

Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa (PHANZA)

President's Report for 2016-17

This year, my first as president, has been somewhat quiet for PHANZA, although it follows on the heels of a successful mini-conference last year.

Perhaps the most significant event for the organisation was last November's Seddon earthquake, which put the capital city's two major research institutions out of action for months. This was a major problem for researchers and historians and many of our members were, at best, seriously inconvenienced or, worst, left considerably out of pocket. PHANZA lobbied on members' behalf but the communication from both institutions was irregular and never very informative. It took a long time for services to return to normal but we hope lessons have been learned by both institutions about how to keep the public up to date.

We produced the usual three issues of *Phanzine* and Marguerite Hill and Margaret Tennant did an excellent job of putting these together. The content was always interesting and, needless to say, judiciously and professionally edited.

It is with great regret that we say goodbye to three of our longest serving committee members. Our Secretary Karen Astwood has set standards of efficiency and productivity that constantly amaze those of us less blessed. She has been cheerful and helpful and never less than completely committed to improving the organisation's service to its members. It will be hard to replace Karen.

Our Treasurer Eileen Barrett-Whitehead was on the committee when I left eight years ago, so I think she is entitled to take her leave. Historians don't necessarily make enthusiastic treasurers and I have little doubt that Eileen's heart is not in numbers either but she put in a huge amount of time and effort to make sure she knew what she was doing. This left her well placed to keep the committee informed and the excellent set of accounts she has prepared for the AGM backs this up. Eileen will be missed.

Marguerite was also on the committee back in 2009 and she has kept at it ever since, taking on various roles and doing them willingly. Most recently she has been editing *Phanzine* with Margaret. Even more remarkably, in that time she has lived in three cities. PHANZA would not be able to function without the selfless work of people like Marguerite. Again, she will be missed.

It has been enjoyable getting to know the committee, particularly over Skype, and now I have a year under my belt I hope we'll achieve more next year. I would like to thank Paul Husbands, David Young, Sarah Burgess, Sandra Gorter, Lucy Mackintosh, as well as the aforementioned Karen, Eileen, Marguerite and Margaret.

Michael Kelly

President

27 September 2017