

**Preparatory Session Report
YM23**

Preparatory Session:	QWCC
Clerk: Margaret Bywater	Note taker: Sue Ennis

Part A: Prep session Report

19 Friends attended this Zoom this session including 4 QWCC members. Unfortunately, others were unable to attend. The committee provided an overview of QWCC current activities, including maintaining links with FWCC, Asia West Pacific Section, the AYM Secretary's activities, and with RMs for World Quaker Day. A "dreaming" session was held in September 2022 to help discern the future for QWCC.

This was followed by a very lengthy discussion on travel AYM visitors and greenhouse gases and the need for travel guidelines.

PART B. Items for consideration by AYM

Now that video conferencing technology can virtually bring AWP to AYM Quakers together we and mindful of the impact of long-distance air travel plus growing costs to YM, therefore:

1. Does AYM wish for an AWP visitor to come each year or less frequently?

We accept this recommendation, noting CRM had some questions concerning the impact of international travel.

The prep session recommends:

- Given the influence of COVID, climate change, greenhouse emissions from travel, and new technologies, the feeling of this meeting is that we need to revise AYM guidelines for FWCC -AWPS visitors to YM and RMs i.e., how often should a visitor come in person and do RMs have enough energy to host visitors?
- Therefore, **we put a AWPS visitors invitation on hold for the next YM 2024 until these guidelines are completed, but not, indefinitely.**
- We note that some Quakers find Zoom limiting and greatly value visits from FWCC AWPS Friends. We ask QWCC to do this work for AYM.

2. The next World Plenary of Quakers will be in South Africa from 5-13 August 2024 and also as a hybrid (streamed) event. In-person participation will be very low.

We ask AYM Nominations Committee to discern the name of a Friend to represent Australia Yearly Meeting at the World Plenary gathering 2024, in South Africa.

We accept this recommendation noting CRM had some questions re the impact international travel on climate change.

This prep session asks AYM:

- This prep session would like to know how many AWPS or AYM members are planning to attend the World Plenary 2024 to be held in South Africa and what positions they

hold in AWP or on FWCC. Could QWCC and AWP find this information out and report this at YM?

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1. How often should visitors come in person?
2. Do RMs have enough energy to host visitors?

Therefore, it was suggested that an invitation to an AWPS visitor could temporarily be put on hold for YM 2024, until such guidelines are completed.

We note that some Quakers find Zoom limiting and greatly value visits from FWCC AWPS Friends.

We ask QWCC to consider undertaking revision of these guidelines for AYM.

Comments from the Prep session:

Due to real concerns about climate change, greenhouse emissions and in particular international air travel this meeting feels AYM needs to develop guidelines for travel (i.e., the FWCC triennial is every 6 years due to emissions).

We ask AYM to nominate a group to develop these guidelines.

