



NAME OF COMMITTEE/WORKING GROUP/ASSOCIATED BODY:

QA Archivist – Saadia Thomson Dwyer 2023-2024

ACHIEVEMENTS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

2023-24 saw a change in existing roles and some new positions within the QA management team - The AYM Secretary becoming the QA Co-ordinator and the creation of the QA Probity Officer role. Canberra Regional Meeting appointed a new Archivist, Margaret Clark.

Since Yearly Meeting 2023 the following activities have been undertaken:

- Two complicated **historical research requests** were received from a family history researcher and an academic researcher and forwarded to QA Archivist to respond. 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.
- The new CRM Archivist has received copies of all How to Guides for the management and care of Archival records, Information on Recognising and Managing **Vicarious Trauma for Archivists** was supplied to all RM Archivists and the QA Coordinator.
- 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. Disappointingly AYM Archivist was again unable to attend the Faith Traditions Group (FTSIG) at the Annual Conference for the Australian Society of Archivists in 2023 as the group was not given an opportunity to have an online or in person meeting due to issues beyond their control. The ASA conference was again a hybrid with online participation for the majority of sessions. A number of Special Interest groups missed 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. Canberra RM Archivist meeting and QA Coordinator

continue to provide feedback and seek advisory assistance when required, although this is fairly limited.

3. **Laying down the role:** I will be laying down the role as the incumbent QA Archivist at Yearly meeting in 2024. Unfortunately due to work and family responsibilities, I am no longer able to continue in the role. I would like to thank Jacque Schultz (former AYM Secretary) and David Tehr (current QA Coordinator), Jo Vallentine (WARM Archivist) and Margaret Clark (CRM Archivist) for their support and friendly conversations over the last three years.

PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS (if any)

1. Laying down the role of QA Archivist

As current QA Archivist, I believe the Society should lay down the current role and replace it with a QA Historian role.

With implementation of new QA positions and duties, mainly the QA Coordinator and QA Probity officer and QA Media role:

- All current duties are undertaken by the QA Coordinator, Probity officer and Media role
- The role is now seen purely as an advisory one. As QA is an institutional member of the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) any recordkeeping advice can be sought from the ASA and there are many opportunities for the QA Coordinator and Probity Officer to confer with other Faith Traditions Special Interest groups (FTSIGs) to share, compare and seek assistance with similar archiving and probity issues.
- RM Archivists can continue to consult the QA Coordinator for recordkeeping advice and assistance as required.

2. Yearly Meeting to consider creating a new role as QA Historian

I believe the Society would benefit greatly from the creation of a volunteer QA Historian role which 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 and relevant family and local history in Australia. Whilst liaising with the QA Media officer, any articles (short or substantial) can then be shared through a large variety of Quaker publications around the world and also with a variety of family and local history publications within Australia and overseas as a form of outreach thus promoting the history of the Society in Australia. Institutional membership of the ASA also provides the Society with an opportunity to present article/s for publication in the ASA Journal in relation to recordkeeping and archival matters.