



PO Box 646, Bentley, WA 6982
swanperth@gmail.com
www.swan.org.au

Singapore-Western Australia Network Inc (SWAN)

**Minutes of
4th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Monday 27 October 2008
5pm**

**Offices of Wojtowicz Kelly Legal
Level 2, Ernst & Young Building
11 Mounts Bay Road
Perth, Western Australia 6000**

Note: Notice of AGM sent to members 3 October 2008.

Agenda:

- i. Reports from the President and Treasurer
- ii. Approve Minutes of 2007 AGM
- iii. Election of Officers
- iv. Any Other Business.

Meeting was called to order at 5.15 pm.

Attendance:

9 registered adult voting members attended, achieving the required quorum (10% of registered members, total members = 66) – i.e.

2007-08 Committee:

President, Mr Ong Chow Loo
Vice-president, Mr Peter Chong
Hon. Secretary, Ms Ilsa Sharp
Committee members, Mrs Sharin Grafton
& Mr Joachim Tan
Co-optees, Ms Joanna Forman
& Mr Danny Ng.

Ordinary Member Mr Wesley Sim
Mentor/Founder/Ordinary Member: Mr Anthony Quahe.

Apologies: 2007-08 Hon. Treasurer Ms Aileen Lim (overseas) & 2007-08 Cooptee Mr Fozzil Jaffar.

Proceedings:

i. Reports from President and Treasurer

The President's full Report is appended. The meeting accepted and approved this Report.

In the absence of Treasurer Aileen Lim overseas, Vice-president Mr Peter Chong presented the draft Financial Report (appended), pending finalisation by Ms Lim. VP Chong reported there had been a \$1,065 loss over the year owing to transactions being mainly outgoings, with no income. Cash at the bank currently (27 October 2008) was \$2,700.

The Treasurer's Financial Report was unanimously accepted and approved by the meeting, pending presentation of a finalised report soon.

ii. Approve Minutes of 2007 AGM

The 2007 AGM minutes were accepted and approved by the meeting, with the proviso of amendment of the first line on p. 2, re quorum, to have "of 10" deleted – Proposer Peter Chong. Seconded by Joanna Forman.

iii. Election of Officers

In the light of the resignations of President Ong Chow Loo, Vice-president Peter Chong, Treasurer Aileen Lim, Secretary Ilsa Sharp and Committee members Gudrun Benjamin and Muralee Nair Chandra, all for reasons of professional as well as personal pressures, and also the desire to clear the way for 'new blood', elections for all key posts were necessary.

As no contesting nominations had been received, the new 2008-09 Committee was duly elected without any further vote, as follows:

President: Mr Anthony Quahe
Vice-president: Mr Joachim Tan
Hon. Treasurer: Mr Wesley Sim
Hon. Secretary: vacant
Committee:
Ms Sharin Grafton
Mr Danny Ng
Committee Member 3: vacant.
Immediate Past President: Mr Ong Chow Loo

Unelected Co-optees Ms Joanna Forman & Mr Fozzil Jaffar were willing to continue to serve.

iv. Any Other Business

Former Secretary Ilsa Sharp handed over to the new Committee 3 packs of Swan records/files, including:

- Certificate of Incorporation
- Printouts of Constitution
- Membership Register file
- DOCEP Guidelines CD and file
- Cash box, containing \$26.90 petty cash
- Key to PO Box 646, Bentley (*Former President Ong Chow Loo to hand over spare key later*).

Ms Sharp also committed to hand over the membership database and email loop contacts to Joachim Tan asap and to continue to liaise closely on all outstanding matters or gaps in information. She would finalise AGM Minutes and send out a final message to members re the AGM proceedings and elections – AGM materials should also be posted on the Swan website by Joachim Tan. Ms Sharp would also supply the finalised new Committee list.

Mr Ong Chow Loo committed to handing over boxes of events materials such as the Swan banner, tablecloths etc, as and when necessary.

Newly elected President Anthony Quahe offered his thanks to the resigning former Committee officers for their hard work over the past four years.

Next Committee Meeting: This was tentatively set for Monday 17 November 2008, at the same venue as the AGM, Wojtowicz Kelly Legal offices.

Meeting closed at 6.15 pm.

end

Appendix 1:

President's Report

Mr Ong Chow Loo

Annual General Meeting 2008

Monday, 27 October 2008

SWAN'S FOURTH YEAR

28 October 2007 – 27 October 2008
(Financial Year 1 July 2007 – 30 June 2008)

DOING WHAT WE DO BEST

Once again, SWAN has had a good year, doing what we do best: networking electronically to exchange information, and keeping events simple, relaxed, affordable and relevant to our objectives.

We have experienced some small growth in membership, adding around 40 new members, making our database over 400 names, give or take a few whose email addresses are bouncing – we do need members to keep in touch with us when their email addresses change.

We have again kept in the black, thanks to kind sponsors, without having to impose a membership subscription – on this score, we particularly have to thank Mr John Nai of Coastal MidWest Transport for his generosity. SWAN has so far committed to a free membership policy, and to building numbers rather than reserves.

'WHY SORRY?'

To mark the historic occasion of Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's Apology to Aboriginals of the Stolen Generation in Parliament on 13 February 2008, and in conjunction with the WA Government's 'Harmony Week' 15-21 March, we organised a Saturday afternoon workshop on modern Aboriginal society, in collaboration with the Marr Mooditj health and community care training college on Clontarf Aboriginal Academy grounds, and led by Marr Mooditj's distinguished founder, Dr Joan Winch, on **15 March 2008**. The workshop included presentations by Aboriginal speakers, audio-visual elements, some didgeridoo music, a 'Bush Tucker' produce tasting (courtesy of our sponsor 'Loose Produce' shop, Como) and a fascinating interactive Q & A session. We were very grateful for support from Aboriginal community leaders Ken Hayward of Kallip Pty Ltd in Albany, David Kelly and Marr Mooditj's Director Margaret Quartermain

The turnout for this quality event was disappointingly low, totalling about 20, including about eight committee members.

We followed up for those interested with a tour of the Dumbartung Gallery of Aboriginal art, history and culture on Clontarf college grounds, on Friday morning, **11 July 2008**, charged at a donation of \$7 per head for the gallery. It was a working day, which was not ideal, but unavoidable, so only about seven people were treated to a rare view of some exciting artworks, historic artefacts, such as the unusually shaped WA boomerang, and some very moving photos of WA's Aboriginals taken at the very early stages of European settlement. We were guided by the Museum's eloquent and knowledgeable director, Robert Eggington.

Thanks are due in particular to Ilsa Sharp, Joanna Forman and Ros Hanley for the organisation of these events.

'INVISIBLE CITY'

We showed this unusual documentary on the interface of memories and history by Singaporean director Tan Pin Pin, on Sunday **10 August 2008**, the day after Singapore's National Day, at the Astor Cinema in Mt Lawley – it turned out to be close to the last show to be screened at this historic art deco cinema, among Perth's last independent movie-houses, since the Astor has since closed for economic reasons, to the great regret of Perth cinema-goers. Although 'Invisible City' was not an easy 'box-office' film, the event was a success, with SWAN covering all costs, making only a small loss of just over \$200. Close to 200 people came to see the movie. Thanks are due to the whole Committee and to 'extra' helpers such as my own wife Lay Eng for undertaking the organisation of this fairly large-scale event.

LOCAL NETWORKING

We have borne in mind always that our 'territory' is above all WA and it is here that we are centred.

SWAN continued its active liaison with the Ethnic Communities Council of WA (ECCWA) and the Australian Asian Association of WA Inc, of which organisations SWAN is a member.

We attended networking and workshop-type events organised by the Australia-Asian Association of WA Inc, including a dinner meeting with Mr Paul Farrell, State Director of the Department of Immigration & Citizenship, 24 June 2008.

NETWORKING WITH STUDENTS

We continued to network with the Singaporean university student community here, particularly with Murdoch and Edith Cowan. As with all our networked friends, we try to cross-promote our respective events through each other's communication channels. We are grateful in particular to coopted committee members Fozzil Jaffar and Danny Ng for their efforts on student coordination.

THANKS TO...

During the year, we lost one of our longest-standing Committee members, **Muralee Nair Chandra**, who had to step down owing to new professional pressures as well as family commitments. We thank Muralee, a former SWAN President, for his innovative role on Committee.

However, we have been blessed with a strong line-up during the year, with myself, Vice-president **Peter Chong**, Secretary **Ilsa Sharp** and Treasurer **Aileen Lim**, ably supported by Committee member **Sharin Grafton**, Webmaster **Joachim Tan** and Co-optees **Joanna Forman, Fozzil Jaffar & Danny Ng**.

We must acknowledge others behind the scenes too, e.g. the spouses of our Committee members who support us in many ways.

As ever, we owe our founder and ex-officio Mentor, **Anthony Quahe**, thanks for some useful and strategic contact-making, as well as regular advice on various matters.

As I have remarked before, all our committee members are volunteers. All of them have busy professional and personal lives, often involving frequent travel. I must thank each and every one of them for their service to SWAN. Manpower is always an issue when organising events and we have been very grateful for those who have gone the extra mile for SWAN despite supporting numbers being thin on the ground.

NETWORKING WITH SINGAPORE

The Overseas Singaporean Unit (OSU) in the Singapore Prime Minister's Office, the Singapore International Foundation and Contact Singapore (CS) in particular continued to liaise with SWAN from time to time, and both OSU and CS established representation or offices in the eastern states during the year – OSU via the Singapore High Commission in Canberra, CS in Sydney.

LOOKING AHEAD

This AGM looks to be something of a watershed as this Committee has decided it is time for new and possibly younger blood, fresh energies and brave new ideas. Stalwarts on the Committee – i.e. myself as President, Vice-president Peter Chong, Secretary Ilsa Sharp and Treasurer Aileen Lim, have all decided to resign, largely for reasons of conflicting work and family pressures. We have all enjoyed working together enormously and will miss the comradeship of our monthly Committee meetings.

With SWAN now looking to be the only active Singapore community group of any kind in Western Australia, a heavy burden falls on the shoulders of the next Committee in deciding what should be SWAN's future directions.

end

Appendix 2: Treasurer's Financial Report, AGM 2008
Ms Aileen Lim/Mr Peter Chong

SINGAPORE WESTERN AUSTRALIA NETWORK

Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2007

EXPENSES	
AGM	\$ 50
Renewal of SWAN PO Box	\$ 70
Membership fees paid	\$ 55
CNY Dinner with John Nai and Ng Khee Jin	\$ 44
Aboriginal Workshop	\$ 459
SWAN Committee meetings	\$ 47
Business cards for Committee members	\$ 23
Hire of film	\$ 285
Bank charges	\$ 36
Total	\$ <u>1069</u>
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	\$ <u><u>(1,065)</u></u>

Mandala Hall hire for AGM

Member of Australian Asian Association for 2007/08 and 2008/09

Payment for John Nai and Ng Khee Jin

Held on 15 March 2008

Food and beverage

For film screening on 10 August 2008

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 JUNE 2008

ASSETS	
Cash in cheque account	\$ 2938
Petty cash	\$ 27
Total assets	\$ <u>2965</u>
LIABILITIES	
GST payment	\$ 0
NET ASSETS	\$ <u><u>2965</u></u>
Accumulated surplus	\$ 4030
Net income/loss	\$ <u>(1,065)</u>
MEMBERS' FUNDS	\$ <u><u>2965</u></u>

NOTES

Prepared by: Peter Chong, Vice-President