



Australian
Historical
Association

Annual General Meeting

5.30 – 6.30pm

Thursday 11th July 2019

Toowoomba

Minutes

1. Apologies:

Madonna Grehan, Rae Frances, Karen Downing, Michael Duke, Clare Corbould, Nicole Chalmer, Fady Aoun, Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden, Melanie Oppenheimer, Aileen Marwung Walsh, Romain Fathi, Ruth Morgan

2. Minutes of the previous AGM (attached)

Taken as accepted

3. Executive reports

3.1 President's Report - verbal (Joy Damousi)

3.1.1 In Memoriam: Eric Richards, John Maloney, Waterson, David Fitzpatrick

3.1.2 Advocacy:

All AHA Executive Committee advocacy activities have been posted on the website. These include several submissions to ongoing government and other inquiries: re NAA costs, Tune Review, ANZSRC Review, AAHA Future Workforce Consultation.

ARC veto: The AHA made a strong statement expressing anger at the ministerial veto over ARC projects.

3.1.3 A generous donation from Honest History has allowed for a History Teacher Scholarship to enable a teacher to attend the AHA conference in 2019 and 2020.

3.1.4 AAH Forum brought together various associations around the collective interest and purpose of promoting the Humanities in Australia

3.1.5 Membership drive called 'Towards 1000'

The current executive want to expand AHA operations through increased membership

3.1.6 Casualisation Survey

There was a very high response rate, and report will hopefully be published by the end of the year.

3.1.7 Journal rankings list

The AHA's call for responses generated discussion, and there has been some great feedback and very constructive discussion at AHA Consultation Session for ways to improve this

3.1.8 Code of conduct

This is a new initiative, and by attending conference people are agreeing to abide by the code of conduct. As of next AHA we will have an option for people to include their preferred pronouns on their conference nametags.

3.1.9 *History Australia* is expanding and has two new prizes

3.1.10 AHA Conferences

2020 AHA will be at Deakin, and 2021 will be held at UNSW, which was the very first site of the conference. This will be fitting as the 40th anniversary conference.

3.2 Treasurer's report – verbal (Lisa Featherstone)

SEE SLIDES

Income varies from year to year, so we have kept a bit of a rein on spending. The audit has been completed and, thanks to Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden, everything has received a great tick.

Prizes and bursaries take up a large part of the income, but several of them are donated.

Increased social media presence and weekly emails have increased the value of the membership

Discussion:

Lisa Ford: Membership needs to consider the cost of the conference, particularly when you need to use a conference organiser or find a venue. Would like the opportunity to demonstrate that AHA conference can still turn a profit whilst significantly reducing cost of registration (regulations currently say that there cannot be a reduced cost to registrations).

Joy: Very open to the possibilities of how profit may be delivered; over years, some conferences have not delivered profit. Open to flexibility for budget for conference, as long as there is a sound case. \$40 levy for registrations was added a few years ago to ensure that we turn a profit and were not losing money on conferences.

3.3 Prizes and awards report - document attached (Kirsten McKenzie)

SEE SLIDES and circulated report.

This year is the quieter year with fewer prizes; 2020 is the bigger prize year – there will be more judging next year. The Jill Roe Scholarship and Honest History Award are both new this year and will also run in 2020.

3.4 Membership report document attached (Noah Riseman)

This year we prioritised renewals first, as we realised some people were not getting renewal notices. This has been fixed now and Romain Fathi and Noah Riseman are sending personal email reminders to all people before the expiry of their membership.

880 membership; about 30 more than this time last year .

Refer new members for a book voucher promotion: this has not been heavily utilised, but we will keep running it indefinitely.

Reaching out to non-academic historians, and increased activity on social media.

International rate: motion to set up a separate rate of \$100 for those people who outside of Australia.

3.5 Teaching and learning report - verbal (Lyndon Megarrity)

SEE SLIDES

Casual is defined as non-tenured, non-permanent member of staff at any Australian university

Casual Survey: The importance of the survey is to make sure that casuals' work is valued by the profession

Discussion:

Joy: The purpose of the survey is to capture the experience of casuals, to supplement the quantitative data we have about casuals already

David Goodman: Will the survey distinguish between the different types of 'casuals' which have been lumped together?

Lyndon: The survey does distinguish between the different categories of casual (as defined broadly)

3.6 *History Australia* Editors' report – document attached (Leigh Boucher/Kate Fullagar/ Michelle Arrow) (Presented Kate and Michelle)

SEE SLIDES and attached document

There was a very large pipeline when the Macquarie team took over the journal. There are new reviews and special sections editors as well.

Marian Quarty Prize is the renamed 'Taylor and Francis Prize', in her honour as the first editor of *History Australia*. The judges were the previous Flinders editorial team.

New Ann Curthoys Prize: originally the editorial team were going to fund the prize from AHA money, but when approached, Ann Curthoys generously offered more funds for it (applause). The prize is for an ECR, currently defined as five years out of Phd conferral, for an article published in one of five fields that Ann has researched.

One guest-edited issue per year (this year edited by Bart Ziino and Romain Fathi); to try to expand new opportunities and showcase new scholars, promoting the idea of forums for the journal.

History Australia also has a strong author satisfaction score from ScholarOne and now have over 1,500 Twitter followers

Discussion:

Tim Rowse: Some journals publicise the rejection rate and we need to differentiate between book reviews and peer review articles.

Michelle: Taylor & Francis doesn't differentiate these so it is not possible to do this.

Tim Rowse: Provisional AHA journal ranking has *History Australia* as a 4. How do the editors feel about this.

Noah Riseman: Explained that we can't not rank it given how prevalent it is in terms of where people publish, but we have taken Tim's suggestions on board re: declaring who the subcommittee is, conflicts of interest, and the conflict of interest that AHA has will be marked in the AHA evaluation with an asterisk.

Marilyn Lake: At the very least asterisk to note that *History Australia* is the association's own journal (declared as conflict of interest)

Noah: Yes, that is the plan.

3.7 Postgraduate student representatives' report – attached (Aileen Marwung Walsh)

Postgraduate Membership Drive to University History Departments

3.8 Early career researcher representatives' report - verbal (André Brett)

Big thanks and acknowledgement to previous ECR reps Carolyn Holbrook and Meggie Hutchison. Thanks also to Gemmia Burden who took on many of the ECR roles while Andre was ill.

SEE SLIDES

ECR Blog: Thanks to Imogen Wegman, Joel Barnes and Effie Karageorgos who wrote the articles about casualisation, and Yves Flores for the blog about transphobia and how we can tackle it. These were all the most popular articles.

Interested in a series about academic parents and academic children. While many ECRs want to read something on this topic, very few people have offered to participate/write for it – so accepting offers.

Casualisation a big concern among ECRs, and there have been some key points floated for how the profession can support them: Inclusion in institutional cultures, not being asked to do unpaid work, approving time sheets in a timely fashion

3.9 HTAA representatives' report – verbal (Rosalie Triolo) – read by Joy

SEE SLIDE

Very appreciative of the Honest History scholarship which funded a teacher to attend the AHA.

3.10 Executive Officer's Report – verbal (Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden)

SEE SLIDE

Joy expressed enormous gratitude to Bethany, who has been extraordinary in the role as Executive Officer.

Enormous thanks to all members of the Executive, who have been showing lots of energy, initiative and work into these voluntary roles. Thanks to the Executive on behalf of the AHA.

4. AHA conferences

4.1 AHA Conference 2019 – Toowoomba - verbal (Catherine Dewhirst)

We had a few problems with the contract management people; we had anticipated 300 delegates when we put the program together, and as of this time last week we had 271 registrations plus we have had a few day registrations in response to media exposure.

Sponsorship has been healthy and important to start early.

Registration costs are set, but in consultation with the Executive, we were more flexible with extending the early bird to ECRs and Postgraduates.

Full report will be forthcoming after the conferences.

Joy: A round of applause and thanks to Catherine for her work organising the conference.

4.2 AHA Conference 2020 – Deakin - verbal (Bart Ziino)

Geelong next year will be at the Waterfront Campus in the heart of the city, close to the cultural institutions. Already developing links with the Library and Heritage Centre in Geelong.

Theme is ‘Urgent Histories’ to encourage us to reflect on the importance of historians’ work in the now and to make sense of the present in light of the past. The conference dates are one week earlier than normal because Deakin has different trimesters and it was the only way to host it there.

Using Deakin’s internal event management unit, which does attract some cost similar to commercial entities, but the advantage is the access to all university systems and knowledge as well as policies re: use of space. There is a per head cost of up to 300 delegates, and anything over that will be cream on the top. Please promote this conference, tweet, etc.

4.3 AHA Conference 2021 – UNSW

The new representative from UNSW will be on the Executive committee from now on.

5. Special resolution to add International membership rate

\$100 special rate; very small number of people are international members so this will (hopefully) encourage more – especially important for recruiting New Zealand members (not tax deductible in other countries; full-time academic salaries much higher in Australia than other countries; newsletter and other membership incentives tend to be more Australia-focused)

Voted in unanimous agreement

6. Other business

6.1 History Councils proposed Value of History Statement (Andy May)

As a board member of History Council of Victoria, Andy has been delegated to deliver the Value of History Statement. Other AHA members have also been involved in this process eg. Nancy Cushing and Stephen Gapps in NSW; Jenny Gregory in WA.

The four history councils in Australia are independent membership organisations which are the peak coordinating bodies for history in their respective states. They work cooperatively to campaign for the recognition of history and about what makes the past important. Include reps from teachers, ABC, museums, public historians, and a few academic representatives on their boards.

The four councils of NSW, Victoria, SA and WA have adopted a joint statement about the value of history. The statement is now published on the Council websites and it has been adapted from the US History Relevance Campaign (started 2012) and steered by representatives from universities and GLAM sector in the US (e.g. Organisation of American Historians). The statement focuses on a number of ways we consider history essential in shaping our identities; engaging us as citizens, etc.

The ideas and aspirations expressed in the report could be incorporated in mission statements and other bodies. A few hard copies of the statement are available, or please have a look at the websites of the History Council states. You as a member can read it, endorse it, share it, and use it in your endeavours as historians.

6.2 Response to Uluru Statement Plenary

SEE SLIDES

This proposal was circulated to the Executive, who gave unanimous support. AGM unanimous support for this.

Discussion:

Andrea Gaynor: A terrific initiative, and would be great to extend this to material support. Perhaps AHA could organise a crowdfunding campaign or some other sort of drive to raise funds for resources to the Uluru Statement of the Heart Campaign. This would be in addition to the petition.

Joy: Andrea can email Joy and Lisa Featherstone, and we can take this initiative further.

Bursary recipient Teela Reed put up a slide about all the petitions throughout history. It would be great if someone from the AHA could put together an article in *The Monthly* (for instance) and attach the AHA letter at the end of that.

6.3 Paul Turnbull

Wants AHA to support a motion in favour of the establishment of a national keeping place for the repatriation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. After years of campaigning, Indigenous activists have won support from the federal government for repatriation of remains from various scientific collections. Right now, the advisory committee has taken surveys with communities across Australia, and they have taken a position that there should be a National Keeping Place for those that have no clear province (about 2,000-3,000 remains).

Most of the advisory committee met at AIATSIS last week and agreed to go back to the various associations and to ask for support for this:

Proposed motion: "That the Australian Historical Association welcomes the proposed establishment of a national keeping place for the care of the mortal remains of the Ancestors of Aboriginal Australian peoples and Torres Strait Islanders returned from scientific institutions.

It is the hope of the Australian Historical Association that the proposed national keeping place will also serve, as a documentation centre, under Indigenous governance, for research and the provision of resources for establishing the community of origin of currently unprovenanced remains."

Unanimous support

3.3 Prize Portfolio 2019 (Kirsten McKenzie/Melanie Oppenheimer)

Regular awards:

The majority of the AHA's prizes are next due for award in 2020. The outcome of the 2019 **Jill Roe** prize for the best unpublished article-length work and the 2019 **Allan Martin** research fellowship award for Early Career Researchers will be announced at the conference dinner.

Jill Roe Prize:

- *Submissions:* 3
- *Judges:* Frances Clarke (USyd - chair), Alexander Roginski (ANU), Jeremy Martens (UWA)

Alan Martin award:

- *Submissions:* 8
- *Judges:* Melanie Nolan (ANU – chair), Lorina Barker (University of New England), Jatinder Mann (Hong Kong Baptist University)

NAA/AHA Postgraduate Scholarships:

- *Submissions:* 10 (Round 2, 2018), 6 (Round 1, 2019)
- *Judges Round 2, 2018:* Kirsten McKenzie (USyd), Desley Deacon (ANU) Anne-Marie Conde (NAA)
- *Judges Round 1, 2019:* Kirsten McKenzie (USyd), Shirleene Robinson (NLA), Amy Lay (NAA)
- *Awardees Round 2, 2018:* Rob Konkel (Princeton University) and Jessica Stroja (Griffith University).
- *Awardees Round 1, 2019:* TBC. Update will be provided at the AGM.

New awards in 2019:

Two new awards are designed to provide financial assistance for attendees of the AHA conference. They are available in 2019 and 2020.

Jill Roe Early Career Researcher AHA Conference Scholarship Scheme

- *Submissions:* 17
- *Judges:* Melanie Oppenheimer (Flinders), Kirsten McKenzie (USyd)
- *Awardees:* Nicholas Ferns, Gwyn McClelland, Skye Krichauff, Annemarie McLaren, Denise Cook.

AHA/Honest History AHA Conference Teacher Scholarship

- *Submissions:* 5
- *Judges:* Rosalie Triolo (Monash and HTAA) and Michelle Arrow (Macquarie)
- *Awardee:* Alison Bedford

The AHA executive would like to extend our thanks to the hard work of the judges who gave up their time to assess these submissions.

3.4 Memberships, Promotions and Subscriptions (Noah Riseman/Romain Fathi)

As of the AGM, membership sits at 875 (late June).

1. Expiration emails: The vast majority of expiring members were not receiving any reminder emails. As such, we began a system of twice a month sending personal emails to members whose expiration was approaching. We also sent a personal email to every person whose membership expired in 2018, as well as a selection of people whose membership expired earlier. We sent well over 200 emails and this exercise proved successful.
2. Membership drive: We started a membership drive where anyone who refers a new member (as opposed to renewing member) would receive a \$25 book voucher to a local bookstore of their choice. While the results of this drive have been modest, it is not a major cost for the organisation so we will continue with it indefinitely.
3. Non-academic historians: Romain spent some time drafting emails to send to organisations such as the South Australia Trust and other professional historian organisations, encouraging their members to consider joining the AHA. This, too, has led to a modest boost in AHA membership.
4. Social media: In line with the AHA's social media policy, in January Noah went through the membership of the AHA's Facebook group and culled those who were no longer paid members. He also sent personal emails or Facebook messages to those people removed, inviting them to re-join the AHA. This, too, encouraged a few expired members to renew their membership.
5. International rate: For the AGM, we are proposing a special subscription rate for those members based outside of Australia. This is in response to feedback we have received from a few members and ex-members about the cost prohibitions to join an association overseas, particularly when most of the activities are directed at those people in Australia. Academics outside Australia – including in New Zealand – tend to have lower salaries and cannot tax-deduct membership of the AHA. As such, we are proposing that the AHA adopt a new category of membership as 'international member' to be costed at \$100.

3.6 *History Australia* Annual Report from the Editors (Michelle Arrow, Leigh Boucher and Kate Fullagar)

Australian Historical Association (AHA) AGM

This is our first annual report since taking over as Editors of *History Australia* in January this year. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing editors of the journal: Melanie Oppenheimer, Matthew Fitzpatrick and Catherine Kevin, together with their assistant editor Annemarie Reid, editorial trainee Romain Fathi, book review editors Andrekos Varnava and Meggie Hutchison and exhibition review editor Laina Hall.

We are supported by Assistant Editor Jennifer McLaren, book review editors Charlotte Greenhalgh and Agnieszka Sobocinska and ‘history off the page’ editor Maria Quirk, and we would especially like to thank them for their hard work as we have managed the transition to Macquarie.

Editorial Board:

Three new Editorial Board members have been appointed this year: Professor Robert Reynolds (Macquarie University), Associate Professor Alice Te Punga Somerville (University of Waikato) and Dr Sujit Sivasundaram (Cambridge University).

Inclusion on the Scopus Index and Scimago:

The outgoing editors reported at the 2018 AGM that *History Australia* had recently entered Elsevier’s Scopus database, indexed from 2003-2018. This will provide the journal with increased discoverability over the coming years. *History Australia* ‘debuted’ in the Scimago journal rankings in May 2019 with a ‘Q1’ and an H Index of 11.

Marian Quartly Prize:

This prize, worth \$500, is awarded for the best article published in *History Australia* during the previous calendar year. The prize was previously known as the Taylor & Francis prize, but with the permission of the AHA Executive, the journal’s Editorial Board, and Taylor & Francis, the incoming editors have renamed the prize in honour of *History Australia*’s inaugural editor, Marian Quartly. We gratefully acknowledge the continuing support of Routledge and Taylor & Francis in funding the prize. The 2018 winner will be announced at the AHA Conference Dinner on 11 July 2019.

Ann Curthoys Prize 2019:

The incoming editors have inaugurated this prize to honour Professor Curthoys for her distinguished service to the history profession in Australia. We are proud, too, that she commenced her career with a PhD from Macquarie University. The prize, worth \$750, is awarded for the best unpublished article-length work by an Early Career Researcher (within 5 years of PhD graduation) in any one of (or combination of) a specified list of fields in which Professor Curthoys has published. We gratefully acknowledge Professor Curthoys' support in contributing to the funding of this prize. This year's prize has been awarded and will be announced at the AHA Conference Dinner on 11 July 2019.

Special issues and Fora:

The first issue of Volume 16 was a special issue edited by Romain Fathi and Bart Ziino. The editors intend to continue to publish one guest-edited special issue per year.

In addition, the editors invite pitches from scholars for focused fora comprising two or three articles on a theme, particularly those which include scholars at different career stages.

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 2018:

- ❖ History Australia received 25,000 article downloads in 2018 which is 29% higher than the 19,000 downloads received in 2017.
- ❖ The most downloaded article in 2018 was 'The history of Britain is dead; long live a global history of Britain' by James Vernon, with 1062 downloads.
- ❖ The following four most-downloaded articles in 2018 were:
 - ❖ 'Potter v Minahan: Chinese Australians, the law and belonging in White Australia' by Kate Bagnall (this article also had the highest Altmetric score of all articles published in 2018)
 - ❖ 'Reflections on genocide and settler-colonial violence' by Philip Dwyer and Lyndall Ryan
 - ❖ 'Frontier Violence and the bush Legend: The Sydney Herald's Response to the Myall Creek Massacre Trials and the Creation of Colonial Identity' by Rebecca Wood
 - ❖ 'One People: Aboriginal Assimilation and the White Australia Ideal' by Russell McGregor

- ❖ In 2018, we published a total of 84 manuscripts including 37 articles; 29 book reviews; 9 exhibition reviews.
- ❖ The journal had a rejection rate of 12% (this rate includes book and exhibition reviews).
- ❖ Author comments from the Taylor & Francis publishing survey. We received an author satisfaction rating for 2018 of 8 out of a possible 10, a slight improvement on the previous year. Some examples of author comments follow for your information:
 - ❖ There were no difficulties. The process was wholly smooth and amiable.
 - ❖ I found it to be efficient, courteous and with an excellent attention to detail.
 - ❖ Only minor complaint was that I was not informed which issue the article would be published in

Twitter @HistAustJournal

History Australia now has 1,520 followers, up from 1,413 in March. The account is used primarily to promote articles and reviews published in the journal.

Michelle Arrow, Leigh Boucher and Kate Fullagar (Co-editors, *History Australia*) Macquarie University

3.7 Postgraduate Representatives Report (Aileen Walsh)

It has to be said that being the postgrad rep for the AHA is a difficult position.

Not because of an arduous workload or because of a difficult community of post graduate students, but because it is difficult connecting with other postgraduate history students to represent them.

I suspect many postgrad students do not see the value of joining the AHA and if they do join it is possibly at the urging of a supervisor.

I suspect there are quite a few postgrad history students who are not aware of the advantages of joining the AHA.

To this end, I propose the AHA start a campaign to all the history departments across Australian universities to encourage post graduate history students join the AHA, link into the AHA postgrad student FB page and so on, to stay up to date with what the AHA is doing.

All this would require is a flyer that includes relevant information.