

ARANZ President's report September 2014

The year in retrospect

The year has been in many respects a tumultuous one for the archives and records community in New Zealand, in particular for our lead agency, Archives New Zealand. Resignations, project failures, a review of Active Archives and Government Digital Archive Programme (GDAP) and the refocusing of strategic direction, have dominated much of the year. The ARANZ Council and I have I believe, responded, advocated and addressed these issues in an appropriate and timely manner. As President, I have been kept informed of developments and have been in regular communication with senior management at DIA/ANZ. The April issue of the journal *Archifacts* includes some of the views of our members on these matters.

ARANZ continues to operate in an environment of financial constraint, as in the previous year. We expect that the 2014 Conference will help improve these circumstances and that the proposed 2015 Conference in Auckland will further consolidate our financial health as an organisation. In 2015 we intend to investigate funding opportunities with regard to our status as a charitable trust.

External relations

There wasn't complete pre-occupation with Archives New Zealand business however: a refreshed **Statement of Intent** was completed and our relationship with the Australian Society of Archivists was consolidated, with the 2013 **Memorandum of Understanding** between ARANZ and ASA. In October last year a new Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the Australian Society of Archivists. We recognise the advantages of working more closely together, given the similarities between Australia and New Zealand on many levels, including language, professional practice, age of the two associations, a shared experience as countries within the Commonwealth and the common issues each association faces in moving forwards. This joint conference is tangible evidence of the benefits of our alliance.

Archives Council: I was invited to attend the June quarterly meeting of the Archives Council meeting and in return ARANZ Council welcomed Archives Council Chair, Diane Morcom to our August Council meeting. While there was recognition of our different roles, it was agreed that synergies exist and that a closer relationship would benefit both Councils and the profession as a whole.

Activities – highlights: I represented ARANZ at the ASA Conference in Canberra in 2013; contributed an essay update to the *Informing New Zealand* wiki textbook project; I replaced Susan Skudder as a member of the NZQA Governance & Working Group on needs analysis for Information management and services.

Blue Shield NZ: ARANZ continued in its support as a member of the Blue Shield New Zealand working group for the formation of a New Zealand Committee of Blue Shield.

The Community Archive: ARANZ has continued to engage with ANZ concerning performance issues and funding for the database in meetings with the Chief Archivist and

General Manager of Archives New Zealand and at the Archives Council's June meeting. To date, there has not been a resolution of the issues surrounding Community Archive.

2015 Conference: Planning is underway and we are committed to a conference in Auckland, tentative dates being September 7 – September 9, venue Auckland University; theme – *Footprints in space and time*.

Acknowledgements – personnel

Since joining Council in 2012, I have been humbled by the energy and dedication of Council members who, all with busy 'other lives', gather from various parts of New Zealand five times a year in Wellington to ensure the continuity of the Association. That is only part of the deal however, as email messages and reports fly around the country throughout the year, believe me. Apart from transport, this is all done at member's own expense – both of time and money – and it is generously given.

I would like to acknowledge the outgoing Council and in particular to thank John Timmins for his outstanding work as past President; Louis Changuion for his stellar work in the last three years as Secretary; Darryl Pike for his equally stellar work for three years as Treasurer, and for his agreement to continue in this role this year. Thanks to Lisa Austin, Helen Pannett, Christine Edney, Stephanie Kitching, Tom Norcliffe, Kay Saunders, and Professor Charlotte Macdonald and to Dr Gillian Oliver, who though not an elected member of Council, as Editor of Archifacts has seen to it that the journal is published twice yearly and for her continuation in this role. We are very fortunate that with the exception of Tom Norcliffe who is stepping down, all have agreed to continue on in the incoming Council and we welcome Susan Skudder back onto Council.

Acknowledgement should also be made of the huge contribution made by the 2014 Christchurch Conference Committee: Tom Norcliffe, Co-convenor; Adelaide Parr, Co-convenor; Mark Crookston, Chair, Programme Committee; Erin Kimber, member; Kylie Percival, member. Previously the committee also included: Aaron Braden and Jo Condon.

Theresa Graham,

President, ARANZ September 2014