



Australian  
Historical  
Association

Annual General Meeting  
5.00 – 6.00pm  
Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2018  
Copland Theatre  
Australian National University, ACT

## Minutes

**Chair:** Lynette Russell

**Minutes:** Noah Riseman (unofficially)

**Present:** attendance not taken (quorum reached)

**Apologies:** Claire Corbould, John Pickard, Patricia Grimshaw

1. Minutes of the previous AGM

**Motion:** Lynette Russell moved that the minutes of the previous AGM be accepted. Joy Damousi seconded the motion. It was passed unanimously.

2. Executive reports

2.1. President's report (Lynette Russell)

Report tabled and attached to this document. Lynette read out the highlights of the report and particularly made tribute to those who have passed away since the last AGM.

2.2. Vice-president's report (Joy Damousi)

2.2.1 Journal list: Following on from the Sydney AHA (2015), there have been a series of discussions and consultations relating to an AHA journal list. This list will shortly be circulated and then posted on the AHA website. There was a particular need for input from non-Australianists to put together the journal list. The criteria to be on the list were that these are scholarly journals which the AHA endorses as used in our profession. The list is not ranked but rather is merely an alphabetical list. If members believe the list to be incomplete, please contact Joy

2.2.2 ERA: Joy will be monitoring the ARC results and ERA outcomes for Historical Studies.

2.3. Secretary's report (Alison Holland): n/a

2.4. Treasurer's report – attached (Paul Sendziuk)

2.5. Prizes and awards report – attached (Tim Rowse)

Tim expressed his gratitude to all of the judges for the various prizes.

2.6. Membership report – attached (Karen Downing)

Karen noted a few highlights from the attached report:

- In light of the recently released Australian Women's History Network report on sexual harassment, there will be updates made to the pending code of ethics
- Attempts to grow the membership will need help with social media use and engagement

2.7. Teaching and learning report (Martin Crotty)

The report written by Martin Crotty and Paul Sendziuk on History units and teaching at universities is now available. The next AHA Executive should look at casualisation of tertiary History teaching and how that is affecting teaching, learning and the profession more generally.

2.8. *History Australia* Editors' report attached (Melanie Oppenheimer, Matt Fitzpatrick, Catherine Kevin)

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

Melanie presented the postgraduate report:

- An online Twitter workshop had 340 tweets in a thread which was designed to teach how to use Twitter effectively
- They have been monitoring the Tweets at the AHA Conference this year
- Coordinated a lunch discussion at the AHA Conference about diversity and inclusion
- Approximately 30 postgraduates attended the AHA Conference social event
- The panel on non-academic jobs for History PhD graduates went really well and will all be compiled, along with the Twitter information, for the AHA website

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

- The copyright agency mentoring program went spectacularly well, and even better than foreseen – thanks to the mentors and facilitators
- The ECR Facebook page, Twitter account and blog are all thriving, generating very popular feedback
- Meggie facilitated a workshop at the AHA Conference about casualisation of the workplace and its effects on ECRs
- The AHA Executive is open to ideas for changes to conferences and listening to other ideas of how to improve the conferences and be more engaging for ECRs

2.11. HTAA representatives' report – attached (Rosalie Triolo)

Rosalie expressed gratitude to the AHA and Lynette in particular for their support to history in schools. Rosalie's role is primarily to serve as a conduit relating teachers and the education field to the other history practitioners.

3. AHA conferences

3.1 AHA Conference 2019 (Catherine Dewhirst)

3.1.1. The 2019 conference co-convenors for Toowoomba are Catherine Dewhirst, Libby Connors and Jayne Persian

- Professor John Maynard has already been confirmed as one of the keynote speakers
- The conference website will be up in September
- The venues will be in the Toowoomba CBD at the Masonic Hall, Empire Theatre and City Library (which is 8 minute walk from the other two sites)
- Conference will be shortened by a day, which will help to keep costs down
- Conference dinner will be at Gip's Restaurant

- Tours available on the Friday will include an archaeological site relating to the local Aboriginal community
- Child rooms have been secured; also looking into local childcare options
- The best coffee is at Toowoomba Airport!

3.1.2 The 2020 conference will be held at Deakin University's Waterfront Campus in Geelong

#### 4. Other business

##### 4.1 Digital history teaching work/projects (Lynette)

- James Cook University have a digital teaching history project and will be linking up with the AHA website. This will have no cost and be free.
- Tim Sherratt has been invited to the AHA Executive as Digital Representative. He has proven excellent in this space through his work on Trove and will be a useful advisor for the AHA.

##### 4.2 Thanks

Joy expressed sincere gratitude to Lynette for her judgement, inspiration, care and collegiality on behalf of the AHA Executive and Organisation.

## 2.1 President's report (Lynette Russell)

Welcome, we meet tonight on the lands of the Nungawal people, I thank Aunty Matilda, Dr House, on behalf of the elders for their warm welcome on to their land.

A huge thank you to the ANU for what has been so far an outstanding annual conference.

More thanks. Working for the AHA I have seen how dedicated and committed your executive is. In addition to their busy work and professional lives your executive officers are tireless in their commitment to the AHA. It is a true privilege to work with them. Our ECR representatives Meggie Hutchison and Carolyn Holbrook have been energetic, and focused. Thank you. Tim Rowse has continued to be a champion in the prize portfolio and I acknowledge his hard work and the teams of judges he has assembled. Paul Sendziuk as treasurer has been steadfast and frank in his advice and support and our improved financial position is to be celebrated.

The publication this year of the review of teaching by Martin Crotty and Paul Sendziuk has been immensely helpful and has given us a basis for planning and future research.

Joy Damousi as vice president has been a tremendous measured influence and her work in the research portfolio has been very important. Through this portfolio we keep a watching brief on the state of ARC funding, ERA, and other trends in the research sector.

Later tonight we will celebrate the AHA in our annual dinner, I will have a few words to say there about our immediate past president Angela Woolacott but for those of you now unable to attend, be assured that Angela's hard work and dedication is appreciated and her counsel always valued.

To all other members of the executive, Annemarie, Daniel and Melanie as Postgraduate reps you have never wavered and your efforts have been truly appreciated. To Alison, Christina, Rosalie, Melanie and the History Australia editorial team, a huge and unreserved THANK YOU.

Finally I must thank Karen Downing who stepped in to the breach when our Exec Officer resigned, and in addition to monitoring our memberships, and organising the conference she has assisted me in ways too numerous to mention. Suffice to say we would not have managed without you.

Since we last meet we have lost a number of historians and public figures steeped in the history profession.

### In Memoriam

Tracey Banivanua-Mar—passed away in August last year and left a terrible hole in many of our lives. She was much, much too young.

In December Ken Inglis at the age of 88, died.

Last month Emeritus Professor Duncan Waterson, MQ, and in April Sally Percival Wood, a highly respected Melbourne-based historian with an interest in the political, cultural and social upheavals brought about by decolonisation in the twentieth-century.

Bryan Fletcher

## 3.1 Upcoming conferences

2019 University of Southern Queensland

2020 Deakin University

## **2.4 Treasurer's Report for AHA Executive, as of (and including) 25 June 2018**

### **1. Current Balances**

#### *Funds available as of (and including) 25 June 2018*

Business Transaction Account (general operating expenses) = \$73,630.12

- NB: still need to deduct \$16,972.63 for most recent EO salary invoice

Business Online Saver (includes \$5,650 Jill Roe fund) = \$34,710.27

Total net position (saving accounts) = \$108,340.39

- NB: really \$91,367.76 once the EO salary is paid

Westpac Term Deposit (16-3799; Hancock Award funds) = \$31,363.91

Westpac Term Deposit (16-3780; Kay Daniels Award funds) = \$27,388.68

UBS Property Securities Fund (Serle Award) = \$28,536.92 (as of 31 May 2018)

(The Allan Martin Award is held in an ANU controlled account. Value approx. \$90,000.)

#### *Income from 5 March 2018 until (and including) 25 June 2018*

Membership subscriptions = \$49,538.63

Interest earned on Business Online Saver account for this period = \$43.70

Copyright Agency postgrad bursaries = \$8,000

Allan Martin Award funds from ANU = \$4,000

#### *Expenses from 5 March 2018 until (and including) 25 June 2018*

Bank fees = \$75.69

Postage and PO Box renewal = \$472.95

Website plugins and support = \$263.70

Officeworks printing = \$110.14

### **2. Still need to pay Executive Officer salary for last quarter**

We have an outstanding invoice to pay: EO salary for the last quarter = \$16,972.63

### **3. Auditor's financial report**

The AHA's accounts have been audited by Atkin O'Grady Chartered Accountants, who found no irregularities and prepared a Financial Report. Our financial year runs from 1 June 2017 to 31 May 2018. In that period the AHA recorded a \$32,814 surplus, arresting a series of deficits recorded in the past few years. This is largely due to the Jill Roe gift (\$20,000) and the Newcastle conference, which returned a levy and surplus that was about \$13,500 above our minimum forecast. Had these two things not occurred, we would have broken even for the year. This suggests that our membership fees are now set at a level that covers our expenses. However, keep in mind that most of our prizes (worth \$6,000) were not awarded in this year. Also keep in mind that this year's surplus is covering approximately \$16,500 in deficits that were recorded over the previous two years, as we incurred the new cost of publishing the journal with Taylor & Francis before our membership income could be adjusted accordingly.

### **4. Business Transaction Account still needs to be 'reimbursed' from UBS fund**

As noted in one of my previous reports, the AHA has been paying the Serle Award from its Business Transaction Account, when the funds should in fact come from the UBS fund that was set up when the award was established. \$17,500 thus needs to be transferred between the accounts for reimbursement. This process (which should probably happen in stages, so as not to dramatically affect the balance of the UBS fund) has not yet begun, and should be a priority for the incoming Treasurer.

Paul Sendziuk  
Treasurer

## 2.5 Prizes and short lists 2018

### W.K. Hancock Prize

Miranda Johnson, *The Land Is Our History: Indigeneity, Law, and the Settler State*  
Jessica Lake, *The face that launched a thousand lawsuits: the American women who forged a right to privacy*  
Tristan Moss, *Guarding the periphery : the Australian Army in Papua New Guinea, 1951-75*  
Jayne Persian, *Beautiful Balts: From displaced persons to new Australians*

### Serle Award

Steven Anderson, 'Death of a Spectacle. The Transition from Public to Private Executions in Colonial Australia'.  
Anne Rees, 'Travelling to Tomorrow: Australian women in the United States, 1910–1960'

### Kay Daniels Award

Kristyn Harman, *Cleansing the Colony: Transporting Convicts from New Zealand to Van Diemen's Land*  
Joan Kavanagh and Dianne Snowden, *Van Diemen's Women: A History of Transportation to Tasmania*  
Anne McMahon, *Floating Prisons: Irish Convict Hulks and Voyages to New South Wales 1823-1837*

### Magarey Medal for Biography

Bernadette Brennan, *A Writing Life: Helen Garner and Her Work*  
Judith Brett, *The Enigmatic Mr Deakin*  
Suzanne Falkiner, *Mick: A Life of Randolph Stow*  
Cathy McLennan, *Saltwater: An Epic Fight for Justice in the Tropics*  
Alexis Wright, *Tracker*

There is no short list for the **Jill Roe** prize and for the **Allan Martin** Award – only a winner to be announced at the dinner.

## 2.6 Membership report

Karen Downing

### Code of ethics

At our September 2017 executive committee meeting I proposed that the Association formally adopt a member code of ethics. I thank fellow committee members Ruth Morgan and Martin Crotty for undertaking the important task of drafting a code. The committee will review the suggested guidelines in the recent AWHN the survey of sexual and gender-based discrimination and abuse in Australian Academia before making a draft available to members for comment.

### Website development

At our September 2017 meeting the committee approved expenditure on web support (\$49 per month) to assist with technical aspects of the website that the executive officer is not trained for.

### Membership statistics

Rolling membership renewals means that figures undulate and are only meaningful over longer periods. It is pleasing to note that membership has grown in the 12 months since the last AGM but it is still below the peak of 900 members that we reached in December 2016. A series of autogenerated emails are sent to members to remind them of their renewal date and advise when their membership has expired. The executive officer and I also sent a printed mailout to expired members in January.

	June 2017	September 2017	December 2017	March 2018	June 2018
Individual	329	333	367	383	378
Student	215	230	244	246	227
Concession	137	140	159	172	168
Teacher	13	14	14	15	18
Low income	27	33	36	37	42
Affiliate	13	16	16	17	16
Affiliate (5 years)	2	4	4	4	4
Life	4	4	4	4	4
Total	740	774	844	878	857

### Social media statistics

Our implementation of a new Facebook policy in September 2017 has not been fully completed. The Facebook page, therefore, is not yet the member-only online forum that want to provide and I will be asking my successor on the committee to make the AHA's social media a priority.

	June 2017	September 2017	December 2017	March 2018	June 2018	
Facebook	940	1049	1089	1111	1097	
-	ECRs				208	217
-	postgrads				147	166
Twitter	1651	1760	1823	1917	2033	
-	ECRs					766

## **2.8 History Australia**

### **Report from the Editors**

#### **Australian Historical Association (AHA) AGM**

This is our final annual report as Editors of History Australia. The last twelve months have seen further consolidation of the journal in all areas of our work and we have finally settled into a rhythm that is both stimulating and rewarding. It has taken some time to bed down but the publishing relationship with Taylor and Francis is now reaping tangible rewards for the journal, our contributors and the AHA. We believe that over the next few years, the AHA can look forward to further success with the new incoming editorial team. We are delighted to be handing over to Michelle Arrow, Leigh Boucher and Kate Fullagar from Macquarie University, who will officially begin their three-year term in January 2019. We had a preliminary skype meeting in May and a breakfast meeting in Canberra on 3 July. A new editorial assistant and reviews team will be announced soon.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our book review editors, Andrekos Varnava and Meggie Hutchison as well as our exhibition review editor, Laina Hall, for their stellar work on soliciting an increasing range of reviews. We particularly wish to thank everyone who has volunteered to write a review, without you we cannot offer this important service to the history community. We also thank Romain Fathi, our inaugural Editorial Trainee, who has provided us with energetic and skilled assistance. A special and heartfelt thank you, however, must go to Annmarie Reid who, as our Assistant Editor, has become indispensable. Her superior organisational skills and calm temperament has ensured the running of the journal is an enjoyable task. We owe much to her for getting the journal out in time each quarter.

#### **Editorial Board:**

A set of protocols for Editorial Board members was confirmed last year. We note with great sadness the passing of Editorial Board member and esteemed colleague, Dr Tracey Banivanua-Mar. We are yet to replace Tracey and will discuss this with the incoming editors.

#### **Inclusion on the Scopus Index and Scimago:**

We are delighted to report that History Australia is now in Scopus, indexed from 2003-2018. Scopus is only updated three times a year so we should appear in the next couple of months (September we are told). This means that the journal will also be included in Scimago once the Scopus index is fully updated. This will provide the journal with increased discoverability over the coming years. Here are the reviewer comments:

“This is a strong and established journal, publishing important material in the research field. It impresses from the editorial policy and the homepage to the production schedule and online access. Citations are fairly high, underlining its importance to scholars. As such, it merits inclusion in SCOPUS.”

#### **Taylor and Francis Prize 2017:**

This year's prize, worth \$500, was awarded to Ben Silverstein for his article, “Possibly they did not know themselves”: the ambivalent government of sex and work in the Northern Territory Aboriginals Ordinance 1918' published in volume 14, no. 3, 2017. Congratulations Ben!

#### **Highlights from Taylor & Francis annual report:**

We receive a confidential publishing report from Taylor & Francis each year that contains some interesting data and analysis (based on calendar years). Unfortunately, we cannot provide you with the entire document but here are some highlights from 2017:

- ❖ History Australia received 19,436 article downloads in 2017 which is 115% higher than downloads received in 2016.
- ❖ In 2017, we published a total of 86 manuscripts including 35 articles; 34 book reviews; 6 exhibition reviews.
- ❖ In 2017, we had a rejection rate of 12.3%; reject and resubmit at 13.7%; major revisions at 23.3%; minor revisions at 20.5% and accept at 30.1% (this acceptance rate includes book and exhibition reviews).
- ❖ Author comments. We received an author satisfaction rating of 7.44 out of a possible 10. A couple of examples of comments below for your information:
- ❖ Please explain the reason for your satisfaction or dissatisfaction:
- ❖ Very efficient and thorough process from History Australia's editors and editorial assistant.
- ❖ Took a while, but generally a satisfactory process. Reviewers and editors' comments were very helpful.
- ❖ The process was easy to follow, although I did receive several emails reminding me to fill out a copyright form after having done it.
- ❖ Online PDF editing tool too hard to use.
- ❖ Everything fine but I would prefer proofs that look like the final copy to work with.
- ❖ What factors were important in influencing your decision to submit to this journal?
- ❖ This is one of only two quality journals of Australian history.
- ❖ Prospective interest of readers of this journal in this particular article. Also, a wish to broaden my publication beyond the more specifically area studies journals where I have previously studied.
- ❖ A quality journal with reputable editors and my sense that the likely readership of the journal would find this particular article of interest.

Melanie Oppenheimer; Matthew Fitzpatrick; Catherine Kevin

(Co-editors, History Australia) Flinders University, South Australia

## **2.11 AHA's Relationship with the History Teachers' Association of Australia, 2017-18**

HTAA Representative to AHA: Rosalie Triolo, Monash University

The AHA and HTAA have enjoyed a positive and mutually beneficial relationship over the past 12 months through:

- shared understandings of, and advocacy for, each other's work
- shared promotion of each other's major events and membership benefits
- AHA being updated in quarterly meetings on developments in Australian and State/Territory History curriculum, policies and professional teaching standards, as well as HTAA prizes and competitions
- HTAA being updated on the latest historical research, including which researchers may be possibilities for keynotes and papers at HTA conferences or at Year 11-12 senior student history lectures; and
- each being able to easily seek information from the other as needs arise.