



15 January 2020

Lesley Young
Yearly Meeting Clerk
Religious Society of Friends, Te Hāhi Tūhauwiri
AOTEAROA/NEW ZEALAND

Dear Lesley,

Thank you for your letter on behalf of Aotearoa/New Zealand Friends conveying sorrow and support for Australia Yearly Meeting Friends, especially those living in areas now devastated by ferocious summer bush fires. We also know that the crisis has not yet passed and the fire season still has months to run. The stories of human and wildlife suffering are devastating. The terrible human toll, the loss of native Australian plants, animals and their habitats has been horrendous. Many dense areas of bush now burning have never burned before and we hear that they may never recover and regrow.

It helps to remember the Australian Friends who through their wonderful work and lives, continue to protect, manage and restore the natural systems in their parts of Australia. Such actions are critical to the stability of our climate and fundamental to our way of life. We hold them in the Light and are inspired by their example and stories. Our Junior Young Friends challenge us to question and change.

Despite the devastation it is heartening to both see and experience the many ways in which people across the country are responding to immediate need, offering shelter to families whose homes have been destroyed and supporting firefighters, including volunteers on the front line. Communities will need continuing assistance for a long time. As your own Christchurch community has slowly recovered and rebuilt following the earthquake, Australian communities will too, following these fires.

We very much value love and support from the worldwide Friends at this time. We trust that you and your communities are safe and remain so.

In peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ann Zubrick".

Ann Zubrick
Presiding Clerk

Australia Yearly Meeting

The Religious Society of Friends
(Quakers) in Australia Inc.
Incorporated in the ACT
PO Box 4035
Carlingford North NSW 2118
Australia

M: 0423 308 550
E: secretary@quakersaustralia.info
www.quakersaustralia.org.au
ABN 16 036 715 933