The Braille Authority of New Zealand

Aotearoa Trust (BANZAT)

# Confirmed Minutes of Meeting 62 of The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust, the 12th Annual General Meeting, held via Zoom, on Tuesday 13 September 2022, commencing at 3:00pm

# 1. Welcome, attendees, apologies

Wendy Richards chaired the meeting at the request of Maria Stevens. Wendy welcomed everyone to the 12th Annual General Meeting of the Trust. Trustees were in the Technology Room of the Homai Campus at BLENNZ. Observers joined over Zoom.

Wendy 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 | Founding Organisations | 2024 |
| Leyna Coleman | Blind Citizens NZ | 2024 |
| Justine Edwards | Parents of Vision Impaired | 2024 |
| Amanda Gough | BLENNZ | 2022 |
| 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 |
| Leeanne Wojtowicz | Blind Low Vision NZ | 2024 |

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| --- | --- |
| Name | Organisation |
| Observers |  |
| Raeleen Smith | former BANZAT trustee |
| Rose Wilkinson | Chief Executive Blind Citizens NZ |
| Martine Abel-Williamson, QSM | RNZFB Board of Directors |
| Clive Lansink | RNZFB Board of Directors |
| Dave Allen | Blind Sight Ltd |
| Latoa Halatau, MNZM | Vision Pacific |
| Tewai Halatau | Vision Pacific |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Organisation |
| Apologies |  |
| Nicola Owen | Audio Described Aotearoa |
| Chantelle Griffiths | former BANZAT Trustee |
| Peter McGlinchey | former BANZAT trustee |
| Karen Plimmer | former BANZAT trustee |
| Marion Satherley | former BANZAT trustee |
| Natalie Stewart | former BANZAT trustee |
| Dr Jonathan Godfrey, ONZM | Blind Citizens NZ |
| Anja Gibbs | Blind Low Vision NZ Accessible Formats Service |
| Peter Hine | Blind Low Vision NZ |
| John Mulka | Chief Executive Blind Low Vision NZ |
| Ron Scott | RNZFB Board Director |
| Neil Jarvis | Intopia |
| Simon Latimer | Office of the Ombudsman |
| Rebekah Graham | Chief Executive Parents of Vision Impaired NZ |
| Paula Tesoriero, MNZM | Chief Executive Whaikaha Ministry of Disabled People |
| Jonathan Mosen | Chief Executive Workbridge Inc. |

# 2. In memoriam

Here we remember friends in the braille sector who have passed away in the last 12 months.

In particular we remembered Anita Gillbanks, a deafblind braille reader. Anita taught us about the deprivation of information for deafblind people and the inspiration she received from literacy through braille.

Ruth Wedde was a Resource Teacher Vision Coordinator of immersion courses. She was passionate about literacy through braille and tactile graphics.

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

# 3. Minutes

## 3.1. Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting 57, the 11th Annual General Meeting, held on 14 September 2021.

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of Meeting 57, the 11th Annual General Meeting of The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust held on Tuesday 14 September 2021 be confirmed.

Moved: M. Schnackenberg. Seconded: P. Brown. (Res. 62-1).

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

No matters were raised.

# 4. Highlights for the year Ended 30 June 2022

Unfortunately we have not been able to finalise the Performance Report and have it reviewed. However we do have some highlights to share with you about our activities in the year to 30 June 2022.

We wrote and completed the first year of BANZAT's three-year Strategic Plan which will conclude on 30 June 2024. Trustees shared highlights of the plan and the outcomes.

**Vision**: High quality braille is available and accessible to all people who use it for work, education, or life.

**Mission**: To encourage widespread usage of braille by anyone for whom it will be beneficial by:

• Promoting a positive message about Braille.

In Raising awareness of literacy through Braille we again ran a competition for children drawing in ten learners. In the current year we have considerably extended the awareness raising into a Braille Challenge and we look forward to reporting a much larger inclusion of learners at next year's AGM.

• Ensure the code is updated to meet the needs of users and reflect current trends in print.

Ensure braille codes are relevant to bi-cultural environment. Given this meeting is being held during Māori Language Week, we have an objective to partner with Kāpō Māori Aotearoa in the current year to research whether there should be a Grade 2 (contracted) Braille code for te reo Māori.

• Setting and monitoring production standards, and

• Collaborating with local and international partners.

We attended over Zoom the meeting of the Australian Braille Authority in May. In June we attended over Zoom the Executive Committee meeting of the International Council on English Braille.

Locally we reached out to New Zealand Braille users to survey them about whether the word “Braille” should be capitalised at all times. We had 117 responses, 60% of whom answered “yes”.

**Values**:

• Access: All New Zealanders who require braille to access information have the right to braille literacy.

• Equity: All New Zealanders who are blind, deafblind, and vision impaired have the right to equal access to print information in Braille.

• Sharing: A spirit of co-operation and resource sharing is fostered among Trustees and those it seeks to assist.

• Respect: Consumer consultation is practised with respect to all aspects of the Trust's work.

# 5. Election of officers

Wendy Called for nominations for the role of the Chair. Maria Stevens was nominated by L. Coleman, seconded by P. Brown. Maria accepted the nomination. As there were no further nominations, Wendy declared Maria the Chair of BANZAT for the 2022-2023 year.

Wendy Called for nominations for the role of the Secretary-Treasurer. Mary Schnackenberg was nominated by L. Wojtowicz, seconded by J. Edwards. As there were no further nominations, Wendy declared Mary the Secretary-Treasurer for the coming 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 2022-2023 year be Amanda Gough, Wendy Richards and Mary Schnackenberg.

Moved: W. Richards. Seconded: P. Brown. (Res. 62-2).

# 7. New business

On behalf of Blind Citizens NZ, their Chief Executive, Rose Wilkinson, congratulated BANZAT on the work it does. She said the decision to capitalise the word Braille is awesome. She asked when there would be a media release. Wendy replied this would be the next step in the process.

A member asked Martine Abel-Williamson, in her role as President of the World Blind Union, if she could uptake the meeting about the World Braille Council. Martine thanked BANZAT for inviting her to write about Louis Braille which was released on the BANZAT website on 4 January 2022. Her article was shared with the World Blind Union. Martine said the World Braille Council is to be led by Kim Charlson from the United States. Representatives on the WBC are being sought to the council can proceed to agree on and implement their programme for the coming quadrennium. Funding is needed to upgrade the Louis braille Museum in Coupvray now that people are travelling again. There is a real need for low cost braille devices in developing countries. There is also a need for indigenous languages to be produced in braille.

# 8. Vote of thanks and Closure

In closing, Wendy thanked everyone for joining the AGM and the trustees for achieving our goals.

The meeting closed at 3:34pm.

Note: These Minutes were confirmed at the 13th Annual General Meeting held on 19 September 2023.

**Chairperson Maria Stevens**

**Date**