The Braille Authority of New Zealand

Aotearoa Trust (BANZAT)

# Confirmed Minutes of Meeting 47 of The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust, the ninth Annual General Meeting, held in the Board Room, Level 2, Awhina House, Blind Foundation, 4 Maunsell Road, Parnell, on Tuesday 10 September 2019, commencing at 3:00pm

# 1 Welcome, attendees, apologies

The Chair, Maria Stevens, welcomed everyone to the ninth Annual General Meeting of the Trust. She particularly welcomed John Mulka, the new Chief Executive of the Blind Foundation, who was able to join the meeting for the first 15 minutes. Maria then went through the evacuation procedures.

She invited trustees to introduce themselves, explaining their backgrounds and who had appointed them. She then invited observers to introduce themselves. She also called for apologies.

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| Name | Appointed by | Term Expires |
| Trustees |  |  |
| Paul Brown | The Seven | 2021 |
| Leyna Coleman | Blind Citizens NZ | 2021 |
| Chantelle Griffiths | Blind Foundation | 2021 |
| Nicola McDowell | The Seven | 2020 |
| Jenny McFadden | BLENNZ | 2020 |
| Peter McGlinchey | Blind Foundation | 2019 |
| Wendy Richards | The Seven | 2020 |
| Mary Schnackenberg, Secretary/Treasurer | The Seven | 2020 |
| Maria Stevens, Chairperson | Kāpō Māori | 2022 |
| Natalie Stewart | BLENNZ | 2019 |
| Vacancies |  |  |
| Vacancy | Parents of Vision Impaired | 2021 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Organisation |
| Observers |  |
| Philip Miles | Auckland Libraries |
| John Lambert | AUT University |
| Martine Abel-Williamson | Blind Foundation Director |
| Rick Hoskin | Blind Foundation Director |
| Greg Hurn (until 3:19pm) | Blind Foundation Chief Financial Officer |
| Clive Lansink | Blind Foundation Director |
| John Mulka (until 3:19pm) | Blind Foundation Chief Executive |
| David Smith, trustee designate | Blind Foundation |
| Samantha Tamatea | Blind Foundation |
| Vincent Naidu | Vinci Law |
| Tewai Halatau | Vision Pacific |
| Latoa Halatau | Vision Pacific |
| Neil Jarvis (by phone) | Treasurer World Blind Union Asia-Pacific Region |
| Apologies Observers |  |
| Dr Greg Morgan | Auckland Libraries |
| Nicola Owen | Audio Described Aotearoa Director |
| Steve Bellamy | former BANZAT trustee |
| Raeleen Smith | former BANZAT trustee |
| Karen Stobbs | BLENNZ |
| Dr Jonathan Godfrey | Blind Citizens NZ |
| Rose Wilkinson | Blind Citizens NZ |
| Nadine Baker | Blind Foundation |
| Peter Hoskin | Blind Foundation Director |
| Kathryn Johns | Blind Foundation |
| Judy Small | Blind Foundation Director |
| Linda Wright | Blind Foundation |
| Dave Allen | Blind-Sight |
| Chrissie Cowan | Kāpō Māori |
| Simon Latimer | Office of the Ombudsman |

Apologies were accepted by agreement.

# 2 Comments from John Mulka

Maria invited John to introduce himself and share some thoughts about his new role.

John thanked BANZAT for the invitation to attend the AGM. He apologised for not being able to stay for more than 15 minutes. He explained his first official day at the Blind Foundation was 29 August. He was prioritising visiting all the Foundation's 18 offices and meeting as many clients and staff as possible in his first 60 days in his new role. His goal was to “listen, learn and engage”.

John commented that no technology had been developed yet to replace literacy through braille. He said that braille has gone into some decline in Canada. However the CNIB is busy turning that situation around.

He thanked us for our commitment and dedication to braille.

Maria thanked John for coming and for his comments.

# 3 In memoriam

Members stood in silence to honour those in the braille community who have passed away in the last 12 months.

Antonnette Botha and Reinette Popplestone from South Africa were particularly remembered for their work with UEB and the International Council on English Braille.

# 4 Minutes

## 4.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting 42, the eighth Annual General Meeting, held on 11 September 2018.

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of Meeting 42, the eighth Annual General Meeting of The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust held on Tuesday 11 September 2018 be confirmed.

Moved: W. Richards. Seconded: N. McDowell. (Res. 47-1).

## 4.2 Matters arising from Minutes not listed in the Agenda

No matters were raised.

# 5 Annual Performance Report with Financial Statements

The Chair, Maria Stevens, introduced the Annual Performance Report. Trustees presented sections of the report.

Wendy Richards talked about the jingle composed by Renee Patete to promote braille which won a prize in the children's competition discussed in the report. She played the jingle and explained how it was written.

As the Strategic Framework for Braille Services was mentioned in the Report because of BANZAT's participation in its writing, Martine Abel-Williamson asked when there will be an update on its implementation. Maria advised that the Chief Executive of Blind Citizens NZ is convening a meeting to check progress next month. Martine said the framework was launched at Blind Citizens NZ National Conference in October 2018.

Treasurer Mary Schnackenberg presented the financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2019 which are included in the Annual Performance Report. She also read the review letter provided by Nadine Baker, the Blind Foundation Finance Manager. Mary thanked Nadine for her generous support.

It was resolved:

That the Annual Performance Report, including the financial statements, of The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust for the year ending 30 June 2019 be adopted.

Moved: M. Schnackenberg. Seconded: P. Brown. (Res. 47-2).

# 6 Election of officers

### Chairperson

At 3:41pm Maria stepped down from the Chair and invited Wendy Richards to assume the Chair.

Wendy called for nominations for the position of Chairperson.

Maria Stevens was nominated by P. McGlinchey, seconded by P. Brown. As there were no further nominations, Wendy declared Maria to be the Chair for the 2019-2020 year.

In accepting the role, Maria expressed her pride that this year there are 23 candidates sitting the Trans-Tasman Certificate of Proficiency in Unified English Braille. There may be as many as 48 candidates sitting in 2020, a great sign of the health of braille in New Zealand.

At 3:42pm Maria resumed the Chair.

### Secretary/Treasurer

Maria called for nominations for the position of Secretary/Treasurer.

Mary Schnackenberg was nominated by L. Coleman, seconded by N. Stewart. As there were no further nominations, Maria declared Mary Schnackenberg the Secretary/Treasurer for the 2019-2020 year.

# 7 Cheque signatories

The cheque signatories for the ASB Bank accounts held by BANZAT have to be reviewed and appointed at the AGM. Three signatories are required, two of whom approve each payment. Currently the signatories are: Jenny McFadden, Natalie Stewart and Mary Schnackenberg. Natalie Stewart is stepping down from BANZAT following excellent service to the trust.

It was resolved:

That Wendy Richards succeeds Natalie Stewart as BANZAT cheque signatory.

Moved: J. McFadden. Seconded: P. Brown. (Res. 47-3).

It was resolved:

That the cheque signatories for BANZAT bank accounts for the 2019-2020 year be Jenny McFadden, Wendy Richards and Mary Schnackenberg.

Moved: N. McDowell. Seconded: P. Brown. (Res. 47-4).

# 8 New business

Martine Abel-Williamson, in her role as an officer in the World Blind Union, updated the meeting about the World Braille Council. The World Braille Council promotes some initiatives outside braille code maintenance which is the responsibility of the various braille authorities around the world. The council looks after Louis Braille's home in Coupvray, just out of Paris. The council has asked Once, the blindness agency in Spain, to carry out research on economics of braille labelling. The EasyConverter Express software with its braille translator that has been developed in the UK is available for free distribution in developing countries. The World Braille Council is also working with the International Council for Education of People with Visual Impairment on resources for children with multiple disabilities.

John Lambert from AUT University has been following developments with the Marrakesh Treaty. Universities can produce accessible formats. He asked if there has been any discussion about collaboration across NZ producers? Is there going to be a repository of NZ produced accessible format materials? Neil Jarvis said there is thinking in MBIE about the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty. An Accessible Formats Forum has been established which brings together publishers and rights holders plus producers and the disability sector. Neil expects to see guidelines coming out soon.

Neil commented that the Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities is delighted to continue to welcome BANZAT as a member. The Round Table waives the membership subscription for BANZAT. The Australian Braille Authority is a subsidiary of the Round Table whose Executive understands that ABA and BANZAT work closely on several braille-related activities. Maria thanked Neil for the ongoing support from the Round Table for BANZAT.

# 9 Vote of thanks and Closure

Maria thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for their participation. She invited guests and trustees to stay for refreshments.

The meeting closed at 3:58pm.

Note: These Minutes were confirmed at the Tenth Annual General Meeting held on 15 September 2020.

**Chairperson Maria Stevens**

**Date**