

**AGM AGENDA ITEM 5:** PRESIDENT'S REPORT  
**PREPARED BY:** Carmel Black (PHA Qld)  
**FOR:** PHA AGM 24 September 2022

---

### **President's Report – for 30 June 2021 to 30 June 2022**

The 26th AGM of the PHA took place on 25 September 2021 using ZOOM web conferencing because the COVID-19 pandemic made interstate travel impossible with border closures, lockdowns and mandatory quarantine.

At the AGM the following office-bearers were elected:

President	Carmel Black PHA (Qld)
Secretary	Helen Penrose PHA (Vic & Tas)
Treasurer	Lucy Bracey PHA (Vic & Tas)

The Committee was to comprise

Vice President	Clare Menck PHA (WA)
Accreditation Secretary	Peter Donovan PHA (SA)
Web Manager (incl social media)	Alan Davis (PHA NT) / Fiona Poulton PHA (Vic & Tas)
PHA Appeal Secretary	Jodi Frawley PHA (NSW & ACT)
PR and Publications	Francesca Beddie (PHA NSW & ACT)
Minutes Secretary	To be rotated
<i>Historia</i> Editor	Sonia Jennings

Roslyn Russell PHA (NSW & ACT) agreed to continue as PHA's Public Officer in the ACT and Chris Cheater (Vic & Tas) remained as *Circa* editor. Sonia Jennings PHA (Vic & Tas) and Dot Wickham PHA (Qld) offered to be the editors for *Historia*.

Fiona Poulton (Vic & Tas) alternate, agreed to assist the web manager with the website and with social media and has provided a great deal of assistance with these tasks over the past year.

Three general meetings throughout the year were held (using ZOOM) in February, May and August 2022.

### **Financial Position**

PHA began the 2021-22 financial year with total assets of \$51,273.26:  
\$41,349.58 in a Bendigo Bank Savings Account,  
\$1,920.88 in the Bendigo Bank Honest History Account and  
\$8,002.80 in the Westpac Term deposit.

On 30 June 2022 assets totalled \$59,848.42:

Bendigo Bank Savings Account \$49,867.70  
Bendigo Bank Honest History Account \$1,961.90  
Westpac Term deposit \$8,018.82

This term deposit is in the process of being transferred to Bendigo Bank. In addition, PHA Qld holds \$3,000 profit from last year's conference which will be spent on something to benefit all members.

## **Membership**

As at 30 June 2022 PHA has 509 members: (last year 532)

QLD:	79
NSW & ACT:	107
NT:	12
SA:	51
Vic & Tas:	229
WA:	48

Unfortunately, membership numbers have fallen with the greatest drop being in PHA Vic & Tas. I feel this is likely to be due to the effects of COVID-19 as Victoria suffered most during the pandemic with prolonged lockdowns and restrictions enforced in an attempt to diminish its impact.

## **National Employment Bulletin**

PHA (NSW & ACT) continues to provide an excellent service in compiling the National Employment Bulletin. Thanks to their administration officer and to delegates for the employment opportunities they have forwarded to the national employment bulletin.

## **Publications**

PHA greatly appreciates the work of Sonia Jennings PHA (Vic & Tas) who has done the bulk of work compiling *Historia* this year as Dot Wickham PHA (Vic & Tas, and Qld) had serious family matters requiring her time. Developed in response to the feedback received in the COVID-19 survey, the shorter, snappier, more frequent newsletter has been well-received. As no one has offered to assist Sonia, PHA will be looking at employing someone to assist in the production of this communication tool which is becoming increasingly important as State and Territory associations find it difficult to produce their own bulletins.

Only one submission for publication was received for *Circa* this year. Editor Chris Cheater and the *Circa* Editorial Board have recently advertised for a professional editor to prepare submissions for publication on the PHA website.

Thanks to Chris Cheater and the *Circa* editorial board for all their work in producing this publication.

## **Advocacy/ Outreach/PR**

PHA has prepared submissions on:

NLA manuscripts collection access closure

This month PHA has prepared a submission expressing our concerns about the recent closure of sections of the NLA manuscript collection as repairs are made to damaged sections of the library building and other sections are improved. PHA is dismayed to hear of the damage and potential

threat to this unique collection and potentially other collections caused by a lack of funding and prioritizing, as well as the impact of our members' work deadlines and contracts.

#### Discontinuation of Bachelor of Arts degree courses at Federation University

In August PHA wrote to Federation University Chancellor and Vice-Chancellor and Federal and State Ministers of Education expressing our alarm and dismay at the decision to discontinue Bachelor of Arts degree courses in 2023.

#### National Cultural Policy

Also in August 2022 PHA made a submission on the National Cultural Policy expressing our support for the Uluru Statement of the Heart and the importance of First Nations' history, the importance of historians as storytellers, and their contributions to the national identity and history through various media. The submission emphasized the importance of there being a space for all the stories of our nation and the importance of strong institutions to collect and store materials that document and record the nation's history, and the need to tell that history and engage with audiences.

#### ABC staff cuts

In June 2022 PHA wrote to the CEO of the ABC expressing our dismay at the proposed funding and staff cuts at the nation's broadcaster.

#### Trove advanced researcher platform

In November 2021 PHA wrote to the NLA regarding its proposed Trove Researcher Platform expressing our members' frustration with changes to the basic functionality of the incredibly useful Trove platform and suggesting that these matters should be prioritized over new advanced platforms developed for a smaller cohort of users.

#### **COVID-19 Survey**

Following up on the 2020 survey, this year PHA conducted a second survey of its members to both ascertain and document the continuing effects of the pandemic and government responses across the nation.

#### **Changes to the Rules 22 February 2022**

As forecast in last year's report, changes to the PHA Rules have been made and accepted by Access Canberra and the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission. Amalgamated Associations PHA (Vic & Tas) and PHA (NSW & ACT) can now have two delegates on the PHA Committee allowing better representation for their members and more committee members to fill roles. The rules also state that for a quorum at least three associations need to be represented.

#### **PHA biennial Conference**

PHA (SA) will host the national conference in 2023. As recent years have shown that online conferences allow far greater attendance by our dispersed membership, the conference is being planned to be a combined in-person and online event.

#### **The Wilson History Oration**

On 2 June 2022, the inaugural Wilson History Oration was held via Zoom to honour the work of the late founding member Dr Bill Wilson OAM (1942 – 2021) who contributed so much to the formation of PHA in the Northern Territory and Victoria. For this annual oration, an eminent speaker will be

invited to reflect on and share their experiences of historical research, writing and engaging audiences. The first speaker was Associate Professor Tanya Evans who spoke of her collaborative public history project of an historic site in the Blue Mountains.

### **National Zoom Account**

As a response to the negative impacts of Covid-19 on the ability of associations to engage with members, PHA has purchased two Zoom Pro Licences sufficient for 500 attendees, with webinar functionality able to be added on a monthly / as needed basis. This has now been set up to have a contact email address for each PHA association so it can be used for state or territory meetings or webinars. PHA Qld recently used it for their in-person AGM so regional members could also attend online.

### **Personnel**

I would like to thank delegates for their friendship and support over the last few years, as well as for all the work they have done over the past year. At the beginning of the year we were shocked and saddened by the sudden passing of Vice President Clare Menck (PHA WA) and we appreciate what a difficult year it has been for PHA WA. Helen Penrose PHA Vic & Tas has been an incredibly helpful secretary and dealt with an unfamiliar set of rules and processes with aplomb. Lucy Bracey PHA Vic & Tas has done a great job as treasurer and made significant contributions to our advocacy work. Her alternate, Fiona Poulton has been extremely helpful in keeping the website updated and contributing useful ideas and comments on a variety of matters. Peter Donovan from PHA SA has stepped up to ably undertake the role of Accreditation Secretary and Peter Hobbins PHA NSW & ACT has made a significant contribution in developing a PD program - and with Jeff Hopkins-Weise bring fresh ideas and perspectives to our discussions. Unfortunately, technical difficulties have hampered Alan Davis PHA NT from attending many meetings.

Carmel Black PHA (Qld)

PHA President