

President's Report, GANZ AGM, 27th of November, 2019.

My report will be relatively brief, however at the end of this year (and my term as President), there are a couple of things I wish to highlight.

This has been a particularly challenging period for GANZ, with the Council having to navigate a number of crucial resignations from the Executive early in the two your term. The President, Vice-President and Secretary all stepped down. This was particularly difficult for the newly elected Council, most of whom had no previous experience of being on Council.

In this context I really want to thank those of the current council who stepped up to fill these positions – Anthony Jones who has done an extraordinary job in the role of vice-president, and Barbara Churcher who took on the role of Secretary. I took on the role of President, hoping the position would be temporary. That turned out not to be the case, and with some reluctance, I will now step down from both the role and council.

At this election, several other members will leave council, and I want especially to thanks Madeline Fogerty (Research), Jelena Djoric (International Relations), Leonie Sinclair (Treasurer) and Barbara Churcher (Secretary). All have given generously of their time and on behalf of the community, I want to thank you for the service you have given.

Over the term of this Council, we have sought to streamline some of the Council processes, however we have been somewhat hampered by the various changes in personal and roles. It is increasingly clear that in order to support the ongoing work of GANZ we need both an injection of people and support. One decision taken recently by the Council is to use some of the funds that we have to support some of the administrative work that can be particularly time-consuming.

The highlight of this term was the Gathering held in Sydney earlier this year. It was a wonderful event and highlights the value of these events to the life and well-being of the gestalt community. In some respects the Gathering offered a possible vision for GANZ and it will be the work of the new Council to find ways of taking this forward.

That said the future of GANZ (although not of Gestalt) hangs in the balance. It is likely that there will be a number of significant positions vacant on Council. At this point there is also no proposal for the 2021 conference of gathering. This along with the journal and various research projects and the training centres stand at the heart of the gestalt community, but how we continue to support them remains an ongoing question.

As I step down, my hope is that a new emergence of energy will find a way to key the vision of GANZ alive in this community.

Leanne O'Shea