

Annual General Meeting of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand (SFFANZ) held at Grand Tiara Hotel, Rotorua at ConTour on 12 April, 2004.

Meeting Opened: 10.10am
Present: 24 members
Apologies: James Dignan
Kathryn McKay
Glynne MacLean
Peter Friend

Minutes of the previous meeting

Norman Cates moved:

“That the minutes of the previous meeting held at Emoticon on 21 April, 2003 be taken as read.”

Brian Howell seconded the motion.

Carried unanimously.

Matters Arising

Norman reported that in response to Paul Scoones’ a number of resources along a Sir Julius Vogel Award “Hall of Fame” had been put on the website. The list of previous conventions had not been done yet, but a list was being compiled. Keith Smith offered assistance in getting details of previous conventions.

Norman also reported that our funding application to Creative New Zealand was unsuccessful as they don’t fund the making of trophies. Norman is to investigate other avenues such as the Lion Foundation with the view to paying someone \$2,500 - \$3000 to make 100 trophies.

Simon Litten reported that SFFANZ has not attained donee status as yet. HE is still following this up and needs to let IRD know “what SFFANZ does”. Without donee status companies or people can’t make donations towards assisting in paying for things like the trophies.

There was a suggestion with sponsorship could be an avenue to explore. There was concern that we would not want the sponsor’s name to appear on the trophy but we are happy to have adverts or banners at conventions etc. There is no timeline for achieving donee status.

Financial Report

Simon Litten presented and spoke to the report. He indicated that the trophies for this year’s awards are yet to be paid for, so these will appear on next year’s accounts. He noted there was a modest increase of \$172.91. The convention account has \$500 (from Odysseycon) but Simon noted there will be a modest increase in funds due to t-shirt sales from Con with the Wind.

Simon indicated the convention funds are in an ANZ cheque account paying interest and with fees waived. Keith Smith questioned whether a high interest account for the Convention funds would be better. Simon is to investigate this.

Simon Litten moved:

“That the accounts as presented be accepted as a true and fair record of the financial status of the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand.”

Raewyn Kealey seconded the motion.

Carried Unanimously.

Nomination of Officers

Norman reported that the current members of the board were happy to stand in their positions again Annette Bergner was nominated for a position on the board.

Brian Howell moved:

“That nominations now be closed”

Peter Hamilton seconded the motion.
Carried with one dissenting vote.

Brian Howell moved:

“That the incumbent nominations for the board be accepted as the Board.”

The motion was seconded by Raewyn Kealey.

Carried.

The board:

Norman Cates

Maree Pavletich

Lynelle Howell

Annette Bergner

James Dignan

Ross Temple

Simon Litten

Brian Howell

Martin Kealey

General Business

Maree Pavletich

“That the sponsors of the awards should not have names on the awards in any way.”

A general discussion followed in which the motion was amended to the following:

Maree Pavletich moved:

“That the meeting directs the board that naming rights of the Sir Julius Vogel Awards are not to be vested in any sponsor”

Seconded by Ross Temple.

Carried.

Dale Roberts suggested that details on sponsors could be put on certificates if it became necessary.

Maree Pavletich asked we had a patron and whether one should be selected and used as a source for gaining funds for SFFANZ. Suggestions were made from the floor – Sir Edmund Hilary, Peter Jackson, Richard Taylor.

Maree Pavletich moved:

“That the board be directed to investigate getting a sponsor for SFFANZ”

Seconded by Kelly Buchanan.

Carried

Kevin Maclean indicated that the New Zealand Science Fiction Writers Association (NZSFW) is being wound up and suggested that the bibliography of writers and lists of competitions could be handed by SFFANZ, if it was prepared to take it on.

This was discussed with comment that Kevin could be asked to co-ordinate the lists on SFFANZ’s behalf. There was a general feeling that the closure of NZSFW was not a good thing and it was questioned whether SFFANZ should make a sub-committee for NZSFW rather than swallowing up the organisation. How this could be achieved was further discussed.

Kevin Maclean moved:

“That the SFFANZ board be directed to look at the feasibility and desirability of subsuming the functions of NZSFW”

Seconded by Peter Hamilton.

Carried, with two abstentions.

Norman Cates extended thanks to Peter Friend for his work on the trophies and Katie Boyle and Ross Temple for their work on the con-runners guide. Ross spoke about the document, which is available for comment, and asked for feedback.

Brian Howell and Maree Pavletich were thanked for their work as the awards sub-committee.

Norman indicated he knew of no bids for 2006 and indicated that a bid could be made next year. He asked whether it can be decided at an intermediary time. General discussion followed where it was agreed that it could be logistically difficult to have a Special General Meeting to confirm a Convention Bid. The preference was to leave the current system in place.

Norman proposed a calendar for Science fiction artists. He saw this as a long-term project whereby artists could be approached to provide works on an SF theme. Questions from the floor included whether this would be a profit making venture for SFFANZ and whether artists would be paid for their work. This was discussed. Suggestions included making an 18 month calendar. Maree Pavletich suggested SFFANZ speak to Gamma Print as an option for a printer. It was noted that a calendar is a cheaper method of displaying work than using a portfolio.

Martin Kealey moved:
"That a vote of thanks be given to the chair"
Seconded by Alan Parker.
Carried by acclaim.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 11.08am

Convention bidding for 2006.

Bids were taken from the floor.

Conclave: hosted by Jacqui Smith. To be held in Auckland during Easter 2006 (although this could be subject to change). Suggested line up included Jim Pretnell and Joan de Vinge.

Wellington – Hosted by Alan Robson, Simon Litten, Robin Clark and Annette Bergner. To be held Queen's Birthday. No guests have been approached as yet.

A vote was held by a show of hands with the results as follows:

Conclave	15
Wellington	14
Defer decision to 2005	4
Abstentions	6

Norman asked the meeting whether in a year where no bid is made for the convention in 2 years time, that SFFANZ take the responsibility of finding someone to run it. The general feeling of the meeting was that the current system whereby the bid is allowed to run at the next convention (a year before the proposed event) is fine. If there was no bid at that point then SFFANZ would be responsible for contacting the membership and finding someone to run it.

Ross Temple indicated knowledge of a potential bid for 2007 which would be a military convention with David Weber as the guest. There seemed to be general support for such a convention.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 11.25am.