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Meteor Incorporated ABN 51 672 398 723

Notice of seventh Annual General Meeting

to be held at the Mail Exchange Hotel
688 Bourke Street, Melbourne VIC 3000
(cnr. Spencer and Bourke Streets). Tel: (03) 9903 6880

at 6:30 pm on Monday evening 3rd November 2014

Agenda

1. Attendance & apologies (an attendance register will be circulated)
2. Minutes of the sixth annual general meeting on 21 Oct 2013
3. President's Annual Report to Members
4. Reports from other office bearers
 - a) Financial Report
 - b) Secretary's Report
5. Matters arising from reports
6. Discussion of future directions

Keynote speech from a senior Academic with a proven track record of networking successfully with archivists (subject to availability of the speaker on the night).

See next page for discussion topics under two headings, viz.

‘Options for Future Directions’ and

‘Setting the scene for this AGM’.

See also *Vires Acquirit* #6 (October 2014), which is a detailed briefing paper for this AGM.

7. Election of Office Bearers – six to be elected

Members of the current committee are

Bruce Gillespie (President)

LynC (Vice President)

Carey Handfield (Treasurer)

Bill Wright (Secretary)

Rob Gerrand (Committee Member)

Being eligible, they offer themselves for re-election. Please note that Bill Wright, although accepting nomination for the ensuing year, is unable for health reasons to continue as an Office Bearer indefinitely. He and the new Committee are tasked with finding his replacement while Bill continues as Secretary. Prudently, Bill's replacement should not be long delayed.

8. General Business

Under Rule 12 (4) notice is required if any member wishes to bring any business meeting before a general meeting, and that notice must be given before the secretary calls notice of the next general meeting. Since notice of the meeting was given on 6 October 2014, it means that no new matters may be raised under General Business at the seventh AGM.

However, it is the Secretary's opinion that there is nothing in the Rules that would preclude a member from re-visiting any matter raised in debate under any other item on the Agenda, subject to a ruling from the Chair if the matter had been decided by resolution at the meeting.

9. Close the meeting

Options for Future Directions

Option 1 Continue on with Meteor as it stands, hoping for bequests and donations from the broad science fiction community that have not eventuated in the six year's since Meteor Inc was established in August 2007. That prospect requires a **new Secretary**, since Bill Wright is finding it too hard a task and is under medical advice that to continue will have serious health effects.

Option 2 Put Meteor 'on maintenance', keeping the website and its PayPal donations facility going but otherwise doing only the minimum to keep the Association going, i.e.

- continue to store material from rescued collections (or transfer them to trusted home storage, or to a secure and trusted archive, thus plugging an ongoing drain on the Public Fund),
- hold quarterly committee meetings and annual meetings, in accordance with the Rules,
- ensure that key administrative tasks (i.e. membership accounting including regular billing for due and overdue subscriptions, scheduling committee meetings and the AGM, documenting important information about fanzines, at-risk collections, libraries, community archives, etc., including liaisons with local and overseas institutions established during Bill Wright's tenure.
- lodge annual government returns to Victorian Consumer Affairs, and
- lodge quarterly returns to the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO) that the Federal Treasurer and the Commissioner of Taxation review at irregular intervals to decide on whether to confirm the Australian Tax Office's assessment of other incorporated entities on the ROCO including the Meteor Incorporated Public Fund as deductible gift recipients.

Option 3 Redefine Meteor Inc's objectives to include making grants from the Public Fund to organisations like MSFC, ASFF, WASFF or the Sydney Futurians with similar objectives to Meteor (e.g. promotion of literature in the context of preserving science fiction and making it publicly accessible*) that are in need of funds. This *may* require amendments to the Rules.

Note: * "promotion of literature" was the key purpose that allowed Meteor Incorporated to be entered on the ROCO. That, and the context: "preserving science fiction and making it publicly accessible" in the Statement of Purposes in the preamble to the Association's Rules are enough to ensure continuation of the deductible gift recipient status of the Meteor Incorporated Public Fund, provided that half yearly statistical returns to the ROCO are kept up to date.

Setting the scene for the AGM on 3rd November 2014

The Australian library system believes that the science fiction community is best served by healthy partnerships between its institutions and fandom. It posits that the focus of that partnership should be for *donors* to decide on where and under what conditions to sell, donate or bequeath science fiction collections, authors annotated manuscripts, convention souvenir books and other quality material in direct consultation with the institution concerned.

The implication is that the Australian sf community should encourage that form of preserving and curating in its publicity. But isn't that the very antithesis of Meteor's objectives? Our Association has some money but little support. Is our ultimate objective important enough to persevere with it, or can our objectives be realized in another way such as symbiotic partnership with, for example, Monash University Library's Rare Books archive?

- If Meteor has to modify its focus to fit in with the Australian library system, a 'road map' would be helpful. We will try to engage a senior administrator-librarian with a proven track record of networking successfully with archivists to make the keynote speech at the AGM.
- There is no urgent need to dispose of our saved collections in storage, but it could be a sensible precaution to consider options to do so, if fans continue to fail to support us.
- If the vision is important enough for us to *hang in there* in a climate where its realisation is in the distant future, what steps should we take now to position the Association for reactivation when the time is ripe?

Under Rule 21, all office bearers must retire at the AGM and may offer themselves for re-election. Under Rule 23, nominations of candidates for election as officers of the Association or as ordinary members of the committee must be--

- (a) made in writing, signed by two members of the Association and accompanied by the written consent of the candidate (which may be endorsed on the form of nomination); and
- (b) delivered to the Secretary of the Association not less than 7 days before the date fixed for the holding of the annual general meeting.

Accordingly, members wishing to nominate for Committee should complete a Nomination form (see pro-forma circulated this Agenda) and return it either in the form of a modified Word file by return e-mail, or in the Post to the Secretary to the above mentioned address. Please note that, under Rule 23, nominations for committee must be received by 27 Oct 2014, That is tomorrow.

The Secretary apologises if that too short notice prevents any member desirous of nominating for Committee from doing so. Don't worry if you are short of one or two Nominators. They can be added at the meeting before the ballot if you have enough support.

Bill Wright, Secretary 26 October 2014