

Phanzine

Newsletter of the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa

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Editorial – 2013 in review

Welcome to the August issue of *Phanzine*. As we've just held our AGM we thought it would be timely to review the Committee's activities over 2012-13.

Since taking over as Phanza President in 2011 I've been pleased to see the Committee's membership outside of Wellington increase, first with David Verran, an Auckland-based member who joined the Committee in 2011, and then Margaret Tennant, a Palmerston North-based member who joined us in 2012. Margaret remains on the Committee for the next year, and in this *Phanzine* issue she provides some news from the Manawatu.

David leaves the Committee and will no longer be contributing his regular *Phanzine* column 'News from the North'. We thank him for his contribution to the Committee and particularly to *Phanzine*. Fortunately our treasurer, Andrew Gregg, recently moved to Auckland. He has not only agreed to stay on as treasurer, holding regular Skype sessions with the Committee, but also to take over where David left off as *Phanzine*'s Auckland correspondent. We are really pleased that Geoff Rice indicated at the AGM that he is willing to represent Christchurch interests on the Committee. I encourage members elsewhere in New Zealand to contribute news from their areas to editor@phanza.org.nz or notices to secretary@phanza.org.nz.

We have also found another way to increase our visibility in the South Island. Later this year we will be holding a mini-conference in Dunedin. Anyone interested in participating or assisting should contact Bronwyn Dalley who is leading this conference.

I hope many of you will attend.

Over the past year we've continued to work on our relationship with the Alexander Turnbull Library and National Library. We hope ongoing efforts in this area will allow us to readily raise issues of concern to members with these institutions, and to pass on news from them to our members. We've continued similar efforts with Archives New Zealand. In particular we've been providing further feedback on their appraisal framework which we expect to be able to circulate to members in due course. We've also started to consider how we can work better with local council archives (see articles in this issue of *Phanzine*).

Phanzine has continued to be ably managed by the enthusiastic Margaret Pointer and our wonderful secretary Marguerite Hill has continued to make sure the Committee and the members (and the occasional inquirer) get all the information they need and everything else runs smoothly. We thank Ewan Morris for agreeing to take on the editorship of *Phanzine*, and Karen Astwood for offering to assist Marguerite with the key role of secretary on the new committee.

This concludes my time as PHANZA President. I have had a great time on the Committee. I want to thank all of the Committee and Phanza members I've worked with over the past six years and wish the new Committee all the best for the coming year.

Imelda Bargas
Outgoing President

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PO BOX 1904, THORNDON,
WELLINGTON

Centenary of the 1913 strike

2013 marks the centenary of the Great Strike of 1913. Many PHANZA members are interested in labour history, and a number are also members of the Labour History Project (LHP). For this issue of Phanzine, we asked our colleagues (or should that be comrades?) in the LHP to reflect on the strike and report on some exciting projects to mark its centenary.

Forgetting and remembering 1913

Jim McAloon, recently elected chair of the LHP, recalls his own experience of discovering the history of the 1913 strike and outlines the origins of the LHP

The Great Strike of 1913 seemed for a long time to have been less well remembered than the Maritime Strike of 1890 or the waterfront lockout of 1951. The latter, of course, is well within living memory and still frequently recalled. In many historical accounts, the Maritime Strike was conveniently attached to the 1890 general election which brought the long-lived Liberal government to power. Perhaps 1913 was overshadowed by the outbreak of world war nine months later; perhaps, because it was not immediately followed by a dramatic political change, as the Maritime Strike had been, it was not regarded as a turning point.

Of course, historians had not ignored the 1913 strike: Keith Sinclair, Barry Gustafson, Len Richardson and Erik Olssen had all written about it in different contexts. I encountered the 1913 strike as a Master's student at the University of Canterbury between 1983 and 1985. Len Richardson taught a paper in New Zealand labour history, and since my research exercise (and subsequently my thesis) was a study of Labour's political organisation in Christchurch over the decade before 1914, I came to think that the importance of 1913 had been greatly under-rated.

It seemed to me that, although the strikers were defeated, the experience of 1913 was crucial in reinforcing a process of political and industrial unification around more or less socialist aspirations. In short, Prime Minister WF Massey's right wing may

have won the battle but in the longer term they lost the war, a view reinforced for me by Olssen's judgement that Labour's 1935 election victory was a long-delayed revenge for the industrial defeat and state repression of 1913.

I remember in the August break of 1983 coming up to Wellington to look at the *Maoriland Worker* for that preliminary research paper. I had already read a fair amount about the strike in the *Lyttelton Times* and found it difficult to believe that machine guns and British naval troops had been deployed on New Zealand wharves.

The Alexander Turnbull Library was at that time still housed in the old Turnbull House. As I climbed the stairs I walked past portraits of Joseph Ward (the great disappointment of organised labour) and

of Robert Stout, the reactionary Chief Justice who torpedoed the strike by declaring solidarity funds illegal, jailed Harry Holland for a year on dubious charges of sedition arising from a speech Holland made during the strike – and then for good measure sat on the appeal of the sentence he had imposed! As if all this wasn't enough to make one feel that the ghosts of the past were with us still, the *USS Texas* was in Wellington Harbour, silent and menacing, reinforcing Prime Minister Muldoon's view of the world. I made the short walk up to Harry Holland's grave, thinking that things seemed to have gone full circle in seventy years.

“I have long thought that the wave of militant unionism, evident across the globe from Dublin to Colorado to Auckland and Wellington in the years immediately before 1914, was one part of a crisis decade that exploded into open war in 1914.”



A protest march in Auckland during Waterfront Strike. Photograph taken by William A Price in Nov 1913.
Ref: 1/2-000185-G, Price Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.

Eleven months later, Muldoon would be swept away. The Labour government which followed thought it desirable to encourage the amalgamation of small, regional, occupationally-specific unions, hoping that a reorganised union movement might become more of a partner with business and the state in promoting economic growth. At this time, a number of committed trade unionists sought to ensure that the trade union movement's history was not forgotten. This initiative led to the formation in 1987 of the Trade Union History Project. The Project sought to encourage the recording of trade union histories, the preservation of relevant records, and the development of the necessary skills in historical work. Michael Bassett, the Minister of Internal Affairs and himself a historian, secured a significant measure of government funding for the TUHP's work.

More recently, the organisation has changed its name to the Labour History Project, which allows a somewhat wider focus while still remaining consistent with the original agenda. Currently the organisation has around a hundred members, including a

number of unions, and produces a regular newsletter or bulletin which, if we do say so ourselves, is of high quality (see the LHP website www.lhp.org.nz). In its quarter-century the TUHP/LHP has funded and advised on the publication of a significant number of historical works (in print, film, and recording), organised many seminars to note important anniversaries, and published a number of collections of essays arising from those anniversaries.

One of those anniversary seminars, a decade ago, noted the 90th anniversary of the 1913 strike, and subsequently the book *Revolution*, edited by Melanie Nolan, was published. By then, the strike was figuring more prominently in historical memory, and more contentiously. I have long thought that the wave of militant unionism, evident across the globe from Dublin to Colorado to Auckland and Wellington in the years immediately before 1914, was one part of a crisis decade that exploded into open war in 1914. Historians of all sorts will, no doubt, be working overtime reflecting on memory and anniversary in the next few years, and it now seems unlikely that 1913 will be forgotten.



Massey's Special Constables on horseback at Mount Cook Barracks, Wellington, during the 1913 Waterfront Strike. Photographer unidentified. Ref: 1/2-096909-F, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington

Wellington 1913 centenary walks

Peter Clayworth gives us a preview of guided walks around Wellington's sites of struggle

The 100-year anniversary of the Great Strike of 1913 falls this October and November. To mark this flash-point of class conflict, a group of Wellington historians and other interested local people have been working on a series of events to commemorate the strike. These events are being organised in association with the Labour History Project and with the help of the Museum of City and Sea and the National Library. The centrepiece will be a series of walks taking place each Sunday in November, along with an evening walk on Tuesday 19 November. The walks will visit the scenes of some of the more dramatic events of the strike in central city Wellington.

The dispute of 1913 began as a watersiders' and miners' strike, thereby affecting port cities and mining towns throughout New Zealand. It also involved

rural people around the dominion. Some rural labourers, the Manawatu flax workers for example, supported the strike. For the vast majority of rural people, however, the strike was viewed as a threat to their livelihood. The biggest rural commitment during the strike was made by the thousands of farmers and farm labourers who made their way to the cities as mounted special constables, the notorious 'Massey's Cossacks'. For young, and some not-so-young, rural men it was a great adventure setting off to have a crack at the 'Red Feds'. In cities such as Wellington, they were joined by 'foot specials' from the urban middle class, shop clerks, office workers and students.

The strike was more widespread in Auckland, while it lasted longest on the West Coast where some

of the mines remained on strike into January 1914. Wellington, however, was the scene of the most violent events, often going beyond strike issues. People in working class areas such as Mount Cook resented the specials, regarding them as a drunken rural army of occupation. Buckle Street, where most of the specials were quartered, and the Royal Tiger Hotel on Taranaki Street, which became the specials' pub, were the scenes of several major riots. Post Office Square, venue for some of the largest strikers' meetings, also witnessed charges by mounted, baton-wielding specials. The 'battle of Featherston Street' on 5 November involved stone-throwing strike supporters fighting back against Massey's Cossacks.

Wellington was described as being in a state of 'Mexican civil war and anarchy'. Buildings were besieged by stone-throwing crowds, machine guns were deployed at a number of sites (fortunately they were never used), while revolvers were used freely by both sides in a number of the clashes. There were many arrests, with numerous injuries on both sides. The fact that no one was killed seems to have come down to good luck and poor weaponry rather than any restraint on either side.

The exercise of researching the Wellington strike has been a fascinating one. In addition to published works and theses, Papers Past has proved an invaluable aid to tracking down the sites of the buildings and events of 1913. Members of our committee have searched through the records in the Wellington City Archives and chased down material at Archives New Zealand. The Alexander Turnbull Library has some brilliant strike photographs and a range of valuable documents. These include the minute books of the Employers', Farmers' and Citizens' Committee, which clearly spell out their aim of destroying the United Federation of Labour.

The November 2013 guided walks will take in a range of the central city sites that featured prominently during the strike. They will begin at the Museum of City and Sea, which in 1913 was the Bond Store and headquarters of the Wellington Harbour

“We’ll stop outside the old Whitcombe and Tombs building, where revolver-wielding shop clerks held off a crowd keen on roughing up a couple of foot specials they had chased into the book shop.”

Board. The Harbour Board was one of the employers involved in the Ship Wrights' and Watersiders' disputes that sparked off the strike in Wellington. Some other places of importance in the story of the strike's opponents include the sites of the various barracks at Buckle Street, where the specials were quartered; the Star Boating Club where young ladies of the middle class served tea to specials such as Bernard Freyberg; and the location of the wood turning factory on Courtenay Place, where batons were manufactured (subjected to a mysterious arson attack in the early weeks of the strike).

The walks will take in the sites of major conflict, such as Post Office Square, Featherston Street, Buckle Street and the site of the Royal Tiger. We'll stop outside the old Whitcombe and Tombs building, where revolver-wielding shop clerks held off a crowd keen on roughing up a couple of foot specials they had chased into the book shop. The places where strike supporters congregated will be pointed out, including the AMP building, once the site of the United Federation of Labour and Social Democratic Party offices; the Albermarle Hotel, accommodation house and war office for visiting revolutionists; and Te Aro School, formerly the Terrace Gaol, where such luminaries as Peter Fraser, Harry Holland and Bob Semple were imprisoned for sedition.

Another aim of the walks is to illustrate the vibrant, radical culture existing in pre-war Wellington, as a strong minority strand within the broader working class culture. We'll show people the site of the old Socialist Hall, which acted as commissariat for the strike, No. 4 Willis Street where the radical tailor Phillip Josephs had his anarchist bookshop, and Lukes Lane where the *Truth* offices were located (in 1913 *Truth* was a left-wing, racist, muck-raking scandal sheet, in contrast to the right-wing, racist, muck-raking scandal sheet it became from the 1920s onwards). For all these tales and more we encourage you join us on a Sunday in November to take a step back into the strife-torn but fascinating Wellington of 100 years ago.

Tracking down the traces of 1913

Mark Derby writes about a project to locate, document and digitise primary material relating to the 1913 strikes

'The strike of 1913', wrote the resolutely moderate Dunedin unionist JT Paul in the final days of that year, was remarkable for 'a pronounced spirit of lawlessness' which was 'something new in New Zealand'. This spirit, he wrote, was manifested by 'men with revenge in their hearts and ugly weapons concealed in their clothes', and by women who 'defile[d] their mouths and degrade[d] their sex by the use of epithets seldom or never heard in our streets.'

For all his pious partisanship, Paul was certainly correct in claiming that the nationwide industrial unrest of late 1913 had no historical precedent. A hundred years later it remains the closest approximation to a revolutionary situation in this country's history. The events surrounding the 1913 strikes (referred to here in plural because there were many

localised but related strikes in ports and mining towns) polarised the entire country - towns against the countryside, class against class, moderates against radicals. Yet those dramatically violent events have left surprisingly faint impressions on New Zealand's historiography, literature or collective memory.

As the centenary of the 1913 strikes approaches, the Labour History Project (LHP) is preparing to recall and record the strikes through a range of activities. One approach draws on the body of primary research materials associated with the strikes - objects, archived records, photographs - held in public collections throughout the country.

Jared Davidson, an archivist and LHP member, is producing content for a feature on the Ministry for Culture and Heritage's

NZHistory website www.nzhistory.net.nz. This web feature will include an interactive map of the country. By clicking on a town, rural centre or district, the user will be able to access a selection of digitised archival material on that location, explaining its connection with the strike. This innovative project aims to make more widely accessible the scattered, often poorly or incorrectly catalogued, and mostly undigitised holdings of strike archives in public collections nationwide.

Those holdings include a series of police files at the national office of Archives New Zealand, where Jared works. The files refer to such pressing operational matters as the transfer of officers from quiet localities to hotspots of public unrest, to the semi-covert involvement of the military in containing disorder, to the



◀ Crowd gathered in Post Office Square, Wellington, during the 1913 Waterfront Strike. Photograph taken by Sydney Charles Smith. Ref: 1/2-048787, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.

The Battle of Featherston Street, during the 1913 New Zealand Waterfront Strike.

Ref: 1/2-160127-F, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington.



provision of revolvers to police on patrol duty, and to allegations that individual police officers, aggrieved at being denied the right to form a union of their own, were siding with the strikers. Jared has found that a number of these files were incorrectly catalogued as referring to the smaller but paradoxically better-known 1912 Waihi miners' strike.

The LHP has sent a letter to heritage institutions around the country, asking whether they hold material of relevance to this project. Responses so far received include information on:

- ▶ photographs, Otago Harbour Board and Port Chalmers watersiders' union correspondence, and the above draft article by JT Paul, held at the Hocken Library;
- ▶ photos and a report from the Timaru Harbour Board, one of the few ports to remain open during the strike, at the South Canterbury Museum; and
- ▶ two special constables' wooden batons, a special foot

constable's medal and photographs of special constables from the Waikato, at the Cambridge Museum.

The Ministry for Culture and Heritage's History Group will launch '1913 - War on the Wharves' on its NZHistory website in October this year. A Facebook page has been created to invite contributions to the site - www.facebook.com/1913strike.

The LHP and the History Group are encouraged by the level of support to date, from institutions and individual specialists. They hope to assemble a digital collection of source materials ranging from photographs, newspaper reports, sound recordings and official documents (telegrams, memorandums, reports, police files) to personal letters, diaries and oral histories. Some of the material already offered has been digitised, and the partner organisations are considering digitising further resources, especially those in fragile physical condition and unique or highly significant items

that augment the themes and narratives of the parent collection.

This will be a participatory project, with a high level of community input. Local researchers, not necessarily with historical training (such as high school students and others) could locate and propose documents from their own geographical areas, with advice and support from LHP members and History Group staff. Users will be able to tag and add comments. A blog will foster community discussion, and take into account cultural and geographical differences.

The partnering organisations believe that by providing easy and long-term access to a range of primary records in this way, the 'War on the Wharves' project may generate other valuable projects such as historical novels, plays and further research. At the very least, it is expected to comprise a valuable historical picture of this powerfully influential yet still strangely obscure episode in our history.

Archives

Local government archives

Ewan Morris examines the challenges and opportunities facing council archives

Local government archives are very important sources of information about the histories of our communities. Whether you are researching a specific site or local resident or are writing a history of a whole town, chances are you will want to look at records held in the council archives. Of course, council archives are not the only places in which to search for local history: museum archives and heritage centres in public libraries are often equally useful. In some cases these different types of repository have merged or at least share facilities. Council archives, however, have a particular role and responsibility as the official record of local government, just as Archives New Zealand holds the official record of central government.

Council archives vary greatly in such factors as whether they have dedicated archival staff and facilities (including a reading room); the extent to which holdings have been catalogued, especially electronically; whether holdings are searchable online; and how much material, if any, has been digitised. Some local archives have benefited enormously from the enthusiasm and vision of particular archivists, like the late Ian Matheson in Palmerston North (see Margaret Tennant's article about the Ian Matheson City Archives). Unfortunately, other archives have been somewhat neglected by the councils responsible for them.

One development that presents both challenges and opportunities for council archives is amalgamation (using that term loosely to encompass a range of options for shared archival services). Council archives may be combined when the councils themselves amalgamate, as happened in Auckland. In other cases, local archives have looked for opportunities

to work together across local government boundaries. An example is Archives Central, which has seen five district councils (Rangitikei, Manawatu, Horowhenua, Tararua and Ruapehu) and one regional council (Horizons) place their archives in a shared facility. The records of these councils, together with another two that continue to hold their own records (Palmerston North and Wanganui), are searchable online at www.archivescentral.org.nz. Discussion of a possible shared archives facility and shared online portal has also been taking place in the Greater Wellington region.

Pooling of knowledge and resources through amalgamation may help make the records of smaller, under-resourced archives more accessible. Amalgamation could also help to facilitate digitisation and the creation of online records databases. On the other hand, if seen simply as a cost-cutting exercise, amalgamation could lead to a decline in services. Much will depend on whether or not councils see archives as an important community resource.

The PHANZA committee is keen to hear from members about your experiences with council archives. What are you looking for from local archives, and to what extent are they delivering? Should PHANZA be engaged in advocacy about council archives and, if so, what should we focus on? Email your thoughts to ewan.morris@paradise.net.nz. Based on members' feedback, the committee may look at working with like-minded organisations to make sure councils know how much historians and others value local archives.

Margaret Tennant gives an update from the Palmerston North city archive

The Ian Matheson City Archive in Palmerston North has always had strong links with the Public Library, a result of close proximity and of the community focus of its archivists - Ian Matheson and, most recently, Lesley Courtney. With the approval of the Palmerston North City Council, the Archive has collected community archives for some years, as well as fulfilling its statutory role with regard to local body

records. (This was one reason why it has remained separate from Archives Central, the Feilding-based repository of archives mentioned in the article by Ewan Morris, though the Palmerston North City Council materials are listed on the Archives Central database). Located at the bottom of the main Library building, the Palmerston North Archive expanded its hours during 2007, but has always provided a

welcoming space for professional researchers, genealogists, and school students, as well as those needing to access and refer to the local body records for current administrative purposes.

Recent restructuring at the Palmerston North Public Library will result in changes for the Archive. There will no longer be a position with the title of City Archivist, but the current City Archivist will become 'Research and Archives Team Leader', supported by a dedicated staff of five who will cover the New Zealand/local history area as well as archives.

The service point for archives users will now be the second floor of the main Library building, with archives retrieval from the existing repository areas. The Library itself will be open seven days a week, and this New Zealand research area will share in the expanded hours. But users have been concerned about the apparent loss of the 'City Archivist' position, by the fact that they will not necessarily be dealing with specialist archives staff, and by the proposed use of archives in a space which is not dedicated to archives use. Apart from security issues, some have expressed concern that the current archives reading space is one of the few quiet spaces largely free from noise and distraction in the Library building (which, like most public libraries, now hosts music, performances and other gatherings, and seems averse to the librarian's 'shh!' of old).

Many of these concerns were allayed, in part, at least, by a public meeting held recently in the Library. The new area will have a cordoned-off (and eventually more physically separated) space for reading archives; a number of the existing library staff have, if not completed archive qualifications, an interest in archives and a willingness to acquire further expertise. And, given that the Ian Matheson Archive has long collected community archives, there is a logic behind integrating the existing local history and genealogy resources with the Archive to provide what is described as a 'rounded research area, with provision of primary and secondary documents for local history'.

While some still lament the loss of the honourable position of 'City Archivist', and fear that the last space for quiet concentration represents another kind of loss, the goodwill and positivity shown by Library staff at the meeting was reassuring, and will be the ultimate test of the new arrangements for users of archives in Palmerston North.

Any inquiries about archives held by the Ian Matheson City Archive in Palmerston North can be emailed to archives@pncc.govt.nz. Information can also be found on the Palmerston North City Library website at www.citylibrary.pncc.govt.nz.

A Reminder

Public History – Theory And Practice

PHANZA mini-conference

St Margaret's College, University of Otago, 19 November 2013

Call for papers

We invite abstracts for PHANZA's 2013 mini-conference at the University of Otago. Papers (20 minutes) are welcome on any aspect of the theme 'Public History - Theory and Practice'. The organisers also welcome workshops (90 minutes) that take a practical approach to the theme. Abstracts (250 words) to conference2013@phanza.org.nz by 1 September please. Registration details will be available around

September 2013 on www.phanza.org.nz. PHANZA members will pay a reduced rate for the mini-conference. The mini-conference is one of several history events at the University of Otago in late November, clustering around the New Zealand Historical Association Conference, 20-22 November. Contact NZHA2013@otago.ac.nz Check for more details in the April edition of *Phanzine*.

Conference and seminar reports

Marguerite Hill reports on a public history seminar series and ponders the future of museums

Stout Centre Public History Seminars

During the first half of 2013, the Stout Research Centre ran a series of public history seminars. The speakers included Anna Green, Julia Millen and Anna Cottrell. Jock Phillips was the final speaker in the series and was charged with wrapping up the series with an overview of public history in the

last twenty years. No mean feat, so Jock looked at projects in his own career and considered which ones seemed to have been successful public histories and why.

Jock commented that he felt in order for a project to be successful it had to engage the public or be well timed. He noted that the

elements that people most related to in his *Man's Country* were the short first person narratives which introduced each chapter. Readers engaged with these stories and related them to their own or their family member's experiences. One historical project which depended on timing was Jock's fascination with war memorials. His book *The Sorrow and the Pride* failed to hit the top ten lists and indeed he was responsible for most of the sales as he bought up copies for every school library in the country. However, transferring many of the images to a website several years later has been successful. Now the memorials pages of the NZHistory website are active and popular, with people adding new memorials and photographs regularly. This popularity is a response to the contemporary interest in war history and memorialisation. Perhaps Jock was just ahead of the curve when he first embarked on his war memorials project.

www.nzhistory.net.nz/culture/the-memorials-register



◀ Tapuhi War Memorial. This marble obelisk can be found by driving east of SH1 at Hukerenui down Tapuhi Road, then turning into Monument Road. It features cannonballs mounted on each of the 8 concrete pillars – these cannonballs were used at the nearby siege and eventual battle of Ruapekapeka. Photo: Ross Beddows

News from the North

Andrew Gregg takes over the reins from David Verran

Museums Aotearoa

In April, I attended the Museums Aotearoa conference in Hamilton. The theme for 2013 was Leadership: personal, professional and institutional. The conference was very tightly structured around this theme and I felt it lacked some of the sessions that I have previously found useful, including hearing what was happening in smaller, regional institutions.

The keynote speakers were an eclectic bunch, including Brad Jackson (Chair in Leadership at University of Auckland), Andrew Sayers (at that time Director of the National Museum of Australia) and John Orna-Ornstein (known as John OO, from the British Museum).

John OO was a highlight for me as he spoke about the challenges and opportunities for British museums in the present financial climate. British museums are losing their funding and closing left, right and centre, as a disturbing infographic showed. A quarter of all museums have lost at least a quarter of their staff in the last five years. Interestingly, smaller independent museums which are less dependent on government and lotteries grants are doing much better at the moment. Museums are being forced to look at different ways of staying open, and are trying different ways of making and saving money, from sharing expensive equipment to bartering and merging. John OO argued that this environment is making museums think harder and be more innovative, as they are not able to rely on blockbuster exhibitions to bring in the public (and the money).

One of the panel discussions made me think harder as well. The bicultural leadership panel was asked to look ahead forty years and to see where their institution would be and what they would be doing in a bicultural space. Barbara Moke challenged everyone to think about the demographics of New Zealand in forty years' time - the ethnographic make up, the aging population - and how this would affect their museum's community and audience. She also challenged museum professionals to work hard at reflecting their community - a quick check of the room made it quite clear that Maori and Pasifika museum professionals were under-represented today, with implications for the future of the profession. I would argue that New Zealand's future demography and what it will mean for our culture and consumption of culture is just as relevant for historians and heritage professionals.

Thanks to David Verran's commitment over several years, News from the North is now an established part of Phanzine. David has kept us abreast of things of interest not only to our Auckland members but to historians across the country. I'll strive to continue that tradition, but I may find it a little tricky to start with. And that's because I'm not from around here.

At the beginning of this year I left my job at the Waitangi Tribunal in Wellington to take up a position at Auckland Museum. Despite knowing almost no one up here, the opportunity to project manage the Museum's WW1 centenary programme was something that really captured my imagination. And I'm happy to say the decision has proved extremely rewarding. Over the last six months I've coordinated a film shoot on board a naval vessel at the secure base in Devonport, visited WW1 heritage sites from Wellsford to Papakura, participated in postgraduate research into the use of smartphone technology for enhancing historic site interpretation, and encountered first-hand the shortcomings of Auckland Council's heritage protection mechanisms after discovering that the 1930s-era apartment I live in could soon be demolished.

As Phanzine's new northern correspondent I'm keen to spread the word for our membership. I've already met several PHANZA members since arriving in Auckland and really enjoyed hearing about the interesting work they're doing both independently and at a range of institutions across the region. But I feel this is just the tip of the iceberg! There are currently 26 Auckland-based members and I'm hoping to connect with them all, and share news of their activities with the PHANZA membership.

So, Auckland members, please feel free to get in touch with me - I'd be delighted to hear from you. It'd be great to keep News from the North as interesting as it was on David's watch.

On that note, David asked me to pass on a few updates that will be of interest to our members. In mid-2014 Auckland Council will unveil a heritage trail for the WW1 centenary. This will include interpretation of significant sites across the region and is a major part of the Council's contribution to the centenary. Auckland libraries are also busy on centenary projects. For instance, they have already uploaded the Herman John Schmidt portraits of servicemen onto the Heritage Images database and are in the process of digitising the RSA magazine *Quick March* for the period 1918-1922.

PHANZA AGM 7 August 2013

As we go to print the AGM of PHANZA has just been held. Imelda Bargas stood down from the position of president after two years in the role and there were no new nominations for president. Seven committee members were re-elected, including the current treasurer and secretary.

If there are any PHANZA members who were unable to attend the AGM but who would like to become committee members, please contact secretary@phanza.org.nz

Remember, we need members to share the responsibility of running our organisation.

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