

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

Secretary's report for 2021-2022

This report is a composite of tasks and activities undertaken by the secretary and executive assistant.

Committee

PHANZA's Executive Committee has held 11 ordinary meetings since the last AGM on 23 September 2021. In December 2021, PHANZA hosted an Extraordinary General Meeting at Antrim House, Wellington to vote on the Code of Ethics and Professional Conduct. The combined in-person / on-line event was also an opportunity to recognize the work of Dame Claudia Orange and award her with a lifetime membership. Our meetings were held at Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's Central Region offices in Wellington and on Zoom. The committee is grateful to Jamie Jacobs for organising the meetings and HNZPT for hosting us.

The impact of Covid-19 continued to be felt during the year both among the committee and our members. The impact of Auckland's lockdowns were felt across the country. Even as restrictions were lifted later in the year, the sense of Covid-fatigue and continuing caution were likely the cause of a reduced level of enquiries by members and the public. Regional PHANZA meetings and annual Christmas events were curtailed during this period. As this AGM is being held, it is encouraging to see interest levels and public engagements are increasing.

This past year saw the addition of VUW PhD candidate Elizabeth Bowyer as executive assistant to the committee. Her contribution to the smooth running of committee work has been significant and we're pleased to know she will continue in her role for this coming year.

During the year, research was begun on how to lighten the increasing workload of the Treasurer. It was agreed to trial the accounting software package Xero. At the time of this AGM, the trial period was coming to an end and it was agreed to continue on a permanent basis.

Over the 2021-2022 financial year, 7 new members were added to the membership list.

Website

The new website has been up and running for a year. During the year the PHANZA logo was updated and added to the website, committee member email signatures and the letterhead have also been updated. A number of members have completed their new profile and we continue to encourage all members to do the same.

New Zealand Journal of Public History

In 2021 PHANZA took over editorship of the *New Zealand Journal of Public History* (NZJPH). Since then three articles have been published and are available on the PHANZA website. All articles will be compiled into a journal at the end of the year. The committee congratulates Fiona McKergow on the success of taking over as editor of NZJPH and wishes to thank Louisa Hormann, Sarah Gallagher and Katie Pickles who have published articles so far.

Correspondence

We are also routinely sent notifications for the noticeboard about Alexander Turnbull and National Library events, Stout Research Centre lectures, employment opportunities, Archives New Zealand intentions to dispose, events at various public libraries and many other matters such as the six weekly Aotearoa Gender History Seminar. A number of call for papers have been sent out recently for conferences that members may wish to present at or attend. We have also updated members on PHANZA's involvement in, and attendance at, meetings regarding the new archival search system which replaced Archway. PHANZA's President Michael Kelly and committee member Julia Bradshaw represented PHANZA at these meetings and expressed their concerns to the Chief Archivist at Archives NZ in regard to the new search facility. They also attended user-group meetings at Archives NZ to stay current with the challenges identified in the new system.

We have also promoted and celebrated the successes, publications and talks of PHANZA members.

We have continued to receive enquiries from members of the public and other clients seeking assistance with history projects. We have endeavoured to help where we can or we have directed enquirers to assistance elsewhere. We often direct enquires to the 'find a historian' function on the PHANZA website.

We continue to use MailChimp for our weekly notices and other group emails. This service provides us with reports about how many recipients open their email and whether or not they click on any links contained therein, providing us with valuable data on how our members engage with correspondence from PHANZA. 157 members subscribe to our weekly news updates. Over the 2021-22 financial year, an average of 80.5% members opened the weekly email notices, with an average of 39.3% clicking on content links. These figures are higher than the previous year.

The figures for the *Phanzine* mail list are as follows: 162 members subscribe to *Phanzine*. Over the 2021-2022 financial year an average of 83.6% of members opened the email and 52.5% clicked the link to read the issue. This is also an increase on last year's figures.

PHANZA received regular newsletters from our counterparts at the Professional Historians' Australia, Victoria (*Pharos*).

Phanzine

PHANZA sent out four *Phanzines* with the work of our editor Fiona McKergow and the assistants of Julia Bradshaw. As ever, Phanzine has maintained its consistently high standards, a tribute to the work of our very able editor. As ever, electronic versions of past issues are available on the website one month after they are sent out to members via email.

Social media

Danielle Campbell continues to run our social media presence by keeping us up to date on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Online networks and social media have played an important part in staying connected during the Covid-19 pandemic and we welcome the increasing and continued engagement from our members.

Social media statistics September 2021-2022

Twitter

PHANZA tweets - 123
Tweet impressions - 48,000
Twitter profile views - 14,000
Twitter followers - 448 (+75 since last AGM)

Facebook

PHANZA posts - 94
Facebook page likes - 214 (+21 since last AGM)
Facebook page followers - 246 (+25 since last AGM)

Instagram

PHANZA posts - 23
Instagram followers - 288 (+64 since last AGM)

We continue to frequently post about jobs, events, conferences, grants, news stories, recently published works and members profiles. We encourage members to get in touch if there is anything they would like us to promote on PHANZA's social media platforms.

Plans for 2022-2023 year

Looking ahead to the coming year, the committee will be following the roll-out of the regulations of the new Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and will establish a timeline in which to meet any new obligations. Although the Act came into law in 2022, no action is required until the regulations are formally notified. In the coming year PHANZA will need to re-register as a society and may require some legal advice in regard to the required disclosure statement. Two key elements of the new Act are the requirement of a governance structure and a constitution. With our existing structure, we are reasonably well positioned to adapt to the requirements of the new Act.

As our association moves forward into the new year, we look forward to re-engaging with one another in person and invigorating our work in support of public history. We would welcome new members onto the committee.

26 September 2022