

## President's Report, 2017-18 Year

After a relatively quiet 2017, the PHANZA committee has had a busy year on a number of fronts.

We have updated long-standing website content on advice to historians – one on being a self-employed historian and the other on contracts (with one more – the Code of Ethics – still to come). We produced three *Phanzines* and migrated to an electronic *Phanzine*. We set in train two important upcoming initiatives – the contestable fund and the 2019 conference. We made submissions and gave feedback on matters relevant to our members and kept members up-to-date with industry-related news, jobs, exhibitions and the like.

The move to an electronic *Phanzine* was done after a poll of members and it has been a seamless transition; all members will continue to receive *Phanzine* in one form or another and the quality of content is unaffected. We spent much of the year grappling with the concept of setting up a contestable member fund and hope to advance this to completion next year. Conferences require a considerable amount of work and the bulk of it is still to come but we have fixed the dates, secured a venue, called for papers and are now engaged on planning the details. Thank you to the sub-committee who are working hard on this.

I would very much like to thank all the committee for their hard work and dedication, particularly Sarah Burgess, who has taken over the secretary's role and done it with aplomb and efficiency. Paul Husbands very selflessly agreed to take on the role of treasurer when no other candidate was forthcoming and although he sees no long-term future as a treasurer we are all very grateful to him for picking this up for a year. Paul is leaving the committee after five years and we thank him very much for his contribution over that year.

Margaret Tennant, assisted by Sandra Gorter, did another fine job on producing *Phanzine* and we look forward to what the move to an electronic *Phanzine* might bring in the future. Sandra also helped get the contestable fund moving. Martha Van Drunen ably assisted Sarah by looking after our social media requirements, something that is becoming more important each year. We also welcomed Ryan Bodman to the committee and he kindly agreed to join the membership sub-committee.

Along with Paul we also say farewell this year to Lucy MacKintosh, a cheerful and reliable presence on the other end of Skype. We are very grateful for her three years of service, her time on the membership sub-committee and her work with our members in Auckland. It cannot be easy to participate in meetings remotely, but Lucy has done it with apparent ease. David Young bowed out this year after another stint in the committee. David was president for three years a decade ago and we are grateful that he was happy to come back and contribute so much. He is another who has had to deal with the joys of Skype, but it never stopped his thoughtful contributions to our meetings. Both Kate Jordan, who has worked hard on the conference planning, and Martha are leaving after a year on the committee. I thank them both very much for their work.

Recruiting members to serve on the PHANZA committee is becoming a more difficult exercise, so if you are interested in helping your fellow members and furthering the cause of public history, don't be afraid to volunteer.

We are grateful to the Ministry for Culture and Heritage for its on-going support by providing a room for our monthly meetings.

And thank you to all our members for your continued support. We look forward to a rewarding 2018–19, our 25th anniversary and our fifth conference.

Michael Kelly