



Australian
Historical
Association

Annual General Meeting
5.00 – 6.00pm
Thursday 30 June 2022

D2.193 (Percy Baxter Lecture Theatre),
John Hay Building and Online

Agenda

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the previous AGM
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** – (Amanda Nettelbeck/Laura Rademaker)
 - 3.4 **Membership Report** – (Benjamin Jones)
 - 3.5 **Teaching and Learning Report** – report attached (Nancy Cushing/Emily O'Gorman)
 - 3.6 ***History Australia* Editors' Report** – report attached (Ben Mountford)
 - 3.7 **Postgraduate Student Representatives' Report** – verbal report (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. 2022-2024 Executive Committee Election (Melanie Oppenheimer)
5. AHA conferences
 - 5.1 AHA Conference 2022 (Bart Ziino)
 - 5.2 AHA Conference 2023 (Jon Piccini)
6. Other business



Australian
Historical
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Annual General Meeting

5.00 – 6.00pm

Thursday 1st July 2021

Online

Minutes

Melanie Oppenheimer acknowledged that we are all gathered on different Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's lands. The president is currently on the traditional lands of the Dughutti people.

1. **Apologies:** Lyndon Megarrity, Annmarie Reid, John Pickard (proxy to Melanie Oppenheimer), Kate Hunter, Kathleen Neal, Mike Jones

Attendance: Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden, Melanie Oppenheimer, Romain Fathi, Karen Agutter, Lynette Russell, Laura Rademaker, Ken McQueen, William Metcalf, David Carment, Erna Oliver, Joy Damousi, Margaret Cook, Frank Bongiorno, Erica Cervini, Leigh Boucher, Neville Buch, Denis Mootz, Jessica Stroja, Andrew May, Kate Fullagar, Al Thomson, Alessandro Antonello, Charlotte Greenhalgh, Chelsea Barnett, Nancy Cushing, Noah Riseman, Ben Mountford, Andrea Gaynor, Emily O'Gorman, Emily Gallagher, Ruth Balint, David Roth, Amanda Nettelbeck, David Lowe, Joel Barnes, Amanda Harris, Amy Way, Benjamin Jones, Michelle Arrow, Jordy Silverstein, Mary Sheehan, Suzanne Robinson, Ebony Nilsson, Carla Pascoe Leahy, Joshua Black, M Cameron, Alexandra Dellios, Bart Ziino, Katie Holmes, Rae Frances, Michelle Bootcov, Angela Woollacott, Effie Karageorgos, Paula Michaels, Alexia Moncrieff, Anthea Hyslop, Joe Parro, Ruth Morgan, Warwick Anderson, Alexis Bergantz, Carroll Pursell, Cat Gay, Margaret Birtley, Anna Temby, Jennie Barrera, Claire Higgins, Diane Kirkby, Rosalie Triolo, Alessandro Antonello, Karen Twigg, Kate Davison, Karen Downing, Brad Buller, Meggie Hutchison, André Brett, Annemarie McLaren

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

MOVED: Lynette Russell

SECONDED: Ruth Morgan

3. **Executive reports**

- 3.1 **President's Report** – verbal report (Melanie Oppenheimer)

Advocacy and submissions: all are on the website and huge thanks to Frank Bongiorno, Joy Damousi and other members of the Executive Committee and members of the AHA. We have prepared submissions to: Inquiry into NSW State Records Act; Indigenous Voice discussion paper in support of Uluru Statement; Higher Education Amendment Job-Ready report; letters to cross-bench senators; statement on the impact of Covid on postgraduate students; currently working on a response to the Australian Curriculum Review next week.

Melanie appeared at Senate hearing for the Inquiry into nationhood, national identity and democracy, and the AHA was quoted in the report released in February 2021.

AHA prepared a response to the Tune Review into the National Archives of Australia, released in March 2021 as well as advocacy from some very high profile AHA members for greater funding to the National Archives of Australia. Today there was an announcement that the Commonwealth Government is allocating an additional \$67 million to digitise its at-risk records. This is just the first step, though, as there are other ongoing systemic problems at the National Archives of Australia which will need further AHA advocacy. The American Historical Association will also be writing submissions and advocacy.

Charity Status: AHA is now registered with the Australian Charities and Non-Profits Commission, which is the first step to gain tax-deductible status for donations and fundraising. Now seeking approval from ROCO – the Register for Cultural Organisations. This will entail the formation of an AHA public fund to support a program of activities for members and is a requirement to obtain tax-deductible status. Huge thanks to treasurer Romain Fathi and executive officers Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden and Daniel May for their hard work in this space.

AHA Conference and 50th Anniversary 2023: The conference will be hosted by Monash University, and thanks to Christina Twomey, Paula Michael and Agnieszka Sobocinska who will be convening it. A subcommittee led by Frank Bongiorno is looking at ways to celebrate 50 years of the AHA which coincide with the conference.

Thanks and appreciations: the Executive Committee for their hard work in their portfolios; to ANU for hosting the AHA secretariat; Daniel May, who was executive officer for six months; Bethany Phillips-Peddlesden who has been so committed and has been especially supportive at getting the new website up and running. Thanks to the conference organisers later this year, and thanks to the members.

3.2 Treasurer's Report – report attached (Romain Fathi)

Covid challenges: decline in membership; cancellation of 2020 conference.

For the second year in a row we had a loss: \$16,282

Romain went through the detailed financial figures which are available in the Treasurer's Report and financial audit.

At the moment, people can give donations to the AHA which are not tax-deductible as long as the organisation does not receive over \$150,000. Down the track, the AHA will be rolling out a fundraising strategy for the public fund, and anyone who has fundraising experience please get in touch.

3.3 Prizes and Awards Report – report attached (Amanda Nettelbeck/Laura Rademaker)

Allan Martin Award: Dr Annemarie McLaren (UWA), 'When the Strangers Come to Stay: Aboriginal-Colonial Exchanges and the Negotiation of New South Wales, 1788-1835'

Highly Commended:

Dr Margaret Cook (University Sunshine Coast), "Actions of the Sea": Storm Erosion in New South Wales'

Dr Jason Gibson (Deakin University), 'Being Drawn Together: An Intercultural History of Aboriginal Drawing in Australian Anthropology'

Jill Roe Prize: Jessica Urwin (ANU), "'The old colonial power can stand proxy': The Royal Commission into British Nuclear Tests in Australia and the politics of the 1980s'

Ann Curthoys Prize: Amy Way (Macquarie University), "Displacing history, shifting paradigms: erasing Aboriginal antiquity from Australian anthropology"

Marian Quartly Prize: Jordana Silverstein (Uni Melb), "Refugee children, boats and drownings: a history of an Australian 'humanitarian' discourse", *History Australia* 17:4 (2020): 728-742

3.4 Membership Report – verbal report (Noah Riseman/Ben Jones)

The new website makes it easier to renew membership. The membership has been steady most year around 730-740 as compared to 850 pre-Covid, but since the launch of the new website we have bumped up to 770. Also hope there will be a bump up in the build-up to the conference.

3.5 Teaching and Learning Report - verbal report (Nancy Cushing/Emily O'Gorman)

Approximately 800 people have responded to the history graduates survey. The focus was on anyone who has completed a history degree at any tertiary level. The survey will be open until tomorrow. Report will be ready by December 2021.

32 Heads of History met via Zoom in October 2020. The group endorsed the formation of a database of postgraduate history students in Australia; agreed to support the graduates survey; and discussed the state of the discipline and tertiary sector in the wake of Covid-19.

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

3.7 Postgraduate Student Representatives' Report – report attached (Joshua Black)

Very pleased that the Executive Committee has consistently had postgraduate support and advocacy at the heart of their deliberations.

Highly successful HDR/ECR mentoring scheme, with HDRs benefiting from generosity of ECR mentors.

3.8 Early Career Researcher Representatives' Report – report attached (Chelsea Barnett/Joel Barnes/Anna Temby)

Thanks to previous representative André Brett

- Set up new email address: aha.ecr@gmail.com
- Amended AHA membership form to clarify members' career stages to identify ECR community

- Redeveloped and expanded Australian Centre for Public History's Research Assistance Database
- Designed and distributed a survey to gauge ECR community's main concerns and ideas, which identified:
 - The community's low morale re state of the sector and difficulty of finding sustainable and meaningful employment
 - That a significant proportion of respondents had carer responsibilities, disabilities, or both
 - A desire for concrete initiatives for skill-building and development
- (With HDR Representative) Launched the ECR-HDR Mentoring Scheme, to run throughout 2021
 - 14 pairs of ECR mentors and HDR mentees
 - Mid-year feedback has been overwhelmingly positive
- Skills for New Historians Seminar Series
 - A monthly series of seminars on skills and professional development
 - Past seminars: Digital Histories, Book Proposals, DECRA's, Peer Review
 - Forthcoming seminar: Non-Academic Careers
 - All have been well attended and well received
 - Recorded seminars made available to AHA members on new AHA website (login required)
- AHA/CAL ECR Mentorship Scheme
 - Five recipients of grant money and mentorship from nominated senior historians
 - New funding source for future schemes to be identified (with HDR Representative) given changes to CAL's funding priorities

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

- Social media statistics
 - Public Facebook page followers @ 1/7/2021 = 897
 - Facebook private group members @ 1/7/2021 = 640
 - Twitter followers @ 1/7/2021 = 3,796
- AHA Website
 - Access to *History Australia*
 - News items
 - Seminar series
 - Postgraduate Database
 - Calendar of events
 - Membership- subscription to auto-renew membership now available
- Thanks to Daniel May for his work as EO in 2020, especially on the initial stages of the new AHA website.
- Members can get in touch in relation to news items, feedback, membership, or any other issues via executive@theaha.org.au

4. **AHA conferences**

4.1 AHA Conference 2021 – UNSW report attached (Ruth Balint)

- At close of registrations on the 18 June, 408 abstracts were received.
- Applicants will be notified in mid-July of acceptance. Early bird registrations will close 31 August. Regular registrations for presenters will close 30 September. After 18 October, registrations will be open for non-presenting attendees only.
- Our two keynotes for the conference are Professor Alison Bashford and Dr Shino Konishi, who is sponsored by the School of Humanities and Languages (HAL), UNSW.
- The First Nations plenary is finalised, with confirmation that Leah Lui-Chivizhe is available to chair. Speakers will be Megan Davis, Alison Whittaker, Osca Monaghan and Crystal McKinnon, sponsored by HAL.
- ECR events will be held on the first day of the conference at the State Library of NSW, which is also hosting the reception.
- We are monitoring the risk associated with Covid, and exploring our options for moving online, or holding a hybrid f2f/online conference.

4.2 AHA Conference 2022 – Deakin verbal report (Bart Ziino)

Urgent Histories: 27 June – 1 July 2022

5. **Special resolution to amend the AHA Constitution** documents attached (Melanie Oppenheimer/Romain Fathi)

An organisation must have a charitable purpose approved by ROCO in order to be grant tax-deduction status. What makes AHA eligible is that the organisation produces literature, and this needs to be embedded in the AHA constitution. Other amendments will bring the constitution in line with current practice (e.g. electronic communication, more inclusive language).

An online poll was held. The results were unanimous ‘yes’ to amend the constitution.

6. **Special resolution to add a Professorial Individual membership category** verbal report (Frank Bongiorno)

Proposal to create a new category of membership: Professorial Individual Membership (Level D & E): Associate Professors and Professors in paid employment - Price: 1 year \$200

- Membership dues have not risen at anything like the same rate as our costs.
- 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.
- Last year the AGM approved a reduction 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.

Andrea Gaynor raised the question of whether this applies to people in fractional employment as well, so it was moved to amend the proposal only to apply to Level D and E academics in full-time employment

An online poll was held. The results were 98% yes, 2% no. The motion passed.

7. Member sustainability motion document attached (Carla Pascoe Leahy)

Motion prepared by Andrea Gaynor, Daniel May, Ruth Morgan, Carla Pascoe Leahy and Yves Rees

Multiple professional bodies in Australia have already prepared statements on their commitment to meeting challenges of the climate emergency. Many academic organisations including historians in the UK, Canada and Australia have also already prepared statements on the climate crisis.

A few friendly amendments were proposed and accepted. The final text of the motion read:

‘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 including its investment portfolio. It commits to advocating for sustainability by encouraging history departments, universities, journals, publishers, conferences and funding bodies to move to more environmentally responsible models.’

Romain Fathi explained some of the logistical challenges around switching the bank accounts from the Big 4 to an online ethical bank. He did indicate that he will investigate any influence the AHA can exert over funds where there is an investment element to encourage ethical investment funds.

An online poll was held. The results were 98% yes, 2% no. The motion passed.

8. Other business

No other business. Everyone please stay safe.

Treasurer's Report AHA AGM meeting 30 June 2022

Romain Fathi

I] Reporting

► Financial position this financial year:

The annual audit has been completed by Richard O'Grady for Aitken O'Grady Chartered Accountants. All is in order. The report shows a **surplus** for this financial year of \$36,214. The new Public Fund and the success of the 2021 conference contribute to explain this stronger financial position. The Auditor's report will be made available on the AHA's website.

► Executive Officer's contract.

The current contract between the AHA and the ANU for the Association's Executive Officer was to expire on 7 July. Following the Executive's recommendation at the last Executive meeting, it was extended for another 6 months, until 7 January 2023.

► Others

Membership is strong, far stronger than in 2020, which was perhaps our lowest point in years. Additionally, with the new contract with Taylor & Francis and major savings that will result from its T&Cs, together with the new Public Fund, the financial position of the AHA is very healthy. This means that we can keep membership fees at the current rates. The Public Fund will significantly expand the list of prizes and awards. After being registered with the ACNC last year, the AHA sought approval to be on the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO). We were approved, which means that donations to our Public Fund are tax deductible, and not considered revenue.

II] Finances

AHA's accounts as of 6 June 2022

Comm Bank Business Transactions Account	\$59,170.94
Business Online Saver	\$59,469.45
AHA Public Fund account	\$51,547.09
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)	\$15,198.0
Allan Martin Award - account held by ANU, (Of which Cash: \$7,649.51 and LTIP: 103,800.94 - LTIP = Long term investment pool.)	\$115,677

TOTAL

\$ 359,815.07

III] Public Fund

On 6 June 2022, there was \$ 51,547.09 in the Public Fund account

Income:

AHA members' donations to Public Fund	\$10,653.38
2021 conference surplus donation	\$12,496.00
Donation from Seumas Spark and Jay Winter	\$8,397.71 *
Donation from Marilyn Lake	\$20,000.0 *

**Specific prizes: 2x\$1000 can be used every year for a Ken & Amirah Inglis prize coming from Seumas' donation until funding expires, and 1x\$2000 every two years can be used for the Lake Prize.*

Of the \$51,547.09, a total of \$27,149.38 can be used for the first iteration of the Public Fund's prizes and awards (including 1 Lake and 2 Inglis prizes, leaving **\$23,149.38** for other prizes).

Teaching and Learning Report - (Nancy Cushing/Emily O’Gorman)

Our focus in this portfolio in 2021 – 22 was on the analysis of the Graduate Employment Survey, undertaken with the assistance of RA Rochelle Chand, and the preparation of the *History “Opened Many Doors”* report, which was launched by Melanie Oppenheimer in the AHA Presidential address on Monday 27 June.

Feedback from the Heads of History at the meeting held during the 2021 conference and from the AHA Executive was applied in finalising the report. Its key findings are:

- The more traditional career pathways of History Graduates in the education (primary, secondary, and tertiary) and government sectors persist although University sector employment currently presents many barriers.
- The private sector is an important employer of History graduates, only slightly behind the government sector
- History graduates have pursued diverse career pathways and many are highly aware of how the transferable skills, specialised but flexible knowledge, and disciplinary expertise developed in their degrees have enhanced their value in the workplace.
- Graduates reported that their skills were often not readily recognised by employers, especially in non-traditional employment sectors. More recent graduates sometimes had difficulty communicating this value to potential employers.
- The employment value of History degrees needs to be better communicated to students, their families, employers, and governments.
- While employable skills are developed through History degrees, their value is much greater in that the study of History prepares graduates to navigate complex social and ethical issues both in and beyond the workplace.

We recommend:

Those considering enrolment in History and current students should be provided with information on how their degree will link with future careers, including the need to anticipate completing further specialist study and that the career pathway may be non-linear

The employment value of History degrees is better communicated to employers, and governments.

While emphasis on the value of History degrees in the workplace is needed to address current misperceptions, it should not be at the expense of recognition of the more holistic value of History study in preparing individuals to navigate complex social and ethical issues at work and as citizens.

We would like to thank everyone involved in the research and preparation of this report, but in particular the almost 800 History graduates who shared their personal information and employment journeys with us. Their generosity, insight and advice will be of great value to the next generations of History graduates as they go out into the job market, armed with

evidence that their History degrees have prepared them well to make important contributions in a wide range of employment settings.

Australian Historical Association (AHA) Annual General Meeting

The new team of *History Australia* editors from the Australian Catholic University have completed our first six months. We would like to take this opportunity to thank our 2022 editorial group: our book reviews editors Claire Lowrie and Alex Roginski, and Mike Jones, our ‘History off the Page’ reviews editor. We would also like to acknowledge editorial assistant Lorinda Cramer’s work on the journal.

We thank the journal’s outgoing editors, Michelle Arrow and Leigh Boucher, for their stellar work on *History Australia* from 2019 to 2021 (with Kate Fullagar continuing on as editor with the new team), as well as outgoing book reviews editor, Charlotte Greenhalgh, ‘History off the Page’ editor, James Findlay, and editorial assistant Jennifer McLaren, who stepped down from their roles in late 2021.

There have been no changes to our Editorial Board. We offer our thanks the Board members for their ongoing support of the journal.

Prizes:

Marian Quartyly 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. The winner of this year’s prize will be announced at the AHA conference dinner.

Ann Curthoys Prize: (worth \$750) The editors have decided not to award the Ann Curthoys Prize this year due to insufficient entries.

Special Issues and Forums:

Since we last reported here in July 2021, the journal has published a forum, a special feature and a special issue. Issue 18.4 (2021) contained a forum on monuments guest edited by Nancy Cushing and Alessandro Antonello. Issue 18.4 (2021) also contained a special feature on the National Library of Australia’s Trove website. Issue 19.1 (2022) was a special issue titled ‘Bringing Madness in from the Margins: Mental Illness and Historical Change’, guest edited by Catharine Coleborne and James Dunk.

Submissions and Publications Data:

Submissions: We received a total of 121 submissions for the twelve months to June 2022 when this report was written: 48 were original research articles (down from 77 last year); the remainder were book reviews, ‘History off the Page’ or other review articles.

Rejections: The figures drawn together by Taylor & Francis for the ‘Journal Metrics’ page of the *History Australia* website outlines an 86% acceptance rate for the journal. However, this figure needs to be understood as comprising all submissions to *History Australia* (including reviews, for example), rather than original research articles only.

Of the 48 original research articles received across the twelve months to June 2022:

- 10 *Reject and Resubmit*
- 6 *Reject*

This amounts to a 67% real acceptance rate which is down from 71% last year. We are in discussions with Taylor & Francis concerning how the journal’s statistics can be more accurately described on the ‘Journal Metrics’ page.

Publication: The following articles were published in issues across the previous twelve months (18.3, 18.4, 19.1 and 19.2):

- 35 research articles: including 14 for the Bringing Madness in from the Margins: Mental Illness and Historical Change special issue and 7 for the Monuments forum
- 51 book reviews
- 15 ‘History off the page’ reviews
- 2 ‘My Life in History’: Jan Kociumbas and Richard Bosworth
- 9 ‘History in Practice’: including 8 for the Trove Special Section
- 2 Review Articles: for the ‘Bringing Madness in from the Margins: Mental Illness and Historical Change’ special issue

Rolling Online Publication: The journal adopted a new early online publication process that was rolled out from issue 19.2. Before then, only articles allocated to issues of *History Australia* were published online. Articles are now sent to Taylor & Francis for online publication as they are ready, appearing in the ‘Latest Articles’ section until they are assigned and grouped into an issue. The editors recognise that this is valuable for authors, given their work will be given a DOI at the point of online publication and allow them to report it as published.

Downloads:

- *History Australia* continues to see steady growth in article downloads. In the most recent update of our journal metrics, 50,000 article downloads were reported for 2021. This represents an increase of 2,666 from the 47,334 article downloads reported for 2020 (which was a 24% increase over 2019, and 36% over 2018).
- The most downloaded article published in 2021 was Penelope Edmonds, ‘Monuments on trial: #BlackLivesMatter, “travelling memory” and the transcultural afterlives of empire’ 18, no. 4 (2021), with 954 downloads.

- The most downloaded article for *History Australia* continues to be Katie Holmes, Andrea Gaynor and Ruth Morgan, ‘Doing environmental history in urgent times’ 17, no. 2 (2020), with 7,298 downloads.
- The other most-downloaded articles (of articles published only across the last two years) were:
 - Tamson Pietsch and Frances Flanagan, ‘Here we stand: temporal thinking in urgent times’ 17, no. 2 (2020), with 1,479 downloads.
 - Jordana Silverstein, ‘Refugee children, boats and drownings: a history of an Australian “humanitarian” discourse’ 17, no. 2 (2020), with 1,457 downloads.
 - Ben Huf and Yves Rees, ‘Doing history in urgent times: forum introduction’ 17, no. 2 (2020), with 1,101 downloads.
 - Peter Hobbins, ‘Collecting the crisis or the collecting crisis? A survey of Covid-19 archives’ 17, no. 3 (2020), with 1,024 downloads.

Connecting with Our Audience:

History Australia is marketed by Taylor & Francis through opt-in mailing lists, new content alerts, and social media.

Twitter: The *History Australia* Twitter account continues to grow, with approximately 3,220 followers, up from 2,270 followers in 2021 and 1,520 followers in 2020.

The Conversation: We continue to assist/encourage authors to pitch articles to *The Conversation* associated with published articles. Additionally, we send the abstracts of articles as each issue is published directly to the relevant editor at *The Conversation*.

Publishing in an academic journal workshop: The editors continue to run these workshops for ECRs and HDR students. The Macquarie editorial team ran a workshop at the AHA Conference in December 2021. Held in an online format, it was well attended with at least 50 ECRs joining the editors. Another is programmed for the AHA conference in June 2022. In addition, in the last quarter of 2022, the journal’s outgoing ‘History off the page’ editor, James Findlay, and book reviews editor, Charlotte Greenhalgh, participated in an online panel discussion on review writing, while Kate Fullagar presented at an online session for New Zealand ECRs hosted by Charlotte.

Roundtable at the AHA Conference 2022: Kate Fullagar will host a roundtable discussion at the AHA conference with panellists Tom Griffiths, Mike Jones, Lauren Pikó, Tiffany Shellam and Kirsten Thorpe. The roundtable springs from Mike Jones’ article published in issue 18.4, ‘The temple of history: historians and the sacralisation of archival work’.

Scimago Rankings:

At the 2021 AGM, the editors reported that *History Australia* had dropped in the Scimago journal rankings to Q4 in history. Scimago revises its journal rankings each year, and we are pleased to report this year's rise to Q3. (It should be noted that no Australian history journal is higher than Q2.) The editors are committed to continuing this improvement in ranking through strategies such as special issues and fora with appeal beyond the profession in Australia and the inclusion of international authors to generate an Australian and international readership. It is also anticipated that the immediate publication of articles as they are ready might have a flow on effect. The editors, at the same time, remain committed to publishing work that may not be cited highly, such as ECR work and work framed in relation to subfields within Australian history.

~

The Editors

Kate Fullagar, Jessica Lake, Ben Mountford and Ellen Warne

AHA ECR Representatives Annual General Meeting Report – 30 June 2022

Anna Temby, Chelsea Barnett, Joel Barnes

We've certainly enjoyed our term as ECR representatives for the AHA and have benefited greatly from sharing the role between the three of us over the past two years. Having a team to share the load has been critical, especially considering the already tenuous situation that many ECRs face in the current climate. Future ECR representatives are encouraged to shape the portfolio to suit their purposes and abilities, as we have had the privilege to do throughout our tenure. The ECR portfolio has also benefited from a close working relationship with the HDR representative, Joshua Black, addressing the shared aims and goals of our two cohorts, as well as pressures and pain points. We would strongly encourage those taking on these roles in future executive committees to continue this cooperative ECR/HDR relationship. We are grateful for the support and encouragement we have received from the executive committee, and in particular from President Melanie Oppenheimer.

The major activities of the past twelve months are detailed below:

- We have continued the 'Skills for New Historians' seminar series, which was commenced in early 2021. We held another four seminars since July last year, all of which have been well attended. Topics covered were: Non-Academic Careers; Reviewing Books, Film, and more; Publishing in Popular Media (at the 2021 conference); and Commissioned Histories. We have received positive and encouraging feedback from those who have attended the seminars. All except one of the previous seminars were recorded and are available to members on the AHA website. The final seminar in the series will take place in person during the 2022 Deakin Conference and will be on Media Training. The organisation of this seminar has been tirelessly driven by Deakin PhD candidate (and almost Dr!) Jacquelyn Baker, and HDR representative Joshua Black, with considerable support from Bart Ziino.
- In cooperation with the HDR representative we have renewed the ECR/HDR mentoring scheme for another year. The scheme is designed to give ECRs mentoring experience to take into supervisory roles, and HDRs mentorship from someone who has recently been through the postgraduate process. There are 44 participants (22 pairings) in this year's scheme, up from 28 participants in 2021, and we have been grateful to already receive some very positive informal feedback on this year's progress so far. Last year's participants reported that the program was useful for both their professional and personal wellbeing. Here is just a snapshot of some of the feedback received:
 - "Joining the scheme was one of the best decisions I made this year, I hope that you continue to run it and other people get the same benefits from it that I continue to receive." (Mentee)
 - "I came away from each session with a deeper understanding of, and more clarity around, each of the topics we covered. I know that I'll be checking my session notes for helpful tips in the future. I absolutely recommend that this scheme is run again in the future." (Mentee)
 - "I would most certainly recommend this scheme in the future, it's a fantastic scheme. It gives junior scholars the opportunity to meet ECRs, and builds their network. It's also an clearly defined opportunity for ECRs to give back to other scholars." (Mentor)

- “I would most certainly recommend this scheme in the future, it’s a fantastic scheme. It gives junior scholars the opportunity to meet ECRs, and builds their network. It’s also an clearly defined opportunity for ECRs to give back to other scholars.” (Mentor)
- For the 2021 conference we coordinated a series of in-person meet-ups across most major cities, in a small attempt to combat the isolation and disconnectedness of the pandemic and subsequent online conference. Those able to attend were grateful of the opportunity to socialise with their peers.
- We continued to work 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 170 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.
- We finalised and acquitted the final round of the AHA/CAL ECR Mentorship scheme. This is a scheme that has run since 2018, but the 2021 awards were funded by a one-year-only grant from CAL, which has shifted its funding priorities away from academic writing, making it no longer a viable funding option. We did submit a new proposal for a similar scheme grounded in public outputs of research, but this was ultimately unsuccessful.
- We have initiated discussions amongst the AHA executive committee, and conducted a feasibility review, regarding the provision of childcare at AHA annual conferences, as a means of overcoming some of the structural disadvantages our members experience and contributing to a more gender equitable approach to conference participation. The committee agreed in principle to support a pilot scheme which we are optimistic will run at the 2023 conference. We look forward to this issue being pursued by future ECR representatives, and AHA executive committees
- Lastly, we have continued using the AHA ECRs [blog](#), [Twitter account](#), and [Facebook group](#) for communication and promotional purposes. At present the Twitter account has 1866 followers, and the Facebook group 165 members.

We are grateful to have had the opportunity to represent and act in support of the ECR cohort of the AHA. We have seen first-hand the impact that the current academic and employment environment is having on AHA members, particularly those early in their careers. We are also acutely aware of how much this impact is exacerbated by other marginalising factors, such as disability and illness, carers’ responsibilities, and other points of perceived difference. We thank our cohort for sharing their concerns and anxieties with us and stand in solidarity with you all.