

Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ)

President's Annual Report to Members, 2018-2019.

It is my pleasure to present the 43rd annual report of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand, and my first as President.

This past year has been a great learning experience for the Council. All four officers from the previous council stepped down. Thus, the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary positions were taken up by new Councillors. The incoming Council also welcomed on board seven new Councillors: Tiena Jordan, Susan Hanham, Sean Connolly, Kathleen Stringer, Helen Pannett, Catherine Woeber and Sarah Padey. Although it was a busy year with a lot to learn, working together in Council was an enjoyable experience because of the collaborative spirit and the support Councillors received from one another and from key personalities outside Council.

Some of the key activities and achievements for the year have been:

Advocacy

The advocacy portfolio was established by the 2016-2017 Council to better respond to professional matters of interest to our association and members. This Council continued with that objective and in the past year, the Advocacy team, Kathleen Stringer and Catherine Barriga provided feedback to Archives New Zealand on 13 'Intentions to Dispose' in addition to the Copyright Act Submission, which is the largest of all the submissions in the year.

ARANZ Councillors have also had regular contact with Archives New Zealand throughout the year. I have had several meetings with the Chief Archivist and one with the Archives Council to provide feedback on the ARANZ activities for the year and vision for the future. These encounters were also used as opportunities to receive answers from the Chief Archivist to address some of the concerns of the members, particularly regarding the Community Archive.

We have also received support from the Chief Archivist for a Find and Connect project to support people who have been, or are still, in out of home care, access to records, and even access to information about what records exist and where they are. Belinda Battley is leading this project.

I was also invited to Guest lecture for such as INFO520 - The Information Professions at the School of Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington to talk to students about the role of ARANZ in the New Zealand Information Industry and the benefits students can gain from joining it. Feedback from students to these sections has been very positive.

Also, the Information and Library Studies (ILS) Programme at the Open Polytechnic has for many years had an advisory group involving representatives from all key information professional associations in New Zealand. This year I represented ARANZ on the comment to ARANZ's perspectives on what archives and records management issues need to be factored into the development of archives programmes to build the skills of students.

ARANZ also has representation on the International Review Group (IRG) of New Zealand the committee responsible for reviewing and balloting on ISO standards on recordkeeping.

Communication

Most of the email correspondence received from members and Branches and SIGs focused on questions about the state of the Community Archive and what is being done about it, awards, the ASA/ICA/ARANZ/PARBICA Conference in Adelaide and general membership information.

Professional contacts were also received from archival bodies and personalities from Scotland, Australia and Fiji, mostly to discuss areas of collaboration with ARANZ. Through such correspondence, the Education Development Officer of the Scottish Council on Archives – Mr Douglas Roberts – was in Wellington in April this year, to pursue the idea of linking up specific archives in New Zealand with their counterparts in Scotland. So that the archivists at ends? can explore connections in the records they hold as there are a lot of similarities.

There was also a lot of correspondence between ARANZ and the International Council on Archives during this year's Archives Week celebration and the President was asked to write an article to promote archives for ICA's website.

To ensure organised email and enable proper recordkeeping of online correspondence, the new Council led by Sean Connolly has developed a G-Suite for Nonprofits to provide a common place for storage and preservation. As we continue to implement compliance amongst councillors in using G Suite for Nonprofits, you will notice that all future communications from councillors will be from officially supported @aranz.org.nz email accounts with legal hold and recordkeeping compliance built-in at the back-end.

There have been communications through *Alert*. *Alert* has long been seen by members as 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. This year Belinda Battley has regularly been sending out the *Alert* to members to provide updates on such education and training opportunities. For instance, links to some useful training programme on ASA's website were provided to members.

Website

The new ARANZ website was launched with all its new and easy to navigate functionality to bring a successful end, the hard effort that was initiated by the previous Council. Thanks to the hard work of Alison Breese, who was instrumental in both the previous and current council through the development of the website and its management. Alison has also used the website and its links to various social media platforms to communicate useful information to members and the general public.

Archifacts

The most recent volume of ARANZ's journal *Archifacts* - issue 2 of 2018 - was published in August 2019. 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.

ARANZ Representation

ARANZ was officially represented at various events, conferences and meetings this year. For instance, I represented ARANZ at the event at Archives New Zealand for the Minister of Internal Affairs, the Hon. Tracey Martin to announce a new home for our documentary heritage and taonga. I also launched the Adelaide Conference at the last ICA conference in Yaoundé, Cameroon in my capacity as ARANZ President.

Workshops

Council members have also been involved with various workshops and professional events. Susan Hanham, for instance, was heavily involved with the organisation of the Auckland School SIG workshop.

Professional Alliances

This year, ARANZ has had several professional Alliances. We have been working closely with both the ASA, ICA, PARBICA and many others in different situations. With ASA, several meetings between their president and ARANZ's president to map out ways of supporting members from both associations, such as providing discounted prices for ARANZ members just as ASA members receive. ICA worked very closely with ARANZ to plan this year's international Archives Week.

There was also an ARANZ representation at a meeting between representatives from the National Library of New Zealand, LIANZA and Museums Aotearoa to discuss National Library's initiative on possibilities of working on a code of ethics to define standards for the ethical behaviour of professionals that are involved in digital preservation activities in New Zealand.

We have also met with both representatives of RIMPA New Zealand Branch, RIMPA Managing Director and the Chair of RIMPA Board to discuss a collaboration between ARANZ, RIMPA and Archives New Zealand to access opportunities, benefits and effective support for membership of both organisations as well as conference liaisons.

Conference

This year, ASA/ICA/ARANZ and PARBICA are collaborating to hold a joint conference in Adelaide, South Australia in the spirit of co-operation and partnership. A Memorandum of Understanding has been signed to describe the main financial and in-kind contributions and responsibilities of all partners. Several people from New Zealand are participating, most of them are members of ARANZ, who are taking advantage of the membership discount to participant and present. ARANZ will officially be represented at the conference by the Secretary - Tiena Jordan.

Preparations are also seriously going on by members in the South Land / Otago Branch towards the ARANZ 2020 Conference in Dunedin.

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 2019, has been selected. The convenor of the panel that annually judges the Wards Prize – Brad Patterson - will announce and present the prize shortly at this AGM.

The Year Ahead

I want to take this opportunity to briefly outline some of the things we hope to achieve in the coming years. We have been listening to members about what they want from their Council and from the association. We want to use every opportunity available to use to continue to listen to members and receive their feedback. We have therefore prepared a membership survey to more formally and scientifically gather the views of members about the direction we want to take for a professional body like ours. So please when you receive the questionnaire do well to complete it.

Some of the initiatives we would like to see are around clubs, societies and community archives. Some Council members are already playing key roles in some smaller groups and societies, such as CRIMS (Canterbury Records and Information Managers Support Group), Auckland Heritage Archive Group, Information Management Group in Auckland, School Archives Group, Wellington, etc. Council is supporting these members involved in these group to make them more vibrant with the hope leading to the strengthening of Branches.

We believe that effective collaboration with both internal and external stakeholders will reap the most benefits for our members. We will continue to have conversations with relevant associations to explore avenues of collaborating and develop formal co-operation to provide the best support for our members. We are aware of the varied nature of our membership base, which involved:

Archivists; record managers; librarians; and other information managers; genealogists; historians; teachers; museum and art gallery curators; religious groups; professional associations; historical societies; businesses; local and central government agencies; and many others interested in the preservation and use of archives and records. (as indicated on our website)

We plan to explore every collaborative opportunity to meet the needs of every member of the association.

We are developing strategies to encourage research and reflection among members. The area of research development is one of the key priorities of this Council. We believe that when members develop research interests, reflect on their roles and write down something, however small it may be, we can improve the number of submissions to Archifacts. We will also have interesting competitions for our awards and hence develop a vibrant association.

As a way to attract new and emerging professionals into the association, I have discussed with relevant lecturers at Victoria University for a regular session in the INFO 520 – Information professions course, so that every year, a President

or a representative from ARANZ will attend the lecture as a guest and present about the roles and benefits of the association to create awareness the students. This will open up opportunities for a long-term future of ARANZ to stay relevant to not only our existing members but also to new and emerging professionals.

I have also been encouraging Archives and records students at the Open Polytechnic to endeavour to share some of their research projects as publications in *Archifacts* journals, with the hope of developing students' interest in the association.

Acknowledgements

To finish I would like to congratulate all the members of the outgoing Council for their commitment and energy this year. Soon after induction the Council, one Councillor – Catherine Woeber – resigned because of a change in her role at work. But the remaining 11 have worked so hard together to this end.

Council decided to try some online platforms for some of our meetings. I really appreciate members commitment to reduce the cost for the association and still get the job done. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes that the membership doesn't often see. So, I'd like to thank our Vice President, Jennie Henton; Treasurer, Susan Hanham; Secretary, Tiena Jordan; Membership Secretary, Sarah Padey; Webmasters, Alison Breese and Sean Connolly; *Archifacts* Editor, Jessica Moran; *ALERT* Editor, Belinda Batley; Advocacy Secretary Kathleen Stringer and Catherine Barriga and all past Councillors who provided invaluable support and pieces of advice behind the scenes.

We especially recognise Councillors who are stepping down this year after serving Council for several years in various ways. These are Alison Breese, Jessica Moran, Jennie Henton and Sarah Padey.

Thank you

Dr Eric Boamah

President, ARANZ, 23 September 2019