



.Federation of Camera Clubs (NSW) Inc

Minutes of Annual General Meeting.
Castle Hill RSL Club Ltd, Castle Hill.
Sunday, 3rd May 2009

Meeting opened 1:58 pm with A Hitchell as chairperson.

Attendance as per appendix.

Apologies: Lismore Camera Club, Burwood Camera Club, S Jenkins, B Seager, R Finneran.
1 President Alan Hitchell thanked all present and noted some delegates had travelled long distances.

2 Minutes of 2008 AGM

Moved: That the minutes of 19th April 2008 be received. R Kirkland, P Ramsden. Carried.

Matters arising

1 Denis Bainbridge raised his concern that the FCC appeared to have increased the surplus of funds.
2 Allan Cullen raised his concern as to whether a quorum was present last year. Quorum was present.
Moved: That the minutes of 19th April be accepted. J Crew, P Ramsden. Carried.

Moved: That the minutes of 18th May 2008 be received. J Crew, R Kirkland. Carried.

Matters arising

1 Roy Killen wanted it corrected that he was not from Wollongong but from Belmont 16ft Club.
2 Alan Hitchell advised delegates that the new committee had achieved a new judging course, a new policy on travel and was working to send judges to the country areas.
3 The FCC has supported major competitions in the state such the Northern Zone, Western District Association of Camera Clubs, Western District Nationals, Maitland International, Newcastle National.
4 Gary Riley queried the term of office of the secretary asking why it was not listed as a vacancy. Luciano said that although he had initially said he would stay for a three month period no replacement had come forward. For a vacancy to occur Luciano said he would have had to resign formally and this had not occurred. After much further discussion Roy Killen took delegates through the constitution and pointed out that the constitution does not specify a period less than two years when a committee position is filled. Roy said Luciano was elected for a two year term. Jim Crew supported Roy.
5 Gary Riley asked about the duties of the Public Officer in relation to the upkeep of the register of members.
Luciano as public officer said the public officer was required to keep a register of members of the Executive Committee only at his private residential address and made available to any one wishing to examine it.

Moved: That the minutes of 18th May be accepted. J Crew, S Buchanan. Carried.

President's Report as per written notes:

Moved: That the president's report be received. Bob Cook, R Kirkland. Carried.

Matters arising

1 Dennis Bainbridge-commented that the FCC has too much money; capitation fee may be too high; the funds need to be spent wisely and perhaps see what capital expenditure needs to be made; money for workshops in different areas; would like to see a budget for two years in advance; would like to see assistance for country areas and other clubs.

2 David Miller –insurance for next year may be higher and enquiries need to be made.

3 John Newton-increase in funds may be due to increase in membership.

4 Alan Hitchell-some activities may run at a loss and allowance for this is needed. FCC is looking to buy more stands; light box and a new trailer.

Moved: That the report be accepted. D Miller, A Cullen. Carried.

Alan Hitchell reminded those present about Topshot.

Question asked as to why the entry fee was so high?

Alan reply-we are using last year's figures.

Andrea Robinson-entry fee has remained constant more or less over the years.

Some costs will be greater at the PMA.

Committee was asked to look at the costs of running Topshot and the entry fee.

Some costs are associated with incentives for beginners by way of prizes.

Secretary's Report as per written notes circulated to all clubs.

Moved: That the secretary's report be received. D Miller, A Robinson. Carried.

Matters arising:

1 Luciano highlighted some aspects of the report and added some further comments.

Some issues have emerged as a result of the current debates related to the renewal of the FCC to APS.

a) Understanding the constitution

b) Confidentiality of meeting notes and discussion within committee

c) Who is a member of FCC

d) Due process in sending motions to the AGM

e) Authority of the Executive Committee vis-a- vis the AGM-what matters can be brought before the AGM

-constitution mentions "other matters"

-Life membership from old constitution

-casual vacancies

f) Quorum

2 New Associations Incorporation Act 2009 has been assented and will in due course be available to the public. Some changes to note:

-the legislation will now have provision for fining associations that don't follow their constitution;

-there is provision for postal voting and the committee will look at this;

-there is provision for using digital technology for meetings.

-the FCC will need to establish a sub committee to look at the new act and advise any changes that may be needed for the FCC constitution.

Moved: That the Secretary's report be accepted. S Buchanan, P Ramsden. Carried.

Treasurer's Report as per written notes circulated to all clubs.

Moved: That the treasurer's report be received. R Killen, P Ramsden. Carried.

Matters arising:

1 Roy explained that due to the treasurer's resignation he would be delivering the report and answer any questions to the best of his ability.

2 We have an increase in funds in part due to not having a newsletter on a regular basis.

3 Insurance showed a difference of about \$1100 compared to the previous year.

4 Topshot showed a loss of \$200 in 2008 and a profit in 2007. Not much different from one year to the next.

5 Some clubs are not insured via the FCC insurance; clubs are not subsidised if they are not insured; clubs belonging to a registered club are expected to be insured by the parent club whilst on the premises of the parent club; these clubs may not be insured outside the parent club's premises and these clubs need to check with their parent club if they are covered;

6 A question was raised that the per individual member may be too high in view of the increased funds; Luciano pointed out that \$5 divided by 50 weeks was not a significant fee to pay.

7 David Miller-suggested that a tiered structure for fees could be looked at. What do clubs get for their fee? Some funds could be used to help small clubs.

8 Robyn Riley-are some meeting expenses related to travel to meetings? Yes.

9 Dennis Bainbridge –asked for FCC to establish a budget for the next two years.

10 Margaret Butt-membership for individuals vary from year to year and is reliant on clubs being honest in their numbers.

11 John Newton-the report should show assets and their depreciation-there is no change in the report.

Education Sub Committee as per written notes circulated to clubs.

Moved: That the education sub committee report be received. R Killen, P Ramsden. Carried.

Matters arising:

1 The workshops were designed to be not just for judges and offers a broader view of photography.

2 Dennis Bainbridge –will the workshops proposed for Port Macquarie have less workshops then the Sydney ones? Roy-no they will be the same but two workshops for the weekend.

3 Carol Newton-was concerned that the questionnaire gave the impression that prospective judges must have national or international acceptances in competitions. This criteria is not a good indicator of good judging.

4 Roy-to be on the list you need to demonstrate you can judge. From the FCC's point of view it is necessary that a judge on the list gives clubs confidence that the judge has the necessary skills.

5 Robyn Riley-will there be refresher courses for old judges? Roy-when asked in a questionnaire if they would participate in a refresher course half the judges who responded said No.

6 David Miller-judges are there to encourage.

Moved: That the education sub committee report be accepted. R Killen, S Buchanan. Carried.

Honours Sub Committee report as circulated to clubs.

Moved: That the honours sub committee report be received. L Vranich, D Miller. Carried.

Matters arising:

1 Patricia Beal-the policy has in one place that the nominee does not have to be a member of a club and in another that the nominee has to be a member of a club.

Luciano will take it on board and review the policy.

2 Life membership from previous constitution should be given an automatic award.

The sub committee will take this on board.

Moved: That the honours sub committee report be accepted. D Miller, J Newton. Carried.

Notice of motion for the constitutional changes as circulated to clubs.

Legal advice had been received that because the words "special resolution" were missing the motions could not be put.

Luciano made the following points in relation to the notice of motion:

John's email presents a major problem under the new constitution as a matter of procedure.

I quote from the email:

“Submitted / Moved / Seconded (as appropriate) by the delegates of the following Member Clubs.

Port Hacking Camera Club
Cronulla Sharks Camera Club
Sutherland Shire National Exhibition of Photography.”

1 The email refers to a meeting of delegates representing the groups nominated:

Port Hacking Camera Club
Cronulla Sharks Camera Club
Sutherland Shire National Exhibition of Photography

2 There is no indication that the respective clubs were consulted.

3 There is no indication that the committees of those groups met separately to discuss and approve the motions.

4 This process is flawed and shows an abuse of due process.

5 Delegates cannot come together and make decisions on behalf of their clubs or of other clubs notwithstanding that some delegates may be members of other groups. This dual membership would be seen as a conflict of interest.

6 Each club has to meet separately and give instructions to its delegates to vote in a particular way on each motion on the AGM agenda or to approve a motion created by the committee or club in general meeting.

7 It is legally invalid for delegates of a club to come together and make decisions on behalf of their club.

8 For more than one club's delegates to come together and make decisions purporting to represent the view of all the clubs could be construed as a conspiracy.

Notice of motions from J Newton as circulated to clubs.

1. That the Federation of Camera Clubs (NSW) Incorporated (known as the FCC). remain a member of the Australian Photographic Society Incorporated (known as the APS).

John Newton spoke in favour of the motion and gave a brief overview of the historic connection with APS.

Andrea Robinson read a draft report to be given to APS-report in appendices.

Some further discussion occurred and in view that the motions have already been circulated, it was

moved: That the motion be put. Bob Cook, Alan Cullen. Carried.

The motion was put and carried.

2 That the Federation of Camera Clubs (NSW) Incorporated continue to use the Honour System of the Australian Photographic Society Incorporated. That the FCC submit at least two nominations for the Honour SSAPS each year.

John Newton spoke in favour of the motion.

Luciano raised a point of order and asked to be heard. Delegates present refused. Luciano asked to be heard and referred delegates to the procedural advice in the constitutional motions. After some further discussion Luciano was permitted to speak.

Luciano made the following points:

1 The constitution of APS is based on individuals and also allows groups to be members.

2 The awards that APS gives to its members are only for individuals.

3 APS giving the FCC two SSAPS awards and asking the FCC to recommend two candidates for SSAPS is inconsistent with its constitution. Awards cannot be given to a group for distribution. They can only be given to individuals as a result of individuals recommending through the appropriate form. This restriction would seem invalid as there are no restrictions for all the other individual members to be nominated for the relevant awards. In other words a hundred individuals could be nominated from APS membership and if fitting the criteria should be given the award.

4 Even if we accept that APS can give an honour to the FCC it presents two problems:

- The FCC is not a natural person and cannot as such be seen to receive an honour.
- The members of the FCC are clubs and as such cannot be seen to receive an honour.

5 So why is the FCC asked to do what APS should be doing itself to honour its individual members?

6 It is not appropriate for this procedure to continue in its present form.

7 If APS wishes to receive recommendations for the SSAPS awards it only has to advertise through its normal channels of communication to its members that it is seeking candidates for the awards.

8 It is not up to the FCC to do the job that APS should be doing. And to restrict the numbers to two is questionable in itself.

John Newton and delegates present disagreed with the above points.

After further discussion it was agreed that the wording was problematic with “at least two”.

S Buchanan-motion is flawed-can we ignore it?

Further discussion on historic awards being given greater than two.

Roy Killen-the motion is unnecessary and inappropriate in view of motion 1.

Alan Cullen-who are members of APS? Individuals. Who are members of FCC? Clubs.

J Newton agreed with Roy and withdrew the motion.

- 3 That members of Camera Clubs who are members of more than one club (who pay membership in each club) be permitted to enter in the FCC Interclub Competition in all the clubs they are members. The entries submitted must be different in each club and there should be no duplication of entry. Unless clubs can utilise all their members some clubs will be disadvantaged and may not be able to submit an entry.

If member clubs are not to be permitted to utilize the work of all their members the capitation fees for clubs should be adjusted accordingly and only charged once for an individual regardless of how many clubs that person is a member.

John Newton spoke in favour of the motion and argued that the motion would address the problem of doubling up that occurred at last year's Interclub.

Roy-spoke against, pointing out that Interclub was there to promote photography and give an opportunity to participate to a greater number of members of clubs.

Others pointed out that the Interclub was very competitive and clubs try to put their best work in.

Gary Riley-not disputing last year's decision but concerned that the clubs were not told of the decision in a timely manner. Found out in a roundabout way. Claimed competition was poorly managed-digital entries were not judged together in one venue.

Moved: That the motion be put. A Cullen, J Newton. Carried.

The motion was put and carried.

Election of vacant positions

Vice President

J Watson –nominated by M Butt and seconded by R Kirkland.

Julie indicated she was happy to be on the committee but would prefer to be an ordinary member.
 Roy Killen-nominated by Julie Watson and seconded by Vince Nash.
 There being no other nominations Roy was declared elected.

Treasurer

John Newton-nominated by L Vranich seconded by J Watson.
 There being no other nominations John was declared elected.

Ordinary member

J Watson-nominated by P Ramsden and seconded by R Killen.
 There being no other nominations Julie was declared elected.

Gary Riley-nominated by M Butt and seconded by J Newton.
 There being no other nominations Gary was declared elected.

A third position could not be filled and the Executive Committee will try to fill as a casual vacancy.

General Business:

1 Hans Lignell-there is a separate camera club on line(digital). Is the club recognised? Yes.
 Robyn Riley-the member is the club and has no relevance to where the individuals forming that club come from.

Next AGM meeting.

Moved: That the committee determine the date of the next AGM. J Newton, M Butt. Carried.

Attendance

| Full_Club_Name | Delegates_Name | Voting delegate |
|--|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Australia Digital Photographic Association | <u>Hanchao (Henry) Zeng</u> | <u>Hanchao (Henry) Zeng</u> |
| | <u>Wenjie (Vincent) Zheng</u> | |
| | <u>Zhipeng (Eric) Zhu</u> | |
| Belmont 16 Ft Sailing Club Photographic Club | Roy Killen | Roy Killen |
| Blacktown City Photographic Club | Andrea Robinson | |
| Castle Hill RSL Photography Club | Richard Trousdale | |
| | Bob Cook | |
| Central Coast Leagues Club Camera Club | Moira Taylor | Moira Taylor |
| Cronulla Sharks Camera Club | John Newton | John Newton |
| | Robyn Riley | |

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| Dee Why RSL Camera Club | Bob DUNBAR | Bob Dunbar |
| Henry Lawson Camera Club | Luciano Vranich | Luciano Vranich |
| | R. Kirkland | |
| Inner West Photograph Society | Vince Nash | |
| Lane Cove Camera Club | Jim Crew | |
| Manly Warringah Rugby League Club Camera Club | Margaret Reidy | Margaret Reidy |
| Mosman Camera Club Inc | Hans Lignell | Philip Ramsden |
| | Philip Ramsden | |
| North Sydney Leagues Club Camera Club | Patricia Beal | Patricia Beal |
| | Ray Papulis | |
| | Rosemary Cox | |
| Northside Creative Photography Inc. | Susan Buchanan | Susan Buchanan |
| Pennant Hills Photographic Club Inc. | Alan Torrens | |
| | Alan Hitchell | |
| Penrith RSL Club Photographic Club Inc | Allen Cullen | Allen Cullen |
| | Fiona Findlay | |
| Pittwater Camera Club Inc. | Marie Windred | Marie Windred |
| | Peter Squires | |
| Port Hacking Camera Club | Gary Riley | |
| | Carol Newton | |
| Ryde_Eastwood Leagues Club Camera Club | Denis Bainbridge | |
| St George Leagues Club Photographic Society | David Miller | |

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| Sutherland Shire National Exhibition of Photography | Margaret Butt | |
| The Entrance Camera Club Incorporated | Julie Watson | Julie Watson |

REPORTS

The FCC went thru a difficult time last year needing two AGMs to get a committee. I hoped we may have recruited some experienced members it did not happen instead members new to the FCC and some with a few short years in camera clubs.

They all come forward keen and excited about their new role in support of our camera clubs but with little knowledge of FCC operations.

The first 12 months are always a steep learning curve for the inexperienced with a need to learn on the run the FCC gives little free time to learn in and we have jobs waiting to be done the minute they are elected.

For example : The AIPC , the treasure has member fees and insurance to send out , the editor has a newsletter to get out , the webmaster a website to update and the secretary to read up on past minutes and changes of address's to attend to.

The interclub coursed a number of problems and time was one of them everyone were still trying to settle in it was a credit to everyone involved to achieve the good result we had with the interclub.

We had our failures to 2 newsletters in 7 months and communication with our members was one of them.

We learn from mistakes and failures and grow stronger and learn to do better .

A state the size of NSW with 80 clubs and 2000 members is a big job and takes up a lot of time and energy for everyone and we regret the lost of committee members and wish them well for the future.

We have a new webmaster and a new newsletter editor who comes with past experienced and we welcome them on board but we are now in need of a new treasurer a very important role as fees and insurance are due in a few months.

We have also lost with her passing Barbara Abercrombie one of the FCC strongest supporters not afraid to tell it as she saw it and one of the first to put hand up and then knuckle down to the job.

Everyone knows Bob and Jane are moving to South Coast in May 09. The south coast just do not know what their in for photography will change for the better down South.

The FCC has been well served by workaholic's who give there all to the FCC Guy Parsons was one of those people he put his hand up for everything 2000 -2002 Bob Milo not only put his hand up for everything he took off you jobs you were about to start yourself, his energy levels were massive But his heart was not so he was forced to slow down a little 2004 - 2005 , 2006 - 2008 in some areas only the committees are aware how valuable they have been to us and Bob was still helping us in 2009 although not on committee.

The many people who have stepped forward and taken on multiple jobs have been very important to us but it comes at a price it burns people out and we lost vital people desperately needed by the FCC.

Today on committee we have that in Richard Trousdale a person running around looking after 4 or 5 jobs at once and Richard I thank for the effort you are putting in for the FCC so please slow down a little.

Roy is another person who gives us his vast knowledge and is working hard on our Education Sub-committee. Andy, as our treasurer, has also give freely of his skills time and knowledge to our finances and who has just stepped down all of them have worked above and beyond what should be expected of them.

The success of education workshops is due to everyone on the sub-committee and the lecturers with very good attendances.

There is a lesson here for the clubs to learn people mainly join camera clubs to learn , how to use their camera better and how to improve their images , some of our clubs recognise this by running workshops to teach photography and it is no surprise that those clubs are among our most successful clubs .

Past judges course which were run over two days and allowed photographers to sit in and listen and learn how we trained our judges had 45 plus attendees and today our courses teaching people about photography and judging to come later are 55 plus with a waiting list to attend

Clubs need to be running short classes teaching photography as a way to recruit new members and to service the members they already have and that approach should help them grow.

Two questions I am asked on visits to clubs: do we have too much money in the bank and do we need the FCC today.

First the money Yes we have a lot of money in the bank and this is in part due to a simple answer of not spending and we need to spend.

A digital projector, a laptop, a new trailer, more print stands a light box for judging, etc on equipment.

We need to run more courses on photography and in particular the country area which will require us to cover some of the costs.

We need to form a Southern region from Shellharbour to Victoria and to help them get started invest some money.

We need to support our major competitions in NSW and invest more money in our international and our nationals.

We are giving some help we need to give a hell of a lot more to support photography in NSW.

We also should not lose sight of the point that the FCC is a state body looking after one of our biggest states with 80 camera clubs doing the job properly costs money and we need to lift our game and do it properly So back to the question do we have too much money NO, not if we do our job properly

The FCC is now 56 years old and is in my opinion still relevant today even though there has been massive changes due to technology and we need to take advantage of new technology and adjust our operations accordingly.

Insurance, website, newsletter, competitions, database members, judges, education course etc.

It also comes down to doing our job properly and we do need to lift our game in this area.