

YM23 SESSION REPORT

send to secretary@quakersaustralia.info

Name of Event:	Share & Tell Sessions
Date/Time	4 th – 6 th July various times
Person submitting report	Em Chandler
Clerk/Convenor/s	Em Chandler – for Yearly Meeting Organising Committee
Summary (400 words or less) include number attending your event	<p>During Yearly Meeting 2023, nineteen different Share and Tell occurred. Attendance ranged from smaller with just under ten participants to well over fifty (and that doesn't include the facilitators for the sessions!). As with last year, a majority of session either found their own Zoom host or a facilitator was able to wear two hats. I am glad that this trend has continued, as it highlights the development of our own skills – whether that be tech skills, or “asking for help” skills.</p> <p>Share and Tell sessions as usual covered a wide variety of topics, reflecting the variety of interests, experiences, and focuses of Friends in Australia. These included Friends Girls School in India, Friends in Stitches, The Voice Referendum, the Salter Lecture, annual elections, singing, teaching and learning peace initiatives, creativity and contemplation, the Silver Wattle Family Gathering, and more.</p> <p>I particularly want to highlight two sessions: Meet the new QA Office Staff, and YM'24 in Adelaide, a hybrid YM?</p> <p>As coordinator, I had hoped to schedule these sessions on their own as they were relevant to all Friends in Australia. Our structures and ways of gathering have changed much over the last four years, and will continue to do so. Making sure these two sessions were accessible to as many Friends as possible was a very strong leading, and I am glad they were able to be scheduled with no sessions against them.</p> <p>These sessions were functionally Information Sessions, and it will be interesting to continue to discover what a Share and Tell session is, and what their relationship to the goings on of Yearly Meetings they have in the near future.</p> <p>While all Share and Tell sessions were held within the week of Yearly Meeting, a majority of sessions indicated that they were happy to run in the lead up to, or following Yearly Meeting. This readiness to share the endeavours, questions, and community of Quakers in Australia outside of this very specific window is admirable, and I look forward to attending Share and Tell sessions in the weeks and months outside of Yearly Meeting in the years to come. There is always an opportunity to connect and learn with Quakers across these lands called Australia.</p> <p>Some session facilitators have written brief reports on their individual sessions, and they can be read here: https://www.quakersaustralia.info/yearly-meeting-2023/ym23-business/ym23-formal-sessions/ym23-reports-activities.</p>