

MINUTES FOR HCSA AGM 2020

Wednesday 14 October 6.30pm, Historian Hotel, 18 Coromandel Place, Adelaide 5000

Present: Kristy Kokegei, Skye Krichauff (chair), Meredith Ide, David Sweet, Richard Moriarty, Pauline Cockrill, Julia Garnaut, Brenton Griffin, Jess Fairey, David Faber, Lee Amoroso, Peter Monteath, Greg Slattery, Susan Marsden, Sandra Kearney, Di Wilkinson, Angela Bannon, P. McCarthy, A. Punkler, Andrew Peake

Apologies: Roger Andre, Richard Venus, Michael Szwarcbord, Elizabeth Ho, Colin Ball, Annette Mills, Elspeth Grant, Caroline Adams, Madeleine Regan, Helen Chadwick, Frances Bedford

1. Minutes of 2018 AGM

- a. AGM 2019 Minutes (11 September 2019) presented.
That the minutes be accepted.

Moved by: Andrew Peake

Seconded by: Susan Marsden

b. Arising from minutes:

- Member Website
- Updating Photos

2. HCSA Advocacy and Advice

See President's Report and General Business.

3. President's Report

- Committees have tried to maintain function despite COVID-19, including the use of zoom.
- Meredith Ide has been fantastic protesting against the planning and design code. There is the possibility of forming a subcommittee to support Meredith.
- Letters have been written to politicians for various other actions, including the doubling of HASS degrees - Joined with the History Councils of Vic, NSW and WA to do this under the banner of History Councils Australia.
- Key role of HCSA is advocacy. The more our members can advocate for related issues the better!
- Working group to look at the teaching of history in the Australian Curriculum and in local schools. We need to look at the best ways to advocate for more teaching of history in the curriculum – e.g. funds, additionally learning modules for the curriculum etc.
- We ran a webinar earlier in the year with Susan Marsden as the keynote speaker. Tom Gara spoke as well.
- We announced and celebrated the Wakefield essay prize winner (Susan Arthure) at Wakefield Press.
- Modified history awards night held instead of the usual due to COVID-19. This was successful nevertheless.
- Fellowship has been launched and applications are now open. Wakefield Press have come on board to offer help and advice (as well as a generous book voucher).
- Planning on holding an end of year event to announce the fellow, as well as use it as a fund raiser. We will need to form a sub-committee to organise this.
- Website is working well and feedback has been positive. Member engagement has been observed which has been successful.

- Jess Fairey has been editing the newsletter twice a month which has been very successful as well. Jess is doing a great job!
- Facebook engagement is growing as well (821 followers).
- Finances: Unlike interstate, we do not get government funds. Therefore we are reliant on membership fees. Due to this we have a tight budget. Costs have been down this year and expenses have been minimal due to COVID-19.
- The president would like to thank everyone on the executive for the work that they put in – it is extremely appreciated! The president would like to particularly thank Sandra Kearney and Peter Monteath who are stepping away this year. The president would also like to thank Susan Marsden and the Marsden Szwarcbord Foundation, the History Trust, Kristy Kokegei, and of course the treasurer Greg Slattery.
- The president also thanked all committee members for all of their time and involvement, especially through this year and its challenges.

Skye asked that the Presidents Report be accepted.

Moved by: Skye

Accepted by: Meredith

The Presidents report is attached below

4. Treasurers Report

Treasurer provided a copy of the AGM financial report as at 30 June 2020.
HCSA is currently financially secure.

\$15,000 Term deposit

\$15,391.26 Cheque Account

\$100.00 Gift Account

For the second year running we have spent more than we have received. Thanks to Sandra's efforts, our subscriptions are already up! The new website has worked well. Occasional items in the post as well that do not use the website. Many thanks as well to Susan Marsden and Michael Szwarcbord and their foundation (the Marsden Szwarcbord Foundation). We have been fortunate to have minimal costs this year.

We need to keep promoting our subscriptions into the future to grow our base.

Greg accepted

David seconded

5. Membership Report

The website and membership platform are being well used by members. State Records of South Australia (SRSA) continues to require an independent invoice due to being under the remit of the Attorney Generals. As with last year's report, it is on Facebook where a large increase in membership(800+) has occurred, however, there is no payment required! A victim of our own success. Twitter has not been used in the past year, however, the new Social Media officer, Brenton Griffin is considering a revisit to this platform as there is a strong historian presence here now and offers an opportunity to broaden the council's audience –

6. Election of Committee Members

- **Members whose 6-year term ended in 2020**

Richard Venus

- **Nominations received and elected for a two-year term (expires 2022):**

David Faber – Historical Society of South Australia (HSSA) and The Labour History Society SA

Elspeth Grant – History Teachers Association of SA (HTASA)

Andrew Peake – GenealogySA

Brenton Griffin – Independent

Meredith Ide – Burnside Historical Society

Yianni Cartledge – Flinders University Rep

Julia Garnaut – Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AmaGa SA)

Helen Chadwick – State Records of South Australia (SRSA)

Caroline Adams – Professional Historians Association (PHA) SA

Angela Bannon or another representative of the Friends of the State Library

Elected to position of:

Secretary – Yianni Cartledge

Social Media Officer – Brenton Griffin

- **New Executive Committee**

Skye Krichauff – President

Kristy Kokegei – Vice President

Yianni Cartledge – Secretary

Greg Slattery – Treasurer

David Sweet – Oral History Australia SA/NT

Andrew Peake – Friends of South Australia's Archives (FSSA)

- **New General Committee**

Skye Krichauff – Independent

Kristy Kokegei – History Trust of South Australia (HTSA)

Greg Slattery – Independent

Yianni Cartledge – Flinders University

Elspeth Grant – History Teachers Association of SA (HTASA)

Richard Moriarty – State Library of South Australia (SLSA)

David Sweet – Oral History Australia SA Branch (OHASA)

Meredith Ide – Burnside Historical Society

Caroline Adams – Professional Historians Association (PHA) SA

Helen Chadwick – State Records of South Australia (SRSA)

Lee Amoroso – ASA & University of Adelaide

Andrew Peake – GenealogySA

David Faber – Historical Society of South Australia (HSSA) and The Labour History Society SA

Julia Garnaut – Australian Museums and Galleries Association (AmaGa SA)

Brenton Griffin – Independent

Angela Bannon (or another representative of the Friends of the State Library)

7. General Business

- HCSA released the *HCSA Fellowship* and the application form is available on the website/
- We will not be having a face-to-face regional lecture this year. Instead, there will be a webinar with a panel – South Australia's slavery connections – scheduled for 21 Nov. Next year we will have one or two regional lectures.

- Fundraiser/announcement of the fellow event needs a sub-committee to form to organise the event/judging of the application. - Susan Marsden, Richard Moriarty, Kristy Kokegei.
- Judging panel will be someone from the HCSA, someone from the SLSA and someone from the Foundation.
- Kristy Kokegei noted that into the next year, we can look to form more sub-committees and draw on members' expertise further.
- David Faber is prepared to help Meredith in her advocacy.
- Susan Marsden enquired about whether it is possible to use parliament chambers for functions etc. including the upcoming end of year fundraiser. This may not be viable in the near future but will look into it further later on.
- We have launched the fellowship and the next event will be important (Greg Slattery).
- It was suggested that we work out our audience first, then work backwards for the venue.
- A sub-committee of 2 or 3 would be helpful on this matter.
- We also need to focus on PR, especially social media, website and our other mediums.
- David Faber has offered to assist Elspeth Grant with supporting the teaching of history in schools.

Meeting closed at 7:30 pm

History Council of South Australia
President's Annual Report 2020
Annual General Meeting: 14 September 2020

The History Council of South Australia (HCSA)

As an independent, non-government body, the HCSA is South Australia's peak representative and advocacy body for all matters pertaining to the protection of South Australian history and heritage. Our membership is comprised of individual members, cultural, academic and government institutions, local libraries, museums and historical societies. We currently have 46 individual members, 29 not-for-profit organisations, 1 professional and medium organisation, and 5 major organisations. Among other things, the HCSA provides promotional support for our members, advocates at the local, State and National levels on issues affecting the history sector, organises educational and networking events, and administers the Historian Awards and Wakefield Press Essay Prize.

This is my first year as President of the HCSA and I would like to thank the longstanding members of the Executive Committee for their guidance and assistance over the past twelve months. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the HCSA (and our member organisations) throughout much of 2020. The General and Executive Committees were not able to meet face to face, scheduled events had to be cancelled or postponed, and we have all had to adjust to working from home and meeting remotely. This has indeed been a strange year, and not being able to meet in person has undoubtedly hindered a sense of shared purpose and unity, particularly for those new to the Committee. Nonetheless, the HCSA has continued to work as a body to advocate on issues of concern, organise modified events, judge and award our Historians' Awards and Wakefield Press Essay Prize, launch the HCSA Fellowship and plan for 2021.

Advocacy

There have been several issues of grave concern to the History and Heritage section over the past twelve months, and the HCSA has taken an active stand. In January the HCSA wrote to the Barossa Council urging that permission not be granted to demolish the Strait Gate Mission House at Light Pass. Throughout the year the HCSA has supported the Protect Our Heritage Alliance to protest the proposed introduction of the State Government's Planning and Design Code. In February letters were sent to key politicians (including the Premier, Opposition Leader, Minister and Shadow Minister for

Planning, Transport and Infrastructure) and in August the HCSA made a submission to the Legislative Review Committee. I would like to thank Meredith Ide for keeping the HCSA well informed and for her hard work in opposing the proposed Planning and Design Code.

The HCSA has drawn attention to the negative implications of the Federal Government's proposal to more than double the cost of a university education for Humanities Arts and Social Science (HASS) students. In June the HCSA put out a media release, wrote to politicians and, under the banner 'History Councils Australia', joined forces with the History Councils of NSW, Victoria and WA to protest the hike in fees. In September, HCA made a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Higher Education Support Amendment Bill.

In July, History Councils Australia sent a submission to the Australian Parliament's Joint Standing Committee on Northern Australia, protesting the destruction of 46,000-year-old caves at the Juukan Gorge in the Pilbara region of Western Australia.

A HCSA working group has recently formed to potentially advocate for increasing the quantity and quality of South Australian history taught through the primary and secondary school curriculum and during teacher training. Research recently conducted by Churchill Fellow and HCSA Executive Committee member Elspeth Grant will inform the group which is currently in the process of seeking advice from key agencies and individuals and assessing the current scenario.

Events

On 9 May the History Council ran a webinar titled 'South Australians living through pandemics and the value of their stories'. This event was well attended, with many members and friends joining remotely from regional areas and interstate.

This year's winner of the Wakefield Press Essay Prize, Susan Arthure, was awarded her prize at a small ceremony held at Wakefield Press on 30 June.

The HCSA's Awards Nights was originally going to be held on 31 May to align with the closing of the History Trust's History Festival. However, due to COVID, the Awards Night was postponed. A modified event was held on 21 August in the Hetzel Room of the State Library. Numbers were capped at 40 and guests had to be seated while eating and drinking. Despite the restrictions, all present were grateful to celebrate the achievements of those nominated for an award. Keith Conlon was the MC, and Geoff Stempel launched the History Council of South Australia Fellowship.

Planning for the annual regional lecture was underway early in the year. However, unpredictability regarding potential government restrictions on travel and gathering have made it difficult to confidently proceed with planning this event. As such, the Executive Committee has decided, in lieu of a regional lecture, to hold a webinar that will enable all members and friends to attend (albeit remotely). The webinar is scheduled for 21 November and is provisionally titled 'Colonial South Australia's connections with slavery'.

Fellowship

In the first half of the year, the HCSA, State Library and Marsden Szwarcbord Foundation finalised the legal and financial details for administering the History Council of South Australia Fellowship (including clarifying eligibility, selection criteria, and the obligations of the Fellow). We are grateful to Wakefield Press who have generously agreed to contribute publishing advice and a book voucher. The Fellowship was officially launched on 21 August, and applications for 2021 are now open. Applications close on 30 November and the successful applicant will be notified before the end of 2020.

Planning will soon commence for an end of year event to be held with the State Library and Marsden Szwarcbord Foundation to announce the Fellow, fundraise, and join with our General Committee, supporters, sponsors and members to celebrate the end of 2020.

Website, newsletter and social media

The website is working well and feedback from members has been positive. Our Secretary has observed members' regular engagement through the various pages, and notes that the regularly updated 'What's on' page is particularly popular. There are also regular enquiries through the 'Contact us' link.

Since March, volunteer Jess Fairey has been producing a bi-weekly HCSA e-newsletter. On the day of publication (every second Tuesday) members are emailed a link to the newsletter which can also be accessed through the History Council website. The newsletter is a key means through which members can share news about up-coming events, opportunities, advocacy issues, calls for papers, members' achievements, exhibitions, seminars/webinars and so on. The more our members feed into the newsletter – and the more it is used and relied on by members and friends – the more vibrant and informative it will become. As such, I'd like to urge members to forward news items to our in-coming Secretary in the coming months.

Facebook engagement has continued to grow through the efforts of our Secretary. The History Council now has 821 followers (an increase of over 300 new followers in the past 12 months, peaking in August-September).

Finances and Fundraising

Unlike some of our interstate counterparts, the HCSA receives no government funding. This makes us totally independent, but means we rely on membership fees to finance our activities and that we have a very tight budget. Nonetheless, due to COVID-19, the HCSA's expenses have been comparatively minimal this year. Event costs are down (catering is usually one of the History Council's biggest expenses), and our website costs are lower than previous years.

Being able to renew membership online through our website has made the process more efficient, and member numbers are stable with some new organisations joining this year. However, with non-members having access through Facebook to much of the information put out by the HCSA, there is less incentive for individuals to join (but, at the same time, it is important to provide this service). Some financially healthy organisations (historical societies, clubs) are paying the individual fee of \$30 rather than the medium organisation fee of \$100, and we ask all members to ensure that they pay the fee that accurately reflects their circumstances.

Thanks

I would like to acknowledge the wonderful support provided to the HCSA by Wakefield Press, the Marsden Szwarcbord Foundation, and South Australia's History Trust and State Library. All are great friends of the History Council, and it is because of them that we are able to stretch our small budget far and organise the various events that fill each calendar year.

I'd particularly like to thank all members of the Executive Committee: Vice-President Kristy Kokegei, Secretary Sandra Kearny, Treasurer Greg Slattery, Elspeth Grant and past-President Peter Monteath. Despite having many other commitments, each has contributed to the running of the HCSA in countless ways. Neither Sandra nor Peter will be on the Executive or General Committee next year. On behalf of the HCSA, I would like to acknowledge the time and effort both have put into the Council. Among other things, Sandra has worked tirelessly to get the website up and running, increase the HCSA's presence on social media and ensuring the smooth running of all General Committee and Executive Committee meetings. During his time as President, Peter led the Council with wisdom and foresight, and he has been an excellent source of advice over the past year. Thank you both for all of your hard work.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all Committee members for volunteering your time and helping to keep the History Council running smoothly. Your input is crucial if the History Council is to continue as a vibrant and relevant organisation. I look forward to working with continuing and in-coming committee members in the year ahead which, I sincerely hope, is one in which South Australia remains COVID free, and in which we are able to meet to discuss, protect and celebrate all things history related in our state.

Skye Krichauff