



historycouncilnsw

Minutes Annual General Meeting

History House, 26 February 2016
5.30pm-6.30pm

1. Welcome and Apologies

Attending: David Carment, Tanya Evans, Nancy Cushing, Mari Metzke, Richard Neville, Stephen Gapps, Mark Dunn, Michelle Cavanagh, Elinor Wrobel, Janette Pelosi, Lisa Murray, Megan Martin, Jenni Stapleton, Mirjana Djukic, Andrea Fernandes, Wayne Johnson, Nicole Cama (Executive Officer and HCNSW member), Amy Way (Administrative Assistant).

Apologies: Dave Earl, Jeannine Baker, Roslyn Burge, Richard Waterhouse, Peter Phelps, Tanya Davies, Jacqueline Spedding, Matthew Allen, Joyce Stepto, Christine Wright, Louise Trott.

Proxy: John Pickard

Meeting commenced at 5.31

2. Minutes from previous annual general meeting

Mari Metzke moved that the minutes be accepted, seconded by Tanya Evans. Motion carried.

3. President's Report

David Carment referred to the previously circulated 2015 Annual Report. The year was a successful one. For David, a highlight was Professor Bruce Scates' Annual History Lecture. HCNSW received a number of sponsorships. It had funding from Arts NSW, though it was reduced considerably for 2016. The coming year will be more challenging. HCNSW needed to work with Arts NSW to see what kind of funding it could apply for and also look at other sources of funding, which Nicole Cama had been doing already. David was confident HCNSW would continue to be able to achieve its objectives but it may have to change the nature of some activities to match Arts NSW's priorities. There would have to be greater emphasis on being a service organisation.

Jenni Stapleton asked if HCNSW was rethinking its identity and goals to suit its service role.



David Carment and Tanya Evans answered yes. HCNSW had already approached staff at the NSW Writer's Centre as well as Ancestry.com.au and the National Trust NSW to further address its goals and seek further funding opportunities.

Nicole Cama noted that another priority for herself and Amy Way, the Administrative Assistant, was to approach members to understand how to best service their needs, how to improve what the HCNSW offered and perhaps expand its activities to include things like professional development opportunities. How HCNSW dealt with its membership was a strong facet of its status as a service organisation as defined by Arts NSW.

Mark Dunn asked if Arts NSW put conditions on providing further funding.

David Carment answered that their view is that we focused too much on History Week and we needed to form collaborations. History Teachers Association NSW was not considered a priority area of interest for Arts NSW. HCNSW needed to be talking to people like the Department of Education and other organisations who might be able to provide additional sponsorships and financial support.

Nicole Cama said that a key focus for Arts NSW and their approach to awarding funding within their Arts and Cultural and Development Program were the following areas: people living and/or working in regional NSW, people living and/or working in Western Sydney, Aboriginal people, people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, young people, people with disability.

Megan Martin said it was important HCNSW aligned its activities with Arts NSW, but it was a delicate balancing act.

4. Treasurer's report

Richard Neville reported that one of the main issues was losing \$40,000 in funding from Arts NSW for 2016. Sponsorship also came late last year. There was less spending on salaries, which was both a positive and negative thing. This year HCNSW needed to be thinking very carefully about and planning for 2017. Mandy Kretzschmar should be thanked for her sterling work on bringing the finances back into surplus. HCNSW needed to rethink what it would be doing over the next year with its money in order to survive for the years to come.

Mari Metzke noted the event costs were increased and asked if that was because there were some free events. She suggested that the annual report explain why more was spent on events.

Richard Neville moved the adoption of the financial statements, seconded by Megan Martin. Motion carried.



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5. Annual Report

Nancy Cushing moved the adoption of the report, seconded by Jenni Stapleton. Motion carried.

6. Nomination of an auditor for the 2016 financial year

David Carment reported that for the last couple of years William Buck was the auditor. He proposed that the Executive Committee consider auditors for 2016, and approach accountancy firms for quotes.

Jenni Stapleton moved that the Executive Committee consider auditing options for 2016, seconded by Mari Metzke. Motion carried.

7. Other Business

David Carment noted recent concerns about federal funding cuts to Commonwealth cultural institutions. He thought it would be appropriate for the HCNSW to write a letter to the Minister for the Arts, Senator Mitch Fifield. There was general consensus on this suggestion.

David also noted he met with Stephen Davies, the new Chair of the Heritage Council of NSW, and that Mark Dunn was the new Deputy Chair. Stephen very kindly offered to come to a HCNSW meeting. David will invite him to do so.

Meeting concluded at 5.56pm.