The Braille Authority of New Zealand

Aotearoa Trust (BANZAT)

# Confirmed Minutes of Meeting 57 of The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust, the 11th Annual General Meeting, held via Zoom, on Tuesday 14 September 2021, commencing at 3:05pm

# 1 Welcome, attendees, apologies

The BANZAT Chair, Maria Stevens, had asked Wendy Richards to take the Chair for the meeting.

Wendy Richards welcomed everyone to the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Trust. She invited trustees to introduce themselves, explaining their backgrounds and who had appointed them. She then invited each observer, naming them from the Zoom list, to introduce themselves. She also called for apologies.

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| Name | Appointed by | Term Expires |
| Trustees |  |  |
| Paul Brown | Founding Organisations | 2024 |
| Leyna Coleman | Blind Citizens NZ | 2024 |
| Justine Edwards | Parents of Vision Impaired | 2024 |
| Amanda Gough | BLENNZ | 2022 |
| Chantelle Griffiths, outgoing trustee from the end of the AGM | Blind Low Vision NZ | 2021 |
| Dr Nicola McDowell | Founding Organisations | 2023 |
| Dr Wendy Richards | Founding Organisations | 2023 |
| Mary Schnackenberg, Secretary/Treasurer | Founding Organisations | 2023 |
| David Smith | Blind Low Vision NZ | 2022 |
| Maria Stevens, Chairperson | Kāpō Māori | 2022 |
| Karen Stobbs | BLENNZ | 2023 |
| Observers |  |  |
| Leeanne Wojtowicz (incoming trustee from the end of the AGM) | Blind Low Vision NZ | 2024 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Organisation |
| Observers |  |
| Greg Morgan | Auckland Emergency Management |
| Karen Plimmer | Former BANZAT Trustee |
| Raeleen Smith | Former BANZAT Trustee |
| Rose Wilkinson | Blind Citizens NZ |
| Clive Lansink | RNZFB Board |
| Chrissie Cowan | Kāpō Māori Aotearoa NZ |
| Tewai Halatau | Vision Pacific |
| Latoa Halatau | Vision Pacific |
| Apologies |  |
| Nicola Owen | Audio Described Aotearoa |
| Jenny McFadden | Former BANZAT Trustee |
| Natalie Stewart | Former BANZAT Trustee |
| Jonathan Godfrey | Blind Citizens NZ |
| Martine Abel-Williamson | RNZFB Board |
| Robert Greenberg | RNZFB Board |
| John Mulka | BLVNZ |
| Ron Scott | RNZFB Board |
| Linda Wright | BLVNZ |
| Paula Tesoriero | Human Rights Commission |
| Neil Jarvis | Intopia |
| Simon Latimer | Office of the Ombudsman |
| Rebekah Graham | Parents of Vision Impaired NZ |
| Jonathan Mosen | Workbridge |

# 2 In memoriam

We remembered friends in the braille sector who have passed away in the last 12 months.

In particular we remembered Bill Poole from the United Kingdom, a stalwart of British braille with a formidable international reputation. We also remembered Ian Grieve, a former Principal of Homai College.

A minute's silence was held.

# 3 Minutes

## 3.1 Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting 52, the tenth Annual General Meeting, held on 15 September 2020

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of Meeting 52, the tenth Annual General Meeting of The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust held on Tuesday 15 September 2020 be confirmed.

Moved: P. Brown. Seconded: A. Gough. (Res. 57-1).

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

Last year we were asked to survey New Zealanders about whether braille should be capitalised to honour Louis Braille. We have not achieved this, given the other priorities this year.

# 4 Highlights for the year Ended 30 June 2021

Thanks to COVID-19 we have not been able to finalise the Performance Report and have it reviewed. However we were able to share some highlights.

The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust (BANZAT) was set up in August 2010. BANZAT's purpose is to set standards and to make rulings on braille code usage within New Zealand, maintain awareness and consistency with current international developments in all braille codes, accredit practitioners involved in braille production, promote braille as the prime literacy medium for blind people and promote best practice in teaching, acquisition and distribution of braille.

We believe BANZAT has enjoyed its most successful year since the founding of the trust in 2010. Following discussions with Blind Low Vision NZ, John Mulka their Chief Executive granted BANZAT $26,000 + GST to help put the trust on a more sustainable financial footing.

Each year we have run the Trans-Tasman Certificate of Proficiency in Unified English Braille. For many years Blind Low Vision NZ has carried the costs of the Certificate including all the marking and report writing. For the 2020 Certificate examination period we were able to work out the hours involved in administering the exam. BLENNZ undertook to fully fund the costs for their 26 candidates to sit the exam, costs which are being passed on to Blind Low Vision NZ as income for them.

BANZAT's promotional activities include its Facebook page. We had 100 followers last year which has risen to 120 this week, 93 of whom are in NZ. The others are scattered around the world.

We continue to work with the International Council on English Braille as our ICEB colleagues improve and clarify the UEB code. Last October ICEB held its General Assembly over Zoom. While we missed the face to face experience of London, we enjoyed excellent presentations from many colleagues and Zoom enabled many more to attend as observers than would have been possible at a face to face conference.

BANZAT has established a Special Fund for overseas travel to ICEB meetings. In the year under review we put aside a further $3,000, making a total of $6,000 + GST in the Special Fund. This will go towards the costs of sending a delegate to the Mid-Term Executive Committee meeting in June 2022.

We held a celebration of our tenth anniversary at BLENNZ last November. There were two highlights during the celebration. We enjoyed musical entertainment from blind adults who have recently learned braille, playing and singing from braille music scores they had memorised.

We also listened to a selection of poems written by students in the braille poetry competition which drew a record number of entries. Prizes for the poetry competition were funded from the BANZAT Special Fund for children's braille competition. This was so successful that we are running another poetry competition this year.

We have held constructive meetings with founding organisations of BANZAT. We are working on a three-year strategic plan which is close to completion. One of the goals is to establish long term financial sustainability for BANZAT. We are in discussions with Blind Low Vision NZ about the 2021-2022 grant.

# 5 Election of officers

Wendy called for nominations for the role of the Chair. Maria Stevens was nominated by P. Brown, seconded by L. Coleman. Wendy asked Maria if she would accept the nomination. Maria accepted the nomination. Maria was declared the Chair of BANZAT for 2021-2022.

Wendy called for nominations for the role of the Secretary-Treasurer. Mary Schnackenberg was nominated by M. Stevens, seconded by A. Gough. Wendy asked Mary if she would accept the nomination. Mary accepted the nomination. Mary was declared the Secretary/Treasurer for the 2021-2022 year.

# 6 Bank signatories

The 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 Amanda Gough, Wendy Richards and Mary Schnackenberg.

It was resolved:

That the cheque signatories for BANZAT bank accounts for the 2021-2022 year be Amanda Gough, Wendy Richards and Mary Schnackenberg.

Moved: P. Brown. Seconded: N. McDowell. (Res. 57-2).

# 7 New business

Wendy invited our guests to raise questions and provide comment and feedback. No matters were raised.

# 8 Vote of thanks and Closure

Wendy thanked everyone for their attendance.

The meeting closed at 3:31pm.

Note: These Minutes were confirmed at the 12th Annual General Meeting held on 13 September 2022.

**Chairperson Maria Stevens**

**Date**