

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

Annual General Meeting

23 September, 2021

On Zoom

Meeting opened at 5.30 pm by the President.

Jamie Jacobs outlined the protocol of conducting the AGM by Zoom.

Michael Kelly welcomed everyone to the AGM including first time attendees and acknowledged the challenges of conducting the AGM via zoom.

Present:

Michael Wynd, Stephen Clarke, Peter Cooke, Kathleen Stringer, Miranda Williamson, Danielle Campbell, Sandra Gorter, David Verran, Bronwyn Dalley, Marguerite Hill, Ben Schrader, Eileen Barrett-Whitehead, Hilary Stace, Peter Clayworth, Karen Astwood, Michael Kelly, Jamie Jacobs, Lynette Townsend, Fiona McKergow, Monica Webb, Ivan Wilby, Ewan Morris.

1. Apologies

Malcolm McKinnon, Neill Atkinson, Jock Phillips, Ann McEwan, Debbie Dunsford, Bronwyn Labrum, Paul Husbands, Jennifer Loughton, Ian Grant, Aileen Wood.

2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting

The minutes were approved: Monica Webb / Jamie Jacobs

3. Matters arising

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 the key points he wished to emphasise were:

How productive and engaged the committee has been and that it has been very rewarding to be a part of that.

Michael acknowledged two retirements - Margaret Tennant and Lynette Townsend - both of whom have made huge contributions. Their legacies lie in some great issues of Phanzine and in the new PHANZA website

Michael also acknowledged the work of the other committee members. Danielle Campbell who has made a huge difference to our social media profile. Ivan Wilby as PHANZA's first executive assistant. Sandra Gorter for her work as Treasurer. Fiona McKergow for editing Phanzine and the New Zealand Public Journal of History which PHANZA has recently taken over, and her work on the Code of Ethics and Professional Practice. Jamie Jacobs for hosting our committee meetings. Peter Cooke for his work with new members. Monica Webb who has agreed to become the PHANZA secretary.

Karen Astwood proposed to thank Margaret and Lynette. Peter Cooke / Marguerite Hill.

The President's annual report was endorsed and approved: Sandra Gorter / Karen Astwood.

4.2 Treasurer's report (Sandra Gorter)

The Treasurer spoke to her report for the year to the 30th June 2021, noting the following key points.

Sandra noted that the reports from the auditor Peter Scholtens are available on the website.

Overall, PHANZA's accounts are in a healthy state, with a total balance of \$22,041.14.

Membership increased from 149 to 163 total members. There were six resignations and the number of new members' applications continue to rise over resignations.

Income over the past year was \$7,800. Next year's income is conservatively estimated at \$8,000.

A drop in interest rates has seen a decrease in income earned from \$353 in the previous year to \$213.73.

Our major expenditure was on the website upgrade. This was budgeted for \$6,000. At this stage, only \$2,374 has been invoiced so far but invoicing for the remaining cost is anticipated.

Sandra raised that only two applicants have utilised the Contestable Fund. Members are encouraged to access the fund for travel costs for research or conferences.

The total paid for the new Executive Assistant role was \$975, well short of the \$4000 budgeted. A new executive assistant is being sought from amongst the ranks of graduate history students.

A deficit of \$1760 is reported in the budget for 2022. This relies on the Executive Assistant, various social functions and contestable fund being fully subscribed to which has not been the case in previous years.

Peter Cooke raised that he was not aware our accounts were required to be audited rather than simply reviewed. Sandra noted that this was a carry-over from working with Peter Scholtens for a long time who is an auditor. David Verran asked whether we need to confirm our auditor for our next financial year. The proposal to continue with Peter Scholtens: Sandra Gorter / David Verran.

Bronwyn Dalley suggested the possibility of discussing the desirability of an annual audit for such a low amount of money as this is a big job for a group our size. This would require an amendment to the constitution.

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

4.3 Secretary's Report

Peter Cooke read the report as the nominal acting secretary and highlighted a few key points:

There have been 11 committee meetings since the last Annual General Meeting.

We have gained eight new members and three returning members.

The Secretary's role involved receiving communication to PHANZA and disseminating notices via the weekly email. Mailchimp statistics show that an average of 69% of members open their weekly email notices and 34.5% click on content links.

Three issues of Phanzine have been produced in the past year with thanks to Fiona McKergow and Margaret Tennant for their work.

Danielle Campbell has taken over PHANZA's social media accounts and given us a welcome presence on these platforms including profiling new members.

Monica Webb will be taking on the role of Secretary with the assistance of the new Executive Assistant.

The Secretary's annual report was endorsed and approved: Michael Wynd / Jamie Jacobs

5. Election of Officers

5.1 President

Peter Cooke took the chair while nominations for the office of President were read out. Michael Kelly was nominated by Jamie Jacobs and seconded by Fiona McKergow. 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

The Chair/President read out the nominations for the office of Treasurer. Monica Webb was nominated by Michael Kelly and seconded by Sandra Gorter. The motion to elect Monica Webb to the office of Secretary was passed by acclamation.

6. Election of the PHANZA Committee

The President noted that we have five candidates for six positions, with four returning members and one new member Julia Bradshaw.

The Chair/President read out the nominations for members of the committee and proposed their nomination as a group

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

Julia Bradshaw (nominated by Fiona McKergow, seconded by Lyndon Fraser)

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

Peter Cooke (nominated by Michael Kelly, seconded by Lynette Townsend)

Danielle Campbell (nominated by Moira Smith, seconded by Monica Webb)

Michael noted the availability of one position for the committee.

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

7. Code of Ethics and Professional Practice

Michael Kelly introduced this item. He expressed his gratitude to Fiona McKergow and David Green for their work on this difficult task. He noted there is also an allied Maori code which we would like to eventually incorporate as well.

Fiona McKergow spoke to the motion to provisionally adopt the Code of Ethics and Professional Practice. She talked to the process of constructing the code of ethics by looking to other related organisations both in NZ and overseas. As a Code of Ethics and Professional Practice, it includes additional elements compared to the 1998 version. She addressed that it has a funnel structure with the public as the biggest category moving down to the profession, to clients and employers, and finally responsibility to oneself.

Michael Kelly added that due to some concerns of members about the process of adoption, the proposal is to provisionally adopt the Code and then ratify this in November following a period of consultation.

Fiona envisioned this document as one that will be reviewed more regularly. A dynamic document that should be open to new elements including Te Tiriti and climate change. Ewan Morris commented regarding the dynamic approach that any changes to the code needs to be approved by members.

Sandra Gorter expressed her hope that the Sonia Mitchell document can sit alongside the Code of Ethics. Fiona noted the original goal to have an integrated document of ethics and tikanga but felt that we were not there yet. Michael Kelly acknowledged that there was work needed and a lack of success to get engagement on the Maori side of the Code but saw it as something to aspire to.

Michael noted the desire to adopt this code as the last code is out of date.

The motion for the provisional adoption of the Code of Ethics and Professional Practice: Sandra Gorter / Lynette Townsend. All members were in favour.

Michael Kelly said that a post will be sent out to members to allow for comment over the next 6-8 weeks before ratification at a special general meeting.

8. Claudia Orange - nomination for life membership

Michael Kelly spoke to the nomination for PHANZA's third life membership. He directed members to the citation on the website and highlighted a few key points:

He noted her contribution to public history, in managing two important institutions that has employed many historians and produced a lot of written history.

He also noted her role in PHANZA's founding and said that Claudia was thrilled with the nomination. Bronwyn Dalley noted this was an excellent thing to do for someone who has done so much.

The nomination for Claudia Orange to life member of PHANZA was approved: Michael Kelly / Eileen Barrett-Whitehead

9. Website

Michael Kelly noted that this item was highlighted as a to-do at the last meeting and that the committee is gratified and relieved to get the new website up and running.

He welcomed feedback and noted that cosmetic issues can be addressed and raised with the committee.

He added a huge thank you to Lynette Townsend and the designers Ed and Eleanor from Pixel boom.

10. General business

Monica Webb asked about interest amongst the membership in running a conference. It was noted that this was a chaotic time for organising conferences with Covid.

Ewan Morris asked about the background of the NZJPH coming to PHANZA and how this will work. Fiona McKergow said that no universities were willing to pick this up after Nadia Gush left Waikato University. The committee was reluctant to take on a peer-reviewed journal and this has been dropped from the model. She noted that the journal was not really a peer-reviewed journal as most authors did not choose that option.

Danielle Campbell has taken on administration of the NZJPH social media.

The 2022 journal will open at the start of the year and articles will be added as the year progresses. Ewan Morris felt this was a great initiative.

Monica Webb asked whether the NZJPH was an appropriate platform for university students. Fiona said that the advisory committee is keen to see this opportunity for students to continue.

A discussion from members followed on public history after one member asked about how to define it. One member noted that you know it when you see it. One member suggested that it can be defined by what it isn't, as work outside the academy. However another member slightly challenged this as public history still observes the academic standards. Another member noted that definitions of public history should focus on what we do in enabling a whole range of histories happening in public. Some members felt that this debate was done and gone.

Monica Webb wanted to encourage members to promote their work within the community and noted that this can be done through Phanzine.

Several members thanked the committee for all their work over the past year and for the AGM in the chat.

Micahel Kelly summarised that in future years, PHANZA hoped to utilise the technology to work for both an in-person and online AGM. He reiterated that it was great for PHANZA to have held its first truly national AGM.

The meeting concluded at 6.21 pm