



Chair's Report to NZAIA AGM 2018

The AGM last year was held during the EIANZ conference in Wellington in late October, as we had decided to forgo our own conference in support of that event. NZAIA, represented by Nick Taylor and Richard Morgan, collaborated in an SEA roundtable session at the conference with the Special Interest Section – Impact Assessment, and in particular Lachlan Wilkinson and Carolyn Cameron. This continued a discussion of SEA principles and processes that started with our Lincoln conference in 2016, and has developed through a series of EIANZ working group meetings since last year, building towards the IAIA '19 conference in Brisbane. Richard Morgan has participated in several of these activities on behalf of NZAIA. There will be sessions on SEA at IAIA '19, and post conference workshop of international specialists, to help develop the profile of SEA in Australasia.

Two other important activities for NZAIA are the newsletter and submissions. We revived the newsletter last year in electronic form and while output has been limited so far we are developing a publication model that focuses on particular themes and pulls together interesting news and comment from the perspective of impact assessment. In the first half of 2018 Dyanna Jolly led the production of a highly successful newsletter on cultural impact assessment, assisted by co-editor Michelle Thompson-Fawcett. Very shortly we will see the next newsletter, on Landscape Assessment, co-edited by Chantal Whitby and Clive Anstey. And in early 2019, a newsletter on Ecological Impact Assessment, edited by Judith Roper-Lindsay, will be ready for mailing out. Newsletters are group activities, and the people involved will vary according to topics, but I'd like to thank all the editors and their contributors, and the NZAIA core group members who assist with the production side of the operations.

We should also acknowledge the terrific work Chantal Whitby has done on upgrading our e-news mailout, and ensuring they go out each month. Not surprisingly given her career and her other commitments Chantal has decided to hand the e-news over to others: we are still working through that process, but I'd like to thank Chantal for her work during the year.

Submissions lift the NZAIA profile as a champion for IA in this country. We list completed submissions on the website, which show that over the last 2 years we have been rather quiet. This is an activity we need to maintain, but keeping track of opportunities is challenging. Plus core group members are all working as volunteers and don't always have the time to work on submissions. So we are keen to encourage our members to be involved in generating submissions: when we start a submission process we alert members, and invite them to get in touch or to post their comments directly on the relevant Google Docs site

(access instructions are given on our Submission page of the website when we have processes running).

We have continued the student sponsorship scheme started in 2017, and welcome Niranjana Neupane, and Keith Finlayson to this year's conference and AGM and hope we can engage them in NZAIA core group activities as effectively as last year's group. Crystal Tawhaito had to withdraw at the last minute; we hope she can also stay in touch with NZAIA in the coming year.

This year we submitted our first return to Charities Services, including a performance report. This is due by June each year at the latest, so will become part of early year activity for the officers of NZAIA. I'm grateful for the support and assistance of Chantal Whitby (Treasurer) and Kate McNab (Secretary) during that steep learning curve. More particularly I'd like to thank them both for their sterling work in those respective capacities during the course of the year.

My thanks also go to the rest of this year's core group for their consistent contributions to meetings and our various activities. In particular, many thanks to this year's conference organising group of Christine Cheyne, Nick Taylor and Kate McNab, with invaluable support from Katherine Russell in various logistic areas. And to the social media group, with Rachel Teen, Dy Jolly, and Chantal Whitby, helping NZAIA develop more effective communications. It has been a very busy year, building a great foundation for NZAIA's future development.

Richard Morgan

28th November 2018