

**MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
FOLK FEDERATION OF NSW INC
HELD AT THE BUSH MUSIC HUT, (TRITTON HALL), HUT 44, ADDISON ROAD COMMUNITY
CENTRE, 142 ADDISON ROAD, MARRICKVILLE
3pm, Sunday 26th July 2009**

Present : Dallas Baxter, Jim Baxter, Bruce Cameron, Pam Davis, Mary-Jane Field, Margaret Walters, Chris Wheeler, Anthony Woolcott

Apologies : Andy Busuttil, Terry Clinton, Kate Delaney, Peter Miller-Robinson, Christina Mimmocchi, Sandra Nixon, Wayne Richmond

1. Minutes of the previous meeting.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 2nd August 2008 were tabled and were adopted. .

2. Reports

The following reports were tabled and are appended to the Minutes :

- a) President's report
- b) Treasurer's report
- c) Membership report

Moved Mary-Jane Field, seconded Christine Wheeler and AGREED that the Reports be accepted.

3. Appointment of Auditor

D.J. Weekes & Co was appointed auditor for 2009/10.

4. Bank Signatories

It was agreed that bank signatories for 2009/10 would remain as Anthony Woolcott, Bruce Cameron, Kate Delaney, Pam Davis and that any one would have authority to operate the account.

4. Special Resolution : *That the existing Rules of the Folk Federation be revoked and replaced with the draft Rules posted to the Folk Federation website (jam.org.au) on 1 June 2009.*

Moved Bruce Cameron, seconded Pam Davis and AGREED unanimously that the Special Resolution be approved.

4. Elections

Margaret Walters was appointed Returning Officer. The following were elected unopposed :

Office Bearers :

President –	Anthony Woolcott
Vice President –	Christine Wheeler
Treasurer –	Bruce Cameron
Secretary –	Pam Davis

<u>Committee</u> –	Dallas Baxter
	Jim Baxter
	Terry Clinton
	Kate Delaney
	Mary-Jane Field
	Peter Miller-Robinson
	Sandra Nixon
	Margaret Walters

The following ex-officio appointments were confirmed :

Membership Secretary	Wayne Richmond
Folkmail	Julie Bishop
Wrap Team	Dallas & Jim Baxter

6. General Business

a) Progress report on fundraising suggestions from the 2008 AGM

- Establish a Folk Club – this idea had not been developed as it was considered that the FF should not compete with other folk clubs, many of which are members.
- Hold a fund-raising gig – no progress on this matter
- Community performances – established with Lane Cove Council (thanks to Peter M-R).
- Develop ideas for sales of Kempster book (*Songs of Henry Lawson*) – several ideas have been tried over the past year, with limited success. The book is being distributed by 2 agents who between them cover book shops, music shops and schools but sales have not been encouraging. (See b. for further discussion on this matter)
- Encourage Folk Clubs to promote FF – very little success in this regard.

b) Discussion on encouraging sales of *Songs of Henry Lawson*.

The following suggestions were made :

- Mary-Jane offered to develop and run a program for schools, showing how the book can be used as a resource.
- Wayne to be asked to contact the schools distributor to determine whether more copies are required.
- Small groups to visit local markets to perform songs from the book & sell copies (possibly in conjunction with someone who already has a stall). Mary-Jane will approach Ashfield Council in this regard.
- Loosely Woven to be encouraged to feature *Songs of Henry Lawson* in a future performance.
- National Folk Festival - Workshop on Lawson songs; Lawson singing session at the Stockman's Camp
- Replenish stocks with Bush Music Club; item for inclusion in their newsletter.

These matters to be included on the Agenda for further discussion at the next Committee meeting.

c) Offer from Alison Jones

Alison Jones has again offered to donate \$1000 to the FF to partially cover the cost of printing of the Kempster book. It was agreed that Alison be requested to defer her kind offer until the FF achieves Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status.

d) Relationship with Folk Alliance

Chris Wheeler expressed the view that the current structure of the Folk Alliance, which allows and encourages individual membership, was not in the best interests of State-based organizations such as FF NSW which rely on individual membership for their continued viability. She suggested that a more appropriate model would be for the FA to consist of representatives of each State body (and possibly from the major Folk Festivals), and that FF NSW should lobby FA to this end.

e) Insurance

It was suggested that provision of discounted public liability insurance for members had been a significant benefit of membership which had now transferred to FA. Mary-Jane & Anthony undertook to explore opportunities for FF NSW to once again offer this membership benefit, and to report to the next Committee meeting.

f) Tax deductibility

It was suggested that when the FF achieves DGR status, this should be included on membership application forms to encourage donations from members. Information about bequests should also be included.

g) Print Post

It was suggested that FF may be able to obtain cheaper printing and postage for *Cornstalk*. Jim & Dallas undertook to review the requirements for print post and Chris Wheeler undertook to obtain print quotes from a printer whom she has used previously.

h) Membership

Marg Walters noted that it is some time since any Life Memberships have been granted. It was agreed that proposals for Life Membership be submitted to the Committee for review at the next meeting. It was also agreed that the list of complimentary copies be reviewed at that time.

i) Funding from APRA

Anthony noted that funding is available from APRA for local artists; he suggested that FF may be able to attract funding to support a folk project (eg Danny Watson).

j) 40th Anniversary Concert

Anthony undertook to put a proposal to the Illawarra Festival for a 2 hour concert to celebrate the 40th Anniversary of the Folk Federation.

Next Meeting : 6pm Tuesday 18th August (to be confirmed). All members were encouraged to bring their ideas to that meeting.