



Minutes of the 81st Annual General Meeting of The New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc)

9.30am Saturday 23rd May
Havelock North Community Centre

Present:

Liz V Allen, Jane Barr, Adele Broadbent, Gay Buckingham, Ingrid Coles, Jackie Dennis, Chris Else, Barbara Else, Bronwen Evans, Jenny Haworth, Diane Hebley, Claire Hill, Brent Leslie, Anna Mackenzie, Rae McGregor, Gavin McGregor, Di Menefy, Kyle Mewburn, Adrienne Morris, Dell Panny, Mee Mee Phipps, Mary-Anne Scott, Philippa Werry, Jim Young, Jackie Rutherford, Stephanie Brew, Anne Michelle Johai

PEN International - Empty Chair

Aron Atabek is a prize-winning poet and political writer currently in jail in Kazakhstan, having served eight years of an 18 year sentence for supposedly orchestrating “mass disorder”—or, protesting against the demolition of the shanty-town Shanyrak and the social-cleansing of its people. He vehemently denies his guilt, and has rejected an offer by the government of a pardon on condition that he confess.

Apologies

Linda Donald, Diana Tormey, Chrissie Ward, Tina Shaw, Chris Abbey, Jean Gorman, Maurice Gee, Marilyn Duckworth, Beverly Randell Price, Alan Roddick, John Dunmore, Jackie Rutherford, Sue McCauley, Rosemary Francis, Bronwyn Elsmore, Elizabeth (Biddy) Fraser-Davies, Kathleen Gallagher, Helen Mongillo, Deborah Burnside, Jackie Ballantyne, Margaret Cahill, Philip Temple

Apologies were accepted by the meeting.

Received – Anna Mackenzie, second – Di Menefy

CARRIED

Minutes of the 2014 AGM:

The Minutes were opened for discussion.

Two amendments were noted and the minutes were altered accordingly before signature.

Received –Rae McGregor, second – Di Menefy

CARRIED

Matters Arising:

There were no Matters Arising.

President's Report:

The President's Report had been previously circulated.

The Report was opened for discussion

In response to the President's comments, Jenny Haworth moved from the floor a thank you to Jackie and Claire for their tremendous contribution during the year. A motion to accept the report and Jenny Haworth's motion was presented from the Chair.

Received – Gay Buckingham, second – Anna Mackenzie

CARRIED

Branch reports

Branch reports were circulated prior to the meeting and a representative from 6 of the 8 Branches spoke for two minutes about their Branch highlights through the year.

A motion to accept the Branch reports was moved by the Chair.

First – Jenny Haworth, second – Brent Leslie

CARRIED

Chief Executive Officer's Report including Programmes and Awards

The Chief Executive's Report had been previously circulated.

A motion to accept the report was presented from the Chair.

First - Liz, second - Chris

CARRIED

Members suggested names of potential philanthropists

Financial Statements:

Jackie presented a Powerpoint (as attached) as supplementary information to the Audited Accounts

A motion to receive the Financial Statements was moved by the Chair.

First – Anna Mackenzie, second – Liz Allen

CARRIED

Representative Reports

The Representatives' Reports had been previously circulated.

A motion to accept the Representatives' Reports was moved by the Chair.

First –Philippa Werry, second – Rae McGregor

CARRIED

A verbal report on *NZ Author* from Editor Rae McGregor

A member proposed that those who want it printed should pay a little extra for their print copy.

President-of-Honour for 2015-16

Philip Temple is President of Honour for 2015-16. A media release was distributed 17 May prior to the AGM and Philip presenting a session at the Auckland Writers Festival.

Philip wrote: I hope one of you can say at the AGM how pleased and honoured I am to have been made President of Honour of NZSA/PEN for 2015-2016. As always, I hope I can be of use to NZSA during my tenure and not just a geriatric figurehead. Indeed I am off and running with my Speakers Corner contribution at the Auckland Writers Festival last weekend.

First – Chris Else, second – Gay Buckingham

CARRIED

Other Business

Changes to the Constitution

Kyle puts to the floor that Motion 1, be accepted, causing the motion to be read

Motion 1

That in the NZSA (PEN Inc) Constitution Section 12 REGIONS, clause (a) "There shall be up to nine regions comprising at least three from the South Island and at least three from the North Island" be amended to "There shall be up to seven regions comprising at least two from the South Island and two from the North Island".

The proposed amendment is required to allow the number of regions to be reduced to five in line with the approved reforms.

Liz Allen has moved from the floor that we also amend Section 10 (a), changing 'nine' to 'seven' and 10 (g) changing 'six' to 'four'. They were read to the meeting.

- (a) The Management of the Society shall be vested in a National Council consisting of the National President, and up to ~~nine~~ seven elected Regional Delegates. A Vice-President whose role shall be to stand in for the President shall be elected by the National Council from its membership following the AGM.
- (g) A quorum of the National Council shall consist of ~~six~~ four persons.

Seconded by Chris Else

The amendment was put to the meeting

UNANIMOUS

The amended motion was then put to the meeting

UNANIMOUS

Motion 2

That in the NZSA (PEN Inc) Constitution Section 17 THE NEW ZEALAND AUTHOR, "The Society shall at intervals determined by resolution of the National Council keep members informed of the affairs of the Society and its Branches and of other matters of interest to writers by means of a gazette (at present known as THE NEW ZEALAND AUTHOR) posted to all members" be amended to:

"The Society shall regularly keep members informed of the affairs of the Society and its Branches and of other matters of interest to writers."

Chris Else moved from the floor the the motion be amended to read:

"The Society shall regularly keep members informed of the affairs of the Society and its Branches and of other matters of interest to writers through a variety of media."

Seconded by Anna Mackenzie

The amendment was put to the meeting

FAILED

Liz Allen moved from the floor a further amendment, that the title of Section 17 is changed from 'New Zealand Author' to 'Communications'.

Seconded by Chris Else

The amendment was put to the meeting

UNANIMOUS

The amended motion was then put to the meeting

UNANIMOUS

Reappointment of Auditors

Moved by the chair

CARRIED

General Business

Jenny Haworth noted Christchurch had Remits but they were delivered too late to be presented at the AGM.

Chris Else commented that the process for proposed structural changes went really well – consultation was very good.

He is concerned Regional Delegates are too tightly associated with Branches, people who don't go to branch meetings were consequently left out. How are we going to consult with the greater region?

Jackie responded communications come from National Office to all members.

Chris Else considered Regional Delegate should communicate with the region directly, and also with senior members and non-members of the society who have valuable knowledge.

Venue for next AGM

National Office is seeking sponsors for a National Writers Forum in Auckland 2016. If it can be held in May it could be the location of the AGM, otherwise it will be Wellington.

Moved by the Chair to approve naming the location of the AGM at a later date.

CARRIED

With no further matters arising, the 81st Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Society of Authors (PEN NZ Inc.) closed at 11:20am

Signed
Kyle Mewburn, President

Date.....