



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE BRISBANE

CELEBRATING BRISBANE AGENTS OF PEACE 2020

Sister Wendy Flannery



Sister Wendy, a Sister of Mercy, has been active in the peace movement in Brisbane for several decades. She brings a local focus, combining her activism and dedication with a faith-based non-violent approach. Wendy is actively engaged in the following community organisations:

- Believing Women for a Culture of Peace (BWCP)
- Friends of the Earth Climate Frontlines (FoE Climate Frontlines)
- United Nations Association of Australia (UNAA), Qld branch
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- Australian Religious Response to Climate Change (ARRCC)

All of these organisations enable access to a complex weaving of relationships, with support for many other community groups and initiatives engaged in social and environmental justice and peace building.

Apart from her faith background, a lot of Wendy's commitment and approach to local peace work stems from the more than 20 years she spent working in the Pacific Islands region, to which she still feels strong links. "Crossing over into other peoples' lives and cultures", says Wendy, "not in an attitude of invading and taking, but of mutual giving, receiving and learning, means coming back changed and enriched into one's own..." This Pacific "education" has shaped Wendy's engagement in multiple multi-faith and multi-cultural contexts in Brisbane.

Another key experience in Wendy's life was helping to establish an office in New York to build an NGO relationship with the UN for the Sisters of Mercy International. This opened up opportunities for relationships with many other organisations committed to peace-building at an international level, including the Quakers, WILPF and Rotary. Wendy still treasures a photo she took of the installation near the public entrance to the UN building of a gun with the barrel tied in a knot!