

SCANZ President's Report

It has been pleasing to note the steady growth in membership year from the last AGM. There are now 270 members as of 1 June 2024, an increase of 27 from the same time last year. Also impressively there was an 84% retention in membership in that period (based on renewed memberships). The general feeling is that the SCA in New Zealand is in good health and hopefully the numbers will continue to grow over the next 12 months.

There are Thank Yous due to those members who have helped keep the SCANZ ship afloat, especially to my fellow committee members. Jacqui Macgregor-Pahl (Lady Yolande of Southron Gaard) has had to take on a big job as SCANZ Secretary and will also be doing some further investigation into policies around working with Youth. Richard Goodwin (Master Richard d'Allier) has been Vice Chair this year and I want to commend Richard on all his work for SCANZ over the past three years, especially around insurance and financial matters for the SCA across the country. Richard will be stepping down from the committee after the AGM and is very deserving of a break. Jacqui and I are looking forward to working with the new committee member in the coming year.

After many years as Registrar Elizabeth Kent (Mistress Ginevra di Serafina Visconti) will be stepping down around the time of the AGM. Elizabeth has my thanks for all her considerable efforts in this role over the last decade (and some) as she has worked tirelessly to keep the administrative side of SCANZ going. Sorting out our Incorporation Registration, processing many memberships and working with our insurers are only a small portion of her work in this job. She is well deserving of a rest from SCANZ matters and we wish her well in this. I would like to welcome aboard Zara Kinzett (Lady Ysemay Rede) who will shortly be stepping up as our new Registrar.

We will also be farewelling Jasmine Fuller as our SCANZ Treasurer at the AGM. We thank Jasmine for all her work in the Treasurer role, especially around the use of Xero. We will be advertising for a new Treasurer around the same time as the AGM and look forward to working with whoever steps into the role.

We also farewellled David Robb (Master William de Cameron) who has looked after the SCANZ web and IT services for many years. He also has housed the SCANZ server and we are now in the process of looking at hosting options. I would like to thank David for all his work in this area and his generosity in providing his time and resources to support SCANZ's web and IT systems. We welcomed Scott

Campbell (THL Lowrens Wilyamson) who has taken over the web support role for SCANZ and I would like to thank Scott for all he has done so far to support SCANZ in this area.

Thank you to Ray Gleeson (Master Gomez de Crecy) for all his work with SCANZ as Kingdom Seneschal. Ray is an active and supportive officer and I have found his advice invaluable in my year as SCANZ Chair.

There are many others who have contributed their time and efforts to ensuring that SCANZ continues to function and while it would be impractical to name them all here I would like to thank them on behalf of the SCANZ committee for all they do to enable the SCA to function as well as it does. Even if you have just lent a willing ear to help us work through an issue, it is appreciated. I also want to mention the people who take the time to provide us with their feedback and ideas as we work through some of the legal matters around the new Incorporated Societies Act. You have our thanks.

A sizable portion of our SCANZ work over the past year has been to enable SCANZ to be compliant with the 2022 Incorporated Societies Act before the 5 April 2026 deadline. As the last Incorporated Societies Act dated from 1908 this is rather necessary. This work is reflected in the order of business for this AGM. To meet the criteria of the new Act we are required to include a recipient of assets should the Incorporated Society wind up. This does not have to be a specific group and while we hope the SCA in New Zealand never winds up, we are required to name either another group or category of organisation as a recipient of our assets.

The other main area of focus for the AGM is around the Issues Resolution Policy. Under the new Act we are required to include procedures in our constitution ‘for resolving disputes [that] must be consistent with the rules of natural justice.’ A new Issues Resolution Policy was drawn up by the Kingdom over the past year and SCANZ has worked with Kingdom Officers on this Policy. One area of discussion is how the definition of an ‘officer’ in the Act relates to our own unique SCA structure. SCANZ has received guidance on this matter from Parry Field Lawyers who have put a lot of effort into helping Incorporated Societies navigate the new legislation. Our findings around this are part of the business of this AGM. The legal consultant at Parry Field was quite fascinated by our group structure!

An ongoing concern of the SCA in the 21st century is around privacy and the sharing of information online. I was very pleased that the Kingdom Live Streaming Policy was approved earlier this year before the two major Kingdom events in New Zealand. I have been in contact with

the Privacy Commission around this and around our current policy around photography and the sharing of photos on official SCA social media accounts. In both cases the Privacy Commission was pleased with the Livestreaming and the current photography consent process.

The changeover of bank accounts have been a major area of frustration over the past few years but we are hopefully at a point where we can centralise all the New Zealand bank accounts with Westpac. This will make changing signatories and the administration of these accounts with Xero much easier for all involved. As you will see from the financial reports for the AGM that the SCA in New Zealand is in a healthy position.

Another area of focus has been around providing liabilities insurance. This is another order of business in the AGM as we have some options to choose from. As I am sure many of you are aware, insurance costs have skyrocketed in the last few years and we are not exempt from this, especially when taking out a new policy. After the AGM we will have to review our membership fee pricing to enable us to afford this extra insurance cost. I feel we have been lucky to make our membership as reasonable as it has been for so long.

The Alternative Crown discussion has taken up a portion of my time on SCANZ as I am a member of this working group. We have had two polls so far and we were pleasantly surprised by the proportion of the membership who voted in the first poll. The results of the second poll are due to be released shortly along with a roadmap forward from here. This has been an interesting area to be involved in and I have enjoyed hearing the different ideas and perspectives around what Crown Selection should and could look like. At the heart of this is the debate on how we can make the SCA continue to thrive in the 21st century. Society has certainly changed even in the 23 years I have been involved in the SCA, let alone in the nearly 60 since that fateful tournament in Berkeley. We need to consider how we can keep the Dream alive for future generations.

I know this has been a challenging year in many regards for our SCA family in New Zealand with ill health for some and the loss of loved ones. My hope for the coming year is that we can all continue to be most excellent to each other and to inspire and be inspired in Service to the Dream.

Yours in Service

Josie Welch (Joana de Bairros)

(Chair, SCANZ Inc.)