**COMMITTEE REPORTS 2014 AGM**

President’s Report

Back in 2012 I wrote that ‘issues surrounding incorporation were raised’ and ‘It is hoped that we move a little closer to finalising this, one way or the other.’ Of course this ‘Inc-ing’ has occurred. Done and dusted. And due to the rules and requirements related to this new attachment the Committee has grappled with a number of international phone conferences over this past year. Occasionally a member on the line disappears back into the ether, but modern communications soon restores connection. By year next we will truly be a modern age Committee by skyping each other.

And here I must thank Dr Chris Tiffin (Secretary) for all his work and management, and Andrew Sergeant for tackling the Treasury business so quickly, and competently. Andrew’s audited report will be tabled at the AGM. Thanks also to the Council for their support. There has been a little traffic this year and input from those concerned is always appreciated. On this representative note, we have Council vacancies in WA and ACT. We will endeavour to fill these positions.

The website www.bsanz.org is now well established and members are encouraged to contribute to it. David Large is more than happy to include any postings. Thanks to David for his work in all this. Incidentally, he deserves hearty congratulations for a successful outcome with his PhD.

Script & Print continues to appear through the office of Dr Shef Rogers, editor. His report is attached. Of particular significance is that Script & Print is available in digital form via Australian Public Affairs Full Text (APA-FT). And through this facility it is amazing to see the typewriter font of the 1970s change to the much more pleasing style of today. The fact that recently some 19,000 downloads were achieved of the uploaded S&P issues is also extremely gratifying. Thanks again to David Large for this work. The B*roadsheet* has also appeared thanks to Chris Tiffin; this sort of information will no doubt be transferred to a blog in time.

As you all know, the BSANZ Inc conference for 2014 is in Canberra, 27-28 November. The theme of ‘Bibliographica’ has attracted a number of excellent sounding papers from a wide range of individuals. And following the pattern of previous years, Wednesday 26 November will be Rare Book Librarians’ day, culminating in an evening event which will open the BSANZ conference. The keynote speaker for the conference is Colin Steele, ex-Bodleian Library, Oxford and the Australian National University Library. It is also with great pleasure that the BSANZ Inc has awarded a travel bursary of $300 to Jean McBain to attend this year’s conference. A letter of congratulations has been sent to her on behalf of BSANZ Inc.

It is also pleasing to note that collegiality continues with the inclusion of the Australian and New Zealand Association of Antiquarian Booksellers (ANZAAB) at our conference. They will host a pop-up book fair on the first day of conference; excellent synergies.

It is with sadness to report that the BSANZ lost three stalwart members this past year, including two Past-Presidents of the Society: John Emmerson, a Melbourne barrister and bibliophile; Victor Crittenden, librarian and proprietor of Mulini Press in Canberra; and Bill Thorn, librarian, printer and publisher of Canberra. On behalf of BSANZ I offer condolences to the families of each. Full obituaries will follow.

Looking Ahead

And the BSANZ conference for 2015? I am pleased to report that Anthony Tedeschi, VP of the Society and rare books librarian at the University of Melbourne, has taken on the task of steering us back to Melbourne. I recommend that we take this offer up. And Chris Tiffin – in one of his emails – has also asked about future locations in 2016 and 2017. Hopefully by the end of the AGM, these venues can be sorted.

It is also pleasing to note that the Committee will recommend to the AGM that the membership and subscription rates for 2015 remain unchanged. This is excellent news, and hopefully it will attract more members to our Society. This is my old ‘chestnut’ – the need for more members to invigorate the Society and ensure its longevity. This continues to be my personal challenge: to cajole fellow scholars, librarians, bibliographers, book historians, etc, to join.

And to further promote our Society, it has been decided to invest in a portable pull-up banner that can be displayed at our conferences or at other events at which we are represented. The banner will feature the Society’s name, logo and web details. This sort of presence indicator is a good thing.

I wish members a successful conference, enjoyable holidays, and a bibliographically satisfying 2015.

Donald Kerr

President, BSANZ Inc

November 2014

Editor’s Report 2014

*Script & Print*

After five years, I am beginning to come to grips with the editorial role and timetables. I have been overseas for the second half of the year, but thanks to the skills of Jo Oranje, our proofreader and generally incredibly able departmental assistant, the production and distribution of the journal have gone on much as if I were in Dunedin, and having a sufficient number of submissions to be able to work a bit ahead made it possible to plan out issues 3 and 4 even before I left Dunedin.

By the time you read this, or at least by the end of the year, I hope that we will have the full run of the *Bulletin*’s issues online on our website. I’d like to thank David Large for his immense effort on this task, and the Society for providing very modest funding for David.

Your editor also served on a panel at SHARP in Antwerp in September this year, along with editors from B*ook History*, *PBSA*, two Canadian book history journals, *Publishing History* and (in absentia) *The Library*. It was fascinating to hear how each journal regards itself as having a distinctive audience and tradition. Most of us felt less in competition with one another than in vaguely parallel tracks. *Script & Print* probably relies most heavily on its editor for all the tasks that some journals distribute to various firms or individuals, but it is also the best-looking of the journals (thanks again, Sydney Shep, for the makeover) and probably the most illustrated, though the online Canadian journal has the most freedom in that regard.

This year has brought a change of system for managing the mailing list, with that duty shifting from the Treasurer to the Secretary. A few slips in the posting of issue 3 should be sorted for issue 4. Subscriber numbers are holding steady in the mid-180s, though the loss of two stalwart members, John Emmerson and Victor Crittenden, cannot be offset simply by new members. Nonetheless, the range and appeal of the journal, along with the warmth and engagement of our annual conferences, seem to be attracting new readers.

Costs are holding relatively steady, and so long as the special NZ postage rate remains in effect we will be able to operate on the current subscription income. Should that rate change, we may need to consider other options for production and distribution. The Council will also need to determine just how current it wishes our website to be; I have heard suggestions for a gap of anywhere from one to five years between the current issue and the most recent issue online. I personally favour a narrower gap, because our good material reaches many more readers digitally, but I realise it is subscribers who are paying for the production and we will continue to need that income if we wish to produce a printed journal.

Finally, I would like to thank the journal’s active editorial board. They all respond promptly to requests to referee and are generous with their time and critical insights, insights that greatly improve every essay we accept.

All of the editors at SHARP were asked what they would most like as editors, and to a person we all said we would welcome more feedback on our journals. So please don’t hesitate to send me any thoughts you may have about *Script & Print* (shef.rogers@otago.ac.nz)

Shef Rogers

Webmaster’s Report

The contents of the BSANZ site have been updated to reflect the Society’s incorporation and the consequent changes in naming and membership.

*Script & Print* back issues

This year the Society has funded the digitising of the backrun of *Script & Print* and its predecessor, The Bulletin, and their mounting on the webpage. All issues of *Script & Print* from 2005 to 2010 have now been indexed and uploaded. The indexing and digitising of *Bulletin* issues from 1970 to 2004 are almost complete, and they will be online shortly.

While our analytics are not sufficiently sophisticated to identify which issues and articles are the most frequently accessed, we do have gross statistics for this section of the website. Since 1 January 2014 we have had over 19,000 downloads from the *Script & Print* back issues.

Traffic

Traffic on the site from January to August averaged roughly 375 unique visitors per month (based on individual IP addresses). In the last two months this number increased dramatically to 700 unique visitors per month probably because of the upcoming conference.

NewsBlog

Members are reminded that the News section of the Society’s webpage contains notices of conferences, prizes and publications relevant to bibliography and book history. Members may submit relevant material for posting there. Send items of interest (CFPs, related conference or symposia information, upcoming lectures or new books ) to the Webmaster at david.large@otago.ac.nz for inclusion in the website’s ‘News’ page.

David Large