

## AYM Archivist's Report to Yearly Meeting 2023

### PART A: REPORT

2022/23 has been very quiet as compared to 2021/22 which saw a flurry of activity in policy, record keeping guidelines and handbook updates as well as the creation and supply of 10 record keeping and information guides to Regional Meeting Archivists.

Since Yearly Meeting 2022 the following activities have been undertaken:

Since 2021, AYM has been seeking a **new Retention Schedule** for the Regional Meetings and AYM that cover the many changes in recordkeeping across the country as a single source to ensure each meeting (Regional and Australian). The National Schedule project was underway with all State and Federal Archives being involved during 2021-2022 however Queensland paused the process by undertaking a review of the *Public Records Act 2002* during late 2022; other states are considering or now undertaking a review their current record keeping legislation. Until this national project is completed, the recommendation was for AYM to adopt the current *National Archives General Retention of Disposal Schedule*. State Regional Meetings can continue as per general AYM Archivist advice outlined in the AYM Handbook updated in late 2022.

**Handbook revision of section: 5.2.7 AYM Archivist** - in line with a new Recordkeeping policy, a revision of the section 5.2.7 of the Handbook was required as it had been quite some time since the last review occurred. An updated version reflecting changing needs and practices was approved in late 2022 so that all documents regarding duties and archival processes are consistent and in line with current approved Archival practices.

**Outreach** - AYM Archivist contributed an article to the ASA Faith Traditions Special Interest Group (FTSIG) online publication called *Blessed Collections* was published in June-December 2022 issue. The article briefly covered the structure and recordkeeping processes of the Society whilst also promoting our unique Australian Quaker Narrative Tapestry project briefly as an example of Storytelling and recording Quaker history through extensive research and artistic interpretation.

A small number of complicated **historical research requests** were received from family history and academic researchers. Each researcher was very grateful for their replies with answers to their questions and directions on how to access other relevant records and/images from other collections outside the Society.

Information on Recognising and Managing **Vicarious Trauma for Archivists** was supplied to all RM Archivists and the AYM Secretary.

AYM renewed annual membership with the Australian Society of Archivists as a passive form of **outreach** to alert users of the ASA website to our presence and collections,

### Issues/Analysis

1. AYM Archivist was unable to attend the Faith Traditions Group (FTSIG) at the Annual Conference for the Australian Society of Archivists in 2022 due to technical issues beyond our control. The conference was a hybrid with online participation for the majority of sessions. IT issues beyond the control of attendees saw a number of Special Interest groups miss out on participatory attendance.
2. Whilst continuing to share information on current and/or best practice Record Keeping, Preservation and Conservation, Collection management, and professional development and training opportunities with the Australian Society of Archivists with Regional Archivists, AYM

Archivist receives little feedback on the value of this form of communication and education.

3. With the Transition Implementation Working Group (TIWG) looking at implementing new positions and roles in lieu of the current AYM Secretary role, as AYM Archivist, I believe it is time to review the current AYM Archivist role.
  - Is it time to retire the role given many of the current duties seem to be absorbed by the Probity and Media Officers;
  - or does AYM keep the position and significantly change the role description to reflect other duties.
4. An idea for consideration is to retire the current AYM Archivist role as redundant and replace it with an AYM Historian role instead. A volunteer AYM Historian role can be filled by any F/friend who has a passion for the history of the Society, an ability to undertake robust historical research and an ability to write for publication on historical aspects of the Society in Australia.

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