

Annual General Meeting of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand (SFFANZ) held at West Plaza Hotel, Wellington, during Conclave held on June 5, 2006.

Meeting Opened: 10.17am
Present: 37 members
Apologies: James Dignan
Annette Bergner
Phil Simpson
Steven Rose
Matthew Pavletich

Maree Pavletich recorded a proxy vote for Matthew Pavletich. Ross Temple recorded a proxy vote for Stephen Rose

Minutes of the previous meeting

Brian Howell moved:

"That the minutes of the previous meeting held at Icon on March 28, 2005 be taken as read"

Sylvana Whyborn seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously.

Matters Arising

Lyn McConchie questioned whether action had been taken on finding a sponsor or patron. Norman Cates (as chair of the meeting) responded that no action had been taken.

It was noted that the boot should be applied to the left cheek.

Financial Report

Although Ross Temple was the treasurer for the past year, Norman presented the accounts for the financial year. There is a positive amount of \$33.90 which is still to be identified. However, the bank statements have been sent to BDO Spicers rather than to our PO Box for an anomalous reason. Clarity regarding the additional amount will be achieved once the statements are returned to SFFANZ.

There was concern about the layout of the spreadsheet which some were confused by. Simon Litten explained the details of the spreadsheet to the meeting.

Lyn McConchie questioned whether donee status had been achieved as yet. Norman Cates reported that work was continuing with IRD but that during the year we had asked about funds for conventions and found that \$1000 worth of profit in the convention account is non-taxable. We now have this in writing from the IRD and will be kept as a reference for future boards and conventions to refer to.

Simon Litten moved:

"That the accounts as presented be taken as a true and accurate record of the financial status of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand."

Seconded by Brett Tamahori.

Brian Howell proposed an amendment to the motion

"That they be subject to an audit by a professional accountant once Norman has found the missing amount".

Seconded by Graham Edge.

Carried Unanimously.

Questions were raised about why the convention fund was not in a high interest account. Suggestions from the floor were that we should either look at a high interest account or several smaller ones to spread the investment. Maree Pavletich reported that in some instances the smaller accounts are not so good because of the penalties incurred for removing monies. The matter is to be investigated by the incoming board.

Nomination of Officers

Norman reported that, with the exception of Martin Kealey, the incumbent members of the board were happy to stand in their positions again, and following this, a call for nominations was held.

The following people were nominated:

Simon Litten	June Young	Norman Cates
Maree Pavletich	James Dignan	Annette Bergner
Malcolm Fletcher	Lynelle Howell	Brian Howell
Ross Temple	Colin Dijkgraaf	Kath McKay

Brian Howell moved:

"That nominations now be closed"

Norman Cates seconded the motion.

The motion was carried unanimously.

A paper ballot was held and scrutinised by Keith Smith and Daena Dixon.

The 2006/7 board is:

Simon Litten	June Young	Norman Cates
Maree Pavletich	Ross Temple	Colin Dijkgraaf
Malcolm Fletcher	Lynelle Howell	Brian Howell

General Business

Sir Julius Vogel (SJV) Trophies

Norman reported that 100 trophies are presently being made by Weta. Mike Hansen will then paint them. It is expected that the cost will be around \$2000 and that there will be sufficient trophies for about 10 years.

SFFANZ donee status

Lyn McConchie asked further questions about donee status and Norman reported that charitable status was not achievable as the former Charities Act didn't apply to us. Simon Littlen reported that the new Charities Act will come into effect within the next three months. We will need to investigate our options once the new Act is in.

Norman Cates reported on how charitable status would affect SFFANZ

Hall of Fame

Norman reported that James Dignan has supplied a list of winners of convention prizes prior to the introduction of Vogel Awards and this is to be up on the website soon.

NZSFW

The process of incorporating NZSFW into SFFANZ is still to be done.

Fan Funds

Bank accounts have yet to be set up for FFANZ and DUFF, however this is to be rectified shortly.

Administrivia

Ross Temple reported that he has created a FFANZ website and a fan travel guide and list of contacts. He is also working with the Australians on the creation of their travel guide.

He has been speaking with WASF and Continuum, an Australian Speculative Fiction Convention which has a website. He is hoping to encourage expansion of this principally Australian site into an Australasian one.

It was felt by the meeting that more written documentation of how events are run, management processes etc should be made. We should write stuff about how we do things.

It was reported that closer ties have been made with publishers, particularly in reference to the Awards – they nominated three works for inclusion in this year's SJV Awards. Lyn McConchie raised the question of who is a New Zealander for the purpose of the awards. One of the nominees, whilst identifying themselves a New Zealander, has been resident in Australia for a number of years and questions were raised about whether they were suitably eligible.

June Young, who has previously worked for the Department of Internal Affairs offered assistance with regard to clarifying the definition of "who is a New Zealander". The SFFANZ board will follow up on the discussion.

Patron and Sponsor

Lyn McConchie expressed concern that this still has not been progressed. Margaret Mahy is to be approached, particularly in view of her recent Vogel win.

Website

Norman Cates reported that he will be looking at the SFFANZ website structure and design -. He asked for assistance from people on this.

Simon Litten asked the where books sent by publishers for the Sir Julius Vogel Awards were to be stored. Discussion about the need for a library was held. It was felt that this wasn't worthwhile. Other options were mooted.

Maree Pavletich moved:

"That books donated for the Sir Julius Vogel Awards not expected to be returned be given to the next National Convention for use in the auction with the monies to go to SFFANZ."

Seconded by Peter Hamilton.

A vote by show of hands was taken:

For 28

Against: 8

Abstentions 2

The motion was carried

Peter Hamilton asked about the convention running guide and whether it could include sample letters and sample proposals for funding applications. Ross Temple reported that he will be working on this project in the coming year with a view to expanding and revising the present documentation.

Promtion

Andrew Dixon asked what motion towards public recognition of SFFANZ and the SJV;s was being made. Norman reported that before we can do any real promotion, we need to make sure that there is information for people to look at that is easy to find and use. Andrew suggested that universities have SF club which could be an avenue to pursue. There is a need for someone to go out and find them. This is to be investigated by the new board.

Norman also reported that ongoing adverts will appear in Armageddon, although it was noted that no ad appeared in the last book. It was suggested that a stand could be held at Armageddon, however it was reported by Ross and Norman that such stands did not prove useful. Phoenix has had stands before which have not got a visible response.

Norman would also like to see a major advertisement in a wide-spread media publication, such as the TV Guide as a method of attracting members. This could prove very expensive though.

It was suggested that bookmarks could be created.

The formal business for SFFANZ being concluded, members of Conclave were invited to join the meeting to hear bids for the Convention in 2008.

Convention bidding for 2008.

Bids were taken from the floor.

Conjunction, Queen's Birthday Weekend , 2008

Con chairs: Daena Dixon and Kath McKay

No hotel as yet but are currently looking at options. Elizabeth Moon literary guest of honour with Andrew Ivamy to be Fan Guest of Honour.

Conscription, Queen's Birthday Weekend, 2008

Con chair: Kevin McLean.

Literary Guest: Julie Czemeda. Kevin reported that there may be possibility for a writer's workshop to be held as well.

Both conventions reported that they would bid for the next year if unsuccessful.

Voting was conducted by a show of hands with Conjunction winning the bid for 2008.

Alex Herbert proposed a future bid for 2010 called Contact II.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.20am.