

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

President's report for 2018–19

The PHANZA committee has had a busy and fruitful year.

Without doubt, the most notable event was the 2019 conference, held at Massey University, Wellington on the weekend of 13-14 April 2019. The content, socialising and extra-curricular activities seemed to be very well received by attendees. The success of the conference can partly be put down to the organising committee – Sarah Burgess, Karen Astwood, Kate Jordan (plus your president) – who put in long hours to ensure that nothing was left to chance. Not having to hire a conference organiser kept our costs down and we made a small profit.

We produced the usual three *Phanzines* and, as ever, they were of a high quality. The shift to an electronic *Phanzine* has been an easy one. We are in the process of setting up a mentoring scheme and have received positive feedback from some of our members on this initiative. As usual, 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.

With the conference out of the way, we returned to the challenge of setting up a contestable member fund. We have concluded that, to ensure we don't fall foul of incorporated society rules, we need to limit it to a travel fund, with the recipients likely to be members travelling to conferences (within New Zealand) or to another city or town to research for a project. We hope to have this up and running in the new year.

Members will recall that the Code of Practice has been in a draft form for some time. It has proved to be a difficult matter to resolve, primarily because of the need to get our responsibilities to Maori history properly incorporated into the Code. We're working on getting that over the line this coming year. Can I refer you to the attached report from committee member Ryan Bodman, who is based in Auckland. It lays out how we intend to get the Code of Practice finished.

I would very much like to thank all the committee for their hard work and dedication. Sarah Burgess, who has done a wonderful job as secretary, is leaving the committee and she will be really missed. Sandra Gorter stepped in to take over as treasurer and we are grateful for the competent and dedicated job she has done. We would be in serious trouble without a secretary and treasurer who are keenly aware of the requirements of running an incorporated society. These are becoming more and more onerous each year.

Margaret Tennant, assisted by Peter Cooke, has done another great job with *Phanzine*. If anything, the move to an electronic *Phanzine* has helped elevate the quality of the newsletter and given the editor more freedom to incorporate content. Ryan Bodman has been looking after social media and has, as mentioned, kindly agreed to get our Code of Practice to a finished state. Thank you too, to Peter Cooke and Monica Webb, who have been great contributors in various ways. Along with *Phanzine*, Peter is producing a questionnaire to better gauge member needs, while Monica (together with Ryan, Sarah and myself) is a member of the membership sub-committee.

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

As I mentioned last year, recruiting members to serve on the PHANZA committee is proving to be increasingly more difficult as each year passes. We are fast approaching the day when we might have to consider a new way of doing business because the current model is not really sustainable. We only had seven committee members this year when we are, nominally, meant to have nine. Recruiting replacements for departing committee members is a challenging task, as is imploring members to make themselves available for election onto the committee.

Despite this, we are grateful, as ever, for member support for the aims and activities of PHANZA. We look forward to 2020 and making more progress for professional historians.

Michael Kelly

President

31 July 2019

Code of practice / Kete Whakaaro

Over the past two years, the PHANZA committee has been in the process of amending the association's code of practice. The original document was adopted at the 1998 AGM and the code was last revised in 2017.

While it has not been long since the document's last revision, in 2018 an ex-committee member brought to the committee's attention the fact that the current code of practice pays little regard to the dual cultural heritage of New Zealand.

As a result, steps have been taken to develop an additional code of practice document that considers the practice of historical research from a kaupapa Māori world view and explores the responsibilities of professional historians who engage in te ao Māori.

To this end, Sonja Mitchell – of Ngāti Toa Rangatira and Pākahā descent – has developed 'Kete Whakaaro'. This document provides some initial thoughts about researching and writing history in a manner that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

When discussed by your committee, the document prompted considerable and fruitful discussion. From this discussion, the decision was made to develop 'Kete Whakaaro' to a stage where it could be placed before the AGM for discussion and, hopefully, adoption.

To this end, I have taken on the task of progressing 'Kete Whakaaro', as well as the original code of practice. While I do not have anything to present to you today, I am currently seeking to speak with Māori Phanza members to get their comments and feedback on the document as it now stands.

Following those discussions, I then plan to amend 'Kete Whakaaro' to incorporate the feedback and comments received. Once the document is finalised, I will then amend the code of practice document to cross-reference 'Kete Whakaaro' and incorporate its main themes. These documents will then be placed before a future Phanza AGM for consideration.

If you are interested in being involved in this process, or know a PHANZA member who may be, please feel free to contact me on ryankb@gmail.com, or at 09 948 9055.

Ryan Bodman