



Perth Anime Convention Inc

General Meeting

Dome Café Maylands
12 June 2016
2.15 pm

Minutes

1. Welcome

2. Attendance and Apologies

- **Attendance:** Wilson Law (President), Hilary Chin (Secretary), Garry Gasmire (Fundraising), Garry Sleaf (Competitions), Cathy Cogan (Traders), Fabian Yong (Panels), Tahlia Hendry (Marketing)
- **Apologies:** Thu Vu (Vice President), Jill Ho (Treasurer)

3. Chair and Minutes

- **Chair:** Wilson Law
- **Minutes:** Hilary Chin

4. Check-in

- 10 members, 1 proxy

5. Agenda

- Board reports
- Required constitution changes (as per *Associations Act 2015*)
- Rebranding
- Fundraising
- Update on investigation

6. Meeting Minutes

Board report – President

- Things have been quiet in terms of public engagement as there hasn't been much in terms of events.
- PAniC is slowly liaising with different clubs and groups, mostly working on PAniC's internals and getting them back up and running.
- Went to the Department of Commerce's information session about required constitution changes, waiting for final guidance for the new *Associations Act 2015*.
- PAniC was contacted by Autism West to participate in a mini anime screening and social night and a few board members attended. This event allowed PAniC to get out and chat with people. It was made evident that Wai-Con is something that people still hold dear and would like to see come back.

No Board report – Vice-President

Board report – Secretary

- Thanked the members of PCU for joining PAniC as well as POWA for joining up earlier this year.
- Planning on moving the database to an online program, hoping to prevent loss of membership data that may occur when switching between different database programs and Excel.
- Went to the Department of Commerce's information session with Wilson, will look at the finalised guidance when this is released after 1 July 2016.

No Board report – Treasurer

- Treasurer did not give report

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- Wilson gave a summary of accounts, over \$1,000 in the bank and in total about \$1,500, this is good given earlier in the year were under \$1,000 in total.

Board report – Events

- Nothing done with the public at the moment but is planning a quiz night and karaoke as well as ideas for new events as well.

Board report – Panels

- No convention so nothing to report on panels situation.
- Is investigating public liability providers and going with Wilson to events to get PAniC's name out into the community. Wilson has approached JETAAWA. Has also approached UWAnime.
- Went to the Autism West social night, was glad that PAniC went. Autism West said they would like to work with PAniC and PAniC to reach out to other similar groups for collaborations.

Board report – Marketing

- No PAniC events to publicise, but have been posting to publicise affiliated groups and Japan related events. Was contacted by Rotary Australia to post about the Japanese exchange program. Puts out an offer to other groups to help with publicising events on their behalf.

Board report – Competitions

- No competitions to report on.
- Ramune is selling well at Tokyo Underground. Wilson clarifies the arrangement with Tokyo Underground, Tokyo Underground is selling cold ramune for \$4 a bottle with all proceeds going to PAniC. Wilson mentions there is stock available if anyone else would like to help sell ramune. Dylan indicates interest.

Board reports – Traders

- Found a money order written out to Wai-Con, not PAniC, from paperwork from previous time on board, this has been cashed and the money given to PAniC.

Constitution Changes

With the update to the Associations Act there is a 3 year period in which PAniC must update its constitution in order to be compliant with the new law. Wilson and Hilary went to the briefing, 5 additional components were identified as needing to be added to the constitution. However, the board is looking at rewriting the whole constitution so it is useful to the operation of the board and for members too. These changes will need to be brought to the membership for a vote. Official guidance will be released by the Department of Commerce after 1 July 2016, and the board will start looking at changes after this.

Wade queried if suggestions will be taken. Wilson said yes but that the most important thing is making sure PAniC is in compliance with the Act. Garry S said the plan is to update the constitution in stages. Wade pointed out that every amendment needs to be posted to the agenda for the meeting to vote on changes. Wilson pointed out that under the Department of Commerce guidance some changes can be made without needing to go to the membership for a vote. Michael brought up GhengisCon changing their constitution earlier this year to be in compliance with the updated Act and how they still brought it to the members. Wilson said for transparency's sake any changes will be brought to the membership.

Rebranding

PAniC stands for Perth Anime Convention Incorporated, with past fundraising all going towards the hosting of Wai-Con. The board would like to look at changing it so that it meshes more with the activities PAniC are starting and looking at doing in the future with the community.

Fabian clarified saying the intent is to rename PAniC so that PAniC is all encompassing, not just organising one event (Wai-Con) but many things for the community. Wilson mentioned how when you ask people about PAniC, they do realise what it is about, but if you ask about Wai-Con it gets better recognition as a brand. He would like to differentiate PAniC branding from Wai-Con branding, as they currently seen as being the one and the same. Garry S said it is not Wai-Con presents PAniC but PAniC presents Wai-Con. Wilson said that PAniC's events scope is bigger than just Wai-Con.

Koi queried if this means just taking the "Convention" out of the name. Wilson responded that the choice will be put to the members, about what they think will fit best. At present, he would like to remove

“Convention” from the full organisation name since it is more about the community than a single event. Garry S suggested changing the C from “Convention” to “Community”.

Dylan suggested asking on Facebook for name suggestions. Hilary responded it may be better to do it by email to keep it within the membership. Wilson agreed that suggestions should come from the members. Koi suggested doing it via email and asking for proof of membership when a suggestion is given, but to promote the movement on Facebook.

Wilson said PANiC needs to make sure membership details are correct. To do this, members need to come forward and given updated details where required. Garry S said that there are more questions to be asked of the members than just renaming.

Koi mentioned she did not know C stood for “Convention”. Dylan mentioned he believed it stood for “Community” already.

Wilson explained that the organisation has used the short form “PANiC’ for a long time, so there is the option to keep the short form and change the underlying words or change the whole name.

Vari asked how much marketing material has just “PANiC” on it and not the full name with “Perth Anime Convention”. Discussion followed with membership cards and the logo identified as two items with “Convention” on them. Garry S brought up that a total rename will be a large effort. Wilson was under the impression that the official seal was often used, Wade said that during his time on board they never used the official seal.

Wilson said that a lot of items may need to be changed following rebranding, some more easily than others. Membership card stocks have already been printed with the current name, so PANiC may opt to use existing printed memberships until they run out and then update.

Fundraising

Bunnings Sausage Sizzle

PANiC were looking at a Bunnings sausage sizzle at Subiaco however this requires public liability. The Catch 22 is PANiC are fundraising to hold events (which require public liability) but fundraising in itself often requires public liability.

Garry S pointed out the tentative date for the Bunnings sausage sizzle was Boxing Day, hence it is likely the fundraising event would have resulted in net loss instead of profit. Wilson said that after being given the date of 26 December 2016, the board did some research and decided to forgo the sausage sizzle for now as it is not viable. Are looking at a different Bunnings location and different date.

Dylan mentioned that Midland Bunnings gets a lot of traffic as it is the main big store. Garry S asks if that Bunnings also holds car washes, Dylan responded that he has not seen any in a while but it was held at the front near the entrance. Rebecca asked if there are any other shops around the Bunnings, as this would help Boxing Day traffic. Garry S clarified that the Boxing Day date was given for Subiaco which does not have many shops around it and is in an affluent area with residents unlikely to visit Bunnings on a public holiday.

Dylan mentioned he has also seen sausage sizzles outside the JB Hi Fi and BCF in Midland but is unsure who to contact about such opportunities. Rebecca said that JB Hi Fi Myaree also has sausage sizzles and if a Boxing Day date can be arranged will result in lots of traffic.

Ramune Sales

Tokyo Underground is selling ramune on behalf of PANiC. This is providing consistent cash flow and prevents stock from sitting in the warehouse getting closer to expiry. PANiC has been reaching out to other organisations to sell ramune at an agreed price on our behalf.

Cadbury Chocolate Fundraising

PANiC is restarting Cadbury chocolate fundraising (previously held 2003/2004), as it has a small setup cost and people will buy chocolates no matter what the cause. Offers have been put out for others to order boxes through PANiC to help fundraise. Dylan asked if there is any Pocky to sell to remove the need to order chocolates. Garry G responded that Pocky stocks are all sold out.

Grant Applications

Hilary and Fabian will be going to a grants workshop at the end of the month for Harmony Day 2017. Wilson mentioned that if PAniC manages to get a grant there may be strings attached since it is a grant, but at the moment PAniC is not in a position to hold medium to large size events. Fabian said that if PAniC can work with the people who organise Japan Festival it may be possible to get a grant to do something for Harmony Day in conjunction with other community groups like PCU, POWA etc.

Wilson asked if any questions. Wade said run some events. Wilson said that PAniC would like to but need public liability. If PAniC had \$100,000 it wouldn't be much of an issue. Fabian said PAniC is hoping to get something organised for spring. Wilson suggested a mini event or get together as a fundraiser, something for PAniC to start rebuilding and reengaging with its members and other organisations.

Investigation

Jill, Tahlia and Wilson went to the police for discussion and advice. Given the records from 2012 to 2014 are very patchy, the board have currently been working on piecing together the information PAniC does have, and urging people to come forward if they have information. If documents have been destroyed, it makes it harder for PAniC to investigate. While there have been rumours it is not in PAniC's interests to heed them.

Garry S said that Stage 1 was seeing the police, Stage 2 is asking people for information and looking for missing inventory and Stage 3 is to go even further.

Wilson clarified that taking it further is in reference to information that PAniC cannot currently obtain. Wants to ask the membership for permission to take the investigation to the relevant authorities to assist PAniC with gathering the necessary evidence. Would like to have full authority to go through with it.

Garry S said that if things are taken to the authorities some lives could be ruined, need to think carefully but personally about it. Said that previous board members were required to keep paperwork from their time on the board. Would like the membership to give PAniC permission, but even without permission would like the board to go ahead and contact the authorities, that is his suggestion. Wade requested that Garry S's words be minuted. Garry S clarified that this is his personal point of view that he will ask the board to consider.

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Chris asked if PAniC is lacking paperwork, what is there to go forward with. It is fine to go ahead with the investigation but there are more important things to focus on. Other clubs have moved on from money loses and are thriving now. Koi said the main priority should be rebuilding. The best revenge would be to rebuild and show that the organisation can still survive.

Cathy mentioned that she knows the feeling of stock being stolen and not having evidence to implicate. Fabian clarified that the investigation is something going on in the background, and PAniC's main priorities are fundraising and engagement.

Wilson said that PAniC does not have the evidence and resourcing, so are not putting all resources into the investigation as there is no point in doing so. But would like to clear the 'cloud' where some people have been implicated and names dragged through the mud. It is hard for all who have seen what has happened and still having this cloud on top of them saying that all this money has been lost. Fabian said if the board moves forward on this PAniC can leave the investigation to the authorities to handle.

Garry S said that during past meetings it was voted that the investigation go ahead. This is not about the money. There are board members who have not done their duties and paperwork is gone.

Wilson said there may be a point that the investigation can't go forward but want to carry through with the investigation as far as possible. Monetary recovery is not expected.

Ross said that if the investigation leads to PAniC being in charge of legal action then it is important for the membership to vote on if the club wants to use resources to take legal action. If the accused ends up being a strawman then the costs of legal action will be left in PAniC's hands. Justice isn't cheap.

Garry S wanted permission for the board to present information to the ACCC etc. so people who are innocent can be removed from the blacklist.

Ross queried what year the embezzlement/fraud took place. Garry S answers between 2012 and 2014, so recently not 10 years ago. Wants to know what the problem was.

Chris asked if there are any negatives to taking it further, could the past actions of the board backlash onto PAniC itself.

Tahlia said she feels like it already has. Fabian agreed saying current board already operating on a soiled reputation. Cathy said she was on the board during the time in question and says go ahead with taking it further. Garry S said that the top four board positions have duties that should be undertaken during time as board member.

Dylan asked if there is going to be a motion.

Garry S said that an investigation is not going to happen overnight. Wilson said proper consideration is required. Does not want to push all resourcing onto the investigation, want to rebuild PAniC but people's reputations have been tarnished. Want to clear the air. The past is past and money that is gone may never be seen again. If it comes down to taking legal action then it comes down to the members, if it will cost a lot of money we won't go ahead. But the person responsible won't be allowed to be part of the organisation anymore.

Ross suggested having a motion to give the current committee permission to contact the authorities for general advice, not to open a case.

Garry S said need to give people a chance to return or provide paperwork. If nothing is forthcoming then the only option is to approach the authorities to see what can be done.

Ross said that it's in the wording on the questions, unlikely that anyone present at the meeting would not want the board to seek advice. Hopes that people will read the meeting minutes and if they have information come forward.

Dylan pointed out that the ACCC can prosecute. Garry S said that people's lives could be changed dramatically.

Koi said as someone not well versed in legal stuff, would feel better with advice from the authorities.

Garry S said taking that the next step is serious. Need to know what PAniC can/can't do, what needs to be supplied then return to the membership. Wants to put a date on when that occurs to give people a deadline by which to come forward with information.

Wilson proposed a motion to allow the board to seek advice only from the relevant authorities such as ASIC, ACCC and so on to seek the proper course of action and possible consequences to present to the membership for a vote on how to proceed.

Garry S wanted to put a date (1st October) on when the PAniC board will go to the authorities, and said the membership needs to be up to date so that can email all the members on the course of action and ask for supply of information before going to the next stage.

Wilson said 4 months of time seemed acceptable. Koi and Dylan agreed that things shouldn't get dragged out. Wilson says this will give people time to update their details and for PAniC to consolidate information and get records sorted.

Koi asked if anyone knows how long it will take to go to the authorities, multiple people respond saying it should be relatively easy.

Wilson said need some time to consider so that findings can be presented at the next meeting or the meeting after. The latest time that information will be submitted to the membership is 1st October 2016.

Garry S wanted a meeting in mid-September which gives a grace period before the 1st October deadline. Wilson said he wants to put this on the backburner and focus on rebuilding. However, the investigation will allow people's names to be cleared.

Dylan seconded the motion.

15 vote in favour (including proxy), 2 abstain, 0 not in favour.

The motion is passed.

Koi asked if the people who can't make it to the September meeting will get the information. Wade asked if the previous GM meeting minutes could be provided in the email. Response is the meeting minutes are freely available on the website, can provide a link.

Garry S said that clearing the air is important as PAniC has lost a lot of sponsors. There is a need to lay out current PAniC's intent, what the board have done and demonstrate that the board is going straight down the line.

Wilson said even though it is in the past, as a matter of principle need to show that PAniC will not be doing this again as it is not the right way to do business.

Garry S said if the board sweeps this under the table then not doing better than previous boards who may or may not have been involved. Wilson said certain things can't be swept under the carpet.

7. Check Out

Meeting closed at 3.25 pm

8. Next meeting

To be announced.

I, the undersigned, have read the recorded minutes and confirm that they are an accurate representation of the meeting it reflects.



Chairperson