

## **Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) Annual Report to Members, 2016-2017.**

It is my pleasure to present the 41<sup>st</sup> annual report of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand, and my first as President.

This past year has been busy one for Council as it has very much been a year in transition. All four office holders retired in 2016 so it has been a steep learning curve for Councillors. The incoming Council also welcomed on board four new Councillors: Belinda Battley, Alison Breese, Jessica Moran, and Gillian Tasker. Some of the key activities and achievements for the year have been:

### **Advocacy**

This year a new portfolio was established to better respond to professional matters of interest to our association and members. Feedback was given to Archives New Zealand on seven Intentions to Dispose. Seven other submissions were lodged including submissions to the National Library of New Zealand, Nga Taonga Sound and Vision, and the 2017 ICA - EGAD-RiC (Expert Group on Archival Description, Records in Context).

The largest submission by Belinda Battley and Elizabeth Charlton was to the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Bill to the Social Services Select Committee. This comprised both a written and an oral submission in Wellington. Feedback from ARANZ was taken on board and a clause regarding child-centred recordkeeping made its way into legislation.

ARANZ Councillors have also had regular contact with Archives New Zealand throughout the year. I have met with the Chief Archivist and her staff to provide feedback on the Archives 2057 Strategy document. Councillors have also provided submissions to Archives NZ, attended their workshop and provided feedback on the Archives New Zealand regulatory stewardship self-assessment document.

### **Communication**

The Secretary handled seventy-nine postal items and 178 electronic items of correspondence. Following the successful 2016 Symposium many ARANZ members were interested in the dates for the 2018 Conference. Contacts for branch and SIG groups around the country were provided to members along with archives and record keeping courses available through New Zealand and

overseas providers. Several inquiries were received from overseas, including Bangladesh and Botswana, seeking advice and contacts on professional development and career opportunities in New Zealand.

Professional contacts were provided to several private business and trusts seeking record keeping help and advice. Letters of support were sent to the Business School, Victoria University of Wellington, supporting Archives and Recordkeeping courses in the School of Information Management following the departure of Dr Gillian Oliver. A lively correspondence debate was also held on the movement of the Treaty documents to the National Library.

There has been an Alert published after each Council meeting since last year's AGM. After requests from members and suggestions from Council the Alert now has an increased focus on providing links to online resources, including news of both the educational and entertaining kind from New Zealand and overseas, and information about or links to available training. We have also begun to solicit brief news stories from members around the country. These changes have brought positive feedback from readers as well as further ideas for things to be included.

### **Archifacts**

The most recent volume of ARANZ's journal *Archifacts* was published in December 2016. The next edition is currently being edited by the *Archifacts* editors. With regard to Archifacts reviews, a slow but steady stream of interesting books for review, from a range of publishers in New Zealand and overseas, have been received. Publishers have said they were pleased to receive copies of the reviews once published.

### **Website**

A review is under way of the website looking at how it is used and what we want to achieve with it. The webmaster has spent time updating all the previously broken links and bringing the content up to date. A proposal has been put forward for a new design template and the committee are looking at ideas around content, format and budget.

### **ARANZ Representation**

ARANZ was officially represented at various events and conferences this year including the He Tohu moving ceremony in Wellington; Society of American Archivists Conference in Portland, and the Australian Society of Archivists Conference in Sydney.

## **Workshops**

Council members have also been involved with various workshops including a joint workshop with the NZ Centre for Human Rights Law and the Records Continuum Research Group on rights in records for children in out of home care in Auckland; two digital collecting workshops sponsored by ARANZ, LIANZA and the Alexander Turnbull Library in Dunedin and Auckland; and a copyright lecture held in conjunction with the Asia Pacific Copyright Association in Wellington.

## **Professional Alliances**

This year we have been working closely with both the ASA and LIANZA. The Memorandum of Understanding between ARANZ and the ASA has been slightly revised and will be signed at the ASA conference in September. Discussions are also being held between both associations to see if the ASA's eLearning module can be made available to ARANZ members at ASA rates.

We have also met with both the LIANZA Council and the LIANZA Executive Director, Joanna Matthew. Discussions here focused on holding joint events, access to LIANZA's training packages, sponsorship opportunities, membership issues and conference liaisons.

## **Conference**

The ARANZ conference is now held biennial. There was no conference held in 2017. Next year's conference has a Māori archives and records theme: Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho 2018, and it will be held at the Copthorne Hotel in Rotorua. Dates are from Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> August to Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> August. We hope to include a tour to Whakatane to visit Mataatua Whare and the Tuhoe Headquarters. Tiena Jordan is the chair of the Conference Committee.

Currently there is a joint proposal for an ARANZ/ASA conference to be held in Adelaide in 2019.

## **Awards**

The Michael Standish Prize, for an outstanding essay, is a biennial prize and was not offered this year.

The Ian Wards Prize, which recognises an outstanding piece of publishing writing in 2016, has been selected. The award winner will be announced, and a presentation made, directly following this AGM.

## **The Year Ahead**

I would briefly like to outline some of the aims of the Council over the next few years. We have been listening to members about what they want from their Council and from a professional body such as ours. Over the next year we will endeavour to create opportunities for receiving more members' responses.

Some of the initiatives we would like to see are around clubs, societies and community archives. A working group has already been established to develop ideas, a resource guide and training workshops in this area.

We are aware of comments that ARANZ is not meeting many of the needs of our record keeping and information management colleagues. This is an area we intend to focus on this year. If anyone has any thoughts on what the Council should be offering in this space then please let a Councillor know.

Copyright issues and digital training are areas we know are of importance. We have had events on both of these in the past year and hope to continue on these themes as we go forward.

I have mentioned our website briefly and it is in need of some further tidy up and development. It is becoming the central portal to all things ARANZ and needs to be a clean, easy to use, yet informative website.

We continue to encourage members in their efforts to re-establish the ARANZ branches that are currently in recess. The local branch model is an effective way to be part of the archives and records community in your region, as well as being a local voice for members. Support is also ongoing for our existing branches and over the next year we will be looking out how best to meet our branch members' needs.

Thought must also be given to the long-term future of ARANZ. How are we to stay relevant to not only our existing members, but also to younger members in a digital age where careers and professions merge and blur? What can ARANZ offer recent archives and records graduates as they enter the profession? Is our traditional branch methodology a sustainable structure or does it need to be disruptive? Are the Associations' objectives still the goals that we should all adhere to? There are no easy answers to these questions, but such topics should be on the agenda for our future.

## **Acknowledgements**

To finish I would like to congratulate all the members of the outgoing Council for their commitment and energy this year. A lot of business goes on behind the scenes that the membership doesn't often see. So I'd like to thank our Vice

President, Elizabeth Charlton; Treasurer, Lisa Austin; Secretary, Gillian Tasker; Membership Secretary, Christine Edney; Webmasters, Louis Changuion and Alison Breese; *Archifacts* Editor, Jessica Moran; *ALERT* Editor, Belinda Battley; and Professor Charlotte Macdonald for her sage advice regarding our researcher community.

This year two members are stepping down from Council. Louis Changuion has been on Council for seven years (2011-2017). He has served roles as both the ARANZ Secretary and the Webmaster. Lisa Austin has been on Council for five years (2012-2017). She has served roles as the Branch Liaison, Social Media Co-ordinator and Treasurer. I would like to thank you both for the wonderful contributions you have made to the ARANZ Council and to the Association in general.

As a token of our appreciation we have a small gift for each of you.

Sean J.D. McMahon

President, ARANZ, August 2017