



Australian Historical Association

Annual General Meeting

5.00–6.00pm

Thursday 6 July 2017

Newcastle

Room UNH416, University House, cnr King
Street and Auckland Street, Newcastle NSW

Minutes

Chair: Lynette Russell

Minutes: Alison Holland

Present: Margaret Allen, Kate Bagnall, Alexis Bergantz, Bianka Vidonja Balanzategui, Andrew Bonnell, Clare Brennan, Jo Bunce, Melanie Burkett, Paula Byrne, Jane Carey, David Carment, Cathy Coleborne, Tamara Cooper, Robert Cribb, Martin Crotty, Nancy Cushing, Joy Damousi, Jennifer Debenham, Alexandra Dellios, Patricia Downes, Shaunnagh Dorsett, James Dunk, Mark Edele, Catherine Fisher (Horne), Matt Fitzpatrick, Sam Furphy, Sianan Healy, Nicholas Hoare, Carolyn Holbrook, Alison Holland, Margaret Hutchison, Howard Le Couteur, Russell McGregor, Annemarie McLaren, Andy May, Daniel May, Alexia Moncrieff, Ben Morris, Isobelle Barrett Meyering, Colin Milner, Helen Monro, N. Morris, Melanie Oppenheimer, Alana Piper, Andonis Piperoglou, Carroll Pursell, Marian Quartly, Annmarie Reid, Tim Rowse, Lynette Russell, Jonathan Sale, Paul Sendziuk, Judith Smart, Ann Standish, Ana Stevenson, Rosalie Triolo, Christina Twomey, Angela Woollacott, Bart Ziino

1. **Apologies:** Margaret Birtley, Philip Deery, Rae Francis, Anthea Hyslop, Julie Kimber, Marilyn Lake, Janette Pelosi, Rebe Taylor, Sandra Wilson

2. Minutes of the previous AGM

Motion: Lynette moved that the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted. Martin Crotty seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

3. Executive reports

3.1 *President's report (Lynette Russell)*

MOTION: Lynette moved a vote of thanks to the AHA executive for all their hard work across the year.

3.1.1 In Memorium

Lynette reflected on those in the profession who had passed away over the past twelve months: John Mulvaney; Jeffrey Grey; Hugh Anderson; Micky Dewar; Rod Fisher and Jill Roe.

3.1.2 Correspondence

Lynette referred to correspondence sent and received:

Correspondence received

- Webster & Co. Solicitors re. Jill Roe's will 27/2/17
- Meher Grigorian, 20/6/17; 29/6/17

Correspondence sent

- Susan Margery, thanking her for continued contribution of funds to the Margery Medal
- Heads of History re funds for Staffing and Curriculum Survey 27/1/17

- Heads of History re Staffing and Curriculum Survey 3/3/17
- Reply from AHA EO to Webster & Co Solicitors 16/3/17

3.1.3 Conferences

Lynette noted the upcoming AHA conferences would be at ANU in 2018 and the University of Southern Queensland in 2019. She asked members to consider whether their institution would be interested in hosting the 2020 conference, with a suggestion that it might be time for a Melbourne venue.

3.2 *Vice-president's report (Joy Damousi)*

3.2.1 AHA History Journal List

Joy Damousi provided brief background to the issue. The AHA executive formed a sub-committee when it was asked to produce a list of history journals by the Heads of History meeting in Sydney in 2015. This was Lynette Russell, Joy Damousi, Paul Sendzuik, Melanie Oppenheimer and Christina Twomey. As a first step, Heads of History were asked to provide any journal lists which were currently in circulation at their institution. Those that were provided were compiled and consolidated into the list circulated by the AHA – which thus represents what has been circulating internally in some history department.

Joy acknowledged this list was incomplete and said that the next step was for everyone to read the list and forward to Ann Standish the details of any journals they think should be added to the list. This opportunity would be available until 10 August 2017.

Once the draft list had been finalised, the next stage would be ranking. Joy noted that Robert Cribb had already done a lot of work in this area, which had been passed on to the AHA executive.

Jane Lydon asked how this discussion had been communicated to members. She noted that she and her department had made a submission on the issue a year ago, following the circulation of the AHA's discussion paper and request for feedback, but only recently heard the issue was again on the agenda for the AGM. In the meantime, she had had no response to the submission. Joy responded that the outcome of executive discussion had been announced in the AHA newsletter at each stage, which Ann Standish confirmed. Jane asked if, as we move forward with this, the lines of communication could be better. Joy agreed.

3.4 *Treasurer's report (Paul Sendzuik)*

Paul reported that the Association was in a sound financial position. He spoke to his report pointing to the following:

- We had been audited by Aitken O'Grady Chartered Accountants and everything was in order.
- The AHA financial year runs from 1 June 2016- 31 May 2017.
- Expenses consisted of the executive officer's salary (\$65,040 - \$3,020 less than 2015-16).
- History Australia - \$26,390
- The journal earned \$3500 in royalties and Flinders University had provided \$5000 for editorial assistant.
- There had been benefits from transferring the journal in terms of downloads and the number of libraries who make the journal accessible.

- Main income had been \$78,464 in membership fees; \$10,524 conference surplus (surplus is from sponsorship savings and from internal contributions and payment of non-member registrations to the conference).
- Paul forecasts are that we will receive an invoice for the journal, that we have the legacy from Jill Roe (\$20,000) and that there will be a good return from the Newcastle conference.

MOTION: Lynette Russell moved that the treasurer's report be accepted. This was seconded by Joy Damousi and passed unanimously.

3.5 Prizes and awards report (Tim Rowse)

Tim spoke to his report. He thanked the judges of the Allan Martin award (Shino Konishi, Andy May and Maria Nugent) and the Jill Roe prize (David Carment, Jane Lydon and Tim Rowse).

3.6 Membership report (Karen Downing)

Ann Standish spoke to Karen's report:

- She thanked all the members who had completed the 2017 member survey, stating we had received over 400 responses, which Karen had collated into a comprehensive report, now available on the AHA website. The report shows that overall, members are positive about the AHA, particularly the newsletter information sharing and sense of community. However, there are a number of issues members are not so happy about. She stressed that the AHA takes all the responses very seriously and are working to address some of the grievances.
- She noted that she and Karen are working on website development
- She reported that of June 2017 total members of the AHA were 757, with Lynette noting that we are looking at different methods of member renewal to try and expedite the process of renewal from year to year.

3.7 Teaching and learning report (Martin Crotty)

Martin noted that he and Paul Sendzuik had sent the survey out to all universities in Australia and New Zealand in February this year. They have now crunched the results and will present them at the plenary session on Friday morning. He said the results provide an important snapshot of the discipline which acts as a census that the AHA hopes to repeat every five years or so.

3.8 History Australia editors' report (Melanie Oppenheimer, Matt Fitzpatrick, Catherine Kevin)

Melanie spoke to the report, noting the following:

- HA had a new editorial assistant, with Dr Karen Agutter being succeeded by Dr Anmarie Reid, and Dr Meggie Hutchinson was the new books review editor.
- the changeover to Taylor and Francis had been challenging but things were now going smoothly.
- HA had received financial assistance from Flinders University of \$15,000 a year which was invaluable.
- They had developed a set of protocols for changes to the editorial board. Recent changes included the addition of Professor James Beattie, Professor Angela Woollacott and Dr Shino Konishi and Dr Sandra Wilson.

- the inaugural Taylor and Francis prize for the best article published in the journal in 2016 had been awarded to Dr Laura Rademaker. She noted that Laura had been a recipient of an AHA-CAL conference and publication bursary, which had contributed to the development of the winning article.

Matthew Fitzpatrick then spoke, noting various metrics systems coming into play, including ALT metrics which digitally register the journal's profile on social media. He asked all members to share History Australia articles they like through social media.

To conclude, Melanie commented that the current editorial teams was half-way through their term and that succession planning was underway

3.9 Postgraduate student representatives' report (Daniel May, Melanie Burkett, Annemarie McLaren)

Daniel spoke to the report, briefly commented how delightful it was to see the level of postgraduate involvement at the conference and, in particular, at the special events/workshops/seminars organised on their behalf at the conference.

3.10 Early career researcher representatives' report (Carolyn Holbrook, Margaret Hutchison)

Carolyn and Meggie reported the breaking news that they had been successful in receiving funding of \$27,000 over 3 years from the Copyright Agency to support a new ECR mentorship scheme. Details of the scheme will be publicised when finalised.

They also reported on the successful launch of the ECR blog in 2016, which has featured a number of popular 'series' focusing on historians and tips for ECRs. They noted that their Facebook and Twitter followers continue to grow.

3.11 HTAA representative's report (Rosalie Triolo)

Rosalie commented how much she appreciated being part of the history community and thanked the AHA for its continuing support, which was reciprocated by the HTT

4. AHA conferences

4.1 AHA Conference 2018: Australian National University (Sam Furphy)

Sam briefly informed members of the progress of the AHA conference at ANU in 2018, noting that venues and keynote speakers were being considered. He also noted that a flyer advertising the conference was in the 2017 conference satchel.

5. Other business

Christina Twomey noted that the AHA prizes portfolio currently lacked a book prize, as the Ernest Scott prize was a University of Melbourne prize and was now administered by the University. She suggested the AHA look to having its own best book prize. She urged the executive to consider adding a

philanthropy/fund-raising portfolio to pursue this and other initiatives. Lynette responded that she thought this was a very good and worthwhile idea and the executive would discuss it at their next meeting.

MOTION: Joy moved a vote of thanks to Lynette as President, commenting on all her efforts and indicating how much she was appreciated.

MOTION: Lynette moved a formal vote of thanks to Philip Dwyer and his Newcastle team for a smooth-running, wonderfully organized conference.