



Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) President's Annual Report, 2020-2021

Tēnā koutou katoa

It is my pleasure to present the 45th annual report of the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand, and my third as President. This year's report will have a similar pattern as last years. I will first present a brief general report on the key highlight of events on association during the year. Then I'll allow each portfolio leader from Council to give a summary report on their portfolio. I believe this approach will make the presentation of the report lively. Instead of the President reading a long report about what happened in the various portfolios, which can easily be boring.

Highlights of the year's Events

Most of the events Council concerned itself about, were carried on from the previous year's activities which were affected in one way or the other by the COVID-19 pandemic. Prominent among them were:

ARANZ Conference

The year began with serious discussions on what we could do about our Biennial Conference. As you may recall, the conference was supposed to happen in 2020 in Dunedin and because of the COVID-19 pandemic, it was postponed to 2021. The new Council launched straight into discussions and initially planned a one-day lightning talk conference in Wellington. But because the pandemic showed no sign of slowing down with its in-out-in-out regional lockdowns, (especially in Auckland and Wellington), coupled with the uncertain financial implications to the association, made the Council decide to cancel the conference for this year as well.

This year was also the time for the ARANZ/ASA Joint conference. The Vice President and I had several discussions with the new President of ASA to see the possibility of making that happen. But because of the same issue with the pandemic, we decided to shelve the idea of a joint conference and pick it up again next year.

The Community Archive

The decommissioning of The Community Archives website was an issue that Council considered important and took keen interest in following it up last year.

Council resorted to engaging with key stakeholders, including consultation with key leaders of the various information organisations in our community. These consultations led to the development of a survey to collect the perspective of all members and users of the Community Archive about its future.

The survey received a very high participation from records managers, archivists, researchers, librarians, and a variety of users from various fields in New Zealand. The outcome of the survey was a resounding YES for the future of the Community Archive. Almost all the participants found the Community Archive very useful to them in various ways. The full report of the survey is published on the ARANZ website.

Following this outcome, the President and the Vice President followed up with the current Chief Archivist, who has promised to address the needs of members regarding the future of the Community Archive. The Chief Archivist has assured to address the Community Archive issue through the role of a Kaihatu position at the Archives New Zealand. Once the establishment of this position is finalised, we are assured of progress on the Community Archive concerns.

Stakeholder engagement

The Council, through the President and the Vice President, has been engaging with key stakeholders in various ways to ensure ARANZ stays relevant to its shareholders.

Meetings with the Chief Archivist

We have established a regular monthly catchup with the Chief Archivist where the President together with the Vice President updates the Chief Archivist on ARANZ matters and discuss the various issues and concerns from our members. The Chief Archivist also shares their visions and a plan for the community. Through these meetings a lot of ARANZ's concerns have achieved progress, including the progress on the Community Archive concerns.

Also, through the discussion of the concerns from the School Archivist Group in one of the meetings, the Chief Archivist found the need to offer an amount of money up to \$10,000 as a grant to support research into the state of archival education and training in New Zealand. The Chief Archivist wants ARANZ to design the mechanism to support a member or a student to use the money for the research.

MOU with ASA

ARANZ continues to collaborate with our sister association across the Tasman. The president and the Vice continue to meet with the leadership of ASA to ensure that our members receive reciprocal benefits the associations offer. To fully achieve this purpose, we have renewed the ARANZ/ASA MoU this year. The last MoU, which was signed in 2017 expired this year. So, it was useful to

renew it so that our members could especially take appropriate advantage of the upcoming ASA conference.

Victoria University Guest lectures

Every year, The School of Information Management invites key industry leaders to their INFO 520 – The Information Profession Course, as guest lecturers to tell students about their professional associations. The President has been attending this lecture every year. This year it was interesting to have our own Vice President also being a student of the class. So, having him also talk to his colleagues made the lecture more interesting and livelier. Through these guest lecturers, we have had more students signing up to become members of our association. The Member Secretary will tell you more about that soon.

GLAMr Collaboration

Following the regular meeting with the Chief Archivist, the Chief Archivist expressed concern about the disintegrated nature of the information professional community in New Zealand. The discussion led to various meetings between association heads in the GLAMr sector, and now ARANZ will be part of a discussion of a GLAMr hui coming up in September this year. The aim is to see how our members can receive full benefits from such a collaboration with other professional associations in the sector.

Open Polytechnic LIS Stakeholder Advisory Group meetings

The Library and Information Studies Programme at the Open Polytechnic has a Stakeholder Advisory Group, which involves representatives from key information institutions and professional associations, including representatives LIANZA, RIMPA, Archives New Zealand, the National Library, etc. Members of this group provide the LIS team at the Open Polytechnic updates on the various organisations and advice on how the LIS programme can be developed and managed to suit stakeholders' needs and interest. The President has represented ARANZ on this committee. Through these discussions most students have heard about ARANZ and what our association stands for, which has been progressive towards membership drive.

Honouring Governor-General invitations

As our patron, we call on the Governor-General on various occasions to grace our events. Plans were far advanced with the arrangements for the Governor-General to attend and open our conference before it got cancelled. We have also had various communications and interaction with the Governor-General to enable most of our processes this year. So, when the Governor-General also invited the President and the Vice President to attend this year's Waitangi Day reception at the Government House, we honoured her invitation with joy on behalf of the association.

Awards

Despite the postponement and later cancelation of the conference, both of our prizes were offered this year. The selection committees for the biennial Michael Standish Prize, which is awarded to an outstanding essay; and the Ian Wards Prize, which recognises an outstanding piece of publishing writing annually, have been very busy working to select winners to the awards this year. The convenors of the panels worked tirelessly to identify very deserving winners.

Elizabeth Charlton's *"Reappraisal and deaccessioning: Applying a 'Dangerous Practices' in New Zealand", Reappraisal and Deaccessioning in Archives and Special Collections, 2019"*, was the Winner for the Michael Standish Prize and

Sarah Gaitanos' *Shirley Smith: An Examined Life* (Victoria University Press, Wellington), was the winner of the Ian Wards Prize

An awards event was held in Wellington, where the winners were celebrated and received their prizes. Details of the winners were also published on our website.

The Council also announced our usual conference scholarship for interested members to apply so that they could use it to attend the 2021 ASA Conference. But the call was not responded to, despite the several announcements on different platforms.

Support for Branches

Council continues to support Branch events and meets regularly with Branch Chairs to discuss issues affecting their branches and possible ways those issues can be resolved. The Branch Liaison person and the President have been having various conversations with the Branch leaders in Wellington, Central District and Southland Otago to achieve this purpose. While the Canterbury, Waikato/Bay of Plenty and Auckland branches remain in recess, there have been expressions of interest in re-starting the Auckland and Waikato/BoP branches.

This expressed interest is a good response to an initiative by Council to support inactive branches to restart. In March 2020, the ARANZ Council approved that a one-off financial stimulus of \$2000 is available to members, who are not in an active branch area, to assist with activities and events which are in line with the aims of ARANZ. The funds will be allocated proportionally based on membership representation in the area. Applications can be made by requesting an application form from the Treasurer. Council has, therefore, been holding discussions to follow up on the recent interests to restart some of the inactive branches and support around the future of all ARANZ branches and activities.

ARANZ National Council continues to make available set aside funds for active branches or branches that wish to become active again, to assist with activities or running events that are in line with the aims of the association. Top-up funds were distributed to the active branches in 2019 and 2020, being Wellington, Central Districts, and Otago/Southland.

The Year Ahead

This is my last year as a President and on Council. But I can assure you that the Council is poised to offer the best for the association.

Calls were made for interested people to join Council and take up new portfolios. Through this process, we have 6 highly skilled and motivated professionals from various areas of our profession taking up various portfolios. They include Abby Wharne, Danielle Campbell, Haylee Alderson, Jennie Hood, Richard Overy, and Linda Liddicoat. I'll leave it to them to tell you about their role and what they plan to do in the coming when it is their turn to talk.

I want to take this opportunity to briefly outline some of the things we hope to achieve in the coming years. The perspectives of members about what they want from their Council and the association is very important to us. We will continue to use membership surveys to help Council achieve the best for members.

Council is still interested in the initiatives around clubs, societies, and community archives. Some Council members have been playing key roles in some smaller groups and societies, such as CRIMS (Canterbury Records and Information Managers Support Group), Auckland Heritage Archive Group, Information Management Group in Auckland, School Archives Group, Wellington, etc. Council will continue to support members involved in these groups to make them more vibrant with the hope leading to the strengthening of Branches. The President visited some of our branches both face-to-face and through video conferencing to interact with members to help build these initiatives. This will continue in the coming year.

Council will continue to interact with students in the various Archives and Records Management programmes as a way to attract new and emerging professionals into the association. We have a regular session to give guest lecturers in the INFO 520 – Information professions and networking course at Victoria University about the roles and benefits of the association to create awareness for the students. Last year, I attended and this year I presented twice. We hope to continue this next year. This will open opportunities for the long-term future of ARANZ to stay relevant to not only our existing members but also to new and emerging professionals.

Since I am also involved in the teaching of archives and records management programme at the Open Polytechnic, I will continue to promote our association

to students and potential members and encourage Archives and records students at the Open Polytechnic to endeavour to share some of their research projects as articles in *Archifacts* journal, with the hope of developing students' interest in the association.

Acknowledgements

To finish I would like to congratulate all the members of the outgoing Council for their commitment and energy this year. Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Council members still made themselves available for discussions through online platforms and still got all their work done effectively. A lot of work goes on behind the scenes that the membership doesn't often see. Sometimes, the going gets tough, tiring, and frustrating but the kindness and understanding among Council members made the support for one another and working-together an enjoyable process.

So, I'd like to thank our Vice President, Evan Greenside. If you will observe through my report, you will see that I have been attending almost every meeting with him. He's been amazing; the Advocacy Secretary, Kathleen Stringer; Treasurer, Susan Hanham; Secretary, Tiena Jordan; Membership Secretary, Chris Mech; Webmaster and Social Media Coordinator, Sean Connelly, who also functions as the Helpdesk for Council's shared drive and email account issues; *Archifacts* Editor, Katrina Tamaira; Nina Whittaker, who even though resigned from Council keeps inspiring members, General Advisor and Book Reviews coordinator, Stephen Innes. We also appreciate the support of all past Councillors, ex-officio members, and people who are not on Council but provided invaluable support and pieces of advice behind the scenes.

I want to personally thank Peter Millar, Brad Patterson, Kathryn Patterson and Triona Doosey, Sean McMahon and Elizabeth Charlton for their support and encouragement during my term as a President of ARANZ.

Ngā mihi

Dr Eric Boamah
President, ARANZ