

Citation for Margaret Tennant, proposed for Life Membership of PHANZA

Emeritus Professor Margaret Tennant (formerly Belk, b 1952) is an eminent social historian, a generous mentor to many, and an active member of PHANZA and numerous associated historical organisations. She has been a member of PHANZA for 20 years, served on its executive committee from 2013 to 2021, and was editor of *Phanzine* from 2015 to 2020.

Born in Feilding, Margaret attended Feilding High School and studied at Massey University. She was awarded an MA for 'Matrons with a Mission: Women's Organisations in New Zealand, 1893–1915' in 1976 and a PhD for 'Indigence and Charitable Aid in New Zealand, 1885–1920' in 1981. These studies were foundational to her a career as a historian and administrator at Massey University Te Kunenga ki Pūrehuroa.

Margaret has made a significant scholarly contribution to the field of welfare history, spanning the provisions of state institutions and the activities of voluntary organisations, their many forms of interdependence, and the importance of these histories to the development of social policy. She has also made important contributions to the fields of women's, gender, health, childhood and local history. In 2009 she was made a Fellow of the Royal Society Te Āparangi.

Since the publication of her first book, *Paupers and Providers: Charitable Aid in New Zealand* (Allen and Unwin/Historical Branch, 1989), Margaret's publication record has been remarkable, not only for its quality, but also for its coherence. Subsequent volumes are: *Children's Health, the Nation's Wealth: A History of Children's Health Camps* (BWB, 1994); *The Fabric of Welfare: Voluntary Organisations, Government and Welfare, 1840-2005* (BWB, 2007); and *Across the Street, Across the World: A History of the Red Cross in New Zealand, 1915-2025* (NZ Red Cross, 2015).

Further, Margaret has worked collaboratively with other historians to produce a range of co-edited volumes, including: *Women in History: Essays on European Women in New Zealand* (Allen & Unwin, 1986) and *Women in History 2* (BWB, 1992), with Charlotte Macdonald and Barbara Brookes; *Past Judgement: Social Policy in New Zealand History* (OUP, 2004), with Bronwyn Dalley; *City at the Centre: A History of Palmerston North*, (MUP, 2020), with Geoff Watson and Kerry Taylor. Over the course of her career, she has also written at least 80 journal articles, book chapters, reports and reviews.

Margaret's support for history and heritage beyond the academy is widely apparent. She has authored numerous entries for government-sponsored publications, including the *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography*, *Women Together: A History of Women's Organisations* and *Te Ara – the Encyclopedia of New Zealand*, in addition to a recent series of newspaper articles for the *Manawātū Standard*. She has a reputation as an adept and thoughtful public speaker and a valued member of many advisory committees and selection panels.

Finally, the breadth and depth of Margaret's contribution to history and heritage organisations is exceptional. She has served terms as president of the New Zealand Historical Association (1999–2001) and on the council of Te Āparangi (2012–19). At a

community level, she has been a committee member of Historic Places Manawatū Horowhenua and its predecessor since 1990; chair of the Palmerston North Heritage Trust since 2003; initiator of the *Manawatū Journal of History* in 2005 and a member of its editorial committee since 2015; convenor of the Earle Creativity Trust History/Literature Committee (2015–19); president of the Manawatū branch of Te Āparangi (2018–23); and secretary of Te Manawa Museum Society since 2021.

It is appropriate that Margaret is warmly acknowledged for her multi-faceted support for history and heritage with an award of life membership.