



Australian Historical Association

Annual General Meeting

5 pm

Thursday 9 July 2014

University of Sydney

Minutes: 9 July 2014

Chair: Angela Woollacott

Secretary: Alison Holland

Present

Margaret Allen, Cath Bishop, Frank Bongiorno, Jo Bunce, David Carment, Georgine Clarsen, Jan Cooper, Clare Corbould, Robert Cribb, Robyn Curtis, Nancy Cushing, Joy Damousi, Alexandra Dellios, Patricia Downes, Karen Downing, Georgina Fitzpatrick, Matt Fitzpatrick, Emma Gleadhill, Sarah Green, Jo Hawkins, Alison Holland, Bronwyn Hughes, James Kirby, David Lee, Katherine Massam, Josip Matesic, Daniel May, Andrew May, Philippa Mein Smith, Chris Monnox, Petra Mosmann, Melanie Oppenheimer, Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden, Lyndon Pratt, Malcolm Prentis, Carroll Pursell, Jayne Regan, Tim Rowse, Lynette Russell, Penny Russell, Emma Shortis, John Smith, Shurlee Swain, Alistair Thomson, Rosalie Triolo, Christina Twomey, Nikita Vanderbyl, Susan Walter, Roland Wettenhall, Richard White, Angela Woollacott,

1. Welcome from President and apologies (Angela Woollacott)

Angela welcomed all to the meeting and noted the following apologies:

Jill Roe, Paul Sendzuik

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

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

Moved: Carroll Pursell

Seconded: Lynette Russell

3. Executive reports

3.1 President's report (Angela Woollacott)

Angela discussed the work of the executive committee over the past year. She noted that the committee met four times as per the usual schedule. She commented how hard working the committee was. She noted that there was to be no election this year.

She said she had two key matters she wanted to report on:

1. *History Australia* editorship: She thanked the current editorial team from ANU commenting that they were a splendid and creative team who had maintained the high standards set by the former editors. She said they had not only continued but extended the journal's mandate to cover all fields of history and had taken other responsibilities (such as the AHA-Copyright Agency bursaries) seriously. The AHA are indebted to them for all their hard work. She noted that their term runs till the end of this year.

Next year a new editorial team will carry the journal forward. The new editors are Professor Melanie Oppenheimer and Professor Matthew Fitzpatrick from Flinders University. She congratulated and welcomed them and noted how Flinders University had supported them in taking on the journal. All welcomed them aboard.

2. Upcoming conferences: Angela recorded that forthcoming conferences would be as follows:
 - 2016 – Federation University Australia, Ballarat, convened by Professor Keir Reeves
 - 2017 – University of Newcastle convened by Professor Philip Dwyer

Nancy Cushing spoke to this on behalf of Professor Dwyer. She said they were planning to have the conference in the city rather than on campus as had been done in 2004.

Angela Woollacott acknowledged the work of Kirsten McKenzie and the organising committee of the 2015 AHA. She noted that it had gone extremely smoothly. Included in her thanks was Dr Martin King, the conference administrator.

Angela Woollacott finished by thanking the AHA Executive Officer Karen Downing. She acknowledged her gratitude to Karen for her continuing hard work and commitment to the AHA.

3.2. Vice-President's report (Lynette Russell)

Lynette spoke to her tabled report noting the following:

- funding for the ARC in Federal Budget announcements included only 50 ARC Future Fellowships in final round
- a new round of Centres of Excellence opened by ARC
- new executive Director for the Humanities and Creative Arts (ARC), Professor Dennis Del Favero
- there was nothing new to report on impact measures and journal rankings but she said she will re-visit this by convening a small working party and asking for input in this process
- the Excellence in Research Australia assessments are underway with results likely to be released later this year.

Clare Corbould asked about what journal rankings were being looked at. Lynette replied that they were revisiting the list which was put together for the first ERA rounds.

3.3. Secretary's report (Alison Holland)

No report.

3.4. Treasurer's Report (Lynette Russell for Paul Sendzuik)

Lynette spoke to Paul's report as Paul was not able to be present. Funds available as of 1 July 2015 are:

- Business Transaction Account \$39,598.57
- Business Online Saver \$33 540.46
- Total net position \$73,139.03

Joy Damousi moved that the AHA accept this report

Seconded: Tim Rowse

3.5. Prizes and awards report (Tim Rowse)

Tim spoke to his tabled report. The following brief points were raised:

- As far as prizes went there were busy years and slow years for the AHA as some of prizes are biannual.
- This year the NAA bursary was awarded and the AHA had participated in judging these. He noted that the Jill Roe prize had not been awarded as there was no single entry worthy of the prize.
- The Ernest Scott prize will be announced tonight.
- He said that he had reviewed all prize descriptions and clarified them, particularly around questions of eligibility.
- Otherwise business as usual.

Andy May asked about whether we should consider of prizes for the 'off-years'. Angela said that there had been active consideration of whether we might be able to use the Allan Martin money for this purpose but we need to consider this in more depth.

Margaret Allen queried the way the prizes were clumped together in one year. Angela said that this had been considered but it is not an easy one to resolve. Tim said that one of the problems with having biannual awards is the heaviness of the judging burden. All agreed this was something we could discuss further.

3.6. Membership report (Joy Damousi)

Joy Damousi spoke to her tabled report. She noted that as at 30 June, 2014 we had 807 financial members. Joy spoke about the prospect of trying harder to get the teachers.

Alastair Thompson asked what impact social media had on the AHA conference.

Karen said that it broadened our impact on a wider scale – as we had followers both nationally and internationally.

Christine Twomey asked if *History Australia* had a social media presence but was told not yet.

3.7. History Australia Editors' Report (Frank Bongiorno)

Frank Bongiorno spoke to a written report and on behalf of the editorial team. He explained the potential move to Taylor and Francis and briefed the membership on this. He repeated Angela's thanks to Karen Downing. He said that the editorial team were indebted to her role in getting the journal published.

David Carment asked about the time lag between acceptance of an article and publication. Frank said it was hard to say but normally about 6–9 months but this depends on where the article sits and in terms of what else is planned, such as special issues. There had been about 80 submissions a year.

Christine Twomey asked about the term for the editorial board. Penny Russell said that it had been about 4 years but that it had actually gone beyond that. Frank said that there had been some discussion around this and we might need to reassess it.

Christine Twomey asked whether there was a problem in potentially moving to Taylor and Francis around the fact that they also publish *Australian Historical Studies*. Frank said that he wasn't sure whether this was an advantage or disadvantage. He noted that they also publish *Journal of Australian Studies*. Frank said that Taylor and Francis are aware they are taking on a journal with a membership and that the financial issues were not clear yet and needed to be fully worked through.

3.8. Postgraduate student representatives' report (Petra Mossman)

Spoke to her tabled report and thanked all for their support.

3.9. ECR representatives' report (Cath Bishop)

Cath spoke to her tabled report. She reported on post-PhD writing groups; the importance of AHA concession benefits being extended to casual academic ECRs; ECR/PhD events at the 2015 AHA conference; the value of the AHA Facebook page; the ongoing issue of identifying and connecting with ECRs; the lack of support for ECRs in comparison to PhD students.

4. New AHA website launch

Karen Downing presented the new AHA website (at the same url: <http://www.theaha.org.au/>) and briefly presented the benefits of the new design and content management system as well as future developments planned.

5. Initiatives during 2013-2014 not otherwise covered and other business (Angela Woollacott)

None.

6. AHA conferences

6.1 AHA Conference 2016: Federation University Australia (Jolanta Nowak for Keir Reeves)

Jolanta Nowak introduced the theme for the 2016 conference – 'From Boom To Bust' – and outlined the conference committee's plans to date.

Meeting closed: 6.00pm.