



Australian Historical Association

Annual General Meeting

5 pm

Thursday 10 July 2014

Room: 234

Parnell Building

University of Queensland

Minutes: 10 July 2014

Chair: Marilyn Lake

Secretary: Leigh Boucher

1. Present

Malcolm Allbrook, Amanda Anderson, Jill Barnes, Joan Beaumont, Cath Bishop, Frank Bongiorno, Leigh Boucher, Liam Byrne, Paula Byrne, David Carment, Georgine Clarsen, Alex Cook, Martin Crotty, Robyn Curtis, Karen Downing, Mark Edele, Niles Elvery, Stewart Gill, Dianne Hall, Melissa Harper, Victoria Haskins, Chris Holdridge, Brett Holman, Bronwyn Hughes, Jennifer Jones, Dorothy Kass, Terry Kass, Susan Kellett, Barbara Keys, Kate Laing, Marilyn Lake, Vera Mackie, Josip Matesic, Kate Matthews, Kirsten McKenzie, Petra Mosmann, Nell Musgrove, Patricia O'Brien, Melanie Oppenheimer, Naomi Parry, Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden, Carroll Pursell, Anne Rees, Tim Rowse, Lynette Russell, Paul Sendziuk, Shurlee Swain, Rosalie Triolo, Ellen Warne, Richard White, Damien Williams, Selena Williams, Ian Willis, Angela Woollacott.

2. Welcome from President and Apologies [Marilyn Lake]

Marilyn welcomed all to the meeting and noted the following apologies:
Jill Roe, Penelope Edmonds, Andrew May

3. Minutes of the previous AGM [See <http://www.theaha.org.au/reports.html>]

The minutes of the previous AGM were circulated for consideration as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Moved: Carroll Pursell

Seconded: Martin Crotty

4. Presentation by Denise Meredyth, ARC

Marilyn welcomed Denise Meredyth from the ARC who spoke about some data the ARC is currently compiling on the experience and success of the discipline of History in the various ARC funding schemes (full reports of which are available from the ARC website). Denise noted that whilst the overall shape of the grants program would remain the same, some re-allocation and targeting of funding would mean that in future rounds, there would likely be a slight drop in the success rates of Humanities and Creative Arts applications. However, Denise noted that whilst there has been some anxiety about decreases in funding, that the overall message should be that 'business remains the same.'

Denise then spoke to some of the data about the success rates of History in both Linkage and Discovery schemes. She noted that whilst History has been quite successful in applications to Discovery schemes (in comparison to other disciplines in the HCA), Linkage applications and success rates were lower than might be expected. She encouraged historians to consider carefully the possibility of Linkage applications. Denise then spoke to some quite detailed data about successful applications (including gender of applicants, area of history, career stage, patterns of non-university collaboration and cross-disciplinary collaboration). On this final category she noted that the ARC was

working to try and ensure that emerging cross-disciplinary concentrations could be more carefully considered and reflected in ARC review processes.

Marilyn opened the floor to questions and Joan Beaumont asked if it might be possible for the ARC to consider a two-stage application process so that researchers did not waste time preparing applications for projects that stood little chance of success. Joan suggested that an “Expression of Interest” (EOI) might have the potential to reduce workload both on applicants and assessors by reducing the number of full applications to be produced and assessed. Denise acknowledged the work that researchers performed in the development of ARC applications but noted that any EOI stage would still need to be peer-reviewed which would likely increase the burden on already pressed assessors. Denise suggested that institutions should be more actively involved in adjudicating and triaging applications to ensure that researchers did not lodge applications with little chance of success.

Marilyn then thanked Denise for her time and this sentiment was echoed from the floor with applause.

5. Executive Reports

5.1 Presidents Report [Marilyn Lake]

Marilyn spoke to her written report [See <http://www.theaha.org.au/reports.html>]. She remarked that it had been a pleasure and an honor to serve as president for two terms and thanked the members of two executive committees who made the task easier and more enjoyable. She noted in particular her gratitude for the hard work of Jayne Persian and Kate Matthew as executive officers.

Marilyn noted that the AHA continues to flourish, extending networks and international links and the conference in Brisbane attracted record numbers of people and papers. However, she also noted that membership is slightly down from previous years. She suggested that this might reflect the decline in employment of historians at universities. However, membership amongst postgraduate students and early careers researchers had increased which reflected the hard work of the AHA to engage emerging scholars. The finances of the AHA are healthy, thanks to the profits generated by conferences in the past four years and careful management from the treasurers; Marilyn thanked both the conference conveners and treasurers for their dedicated work.

Marilyn then highlighted some of the key initiatives undertaken during her presidency that she hoped would continue.

1. A closer engagement with history teachers in schools.
2. A consistent engagement with learning and teaching policy developments.
3. The introduction of portfolio responsibilities amongst the executive.
4. The introduction of the Jill Roe prize.
5. An engagement with other national cultural institutions, in particular, the National Archives of Australia, the Mitchell Library, Copyright Agency Limited, and UNESCO.

Marilyn noted her commitment to internationalize the AHA so that all historians in Australia – and not just Australianists – would identify the Association as their local professional organization, and, the AHA would increase its connections to other national organizations. Finally, Marilyn noted that executive committee decided a couple of years ago to forgo the formal distinction between major (metropolitan) and regional conferences in order to accord the regional conferences equal significance. At the same time, the executive retained a commitment to alternate conferences between capital cities and regional centers. She was pleased to announce that in 2015 the University of Sydney would host the AHA conference with the theme of ‘Foundational Histories’ and the 2016 conference would be hosted at Federation University in Ballarat.

5.2 Secretary’s report [Leigh Boucher]

Leigh noted he was not seeking re-election for the position of secretary and thanked his fellow executive committee members for their work over the past two years. He also thanked, in particular, Jayne Persian and Kate Matthew for their tireless hard work as Executive Officer.

5.3 Treasurers Report [Marilyn Lake in Andrew May’s absence]

Marilyn noted that Andrew was unable to attend the meeting due to unforeseen circumstances and circulated his written report [See <http://www.theaha.org.au/reports.html>] and opened the floor to questions.

Carroll Pursell moved that the AHA accept this report

Seconded: Victoria Haskins

5.4 History Australia Editors' report [Alexander Cook]

Alexander spoke to the written report of the editorial team [See <http://www.theaha.org.au/reports.html>]. and began by thanking his fellow editors, Assistant Editor and Reviews Editors for their hard work. He noted that *History Australia* has signed a new publishing agreement with Monash Publishing to take the journal through 2014 with the option of further extensions. He noted that the team had now seen three issues through to print including a special issue on the theme of "Home." The other two issues included a feature section (on the Red Cross) and a symposium (on transnationalism in Australian history). The submissions for the journal remain healthy and rose during the 2013 calendar year; this has seen a subsequent rise in the rejection rate. He noted a number of exciting features were lined up for future issues, including collections on ANZAC in different national memories, displaced people in Australia, articles from the recent conference in honor of Ann Curthoys, a special issue on Australasian perspective on British History, and a piece on global history in Asia. Lastly, he noted that the AHA/CAL bursary had been renewed and 11 postgraduates had received mentoring at the Brisbane conference.

5.5 Postgraduate student representative's report [Ann Rees]

Ann spoke to the written report [See <http://www.theaha.org.au/reports.html>]. She noted that she had shared this position with Kate Matthew and noted this was a successful way to share the duties. She noted that their agenda for the year was driven by their engagement with the postgraduate community during and after the 2013 conference who indicated they desired greater opportunities for networking with senior academics. In response, they organized a social event at the 2014 conference and Ann thanked the senior academics who came along to meet some of the students at this event; she hoped this would continue in future years. She reported that the 2014 conference continued the tradition of holding a postgraduate skills session and this year the theme was post-PhD pathways. Ann thanked the five speakers who shared their experiences with the postgraduates. Ann noted that the Facebook and LinkedIn online communities continued to grow although Facebook seemed to be the best mechanism through which to sustain the postgraduate community. Lastly, Ann noted that this AGM would see a new pair of representatives take over the role and hoped they would enjoy the role as much as she and Kate.

6. AHA Conferences

6.1 AHA Conferences 2015: University of Sydney, Sydney [Kirsten McKenzie]

Kirsten thanked her fellow conference organizers for their hard work so far and reported that the theme of the 2015 conference would be "foundational histories." She hoped that this would provide an opportunity to both consider and question various intellectual and political foundations in historical knowledge. She looked forward to working closely with the executive over the coming 12 months to follow on the successful tradition upheld by Martin in Brisbane.

7 Amendments to the Constitution [Marilyn Lake]

7.1 Special Resolution to amend the membership of the Executive Committee

Marilyn proposed that;

-section 21.1 which outlines the make-up of the Executive, be amended to include the following:

(c) An elected post-graduate representative (the role may be shared by two or more people elected together)

(d) An elected early career researcher representative who does not, at the time of election, hold a tenured academic position (this role may be shared by two or more people elected together)

-section 20.1(e) be deleted, and that a new entry which reflects the true nature of the involvement of the History Australia editors be included in section 21.1(e) as follows:

As the editorial team are appointed through a tender / selection process, they are not elected at the AGM but co-opted on to the Committee for the duration of their term.

-that as a result of this change, section 20.1(f) becomes 20.1(e), and is amended as follows:
an Immediate Past President, who is appointed to the Committee for one term upon the expiration of their term as President.

Moved: David Carment
Seconded: Lynette Russell
Passed by a firm majority.

7.2 Special Resolution to formally recognise the existing convention of limiting the terms of office bearers

Marilyn proposed, in line with existing conventions, that section 20.3, which refers to the need for officers to stand for re-election in two years, be amended as follows:

Each officer of the Association shall hold office until the second annual general meeting after the date of his or her election but is eligible for re-election. No officer shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms (4 years in total).

Moved: Paul Sendziuk
Seconded: Carroll Pursell
Passed by a firm majority

7.3 Special Resolution to increase membership fees, recognize two new membership categories and change memberships to become due on the anniversary of their payment

Marilyn proposed that;

-the Executive be authorized to add two new membership categories from 10 July 2014:

Secondary Teachers	\$75.00
Affiliates (five years)	\$400.00

-the Executive be authorized to increase AHA membership subscriptions from 10 July 2014:

Students/Unwaged	\$55.00 (up from \$50.00)
Individuals	\$100.00 (up from \$95.00)
Affiliates	\$110.00 (up from \$100.00)

-that section 4.1 of the Constitution be amended as follows to allow for rolling memberships:

The annual subscription is payable on the anniversary of each individual member's last membership payment.

Moved: Angela Woollacott
Seconded: Carroll Pursell

Changes to these amendments were proposed from the floor

-that the category of 'casual academic' be included in the 'students unwaged' membership category.

-that the category of 'primary teachers' be included in the 'secondary teachers membership category.

Moved: Cath Bishop
Seconded: Susan Kellett

Motion as amended was now passed with firm majority.

8. AHA Executive 2014-2016: Election of Officers and ordinary Members [David Carment]

The following unopposed nominations were announced and thus elected

President: Angela Woollacott
Vice President: Lynette Russell
Treasurer: Paul Sendziuk
Secretary: Alison Holland
Postgraduate Representative: Robyn Curtis, Petra Mosmann, Bethany Phillips-Peddlesen.
ECR Representatives: Ruth Morgan and Cath Bishop

The following individuals were formally co-opted to the executive for the next term

Immediate past president: Marilyn Lake
History Australia Editors: Frank Bongiorno, Alexander Cook and Tomoko Akami
2015 Conference Convener: Kirsten McKenzie

HTAA Representative: Rosalie Triolo

Nominations were announced and an election was held for the five remaining positions on the ordinary committee. Nominations were received for Penelope Edmonds, Joy Damousi, Deborah Gare, Robert Cribb, Carolyn Holbrook, Tim Rowse, Michael Ondaatje and Martin Crotty. Ballot papers were distributed and collected. The results would be announced via the AHA newsletter and website soon after the meeting.

8. Initiatives during 2013-2014 not otherwise covered and other business [Angela Woollacott]

As newly elected President, Angela Woollacott took over as chair of the meeting. She opened the floor for any other business not already covered.

A motion of thanks to Marilyn for her hard work as President was proposed and warmly passed from the floor

Meeting closed: 6.10