

Annual General meeting of SFFANZ, the Science Fiction and Fantasy Association of New Zealand held at Quality Hotel, Cuba Street, Wellington on July 14, 2013.

Meeting Opened: 11.15am
Present: 21 members

As chair of the meeting, Alan Robson welcomed everyone.
Apologies were received from: Jacqui Smith
Proxies were held for Stephen Litten (Jan Butterworth)

Minutes of the previous meeting, held at UnCONventional on June 4, 2012.

Alan Robson moved, and Lyn McConchie seconded "That the meeting take the minutes as read".
Carried without dissent.

Matters Arising:

Lyn McConchie questioned whether the matter of multiple trophies for group winners of Sir Julius Vogel Awards (SJVs) had been satisfactorily resolved. It was noted by Norman Cates and Alan Robson that this matter had been resolved at a previous AGM – it had been agreed that for group winners only one trophy would be awarded.

Norman Cates reported that we are now out of trophies and will need to get more made, though noted there would be no difficulties in doing so.

Linnette Horne questioned whether there was a limit to the size of a group in any group nomination, and whether this would affect the number of trophies given. It was noted that this situation has yet to arise, and will be dealt with as and when it does.

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. The cost of postal box rental has been reduced as Phoenix Science Fiction Society is now sharing the box, and therefore the cost.

Linnette Horne questioned why the convention funds were not in a term deposit. This option is to be investigated, however Norman Cates understood that \$10,000 was the minimum that could be made.

John Toon moved, and Maree Pavletich seconded "That the meeting accept the accounts as presented".
Carried without dissent.

Election of Officers

The following people stood for nomination:

Jan Butterworth
Norman Cates
Lorain Clark
Lynelle Howell

Stephen Minchin
Harry Musgrave
Alan Robson
Jo Toon
John Toon

There being insufficient names put forward to cause an election, the nine nominees were pronounced the board for the 2013-14 term.

President's Report

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

In particular, he noted that we have received lots of enquiries about science fiction and fantasy in New Zealand, received story submission requests (which have been posted on the website and through the news blog), received a request for interviews with Radio New Zealand and had authors invited to do readings during New Zealand Book Month.

He noted that we continue to have an excellent team of reviewers posting reviews on the SFFANZ site. Should you wish to join the review team, please contact enquiries@sffanz.org.nz. Members present were also reminded that should they have items for the news site to please use the above address for letting us know.

Maree Pavletich moved, and John Toon seconded "That the president's report be accepted". Carried.

General Business:

Amendments to SJV Rules

There was confusion among nominators, nominees and even the SJV committee about the rules in relation to collections of works.

This stemmed from concern about what is considered original work, particularly in relation to collections.

Alan Robson read out the proposed rewording of the original clause to the meeting. This was discussed.

Alan Robson moved, and Simon Litten seconded "That the original work clause, as redefined by the meeting be accepted". Carried.

The question arose whether a collection that features previously nominatable works, or which have previously been on the ballot individually, was eligible (such as Elizabeth Knox's work was in 2008). Simon Litten noted that for anthologies or collections, the nomination is for the collection as a whole, and not reliant on whether its individual items have previously been eligible.

In order to resolve the questions, the collected work clause was also discussed at the meeting.

Simon Litten proposed, and Norman Cates seconded "That the amended definition of Collected Work, as proposed (as below), be accepted". Carried.

d) Collected Work

A collected work is a SF/F/H collection or anthology, magazine or journal, e-zine or webzine which must pay contributors in other than contributor copies and incidentals, or is sponsored by an institution other than a fan club, or whose editors declare themselves to be professional. At least one edition of a collected work must have been issued in the eligible calendar year. To be eligible, the work must contain not less than two genre-related contributions. An omnibus (defined as a collection of novels) is eligible where 50 percent or more of the individual works it contains have not previously been on the SJV ballot.

Production/Publication

A nomination was made under the professional category of Production/Publication that was a film. This was made because the wording does technically allow for it, even though there is a Dramatic presentation category which is more suitable.

The motion, as proposed in the agenda, was read out to the meeting and was then discussed. It was noted that documentaries needed to be included. The motion was amended during the meeting and Simon Litten moved, and Alan Parker seconded "That the motion, as amended at the meeting (below) be accepted." Carried.

g) Production/Publication

Professional production/publication is for work in any medium other than those eligible for other categories. The work must be first released or made available for public viewing in the eligible calendar year. The producer of the work must have received payment or have intended to have received payment for the work produced. Eligible works include but are not limited to: comic strips, advertising copy (moving or still), media presentations not specifically intended to be dramatic presentations, art, periodical, journal, e-zine, webzine, computer application, or website.

Youth Novel inclusion in list of categories.

A request had been made to include Youth Novel in the formal list of categories. Although the category had been used since 2007 because of numbers of nominations received in the novel category, it had never been formally included. Questions were asked, and statistics supplied, relating to how many nominations are received in those categories.

Alan Robson proposed, and Jo Toon seconded "That the youth novel category be added."

The motion was then discussed. Maree Pavletich was concerned that by having an all-encompassing category we'd be overlooked by publishers who were looking for four distinct categories, as is found in other book awards – specifically picture book, young adult, children's fiction and non fiction. Concern was raised that this would add a considerable number of categories to the already large number of awards we already present. June Young noted that a children's picture book could go into production/publication, as other artwork books had done so.

Stephen Minchin proposed, and John Toon seconded "That Youth Novel be defined as"

A Youth Novel is any single work of SF/F/H of any length or word count, published as a self-contained work rather than in a collection, and specifically written for young adults or children. "

Carried

Combining of Fan Production and Fan Publication.

As per the agenda, there was a proposal to combine the two categories, as is done in the professional categories. June Young was concerned that it is difficult to judge an art display from a fanzine. It was noted that orphan categories are not ideal, and this would reduce the likelihood of this.

Alan Robson moved, and Graeme Edge seconded "That the fan production/publication be defined as:

Fan production/publication is for work in any medium other than those eligible for other categories. The work must be first released or made available for public viewing in the eligible calendar year. Eligible works include but are not limited to: comic strips, art, video, film, periodical, theatrical, journal, e-zine, webzine, computer application, or website."

Carried with two abstentions and one dissenting vote.

Dramatic Presentation

This year a nomination was received for a dramatic presentation which was only viewable at film festivals, but which is expected to seek general release in the 2013 calendar year. The members' views were sought on whether general release should be defined in the rules.

It was agreed that while general release is preferable, provided the producers are happy to ensure a copy of the work is available for viewing by voters, then it should be eligible for nominations.

It was further noted that should a work appear on the ballot having only had a film festival release, it would not be eligible for nomination again when, or if, it made general release.

Alan Robson proposed, and Robin Clarke seconded "That the dramatic presentation section of the rules be amended (as below)." Carried.

"A general release is where the work is generally available to the public. This includes, but isn't limited to, theatrical, web, DVD/Bluray/Video. Works nominated on the basis of only a festival release may be accepted for nomination in the year of the festival at the discretion of the nominees on the understanding that if the nomination goes forward a later general release will not be eligible for nomination. Thus a work may be nominated as either a festival release or a general release but not

both.”

Long list of Nominees

Jenner Litchwark was concerned that a long list of nominees was not provided anywhere in the awards notifications. It was noted that this had happened previously and a commitment was made to reinstate doing this.

Jenner also expressed concern that the awards are losing credibility because they are being seen as like an “X-Factor” style award system. It was noted by Alan Robson that the rules on how the awards work are clearly stated, however he asked that if there are parts of the rules which are unclear, SFFANZ should be advised so that this can be rectified.

Jenner suggested that it would be better for the awards to move to a judged system. Alan Robson asked her to write a formal proposal for the SFFANZ board to consider.

There being no further business, the meeting closed 12.55pm.