

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

Annual General Meeting

24 September, 2020

Antrim House, Boulcott Street, Wellington

Meeting opened at 6.00 pm by the President.

Present:

Karen Astwood, Miranda Williamson, Lynette Townsend, Ivan Wilby, Michael Kelly (chair), Paul Husbands, Sandra Gorter, Monica Webb, Barbara Rouse, Peter Cooke, Amanda Mulligan, Eileen Barrett-Whitehead, John Crawford, Sarah Burgess, Danielle Campbell, Malcolm McKinnon, Ben Schrader, Margaret Pointer, David Green, Tim Shoebridge

1. Apologies

Bronwyn Dalley, Marguerite Hill, Ann McEwan, Louise Shaw, Norman Crawshaw, Blyss Wagstaff, Joanna Barnes-Wylie, Kerryn Pollock, Jamie Jacobs, Neill Atkinson, Claudia Orange, Hilary Stace, Elizabeth Pishief, Robyn Burgess, David Verran, Michelle Ann Smith, Hilary Stace, Ruth Greenaway, Grace Bateman, Michael Wynd, Debbie Dunsford, Moira Smith

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (6 August 2019)

The minutes were approved: Karen Astwood/ Amanda Mulligan.

3. Matters arising from the minutes

None.

4. Reports

The annual reports from the three office holders were discussed followed by an opportunity for questions from the floor.

4.1. President's report (Michael Kelly)

The President spoke to his report. Some of his key points were:

This year has been challenging without a secretary and Covid-19. Zoom meetings have been an effective alternative.

Phanzine is even better than ever as a result of the ability to write more and include more images. Margaret Tennant's connections to the history community make a significant difference.

Without a secretary, jobs were shared around among the committee. Jamie Jacobs helped by providing a new monthly meeting venue at the Heritage NZ's new Central Region offices. Ryan Bodman has exited the committee and was thanked for his contribution. Fiona McKergow joined the committee as the NZHA representative and is a valuable addition.

Eight of the 9 committee members are willing to return to the committee and the President gave his thanks to them all.

The President's annual report was endorsed and approved: Peter Cooke/ Lynette Townsend.

4.2. Treasurer's report (Sandra Gorter)

The Treasurer spoke to her report, noting the following key points:

The tier 3 financial report goes up on the Companies Office website. Any members who want to read the full report can contact Sandra.

Accounts are in a healthy state at year end. Only 16 unpaid members now and 149 members. New applications continue to rise over resignations.

Website: There were several issues during the year. PHANZA is working with Ed Goode, website designer, on a new site. \$5k has been allocated in the budget for cost of website.

Identified the need to have a credit card issued to ensure the website remains active and to cover committee expenses. Sandra discussed the two layers of security on the credit card.

\$353 interest earned on account (equivalent to 6 full subscriptions). Due to a drop in interest rates, we can expect a 50% reduction on this figure this year.

PHANZA no longer qualifies for charitable status as a result of recent legislative changes. Now reporting income, but well below the minimum \$1k threshold

Contestable fund – only one application last year. \$2,000 in budget for this fund. Members are encouraged to access the fund for travel costs for research or conferences.

Paid administrative role – introduced at last year's AGM. This will free up the president and secretary from many of the administration roles. The NZHA model was used as a guide for the PHANZA role

Budget for coming year shows a deficit of \$5,800 but we underspent last year, resulting in a surplus of funds. Treasurer recommends we go ahead with the big expenses this year.

Malcolm McKinnon commended Sandra on an excellent report and job well done.

The Treasurer's annual report was endorsed and approved: Margaret Pointer/
Eileen Barrett-Whitehead.

4.3. Secretary's report

Michael Kelly read the report in his interim role as secretary and highlighted a few key points:

The committee removed the membership sub-committee as it was a duplication of effort. This will need to be formalised at next year's AGM.

The website has generated a number of issues this year. Committee shifted to SiteGround as the preferred website hosting platform, particularly to enable members to update their details. However, we want to move away from them in due course as they were most unhelpful in regard to site maintenance.

Secretary has fielded a number of enquiries from overseas looking for specific historians.

The statistics of members accessing the site are all up, which is encouraging.

Secretary thanked Ryan Bodman for handling social media. The new committee member, Danielle Campbell has offered to take up this role.

The Secretary's annual report was endorsed and approved: Malcolm McKinnon/
Karen Astwood.

5. Election of officers

5.1. President

The Chair was vacated while nominations for the office of President were read out.

Michael Kelly was nominated by Ben Schrader and seconded by Malcolm McKinnon. The motion to elect Michael Kelly to the office of President was passed by acclamation.

5.2. Treasurer

The Chair/President read out the nominations for the office of Treasurer.

Sandra Gorter was nominated by Monica Webb and seconded by Peter Cooke. The motion to elect Sandra Gorter to the office of Treasurer was passed by acclamation.

5.3. Secretary

No nominations for secretary. Role continues to be officially vacant. It was noted that, with modern technology, the role can be filled by someone outside Wellington.

6. Election of the PHANZA Committee

The Chair/President read out the nominations for members of the committee.

Monica Webb (nominated by Michael Kelly, seconded by Sandra Gorter)

Fiona McKergow (nominated by Margaret Tennant, seconded by Paul Husbands)

Lynette Townsend (nominated by Jamie Jacobs, seconded by Michael Kelly)

Margaret Tennant (nominated by Fiona McKergow, seconded by Michael Kelly)

Jamie Jacobs (nominated by Lynette Townsend, seconded by Peter Cooke)

Peter Cooke (nominated by Jamie Jacobs, seconded by Lynette Townsend)

Danielle Campbell (nominated by Moira Smith, seconded by Michael Kelly)

The motions to elect the following committee members were passed by general acclamation.

7. Executive assistant

The following matters were raised:

Ivan Wilby has agreed to take on the role if the AGM approves the position. The role will be for 4 hours/week. Specific tasks yet to be delineated. Role is intended to augment the committee work, not take over an entire position.

We particularly need someone to oversee the website.

The President asked for approval of this essential role. Running incorporated societies is becoming more onerous all the time. Input from members has been unanimous in supporting someone in the role of executive assistant.

Tim Shoebridge saw this model in operation when he was the PHANZA representative on the NZHA committee and thought it had worked well.

Karen Astwood said 4 hours/week is an accurate expectation based on her previous experience on the committee. Sarah Burgess agreed based on her previous role as secretary.

The creation of a role of executive assistant was approved: Peter Cooke/Sandra Gorter.

8. PHANZA membership

Criteria for membership

Peter Cooke spoke to a paper prepared by Jamie Jacobs, who was not able to attend the meeting.

He noted the different membership criteria accessible on our website – one in constitution, the other in general information for prospective members.

See membership report for full report, which proposed an amendment to the constitution wording.

Open discussion followed, with a number of points being raised and terminology clarified. The members also recognised that discretion by the committee will still be needed.

The final amended constitution wording was agreed:

Membership shall be open to those with a research-based post-graduate tertiary degree (honours, MA or PhD or similar) in history or a related discipline from a recognised tertiary institution; or (at the discretion of the committee) those who meet any two of the following three criteria:

A bachelor's degree in history or a related discipline from a recognised tertiary institution;

Historical research experience

Relevant publications

Moved by Sandra Gorter and Lynette Townsend seconded.

Student membership

The second suggestion in the membership category was to offer a student membership, as a recognition of the aging of the society's membership and as a way to attract newer members. See report for full details.

A lively discussion from the members followed on whether student membership is even helpful or valuable. One member made the point that professionalism is something learned through interaction and over time and PHANZA should recognise this. Several members felt that graduate students will get a lot of benefit from it, but others pointed to the administrative cost of monitoring student enrolments. There was detailed discussion on whether to make the offer available to undergraduates or limit it to post-graduates. Concern was expressed by several members that it will dilute our professional organisation. The point was made that NZHA are already offering free membership to history students.

Several suggested that the matter be referred back to the committee for further work, but it was recognised that that would delay the proposal another year. In the end, the motion was passed. The final approved new wording for the constitution is:

Student Membership shall be open to a student while enrolled in a post-graduate history related course in a recognised New Zealand tertiary institution and for two years thereafter. Student Members are exempt from paying membership fees.

Moved by Ben Shrader and seconded by Karen Astwood. All members were in favour.

9. Website

The President elaborated on Sandra's report, not as a specific motion but rather to bring members up to date. We have struggled to get going with this initiative, partly because we didn't have any formal arrangement with Ed Goode, the designer. This is now formalised. The current site is not going to be able to deliver the functionality PHANZA needs.

The process now is that the committee will prepare material for the website and then Ed Goode will design the framework with the designer.

10. General business

Survey of members

Peter Cooke apologised to the members that the survey results have not been published.

Brief summary: 40% of members responded to the survey. Most joined for networking, professional development and to promote our industry. 80% respondents noted they include their PHANZA membership on their CV.

100% of respondents agreed we should be lobbying more for history, that advocacy is important and we need to be more visible in public discourse. A public voice was seen as necessary to keep institutions responsive to needs of the industry and linking with other bodies may be valuable. Majority saw value in membership.

National Library – disposal of books

Tim Shoebridge opened a discussion on the large collection of overseas books that is being removed from the National Library. The outcome seems inevitable but he asked what PHANZA can bring to this conversation. If the National Library needs this physical space and the future is digital, maybe it is time they invested in more international literature via a digital platform. Could we make this point at an organisational level? Study of New Zealand history is more than just books about New Zealand. The point was made that the National Library must also realise that all the books historians use on a regular basis are mixed within this collection. If we as an organisation want to take a more active role, what can we bring to that conversation? Could we get the full list of books that are being removed, circulate the spreadsheets and get our members' input?

John Crawford also noted that the ATL is turning down important collections and felt there was something very wrong at the National Library and at government level. PHANZA needs to put forward concrete proposals and be consulted as experts in the field. Tim Shoebridge said he would be willing to contribute to any correspondence or

submissions. It was felt by a number of members that the Minister wasn't listening and that we need to make a noise to get their attention and put the onus back on the government.

Code of practice

Sarah Burgess asked for an update on the Code of Practice. The President noted that the revision will need to be picked up again with Ryan Bodman's departure from the committee. He ran into resistance trying to get Maori input and was not able to make as much headway as he would have wanted. It was recognised that it is not easy to merge Maori and Pakeha views on historical practice and this will likely be a long undertaking.

David Green offered to help on a review of the Code of Practice.

The meeting closed at 7:38 pm