



# ANZCA AGM 2021 - Meeting Minutes

Sunday 29th of August 2021, 10am

Venue: Meeting held online, via Zoom

In attendance:

Eve Gordon (Chairperson)  
Rosalie Ducharme (Secretary)  
Evelyn Coulson (Steering committee member)  
Thomas Hinz (Steering committee member)  
Matthias Goed (Steering committee member)  
Damian Gordon (Steering committee member)  
Jenny Ritchie (Steering committee member)  
Imogen Stone (Organisation member; Colossal)  
Larry Wong (indiv. member)  
Tania Bracey-Brown (indiv. member)  
Achmed Abman (organisation member; Circool)  
Zane Jarvie (Organisation member; Colossal)  
Eli Joseph (member)  
Laura Oakley (indiv. member)  
Regina Hegemann (indiv. member)  
Geoff Gilson (individual member)  
Lizzie Tollmache (organisation member; Rollicking Entertainment)  
Danny Syme (Organisation member; Cirko Kali)  
Lisa Wingfield (Organisation member; Christchurch Circus Trust)  
Chris Carrow (Organisation member; Christchurch Circus Trust)  
Kahurangi Bronsson-George  
Kerianne Kemp (indiv. member)  
Jair Ramirez (Organisation member; Freedom2Fly)  
Chloe Dear (indiv. member)  
Degge Jarvie (Organisation member; Colossal)

## 1) Welcome

Welcome to everyone attending the meeting. We are holding the meeting this year via Zoom because of the Covid restrictions. We acknowledge all members and non-members who brought us together to this place, showed their support and all those who have been striving to create sustainability to the practice of circus in Aotearoa.

Note that the meeting will be recorded.

Karakia and welcome from Otautahi/Christchurch (Kahurangi Bronsson-George)

## 2) The Year in review for the circus industry

Recap of 2020-2021 (since the last AGM)

Thomas Hinz (Steering committee member) provides an overview of circus activities over the past year.

- Festivals:  
There are a number of new and ongoing circus events and festivals in Aotearoa, including NZJA, World Buskers, Northland Circus Festival, Kiwiburn, Luminare, Miss Lyra NZ, Pole Legend NZ, Winter is passing (new), and Youth Circus Festival (new).
- Touring Circus shows:  
Sailing circus Northland to Auckland "Cirque Lemuria", Kids Day Out Variety show, Circus Aotearoa, The Great Moscow Circus, Zirka Circus
- Networking:  
There has been an increase in networking between circus practitioners on both regional and national levels. Regional networks established in Auckland (Circ.Us (youth circus), kai & korero), Northland, and Wellington (Poneke Circus Collective). National networks (Community Arts and Circus trust (CACTNZ), Maori Circus performers (NZ and Australia), and Clown doctors). There is also an established online presence of the New Zealand circus community through facebook groups (NZ Circus community, NZ Circus Performers, Aerialist, Circus Garage Sales).
- Media:  
Circus was in the media as a TV reality show "The Circus" as well as stories about Aerials in school (St Margaret's, Christchurch), Sailing circus, Youth circus festival, Circus Aotearoa, and on "The Block NZ"

- Diversity:  
Kanohi Kitea - Maori & Pasifika culture and circus arts had a 2 day hui in Auckland with participants from Northland, Auckland, and Christchurch
- Other:  
The number of circus equipment providers and circus training spaces are growing in Aotearoa

### **3) The Year in review for ANZCA**

Presentation of what ANZCA has achieved in the past year presented by chairperson Eve Gordon.

Industry consultation:

- ANZCA members were contacted by phone to collect thoughts and needs from the industry. Many similar threads/themes emerged which were incorporated in to the new strategic document.

Strategic Hui:

- From the industry chats it became apparent that the needs of the circus practitioners has changed post covid and these new needs were taken into account for the development of the new Strategic Document which is available on the ANZCA website.

Resources:

- New resources are available on the website (to be presented by Evelyn). The resources are only available for ANZCA members.

Code of Ethics:

- The code of ethics documents was put together with consultation from a diverse group of ANZCA members including consultation with Kahurangi and Kerianne who provided a Maori perspective. Eve acknowledges other members who have made a significant contribution to the document. The document is available on the website and is open for feedback until 1st October. Out of discussions of the code of ethics grew the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commitment Statement - also available on the website.

Website transfer:

- ANZCA migrated the website to Wild Apricot which provides a lot more functionality and will be a great asset to members and will help steering committee members organise and maintain membership databases.

#### 4) Website development

Evelyn Coulson (steering committee member) does a website walk-through to present the new features on the website.

Profile page:

- Members are able to view and change their membership status, contact details, photos, and privacy settings (what others can see - currently only admins can view other members' details). Members also have the ability to register for an event like the AGM and view any invoices they received from ANZCA.

About page:

- Overview of what ANZCA is all about. This is where you can find the strategic document.

Resource:

- ANZCA offers both free and members-only resources. Free resources include COVID-19 related resources and the results of the Circus Census. You need to login to your account to access members-only resources.
- Members-only resources:
  - Circus safe (a guide to health and safety practices in New Zealand)
  - List of experienced riggers for circus in New Zealand
  - Risk assessment template
  - "Bump in/ bump out" risk management guidelines

Events page:

- This is where you can view upcoming and past circus events in Aotearoa/New Zealand. Events listed. You can register for events and submit events using a Google form. Please provide feedback if you know of a better way of managing event submissions.

Members page:

- This is a place to connect with other members. The page is still in progress and will likely change going forward. Currently only active members are listed with only name, membership (individual/organisation) and area. You have the ability to filter by area.

Policies:

- The policies tab will allow you to view any current document. Currently you will find both the Code of Ethics and the Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commitment Statement. Both are currently under consultation and feedback can be submitted until 1 October 2021.

Please provide feedback/ideas of what you want to see on the website.

## **5) Treasurer's address; presentation of financials**

Larry Wong, formerly a steering committee member, has been filling in the treasurer role. Our treasurer Michael Armstrong stepped down earlier this year. Larry has been involved actively throughout the year in ANZCA to manage the finances and administration of the organisation.

ANZCA is an incorporated society, and is not registered (and don't have to be). ANZCA makes most of the income through member fees (\$35/year for individuals, \$100/year for organisations).

Summary of the finances in 2020:

- We generated \$720 income through membership fees. This is lower than 2019 as ANZCA ran a period of free membership offer to help with the financial impact experienced by practitioners in the circus industry following the Covid crisis.
- We generated \$1,128 in expenses. Most of it is spent on software. We changed from Xero to Reckon (cheaper) for accounting processes but upgraded membership management/webite from Wix to Wild Apricot which is more expensive so overall expenses went up compared to 2020 and we recorded a deficit at the end of the year of \$408. However, we do have some reserves from previous years and currently have \$ 1,891 in equity.

The finances so far for 2021:

- We generated \$1325 of membership fees so far. Increased compared to 2020 as we no longer offer free memberships.
- Expenses so far have remained similar for the first half of the year.
- Recovered the deficit from last year and have currently \$3,320 in equity, surplus of \$577
- ANZCA has no liabilities as it is entirely self-funded through membership fees

## **6) Nomination for steering committee opens**

Presented by Jenny Ritchie (committee member), an Auckland based Circus artist, originally from Christchurch, who has been on the steering committee for one year.

Acknowledgment and thanks for steering committee members who are stepping down this year:

- Current Chairperson Eve Gordon is stepping down due to her third term coming to an end. Eve has done an immense amount of work throughout her time on the steering committee. Driving force for the Strategic Plan, Circus Safe, Code of Ethics, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi Commitment Statement.
- Damian Gordon is also at the end of a 6 year term on the ANZCA committee. He contributed significantly to the "bump in/bump out" risk management document.
- Rosalie Ducharme - has been on the steering committee for 3 years and she was the instigator of the code of ethics and main driver of shift to Wild Apricot

Members who had to step down earlier this year:

- Michael Armstrong - has been a member of the ANZCA committee for 3 year and did a lot of work on the code of ethics and researching fire safety, insurance, and accounting software
- Imogen Stone - deputy chair for the past 2 years. She has done a huge amount of PR work (including social media), rebrand of ANZCA logo (designed by Degge Jarvie), and the online interview series during 2020 lockdown.

Roslie Ducharme (secretary) presents rules for the steering committee:

- Between 3 and 12 members on the committee
- Term = 2 years
- The maximum amount of time any committee member can stay is for 3 terms (6 years)
- Committee members need to be re-elected after each term
- Individual members can cast 1 vote, and organisations can cast 3 votes
- To be elected, nominees need to get at least 50 % of votes
- Up to 6 vacant positions up can be filled at each election

Nominations (or self-nominations) can be submitted by email at [info@anzca.co.nz](mailto:info@anzca.co.nz) or by personal message on the Zoom chat. 10 minutes before voting. There are 6 vacancies on the steering committee.

The presentation of the candidates and vote will happen at the end of the meeting.

## **7) Presentation in more detail of some of ANZCA's initiatives for the future:**

### **o Strategy for 2021 - 2026**

Presented by Matthias Goed (steering committee member). Strategy document available to view on the ANZCA website. The document presents ANZCA's goals and strategy for the next 5 years. The goal and strategy was developed from the industry consultation that was done after last year's AGM. Moving forward, ANZCA wants to remain responsive to the sector's needs by creating resources, guidelines, processes as required. We are planning to continue talking to practitioners and organisations around the country to find out what restarting or continuing looks like for each of them. All ANZCA members are also encouraged to get in touch with the steering committee to share their thoughts and hopes for ANZCA/ the circus community in New Zealand.

Visibility:

- It is ANZCA's aim to increase the visibility of circus and ensure it is seen as a valuable part of the arts sector in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

## Networking

- It is ANZCA's aim to connect the circus community with each other as well as increase connection with other art forms in New Zealand and increase collaboration and dialog between circus and other art forms.

## Standards

- Within the last year, a lot of work has been done on Code of Ethics and it is ANZCA's goal to ensure all circus practitioners in New Zealand are aware of best practice and we all work together to uphold these standards.

## Symposium of Circus Thinking (SOCT):

- Online conference held 23-24 October 2021. The mission of the symposium is to give circus practitioners in Aotearoa easy access to the leading circus thinkers in the world. There will be 5 world renowned speakers and it's free for ANZCA members to attend

## **8) Nomination close, announcing the candidates to the steering committee**

There are a lot of nominations so a few extra minutes are needed to prepare for voting.

## **9) Members news - MOVE (Danny Syme & Chloe Dear)**

This is a new segment in the AGM where members get a chance to present some news. Danny Syme and Chloe Dear present the work they have done to build a performance movement centre in Parakiore, Christchurch.

## Basic structure:

- 3 studios, one specifically designed for circus
- To be managed by Human Performance
- Two core tenants, including Cirko Kali (Danny)
- Set to open in early 2023
- Set up as not for profit (incorporated society) which follows key principles for managements:
  - Zero barriers to participation (including psychological and financial)
  - A diverse range of movement activities (circus, dance, acrobatics, dry diving) - still developing programs
  - All levels - from beginner to elite performers
  - Balancing programming and sector support with financial self-sufficiency - don't solely rely on grants
  - Partnership and collaboration
  - Ecosystem and sector development

- It needs to meet all 5 Parakiore objectives as set by Christchurch city council
  - Drive community participation to foster health and well-being across the region
  - Provide facilities and services that support all levels of the participation from beginner to high performance
  - Support excellence through hosting a schedule of local, regional, national and international events
  - Create a destination facility that contribute to a vibrant, thriving christchurch
  - Work in partnership to deliver services with the sporting arts, health, and education sectors
  
- MOVE programming - three programming streams:
  - public - wide range of classes and workshops
  - Professional - supporting professional movement artists to create and support creative careers (e.g., residencies)
  - Engagement - low cost classes to get people moving
  
- Circus @ MOVE:
  - One core tenant with circus focus (Cirko Kali)
  - Opportunities to partner with other circus organisations
  - Circus creation centre and national information hub
  - Circus events (festivals, conferences) to grow circus community

Studio 2 - main circus studio has been in consultation for about 8 years. Danny has been heavily involved in designing the space for maximum functionality.

Design is purpose build for circus including build-in chinese poles and rigging poles

Cirko Kali's role is to design a circus programme:

- Cross disciplines
- Focus on cultural development
- High performance including circus theatre and movie work

## **10) Announcement of the candidates to the steering committee member**

There are 10 candidates for the 6 vacancies. Each candidate was named and had the opportunity to introduce themselves and their experience briefly before the vote started.

The candidates were: Evelyn Coulson (for re-election), Tania Bracey-Brown, Danny Syme, Lizzie Tollmache, Lisa Wingfield, Ely Joseph, Nick Davies, Kahurangi Bronson-George, Kerianna Kemp, Regina Hegemann.



## **11) Open conversation while voting in process**

Eli Joseph asked about progress with the conversation with creative New Zealand and funding for the circus sector. Eve talks about conversations she had with CNZ around the census. She provided census results to give an overview of the circus community in New Zealand. She mentions that CNZ needs more people to apply for circus funding before they can implement a category specifically for circus.

Evelyn Coulson talks about the contact she had with CNZ regarding funding for ANZCA but unfortunately funding closed early due to a large number of applications so ANZCA missed the window.

Eve mentions that ANZCA created an admin role this year to help with membership management - 5 hours per week for 8 weeks.

Zane Jarvie and Imogen Stone acknowledge the progress made regarding CNZ funding, including increase in circus shows around the country and having circus literate assessors for CNZ.

Zane asks if ANZCA could get information around how many circus applications there are for CNZ funding vs dance and theatre and how many are successful.

Eve and Evelyn acknowledge that is a great idea to be followed up by the new steering committee.

Lizzie Tollmache offers for people to get in touch with her if they have any questions regarding CNZ funding as she will be in panel within the next weeks.

## **11) Vote and Results**

Voting Process: 2 identical polls were sent with the names of all 10 candidates: the first to individual members, and the second one to organisation members. This was done to facilitate the counting of the votes, as organisations have 3 voting rights (those results were multiplied by 3 and added to the results of the first poll).

The link to the polls were sent via email and through the Zoom chat to the members. Only people who have a valid membership were able to vote as it was done through the online platform Wild Apricot.

The new steering committee members elected are:

- Evelyn Coulson (re-elected)
- Nick Davies
- Lizzie Tollmache
- Regina Hegemann
- Kahurangi Bronson-George
- Danny Syme

The new Chair selected amongst the steering committee members is Thomas Hinz, the new Deputy Chair is Evelyn Coulson, treasurer is Kahurangi Bronson-George and Secretary is Regina Hegemann.

Meeting adjourned

