



Sombrero Galaxy M104

Minutes of the sixth Annual General Meeting
at Mail Exchange Hotel, corner Bourke and Spencer
Streets, Melbourne, on Monday 21st October 2013



Vires Acquirit Eundo

DRAFT, pending ratification at the next AGM

Agenda item

1. The meeting opened at 6:42 pm with a welcome from Vice President LynC, in the Chair.

Present: Mervyn & Helena Binns, Thomas Bull, Stephen Campbell, Bruce Gillespie, Carey Handfield, LynC, David Russell, Bill Wright.

Apologies: Apologies were received from Rob Gerrard, Rose Mitchell, Perry Middlemiss, Jean Weber and Robin Johnson.

Proxies: There were no proxies received from absent members.

2. **Minutes** of the fifth AGM at Mail Exchange Hotel 22nd November 2012 were read, together with an addendum thereto relating to activities of the Association and its liaisons with university-based libraries and community archives worldwide. The minutes and addendum were then adopted on a motion proposed by Bruce Gillespie and seconded by Carey Handfield

3. **In the absence of President Mark Loney, Vice-President LynC** provided guidance for the conduct of this important meeting which sets a course for the future of Meteor Incorporated.

Referring to the ongoing global financial crisis as a contributory cause, Lyn reminded members that paucity of donations and zero bequests since the Association began in August 2007 has created a crisis requiring decisions at this AGM that will have repercussions for years to come.

4. a) **Treasurer's Financial Report** (not audited) was presented by Carey Handfield. It was received on a motion seconded by LynC.
b) **Secretary's Report** was delivered by Bill Wright. It was received on a motion seconded by David Russell. The report includes proceedings of the Meteor Incorporated Forum at Conflux 9 / Natcon 52 at Canberra in April 2013, as well as Bill Wright's detailed reports on his visits to freehold premises at LASFS in Los Angeles and NESFA in Boston, during his recent DUFF trip.

5. **Matters arising from Reports:** No matters were raised arising from the reports.

6. **Discussion of future directions for Meteor Incorporated** (Note: includes explanatory material)
Vice-President LynC called upon Secretary Bill Wright to run the discussion.

Bruce Gillespie has said we all believe in the idea of Meteor; we just don't know how to put it into effect without large amounts of capital. Meteor should stay as a low level organization against the day when someone comes along who knows how to make it work. **Mark Loney** has said we need one or more 'whales', i.e. philanthropists who will donate large amounts of cash to the cause. **Bill Wright** says we need members of the Australian SF community to remember Meteor in their Wills.

Background:

Pursuant to the Statement of Purposes registered with Victorian Consumer Affairs reading,

"The purposes of the incorporated association are

- a) to preserve and manage selected fanzines, pulp magazines, other science fiction and fantasy memorabilia, and any other arts related publications and media in particular literature, film and videos; and
- b) to provide a resource for literary and cultural research in to science fiction and fantasy literature and culture,"

the Association's primary objective was defined at the outset as:

"To gather funds by donations and bequests to acquire premises and hire qualified staff to set up a science fiction institution and research library in Australia."

Resolution of issues arising from the Meteor Incorporated Forum at Conflux 9 in April 2013

Although the general focus of the meeting was on short term issues, it did reaffirm the hope that a future generation of fans would take up the cause; indicating majority support for the Association's primary objective as defined above..

Accordingly, the meeting elected to disregard advice at the Conflux forum from archivists Pauline Dickinson (ex University of Sydney archivist) and Grant Stone (ex Murdoch University archivist) to the effect that Meteor Inc should abandon its primary objective of accumulating a fund to acquire premises for a bricks and mortar science fiction institution and research library in Australia, and instead focus solely on facilitating donations of material and money from the owners of 'at risk' collections to the Australian library system.

Grant Stone had then asked the very pertinent question, "*What then becomes of Meteor?*" the implication being that Meteor Inc's role would be reduced to that of a go-between in the transfer of collections to libraries.

[Unstated at this AGM, but a major topic of discussion at past AGMs is the dismal past record of some Australian libraries that have proved to be unreliable custodians of SF material in their care. Indeed, such defalcations were a major reason why Meteor Incorporated was set up in 2007.]

The meeting was not prepared to accept the Dickinson/Stone suggestion as the only viable option for Meteor Inc. going forward, although it remains an option for collectors facing immediacy of the breakup of their collections in circumstances where Meteor Inc lacks resources to accept them.

Review of relevant events in the Association's history since it began in August 2007

In July 2008 Robin Johnson suggested an interim objective, viz.

"To rescue and store selected items from 'at risk' collections until resources become available to manage them properly."

That interim objective was adopted at the next AGM and a target of \$10,000 tax deductible donations to the Meteor Incorporated Public Fund set to provide resources for retrieval and safe storage of such material.

In December 2010 items from the Mervyn Binns collection were donated to Meteor Inc and stored in Bin 2178 at Access Self Storage premises in Montague Street, South Melbourne. Items from the John Rowley collection and material from Jack Herman were added at a later date.

Third objective:

The meeting took cognizance of Australian SF clubs and associations that unexpectedly face eviction from rented premises, placing their large collections of significant SF books, fanzines and other memorabilia at risk. The possibility of Meteor Incorporated making grants to such entities to ensure their collections continue to be properly maintained and managed was floated.

After reviewing the issues, the meeting decided on a **third objective** deemed to be consistent with the Association's registered Statement of Purposes, viz.

"At the discretion of the committee, to make grants to organizations with similar objectives to Meteor Incorporated, broadly defined as promoting literature, preserving science fiction and making it publicly accessible."

It was agreed, on a motion by Bill Wright seconded by Mervyn Binns, to allow grants conforming to Meteor Incorporated's Third Objective to be made out of the Association's General Fund or the Meteor Incorporated Public Fund as the Committee sees fit subject to any individual grant being no more than 25% of the balance in the Fund from which the grant is made, with any grant of higher amount requiring authorization from a poll of the members at which a majority (i.e. at least fifty per cent of members polled plus one) must agree for the grant to be made.

7. **Election of Office Bearers:** Office bearers are elected annually. Five of the six committee members were present and offered themselves for re-election in the positions of President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee Member. There being no other nominations, the following members were declared elected...

Bruce Gillespie (President) **Carey Handfield** (Treasurer) **Rob Gerrand** (Committee Member)

LynC (Vice President) **Bill Wright** (Secretary)

They will serve until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting. The Committee may co-opt any member to serve on the Committee until the conclusion of the next AGM.

8. **General Business:** No items of general business had been notified in advance of the meeting, but Secretary Bill Wright's increasingly obtrusive age-related infirmities brought into focus the question of succession planning for the administration of Meteor Incorporated going forward.

As a prelude to shedding administrative tasks over time, the meeting asked Bill to document operational procedures for all his secretarial functions.. Bill offered to do so in the form of a Business Administration Model (BAM), with Meteor Inc.'s incorporation, rules and objectives at top level, overview of its operations and liaisons with other entities at second level, processes and resources at third level, and detailed procedures including sources for statutory returns, etc. at fourth and lowest level. However, some procedures need to be precisely defined beforehand. (See below).

Bruce Gillespie volunteered to take over as Membership Secretary (involving liaison with the Treasurer), with a view to

- a) tracking receipts into, and expenditures from, both the Association's General Fund and Public Fund; and
- b) billing members for dues and arrears of dues, at least six weeks in advance of their annual renewal dates

on the proviso that the Secretary and the Treasurer hand over to him precise lists of all current information about membership matters, including

- from the Secretary, the Register of Members showing the annual renewal date for each member, amount due each year and the date renewed to; and
- from the Treasurer, complete transactions lists from both the Association's General Fund and the Meteor Incorporated Public Fund bank accounts, dating from at least as far back as the earliest date renewed to.

Bruce Gillespie also volunteered to take over responsibility for government returns, subject to the Secretary furnishing detailed procedural documentation including information sources for the annual return to Victorian Consumer Affairs and half yearly returns to the Register of Cultural Organisations (ROCO) in Canberra.

Other administrative functions will stay with Bill Wright until his BAM has been written, reviewed and accepted by the Committee. A succession plan can then emerge.

9. The meeting closed at 8:53 pm.

Signed by President at seventh AGM in 2014