

Minutes of the Sydney Branch ASSLH Executive Meeting of 23 May 2012 at 6pm

Room 312 Institute Building, Sydney University

Attendance: Sue Tracey, John Shields, Damien Stapleton, Sarah Gregson, Danny Blackman

Apologies: Jim Rooney, Jim Kitay, John Dean

Matters arising from minutes of previous meeting

John reported that he approached Lance Wright to speak at a Branch function as previously discussed. Lance is not available in 2012; he may be available in 2013 and it is suggested the session might take the style of a "co-conversation" with an interlocutor – perhaps someone like Rod Cavalier.

Review of Titanic function

The meeting congratulated Sarah on the very successful Titanic function, which drew an audience of 50-60. Financial support from the Bede Nairn Fund was \$500; costs were approximately \$561 (drinks, nibbles and payment to musicians) and takings were \$650.

Sarah also advised that the email list she built up for this function could be used to promote other Labour History activities.

Results of membership survey

John reported on behalf of Jim R on responses to the membership survey. Overall, Hummer was popular but respondents felt it was perhaps too ambitious and didn't come out frequently enough. Branch meetings were not very popular; respondents were not in favour of night meetings and expressed a preference for Sunday afternoon.

Future activities – discussion

It was agreed that the next Branch activity would be a Sunday afternoon panel discussion in August/September on public sector unionism, possible speakers including Ray Markey (on the NSW PSA), John O'Brien (on NSW Teachers' Federation) and Michael Wright on the Fire Brigade Employees Union. John and Danny will contact speakers and arrange venue.

Danny will pursue possibility of getting a free venue at Teachers Federation. Alternately, Sarah suggested the Sydney Mechanics School of Arts as a possible and centrally located venue.

Sarah proposed a possible joint activity with the Trade Union Choir for 2013 involving history of the trade union movement in song – tentatively entitled *A Worker Sings History*.

Hummer

Possible material for next issue:

- Silvia Salisbury's talk from the National Folk Festival on the history of New Theatre and the Bush Music Club – Sarah to contact
- Ron Ringer on the history of brick-making – John to contact
- Oral History tapes –
- Building of the Hyde Park War Memorial (day labour) – Sarah to explore
- Biographical Register – John to look for suitable longer BR articles and send to Jim for Hummer
- Union songs – possibility of reproducing some more recent union songs – Danny to explore songs by for e.g. Bernard Carney, Peter Hicks, John Warner and seek permission to reproduce.

Jim K will edit the issue and Margaret W will proofread; aim to run off the issue around 25/26 June.

Branch finances

- Bank Balance at the end of April was \$5,612.93.
- Monthly transaction fees – Sue to investigate

The meeting closed at 7.15 pm, there being no further business.