Lorel Thomas

There is something about traversing a bush-walking track in Australia that closely resembles exploring spiritual paths in the Quaker sense. While a pedestrian excursion by an individual along well-defined paths presents few problems for a short time, it is essential for serious walkers exploring the depths to have companions.

Just the same, as seekers in our Quaker faith, we are not alone. We belong to a group, a society of friends, who willingly accompanies us. Still, it is individuals who do the actual walking and seeking, so, as explorers, they must be conscious of their own nature, temperament, constitution and what really satisfies them.

- Sheila Given, 1999, *This We Can Say* 1.93

### **YM2024.56**      **WARM Testimonies**

A Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Heather Williams, was read by Tonya Jensen, and a Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Paul Martin was read by Adrian Glamorgan

### **YM2024.57**      **The Friends' School Board appointments**

We hear from Shaun Sargent (The Friends School Director of Business Affairs) that the following minute was passed at the Annual General Meeting of the Association of The Friends' School Incorporated held on Saturday 18 May 2024:

Nomination of Elective Directors

We consider the nominations brought forward by the Board of Governors under Rule 8(b) of the Rules of Association of the Friends School and we agree to recommend that Yearly Meeting appoint the following:

- Michael Ashby as a nominee of Tasmania Regional Meeting for a first term of four years commencing from the date of approval by Yearly Meeting.
- Tracy Bourne as a nominee of the Board of Governors for a first term of four years commencing from the date of approval by Yearly Meeting.
- Julia Jago as a nominee of the Board of Governors for a first term of four years commencing from the date of approval by Yearly Meeting.

Yearly Meeting approves these appointments.

### **YM2024.58**      **QSA Board Appointments**

Yearly Meeting notes that the Urgent Decision-making Process was used on March 21, 2024 to approve the appointment of David Carter and on April 11, 2024 to approve the appointment of Chris McMillan to the Board of QSA.

### **YM2024.59**      **Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee**

A compilation of QPLC Policy Statements in the areas of Militarisation, First Nations issues, Climate emergency, Integrity, Treaty for Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons and Palestine was presented. It will be used for advocacy and publicity. We accept this document as a statement from this YM24. It can be found at this [LINK](#).

### **YM2024.60**      **Yearly Meeting Organisation Committee**

The report from the Preparatory Meeting which addressed the where, when and how of holding future Yearly Meetings was presented by Jennifer Burrell. We note the following:

- JYFs and Young Friends spoke about the need for in-person YMs and the possibility of meeting in January. On-line only gatherings do not work for younger people.
- Yearly Meeting wishes to have a hybrid YM in 2025
- We note the enthusiasm of Friends including the Yearly Meeting Organising Committee who are willing to help with the organisation of future hybrid YMs. The choice of the same venue for a number of years running is strongly supported
- We set the time of Yearly Meeting 2025 as July 5-12th to be held either at University College, Melbourne, or at Avondale College in NSW.
- We hear the possibility of having an additional hybrid gathering in January 2025 based around the AGM and we encourage Friends to work with YMOC for that time.
- We ask the YMOC in cooperation with other willing Friends to consider future options of timing and length of gatherings, possible venues, ways of involving children, JYFs and YFs in future YMs, and other matters. We ask them to bring recommendations to a future Standing Committee or YM.
- We are reminded to be adventurous in the planning of our gatherings.
- We are grateful for the committees, the technological support and the help from many, many Friends.

## **YM2024.61      Epistle**

A final reading of [Epistle](#), was presented by Dale Hess

## **YM2024.62      Final Minute**

We thank all those people who have worked so well to assist the running of this Yearly Meeting , especially the Yearly Meeting Organising Committee (YMOC), SANTRM YMOC, the Tech team and subcommittees

We sang the song 'Dear Friends' with gusto:

*Dear Friends, dear Friends,  
Let me tell you how I feel,  
You have given me such treasure,  
I love you so.*

The Meeting closed with a period of worship