

New Zealand Historical Association 2021 AGM

Held via Zoom at 3pm on Friday 26 November

Present: Michael Belgrave, David Littlewood, Geoff Watson, Liz Ward, Carol Neill, Lyndon Fraser, Charlotte Macdonald, Rebecca Lenihan, Barbara Brookes, Cybèle Locke, Fiona McKergow, John Stenhouse, Katie Pickles, Ann-Marie Quinn, Bolin Hu, Suzanne Manning, Helen Dollery, Felicity Barnes, Madi Williams, Linda Bryder, Greg Ryan, Marguerite Hill, Ali Clarke, Ryan Bodman, Nigel Murphy, Megan Jeffries, Marinus La Rooij, Anne Eddy, Femke Jager, Sophie Young, John Moremon, Moira White, Joan McCracken, Aroha Harris, Jess Pasisi, Delwyn Blondell, Hilary Stace, Andrew Moffat, Tim Shoebridge, Diane Deane, Alice Te Punga Somerville, Peter Meihana, Ewan Morris, Margaret Tennant, Kat Pickworth, Rose Laing, Rowan Light, André Brett, Safua Amaama

1. Welcome

Michael Belgrave welcomed attendees. He acknowledged the historians who had passed away over the previous year, including Stuart Macintyre, Angela Ballara, Lydia Weevers, Bill Greenwood, John Mitchell, Hazel Riseborough, and Nigel Te Hiko.

2. Apologies

Apologies were accepted from Jim McAloon and Kate Hunter.

3. Minutes of 2020 AGM

Michael Belgrave moved, and Charlotte Macdonald seconded, that the 2020 AGM minutes be accepted – PASSED

4. President's Report

Michael Belgrave summarised the key points from the President's Report. He argued that the Executive and Council had successfully implemented many of the action points arising from the 2020 AGM. He praised the work of the Council, which had taken on a much greater role over the last two years and had met with the Executive at least once every two months. He thanked the other members of the Executive, who had always worked with imagination and efficiency, and who had functioned very well as a team.

Barbara Brookes moved, and Geoff Watson seconded, that the President's report be accepted – PASSED

5. Treasurer's Report

Carol Neill spoke to the Treasurer's Report. She noted that it focused on the last seven months, due to the change in the NZHA's financial year. This meant there was no information on the spending associated with the conference, but a preliminary estimate was that the loss would only be around \$5,000. The Association's finances were in a very healthy state. She further noted that the Council had encouraged the use of the

Association's finances to support postgraduate students. The pressures created by the COVID situation had made this problematic, but student membership of the Association had been made free, as had attendance at the conference Postgraduate Day.

Charlotte Macdonald asked if there was any further information re membership subscriptions and whether membership was reasonably constant.

Carol Neill replied that membership numbers had risen over the last few months. This was to be expected in a conference year, but the overall situation did appear healthy.

Felicity Barnes asked if future Treasurer's Reports could encompass a full two-year period.

Carol Neill replied that this would be ideal. Previous reports had presented a somewhat skewed picture, as they covered the incomings of conference registrations, but not the outgoings of conference costs.

Carol Neill moved, and Charlotte Macdonald seconded, that the Treasurer's Report be accepted – PASSED

6. Votes on Constitutional Changes

Michael Belgrave spoke to the five proposed constitutional amendments. He noted that the NZHA is undergoing a necessary period of review, partly brought about by the fact many university history departments no longer have the capacity to act as executives on their own. The Association needed to continue discussions around the role of Māori historians and Māori history, and around its relationship with other historical organisations. In the meantime, however, these proposed constitutional changes were required on a practical level.

Amendment One

Clause 5.4 be updated with the following new wording:

5.4 With the approval of the Council of the Association, members of the Association in a region or regional centre, or sharing a special interest in historical research, may form a committee to promote the objectives of the Association, provided that such committee shall be financially self-supporting and that an annual report on activities shall be made by the date of the Annual General Meeting to the Council. Such bodies shall be known as Committees of the Association.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Barbara Brookes seconded, that this constitutional amendment be accepted.

Ewan Morris inquired about the purpose of the amendment. He wondered whether such committees needed formal recognition.

Michael Belgrave replied that the clause was intended to recognise the diversity of the Association's membership. It would give groups the opportunity to set up their own networks.

John Moremon asserted that the NZHA has a history of privileging the members of university history departments. He wondered how the proposed clause gave him any greater acknowledgement as a member of the Association, and how it would improve the position of others employed outside history departments.

Michael Belgrave argued that all the proposed clauses were designed to broaden the nature and governance of the NZHA. He asserted that the Association has already begun to shift to a broader approach, with the organising committee for the 2019 conference being an example.

John Moremon further asserted that the regional structure of the NZHA Council was based on the location of university history departments.

Michael Belgrave argued that the proposed clauses were an attempt to move away from this structure.

Suzanne Manning questioned whether the new clause was necessary. She wondered how the accounting arrangements for any committees would work.

Felicity Barnes acknowledged that university history departments dominate the membership of NZHA Executives but wondered if the membership of the Council might be expanded to achieve greater representation.

Michael Belgrave noted that the proposed clause was entirely permissive – there was nothing to force the creation of new committees.

Aroha Harris also pointed to the permissive nature of the proposed clause. She suggested it could be used to establish an NZHA students' committee, for example. There has been a gradual move within the NZHA away from the dominance of university history departments.

Barbara Brookes suggested that the requirement to be financially self-supporting might pose issues for any students' committee.

Safua Amaama asked what committees were currently in existence.

Michael Belgrave replied that there were, and never had been, any committees. This clause was intended as part of a move towards broader representation.

On being put to the vote, the proposed constitutional amendment was PASSED, with 30 votes for, 1 against, and 1 abstention.

Amendment Two

Clause 6.2 be updated with the following new wording:

6.2 The Executive of the Association shall be the President, the Secretary, Webmaster and the Treasurer, each elected for a two-year term by a simple majority of those present at the Annual General Meeting of the Association. In the event of the resignation of a member of the Executive between Annual General meetings, the Executive shall appoint a replacement.

Charlotte Macdonald asked if 'Webmaster' could be replaced by 'Webconvenor'.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Felicity Barnes seconded, that this change to the clause be made – PASSED, 37 votes for and 0 against.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Geoff Watson seconded, that the proposed constitutional amendment, as amended, be accepted – PASSED, 41 votes for and 0 against.

Amendment Three

Clause 6.4 and 6.5 be replaced with:

6.4 The Executive will have the power co-opt up to three additional members for a term of up to twelve months to fill gaps in its expertise or representativeness.

6.5 In the event of a new Treasurer or Secretary being elected, the outgoing Treasurer or Secretary shall remain on the Executive as ordinary members for a transition period of no more than six months.

Michael Belgrave explained that this amendment was designed to smoothen the handover from one Executive to another, particularly around financial matters.

Felicity Barnes asked how the regional structure of the Association will work with this change and how the handover between Executives will take place.

John Moremon also raised these questions.

Michael Belgrave noted that there will be no regional designation, as such.

Carol Neill stated that she expected the Council would continue to have a greater role in the governance of the Association

John Moremon asked if the Executive and the conference organising committee can be separate entities.

Michael Belgrave replied in the affirmative, noting that the membership of the 2019 conference committee had extended beyond the Executive.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Cybèle Locke seconded, that the proposed constitutional amendment be accepted – PASSED, 31 votes for and 0 against

Amendment Four

Clause 6.9 be updated with the following wording:

6.9 The Executive of the Association shall be responsible for calling regular meetings of the Council. Thirty days' notice of such meetings shall be given. The quorum shall be five.

Michael Belgrave explained that this amendment recognised the greater role played by the Council in the Association's governance.

Charlotte Macdonald asked if there was a danger of conflating the roles of the Executive and the Council. The Executive is responsible for the day-to-day running of the Association, whereas the Council is more of a governance body.

Suzanne Manning asked if it was desirable for conference organisation to be the main activity of the NZHA.

Michael Belgrave said this had always been so, but that the Association needed to broaden its activities to advance historical research in New Zealand.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Barbara Brookes seconded, that the proposed constitutional amendment be accepted – PASSED, 32 votes for and 0 against.

Amendment Five

Clause 8.8 be updated with the following wording:

8.8 Notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to all members by appropriate notice by email to all members and website notice not less than one month prior to the date of such meeting. The quorum for voting shall be not less than ten percent of the financial membership of the Association. Voting shall be by way of a show of hands.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Ali Clarke seconded, that this constitutional amendment be accepted.

Suzanne Manning moved, and Ali Clarke seconded, that the words 'Voting shall be by way of a show of hands' be removed from the clause – PASSED, 29 votes for and 1 against.

Charlotte Macdonald moved, and Barbara Brookes seconded, that the words 'or by other electronic format' be inserted after 'email' – PASSED, 29 votes for and 0 against.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Rebecca Lenihan seconded, that the proposed constitutional amendment, as amended, be accepted – PASSED, 28 votes for and 0 against.

7. Election of NZHA Executive Officers

Michael Belgrave explained that agreement had been reached with the University of Canterbury and Te Rūnanga Ngāi Tahu for them to become the new Executive.

Felicity Barnes asked why the amendments to the constitution had been made if the regional structure of the Association was to continue.

Michael Belgrave replied that the changes to the Association's structure were an ongoing process.

John Moremon asked whether the membership of the new Executive had been discussed and arranged beforehand, because this would support his earlier point about the marginalisation of other groups from the running of the NZHA.

Michael Belgrave asserted that votes would be held on the membership of the new Executive. A process of handing on to willing volunteers had always been followed.

[**Michael Belgrave** vacated the chair and was replaced by **Geoff Watson**]

President

Lyndon Fraser explained that **Te Maire Tau** had not got back to him regarding acceptance of his nomination as president. Therefore, he nominated **Michael Belgrave** as president.

Michael Belgrave accepted this nomination.

Margaret Tenant asked if there could be a vote for **Te Maire Tau** as president subject to his acceptance.

It was decided to proceed to the next position.

Secretary

Lyndon Fraser nominated **Madi Williams** and **Martin Fisher** as joint secretaries.

Madi Williams accepted this nomination, and **Martin Fisher** had accepted previously.

***Geoff Watson** moved, and **John Stenhouse** seconded, that **Madi Williams** and **Martin Fisher** be appointed joint secretaries – PASSED, 38 votes for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.*

Treasurer

Lyndon Fraser nominated **Greg Ryan** as treasurer.

Greg Ryan accepted this nomination.

***Geoff Watson** moved, and **Safua Amaana** seconded, that **Greg Ryan** be appointed treasurer – PASSED, 36 votes for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.*

[**Michael Belgrave** resumed the chair]

Webconvenor

No nominations were received for this role.

A discussion then took place around what the role involved.

Lyndon Fraser nominated **Geoff Watson** as webconvenor.

Geoff Watson accepted this nomination.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Greg Ryan seconded, that Geoff Watson be appointed webconvenor – PASSED 34 votes for, 0 against, and 2 abstentions.

President (resumed)

Michael Belgrave withdrew acceptance of his nomination.

Lyndon Fraser nominated **Te Maire Tau** as president.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Madi Williams seconded, that Te Maire Tau be appointed president – PASSED, 35 votes for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

8. Election of NZHA Council Members

Rowan Light was nominated to be the Auckland regional representative.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Madi Williams seconded, that Rowan Light be appointed Auckland representative on the NZHA Council – PASSED, 21 votes for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

Michael Belgrave nominated **Charlotte Greenhalgh** to be the Waikato regional representative.

Liz Ward moved, and Barbara Brookes seconded, that Charlotte Greenhalgh be appointed Waikato representative on the NZHA Council – PASSED, 28 votes for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

Michael Belgrave nominated **Peter Meihana** to be the Manawatū regional representative.

Geoff Watson moved, and Margaret Tenant seconded, that Peter Meihana be appointed Manawatū representative on the NZHA Council – PASSED, 29 votes for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

Charlotte Macdonald nominated **Rebecca Lenihan** to be the Wellington regional representative.

Lyndon Fraser moved, and **Cybèle Locke** seconded, that **Rebecca Lenihan** be appointed Wellington representative on the NZHA Council – PASSED, 30 votes for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

Lyndon Fraser nominated **Katie Pickles** to be the Canterbury regional representative.

Lyndon Fraser moved, and **Barbara Brookes** seconded, that **Katie Pickles** be appointed Canterbury representative on the NZHA Council – PASSED, 29 votes for, 0 against.

Michael Belgrave nominated **John Stenhouse** to be the Otago regional representative.

Barbara Brookes moved, and **Marinus La Rooij** seconded, that **John Stenhouse** be appointed Otago representative on the NZHA Council – PASSED, 29 votes for, 0 against, and 1 abstention.

9. NZJH Motion to Amalgamate Membership with NZHA

Part One: We propose that this AGM accepts in principle the merging of subscription of the NZHA and the NZJH, to benefit both communities. In practice, this means NZHA subscription will include two issues of the online NZJH journal per annum. It will not be possible to subscribe as an individual to the NZJH without being a member of the NZHA. The subscription will be collected by the NZHA and an agreed amount passed to the NZJH for production and administrative costs. There will be a trial period of three years, after which either party can withdraw if the arrangement is not working.

Part Two: We propose an increase of the current NZHA subscription from \$30 to \$50, with \$20 per member going to the costs of the journal. Student members will continue to get membership of NZHA and the two NZJH issues per annum free of charge (Please note: while students can access the journal through their universities, receiving the issues automatically on their devices will increase their exposure to current historical scholarship). The agreed financial arrangements will remain in place for the three years of the trial period.

Linda Bryder spoke to the motion. The NZJH Board of Management believed that New Zealand is too small for the Journal and the historical association to be separate. The NZHA membership survey supported this view. The NZJH is moving to an online platform, Project Muse, which has prompted the proposed amalgamation of the Journal with the Association. The decision to move to an online format through Project Muse was in part to raise the profile of the Journal.

Charlotte Macdonald asked what role the NZHA would play in maintaining subscriptions for the Journal, particularly institutional subscriptions.

Lynda Bryder explained that the Journal would be accessed through the NZHA website.

Barbara Brookes asked what role the NZHA would play in the governance of the Journal and whether the Journal's Board of Management would have a representative from the NZHA.

Lynda Bryder replied that management of the Journal would remain with Auckland University, who would work with Project Muse.

Aroha Harris asked if the Journal would participate in the new direction that the NZHA had been taking through its values and principles project.

Barbara Brookes asked about how the subscriptions would be collected.

Lynda Bryder replied to **Barbara Brookes** that the subscription for the Journal and NZHA would be collected together for convenience but would then be separated.

Aroha Harris restated her question about the Journal's relationship with the NZHA values and principles project.

Linda Bryder replied that she could not address the question.

Aroha Harris asserted that she could not vote in favour of the motion unless she knew that the direction of the Journal was the same as that of the NZHA.

Charlotte Macdonald asked if the Journal subscription would be \$20 for a student.

Linda Bryder said that subscription would be free for students, as they would be able to access the Journal through their institutions, which would subscribe to Project Muse.

Michael Belgrave asked if the back issues of the Journal would remain open access.

Linda Bryder said that back issues would only be available to NZHA members and reiterated that there would also be access through institutions that subscribed to Project Muse.

Charlotte Macdonald pointed out that this would amount to a reduction in public access.

Felicity Barnes spoke to the practical issues around running the Journal and how the change to Project Muse would ensure its survival.

Linda Bryder pointed out that the proposed arrangement was common overseas.

John Moremon spoke in favour of the merger. He thought a rise in the Journal's rankings would be beneficial and suggested that there could be a low-income subscription rate.

Charlotte Macdonald suggested that were the merger to go ahead, the *NZJH* Board of Management should meet regularly with the NZHA Council.

Michael Belgrave thought that the *NZJH* Board of Management was more for the financial control of the Journal and suggested it might be more appropriate for the *NZJH* Editorial Board to meet with the NZHA Council.

André Brett also agreed that it was a good idea to merge the Journal with NZHA and pointed out the AHA had an unwaged rate. He then asked about the potential loss of open access to the *NZJH*.

Linda Bryder reiterated that once the Journal moved to Project Muse, access would either be by membership of the NZHA or through an institutional subscription to Project Muse.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Lyndon Fraser seconded, that the motion be accepted, subject to a change of wording that 'the subscriptions for NZHA/NZJH will be \$20 above the rate for the NZHA which is set by the Executive' – PASSED, 9 votes for, 2 against, and 3 abstentions.

Aroha Harris wished to have her vote against the merger recorded. She could not vote in favour while she was unsure what it would mean for Māori historians.

8. Election of NZHA Council Members (Resumed)

Geoff Watson nominated **Fiona McKergow** to be the PHANZA representative.

Michael Belgrave moved, and Katie Pickles seconded, that Fiona McKergow be appointed PHANZA representative on the NZHA council – PASSED, 17 votes for and 0 against.

9. NZJH Motion to Amalgamate Membership with NZHA (Resumed)

Charlotte Macdonald proposed a new motion:

'That this arrangement advance on the condition that further discussion takes place between the NZJH and NZHA in relation to the current priorities identified by the NZHA in its 'principles' proposals.'

Charlotte Macdonald moved, and **Stephen Clarke** seconded, this motion – PASSED, 17 votes for and 0 against.

The AGM closed at 5.18pm