



PROFESSIONAL HISTORIANS AUSTRALIA INC.

DELEGATE'S REPORT FORM

President: Pauline Payne
Secretary: Anne Richards
Treasurer: Peter Donovan

Number of Members: Total: 51 (41 Professional, 6 Associate, 4 Graduate) as of 30 June 2022

ANNUAL REPORT

Activities

The one regular activity remains the luncheon on the first Tuesday of each month. It has been running almost as long as the PHA(SA) has been in existence. The venue has changed from time to time, but has always been in the city. Numbers remain steady at about 10 each month.

The main activity during the previous year has been the writing, production and launch of the latest book by PHA(SA). South Australia, 1919 to 1939, comprising essays from 26 members was launched during the month of the annual History Festival in May 2022. Sales have been good. 200 copies of the book were printed, with sales now in excess of 160. The project was supported by financial grants from History SA and the Historical Society of South Australia.

Professional Development

Little has been undertaken by way of professional development: production of the book took precedence.

Professional development activities often involve visits to historic, archival and museum sites. Arrangements have been made to visit the Holocaust Museum in Adelaide.

Public Relations

Again, the production and promotion of the book has been the main activity during the previous year. This also promoted closer relations with History SA.

Meetings have recently been held with History SA to garner assistance for the organisation of the national conference next year.

Issues – Internal:

The main issue — undoubtedly common to other PHAs — is the aging of members and the lack of new recruits. In large part this reflects declining focus on History in the tertiary institutions.

The issue is also reflected in the membership of the executive committee, and the slow turnover in positions.

Members seem to be content to be offered history projects: few seem prepared to actively lobby for projects and advertise their skills.

External requests for historians have not been plentiful, but those received have not been pursued avidly.

Issues – External:

History no longer seems to be promoted by government as it has been in the past: there are few opportunities available in the heritage field. There seem to be few commemorative opportunities in the foreseeable future.

Signed: Peter Donovan

Date: 25 September 2022

Applicable to twelve months to 30 June 2020