

**MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETING
FOLK FEDERATION OF NSW INC
HELD AT 45 IVY STREET, DARLINGTON**

7pm, Tuesday 18th August 2009

Present : Jim Baxter, Dallas Baxter, Terry Clinton, Pam Davis, Sandra Nixon, Margaret Walters, Anthony Woolcott

Apologies : Bruce Cameron, Kate Delaney, Mary-Jane Field, Peter Miller-Robinson, Chris Wheeler,

2. Minutes of the previous meeting.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 26 July 2009 were received, with the following correction : signatories to the account to be Bruce Cameron, Pam Davis & Anthony Woolcott.

3. Financial Report

3.1 Financial Report YTD – current account balance \$7248.80. Payments made since 1/5/09 were noted and approved.

3.2 Banking – process for authorization and operation of accounts

The following process for authorization and operation of accounts was AGREED.

- i. All invoices received must be authorized for payment by any two members of the committee who are registered bank signatories.
- ii. Any ONE signatory has authority to operate the Association's accounts, subject to point i) above.

4. Matters arising / Forward Planning

The following ideas, comments and suggestions, which were made at the AGM or in subsequent email correspondence, were discussed :

4.1 Yarri Project

- Anthony advised that Bangarra Dance Theatre were not able to participate in this project; however, they suggested that the Council for Indigenous Arts & Culture may be able to assist. *Anthony to followup*

4.2 Business Planning

- It was agreed that we explore the possibility of holding a 3 – 4 hour planning session at the National FF, including people with a range of ages/interests.
- *Pam to thank Andy Busuttil for his offer of facilitation;*
- *Anthony to ask Dave for the use of a room for the Forum;*
- *all Committee to consider who to invite (particularly young folkies).*

4.3 Encouraging sales of *Songs of Henry Lawson*

- Agreed to reduce the price of the book once the contract with Gary Allen has expired. *Anthony to followup*
- Noted that it is extremely difficult to introduce a new program into schools. It was suggested that Mary-Jane's offer to develop and run a program for schools would only have prospect of success if she already has contacts in schools. *Pam to speak to M-J*

- Wayne to be asked to contact the schools distributor to determine whether more copies are required. *Pam to followup*
- It was agreed that local markets are unlikely to be a successful vehicle for sales. *Pam to speak to M-J.*
- It was suggested that Loosely Woven to be encouraged to feature *Songs of Henry Lawson* in a future performance and/or that the FF could hold a Henry Lawson performance at Humph Hall – *Pam to speak to Wayne.*
- National Folk Festival - Workshop on Lawson songs; Lawson singing session at the Stockman's Camp – *Anthony to followup*
- Sandra advised that the Bush Music Club is not likely to sell more copies & current stocks are adequate.

4.4 Relationship with Folk Alliance

- it was agreed that NSW FF should become closer to the Folk Alliance as a first step towards determining how the relationship could work to our mutual advantage. *Anthony to speak to Christina Mimmocchi.*

4.5 Insurance

- It was agreed that further information was required before any decisions were taken regarding the NSW FF's recommendation of insurance schemes. *Pam to speak to M-J re obtaining a formal proposal, including a copy of the policy documentation & an explanation in layman's terms.*
- Also agreed that we need to find out more about what different venues require re public liability insurance. Committee members to use their contacts to determine what the different Festivals require. *Anthony to speak to Dave re National; Dallas to speak to Pam Merrigan re Turning Wave.*

4.6 Cornstalk

- Alternative quote has been obtained for printing Cornstalk. *Jim & Dallas to liaise with Chris Wheeler re numbers required etc.*
- Agreed that the small savings to be obtained from Print Post (approx \$20 per issue) do not warrant the considerable extra work
- List of comps to be reviewed and reduced *Dallas to circulate list*
- Agreed that the proposed letter to non-member advertisers NOT be adopted, but that a "carrot" in the form of discounted ads etc be adopted *Pam to talk to Coral*

4.7 Folkmail

- Agreed that distribution of Folkmail NOT be restricted to members only
- *Terry to speak to Wayne about possibility of upgrading the format*
- Suggested that Julie include membership information; statement to the effect that "Folkmail is brought to you by FF NSW ..." *Jim & Dallas to discuss with Julie*

4.8 Membership - general

- Agreed that info about tax deductible (DGR) status be included on membership forms (when this is obtained); also info about making a bequest
- Agreed that info on members' interests be collected via membership forms.
Chris Wheeler to draft form & circulate to Committee for comment
- *Committee to submit suggestions for Life Membership.* Presentation of Life Memberships to be made at Illawarra Festival.

4.9 Member benefits

- Andy Busuttill's offer of 10% discount for FF members to be advertised in Cornstalk. *Pam to discuss with Coral & advise Andy.*
- Article in Cornstalk (in President's column) soliciting other discounts
Anthony to followup

4.10 Funding from APRA

- Apply to APRA for funding support for a folk project (eg Danny Watson)
Anthony to followup

4.11 40th Anniversary Concert

- Anthony has contacted the Illawarra Festival re concert celebrating our 40th Anniversary; 2-3 hours on Saturday afternoon on the main stage has been tentatively offered.
- Committee to consider format. Suggestions included :
 - 4 acts each covering a 10 year period
 - Stories / folk history – John Dengate
 - Memorabilia, stories to be sought from members via Cornstalk
 - Article in Cornstalk every month in 2010.

4.12 Other

- There is a NSW FF group on Facebook. It was suggested that we find out who are the members and invite them to join FF (if they are not already members).
- Also invite all FF Members to join the Facebook group
- *Pam to write notice for inclusion in Cornstalk.*

5 Next Meeting

7pm Tuesday 15th September @ Jim & Dallas's home, 22 Grafton Street, Balmain