

# **SCA (NZ) Inc. 2007-2008 CHAIR'S REPORT**

## **Introduction**

2008 has been a year of progress for SCANZ, as the Committee undertook to review and refine practically everything that could be reviewed or refined. Through the hard work and dedication of Committee members, Corporate Officers, and Sub-Committee volunteers, and with individual feedback from members, we have been able to make significant changes to the structure of the SCA NZ Inc., with a view to making it clearer and more efficient for the Committee and Membership alike. We hope that this progress will continue in the future, providing a useful and strong vehicle for the promotion of the SCA in New Zealand.

## **Structural/Policy**

2008 was our first full year with the three-member Committee originally envisioned by the SCANZ founding members. The bulk of our workload came via the ongoing “tweaks” required to improve the structure of the Society, and in catching up with unfinished business from 2005-2007.

Our major structural work was in our review and refinement of the SCANZ Rules. Most scheduled corrections are changes to terminology and formatting, however, substantive changes have been suggested to both the nomination and selection of Committee members, the organisational structure of the Committee, and the classes of membership offered by the SCA NZ Inc.

The other recent work was review of the draft Publishing Policy that was submitted for Committee consideration three years ago. After some discussion with the membership and within the Committee, it was decided that steps would be taken to finalise the draft for acceptance as SCANZ Policy. The Committee would like to offer its thanks to Vicki Hyde for creating the draft, and volunteering to guide its implementation.

## **Financial Matters**

The major task here was a Financial Policy Review. A sub-committee was formed, led by the Interim Treasurer, to review the policy and recommend changes. The Committee is very happy with the progress made here, and look forward to finalising the Policy in the near future. The Committee would like to offer its gratitude to Peter and the rest of the sub-committee for a job well done. Our Interim Treasurer has also updated the Treasurer's Handbook, which is sure to be of use to our new full-time Treasurer.

The Committee has also scheduled a review of Membership Fees, with a view to ascertaining whether this is a good time to lower fees without adversely affecting the long-term stability of the Society. We hope to have findings to present to the Membership by the AGM.

## **Personnel Changes**

2008 saw an unusually high personnel turnover in the Committee and its Corporate Officers.

Our Registrar of many years, Maggie Forest, stepped down as scheduled at the end of July. The Committee offers their thanks to Maggie for her years of service and performance above and beyond the call of duty, and for her work in establishing the NZ Registry for SCANZ. Please note, Maggie retains her separate position as Kingdom Lists Officer.

Our new Registrar is the eminently capable Melissa Brown Muckart. SCANZ is happy to welcome her on board, and the Committee is looking forward to working alongside her over the next few years. Mel has also been recognised as a valuable liaison between the SCANZ Committee and the SCA Inc.

August also saw a sudden change in the position of Corporate Treasurer. Sharon Henry was due to step down at the AGM in November, but the office was vacated unexpectedly in August. The Committee would like to recognise Sharon's years of work as Treasurer, and her efforts in establishing the financial policies of the SCA NZ Inc. We wish her all the best for the future. The Committee would also like to thank Peter Hyde for graciously accepting the position of Interim Treasurer, and working so much magic in such a short space of time.

At the beginning of September, the Committee received a notice of resignation from Robyn Ramsden, the Member for Darton. While we are sad to let her go, the Committee would like to recognise Robyn's hard work over the past three years, and wish her well in the future.

The final personnel change is the routine stepping-down of the Chair, namely myself. It has been a busy four-ish years, and I value the experience I've had on the SCANZ Committee. Thank you to Committee Members and Corporate Officers past and present – it's been an honour and a privilege. My best wishes and thanks to Scott Campbell, the only member of the 2007-08 Committee to remain in 2009 – his work this year has been invaluable, and I'm sure the Society will flourish under his guidance.

## **Forward Planning**

Over the next year, the Committee intends to continue implementing the following action points:

- Improving accessibility to and transparency of the SCANZ Committee
- Continuing review and improvement of SCANZ Rules and structures
- Review of Affiliation Agreements with SCAA and SCA Inc.
- Finalising changes to Membership fees and structures

## **Conclusion**

Overall 2008 has been a positive year for SCANZ. Great progress has been made toward our aim of creating a strong, self-sustaining Societal structure, which will enable the Committee to support the "out-of-game" side of SCA activity in New Zealand. We encourage all NZ SCA members to engage with the Committee, as volunteers or advisors, or by making suggestions and submissions, in order to make the SCA in NZ a thriving real-world entity, enhancing our in-game activities for the enjoyment of all participants.

Meghann Exley  
Chair, SCA (NZ) Inc.  
September 2008