

CSFG 2025 Annual General Meeting

15 October 2025 / 7:30 PM / IN PERSON AND ONLINE

Outgoing Committee

- C. Z. Tacks (President)
- Lee Vella Cope (Treasurer)
- Fionn MacPherson (Secretary)
- Richard Niven (Public Officer)
- Americo Alvarenga
- Addie Ellicott
- Victor Yii
- Trevor Fritzlaff
- Aanja Anderson

Absent:

- Trevor Fritzlaff
- Richard Niven (Public Officer)

Attending:

- Lee Cope
- Americo Alveranga
- Nick Hartland
- Addie Ellicot
- Ben O'Mara
- G. Lucian LAX
- Alis Franklin
- C.Z. Tacks
- Gillian Pollack
- Aanja Andersen
- Fionn MacPherson
- Viktor Yii
- John Winchester
- Jack Buchanan
- Rohan Headon

Agenda

1. President's report
2. Treasurer's report
3. Vote on the [Code of Conduct](#)
4. Policy documents
 - a. Financial policies
 - b. Market stall vendor and sales policy
 - c. ~~What it means to be on the committee~~
 - d. ~~Anthology pitch form~~
5. Outgoing committee formally steps down
6. Vote in new committee
 - a. Public Officer
 - b. President
 - c. Treasurer
 - d. Secretary
 - e. Other members of the committee
7. Other business
 - a. Conflux 2026
 - b. New CSFG activities

Meeting

2. Treasurers Report

Done first for Lee needing to leave early.

Treasurer's report has some details still outstanding. Next monthly meeting will be a Special General Meeting. A document regarding finances will be circulated ahead of that.

Lee Cope, Treasurer gives report. Confirmed there have been delays regarding the financial documents, and not all reports have been complete, however the Treasurer was able to give a general overview.

CSFG is doing well thanks to a large sponsorship from an anonymous benefactor. CSFG Started the FY with about \$6500 in account, and now has \$11,800 in account, with \$1.5k in the paypal account. Sponsorship, memberships, and attendance at conventions/events have been big contributors to this increase.

CSFG earned \$1.5k total from Cancon. \$550 went to authors for book sales. \$500 went to Cancon booth fees. The final income from Cancon landed at around \$400.

More details about further income will be discussed at next meeting.

We still have the Aurealis Awards funds, but we are in the process of giving that money to them dependent on them providing paperwork. Aurealis is moving to Queensland Writers Centre/Genrecon. Aurealis funds are not included in the count for our funds, and are completely separate.

The sponsorship will be ongoing at this stage, so there will be continued income from this revenue in the new FY. Sponsor wishes to remain anonymous but is thanked. President thanked the Treasurer for their efforts in picking up the role during chaotic periods. Treasurer thanked Fionn and Addie for their support as well.

Lee Cope informed that they are stepping back as Treasurer but will be remaining on the committee, once the financial reporting has been completed.

1. President's report

C.Z Tacks has been President for two years, which they feel is enough for them, but they have loved the experience. Due to health and family concerns, no longer able to continue in the role. They have enjoyed the role and the trust that people have put in them, people turning up and showing their support, putting anthologies together, coming to cons, nominating people for the Ditmar awards etc. They are proud that people have been receptive to change, such as changes to critique groups, and exploring and evolving the changes in the organisation. From talking to people, they feel like it seems there are improvements both in terms of people growing as readers and writers through critique, as well as the emotional experience of these changes and the positivity of that. There has been a huge increase in membership, specifically younger and more diverse people, showing up and sticking around. They are proud and pleased that we have changed the vibe in a positive way, without losing all the positive things that the organisation had.

Aanja Anderson commented that in the two years Tacks has been president it has been amazing to see new people, younger and diverse people. The community is wholesome and inviting and warm, it's a blessing, and that a lot of that wouldn't have been possible without Tacks' leadership. Tacks affirmed it has been meaningful to see these changes happen.

Tacks confirmed they are staying on the Committee, but will be stepping back from the role of President.

3. Vote on the code of conduct

Explanation about what the code of conduct was given, specifically that it is a living document that will change with the needs of the organisation.

The code of conduct was voted in unanimously by all members present. No questions or objections were raised.

Nominated contact officers will be selected by the committee.

Lee Cope left meeting at 7:56

4. Policy Documents

Tacks explained that the new financial documents were written as part of ongoing efforts to solidify organisation of the Guild. They relate to the role of Treasurer, the transparency and use of money by the Guild, and ethics of that. They also explained the market stall policy. Due to the growing membership, we are running out of space provided for the market stall table and so we are needing to be a bit more strict about what we accept. We don't make enough at these events to be able to have more space. Explanation was given about some of the expectations, such as the

books in series, the number of books per member, and the number of titles. Additionally things like the unsold stock and repayment for authors based on sold stock.

The Financial Policy was voted in unanimously by all members present. No questions or objections were raised.

The Market Stall Policy was voted in unanimously by all members present. No questions or objections were raised.

5. Outgoing committee steps down

Explanation was given about the committee roles.

Returning Officer selected – Jack Buchanan. Nominated by Tacks, seconded by John Winchester and Aanja.

Committee dissolved at 8:10pm

6. New committee voted in

Returning officer opened the floor to nominations.

C.Z. Tacks nominated Americo Alvarenga. This was seconded by Fionn MacPherson.

C.Z. Tacks nominated Fionn MacPherson. This was seconded by Aanja Anderson.

C.Z. Tacks nominated Addie Ellicott. This was seconded by Gillian Pollack.

C.Z. Tacks nominated Victor Yii. This was seconded by Fionn MacPherson

C.Z. Tacks nominated Lee Cope by proxy. This was seconded by Jack Buchanan.

C.Z. Tacks nominated Richard Niven by proxy. This was seconded by Americo Alvarenga

C.Z. Tacks nominated G. Lucian Lax. This was seconded by Addie Ellicott.

Alis Franklin self-nominated. This was seconded by C.Z. Tacks.

C.Z. Tacks self-nominated. This was seconded by Aanja Anderson.

A total committee of nine members was reached, allowing the formation of the new committee.

Returning officer is happy with the committee and relinquishes role as returning officer.

C.Z. Tacks nominated Americo Alvarenga for president, seconded by Aanja Anderson.

C.Z. Tacks nominated Addie Ellicott for Treasurer, seconded by Fionn MacPherson.

C.Z. Tacks nominated Richard for Public Officer by proxy, seconded by Americo Alvarenga.

Americo Alvarenga nominated Fionn for Secretary, seconded by Victor Yii.

Incoming president Americo Alvarenga thanked the returning officer and the new committee.

7. Other Business

a. Conflux 2026

CSFG has previously been much more involved with Conflux, but that has fallen off a little bit in the short term. We sponsor the short story contest. We wanted to ask members about how involved CSFG should be in Conflux 2026. People can go away and form an opinion before the Conflux AGM, but a forum for discussion was also opened up during the meeting.

Americo has spoken to both Cat and Kaaron about CSFG and Conflux, with the goal of making the organisations closer. Americo wants someone from CSFG to be there as a Conflux liaison, to be our voice at the meetings. Americo feels there are a lot of benefits for CSFG members. Their AGM is on 30th October, and a link will be circulated ahead of this.

What do we want to see from Conflux? Members raised affordable rooms and gender-neutral bathrooms. Accessibility was also an issue. Very expensive rooms, problem for people from interstate. More stuff for fandom, not just writer craft stuff. Programming felt disorganised and very late. No First Nations stream, no academic stream. More opportunity to pitch panels, rather than just nominating for existing panels. Nothing about comics or games. Cost of ticket. Short notice release of the program. No Saturday youth day, no youth options on the day. No breaks between panels, only one scheduled lunch break. Conflux after dark absent. No quiet room this year. No tea and coffee, no free water. No café/poor availability. Moving it to a not Floriade time. Members are generally in support of Conflux, and want to continue to have a relationship with it. Ben raised including CSFG in Macabre Dreams events.

Ditmar travels with the NatCon, was meant to be at Continuum but their venue pulled out. Ditmar will not be in Canberra in 2026. There will be gaps in the schedule that can be used to promote Canberra writing.

b. New CSFG activities

- Audience Development
- Regular reading published short stories group – alternative to book club?
- Storygraph buddy read tool – CSFG co-reading and discussion groups, critical discussion for movie night etc.
- Alternative NaNoWriMo – month of writing, not in November
- Writing technique groups
- Short story in a day write in
- Flash fiction
- Writing exercises/writing craft
- Workshops on facilitation
- Rejection races
- Writers retreat
- Grant writing workshop
- Worldbuilding workshop and the craft
- Novel outline workshop
- More members doing skillshares
- Pay people to come in and do workshops, charge for tickets
- Anthology workshop

c. Housekeeping

Short story crit will be on 29th October

Ben has event on 22nd October at Gang Gang café with CSFG members doing readings

Movie night is on Halloween, so Americo can't be there, but someone can run.

December we don't have a monthly meeting, we have a Christmas party – committee to organize
Shaping the groups for next year for the year ahead.
Never Say Die anthology update/launch event
Skywhales anthology kickstarter announcement

New committee members will be added to the chat. President thanked all in attendance.

Meeting closed 9:03pm

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Item	Refers to
CSFG	Canberra Speculative Fiction Guild Inc
Aurealis	Aurealis Awards, Australian speculative fiction awards organisers
Ditmar awards	Annual Australian National Science Fiction Convention's Ditmar Awards
Conflux	Canberra's annual speculative fiction convention
Addie Ellicott (pseudonym)	Sarah Davies