

Yearly Meeting Minutes 3 – 10 January 2009

Burton & Garran Hall, Australian National University, Canberra

Formal Session 1 9.30 a.m. Sunday, 4 January 2009

YM09.1 Welcome by traditional custodians

On Saturday, 3 January, Agnes Shea as an elder of the Ngunnawal people, the traditional custodians of this land, welcomed us to Canberra and read to us from the Ngunnawal Council of Elders Charter, which will be included in *Documents in Retrospect*, with her permission. [Note: The words from the Ngunnawal Council of Elders Charter were not available at the time of printing *Documents in Retrospect*, and will be published in a future issue of *The Australian Friend*.]

YM09.2 Appointment of Assistant Clerk

We agree to appoint Jonathan Benyei of Canberra Regional Meeting as Assistant Clerk for Yearly Meeting 2009.

YM09.3 Welcome to those participating in Yearly Meeting 2009

The Presiding Clerk welcomed members and attenders by asking those from each Regional Meeting and overseas Meetings to stand in turn. A list of those not in membership, whose participation at this Yearly Meeting has been approved by Standing Committee, will be available on noticeboards during this Yearly Meeting.

A list of all attending Yearly Meeting will be printed in *Documents in Retrospect*.

YM09.4 Incoming Presiding Clerk

(a) On the recommendation of Nominations Committee we appoint Maxine Cooper as the Presiding Clerk for three years beginning at the close of Yearly Meeting 2010.

(b) Following discussion with Maxine Cooper, Nominations Committee recommends:

(i) that she attend a suitable course, such as the 'Advanced Clerking Clinic' at Pendle Hill, as part of her preparation for this appointment and that her travel, accommodation and course expenses be met from the AYM Travel Fund;

(ii) that she consult with the Nominations Committee, the Presiding Clerk and others in order to bring a recommendation about the possible appointment of an assistant to the Clerk during her term as Presiding Clerk.

We accept these recommendations.

YM09.5 Welcome to visitors

The Presiding Clerk welcomed visitors from overseas including the following:

Svend Henriksen, Copenhagen Local Meeting, Denmark Yearly Meeting
Margaret Kendon, Philadelphia Yearly Meeting
Bokyom Jin & Sunghun (Paul) Han, Seoul Monthly Meeting
Kathy Walling, Scott Bell and Sarah and Sophia Walling-Bell, Chena Ridge Friends' Meeting, Alaska
Chris Hall (Young Friend), Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting
Jean Rosenberg, Middleburg Meeting, Vermont, New England Yearly Meeting
Jonathan Tailby, Aotearoa/New Zealand Yearly Meeting

YM09.6 Greetings

(a) Greetings received

We have heard Greetings from the following Meetings:

Britain Yearly Meeting
Eastern Suburbs Meeting, Adelaide, South Australia Regional Meeting
Friends General Conference
Hong Kong Monthly Meeting
Japan Yearly Meeting
Morrington Recognised Meeting

We also heard greetings from the following individual Friends:

Jairaj Brown and the Brown family
Anne Herbert, Finland YM
Ruth Watson, Past Presiding Clerk

(b) Greetings to be sent

We ask that responses be prepared to these and other greetings received during Yearly Meeting and all present are invited to sign these greetings which will be displayed from Tuesday 6 January until Friday, 9 January.

YM09.7 Matters from Standing Committee

(i) We accept Standing Committee's recommendations of the following names for the Pastoral Care Committee at Yearly Meeting 2009:

Canberra Regional Meeting: Doreen Cope and Malcolm Whyte
New South Wales Regional Meeting: Frances Love and Dennis Dorwick
Queensland Regional Meeting: Heather Myers and Abel Siboniyo
South Australia Regional Meeting: Kate Alessia and Roger Keyes
Tasmania Regional Meeting: Robin McLean
Victoria Regional Meeting: Hilary Conway
West Australia Regional Meeting: Graham Hodgkin and Doug Matthews
Young Friends Myfanwy Whyte and Herman Itangakubuntu;

(ii) We accept Standing Committee's recommendations of the following names for Child Protection Contact people for the duration of Yearly Meeting 2009:

Canberra Regional Meeting: Brian Turner and Ronis Chapman
New South Wales Regional Meeting: Wies Schuiringa
Tasmania Regional Meeting: Julian Robertson
Victoria Regional Meeting: Yoland Wadsworth

YM09.8 AYM Nominations Committee

We receive the following nominations and appoint

Minute Checkers	Duncan Frewin, Queensland Regional Meeting, for Formal Session 1
Epistle Committee	Bev Polzin, Victoria Regional Meeting, for Yearly Meeting 2009

Formal Session 2 9.00 am. Tuesday, 6 January 2009

YM09.9 Testimony

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of **Lister Hopkins** of Canberra Regional Meeting was read by Julia Denton-Barker.

YM09.10 Testimonies

Testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of the following Friends will be read as follows:

Name	Regional Meeting	Read by	Formal Session
Lister Hopkins	Canberra RM	Julia Denton-Barker	Session 2
Leonce Richards	Victoria RM	Dale Hess	Session 3
Tjarko Van Apeldoorn	Victoria RM	Helen Irvine	Session 3
Tom Evans	Canberra and West Australia RM	Margaret Woodward	Session 4
David Bryce	Queensland RM	Judith Pembleton	Session 5
Victoria Rigney	Tasmania RM	Topsy Evans	Session 6
Judith Parkhurst	Tasmania RM	Julian Robertson	Session 6
Leslie Hopkins	South Australia RM	Julie Webb	Session 7
John Newland	South Australia RM	Drew Thomas	Session 7
Miles Pulsford	South Australia RM	Roger Keyes	Session 7
Compilation from testimonies for Raymond Frederikson, Kerry Osboldstone, Derrick Woodhouse, Carmen Zammit	New South Wales RM	Elizabeth Field	Session 8

YM09.11 Travelling Minutes from Overseas Friends

We have heard travelling minutes introducing

Eileen Williams, from Littlehampton Meeting, West Sussex
Cathy Walling and Scott Bell and Sophia and Sarah Walling-Bell, from Chena Ridge Friends Meeting, Fairbanks, Alaska
Bo -Kyom Jin and Sunghun (Paul) Han from Seoul Monthly Meeting, South Korea.

We hear that the Presiding Clerk will add our greetings to these travelling minutes.

YM09.12 Future Yearly Meetings

The Presiding Clerk informed Yearly Meeting of the following plans for future Yearly Meetings:

(a) Yearly Meeting 2 - 9 January 2010, Westminster School, Adelaide, South Australia

The venue for Yearly Meeting 2010, Westminster School, can accommodate 130 people and a variety of other accommodation, including a campsite and motel, is available near the school.

(b) Yearly Meeting 8 - 15 January 2011, University of Wollongong Campus East, New South Wales

Yearly Meeting 2011 is to be held at the University of Wollongong Campus East, and will hopefully have the University's Innovations Centre for business sessions. There is on-campus accommodation for 200 or more people and a variety of other types of accommodation available close to the University of Wollongong Campus East.

(c) Yearly Meeting 7 - 14 January 2012, Perth, Western Australia

West Australia Regional Meeting has made pencil bookings for two possible sites for our 2012 Yearly Meeting.

YM09.13 Future mid-year Standing Committees

The Presiding Clerk informed Yearly Meeting of the following plans for future mid-year Standing Committees:

(a) Standing Committee 9–11 July 2009, Sydney

New South Wales Regional Meeting is hosting mid-year Standing Committee July 2009. Standing Committee sessions will take place both at the Devonshire Street Meeting House and Wahroonga Meeting House.

(b) Standing Committee July 2010, Hobart

Mid-year Standing Committee in 2010 will be held in Hobart. Tentative dates (to be confirmed at Standing Committee July 2009) are 8–10 July.

(c) Standing Committee July 2011

West Australia Regional Meeting feel that it would be prohibitively expensive to hold mid-year Standing Committee in Western Australia even though they would like to do so.

YM09.14 Statements and letters on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting

We note that letters sent on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting since Yearly Meeting 2008, and all replies, are on display in Function Room 2, and a list of these letters will be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

YM09.15 Nominations Committee

Nominations Committee brings the following recommendations:

(a) Minute Checkers

Susan Addison, Queensland Regional Meeting, Evan Gallagher, Canberra Regional Meeting, and Jo Jordan, South Australia Regional Meeting.

(b) Epistle

In addition to the appointment in Minute 09.8, Lorraine Thomson and Chris Jacques, Canberra Regional Meeting, Adrian Glamorgan, West Australia Regional Meeting.

We agree to these appointments for the duration of Yearly Meeting 2009.

(c) The Australian Friend Committee

Susan Addison, Tony Arden and Duncan Frewin, Queensland Regional Meeting.

We agree to these appointments until the end of Yearly Meeting 2010, and note that *The Australian Friend Committee* will give six months notice of its intention to lay down this responsibility.

(d) Representative to Aotearoa-New Zealand Yearly Meeting

David Evans, South Australia Regional Meeting.

We agree to this appointment for July 2009.

YM09.16 The Friends' School Board Appointments

Standing Committee recommends that Australia Yearly Meeting appoint the following:

Pam Houstein, as a nominee of Canberra Regional Meeting, for a second term of two years beginning in May 2008

Barbara Rautman, as a nominee of Victoria Regional Meeting, for a first term of four years beginning in May 2009

Ann Zubrick, as a nominee of West Australia Regional Meeting, for a second term of three years beginning in May 2009

Mary Beadle, Tasmania Regional Meeting, as the staff nominee, for a second term of four years beginning in May 2009
and

Michelle Fernando, as an Executive Committee nominee, for a first term of four years commencing in May 2009

We agree to these appointments.

YM09.17 Presiding Clerk's report

(Documents in Advance page 19)

We receive the report from the Presiding Clerk, Lyndsay Farrall. He referred to his recent attendance at Japan Yearly Meeting in November. Japan Yearly Meeting would welcome contact from Friends travelling through Tokyo and other parts of Japan.

In the report, the Clerk draws attention to the more than 50 groups worshipping around Australia, and what seemed to him to be a common recognition that we need to devote more of our time and energy to the nurture and pastoral care of ourselves and others.

YM09.18 State of the Society address

Trish Roberts of Canberra Regional Meeting gave the State of the Society address. This address will be printed in *Documents in Retrospect*.

In concluding her address Trish Roberts challenged us as follows 'Do less, not more; be faithful; care for each other; and have fun'.

Formal Session 3 9.30 a.m. Wednesday, 7 January 2009

YM09.19 AYM Secretary's Report

(Documents in Advance page 21)

We receive the AYM Secretary's Report in *Documents in Advance*, and agree to her returning to a four-day working week.

YM09.20 Summary of epistles from other Yearly Meetings

Pam Houstein has read a summary of epistles received from other Yearly Meetings held around the world. We thank Pam for highlighting both the challenges facing Yearly Meetings and their celebrations of the Spirit moving among them. We encourage Friends to read this summary which will be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

Formal Session 4 11.10 a.m. Wednesday, 7 January 2009

YM09.21 Testimony

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of **Tom Evans** of Canberra Regional Meeting (formerly of West Australia Regional Meeting) was read by Margaret Woodward of West Australia Regional Meeting.

YM09.22 AYM Treasurer's Report

(Documents in Advance pages 22 -23)

(a) Investment update

We hear that our investments have been affected by the economic downturn, and ask that the Treasurer's update on this matter be printed in *Documents in Retrospect*.

(b) Thanksgiving Fund

We hear that the Thanksgiving Fund is in need of donations and that Standing Committee had agreed to the following changes in the Fund's guidelines:

- (a) that bequests be added to the income part of the Fund, unless the donor of a bequest specifically asks that it be added to the capital part of the Fund;
- (b) in any one year the Committee may additionally make grants during a financial year totalling up to ten percent of the amount which was in the capital Fund at the beginning of that financial year with the agreement of the Presiding Clerk, the AYM Secretary and one Regional Meeting Clerk.

We hear from Friends that we have an expectation that we will give generously to the Thanksgiving Fund so that its capital will be built up. We acknowledge that successive Thanksgiving Fund Committees and Yearly Meeting Treasurers have been conscientious stewards of this Fund on our behalf and that we expect continued conscientious stewardship of this Fund.

We ask the incoming Thanksgiving Fund Committee to review the current guidelines and report the results of that review to Standing Committee in July 2009.

(c) Audited Accounts

We receive the AYM Treasurer's Report and accept the 2007/08 audited accounts. We note that copies are available from the AYM Treasurer.

(d) Appointment of the Auditor

We reappoint AH Jackson & Co as auditors for 2008/09.

YM09.23 AYM Publications Committee Report

(Documents in Advance page 74)

We receive the report in *Documents in Advance*.

(a) Publication of the QSA history

The Preparatory Session recommends the following:

- (i) that an interest-free loan of up to \$20,000 be made to QSA in order for *Friends In Deed* to be published through the agency of the Publications Committee;
- (ii) that QSA repay this loan by the end of Yearly Meeting 2010, with the understanding that QSA will pay any shortfall between the income from the sales of the book by that time and the loan.

We agree.

(b) Paid assistance for the Publications Committee

The Preparatory Session recommended the following:

- (i) that \$10,000 be made available from the Reserve Fund for the use of the Publications Committee to clear the backlog of existing publications being updated;
- (ii) that Yearly Meeting ask the Publications Committee to prepare a proposal and budget for ongoing paid assistance for mid-year Standing Committee 2009.

We accept these recommendations.

YM09.24 Quaker Voices in the 21st Century (QVC21)

(Documents in Advance page 78–79)

We hear the following report of this Preparatory Session:

QVC21 has given AYM the best snapshot we have of ourselves and the questions we are asking today. In the context of potential conflicts over scarcities, Friends have much to offer a troubled world through our testimonies and processes.

We held these challenges in worship and considered the following questions:

- What are we called to say this year?
- How have we been constrained from acting?
- How have we been paying attention to what others are saying in our Meeting?
- Are we recognising our need for leadership and how are we equipping ourselves?

We heard that the Spirit is most active in the outer edges and that is where growth is happening. Each of us has something to offer. We were reminded of the shape of an iceberg. We need to discern the peculiar contributions that Friends can make, in a distinctive Quaker voice, often prophetic, and necessarily underpinned by patient upholding in a worshipping community.

Meetings are asked to proceed with this work in their own ways.

Yearly Meeting thanks Katherine Purnell and Helen Bayes, Canberra Regional Meeting, and their support committees for the work they have carried out under this concern.

YM09.25 Quaker Learning Australia

(Documents in Advance page 75)

We hear a report from Kerry O'Regan, South Australia Regional Meeting, about the Preparatory Session on Quaker Learning Australia and ask that the full report be printed in *Documents in Retrospect*.

The QLA Preparatory Session recommends that Australia Yearly Meeting takes out an appropriate copyright licence with Copyright Agency Limited. We agree.

The Quaker Education Network will liaise with Quaker Learning Australia on how their activities can be coordinated.

YM09.26 Australian Quaker Centre

(Documents in Advance page 86 - 91)

We hear a report from the Preparatory Session on the Australian Quaker Centre (AQC).

The Preparatory Session recommends

(a) that the Australian Quaker Centre be taken up as a concern of Australia Yearly Meeting, and

(b) that the AYM Nominations Committee be asked to bring names to this Yearly Meeting for an AQC Working Group, which will undertake the following:

- organise, in consultation with QLA, a program of courses to be held as soon as possible, and
- continue working towards a vision of a permanent centre.

We accept the recommendations.

YM09.27 Quaker Service Australia

(Documents in Advance pages 76-77)

We receive the report in *Documents in Advance*, and note that a report of the QSA Preparatory Sessions will be published in *Documents in Retrospect*. We also note that details of the Annual Report and of QSA projects are available on the website <http://www.qsa.org.au>.

(a) QSA Management Committee

QSA recommends the following appointments to the end of Yearly Meeting 2010:

Jane Drexler, Convenor
Michael Wilson (Treasurer, subject to consent)
John Dundas, Finance Officer
Halcyon Evans
Jean Hart
Jackie Perkins, Administrator
Heather Saville
Audrey Wilson

We agree to these appointments.

We note that the Australia Yearly Meeting Presiding Clerk and Secretary are ex-officio members. Elaine Polglase remains the Public Officer for QSA.

(b) Regional Meeting appointments

The following additional Friends have been appointed by their respective Regional Meetings to membership of the QSA Management Committee:

Canberra	Kay de Vogel
New South Wales	Marilyn Hillery
Queensland	Ian Stevenson
South Australia	Robin Sinclair
Tasmania	Gill Fitzgerald
Victoria	Alan Clayton
West Australia	Mike Hennessy

We accept these names, and agree to these appointments.

(c) Statement of Purpose and Project Selection Criteria

We note that the Statement of Purpose and Project Selection Criteria remain unchanged. A new Strategic Plan is to be prepared for Yearly Meeting 2010.

Formal Session 5 9.00 a.m. Thursday, 8 January 2009

YM09.28 Testimonies

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of **David Bryce**, Queensland Regional Meeting was read by Judith Pembleton.

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of **Leonce Richards**, Victoria Regional Meeting, was read by Dale Hess.

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of **Tjarko Van Apeldoorn**, Victoria Regional Meeting was read by Helen Irvine.

YM09.29 Meeting for Remembrance

During our time of worship on Wednesday, 7 January 2009 8.30 - 9.30 a.m., we have remembered the Grace of God in the lives of the following members and attenders who have died recently:

Angelo Alexander, Tasmania Regional Meeting
Ruth Beckwith, South Australia Regional Meeting
Helen Chapman, West Australia Regional Meeting
Tom Evans, Canberra Regional Meeting and West Australia Regional Meeting
Raymond Frederikson, New South Wales Regional Meeting
Laura Hill, Tasmania Regional Meeting
Alberta Holt, Canberra Regional Meeting
Leslie Hopkins South Australia Regional Meeting
Lister Hopkins, Canberra Regional Meeting
John Newland, South Australia Regional Meeting
Kerry Osboldstone, New South Wales Regional Meeting
Judith Parkhurst, Tasmania Regional Meeting
Ian Penhall, Canberra Regional Meeting
Miles Pulsford, South Australia Regional Meeting
Leonce Richards, Victoria Regional Meeting
Victoria Rigney, Tasmania Regional Meeting
Tjarko Van Apeldoorn, Victoria Regional Meeting
Derrick Fergus Woodhouse, New South Wales Regional Meeting

Carmen Zammit, New South Wales Regional Meeting
And other friends known to us.

YM09.30 Regional Meeting reports

We receive the Regional Meeting reports and recognise the diverse range of concerns within our Regional Meetings.

We appreciate the significant use of these reports made by Trish Roberts, Canberra Regional Meeting, in the State of the Society address.

YM09.31 Backhouse Lecture Committee

Helen Gould, New South Wales Regional Meeting, delivered the 2009 Backhouse Lecture, *The Quaking Meeting, Transforming our selves, our meetings and the more-than-human world*, on Monday, 5 January. The lecture was deep ministry, which echoed in the hearts and souls of many present.

The 2010 Backhouse Lecture will be delivered by Australian Young Friends, and we look forward to hearing their ministry.

YM09.32 Outreach

(Documents in Advance page 64)

There will be a report from the Preparatory Session in *Documents in Retrospect*.

The Preparatory Session did not suggest the continuation of the national coordinator's role.

YM09.33 Thanksgiving Fund

(Documents in Advance page 82)

We receive the report in *Documents in Advance*.

We accept Tasmania Regional Meeting's offer to host the Thanksgiving Fund Committee from the end of this Yearly Meeting and we ask the Committee to include the question in Item 2 of Part B of the Fund's report in *Documents in Advance*, and the responses to this item from Regional Meetings, in their review of the Thanksgiving Fund Guidelines.

YM09.34 Indigenous Concerns Committee

(Documents in Advance page 62 - 3)

We receive the report in *Documents in Advance*.

We hear a report from Chris Hughes, Victoria Regional Meeting, of the Preparatory Session on Indigenous Concerns, and ask that the full report be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

Yearly Meeting agrees to endorse participating in a national campaign to restore and promote respect for Indigenous rights in Australia, in particular:

- Restore the Race Discrimination Act
- Reinstate the Northern Territory Lands Act
- Repeal the Northern Territory Emergency Response Act, stop the intervention and initiate a consultative approach to resolving Indigenous issues
- Sign the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- Retain and extend bilingual education in Indigenous communities
- Maintain Community Development Employment Programs

- Reinststate the right of Indigenous communities to stop uranium mining and nuclear waste disposal on their land.

Yearly Meeting agrees to the formation of an Indigenous Concerns lobbying network to facilitate this campaign.

The following advice is given to Friends participating in this campaign:

- It is envisaged that Friends will meet with their local Members of Parliament, Senators, Ministers and public servants.
- We request Friends to participate in this campaign and meet with their local members and state senators concerning the current racial injustices in Australia and urge that government consult widely with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and nations with a view to resolving past injustices and finding a way forward which respects the human rights of all.
- We believe Friends can bring a loving faith-based approach to discussions with politicians and public servants that enables the acknowledgment of that of God in all people and the good intentions of all those involved in achieving a way forward. That speaking truth to power should be done with love, tenderness and understanding.
- Friends are also encouraged to make written submissions to, and attend the community round table consultations organised by the National Human Rights Consultation Committee to seek public opinion on how Australia could better protect and promote human rights. For more information see – <http://www.humanrightsconsultation.gov.au>
- We ask that Friends living in the area be consulted if Friends are considering sending letters relating to particular locations.

YM09.35 Report of the Preparatory Session on Peace

(Documents in Advance page 65 - 73)

We hear from Jonathan Benyei, Canberra Regional Meeting, an overview of the Peace Preparatory Session which included reports from or about the following:

Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC)
 Donald Groom Peace Fellowship
 Peace and Social Justice Fund Committee (PSJ Fund)
 Peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee
 Conflict in the Middle East
 Christian Peacemaker Teams
 Nonviolent Peaceforce

We ask that full reports be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We agree to the following recommendations from the Preparatory Session:

- To donate a second instalment of \$3500 from the Peace and Social Justice Fund to the International Fellowship of Reconciliation in Epworth, Zimbabwe, subject to a review confirming that previous funds were spent appropriately;
- That AYM confirm its support for the Nonviolent Peaceforce and Christian Peacemaker Teams (particularly the formation of the Australasian group of CPT), to be implemented by the Peace and Social Justice Testimonies Committee, noting that there are no financial cost implications;
- That we do not join the Australian Human Rights group at this time, but ask QPLC to obtain further information on this organization and any obligations arising from membership;
- That Friends be encouraged to make submissions by 31 January to the Freedom of Religion and Belief in the 21st Century enquiry as individuals or through Regional Meetings (details available at <http://www.humanrights.gov.au/frb>);

- That Yearly Meeting ask the Presiding Clerk to write a letter to relevant politicians restating our abhorrence of war, the need to uphold the sanctity of justice for all people, and to observe the rule of international law. We ask that it be made plain that we stand in solidarity with all those who are suffering from the current violence in the Middle East and that we call for pro-active political support of non-violent approaches to achieve sustainable peace in the region;
- That the Yearly Meeting Clerk be asked to issue a media statement about the same matters.
- That the Yearly Meeting Clerk write letters of support to Jean Zaru, clerk of Ramallah Meeting; Jeff Helper of the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions; and the Quaker school in Ramallah.

Formal Session 6 11.00 a.m. Thursday, 8 January 2009

YM09.36 Testimonies

The testimony to the Grace of God in the life of **Judith Parkhurst** of Tasmania Regional Meeting was read by Julian Robertson.

The testimony to the Grace of God in the life of **Victoria Rigney**, of Tasmania Regional Meeting was read by Topsy Evans.

YM09.37 First reading of the draft Epistle

Chris Jacques of Young Friends read a first draft of the Epistle from this Yearly Meeting.

YM09.38 AYM Nominations Committee

(a) The Sanctuary Future Uses Committee

We agree to extend the appointment of the Sanctuary Future Uses Committee until Yearly Meeting 2010, and are told that they will report to Standing Committee in July 2009.

(b) Australia-Wide Quaker Fellowship

We accept the recommendation that Margaret Woodward and Graham Hodgkin be reappointed until the end of Yearly Meeting 2010.

(c) Meeting for Learning Facilitators

We note that the Meeting for Learning facilitators are appointed by Quaker Learning Australia.

(d) Membership of Australia Yearly Meeting Nominations Committee

We note that Duncan Frewin has been reappointed to the AYM Nominations Committee by Queensland Regional Meeting, and that several members of the Nominations Committee finish their term at the end of Yearly Meeting 2009.

YM09.39 The Sanctuary

(a) The Sanctuary Management Committee

(Documents in Advance page 80)

We receive the report in *Documents in Advance*, which was introduced by Wies Shuringa, New South Wales Regional Meeting.

(b) The Sanctuary Future Uses Committee

(Documents in Advance page 80)

We receive the report in *Documents in Advance*.

YM09.40 Australia Wide Quaker Fellowship

(Documents in Advance page 47)

We hear a report from Graham Hodgkin, West Australia Regional Meeting about the work of AWQF, and that they will undertake a review in 2009 and bring a report to Yearly Meeting 2010.

YM09.41 Quaker Education Network

We hear a report from Graham Hodgkin, West Australia Regional Meeting, about Quaker Education Network and a possible liaison with Quaker Learning Australia.

YM09.42 Friends Book Sales, Adelaide

(Documents in Advance page 52)

We receive the report from Topsy and David Evans, South Australia Regional Meeting, about Friends Book Sales in Adelaide, and express our thanks for their continuing work.

YM09.43 Morrow Bequest Committee Report

(Documents in Advance page 64)

We accept the recommendations from the Morrow Bequest Committee listed in *Documents in Advance* and note that the Committee will be in the care of West Australia Regional Meeting's Peace, Social Justice and Environment Committee.

YM09.44 Elders and Overseers — Training Development

We hear a report from Dorothy Broom, Canberra Regional Meeting, about the Preparatory Session on the Elders and Overseers Training and Development Group. The Preparatory Session heard a detailed account of the experience of ministering with eldering support from Cathy Walling and the 2009 Backhouse presenter Helen Gould.

The Preparatory Session recommends

- That this group continues its work in 2009 to develop a modular curriculum for the corporate development of members of Ministry and Oversight and others who are led to participate;
- That Quaker Learning Australia supports the work of the group; and
- That Regional Meetings be encouraged to proceed with training and development of Friends in their own Meetings.

We accept these recommendations.

YM09.45 Australian Quaker Tapestry Group

(Documents in Advance page 46)

We receive the report from the Australian Quaker Tapestry Group in *Documents in Advance* and hear from Cathy Davies and Tessa Spratt about how the Australian Quaker Tapestry Group is an outreach activity for Friends within Australia.

YM09.46 **The Australian Friend**

(Documents in Advance page 46)

We are grateful for the work of *The Australian Friend* Committee and all who help with the production of *The Australian Friend*. We are pleased that they will carry this forward in 2009.

Formal Session 7 9.00 a.m. Friday, 9 January 2009

YM09.47 **Testimony**

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of **Miles Pulsford** of South Australia Regional Meeting was read by Roger Keyes.

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of **Leslie Hopkins** of South Australia Regional Meeting was read by Julie Webb.

The Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of **John Newland** of South Australia Regional Meeting was read by Jenny Stock.

YM09.48 **Second Reading of the Epistle**

Chris Jacques, Young Friend, read a draft of the epistle from this Yearly Meeting for a second time.

YM09.49 **Committed relationships**

(Documents in Advance page 84 - 86)

We hear the following recommendations from the Preparatory Session:

- That Yearly Meeting endorse the summary statement on committed relationships included in *Documents in Advance*, pages 85–86;
- That Section 4.3 of the Preliminary Draft of the 6th Edition of the *Australian Quaker Handbook*, The Care of Partners, be replaced by a more suitable statement that reflects both the statement in *Documents in Advance* and current practice within Australian Regional Meetings in regard to committed relationships;
- That AYM Nominations Committee be asked to bring the names of two or three concerned Friends to work on this task of drafting a possible replacement section;
- That Regional Meetings be asked to consider the practical implications for them of adoption of the summary statement.

We agree to these recommendations.

YM09.50 **Earthcare**

We hear a report from Maxine Cooper, Victoria Regional Meeting, of the Earthcare Preparatory Session. We ask that this report be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We hear a report from Vidyå, Canberra Regional Meeting, of the outcomes from the Yearly Meeting 2009 Summer School on Climate Change. We agree to include in *Documents in Retrospect* the 'Safe Climate Manifesto' drafted by the Summer School.

We agree to establish an Australia Yearly Meeting Earthcare Committee. We ask the Earthcare Committee to use the Terms of Reference drawn up by the 2009 Summer School on Climate Change, and to report back to Standing Committee or Yearly Meeting any proposed changes to those Terms of Reference.

We ask the Australia Yearly Meeting Earthcare Committee to prepare a draft public statement on safe climate to be brought back to Standing Committee or Yearly Meeting for approval.

The Children at Yearly Meeting 2009 sent the following message to 'our adult friends':

- We need a safe climate. Please adults, we need you to fix things up very quickly.
- We want to help too.
- Our suggestions for action:
 - STOP climate change!
 - Recycle paper instead of cutting down trees.
 - Use more solar power and wind power.
 - Ride your bike or walk when you can (< 2km)
 - Don't pollute the Earth
 - 3 Rs: Reduce, Re-use, Recycle
 - Always turn off electricity when not in use.
 - Use green bags and bio-plastic.
 - Write to the government to fund research into electric cars, solar cars and all non-petrol cars.
 - Stop wasting food, use worm farms.
- We are sad. START NOW! PLEASE!

We ask that our actions responding to the children's requests and suggestions about climate change issues be compiled and reported to the children at Yearly Meeting 2010, and that this be a standing item on our Local, Regional and Australian meeting agendas as we meet this year.

We agree to publish in *Documents in Retrospect* a document from the FWCC Asia-West Pacific Section Gathering in Bhopal, India, on Global Change.

We ask the Earthcare Committee to consider and bring to Standing Committee July 2009 a proposal for a Safe Climate Worker.

We ask the Yearly Meeting Clerk to meet with children and JYFs to explain how we are responding to the children's requests at this Yearly Meeting.

Formal Session 8 11.00 a.m. Friday, 9 January 2009

YM09.51 Testimonies

A compilation of Testimonies to the Grace of God in the lives of **Derrick Woodhouse**, **Raymond Frederikson**, **Carmen Zammit**, **Kerry Osboldstone**, and **Earl Robinson** of New South Wales Regional Meeting was read by Elizabeth Field.

YM09.52 AYM Nominations

(a) Morrow Bequest Committee

Nominations Committee recommends Lesley Barker and Sally Herzfeld, West Australia Regional Meeting, to carry forward responsibility for the Morrow Bequest for three years to 2012, within the wider Peace and Social Justice and Environment Committee of West Australia Regional Meeting.

We agree

(b) Thanksgiving Fund

Nominations Committee recommends Peter Hepburn, Peter Jones, Ron Martin, Julian Robertson, Felicity Rose, Colin Wendell-Smith, Barbara Wilde and Sheila Given (subject to consent), Tasmania Regional Meeting, for the Thanksgiving Fund Committee. We agree.

(c) Australian Quaker Centre Working Group

Nominations Committee suggests the following names:

David Johnson, Queensland Regional Meeting;
Helen Bayes, Canberra Regional Meeting; Elizabeth Kwan (subject to consent);
Drew Thomas; Kerry O'Regan and Kate Alessia, South Australia Regional Meeting;
Mark McLeod; Sheila Keane; Jane Grows; John Baker, New South Wales Regional Meeting; and
A Young Friend.

We agree, and appoint these Friends until the end of Yearly Meeting 2010.

(d) AYM Treasurer

Nominations Committee recommends appointing Roger Sawkins, Queensland Regional Meeting, as Treasurer for a further three years to 2012. We agree.

Nominations Committee recommends the re-appointment for a further three years of the AYM Finance Committee: Colin Barnard, David Lowe, David Lowry, Marion Sullivan and Roger Sawkins. We agree.

We pass on to the Finance Committee the Nominations Committee's suggestion that they arrange a teleconference with all Regional Meeting Treasurers before mid-year Standing Committee.

YM09.53 Child Protection Review

(Documents in Advance page 48)

We hear from Alan Clayton, Victoria Regional Meeting, that the Preparatory Session was devoted to feedback from Yoland Wadsworth who has been reviewing the implementation of our Child Protection Policy and Guidelines. Her report will be included in *Documents in Retrospect*.

YM09.54 Friends World Committee for Consultation

(Documents in Advance page 59-60)

We hear from Alan Clayton, Victoria Regional Meeting, a report of the FWCC Preparatory Session and ask for the full report to be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We note that a recommendation for a guest from AWPS to be invited to attend Yearly Meeting 2010 will be brought to mid-year Standing Committee.

We hear that Alan Clayton is laying down the responsibility of being convenor of this Committee and that Michael Corbett, Queensland Regional Meeting, and Barbara True, South Australia Regional Meeting, will be co-convenors.

YM09.55 Ecumenism and interfaith

(Documents in Advance page 49-50)

We hear a report from Elizabeth Field, New South Wales Regional Meeting, of the Preparatory Session on Ecumenism and Interfaith. We ask that the full report be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We receive the following recommendations from the Preparatory Session:

1. We ask all Regional and Local Meetings to obtain and circulate the NCCA 2008 Social Justice report entitled 'Faces of Poverty'.
2. We ask the Presiding Clerk to write to John Henderson thanking him for his service as the Executive Secretary of the National Council of Churches in Australia for the previous seven years.
3. We ask the Presiding Clerk to write an appropriate welcoming letter to the new General Secretary of the National Council of Churches when an appointment is made.

We agree to these recommendations.

YM09.56 World Children's Peace Choir

We hear from Deb Munro of South Australia Regional Meeting about her concern to work towards a World Children's Peace Choir. We note that South Australia Regional Meeting has asked to give this concern our blessing. We willingly do so.

We ask that the Planning Committee for the World Gathering of Friends in 2012 be informed about this initiative, and requested to explore a possible gathering of Quaker children at the World Gathering.

YM09.57 Minute of Record: Peace Witness for Gaza

Over 50 Friends attending the 2009 Yearly Meeting held a peaceful vigil at a public rally in Canberra's central business area at lunchtime on Thursday, 8 January 2009, to protest against military action in Gaza.

The Australia Yearly Meeting Clerk addressed the crowd, expressing our abhorrence of armed conflict, noting a range of peace-promoting initiatives in the region, highlighting the irony of providing financial assistance after conflict had commenced, and calling on politicians to pursue peaceful solutions to political issues.

Formal Session 9 9.00 a.m. Saturday, 10 January 2009

YM09.58 Third reading of the Epistle

Chris Jacques of Young Friends read the final draft of the epistle from Yearly Meeting 2009.

We accept this Epistle and ask that it be read in our final Meeting for Worship, published in *Documents in Retrospect*, and circulated to Friends worldwide.

YM09.59 AWPS visitors Bo-Kyom Jin and Paul Sunghun Han

Hannah Chapman-Searle, Canberra Regional Meeting, gave an introduction in Korean when Bo-Kyom Jin spoke at Yearly Meeting 2009. A large audience of Friends enjoyed a presentation by Bo-Kyom on the history of Friends in Seoul. She mentioned some of their struggles and projects, and the intervisitation of overseas Friends. Photographs of the Meeting House in Seoul and of Friends in both the Seoul and Dae Jong Meetings, provided much

interest. We were delighted to see two photos of the recent wedding between Bo-Kyom and Paul Han.

We are glad to hear that the sister meeting relationships with both Canberra and Kapiti Meetings are developing to a deeper level. We also heard of the proposed visit later this year by Australian and New Zealand Friends to Korea and Japan, which will provide many learning experiences.

YM09.60 Handbook Revision Committee

(Documents in Advance page 61)

We hear a report from Bev Polzin, Victoria Regional Meeting, about the Preparatory Session on the *Handbook* Revision.

We note that the Preliminary Draft of the Sixth Edition is not a revision of the content of the *Handbook*, but the placing of the content into a different form. This draft is available on the Australia Yearly Meeting website, <http://www.quakers.org.au>. We further note that a cross-referencing document to the previous edition will be made available to serve the purposes of this revision and not as a continuing Australia Yearly Meeting document.

We agree that a group of volunteers from each of our Regional Meetings take responsibility for considering one chapter (and relevant appendices and supplements) of this document, as follows:

Chapter One and the Glossary	Tasmania Regional Meeting
Chapter Two	South Australia Regional Meeting
Chapter Three	Queensland Regional Meeting
Chapter Four	Victoria Regional Meeting
Chapter Five	West Australia Regional Meeting
Chapter Six	New South Wales Regional Meeting

Regional Meeting volunteers and any individual Friends should direct comments about the draft chapters of the Revision to the relevant Regional Meeting volunteers. Yearly Meeting Committees should also forward comments on sections relating to them to the Regional Meeting volunteers responsible for particular chapters. We ask that the name of the Regional Meeting volunteers be made known to us.

We ask that the Preface be considered by all Regional Meeting volunteers, and we ask that all comments from volunteers be sent directly to the *Handbook* Revision Committee.

We ask that the following specific questions be considered:

- Has every important element been carried across accurately?
- Has anything been put into the Sixth Draft which was not in the Fifth, other than that approved by Yearly Meeting?
- Have all the changes approved by Yearly Meeting been incorporated in the new Edition?
- Is the new format clear?
- Are there any sections needing revision? (Any revisions will be included when the *Handbook* is next being revised.)
- Are there suggested changes to the wording (not the meaning)?

We ask the *Handbook* Revision Committee to send the next draft, based on the comments received from Regional Meeting volunteers, to mid-year Standing Committee in 2009.

We ask the AYM Secretary, in consultation with the AYM Treasurer, to bring a proposal about editing to Standing Committee July 2009, including costing.

YM09.61 Child Protection

We hear a progress report from Yoland Wadsworth, Victoria Regional Meeting, about her review of the Australia Yearly Meeting Child Protection Policy and Procedures [CPP and P], and we ask for her full report to be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

We ask Regional Meetings and in particular Regional Meeting Child Protection contact persons

- to work with Local Meetings and Worshipping Groups to respond to the emerging recommendations raised by the reviewer in her report and listed below.
- to send responses to the reviewer by March to her email address, yoland.wadsworth [at] gmail.com.

Yoland Wadsworth's recommendations:

- to revise the CPP and P to strengthen the spiritual and whole-of-meeting community basis of the policy;
- to make better known within all our Meetings the people with CPP and P responsibilities for those Meetings.;
- to improve communication about CPP and P in our Regional and Local Meetings and Worshipping Groups.
- to provide ongoing training for those in our Regional and Local Meetings and Worshipping Groups who have CPP and P responsibilities
- to improve our management of records in relation to CPP and P.
- to produce a simple guide to follow if an allegation or incident occurs.
- to clarify the differences between CPP and P and Respectful Relationships.
- to draft changes to the text of the CPP and P where necessary to put the previous recommendations into effect.

We hear a report from Alan Clayton, Victoria Regional Meeting, of concerns raised by parents about the implementation of our Child Protection Procedures in relation to the supervision of children and Junior Young Friends during unprogrammed time at Yearly Meetings. We are grateful for the help of Young Friends in resolving this issue at Yearly Meeting 2009, and we note that this issue needs to be attended to in our organization of future Yearly Meetings.

YM09.62 Respectful Relationships (formerly Sexual Abuse and Misconduct Prevention)

(Documents in Advance page 81)

We hear a report from the Preparatory Session from Ronis Chapman, Canberra Regional Meeting, about the prevention of sexual misconduct. We agree to the following recommendations:

- The name of the guidelines and the contact officers and the committee be changed to Respectful Relationships
- Regional Meetings be asked to separate the roles of Child Protection contact persons and Respectful Relationship contact persons.
- The names and phone numbers of these contact people, subject to consent, be placed on the Australia Yearly Meeting website and displayed in a prominent place everywhere there are Quaker Meetings for Worship.
- A leaflet that explains the respectful relationships guidelines be developed by that group, and published by the Publications Committee.
- That the guidelines be reviewed and updated.
- That a training package be developed.
- The Respectful Relationships Group be allowed to co-opt Friends to do this work.

YM09.63 The Friends' School

(Documents in Advance page 53 - 58)

We hear a brief report from Drew Thomas, South Australia Regional Meeting, about the Preparatory Session on The Friends' School and ask that the full report be published in *Documents in Retrospect*.

YM09.64 Young Friends report

(Documents in Advance page 83 - 84)

We are advised by the Young Friends Preparatory Session that the Young Friends (YFs) will change their structure after this Yearly Meeting.

There will be a committee consisting of a Clerk, an Assistant Clerk, a Treasurer, a Communications Coordinator and a Nominations Convenor. For a year, there will also be a Backhouse Lecture Liaison person from the Canberra Backhouse Lecture facilitating group on this committee.

We are advised of the following Young Friends appointments:

Clerk (one year)	Alexa Taylor (West Australia Regional Meeting)
Assistant Clerk (one year)	Tom Dundas (New South Wales Regional Meeting)
Treasurer (Two years)	Oliver Greeves (South Australia Regional Meeting)
Communications Coordinators (one year in the first year, and two years thereafter)	Sally Stokes (West Australia Regional Meeting) and Myfanwy White (Victoria Regional Meeting)
Backhouse Lecture liaison (one year)	A nominee from the Canberra Group

We hear that all roles and nominations will be reviewed by Young Friends at Yearly Meeting 2010.

Young Friends ask Regional Meetings Clerks to advise the Young Friends Communications Coordinator of new attenders in the Young Friend age group, with their permission, and to advise new Young Friends attenders of the existence of Young Friends. New perpetual email addresses will be created and forwarded to all Regional Meetings.

We hear that Young Friends request up to \$5000 for the costs associated with developing the Backhouse Lecture. We agree to a grant of \$2500 from the Publications Fund and ask Young Friends to apply for further funds to the Thanksgiving Fund.

We agree that Regional Meetings be asked to support Young Friends in their Backhouse Lecture expenses.

YM09.65 Australian Friends Fellowship of Healing

We report that the Fellowship has held its Annual General Meeting for 2009. Their coordinator for 2009 is Bob Westwood. The editor of the newsletter, *Wholeness*, is also Bob Westwood.

YM09.66 AYM Nominations Committee

(a) Appointments to the NCCA

We agree to make the following appointments of representatives to the National Council of Churches in Australia until 2010:

NCCA Executive	Alternates to the Presiding Clerk: Elizabeth Field
NCCA Act for Peace	Jackie Perkins
NCCA Safe as Churches	Ronis Chapman
Social Justice Network	Wies Schuiringa

We agree that Victoria Regional Meeting be asked to make a nomination to the NCCA Faith and Unity Commission, which meets in Melbourne.

(b) AYM Children's Committee

We accept the offer of Victoria Regional Meeting to be the host of the AYM Children's Committee.

We appoint the following to the Committee:

Tracy Bourne
Michael Jones
Cindy-Lee Harper
Kyrstie Crane (Subject to consent)
Justine Shelton (Subject to consent)

(c) Earthcare Committee

We agree to the appointment of the following to the Earthcare Committee:

Margaret Clark (Canberra Regional Meeting)
Julia Denton-Barker (Canberra Regional Meeting)
Jane Growns (New South Wales Regional Meeting)
Jackie Perkins (New South Wales Regional Meeting)
Philip Toyne (Canberra Regional Meeting)
Vidyā (Canberra Regional Meeting)

We ask New South Wales Regional Meeting and Canberra Regional Meeting to consult about which Regional Meeting will host this Committee.

(d) Committed relationships

With reference to Minute 09.49 Committed Relationships, we agree to appoint:

Dorothy Broom, Canberra Regional Meeting
Elizabeth Field, New South Wales Regional Meeting
Evan Gallagher, Canberra Regional Meeting and
Margaret Moreton, Canberra Regional Meeting

We ask them to draft a suitable statement to replace Section 4.3 of The Preliminary Draft of the *Australian Quaker Handbook*, The Care of Partners, that 'reflects both the statement in *Documents in Advance* and current practice within Australian Regional Meetings in regard to committed relationships'.

YM09.67 Visit of Presiding Clerk to Children's and Junior Young Friends meetings

We hear an account from the Presiding Clerk of his visit together with Kerstin Reimers, Walter Sigrist and Philip Toyne, to the Children's and Junior Young Friends' meeting on the previous afternoon (Friday, 9 January) in order to respond to their request about what adults were doing about Earthcare.

YM09.68 Minute of Record: Summer School

An inspiration from a summer school at Yearly Meeting 2008 informed the prayerful discernment leading to the theme for YM09 Summer School: Continuing the Eternal Conversation.

Thirteen YM09 Summer School workshops explored the theme in various ways. Through processes such as singing, music, writing, poetry, painting, Bible study, exploration of Quaker history, meditation and discussion of shared concerns, more than 200 Friends delved into the Light and came to know themselves and others in the ways that are eternal.

Although many people were tired after long (and some hot) days, all groups continued to meet after the evening meal throughout YM09 and were renewed by the fellowship they found there. A number of Friends who were not present at Summer School on Sunday were grateful to join these ongoing meetings through the week to connect with a smaller group for spiritual nurture. The painters and poets added their creative contributions to the art exhibition. Meeting in the evening, some felt that reconnecting with their Summer School group functioned as a kind of epilogue.

The Summer School organisers are grateful to all those who were willing to share their gifts throughout the week, and to facilitators for their careful preparation.

YM09.69 Closing minute

As we come to the end of Yearly Meeting 2009 we send loving greetings to those who could not be with us and those who have held us in the Light during our Meeting. The Presiding Clerk acknowledges that the organizing committee has worked extremely hard on our behalf and expresses our heartfelt thanks for all they have done to make Yearly Meeting 2009 run smoothly.

The Clerk informs us that a letter of thanks is on its way to college staff who have provided for our daily needs and that other letters of thanks will be sent on our behalf.

In closing the final Formal Session, the Presiding Clerk reads the seventh entry in the recent Australia Yearly Meeting *Advices and Queries*.

Be aware of the Spirit of God at work, in the ordinary activities and experience of your daily life. Spiritual learning continues throughout life, and often in unexpected ways. There is inspiration to be found all around us, in the natural world, in the sciences and arts, in our work and friendships, in our sorrows as well as in our joys. Are you open to new Light, from whatever source it may come? Do you approach new ideas with discernment?