

Annual General meeting of SFFANZ, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand held at Surrey Hotel, Grey Lynn on June 4, 2012.

Meeting Opened: 10.12am

Present: 31 members

As chair of the meeting, Alan Robson welcomed everyone.

Apologies were received from: Maree Pavletich, Matthew Pavletich, Grant Preston.

Proxies were held for Grant Preston (Lynelle Howell), Maree Pavletich (Lynelle Howell), Matthew Pavletich (Lynelle Howell).

Minutes of the previous meeting, held at ConText on June 1, 2011.

Lorain Clark moved, and Robin Clarke seconded "That the meeting take the minutes as read".

Carried without dissent.

Matters Arising:

SpecFicNZ Memberships for SJV voting

Alan Robson contacted Ripley Patton from SpecFicNZ about the proposal made by Kelly Buchanan in 2011 for captiation (SFFANZ membership for voting purposes, which could be made at the time of SpecFicNZ renewal) and they agreed that the status quo would continue.. SpecFicNZ and SFFANZ are to remain separate at this time.

Treasurer's Report

John Toon, as treasurer for SFFANZ, presented the annual accounts. He thanked Simon Litten for the preparation of the accounts. The convention account remains unchanged at \$2052.90. It was noted that there was a reduction in funds in the general account, but this was due to a large expense claim from Norman Cates for SJV-related costs. John reported that the cost of postage for the coming year will be reduced as Phoenix is now sharing the cost of the PO Box rental.

Graeme Edge questioned why the convention funds were not in an interest-bearing account. This option is to be investigated.

John Toon moved, and Alan Parker seconded "That the meeting accept the accounts as presented".

Carried without dissent.

Election of Officers

The following people stood for nomination:

Kelly Buchanan
Jan Butterworth
Norman Cates
Lorain Clark
Lynelle Howell
Alan Robson
Jo Toon
John Toon

There being insufficient names put forward to cause an election, the eight nominees were pronounced the board for the 2012-13 term.

President's Report

Alan Robson presented his report as President, saying that SFFANZ had enjoyed a successful year.

In particular, he noted that the organisation is becoming known outside of fandom. SFFANZ has been contacted by a number of organisations, including the NZSO and Pump Dance Studios, about events. Universal Studios provided three DVDs to be given away.

Alan commented that the reviewing of books is ongoing, with reviews being published on the SFFANZ website. He noted that publishers think SFFANZ is wonderful. He thanked the reviewers for the efforts over the past year.

He encouraged the meeting to advise SFFANZ of any known New Zealand works, so these could be listed on the SFFANZ website. He thanked Simon Litten and June Young for their efforts in finding material.

General Business:

Clarification of Final Ballot of the SJV Awards

Alan Robson noted that every year something with the awards comes up which is unexpected.

He explained that this year there had been issues with the final ballot nominees in the short story category, where multiple nominees had multiple entries. The board had agreed at the time to remove all contentious issues by resolving to only put forward four nominees for the final ballot. The board wished to advise the meeting of its handling of the matter and seek feedback on whether Rule 6a should be changed to allow for such instances. Lynelle Howell, as a member of the SJV sub-committee explained to the meeting the dilemma in question.

Alan Robson proposed, and Simon Litten seconded "That rule 6a remain as it is."

The motion on the floor was discussed. Norman Cates noted that a limit on the number of entries from any one author in any one category ensured that there was variety in the final ballot. He noted that the board had spent effort in trying placate as many nominees as possible in their actions. It was noted that in previous years where multiple people had multiple works within a category, these people had been contacted about removal of some of their entries. This had been met with mixed results in the past and this practice was not used this year.

Lyn McConchie mentioned that as an author, it was in her best interests to have as few works on the ballot in any one category as possible to improve the likelihood of success.

After discussion, the feeling of the meeting was that nominees with multiple works in any one category could be contacted about removal of their works and offered the opportunity to remove one or more. The SJV sub-committee and board would be bound by any decision the nominee made.

Alan re-read out Rule 6a for the meeting. The motion on the floor was carried.

Proposal to Remove Fan Categories

Alan Robson proposed, and Lyn McConchie seconded "That the fan categories be removed from the Sir Julius Vogel Awards."

Alan then spoke to the motion, saying that the SJVs are being recognised more widely now, and that perception is important. He believes the fan awards make the SJVs look introspective and hold them back from being recognised as something akin to the Booker Prize.

The motion was then opened up to the floor for discussion. Alan Parker questioned whether removing the fan awards would take the SJVs out of line with other major awards, such as the

Hugos and Nebulas, which have professional and fan categories. June Young noted that New Zealand has a small fan base, and removing the fan awards would remove incentive.

Norman asked for evidence of where industry professionals have shown concern about the fan awards. He further suggested that we need to encourage fans to do more. It was noted the fan award nominees of today could be professional nominees in the future.

The motion on the floor was then voted upon and defeated.

SFFANZ web domain names

Alan Robson explained that SFFANZ presently owns three different domains:

sf.org.nz

sffanz.org.nz

sffanz.sf.org.nz

He explained that having three different domains causes perceptual problems, and there have also been issues of mail being lost because of confusion between the different domains.

Simon Litten advised the meeting that this problem is administrative and should have been sorted at board level, rather than at AGM level. Alan advised that the board had discussed the issue but had been unable to come to a satisfactory resolution, hence it was being discussed in a larger forum.

Ross said that multiple aliases are common in industry, and further commented that sf.org.nz is a service that can be offered to conventions, and is used by sffanz as well. But he noted our corporate image is sffanz.org.nz. There was agreement that sffanz.org.nz should be the official corporate branding for the organisation.

Norman noted that Martin Kealey initially set up sf.org.nz and it still contains a lot of information, though he would like to see the website developed to be more useful.

Alan Robson proposed and Ross Temple seconded "That sffanz.sf.org.nz disappear from view, although redirects would still need to work." Motion carried with 18 yes votes and 14 abstentions.

Norman Cates noted that sf.org.nz was more of portal website and would like to see it developed properly. Martin Kealey asked for assistance to help in running and developing the site.

General Business

Sir Julius Vogel Award Trophies

Lyn McConchie asked what an SJV award was worth. While no official value could be given, an approximate value of \$50-\$60 was advised. Lyn advised she is adjusting her will to ensure a "recycling" of her five trophies upon her death, which would save SFFANZ approximately \$250-\$300. Alan Robson thanked Lyn for her generosity. Kevin MacLean noted that there is approximately one year's worth of trophies still in stock.

2020 SJV trophies

Sylvana Whyborn questioned whether the SJV awards would be up-scaled for the worldcon. It was noted that the SJVs and the Hugo Awards (which are presented at worldcon) would be separate.

Meeting closed 11.15am.

Bids for Upcoming Conventions

Alan Robson called for bids for the 2014 convention. There were no bids from the floor, therefore the so-named "Ross Temple" solution will be put into effect - bids will be called for by 30 November 2012, if none are received, a further call for bids will be made up to the end of

March 2013. If at that time no bids are received, the board of SFFANZ will make contingency plans for the hosting of the SJV awards for 2014. The plan will be ratified at Au Contraire 2.

Kelly Buchanan and Daphne Lawless then gave an update of Au Contraire 2. The dates for the event will be July 12-14, 2013. This date was shifted as another event had taken over the planned Queen's Birthday Weekend dates. Au Contraire 2 will be held at the Quality Hotel in Cuba Street.

The Fan GoH is Anna Klein, who has been involved in LARPing.

Kelly showed the meeting the newly-launched Au Contraire 2 website and forum. The forums had been introduced as a way of attracting new people and making the convention more accessible.