

# Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa (PHANZA) Annual General Meeting

1 November 2018

Conference Rooms 1 and 2, St Andrews on the Terrace, 30 The Terrace, Wellington

Meeting opened 6:02 p.m.

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**Present:** Karen Astwood, Neill Atkinson, Eileen Barrett-Whitehead, Sarah Burgess, Peter Cooke, Sandra Gorter, David Green, Paul Husbands, Jamie Jacobs, Kate Jordan (proxy vote for Elizabeth Cox), Michael Kelly (Chair; proxy vote for Geoff Rice), Bronwyn Labrum, Amanda Mulligan, Margaret Pointer, Ben Schrader, Tim Shoebridge, Hilary Stace, Martha van Drunen, Aileen Wood.

## 1. Apologies

Karen Cameron, Elizabeth Cox, John Crawford, Norman Crawshaw, Bronwyn Dalley, Marguerite Hill, Angela Lassig, Lucy Mackintosh, John R. Martin, Hamish McDougall, Ewan Morris, Gerard Morris, Geoff Rice, Barbara Rouse, Louise Shaw, Moira Smith, Margaret Tennant, David Verran, Blyss Wagstaff, Steve Watters, Monica Webb, David Young.

## 2. Minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting (17 October 2017)

**The minutes were approved, subject to minor amendments:** Kate Jordan/Ben Schrader.

## 3. Matters arising from the minutes

8. *Phanzine* format. In response to a question from the floor, the President confirmed that the shift to an electronic *Phanzine* had been completed. So far members appear happy with the change. In response to a further question the Secretary confirmed that electronic *Phanzines* were being sent out to members via email. Any member who was not receiving *Phanzine* via email should contact the Secretary who would check their details were correct. The Secretary also reminded members that it was their responsibility to keep their contact details up to date.

## 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, commenting that it had been a productive year for PHANZA. As well as the switch to an electronic *Phanzine* (which had been well-received), the Committee had begun work on a member grants fund, updated

advice on the website, and kept members informed of events and other matters of interest. In addition, planning was well underway for the 2019 conference and the President took the opportunity to thank the members of the conference planning sub-committee for their hard work so far.

The President noted his appreciation of the work undertaken by the Committee this year and particularly that done by the Secretary and Treasurer, the latter of whom took on the role when no other candidate was forthcoming. He also thanked the Ministry for Culture and Heritage for once again providing space for the Committee to meet and for the Ministry's general support of PHANZA. Several Committee members were departing this year (Paul Husbands, Kate Jordan, Lucy Mackintosh, Martha van Drunen and David Young) and the President expressed his gratitude for the time they gave PHANZA. He also noted that it was becoming increasingly difficult to find members willing to join the Committee, particularly Wellington-based members, with only two remaining for the coming year. He expressed concern for the future of the Association if this situation did not improve.

In response to the President's report and comments, those in attendance discussed the issue of finding willing Committee members and proposed potential solutions to the problem, including encouraging new historians to join and better supporting them once they are members. In addition, it was noted that next year's planned conference may help to encourage new members who may be willing to join the Committee.

**The President's annual report was endorsed and approved:** Peter Cooke/David Green.

#### **4.2. Treasurer's report (Paul Husbands)**

The Treasurer spoke to his report, noting that the Association was conservative in its spending during the last financial year and had made a surplus. This was due in part to greater spending in previous years – such as on the website – and also due to the move to an electronic *Phanzine* and associated savings. He also noted that the majority of PHANZA's income is from member subscriptions and expressed concern at the low number of members who have paid their subscriptions so far this year. To date, only a little over half the membership has paid. The Treasurer also commented that he thought fewer members were renewing their membership (although he did not have evidence to support this), but hoped that the conference would help to mitigate this apparent problem. The Treasurer ended by thanking all those who have paid their subscriptions thus far and noted that, assuming all members do pay, PHANZA should have plenty of money to cover next year's planned spending on the conference.

In response to the Treasurer's comments on unpaid members, the suggestion was made that *Phanzine* could be withheld until those members have paid. Another

suggestion was to follow up more vigorously with those unpaid members, as many don't realise they have not yet paid and simply need a reminder.

**The Treasurer's annual report was endorsed and approved:** Neill Atkinson/Jamie Jacobs.

**4.2.1.** Before the budget was approved, the Treasurer noted that the budget assumes next year's conference will break even, and commented that historically PHANZA makes a profit from its conferences.

**The Budget for 2018–19 was endorsed and approved:** Margaret Pointer/Bronwyn Labrum.

### **4.3. Secretary's report (Sarah Burgess)**

The Secretary commented on several points in her report:

- Meetings: the Committee held seven ordinary meetings during the year, exceeding the requirement in the Constitution.
- Website: the Committee was advised that the cost of work to make the website compatible with a major upgrade to WordPress is between \$500 and \$800. This work is currently underway and should be completed shortly.
- *Phanzine*: 76% of members voted in favour of the proposal to shift to an electronic *Phanzine*. This change was implemented during the year and feedback so far has been positive.
- Social media: the Secretary thanked Committee member Martha van Drunen for taking on responsibility for PHANZA's social media accounts and doing a wonderful job.

**The Secretary's annual report was endorsed and approved:** Karen Astwood/Kate Jordan.

## **5. Election of officers**

Before the election of officers commenced, the Secretary noted that proceedings would take place under the provisions of the new clause in the Constitution, as approved at the 2017 AGM.

### **5.1. President**

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

**Michael Kelly was nominated by Sandra Gorter and seconded by Margaret Tennant. 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 Michael Kelly and seconded by Margaret Tennant. 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 Secretary.

**Sarah Burgess was nominated by Michael Kelly and seconded by Kate Jordan. The motion to elect Sarah Burgess to the office of Secretary was passed by acclamation.**

## 6. Election of the PHANZA Committee

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

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

- **Ryan Bodman** (Auckland) – nominated by Michael Kelly and seconded by Sarah Burgess.
- **Margaret Tennant** (Palmerston North) – nominated by Sarah Burgess and seconded by Martha van Drunen.
- **Monica Webb** (Auckland) – nominated by Sarah Burgess and seconded by Sandra Gorter.

In response to a question from the floor, the President confirmed that the Committee did not yet have any South Island representation, but noted there is an opportunity to co-opt further Committee members during the year. Peter Cooke stated he would be happy to join the Committee as another Wellington-based member. This offer was met with acclamation.

## 7. Member grants fund

The President introduced the Committee's paper on a 'Member Grants Fund', a concept that grew out of the 2017 AGM after some members expressed a desire for PHANZA to make greater use of its funds. He spoke to the key points of the proposal and noted that the Committee was not seeking to implement the fund this year as there remained a lot of work to be done. Rather, the Committee was seeking endorsement from the membership to continue to develop the concept further, for approval at next year's AGM.

The idea of introducing a Member Grants Fund was considered favourably by those in attendance. A wide-ranging discussion of the concept of a member's fund followed:

- One suggestion was that the fund could be used for a different purpose each year, to support a strategic initiative to be decided upon by the Committee. One such example would be the publication of conference proceedings following next

year's conference, with the member fund contributing towards publication costs. This idea was positively received. Another suggestion was to assist members in purchasing images for an upcoming publication.

- The issue of abuse of the fund was raised, with the example given of another fund which has chosen not to fund conference attendance in case the person attending is not also presenting.
- In response to a question about how the applications to the fund would be assessed, the president stated that this is one detail that is yet to be fully worked out.

**Approval to continue working towards the implementation of a member grants fund was granted and approved:** Brownyn Labrum/Ben Schrader.

## **8. Membership subscription fees**

The President explained that the Committee had decided not to seek approval to increase membership subscription fees this year. Although PHANZA is facing increasing costs generally, the savings we are making from switching to an electronic *Phanzine* are currently enough to offset these rising costs. He did note, however, that raising membership fees will likely be revisited in the future, particularly if the membership votes to implement a member grants fund at any stage.

## **9. General business**

Prompted by a point made by Peter Cooke about parent attribution on birth certificates, a wide ranging discussion ensued, but the matter was unresolved at the time the President called the meeting to order.

Hilary Stace noted that the Department of Internal Affairs was responsible for a community grants research fund and encouraged members to apply for funding of any community-minded projects they might be working on. It was suggested a notice about this be placed in *Phanzine* to bring the fund to the attention of the membership.

In response to a question from the floor about next year's conference, the President outlined progress to date. So far the conference planning sub-committee has finalised the date, theme, and put out a call for papers. A venue had been arranged but this recently fell through so the sub-committee is currently working to find a new venue. Several suggestions as to alternate venues were given from the floor, and the President said the sub-committee would look into them. The Secretary also reminded those in attendance that the due date for abstracts was fast approaching (Friday 23 November), and encouraged members to submit papers.

The hard work of the Committee on behalf of members over the last year was acknowledged with acclamation.

**The meeting closed at 7:20 p.m.**