The Braille Authority of New Zealand

Aotearoa Trust (BANZAT)

### “BANZAT Building Better Braille”

# Confirmed Minutes of Meeting 65 of The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust, held on Wednesday 5 April 2023, in the Technology Room, BLENNZ, 2 McVilly Road, Manurewa, and over Zoom, commencing at 10:05am.

# 1. Welcome, attendees, apologies

Chair Maria Stevens welcomed everyone to the meeting. In particular she welcomed Fiona Hansen from BLENNZ. Maria began the roll call.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| 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 | 2025 |
| Dr Nicola McDowell (Zoom) | 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 from 11:43 | Blind Low Vision NZ | 2024 |
| Observers |  |  |
| Fiona Hansen | BLENNZ |  |
| Apologies |  |  |
| Leeanne for lateness. |  |  |

# 2. Reflections to ponder about BANZAT

In October 2022, one of the BANZAT trustees emailed the group with some reflections about the role and priorities for BANZAT. Clarifying BANZAT's core purpose is particularly important as we review the Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) the trust has with our five founding organisations. The BANZAT Trust Deed and the BANZAT three-year Strategic Plan are key documents. We acknowledged that some trustees have been under considerable professional and personal stress over recent months.

Our 5 April meeting was set to begin at the earlier time of 10:00am so we could freely discuss the email and renew our purpose and direction.

We agreed that BANZAT carries out a unique role in the New Zealand blindness sector. We are the only organisation focused on standards setting for Braille production, accreditation of producers, distribution of Braille and literacy through Braille and monitoring what is happening. We do this drawing on our connections to and relationships with the International Council on English Braille and the Australian Braille Authority. Appointees to the trust each bring a unique perspective to the trust's Braille goals. As a collective, trustees have considerable knowledge and experience about Literacy through Braille. In summary, BANZAT's sole reason to exist is Braille, indeed “BANZAT Building Better Braille”.

Trustees acknowledged that, in recent months, BANZAT has become involved in advocacy about Braille services to children, access by adults to the children's Braille library, changes to the adult Braille library, and significant reductions in staffing of the Braille component of the Accessible Formats Service at BLVNZ. Trustees acknowledged that we do not have the people resources to engage in the advocacy that we recognise has been needed.

Discussion then turned to the unique strengths, relationships and partnerships the trustees bring to the BANZAT table. Individually through sharing at the BANZAT table, we maintain a picture of what is happening in Braille in New Zealand. Our MOUs may be strengthened to provide a stronger base for partnerships that can be more influential, informing advocacy and action for end users of all ages. Examples of opportunities that exist for this include, but are not limited to: the Blind Citizens NZ Braille Special Interest Group; PVI about Braille for children; and Kāpō Māori Aotearoa to explore the possibility of a contracted Braille code for te reo Māori. If KMA does want this to be progressed we should collaborate with them to produce a te reo Māori Braille code that will work for the whole community of readers.

Thoughts about the MOUs and the process to update them were raised.

We were asked to share after each meeting a summary of points discussed and decisions or recommendations made with the founding organisations.

It was agreed that:

Existing MoUs be sent to all trustees;

A subcommittee of Maria, Mary and Leyna be set up;

Trustees provide feedback on current MoUs by 19 May;

A new MoU be drafted made up of an agreement common to all founding organisations setting out BANZAT's purpose with a unique schedule for each organisation;

In the schedule specify the two-way conduit and the people responsible for ensuring no surprises and ensuring both parties are kept informed;

Subcommittee revise MoUs and send to trustees by 9 June;

MoUs be finalised at BANZAT meeting on 20 June;

Updated MoUs be sent to chief executives of founding organisations by 30 June;

Finalised MoUs be in place prior to the 19 September BANZAT AGM. (Res. 65-1).

Discussion then turned to how BANZAT should better relate to the blindness community of current and potential Braille users and their wider whānau.

It was agreed:

That engagement with wider blindness sector Braille end users be referred to the BANZAT Comms group. (Res. 65-2).

# 3. Minutes

## 3.1. Unconfirmed Minutes Meeting 64 on 23 November 2022.

It was resolved:

That the Minutes of Meeting 64 of The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust held on Wednesday 23 November 2022 be confirmed.

Moved: M. Stevens. Seconded: A. Gough. (Res. 65-3).

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

Paul reported that the Youth Library process is working very well for him and the Librarian is providing an excellent service. He said it's also working well for another adult Braille borrower.

# 4. Correspondence

Mary went through the items of correspondence received or sent since the circulation of the Agenda on 3 April 2023. The full Correspondence Schedule is in Attachment A to these Minutes.

It was agreed:

That inwards correspondence be received and outwards correspondence be endorsed. (Res. 65-4).

# 5. Finance

### Bank Transactions

The table below shows BANZAT's ASB Bank account transactions since the last meeting. Figures include GST except for international currency transactions which are exempt GST.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Date | Description | Amount |
|  | **ASB Bank account transactions** |  |
| 23/11/2022 | **Opening balance ASB Bank account** | **$37,680.85** |
| 30/12/2022 | To Charities Services, annual return filing fee | $51.11 |
| 23/03/2023 | To ICEB, USD 500.00, 2023 membership fees, plus ASB Bank fee | $827.74 |
| 24/03/2023 To The Bank of Nova Scotia, bank fee on ICEB payment | $8.12 |  |
| 27/03/2023 | To BLENNZ, final payment for prizes for The Braille Challenge | $1,080.00 |
| 27/03/2023 | To A I Comms, Routine administration April, May, June 2022 and reimbursements | $1,560.25 |
| 27/03/2023 | To A I Comms, routine administration July, August, September 2022 and reimbursements | $600.68 |
| 31/03/2023 | To M A ZAZA, final payment to fundraiser | $600.00 |
| 31/03/2023 | From The National Lotteries Committee, part funding of the Training course for Braille producers | +$34,500.00 |
| 05/04/2023 | **Closing balance ASB Bank account** | **$67,452.95** |
|  | Made up of |  |
| 05/04/2023 | The St Anne's Trust for the North Shore Sight Impaired Fund, prizes Braille reading competitions for children, balance as at 30 June 2022 $2,168.49 + GST | $2,493.76 |
| 05/04/2023 | ICEB Travel Fund, balance at 30 June 2022 $9,000.00 + GST | $10,350.00 |
| 05/04/2023 | National Lotteries Committee Training Course for Braille Producers $30,000.00 + GST | $34,500.00 |
| 05/04/2023 | General Funds $17,486.25 + GST | $20,109.19 |

### Commentary – Mary Schnackenberg

The BANZAT Performance Report was submitted prior to the due date of 31 December 2022 and we have paid the online fee. We also have an email trail showing Maria Stevens as Chair gave permission for her electronic signature to be affixed to the report.

We made the second payment to BLENNZ of $1,080.00 including GST for the prizes in The Braille Challenge. We will transfer $1,480.00 excluding GST out of the special fund at 30 June 2023 giving a balance of $688.49 excluding GST in the special fund.

We paid the 2023 membership fees for ICEB of uSD 500.00. Including bank fees this totals $835.86.

We paid our fundraiser for her work. We have been rewarded by a grant from the National Lotteries Committee of $30,000.00 + GST for the Training Course for Braille Producers.

The Chair of the Australian Braille Authority, Jordie Howell, has invited Maria Stevens to explain the development of Māori Braille. We will discuss this request and the costs to send Maria Stevens to the Round Table later in this Agenda.

A I Comms spent 9.65 hours on routine administration from 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022. From 1 October 2022 to 31 march 2023 some 25 hours has been spent on routine administration. This has not yet been charged. This gives a total of 34.65 hours from 1 July to 31 March. This is against a budget of 80 hours for the full year to 30 June 2023.

We have in our general fund $17,486.25 + GST. For the 2022-2023 year we are asking BLVNZ for a grant of $22,000 + GST. Although there has been a delay in obtaining the grant, I am confident we are holding enough funds to meet BANZAT's expenses to 30 June 2023.

The request for the Annual Grant was submitted on 4 April 2023. We await a response.

It was resolved:

That the Treasurer's report be received, and that payments be approved.

Moved: M. Schnackenberg. Seconded: P. Brown. (Res. 65-5).

# 6. Accessible Format Service contract with Ministry of Education

The contract held by BLVNZ with the Ministry of Education to produce accessible format materials for students and manage the Youth library on the BLENNZ Homai Campus ended at 30 June 2022. Service from the Youth Library ceased on 1 July. BANZAT wrote to the RNZFB Board about the unacceptable treatment of blind and low vision students by BLVNZ management. At its meeting on 3 September 2022 the RNZFB Board considered our letter In Committee. We await a reply.

After more than 37 years of service Maria Stevens left her role at Blind Low Vision NZ in March. She has been appointed to a new role as Lead Accessible Formats Specialist at BLENNZ.

Maria told us the BLENNZ staff have been so welcoming, and this is a lovely place to work. She looks back on the 36 years that she truly enjoyed at BLVNZ.

Karen affirmed that “it's great to have you here.”

# 7. Trustee appointments

Trustees whose terms end at the September 2023 AGM are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Appointed by | Term Expires |
| Dr Nicola McDowell | Founding Organisations | 2023 |
| Dr Wendy Richards | Founding Organisations | 2023 |
| Mary Schnackenberg, Secretary/Treasurer | Founding Organisations | 2023 |
| Karen Stobbs | BLENNZ | 2023 |

Each trustee is eligible for reappointment.

Karen advised that Fiona Hansen will be succeeding her as one of the BLENNZ trustees, working alongside the other BLENNZ appointee, Amanda Gough.

It was agreed that by 30 April BANZAT will issue a call for applications for the positions appointed by the trustees of the founding organisations. Applications should be emailed to [chair@banzat.org.nz](chair%40banzat.org.nz), closing on 30 June. This will give the appointing trustees time to make their decisions and advise successful applicants in time for them to attend the AGM on 19 September.

# 8. BANZAT Strategic Plan 2021-2024

## 8.1. Communications

Working group: Wendy (Convenor), Paul, Amanda, Leeanne, with Karen to shoulder-tap Karen G.

Identify BANZAT audience and best way to communicate with them. Wendy advised that following discussions the audience got too large so clarity was requested around the purpose of BANZAT.

Investigate need for lower level Braille qualifications. Not yet progressed.

In partnership with Kāpō Māori Aotearoa NZ, explore the need for Grade 2 (contracted) Braille code for Te Reo Māori. Not yet progressed.

## 8.2. Collaboration

a. Revise MOU's with founding organisations. A way forward is in Point 1 of these Minutes.

d. Seek consensus and costs for viability to host ICEB (International Council on English Braille) general assembly in 2024.

Assembly subcommittee: Maria, Mary, Paul, Wendy with others to be shoulder tapped.

Maria and Mary advise that we have checked two hotels in the city and identified The Grand Millennium on the corner of Mayoral Drive and Vincent Street as our preferred option. ICEB needs to decide their preferred dates in 2024.

It was agreed:

That Maria and Mary prepare a paper for BANZAT outlining the six-day programme, cultural items, numbers of international attendees, numbers of volunteers and their roles, registrations website, benefits for NZ observers, with budget;

That Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People be approached to sponsor New Zealand blind, low vision and deafblind conssumers to attend;

That Minister for Disability Issues or Governor-General be approached to open the General Assembly. (Res. 65-6).

We broke for lunch at 12:21. When we resumed at 12:57 we warmly thanked BLENNZ for the tasty lunch.

## 8.3. Financial: Establish a sustainable financial model

a) Identify specific projects for alternative funding (e.g. training course for Braille producers).

Paul has emailed trustees with the great news that the National Lotteries Committee has granted $30,000.00 + GST for the Producer Training Programme. The funds were deposited in the ASB Bank Account on 31 March 2023. The project has to be completed by 14 March 2024. Paul reminded us that we had requested $45,000 + GST for the course. He has identified a potential additional source of funding for any course participant who holds a Community Services Card.

It was agreed:

That a subcommittee be formed of Leeanne, Maria, Paul, and David (seconding Leyna when necessary) to plan and execute the training course reporting to each BANZAT meeting. (Res. 65-7).

Paul told us that Fundraiser Agatha has said we may need another resolution to apply to the Gaming Trust for The Braille Challenge. Our earlier resolution was dated 31 October 2022.

It was resolved:

That BANZAT apply to the Aotearoa Gaming Trust for a grant of $3,000.00 in order to hold a Braille Challenge, an annual community event for children and young people designed to promote the use of Braille in New Zealand.

Moved: M. Schnackenberg. Seconded: P. Brown. (Res. 65-8).

b. Employ someone to undertake fundraising

Working group: Paul (Convenor), Maria, Leyna.

Because our fundraising efforts have proven very time-consuming, we need a discussion, at our 20 June meeting when we set the budget, about whether we should continue this work in the 2023-2024 year. If we decide not to continue fundraising we will need to tell the founding organisations who encouraged BANZAT to fundraise for projects.

It was suggested that BANZAT might fundraise, and/or partner with, for example, BLENNZ. The Braille Challenge has status because it has BANZAT support.

Perhaps BANZAT should retain a fundraising amount in the budget as an option in 2023-2024. Should projects be undertaken by trustees as volunteers, do we pay ourselves, or do we partner?

# 9. ICEB and BANZAT Code Maintenance Committee

## 9.1. ICEB events

The Zoom meeting of the Executive Committee held on 8 November was taken up mostly by an excellent presentation about research into learning Braille from Robert Englebretson, Cay Holbrook, and Simon Fischer-Baum. Drawing on research into the writing of Braille by seven to ten-year-olds in a North American competition, it became clear why so many Braille users make errors in six-key Braille entry. Their findings will influence decisions the ICEB Code Maintenance Committee will be making about contractions and abbreviations and the clarity of the UEB Rulebook.

Kathy Riessen has resigned as ICEB Code Maintenance Officer. She has been succeeded by Matthew Horspool from the UK.

## 9.2. BANZAT CMC

Membership of the BANZAT Code Maintenance Committee is Martine Abel-Williamson, Paul Brown, Leyna Coleman, Chantelle Griffiths, Fozia Mannon, and Maria Stevens (Chair). We review this Committee's membership in November each year. We did not make a decision at our November 2022 meeting.

Maria has not had time to progress this.

# 10. ABA and Round Table

Maria Stevens left the room at 1:37pm.

The 2023 Conference of the Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities is being held in person from Saturday 6 May to Tuesday 9 May in Sydney. The Australian Braille Authority (ABA) is a subcommittee of the Round Table and is meeting on Saturday 6 May.

The Chair of ABA, Jordie Howell, has emailed that ABA is holding a workshop on the transcription of first nations languages on Monday afternoon 8 May. She has asked if BANZAT can speak about how the Māori code was developed. We need to decide if BANZAT can fund Maria Stevens' attendance at the Round Table. The Treasurer advises that BANZAT has sufficient funds to meet Maria's travel, accommodation and meal costs for four nights to attend the Round Table. Indicative costs are:

Air fares Auckland-Sydney-return $900.00;

Accommodation at the Sydney conference hotel four nights includes breakfast $1,200.00;

Round Table Registration four days $860.00;

Dinners x 3 $210.00;

Insurance $99;

Total $3,269.00.

Following discussion, during which Karen generously offered to assist BANZAT with funding as BLENNZ also needs Maria to attend the Round Table:

It was resolved:

That BANZAT will work in partnership with BLENNZ to fund Chair Maria Stevens to attend the 2023 Conference of the Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities from 6 May to 9 May inclusive at an approximate cost of $3,269.00.

Moved: P. Brown. Seconded: L. Coleman. (Res. 65-9).

Maria returned to the room at 1:46pm. She was told of the outcome of the discussion and she warmly thanked BANZAT and BLENNZ for their support.

# 11. Trans-Tasman Certificate of Proficiency in UEB

When applications closed on Friday 2 September, we had received one application. The candidate passed the Certificate.

In her role as the New Zealand Examiner, Maria will ask BLVNZ for the Trans-Tasman Certificate materials and spreadsheet of candidates who have passed the Certificate.

During the Round Table, Maria will have the chance to talk with ABA about their ongoing support for the Certificate in Australia.

# 12. The 2022 Braille Challenge for Learners

Amanda reported that in 2022 there were 54 participants in The Braille Challenge. 47 successfully completed the Challenge. Each had challenge goals that were a stretch, but realistic. Ages ranged from 4 to 21. Goals ranged from learning to recognise their own name in Braille through to transcribing the Latin Mass and learning Irish Braille. It turned out that The Braille Challenge was a massive admin task.

Trustees warmly congratulated Amanda and all the teachers, whānau and everyone involved in achieving such great outcomes and experiences for the students. The non-teaching trustees encouraged the teachers and BLENNZ to decide what would work best for this year. There will be some funds left in the BANZAT Special Fund for prizes and BLENNZ is undertaking to provide further financial support if required.

Nicola asked if BLENNZ could link one of their Braille students to her to tell their story about The Braille Challenge to the Massey Course?

Amanda was asked if she could write up a range of Braille Challenge goals that could be shared with founding organisations and in the BANZAT Annual Performance Report.

# 13. Promotion, digital engagement and communications

Paul reported that Facebook is ongoing. Posts are regularly followed by 120 people.

# 14. Capitalisation of Braille

Using the list compiled by Amanda, Paul and Mary, we emailed 341 addresses on 23 December 2022. There were just five bounces, an extremely successful mailout. Publicity was on BANZAT's website on 4 January, in the ICEB Newsletter and on Jonathan Mosen's weekly internet radio show. CCS Disability Action's Librarian wrote to us positively and said she would update references to Braille on their website. An accessibility consultant at Be. Lab said he would encourage the capitalisation of Braille in New Zealand signage. Three Braille users also wrote to us positively.

# 15. Strategic Framework for the Provision of Braille Services

This initiative is led by Blind Citizens NZ. Their Executive Officer met with us early last year. We have not had an update since then.

The 13 September BANZAT Minutes record that the Auckland Branch of Blind Citizens NZ has submitted a paper to its 2022 National Conference about Braille. We can report the paper was well received and strongly supported when it was discussed at National Conference in October.

# 16. BLVNZ Adult Braille Library

This was in Parnell but has been moved to Homai. New shelving is being added to the building.

# 17. Accreditation of producers and professional development

We need to update Policy 7 as agreed in September and place it on the website as a Word document and also in HTML. In addition Wendy has written an excellent quick guide to accreditation which will be published.

# 18. Reports from trustees

• Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ): Amanda Gough, Karen Stobbs.

• Blind Citizens NZ: Leyna Coleman reported verbally about the establishment of the Braille Special Interests Network. Chantelle Griffiths will convene the first session.

• Blind Low Vision NZ: David Smith, Leeanne Wojtowicz.

• Kāpō Māori Aotearoa: Maria Stevens.

• Massey University Postgraduate Diploma in Specialist Teaching Blind and Low Vision: Dr Nicola McDowell. Student numbers are rising. One student is undertaking a Masters degree this year.

• Music Braille: Dr Wendy Richards. Two adult musicians are testing different Music Braille translation software and providing feedback to developers. The adult musicians retreat held in January this year was again very successful.

• Parents of Vision Impaired NZ Inc.: Justine Edwards.

It was agreed:

That the above written and verbal reports be received. (Res. 65-10).

# 19. New business

BLENNZ is changing the colour of the Braille postal bags, a consequence of the change of contract for the Youth Library from BLVNZ to BLENNZ.

# 20. Schedule of meetings and closure

The dates for our meetings in June, September and November were confirmed. They are:

Tuesday, 20 June, BANZAT meeting 66, BLENNZ and Zoom.

Tuesday, 19 September, BANZAT Meetings 67 and 68 (AGM), BLENNZ and Zoom.

Tuesday, 21 November, BANZAT Meeting 69, BLENNZ and Zoom.

The meeting dates and venues are listed in Attachment B to these Minutes.

The meeting closed at 2:51pm.

NOTE: These Minutes were confirmed at Meeting 66 on Tuesday 21 June 2023.

**Chairperson Maria Stevens**

**Date**

# Attachment A: Correspondence schedule Meeting 65, 5 April 2023

Administration:

Several sets of Minutes emailed to trustees;

Emails among trustees and with Janny Cooke to set and book at BLENNZ the 2023 BANZAT meeting dates;

From and to Chantelle Griffiths re Observing at Next BANZAT Meeting.

Income and expenditure:

To and from Peter Hine re the review of BANZAT Performance Report with accounts, receiving his approval;

From Charities Services with Annual Return reminder;

From Charities Services with receipt for payment of online fee;

From Charities Services with Newsletter December 2022;

From Charities Services re Cyclone Gabrielle;

From Charities Services with Newsletter April 2023;

From and to ICEB Treasurer Jen Goulden re 2023 ICEB Membership fees;

From Inland Revenue with advice that the BANZAT GST Return is due on Monday 8 May 2023;

See Item 5 above.

Annual grant 2022-2023

To John Mulka with request for annual grant of $22,000 + GST for the 2022-2023 year;

Accessible Formats Service

From Sharon Goldsmith with Advertisement, Lead Accessible Format Specialist at BLENNZ, forwarded to BANZAT trustees;

See Item 6 above.

Trustee appointments and correspondence:

To John Mulka re Appointment of one Blind Low Vision NZ trustee to BANZAT;

To Chrissie Cowan re Appointment of Kāpō Māori Aotearoa Trustee to BANZAT;

See Item 7 above.

Strategic Plan

From M A Zaza (Atatha, our fundraiser) with invoice for services;

From Paul Brown forwarding notification from the National Lotteries Committee of a grant of $34,500.00 including GST for the Braille Producers Training Programme;

From Paul Brown with Handover of Internal Affairs portal and info on end of grant report;

See Item 8 above.

ABA and Round Table:

From Jordie Howell, Chair of the Australian Braille Authority, asking for reports of member organisations for the ABA Annual Report;

To Jordie Howell, providing BANZAT's report;

From Jordie Howell, asking if BANZAT can speak about the development of Māori Braille to an ABA workshop on 8 May about Braille in indigenous languages;

To Chris Harrop of You Travel seeking travel costs for Maria Stevens to attend the Round Table;

From Round Table Administration with 2023 Round Table Conference - Registrations are Open;

From Round Table Administration with 2023 Round Table Conference - Program is now Available;

From Round Table Administration with Notice of Annual General Meeting of the Round Table;

See Item 10 above.

Capitalisation of Braille:

Emails among trustees finalising the wording of the mailout;

341 emails sent about the capitalisation of Braille;

From and to Peter Rawlings of Be. Lab asking about the correct spelling of Braille, providing an explanation of the BANZAT recommendation which he will honour in advice to New Zealand Braille sign makers;

Positive replies to the Press Release about the Capitalisation of Braille from Amanda Stevens of the Deafblind Association of New Zealand, Julie Woods, Vaughan Dodd at Whaikaha Ministry of Disabled people, Melanie Stassen Librarian at CCS Disability Action, The Electoral Commission, Tina Hodges at the Ministry of Social Development;

See Item 14 above.

From Wendy Richards with Music school song to brighten your day.

From Wendy Richards with a link to a YouTube song with words and music created by music Braille students.

From Wendy Richards with 2023 Braille music retreat sampler.

From Chantelle Griffiths with the link to The Aotearoa Braille Music Initiative survey to support their application to the Cultural Sector Regeneration Fund.

From Rebecca Graham with Newsletters from Parents of Vision Impaired for December, February and March.

From the ICEVI Secretariat with ICEVI message for the World Braille Day - 4 January 2023.

# Attachment B: Dates

This refers to Item 20 above.

## BANZAT Dates for the Diary

Wednesday, 5 April 2023, BANZAT Meeting 65, BLENNZ and Zoom.

Sunday 7 to Tuesday 9 May, Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities, Rydges Sydney Central, 28 Albion Street, Surry Hills, Sydney, in person.

Tuesday, 20 June, BANZAT meeting 66, BLENNZ and Zoom.

Tuesday, 19 September, BANZAT Meetings 67 and 68 (AGM), BLENNZ and Zoom.

Tuesday, 21 November, BANZAT Meeting 69, BLENNZ and Zoom.

Thursday, 4 January 2024, World Braille Day, 215 years since 4 January 1809, birthday of Louis Braille.

## Historic dates

1989, The Braille Authority of New Zealand was established.

1994, The Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind became an associate member of the Braille Authority of North America. In 2016 BANZAT did not seek ongoing associate membership for financial reasons.

29 November 2005, New Zealand adopted Unified English Braille by unanimous resolution of the Braille Authority of New Zealand.

10 August 2010, Meeting 1 of The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust (BANZAT).

13 September 2011, Meeting 7, BANZAT first Annual General Meeting.

18 September 2012, Meeting 12, BANZAT second Annual General Meeting.

17 September 2013, Meeting 17, BANZAT third Annual General Meeting and launch of the Hall of Honour.

9 September 2014, Meeting 22, BANZAT Fourth Annual General Meeting.

30 June 2015, the first round of applications closed for accreditation as an individual braille producer working in New Zealand.

8 September 2015, Meeting 27, BANZAT Fifth Annual General Meeting, with announcement of the accreditation framework for braille producers working in New Zealand.

6 September 2016, Meeting 32, BANZAT Sixth Annual General Meeting, with launch of pamphlet “Braille Producer Accreditation Information”.

5 September 2017, Meeting 37, BANZAT Seventh Annual General Meeting, with Annual Performance Report complying with substantially revised requirements of Charities Services.

11 September 2018, Meeting 42, BANZAT Eighth Annual General Meeting.

10 September 2019, Meeting 47, BANZAT Ninth Annual General Meeting.

15 September 2020, Meeting 52, BANZAT Tenth Annual General Meeting, held via Zoom because of COVID-19 restrictions.

17 November 2020, BANZAT Tenth anniversary celebration held at BLENNZ.

14 September 2021, Meeting 57, BANZAT 11th Annual General Meeting, held via Zoom because of COVID-19 restrictions.

13 September 2022, Meeting 62, BANZAT 12th Annual General Meeting, held at BLENNZ and via Zoom.