**Minutes of the Meeting of the Management Committee of Religious History Association held in Room W6A308, Macquarie University on Thursday 14 July 2016, at 5pm.**

**Present:** John Gascoigne (outgoing President), Ian Tregenza (outgoing Secretary), Malcolm Prentis (outgoing Treasurer), Constant Mews (incoming President), Katharine Massam (incoming Secretary), Kerrie Handasyde (incoming Treasurer), Glen O’Brien (Vice President), Joanna Cruikshank (Editor), Shurlee Swain.

**Apologies:** Jason Taliadoros (Editor), Leigh Penman

**Minutes**

The minutes of 2 Dec 2015 were accepted as a true record with the following amendments: Katharine Massam is the incoming Secretary, and Peter Price Kerrie was the incoming Treasurer. The spelling of Constant Mews’ name was corrected.

**Matters arising**

It was noted that Kerrie Handasyde is now the incoming Treasurer (replacing Peter Price).

**President’s Report**

The President noted CUP’s interest in the Journal as discussed at the previous meeting. It was agreed that Wiley has been good to deal with and we are not looking to move to another publisher, but the interest from CUP is a sign of the health of the Journal.

**Transition to new office holders.** The following motion was put to the meeting: That Constant Mews be appointed to the position of President, that Katharine Massam be appointed to the position of Secretary, that Kerrie Handasyde be appointed to the position of Treasurer.

The motion was seconded by Malcolm Prentis, and agreed unanimously.

**Publisher’s report:** The President noted the publisher’s report and a discussion ensued on matters arising. Cruikshank noted that the acceptance rate for the Journal has been increasing and will look at ways of reducing this in the interest of strengthening its ranking. One option is to reject those papers that require major revisions. At this stage many rejections are for papers which come from non-English speaking countries.

The journal maintains a high rate of downloads, ahead of most other history journals.

**Report on Bendigo workshop on ‘Mining Faith’:** Report from the conference organisers was noted and agreed that looks to have been a successful event. Gascoigne will contact the organisers to follow up the possibility of a special issue of *JRH*.

**Treasurer’s Report**

The report was received.

There was some discussion about the arrangements regarding bank accounts for the benefit of the incoming Treasurer. There are two term deposits and one cheque account. The cheque account is for payments. The two term deposits could be rolled into one but their renewal dates differ so some interest would be lost on one account if this were to occur. The original reason for the separate accounts was to have one short term account to cover contingencies if required.

Prentis recommended that the signatories for the accounts should be tidied up. The following motion was put:

That the NAB accounts of the RHA, namely Cheque Account, 574475208 (BSB 082 372); Term Deposit, 54-659-1703, running from 11/03/16 to 11/09/16; and Term Deposit 54-583-8524, running from 19/04/16 to 19/10/16, have as signatories the current President, Secretary, and Treasurer, and the immediate past President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

The motion was seconded and agreed unanimously.

As the accounts currently operate as joint accounts two signatures are required. This has so far prevented the shift to electronic banking. It was suggested that the new committee could inquire of the NAB whether these accounts could be managed electronically.

**Editors’ Report**

As mentioned earlier the editors are dealing with a high number of submissions (73 in the past six months) and the acceptance rate has been increasing. The editors will look at ways of reducing the acceptance rate.

In line with the efforts of the previous editors the journal is aiming to diversify publications beyond the history of Christianity. It was noted that compared to other similar journals such as the *Journal of Ecclesiastical History* and *Church History*, the *JRH* has a wide publishing range, but that this should be extended where possible. The editors have been approaching scholars of non-Christian religions to encourage them to submit papers and run special issues.

Cruikshank noted that the copy-editing process has been improving but that the editors still spend much time overseeing this process.

**Consideration of application for Workshop subsidy**

A request for funding for the workshop ‘What God has joined together: Histories of religion and marriage’ to be held at the University of Newcastle 3 July 2017 was considered. It was agreed that it was a strong proposal and the RHA will support them with $6000 as requested. Gascoigne will write to them advising that the proposal was accepted.

**Consideration of the Bruce Mansfield prize**

The process for considering the prize was discussed. As per previous years the editors will select a shortlist of the four best papers from *JRH* from the previous year (2015) and circulate these among the committee for consideration. The decision will be made at the November meeting.

**Other business**

It was noted that with the instalment of the new committee there are currently no members permanently based in Sydney (though the vice-president divides his time between Melbourne and Sydney). Should a vacancy arise someone from Sydney (or other parts of the country) could be considered.

**Date and Time of next meeting**

To be advised by the incoming Secretary Katharine Massam via email.

**Close**

The meeting closed at 6.40 pm.