

**Minutes
FOLK FEDERATION of NSW
AGM 2006**

27 August 2006

Paddington Uniting Church
2 Newcomb St
Paddington

Meeting opened at 2:15pm

1. ATTENDANCE

Present: Chris Wheeler, Wayne Richmond, Bruce Cameron, Kate Delaney, Marcus Holden, Mary Jane Field, Jennifer Lees, and Trevor and Kathleen Swadling

Apologies: Pam Davis, Pam Merrigan, Ros Young, Alex and Julie Bishop, Sandra Nixon, Margaret Walters, Jim and Dallas Baxter, Coral, Keith, Carol, David and Tania De Santi

2. 2005 MINUTES

Minutes of the AGM held 24 July 2005 were tabled. It was moved to accept 2005 Minutes. Unanimous agreement that Minutes be accepted.

3. REPORTS

- a) **President's Report** – tabled. Following are some of the subjects the President reported on:
- a. *Strategic Plan* – the outgoing committee's work on the strategic plan reviews the Federation's primary goals and core activities. It will be studied in further detail by the new committee.
 - b. *Trad & Now* – the transfer of editorial responsibility for the national folk magazine that makes it cheaper and more frequent. It was noted that around 80% of subscribers to this magazine are from NSW which suggests a possible impact on Cornstalk subscriptions that will need to be considered this year.
 - c. *Committees* – a new "portfolio" approach to committee operations to make it easier for committee members to fit their volunteer work into their busy schedules.
 - d. *FOG (Folk Operators Group)* – 3 meetings were held, two of which were well attended and lively but the last one was poorly attended. It was suggested that the FOG list serve be utilised more to spread news about artists needing gigs.
 - e. *Almost Acoustic* is struggling as attendance is not covering costs. More volunteer help is needed as well as better promotion. There was some discussion on ideas and suggestions of cost cutting and promotion. Also discussion on the value of keeping the concerts at a high standard with top class acts.
 - f. *Cornstalk* – there is a move toward making more space for promoting upcoming events in lieu of reporting on past events. President thanked the Cornstalk team who put in countless hours of their time to produce the newsletter which the President considers as the most tangible evidence of the Folk Federation's operations. There were some ideas exchanged about how Cornstalk and Trad & Now could interact.
 - g. *Website* – The Webmaster, Wayne Richmond gave a brief report on the JAM website mentioning plans to make it more user-friendly when new software is installed. It will be easier for individuals to upload their own articles and there will also be search facilities. He also said there is a need for greater promotion of the site as not enough are taking advantage of the service it can offer.
 - h. *Member's Social Event* – apologies were given by Kate Delaney for the event not manifesting this year and explained valid reasons why it was unable to happen. However she gave assurance that the idea is still very much alive and well and definite ideas are in the pipeline. Extra helpers would be greatly appreciated.

Unanimous agreement that the report be accepted.

- b) **Treasurers Report** – tabled. The Treasurer’s report included:
- a. *Credit Card facilities* – Bruce has been investigating the possibility of the Federation adopting credit card facilities to accept payments. There was discussion around the various methods and charges. Two of the attendees, Marcus Holden and Trevor Swadling have had some experience with merchant banking and online processing of credit card payments and they agreed to have further advisory discussions with Bruce off line.
 - b. *Authorised Signatures* – there is a need to change the authorised signatures.
 - c. *Auditors* – Bruce moved that Weeks and Clements be reappointed as auditors for 06/07. Unanimous agreement.

It was moved that the Treasurer’s report accepted. Unanimous agreement and report was accepted.

- c) **Membership Report** – tabled. Wayne Richmond presented stats showing comparisons of membership numbers over the last decade. The figures show an overall decline in membership. There was discussion on possible factors. Wayne also expressed a problem with people not renewing their membership due to procrastination. It was suggested that credit card facilities should help this problem and could even allow for an option by members to agree to annual automatic recurring payments to be charged to their credit cards. There was further discussion on ways to improve membership interest.

4. ELECTIONS

Wayne Richmond was appointed as Retuning Officer. The following were elected unopposed:

President: Christine Wheeler

Vice President: Kate Delaney

Treasurer: Bruce Cameron

Secretary: Pam Davis

Committee Members: Sandra Nixon, Carol Hirt, Christina Mimmocchi, Mary Jane Field, Francis Liu, Rosemary Shapiro, Pam Merrigan, Wayne Richmond, Jennifer Lees

There was discussion on having extended (non-voting) committee members, who agree to help on certain projects, being subscribed to the list serve. It was agreed to include Jim and Dalls Baxter and Trevor and Kathleen Swadling to the list serve.

It was moved that all committee members be accepted. Unanimous agreement.

5. FIRST MEETING OF NEW COMMITTEE

The first meeting of the new committee is to be held on Wednesday 6 September at 7:30pm at Mary Jane Field’s at 46 Hay Way, Croydon. (Failing that date an alternative date could be Monday 4 September at 1:00 pm also at Mary Jane’s home.)

Meeting closed at 5:30pm.