

# Message from ARANZ President

Seán McMahon

Tēnā koutou katoa

I hope everyone has had a fulfilling and successful 2016. This past year has been a busy one for the ARANZ Council, and the year ahead looks to be even more productive. On behalf of the incoming Council for 2016-2017 I wish to acknowledge the outstanding service and administration to the Association provided by the retiring councillors: Theresa Graham, John Timmins, Darryl Pike, and Stephanie Kitching. All four members have contributed significantly to the ARANZ Council and association over a considerable length of time. All four councillors were also Office Holders on the Council and they leave very big shoes to fill. We thank them for their endeavours over the years and wish them all the very best in their new ventures.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome onto the incoming committee our four new councillors: Gillian Tasker, Belinda Battley, Alison Breese and Jessica Moran. The new officeholders are: Seán McMahon (President), Elizabeth Charlton (Vice-President), Lisa Austin (Treasurer) and Gillian Tasker (Secretary). Also on the Council are the existing councillors: Louis Changuion, Christine Edney and Prof Charlotte Macdonald.

During the 2016 AGM it was announced that three ARANZ Honorary Life Memberships would be awarded this year. The thoroughly deserving recipients are Rosemary Collier, Alison Fraser and Raymond Grover. Together they have over 120 years of association with the archives and records profession and ARANZ. Their knowledge, experience and commitment are a model to all of us who work within these sectors. The conferment of the Honorary Life Memberships citations and certificates was held at a function in the National Library on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

ARANZ recently applied for vice-regal patronage for our organisation from the new Governor-General. I am delighted to advise that our application was successful and that Her Excellency The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy is confirmed as our new Patron.

In late August 2016 the symposium *ARANZ 40 – My past is my present is my future*, was held over two days in Wellington to mark forty years of

the Association. This was a wonderful opportunity for members to catch up, network, be involved in a workshop, attend SIG meetings, be part of presentations and celebrate forty years of ARANZ. The symposium was sold out by delegates and a big thank you must go to the symposium organisers and to all those who attended.

As a new Council we are all beginning to find our feet in respect to what is expected of us as councillors, and what we are able to deliver for our members. Council has compiled five submissions on behalf of ARANZ since September. The largest of these being responses to the National Library's Draft Strategic Directions to 2023, and to Archives New Zealand's Archives 2057 Discussion Document. Advocacy is one of the focus areas we are looking at closely as we determine the future direction for the Council.

We believe the Association to be in good heart and looking back over the past forty years has afforded us the time for reflection. A tremendous amount has been achieved by the Association over this period, and a great legacy has been set down for the next forty years ahead by the previous membership. Over the past decade our membership has stabilised. Membership is an area we intend to review over the next year with the intention of growing our numbers. Other items on our agenda are providing more training opportunities for our members, promotion of the archives and records profession, re-establishing the provincial branches in recess, and working closer with our colleagues at the Australian Society of Archivists. The Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations will be renewed in 2017.

New technologies, differing work patterns and changing professional environments are all impacting on how we work, our professional roles, and the organisations we work for. As an association we need to respond to these challenges on behalf of our membership. In helping to clarify the Council's direction for the next three years we will be sending out a survey in the New Year to all our members and stakeholders. We will be requesting feedback on the objectives you think the Council should focus on, the role that ARANZ should play in this changing world, how members and the Council can support each other, and the general relevance of the association itself to the archives and records professions.

On behalf of Council we wish all our members a prosperous and productive 2017.