



2023 AGM

MINUTES

Thursday 18th May

Meeting started at 6.30pm

Hadley's Orient Hotel

1. Welcome by Chair.
2. Acknowledgement of country.
3. Apologies: Anne Layton-Bennett, Denise Telfer, Karen Treanor, Terry Whitebeach.
 - 3.1. Proxy from Tony Bonney.
4. Confirmation of Minutes from the 2022 AGM.
 - 4.1. Accepted: Mark Macleod Seconded: Sue Kennedy
5. Business arising from previous meeting. None.
6. Chair's report.

Mark spoke to his report in the Annual Report. There is a good deal of weariness and grief in the community after the pandemic. Try to encourage people to get back to normal.

Mark thanked the Board members who left after a long period. Karen Brooks joined but left due to ill health.

The staff are under huge pressure in the office as the staff are trying to do it all on less than a shoestring budget. We can thank CJ who goes above and beyond all the time, plus Arianne James who devotes a lot of enthusiasm to the organisation. Also, Sue who been doing the minutes, in spite of her own ill health.

We have financial challenges as we did not get funding from Arts Tasmania. We have had grants in the past but we now need to manage what we want to do and how do we find alternate funding.

The grant in 2022 allowed us to look at how we are going to restructure. Voluntary organisations always want to do everything for almost no money. We need to

manage our own and others' expectations. It is not possible without funding. Trying to organise meetings when everyone is so busy.

We hope to find philanthropic support, so we have tried to streamline our operations and do what we do well. We have rethought our mission, strategies. We also need marketing and publicity experience to help us on the Board or in the office. We need to get to people regularly particularly before events.

In a nutshell, my philosophy is to think bigger not be tempted to shrink back. Even though it requires a real burst of energy and effort. Don't be the person in the corner yearning to be asked to dance who won't get noticed. I have asked the Board and staff to think big and do a few things really well. This year we are having a festival about and for children called Storygig, as it is not just about books but they know a lot about people who draw stories, film stories or post wonderful stories on tiktok. We must encompass all forms of story.

7. Treasurer's Report and presentation of Audit Report. Erika Thomson.

We received a \$50000 grant in 2022. We used that but we had income from other activities. So at the moment we are using our reserves. Anne Collins asked what proportion of our income comes from workshops and memberships. From the Profit and Loss statement for 2022 it looks like about 20%. Normally it would be higher than that.

8. Director's report.

She said that she has been with the centre for 6 years. Best job she has ever had as she feels she is doing the most important work. The state government has now acknowledged the literacy rate in Tasmania. The Tasmanian Literacy advisory council has recommended that we need literary activities to encourage literacy. CJ asks all people present to talk to members of parliament about this.

Mark echoed CJ's thoughts by encouraging talking to as many people as possible.

9. Subscriptions: amounts to be ratified (full \$75, concession \$50, student \$25).

9.1. Sue suggested that we include a donation button next to the membership.

9.2. Accepted: Cary Lenehan Seconded: Leigh Swinbourne

10. Staffing: hourly rates paid to staff ratified.

10.1. Leigh asked if CJ and Arianne's hours could be more equitable.

10.2. Erika asked if the awards rate have risen and CJ said they rose last year.

10.3. Anne said that when there is no money you really have no option.

10.4. Accepted: Anne Morgan Seconded: Cary Lenehan

11. Election of Office Bearers:

11.1. We have four vacancies on the Board, including the Secretary position, and would like to fill a couple of them if possible. If you have relevant skills and experience (as we outlined in the Notice of AGM) we can take nominations this evening. Or we can co-opt Board members during the year if unable to take up a Board position now.

11.2. Nicola Ingram has been nominated for the Board by Sue Kennedy and seconded by Cassandra Wunsch.

12. Confirmation of Auditor and cost of audit.

12.1. Erika said that the audit is still in process but it will be free of charge.

12.2. Accepted: Seconded:

13. Special Business.

13.1. Anne Morgan asked if we are involved with 26ten.

13.2. Anne asked about the Hobart bid to become a UNESCO city of literature. CJ spoke about the progress with this and that even if it doesn't get u[p] the bringing together of all these parties is extremely good. The first hurdle is the HCC meeting on Monday. She suggested we write to the HCC before the meeting to encourage them, to support the bid. Some of the councillors are very interested, some not so. Whatever happens they are now aware of the cultural outcomes that could come from this. CJ feels that this is another approach to focus on literacy.

Colin Baldwin asked if there is any information on TasWriters website.

CJ said no because it is HCC's responsibility and it still may not come off yet. Until HCC approves the bid we cannot promote it.

13.3. Mark promoted Storygig and Uncle Dougie Mansell's smoking ceremony. Learning how to tell story through Indian dance, traditional and Bollywood.

We want to extend our reach to interact with storytelling elsewhere as well as letting other people about Tasmanian storytelling. We have two online sessions with Jeannie Baker and with one of Indian's great story tellers, from University of Mumbai. She has an organisation about to change.

14. The meeting closed at 7.15pm.