

# ARANZ President's Annual Report 2022

---

*Evan Greensides*



Tēnā koutou,

Greetings to all ARANZ members across our motu. We find ourselves at the beginning of another financial year with AGMs and conferences ahead and a year of events and progress behind us. In this year's President's Letter I will look back on where we placed the focus and efforts of the Association, how much we achieved and where ARANZ is headed in 2022-2023.

## **What was promised?**

After a year of minimal in-person interaction and isolation from each other, Council set a lofty vision to pivot from traditional workflows and support our members in a "new normal" of distance-based, digital activities. In my letter to members of the Association at the start of 2022 I defined the goals of Council for the year.

These were:

- Creating Regional Interest Groups (RIGs) to supplement professionals in regional areas where there is no active branch;
- Progressing regional symposiums with a focus on New Zealand GLAMMiR professionals;
- Providing digital training opportunities and presentations for our membership;
- Re-establishing the equal importance of archives and records through the creation of a dedicated Records Management portfolio on Council;

- Guiding the future of professional organisations in New Zealand through attendance and participation at a hui for GLAMMiR organisations on 1 March; and,
- Collaborating on future projects with our colleagues at the Australian Society of Archivists (ASA) after renewal of our MoU last year.

## **What have we delivered?**

The first issue I would like to touch on is the regional symposium. COVID once again put a damper on in-person events for the year, with “digital fatigue” also noted after multiple years of lockdowns and restrictions. We did not achieve this focus, but it is with pleasure that I can say that we are focused on a “Re-Opening” phase for the Association – ARANZ has advanced in-person events and will continue to implement learnings and strategies from the digital-only era of COVID. The first of these events will be a one-day joint event in Wellington with RIMPA in late-2022, incorporating training, workshops, presentations, and digital-streams on key records and archives topics. We are looking forward to “Putting the R back into ARANZ”.

Regarding training opportunities and presentations, our Lunchtime Kōrero sessions run by ARANZ branches have received outstanding feedback, allowing our members to connect and showcase information management projects, ideas and research. Other digital presentations have included learnings from use of the Recollect platform, staff from the Office of the Privacy Commissioner, and the annual talks by the ARANZ President to Victoria University Wellington (VUW) and Open Polytechnic information studies students. Even with COVID restrictions in place, the Central Districts Branch managed a Sole Archivists Day Out to multiple archival repositories in the Manawatū, while Wellington Branch co-hosted a successful GLAMMiR event featuring Dr Abi Beatson at Vicbooks, Pipitea. I would like to also thank Claire Dowling for the continued running of the monthly Information and Records Management (IRM) meetings with Otago/Southland Branch members.

The last three points were also achieved in 2022:

- Our inaugural Records portfolio seats were taken by Abby Wharne and Jennie Hood, liaising with our members to canvas topics of importance and progress events. Abby and Jennie have moved to other portfolios, with Michael Upton joining Council as the new Records Portfolio holder. Michael is a Director of Metataxis New Zealand and has extensive experience in information management over a 20-year career.

- The much-delayed GLAMMiR Hui took place in April over two days. The event was well attended by Information Management leaders, with a general consensus amongst all that our sectors need to break down barriers, increase collaboration, share resources and speak with a single voice on major advocacy issues.
- Continuing the momentum of our re-signed MoU, we have conducted multiple meetings with our colleagues at ASA. We are now progressing several projects, including a joint issue of Archifacts/Archives and Manuscripts and conference in 2024/2025.

Over and above these goals, your Council also:

- Signed an MoU with Open Polytechnic to offer reduced fees for ARANZ members in the Library and Information Studies course.
- Continued to communicate with our colleagues in the information management sector through bi-monthly Chief Archivist meetings, attending Open Polytechnic Special Advisory Group meetings and progressing multi-organisational special interest group support networks.
- Continued advocacy by providing feedback on retention and disposal actions to Archives New Zealand, the New Zealand Defence Force and Te Papa Tongarewa.
- Finally, several ARANZ members in areas without active branches have expressed interest in forming a Regional Interest Group (RIG). While the formal branch model provides the historical backbone of the Association, Council continues to progress the development of this decentralised model that will empower ARANZ members to collaborate, share local resources and host events where distance was previously a barrier. Council hopes to have an overall structure completed and first RIG in place by early 2023.

## **Where are we going?**

The Association has successfully overcome the challenges of COVID and effectively seized upon the opportunities created. Reflection on the Association's past efforts affords us the insight to witness our strengths and guide us to a successful future.

Your Council will continue to leverage off the successes of the past year. Lunchtime Kōrero sessions will continue to be hosted on our Zoom account and be open to both current and non-ARANZ members. We will support our active branches to hold new, exciting events, both in-person

and online. We will also push for further collaboration with our GLAMMiR colleagues, share resources and keep open our communication channels to seize opportunities as they arise. We will also continue our focus on advocacy, providing an authoritative voice on matters of concern relating to archives and records.

The continued exponential growth of information creation and management, adoption of new technologies, changing of work patterns and a dynamic professional environment are all impacting our professional roles and the organisations we work for. Our joint event with RIMPA is focused on the upskilling, training and sharing of knowledge with our GLAMMiR colleagues. We foresee that the success of this event will witness follow-on events throughout New Zealand in 2023 while providing grass-roots momentum for our membership to host their own records, archives management and special interest support groups.

## Thank You

I would like to take these final few lines to thank our Council members that have contributed much to the Association over the preceding years and will be cycling off Council this year:

- Sean Connelly, for his excellent work as Webmaster, Social Media and tech guru extraordinaire.
- Sue Hanham, without whom our financials would not be in as pristine an order as they currently are, and for utilising her experience and wisdom in the Vice-President role.
- Chris Meech, maintainer of our membership portfolio, Twitter feed and work within the Otago/Southland Committee.
- Linda Liddicoat, for her work in collating a bumper issue of Archifacts for 2022, liaising with authors, managing the proof-reading team and providing a great runway for our future editors and issues.

I look forward to continuing our work with those staying, and those joining, our Council for 2022-23: Kathleen Stringer, Jennie Hood, Danielle Campbell, Abby Wharne, Haylee Anderson, Jennifer Jeffrey, Michael Upton, Brad Wija and Belinda Battley.

Change is a universal constant, and the Association could not have achieved what it has in 2021-22 without the continued support of our

membership. Council thanks all members, whether student, individual or institutional, for your continued support. We encourage you to advocate on behalf of the Association by encouraging colleagues and friends to join ARANZ and get involved by participating in local and national activities.

Our success and your support will continue to see membership fees as the lowest in New Zealand for an information management professional organisation.

I look forward to continuing the ARANZ journey with all of you as we shift into a brighter future.

Nāku, nā

Evan Greensides

President