



Folk Federation of NSW

Championing folk music and the folk arts

MINUTES OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, FOLK FEDERATION OF NSW INC

3pm SUNDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2024

Meeting held via Zoom, opened 3:05pm

1. Attendance, Apologies

Present – Pam Merrigan (President), Dallas Baxter, Alex Bishop, Glenys Eddy, Pam Davis, Kirsten Hulse, Cathy Rytmeister, Terry Clinton, Christine Wheeler, Craig Sinclair

Apologies – Bridget Wardlaw, Russell Neal, Jim Baxter

2. Minutes of the AGM held 26 October 2023 were approved. (Moved - Pam , seconded - Christine).

3. Reports

a) President's Report –

- * focus has been consolidation and rebuilding (in the “new post-covid normal”)
- * mixed experiences with festivals.
- * challenge is to build engagement (members and folk community in general)
- * No 2024 SFF – 2023 was only financially viable with grants, didn't get one in 2024. Should continue as a viable entity but need to develop a better model for an urban festival
- * 2023 – Folk Wrap was the only event we held over the last year. Got over the line financially thanks to performers and some other donors due to ticket sales not reaching target.
- * Youth awards – successful program, good engagement, thanks to Craig, Felicity, Chris, Russell and Alex.
- * Membership subs – source of \$ - membership is coming back, esp. affiliates – 90 listings online.
- * With no festival we have been able to pursue other projects – thanks Christine and Kirsten for their work on this. Also engagement – starting the conversation re. how we relate to the folk community,
 - develop data base
 - appoint media officer
 - networks to help knowledge exchange etc.
- * Archiving and preservation of our records , Wikipedia page. Thanks Alex for this.
- * Written report placed on website?
- * Committee to look at strategic plan to see how we went this year against that.
- * Website increasingly being used as envisioned and social media presence building – thanks Kirsten.

WRITTEN REPORT TO GO ON WEBSITE

Accepted: Moved - Christine, Seconded – Dallas All in favour.

b) Treasurer's Report – Financial Report for the year ended 30 April 2023 was circulated prior to the meeting.

Membership down a bit but some people pay a few years in advance. Surplus of \$10k thanks to the grant.

Assets \$37K

If we want grants we would need an auditor.

[SEE WRITTEN REPORT PROVIDED]

Moved - Alex, seconded Terry & approved by unanimous vote.

c) Membership Report – Usually Wayne would send this through but there was some confusion re. meeting notice. No formal report but we are doing quite well and continue to chase people up to renew.

Accepted Moved Sec

4. Elections

a) Election of Committee - Returning Officer – Pam Davis.

The following were elected unopposed.

President – **Pam Merrigan**

Treasurer – **Dallas Baxter**

Vice-President – **Cathy Rytmeister**

Secretary – **Bridget Wardlaw**

Committee Members

- **Alex Bishop**
- **Terry Clinton**
- **Kirsten Hulse**
- **Russell Neal**
- **Craig Sinclair**
- **Christine Wheeler**
- **Glenys Eddy**
- Vacant – Suggestions? – need young person if possible. Felicity? Probably

All returned

Membership Officer (ex-officio) – Wayne Richmond

Public Officer – **Pam Davis** (change contact details with Fair Trading) Paperwork is completed.

b) Appointment of bank signatories – It was agreed that Pam Davis (Public Officer, former Secretary), and Dallas Baxter (Treasurer) would continue as bank signatories and the newly appointed Office Bearers (Cathy Rytmeister - Vice-President, Bridget Wardlaw – Secretary) would be appointed as bank signatories. There have been some difficulties transferring the signatory role from Pam Davis to Bridget Wardlaw. Dallas will follow up.

Moved – Glenys Seconded – Christine Accepted unanimously

Signatories to the Festival Account – Dallas Baxter, Alex Bishop

c) Appointment of auditor – Dallas has approached a possible auditor, and Alex has also done this, but these were not successful.

5. Close of Meeting – the President closed the AGM at 3.35pm.

Committee meeting

Attendance – as above except for Pam Davis

Apologies – as above if committee members

Progress on Wikipedia entry – Work in progress. Alex talking to Margaret Walters and will talk to Mike Young. Some technical issues to sort out and administrative side of Wikipedia requirements.

Folk Wrap – what to do? Can everyone think about it because it will need to be on agenda for Oct 8th meeting. Would be valuable to use the event as a performance opportunity for the young award winners (Craig). Need an organiser – consider what's involved in that.

Young folks playing Bundanoon. Felicity, Ais, Sam. Promote Felicity as NSWFF Youth Ambassador. Also on the agenda. Seek more opportunities from a range of festivals.

Sydney Folk Festival – on agenda for Oct 8.

Website – renewal of domain names for websites (SFF and NSWFF) – possible options for discussion – do we combine or set up differently?

Finances – we need to not be afraid of the occasional loss leader but we can't keep running down our funds.

Strategic Plan – review and revision. Look again at objectives and achievements. Will call a separate meeting to look at it.

Any other issues?

Need to also think about another folk community zoom – and what we could progress before then.

Maybe we should do more concerts during the year? – for more discussion, possibly with a small group.