

Documents in Retrospect 2016: Summary

1) Available to be seen online

- Testimonies
- State of the Society Address
- AYM committee nominations
- Epistles
- Preparatory Session Reports
- Public Statements on Gun Control and the Marriage Equality Plebiscite

2) For Information

Backhouse lecturer

David Carline, assisted by Cheryl Buchanan, will be the lecturer in 2017 in Adelaide

Quaker Peace and Social Justice Fund Committee

The offer of Bega Valley Recognised Meeting to take this on, under the care of CRM, was accepted. The Committee consists of Peter Hillery, Peggy Storch, and Graham Jensen, CRM. Bega Recognised Meeting asked to bring forward three more names for this Committee. All appointed to 2019.

Child Protection Committee

We accept the recommendation that the age range for YF and for YF activities be from 18 years to 30-ish years, and the age range for Junior YF will be 12 -17 years.

We ask the Child Protection Committee to review the policy, procedures and guidelines for all Quaker activities involving young people under the age of 18. We ask that any subsequent changes be made in the Handbook of Practice and Procedure.

Children and JYF Coordinator:

We note that the position is currently funded to September 2017. We accept the need to continue this support for a Children's and JYF coordinator, noting that this includes work done with all members of the Quaker community. We ask that this employment be placed in the AYM budget and accept the necessary increase in our quota to meet this expense.

Communications/Publications Committee Report

The offer of the working group of Jenny Stock, Yarrow Andrew and Charles Stevenson within SANTRM to review and update the AYM pamphlets was accepted.

First Nations Peoples Concerns Committee

Before AYM, the Committee had withdrawn its recommendation in relation to Sovereignty, to hold this in abeyance, and its recommendation in relation to First Nations people having respite at Silver Wattle.

Publications Committee.

There was an excited response to the suggestion for a second edition of *this we can say*. The Publications Committee is asked to draw up guidelines for possible new contributions to this. Quaker Learning Australia to be the collection point for suggested entries for this new edition. We are especially looking forward to entries by and about children, JYFs and YFs.

Quaker Service Australia

AYM asks QSA, with the assistance and advice of Alan Clayton, VRM, and Tim Johnstone, CRM, who has experience with incorporation in ACT to do the following:

- investigate incorporation of QSA in the ACT or other ways forward
- investigate the suitability of incorporation under Federal Corporation Law
- advise QSA and Standing Committee of the recommendations, and
- assist QSA in making any changes that may be necessary. AYM accepts the current version of the draft Constitution to be used in application for Incorporation, but to be amended if necessary to meet the requirements of Incorporation or incorporation as a limited company. We agree that QSA should proceed with these matters and we ask QSA for regular reports.

QSA is asked to:

- Include AYM as an advisory body in the Objects of the Constitution
- Add to Section 4 of the Constitution that Membership is 'to include a YF as a member of QSA incorporated'

AYM asks that the terms of reference for the Linkages Subcommittee reflect:

- How the Committee can best support QSA in reflecting Quaker values in its work;
- How to ensure an open conduit between RMs, Linkages Committee and QSA Management Committee.

Silver Wattle

An agreement has been signed by the Presiding Clerk, Julian Robertson, on behalf of Australia Yearly Meeting, for the Lemberg tapestries to remain at the Silver Wattle Quaker Centre for up to 10 years.

YM16.58 IT Committee

A session was given a demonstration of the draft of the new website. We note that the seekers site should be available within a few months. An approximate quote for the website development is \$25,000 - \$30,000.

3) For RM to Consider

YM16.27 Earthcare Committee

We invite Regional Meetings to respond to the FWCC invitations to do two things over the next year to contribute to Earthcare and to forward information on initiatives to the AYM Earthcare Committee.

YM16.28 First Nations Peoples' Concerns Committee

- We accept the recommendation to make a statement on behalf of the Society, acknowledging historic injustices and the ways that many of us experience a variety of privileges as a result of invasion and dispossession.

- We ask the First Nations Peoples' Concerns Committee to prepare a draft for circulation and ask that they refer to the Sorry statement from YM 1998 (Minute 35).
- We accept the need to raise awareness in our Yearly and Regional Meetings of the specific histories and stories associated with the local places where Meetings are held, including historic massacres, sacred places and newer sites of significance such as the Tent Embassy in Canberra.
- We invite anyone who wishes when they stand to speak to identify the Aboriginal land on which they live.
- We encourage Meetings to have plaques visible to the public to acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land.

YM16.32 FWCC Committee

We note that Australian Quakers are encouraged to celebrate World Quaker Day on 2 October 2016.

YM 16.36 Ecumenism and Interfaith.

Australia Yearly Meeting supports efforts by Australian Quakers to develop a campaign of nonviolent action to end Australian support for the Indonesian police in their repression of people in West Papua. AYM encourages QPLC, Regional Meetings and f/Friends to consider whether they feel led to participate in the campaign.

YM16.43 Quaker Learning Australia

We ask

- that correspondents from each RM who are enthusiastic about the mandate and work of QLA be appointed to QLA, especially to promote the resources available to isolated Friends;
- that a person is needed within the committee of QLA to be the contact for such correspondents;
- that Yearly Meeting asks which Regional Meeting feels called to take up QLA after the end of its present term in 2019, and to start thinking about the spiritual nurture and in-reach needed.

YM16.46 Children and JYFs Committee

The Committee wishes to lay down its work and asks that another Regional Meeting take on this work.

YM16.59 Penn Friends

A record is now being kept of those corresponding as Penn Friends and a history of Penn Friends has now been written. We ask Friends who already have a Penn Friend to contact Anna Wilkinson to be added to the register if they have not already done so.