



Australian Queer Archives Annual Report **2024–25**

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.

Always was, always will be.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander readers should be aware that this document contains names and images of deceased persons.

The **Australian Queer Archives** (AQuA) collects, preserves and celebrates material from the lives and experiences of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and gender diverse, intersex, queer, Brotherboy and Sistergirl (LGBTIQ+) Australians.

Established in 1978, we hold the preeminent research collection for LGBTIQ+ histories in Australia. We are a volunteer-run, non-profit, community-based incorporated association. We are located in Melbourne, Australia and are assisted by members and supporters around Australia and the world.



@AusQueerArchives



mail@queerarchives.org.au



/AQuArchives



queerarchives.org.au

Document design by Jonathan Sala for AQuA

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Committee Members 2025

Elected on 14 November 2024

President

Timothy Jones

Vice-President

Angela Bailey

Secretary

Clare O'Hanlon

Treasurer

Erwin Mursalim

Committee members

Eleanor Colla

Elliot Freeman

Nick Henderson

Richard Keeble

Alan Lawrie

Jonathan Sala

Patrons

Professor Dennis Altman AM

Joan Nestle



President's report

I find it genuinely exciting looking over the annual report and being reminded of the activities, events, acquisitions and other achievements the Archives has made in the 2024-2025 year. In addition to collecting, preserving and celebrating our very queer histories, committee has put a lot of effort into developing our new strategic plan. AQuA member Luke Hockley volunteered to support us through this process, bringing his professional expertise to help us at an important point in our organisation's growth and development.

A particular pleasure in the development of the plan was listening to the Archives' community tell us what they valued in the Archives, what we do, and the community that we are. We're a community archive in that we're community controlled, run by volunteers from the community, and collect widely to represent our communities. And as a community we interpret, connect and celebrate our histories.

The strategic plan envisions a future that lives up to this history. But also introduces some changes. We want to be open and accessible more than we're able to be at the moment, and hope to be able increase our paid staffing to support that. We're edging closer to having an operational collection management system and online catalogue that will dramatically increase access to the collection. We've also identified priority areas for collecting so that we can ensure our collection represents our communities more fully.

Achieving our strategic goals will involve some evolution of the Archives' operations, and significant fundraising. We hope that our community supports these goals and helps us reach the targets that will enable to archives to be open, accessible and sustainable into the future.

Tim Jones

Volunteer program

AQuA's volunteers have generously supported AQuA in areas of cataloguing, describing, processing and digitising our collections, event planning and execution, and in contributing their expertise to working groups and subcommittees in finance, communications and collections management.

Volunteer Supervisors (previously called Coordinators) Clare, Graham, Jonathan and Nick have given their time and expertise to supporting, training and leading volunteers in four sessions across each week. Additionally, Committee members Alan, Ange, Eleanor and Richard have supervised volunteers who have assisted with events and participated in working groups.

Appointment of Team Leader, Volunteer Program

AQuA's volunteer program has been supported by the appointment of Jessie Tudor as Team Leader, Volunteer Program. Jessie has been in this role since April 2025, and has been focused on a program-wide review of the policies and procedures in place for managing volunteers, increasing volunteer retention and satisfaction, and implementing the National Standards for Volunteer Involvement.

Some of Jessie's key work has included:

- A review of all processes, policies and practices within the volunteer program in line with best practices and legal obligations as a volunteer-involving organisation.
- Implementation of new and updated policies and procedures, including an Occupational Health and Safety Policy, Diversity and Inclusion Policy, Conflict Resolution and Grievance Procedures, and updated Volunteer Agreements.
- Program-wide survey of volunteer satisfaction, gauging interest in social opportunities, communication preferences, and identifying potential leaders within the program.
- Development of volunteer opportunities remotely, at events, and in working groups.
- Increase of volunteer cohort by approx. 50%, with intake of 21 new volunteers.
- Increase of volunteer retention, with no lapsed volunteers since April 2025, and the return of some previously lapsed volunteers.
- Introduction of regular volunteer communications, including upcoming opportunities, events promotion, recent acquisitions, and general notices.

This work will establish a strong foundation for AQuA to continue to grow its volunteer base, improve its volunteer retention and engagement, and meet its legal obligations to volunteers.

Thank you to all AQuA volunteers for your generous contributions over the past year!



Thank you to our volunteers

Andrew P	Graham W	Meg S
Bejay H	Hazel K-R	Megan P
Bruce D	Jacobin B	Michael D
Cal B	James H	Mike J
Camille H	Jasmin W	Milica M
Charlie K	Jo W	Milo W
Chris F	Joel C	Monte P
Chris M	John W	Morgan F
Clem M	John G	Neal F
Cody L-O	Joni S	Nigel A
Cooper B	Kai T	Owen O
Dianne J	Karen D	Peter G
Eleanor P	Kim VN	Ricky A
Elena C	Leah H	Roman S
Ella L	Leigh K	Ruth K
Ella SW	Levi R	Sheryl J
Emmanuelle R	Liora H	Slug
Gabe D	Lyn C	Susan J
Gary J	Maddie J	Tahlia M
Gary D	Maia W	Theo P
Gary H	Maria D	Trevor S
Gina R	Marlo M	Yuqi W

Exhibitions

Muru-ba: First Nations LGBTIQ+ Trailblazers

3 July–21 July 2024

Muru-ba is a physical and online exhibition showcasing the faces and stories of First Nations LGBTIQ+ Elders involved with the LGBTIQ+ rights and First Nations community movements since the 1970s from across Australia.

Muru-ba is a Dharug word gifted to the project by Auntie Julie Jones, that means trailblazer, or path maker. The exhibition showcased portraits taken in February 2023 by renowned Sydney-based photographer Joseph Mayers (Yorta Yorta), which were accompanied newly recorded interviews by Daniel Browning (Bundjalung / Kullilli), ABC journalist and radio broadcaster.

The exhibition originally featured as part of Sydney World Pride in 2023 and for the first time was exhibited in Victoria at the Victorian Pride Centre.

The online version is on our website: <https://queerarchives.org.au/posts/muru-ba/>

TransTrans : Transnational trans histories

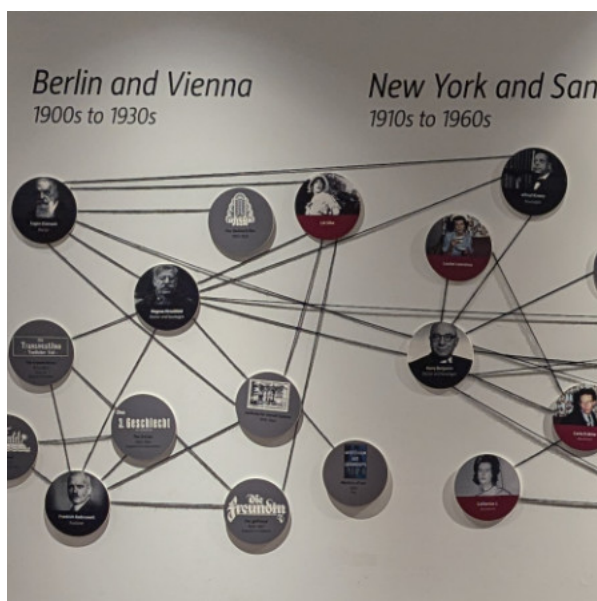
19 September–3 November 2024

The Australian Queer Archives collaborated with curators Birgit Lang (University of Melbourne) and Katie Sutton (Australian National University), and a local advisory board, including Greer McGearey (Seahorse Victoria), Michelle McNamara and Son Vivienne (Transgender Victoria), and Noah Riseman (author of *Transgender Australia*) to create a local version of the international *TransTrans : Transnational trans histories* exhibition in the Pride Gallery. This exhibition has been previously shown in Calgary, Berlin and Munich. It was originally conceived by Alex Bakker, Rainer Herrn, Michael Thomas Taylor, and Annette F. Timm.

Don't Be Too Polite: Feminist Posters and their Collectives

12 March–28 April 2025

The Australian Queer Archives produced the exhibition *Don't Be Too Polite: Feminist Posters and their Collectives* for the Victorian Pride Gallery, curated by Nick Henderson. This exhibition highlights the vital contributions of Australian lesbian-feminist artists and print collectives over the past five decades, showcasing their roles in LGBTIQ+ activism and artistic expression.



Programming

- Queer Stories: AQuA x NGV, 21 June 2025 As part of the on-going cultural partnership with NGV. Presentations with NGV Curators and AQuA were held at both NGV International and NGV Australia with the addition of an illuminating history walk between the two venues.
- Emerging Writers Festival Zine making workshop, September 2024
- Australian Queer Histories Conference, Friday 20 and Saturday 21 September 2024
- AQuA Stall, Midsumma Carnival, 21 January 2025
- Colouring Greek Love : panel and colouring workshop, AQuA Reading Room, 1 February 2025
- AQuA Stall, Mardi Gras Fair Day, 16 February 2025
- LGBTIQ+ Creative Bereavement session on zine making with Switchboard Victoria, 15 March 2025
- Artists in Conversation: Top, Don't Be Too Polite and Scars // Stars, Victorian Pride Gallery, 29 March 2025
- Open Day and Listening Post, Queer Multicultural Carnival, 7 June 2025
- 'History with Holi: remembering, recycling, reviving', hosted by Holi Dae Knight, 2025 Mr VicBears Billy, and AQuA's Dr Tim Jones, June 2025
- Q-Lit Festival Book Fair and Researching Our Culture event, June 2025
- Minus 18 Young Leaders History workshop at the AQuA Reading Room

News, media and presentations

AQuA Committee and volunteers presented at a range of forums, including:

- Tim Jones was interviewed as part of [Cait Kelly, From outlaw bushrangers who fell in love to a famous horseman born a woman](https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/28/australian-history-is-full-of-queer-stories)¹, Australia's history is full of queer stories, The Guardian, Sat 28 Jun 2025
- Clare O'Hanlon was interviewed as part of [Transforming Gender in Academia and the Archives](https://www.3cr.org.au/womenontheline/episode/transforming-gender-academia-and-archives)² | 3CR Community Radio and participated in [Q-Lit Festival: Researching Our Culture](https://www.q-lit.com.au/q-lit-festival-researching-our-culture)³ | Q-Lit and [Trans Book Festival 2025 Part 2: Panel - Unravelling Histories of Gender Diversity](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZUVQvGBIzM)⁴ - YouTube
- Angela Bailey was interviewed as part of [Queer Histories Queer Futures](https://www.3cr.org.au/queerhistoriesqueerfutures)⁵ | Merri-bek libraries and 3CR Community Radio
- Jacobin Bosman was part of a Panel: Art and Queerness in 19th Century Australia.

Exhibition loans

- *Melbourne Out Loud* – Midsumma edition, SLV
- *Future Foundations* exhibition – Counihan Gallery
- A history of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade, Australian Embassy in Beijing, June 2025

Films

- ABC TV Compass: Old habits, 2025: the wonderful new Compass episode 'Old habits', screening via ABC iview, which focuses on the Sydney House of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence. The documentary by Alfie Faber (Sister Beefcake Tenderloins) includes a little cameo for the Archives, donors and supporters Fabian LoSchiavo (Mother Inferior, Nun of the Above) and Gary Schliemann (Sister Mae Call of the Wild) and their collections.

¹ <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2025/jun/28/australian-history-is-full-of-queer-stories>

² <https://www.3cr.org.au/womenontheline/episode/transforming-gender-academia-and-archives>

³ <https://www.q-lit.com.au/q-lit-festival-researching-our-culture>

⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nZUVQvGBIzM>

⁵ <https://www.3cr.org.au/queerhistoriesqueerfutures>

Research

It has been a bustling year for research at AQUA, with work being undertaken and supported across a range of topics, including:

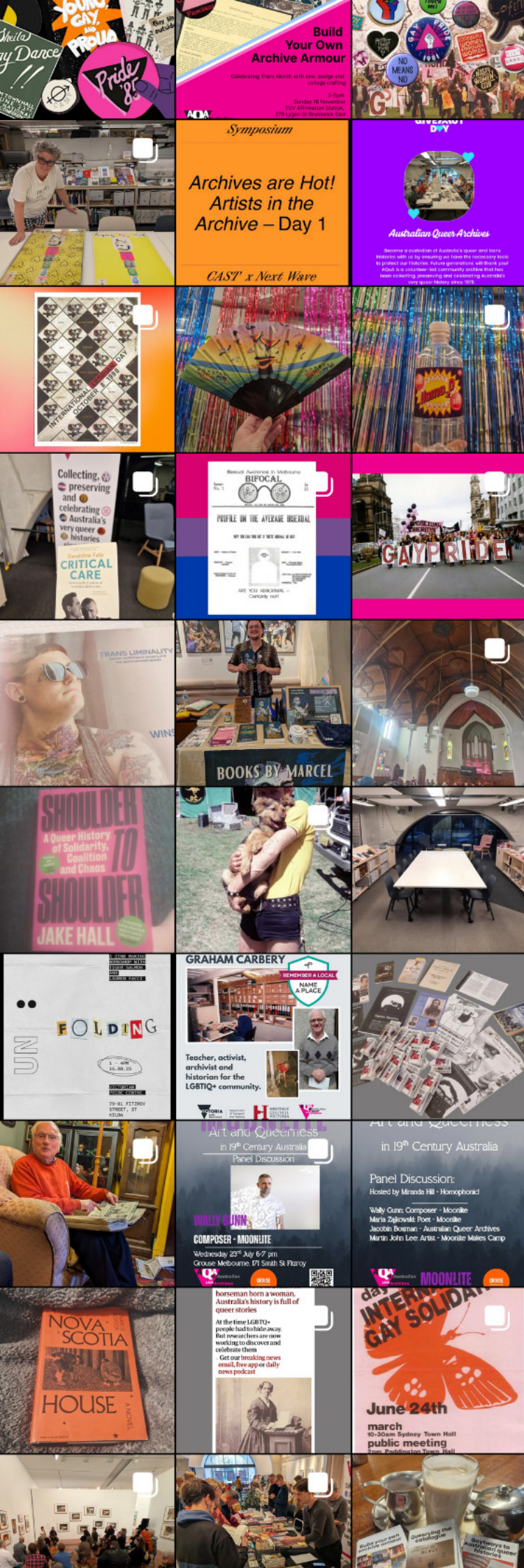
- HIV+ archival collections
- LGBTQ+ protest stickers
- bisexual activism
- Kings Beach, NSW
- City of Yarra
- City of Brimbank
- photographic albums
- First Nations collections
- trans collections
- Papers of Joan Nestle
- Australian LGBTQ+ cartoonists in the 1980s and 1990s
- South Australian homosexual law reform

among many other topics. We have been supporting the Queer Youth Histories project led by Daniel Marshall with Tim Jones, Mary Lou Rasmussen, Tinonee Pym and Alistair Ott throughout the year. We also supported visits from Charles Sturt University Library and Information studies students, ALIA Vic, and colleagues from the Aboriginal History Archive.

Research has been principally available onsite on Mondays 6–10 pm and Wednesdays 10 am–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 library card holders at the National Library as well as various state and university libraries.

Publications and art works produced drawing on AQUA's holdings included:

- Spaces to Be: A History of Bisexual Groups in Victoria
https://figshare.unimelb.edu.au/articles/report/Spaces_to_Be_A_History_of_Bisexual_Groups_in_Victoria/26143159/1?file=49141675
- Cult of Gay Relics and Queer Medievalism in 1980s Sydney* | Past & Present | Oxford Academic
<https://academic.oup.com/past/advance-article/doi/10.1093/pastj/gtae043/7912512>
- Before 'gender whisperers': morality, teacher employment and LGBTIQ+ futures: Sex Education
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/14681811.2024.2425412>
- Tracing our Memories: NAPWHA memory audit
<https://napwha.notion.site/tracingmemories>
- While We Still Have Time documentary
<https://filmfreeway.com/WhileWeStillHaveTime>
- Before Mardi Gras: Lesbian and Gay Activism in Australia, 1969–1978
<https://queerarchives.org.au/posts/shop/before-mardi-gras-lesbian-and-gay-activism-in-australia-1969-1978/>
- Candid enigma : the artful adventures of Andrew Hau Ewing
<https://www.dishevelbooks.com/store/p/candid-enigma-the-artful-adventures-of-andrew-hau-ewing>
- Heavy Grit, 2025 Winner of the \$100,000 Ramsay Art Prize, Art Gallery of South Australia. Work was originally commissioned by PICA and funded by Creative Australia.



Social Media

Facebook

AQuA's Facebook page and group continued to grow in number of likes and views throughout 2024-2025. The Facebook page continued to focus on posting short posts about events #OnThisDay, new acquisitions, researchers, volunteers and the work of our Committee Members.

AQuA's Facebook page has 15,529 followers (25 Sep 2025), which is marginally higher than the same time last year, 15,200. Our most popular posts included two #OnThisDay posts, on the 50th anniversary of South Australian homosexual law reform, and a 55th anniversary post on the CAMP NSW Australian article.

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.

Instagram

Our Instagram page has continued to grow in number of views and interactions, and we now have 2,900 followers (28 Sep 2025) compared to just over 1,000 this time last year. The main age ranges that we are reaching on Instagram are 25-34 and 35-44 years. Our most popular posts include posts marking LGBTIQ+ days of significance, #OnThisDay posts commemorating events in local LGBTIQ+ history, and posts highlighting new acquisitions.

LinkedIn

Engagement on LinkedIn has grown from 274 to 582 in the past year. It remains a useful space to connect with gallery, library, archives and museum students, workers and professional associations, researchers, and with LGBTIQ+ workers and organisations, and to share our work and job and volunteering opportunities.

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@AusQueerArchives



Collection management working group

In June the AQuA Committee endorsed the commencement of the Collection Management Working Group (CMWG). The CMWG group is made up of committee members (Eleanor Colla, Nick Henderson, Jonathan Sala) and volunteers (Gina Ramsay, Charlie Kirwan, Meghan Slater, Jasmin June, Cooper Blee, and Camille Ham), who first met to commence this work in August.

Throughout August–October, the group focused on updating AQuA's Collection Policy to ensure it is aligned with the new strategic plan and representative of where AQuA's collection capacity and focus currently is. The proposed Collection Policy was endorsed by the Committee in October.

Additionally, the group is creating a series of supporting documentation such as a Collection Development Strategy and Collection Management Policy, which will better enable the Collection Policy to be enacted.

A later stage of this work, and aligned with Project Monte, is the creation of procedure documentation in regard to accessioning and cataloguing items. This will allow those working on and with the collection to better accession, catalogue, and find items, whilst further adapting to the Content Management System being brought into AQuA workflows via Project Monte. This work is expected to continue into 2026.

See [page 22](#) for more on Project Monte.



Membership engagement

Thanks to all those who completed our membership engagement survey. We used the results as well as focus groups and environmental scans to inform our new strategic plan.

Most respondents had connected with or found out about us at Midsumma and exhibitions.

Email was the most direct way that members get updates from us and there was a strong preference for an email newsletter. The second preference for updates was the website, which we are working on improving.

Most respondents had contributed a financial or collection-related donation.

Most respondents were from the following age ranges:

- 65-75 years (18)
- 56-65 years (17)
- 36-45 and 46-55 (12 each)

Most respondents identified as cis gay or queer men, as well as a number of trans masc and nonbinary folks.

We received largely very positive qualitative feedback. We also received critical feedback highlighting the need for more regional, online, accessible, and trans community engagement. We look forward to being able to address this feedback through the implementation of our new strategic plan.

There was some interest in becoming more involved and supporting us through volunteering with a desire for clearer information around expectations (e.g. time commitment) and tasks. This year we have had a strong focus on improving the volunteer experience, creating more volunteering opportunities for those on our waiting list. We haven't yet had capacity to extend opportunities to members who were not on the volunteer waiting list.



Membership renewals

There were 388 financial members of AQuA in 2024-25, up from 364 in 2023-24.

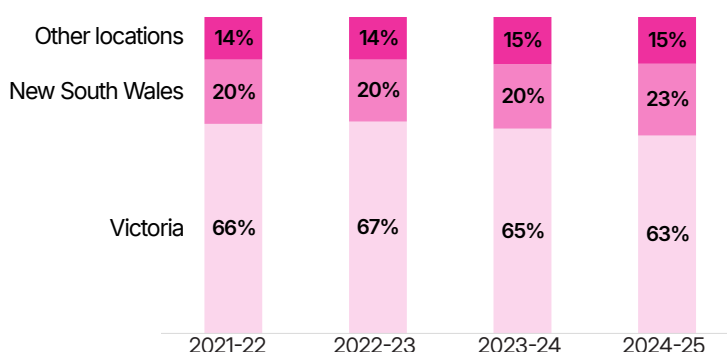
77 of last year's 364 members (21%) did not renew by the end of the membership year, partly offset by 53 new members and 8 people who re-joined as members after lapsing one or more years.

The attrition rate of 21% compares favourably with recent years: 34% in 2023-24, 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 26% in 2016-17.

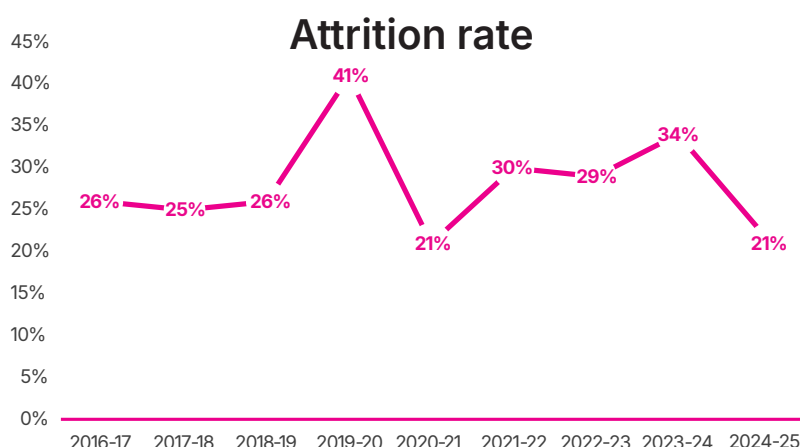
Analysis of this year's 77 non-renewals shows 35 (45%) joined the previous year (2022-23). As observed for the last few years, the challenge remains to more effectively engage with recently joining members.

AQuA's membership number increased steadily from 245 in 2008 to 454 in 2022, but since then, the number has plateaued in the mid to high 300s

This year the proportion of members from outside Victoria was 37%, similar to the past few years.



	2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		2024-25	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
ACT	15	3.3%	14	3.5%	14	3.8%	12	3.1%
NSW	92	20.3%	78	19.6%	74	20.3%	88	22.7%
NT	3	0.7%	3	0.8%	3	0.8%	2	0.5%
Qld	19	4.2%	13	3.3%	16	4.4%	16	4.1%
SA	11	2.4%	13	3.3%	10	2.7%	13	3.4%
Tas	4	0.9%	4	1.0%	3	0.8%	3	0.8%
Vic	301	66.3%	266	67.0%	235	64.6%	243	62.6%
WA	6	1.3%	5	1.3%	6	1.6%	8	2.1%
Overseas	3	0.7%	1	0.3%	3	0.8%	3	0.8%
Total	454	100%	397	100%	364	100%	388	100%



Donations

- Total donations: \$40,939.39 (excludes \$15,000 donation for a Research Fellowship over three years, treated as Income in Advance – see Balance Sheet)
- Number of separate donations: 278
- Number of individual donors: 214
- Number of donors who donated twice or more: 25
- Median: slightly less than \$27 (50% gave more, 50% gave less)
- Mean: \$147
- Largest individual donation: \$5,000 (x2)

Donations in previous years were:

- Total donations: \$46,975 in 2023-24 (from 315 separate donations, median donation about \$30)
- Total donations: \$141,421 in 2022-23 (from 445 separate donations, median donation about \$30) – included a single donation of \$100,000
- Total donations: \$120,227 in 2021-22 (from 152 separate donations, median donation \$30) – included a single donation of \$100,000
- Total donations: \$74,348 in 2020-21 (from 383 separate donations, median donation \$50) – special fundraising for Fit Out Appeal this year

	Donations	Total amount	Mean	% of total donation \$
0 to \$20	83	\$1,033.90	\$12	3%
\$21 to \$50	112	\$3,763.23	\$34	9%
\$51 to \$100	44	\$3,912.48	\$89	10%
\$101 to \$500	26	\$6,173.02	\$44	15%
\$501 to \$1000	5	\$4,478.00	\$895.60	11%
Over \$1000	8	\$21,578.76	\$2,697	53%
	278	\$40,939.39	\$147.26	100%
(214 donors)				

175 of the 278 separate donations (63%) in 2024-25 were from members, accounting for \$26,215 (64%) of donation income, compared with the equivalent proportions last year of 55% and 53%.

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 2024-25 was \$5,382 compared with \$4,953 in 2023-24, reflecting the slightly higher membership number this year, and a small increase in membership fees. Payments for new membership in Jan-June 2025 have been treated as income in advance for 2025-26, consistent with accrual accounting standards.

Thank you to our donors

Robert Aldrich
Dennis Altman
BB *in memory of Chris Thomas*
KB
RB
Barbara Baird
Michael Barnett
Anthony Black
Jacobin Bosman
Jude Bowler
William Brougham
AC
Gordon Campbell
Alana Canceri
Paul Caulfield
Christopher Cody
Nick Crotty
Lee-Anne D
Mannie De Saxe *in memory of Kendall Lovett*
Peter de Waal AM
Laura Lorcane Deriu
Peter Di Sciascio
Benjamin Dickens
Bruce Dixon
Carla Donnelly *in memory of Glen Gardner*
Louise Dressing
Alan Duncan
Digby Duncan
Claire Elder
Maureen Engel
Michael Fenaughty *in memory of Lottie*
Kat Frame
Elliot Freeman
Flic French
DG
Jamie Gardiner
Lynden Gare *in memory of Basil Raitz Stewart Thornton*
Melanie Gaylard *in memory of Ivy McGowan*
Ian Gould

Bruce Grant
Sally Gray *in memory of David McDiarmid*
Luke H
Michael Hall
Camilla Hannan
Brenton Head
Nick Henderson *in memory of Mannie De Saxe*
Trent Hennessey
David Hilliard OAM
Anthony Hillis
Richard Hogan
Hedon House
Sophie Hyde *in memory of Jim Hyde*
Jamie J
NJ
Thomas Jaspers
Sarah Johnson
David Johnston-Bell
Timothy Jones
William Jones
Richard Keeble
Leigh Keen *in memory of Graham Carbery*
Georgia Keighery *in memory of Fabian LoSchiavo*
Paul Kidd
Rob Lake
Birgit Lang *in memory of Tim McNamara*
Kate Lefoe
Kenton M
Toby McKinnon
Bruce Moore
Gregory Mossop
Joan Nestle *in memory of Ms Mabel Hampton*
JN
Merran (Mez) N
Max Niggl
Colin Nugent
Mark Orr

Dianne Otto
Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli *in memory of Jon Eliot*
Jemma Plantamura
Frank Prain
David Provan
Tegan R
Eric Riddler *in memory of Steve Duke*
Morgan Rogers
Mia Sanders *in memory of Victoria Black*
David Sansome
Teresa Savage
WS
Esther Singer *in memory of Annie Werner*
Jeff Slingsby *in memory of Graham Carbery*
Geoffrey Stewardson
Jeffrey Stewart *in memory of Allan Booth*
Peter Sutton
Imogen T
Fleur Taylor *in memory of Craig Andrew Walsh*
AT *in memory of Louise Smiser*
Alison Thorne
Bart van der Wel *in memory of Malcolm Grant Challen (c1947–1993)*
Chris Vernon
Don Vogt
RW
Warner Ward
James Whitmore
Chris Williams *in memory of Keith Frickleton*
Margaret Young

Anonymous donations were also made in memory of Kevin Anderson, Graham Carbery, David Middleton, Betty Overall and Oscar Wilde.

On GiveOut Day 2024, 20 people donated to AQUA to support digitisation of at risk audio-visual material. The campaign raised \$5,997, including \$1,998 in matched donations from GiveOut.

Bryden
Caitlyn
Cat
Clare

David
Hazel
Jessica
Kat

Kenton
Madeleine
Maggie
Sarah

Sebastian
TJ
6 anonymous donors

Vale

Claire Adaire
Victoria Brown (Miss Vic)
Ian Cherry
Jack Colwell
Cris Davis
Mannie De Saxe
Dr William Donohue
Richard Harding
Vaughan Hinton
Garry Lester
Race Matthews
Neil McLucas
Dr Nicholas Medland
Greg Millan
Peter Anthony O'Callaghan
Richard Peterson
David Polson
Gary Sauvarin
James Simpson
Mollie Smith
Brian Story
Peter Thompson (Ashley Roberts)
Bill Trott
Andrew Truman
Bill Whittaker



Acquisition highlights

AQuA's acquisition highlights cover the period since the previous annual report rather than the financial year. AQuA's acquisition numbers were notably lower than 2024; however, the acquisitions volume and significance were both still high, of note has been the number of additional donations to existing collections, as well as the number of newly published books including memoir and biography highlighting the importance of archival material and research drawing on our holdings.

Our largest ever archival collection was received earlier this year, a very substantial addition (~3 cubic metres) to the Papers of Kendall Lovett (1922-2020) and Mannie de Saxe (1926-2024), following the death of Mannie de Saxe in November 2024. This substantial collection documents the full breadth of their activist lives, from the early 1970s through to the late 2010s.

It was largely a quiet year with our Oral History Program, with a late flurry of recordings in September:

- Bev Lange interviewed by Nick Henderson, 18 April 2025
- Kitty Fischer interviewed by Barry McKay,
- Roderick (Rod) Smith interviewed by Nick Henderson, 26 September 2025
- Ritchie Finger (Cindy Pastel) interviewed by Nick Henderson, 27 September 2025
- Ayesha Kazan interviewed by Nick Henderson, 27 September 2025
- Mark Trevorrow (Bob Downe) interviewed by Nick Henderson, 28 September 2025

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. Thank you to all our donors, large and small, for supporting the development of our collections.

Archival collections

Papers of Kendall Lovett and Mannie de Saxe (addition)	Substantial addition (~3 cubic metres) documenting their activism for a diverse array of human rights causes, including gay liberation, gay prisoners, resident action, anti-apartheid and other solidarity activism, HIV/AIDS, Preston Markets, news media, radio, land rights, etc.
Papers of John Donnon	HIV/AIDS activism and support.
Papers of Sasha Soldatow (addition)	Papers documenting Sasha's writing and activism in the 1980s-1990s, as well as material relating to the publication of Sasha's biography by Inex Baranay.
Papers of Larry Strange	Papers documenting his relationship with Sasha Soldatow and Sasha's writing in the period 1977 through to 1983.
Papers of Belinda Chaplin	Papers include photographs and ephemera documenting Belinda's involvement in Les Girls Melbourne.
Papers of Sheila Cruze	Papers includes photographs, ephemera and posters, largely documenting Les Girls Sydney, with some Les Girls Melbourne and personal material.
Papers of John Rickard	Papers largely document John Rickard's interest in wrestling, including writing, correspondence, photographs and publications.
69ers Melbourne Ten Pin Bowling Collection	Collection of textiles and objects.
Tom Moore Collection	Collection of Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) tram uniforms and accompanying notes.

Archival collections (cont.)

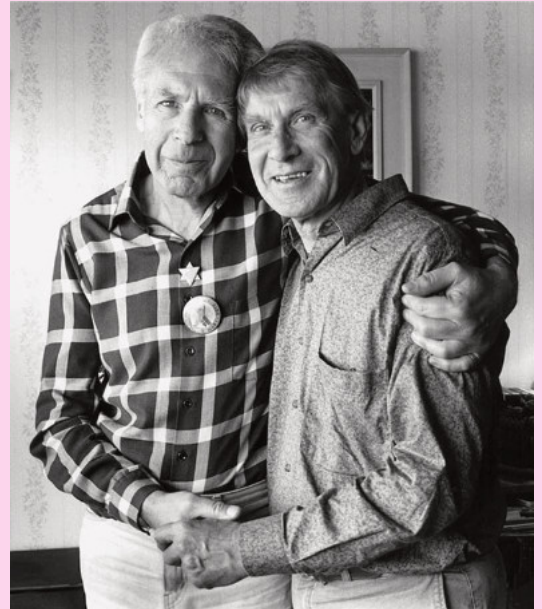
CMoore Hardy Collection (addition)	Substantial additions of negatives, proof sheets, slides, prints and papers.
Papers of Jeffrey Stewart (addition)	dog tag necklace; photo; colour slides of William Yang; ephemera; artwork by Bill Morley, Christine Dean, and Philip Juster.
Papers of Peter Thompson, aka Ashley Roberts (addition)	Papers document his involvement with the gay and lesbian community, including as a Melbourne-based community activist and journalist on gay and lesbian life in Australia.
Papers of Fabian LoSchiavo (addition)	Papers document the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence / Order of Perpetual Indulgence in Sydney, around Australia, and internationally.
Papers of Daniel Cater (Dallas Delaforce)	Album documenting creative process, including costume and graphic designs, as well as performance documentation.
Records of the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria (additions)	Two additions including a personal testimony of a holocaust survivor, as well as additional organisational papers relating to the closure of the group.
Paul van Reyk Collection (additions)	Photographs (~250) documenting Sydney gay and lesbian activism between 1980 and 1984, including the Gay Liberation Quire, Gay Solidarity Group, and Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence; and a textile hanging.
Papers of Maria Pallotta-Chiarolli (addition)	Papers relating to LGBTIQ+ multicultural activism.
Papers of Uma Kali Shakti	Papers document the life of Uma Kali Shakti, a performer, director, poet, playwright, broadcaster and library-worker, and self-described “black lesbian feminist”.
Papers of Malloy Rolfe	Personal papers and documentation of activism around LGBTIQ+ ageing.
Papers of Michael Barnett (addition)	Papers relating to LGBTIQ+ Jewish groups and activism in Melbourne.
Papers of Sylvia Kinder	Ephemera relating to the LGBTIQ+ community.
Papers of Jossi Clyde (addition)	Additional volumes of diaries.
Papers of Dino Hodge (addition)	Papers relating to Dino’s PhD research on Don Dunstan, as well as material relating to LGBTIQ+ community in Darwin.
Papers of Richard (Rachel) Allen	Photographs and papers relating to the LGBTIQ+ community in Canberra, including the Meridian Club, Bush Dance, Doo Dah Day, etc.
Papers of Rob Hepworth	Papers documenting Rob’s involvement with the Monash Gay Collective (1983–1984).
Papers of Elena Jeffreys	Papers document sex worker activism, including industrial relations within brothels such as Amore and Cleo’s, as well as a peepshow performer with Club X, and political activism against anti-sex worker Greens candidate Kathleen Maltzhan.
Oriette Wood Collection	Four screenprinted artworks by Oriette Wood, Naarm based printmaker, designer, seamstress and artist. Oriette’s work draws on trans exaltation, crossdressing forums, and early fetish art.
BootCo Brisbane Collection	BootCo Brisbane’s inaugural banner, produced for the first Brisbane Pride March in 1990, along with an accompanying 35th anniversary pin.
Records of the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria (addition)	We received two final additions to the Records of JLGW this year, as the group is winding up.
Nancy Peck Collection	Nancy Peck Collection, comprises ~30 activist tshirts, along with some unique personal clothing items, including a leather jacket and hat, along with some ephemera and videos of Nancy discussing her tshirts.
Ronald J. Butters Collection	Four artworks, including two by David McDiarmid, a copy of his artist book Toxic queen, and a print from his Rainbow Aphorisms Series, ‘That’s Miss Poofter to you asshole’ (1993, 2012); and two by Tony Ayres, ‘Giving head (at night), 1984, and Giving head (day time), 1984.
Sydney Silverbacks Wrestling Club Collection	Large collection of tshirts, wrestling suits, medals, and documents relating to the Club and its predecessor Harbour City Wrestling Club.

Ken and Mannie

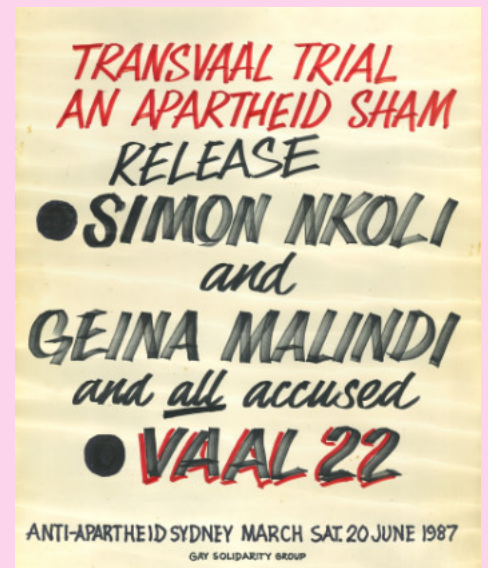
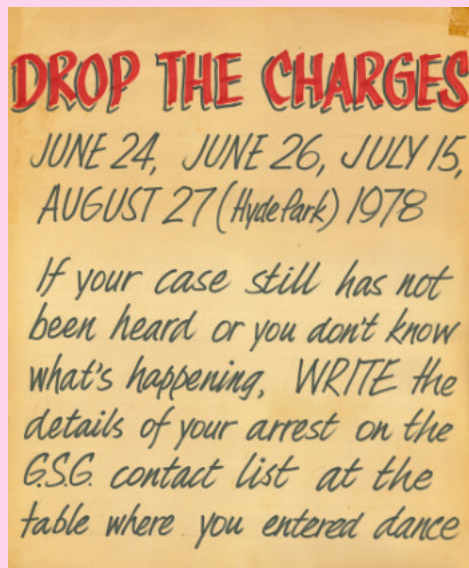
Collection showcase

The Papers of Kendall (Ken) Lovett (1922-2020) and Mannie de Saxe (1926-2024) document the lives of these two remarkable activists, whose activism across all human rights causes, from gay liberation to anti-apartheid work, HIV/AIDS to saving the Preston Markets. Both Ken and Mannie were long-term volunteers with the Archives, who even into their late 90s maintained strong connections with us. They had previously donated a notable collection of papers (~25 boxes), covering various aspects of their activism, which has been substantially extended through acquiring the remainder of their papers (~3 cubic metres).

The volume and breadth of this addition will mean that the processing will take some time; however, notable aspects include extensive numbers Ken's iconic hand-lettered placards, posters, and material documenting Ken's activism with Gay Solidarity Group, prison activism through Inside Out, Ken and Mannie's work with Sydney Park AIDS Memorial Group (SPAIDS), and much more.



Mannie De Saxe (L) and Kendall Lovett (R), [2007] / David Urquhart



Clockwise from left:

Another queer against apartheid, [1987] / Kendall Lovett

Abusive letters, 1978 / Kendall Lovett for Gay Solidarity Group

Someone has to care : World AIDS Day, [1990s] (Prison AIDS Project)

Transvaal trial ..., 20 June 1987 / Kendall Lovett for Gay Solidarity Group

Gail Lord at the IWD March, 1984 / Kendall Lovett



Uma Kali Shakti

Collection showcase

Uma Kali Shakti was a performer, director, poet, playwright, broadcaster and library-worker, and self-described “black lesbian feminist” and “working-class Black Wog dyke, who has hidden disabilities.” Uma was born in Fiji of Rajasthani (Indian) decent, raised in Auckland (Aotearora / New Zealand), and was largely based in Sydney, Australia.

Following her death earlier this year, AQUA received a wonderful small collection of papers, which document her life through her poetry, plays, theatre production work, and involvement in black and migrant lesbian-feminist activism. This collection complements our strong holdings of her broadcast work with Gaywaves (2SER) in the Bill West Collection.

AQUA showcased these holdings during the Queer Multicultural Carnival in June, highlighting Uma’s papers, and activism with groups like the Black, Ethnic and Third World Women Group, Australian LGBTQ Multicultural Council (AGMC), and with London-based groups like the Mukti Collective.



Uma Kali Shakti (L) and Greg Reading (R) broadcasting Gaywaves, November 2002 / Natalie Boog for SMH

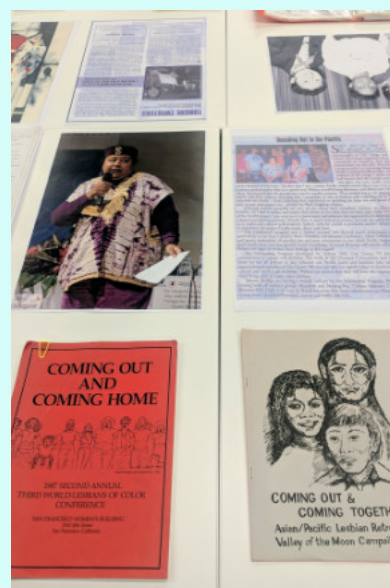
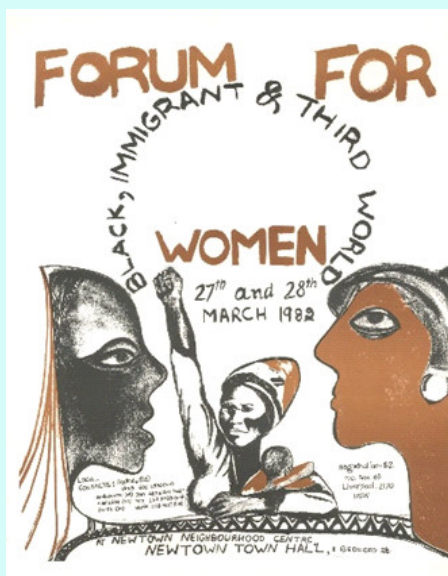


Clockwise from left:

Uma Kali Shakti holding the Gaywaves banner, Club 80 raid march, 5 Feb 1980 / Kendall Lovett

Forum for Black, Immigrant & Third World Women, 27-28 March 1982, Poster Collection

Three photographs from the Queer Multicultural Carnival display, 7 June 2025



Project Monte

Project Monte is AQuA's project to establish an online catalogue system to enable researchers anywhere in the world to find material in our collection. Since 2020 other IT projects took priority, but in 2024 a new team was assembled with skills in IT, libraries and archives. Owen O'Neill, Hazel Kearns-Rees, Michael Degano and Mike Jones, committee members Jonathan Sala and Nick Henderson and our office coordinator Claudine Chionh have been led by Richard Keeble and Neal Fitzgerald.

The team started by reviewing earlier documents describing requirements and potential collection management systems. From the nearly seventy potential systems a short list of five candidates was selected based on how well they matched AQuA's requirements. These systems' vendors provided demonstrations and approximate costs.

Three were eliminated after initial assessment: ArchivesSpace requires a high level of expertise to use and its ongoing support as an open source system is uncertain; AM Digital's Quartex is a digital asset management system rather than a collection management system and was eliminated on price; Axiell Collections is a comprehensive collection management system for galleries, archives, libraries and museums, but was also eliminated on price. Recollect and Lucidea's ArchivEra remained on the short list.

The choice between Recollect and ArchivEra was difficult. Both systems fulfilled AQuA's requirements and the prices of the two products are similar. The team, with input from our volunteer coordinators and committee identified the most significant differences between the products, the relative importance of each requirement and carefully rated how well each fulfilled the requirements. ArchivEra scored highest and has been selected. We aim to have a five-year contract signed in November with Justice Connect assisting in a legal review of the contract.

The team will prepare an initial tranche of catalogue entries to be imported late this year or early next year which will allow online discovery of AQuA's archival collections, books, badges, periodicals and oral histories. In the first quarter of 2026 the team will prepare a second tranche expected to be objects, theses, ephemera and associated subcollections, t-shirts and other textiles. A final tranche will be prepared later in 2026 of the most challenging catalogue data which requires extensive re-work. This includes posters, newspaper clippings, articles and audio-visual material.

The initial set up of the system has been funded by a grant from the Victorian Government Department of Families, Fairness and Housing and ongoing fundraising will help to pay the annual subscription costs of the new system.

Monte Punshon (1882-1989) lived most of her life in Melbourne. In 1982, at age 100, she visited Pennies lesbian night in St Kilda. She immediately became something of a celebrity, often referred to as 'the world's oldest lesbian'. Her scrapbooks, filled with clippings of articles and pictures of women who did not confirm to gender norms of their time, are held by the Australian Queer Archives.



(L) Monte and friends, on the cover of City Rhythms, 1980s
(C) Celebrating a camp wedding with friends, Monte is 3rd from the right, 1920s
(R) Monte Punshon, 1980s



Communications Working Group

In June this year, Clare, Jessie and Alan had a meeting about re-invigorating the Communications Working Group, and we decided to call for volunteers who may be interested in participating in this group.

Six volunteers joined us at the initial meeting in July, - Maria Dunne, Cody Lee-Oppedisano, Andrew Phillips, Kim Vy Ngo, Jasmin Wu and Yuqi Wen, with Chris Mann recently joining the group.

At the initial meeting, we discussed what the group had researched about current AQuA comms and how the working group could enhance and expand AQuA's engagement with the community. A range of activities were discussed, with some priorities determined - an AQuA institutional brochure, a more dynamic social media presence, and some form of free promotional merchandise.

The group decided to work on each of these priorities in smaller groups and to bring back at the next meeting some concepts for further discussion. We initiated a WhatsApp group to enable off-site conversations.

A second meeting was held in August with a scaled down attendance of three. Cody and Andrew presented brochure concepts and Cody provided examples of promotional badges. I discussed with the group the development of AQuA's Strategic Plan and we decided that an institutional brochure should supplement the concept and design of that Plan and we would put on hold any further development until it had been finalised.

We discussed the limited time schedule for the rest of the year and determined that the Zine style information handout designed by Cody and promotional badges, all of which could be produced quite quickly and inexpensively, should be our priority and be ready for distribution at our Midsummer presence in 2026.

We are continuing to refine both of these offerings in preparation of 2026.

Treasurer's report

AQuA's result for the financial year 2024–25 is a net loss of \$9k. This result represents a significant drop in the organisation's profit from financial year 2023–24 (\$340k net profit). This was mainly due to the organisation receiving a \$250k bequest from the **Estate of Kevin Alexander Anderson** and \$42k net income of St Alban's Bingo's operations in 2023–24.

The organisation's total equity as of 30 June 2025 was \$1.275m (decreased from \$1.284m as of 30 June 2024)

Income

Total trading income was \$152k – full details can be found in the accounts (attached).

Significant income items include:

- Donation income (\$41k) – details in the membership report.
- Royalties from Gale for our participation in their digitisation of Australian queer periodicals (\$34k).
- Interest income from term deposits placed with Commonwealth Bank (\$24k).
- Bequest from Estate of Donald Bay (\$17k).

Expenditure

Total operating expenses: \$161k – full details can be found in the accounts over the page.

Significant expenses include:

- Staff remuneration (\$49k), comprising salaries and wages (\$45k) and superannuation (\$4k)
- VPC Amenities Fee (shown as Office outgoings) (\$42k)
- Storage (\$14k) for permanent collections held off-site
- Digitisation (\$14k) – \$9k of the digitisation expense was covered by a Federal Government Community Heritage Grant which will be acquitted in 2025–26
- Depreciation (\$9k)
- Bookkeeping fees (\$7k)

Cash Position

- Bank: \$193k
- Term deposit: \$1.1m

Other developments

As the interest rate keeps falling, the Finance-subcommittee is looking to move the \$1m term deposit into a managed fund to generate higher income to help paying the expenses. A proposal has been received from **Crestone Wealth Management** as a potential fund manager.

The strategic plan envisages staffing increases to increase our organisational capacity, which will require significant fundraising.

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), and **Gary Jaynes** (long-term, honorary volunteer bookkeeper).

2025–26 Outlook

AQuA's revenues apart from donations and interest rely mainly on bequests and GALE royalty income which are unpredictable in nature. Interest rates on term deposit keep falling as the economy has softened and inflation is in control. AQuA should be ready to take up more risk to maximise the return of investments to help pay for expenses.



I looked at some old dykey and riot grrrl zines, 5 June 2024 / Josephine Waite

Profit and loss

Australian Queer Archives
for the year ended 20 June 2025

	2025	2024
Trading Income		
Archival Services	780.00	1,400.00
Bequests	18,738.41	250,000.00
Donation Income	40,939.39	46,975.43
Event Registrations	231.82	-
Fundraising	3,846.01	77,602.96
Grants – Federal Government	9,120.00	-
Grants – State Government	-	2,000.00
Interest Received	24,359.09	54,294.58
Membership Fees	5,381.82	4,953.21
Reproduction Fees	2,480.91	87.27
Royalties	34,277.58	64,927.50
Sales – Postage	92.74	32.73
Sales – Publications	3,225.87	1,370.72
Sundry Income	8,835.46	1,869.10
Total Trading Income	152,309.10	505,513.50
Gross Profit	152,309.10	505,513.50
Operating Expenses		
Airfares	-	272.73
Archival Supplies	4,263.61	4,968.21
Awards and Prizemoney	454.55	-
Bank Fees	68.24	71.62
Bookkeeping Fees	7,260.00	7,650.00
Catering	4,370.27	473.14
Cleaning	614.25	675.91
Couriers	882.13	-
Depreciation	8,821.47	13,263.75
Digitisation	13,975.00	3,430.00
Event Registrations for AQUA	674.54	824.72
Fundraising expenses	-	36,454.60
Gifts	318.17	45.45
Insurance	3,203.66	3,552.44
Internet Connection	374.51	109.08
IT Software Subscription	1,010.93	1,000.54
Merchandise Costs – Publications	2,259.57	715.49
Merchant Fees	790.28	1,232.19
Office Amenities	985.71	762.11
Office Outgoings	42,236.07	32,016.84
Photocopier	371.18	322.01
Postage	242.41	252.58
Printing	-	979.08
Recruitment	320.00	-
Repairs and Maintenance	1,360.00	-
Security	50.00	-
Stationery	387.02	683.33
Storage	14,060.53	10,701.72
Sundry Expenses	-	544.82
Superannuation	4,128.93	4,221.74
Travel – Domestic	311.06	1,071.55
Venue Hire	1,395.90	-
Wages and Salaries	45,045.07	38,379.43
Website	555.10	321.27
WorkCover	349.20	330.00
Total Operating Expenses	161,139.36	165,326.35
Net Profit	(8,830.26)	340,187.15

Australian Queer Archives
as at 30 June 2025

	30 June 2025	30 June 2024
Assets		
Bank		
CASH FLOAT	-	60.00
Debit card	724.00	545.05
Gift Account	78,776.15	529.33
Online Saver	17,635.13	15,587.00
Ordinary Account	95,862.61	113,641.26
Total Bank	192,997.89	130,362.64
Current Assets		
Accrued Income	-	5,046.13
Cash In Transit	1,780.75	1,400.76
Debtors	1,815.00	396.00
Inventory	5,986.85	7,369.31
Prepayments	-	2,661.58
Term Deposit – 1	1,000,000.00	1,000,000.00
Term Deposit – 2	100,000.00	100,000.00
Total Current Assets	1,109,582.60	1,116,873.78
Fixed Assets		
Accumulated Depreciation – Computer and Office Equipment	(18,425.52)	(11,433.90)
Accumulated Depreciation – Office Fitout	(3,659.70)	(1,829.85)
Computer and Office Equipment	27,841.47	27,841.47
Office Fitout	28,261.63	28,261.63
Total Fixed Assets	34,017.88	42,839.35
Total Assets	1,336,598.37	1,290,075.77
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Accrued Expenses	-	2,558.79
Creditors	2,125.66	62.71
GST	(2,468.54)	(1,997.83)
Income in Advance	59,848.18	4,225.00
Rounding	(0.05)	
Total Current Liabilities	59,505.25	4,848.67
Non-current Liabilities		
PAYG Withholdings	1,986.35	868.67
Superannuation Payable	(421.40)	-
Total Non-current Liabilities	1,564.95	868.67
Total Liabilities	61,070.20	5,717.34
Net Assets	1,275,528.17	1,284,358.43
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	1,284,358.43	944,171.28
Current Year Earnings	(8,830.26)	340,187.15
Total Equity	1,275,528.17	1,284,358.43

Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting

Organisation: Australian Queer Archives

Date: Thursday 14 November 2024

Venue: Victorian Pride Centre Theatrette and via Zoom

Status: Draft

Meeting opened at: 6:30pm

Opening and Acknowledgement of Country

Tim Jones

Attendees

Stephen Adcock, Gregory Axtens, Ange Bailey, Samantha Baker, Michael Barnett, Damien Bosman, Jacobin Bosman, Alyson Campbell, Nadine Castillo, Glenn Chapman, Claudine Chionh, Joel Crotty, Peter Di Sciascio, Kimberley Dunt, Chris Friday, Larry Galbraith, Sharon Hamilton, Nick Henderson, Luke Hockley, Erica Hoehn, Deborah Hunn, Michael Hurley, Mazz Image, Gary Jaynes, Timothy Jones, Richard Keeble, Paul Kidd, Colin Krycer OAM, Birgit Lang, Alan Lawrie, Susan Long, Gene Melzack, David Menadue, Michaël Monty, Bruce Moore, Erwin Mursalim, Beau Newham, Clare O'Hanlon, Joko Praesojo, David Provan, Jonathan Sala, Thomas Seddon, Trevor Sutherland, Jean Taylor, Chris Vernon, Dale Withers

Apologies and proxies when nominated

Dennis Altman, Eleanor Colla, Bruce Dixon, Sheryl Johnstone, Peter Lambropoulos (Proxy: Angela Bailey), Mark Riley, Noah Riseman (Proxy: Tim Jones), Peter Sherlock (Proxy: Tim Jones)

Confirmation of the minutes of the 2023 AGM held on 26 October 2023

Moved: Chris Friday

Seconded: Michaël Monty

Approved: Passed by consensus

Office bearers' reports

President

- Tim spoke to last year's question about accessibility
- Volunteer engagement and retention
- Financial strategy
- New cycle of strategic plan
- Addition to Victorian Heritage Register
- Research Fellowship in memory of Kevin Anderson
- Question from Chris Friday re: Future Fund
 - This comprises bequests and other large donations.
 - Currently held in term deposits.
- Greg Axtens noted that he is happy to assist AQuA with accessibility and inclusion strategy

Secretary

- Communications – launched Instagram account
- Thanks to outgoing membership subcommittee
- Volunteer engagement
- Improving trans inclusion in the collection, and making AQuA more welcoming for trans volunteers, researchers, and artists

Treasurer

- Presented profit and loss report and balance sheet
- Depreciation is a new expense in the budget
- 2024–2025 outlook – loss of bingo income
- Introduced members of finance subcommittee – Gary, Bree, Ange

Motion to formally accept the treasurer's report

Moved: Michaël Monty

Seconded: Chris Friday

Approved: Passed by consensus

Motion to approve number of Ordinary committee members as 7

Moved: Timothy Jones

Seconded: Richard Keeble

Approved: Passed by consensus

Election of committee members

- President: Timothy Jones
- Vice-President: Angela Bailey
- Treasurer: Erwin Mursalim
- Secretary: Clare O'Hanlon
- Ordinary members: Eleanor Colla, Elliot Freeman, Nick Henderson, Richard Keeble, Alan Lawrie, Jonathan Sala.

This leaves a vacancy for one additional Ordinary member.

There are fewer nominations than places, therefore an election is not needed.

Other business

Thesis prize winner

Tim announced the winning and highly commended entrants for the 2022–2023 thesis prize.

- Winner: Samantha Baker
- Highly commended: Jacobin Bosman

Volunteer awards

Tim announced this year's volunteer awards and presented Gary and Trevor with a certificate of appreciation.

- Sheryl Johnstone – badges
- Kimberley Dunt – outgoing committee member
- Outgoing membership team
 - Gary Jaynes
 - Trevor Sutherland
 - Bruce Dixon

Acquisition highlights

Nick

Meeting closed at: 7:35pm. Followed by presentation by Jacobin Bosman on 'Political Bodies: Sexuality and Gender in Early Colonial Victoria'.



@AusQueerArchives



mail@queerarchives.org.au



/AQuArchives



queerarchives.org.au