

Yearly Meeting Organising Committee

PART A: REPORT

Achievements/Activities

Yearly Meeting in 2023 is being organised as an online zoom event from Saturday 1st July to Sunday 9th July. It will include two consecutive long weekends (Sat–Mon and Fri–Sun) with one or two formal sessions each day. The middle days (Tues–Thurs) will be a time for rest, local and outdoor activities, and some online spiritual and community building sessions (Share & Tell and some other information sessions).

Preparatory Sessions will be held in advance from Monday 15th to Sunday 28th May. Information Sessions will be in May and June.

This year the Backhouse Lecture will be hosted by TRM and delivered by Jon Watts from the USA who was the founder of the QuakerSpeak videos; the State of the Society address will be given by Mark Macleod, TRM; and the Summary of Epistles will be presented by Elizabeth PO', WARM.

We are inviting offers of Friendly School sessions on the theme “Integrity, Voice and Right Relationship”.

Friends from around Australia are involved in organising Yearly Meeting through a range of task groups including: the Children’s program, Friendly School, Home Groups and JYF activities. We involve Friends in Zoom Hosting, the Help Desk, Epilogues and being YM23 Elders and Pastoral Carers. In every task group we are seeking to involve experienced Friends, younger Friends and those newer to Quakers.

SANTRM will host Yearly Meeting in 2024 as a hybrid event with both a gathering in Adelaide and online access.

Issues/Analysis

An innovation this year, to enable more informal social interaction and spaces to organise, will be providing additional Zoom breakout rooms so Friends can socialise or work together in small groups.

YM23 registrants are asked for a \$50 contribution if they are able to pay, the same as last year. YM22 was held online and incurred direct costs of nearly \$5,000. These included tech software and licences, the Help Desk phone, catering for the Clerking Team, and flights, accommodation and meals for the Assistant Clerk who travelled to Perth to work closely with the Clerking Team. There are additional costs for the Yearly Meeting Office, whose work is essential in holding Yearly Meeting.

PART B: RECOMMENDATIONS:

None.

Committee members: Co-Conveners: Vidya (CRQ), Clinton de Young (WARM); Em Chandler (VRM), David Tehr (WARM). Harald Ehmann (SANTRM) and Jo Jordan (SANTRM), as YM24 Host Committee. members.

Contact: CYMOrganising@quakersaustralia.info