



Australian
Historical
Association

Annual General Meeting
5.00 – 6.00pm
Thursday 1st July 2021
Online

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous AGM (attached)
3. Executive reports
 - 3.1 **President's Report** – verbal report (Melanie Oppenheimer)
 - 3.2 **Treasurer's Report** – report attached (Romain Fathi)
 - 3.3 **Prizes and Awards Report** – report attached (Amanda Nettelbeck/Laura Rademaker)
 - 3.4 **Membership Report** – verbal report (Noah Riseman/Ben Jones)
 - 3.5 **Teaching and Learning Report** - verbal report (Nancy Cushing/Emily O’Gorman)
 - 3.6 ***History Australia* Editors' Report** – report attached (Kate Fullagar)
 - 3.7 **Postgraduate Student Representatives' Report** – report attached (Joshua Black)
 - 3.8 **Early Career Researcher Representatives' Report** – report attached (Chelsea Barnett/Joel Barnes/Anna Temby)
 - 3.9 **Executive Officer's Report** – verbal report (Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden)
4. AHA conferences
 - 5.1 AHA Conference 2021 – UNSW verbal report (Ruth Balint)
 - 5.2 AHA Conference 2022 – Deakin verbal report (Bart Ziino)
5. Special resolution to amend the AHA Constitution documents attached (Melanie Oppenheimer/Romain Fathi)
6. Special resolution to add a Professorial Individual membership category document attached (Frank Bongiorno)
7. Member sustainability motion document attached (Carla Pascoe Leahy)
8. Other business

Your presence at this meeting is welcome and needed.
Please have this agenda with you.



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Annual General Meeting

5.00 – 6.00pm

Thursday 2nd July 2020

Online

Agenda

1. **Attendance:** Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden, Lynette Russell, Annmarie Reid, Daniel May, Kiera Lindsey, Carroll, Jenny Gregory, Fiona Paisley, Joy Damousi, Melanie Openheimer, Jennifer Debenham, Angela, Claire, Noah Riseman, Tim Rowse, Patsy Luckie, Sharon Crozier-De Rosa, Shayne Brown, Julie Rickwood, Frank Bongiorno, Alessandro Antonello, André Brett, Margaret Birtley, Ken McQueen, David Carment, Gemmia Burden, Catherine Bishop, Charlotte Greenhalgh, Yorick Smaal, Nikki Henningham, Michelle Bootcov, Claire Brennan, Margaret Hutchison, Michelle Arrow, Katie Holmes, Alana Piper, Bart Ziino, Diane Kirkby, Effie Karageorgos, Ben Mercer (Isabela M), Nancy Cushing, Rae Frances, Ruth Morgan, Rosemary Richards, Charmaine Robson, Lyndon Megarrity, Peter, Chelsea Barnett, Anna Temby, Tamson Pietsch, Julia Miller, Deborah Lee-Talbot, Rosalie Triolo, Karen Hughes, Romain Fathi, Amanda Nettelbeck, Brian Cuddy, Shurlee Swain, Neville Buch, Mike Jones, Kays, Frances Steel, Jarrod Hore, Richard White, Alexia Moncrieff, Benjamin Jones, Laura Rademaker, Claire, Nicola Cousen, Emily O'Gorman, Michelle Staff, Julie Kimber, Clare Corbould, James Dunk, David Lee, Margaret Cook, Kirsten McKenzie, Hannah Forsyth, Karen Twigg, Warwick Anderson, Amanda Harris, Yves Rees, Alexandra Roginski, Bobbie Oliver, Alexandra Dellios, Joe Parro, Joel Barnes, Em Gallagher, Michael Kilmister, Sacha Davis, Johanna Perheentupa, Lee Sulkowska, Andrea Gaynor, Ben Silverstein, Robert Cribb, Kate Fullagar, Joshua Black, Clare Wright, Ann McGrath, Elizabeth, Rachel Harris, Kate Davison, Laurie Allen, Georgina Clarsen, Sharon Crozier-De Rosa, Julie McIntyre

Apologies: Liz Rushen, Kathleen Neal, Elizabeth Kwan, Karen Agutter, Cameron Hazlehurst, Benjamin Mountford, Susan Magarey, Lisa Featherstone, Ruth Balint, Hans Lukas Kieser

This is the first ever Zoom of the AHA so an historic moment. We acknowledge that this meeting is being held on many Indigenous peoples' traditional lands and pay our respects to all of their Elders past, present, and emerging.

2. **Minutes of the previous AGM (attached)**

Moved: Kate Fullagar

Seconded: Clare Wright

3. **Executive reports**

3.1 **President's Report** – verbal report (Joy Damousi)

Memoriam: Professor George Parsons

Bushfire Response January 2020: AHA circulated a petition calling for urgent action to be taken on climate change. An environmental history stream was planned for the AHA

Conference and we intend to continue work in this space. Thank you to everyone who signed the petition.

Covid-19 and AHA Conference: Cancellation of conference was disappointing but necessary. We acknowledge and thank Bart Ziino and his organisation team at Deakin for their hard work putting together the conference. We appreciate their collegiality amidst the cancellation. Throughout the year we will be looking at other ways to talk about the theme of urgent histories (e.g. have already done some podcasts). We are adapting as the Covid-19 circumstances unfold.

Casualisation report: Romain Fathi and Lyndon Megarrity worked diligently for almost two years to put together the casualisation survey and report. This document has been heavily quoted and is even more pertinent in the Covid-19 situation.

AHA Journal Evaluation Matrix: This is now complete and online on the AHA website on the advocacy page. This matrix is intended to be constructive for people in universities who need to situate their research within various journal metrics. AHA did not put its own ranking, so it is just compiling external data. Thanks to Melanie Oppenheimer, Noah Riseman and Ruth Morgan who put so much time and effort into assembling this document.

Advocacy: The AHA Executive has been active for the past two years, as far back as Minister Birmingham's intervention in the ARC and more recently Minister Tehan's proposals around Humanities funding. The AHA website has an advocacy section which includes numerous statements and petitions.

Submissions: The AHA Executive has made submissions to the ABS FoR codes review, the Senate Nationhood, National Identity and Democracy Inquiry, and the Tune Review of the National Archives of Australia.

AHA Conference 2022: Deakin will be hosting this conference.

Thanks: The profession has been very supportive for the last two years while Joy was president. It has been a privilege representing the association. Thanks to the Executive for their support and collegial environment. Thanks especially to those Executive members who are leaving: Lynette Russell (who has been on the Executive in numerous roles for years), André Brett, Lisa Featherstone, Gemmia Burden, Ruth Morgan, Aileen Marwung Walsh. Thanks to Melanie Oppenheimer for her support as VP. Finally, thanks to exemplary Executive Officer, Phillips-Peddlesden.

3.2 Treasurer's Report – report attached (Lisa Featherstone; Joy Damousi presenting)
Membership has so far held up reasonably well amidst Covid-19 crisis. We are financially stable for now but will need strong support from membership and conference attendance in 2021-22. Concerns around postgraduates and ECRs who have experienced great financial distress amidst the crisis in the tertiary sector. The auditor's report shows a small loss but is primarily due to a loss in the value of investments. The next Executive will work towards negotiating lower rates with Taylor & Francis for publishing *History Australia*, and to find other ways to save money.

3.3 Prizes and Awards Report – report attached (Kirsten McKenzie/Melanie Oppenheimer)

Thanks to all of the awards judges for their time and energy, and to Bethany for organising the materials and making everything run so smoothly. Conference scholarship recipients will take up their awards for the 2021 conference.

Annual prizes:

Jill Roe Prize: Winner: Karen Twigg (La Trobe); Highly Commended: Lauren Samuelsson Wollongong)

Allan Martin Award: Joint winners: Alexandra Dellios (ANU) and Mike Jones (ANU)

History Australia prizes:

Ann Curthoys Prize: Winner: Laura Rademaker (ANU); Highly Commended: Mike Jones (ANU)

Marian Quartly Prize: Jeremy Martens (UWA)

Biennial prizes:

Kay Daniels Award: Hilary Carey, *Empire of Hell: Religion and the Campaign to End Convict Transportation in the British Empire, 1788-1875* (Cambridge University Press, 2019)

Magarey Medal for Biography: Helen Ennis, *Olive Cotton: A Life in Photography* (Fourth Estate, 2019)

Serle Award: Winner: Annemarie McLaren (ANU): *Negotiating Entanglement: Reading Aboriginal-Colonial Exchanges in Early New South Wales, 1788-1835*

Commendation: Mia Alexandra Martin Hobbs (UniMelb)

Hancock Prize: Laura Rademaker, *Found in Translation: Many Meanings on a North Australian Mission* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2018)

3.4 Membership Report – verbal report (Noah Riseman/Romain Fathi)

Membership took a hit with Covid-19 and the conference cancellation. Work on retention but understanding difficulties re: finances and Covid-19. Current membership is at 745 (down from about 850 this time last year).

3.5 Teaching and Learning Report - verbal report (Romain Fathi/Lyndon Megarrity)

Thanks to the 153 people who responded to the casualisation survey, which dominated the work in this portfolio. The report now has an ISSN and is available online through Informit, making it more accessible. It is also freely available in the Flinders University repository. This report followed on from suggestions by casuals in the discipline. The report has made

recommendations, and the AHA Executive is already working towards implementing those recommendations which the association can (others are more relevant to tertiary institutions).

3.6 *History Australia* Editors' Report – report attached (Kate Fullagar)

Notes personnel changes for book reviews and 'History off the Page' sections. *History Australia* did go down to Q2 in Scimago, but it is on a par with other comparable Australian history journals which are similarly positioned. The journal continues to run one special issue per year, and the 2018 one is now going to be published as a book by Taylor & Francis. Submission rates are stable and rejection rates are at 44%, and the download rate has gone up by 36%. The journal continues to connect with audience through social media as well.

Expressions of interest for the next editors will be due at the end of this year for a tenure to start in 2022.

3.7 Postgraduate Student Representatives' Report – (Aileen Marwung Walsh)

3.8 Early Career Researcher Representatives' Report – verbal report (André Brett)

High quality applications for the AHA/CAL ECR Mentorship scheme, with five full awards and a few partial awards. Delighted to hear about progress for these recipients despite Covid-19. CAL funds for the next round are secured. Encourages applicants from outside the NSW/QLD/VIC/ACT corridor to apply for these awards.

Executive has received proposals for ways to support ECRs and senior colleagues in mentoring and ways to boost scholarship, assist in workloads, and navigate career in academia.

The ECR Twitter account has nearly doubled its followers in two years (now at 1,530). Has maintained ECR blog, and it has about 1,100 viewers each month and has hit almost 50,000 overall. Most readers are from Australia but a healthy number of visitors from New Zealand, UK, US and Singapore.

Final comments about the importance of advocating for ECRs, casuals and other historians from marginalised backgrounds, who often have precarious roles and need the support and advocacy from senior colleagues.

3.9 Executive Officer's Report – verbal report (Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden)

Social Media stats: Twitter at 3,399; public Facebook 574; private Facebook 603.

Daniel May will be taking over the role of Executive Officer while Bethany is on parental leave.

4. 2020-2022 Executive Committee Election (Joy Damousi/Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden)

New Executive:

President: Melanie Oppenheimer

Vice President: Frank Bongiorno

Treasurer: Romain Fathi

Secretary: Noah Riseman
Immediate Past President: Joy Damousi
ECR Representatives: Chelsea Barnett, Joel Barnes and Anna Temby
Postgraduate Representative: Joshua Black
Digital Humanities Representative: Tim Sherratt
History Teachers Association: Ines Dunstan
Conference convenors: Ruth Balint (UNSW 2021); Bart Ziino (Deakin 2022)
History Australia editors: Kate Fullagar, Michelle Arrow, Leigh Boucher

4.1 Ordinary Members Vote

Seven nominations received for five positions (in alphabetical order): Nancy Cushing, Benjamin Jones, Kiera Lindsey, Lyndon Megarrity, Amanda Nettelbeck, Emily O’Gorman, Laura Rademaker. Biographies included in the AGM papers. An electronic ballot held with all AGM attendees given five minutes to cast a vote for up to five candidates.

New Ordinary Members of the Executive: Nancy Cushing, Benjamin Jones, Amanda Nettelbeck, Emily O’Gorman and Laura Rademaker

5. **AHA conferences**

5.1 AHA Conference 2021 – UNSW (Ruth Balint; Joy Damousi presenting)

Theme will be ‘Unfinished Histories’, and this will also commemorate the 40th anniversary of the AHA and its first conference also at UNSW. Currently planning keynotes and exploring possibilities of Zoom for international speakers. Everything is progressing at pace and doing the committee is doing the best they can to raise finances in this difficult Covid-19 environment.

5.2 AHA Conference 2022 – Deakin (Bart Ziino)

The 2020 Conference numbers looked healthy with abstracts. Thanks to Deakin’s Contemporary Histories Research Group for the material support in planning the conference and their support in preparing for 2022.

Katie Holmes: Have there been any agreed principles or practices to try to make the conference as carbon neutral as possible? Andrea Gaynor, Carla Pascoe Leahy and Yves Rees have published a paper about sustainability in the profession and it includes recommendations relating to the conference (the AHA Executive supported the paper).

Bart: We do not have a series of principles in place per se, but we have been referring to the sustainability report. This is a good time to work on them in the planning.

6. **Special resolution to change membership category definitions** (Romain Fathi)

It is proposed that the following changes to the definitions of the below membership categories be made:

1. A Concession member will henceforth be defined as a person who is in a fixed term position (1 year's duration or under) OR retired. The membership fee for this category will be fixed at \$100 per year or \$200 for two year's membership

2. A Low income member will henceforth be defined as unemployed, sessionally or casually employed, employed under 0.4FTE, or a holder of a health care card or similar. The membership for this category will be fixed at \$85 per year or \$170 for two year's membership.

The reduction for casuals' rate from \$100 to \$85 may not seem like a lot, but given the challenges facing casual employees – most paid by the hour – including them in the concession rate is a way to encourage their ongoing membership and participation.

Unanimous Support

7. Other business

Nil

Meeting closed at 6:13pm AEST.

AHA's 2021 AGM

Treasurer's report

Romain Fathi

Covid-19-related challenges to the AHA budget in the past financial year have continued, and have impacted the current financial year (ending 30 May 2021 for the AHA, not 30 June). These challenges will, in all likelihood, impact upon the next financial year as well.

Over the past 12 months, we have witnessed a slight decline in membership due to members leaving the university sector and/or not renewing their membership. This has affected our finances.

The cancellation of the 2020 conference affected both renewal rates and resulted in an absence of a surplus and levy, also impacting our finances.

AHA's financial portfolio, *as of (and including) 9 June 2021*

Commonwealth Bank Business Transaction Account	\$70,134.48
Business Online Saver	\$54,613.90
Westpac Term Deposit (16-3799; Hancock Award funds)	\$31,363.91
Westpac Term Deposit (16-3780; Kay Daniels Award funds)	\$27,388.68
UBS Property Securities Fund (Serle Award)	\$10,928.98
AHA Public Fund account	\$20
Allan Martin Award - account held by ANU	\$111,450.45
TOTAL	\$305,900.40

Income from 1 June 2020 to 30 May 2021

• Membership subscriptions	\$87,180.94
• Conference Levy and Surplus	\$0
• Copyright Agency	\$122.98
• Copyright Agency (CAL) Mentorships	\$9,000
• Allan Martin Award funds from ANU	\$4,000
• UBS Serle Award refund	\$20,000.0
• Royalties from Taylor and Francis	\$6,073.38
• Ann Curthoys Prize	\$450
• Honest History (bursary)	\$400
• SSEAC subside for AHA conference	\$10,000
• Deakin Refund	\$6,520
• Interest on savings account	\$15.83
• Interest (Westpac)	\$856.87
Total income	\$144,620.0

Expenses from 1 June 2020 to 30 May 2021

• Journal Costs	\$77,037.13*
• AHA Executive Officer	\$125,859.8*
• Audit and Accountancy Fees	\$2,970
• New website	\$6,931.44
• Bank fees	\$219.07
• Australia Post	\$146.65
• Travel and accommodation	\$902
• Domain fees and plug ins	\$1,604.70
• Transfer to new Public Fund account	\$20.00
• Memberships with other orgs.	\$ 1,199.44
• UNSW (10k AHA subside + 10K SSEAC)	\$20,000.0
• Prizes	\$8,650
Total expenses	\$245,540.23

As Melbourne University did not allow quarterly payments for the EO's salary, \$64,595.30 owed to UMelb was paid in August 2020. Additionally, last year's fees for Taylor & Francis (\$39,341.50) were also paid during the current financial year. Both payments were anticipated by the previous Executive but could not be processed in the financial year ending 30 May 2020. Instead, these payments were made in the 2021 AHA financial year. This means that whilst in ATO calendar terms expenses for this financial year look like \$245,540.23, in real terms – that is for the work undertaken between 1 June 2020 to 30 May 2021 – they were **\$141,603.43**.

Overall, from 1 June 2020 to 30 May 2021, without taking into account the previous Executive's EO salary and T&F yearly fees, the AHA's financial position has **improved of \$3,016.57**

Prizes Report, AGM 1 July 2021

Amanda Nettelbeck & Laura Rademaker

1. Annual prizes in 2021

Our thanks go to all the judges of this year's annual awards and prizes for giving up their time; and to Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden, and Daniel May while Bethany was on leave, for making the submission and judging process run smoothly. The following prize categories are divided as: a) awards and prizes to be announced at the AGM; b) annual scholarships already announced; and c) scholarships and bursaries currently under the judging process.

a) The winners of the following 3 awards and prizes will be announced at the AGM:

Allan Martin award (ECR research fellowship in Australian history):

- *Eligible entries: 20. Judges:* Ruth Morgan (ANU, Chair), Andrea Gaynor (UWA), Lyndon Megarrity (James Cook University).

Jill Roe Prize (Unpublished article-length work by a postgraduate scholars):

- *Eligible entries: 5. Judges:* Lisa Featherstone (UQ), Jeremy Martens (UWA), Skye Krichauff (University of Adelaide).

b) The **NAA/AHA Scholarships** (postgraduate scholarships for National Archives research) winners were announced in June:

- *Eligible entries: 10. Judges:* Laura Rademaker (ANU), Sophie Loy-Wilson (University of Sydney), Anne-Marie Conde(NAA).
- *Awardees (announced in June):* Julian Kusabs, Louise Thatcher, Vashti Fox and Marcus James

c) The following 3 scholarship and bursary schemes (supporting attendance at the AHA annual conference 2021) are in the judging process:

AHA Postgraduate Travel and Writing Bursaries

- *Eligible entries: 13. Judges:* Ben Jones (CQU), Laura Rademaker (ANU), Chelsea Barnett (UTS)

Note: Winners of the 2021 conference bursaries will take them up alongside winners of the 2020 conference bursaries, which were delayed by the cancellation of the 2020 conference due to covid. This year's postgraduate travel and writing bursaries will be funded by the AHA as an interim measure due to changed funding rules of the Copyright Agency (a funding body that formerly supported this scheme). The possibility of identifying other future funding sources is under discussion through the AHA Executive Committee.

AHA/Honest History AHA Conference Teacher Scholarship

Eligible entries: 1. Judges: Lisa Ford (UNSW), Peter Monteath (Flinders), Jane Carey (Wollongong)

Patrick Wolfe Early Career Researcher Conference Bursary

Eligible entries: 7. Judges: Lisa Ford (UNSW), Peter Monteath (Flinders), Jane Carey (Wollongong)

2. Rounds for the following Biennial Prizes will take place in 2022:

- Kay Daniels Award
- Magarey Medal for Biography
- Serle Award
- W.K. Hancock Prize

History Australia

Annual Report, July 2021, for the

Australian Historical Association (AHA) Annual General Meeting

We are in the final six months of our tenure as editors of *History Australia*. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our editorial group: James Findlay, our ‘History off the page’ reviews editor, and our book reviews editors Claire Lowrie and Charlotte Greenhalgh. We would also like to acknowledge, with thanks, Assistant Editor Mati Keynes, for all their hard work on the journal.

We also take this opportunity to thank the Board members for their ongoing support for the journal. We fondly farewell Frank Bongiorno, Peter Cochrane, Sandra Wilson, and Martyn Lyons. We are delighted to welcome onto the editorial board five new members:

- A/Prof. Catherine Kevin, Flinders University
- Prof. Gregory Smithers, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Prof. Mark Edele, University of Melbourne
- Prof. Michelle Arrow, Macquarie University
- A/Prof. Andrea Gaynor, University of Western Australia

Prizes (to be announced at AGM):

Marian Quartly prize: (worth \$500). Awarded for the best article published in *History Australia* during the previous calendar year. We gratefully acknowledge the continuing support of Routledge and Taylor & Francis in funding the prize.

Ann Curthoys Prize: (worth \$750). Awarded for the best unpublished article-length work by an Early Career Researcher (within 5 years of PhD graduation) in any one of (or combination of) a specified list of fields in which Professor Curthoys has published. We gratefully acknowledge Professor Curthoys’ support in contributing to the funding of this prize. We received 9 entries this year, up from 6 in 2020, and the judges are impressed by the quality of the entries.

Special issues and Forums:

Since we last reported here in 2020, the journal has published a forum and two special issues: issue 18.1 (2021) contains the ‘History and Policy’ forum edited by Carolyn Holbrook and David Lowe, issue 17.4 (2020) was a special issue on ‘Twentieth century cultures of humanitarianism and international development,’ ed. Agnieszka Sobocinska and Melanie Oppenheimer; and issue 18.2 (2021) was a special issue on ‘Monarchy in the age of empire,’ ed. Matthew Fitzpatrick. The first issue of 2022 will be a special issue entitled ‘Bringing Madness in from the Margins, to be edited by Catharine Colbourne and James Dunk.

The final issue of 2021 will include a special feature on the National Library of Australia's Trove website, featuring a number of contributors.

Submissions and Publications Data:

Submissions: We received a total of 144 submissions in 2020: 77 original research articles; the remainder were book reviews, 'history off the page' or other review articles.

Rejections: The rejection rate for 2020 was 21%. Of the 77 original research articles received in 2020:

- 8 *Reject and Resubmit* (of these, 5 were resubmitted during 2020 and 2 were eventually accepted for publication)
- 15 *Reject*
- 4 authors did not take up the option to submit a *Major Revision*. There are 3 articles which were submitted in 2020 where the major revision option is still open

Publication: the following articles were published in Volume 17:

- 31 research articles
- 37 book reviews
- 17 'History off the page' reviews
- 1 'My Life in History/'Reflections on Historical Practice,' (Paul Strangio)
- 1 Archive Review (The Prosecution Project, Katherine Biber)
- 2 peer-reviewed 'Landmark histories in retrospect' features: on Marilyn Lake and Joy Damousi's edited collection *Gender and War* (by Bart Ziino) and Richard White's *Inventing Australia* (by Jess Carniel)

Highlights from the Taylor & Francis annual report:

We receive a confidential publishing report from Taylor & Francis each year that contains some interesting data and analysis. Unfortunately, we cannot provide you with the entire document but here are some highlights for 2021:

Downloads

- *History Australia* continues to grow the number of article downloads. 47,334 article downloads for 2020 represents a 24% increase over 2019. (for 2019, the increase over 2018 was 36%).
- The most downloaded article in 2020 (from a sample of articles published 2018-20) was Katie Holmes, Andrea Gaynor, Ruth Morgan, 'Doing environmental history in urgent times' 17, no.2 (2020), with 6,594 downloads.

- The most downloaded article published in 2020 was Katie Holmes, Andrea Gaynor, Ruth Morgan, ‘Doing environmental history in urgent times’ 17, no.2 (2020), with 6,594 downloads.
- The other articles within the top five most-downloaded articles in 2020 (from a sample of articles published 2018-20) were:
 - Tamson Pietsch and Frances Flanagan, ‘Here we stand: temporal thinking in urgent times’ 17, no.2 (2020).
 - Kate Bagnall, ‘Potter v Minahan: Chinese Australians, the law and belonging in White Australia’ 15, no.3 (2018). This article has consistently retained a very high Altmetric score of all articles.
 - Ben Huf and Yves Rees, ‘Doing history in urgent times: forum introduction’ 17, no.2 (2020).

The article with the highest altmetric score published in the year to date was: Katie Holmes, Andrea Gaynor, Ruth Morgan, ‘Doing environmental history in urgent times’ 17, no.2 (2020).

Connecting with our audience

History Australia is marketed by Taylor & Francis through bi-weekly ‘Reaching Readers’ emails, new content alerts, and social media. In total, 34 articles have been promoted this way since January 2019.

T&F also provide authors with an option to opt into marketing after publication with *History Australia*. ‘Author anniversary’ emails have an average open rate of 40% and a click-through rate of 18%, considerably higher than industry averages.

The *History Australia* Twitter account continues to grow, with approx. 2,270 followers (up from 1,520 followers in 2020).

The Conversation – we continue to assist/encourage authors to pitch articles to the *Conversation* associated with published articles.

Publishing in an academic journal: the editors continue to run these workshops for ECRs and HDR students, and ran one over zoom in 2020 and so far one in 2021. Another is slated for the AHA conference in Dec. 2021.

Roundtable on the impact of Trove on historical research: the editors have submitted an abstract to the 2021 AHA conference, ‘Unfinished Business’, for a roundtable discussion about the impact of Trove on historical research to coincide with publication of the Trove archive review in issue 18.4 (2021) of *History Australia*.

Inclusion on the Scopus Index and Scimago

The Scimago journal rankings for 2020 have been released, and *History Australia* has dropped to a Q4 ranking in history. This marks quite a decline over the past 3 years (Q1 in 2018 and Q2 in 2019). Obviously, this is of deep concern for the journal. While these rankings are not the only way of judging the quality of a journal, they clearly have an influence over the choices of authors. Returning the journal to a higher ranking should be a top priority. There are two ways that editors can have an influence over rankings: shaping the research published in the journal and ensuring that research reaches the widest possible audience. It is important to acknowledge, all the same, that the journal remains committed to publishing work that may not be cited highly (such as ECR work and also work framed in relation to subfields within Australian history).

Research

The Scimago ranking is produced by tracking the citations of work published in *History Australia* over the previous three years. To put this rather bluntly, the 2020 ranking is a reflection of the impact of work published in *History Australia* from 2017-2019. This means that the 2020 ranking (Q4) marked the year when work published in *History Australia* in 2016 would no longer impact the Scimago ranking. The 2019 ranking (Q2) marked the year when work from 2015 would no longer impact the Scimago ranking. In 2018, the journal was ranked for the first time (with a Q1). In both 2015 and 2016 the journal had published a special issue that targeted a broad international audience. Indeed, 5 of the top 12 most downloaded articles are from the 2016 special issue on ‘Modern British History in the Antipodes.’

The current editors have commissioned a set of special issues and fora with appeal beyond the profession in Australia (publication years 2020, 2021, 2022), and we are hopeful this will increase the international readership of the journal. So too, articles from the 2020 special forum on *Urgent Histories* have very encouraging downloading counts (2 of the top 20 most downloaded articles ever are from this forum). We are hopeful that the articles from these special issues and fora will drive the citation impact of the journal in the right direction from next year’s accounting.

Audience

At present, authors are encouraged to promote their articles via their social media channels, and *History Australia* does the same. We now also work with *The Conversation* to develop content derived from (and linking to) research in the journal. This avenue may be worth considering even more deeply for future editorial teams.

Taylor and Francis report that only around 1 in 5 authors ‘click through’ on emails which include a link to 50 free e-prints of their articles. Sharing articles on social media improves download rates and authors sharing their work in their networks is the best way to ensure that interested readers will find and download articles. Some of the most-downloaded articles in 2018-20 were those with the highest altmetric scores.

A key component of the question of audience concerns access to the journal itself. *History Australia* is sold to libraries as part of various *Taylor and Francis* bundles. Members of the *AHA* board are currently renegotiating the contract for *History Australia* with *T&F*, getting a clearer sense of how the journal is bundled and perhaps trying to increase access to the journal would seem a wise strategy.

~

The Editors

Michelle Arrow, Leigh Boucher and Kate Fullagar

AHA Annual General Meeting

Postgraduate Representative Report - Joshua Black

Introduction

This short report offers a brief snapshot of the ways in which the Australian Historical Association has put its Postgraduate student members at the heart of its deliberations, activities, advocacy and future planning.

Advocacy and Outreach

As the peak body for the historical profession in Australia, the AHA has continued to perform an important and considered advocacy role at a time of profound challenges for its constituent members. A number of the AHA's public statements in the past twelve months have been of particular and direct import to the HDR community. In July 2020, in the wake of concerning reports about the detrimental impact of COVID-19 on the wellbeing of postgraduate students across Australia, the AHA publicly and wholeheartedly reiterated its commitment to supporting its postgraduate members and advocating on behalf of their best interests. Subsequent deliberations in the Executive Committee and in other AHA forums have been conducted with that commitment very much in mind. Moreover, other facets of the AHA's public advocacy – including the response to changing policy settings in the higher education sector and discussions about the funding of public institutions such as the National Archives of Australia – have also been formulated with a keen awareness of the particular concerns and interests of the AHA's postgraduate cohort.

There have been a number of mechanisms by which the AHA Executive, and myself as the Postgraduate Representative, have striven to maintain a dialogue with our HDR community. The “Australian Historical Association Postgraduate Students” Facebook page is one crucial forum in which information relevant to postgraduate candidates has been disseminated. In particular, information about new initiatives, awards and prizes, and conference matters has been shared here for the benefit of HDR members. I have also attempted to share and circulate notices about relevant opportunities and awards via Twitter.

A new development in the area of postgraduate outreach has been the creation of an AHA Postgraduate email account, which has proven useful for more extended and detailed kinds of information sharing. The email account has allowed me to notify all AHA Postgraduate members of new initiatives, and provides a useful mechanism via which HDR candidates can reach out to the Postgraduate Representative, and thereby the Executive Committee, with matters of particular interest to HDRs.

AHA Mentoring Scheme

The AHA's HDR–ECR Mentoring Scheme has been a particularly successful new initiative. This scheme emerged as a very early goal for the ECR and Postgraduate Representatives shortly after the present Executive Committee took its place in mid-2020. The 2021 scheme has thus far been a very successful pilot, involving the development and formation of positive and productive mentoring relationships with mutual academic and professional benefit to all involved. The success of this initiative has depended in no small measure on the goodwill and generosity of the ECR participants, and I enthusiastically take the opportunity to celebrate them here.

The “Skills for New Historians” workshops have also been a fantastic addition to the list of resources that AHA Postgraduate members receive. The past six months have seen the delivery of a number of useful and engaging seminars on matters pertaining to academic research in the digital age, the particularities of preparing an academic journal article, the details of the DECRA application process and more. This program has been of enormous benefit to HDR members as well as ECRs, and we can all be grateful to the ECR Representatives for having designed and implemented this program in partnership with the President and the Executive Officer.

Annual Conference Bursary for Postgraduate Candidates

The Executive Committee is extremely conscious of the financial tightropes that many HDR candidates are required to walk in pursuit of postgraduate research. At present, the Executive Committee is formulating plans to evaluate the success of the existing Conference Bursary Scheme, a cornerstone of the AHA’s conference support for postgraduate scholars for the past several years, and one that has benefited more than a few dozen graduate historians. Moreover, we are preparing to determine the future of the scheme, in the hope of ensuring continued and substantial support for HDRs in the context of a significantly altered funding environment.

Postgraduate Database

For some time, the AHA Executive Committee has been active in the planning and development of an AHA Postgraduate Database. This tool, built into the new online platform of the AHA, facilitates greater visibility and discoverability for those who volunteer to enrol. The Postgrad Database performs a function similar to that which has previously been performed in the back-pages of historical journals. The database has been designed for maximum utility, and will enable HDR candidates – who are members of the AHA – to search in the database for particular themes, subjects, methodologies and institutions. It is my aspiration that this function will facilitate greater collaboration and contact across institutional and state borders, particularly at a time of enormous geographic and regional isolation.

The database will enable further possibilities and potentialities for postgraduate members of the AHA, and I look forward to pursuing those additional initiatives in the coming year.

AHA ECR Representatives Annual General Meeting Report – 1 July 2021

Chelsea Barnett, Anna Temby, Joel Barnes

The current representatives took over the Early Career Researcher portfolio in July 2020, and since then have found that having a team of three sharing the role has been beneficial, and has provided capacity to pursue a number of new initiatives. We have worked closely with the HDR representative, Joshua Black, on matters concerning both HDRs and ECRs. We have also consistently benefitted from the support and encouragement of Melanie Oppenheimer as AHA President. Major activities are outlined below.

- As there are three of us in the portfolio, we have set up a new email address, aha.ecr@gmail.com, to centralise communications with ECR members.
- We were interested early on to clarify our ‘constituency’ (i.e. which members are ECRs), and so in consultation with the Executive arranged to amend the AHA membership form to clarify members’ career stages. We will have a full list of those who identify as ECRs by September 2021, once the new form has been in use for a full twelve months. This will permit more targeted communication with members.
- We worked with the Australian Centre for Public History at UTS to redevelop and expand the Centre’s [Research Assistant Database](#), which now contains the details of more than 130 prospective RAs across Australia and internationally. Our objective was for the database to become an important centralised resource for the discipline that would connect those seeking work with those seeking to employ RAs.
- In September-October 2020 we designed and distributed a survey to gauge the ECR community’s main concerns and ideas for the AHA moving forward. As we reported on the [ECRs blog](#) in December 2020, the findings from the survey (n=53) included:
 - In general, respondents reported low morale about the state of the sector and the difficulties of finding sustainable, meaningful work; these concerns were not new but were exacerbated by the events of 2020. There were mixed sentiments about whether the AHA was doing enough to support ECRs in this environment.
 - A significant proportion of respondents reported having carer responsibilities, disabilities, or both.
 - There was a clear appetite for more concrete initiatives for skill-building and development

The AHA Executive was very responsive to the findings of the survey, and especially concerned about the morale issue identified. We have had the support of the President and the Executive to deliver on the demand for more concrete initiatives. The next two items have both been attempts to meet this demand.

- Working with Joshua Black, in January 2021 we launched the ECR-HDR mentoring scheme, to give ECRs mentoring experience to take into supervisory roles, and HDRs mentorship from someone who has recently been through the postgraduate process. We received 28 applications for the scheme, making 14 mentor-mentee pairs. The scheme will run for the duration of the 2021 calendar year, with the expectation that each pair will meet at least six times over that period. The scheme will be reviewed at the end of the year.

- Our major initiative for 2021, organised at the suggestion of the President, has been to arrange a series of roughly monthly skills and professional development seminars, the Skills for New Historians seminars. These are run online by Zoom, featuring specialist presenters a different topic each month. So far we have held four seminars, with a fifth scheduled for mid-July:
 - 5 March 2021: Digital Histories, featuring Alana Piper (UTS) and Tim Sherratt (Canberra).
 - 30 March 2021: Book Proposals, featuring Nathan Hollier (Melbourne UP), Melanie Oppenheimer (Flinders), and James Keating (UNSW).
 - 30 April 2021: DECRAAs, featuring Bronwen Neil (ARC and Macquarie) with Debbie Kirchner (ARC), Amanda Nettelbeck (ACU), Emma Gleadhill (Macquarie), and Tristan Moss (UNSW).
 - 1 June 2021: Peer Review, featuring Kate Fullagar (ACU) and Lisa Featherstone (UQ).
 - 16 July 2021 (forthcoming): Non-academic Careers, featuring Mariko Smith (Australian Museum), Emma Sarian (NSW State Insurance Regulatory Authority), and Emma Gleadhill (Macquarie).

All the seminars have been well-received and well-attended, with between 25 and 50 participants for each one. Most seminars are recorded, subject to the presenters' approval. The recordings are available in the [Member Resources section](#) of the new AHA website (login required). We are planning three more seminars before the 2021 AHA conference, to be held roughly in August, September and October. The series will be reviewed at the end of the year.

- For the AHA conference, we are planning an ECRs event on publishing in popular media. The event will build upon the success of the Skills for New Historians seminar series, and is intended to complement an event to be run by the *History Australia* editorial team on publishing in academic journals.
- In December 2020 we opened applications for the 2021 round of the AHA/CAL ECR Mentorship scheme. This is a scheme which has run since 2018; the 2021 awards were funded by a one-year grant from CAL. Five recipients were awarded \$1,500 each, and have been working with their nominated mentors to produce a publication in an academic journal and an article for an online forum. At the time of writing the recipients are due to provide a progress report and, if applicable, the link to the publication of their online article.
 - We had been working with Joshua Black to design a new funding scheme with which to apply to CAL for ongoing funding of both ECRs and HDRs. However, CAL has since changed its funding priorities, and will no longer support 'training and professional development for academics'. This change means that CAL funding is no longer suitable, as one of the most important elements of this funding in the past has been to enable HDRs to attend the AHA's annual conference. We are thus currently in the process of identifying new potential funding sources.
- Lastly, we have continued using the AHA ECRs [blog](#), [Twitter account](#), and [Facebook group](#) for communication and promotional purposes. The blog has attracted around 7,000 page views in the last twelve months. As of 9 June 2021, the Twitter account had 1735 followers, and the Facebook group 163 members.

2021 AGM Special Resolution: Changes to the AHA Constitution

1. That the AHA amend the Constitution to change the wording in the following sections:

Clause 1:

- to add 'The Association is a not-for-profit organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission' - to reflect the Association's recent acceptance as a Charity by the ACNC.

Clause 2:

- to add the following three sections to better state the objects and purposes of the Association, in line with the requirements of the Register of Cultural Organisations:
 - (a) To promote the creation, publication, dissemination and discussion of historical literature (including, but not limited to, published books, book chapters and articles).
 - (b) To provide training and encourage excellence in the production of historical literature and scholarship, including via the provision of mentoring opportunities, financial support and recognition via awards, scholarships and prizes.
 - (c) To educate the public about the historical literature and scholarship produced by its membership.
- And to alter section (f) to delete 'and' and add 'and conferences' for clarity.

Clause 5:

- to add 'email address' - to better reflect current practices in membership communication.

Clause 11:

- (1) to delete 'by pre-paid post' - to better reflect current membership practice and expectations.

Clause 13:

- to change 'his or her' to 'their' - for brevity and inclusivity

Clause 20:

- (3) - to change 'his or her' to 'their' – for brevity and inclusivity

Clause 21:

- (2) - to change 'his or her' to 'their' – for brevity and inclusivity

Clause 24:

- (6.a) - to change 'his or her' to 'their' - for brevity and inclusivity
- (9) – to add to change 'him or her' to 'them' – for brevity and inclusivity; to delete 'sending it by pre-paid post addressed to him or her at his or her usual or last-known place of abode' and replace with 'emailing their last known address' - to better reflect current membership practice and expectations.

Clause 33:

- to change the Section title to 'Finances and Public Fund' and change the wording to 'The general finances of the Association shall be derived from entrance fees, annual subscriptions, and such other sources as the Executive determines. These monies are placed in the AHA business transaction account' - to reflect the use of the general business account and establishment of a separate Public Fund for donations.

Clause 34 -

- (1) To change the wording to 'The Association has established and maintains a 'public fund'. Monies for this are placed in a separate transaction account' - to reflect the establishment of a separate Public Fund for donations.
- (2) To add 'The AHA Public Fund will be listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations and donations will be deposited into this account. Receipts for gifts and contributions to the public fund will include all information in accordance with the guidelines for public funds as specified by the Act' - to accord with Register of Cultural Organisation rules.
- (3) To add 'Investments of monies in this fund will be made in accordance with guidelines for public funds specified by the ATO' - to accord with Register of Cultural Organisations best practice.
- (4) To add 'and monies will be used only to further the principal purpose of the association – promoting the creation, publication and dissemination of historical literature' - to accord with Register of Cultural Organisations best practice.
- (7) To add 'No profits or financial surplus in this public fund will be distributed to members or office bearers of the Association, except as reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the fund or proper remuneration for administrative services' - to accord with Register of Cultural Organisations best practice.

2. That the AHA amend its constitution to add the following sub-clauses in Section 34 to reflect the Register of Cultural Organisation model clauses:

- (5) The AHA Public Fund is administered and controlled by a committee appointed by the Association's Executive Committee. The majority of committee members are 'responsible

people' with an underlying community responsibility, as distinct from obligations solely in regard to the cultural objectives of the Association. The Association's President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President and Treasurer are members of this committee. The committee can have up to nine members. Members are appointed for a three-year term with the possibility to serve a second term if invited to do so by the Association's Executive Committee. 'Responsible people' is understood as per the definition of the Register of Cultural Organisations and the Australian Taxation Office.

- (6) The Department responsible for the administration of the Register of Cultural Organisations will be notified of any proposed amendments or alterations to provisions for the AHA Public Fund, to assess the effect of any amendments on the public fund's continuing Deductible Gift Recipient status.
- (8) The Australian Historical Association will provide to the Department responsible for the administration of the Register of Cultural Organisations statistical information on the gifts made to the public fund every 6 months. The AHA will also comply with any rules that the Treasury Minister or the Minister for the Arts make to ensure that gifts made to the public fund will only be used for the association's principal purpose.
- (9) In the event of the AHA Public Fund being wound up or dissolved, any surplus assets remaining after the payment of the fund's liabilities shall be transferred to another fund, authority or institution, which has similar objects, and to which income tax deductible gifts can be made.

AHA Constitution

RULES OF THE AUSTRALIAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

NAME AND OBJECTS

1. (1) The name of the incorporated association is the Australian Historical Association, Inc. (in these rules called ‘the Association’). The Association is a not-for-profit organisation registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission.
- (2) The objects of the Association are these:
 - (a) To promote the creation, publication, dissemination and discussion of historical literature (including, but not limited to, published books, book chapters and articles).
 - (b) To provide training and encourage excellence in the production of historical literature and scholarship, including via the provision of mentoring opportunities, financial support and recognition via awards, scholarships and prizes.
 - (c) To educate the public about the historical literature and scholarship produced by its membership.
 - (d) To encourage historical study, teaching and research.
 - (e) To formulate archives and library policies and express opinions on such issues of public policy as concern historical study.
 - (f) To circulate general information relating to the profession, such as developments in teaching, research and the accumulation of resources.
 - (g) To organise general and local meetings, symposia and conferences.
 - (h) To make secretarial and administrative arrangements to carry out the objectives of the Association.

INTERPRETATION

2. (1) In these Rules, unless the contrary intention appears:
 - ‘Executive’ means the Executive Committee of the Association.
 - ‘Financial year’ means the year ending on 31 May.
 - ‘General Meeting’ means a general meeting of members convened in accordance with Rule 8.
 - ‘Member’ means a member of the Association.
 - ‘Ordinary member of the Executive’ means a member of the Executive who is not an officer of the Association under Rule 20.
 - ‘The Act’ means the Associations Incorporation Act of 1991.
 - ‘The Regulations’ means regulations under the Act.
- (2) In these Rules, a reference to the Secretary of the Association is a reference:

- (a) Where a person holds office under these Rules as Secretary of the Association – to that person; and
 - (b) In any other case, to the Public Officer of the Association.
- (3) Words or expressions contained in these Rules shall be interpreted in accordance with the provisions of the Acts Interpretation Act 1958 and the Act as in force from time to time.

MEMBERSHIP

3. (1) Membership of the Association is unrestricted subject only to:
- (a) Payment of annual subscription;
 - (b) Agreement by prospective members to the Association's objectives.
- (2) The Executive Committee may appoint as an honorary life member of the Association any person who, in its opinion, has rendered outstanding service or has made a notable contribution to the work of the Association or its objects.
- (3) The liability of a member to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the Association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the Association is limited to the amount, if any, unpaid by the member in respect of membership of the Association.

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

4. (1) The annual subscription is payable on the anniversary of each individual member's last membership payment.
- (2) The annual subscription shall be set by the Annual General Meeting. There may be differential rates of subscription.

REGISTER OF MEMBERS

5. The Executive Officer shall keep and maintain a database of members in which shall be entered the full name, address, email address and date of entry of each member and the database shall be available for inspection by members at the office of the Executive Officer.

REGISTRATION AND EXPULSION OF MEMBER

6. (1) A member of the Association who has paid all monies due and payable to the Association may resign from the Association by first giving one month's notice in writing to the Secretary of intention to resign and upon the expiration of that period of notice the member shall cease to be a member.

- (2) Upon the expiration of a notice given under sub-clause (1), the Secretary shall make in the register of members an entry recording the date on which the member by whom the notice was given, ceased to be a member.
- 7.
- (1) Subject to these Rules, the Executive may by resolution:
 - (a) expel a member from the Association;
 - (b) suspend a member from membership of the Association for a specified period; or
 - (c) fine a member in accordance with the Regulations if the Executive is of the opinion that the member –
 - (i) has refused or neglected to comply with these Rules; or
 - (ii) has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the interests of the Association.
 - (2) A resolution of the Executive under sub-clause (1):
 - (a) does not take effect unless the Executive, at a meeting held not earlier than 14 and not later than 28 days after the service on the member of a notice under sub-clause (3), confirms the resolution in accordance with this clause; and
 - (b) where the member exercises a right of appeal to the Association under this clause, does not take effect unless the Association confirms the resolution in accordance with this clause.
 - (3) Where the Executive passes a resolution under sub-clause (1) the Secretary shall, as soon as practicable, cause to be served on the member a notice in writing:
 - (a) setting out the resolution of the Executive and the grounds on which it is based;
 - (b) stating that the member may address the Executive at a meeting to be held not earlier than 14 and not later than 28 days after service of the notice;
 - (c) stating the date, place and time of that meeting;
 - (d) informing the member that he or she may do one or more of the following:
 - (i) attend that meeting;
 - (ii) give to the Executive before the date of that meeting a written statement seeking the revocation of the resolution;
 - (iii) not later than 24 hours before the date of the meeting lodge with the Secretary a notice to the effect that he or she wishes to appeal to the Association in a general meeting against the resolution.
 - (4) At a meeting of the Executive held in accordance with sub-clause (2), the Executive:
 - (a) shall give to the member an opportunity to be heard;
 - (b) shall give due consideration to any written statement submitted by the member; and
 - (c) shall by resolution determine whether to confirm or to revoke the resolution.

- (5) Where the Secretary receives a notice under sub-clause (3), the Secretary shall notify the Executive and the Executive shall convene a general meeting of the Association to be held within 21 days after the date on which the Secretary received the notice.
- (6) At a general meeting of the Association convened under sub-clause (5):
 - (a) no business other than the question of the appeal shall be transacted;
 - (b) the Executive may place before the meeting details of the ground for the resolution and the reasons for the passing of the resolution;
 - (c) the member shall be given an opportunity to be heard; and
 - (d) the members present shall vote by secret ballot on the question whether the resolution should be confirmed or revoked.
- (7) If at the general meeting:
 - (a) two-thirds of the members vote in person or by proxy in favour of the confirmation of the resolution, the resolution is confirmed; and
 - (b) in any other case, the resolution is revoked.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8. (1) The Association shall in each calendar year convene an annual general meeting of its members.
- (2) The annual general meeting shall be held on such day as the Executive determines.
- (3) Members must be notified at least one month before the annual general meeting is held.
- (4) The annual general meeting shall be specified as such in the notice convening it.
- (5) The ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be:
 - (a) to confirm the minutes of the last preceding annual general meeting and of any general meeting since that meeting;
 - (b) to receive from the Executive reports upon the transactions of the Association during the last preceding financial year;
 - (c) to elect officers of the Association and the ordinary members of the Executive; and
 - (d) to receive and consider the statement submitted by the Association in accordance with sub-section 73 (1) of the Act.
- (6) The annual general meeting may transact special business of which notice is given in accordance with these rules.
- (7) The annual general meeting shall be in addition to any other general meetings that may be held in the same year.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING

9. All general meetings other than the annual general meeting shall be called special general meetings.
10.
 - (1) The Executive may, whenever it thinks fit, convene a special general meeting of the Association.
 - (2) The Executive shall, on the requisition in writing of members representing not less than 5 per cent. of the total numbers of members, convene a special general meeting of the Association.
 - (3) The requisition for a special general meeting shall state the objects of the meeting, shall be signed by the members making the requisition and be sent to the address of the Secretary, and may consist of several documents in a like form, each signed by one or more of the members making the requisition.
 - (4) If the Executive does not cause a special general meeting to be held within one month after the date on which the requisition is sent to the address of the Secretary, the members making the requisition, or any of them, may convene a special general meeting to be held not later than three months after that date.
 - (5) A special general meeting convened by members in pursuance of these rules shall be convened in the same manner as nearly as possible as that in which those meetings are convened by the Executive and all reasonable expenses incurred in convening the meeting shall be refunded by the Association to the persons incurring the expenses.

NOTICE OF MEETING

11.
 - (1) Except where the nature of the business proposed to be dealt with at a general meeting requires a special resolution of the Association, the Secretary of the Association shall, at least 14 days before the date fixed for holding a general meeting of the Association, cause to be sent to each member of the Association at the address appearing in the register of members, a notice stating the place, date and time of the meeting and the nature of the business to be transacted at the meeting.
 - (2) No business other than that set out in the notice convening the meeting shall be transacted at the meeting.
 - (3) A member desiring to bring any business before a meeting may give notice of that business in writing to the Secretary, who shall include that business in the notice calling the next general meeting after the receipt of the notice.

PROCEEDINGS AT MEETINGS

12.
 - (1) All business that is transacted at a special general meeting and all business that

is transacted at the annual general meeting with the exception of that specially referred to in these Rules as being the ordinary business of the annual general meeting shall be deemed to be special business.

- (2) No item of business shall be transacted at a general meeting unless a quorum of members entitled under these Rules to vote is present during the time when the meeting is considering that item.
 - (3) Twenty (20) members personally present (being members entitled under these Rules to vote at a general meeting) constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a general meeting.
 - (4) If within half an hour after the appointed time for the commencement of a general meeting, a quorum is not present, the meeting if convened upon the requisition of members shall be dissolved and in any other case shall stand adjourned to the same day in the next week at the same time and (unless another place is specified by the Chairperson at the time of the adjournment or by written notice to members given before the day to which the meeting is adjourned) at the same place and if at the adjourned meeting the quorum is not present within half an hour after the time appointed for the commencement of the meeting, the members present (being not less than 10) shall be a quorum.
 - (5) Each member shall be entitled to appoint another member as proxy by notice given to the Secretary no later than 24 hours before the time of the meeting in respect of which the proxy is appointed. The notice will be in writing, it will name the proxy, and it will be signed by the member appointing the proxy. No member may act as proxy for more than five members at any meeting.
13.
 - (1) The President, or in their absence, the Vice-President, shall preside as Chairperson at each general meeting of the Association.
 - (2) If the President and the Vice-President are absent from a general meeting, the members present shall elect one of their number to preside as Chairperson at the meeting.
14.
 - (1) The Chairperson of a general meeting at which a quorum is present may, with the consent of the meeting, adjourn the meeting from time to time and place to place, but no business shall be transacted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting at which the adjournment took place.
 - (2) Where a meeting is adjourned for 14 days or more, a like notice of the adjourned meeting shall be given as in the case of the general meeting.
 - (3) Except as provided in sub-clauses (1) and (2), it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be transacted at an adjourned meeting.
15. A question arising at a general meeting of the Association shall be determined on a show of hands and unless before or on the declaration of the show of hands a poll is demanded, a declaration by the Chairperson that a resolution

has, on a show of hands, been carried or carried unanimously or carried by a particular majority or lost, and an entry to that effect in the Minute Book of the Association is evidence of the fact, without proof of the number or proportion of the votes recorded in favour of, or against, that resolution.

16. (1) Upon any question arising at a general meeting of the Association, a member has one vote only.
- (2) All votes shall be given personally.
- (3) In the case of an equality of voting on a question, the Chairperson of the meeting is entitled to exercise a second or casting vote.
17. (1) If at a meeting a poll on any question is demanded by not less than three members, it shall be taken at that meeting in such manner as the Chairperson may direct and the resolution of the poll shall be deemed to be a resolution of the meeting on that question.
- (2) A poll that is demanded on the election of a Chairperson or on a question of an adjournment shall be taken forthwith and a poll that is demanded on any other question shall be taken at such time before the close of the meeting as the Chairperson may direct.
18. A member is not entitled to vote at any general meeting unless all monies due and payable to the Association have been paid, other than the amount of the annual subscription payable in respect of the current financial year.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

19. (1) The affairs of the Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee constituted as provided in Rules 20 and 21.
- (2) The Executive:
 - (a) shall control and manage the business and affairs of the Association;
 - (b) may, subject to these Rules, the Regulations and the Act, exercise all such powers and functions as may be exercised by the Association other than those powers and functions that are required by these Rules to be exercised by a general meeting of the members of the Association; and
 - (c) subject to these Rules, the Regulations and the Act, has power to perform all such acts and things as appear to the Executive to be essential for the proper management of the business and affairs of the Association.
20. (1) The officers of the Association shall be:
 - (a) a President;
 - (b) a Vice-President;
 - (c) an Honorary Treasurer;
 - (d) an Honorary Secretary;

- (e) an Immediate Past President, who is appointed to the Committee for one term upon the expiration of their term as President.
 - (2) The provisions of Rule 22, so far as they are applicable and with the necessary modifications, apply to and in relation to the election of persons to any of the offices mentioned in sub-clause (1).
 - (3) Each officer of the Association shall hold office until the second annual general meeting after the date of their election but is eligible for re-election. No officer shall hold the same office for more than two consecutive terms (four years in total).
 - (4) In the event of a casual vacancy in any office referred to in sub-clause (1), the Executive may appoint one of its members to the vacant office and the member so appointed may continue in office up to and including the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of his or her appointment.
21. (1) Subject to section 23 of the Act, the Executive shall consist of:
- (a) the officers of the Association;
 - (b) five ordinary members – each of whom shall be elected at the annual general meeting of the Association in each second year
 - (c) an elected post-graduate representative (the role may be shared by two or more people elected together)
 - (d) an elected early career researcher representative who does not, at the time of election, hold a tenured academic position (this role may be shared by two or more people elected together).
 - (e) the editorial team of History Australia; as the editorial team are appointed through a tender/selection process, they are not elected at the AGM but co-opted on to the Committee for the duration of their term.
- (2) Each ordinary member of the Executive shall, subject to these Rules, hold office until the second annual general meeting after the date of their election but is eligible for re-election.
- (3) In the event of a casual vacancy occurring in the office of an ordinary member of the Executive, the Executive may appoint a member of the Association to fill the vacancy and the member so appointed shall hold office, subject to these Rules, until the conclusion of the annual general meeting next following the date of his or her appointment.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND VACANCY

22. (1) Nominations of candidates for election as officers of the Association or as ordinary members of the Executive:
- (a) shall be made in writing, signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and

- (b) shall be delivered to the Secretary of the Association not less than seven days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting.
 - (2) If insufficient nominations are received to fill all vacancies on the Executive, the candidates nominated shall be deemed to be elected and further nominations shall be received at the annual general meeting.
 - (3) If the number of nominations received is equal to the number of vacancies to be filled, the persons nominated shall be deemed to be elected.
 - (4) If the number of nominations exceeds the number of vacancies to be filled, a ballot shall be held.
 - (5) The ballot for the election of officers and ordinary members of the Executive shall be conducted at the annual general meeting in such usual and proper manner as the Executive shall direct.
 - (6) A nomination of a candidate for election under this clause is not valid if that candidate has been nominated for another office for election at the same election.
23. For the purposes of these Rules, the office of an officer of the Association or of an ordinary member of the Executive becomes vacant if the officer or member:
- (a) ceases to be a member of the Association;
 - (b) becomes an insolvent under administration within the meaning of the Companies (Victoria) Code; and
 - (c) resigns his or her office by notice in writing given to the Secretary;
 - (d) is absent without leave for three consecutive meetings.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE EXECUTIVE

24. (1) The Executive shall meet at least four times in each year at such place and such times as the Executive may determine.
- (2) Special meetings of the Executive may be convened by the President or by any four of the members of the Executive.
- (3) Notice shall be given to members of the Executive of any special meeting specifying the general nature of the business to be transacted and no other business shall be transacted at such a meeting.
- (4) Half those eligible to attend shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of the business of a meeting of the Executive.
- (5) No business shall be transacted unless a quorum is present and if within half an hour of the time appointed for the meeting a quorum is not present the meeting shall stand adjourned to the same place and the same hour of the same

day in the following week unless the meeting was a special meeting in which case it shall lapse.

- (6) At meetings of the Executive:
 - (a) the President or in their absence the Vice-President shall preside;
 - (b) if the President and the Vice-President are absent, such one of the remaining members of the Executive as may be chosen by the members present shall preside.
- (7) Questions arising at a meeting of the Executive or of any sub-committee appointed by the Executive shall be determined on a show of hands or, if demanded by a member, by a poll taken in such manner as the person presiding at the meeting may determine.
- (8) Each member present at a meeting of the Executive or of any sub-committee appointed by the Executive (including the person presiding at the meeting) is entitled to one vote and, in the event of any equality of votes on any question, the person presiding may exercise a second or casting vote.
- (9) Written notice of each Executive meeting shall be served on each member of the Executive by delivering it to them at a reasonable time before the meeting or by emailing their last known address at least two business days before the date of the meeting.
- (10) Subject to sub-clause (4) the Executive may act notwithstanding any vacancy on the Executive.

SECRETARY

25. The Secretary of the Association shall keep minutes of the resolutions and proceedings of each general meeting and each Executive meeting in books provided for that purpose together with a record of the names of persons present at Executive meetings.

TREASURER

26. (1) The Treasurer of the Association:
 - (a) shall collect and receive all monies due to the Association and make all payments authorised by the Association; and
 - (b) shall keep correct accounts and books showing the financial affairs of the Association with full details of all receipts and expenditure connected with the activities of the Association.
- (2) The accounts and books referred to in sub-clause (1) shall be available for inspection by members.

- (3) Each annual general meeting shall appoint an auditor who shall not be a member of the Executive and who shall hold office until the next annual general meeting.
- (4) The Executive shall at least once in each period of 12 months cause the financial affairs of the Association to be audited by the auditor so appointed and prepare, or cause to be prepared, a balance sheet setting out the assets and liabilities of the Association.

REMOVAL OF MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE

27. (1) The Association in a general meeting may by resolution remove any member of the Executive before the expiration of his or her term of office and appoint another member in his or her stead to hold office until the expiration of the term of the first-mentioned member.
- (2) Where the member to whom a proposed resolution referred to in sub-clause (1) makes representations in writing to the Secretary or President of the Association (not exceeding a reasonable length) and requests that they be notified to the members of the Association, the Secretary or the President may send a copy of the representations to each member of the Association or, if they are not so sent, the member may require that they be read out at the meeting.

CHEQUES

28. All cheques, drafts, bills of exchange, promissory notes and other negotiable instruments shall be signed by two members of the Committee.
29. (1) The Common Seal of the Association shall be kept in the custody of the Secretary.
- (2) The Common Seal shall not be affixed to any instrument except by the authority of the Executive and the affixing of the Common Seal shall be attested by the signatures either of two members of the Executive or of one member of the Executive and of the Public Officer of the Association.

ALTERATION OF RULES AND STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

30. (1) These Rules and the statement of purposes of the Association may be altered by the passing of a Special Resolution.
- (2) Special Resolutions may be passed at the annual general meeting or a special general meeting.
- (3) Notice of a Special Resolution shall be issued to all members by the Secretary at least 21 days before the annual general meeting or a special general meeting.

- (4) The Secretary shall issue such a notice either at the request of the Executive or at the request of at least 10 members in accord with Rule 8.
- (5) A three-quarters majority of those present at the annual general meeting or a special general meeting will be required for approval of a Special Resolution.

NOTICES

31. (1) A notice may be served by or on behalf of the Association upon any member either personally or by sending it by post to the member at his or her address shown in the Register of Members.
- (2) Where a document is properly addressed, pre-paid and posted to a person as a letter, the document shall, unless the contrary is proved, be deemed to have been given to the person at the time at which the letter would have been delivered in the ordinary course of post.

WINDING UP OR CANCELLATION

32. In the event of the winding up or the cancellation of the incorporation of the Association, the assets of the Association shall be disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Act.

FINANCES AND PUBLIC FUND

33. The general finances of the Association shall be derived from entrance fees, annual subscriptions, and such other sources as the Executive determines. These monies are placed in the AHA business transaction account
34. (1) The Association has established and maintains a 'public fund'. Monies for this are placed in a separate transaction account.
- (2) The name of this fund is the 'AHA Public Fund'. The AHA Public Fund will be listed on the Register of Cultural Organisations and donations will be deposited into this account. Receipts for gifts and contributions to the public fund will include all information in accordance with the guidelines for public funds as specified by the Act.
- (3) The AHA Public Fund will receive voluntary deductible gifts and/or contributions from members of the public. The Public Fund will also accrue interest on gifts and/or contributions. Investment of monies in this fund will be made in accordance with guidelines for public funds as specified by the ATO.
- (4) The AHA Public Fund will not receive funds (either money or property) from any other source and monies will be used only to further the principal purpose of the association – promoting the creation, publication and dissemination of historical literature.

- (5) The AHA Public Fund is administered and controlled by a committee appointed by the Association's Executive Committee. The majority of committee members are 'responsible people' with an underlying community responsibility, as distinct from obligations solely in regard to the cultural objectives of the Association. The Association's President, Vice-President, Immediate Past President and Treasurer are members of this committee. The committee can have up to nine members. Members are appointed for a three-year term with the possibility to serve a second term if invited to do so by the Association's Executive Committee. 'Responsible people' is understood as per the definition of the Register of Cultural Organisations and the Australian Taxation Office.
- (6) The Department responsible for the administration of the Register of Cultural Organisations will be notified of any proposed amendments or alterations to provisions for the AHA Public Fund, to assess the effect of any amendments on the public fund's continuing Deductible Gift Recipient status.
- (7) The disbursement of monies from the AHA Public Fund will be determined from time to time by the Executive in accordance with the purposes of the Association (clause 1), and shall be reported to the Commonwealth Government as required by law. No profits or financial surplus in this public fund will be distributed to members or office bearers of the Association, except as reimbursement of out-of-pocket expenses incurred on behalf of the fund or proper remuneration for administrative services.
- (8) The Australian Historical Association will provide to the Department responsible for the administration of the Register of Cultural Organisations statistical information on the gifts made to the public fund every 6 months. The AHA will also comply with any rules that the Treasury Minister or the Minister for the Arts make to ensure that gifts made to the public fund will only be used for the association's principal purpose.
- (9) In the event of the AHA Public Fund being wound up or dissolved, any surplus assets remaining after the payment of the fund's liabilities shall be transferred to another fund, authority or institution, which has similar objects, and to which income tax deductible gifts can be made.

Professorial Individual Membership Category Proposal

AGM motion:

The AHA Executive Committee proposes the creation of an additional membership category:

Professorial Individual Membership (Level D & E): Associate Professors and Professors in paid employment - Price: 1 year \$200

Rationale:

- Membership dues have not, in recent years, risen at anything like the same rate as our costs, such as the Executive Officer's salary and the publication of *History Australia*.
- COVID-19 and likely, in particular, the lack of an annual conference in 2020, have resulted in reduced income as well as a small decline in membership that has stretched the AHA's finances.
- Last year the AGM approved a decline in subscription rates for casuals who saw their membership fee drop from \$100 to \$85 per annum to support such historians.
- Lastly, the AHA believes that intergenerational support in this difficult moment is crucial to ensure a lively future for the AHA so it can run its program of prizes and awards while maintaining current operations.
- The Executive Committee feels that senior historians in employment are in the best position to assist with this very modest increase, which helps keep rates at manageable levels for students, Early Career Academics and more junior academics – and that is essential to maintaining healthy membership numbers overall. A journal subscription on its own would normally exceed \$200 for publications comparable with *History Australia*.

Motion for the Australian Historical Association's Annual General Meeting, 1 July 2021

PREAMBLE:

Environmental crisis, particularly climate change, is the most profound challenge facing our planet in the twenty-first century. Just as we are all impacted by environmental change, we all have a role to play in responding to it.

Following on from the release of our [working paper on sustainable history](#), a group of historians has been endeavouring to spark discussion of the question: what are the responsibilities of historians in a climate-impacted world? The working paper asks fellow historians to reflect on the environmental impact of our professional work, to consider how our work might become more sustainable in the fullest sense of the word – environmentally, financially, emotionally and ethically.

The group would like to propose a motion at the Australian Historical Association's Annual General Meeting on 1 July 2021. This motion will a) declare that the AHA officially recognises the climate emergency, as many other governments, organisations and professional bodies have done; and b) commit the AHA to evaluating how its activities can prioritise sustainability.

MOTION:

'That the Australian Historical Association recognises that the world confronts a climate emergency, and that historians have a responsibility in these times of environmental crisis to consider how their working lives might become more sustainable.

The Australian Historical Association commits itself to appraising how sustainability can be incorporated into the work of the organisation. It commits to advocating for sustainability by encouraging history departments, universities and funding bodies to move to more environmentally responsible models.'

Motion brought on behalf of Carla Pascoe Leahy, Andrea Gaynor, Ruth Morgan, Yves Rees and Daniel May.