



The Society for Creative Anachronism (NZ) Inc.

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Introduction

This has been a relatively quiet year for SCANZ, although looking back through the member updates it appears we have not been completely idle. Our society continues to enjoy a comfortable position.

Financial Policy

The most important activity of the past year was the review of the SCANZ Financial Policy. Although this is an annual routine, this year's review resulted in a number of changes. The only big one was the separation of SCANZ Treasurer from Lochac Deputy Exchequer. Traditionally, the SCANZ Treasurer had filled both roles, but this created some anomalies in reporting lines which have now been resolved. (As it turned out, Lochac now has a New Zealand based Exchequer, so there is no effect for the present). There were many minor changes intended to clarify the policy and a great deal of practical information added in a set of appendices.

Our Treasurer, Helen Lyon, also carried out the first of what should be regular biennial reviews of group accounts. The exercise proved to be relatively painless for those involved, and Helen now has a process and documentation in place for keeping it as a low-stress event.

Helen's work continues to be stellar.

Membership

The Target1000 competition was, in fact, won even before last year's AGM. Our thanks to the Kingdom Seneschal for adjudicating the numbers and determining the winners.

SCANZ made a submission regarding the Voluntary Student Membership bill to the relevant Parliamentary select committee. This was in part a response to a request from a member, and we agreed that similar legislation had had a negative effect on Australian university-based SCA groups. The purpose of our submission was to alert the Parliamentary committee to the possibility of similar problems for our club in New Zealand. The Parliamentary committee's report at the end of September recommended the bill be passed with minor amendments.

As of time of writing, SCANZ membership is 146 (Thanks, SCANZREG).

Other Groups

The SCANZ committee has been developing better working relationships with its SCAA counterpart and with Lochac. Having the Lochac Seneschal as an observer on the SCANZ list has been, in my opinion, a Good Thing. We also have an SCAA observer on the list (a reciprocal arrangement) and a SCANZ observer at SCAA meetings. So the mechanisms are in place for coherent action, but we are still learning to make good use of them.

All the SCANZ committee were at Canterbury Faire, and we had the opportunity to meet Andrew Ross-Gowan (aka Baron Gilchrist), the chairman of SCAA. He gave us some good

background on SCAA's organisational changes and its challenges, and we discussed a timetable for reviewing the affiliation agreement.

The SCAA/SCANZ affiliation agreement is a short and rather bland document, but it is an important part of what makes the Kingdom of Lochac able to work smoothly across two countries. In principle, this should be reviewed every two years, but it has not been done since SCANZ was formed in 2004. In particular, there is an agreement between SCAA and SCANZ that each group should play a role in overseeing any revocation of membership in the other group. This was first activated last year (by far the most unpleasant I've had on SCANZ was advising on the Revocation and Denial of a membership, in this case an SCAA one) and it was agreed that part of the affiliation agreement needed some fine-tuning.

The SCA Lochac Ombudsman is expected to visit Australasia early next year; we don't yet have a firm time or place. I aim to ensure that at least one member of the committee meets with the Ombudsman. The SCAUS/SCANZ operating agreement is well past due for renegotiation. The new SCAA/SCANZ agreement will be settled by then.

Rotation

Finally, our rotation schedule means that at the conclusion of the AGM, Alasdair Muckart will become Chairman. I will stick around as Vice-Chairman and we will, I hope, have a replacement for Scott Campbell, who will have completed his three-year term. Scott has been a huge asset to our Society, and I can't thank him enough for his efforts.

Conclusion

Much as last year, it's been a year of quiet progress. We are very well served by our Treasurer and Registrar. I am sure you will all give Alasdair your full support as he takes up the Chair.

Patrick Bowman, chairman

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