

## DRAFT ONLY

### Minutes of the 2010 Annual General Meeting of the Australian and New Zealand Law and History Society.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Whitley Theological College, Melbourne on 14 December 2010. The president, Cathy Coleborne, chaired the meeting.

**Attendees:** David Williams, Wendy Robinson, Shaunnagh Dorsett, Grant Morris, Dianne Campbell, A.N. Jones, Gay Morgan, Wayne Rumbles, Caroline Dick, Lisa Ford, Phil C.W. Chan, Ned Fletcher, Thalia Anthony, Jason Taliodoros, Abdul Basir Mohamad, Stefan Petrow, Pamela O'Neill, John V Orth, Tony Earls, Janine Rizzetti, John Hamilton, Graeme Dunstall, Andrew Buck, Diane Kirkby, Cathy Coleborne, Libby Connors.

**Apologies:** Jeremy Finn, Nancy Wright, Wilf Prest, John Weaver, John Williams, John McLaren, Bruce Kercher.

**1. Minutes of the last AGM.** These were disseminated to the committee by email and also available on the society's web page. Hard copies were available at the meeting. Acceptance was moved by the president. No dissent.

#### **2. President's report**

The society has reached agreement with the American Society for Legal History for a formal exchange for our annual conferences, details discussed as a separate agenda item. The membership system was changed during the year, as requested by last year's AGM, so it is now possible to pay memberships up to three years in advance.

Cathy closed her report by moving a formal vote of thanks to Janine Rizzetti, who bore an added conference workload when Diane Kirkby fell so ill, as well as to Diane and Jill Murray who made up the conference organising committee, for successful hosting of our 2010 conference. Passed by acclamation.

#### **3. Financial reports**

##### *Australian accounts.*

Diane reported that the Australian funds comprised a healthy \$14 000 in a term deposit. The on-call account was \$6 000. Jill Murray had made a personal donation of \$1 000 for which Diane wished formal thanks to be noted.

##### *New Zealand accounts.*

Report from Cathy in Jeremy's absence. Thanks are due to Grant Morris for the significant \$4 000 profit from the Wellington 2009 conference which has substantially boosted the NZ finances. Funds to hand now amount to \$5 438.22. Expenses for the e-journal during the past year were minor. Jeremy has requested the approval of the meeting to place \$4 000 into a term deposit. (Jeremy's emailed report attached.)

Discussion followed on the need to increase funds to sustain international speakers to our conferences and to support the Bruce Kercher scholarships.

Cathy Coleborne moved that the meeting accept the financial reports and approve the term deposit; seconded John V. Orth. Passed.

Diane Kirkby moved a formal vote of thanks to Jill Murray for her support; seconded Tony Earls. (Outgoing president to action.)

#### **4. Upcoming conferences**

Nancy Wright who was to host the **2011** conference in Sydney has now taken up an appointment at the University of Queensland and will host it in Brisbane. Andrew reported that its theme is Private Law Public Lives. Notice of the revised conference details need to be sent electronically to all members as a matter of urgency. (Secretary to action)

Shaunnagh Dorsett offered to host the **2012** conference in Sydney and has established an organising committee.

The **2013** conference will then be due to return to New Zealand, preferably in the South Island. To be discussed with Jeremy and Jacinta Ruru.

Shaunnagh reported on plans for a mega-conference in **2014** which the Law and Society, Law and Literature and Law and History societies were talking of jointly hosting. Discussion of both the strengths and weaknesses of such a conference followed but it was agreed to authorise the executive to explore the idea further and report back to the next AGM.

#### **5. The international conference in Singapore 2012**

International Conference on the Legal History of the British Empire: David Williams gave a report on these plans by the US and Canadian legal history societies and ANZLHS. The conference is to be held in **Singapore in 2012**. The organising committee is in search of funds to make sure African scholars are represented.

#### **6. Proposal for continuation of the Bruce Kercher Scholarships**

Future conferences need to incorporate funding of these positions into their planning. The Bruce Kercher scholarships provide conference registration and part-travel costs for 4 postgraduate students from Australia and New Zealand.

#### **7. Agreement between the ASLH & ANZLHS re conference exchange**

Commencing in 2011 the ASLH and ANZLHS will recommend to each other's annual meeting/conference program committee a session consisting of a topic and panel of scholars willing to travel to each other's annual meeting/conference. The ASLH and ANZLHS will waive the registration fees for panellists. The president put the following process to determine the recommended panel to the meeting:

1. It is the responsibility of members to propose entire panels (within any format permitted by the ASLH conference for that year). Proposals for entire panels should be sent to the

- Secretary by the time of the ANZLHS Annual Conference each year (with the exception of this the inaugural year);
2. Members are encouraged to keep in mind the theme of the ASLH conference for that year;
  3. Panel proposals should include details of the overall theme, abstracts for each paper and brief bios of the participant(s) (as required by the ASLH);
  4. In the case of a proposal for a panel, if the panellists are aware of a suitable commentator who will in any case be at the conference it would be helpful to contact that person and then include their name if they are willing to fulfil this role;
  5. In any case where there is more than one panel suggested, the decision as to which panel will be put forward will be made by the Executive in consultation with the organizing committee of the annual ANZLHS conference. The decision will be based on quality of proposal and its fit with the conference theme;
  6. The successful panel will be sent to the ASLH Organising Committee for their final decision;
  7. The successful panel's registration fees for the conference will be waived;
  8. ANZLHS is not able to further financially support the successful panel.

John Hamilton moved that this proposal be accepted, seconded Lisa Ford. Agreed. The deadline for ASLH is 28 Feb 2011, so ANZLHS needs to set the deadline for submissions of 1 Feb 2011. (Secretary to circulate this information along with advice about the Brisbane conference as soon as possible.)

### **8. E-journal**

The Australian ERA rankings have led to a decline in interest in the e-journal so concern was expressed about the need to lift its rankings. One suggestion was that the Kercher Scholarship winners' papers should be published. All conference delegates were strongly encouraged to submit their papers, particularly postgraduate students.

### **9. Election of office-bearers & Committee 2010-11**

Cathy announced that she was not standing again for president and so proceeded to call for nominations for president.

David Williams was elected president without dissent and with acclamation. Nominated Shaunnagh Dorsett, seconded Cathy Coleborne.

David moved a vote of thanks for all Cathy's work as president. Accepted by acclamation.

Shaunnagh Dorsett was nominated and elected as vice-president. Nominated by Thalia, seconded by Wendy Robinson. There was discussion about the need to ensure we return to alternating presidents and vice-presidents between history and law and to guarantee both Australian and NZ representation as soon as possible. No dissent.

Following discussion the following positions were declared elected.

Results:

Secretary	Libby Connors
Aust Treasurer	Diane Kirkby
NZ Treasurer	Jeremy Finn

Committee members            Andrew Buck, Grant Morris, Wayne Rumbles, John Weaver,  
John McLaren, Wendy Robinson, Nancy Wright, Stefan Petrow, Guy Charlton [postgrad  
rep], John Orth, Wilf Prest.

*Minutes taken by Libby Connors*