

Rārangi take | Agenda

Rā Date	2 nd December, 2022
Wā Time	9am
Wāhi Venue	Zoom https://canterbury.zoom.us/j/96587391849
Whakapāha Apologies	Margaret Tennant, Neil Atkinson, Janine Irvine, Kate Hunter, Katie Pickles, Ewan Morris.
Tāngata i tae mai Present	Virginia Warbrick (VB), Madi Williams (MW), Cybele Locke (CB), Michael Belgrave (MB), Marguerite Hill (MH), Charlotte Macdonald (CM), Rebecca Lenihan (RL), Randloph Hollingsworth (RH), Greg Ryan (GR), Martin Fisher (MF), Elizabeth Ward (EW), Lyndon Fraser (LF), Te Maire Tau (TMT), Linda Bryder (LB), Fiona McKergow (FM), Carol Neill (CN), David Littlewood (DL), Ereni Pūtere (EP), Rowan Light (RL), Raewyn Dalziel (RD), Charlotte Greenhalgh (CG), Linda Tyler (LT), Jim McAloon (JM), Jane Donald (JD), John Moremon (JM), Claudia Orange (CO), Margaret Galt (MG), Marinus La Roij (MLR).
Ērā atu i tae mai In attendance	

Ngā take Topic
1. Whakapāha Apologies
2. Ngā tuinga mai i te hui tōmua Notes from the last meeting
3. Ngā take mai i te hui tōmua Matters arising 3.1 Treasurer's update 3.2 Conference Progress – Exec 3.3 NZJH Report - Linda Bryder & Lyndon Fraser (see attached)
4. Take whānui General business
5. Rārangi Tukanga Action list
6. Rā mō te hui e heke mai nei Date of next meeting

Meeting opened at 9am

MF opened the meeting and gave apologies for the meeting. Nothing arising from the last meeting (NZHA Council & Executive) to be discussed. So, the minutes can hopefully be accepted unless anyone wants any amendments made.

FM mentioned there were also apologies from Ewan Morris for today and that Lydia Weaver's name is spelt incorrectly in the previous minutes. **MF** - we will amend this.

GR spoke to the Treasurer's Report. During the year we have had protracted negotiations, it took months and months to actually get access to our accounts. Massey did all that was required, um, very efficiently at their end to organise the transition. Westpac then seemed to shift the goalposts at fairly much every turn in terms of forms that needed to be signed. Clearly contradictions and procedure between the branch that Carol Neal was dealing with in the north island and what I was dealing with in Christchurch, the point where the north island at one point gave me a temporary password and access to the accounts, which unfortunately, disappeared, whereas, Christchurch were wanting, forms signed in triplicate and then some. So we got there eventually but it took a very long time, and it did make for a slightly tricky process because we had gone ahead and invited subscriptions for this year with what I hoped were fairly clear instructions that people should pay, their money into the account, and then let the treasurer know so that I could reconcile.

What I discovered when I eventually got access to the accounts and was able to reconcile is that academics are interesting at following instructions. And it was mainly the academics rather than some other members that we had payments that I had not been notified of. And to this day, we still have two people who have paid new subscriptions who are not on our database, and I'm still trying to work out who they actually are. So that was a bit of a work in progress. So that's really just the context that it's been a very complex year.

And one of the things we will have to be very careful about when there's a transition of executive at the end of next year is assuming that it's done at an AGM where most of the key players are present will be to set the document signing in place, then and possibly even knit from the AGM down to the local Westpac before anybody leaves town. But I think I've now worked out the system but it is becoming more and more complicated to change accounts like this on a fairly regular basis with the protocols that the banks are putting in place.

So that by way of background treasurer's report itself which is having shifted the financial year to 30 June. Does include the transactions for last year's conference which was of course unfortunately truncated to online but was a subtly dynamic conference in various other contexts. As Carol Neal had predicted in last year's treasurer's report, the cost for the conference came in at about five thousand a little bit over in terms of as expense of the association. There were obviously higher operating costs. There were significant set-up costs for that conference and they did an absolutely magnificent job on the technical side. So that was the main transition over the financial year. We are technically sort of \$5,000 down on where we were at the start of the period. But that as I say is not entirely unusual for conference season.

We have got good reserves. We've got best part of 70 thousand sitting on term deposit. I wasn't able to get an exact breakdown of yet of the periods in which those funds are invested. But if anybody is desperate to know, I think they're all on twelve months at the fairly low prevailing interest rates which may change next year. But I will be able to get that information.

I guess the thing I note is being sort of now into a conference off year as it were paid up membership has plummeted a bit and it's a little bit deceptive even with what's here because a number of people have paid up for two years. So I think that, I suspect is just because we are in the year between conferences. I don't think and I would sincerely hope, that it hasn't got anything to do with the fact that we have increased the subscription to fold in NZJH. But we've obviously, we've got that arrangement in place for an initial three years, and then to review. But I am going to do something more of a membership drive as it were, in the next week or two and then presumably as we go into conference year membership will pop back up again to higher numbers as it tends to do. And obviously next year's financial report will include some expenditure from second half of this year leading us into the money that was paid for the work on the public history review and some other things coming up but otherwise fairly uneventful. But happy to take any questions on the present situation.

GR noted he was grateful to Carol Neill for her help in sorting out some of the ambiguities with Westpac and some of the changes as an incorporated society. So I will be able to lodge our financial statement, assuming it's approved by this meeting.

MB discussed how this is an ongoing problem dealing with banks. We didn't have quite the same problem but the playing field had changed itself considerably and we may have to think about different ways about how we're managing how we do that. Certainly certain things needed to be done at the end of the annual general meeting which we were completely unaware of and didn't need to do. And I just put a note that we had budgeted for a \$10,000 loss on the conference which was largely to subsidize graduate student participation. So the 5000 actually was considerably less than what we had budgeted for an in house face to face conference.

GR Yes, I was going off the 5000 that was noted in the last um, treasurer support so I think it was exactly on target. And given circumstances under which you were operating, I think it came through extremely well. But yeah, as I say, I think Westpac at your end gave entirely sensible advice in a straightforward process but something clearly shifted after that. I think as a transition we can probably pass on the login details for our account to the incoming executive so that they at least have visibility until transitions are put right through. I think that is technically in breach of Westpac rules, but we may just have to do it occasionally if the process gets held up. I think that was my main issue was just not, there wasn't much to do in terms of outgoings uh, through that period. A couple of things was one invoice that was paid about two months later than I would like it to have been paid. But the main issue was, as I say, was being able to monitor incoming subscriptions. And that was a problem.

MF noted some questions in the chat. **JM** asked Is it perhaps time to transition to a better subscription payment platform?

GR Quite possibly yes. Because we are operating on a two stage process and I think we need to look at that. At the moment we have the membership Database in an Excel and it does rely on people paying into the account and then remembering to through a message. So if there was a way of better integrating that process so that funds go into the account but also record full details as one transaction you don't have space to, write anything in great detail when you deposit into an account. So yeah, I'm um, quite happy to investigate what our options are there.

CM do we need to have a financial report for the year to meet the requirements for incorporated societies?

GR The requirements for incorporated societies as I understand are the report for our last financial year, which is now 1st July, 30 June, and I was looking at some of their examples which are for example, 1st April, 31 March. So as far as I understand in terms of incorporated societies, we need to lodge this one because that is our last complete financial year. But I will absolutely double check because it's the first time I will have done it.

CN The last two years prior I had just tabled the financial report for the year.

GR Yeah, I wondered that myself. I thought, do we have to run this whatever? But no, as I say, one of the examples they had up there just as a mock organization was a 31st March financial year that had been lodged several months later. So I think it is simply a case of whatever an organization determines to be its financial year. And we shifted out, so we're fine. If somebody comes back and says no, it needs to be another period, then it will be relatively easy to align. But I'm pretty confident we're fine.

JM When we at VIP last held the executive, we had to re-register with incorporation societies and some sort of financial report is necessary every year doesn't need to be elaborate. It does need to be what is presented to the annual general meeting. And in fact, I think for whatever reason, the lack of such reports over, a number of years had been part of the reason why we were deregistered. The other thing that occurred to me is given that Westpac seems to be getting less and less satisfactory might it be worth inquiring of other banks whether they are similarly difficult?

GR That has certainly crossed my mind. And I remember there was one council discussion earlier this year where somebody was mentioning options and I am quite happy to look. I mean, to be honest, I think the only reason, I was able to make more progress in the end was because I was dealing with a person at the local branch who I dealt with over my own banking and I don't think that's the basis upon which anybody should be operating. I think I will do the rounds and just check out, see what other possibilities there may be and do that fairly soon so that we can also look at shifting once some of our investments come off the term and work out where we might redirect. So I will investigate and come back to the next council meeting with an update.

MF moved the motion that the Treasurer's Report be accepted. **FM** seconded.
Accepted.

LB spoke to the NZJH Report. I think the report is pretty self-explanatory. It's ticking along nicely, the journal, as usual. The only thing I wish to highlight from our report is that Margaret Hill has, decided is moving on to other things in her job space. So we will be looking for nominations or expressions of interest for the other media editor for the Journal. And so just to thank Marguerite for all her work that she's done and done a fantastic job. And just to put that into people's minds, that is coming up, or we're doing it at the moment, so please do get in touch if you have any thoughts on that. Do you have anything to add, Lyndon? Or we could open up to questions.

GR When is the next issue due?

LB The October issue has come out in print form and the link is the responsibility of Jennifer Ashton, our business manager, to send to, I don't know what system you worked on for April.

GR As soon as I get the link, I will send it to the current membership. But what I was also going to do was, as I say, to use it to try and extract a few more of this year's subscriptions, which is why I'll try and put that list together today with a little enticement saying, if you renew your subscription we will send you the link very soon thereafter.

FM can I ask a question? This is tying up the Treasurer's report for the NZJH report. The Treasurer's report indicates that 86 members have joined for the current year. The coming year. 15 of them are student members, and so get a free subscription. As I understand it, individuals have to be members of the NZHA to get the Journal. So that means there are 71 paid members, subscribers to the Journal. Uh, that's a very considerable drop. And I'm wondering how that's going to impact on the finances of the Journal.

LB I think my response to that is, it's too early to tell. And because we've made two quite dramatic changes at once, going to Project News and joining up with the, like, aligning with the NZHA. And so we've just got to let things sort of evolve and see how they go over the next few years before we can really answer that question as to what kind of impact it will have on the running of the Journal long term.

FM how many years can you run it for then?

LB Well, we can do the three years, certainly. We have a commitment from the Faculty of Arts that this is a faculty priority, the Journal is a faculty priority. So we're safe. I mean, we're not going to disappear, let's just say. And we'd like things to settle down. I mean, the Project Muse is an interesting one. We don't know where that's going to take us yet, but we're hoping that that will also help to advance our finances. And we did have some expenditures at the beginning of the Project Muse setting it up as well. So that will settle down, too.

GR If I can add, I think, to that transition in some ways with our membership in the year between conferences. And look, I don't discount and I've seen it in a number of contexts at the moment. I think there still is an element of COVID fatigue in terms of people responding to things and some of the state of things in terms of people updating memberships and having the headspace to follow through on things. So I would actually hope that if the membership is up again next year in anticipation of the conference, more people are getting access to the journal through this means, then they determine, obviously it's a good reason to maintain my subscription. That is my fervent hope. But I mean, obviously, realistically, if we get to the end of the period and we conclude that it's not working for one or both parties, then we look at it accordingly.

DL mentioned it might be useful to put a notice on the blog highlighting that the October issue is out and reminding people of joint subscription.

MF We'll do that, thanks David.

CM mentioned A new open access policy announced by government a week or so ago might have an impact on publishing. It doesn't need to be discussed, Martin. But just to note, there is a new policy about MB funded research requiring to be open access. So just to really note that.

MF gave an update on the conference planning. We have managed to lock in a, venue, in terms of at the University of Canterbury. We'll be running the majority of the conference through the New Engineering Core here at UC which is quite a nice space, quite a nice new space. I think it'll be wonderful for the streams. We'll have a good common area. So after much finangling, we were able to book that in. Some of the plans in place for keynotes and dinners will be trying to be in town as well, moving to the art centre and in the brilliant hall, which has reopened there, and we want to have the dinner there as well.

The theme of the conference the save the date is out. We will have a call for papers out shortly as well as the NZ Book Awards that we have every couple of years too, still in progress in terms of keynotes. So that is still something in train. But otherwise I think we have been making some progress. And we've been meeting as an executive to discuss, um, a fair bit throughout the second half of the year, moving forward, but the theme of history in practice history in the real world. Of course, as every conference, there will be topics much beyond that. And we'll certainly be more than happy with history and theory and other aspects as well. The dates are 21 to 24 November. We're going to be having the postgrad session starting on that 21st, and that'll be held, in town at the art centre. We've managed to book out a room there and then otherwise it will run for the regular kind of three-day basis.

DL asked if the plan is a purely in person conference?

MF Planning to offer yes, at the moment, we're planning in person. Certainly we're keeping in mind that things might shift. We'll just say that certainly the online is in the back of our minds, and I think we can all recognize what an amazing job done at Massey to get it done in such a short time. Last year when things were shifting, So you've certainly set the standard there. We will be keeping that in mind, but preferably we wouldn't do it. I think we decided that we didn't want to do a mixed version. So we are looking to be in person at this moment.

GR I was just going to add the opening of the conference will, I think, intersect with the University of Canterbury's 150th celebrations as well.

TMT spoke to the President's Report

The history curriculum The tribe is moving in a whole bunch of ways on this, but we've got our eyes on it at the moment. The odd thing is, we're taking an interest in settler local history at the moment, because we're interested in the mechanics of how they work. Look, the only big issue for us at the moment is making sure we get this conference up and running from my end, at least in the tribe's end. We've got four conferences next year, so it's quite big for the research centre, but we'll be either match fit for November or we're all going to be exhausted. The hospitality's there, and it's interesting, we'll just have, another meeting with our Canterbury section. We've got quite a few lawyers and scholars working with us on the Water claim, so we may have a separate branch on that. It's quite interesting on what's going on there at the moment, so it'll be kind of a historical political thing, but, you know, to expect that from us. Martin will let you know who the guest speakers are once they're confirmed.

MF presented a motion from Katie Pickles in her absence that the NZHA acknowledges and records its sadness at the passing of Emeritus Professor W. David McIntyre. David was a renowned scholar of the Decolonizing Commonwealth. He was of great importance in encouraging and

supporting all forms of history Aotearoa and the Pacific. He is greatly missed by the NZHA of which he was a foundational supporter. His influence carries on in the work of the association.

General Business

MB Te Maire mentioned that I'd been appointed to the National Library Committee dealing with disposals. I just wanted to report that that has met once yesterday, and is kind of dealing at two edges of the problem. One, the disposal of specific items, which we sort of call Turnbull related type items, for which repatriation, for some reason or another, is a key aspect. And the other aspect of that, of course, is the disposal of items that are considered as unnecessary or inappropriate in terms of the library's collection policy. I think that the library recognises that they kind of screwed up over the disposal of 600,000 items without actually having a disposal policy to guide them on that. So this is an attempt to actually do that.

CM I've got a couple of items of general business, but just to say, Michael, I'm delighted you are on that committee and bringing a historian's view into what I think many of us have witnessed as have been a very outrageous series of divestments from the National Library's collections. So good work, happening there. So the other two items, Martin, can I bring those up now?

MF Please do

CM I just wanted to, offer a vote, of thanks to the NZHA current Executive and Council for supporting the Women's and Gender History Network workshop, which Charlotte Greenhalgh and I are organizing in February of next year in Auckland. So thank you very much for that support. And we've got a fantastic group of mostly younger upcoming historians who will be presenting their work there. So we're delighted that the association has been able to support that. So thank you very much indeed, and we'll report back when the events happen. We're just on the verge of it.

Second item. I just wondered whether there was any interest in the association membership in making any comment on the current situation at Archives New Zealand.

FM asked **CM** to talk a bit more about the situation.

CM I guess the key issues have been the reduced access both in person to reading rooms, but more seriously to their taking down of the new search engine and its problems.

MF Yes, I think it's been pretty horrific. I'm headed there next week, um, to Wellington and Auckland. The search engine, it was broken down when I was there as well, in July, like, in person there even, I don't know what they're doing or what kind of disinvestment, or maybe they've got a whole new team come in to work with it. But it is pretty shocking. I know for us who don't live in Wellington or Auckland, the reduced hours are just brutal. Auckland, I've been told I've had a couple of people who've told me that Auckland allows you, if you ask ahead of time, to stay outside of their hours.

JM yes. I'd favour supporting Charlotte's suggestion and might be worth remembering that, um, in 2018 or early 2019, there was a ministerial working group on both archives and the National Library and the association put in a paper which our Wellington executive at that point drafted and wrote. And we I think made all the points that are being made now except that things are even worse now. As well as the particular issues around restricted hours and, now, grossly

unsatisfactory, searching system. We also emphasized, and I think I would argue that this is the fundamental cause. We emphasized the unsatisfactory nature of the incorporation of archives, especially into the Department of Internal Affairs uh, both in terms of the independence of. The Chief archivist, which has significant, I'll say, constitutional implications, but also because of the operational problems, which means that a third tier, chief archivist is necessarily at a disadvantage and not having their own vote. And some would argue that what we're seeing now is merely the ongoing result of this. When we wrote that paper, the government was the Labour New Zealand first Coalition, and the relevant minister was Tracy Martin. Now, of course, it's a majority Labour. The relevant minister is Jan Tinetti. In another capacity. I and Brad Patterson and Catherine Patterson met with the minister about 20 months ago and we put all this to her and basically said, you had a wonderful policy in 2017 to restore the independence. What's happened to it? Now you've got a majority, you can do anything you like. Why don't you do it? And we were received politely even warmly, but absolutely nothing has happened. I might say that Brad and Catherine and I wrote to the minister again last week in these terms, and haven't yet had a reply. But generally I do think it's something that our organisation should pick up.

GR I think I remember the 2018-19 report very well. The terms of it, I think, would suggest, is probably, an edit, an update. You would suggest back to the minister.

MF Do you think that'd be helpful, Jim, if we sent something, too?

JM yes, if you'd like to remind me, send me an email. I'll happily dig the stuff out of my files. It would be helpful to be able to point out that this is not the first time.

MF Yes, I think we can definitely do that. I'll send you a reminder. And then we can get something out ASAP as an exec to try and get some of that pressure on.

RD I sent an email to National Archives. It was absolutely hopeless. And another one of government sort of failed it projects, it seemed to me. I suspect that probably it was put in place through dia it, and that there just are not the people in National Archives that have got the expertise to actually decide on that. I gather that they can't go back to their old search engine, that it's no longer supported. They are trying to get the current people to improve the current search engine. But it is a hopeless one. I don't really think it can be approved. I really like to suggest, as we're going into an election year, archives is not going to be top of mind of the government. We should take a bit of time over this and put together a small team that writes a good researched paper about what the problems are with archives and the importance of archives. I suspect that archives are less important now and we've also got to look forward to a time when they shut the building and archives are probably going to be totally closed for a period of time. So we are looking at some real problems here and we need to put in something that's well-researched and has got the evidence. So I would really urge the executive to draw on the resources it's got through around the country, and especially in Wellington, to actually put in a paper of that kind to the government.

MF And you're thinking a paper around these access issues. The fundamental importance of the archival research to the various different forms of research that we do, whether that's historical or professional.

RD Indeed, pointing out how absolutely important archives are, uh, to us and to other groups that use the archives, and how important they are to the nation having archives, and maybe draw some analogies with other countries. Archives and what happens there, and then point out what the problems have been that we've been facing and are likely to face unless the government actually put some money into it.

MB just reminding us that at the point when the hours were changed, we were told by the National Archivists that this was an experiment and there would be a review in twelve months time. So I think we can actually remind National Archives that this was part of the actual scheme. We were told to just try it out because there would be a review in twelve months now that's obviously disappeared with a change of archivist and covid and what else.

MF I think that's a wonderful idea as well. So was that when the hours changed? So there must have been because what was it a couple of years ago? Now that the hours have changed, I think these suggestions are really important, was pre COVID even so it's been a good few years.

We will certainly set that as a matter arising that we will try to get together a small group. Um, Jim's recommended we could draw on the expertise of Brad and Catherine Patterson as well. And perhaps we'll reach out to some of you as well here at the AGM right now.

FM I'd like to say the special issue of Public History Review is very close to being published. It'll be published next week. Um, so that's drawn from the conference papers from last year. I'd like to thank everyone who contributed to that. I think it's going to be an excellent issue. And secondly, Ewan Morris is replacing me as PHANZA rep. So thank you for the opportunity to be involved.

GR thanked Fiona.

MF I know we haven't dealt with some of the constitutional issues which were raised by the last executive in terms of NZHA itself. So I think, although we will be busy with the conference, certainly in this upcoming year, we don't want to completely set that aside. Um, I just wanted to acknowledge that from previous exec and to say that it certainly hasn't been forgotten. But it's something that we will certainly keep on our radar and action to move.

MF I think in terms of actioning items should we still get out a letter, perhaps? I mean, I think it will still be good to get out letter, as Jim was mentioning, in the very, very short term, and then also still work on Raewyn's suggestion of getting something out, and getting a small group of us together. Does that sound all right to everyone out there?

GR Yeah, I'm inclined to think the more the merrier, and sort of keeping the, keeping those layers of pressure on would be a good idea, um, especially in the context there's obviously been recent communication with the minister by historians. Let's keep going.

MF we will also will action the announcement on the blog about the NZJH subscription.

MW If anyone ever wants anything disseminated via the blog, feel free to email it through. It's always good to have a bunch more news coming out. And thank you to everybody that sent me some things for the newsletter. It was really appreciated.

Next AGM is to be held at the Conference in November 2023.

Meeting closed 9:51 am