



Minutes: 10 July 2013

Chair: Marilyn Lake

**Secretary:
Leigh Boucher**

**Australian Historical Association
Inc.
Annual General Meeting**

5pm – 6pm Eastern Standard Time

Thursday 10 July 2013

Room 67.202

University of Wollongong

1. PRESENT

Marilyn Lake, Angela Woollacott, Leigh Boucher, Andrew May, Nancy Cushing, Frank Bongiorno, Meg Rath, David Carment, Lyndal Ryan, David Lee, Alessandro Antonello, Alexis Begantz, Laura Rademaker, Kimberley Doyle, Anne Rees, Josip Matesic, Amanda Anderson, Rosalie Trilio, Jill Roe, Carroll Pursell, Anthea Hyslop, R.B. Murrie, Katie Holmes, Jill Matthews, Georgine Clarsen, Robert Reynolds, Jenny Gregory, Richard White, Georgia Fitzpatrick, Kate Matthew.

2. APOLOGIES

Tomoko Akami, Alexander Cook, Michael Ondaatje

3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS AGM 12 July 2012

The minutes were adopted

4. Executive Reports

4.1 President's Report [Marilyn Lake]

Marilyn spoke to her report and registered her thanks to Michael Ondaatje and Glenda Sluga for their hard-work liaising with historical societies, David Roberts for his work on Prizes and Awards, Andy May for securing further CAL funding, Sean Brawley for his work on T&L and keeping the AHA abreast of the transforming regulatory landscape, Kate Matthew and Anne Rees for their work as postgraduate representatives, Kate Matthew and Jayne Persian for their smooth disbursement of the duties of executive officer, and to her fellow members of the executive, Angela Woollacott, Andy May and Leigh Boucher.

She also congratulated Norman Etherington for his recent AO and Glenda Sluga and Mark Finnane for their recently announced ARC Laureate fellowships.

The report (attached) was adopted.

4.2 Vice-President's Report [Angela Woollacott]

Angela spoke to her report and noted in particular the generally steady success of historians at the ARC. She also drew attention to the changing landscape around Open Access internationally and the recent change in ARC policy regarding access to published research.

The report (attached) was adopted.

4.3 Secretary's Report [Leigh Boucher]

Leigh registered his thanks for Jayne Persian and Kate Matthew for making his secretarial responsibilities often seem ceremonial.

4.4 Treasurer's Report [Andy May]

Andy spoke to his report and noted the generally healthy financial position of the AHA. Whilst there were a few reporting discrepancies produced by the move from Latrobe to Melbourne as site of the AHA these were ironed out with relative ease. Andy also noted that the move away from the formal biennial/regional conference pattern had produced an increase in revenue. He also reported that the CAL funding for postgraduate bursaries was now much more competitive and whilst the AHA had successfully acquired funding for the next 3 years, the reduced level of funding would mean fewer bursaries at future conferences.

It was put, seconded and passed that the AHA should top-up the CAL funding to maintain the bursaries at the levels of 2011-2013.

Georgine Clarsen also registered her thanks to the University of Wollongong for both hosting the current conference and providing financial support – she noted the importance of the latter for ensuring future conferences maintain a healthy position.

(Treasurer's Report with Auditor's Report attached).

The reports were adopted.

4.5 History Australia Editors' Report [Frank Bongiorno]

Frank spoke to his report and noted a couple of key developments over the past 12 months. He thanked the previous editors for ensuring a smooth handover and thanked Zora Simic and Sarah Pinto for their hard work as reviews editors. He spoke to the changing Open Access landscape and noted that currently *History Australia* does not comply with ARC requirements for access but this did not seem to be causing problems at the moment. Frank discussed the general editorial direction of the journal – a strength in Australian history in its national and international contexts – and discussed the continuing discussions concerning an international publisher of the journal.

A question was raised from the floor concerning how *History Australia* would be affected by the general move towards Open Access in academic journal publishing and when, if at all, *History Australia* planned to change its embargo policy. Frank noted that the broader

international context surrounding Open Access (particularly in the UK) was unsteady. If the UK and US moved concretely towards Open Access, then *History Australia* will more fully consider liberalising its access policy.

The report (attached) was adopted.

4.6 Postgraduate student representative's Report [Anne Rees and Kate Matthew]

Anne spoke to the report on her and Kate's behalf and noted that the survey at the 2012 conference identified two key desires for postgraduate members of the AHA – the opportunity to engage with academics and the chance to network with postgraduates from other universities. These directions had framed the work of the postgraduate representatives at the AHA in the previous year including a variety of online and in-person events designed to facilitate these forms of engagement and workshops at the Annual conference. She registered their thanks to Georgine Clarsen for supporting postgraduate events at the annual conference.

5 Conferences

Marilyn noted the upcoming WHA/AHA conference in October. She reported that preparations for the 2014 conference were proceeding well under the steady stewardship of Martin Crotty. Marilyn also initiated a broader conversation about plans for the 2015 and 2016 conferences and noted that the plan to hold the 2015 conference in Cairns may fall through. A broader discussion followed concerning the pattern of conference sites (rotating between a capital city and a regional centre). A broader call for expressions of interest for hosting the 2015 conference in Sydney was issued.

6. Initiatives during 2012-2013 not otherwise covered

No initiatives were brought forward.

7. Other business

7.1 CISH Conference (Lyndal Ryan)

Lyndal spoke to her report and noted AHA involvement at the upcoming CISH conference in China. The AHA is organising a stream in conjunction with the Institute of History, in the Academy of Social Sciences, Czech Republic on the theme of 'frontier massacres and resettlement'. Given the past connections between CISH and the AHA, Lyndal hoped that historians in Australia would consider the possibility of attending what promised to be an 'extraordinary intergalactic event'.

7.2 Conference length (Andy May)

Andy noted that the length of the conference had now stretched to 4.5 days and wondered whether this might be compressed in future. A discussion about the length of the conference followed, but it was agreed that it was important to give the AHA membership the opportunity to present their work rather than move to a system in which speaking at the conference became too competitive due to time restrictions.

7.3 Other remarks

Jill Roe requested that a full list of previous conference locations be distributed to members for their consideration, and it was noted that this information was available on the AHA website. She also thanked the AHA for the honour of speaking at the anniversary dinner earlier in the week.

The Meeting was closed at 6pm