

**2007/13 Historic Peace Churches (HPC) Conference
(1-8 December 2007)**

We agree to the attendance of Janet Scott, Britain Yearly Meeting at this Conference, together with up to 19 representatives from the AWPS. We thank Janet Scott who is FWCC representative of the World Council of Churches Faith and Order Commission for her willingness to serve in this way. We note with thanks, Australia Yearly Meeting's offer of \$5,000 towards the travel costs of our Friends from developing countries in the region, including unaffiliated Friends. We understand that New Zealand Quaker Peace and Service is also contributing some financial support.

2007/14 AWPS Website

We have received \$AUD 2,000 from the Chace Foundation to enable a redesign of our website. We accept the services of Andrew Bray to undertake this task. We ask Alan Clayton to liaise with Andrew and the AYM office, to discuss the implications of our wish to reimburse him financially.

Protocols: We appoint Naomi Kamimura, Julian Stargardt and Emily Chapman-Searle to work with the Secretary to oversee the site on an ongoing basis and develop protocols for material being placed on the site.

2007/15 Translations of Quaker Literature

Approximately AUD2,400 from the Chace Fund grant is available to translate Quaker material for inclusion on the website, or for production of hard copies. We ask Friends from India, Japan and Korea to advise the Secretary of their needs and the likely cost of translating/printing Quaker material, with approval by the Section Committee. This information should be available by 1 October 2007, due to the reporting and expenditure requirements of the Chace Fund by 1/3/08.

2007/16 AWPS Constitution Revision

The Working Group appointed in 2005 has recommended changes that mirror the revisions adopted by FWCC, in changing reference from Triennials to Plenary meetings and in increasing the number of options to FWCC. In addition to some verbal changes, an amendment to Clause 7b, breaks the former link between the term of appointment of the Secretary and Treasurer. We adopt the revised constitution.

2007/17 Incorporation of AWPS in South Australia

We agree to incorporate AWPS in South Australia. We appoint Topsy Evans as Public Officer to undertake the necessary steps.

2007/18 Young Friends

a) John Ocol, Philippines Friends Church, reported on regular and vibrant meetings and activities taking place amongst Young Adult Friends.

b) An AWPS Young Friends email list is being developed - details in the next Newsletter.

c) Several Young Friends are working on plans for an off-site Work Camp in association with the Bhopal Gathering in November 2008. We also hope that many Young Friends will be at the Gathering proper.

d) We note that Aotearoa/New Zealand Young Friends are very enthusiastic in their support for this Gathering.

e) Details are still being finalised, but we expect Friends from Philadelphia YM to join us for at least part of the Bhopal Gathering.

2007/19 Bhopal Budget

The Treasurer presented a budget based on the assumptions of 55 full paying Friends (AUD320 for 6 days) plus significant subsidies for Indian Friends. In addition, a budget exists to cover the travel, accommodation and food costs for two Friends from each of the Philippines, Indonesia and Nepal. In addition we have invited two Friends from the Africa Section. The subsidies for these 8 Friends and Indian Friends were approved. The Treasurer will update the budget after a few months in the light of current information in respect of numbers and currency exchange rates.

Final Worship

Barbara Mountier, Naomi Kamimura and Praveen Jadhav read from Galatians 3:23-28 for our Reflection period

Update on Historic Peace Churches Conference 1-8 December, Solo, Indonesia

The following Friends have been appointed to serve AWPS at this conference:

Janet Scott Britain Yearly Meeting (see Minute 2007/13)

Jaime and Lydia Tabingo, The Philippines Friends Church

Jairaj Brown, Bundelkhand YM

Devdas Shrisunder, Bhopal YM
Mallika Aiyub, GCFI and
Bonifacio Amado Quirog Jr - an applicant for Quaker International Membership. They will be joined by 13 Friends appointed by Aotearoa/NZ and Australia Yearly Meetings. We pray that the work of this conference will do great things in bringing about God's Peace throughout the Asia West Pacific.

AFRICA SECTION VISITATION

Valerie Joy visited 11 of the 16 Yearly Meetings in Kenya on an official Section visit. As Kenya has the greatest number of Friends in the Quaker world, it was a great learning experience to wonder at how they work, what is going well and what they would like to do better. A full report is available from Valerie@fwccawps.org Their faith in God gives them strength and with a little outside encouragement, they could achieve even greater things. The report points to practical ways that a wide variety of projects could be assisted. Apart from practical help, they welcome friendship in the form of "twinning" of their meetings with those outside. Further visitation needs to be done through the correct channels, with a letter/email being sent to the AWPS Secretary, who will then liaise with the Africa Section Secretary, Moses Musonga, to determine how a particular offer of help can be supported.

QUONO NEW YORK

Linley Gregory reports: I found it a challenge to be able to speak on behalf of you all, that is, Friends from throughout our Section. I am sorry that I will not be with you to hear the concerns that are within the Section that may be able to be worked on at the United Nations level. At the moment I doubt if the New York office would be able to take on any other areas of concern.

We in the committee set the priorities of work for the staff in the office as well as look towards the future work. The staff is a Director, 2 representatives, 2 Programme Assistants and an Administration secretary. We also have the concern for Quaker House, for the

finances, for the staff as well as the organisational issues for the right functioning of the committee.

The first meeting of the joint FWCC and AFSC (American Friends Service Committee) was in October 2005 and we have now had 4 meetings. We meet in New York in March and October each year. Only at the first of these meetings have we had a full staff and even then we knew we were losing the Director. It was a year before a new Director was appointed. Unfortunately at the end of his 6 months probation he resigned, so once again we have an interim director. Fortunately the representatives and the programme assistants have carried us through this, though one of the representatives was away for several months on maternity leave and the other one has just left.

As an aside, if you wish to learn more of the Quaker work at the United Nations I encourage you to read the July 2007 issue of "The Friends Quarterly" published in Britain which is on Quaker Work at the United Nations.

YEARLY MEETING REPORTS

Information from six YMs and groups at the Triennial.

Hong Kong

Numbers are encouraging, with several serious local Chinese attenders, regularly worshipping, plus three new members. They have contacts with The Philippines Friends, who work in Hong Kong and meet regularly for worship. In 2005, this meeting hosted a QUNO, AFSC and FNCL Friends' delegation to the World Trade Organisation 6th Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong. Friends provided phones for the delegation and organised a large reception to introduce visiting Friends to Hong Kong and China government officials, foreign diplomats, business leaders, churchmen and the media. In July, we welcomed the news of a son being born to Jessie and to Julian Stargardt.

Bhopal YM

This meeting has been growing spiritually and increasing in actual numbers. A Women's Fellowship has started, a Bible Quiz program and Sunday school of the children is welcomed. Members take part in inter-faith and ecumencial activities - working to create a peaceful environment in Bhopal. Friends also devote a lot of time to Friends' institutions in Madhya Pradesh.

Mid-India

The Friends Girls High School and Hostel is still supporting needy village girls, despite apathy and even persecution from official sources. A Child Development Centre will soon commence in George Fox Hall, Itarsi, for 150 poor children aged 3-9 years in their education and provision of school fees, books, clothes etc and one meal per day. They look to raise funds to renovate the George Fox Hall and construct the Rachel Metcalfe Memorial Community Centre.

Aotearoa/NZ

Friends here are involved in outreach, keeping isolated Friends in touch, developing programmes for children and a Yearly Meeting Futures group. Quaker Peace and Service inaugurated local peace grants, which are offered to both Quakers and others for peace work. Educational work continues at Quaker Settlement, Wanganui. Young Friends are developing the idea of having a new independent decision-making process within the Yearly Meeting. The Maori people of Aotearoa have given Quakers the name of "Te Haahi Tuuhauwiri", People standing in the Wind of the Spirit.

Australia Yearly Meeting

They are continuing the practice of invitation of an AWPS visitor to the Yearly Meeting. In 2008, we will welcome Sachiko Yamamoto. George Ellis, the distinguished cosmologist from Central and South Africa Yearly Meeting will deliver the Backhouse Lecture. In 2007, we heard about the work of Christian Peacemaker Teams from Christina Gibb, who stood in at short notice for Joon Park, Seoul MM, who was prevented from attending. The Yearly Meeting has produced a Australian Directory for Travelling Friends which we hope will encourage intervisitation.

Japan Yearly Meeting

JYM has invited Linley Gregory to their Yearly Meeting in November 2007, and they are raising funds for this. They have three special committees engaged in writing their own Faith and Practice. Contracts for the remodelling of Friends Centre, Tokyo are being called.

Obituary

Michi Nakamura was an active FWCC participant as well as Section Clerk and a Search Committee member of AWPS.

Philippines Friends Church

The Young Friends organisation has three categories: Junior Young Friends, ages 12-18, Senior Young Friends, 22-29 and Young Professionals 30-38, in each local meeting. At national level Young Friends work to create activities for weekly meetings and also residential activities twice a year. Activities such as music, sports, retreats, Bible school, gospel team ministry attract large numbers. Young Friends have welcomed the opportunity to join with others around the world in events such as the Gathering in 2005 and the Triennial.

John Ocol, Pastor Friends Church

NEWS OF FRIENDS

Kenneth Co

Kenneth is working as the Director of Academic Affairs, at SMIC School. The address is 196, Qing tong Rd, Pu Dong Road, Shanghai, 210203, China. He can still be reached on email kennethco@gmail.com We pray that he will be upheld by God as he ventures into this new area of his professional life. We will miss him.

Tom Hill

Tom is the outgoing clerk of the FWCC Central Executive Committee. He suffered a stroke during the Triennial. We are holding Tom, his wife and family in the Light and pray for him to enjoy a full recovery.

Friends in Philippines, Peru and Western Kenya

During the Triennial we heard of three natural disasters that specifically impacted on Friends' lives and property: a typhoon in the Philippines, an earthquake in Peru and a mudslide in Malava, Kenya. Please hold these places in your hearts as rebuilding takes place.

We are reminded that "The Glory of God is in the Well Being of the poor"- Bishop Romero.

RESTRUCTURING OF THE INTERNATIONAL MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

This committee (to be called a "working group") will have 10 members, with 2 from each Section (one of whom is an international member), the ninth member will be the soon to be appointed Communications Director at the World Office, and the tenth will be a member of the Membership Applications Committee. It is hoped this will make the

work of this committee more relevant to the needs of isolated members.

Pastoral care will be enhanced through access to the internet and blogs, study programs will be offered and the committee will report back to the next meeting of the CEC at Bhopal in 2008. Readers of this newsletter who are isolated Friends are very welcome to comment on this new structure, via the AWPS Secretary.

DISTANCE LEARNING IN FWCC

FWCC is planning a conference in 2010 to examine and promote Quaker resources in distance learning. We will consult with the Friends Association of Higher Education, Pendle Hill and Woodbrooke, in the planning of this event.

REPORT FROM THE FWCC TRIENNIAL IN DUBLIN

Over 300 Friends meeting in one place can make a lot of noise particularly when they include a sizable contingent of African Friends, for whom singing and dancing are as normal as breathing!

We met together for 9 very full days from 11-19th August at the King's Hospital School in Dublin, Ireland, hosted most warmly by Irish Friends. Yearly Meetings from over 40 countries around the world sent representatives, and the mixture of languages, Quaker traditions, cultures, and even dress was astonishing. The Quaker women from Africa easily out shone the rest of us with their dazzling clothes, closely followed by a woman from Peru who wore a hat at all times, balanced on the side of her head!

This mixture of outward signs of difference was matched by the wide range of Quaker practice and belief. Worship sessions were held in the unprogrammed format with which we in Australia are familiar interspersed with programmed sessions full of singing and often including messages from pastors from the programmed and more evangelical traditions.

Meetings for Worship with a Concern to do Business were most ably clerked by Duduzile Mtshazo from Central and Southern Africa Yearly Meeting. The Irish Friends found a court note taker, who took down everything that was said and projected it simultaneously on to a large

screen at the side of the stage. This greatly facilitated the understanding of the Friends present for whom English is difficult to follow, particularly when spoken with so many different accents.

The total number of participants was limited by the size of the hall, which was usually packed for the plenary sessions. The theme: Finding the Prophetic Voice for our Time, was a challenge. The answer was probably different for everyone present, but the challenge was placed before us all by a varied range of speakers throughout the Triennial, and led to many very thought-provoking discussions between Friends of differing traditions.

One of the sub-themes was a concern about the environment, and partly because of this, it was confirmed that the next world-wide meeting of Friends will be in 5 years, not the usual 3. It will be held in Nairobi in 2012. This will reduce the impact of Friends travel on the environment, and also the cost of staging such a large event.

The Asia-West Pacific Section of FWCC, of which Australia is a member, was able to hold several business meetings during the Triennial. This is a rare event for us, and among the 26 AWPS Friends present were all members of the Committee, including Friends from Korea, Japan and New Zealand. It is so much easier to talk face to face than to rely on email!

Valerie Joy, from Brisbane was appointed as Secretary, and Dilawar Chetsingh, who visited Australia Yearly Meeting in 2006 was reappointed as Clerk. Australia was well represented by Lyndsay Farrall, Emily and Hannah Chapman Searle, Alan Clayton, Helen Bayes, Barbara True, Valerie Joy and Topsy Evans.

The Section Business Meeting confirmed preliminary arrangements for a Section Gathering in Bhopal, India in November 2008, as well as the setting up of an interactive website for the Section. It is planned to include translations of some basic Quaker writings in Hindi, Korean and Japanese, some of the major languages of countries within our Section. Friends who speak these languages are at present without a source of mainstream Quaker literature.

The Central Executive Committee of FWCC will hold their 2008 Meeting at the Bhopal Gathering. This will be the first time that they have met in conjunction with a Section, and we hope that many

Friends will be able to join us at what will be a marvelous opportunity to meet with Friends from other parts of our region at a low cost venue.

My overall impression from attendance at the Triennial was of a renewed enthusiasm for Friends to work together to make a difference in a world which sorely needs help and inspiration. This was obvious in the response generally, but for me it was particularly so among Friends in our region and I am looking forward to the next few years to see the results.

Topsy Evans

REVISION OF THE MAILING LIST FOR THIS NEWSLETTER

We are undertaking a major revision of our mailing list. Please would you check your address details and let us know

- A If you still wish to receive the Newsletter.***
- B If you would like your name removed from our list.***
- C Your email address if you would prefer to receive the Newsletter by email.***
- D Any changes necessary to ensure its prompt delivery.***

Please send your responses to Topsy Evans tevens@c130.aone.net.au, or by post to PO Box 181, Glen Osmond, South Australia, Australia 5064

Any suggestions for changes to the format and/or content of the Newsletter would be most welcome. We want to make this a really useful tool for the Section, and we need your feedback.

You can contribute \$s to AWPS Newsletter

If you appreciate receiving the AWPS Newsletter, you may wish to contribute towards the cost of production. Annual cost is AUD \$20. Please send this, or its equivalent in your currency to your Treasurer. This office bearer can then make an annual remittance to AWPS Treasurer, Topsy Evans, PO Box 181 Glen Osmond, SA 5064 Australia. Please also remember AWPS in your will.