

## Formal Session 3: Monday 4 July at 11.15am AEST

### YM22.13: Opening Worship

The Presiding Clerk read from *this we can say*:

*A prepared mind is not a mind made up as to what it is going to share with others, but it is a receptive mind, prepared to receive rather than to give, but also capable of reflecting.*

Dorothy Gregory, 1963, *this we can say* 2.30

### YM22.14: Minute of Record: The State of the Society Address

Bruce Henry (VRM) presented the following Minute of Record for The State of the Society Address given by Aletia Dundas. The complete text of The State of The Society Address will be included in *Documents in Retrospect 2022*, and a video recording of the presentation is available for viewing by Friends on our Quakers Australia YouTube channel. The links for the text of the Address and the video recording are on the YM22 website:

<https://www.quakersaustralia.info/yearly-meeting-2022/ym22-business/formal-sessions/reports-ym22>

Aletia Dundas the 2022 State of Society Address online on Saturday 2 July to more than 100 Friends. Aletia observed that Quakers in Australia are in a tough place. This is partly due to COVID-19. The frustration of not being able to meet in person has affected younger people in particular. The adoption of a variety of online and hybrid meetings has been a positive response, but meeting online is difficult for a number of people for various reasons.

The numbers of both members and attenders have continued to decline, and the fall-off in numbers of children and JYFs in recent years has been dramatic.

Nevertheless, there are signs of hope and growth. There are new attenders in many Meetings. Quakers have been actively involved in a wide range of peace and climate initiatives, and in sharing experiences of Spirit. The Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee and Quaker Service Australia continue their important work. Aletia sees the recently developed short videos for Australian Quaker Voices as honest portrayals of our values, spiritual life and action.

She highlights two issues of immediate importance: the climate emergency and inclusion of gender diverse people. Prompted by a "Share and Tell" session run by Rainbow Friends, she asks if it is time for Australian Quakers to state an intention to welcome gender diverse seekers, as Britain Yearly Meeting has recently done.

Aletia asks how we might become a truly "broken and tender" community which is thriving, nourishing, open and connected; tender to the Spirit and to each other; open to be led in unexpected directions. How best might we hold it with love and ensure that the seeds will grow?

## YM22.15: AYM Nominations Committee Report

The AYM Nominations Committee Report has been available on the YM22 website for Friends to read.

Yearly Meeting notes the following appointments approved prior to YM22:

1. (Minute SC9.21.6):

a) Yearly Meeting Organising Committee

Standing Committee accepts the names brought forward by their Regional Meetings to be on YM Organising Committee: Harold Wilkinson, Vidya, and Michael Searle (CRQ); Jessica Donoghue (QRM), Anna Wilkinson and Em Chandler (VRM)

b) Backhouse Lecture Committee

Standing Committee accepts the names of Evan Gallagher (CRQ) and Judith Pembleton (QRM) to join the AYM Backhouse Lecture Committee, until YM27 (or 30.09.27, if there is no Yearly Meeting that year);

c) Children and JYF Committee

Standing Committee accepts the names of Di Bretherton and Jenny Turton (VRM) to join the AYM Children's & Junior Young Friend Committee until YM24 (or 30.09.24, if there is no Yearly Meeting that year)

2. (Minute SC1.22.4):

a) Standing Committee accepted the names of Margaret Clark (CRQ) and Peter Williams (VRM) to join *The Australian Friend* Committee until 2025. (YM notes the death of Peter Williams earlier this year.) It was noted that Wies Schuiringa will finish her time on this committee at YM22.

b) Standing Committee confirmed Therese Douglas as an appointment to the Company of QSA

c) Standing Committee accepted the name of Michael Corbett (QRM) to join the Handbook Revision Committee until YM25.

3. (Minute AGM 22.7)

The urgent decision-making process was used on 7 March, 2022 to appoint Emily Chapman-Searle (SANTRM), Margaret Clark (CRQ) and Judith Pembleton (QRM) to the Working Party on the Role and Responsibilities of the AYM Secretary, for a period of four to six months.

Yearly Meeting makes the following appointments:

1. AYM Committees and Working Groups

a) The Australian Friend Committee

Sue Parritt (VRM) and Rosemary Longhurst (WARM) to join Margaret Clark (CRQ) on this committee until YM25.

Peter Jones (TRM) who has been organising the "Know thy Friend" section of *The Australian Friend* for some time, until YM25.

We note that David Swain and Rae Litting (NSWRM) are willing to continue at this time, in order to have some overlap with the new team. They see their role as helping to preserve the corporate memory and assisting in the technical issues associated (end date uncertain.)

We note that this committee is no longer a 'hosted' committee and is under the care of AYM.

- b) Child Protection Committee  
Ronis Chapman and Lorraine Thomson (CRQ) until YM23.
  - c) Children and JYF Committee  
Justine Shelton (VRM) until YM25.
  - d) Finance Committee  
Roger Sawkins (QRM) until YM25.  
Carol Thornton (CRQ) until YM24.
  - e) Handbook Revision Committee  
Julie Walpole (TRM) until YM25.  
Ron Martin (VRM) until YM25.
  - f) Nominations Committee  
Bev Polzin (VRM) until YM25.
  - g) Peace and Social Justice Fund Committee  
Lorraine Thomson, Wilma Davidson, Kay de Vogel, Harold Wilkinson, to be hosted by Canberra and Region Quakers until YM25.
  - h) Presiding Clerk's Support Group  
Catherine Heywood, Dale Hess, Sieneke Martin, Alan Clayton, Bev Polzin, all from VRM, until YM25
  - i) Publications Committee  
Sue Headley (TRM) until YM25
  - j) Quaker Peace and Legislation Committee (QPLC)  
Harold Wilkinson, Margaret Bearlin, Ronis Chapman, Margaret Clark, David Purnell, Shobha Varkey, Gareth Knapman, Greg Parkhurst, Shannon Zimmerman, until YM25, to be hosted by Canberra and Region Quakers.
  - k) Quaker World Connections Committee (QWCC) Four-yearly appointments  
Sue Ennis (VRM) is Convenor of this Committee until YM23.  
Jonathan Benyei (CRQ) until YM25.  
Sharon Matthews (WARM) until YM23.  
Katherine Purnell (TRM) until YM26.
  - l) The Sanctuary Management Committee (NSWRM)  
Jacque Schultze (NSWRM) until YM25.
2. Australia Yearly Meeting Representatives
- a) Friends Peace Teams Council  
Jane Drexler (TRM) has laid down her membership of this council.  
Valerie Joy (QRM) will be interim representative until YM23.
  - b) NCCA Faith and Unity Commission  
We note Janet Duke (VRM) is willing to continue to represent AYM on this committee, but is unable to be present at meetings during 2022. We note that it has not been possible to find a suitable Friend to undertake this role in 2022.
  - c) NCCA Safe Churches Network  
Ronis Chapman (CRQ) until YM23

- d) Ann Zubrick (WARM) as AYM representative to A/NZ YM for 2023.

AYM Nominations Committee notes that the following AYM positions remained unresolved at this time:

- a) AYM Membership Secretary
- b) Safe Quaker Community Committee

The terms of all three members of this committee will be finishing at YM22 and AYM Nominations Committee has been unsuccessful in finding Friends to replace them.

We would like Yearly Meeting to consider a possible different way of dealing with personal safety, and our legal obligations in regard to personal safety. Do the Safe Quaker Community and the Child Protection Committee deal with similar concerns? Does our inability to find members willing to take over the particular role of Safe Quaker Community present an opportunity to review and consolidate all aspects of personal safety?

This matter will be considered at a later formal session of this YM when other personal safety items come to a formal session.

AYM Nominations Committee brings to Yearly Meeting's attention that the following Committees have been laid down:

- a) Australia North Korea Peace Support Group
- b) Quaker Learning Australia Committee

We note that WARM completed its term on Quaker Learning Australia at YM21, which was noted at that Yearly Meeting (Minute 21.35). SANTRM has agreed to do the on-the-ground hosting for Meeting for Learning for 2022 and 2023 (e.g. transportation to and from the retreat site). The actual Meeting for Learning program is being organised by the retreat leaders.

## **YM22.16: AYM Treasurer's Report update**

AYM Treasurer's Report to Yearly Meeting 2022:

This is the first year that I am reporting as the Treasurer. Roger Sawkins, the past Treasurer, is a member of the Finance Committee and his continued presence is valued.

1. Annual General Meeting: The Annual General Meeting took place in January. The audited accounts for 2020/2021 were accepted at that meeting and the auditor reappointed.
2. Investments and cash flow: Financial markets settled during 2021, and there were increases in the values of assets held. The Sanctuary in Wahroonga was revalued at a higher value and our managed funds also increased in value. 2022 may be a very different year.  
Our cash flow comes from the quotas paid by Regional Meetings which again were lower. The Federal Government COVID support has ceased so there will no longer be that offset. However, I expect for the next year or so, travel may be less as we get used to living in a hybrid online world. This will contribute to lower costs.  
We also receive investment income and it was a lot higher than in past years. This was mainly because some of our managed investment funds sold assets and booked realised capital gains which was distributed as income.

Share markets have been volatile for the past few months. At this stage I am not sure how this will impact the annual performance for 2021/2022.

3. Bequests: During the year we received a large bequest of \$1 million and another of \$30,000. These are now invested and part of the Thanksgiving Fund.
4. Carbon offsets payment: Our carbon offset provision for the 2020/2021 financial year has been paid to Greenfleet.
5. The Finance Committee has circulated a draft Thanksgiving Fund Review Report to RMs and the Thanksgiving Fund for comments. A revised Report has been prepared. The AYM Thanksgiving Fund and the AYM Finance Committee are in the process of setting up a meeting to discuss the revised Review Report.
6. Finance Committee members: The Finance Committee membership has changed. The committee members are Jane Drexler (TRM), Treasurer; Ray Brindle (VRM); Roger Sawkins (QRM); Steve Smith and Robin Walpole (TRM).

We have no matters for consideration by Yearly Meeting.

*Jane Drexler, AYM Treasurer, June 2022*

Jane Drexler, AYM Treasurer, spoke to her report on AYM finances. We note that the report presented in this session is an updated report compared to that provided in *Documents in Advance 2022*. Budgeting for our 2022/23 financial year is progressing as normal.

She reported on the recent meeting between RM Treasurers and the AYM Treasurer. At this meeting there was discussion of implications of a possible increase in the number of paid positions to support the work of the AYM Office and other increases in AYM expenses. RM Treasurers expressed concern at the challenge of meeting increased RM quotas. Careful consideration will be needed of how funding of any increased expenses is met.

Yearly Meeting notes that there can be challenges in the timing of the AYM Financial Year and the associated needed AGM, and the timing of YM gatherings.

## **YM22.17: The Friends School appointment**

Regarding Minute SC22.6.4:

### ***Minute A04/22: Nomination of Elective Directors***

*The Association of The Friends' School Incorporated considers the nominations of Elective Directors brought forward by the Board of Governors and we agree to recommend to Australia Yearly Meeting that they appoint the following:*

- a) *Tom Dundas as a nominee of Tasmania Regional Meeting for a first term of four years commencing from the date of approval by Yearly Meeting.*
- b) *Jen Newton as a nominee of Tasmania Regional Meeting for a first term of four years commencing from the date of approval by Yearly Meeting*
- c) *Lindsay May as a nominee of the Board of Governors for a first term of four years*

*commencing from the date of approval by Yearly Meeting.*

- d) *Sarah Sealy as a nominee of the Board of Governors for a first term of four years commencing from the date of approval by Yearly Meeting.*

*Standing Committee recommends to Australia Yearly Meeting the appointment of four Elective Directors to the Board of The Friends' School.*

Yearly Meeting accepts the appointments of the four elective Directors to the Board of The Friends' School.

## **YM22.18: QSA appointments**

Regarding Minute SC6.22.5:

*Standing Committee brings the following appointments to YM22 for confirmation: As per QSA Constitutional requirements, 7.2 (b) An appointment of a Regional Meeting Appointee and a Young Friends Appointee must be confirmed by the next meeting of Australia Yearly Meeting or Standing Committee:*

- a) *The name of Laurel Doel is brought forward to become a Member of the Company of QSA for a 4-year term beginning in February 2022*
- b) *The name of Rae Litting is brought forward to also serve on the Management Committee as a co-convenor while continuing as a member of the Linkages Committee, pending such time as another representative from NSWRM is nominated.*

Yearly Meeting accepts the name of Laurel Doel to become a Member of the Company of QSA for a four-year term beginning in February 2022.

Yearly Meeting accepts the name of Rae Litting to serve on the Management Committee as a co-convenor while continuing as a member of the Linkages Committee, pending such time as another representative from NSWRM for the Linkages Committee is nominated.

## **YM22.19: AYM Handbook Revision Committee**

We were not able to discuss this matter at Formal Session 3 due to lack of time.

The AYM Handbook Revision Committee's Unresolved Items (Part B Items from the *Documents in Advance 2022* Report, remaining Unresolved) will be brought to a later YM22 Formal Session for consideration.

The formal session closed with a period of silent worship.