



Australian Queer Archives Inc
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Incorporated Assn No. A0000240Z

ABN 92 450 443 760

Annual Report 2024



Helen Pausacker speaking at the *Queer Stories* event in partnership with National Gallery Victoria as part of Pride Week 2024. Photo by Tobias Titz, courtesy NGV.

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 2024

As elected at Annual General Meeting, 26 October 2023

- Timothy Jones (President)
- Angela Bailey (Vice-President)
- Clare O'Hanlon (Secretary)
- Erwin Mursalim (Treasurer) – appointed 14 November 2023
- Kimberley Dunt
- Elliot Freeman
- Nick Henderson
- Richard Keeble
- Jonathan Sala – appointed 14 November 2023

PATRONS

Professor Dennis Altman AM and Joan Nestle

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2024

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

Thursday 14 November 2024 at 6.00pm
at the Victorian Pride Centre Theatrette
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 2023 Annual General Meeting – included in the 2024 Annual Report
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. Other business
 - Thesis prize winner
 - Volunteer awards
 - Acquisition highlights
9. **Guest Presentation by Jacobin Bosman:** 'Political Bodies: Sexuality and Gender in Early Colonial Victoria'

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 (see below for links to attend online).

Refreshments will be available at the venue.

Clare O'Hanlon,
Secretary 2024

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

In 2023–2024 the Australian Queer Archives continued our mission to collect, preserve and celebrate Australia's very queer history. We received major acquisitions, digitised significant vulnerable parts of the collection, supported hundreds of researchers to access the collection, and contributed to numerous exhibitions and events celebrating our histories. A particular highlight was the award of a Victorian Government LGBTIQ+ Organisational Development Grant to establish a collection management system and online catalogue. The grant will only cover part of the project costs, and we will be conducting dedicated fundraising to complete the project.

Our current strategic plan expires this year. Committee met in May to review progress on the current plan. We're pleased with our progress on sustainability of collection, especially developments in digital infrastructure, meeting expenses, but noted that we're struggling to keep up with volunteer and researcher requests, and our governance, fundraising and organisational sustainability require review. Key decisions were to develop a plan to be able to employ a volunteer engagement coordinator, clarify our investment strategy with the AQuA future fund – a fund of bequests dedicated to earning income to support ongoing costs – and conduct an accessibility and inclusion audit.

The archives were involved in numerous queer exhibitions, including a restaging of David McDiarmid *The Air is Electric* in June 2024. David's friend and executor Sally Gray spoke at the launch, and there was a bespoke soundtrack by legendary DJ Stephen Allkins. Curators Angela Bailey and Nick Henderson were in conversation with Sally and NGV curator Ted Gott at the Pride Centre. Other exhibitions included The Arts Centre Melbourne's 'Queering the Collection' project and launch in June 2024; Queer Archival, curated by Jet Dwyer and Clem McNabb featuring new portraits inspired by items in AQuA's collections, exhibited alongside selected works from AQuA at Halide Supply in May 2024; Queer Connections: Celebrating LGBTIQ+ in Port Phillip, February 2024.

AQuA was pleased to be involved with two exhibitions recognised in the recent Australian Museums and Galleries Association Victoria (AMaGA) Victorian Museums and Galleries Awards. We lent a range of posters to the exhibition 'Radical Utopia, The Design Archaeology of a Creative City' produced by RMIT Galleries, which won in the category Small Project of the Year (Gallery), and we also lent a range of material to the exhibition 'Defending with Pride' at the Shrine of Remembrance, which was Highly Commended in the category of Small Project of the Year (Museum). Additionally, Tom Ballard's 'The Queer Kingdom', based on research in AQuA, won 2024 Midsumma Festival's Queer Playwright Award.

We held stalls at the Oz Kink Fetish Expo 2023 and Transgender Victoria's Trans Fete at Port Melbourne Town Hall and hosted a Melbourne CBD history walk in October. Midsumma 2024 was again vibrant, with our Carnival Stall, Finding and Making Home in the Archives event, and reception for some the First Mardi Gras 78ers. Our pride month partnership with the NGV continued, with an invitation event for invited members and donors in the NGV special collections room and a *Queer Stories* event about queer items in the collection and connections with AQuA collections. We supported the launches of three new books based on our holdings: Tessa Morris-Suzuki's biography of Monte Punshon, *A Secretive Century*, Geraldine Fela's study of nursing during HIV, *Critical Care*, and Noah Riseman's *Transgender Australia: A History since 1890*. We also spoke about the archives work in a plenary at the Australian Society of Archivists Annual Conference in September 2023. And we convened the Sparking Joy Symposium at Melbourne University in partnership with the Faculty of Arts and the Gender, Sexuality and Diversity Studies Program at La Trobe University, featuring panel with Susan Stryker, Sandy O'Sullivan and Julie Peters.

We made significant progress with our digitisation goals, including of the Social Health Press Clippings Collections – an important record of social and sexual health media from a period not easy to access in other digital collections – funded through the Public Record Office Victoria Local History Grants Program. GiveOut fundraising in October 2023 raised almost \$7,000, used to digitise at-risk audio-visual material.

We hosted visits from numerous groups including the Australian Society of Archivists, Premier Jacinta Allan, Charles Sturt University’s Bachelor and Master of Information Studies, and Teacher Librarianship students, fashion design honours students from RMIT.

Our partnership with St Albans Bingo came to its conclusion this year, with the Martini family discontinuing their long running bingo enterprise. Over the years, St Albans has contributed significant funds that have supported the growth of AQuA’s activities and capacity to cover our costs, and we’re very grateful to them for their work.

Many thanks to Claudine, AQuA committee and the range of other volunteers who have contributed to the Archives in the past years. Particular thanks to Kimberley Dunt, who is stepping down from committee this year. Kimberley made a huge contribution to volunteer coordination, collection management procedures, inclusion and access. Special thanks to Gary, Trevor and Bruce who have also stepped down from the membership subcommittee after many years of service.

In the coming year we are excited to be hosting the relaunched Australian Queer Histories Conference; the development of our next strategic plan; employing a volunteer coordinator; and launching our new online catalogue. And most of all, to celebrating our very queer histories together.

Tim Jones

TREASURER'S REPORT AND ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

2023-2024 Finance Report

AQuA's result for the financial year 2023-24 is a net profit of \$340k. This result represents a 124 percent increase in the organisation's profit from financial year 2022-23 (\$152k net profit).

The organisation's total equity as of 30 June 2024 was \$1.3m (increased from \$944k as of 30 June 2023).

Income

Total trading income was \$506k – full details can be found in the accounts (attached).

Significant income items include:

- Bequest from the Estate of Kevin Alexander Anderson (\$250k).
- St Alban's Bingo's operations raised \$42k net profit (gross fundraising income of \$78k minus fundraising expenses of \$36k).
- Royalties from Gale for our participation in their digitisation of Australian queer periodicals (\$63k).
- Interest income from term deposits placed with Commonwealth Bank (\$54k).
- Donation income (\$47k) – details in the membership report.

Expenditure

Total operating expenses: \$165k - full details can be found in the accounts (attached).

Significant expenses include:

- Staff remuneration (\$42k), comprising salaries and wages (\$38k) and superannuation (\$4k).
- VPC Amenities Fee (shown as Office outgoings) (\$32k).
- Depreciation (\$13k) to catch up with depreciation expense which was not previously reported.
- Storage (\$11k) for permanent collections held off-site.
- Bookkeeping fees (\$8k).

Cash position

Bank: \$130k.

Term deposit: \$1.1m.

Other developments

- This is the last financial year that we receive income from St Alban's Bingo operations as the business has been sold to a new owner.
- Various IT projects will be conducted in the new financial year to improve the organisation's website and online catalogue.

Finance Subcommittee

The Finance-subcommittee oversees the organisation's fiscal operation, guided by responsibility, accountability and sustainability principles. It meets quarterly to review

AQuA's annual report, budgeting, investment and financial performance and reports to the committee.

Subcommittee members include Tim Jones (president), Angela Bailey (vice -president), Erwin Mursalim (treasurer), Bree Davis (bookkeeper), Gary Jaynes (long-term, honorary volunteer bookkeeper).

2024-25 Outlook

AQuA's strengthening financial position over recent years is due primarily to significant bequests, gifts, GALE royalty income and interest income from term deposits. The nature of these revenues is non-continuing and unpredictable. This means AQuA must be ready to find the replacement of these revenue streams at any time to cover the running expenses and to finance the IT projects.

Profit and Loss

The Australian Queer Archives
For the year ended 30 June 2024

2024

Trading Income

Archival Services	1,400.00
Bequests	250,000.00
Donation Income	46,975.43
Fundraising	77,602.96
Grants - State Government	2,000.00
Interest Received	54,294.58
Membership Fees	4,953.21
Reproduction Fees	87.27
Royalties	64,927.50
Sales - Postage	32.73
Sales - Publications	1,370.72
Sundry Income	1,869.10
Total Trading Income	505,513.50

Gross Profit

505,513.50

Operating Expenses

Airfares	272.73
Archival Supplies	4,968.21
Bank Fees	71.62
Bookkeeping Fees	7,650.00
Catering	473.14
Cleaning	675.91
Depreciation	13,263.75
Digitisation	3,430.00
Event Registrations for AQuA	824.72
Fundraising expenses	36,454.60
Gifts	45.45
Insurance	3,552.44
Internet Connection	109.08
IT Software Subscription	1,000.54
Merchandise Costs - Publications	715.49
Merchant Fees	1,232.19
Office Amenities	762.11
Office Outgoings	32,016.84
Photocopier	322.01
Postage	252.58
Printing	979.08
Stationery	683.33
Storage	10,701.72
Sundry Expenses	544.82
Superannuation	4,221.74
Travel - Domestic	1,071.55
Wages and Salaries	38,379.43
Website	321.27
Workcover	330.00
Total Operating Expenses	165,326.35

Net Profit

340,187.15

Balance Sheet

The Australian Queer Archives

As at 30 June 2024

30 JUNE 2024

Assets

Bank

CASH FLOAT	60.00
Debit card	545.05
Gift Account	529.33
Online Saver	15,587.00
Ordinary Account	113,641.26
Total Bank	130,362.64

Current Assets

Accrued Income	5,046.13
Cash In Transit	1,400.76
Debtors	396.00
Inventory	7,369.31
Prepayments	2,661.58
Term Deposit - 1	1,000,000.00
Term Deposit - 2	100,000.00
Total Current Assets	1,116,873.78

Fixed Assets

Accumulated Depreciation - Computer and Office Equipment	(11,433.90)
Accumulated Depreciation - Office Fitout	(1,829.85)
Computer and Office Equipment	27,841.47
Office Fitout	28,261.63
Total Fixed Assets	42,839.35

Total Assets

1,290,075.77

Liabilities

Current Liabilities

Accrued Expenses	2,558.79
Creditors	62.71
GST	(1,997.83)
Income in Advance	4,225.00
Total Current Liabilities	4,848.67

Non-current Liabilities

PAYG Withholdings	868.67
Total Non-current Liabilities	868.67

Total Liabilities

5,717.34

Net Assets

1,284,358.43

Equity

Accumulated Funds	944,171.28
Current Year Earnings	340,187.15
Total Equity	1,284,358.43

Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012

Sections 94(2)(b), 97(2)(b) and 100(2)(b)

**ANNUAL STATEMENTS GIVE TRUE AND FAIR
VIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF
INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION**

We [Timothy Jones, President and Erwin Mursalim,
Treasurer] being members of the Committee of the
Australian Queer Archives Inc,
certify that —

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair
view of the financial position of the Australian Queer
Archives Inc during and at the end of the financial year of the
association ending on 30 June 2024.



Signed:

Dated:



Signed:

Dated:

VOLUNTEER ENGAGEMENT

Our Volunteer Coordinators have supported volunteers on Monday nights, Wednesday morning, afternoon and evenings, and some Saturday afternoons.

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.

Jonathan, Kimberley, Elliot, Tim, Ange, Clare, Graham and Nick have all been involved with volunteer coordination. Richard has also been coordinating Project Monte volunteers.

Kimberley has continued developing procedures and instructions to help volunteers work more independently which many volunteers 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, cataloguing articles, zines, posters, ephemera, creating or enhancing finding aids, and photographing and scanning badges and photographs.

Volunteers have also been assisting with membership, Instagram and events.

Things we've implemented to improve volunteer engagement:

- Surveying volunteers to find out about their experience and tasks they would like to do more or less of
- Opening up for volunteers on some Saturdays
- More systematic provision of snacks and tea
- Developing more documentation to help volunteers work more autonomously, confidentially and independently
- Sharing stories on social media
- Shared list of tasks to provide a wider variety of task types to volunteers and improve collaboration between volunteer coordinators
- Creating more tasks that have a clear end point to help volunteers more tangibly see and celebrate the impacts of their work
- Involving more volunteers in events and stalls
- Creating more team/group project tasks

We are developing a plan to employ a volunteer coordinator in the near future.

We'd like to thank all of our volunteers for the fabulous work they do enabling the organisation to function. As a volunteer run organisation, we're dependent on your enthusiasm and contributions to our mission of collecting, preserving and celebrating Australia's very queer history. We'd like to make a special thanks for the great work by Sheryl and Lyn on badges, the t-shirts team, and Tor for the Queer Photo event!

Thank you!

Thanks to all our volunteers: Alan, Camille, Caroline, Charlie, Christine, Clem, Cooper, Dianne, Eleanor, Elena, Emmanuelle, Eos, Evyn, Gabrielle, Gary D, Gary H, Indi, Jacobin, Jake, Jamie, Jo, Joel, Joey, John, Karen, Kim, Kit, Laura, Leah, Lyn, Maree, Marlo, Marnie, Marshall, Maya, Megan, Mercer, Michael, Mikayla, Milo, Morgan, Mya, Neal, Nicholas, Nigel, Pelaya, Penn, Ricky, Sam, Sheryl, Sophia, Theo, Toby, Tor.

EXHIBITIONS AND PROGRAMMING



The Air is Electric: David McDiarmid in America, Victorian Pride Centre, 19 May-30 June 2024

This exhibition presented rarely seen photographs by David McDiarmid, one of Australia's most significant artists, creatively documenting his 1977 travels through San Francisco, Los Angeles and New York City, set to a fabulous soundtrack by legendary DJ Stephen Allkins. Curated by Nick Henderson and Angela Bailey from AQuA, drawing on McDiarmid's photographs in the Records of the David McDiarmid Estate. The exhibition was originally presented at Bondi Pavilion Gallery for Sydney WorldPride 2023. A Panel conversation with Sally Gray, Ted Gott, Nick Henderson and Angela Bailey accompanied the exhibition.

As part of the Victorian Pride Centre's Pride month, AQuA held an open day for people to view collection items and talk with Committee members.

Queer Stories: AQuA x NGV, June 2024

The ongoing relationship with NGV continued with the *Queer Stories* event held during Pride Month and a huge crowd of 150 people came together at NGV for an afternoon of personal reflections and queer stories. Speakers took inspiration from the NGV Collection and AQuA's holdings. Curators, archivists and other members of the LGBTIQ+ community shared personal responses to chosen works of art and ephemera with a queer story to tell. Speakers included Helen Pausacker, Susan Long, Ted Gott, Michael Gentle, Sunita Lewis and Son Vivienne.

Queering the Collection

<https://stories.artscentremelbourne.com.au/queeringthecollection/index.html>

Presented by Arts Centre Melbourne in collaboration with Tristan Meecham from All The Queens Men and AQuA, *Queering the Collection* was featured at the Victorian Pride Centre from June 26 to 30. Featuring interviews with Janet Anderson, Robyn Archer AO, Colin Batrouney, Caroline Bowditch, Maude Davey OAM, Ben Graetz, Stephen Nicolazzo, Uncle Noel Tovey AM and Christos Tsiolkas, and photography by Mia Mala McDonald.

We provided collection material to numerous exhibition projects including:

- 40 Years of Community Activism Exhibition @14 Gallery in Collingwood – acknowledging the 40th anniversary of Thorne Harbour Health.
- *Queer Archival* at Halide Supply space, 17 May 2024
<https://www.vice.com/en/2024/04/29/queer-archival-exhibition/>
- *Queer Connections: Celebrating LGBTIQ+ in Port Phillip*, Carlisle Street Arts Space, St Kilda Town Hall, 2 February – 26 April 2024. Featuring collection items from the AQuA collection and with curatorial support from AQuA – including Graham Willett.

Finding and Making Home, Midsumma Festival, AQuA Reading Room, 3 February 2024

We had a lovely afternoon reminiscing about AQuA's and our communities' origins and evolution with Gary Jaynes, Helen Pausacker, Mark Riley, and Angela Bailey in person and Liz Ross via video recording.

As part of Queer PHOTO 2024 at the Substation we held a panel conversation about – Archival photos and the West and a workshop – Preserving queer history.

Sparking joy? Reckoning with queer, trans and gender diverse histories in archives, Melbourne University, 5 December 2023

This one-day symposium was convened in partnership with the Faculty of Arts at the University of Melbourne. Papers were invited that considered how we can draw on our histories to spark joy in difficult times, to recharge and grow, and how we can reckon with those aspects of our histories that do not spark joy. A full day of diverse papers addressed this theme. The symposium closed with a panel discussion between Professor Susan Stryker, Professor Sandy O'Sullivan and Dr Julie Peters.

RESEARCH

We have supported projects on trans histories, bisexual histories, lesbian histories, union histories, Jewish histories, local histories from various places including Merri-bek and Geelong, feminist histories, linguistic histories, dance histories, literary histories, erotica histories, zine histories and more.

We were mentioned in the Acknowledgements section of Sam Elkin's *Detachable Penis: A Queer Legal Saga*. We also received a shout out from PhD student Seth McKellar in [this interview](#) : “The Queer Archives have been incredibly helpful and generous in providing materials for my research and I would recommend [scheduling a visit](#) to anyone looking at queer history.”

The winner for [our Thesis prize](#) which considers Honours or equivalent theses completed in the last two years (2022–2023) will be announced at the 2024 AGM.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Instagram

After saying goodbye to Twitter/X, we launched our Instagram at Midsumma Carnival in early 2024.

Engagement on Instagram has been steadily increasing since then and we have over 1000 followers.

We've introduced our followers to our t-shirt collection through Textile Tuesdays and recommended books through Sunday Shelfies. We hope to start using Instagram more to showcase volunteer, researcher and artist stories and work at the Archives more in the coming year.

LinkedIn

Engagement on LinkedIn has grown from 140 to 274 followers in the past year. We think this might have been helped by a few visits from professional associations, including the Australian Society of Archivists and Professional Historians Association (Victoria and Tasmania).

Facebook

AQuA's Facebook page and group continued to grow in number of likes and views throughout 2023-24. The Facebook page continued to focus on posting short posts about events #OnThisDay, new acquisitions, researchers, volunteers and our events.

AQuA's Facebook page has 13,900 likes, and over 15,200 followers, up from 13,500 likes, and over 14,800 followers at this time last year. Some of our most popular posts have been those acknowledging the passing of community figures, such as Miss Vic (Victoria Brown), and posts relating to our returning history conference.

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 8005 members, up from 7304 members this time last year.

MEMBERSHIP SUBCOMMITTEE

The current membership subcommittee consists of Clare O’Hanlon and Angela Bailey. Thanks to Elliot Freeman for assisting with sub-committee transition and many thanks to the outgoing membership team of Gary Jaynes, Bruce Dixon and Trevor Sutherland for many years of diligent service.

Update on CiviCRM implementation

The implementation of CiviCRM is now providing us with a stable platform for managing memberships and donations and is taking the vast majority of AQuA’s membership and donation payments. It was successfully used to register attendees and take payments for the 2024 Australian Queer Histories Conference and is regularly used to organise volunteer events.

A comprehensive guide to its use for memberships and donations has been produced, enabling the new membership subcommittee to understand and use it. Ongoing improvements will be made to improve efficiency. Historic financial information will be uploaded soon to provide a platform for future fundraising activities.

Membership renewal report for 2023-24

There were 364 financial members of AQuA in 2023-24, down from 397 in 2022-23.

136 of last year’s 397 members (37%) did not renew by the end of the membership year, partly offset by 63 new members and 40 people who re-joined as members after lapsing one or more years.

The attrition rate of 34% compares with 29% in 2022-23, 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 136 non-renewals shows 46 (34%) joined the previous year (2022-23) and 20 (15%) joined in 2021-22. 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 plan to survey members and supporters soon to inform strategies to improve member engagement.

This year the proportion of members from outside Victoria was 35%, similar to the past few years. See below.

Members x state	2023-24	%	2022-23	%	2021-22	%	2020-21	%
ACT	14	3.8%	14	3.5%	15	3.3%	10	2.3%
NSW	74	20.3%	78	19.6%	92	20.3%	110	24.9%
NT	3	0.8%	3	0.8%	3	0.7%	1	0.2%
QLD	16	4.4%	13	3.3%	19	4.2%	16	3.6%
SA	10	2.7%	13	3.3%	11	2.4%	8	1.8%
Tas	3	0.8%	4	1.0%	4	0.9%	4	0.9%
VIC	235	64.6%	266	67.0%	301	66.3%	283	64.2%
WA	6	1.6%	5	1.3%	6	1.3%	4	0.9%
Overseas	3	0.8%	1	0.3%	3	0.7%	5	1.1%
Grand Total	364	100%	397	100%	454	100%	441	100%

Donation and membership income analysis 2023-24

- Total donations: \$46,975.43
- Number of individual donations: 315
- Number of individual donors: 231
- Number of donors who donated twice or more: 30
- Median: slightly less than \$30 (50% gave more, 50% gave less)
- Mean: \$146
- Largest individual donation: \$5,000

Donations in previous years were:

- Total donations: \$141,421 in 2022-23 (from 292 individual donations, median donation about \$30) – included a single donation of \$100,000
- Total donations: \$120,227 in 2021-22 (from 124 individual donors, median donation \$30) – included a single donation of \$100,000
- Total donations: \$74,348 in 2020-21 (from 295 individual donors, median donation \$50) – special fundraising for Fit Out Appeal this year

See below for the spread of donations by \$ amount in FY2023-24.

Donations 2023-24				
	Number of donations	\$	Mean	% of total donation \$
0 to \$20	110	\$1,504.70	\$14	1%
\$21 to \$50	102	\$3,585.28	\$35	3%
\$51 to \$100	51	\$4,345.49	\$85	3%
\$101 to \$500	38	\$8,536.46	\$44	6%
\$501 to \$1000	4	\$3,053.00	\$29	2%
Over \$1000	10	\$25,950.50	\$2,595	18%
	315	\$46,975.43	\$149.13	33%
231 Separate donors in 2023-24				

167 of the 315 separate donations (72%) in 2023-24 were from members, accounting for \$25,304 (55%) of donation income, compared with the equivalent proportions last year of 90% and 66%.

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 2023-24 was \$4,953 compared with \$5,413 in 2022-23, reflecting the smaller membership number this year, and no change in membership fees. Payments for new membership in Jan-June 2024 have been treated as income in advance for 2024-25, consistent with accrual accounting standards.

Thank you to our donors

Nigel A
Robert Aldrich
Dennis Altman
Iona Annett
Australian Society of Archivists
Kim Bacon
Barbara Baird
BB in memory of Chris Thomas
Laurie Bebbington
Andrew B
KB
RB in memory of
Aveline Rubinshteyn
RB
James Bean
Marja Berclouw
Ian and Javant Biarujia
Anthony Black
Frank Bongiorno
Jacobin Bosman
David Bradford
William Brougham
Jen Jewel Brown in memory of
Lisa Bellear
Gary Bryer
AC
EC
Paul C
Gordon Campbell
Robert Cosgrove
Sophie Cotton
David Crothers
Nick Crotty
Tim Crowe
BD
DD
LD
Lee-Anne D
Mannie De Saxe in memory of
Kendall Lovett
Peter de Waal AM
Laura Lorcane Deriu
Matt Devine
Benjamin Dickens
Bruce Dixon
Carla Donnelly in memory of
Glen Gardner
Alan Duncan
Digby Duncan
Maureen Engel
Kat F
Alfred Faber
Brett Fenton
Mark Fitzhugh
Flic French
Robert French
Chris Furneaux
DG
LG
Tyler G
John Gabriel
Bernard Gardiner
Jamie Gardiner
Melanie Gaylard in memory of
Ivy McGowan
Julia Gorst
Ian Gould
Bruce Grant
Jacqueline Griffin in memory of
Deborah Singerman
Avril H
GH
MH
Richard H
Michael Hall
John Hannaford
Camilla Hannan
Brenton Head
Nick Henderson
Trent Hennessey
David Hilliard
Anthony Hillis
Richard Hogan
Deborah Hunn
Mazz Image
NJ
Sue J
Sonia Jennings
Dianne Johnston
David Johnston-Bell
Mike Jones
Timothy Jones
ZK
Andy Kaladelfos
Meighen Katz
Tesla Kavanagh
Richad Keeble
Leigh Keen in memory of
Graham Carbery
Kim Kemmis
Paul Kidd
Colin Krycer OAM
Birgit Lang in memory of Tim
McNamara
Gary Lee
Living Positive Victoria
Jessie Lymn
Sophie Lyons
Melbourne Rubberman 2023
Joel Davies, Dean Arcuri and
Liam Clark
Mitchell Mackenzie
Alan Mayberry
AM
AM
Erin McKenna
Murray McLachlan
Jodie Martire
Tristan Meecham
David Menadue in memory of
Rishi Shafr
Jim Mitchell
Paul Mitchell
Reece Moir
Michael Monty
Bruce Moore
Gregory Mossop
Joan Nestle in memory of
Karen Bloomberg
Mez N in memory of our
friends no longer with us
Max Niggel
Colin Nugent
CO
Eureka O in memory of
Michael Bernard Kelly
Maurice O'Riordan
Mark Orr
Dianne Otto
Out Publications Pty Ltd
RP
TP
Phyllis Papps
Mark Payne
Evelyn Perusco
Holly Pinkerton
Frank Prain
Christine Prentice
David Provan
Queer as Fact - Alice McInnes,
Eli Farrow, Jason Best, Irene
McInnes
AR
JR
Harriette Richards
Daniel Richardson-Clark
Eric Riddler in memory of
Steve Duke
Mark Riley in memory of Ken
Atkins
William Robertson
Shirleene Robinson
Kate Rowe

Igor Rudar
Michael Ryan
AS
KS in memory of
John Mudge
Sebastian S
WS
Mia Sanders in memory of
Victoria Black
David Sansome
Gary Schliemann in memory of
Neil Hutchinson
Lu Sexton
Henry Shawcross
Esther Singer

Jeff Slingsby in memory of
Graham Carbery
Geoffrey Stewardson
Jeffrey Stewart in memory of
Allan Booth
Trevor Sutherland
Peter Sutton
Sydney Leather Weekend 2023
(fundraiser)
Fleur T in memory of Craig
Andrew Walsh 1972-1994
Suzanne Taylor
Audrey Thomas-Hayes
Alison Thorne
Brian Traynor
David Urquhart

Bart van der Wel in memory of
Roger Keith Easton 1948 -
2020
Paul Van Reyk in memory of
Tim Lennox
Anthony Venn-Brown
Chris Vernon
Jacinda W
PW
RW
Dennis Webster
Johnny Whitehead in memory of
Kimmy Lehmann
James Whitmore
John Witte
Margaret Young

Anonymous donations were also made in memory of: Kevin Anderson, Glen Garden, Betty Hounslow and Alice Overall.

GiveOut Day 2023

On GiveOut Day 2023, 39 people donated to AQuA to support digitisation of at risk audio-visual material. The campaign raised \$6,839 from 39 donations, including \$1,500 from GiveOut for matched donations.

Anonymous x10
Andrew
Brett
Carlton Pride
Colleen
David
Dean
Eric
Gary
Graeme
Heidi
Jack
Jannine
Jeffrey

Kathy
Kenton
Luke
madeleine
Maryanne
Nevena
Nick
Nick
Olivia
Paul
Prudence
Sebastian
Shane
Timothy
Timothy

ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS

AQuA's acquisition volume was somewhat lower than 2023; however, the acquisitions were of great significance, of particular note has been the significant number of acquisitions relating to art and transgender material.

Artworks / Art-related archival collections

- Stephen Auburn Collection: artworks by Phillip Juster and Glenn Lewis (Miss 3D), photographs
- Tony Guthrie Collection: two artworks
- Arthur McIntyre Estate: five artworks, book
- Daniel Mudie Cunningham Collection (addition): zine, ephemera, books
- Andy Ewing Collection: 105 artworks, mostly works on paper and some paintings on canvas
- Papers of Jeffrey Stewart addition (artworks by David McDiarmid, photographs)
- Papers of Wayne Stamp (artist, academic): papers, artwork
- Papers of Ted Gott (addition): artworks by various artists including David McDiarmid, papers relating to 'Don't leave me this way: art in the age of AIDS' exhibition
- Bryce Kerr Collection (five artworks by David McDiarmid)
- Artwork by David McDiarmid, donated by Andrew Foster
- Johnny Allen Collection (Sydney performance, art and activism): papers, posters, artwork, photos, clothing, etc
- Johnny Allen also facilitated the donation of collections from Danny Abood Estate, Cassie Workman, and Ron Smith.
- Danny Abood Collection: artwork by Doris Fish, Jasper Havoc and Danny Abood; papers, posters, costume, etc.
- Cassie Workman Collection: artwork by David McDiarmid
- Ron Smith Collection: artwork by David McDiarmid, Peter Tully, C.Moore Hardy, Linda Jackson, Keith Haring, Doris Fish, Ron Smith and Andy Warhol.
- Papers of Fletcher Thomas (visual and performance art): papers, digital prints

Transgender archival collections

- Papers of Sim Victor-Kennedy (Y-Gender): papers
- Papers of Simon Ceber (Monash Gender Centre): papers
- Papers of Norrie May-Welby (The Gender Centre): papers
- Papers of Julie Peters (addition): papers
- Papers of Jonathan Pare: papers
- Papers of Mx Margaret Jones (music): papers
- Papers of Dianna West (trans, drag and theatre): photographs, papers, costumes
- Papers of Trixie Laumonte: photographs, ephemera, objects
- Jasper Laybutt Collection (addition): trans masc zines and newsletters

Archival collections

- Papers of Ron Muncaster (addition): photographs, papers
- Papers of Grant Kilby (Sydney and international leather): posters, photographs, ephemera
- Papers of Michael Glynn (publisher, activist): papers, photographs, objects
- Papers of Rodney Burrows (Gay Games I): papers
- Papers of Lexie Bradfield (Sydney DJ): audio, video, ephemera, objects
- Papers of Alan Rose (immigration): papers
- Grant Kay Collection (Sydney parties): posters
- Papers of Michael Fenaughty (addition): papers
- Minus18 Young Leaders Archive: bound volume from second program
- Papers of Phillip Adams (Phillip Adams Ballet Lab): papers, photographs, artwork, posters, audio, audiovisual, ephemera, etc.

- Chris Friday Book Collection: lesbian and feminist fiction and non-fiction
- Papers of Michael Barnett (addition): photographs, papers
- Jo Waite Collection (cartoons for Brother Sister): artwork
- Papers of Dennis Altman (addition): books, ephemera, textiles
- 'Holding the man' / Timothy Conigrave [draft manuscript], donated by Tony Ayres
- Papers of Michael Bernard Kelly (theologian, author, and activist)
- Robert French Collection (digital photographs)
- Papers of Joan Nestle: correspondence, books, photographs, etc
- Records of King Vic Drag Kings (addition)
- Papers of Jade-snow Kemety (addition): zines, periodicals, badges, patches, photographs relating to Wicked Women and G.O.D.
- Papers of Alan Isaacs (Victorian Branch of the Australian Gay Medicine Association): papers
- Papers of Gary Helmore: TBC
- Papers of Ken Payne (Melbourne and Adelaide venues, drag): papers, photographs, audio, audiovisual, posters, etc
- Papers of Mitch Cleary (Gay Teachers and Students Group): papers

Oral history

- Transgender Australians Collection: 128 oral history interviews and associated documentation from Prof Noah Riseman's multi-year Australian Research Council (ARC) funded research project, 'Transgender Australians: The History of an Identity'. This exceptional oral history collection formed the core of his recently published book and reports: 'Transgender Australia: A History since 1910' (2023); Victoria's transgender history (2021); New South Wales Trans History (2022); and A history of trans health care in Australia (2022).
- Oral history interviews with Graham Stanley, Bruce Peterson, Mannie de Saxe, Tony Anderson, and Ken Payne.

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, Peter Mitchell Collection book additions, and additions from long-term volunteer and former Committee Member Graham Willett. Thank you to all our donors, large and small, for supporting the development of our collections.

Showcase

AQuA recently received a very significant addition to our trans holdings, 128 oral history interviews and associated documentation from Prof Noah Riseman's multi-year Australian Research Council (ARC) funded research project, 'Transgender Australians: The History of an Identity'. This exceptional oral history collection formed the core of his recently published pioneering book: 'Transgender Australia: A History since 1910' (<https://bit.ly/AusTransHist>).

A number of earlier published outputs from Noah's research, which also drew on these interviews, are available online, including: 'Victoria's transgender history' (<https://bit.ly/VicTransHistory>), 'New South Wales Trans History' (<https://bit.ly/NSWTransHist>), and 'A history of trans health care in Australia' (<https://bit.ly/TransHealthHist>).

In addition to the interviews, Noah also donated a range of small archival collections received from interview participants, including papers from Julie Peters, Sim Victor-Kennedy, Simon Ceber, Norrie, Mx Margaret Jones, and Jonathan Paré. These archival collections complement our already significant and growing collection of trans archives.

AQuA's involvement with Noah's 'Transgender Australians' project, as a key research repository and archival advisor, has been a wonderful partnership, and we're excited by the capacity for the published outputs to contribute to trans community development and broader community awareness, and for the potential for the interviews to support trans research into the future.

Support the collection, preservation, and celebration of Australia's lesbian, gay, trans, bisexual, intersex, sistergirl and brotherboy history, become a member: <http://bit.ly/AQuAmember>; and donate (tax deductible): <http://bit.ly/AQuAdonor>.

Image: Portrait of Noah Riseman and Karen Chant; Portrait of Jasper Laybutt; Portrait of Kooncha Brown; and Portrait of Felix Kaesler.





AQuA recently received an exceptional collection of papers from our patron Joan Nestle, documenting her life in Australia over the past 25 years. AQuA is very excited to make this wonderfully rich collection available to researchers in the near future. Nestle's papers documenting her work in the USA are preserved by the Lesbian Herstory Archives.

Joan Nestle (b. 1940) is a working-class Jewish lesbian activist, teacher, Lambda Award winning writer and editor, founder of the Lesbian Herstory Archives and a patron of the Australian Queer Archives.

Nestle had been part of the working-class, butch and femme bar culture of New York City since the late 1950s. She received her B.A. from Queens College, City University of New York in 1963. During the mid-1960s she became involved in the Civil Rights Movement. She earned a master's degree in English from New York University in 1968 and worked toward a doctorate for two years before returning to Queens College to teach.

After the Stonewall riots in 1969, gay liberation became a focus of her activism, and she joined the Lesbian Liberation Committee in 1971 and helped found the Gay Academic Union (GAU) in 1972. The following year, she and other members of the GAU began to gather and preserve documents and artifacts related to lesbian history. This project became the Lesbian Herstory Archives, which opened in 1974 in the pantry of the apartment she shared with her then-partner Deborah Edel, and later with her good friend Mabel Hampton, and moved to a brownstone in Park Slope, Brooklyn in 1992.

She is the author of 'A Restricted Country' (1988), winner of an American Library Association Gay and Lesbian Book Award, and 'A Fragile Union' (1998), a Lambda Literary Award recipient, and has edited over a dozen award-winning collections. In 2023 'A Sturdy Yes of a People : Selected Writing by Joan Nestle' was published as a Sapphic Classic by Sinister Wisdom. She lives in Australia with her love, Professor Di Otto.

AQuA received a very significant number of art acquisitions during the 2023-2024 financial year, including significant acquisitions relating to artists David McDiarmid, Doris Fish, Andy Ewing, and more.



Doris Fish (1952-1991): AQuA received a very significant donation of ten artworks, as well as objects and archival material relating to drag performer and artist Doris Fish (Philip Mills) from Johnny Allen, Ron Smith and the Danny Abood Estate (Johnny Allen). These works significantly extend our existing holdings relating to Doris, which includes photographs, video footage, flyers, writing and artwork, largely relating to their performance career in Australia and involvement with the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. [Self-portrait as a hippie], 1982, by Doris Fish, Danny Abood Collection



Andrew (Andy) Ewing (1964-2021): AQuA received a significant donation of 105 artworks by from the Ewing Family, including both works on paper and paintings, documenting this significant Vietnamese-Australian artist. This collection builds on our existing collection of 39 pencil, ink and scraperboard works by Andy in our holdings of the Records of the Sydney Star Observer.



David McDiarmid (1952-1995): AQuA received a significant donation of David McDiarmid artworks from Ron Smith, Jeffrey Stewart, Cassie Workman, Ted Gott, and Bryce Kerr. Of particular note is the donation of eight works from McDiarmid's first solo exhibition, 'Secret love' (1976), which was also the first explicitly gay art exhibition held in Australia. Additional McDiarmid material received include the major work 'Tired & Bitchy', a group of three printed textile banners for the 1988 'Safe Sex Ball', a painted couch cover, digital working prints, and posters. These works build on our already significant collection of McDiarmid artworks and archival material. *Glory-hole*, 1976, from the Secret Love series, by David McDiarmid, Jeffrey Stewart Collection

VALE TO COMMUNITY MEMBERS WHO HAVE RECENTLY DIED

VALE KAREN CHANT (1931-2024)

Karen Chant was a Sydney drag legend. Born in Sydney, Karen left school at 16 to work in millinery. In the late 1940s Karen attended her first Artist Ball, which kicked off her public life in drag. Karen began living full time as a woman in the 1960s, and perhaps unusually for the time recalled being accepted very well, recalling “They knew and gave me love and then vice versa and I was lucky enough for those people to say I don’t give an anything, you’re Karen, there’s no problem. You know you’re still the person we know, you’ve just changed the curtains.” However, she also recalled that in the 1960s especially, she and other performers would arrive and depart from the venues presenting as men because otherwise they could face police abuse and harassment, especially from the vice squad. In 1961 Karen began performing at the Jewel Box, Sydney’s first ‘all male revue’ soon after it was established, before moving on to become one of the original stars of the Purple Onion, Sydney’s earliest gay-owned venue. Karen recalled: “Everybody came to the Onion. My dressing-room wall was autographed by Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev—every fabulous person that came to Australia went to the Purple Onion.” On New Year’s Eve 1964, Karen met her life partner Jeffrey. From the mid 1960s onward, Karen worked at wide range of venues, including the Golden Net (Tweed Heads), Ivy’s Birdcage, Les Girls, Capriccio’s, Bonaparte’s, Balmain Town Hall Hotel, and many more. From the 1990s Karen and Jeffrey began spent part of the year overseas, including periods in Turkey and Thailand. In 2018, Karen performed their life story as part ‘Trans story’ for the 40th anniversary of Mardi Gras. AQuA holds an oral history interview recorded with Karen and Jeffrey by Noah Riseman in 2018, as well as a range of photographs and community press documenting their career.

VALE TRIXIE LAUMONTE (1949-2024)

Trixie Laumonte was a legendary Sydney and Brisbane showgirl. Born in Newcastle-On-Tyne in England, Trixie migrated to Australia with her family at the age of ten. A significant presence in Sydney drag scene during the late 1960s to the late 1980s, she began performing in drag from the age of 16 at Les Girls, working there for seven years before moving onto Chez Ivy, The Birdcage, Caps, Fookes, Patches, Palms, Fantasy Island, and more – becoming known as the Queen of Oxford Street! On 24 June 1978, Trixie was working at Patches on Oxford Street, when someone at the club said there was a gay rights march happening outside, so Trixie went down to take a look. She later said “I just went back upstairs and yelled out, ‘We’re out of the clubs onto the streets. We’re marching’.” “I emptied the club and ended up getting the sack.” Not one to avoid the media, Trixie wrote a column, ‘Trixies tantalizing tit-bits’, for the Oxford Weekender News in the early 1980s, but it was an interview on Ray Martin’s Midday Show, which showed brought her to a much wider audience. In the late 1980s, Trixie moved north to Townsville before her final move to the Queensland capital. In Brisbane, Trixie took up a 30-year residency at The Beat Megaclub. Trixie had previously performed in Brisbane from the 1970s, including with the Peter Moselle Show in 1976 and a season at the Beat in 1987. After the much-loved legend of the Valley left the Beat, she lived more quietly, and suffered from ill health in recent years. Trixie was recognised with numerous awards, including the 1987 Triangle Awards Hall of Fame, which acknowledged her as a ‘Superb entertainer whose wit, charm and brutal honesty plus her generosity in working for humanitarian causes led to her election to the Hall of Fame.’

VALE PHILLIP (PHIL) JAMES CARSWELL OAM (1953-2024)

Phil Carswell was a LGBTIQ+ community legend and giant of the HIV/AIDS response in Australia. Born in Albury, Phil grew up in Melbourne and studied Science at Monash University before entering Teacher's College. In 1975 Phil was elected as the teacher's college campus representative for the Australian Union of Students (AUS), and attended their Annual Conference held at Monash University, and joined the newly formed Gay Caucus. The Gay Caucus was also the driving force behind the Inaugural National Homosexual Conference (1975-1984). One of the first organisations that developed from the National Homosexual Conferences was the Gay Teachers Group (later Gay Teachers and Students Group), which as a young gay science teacher Phil quickly joined. Phil was actively campaigning for anti-discrimination policies within the Victorian teachers' unions (1976-77), a member of the collective which produced Young, Gay and Proud in 1978, and an advocate for gay teachers and students. Phil was the convenor the Victorian AIDS Action Committee in 1984 and in 1984 became the first President of the Victorian AIDS Council. Along with the late Ian Goller, he was the first openly gay man employed by the Victorian Health Department to work on AIDS prevention. After stepping down as VAC President, Phil moved to Queensland where he worked for the Health Department for 20 years on preventative health. He was made OAM in 2015, but he valued more his life membership of his union, Queensland Together. He was widely admired for his boundless energy and enthusiasm, his ability to work with people of all backgrounds and all views, and for his political and organisation skills.

VALE FRANK VAN STRATEN AM (1936-2024)

Frank Van Straten was a performing arts archivist, curator, writer and former director of the Performing Arts Museum (now Australian Performing Arts Collection at Arts Centre Melbourne). The first archivist of the Performing Arts Museum, Van Straten served as its director from 1984 until 1993. As an author, Van Straten wrote numerous exhibition catalogues for the Performing Arts Museum, theatre program notes, as well as books on Gertrude Johnson and the National Theatre (1994), The Regent Theatre (1996), the Tivoli Circuit (2003), theatrical entrepreneur Hugh D. McIntosh (2004), musical theatre star Florence Young (2009), Her Majesty's Theatre, Adelaide (2013), theatrical producer Erenst C. Rolls (2020). Van Straten served on the board of the National Theatre, Melbourne. He also served on the judging panels of the Green Room Awards and Helpmann Awards. He was a patron of the Cinema and Theatre Historical Society (Victoria), and a founding member and committee member of the Victoria Theatres Trust (now Theatre Heritage Australia). In 1999, Van Straten received the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in honour of his contributions to the performing arts in Australia, and in 2017 he was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM). Van Straten's contribution to the Australian Performing Arts Collection is recognised through the annual Frank Van Straten Fellowship since 2020. Van Straten made a series of collection donations to the Australian Queer Archives between 2019 and 2022, and we're grateful for his contributions to our collections.

VALE DESTINY ROGERS (1959-2024)

Destiny Rogers was a journalist who made a significant contribution to the LGBTQIA+ community in Brisbane, Queensland and beyond through her journalism and history writing. She authored numerous articles for QNews, where she was a feature writer and then managing editor (2018-2022), including writing and editing works such as: *Passing Glances: A History of Gay Cairns* (2017); *The Queen's Ball* (2021); *COON: More Holes than Swiss Cheese* (2021); *Drag queens at war* (2023); and her last work, *The End of the Line* (2024) published the day after her passing. Destiny retired in 2022 to focus on research and feature writing.

VALE WILLIAM VAUGHAN HINTON AM (1933-2024)

Vaughan Hinton was a TV producer, journalist and 78er, who had a significant impact on the development of ABC TV's production of religious, First Nations, and LGBTIQ+ programming. Vaughan was born in Brisbane, to William Percy Hinton and Miriam Vaughan. On completing his schooling in 1950, he worked as a cadet reporter with the Toowoomba Chronicle, where he was to remain employed for the following thirteen years. In 1958 Vaughan married Elizabeth, and subsequently had two daughters, Nicola and Caroline. Vaughan was actively involved in the local church, and made a significant contribution to refugee fundraising and from 1963 worked as an Information Officer in Sydney with the Resettlement Department of the World Council of Churches in Australia. While Vaughan had been aware of his desires for men throughout his life, his encounter with gay liberation in the early 1970s helped him understand his identity as a gay man. Vaughan subsequently came out to his wife, who he stayed living with for five years before they separated. In 1978, Vaughan was involved in the first Mardi Gras and in 1979 met his future life partner Kym Skinner. In 1986, Vaughan was appointed the ABC-TV Executive Producer with responsibility for all TV religious programs, Indigenous programs and the coverage of significant national events. Vaughan retired from ABC-TV in 1997 but continued to work on management assignments for the ABC up until 2003. At the ABC Vaughan led the creation of the Compass program and also oversaw the creation of the ABC's Indigenous programme unit, recruiting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander producers and researchers, and produced two highly successful series, *The First Australians* and *Blackout*. Vaughan was influential in producing the first broadcast of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade in 1994. In retirement, Vaughan and Kym moved relocated from Sydney to Monbulk, in the Shire of Yarra Ranges, to the East of Melbourne, where they were both actively involved in the community. He was awarded the UN Media Peace Prize for his 1984 film documentary *Prisoners of Hope* and the CFA 15 years of service award and The Emergency Services Medal, Vic Fires 2009. AQuA holds oral history interviews with Vaughan Hinton and Kym Skinner recorded in 2013.

VALE JAZMIN THEODORA (1938-2024)

Jazmin Theodora was a trans and Nimbin icon, whose life took her from stripping to tarot card reading, both in Australia and throughout South-East Asia. Jazmin (whose stage name was Julie London) was born in Sydney in 1938, where she spent much of her early life, along with periods of living on a sheep station in North-West NSW and on the Central Coast. She was an active child, with a love of swimming, running, tennis, and dancing. Leaving school at 14, she began dressing as a woman and undertaking sex work from the age of 17. In the mid-1960s, Jazmin began working as a stripper, leaving Australia in 1969, to work in a drag show in Hong Kong, before touring Singapore, Malaysia, and Thailand. She had gender affirming surgery in the UK in 1970-1971, and continued working throughout South-East Asia, returning to Australia permanently in 1979. Soon after returning to Australia Jazmin moved to the Northern Rivers, living near Kyogle and at Tuntable Falls. In 1989 they moved to the desert in South Australia, to help heal their lungs of chronic emphysema. They returned to the Northern Rivers in 2010, after stints in Binnaway and Canberra. Throughout much of their later life they supported themselves through tarot card reading and were actively involved in the Northern Rivers queer community. Jazmin recorded her life story on a number of occasions, including with *Humans of Lismore* in 2019, in a 2021 short film directed by Nicole Sullivan for the *Fearless Film* series by Dandelion Films, and in a 2019 oral history interview for Noah Riseman's *Transgender Australians Project*, which is now housed at AQuA.

VALE BILL WHITTAKER (D2014)

Bill Whittaker was a community leader in community responses to HIV/AIDS. Bill's journey with HIV began in the earliest days of the epidemic, before effective treatments were available. Bill served as the first CEO of ACON (AIDS Council of New South Wales), a member organisation of Health Equity Matters, from 1986 to 1990. Bill then served as President of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (now Health Equity Matters) from 1990 to 1992, and again from 2000 to 2003. He also served as President of NAPWHA and then as a Special Representative from 2013. These positions allowed him to drive significant advancements in HIV policy, treatment access, and community support. In the 1980s, Bill was at the forefront of pioneering harm minimization strategies, which have since become a cornerstone of Australia's public health approach to HIV prevention. His early work laid the foundation for many of the progressive policies that followed. During the 1990s, Bill played a crucial role in advocating for increased access to antiretroviral treatments, helping to ensure that life-saving medications reached those who needed them most. In 2012, he led groundbreaking initiatives around CD4 count testing, which significantly improved the monitoring and health outcomes of people living with HIV. Bill's ongoing commitment to enhancing the quality of life for those living with HIV was exemplary. In recent years, Bill was instrumental in efforts to increase access to Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), a game-changing tool in HIV prevention. Bill's personal experience fueled a lifelong commitment to improving the lives of those affected by HIV and shaping policy responses both in Australia and internationally.

VALE MISS VIC / VICTORIA BROWN (1957-2024)

Miss Vic was an icon and fixture on the Melbourne queer club circuit, working at places like Tasty, Freakazoid, Bar 44, the Market, and many other club nights. She brought sparkle to any occasion and will truly be missed.

VALE GARRY LESTER (1954-2024)

Garry Lester was a proud Wannarua man from the Hunter Valley. Working as a choreographer, dancer, and artist, Garry danced with One Extra Dance Company. Involved in gay liberation (Sydney), he went on to work as an Indigenous dance officer in remote areas of the Northern Territory, was awarded a PhD in dance and taught at Australia's premier Indigenous performing arts academy, NAISDA as well as the University of Western Sydney. Lester was awarded a Nancy Keesing Fellowship and produced significant works on Australian dance history.

VALE PENNIE AUSTIN (D2024)

Pennie Austin ran the iconic Pennie's night, 'Melbourne's leading ladies disco', at the Prince of Wales Hotel during the 1980s. Established in 1981, Pennie's initially ran weekly out of the Piano Bar and Regal Room, before shifting to the Main Bar on alternate Saturdays. Pennie's was one of the first social nights in Melbourne for lesbians and queer women.

MINUTES OF THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday 26 October 2023 at 6pm at the Victorian Pride Centre.

All online voting monitored by the Secretary.

1. Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

AQuA President Tim Jones opened meeting and gave an Acknowledgement of Country.

Attendees

Alyson Campbell, Claudine Chionh, Joel Crotty, Bruce Dixon, Kimberley Dunt, Elliot Freeman, Chris Friday, John Gabriel, Maree Gladwin, Sharon Hamilton, Nick Henderson, Gary Jaynes, Timothy Jones, Richard Keeble, Michaël Monty, Clare O'Hanlon, Alexandra Raymond, Jonathan Sala, Yorick Smaal, Trevor Sutherland, Graham Willett, Peter Winspur, Angela Bailey, Mazz Image, Bruce Moore, Joan Nestle, Dianne Otto, Jean Taylor, Bart van der Wel, Ed Griffiths, Jackson Fairchild, Penn Russell, Sheryl Johnstone, Greg Axtens, KL Joy, Bernard Franken, Gabrielle Dennis, Kathy Sport, David Menadue, Rebecca McLean, and Chris Tynan.

2. Apologies and proxies when nominated

Michael Barnett, Darlene Cox (Proxy: Chair Timothy Jones), Craig D'Alton, Jamie Gardiner, Tass Mousaferiadis (Proxy: Secretary Clare O'Hanlon), James Robinson, Kate Rowe (Proxy: Nick Henderson)

3. Confirmation of the minutes from the AQuA 2022 AGM held on 4th November 2022

Moved: Nick Henderson

Seconded: Elliot Freeman

Passed by consensus

Approved

4. Office bearers' reports

Tim Jones summarised the President's report outlined in the Australian Queer Archives Annual Report 2023.

Yorick Smaal delivered the treasurer's report and summarised the relevant section in the Annual report.

Gary Jaynes gave the membership report and thanked Richard Keeble, the membership sub-committee Bruce Dixon and Trevor Sutherland, and those members who helped test civiCRM.

Clare O'Hanlon presented on some community engagement committee members had been doing to bring the Archives to life, a membership engagement survey they hoped to do in the next year, some communications changes (including moving from Twitter to Instagram), and Elliot Freeman becoming more involved to support membership engagement and help Gary, Bruce and Trevor step back.

5. Motion to formally accept the treasurer's report

Moved: Chris Friday

Seconded: Michaël Monty

Approved

6. Motion to approve number of Ordinary committee members as 6

Moved: Timothy Jones

Seconded: Graham Willett

Approved

7. Election of committee members

- President: Timothy Jones
- Vice-President: Angela Bailey
- Secretary: Clare O'Hanlon
- Treasurer: position to be filled at a later date
- Ordinary members: Kimberley Dunt, Nick Henderson, Elliot Freeman, Richard Keeble

Vacant committee member and treasurer positions to be appointed at the next committee meeting.

Other business

Nick Henderson presented a snapshot of recent AQuA-sitions and included a special shout out and thanks for the exceptional long-term support and enthusiasm of our Sydney-based volunteer Collection Office, Ulo Klemmer. Ulo has assisted the Archives over the last decade by picking up collections from Sydney-based donors; by picking up posters from venues and placards from rallies.

Tim Jones thanked Chris Tynan for their work revitalising volunteer coordination and Angela Bailey for their work as President of the Archives' and helping us navigate through a challenging time (relocating buildings, negotiating rents, name change consultation and implementation, and a global pandemic) and assisting Tim's transition to President over the past year.

Chris Tynan (via Zoom) submitted a statement about their resignation and the need for AQuA to improve access and inclusion for people with disabilities which was read out and responded to by Tim Jones.

Greg Axtens (from the floor) asked about AQuA holdings related to LGBTIQ+ people and disability. Nick Henderson responded noting a range of holdings including recently digitized radio programs and material relating to Nexus, the first queer disability group in Sydney.

Ed Griffith (from the floor), asked a question about volunteer engagement, noting that volunteer turnover is quite high. Graham Willett and Nick Henderson commented on their volunteer coordination practices and recent experiences. Tim Jones spoke of the need to increase coordination capacity responding to recent growth in demand.

Clare O'Hanlon thanked Kimberley Dunt for her work on documentation and guides to support volunteers and coordinators.

Special guest Phoenix Bersten delivered an autobiographical presentation about life and activism from the 1990s.

Meeting closed at 7:47pm.