



*Air is Electric* exhibition, Bondi Pavilion Gallery Sydney World Pride 2023

## Annual Report 2023

Australian Queer Archives Inc

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Incorporated Assn No. A000240Z

ABN 92 450 443 760

We acknowledge the Yaluk-ut Weelam Clan of the Boon Wurrung as Traditional Custodians of the land where our collection is kept. We pay respect to Elders past and present and to all First Nations people across this land and acknowledge the historic injustices to which they have been subjected and that Sovereignty was never ceded.

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## Committee members 2023

As elected at Annual General Meeting, 27 October 2022

- Timothy Jones (President)
- Angela Bailey (Vice-President)
- Clare O'Hanlon (Secretary)
- Yorick Smaal (Treasurer)
- Kimberley Dunt
- Elliot Freeman
- Nick Henderson
- Richard Keeble

## Patrons

Professor Dennis Altman AM

Joan Nestle

## Notice of Annual General Meeting for the year 2023

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Queer Archives Inc. (AQuA) will be held on:

**Thursday 26 October 2023 at 6.00pm**

at the Victorian Pride Centre 79-81 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda

For information about accessibility at the Victorian Pride Centre, please see

<https://pridecentre.org.au/accessibility>

### Agenda

1. Chairperson to open meeting
2. Apologies
3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 2022
4. Office Bearers' Reports
5. Treasurer's Report
6. Number of Ordinary committee members
7. Election of Committee members. The Chairperson will call for nominations at the AGM.
  - President
  - Vice-President
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - Ordinary members
8. **Guest Presentation**

Phoenix Emberstone, a queer Jewish activist, communications strategist, and Managing Director of Intertwine, will give a presentation on queer and bisexual histories.
9. Other business

If you are considering nominating to join committee, please reach out to discuss what that commitment would involve.

If you wish to appoint a proxy please [download](#) and complete a proxy form and either return it by [email](#) as a PDF no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting or provide it to the Chairperson of the meeting before or at the commencement of the AGM.

Please be aware that this meeting will be available online to AQuA members.

Refreshments will be available at the venue.

Clare O'Hanlon,  
Secretary 2023

## President's Report

The 2022-2023 year has been one of growth and renewal. We have focussed on progressing our strategic plan, activating our space in the Victorian Pride Centre, and supporting volunteers and researchers to access and maintain the collection. In addition to our usual wide-ranging contributions to exhibitions celebrating queer history, we were able to both support and produce some highly successful exhibitions as part of Sydney World Pride.

We have extended our office coordinator Claudine Chionh's role, which has been vital to maintaining our operational capacity in our increased profile at the Victorian Pride Centre. Each week over 30–50 volunteers and researchers access the collection, and tour groups come through regularly to see the space and collection. Highlights were visits from Minus18s young leaders' group and RMIT fashion design students. We support volunteers to work on the collection on Monday nights, and Wednesday days and evenings. Two of our longstanding volunteer coordinators – Graham Willett and Nick Henderson – took leave for a few months in mid-2023. Thankfully, committee members Elliot, Kimberley, and Clare, and more volunteers including Chris Tynan stepped up to maintain operations in their absence. We're now looking at ways to coordinate and expand volunteer management into the future.

We met in April 2023 to review our 2022-2024 [Strategic Plan](#).<sup>1</sup> The plan has three goals: 1. To effectively manage, maintain and grow the collection; 2. To grow the organisation's long term sustainability; and 3. To strengthen and grow collaborations with key stakeholders. Through the VPC, committee members and volunteers were able to access diversity and inclusion training. We were successful in a number of grants to progress the digitisation of at-risk items in the collection, as well as enhancing our digital storage. The finance subcommittee provided advice on our investment strategy. And governance procedures have been enhanced with committee renewal, and the establishment of subcommittees to progress work in key areas. We face some challenges in diversifying and increasing income, particularly with the decline in royalty income from GALE, and also in progressing the collection management system and online catalogue. To meet these challenges, we have been reaching out to government and peer organisations for advice and assistance.

Midsumma 2023 returned to full operations after the pandemic, and our stall was busier than ever. Unfortunately, extreme weather meant that our Footscray history walk had to be cancelled. But in partnership with Transgender Victoria we hosted an interactive workshop at the Pride Centre, Archive Armour. Special guest speaker, accidental archivist and trans icon Julie Peters spoke. Participants were taken on a creative journey through the archives and through queer and trans histories to think about ways that we can build our own archival armour, using our histories to protect ourselves and our communities from the violence of the cis-hetero world.

Sydney World Pride was an exciting festival in early 2023, and the archives was very busy organising and supporting events. We presented an exhibition, *The Air is Electric: David McDiarmid in America*, at the Bondi Pavilion in partnership with Waverley Council and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://queerarchives.org.au/strategic-plan-2022-2024/>

Sydney World Pride. Curated by Angela Bailey and Nick Henderson, the exhibition presented never-before-seen photographs from the collection, by one of Australia's most significant artists, from his 1977 travels through San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York City. With UNSW galleries we contributed to *THE PARTY*, an exhibition exploring LGBTIQ+ nightlife and party culture in Sydney from 1973-2002. The exhibition featured documentation and ephemera from events and venues alongside work by Australian artists, writers and designers engaging with this defining period of social and sexual freedom. We also held a stall at Mardi Gras Fair Day. Finally, we hosted the online iteration of *Muru-ba: First Nations LGBTIQ+ Trailblazers*, a physical and online exhibition that showcased the faces and stories of First Nations LGBTQIA+ Elders. We were thrilled to acquire copies of the photos and interviews, which is one of the Archives most significant and substantial acquisitions of First Nations LGBTQIA+ materials.

At the Pride Centre, we held an event in partnership with the Queer Indonesia Archive, Archiving Queer Histories: AQuA and QIA in Conversation. We presented a day symposium, 'Coming Out! Then and Now', celebrating 50 years since the beginnings of gay liberation in Melbourne. The day brought together presentations, panel discussions and screenings from gay liberation activists, and younger activists inspired by liberation activism. We also supported the *Queer Gaze* exhibition and storytelling event. Remembering the sex-positive magazine and party, *Wicked Women* (1988-1996), the *Queer Gaze* presented photographs from the AQuA collection, performances and rare archival footage from *Wicked Women* events.

Our *Serving in Silence* exhibition, showcasing the history of LGBTI military service in Australia from WWII to today was presented at the Bendigo Military Museum as part of the Bendigo PRIDE Festival in 2023. The Shrine of Remembrance's exhibition, *Defending with Pride: Stories of LGBTQ Service*, drawing heavily on our collection won Best Temporary or Travelling Exhibition in the 2023 Australian Museums and Galleries Association National Awards.

Our partnership with the National Gallery of Victoria continued with a series of NGV x AQuA events in Pride Month. The series presented talks, discussions and workshops in National Gallery of Victoria's Community Hall at NGV Australia every Sunday in June presented as part of *Melbourne Now*. We also supported the *Radical Utopia: An Archaeology of a Creative City* exhibition at RMIT Galleries, Rainbow History Class's viral TikTok videos, Queerways art and walking tours, Courtney Act's launch of their autobiography, hosted a seminar on Australian BDSM history with La Trobe University History MA student Reece Moir, and held a stall at the Oz Kink Fest Fetish Expo.

All of this was made possible by the hard work and dedication of our volunteers, to whom we're extremely grateful.

In the coming year, we're focussing on improving access and inclusion at the archives, progressing the development of a collection management system and online catalogue, strengthening our partnerships with community and sector organisations, and continuing

our program of activities celebrating queer and trans history, including exhibitions, tours, workshops, and a revival of the annual conference.



Image: Son Vivienne in conversation with Julie Peters with 'Archive armour' in the background at the Victorian Pride Centre.

## Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts FY2022-23

**Yorick Smaal, 24 October 2023**

**Treasurer's note:** AQuA's accounts are currently being assessed by an independent accountant aligned with best industry practices for accuracy and accountability. That process remains unfinalised as of 24 October 2023. Consequently, the Treasurer's Report and attached financial statements provided for the 2023 AGM are provisional. The Treasurer and Financial subcommittee anticipate any minor adjustments will not affect the organisation's total Equity by more than \$1000, and an updated report and financial statements will be provided upon the assessment completion.

Yorick Smaal (Treasurer) for the Finance subcommittee.

### **FY2022-23 Finance Report**

AQuA's result for the FY2022-23 is a **net profit of \$149,675**. This result represents a 17 per cent decrease in the organisation's profit for 2021-22 (\$180,445).

Due to an accounting oversight, we note a slight adjustment of \$453.29 in the equity reported in the 2021-22 annual report (\$791,372, not \$790,919).

The organisation's total **equity for this year is \$940,867**, up by \$149,495 from FY2021-22.

### **Income**

Total trading income (shown as Gross profit): **\$324,384**.

Full details can be found in the accounts (attached).

### **Significant income items include:**

- Donations (\$141,421).
- St Alban's Bingo's operations raised \$31,040 net profit (gross fundraising income of \$60,243 minus fundraising expenses of \$29,203). Profit has doubled from FY2021-22, given that this financial year is the first full bingo year following three years of COVID-19 interruption. AQuA is grateful to Mathew Martini and the team for including us in their donation programme.
- Gale royalties for our participation in digitising Australian queer periodicals remained a significant revenue stream, though down by 60 percent on FY2021-22 figures to \$45,127.62.
- Grants (\$43,573). Grants revenue includes recognition of \$29,203 from Income in Advance for grants made in earlier years now expended and \$14,360 for Local History Grant for digitisation of the Social Health Clippings Collection (completed in FY2022-23).



## **Expenditure**

Total operating expenses: **\$174,709**.

Full details can be found in the accounts (attached).

### **Significant expenses include:**

- Staff remuneration (\$40,633), comprising salaries and wages (\$36,772) and superannuation (\$3,861).
- Office outgoings (\$24,776)
- Bookkeeping fees (\$7,380).
- Storage (\$11,790) for permanent collections held off-site.
- Digitisation (\$27,409), primarily associated with grant income. About half of the \$27,409 for Digitisation expense relates to a grant received last financial year (Community Heritage Grant for audio digitisation), and the balance for digitisation of the Social Health Press Clipping Collection (Local History Grant) was received and expended this financial year.

### **Cash position:**

Bank: \$186,941.

Term deposit: \$700,000

### **Other developments:**

- The officer coordinator's roster increased from two days to three days per week reflecting the organisation's broadening tasks and administrative complexities. AQuA applied GST from FY 2022-23.
- The organisation transitions to CiviCRM to manage memberships and donations. Thanks to Richard Keeble (committee member) and Claudine Chionh (Office Coordinator) for overseeing this migration.

### **Finance Subcommittee**

The Finance Subcommittee oversees the organisation's fiscal operation, guided by responsibility, accountability, and sustainability principles. It meets quarterly to review budgeting, investment and financial performance and reports to the committee. The FY2022-23 subcommittee members comprised Tim Jones (president), Angela Bailey (vice-president), Yorick Smaal (treasurer), Bree Davis (bookkeeper), Gary Jaynes (long-term, honorary volunteer bookkeeper) and independent member, Erwin Mursalim (chartered accountant).

## **FY2023-24 Outlook**

AQuA's financial position remains relatively strong, but notably, in FY2022-23, income decreased by 17 per cent (with a notable reduction in Gale royalties), with costs up by 62 per cent across the same period. Given market volatility, the organisation has taken a conservative but prudent investment approach, with a large cash holding in a term deposit, given relatively favourable interest rates. Organisational reliance on substantial gross profits of recent years funded by large donations is untenable over the longer term, and the committee will need to diversify its revenue streams and manage costs to deliver on proposed activities and expectations.

Profit and Loss - The Australian Queer Archives For the year ended 30 June 2023

**Trading Income**

Archival Services	2,727.27
Donation Income	141,421.02
Event Registrations	354.55
Fundraising	60,243.16
Grants - State Government	43,573.19
Interest Received	1,751.73
Membership Fees	4,572.72
Reproduction Fees	2,444.10
Royalties	45,127.62
Sales - Badges	279.91
Sales - Postage	40.00
Sales - Publications	4,709.90
Sundry Income	17,138.72
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>324,383.89</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>324,383.89</b>

## Operating Expenses

Airfares	769.25
Archival Supplies	5,084.09
Awards and Prizemoney	636.36
Bank Fees	28.50
Bookkeeping Fees	7,380.00
Car Hire	128.67
Catering	959.61
Cleaning	565.18
Consultants	3,591.12
Digitisation	27,408.90
Event Registrations for AQuA	1,049.46
Fundraising expenses	29,202.57
Insurance	3,467.10
Internet Connection	199.08
IT Software Subscription	1,016.07
Media & Promotions	3,829.88
Merchandise Costs - Badges	59.68
Merchandise Costs - Publications	741.87
Merchant Fees	3,678.29
Office Amenities	243.07
Office Outgoings	24,775.69
Parking	39.63
Photocopier	25.98
Postage	1,073.72
Printing	4,046.19
Stationery	476.17
Storage	11,790.43
Sundry Expenses	236.46
Superannuation Payable	3,861.02
Taxis and Public Transport	107.51
Venue Hire	186.14
Volunteer Recognition	45.45
Wages Payable	36,772.31
Website	1,233.64
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>174,709.09</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>149,674.80</b>

Balance Sheet - The Australian Queer Archives As at 30 June 2023

<b>Assets</b>	
<b>Bank</b>	
CASH FLOAT	60.00
Debit card	1,000.29
Gift Account	8,592.93
Online Saver	114,520.37
Ordinary Account	62,767.89
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>186,941.48</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Debtors	456.00
Inventory	7,898.39
Term Deposit - 1	700,000.00
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>708,354.39</b>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	
Computer and Office Equipment	22,692.47
Office Fit out	28,261.63
<b>Total Fixed Assets</b>	<b>50,954.10</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>946,249.97</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
<b>Current Liabilities</b>	
Creditors	3,413.57
GST	(4,591.08)
Income in Advance	4,949.00
PAYG Withholdings Payable	775.85
Wages and Salary	836.00
Total Current Liabilities	5,383.34
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>5,383.34</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>940,866.63</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Accumulated Funds	791,191.83
Current Year Earnings	149,674.80
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>940,866.63</b>

## Volunteer Engagement

Volunteer engagement has been progressively increasing post-Covid-19 lockdowns and our relocation to the Victorian Pride Centre. Our Volunteer Coordinators have supported volunteers on Mondays and Wednesdays (10 am-5 pm and 6-10 pm).

We have conducted several induction sessions, introducing volunteers to the history of the Archives, the scope of the collection, our activities, and our cataloguing processes. The Volunteer Program has also been greatly assisted by input from our Office Coordinator, Claudine Chionh and Chris Tynan.

Kimberley, Elliot, Tim and Clare stepped in to help coordinate when Graham and Nick were on much needed leave.

Kimberley developed some excellent new procedures and instructions to help volunteers work more independently which many had requested.

Our onsite volunteers have continued to work through cataloguing and rehousing a wealth of material in our backlog – including rehousing t-shirts and photographic negatives, describing articles, zines, posters and ephemera, and creating or enhancing finding aids for the papers of John Hewson, Melinda Martin, VAC, Mama Alto and more.

Volunteers have also been assisting with our plans to join Instagram and have assisted with events.

Thanks to all our volunteers, including: Alan, Ava, Camille, Charlie E., Charlie K., Charlotte, Chris, Christine, Clarrie, Clem, Ed, Eleanor, Emily, Emmanuelle, Enfys, Erin, Fen, Franklyn, Gabrielle, Gary, Hats, Hazel, Iona, Jacobin, Jess, Jillian, Joel, John, Jonathan, Julie, Kane, Levi, Linus, Luke, Lulu, Lyn, Marama, Marlo, Marnie, Milo, Morgan, Mya, Neal, Ned J., Ned R., Nigel, Pelaya, Penn, Philippa, Rubie, Sheryl, Sophia, Thea, and Tony.



Image: Teatime with volunteers

## Acquisition Highlights



Image: Members of the Pink Magpies after donating to our collection

AQuA has had a very active year in acquisitions, with some exciting highlights among the 158 acquisitions received (19/10/2023).

Some notable collections received include:

- Papers of Mark Meager: papers and a significant collection of 1/4" reels relating to the Gay Liberation Program / Gay and Lesbian Program on 3CR, the first gay and lesbian community radio program in Australia
- Papers of Daniel Mudie Cunningham: ephemera relating to his career, and queer art in Australia
- William Yang Collection (addition): 4x proof sheets relating to a Wicked Women event in August 1994.
- Papers of Timothy (Tim) Roberts: ephemera, periodicals etc.
- Papers of Ron Walker (Miss Candee): photographs and ephemera
- 3 artworks by Anton Veenstra, including [Diver, 1985 / Anton Veenstra \[artwork\]](https://queerarchives.org.au/collections/artworks/diver/)<sup>2</sup> (wool warp and weft; 80x50cm)
- WWII-related camp-themed letter and envelope from Flt Lt Whitby to Mrs H L Whitby, 14 June 1943

<sup>2</sup> <https://queerarchives.org.au/collections/artworks/diver/>

- Papers of David Buchanan SC: significant collection of papers relating to important LGBTI criminal cases
- Lee Matthews Collection: papers, periodicals, and ephemera
- Papers of Murray McLachlan: extensive collection of papers document his involvement as a board or committee member with a number of Sydney-based LGBTIQ+ community organisations, including the Cronulla Gay Group, NSW Gay Teachers and Students Group (GAYTAS), Sydney Gay Mardi Gras (later Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and New Mardi Gras), Sydney Star Observer, and PRIDE Sydney Gay and Lesbian Community Centre.
- Papers of Greig Sheridan: relating to his involvement in the Sydney Star Observer
- Russell Walsh Collection: 2x pairs of Peter Tully earrings
- San Thai Collection: 3 t-shirts designed by Thai from his label Yellowish Fever
- David Goldstein Collection: 7 t-shirts relating to the Recreational Arts Team (RAT) parties.
- Mary's Place Collection: a photographic album documenting the community response to a physical assault and rape of a lesbian in Surry Hills, donated by ACON.
- Rob Davis Collection (addition): t-shirts from various dance parties that Rob Davis produced and DJed at.
- Papers of Jeffrey Stewart (addition): a significant collection of four pieces of clothing painted by David McDiarmid, and one by Paul Bryant (Pabs); photographs by William Yang; mail art etc.
- Records of Context: the Teachers and Youth Workers Group
- Records of Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria (JLGV)
- Papers of Sue Wills (incorporating the Records of the CAMP Women's Association - CWA); Periodicals
- Papers of Dennis Altman (addition): books, ephemera, textiles, periodicals, etc.
- Papers of John Trigg: including an unpublished memoir, correspondence and notes
- Papers of Kendall Lovett (addition): 5 t-shirts, including a number designed by Lovett, including those for: Enola Gay, Pride March Johannesburg 1991; GRINS Walkathon for AIDS; Gays Against the Bicentenary; and Save Woolloomooloo Finger Wharf.
- CMoore Hardy Collection (addition): a significant addition to this collection, comprising negatives, slides, proof sheets, photos, and scrapbooks. Photographs include documentation for early issues of the Sydney Star from 1979, Stranded Nightclub, and extensive coverage of PRIDE Sydney Gay and Lesbian Community Centre.
- A complete set of Feather's Women's Social Club Newsletters from the Gold Coast
- Murray Parsonage Collection: digital AV files relating to Sylvia and the Synthetics, Simon and the Diamonds, and Wendy Saddington
- Katy O'Rourke Collection: photographs, periodicals
- Papers of Alex Harding: relating to theatrical productions undertaken in Australia
- Papers of Douglas Pretsell: digital collection, including 'The correspondence of Karl Heinrich Ulrichs, 1846-1894' (book)
- Ultra Violet Collection: digital photographs and videos of the major lesbian dance party held during Sydney WorldPride 2023
- Papers of Jossi Clyde (addition): 4x vols of diaries; 1x draft of autobiography
- Records of Midsumma (addition): press coverage, newsletters, posters



- Records of Pride March Victoria
- Oral history Jean Steel & Jenny Echevarria-Lang
- Andy Malone Collection (on loan for copying): 3x photo albums; loose photos; clipping; 5x CDs, relating to lesbian community and theatre in Adelaide in 1970s
- Artwork: 'Winter wonderland' - tribute to Pokeys, 1980 / by Mark Donaldson (crayon, paint and pencil on paper)
- Audio: 6x digital audio files (WAV) of the Gays Weekly program produced by the Gay Broadcasting Collective and broadcast on 6NR Perth.
- Papers of Michael Fenaughty (addition): Sydney Swans scarf; family cards; 1x book and 1x booklet on Ned Kelly; notes, clippings and notebook.
- Lisa Anderson Collection (addition): 2x t-shirts; 1x outfit by Suzanne Boccalate
- Social Biology Research Centre Collection (digital):
- The Albion Centre Library Collection: reports, books, periodicals, posters
- Papers of Barbara Williams Collection: lighting designs and posters
- Papers of Frances Rand (addition): gay trivia game; 7x cassette tapes; badges; beaded bag, bracelet and necklace
- Robert Johnston Collection: digital photographs documenting SW law reform activism in the early 1980s.
- Sally Goldner Collection: trans-related books, reports, and periodicals
- Jon (Trish) Barry Collection: a collection of photo albums and scrapbooks compiled by Jon (Trish) Barry (31 Jan 1922-15 Aug 1999), which largely document his legendary Melbourne venue, Trish's Coffee Lounge (1975-1994).
- Suzanne Phoenix photo books: 11 vols relating to Phoenix's queer/feminist photographic work.
- AIS Support Group Australia (AISSGA): 5 issues of the AISSGA newsletter dAISy
- Allan Smales Collection: large collection of JOY Radio audio broadcasts, station IDs, photos, and videos
- Sharni Williams' signed rainbow headgear
- Minus18 Young Leaders Archive: a scrapbook compiled by participants in the 2023 Young Leaders Program on the subject of 'What does it mean to be a queer young person in 2023?'
- Pink Magpies Collection: banners, t-shirt, keep cup, ephemera, and digital photographs.
- 'Centre of the storm', 1991 [cassette tape], award-winning radio documentary on Ward 17 South (AIDS ward) at St Vincent's Hospital produced by Martyn Goddard for Triple J
- Coastal Queer Communities Newsletter (n.0-12) from editor Rhona Bruce
- Funeral Songs, 2023, by Daniel Mudie Cunningham [artwork]
- Papers of John Fryer: SPMC and DMC motor club material

In addition to these highlights, we receive a regular stream of small donations of books, badges, posters, ephemera, and t-shirts. The latter includes a wealth of material regularly collected and donated by the tireless efforts of Ulo Klemmer in Sydney, books on our Want List from Peter di Sciascio, and books from Peter Mitchell. The list is a selection of the 158 acquisitions in the last year, highlighting archival, unpublished, and unique collections received.

## Exhibitions and Programming

### Exhibitions



Image: Mazz Image, Jamie James, CMoore Hardy, and Angela Bailey speaking at a panel on *The Party* exhibition.

*Muru-ba: First Nations LGBTIQ+ Trailblazers* is a physical and online exhibition that showcased the faces and stories of First Nations LGBTQIA+ Elders involved with the LGBTQIA+ rights and First Nations community movements since the 1970s from across Australia. Muru-ba is a Dharug word gifted to the project by Aunty Julie Jones, that means trail blazer, or path maker. Co-curated by Steven Ross (Wamba Wamba) and Nick Henderson from AQuA, this online exhibition, hosted by AQuA, showcases newly produced portraits taken in February 2023 by renowned Sydney-based photographer Joseph Mayers (Yorta Yorta), which are accompanied by an online exhibition that features newly recorded interviews by Daniel Browning (Bundjalung / Kullilli), ABC journalist and radio broadcaster. The physical exhibition was presented at Carriageworks as part of *Marri Madung Butbut: First Nations Gathering Space*, for the duration of Sydney WorldPride 2023, and will continue as an ongoing and growing online exhibition. The photographs and interviews have also been acquired by AQuA following the exhibition.

*The Air is Electric: David McDiarmid in America'* Bondi Pavilion Gallery, 12 February – 26 March 2023. Curated by AQuA's Nick Henderson and Angela Bailey, Presented by AQuA and supported by Waverley Council and Sydney WorldPride 2023 as part of Sydney World Pride. This exhibition will be presented in 2024 at the Victorian Pride Centre. The exhibition presented photographs from the AQuA collection, taken by McDiarmid of his visit to the USA in 1972.

AQuA's *Serving in Silence* exhibition toured to Bendigo Military Museum as part of the Bendigo Pride Festival, 18 March-28 May 2023.

*The Queer Gaze* exhibition curated by Lisa Salmon was displayed April to June 2023 at the Victorian Pride Centre's Pride Gallery, drawing substantially from the Records of Wicked Women held by AQuA. Wicked Women was an iconic lesbian magazine which was launched in 1988 and played a pivotal role in disrupting the rigid political climate that dominated the lesbian scene at that time. The newly produced exhibition prints brought most of the images to the public for the first time since their initial publication in the magazine. These images are a testament to the power of queer representation and celebrate the resilience, creativity, and joy of the lesbian community during a challenging era.

## Loans

AQuA lent 20 works to '*Defending with pride: stories of LGBTQ+ service*' at the Shrine Melbourne, 1 August 2023-July 2023. This exhibition was Highly commended for Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AMaGA) Victoria '[Small project of the year \(museum\)](#)'<sup>3</sup> award.

AQuA lent 40 digital scans from the Papers of Bumpy Favell for the exhibition *Behind the zip: an Australian drag king history exhibition* at Chrissie Cotter Gallery, 16 February-5 March 2023, as part of Sydney WorldPride 2023.

AQuA lent 85 works to *The Party*, UNSW Galleries, 14 January-23 April 2023, co-curated by Jose Da Silva and AQuA's Nick Henderson. *The Party* was a landmark exhibition celebrating LGBTQI+ party culture in Sydney from 1973 to 2002, presented by UNSW Galleries, with the support of the Australian Queer Archives and Sydney WorldPride 2023. Loans included posters, artwork, flyers, photographs, costumes, objects, and audio recordings.

AQuA lent 8 posters to RMIT Galleries for their exhibition *Radical Utopia: an archaeology of a creative city*, 21 February to 27 May 2023. This exhibition won the AMAGA Victoria '[Small Project of the Year \(Gallery\)](#)'<sup>4</sup> award.

AQuA lent 7 scans of posters and ephemera for Steven Lindsay Ross' work in the queer First Nations exhibition '*Linger, Dash, Talk*' in the project space at Cement Fondu, 18 February-23 April 2023, as part of Sydney WorldPride 2023.

AQuA provided 70 scans for the [Queerstralia](#)<sup>5</sup>, the three-episode TV documentary series produced by Guesswork Television for ABC TV. AQuA Committee Members Graham Willett and Nick Henderson were also interviewed for the production.

AQuA loaned a significant amount of collection material to Thorne Harbour Health for their 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary exhibition and accompanying events.

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<sup>3</sup> <https://amagavic.org.au/awards-winners-2023>

<sup>4</sup> <https://amagavic.org.au/awards-winners-2023>

<sup>5</sup> <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/queerstralia>

## Programming



Image: Aaron Billings facilitating a zine making workshop as part of AQuA and NGV's Melbourne Now Pride Month programming.

Committee Member Nick Henderson presented a talk 'Discovering Queer SA in the AQuA' at The David Roche Foundation on 12 November 2022 as part of Feast Festival.

AQuA co-presented Courtney Act (Shane Janek) in conversation with Rob Mills, in our Reading Room on 17 November 2022, as part of the tour for their new autobiography 'Caught in the act'.

AQuA presented 'Coming out! celebrating 50 years of gay liberation: then & now symposium' in the Victorian Pride Centre Theatrette, on 3 December 2022.

Graham Willett presented two talks at the PMI Victorian History Library: '[What we found... Victoria's queer history](#)'<sup>6</sup> on 6 December 2022, and 'The public life of us' on 7 February 2023.

Nick Henderson was on the panel '[Preserving sistory: archives and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence](#)'<sup>7</sup> on 26 January 2023, presented by the LGBTQ Religious Archives Network. We organised a discussion between Julia Peters and Son Vivienne and a badge and zine making workshop at our [Archive Armour](#)<sup>8</sup> event at the Victorian Pride Centre in collaboration with Transgender Victoria during Midsumma on 4 February 2023.

AQuA co-hosted 'A sturdy yes of a people: in conversation with Joan Nestle' with Hares & Hyenas at the Victorian Pride Centre on 14 February 2023. The conversation with Joan Nestle (AQuA Patron), Roz Bellamy and Dr Carolyn D'Cruz, celebrated the launch of Joan's

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<sup>6</sup> <https://youtu.be/WnPj36E6mzw?si=KVu4Uc6vxtj2mBJ>

<sup>7</sup> <https://lgbtqreligiousarchives.org/events/archives-sisters-perpetual-indulgence>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.midsumma.org.au/archive-armour>

new Sapphic Classic book, 'A sturdy yes of a people: selected writings', published by Sinister Wisdom.

AQuA Committee Member Nick Henderson ran an AQuA stall for Mardi Gras Fair Day on 19 February 2023, along with volunteers Ulo Klemmer and Julie Bates.

AQuA Vice President Angela Bailey moderated the panel 'Fashion, form and fun: Australian designers' chat' on 11 March 2023, as part of Clunes Booktown Festival and ChillOut Festival.

AQuA Vice President Angela Bailey moderated the panel 'Queer in the city: 1980s clubs, fashion and queer culture in Melbourne' at RMIT Galleries on 17 March 2023, as part of the exhibition 'Radical utopia: an archaeology of a creative city'.

AQuA Vice President Angela Bailey moderated the panel 'A new scene, a new era: photographing queer communities' on 4 March 2023, as part of the exhibition 'The Party'.

AQuA Committee Member Nick Henderson spoke in conversation with curator Robert Lake in '(In)formal archives: preserving queer histories' on 22 April 2023, as part of the exhibition 'The Party'.

As part of *Melbourne Now*, the National Gallery of Victoria (NGV) and AQuA presented a series of talks, discussions and workshops in Community Hall every Sunday in June for Pride Month, including:

- Open Forum moderated by Meg Slater & Angela Bailey, 4 June 2023
- Ballot Box Part One with Raf McDonald & Coral Guan, 4 June 2023
- Make a Zine with Aaron Billings, Clare O'Hanlon and Nick Henderson, 11 June 2023
- Queer Melbourne with Ted Gott, Meg Slater, Angela Bailey, David Menadue, John Hall, Bumpy Favell & Tracey Wall, 18 June 2023
- Ballot Box Part Two with Drew Pettifer & Angela Bailey, 25 June 2023

There was a bonus follow up Ballot Box Part Three with Hannah Gartside & Meg Slater on 23 July 2023.

In partnership with the Emerging Writers Festival, AQuA supported five writers traversing the Archives' holdings and create new works, presented in an event at in the Archives as part of the festival on 16 June 2023 called 'what if we held hands in the queer archives'. The writers created new forms inspired by old materials found in the archives and then archived these forms in the NEW AGONIES publication that will find a home on the AQuA shelves. They presented parts of their work in the Archives' reading room during the festival.

As part of the *Queer Gaze* exhibition, AQuA co-hosted the sold-out 'Queer Gaze: A Wicked Storytelling' event on 17 June 2023 at the Victorian Pride Centre. Attendees were treated to a screening of archival footage from Wicked Women events as well as selected short films and hear from key wicked performers, patrons and personalities in a night of storytelling and panel discussions.

Members of the AQuA Committee and Chris Tynan hosted a [Feral Queer Camp](#)<sup>9</sup> event in the Archives on 2 September 2023, which included a special guest presentation from Lisa Salmon.

Members of the AQuA Committee had a stall at the Trans Fete event on 26 August 2023 in Port Melbourne organised by Transgender Victoria.

Members of the AQuA Committee and volunteers hosted a stall at Oz Kink Fest Fetish Expo on 14 October 2023, themed around our bondage collections.

Members of the Committee participated in the AQuA keynote panel for the Australian Society of Archivists annual conference 'Rising to our challenges: archives at the 'G' in September. The panel was a great opportunity to showcase community archival practice at a national industry conference and highlight how community-engaged processes can improve archival practice across the sector.

AQuA was very proud to co-sponsor the launch of Prof Noah Riseman's newly published book '[Transgender Australia : a history since 1910](#)'<sup>10</sup> on Thursday 28 September. AQuA has been involved throughout Noah's research project. An edited extract from Noah's book has been published in [The Conversation](#)<sup>11</sup>, with copies available from your local queer bookstore (and all good bookstores). AQuA's holdings are referenced and feature throughout the book, including photos of Australia's first trans protest, led by Roberta Perkins from the Australian Transexual Association (ATA), which was held on 2 October 1982.

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<sup>9</sup> <https://feralqueercamp.com/>

<sup>10</sup> <https://bit.ly/AusTransHist>

<sup>11</sup> <https://bit.ly/3PDpDp9>

## Research



Image: Melbourne Launch of *Transgender Australia: A History Since 1910* by Noah Riseman with Son Vivienne, Kayleen White, Julie Peters and Noah Riseman at the Victorian Pride Centre.

It has been great to welcome more researchers back onsite in the reading room and help many from afar too. Research projects we have supported range from queer receptions of Ancient Greece and Rome and a History of Acceptance (the LGBTIQ+ Catholic group) to Australian Queer STEM histories and queer school education activism and so much more. We have seen and supported an increased interest in trans histories and queer First Nations histories and in producing creative queer research outputs to respond to and share our histories.

Volunteers and staff received an acknowledgement in 'Transgender Australia: A History Since 1910' by Noah Riseman. We supported the following 'Queer storytelling: youth, LGBTIQ+ histories and belonging', led by Associate Professor, and former Committee Member, Daniel Marshall (Deakin University), with Professor Mary Lou Rasmussen (Australian National University), and Dr Timothy Jones (La Trobe University), funded through the VicHealth 'Reimagining Health' grants programme.

Research has been principally available onsite on Mondays 6-10 pm and Wednesdays 10 am-4 pm and 6-10 pm, with additional times available subject to negotiation. In addition, we have continued to support an increasing number of researchers, still significantly assisted by the accessibility of our digitised periodicals contributions to the Archives of Sexuality and Gender (ASG) database. The Archives of Sexuality and Gender Database is available to members of the State Libraries of Victoria, NSW and South Australia, Yarra Libraries, the National Library of Australia and many universities.

## Media



Image: William Yang looking through archival material for his upcoming documentary, assisted by Nick Henderson.

In January, AQuA Committee Member Clare O’Hanlon was interviewed about the AQuA’s planned Footscray Queer History Walk on Triple R’s Uncommon Sense (time 00:43:30 - 01:04:03) and Timothy Jones was interviewed about the history of the word ‘queer’ (starts 02:12:16 - 02:26:51) on: [Uncommon Sense – 24 January 2023, Uncommon Sense – Triple R 102.7FM, Melbourne Independent Radio \(rrr.org.au\)](https://www.rrr.org.au/explore/programs/uncommon-sense/episodes/23510-uncommon-sense-24-january-2023)<sup>12</sup>.

Also in January, AQuA President Timothy Jones wrote [Reviled, reclaimed and respected: the history of the word 'queer'](https://theconversation.com/reviled-reclaimed-and-respected-the-history-of-the-word-queer-197533)<sup>13</sup>.

In February and March, the Queerstralia documentary series produced by Guesswork TV was broadcast on ABC TV across three episodes. AQuA Committee Member Nick Henderson supported the production through research and was interviewed along with Graham Willett, we also provided a range of digitised content for all three episodes.

Also in February, AQuA Committee Member Nick Henderson was interviewed on ABC Radio National on 21 February 2023, on a program [‘Talkback: How queer spaces have changed’](https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/lifematters/talkback-how-queer-spaces-have-changed/101996198)<sup>14</sup>, along with Dr Kerry Drysdale.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.rrr.org.au/explore/programs/uncommon-sense/episodes/23510-uncommon-sense-24-january-2023>

<sup>13</sup> <https://theconversation.com/reviled-reclaimed-and-respected-the-history-of-the-word-queer-197533>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/lifematters/talkback-how-queer-spaces-have-changed/101996198>



In March, in [The Saturday Paper](#)<sup>15</sup>, Paul Kelaita reviewed two exhibitions that AQuA was involved in during Sydney WorldPride, 'The Air is Electric: David McDiarmid in America' curated and produced by AQuA's Nick Henderson and Angela Bailey, and 'The Party' curated by UNSW Galleries' Jose Da Silva and AQuA's Nick Henderson.

"It's fitting that one of Sydney's most internationally celebrated gay artists should be exhibited near one of the city's most recognisable landmarks. The Air Is Electric; David McDiarmid in America, curated by Nick Henderson and Angela Bailey at Bondi Pavilion Gallery, exhibits a series of photographs taken by McDiarmid on a 1977 trip to America. The photographs document the celebratory, liberating energies of late-'70s New York.

A nice entry point to the arts program of Sydney WorldPride 2023, The Air Is Electric – on until March 26 – charts everyday life as well as lesbian and gay activism against social bigotry, prompting a giddiness of recognition that's infused with possibility.

Part of what makes the air electric is the exhibition soundtrack by "Sydney's disco godfather", Stephen Allkins. His perfectly attuned mixtape includes songs by Sylvester, Donna Summer and Grace Jones and underscores that this exhibition documents a resonant cultural moment."

In July, AQuA Committee Member Nick Henderson was interviewed on the 'Critical Fashion Studies' [podcast](#)<sup>16</sup>, co-hosted by Dr Harriette Richards and Professor Natalya Lusty.

Also in July, AQuA Committee Member Nick Henderson was interviewed on the ABC program [The Conversation Hour](#)<sup>17</sup> on drag history and current issues around drag story time events.

In September, Lisa Salmon, queer artist, writer, and co-founder of Wicked Women magazine, delivered her 'love letter to AQuA' at the Queerstories spoken word event at the State Library of NSW, a recording of which is available online via the [Queerstories](#)<sup>18</sup> website, Google Podcasts, and Apple Podcasts.

Also in September, AQuA Committee Member Nick Henderson and Victorian Pride Centre Inaugural Chair Jude Munro were interviewed on the [Readings Podcast](#)<sup>19</sup> about the background of the Centre.

## Social Media

AQuA's Facebook page and group continued to grow in number of likes and views throughout 2022-23. The Facebook page continued to focus on posting short posts about events #OnThisDay, new acquisitions, researchers, volunteers and the work of our

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<sup>15</sup> <https://www.thesaturdaypaper.com.au/culture/visual-art/2023/03/04/sydney-worldpride-2023>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.harrietterichards.com/podcast>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/theconversationhour/the-conversation-hour/102283634>

<sup>18</sup> <https://bit.ly/3PkOqyc>

<sup>19</sup> <https://soundcloud.com/the-readings-podcast/the-making-of-the-victorian-pride-centre>

Committee Members. AQuA's Facebook page has 13,574 likes, and over 14,830 followers (3 October 2023), up from 12,784 likes and 14,026 follows (17 Oct 2022). Our most popular posts included International Cat Day, the recent acquisitions (including a book by Larrakia artist Gary Lee, female and male impersonator sheet music, the Jon (Trish) Barrie Collection, and the first commercial 'camp' magazine), Mother's/Mothers' Day, the new book 'Voices from 1978, and Vale posts for Keith Stodden, Fabian LoSchiavo, and Kevin Jackson.

Our Facebook group focuses on articles and issues on LGBTIQ history and archives in Australia and internationally. It facilitates discussion and community around Australian and international LGBTIQ history. Our group currently includes 7304 members (3 October), up from 6496 members (17 Oct 2022) last year.

AQuA has decided to transition away from Twitter and have been working on a plan to start an Instagram account which we hope to launch soon. In the meantime, we've been growing our presence on [LinkedIn](#)<sup>20</sup> and now have over 140 followers.

AQuA developed a partnership with LGBTIQ+ TikTok channel Rainbow History Class, which resulted in the production of a series of TikTok videos:

- [Things we found at the AQuA](#)<sup>21</sup>
- [Craft chaos](#)<sup>22</sup>
- [Art activism](#)<sup>23</sup>
- [Why are lesbians so crafty](#)<sup>24</sup>
- [The pink triangle vs the rainbow flag in Australia](#)<sup>25</sup>

## Digital infrastructure

Project Monte remains suspended while the focus of IT work has been the ongoing implementation of the CiviCRM membership and donation system, the commissioning of new computers and associated equipment and the acquisition of a Synology Network Accessible Storage device which will provide storage for digitised and born-digital collection material. Occasional contact has been maintained with collection / digital asset management product suppliers to keep up to date with the latest collection management systems.

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<sup>20</sup> <https://www.linkedin.com/company/australian-queer-archives/>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.tiktok.com/@rainbowhistoryclass/video/7190614675250269441>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.tiktok.com/@rainbowhistoryclass/video/7185422172461059330>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www.tiktok.com/@rainbowhistoryclass/video/7167192755175787778>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.tiktok.com/@rainbowhistoryclass/video/7166895644349680898>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.tiktok.com/@rainbowhistoryclass/video/7160942978876329218>

## Membership

### Update on CiviCRM implementation

In mid-2022 AQuA began using CiviCRM, a free, open-source customer relationship management system created especially for not-for-profit organisations. CiviCRM provides AQuA with a single system, integrated into our website, that manages contact details, memberships, donations, payments, email communication and event registrations for individuals and organisations.

For 2022-23 memberships AQuA's existing PayPal account was chosen for payment processing, however PayPal withdrew the product that integrated directly with CiviCRM during implementation. This delayed 2022-23 memberships for a month while a substitute product was identified, integrated and tested. Another integration problem between CiviCRM and AQuA's website was discovered after renewal commenced, preventing reliable membership page display. This created difficulties for some members when paying online for 2022-23 membership, mainly affecting new members but also some renewals. Complimentary membership until 30/6/2023 was offered as a good will gesture to five people whose payment attempts failed.

For the 2023-24 membership year, we worked with Bone Digital, the developers of AQuA's website to fix the integration problems with CiviCRM and we replaced PayPal with Stripe. Stripe provides AQuA with not-for-profit fees, is much easier to administer and is providing a much-improved online experience for members.

Last year we established a group of long-term members who were willing to help us test changes to the membership system and we engaged with them again this year to help test the updates in preparation for 2023-24 renewals. We're grateful for their assistance and happy their feedback reported an improvement on last year's experience.

Other developments this year -

- Personalised renewal emails that include:
  - Links to pre-filled renewal web pages so members only need to update and confirm details.
  - Unsubscribe links for anti-spam law compliance.
  - Delivery success or failure detection and notification to the membership team.
  - Link click-through statistics tracking.
- Unlimited email mail-outs - we were previously restricted to emailing batches of 50 contacts.
- Automated reporting of rejoining members, (i.e. members who have lapsed for more than one year before renewing), previously a manual process.
- Automated reporting of donors for the annual report.

Developments in the coming year -

- Import of historic membership and donation transactions. This will allow historical analysis of donation and membership payments so that AQuA can refine its fundraising activities and better acknowledge our long-term donors. This is nearing completion.
- Retirement of GiveNow as our donation payment provider. AQuA uses multiple payment platforms which increases administrative effort. One of the aims of CiviCRM is to reduce the number of payment platforms to simplify administration. The resolution of CiviCRM payment provider and website integration problems allows us to replace GiveNow with CiviCRM for donation payments. This will also allow us to ask donors to use direct deposit to AQuA's bank account for large amounts to reduce merchant fees.
- Replacement of the alga-announcements Google group with a CiviCRM mailing list.
- Automatic capture by CiviCRM of emails sent by members or donors to [mail@queerarchives.org.au](mailto:mail@queerarchives.org.au) to allow the membership team to more easily communicate with members and donors.

We are grateful to committee member Richard Keeble for his commitment of many months of detailed work in managing the CiviCRM implementation, including the induction of the membership team.

### **Membership renewal report for 2022-23**

There were 397 financial members of AQuA in 2022-23, down from 459 in 2021-22.

133 of last year's 459 members did not renew (29%) by the end of the membership year, partly offset by 52 new members and 26 people who re-joined as members after lapsing one or more years.

The number of new members (52) is well down on recent years, and we think largely relates to the problems with the way the membership page on our website was displaying and the consequent decision not to promote membership until this was fixed.

The attrition rate of 29% in 2022-23 compares with 30% in 2021-22, 21% in 2020-21, 41% in 2019-20, 26% in 2018-19, 25% in 2017-18 and 2016-17.

Analysis of this year's 133 non-renewals shows 55 (41%) joined the previous year (2021-22) and 37 (28%) joined in 2020-21. Whilst some of those who lapse re-join after a year or two later, the challenge remains to more effectively engage with recently joining members. We hope to survey members and supporters soon to inform strategies to increase member engagement and increase renewals.

This year the proportion of members from outside Victoria was 33%, similar to the past few years. See below.

Members x state	2022-23	%	2021-22	%	2020-21	%	2019-20	%
ACT	14	3.5%	15	3.3%	10	2.3%	7	2.2%
NSW	78	19.6%	92	20.3%	110	24.9%	74	23.4%
NT	3	0.8%	3	0.7%	1	0.2%	1	0.3%
QLD	13	3.3%	19	4.2%	16	3.6%	9	2.8%
SA	13	3.3%	11	2.4%	8	1.8%	11	3.5%
Tas	4	1.0%	4	0.9%	4	0.9%	6	1.9%
VIC	266	67.0%	301	66.3%	283	64.2%	204	64.6%
WA	5	1.3%	6	1.3%	4	0.9%	3	0.9%
Overseas	1	0%	3	0.7%	5	1%	1	0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>397</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>441</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Donation and membership income analysis 2022-23

- Total donations: **\$141,121**
- Number of individual donations: **445**
- Number of individual donors: **318**
- Number of donors who donated twice or more: **97**
- Median: \$30 (50% gave more, 50% gave less)
- Mean: \$318 (down on last year's high of \$783, because of more donors this year)
- Largest individual donation: **\$100,000** (Chris Friday)

Our next best years were:

- Total donations: \$120,227 in 2021-22 (from 124 individual donors, median donation \$30)
- Total donations: \$74,348 in 2020-21 (from 295 individual donors, median donation \$50)

The number of donations in 2022-23 was inflated by what was in effect two membership rounds within the one financial year, due to the delayed start for 2022-23 memberships mentioned above.

See below for the spread of donations by \$ amount.

<b>Donations 2022-23</b>				
	<b>Number of donations</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>Mean</b>	<b>% of total donation \$</b>
0 to \$20	168	\$2,245	\$13	2%
\$21 to \$50	134	\$5,160	\$39	4%
\$51 to \$100	75	\$6,235	\$83	4%
\$101 to \$500	59	\$13,771	\$44	10%
\$501 to \$1000	3	\$2,500	\$29	2%
Over \$1000	6	\$111,511	\$18,585	79%
<b>Total</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>\$141,421</b>	<b>\$318</b>	<b>100%</b>
<b>318 separate donors in 2022-23</b>				

292 of the 445 separate donations (66%) in 2022-23 were from members, accounting for \$127,846 (90%) of donation income, compared with the equivalent proportions last year of 63% and 98%.

Some donors of larger amounts kindly donated by direct credit to minimise fees charged to AQuA and we appreciate this consideration.

Membership fee revenue in 2022-23 was \$4,583 compared with \$7,005 in 2021-22, reflecting the smaller membership number this year. New membership fees paid in Jan-June 2023 have been treated as income in advance for 2023-24, consistent with accrual accounting standards.

Thank you to our donors

ATO Staff Giving	Mitch Cleary	DG
LA	Paul Clifton	Jamie Gardiner
Nigel A	Christopher Cody	Maree Gladwin
RA	Eleanor Colla	David Gould
Robert Aldrich	Judith Collard	Ian Gould
Dennis Altman AM	Sophie Cotton	Bruce Grant
Iona Annett	Nick Crotty	Edward Griffiths
Jim Arachne	Christopher Cutler	Andrew H
DB	Bree D	Avril H
GB	Erin D	CH
KB	MD	Daniel H
Roy B	ZD	GH
Barbara Baird	Susanne Dahn	JH
Michael Barnett	Craig D'Alton	Tay Haggarty
Brian Barry in memory of Chris Thomas	Sophia Davidson Gluyas	Camilla Hannan
Alex Bayley	Kate Davison in memory of Sue Wills	Melissa Hardie in memory of Dora
David Beards	David de Bruin	Richard Harding
Laurie Bebbington	Mannie De Saxe in memory of Kendall Lovett	Kerry Harris
Jason Benjamin	Peter de Waal AM	Brenton Head in memory of Sarah Lombardi
Marja Berclouw	Max Denton	David Helms
Ian and Javant Biarujia	Laura Lorcane Deriu	Nick Henderson
Frank Bongiorno	Peter Di Sciascio	Trent Hennessey
Jacobin Bosman	Lee-Anne Dimech	David Hilliard
William Brougham in memory of Fabian Lo Schiavo	Bruce Dixon	Anthony Hillis
Anna Brownfield	Bin Dixon-Ward	Richard Hogan
Gary Bryer	Carla Donnelly in memory of Glen Gardner	Alexander Luciano
AC	Thomas Dryburgh	Hudson
BC	Alan Duncan	Deborah Hunn
CC	Digby Duncan	Michael Hurley
Darlene C	Sam Elkin	Mazz Image
Edward C	Maureen Engel	Hayley Inch
Hannah C	Alfie Faber	DJ in memory of Barbara MJ
JC	Michael Fenaughty	Ned Jackson
Robert C	Kathryn Frame	Sue Jackson
Sallie C	Elliot Freeman	Gary Jaynes
Bill Calder	Robert French	Hilary Johnson in memory of Karen Bloomberg
Gilbert Caluya	Chris F	David Johnston-Bell
Andrew Cameron	Chris Friday	Mike Jones
Paul Caulfield		Tim Jones
Claudine Chionh		

KL Joy in memory of Bruce Bellingham	Reece M	Joel Roast
PK	Reece Moir	Shirleene Robinson
ZK	Michaël Monty	Raymond Rogers
Andy Kaladelfos	MM	John Ronge
Richard Keeble	Bruce Moore	Liz Ross
Leigh Keen in memory of Graham Carbery	Steph Morgan	Kate Rowe
Kim Kemmis	Gregory Mossop	Adam S
Barbara Kerr	Louise Muller	CS
John Kerrison	Peta Murray	DS
Kimball Knuckey	Joan Nestle	ES
Trevor Kollmann	Colin Nugent	GS
Colin Krycer	Ivan Nunn	KS in memory of John Mudge
Alison Lettin	Jack O'Connor	Kieran S
Michael Livingston	CO	PS
Sophie Lyons	MO	PS
James MacLeod	Kieran O'Loughlin in memory of John Harvey	TS
Andrea Malone in memory of Helen Potter	Foster	TS
AM	Mark Orr	WS
AM	Dianne Otto	YS
CM	Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli in memory of Jon Eliot	David Sansome
David M	Michael for Glen and Anthony	Teresa Savage
Jim M	Phyllis Papps in memory of Francesca Curtis	Jenny Scott Lu Sexton
MM	Mark Payne	Bruce Sims
Matthew McCarthy	Evelyn Perusco	Jeff Slingsby in memory of Graham Carbery
Bartley McGowan	Suzanne Phoenix	Adam Stankevicius
Denise McGrath in memory of David Middleton	Frank P	Douglas Stewart
Erin McKenna	Christine P	Jeffrey Stewart in memory of Alan Booth
Murray McLachlan	DP	Deborah Storz
Johnathon McLay in memory of Tim Lennox	David Provan	Trevor Sutherland
Kirsten McLean	CR	FT in memory of Craig Andrew Walsh
Jodie Martire	Ian R	JT
Alan Mayberry	JR	Archie Thomas
Tristan Meecham	MR	Audrey Thomas-Hayes
David Menadue	Mark R	Alison Thorne
Craig Middleton	NR	Olympia U
Kenton Miller	PR	David Urquhart
Jina Mitchell	Matthew Rayner	Bart van der Wel in memory of Stephen
Adam Moffat	Harriette Richards	Francis Larkin JP
	Eric Riddler in memory of Steve Duke	PV



Anthony Venn-Brown	PW	Johnny Whitehead
Chris Vernon	RW	Julie Wilkinson
JW	SW	John Witte
Michael W	Sam Wallman	Margaret Young

**On GiveOut Day 2022, 58 people donated to AQuA to support digitisation of at risk audio-visual material. The campaign raised \$5,384 from 58 donations, including \$1,500 from GiveOut for matched donations.**

Adam	Emily	Kathy
Adrian	Erin	Kenton
Anonymous x12	Felicity	Kerry
Ben	Frank	Mark
Brenton	Gary in memory of	Mathew
Carla	Kendall Lovett	Michael
Chris	Greg in memory of	Nicholas
Chris	Ian Dunstan	Nicholas
Christopher	Hazel	Nick
Craig	Heather	Odette
Dave	Iona	Scott
David I	James	Stacy
David S	Jessie	Stephen in memory of
Dean	Jonah	Ian Purcell
Dennis	Julie	Veronica
Duncan	Kane	Viv
Emily	Kat	

## Vale to community members who have recently died

Don Bay

Georgina Beyer

Robyn Dean

John William Fowler

Kathleen Nora (Kevin) Hicks

Betty Hounslow

Kevin Jackson

Fabian LoSchiavo

Peter Maloney

Josh Rhodes

Theodora (Nora) Savona

Bruce Sims

Dale Smedley

Graeme Stephen

Keith Stodden

Roger Frederick Williams

## Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, 2022

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Australia

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[www.queerarchives.org.au](http://www.queerarchives.org.au)

Incorporated Assn No. A0000240Z  
ABN 92 450 443 760

### ***Minutes of Australian Queer Archives 2022 Annual General Meeting***

held via Zoom webinar and in person at the Victorian Pride Centre

***Thursday 27 October, 2022 at 6pm.***

***(All online voting monitored by the Secretary)***

#### **Meeting formally opens 6.08pm**

**1. Chairperson Angela Bailey opens meeting, gives an Acknowledgement of Country and invites participants to acknowledge where they are zooming in from via the chat.**

#### **2. Attendees**

Michael Barnett, Kimberley Dunt, Bruce Moore, Avril Hannah-Jones, Yorick Smaal, Michael Hurley, Ben Cherry-Smith, Anthony Hillis, Jeff Trollope, Eleanor Colla, Dianne Johnston, Susan Long, Chris Friday, Bart van der Wel, Jean Taylor, Gregory, Murray McLachlan, Bill Calder, Michael McDougall, KL Joy, Richard Keeble, Talisa Salmon, Yorick Smaal, Graham Willet, Ed Griffiths, James Robinson, Justine Dalla Riva, Mark Riley, Chris Tynan, Clare O'Hanlon, Peter Winspur, Penn Russell, Beau Newman, Michael Monty, Colin Krycer, Matthew Martini, Richard Keeble, Tim Jones, Sheryl Johnstone, Gary Jaynes, Elliot Freeman, Nick Henderson, Bruce Dixon, Claudine Chionh, Alyson Campbell

**3. Apologies:** Colin Baskerville, Tom Seddon, Sarah Rood, Daniel Marshall, Roy Bishop, Greg Axtens, Dennis Altman, David Bradford, Richard Peterson, Dale Withers, Luke Hockley, Anton Provan, Peter di Sciascio

**4. Confirmation of the minutes from the AQuA AGM held on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

Proposed by Nick Henderson

Seconded by Michael Monty

Motion carried.

**5. Office bearer's reports**

## President's report

Ange: I'll just quickly go through a general overview.

Covid made things difficult, but I think we've done a pretty good job of getting through it and doing a lot.

We've been keeping our engagement going and that was greatly assisted by the engagement of our office coordinator Claudine who has helped grow our operational capacity. Late last year we also had a strategic planning workshop done. We have workshopped a new strategic plan, which we're just about to release. So that's so very much building on our projects and goals that we've already worked on that sort of some of those projects that we didn't quite get to, particularly due to Covid.

We had a scaled back version of our Midsumma carnival stall and two sold-out history walks in St Kilda, so it was great to be able to have those events that people feel comfortable going to as outdoor events.

We also had a few programming highlights from the last 12 months was beginning a fantastic relationship with the NGV particularly related to their Queer exhibition, and we presented several panel discussions, and a series of videos featuring one of our patrons, Joan Nestle and a couple of other people like William Young. So that's fantastic. That's ongoing that relationship with NGV. It really solidified a recognition from some of those big cultural institutions on the work we do, and which will help improve the longevity of this organisation.

We also had the Printed Protest exhibition at the Victorian Pride Centre featuring our posters collection from the 1970s until today and we were happy to be invited to do that by VPC. That was well received. I think it was a project that there was something that for everyone across the generations.

We continued to loan material to various exhibitions listed in our report, including the Defending with Pride Exhibition at the Shrine of Remembrance building on the work that Graham Willett and Noah Riseman and others did on the Serving in silence research project.

We continue to provide digital material to various films and communications.

We have supported creative research and other projects that have provided what opportunities for the collection to be accessible, and we're also looking forward to an exhibition that we're doing for Sydney World Pride with funding from Sydney World Pride.

There will be more detail tonight about acquisitions and research and we look forward to those presentation as well.

A big thank you to all those members and volunteers who have been active and engaged during the last 12 months. I really appreciate all they do for us. Also, thanks for the ongoing support of our members and finance subcommittee, our bookkeeper and donors in relation

to our financial situation as well. It is a great bonus for us to have that support. Thanks to very generous bequests.

We have an upcoming event in December, which celebrates 50 years of gay liberation and some Midsumma events with some new partners.

### **Treasurer's report**

Yorick: As Ange said, I'm zooming in from the Gold Coast. It's very warm here, and I'd also like to acknowledge the First Nations people of the land that I'm zooming in from, the Yugambeh people, and pay my respects to elders, past and present.

It's been my pleasure to be the treasurer for the Archives this year, and I'd like to thank all of my colleagues and members of the committee and other members at the Archives for all their support – it has been the steep learning curve sometimes, but it's been a very enjoyable one.

I won't speak for too long as you'll be able to find many of the details in the report itself, so I'll just go over some of the highlights and talk about where we are at financial position - Speak a little bit to major forms of income and expenses, and then points to some of the issues that we see over the next 12 months.

The main takeaway is we're in a very healthy financial position.

Our results for the 21/22 financial year brings the archives and that profit of just over \$100,000, and that's about 50% more than our profit from the previous financial year. Ange pointed out early on that we did want to note a small correction in the net profit to last year's annual return. It's just a few \$100, 237, to be exact. Due to a change in some superannuation. But it's very important that we just highlight and correct that very small discrepancy in terms of income.

Our total trading income for the last 12 months to during this year was just over \$288,000.

And you'll be able to see those details under gross profit in the attached Profit and Loss Statement. Some significant donations which Ange referred to earlier. I'd also like to add my thanks to over the support of that it that's provided to the Archives through our members and donors and supporters.

We also had the bequest from Jay Watchorn, which we also gratefully acknowledge. St Albans, Bingo operations also provided significant income stream for us this year have gross profit of just over \$34,000 dollars. Our other major source of income was royalties from the Gale Archive project for our participation in the digitisation of the Australian LGBTIQ+ periodicals, and that was a \$111,000 for this year.

Moving on to expenses, which can also be found in the attached accounts, our largest expense, with staff remuneration which comprised salaries and wages, of just over \$23,000 and the superannuation, contributions.

\$22,513 was spent on amenities related to the VPC.

Bookkeeping fees, \$7,219, and just over \$8,000 for overflow storage for our permanent collections that are held offsite.

We have a very healthy cash position. We just have a \$420,000 in the bank at present, and \$350,000, in our term deposit.

As Ange pointed out early on, Covid continues to pose some challenges for the organisation, but it's had minimal effect on the bottom line.

I'd also like to acknowledge the work that Claudine has performed coming on board as a Part Time Office coordinator, and her information management and knowledge of digital platforms and data background has really been invaluable to our operations and planning over the last 12 months. We also welcomed a new bookkeeper, Bree Davis, at the beginning of the financial year, who stepped in to replace Kerry Harris who resigned, and Bree has provided detailed and responsive assistance as we continue our financial processes.

As the organisation has continued to refine its financial processes, part of that refinement has been driven by the Finance subcommittee, which has continued again to oversee and drive the organisation's physical operation and that's really guided by a sense of responsibility, accountability and sustainability, and the group meets quarterly to review our budgeting and our investment strategies and there are financial performances, and it reports to the committee and this year the subcommittee was made up of our President Ange Bailey, our Vice President Tim Jones, myself, Bookkeeper Bree Davis, Gary Jaynes (very well-known and long-term honorary voluntary bookkeeper), and we also welcomed our new Independent member Erwin Mursalim who is a chartered accountant and he replaced Darren Williamson. I'd like to thank Darren for his help and service on the subcommittee, particularly in developing our investment strategies.

Finally, a very brief overview of the outlook. I wanted to reiterate the support of members and others for their ongoing financial contributions and memberships, and if this continued support and significant donations and the quest along with GALE royalties that have really placed us in a solid financial position.

That said, we say projected reductions in revenue over the next 12 months and some uncertainty around the frequency and value of the GALE royalties, which are very unpredictable both in their size and their arrival, which has some implications for the way that we manage our finances. I also like to point out the way committed to implementing a prudent long term investment strategy, so that we can ensure that the archives sustainably to lose on all of the activities that, we're currently pursuing and to do, so as part of the increased expectations that have a company now moved to the DC which of course includes the wages costs that I pointed out.

That's a very brief overview. I'd like to welcome any questions if there are any, or to ask any members from the Financial Subcommittee.

No comments or questions.

Richard Keeble moved that we accept the treasurers report  
Seconded by Gary Jaynes  
Motion carried with applause.

Ange: Thank you for all your work Yorick and thank you again to all the Finance Committee as well. You've done a fantastic job.

### **Membership report**

Ange talked about the membership with of an overview of that new system and donation system where, with engaged with CiviCRM.

I'd like to acknowledge all the work that Richard Keeble has done on that project and working with Claudine as well in relation to our new membership system.

If you have any questions about its functionality and what you've experienced, you can ask them of Richard. It's not been an easy process, but we got there in the end. So thank you to everyone, and also the membership team (Gary Jaynes, Trevor Sutherland and Bruce Dixon) for working with Richard on that.

There are 454 financial members of AQuA in 21/22 exceeding the previous high of 441. Many members did not renew and this is an ongoing problem when we have to play catch up a bit with some of our members, but we get there in the end in terms of them reminding them as well, so there's various bits of information there in the annual report in relation to the split across the states, and just in relation to some of those percentages of renewals as well. The CiviCRM provides improved capacity for automated receiving targeted emails to members and customised reports. There have been a few teething problems, but we thank everyone but I'm staying with us while we get that sorted. And it's an open-source software widely used by not-for-profit organisations which is fantastic.

Donations contributed a \$120,227 from 152 separate donations.

This amount exceeds donation income from previous years.

Big thanks to Chris Friday whose very generous donation made up a large proportion of this total. We're very grateful. Also, we're very grateful to all members who add a donation at the time of renewing membership. All donations and membership fees help keep us operational. You can see some more details in there – the medium donation amount was \$30.

Thank you everyone.

I would like to invite Gary Jaynes to mention another significant bequest.

Gary: Kevin Anderson died recently. He had been a member of the Archives since about 2005. He came into my life and Graham Carberry's life at that time when Kevin's partner died. Kevin and his late partner had lived a pretty isolated gay life. Ken was born in 1929 in Perth. Came over to Melbourne in 1956, got together with his partner Alan in 1959. Alan died in 2005 and Kevin's neighbours who intuited that Kevin was gay (although he'd never told them) asked Graham Carberry to call in on Kevin to have a cup of tea with him. He did

that and kept doing it until he died in 2017 and was it very significant part of Kevin's life. Kevin described it has his late age coming out. Although it wasn't his first acquaintance with gay community because he had discovered Joy radio- his window into the wider gay world. He had come over from Perth to work in records for the public service, so he had an affinity with the Archives and with the friendship with Graham, he became a really dedicated supporter of the Archives. Kevin's will bequeath \$250,000 to the Archives. He donated other amounts to other community organisations too. I just see it as an indication of how the Archives is important to people in ways that we don't often appreciate.

Ange: Thank you so much, Gary. That was some lovely tribute. And what a fantastic bequest. We're very, very grateful, just on that note, another significant bequest that we received from Gary's partner Graham Carberry. We've now reached a decision, together with Gary, to acknowledge our periodical collection as the Graham Carberry periodical collection, and the Graham Carberry oral history collection. These were collections he was very involved with and we're happy, grateful and excited to be able to offer that tribute to Graham as well.

### **Research, volunteer and community engagement**

Ange noted the overview of some of the research highlights. The Archives continues to be a fantastic resource for not just academics and researchers, but also creatives and students. We've had a real range of student groups come through from RMIT, University of Melbourne, and primary schools and secondary schools and that links into the requests for tours that the VPC receives. We try as best we can to facilitate these. Thank you to our committee, and Claudine and our subcommittee members.

The subcommittee model is one that we're really trying to increase in the future, the finance and member subcommittees are working well. We're working on a volunteer engagement one.

We conducted several volunteer induction sessions over the last 12 months.

We usually open and support volunteers on a Monday in the evening, and on a Wednesday during the day and evening as well, and thanks particular to Graham and Nick for the work that they do there spend time and very ably supported by Claudine and also Clare and Tim who have filled in when Nick and Graham haven't been available.

I just want to read out and thanks to our volunteers, including Alex, Astra, Christen, David B, David P, Ed, Eleanor, Emma, Harper, Chris, Pelaya, Alan, Joe, Katrina, Dylan, Gary, Pen, Benjamin, Jess, Julia, Camille, Emily, Finn, Jillian, John, Marlo, Milo and Saskia, and some of those people have been coming in every week for a very long time. you know every wait for a very long time. We're appreciative of their efforts.

[Applause for volunteers]

### **6.Number of Ordinary Committee Members**

This year we need to decide and vote on the number of ordinary committee members.



So, when I say ordinary committee members, that's the committee members that sit outside the executive. We currently have 5 and have had 5 for many years, but we would like to increase that to 7 in the next 12 months.

So if we increase that by 2 it's not necessarily saying that we have to fill those positions tonight, but we want to be able to open that up to increase the size about committee to better enable us to do all of the work that we do and also particularly to facilitate some of the subcommittees getting stronger in that space. So, we need to propose to increase the number of getting in this from 5 to 7. We want to be able to increase the size of committee to better enable the work that we do.

Graham Willet moved that we change the number of committee members from 5 to 7  
Seconded by Timothy Jones  
Motion carried.

## 7. Election of Committee

The members that have nominated to continue to be ordinary committee member positions that are not contested are:

Nick Henderson  
Richard Keeble  
Sarah Rood

This year we have had two resignations in writing that I need to acknowledge. Graham Willet is resigning but, of course, knowing Graham and he's not going away completely. He'll still be facilitating the research and volunteers on a Wednesday and very much involved in a lot of the programming that we do around the Heritage 100 report, which, and he's also recently facilitated us doing another print run of that. Graham is a life member of this organisation and has been around for decades, and really has been a fantastic source across the years, and his knowledge and his ability and interest and willingness to step up – including to the role of treasurer. I really appreciate that Graham – we appreciate all the work that you do for the Archives and the broader community. Big round of applause for Graham. Daniel Marshall has also resigned from committee. Daniel could not be with us tonight but again has been a very integral part of our broader team and we look forward to him still being involved through a few upcoming projects in the coming two to three years. So again, thank you to Daniel who has been on the committee for a very long time, including as President.

So now I've been President for the last 6 years, and I will be stepping aside as President, and we have nomination for President. I will be stepping into the Vice President role if you get some and Timothy Jones, the current Vice President, will be stepping into the role of president. We see this is a good chance for a bit of renewal – you can't be president forever, and I've really enjoyed my 6 or so years and I'm really looking forward to Tim stepping into that role as well. And so that's a nomination that has been received and seconded as well by those nominations myself, a Vice President and President.

We also have 2 new nominations from members that we're excited to bring on as ordinary members.

We've received Elliot Freeman who is in the room. Elliot is a long-term volunteer and we're excited to have them join committee. Also Kimberley Dunt who is joining us online and did a lot of volunteering with us a few years ago, and we're excited to also have Kimberley come board too.

Clare O'Hanlon has nominated for the role of secretary and Yorick Smaal has nominated for the role of treasurer again.

All of the positions that are changing and being nominated so Kimberley, and Elliot myself and Tim we've all received the nominations for those, so I think we do need to vote on that.

I think we do need to vote.

Proposed: Nick Henderson

Seconded: Bruce Dixon

Motion carried.

Congratulations to the newly elected committee:

President: Timothy Jones

Vice President: Angela Bailey

Secretary: Clare O'Hanlon

Treasurer: Yorick Smaal

Ordinary committee members:

Nick Henderson

Richard Keeble

Elliot Freeman

Kimberley Dunt

Sarah Rood

Thank you everyone.

8. Other business

### **Acquisitions report**

Nick presented a slide show featuring the following – select highlights from a total of 167 acquisitions for the year:

2022-0040 and 2022-0080: Artwork and Papers of Gary Schliemann (addition)  
Framed photographic print by William Yang, 'Copy of hand coloured publicity photo for 'The North', 1996, 2/20. With text: "In the past, because of the way I was brought up, I did not value my own story." "To the volunteers at Australian Queer Archives. From Gary Schliemann and William Yang."; and 15x telephone books for the Wellington Boot communal house in Rozelle, Sydney, c.1980-85.

2022-0025: Life Apparel Co.

Created in collaboration with queer First Nations artists, Jason King and Skye Lockyer. The collection included a scarf, t-shirt, sleeveless t-shirt, and tie set

2022-0118: Papers of Mark Meager

Papers and audio recordings (1/4" reels) relating to Mark's involvement in the Gay Liberation program (3CR), National Homosexual Conferences including the 5th NHC Collective, and related gay and lesbian community activism

2022-0098: 'Yes' postal survey dress, 2017 Drag costume made and worn by Karen From Finance at the Equal Love Rally and Mass Illegal Wedding - Melbourne during the Australian Marriage Law Postal Survey, 26 Aug 2017.

2022-0069: Jade-snow Kemety Collection

Comprising a G.O.D. denim jacket; G.O.D. army shirt; tie; 2x St Joans Soccer Club x Wicked patches; and 7x photographs.

2022-0115: Papers of Aaron Myers

The Papers document Aaron's involvement in the Queer Collaborations student conferences between 1996 and 1999, and in particular the 1998 Conference in Hobart, for which Myers was the Conference Collective Spokesperson.

2022-0066: Robert Albert Lott (Lottie) Collection (addition)

Four costumes and a jewellery box.

2022-0001: Posters and ephemera from KL Joy

These posters include the two hand drawn Queer Beer posters from Ballarat by local artist/youth worker Abby Ashmore; and IMsL/IMsBB poster by photographer Shilo McCabe is a unique copy signed by contestants and past winners during the 2018 competition, in which KL competed for IMSBB.

2021-0129: Nick Henderson

Four zines by Sydney-based trans male comic artist Samuel Luke, and an A3 risograph print 'Trans masc semiotics'(2021), 3rd ed, 4/25.

2022-0112: Papers of Gary Grinter

The Papers document Gary's involvement in the Miss Fitz revue in the late 1970s and into the 1980s.

2022-0107: Records of Queer TV (addition)

Queer TV was formed in 1990 as a forum for lesbian and gay television through Community Access Television (CAT), broadcast on UHF Channel 31 throughout most of metropolitan Sydney. Initially referred to as Queer CAT, the group included a core group of about ten volunteers, including professional media workers, independent film and video makers, artists and media activists. The recent addition to their Records, includes master UMatric program tapes and VHS log tape

2021-0113: Records of RMIT Queer Department Administrative records, posters, and photographs.

2022-0123: Papers of Ron Walker (Miss Candee)

The Papers largely comprise photographs from the late 1970s to the 2010s, documenting the performance career of iconic Melbourne drag queen Miss Candy/Miss Candee

022-0110: Records of the Victorian AIDS Council (VAC) Women's Group

2022-0062: Papers of Jean Steele

Records of the Victorian Transsexual Coalition, and personal trans activism from the late 1970s into the late 1980s.

2022-0104: Letter from John Sakai to Leonard Marquis, donated by Robert Tenney

The letter was found in deceased estate, Leonard was a translator and assisted with the Japanese signing the surrender at the end of WWII. The letter is suffused with kamp subtext.

2022-0021: Markham Lane Collection

Pink Triangle Swarovski crystal headpiece produced for a Mardi Gras Parade float, and a small group of photographs.

022-0008, 2022-0067: Papers of Dennis Altman (addition)

Dennis made two donations this year, including a sizeable addition to his previous donations of matchbooks, which document gay/queer saunas, bars, restaurants etc. Also included was this unique hand-painted matchbook, produced by artist Sam Wallman as a gift for Dennis

2022-0001, etc: Recently catalogued posters from Perth, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Sydney and Darwin

### **Questions and comments from the floor**

Chris Tynan: Hi everyone, I'm a volunteer who started as a researcher and I'm wondering what commitments might have been made in terms of diversity on the committee and in the collection, and by extension of that accessibility as well.

Ange: thank you for your question. We recently applied for some inclusion and diversity training, and range of other elements that we bring on board as a committee. We were unfortunately unsuccessful with that grant. We have through our strategic plan committed to engaging in some inclusion and obviously training and developing a further plan so that's something we're committed to. I think we're conscious of the fact that in our committee we need to address that and within our collection we're always working with a lot of diverse groups to bring and make those connections through proper engagement rather than just collecting as such. We're continuing to work on that as a Model. Tim, based on the work we've done with the strategic plan, do you have anything you'd like to add to that.

Tim: that's an issue that has been on our minds for a long time and when we were structuring our strategic plan for the next 3 years, it was central feature across all of the parts of the collection and all parts of the goals in that plan. So, we're looking in all parts of the organisation to be more inclusive and accessible. As Ange said, we want to do it in a

genuine way and a realistic way. That probably means incremental change. It's a very white organisation. This is a problem that the whole history and heritage sector has. We're strongly committed to it and we're taking action in our strategic plan to improve.

Comment from member: Just some feedback here. I noticed that when the exhibitions were on in the Foyer area there was a lot of engagement with the community, and after that was amazing and fantastic for the poster collection. More of that would be amazing because it allows the collection that we have to be alive rather than static within boxes and so forth and only for researchers and so on. So, if a rolling sort of exhibition can happen over time – I know it's very difficult to curate these collections and takes a lot of time but that would allow the collection to be seen by a larger group of the community. I thought that was amazing. So, thank you very much for facilitating that.

Ange: Thank you. That's great. Elliot and Kimberley, do you want to say a little hello as a new committee member?

Elliot: Hi everyone, Elliot here. I've been a volunteer since around 2019. I'm a qualified archivist and I'm doing my PhD in queer archives.

Kimberley: Hi, I'm Kimberley She/her pronouns. I think I started volunteering with the archives back in 2017 – it was like 2 or 3 buildings ago. I was studying my undergrad in information management then and I ended up working in archives for quite a few years, and I'm very passionate about queer history.

Councillor Mark Riley moved a motion to declare the AGM fabulous!  
Motion carried with applause.

Ange formally closed the meeting before introducing the special guest speakers.

**AGM formally closed 7.25pm.**

Special guest presentation on Queer Medievalisms by Michael Barbezat and Miles Pattenden who have been regular visitors to AQuA as part of their research.

Graham briefly informally reopened the meeting as Ange didn't make arrangements for anyone to speak to acknowledge her service as President and he felt someone should do so: As someone who knows quite a bit about being President of the Archives, I want to say what a great job she has done and how much we have really appreciated her work, most of which goes on behind the scenes. We really appreciate your efforts working with us and so many partners.

[Applause for Ange]

## AQuA Code of Conduct

*AQuA is a safer space where visitors can expect a welcoming, engaging, and supportive environment where everyone is treated with courtesy, respect and kindness, regardless of ethnicity, age, gender, gender identity, sexuality, intersex status, disability, religious belief or economic circumstances.*

Everyone using AQuA's collection, Reading Room or online resources should:

- Respect each other's physical and emotional boundaries
- Respect each other's right to hold their opinions, beliefs, and different points of view
- Be aware that our words and actions can affect others regardless of our intentions and we should take responsibility for any harm they may cause
- Never act in a way that would harass, bully, intimidate, vilify, victimise, or be violent
- Act in a way to protect the health and safety of ourselves and those around us, including complying with government regulations.

The [Code of Conduct of the Victorian Pride Centre](#) also applies to visitors to AQuA's Reading Room.

People not abiding by the code of conduct may be denied access to the collection, may be obliged to leave the Reading Room and may be excluded from social media and our other online spaces.

## AQuA Strategic Plan 2022-2024

Goal	<b>1. Effectively manage, maintain and grow the collection</b> so it's streamlined, secure, and professionally accessible.	<b>2. Grow the organisation's long-term sustainability</b> through improved planning and management of people, finance, accommodation and governance	<b>3. Strengthen and promote collaboration</b> with key communities, industries, partners, members and donors to enable greater participation in what we do
Strategic Priority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Transfer the collection catalogue to an appropriate database system</li> <li>B. Update Collection Policies to improve governance and operational efficiencies</li> <li>C. Enhance the management of offsite storage and access</li> <li>D. Increase rate of digitisation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Grow income by 30% to enable operational cost recovery and best practice collection management</li> <li>B. Enhance organisational governance through an improved Committee structure and operational remit</li> <li>C. Renew and diversify membership of committees</li> <li>D. Develop volunteer training, SOPs, coordination capacity, and events programming to enhance operations and improve volunteer experience and retention</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A. Improve understanding of our diverse partners, communities, sectors and initiate more meaningful collaborations</li> <li>B. Strengthen relationships with First Nations communities, especially queer mob</li> <li>C. Improve Member experience and increase retention</li> </ul>
KPIs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Database system selected, data cleansed, and loaded</li> <li>b. Collection policies identified, developed, implemented and reviewed</li> <li>c. VPC space set up, offsite storage plan developed, self-storage decommissioned, public access increases to 2 days/week</li> <li>d. Digital storage system acquired, digitisation priorities and strategy developed, majority of at-risk materials digitised</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Investment strategy implemented, philanthropy audited, grow income to meet goal of supporting 1.0FTE staffing and operational costs</li> <li>b. Identify governance risks, review operational models, develop charter and subcommittee TORs</li> <li>c. Skills matrix and recruitment plan developed and implemented, aligned with Diversity and Inclusion Plan</li> <li>d. Training requirements identified, program developed, coordination plan developed, volunteer system reviewed and evaluated</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Diversity and Inclusion Plan scoped, developed and implemented</li> <li>b. Establish and initiate consultation processes to enhance First Nations relationships</li> <li>c. Implement new membership system, restart newsletter, host VPC and online member events, improve retention by 50%</li> </ul>