

JPS

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THE POLYNESIAN SOCIETY
THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
NEW ZEALAND



MINUTES OF THE 125th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE POLYNESIAN SOCIETY (INC.), 25 MAY 2016,
DEPARTMENT OF MĀORI STUDIES,
UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND.

Present: Dr Richard Benton in the chair and 8 members.

Apologies: E. Cochrane, B. Davies, R. Hooper, H. Macdonald, J. Metge, S. Mallon, M. Reilly.

Benton/Carter: "That the apologies be sustained." Agreed.

Minutes of 2015 AGM: Carter/Allen: "That the Minutes be received as a true account of the meeting." Carried.

Presentation and Adoption of the Council's Report

The Hon. President presented and spoke to the Council's Annual Report.

- ONLINE availability has increased. The Society relies heavily on the Institutional Subscriptions and the increase due to online availability is welcome. Payment from online providers helps with income revenue and helps avoid subscriptions increases this year, which in this environment would be unwise. Annual dues and subscriptions cover production and postage of the *JPS* and the Society's running expenses. Although member dues and subscription payments do not cover other expenses, income from other sources (e.g., royalties on publications) help cover these.
- The Society's website and *Facebook* page are maintained by designated Council members (Hamish MacDonald, Simon Bickler and Ben Davies) who post *Journal* contents and information regarding membership, submission of manuscripts, etc. Contents and information regarding membership are also sent to several appropriate newsletters and websites. The availability of the *Journal* online also is publicity.
- The Society and its members benefit from the support of the University of Auckland that allows the Society to keep costs down. Specifically, the Department of Māori Studies provides the Society with its office and storage space, as well as access to office equipment; likewise, the Anthropology Department provides for the Hon. Editor and the *JPS*. These arrangements are not only economical but also very convenient and congenial.

Benton/Huntsman: "That the Report of Council be received. Carried

Presentation and Adoption of Annual Accounts

Annual accounts have been completed for 2015 and were presented for information by the Hon. Treasurer Rangimarie Rawiri.

The Reviewers report was attached to the Annual Accounts and the Treasurer noted:

- The Accounts are prepared on a cash basis—i.e., people who have not paid do not receive the Journal.
- The Income derived from royalties and copyright fees has enabled us to maintain the membership fees at the current level.
- The decline in full membership has been off set in an increase by growing online subscriptions and dues.
- Council will continue to monitor the effect of online access to the JPS on subscription income and the extent to which payments from online providers helps compensates for any income decline.

Rawiri/Carter: “That the 2015 Accounts be accepted.” Carried

Honoraria

Benton/Goldsmith: “That the honoraria for the year 2016 be at the same rate as 2015, and that they be paid.” Carried.

Presentation and Adoption of the Editor’s Report

- Over the last year Melinda Allen and Judith Huntsman have continued as Co-Editors, supported by the editorial team, including Lyn Carter and Ethan Cochrane as Book Review Editors, and Dorothy Brown as Assistant Editor. Arrangements with Hamish Macdonald, Production Editor and manager of the Polynesian Society’s website, continue to be extremely satisfactory. Ben Davies has continued as webmaster, managing our *Facebook* page and assisting Hamish with the web site as appropriate. We thank our fellow officers and the Council for their support throughout the year. The many referees who have given generously of their time and provided valuable feedback to the authors are crucial partners in maintaining the quality of the *Journal*; we extend our deep gratitude to them on behalf of the Officers and Council.
- We continue to actively solicit “special issues” on particular themes with guest editors. In December we had a virtual “special issue” (that is, it was fortuitous rather than solicited) on Oceanic voyaging canoes, which has elicited considerable interest on our Facebook page. We remind members that special issues can be individually purchased by friends and colleagues outside the *Society* for only \$15 each.
- Finally, this year has seen a significant increase in *Facebook* audience. Facebook manager Ben Davies reports that we now have 818 “likes” (compared to 186 last year). Our most recent post, directing readers to the article by Kuramitsu, attracted 690 views. In February we trialled an advertisement for the one-off purchase of our December 2015 issue on Polynesian Voyaging. This post alone attracted nearly 3500 views, our highest yet, and was shared by 28 people. We also attracted nearly new 50 followers immediately after this offer. As usual, most of our Facebook friends are in New Zealand; however, we’ve seen growth from Honolulu and Salt Lake City, both cities with large Polynesian populations.

Huntsman/Sheppard: “That the Hon. Editors Report be adopted.” Carried.

Election of Officers

Having been duly nominated and seconded, the following were elected to hold office until the year 2017 AGM:

President: Richard Benton
Hon. Secretary: Rangimarie Rawiri
Hon. Treasurer: Rangimarie Rawiri
Hon. Editor: Melinda Allen

Election of Council Members

The following, whose nominations were duly nominated and seconded, were elected as Members of the Council for two years: M Goldsmith, J Huntsman, S Mallon, P Sheppard

Election of Reviewers:

Rawiri/Allen: "That Tane & Assocs., Chartered Accountants be the elected Reviewers." Carried.

General Business

The President Dr Richard Benton expressed his condolences for the family of Ann Chowning and David Simmonds, who both passed away this year and acknowledged the work they had both been involved with. He thanked the Council and members for their support during the year, and recognised Judith Huntsman's 41 years of support and service to the Polynesian Society, of which 20 were as Honorary Editor of the *Journal*, and for her long serving membership on Council. Judy will be retiring from the position of co-Editor following publication of the upcoming special issue 125(2), with Melinda Allen taking on the full role.

There being no more business, the President thanked members for their attendance and declared the 2016 AGM meeting closed at 6:00pm

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