

**LISA WRILEY  
AND NAPPIES FOR PEACE**



*I can be a peacemaker  
If you take my little hand...*

(song: Monica Brown)



**Lisa Wriley** is a young mother who lives on the Central Coast of New South Wales. Like any young mother with a growing family, she might be expected to have her hands too full to engage very much in peacemaking activities. Lisa however is a living reminder both that peace literally begins at home and also that its ripples can extend out from home to the healing of others and Creation itself.

For Lisa's understanding is that we are part of God's *Sacred Earth*, in which each of us, small, weak, strong or powerful, has a part to play.

Three of Lisa's recent projects highlight her peacemaking work...

**The Great Nappy Challenge of M.A.D (Making A Difference) Mums**

**Wanted: 52 Families to join the nappy challenge  
'Cloth nappies don't cost the earth'**

- *Are you interested in reducing your family's use (and disposal) of plastic 'disposable' nappies?*
- *Would you like some encouragement and support to use more earth-friendly nappy products?*
- *Are you willing to collect your children's nappies for one week and make them famous (the nappies) at a fun, local media event?*
- *BONUS QUESTION: Would you like to take up the challenge of replacing one extra disposable nappy with a cloth one each week for ten weeks? (If we wash and re-use ten cloth nappies each week, it saves more than 500 disposable nappies in a year. Good for you and good for the planet!*

Over a week at the beginning of March 2005, including and highlighting *Clean Up Australia Day* and *International Women's Day*, a big bin was placed in a prominent location within Lisa's community for participants to place their dirty nappies in. Nappies from over 52 children over the week then provided a striking, sensory, reminder of how many nappies a single baby uses in a year!

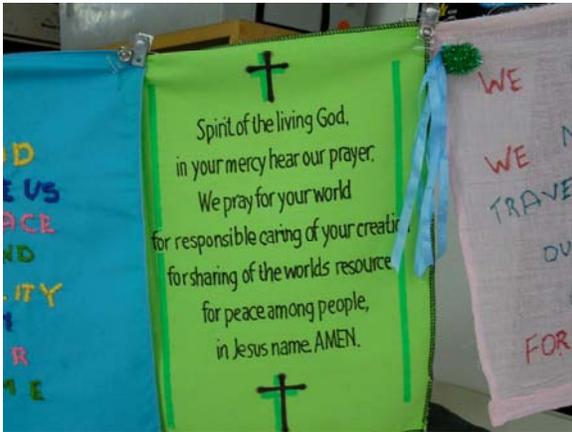
Lisa and her fellow M.A.D (Making A Difference) Mums saw this as an important issue in living more sustainably and reducing waste, helping people get a real sense of the scale of waste created by 'disposable' products (not least disposable nappies which remain in the environment until long after the babies who wore them are having their own babies). The aim of the event, which attracted local television and radio coverage, was to encourage people to use earth-friendly alternatives as much as we are able. Every little bit helps...

## Community Eco Garden

A longer-term project in which Lisa has been engaged is also the creation of a Community Eco Garden close to her home. This has involved the building of relationships with local people and agreement with the local Council to take over a piece of land in a community park. Inspired by similar projects elsewhere across Australia, alongside being a beautiful space to visit and just 'be', the garden will offer a variety of demonstration eco-projects and a place to learn and grow.



## The Prayer Flag Project



*What do you do with old bits of cloth?* Lisa had the idea in 2004 of a Prayer Flag Project to collecting women's prayers for the world on cloth flags. The prayer flags are then hung up together at community events, particularly International Women's Day gatherings.

Why? - Sharing a prayer with God can change us, says Lisa, and acts of solidarity can transform our communities. Tibetan Prayer flags are after all an ancient prayer expression - a good idea, worth borrowing.

This idea has been taken up by the *W.I.S.E (Women In Solidarity Ecumenically)* group of women in the *New South Wales Ecumenical Council*, together with the *NCCA Gender Commission*, and the number and range of flags continues to grow.

Lisa is also a member of the ecumenical *Wellspring Community*, a dispersed community of Christians across Australia, committed to peace and reconciliation with all of Creation. Inspired by the Celtic and Benedictine traditions of the Iona Community, which set great store on the presence of God in all things, members of the Wellspring Community like Lisa seek to establish new just and spiritual relationships with one another, the richness of Indigenous Australian community and tradition, and the wonderful diversity of the Australian environment of which we are a part.



### Sources and more information:

*Pipeline*, magazine of the Wellspring Community  
[www.wellspringcommunity.org.au](http://www.wellspringcommunity.org.au)