

FOLK FEDERATION OF NSW – COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday 10th October 2007 at 46 Heighway Ave Croydon

MINUTES

1. **Attendance** : Peter Miller-Robinson, Christina Mimmocchi, Andy Busuttil, Terry Clinton, Mary-Jane Field, Pam Davis, Wayne Richmond, Kate Delaney
Apologies : Carol Hirt, Jim & Dallas Baxter, Bruce Cameron

2. **Minutes of the meeting held 12th September** : accepted.

3. **Financial Report** : not available

4. Update on Goals & Action Items

- 4.1 Credit Card Authority – Wayne advised that the majority of renewals received in the past month had used the credit card facility; while there is a cost to the FF for every credit card transaction, it is hoped that some members who may otherwise allow their membership to lapse will be encouraged to renew this way.
- 4.2 Telephone transactions – Christina discussed with Bruce his concerns about accepting credit payments over the phone. Bruce's preference is to have credit card details submitted in writing in case the payment is disputed. However, he has agreed to accept credit card payments made by phone..
- 4.3 Reviews for Cornstalk – Mary-Jane noted that 2 reviews which she had submitted at Coral's request had not yet been published, which suggests that there may be a backlog. Christina to check with Coral. Wayne agreed to review Cornstalk & adjust graphics etc prior to submitting to printer (1 month trial).
- 4.4 Bios for Cornstalk – all submitted.
- 4.5 Membership Survey – Pam hasn't yet rung 6 lapsed members, but will do so in the next month. Wayne to send list of recently lapsed members.
Discussion followed on ways to promote the Folk community via website forums, email groups etc. Andy & Wayne to pursue.
- 4.6 Mechanics' Institute – Response received from the Mechanics Institute, which is sympathetic to the objectives of the FF but unable to give the level of support we are seeking. Copy of email to Christina from Stephen Couling (Secretary & General Manager, Mechanics Institute) is appended to the Minutes.
- 4.7 Folk at the Plaza – Lane Cove 3 November, performances 10am – 1pm. \$300 from Council, to be used for printing flyers (Christina to prepare; Kate to duplicate & distribute). Christina & Kate are finalizing the program, liaising with performers etc.
- 4.8 CD – Bruce, Terry & Christina have developed a longish short list. Tracks, permissions etc will be obtained from potential performers from which a shorter short list will be culled, before finalizing the final list (which will be even shorter).
- 4.9 National Folk Festival – Christina advised that the National has made an initial offer to FF to run a venue from 7-10 on Friday, Saturday & Sunday nights as a showcase for NSW performers. FF Committee agreed to accept the offer. Hooray. Details to follow.
- 4.10 Chris Kempster Project – Wayne reported on progress with revision of the Henry Lawson Songbook. To be launched at the Port Fairy Festival 2008. Seeding funds have been provided from the profits of the CD project. The long term aim is to have the songs available via website with links to audio files. Thanks to Wayne & his committee for their fantastic work on this project. Three cheers for the Henry Lawson Project.

5. New Business

- 5.1 Radio Program – Christina has received support from Eastside Radio 89.7 for weekly Folk program to commence next year; experienced presenters will be needed (suggestions to Christina). Christina will run a weekly Arts program from next week.

- 5.2 Brian Dunnett – Brian Dunnett is setting up a Rail Fest in 2010 for which he would like FF support (details of which are yet to be developed). The Committee agreed that FF will give in principle support; closer to the event we may be able to support in a more tangible way. Brian has been invited to address the next meeting at 8.30 (20 minutes only).
- 5.3 Touring Idea – Christina suggested establishing a network of FF affiliates who would be willing to host performances by touring performers (similar to Arts Council). Kate explained the Folk Touring Circuit, which operated 10 – 15 years ago. The Committee expressed enthusiasm for this proposal.
- 5.4 Australia Council Funding – grant applications due 15 Nov. The Committee approved Christina's suggestion that she apply for funding on behalf of the FF to employ someone to undertake development of the touring project.

6. Next Meeting / Future Meetings

14th November – 33 Pine Street, Cammeray

6th December – followed by XMAS PARTY (details to be confirmed by email)

January – NO MEETING

17th February – 9 Albert Rd, Hazelbrook

ACTION ITEMS

Action	Person Responsible	When
Speak to Coral about M-J's reviews, submitting C/S copy to Wayne for checking	Christina	Before next meeting
Review design elements of C/S before printing	Wayne	Next issue
Ring 6 lapsed members to trial membership survey	Pam	Before next meeting
Develop ideas for promoting Folk community via website, email	Wayne, Andy	Suggestions for next meeting
Finalise Folk in the Plaza lineup	Christina & Kate	For 3 Nov gig
Develop CD	Christina, Terry, Bruce	ongoing
Develop plans for running FF venue at National	All Committee	Discussion at next meeting
Advise Christina of likely presenters for new Eastside Radio program	All Committee	asap
Advise Brian Dunnett of FF's in principle support for Rail Fest	Christina	As briefly as possible
Submit proposal to Australia Council for coordinator for Touring Program	Christina	By 15 Nov

Dear Christina

It was good to talk to you this afternoon. Just to confirm what we said so that you can report to your Board tonight :

My apologies for taking so long to respond to Christine Wheeler's proposal - we have had a busy time here with a big event and this has somewhat overshadowed other considerations - so I am glad you called to chase this matter.

The SMSA is always pleased to receive proposals from any source requesting assistance and all are considered carefully - so we thank you for this one.

After careful consideration we feel that the SMSA is not the right place for the Folk Federation Library for a number of reasons

- a. the SMSA is a members' library and not open to the general public
- b. it is predominantly a fiction library not a research or reference library
- c. we do not have space to provide a medium sized room (or part thereof) as requested
- d. we do not have spare librarian resources to manage a large reference library
- e. we already provide considerable funds for our own readers and the Board would not consider funding someone else's library, nor the purchase of equipment for listening to CDs. The Board has already considered provision of a CD and DVD library for our members and it was rejected for lack of demand and problems of maintenance.

We therefore cannot be of assistance to the Folk Federation for library facilities. I recall that my initial conversations with Christine had been around provision of a few shelves - this might be possible but again the SMSA library is not really a reference library, and is open to its members only - of course the Folk Federation members could also become members of the SMSA if this were a viable option.

In any case our thoughts are that a collection or facility thus proposed really belongs in a State or National library with free access to the general public.

The SMSA is certainly available as a Venue for Folk Federation events and we would welcome you here. Our charges for room/auditorium hire are very reasonable - please call and speak to Megan for details or go to our website as below.

Thanks again for calling me - and please pass our very best wishes to your members for your ventures. The SMSA remains willing to assist you in any way it can - and will always be happy to receive requests - we like to say YES unless there is a good reason to say NO - as it is, sadly, in this case.

Kindest regards

Stephen

Stephen Couling | Secretary & General Manager S M S A - A Centre for Social Change making a difference through learning Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts | 280 Pitt Street | SYDNEY | NSW 2000

www.sydneymsa.com.au <<http://www.sydneymsa.com.au/>> T: (02) 9262 7300

F:

(02) 9266 0778 M: 0409 000 065