

Minutes: Annual General Meeting 2019

Don Bank Museum

5.30pm-7.00pm

07 May 2019

1. Welcome and Apologies

- 1.1. **Attending:** Tanya Evans (Chair), Stephen Gapps, David Carment, Nancy Cushing, Catherine Shirley, Louise Trott, Martyn Killon, Megan Martin, Jessica McDonald-Norman, Lisa Murray, Isobel Barrett-Meyering, Jan Lanicek, Matthew Allan, Michael McDonnell.
- 1.2. **Apologies:** Lisa Murray, Martyn Killion, Michael McDonnell, Ian Hoskins, Michelle Kavangh and Penny Russell.

Meeting commenced at 6pm.

2. Minutes from previous Annual General Meeting (attached)

- 2.1. David Carment moved the minutes be accepted, seconded by Louise Trott. Motion carried.

3. President's report

- 3.1. Tanya Evans referred to the President's report on page 3 of the Annual Report 2018.
- 3.2. She noted that there has been a change in staff since the last AGM - incoming staff: Catherine Shirley (Executive Officer); Sarah Little (Programs & Administrative Officer); she thanked former staff Nicole Cama; Amy Way, Allie Hawkins and Lucy King for their wonderful work. History Week roaring success, Speaker Connect continued and we are working to forge new partnerships with organisations like

Orange City Council with the Orange Writers' Festival and we are hoping to develop more of those regional connections and partnerships moving into the future as well.

3.3. Tanya Evans thanked Catherine Shirley and members of the council for their efforts in securing CreateNSW funding for 2019. Tanya Evans expressed the need to further that funding stream moving forward - expressed a desire to apply for triennial funding in 2019. Tanya Evans thanked the History Council of NSW (HCNSW) staff and members for their ideas and participation.

3.4. Consolidation of partnerships & forging of new relationships. It was reported by Tanya Evans that a free-of-charge accommodation lease at the Don Bank Museum had been obtained for 2019 as part of the North Sydney Council's Writers in Residence program. She further stated that the fruitful outcomes that have come from that partnership include three workshops at the Stanton Library with Dr Ian Hoskins (North Sydney Council Historian). Catherine Shirley mentioned that Stephen Gapps will be giving an author talk during the Gai-mairagal Festival in July, and Tanya Evans would be running two Family History workshops at the Stanton Library as well. Also mentioned was the success of last year's Sydney Writers Festival (SWF), and the recent 2019 SWF panel, held at the Metcalfe Auditorium in partnership with the SLNSW, that sold out. Tanya Evans mentioned the success of the Newcastle Writers Festival (NWF) in early 2019, which had attracted good audiences to the NewSpace Venue at the University of Newcastle; she asked Nancy Cushing whether that partnership would likely happen again in 2020; Nancy stated that it would. Tanya Evans asked attendees to offer any potential partnerships with festivals etc. in the neighbourhoods' of attendees that HCNSW could become involved in.

3.5. Tanya Evans moved the adoption of the report, seconded by David Carment. Motion carried.

4. Treasurer's Report [Richard Neville - apology]

4.1. Catherine Shirley delivered the Treasurer's Report on behalf of Richard Neville, referring to page 16 of the Annual Report 2018 and the Financial Statement circulated ahead of the meeting.

4.2. Tanya Evans noted the big leap in membership subscriptions in 2 years - \$24,337 in

2018 compared to \$15,919 in 2017. Catherine Shirley noted their importance and the work that is currently being done to help members more substantially. Catherine Shirley asked if anyone had any questions about the financials.

- 4.3.** Catherine Shirley moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Nancy Cushing. Motion carried.

5. Annual Report

- 5.1.** Tanya Evans asked if there were any questions or queries about the Annual Report. Nancy Cushing posed a question about Twitter statistics dropping off in 2018 from the previous two years. Tanya Evans suggested that the discontinuation of Twitter's Storify feature may explain the drop off in engagement. Catherine Shirley noted that a lot of energy by HCNSW staff had been devoted to Twitter, and that perhaps the way statistics were being recorded might have skewed engagement statistics. Nancy Cushing noted that she was enjoying the social media feeds, that there is a wide sweep of events being promoted, not just HCNSW events, capturing what's going on in history in the state. Catherine Shirley noted that staff are making efforts to promote more regional events.
- 5.2.** Tanya Evans asked attendees about their experiences with using social media to promote the activities of their organisations (e.g. City of Sydney, Maritime Museum, SLM). Megan Martin Sydney Living Museums' representative noted that Sydney Living Museums' activities are primarily promoted via Instagram and Facebook. Catherine Shirley noted that HCNSW established an Instagram account during History Week 2018; "we had a huge uptake with Instagram during history week" - that took away from Twitter. Louise Trott (ASA) noted that with the ASA all social media posts should drive back to the website to drive membership and making that the source of authoritative membership; informing whoever is in your membership to share & reshare; suggested helping members with their social media use.
- 5.3.** Catherine Shirley mentioned that we are making a concerted effort to record lectures and share them online - recent recordings include SWF 2019 and NWF 2019. Mentioned that the State Library of New South Wales might consider HCNSW's audio collection which would be conserved (important because historians are talking about their practice). Tanya Evans seconded the importance of these recordings,

particularly when used by teachers. Louise Trott mentioned that most of this country is remote: so most people don't get to hear a historian. Catherine Shirley noted that the 2018 acquittal focused on geographic accessibility; since the HCNSW is now a digital company that shift has increased reach and audience. The statistics prove geographic accessibility and a growth in audience.

6. Nomination of an auditor for 2018/19 financial year

- 6.1.** Catherine Shirley recommended that Stirling Williams be appointed to undertake the HCNSW's 2019 Audit and produce a Financial Report. Tanya Evans moved the motion and David Carment seconded it. Motion carried.

7. Election of General Council

- 7.1.** Sarah Little disseminated nomination slips. This year there was a contested ballot, with 13 nominations and only 10 positions on the General Council, as per the updated constitution brought into effect in 2018. The nominees included: Stephen Gapps, Nancy Cushing, Keira Lindsey, Richard Neville, Jessica McDonald-Norman, Lisa Murray, Isobel Barrett-Meyering, Jan Lanicek, Martyn Killon, Megan Martin, Mirjana Djukic, Matthew Allan and Michael McDonnell.
- 7.2.** Sarah Little and Catherine Shirley collected and counted the votes. Voted onto the General Council were: Stephen Gapps (ANMM), Nancy Cushing (UoN), Isobelle Barret-Meyering (MQ), Keira Lindsey (UTS), Matthew Allen (UNE), Martyn Killon (SARA), Megan Martin (SLM), Michael McDonnell (USyd), Lisa Murray (City of Sydney) and Richard Neville (SLNSW).
- 7.3.** It was decided that on the 21 May 2019 another meeting of the General Council would be called to elect the four members of the Executive Committee.

8. Other business

- 8.1. Events/Opportunities** - Tanya Evans thanked Nancy Cushing for her important role putting together the HCNSW's masterclass at the Newcastle Writers Festival Friday 5 April 2019.

<https://www.newcastlewritersfestival.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/nwf19-PROGRAM-0219.pdf>

- 8.2.** The HCNSW will also be hosting its annual Sydney Writers' Festival panel on 30 April, titled 'Conflict, Collective Memory and the Creation of History.' The session features winners of the 2018 NSW Premier's History Awards, Paul Irish, Christina Twomey, Sean Scalmer . Caroline Butler-Bowdon has generously agreed to chair the session once again.

<https://www.swf.org.au/festivals/festival-2019/conflict-collective-memory-and-the-creation-of-history/>

- 8.3.** Event registrations for History Week 2018 are now open, and close on Friday 1st July. <https://historycouncilnsw.org.au/history-week-2019-2/>

9. Closing Remarks

- 9.1.** Catherine Shirley thanked the outgoing General Council and Executive Committee's on behalf of HCNSW for all of their fantastic service, heavy-lifting, support and expertise. Thank you gifts were presented to the Executive Committee. Tanya Evans thanked Catherine Shirley for her efforts and to all the attendees at the meeting for their efforts. David Carment acknowledged Tanya Evan's work and efforts as President of HCNSW and he noted the great progress that the Council has made under her stewardship. Tanya Evans mentioned the ongoing work that she will be doing on recording the history of the History Council with her Master of Research students, noting the website which has been created by Cate Hayton and an upcoming oral history project of HCNSW by another of her students. Catherine Shirley noted that 2020 will mark 25 years of HCNSW. Catherine Shirley thanked Louise Trott and David Carment for their support and involvement with the Council over the years - this being their last meeting as members of the council.

Meeting closed at 7:15pm.