

# MINUTES OF THE SUNCON 91 BUSINESS MEETING

Held in the Burke and Wills Rooms, Gateway Hotel, Brisbane. Sunday, March 31st, 1991 at 10.30 a.m.

PRESENT: Jack R Herman (Chair) and 45 members

## 1. MINUTES.

Roger Weddall (Secretary of DANSE MACABRE Business Meeting) was not present at the start of the meeting, so the matter of the minutes of the 1990 Natcon was tabled. When Roger appeared later in the meeting, and was asked by the Chair (before he even had a chance to be seated) where the DANSE MACABRE minutes were, he informed the Meeting that the Minutes were unavailable, probably in the possession of the Meeting Chair, Mark Loney. (The SUNCON Meeting Chair takes full responsibility for this faux pas. Mark Loney had previously distributed the minutes widely in Australian fandom and they were published in, at least, *Sweetness and Light*, *Thyme* and *Doxy!*, and had been given to the SUNCON Chair, Cath Kerrigan. Cath wasn't in attendance at the meeting and the Chair had forgotten the earlier distribution. Roger's [reasonable] excuse was that it was early the Sunday morning of a Natcon.)

## 2. MOTIONS.

(a) Ian Nichols moved and Jonathan Strahan seconded:

"That, due to the unconstitutional nature of the Australian SF ("Ditmar") Awards this year, to wit that there were six categories, not five, as provided for by the Constitution, the category 'Best Fannish Cat' be declared a 'Special Award of SUNCON'."

Roman Orszanski moved and Eric Lindsay seconded a foreshadowed motion:

"That, in view of the category nominating and voting process in 1991, this Business Meeting recognises that (1) there were faults with ~~the~~ process and (2) too many Australian SF ("Ditmar") Awards were given and recommends that future Australian Conventions comply with the Constitutional limits."

After detailed discussion of the two motions, the substantive (Nichols/Strahan motion) was carried overwhelmingly (c 37 to 8) and the foreshadowed motion lapsed.

(b) Dave Luckett moved and Jonathan Strahan seconded:

"That this Business Meeting believes that the actions of the 'SunConDitSubCom' in the selection and nomination procedure for the Australian SF ("Ditmar") Awards categories and in the choice of the shape and form of the Award trophies were against the spirit and tradition of the Awards and expressed a contempt for them and for fandom in general, and that the Subcommittee should be censured."

Dianne de Bellis moved and James Allen seconded an amendment which would have had the effect of adding the words, "... and spanked" to the end of the motion.

After another lively debate in which much was made of the process whereby the categories and nominations for them were held simultaneously and wherein many fans supported the traditional shape (black monolith mounted on native wood) for the Awards, the amendment was overwhelmingly defeated and the original motion passed by a large majority (c 38 to 7).

### 3. BIDS FOR THE 1993 NATCON

The Meeting heard bids presented by Dave Lockett on behalf of PERTH IN 93 and by Eric Lindsay (assisted by Roman Orszanski) on behalf of MEDLOW BATH IN 1993 (OR SOMETIME). Questions were asked from the floor to both Bids and a vote for the Site of the 33rd Australian SF Convention was, then, taken. PERTH IN 93 was selected unanimously.

Dave Lockett announced that the con would be called SWANCON 18 and be held at Easter 1993 (April 8-12) at the Ascot Inn in Perth with TERRY PRATCHETT as Guest of Honour and CRAIG HILTON as Fan Guest. The theme will be APOCALYPSE WOW!. Currently memberships are available for \$40 (attending), \$20 (supporting). The Committee address is PO BOX 318, NEDLANDS 6009.

### 4. GENERAL BUSINESS

Jeremy Byrne moved and (by tradition) Jonathan Strahan seconded:

"That the Business Meeting recognises and acknowledges that blame for the non-attendance of Harlan Ellison at SUNCON 91 in no way rests with Mr Ellison and that the Meeting endeavours to communicate that acknowledgement to Mr Ellison."

The motion was carried without dissent.

The Meeting closed at 11.40 a.m.