



THE ANU OBSERVER

Agenda for Meeting of The ANU Observer Board

Date: 13/08/25

Opening of meeting: 06:08 pm

Item 1- Attendance

Rowey

Sophie

Saffron

Eduardo

Anish

She

Darcy

Anneysha

Item 2- Apologies

Urja

Item 3 - Acknowledgement of Country

By Rowey Worner Butcher

I wish to acknowledge the Ngunnawal and Ngambri peoples as traditional custodians of the land we are meeting on and recognise any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region. We also acknowledge and respect their continuing culture and the contribution they make to the life of this city and this region, and pay our respects to elders past, present and emerging.

Item 4: Organising Joint Visual and News Meeting

Sophie: She, when do you want to do a joint meeting? Next week?

She: Sounds good!

Rowey: We'll figure it out and send a big message to everyone.

Item 5: Article Archive/Website Update

Sophie: I was wondering; in terms of the reporters getting their articles up at the moment, and with the archives of articles as in our stored work, I was just wondering if our archives and all our work will be up in this new iteration of the website?

Anneysha: It is happening, at the moment it's a one person job, and I've also had deadlines of course, but I also can't put the articles in unless they have an account. With past reporters, I'll have to send them an invite link.

Darcy: Can we make accounts for people that haven't been here for a while?

Sophie: Is that feasible?

Anneysha: I think it might be worth reaching out to them saying what's happened, we can republish their work, but I can still send them an email invite and link it back to their profile.

Sophie: My only worry is that these people won't be easy to contact.

Anneysha: We can publish it under the webname and keep them as an author.

Sophie: Yeah, I think it'd be really great to have our archive and just a show of our hard work over the years just to have there.

Anneysha: I'll fix a couple of things and the old website will be back running. Moving forward, I will set up a cloud service in which all our data can be stored, so that in future if something goes wrong, we will have our data stored safely elsewhere.

Item 6: AGM Planning

Rowey: We need to set a date for our AGM. Also, keeping in mind that all the Stupol elections usually happen in week 9, so that probably wouldn't be the best to do it. As we need 21 days notice, I reckon we should do 15 September? Which is Monday. Does Wednesday work for everyone, 17 September?

Everyone: Sounds good.

Item 7: Team Check In

Rowey: Last sem, we were talking about getting a google form to check in on everyone in the team frequently? Like a feedback forum.

Anish: We should have maybe two or three people in charge of this form, not the whole board.

Rowey: Awesome, what about you, Urja and Anneysha?

Item 8: Lease update

Anish: We had a meeting with ANU commercial services and we've extended our lease for 2 years!

Item 9: Newsletter update?

Rowey: This is more of a check in for the newsletter, because I know we said we'd start getting the gears to slowly roll. So I think we should come up with a defined schedule to get our next newsletter ready. Firstly, I think we need some kind of form to allow people to subscribe, Anneysha I know you have something ready?

Anneysha: Yeah, I'll send that link to you.

She: We can probably get a visual for a Facebook post next week?

Rowey: I think it could be good to have it ready for term 2. If we could get a visual ready for our ad by the 20th? And then for our actual newsletter to be distributed by 10 September? So on our end that would be collating probably the most interesting, newsworthy articles. We could even get people to write up blurbs for their articles so that more articles can be included?

Sophie: I think a blurb would be a really good idea.

She: Should we have a crossword as well?

Darcy: Yeah I can definitely do one.

She: We could also have a link at the end of the newsletter as a callout for submissions of art, as in political cartoons etc.?

Everyone: Yeah good idea.

Rowey: So we've got blurbs, crossword, cartoon for our newsletter.

Anneysha: Just regarding format, can we meet once beforehand to work the formatting out?

Rowey: Yeah of course.

Item 10: Outlining schedule of upcoming major events

Rowey: I put this in mostly as a reminder. I do think it'd be helpful as a board, even now, if we can work out what the rest of the sem looks like for us as we're going into quite a busy semester. Like, we've got IB in October, if we could do something for that? The 8 October ANUSA OGM as well. As for other big visual news events, can anyone think of anything?

She: I'm thinking of giving someone a camera on the visual team just so they have it in case something happens they can just have the equipment they need.

Item 11: Da pod

Rowey: Just checking in on the interview?

Sophie: Yeah, we'll check in and get back to her email.

She: So she sent us an email showing us the podcast she used to run back home.

Sophie: Awesome, I'll email her back in the morning. What we need as well from her is she needs to train someone up, as she's an exchange student and ultimately leaving next year. I think it'd also be good to have her involved in the script.

Anneysha: Do you think it'd be worth having training modules/documents on specialised areas of Observer, such as web, visual or podcast, so that in future we have less hold up in finding people for such positions? Maybe a self-paced course.

Item 12: Lanyards Cards

Darcy: I have a design, which can be \$280 for the cards and the plastic, or we can just go to Officeworks and print them.

Anish: We've got plastic sleeves!

Darcy: Okay awesome. So should it just be paper?

Everyone: Yeah paper will be fine.

Darcy: Well I can send you a word doc with the formatted design to print them.

Item 13: Google/Apple News (Publisher Application) - Including ourselves on News Aggregates

Eduardo: Link to access - <https://publishercenter.google.com/>

Eduardo: Yeah so I just wanted this to be a suggestion, I'm aware we have more pressing things to deal with now. Just to explain, on google news and apple news the idea would be that our articles appear on their services, which would result in higher rankings for us on Google. Woroni has this thing called RSS feed, so this helps them with the way they appear on Google. I suggested google news, because, and this would take a long time, it would work with how our articles are appearing on ranking. Basically, if you're from Canberra, like Bing, you might be getting Woroni articles occasionally suggested on your page. I think it'd be good for us to expand our reach in Canberra readers, as it targets things like location and age etc. Anneysha, it's important to have your say on this also as it would be an effort from web. I would definitely need your help to develop this. So that's google news. The other version of this is apple news. With apple news, you have to send in a formal application saying you're a serious news organisation. I think we could apply to this, as we've got heaps of political articles and relevant articles, so with the apple news application, you can send up to 5 materials/articles to prove we deserve to be there.

She: Would you be able to develop a document with a plan to say what steps reporters and Anneysha would need to take to get here?

Anneysha: I think there is value in this. For example, I've been on reddit lately, and I've seen that we've had Observer articles on reddit with people discussing them. So I think getting our articles on such a platform could be really cool.

Rowey: Yeah, I think that's a really good idea. I guess the main thing would be forming a document outlining the plan.

Item 14: Arbitration Email and Allowance Payments

Anish: We have an allowance payment coming up, which is exciting. Anneysha, I will also send you payment amounts to upload to the website?

Anneysha: My question is how we're distributing our payments considering we have 4 editors this time?

Anish: The difference is that everyone will be getting slightly less this semester.

She: We also last sem had a brief chat about increasing the web exec allowance.

Anneysha: I'm just wondering about how that affects the editors?

Sophie: I think we're not necessarily wanting everyone else to get cut, as having more editors is probably creating more work for everyone else.

Anish: So if editors are reducing their allowance, I'll have to email arbitration.

Item 15: Constitution

Rowey: Over the winter break, we all chatted about fixing the constitution. On my quest of doing so, I essentially found an old copy of our constitution, which as far as I can tell – James Weatherman added an item about reporting our SSAF funding, but the whole thing was full with clauses in detail etc. Which is different to our current copy, which is missing items, so I think there's been a formatting error between the two.

Item 16: Training Repository

Anneysha: I just wanted to reiterate that once all this is done, I might chat to She about where we're going to take the newsletter. I think the repository should come after, as this semester we've got the podcast and the newsletter.

Eduardo: Can you please explain what that would be?

Anneysha: Yeah so it'd be a course page to train on everything, but especially specialised skill such as how to use podcast equipment etc. I do want to ensure that Observer is able to also provide value to the community.

Item 17: SSAF Funding Agreement requirements met?

Rowey: Anish, have we met these requirements?

Anish: Yes!

Item : Other Business

1. Weekly/ months web stats?

Anneysha: If you look at the general slack channel, I posted stats today. I was wondering if you found this interesting and worth posting these things every once in a while?

Everyone: That'd be awesome!

2. (A question) on Newspaper (nonprofit classified adverts for the community)

Eduardo: More of a question! Woroni announced they're launching a newspaper, in which they included ads for student orgs, so the question I had is would that be something we want to do?

Sophie: I think that it may lose our messaging a little bit to be honest. I think we're mainly focusing on news at the moment, and a showcasing of our reporters' work.

3. (A question) on Establishing guidelines for political cartoons submissions

Eduardo: She, how do you see how the political cartoons will work out in terms of guidelines?

She: I think just in our advertising, setting those guidelines would make the most sense. Obviously we'll filter what we put out, so we can always deny cartoons that aren't within our guidelines.

Rowey: I think also we'll include artist names to have some accountability. We'll make it clear that they will have their names attached to these drawings.

Sophie: And clarifying that not all submissions will be published, and that it will be at the discretion of the editors.

4. She

She: We have 6 new visual team members! One of them I can see as potentially being a future VC, to be further discussed. But right now we'll just need them to get card access.

Meeting closed: 07:51pm

Next board meeting: Week 6!