

Chair's AGM report, SCA Ltd, Rowany Festival 2017

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Looking back on the past year, I am particularly struck by the network of members who have worked together, within or with the board, as officeholders or interested members, in order to keep our corporate governance wheels turning, while we develop policies and practices that help to improve the SCA experience of us all. I can only mention a few here, but THANK YOU all.

After considerable work by previous and current Treasurers Sandra Watkins and Tim Liersch, the former Exchequer Tim Moore and all those many wonderful Reeves who assisted in its development, we have a revised corporate Financial Policy. The new policy clarifies and expands on the previous policy rather than making a shift in direction, providing our Reeves with greater guidance and support on policy matters. Also coming soon are a revised Bullying and Harassment Policy, a Work, Health and Safety Policy, a Privacy Policy, and a new (multi-event) Nominated Caregivers form. Thanks to all the people who have been involved in development or feedback, and to those who do so in the future.

Early in the year, Jeff Nicholson, in his final act as our Webmin, registered SCA Ltd with *Google Apps for Non-Profits*. This has assisted Masonry to establish email accounts with superior functionality, for the Board and Kingdom. Masonry now has the option of considering various Google applications to see which may be beneficial for the organisation and how they might be implemented without problematic interactions with current systems.

Our Crossbow exemption for Qld has been renewed, thanks to Merv Fildes and the Archery Deputy Marshal, Kerry McSaveney. Now that additional Queensland members have been trained and are formally qualified, more crossbow activities will be able to be run in the various Qld groups.

Peter Hyde's new Gatekeeper software, having been used for major NZ event Canterbury Faire, is to be trialled at Rowany Festival this year. All going well, this should provide a very useful event management tool across Lochac, particularly at larger events.

After three years and seven months of board service, including two action-packed years as Chair, Donna Page (Qld) is retiring from the board and taking a well-earned rest from governance duties. Her significant efforts for the board and the SCA are greatly appreciated.

It has been reassuring over the last year to see Board membership increasing to around the ideal 7-8 members, reflecting the increasing number of members wanting to serve the SCA in Australia through a board term. Members can submit nominations at any time, even if we haven't advertised lately. With three-year terms, in most years we will need two new members. In 2018 there are three members due to retire, from Vic, NSW and Tas. So please contemplate

whether you might be suited for Board service as part of your SCA journey, whether it is in one, five, ten or more years from now, and keep those nominations coming in.

With the changeover in SCA Ltd Registrar, we could have filled the role with quality candidates several times over, due to the high calibre of applicants for that role. This year we welcomed our new Registrar Robyn Boyer and her deputy James Hodgkinson, and thanked their predecessor, Michelle McDonald for her many years of service in the role. Early in the year, we also changed over our Pegasus editor from Georgia Winter to Jen Fraser, both of whom have served well in this central role.

During the year, we have welcomed the presence of the Kingdom's Crown at a number of Board meetings, to observe and share their perspective. Board members also appeared at Court during Rowany Festival, as 'Seers', wise advisors to the Kingdom. While we have separate spheres of activity, we are all working together within the organisation. Such interactions help us all to break down organisational 'silo' barriers, improving communication and gaining a better understanding of each other's roles.

Looking forward, in the next year I would like to see a greater emphasis on strategic planning for the organisation. This will include conversations with our membership about our organisational vision (what we want to achieve, in line with the objectives in our Constitution) and the shared values that will help us get there.