

Science Party NSW  
Annual General Meeting 2017

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29 OCTOBER 2017 / 1:30 PM / ULTIMO COMMUNITY CENTRE

## AGENDA

1. Attendance and apologies
2. Approval of previous minutes (IGM - 5 December 2017)
3. Procedural - additional agenda items
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
6. General Business

## MINUTES

13:45 Meeting commenced

### 1. Attendance and apologies

Attendees: Saritha Manickam (Chair), Andrea Finno (minutes), Andrea Leong, Eve Slavich, Aaron, Jason Roehrig, Jordan, Tom Gordon, Peter Xing

Apologies: Tom Byrt, Jacob Hibberd, Ruth Gordon, Gwen Au, Ben Wilshire, Markus Pfister, James Jansson.

### 2. Approval of previous minutes

Call for amendments.

**Motion:** *That the Science Party NSW accepts the minute of the Inaugural General Meeting held on 5th December 2016 as a true and accurate record.*

**Moved:** *Andrea Finno*

**Seconded:** *Eve Slavich*

**Passed unanimously**

### 3. Additional agenda items

**Motion:** *That the following items be added to the agenda: retrospective, volunteer management/Volunteer Manager, Policy Officer position, campaign planning, meeting times and venue, Christmas Party.*

**Moved:** *(Chair)*

**Passed unanimously**

### 4. Leader's Report

Andrea Leong presented the 2017 Leader's Report (attached)

Call for comments.

**Motion:** *That the Science Party NSW accepts the 2017 Leader's Report.*

**Moved:** *Tom Gordon*

**Seconded:** *Eve Slavich*

**Passed unanimously**

## 5. Treasurer's Report

Andrea Finno presented the 2017 Treasurer's Report on behalf of Tom Byrt (attached).

Call for comments.

**Motion:** *That the Science Party NSW accepts the 2017 Leader's Report.*

**Moved:** *Eve Slavich*

**Seconded:** *Jordan Rastrick*

**Passed unanimously**

### **Questions:**

Can the federal party help to financially support the state parties? We'll ask the respective state Electoral Commissions as we start branches.

**14:18 Close of formal proceedings**

**14:18 Open informal proceedings**

## 6. General business/discussion points added in point 3

### 6.1 *Retrospective:*

Call for feedback on how we've started out as a formal branch of the Science Party. Is there any advice we can give to other state branches?

- Aim to fill a Fundraising Officer position sooner rather than later
- Create a state comms manager space (e.g. on Facebook)? Don't want inappropriate crossover with federal Facebook posting. Either we have a separate group, or we communicate clearly to federal social media managers which links are intended for NSW social media.

Andrea Leong to discuss coordination of state FB management with federal party.

### 6.2 *Volunteer management: Volunteer Manager position open*

Volunteers are not being effectively matched to tasks at the moment. Need someone to contact people by phone and/or email. Need to define a Volunteer Manager role.

Need to find places that will let us advertise without public liability insurance cover.

Need to define the relationship between the party and uni clubs. At minimum, uni clubs should pass on SP communications to club members. We would also want to work with these clubs to make sure they attract the sorts of people that are interested in roles in the party.

### 6.3 Policy Officer position open

As per the Leader's Report, the Policy Officer position is currently vacant.

Keep this in mind and look out for an encourage potential volunteers to fill this role.

### 6.4 Campaign planning

- Pro: Our top-level message is the easiest to sell: "We want to improve quality of life for everyone."
- Con: Distilling this message is difficult.

"Science and evidence-based policies to improve quality of life for everyone."

Federal SP is running a housing affordability campaign, which fits in well with state policy. Re: where people choose to live and work: "It's not where it is it's when it is" - Jordan Rastrick (i.e. studies show people allot time in their day for their work commute, and if new roads are built, people will live further from work because

Of our broad policy platform, we get the question: "What does that have to do with science?" We are not just about science. Evidence informs our policies, which flow from our principles. → "Isn't it cool that we can use science to inform housing policy!"

Write up messaging guidelines.

Fundraising from a progressive think tank or corporate tech

- If they're not already donating, they probably don't want to donate to politics
- Could they donate in-kind, e.g. meeting rooms?

### 6.5 Meeting times and venue review.

Settled into this venue, but interested in something either cheaper or nearer a city station.

Put out feelers.

### 6.6 Christmas Party: date and time (12pm or 4pm)? Venue: (park or a family friendly pub/club)?

Saritha to enquire about 2nd, 3rd, 9th and 10th December at Petersham bowlo.

### 6.7 Plan for 2019 election

If unregistered, running as a group ticket for the NSW upper house (as in 2015) is difficult (minimum 15 people, each with 15 electors). It doesn't make use of the party name or give much benefit to the candidates if they're after exposure for future recognition.

Confer with federal exec: encourage our potential/presumed state candidates, and federal candidates, to run as independents in the NSW state election 2019 to build up their brands. Endorse other lower house candidates if suitable.

**15:12** Meeting closed

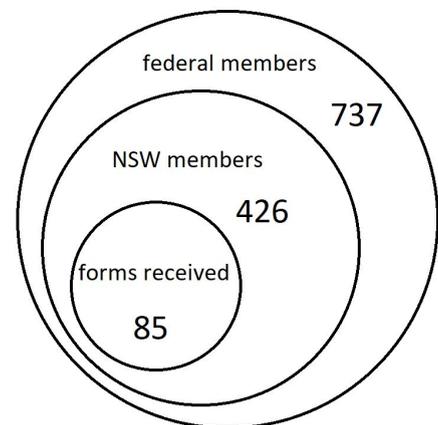
## ATTACHMENTS

### 1. SP NSW Leader's Report 2017

#### *Registration with the NSW EC for state and local elections*

We're probably all painfully aware of the onerous requirements for registering for NSW state elections, i.e. 750 hard-copy forms, 16 months (not 15, as it turns out) before the election date.

Science Party membership more than doubled thanks to the federal party's strong membership drive in July-August.



- 54 forms received at face-to-face meetings prior to August mailout.
- 57 posted in August, half of those returned so far.
- 200 posted last week, with the advantage that we can now accept electronic returns (thanks to Flux for this information). Two already returned! That's 1%!
- 100 forms to be posted next week.
- Be encouraged! We will submit 100 forms by the end of 2017, and take the 2020 council elections\* by storm.
- Aim for 750 members by the middle of next year. We will then be eligible for state by-elections from 2020\*\*
- This might offer a surprising amount of opportunities; state by-elections have been frequent recently (six in 2017, three in 2016)

#### *Timeline*

year	2017				2018				2019				2020				2021				2022				2023			
month	Dec	Mar	Jun	Sep	Mar	Sep	Mar	Sep	Mar	Sep	Mar	Sep	Mar	Sep	Mar	Sep	Mar	Sep	Mar	Sep	Mar	Sep	Mar	Sep	Mar	Sep		
election																												
members	<b>100</b>	200	400	<b>800</b>																								

#### *Blacktown state by-election*

Vivek Singha gained 4.5% of the vote as an independent candidate in the Blacktown state by-election, showing that there is an appetite for principled and progressive options at the polls. We should have supported Vivek more than we did, for mutual benefit, and we can learn from this experience.

#### *Policy*

A strong policy platform behind us is what gives me confidence in promoting the party. It's maybe difficult to get enthused about tailoring policy, but this is a perfect opportunity to project the (accurate) image that we care about state issues.

Ben Wilshire is resigning as Policy Officer due to time commitments. Thanks to Ben for his work throughout the year to advance the policy platform. We are now seeking a new Policy Officer.

#### *Uni clubs*

In 2018, we (esp. Saritha) will try again! The time will soon be right!

#### *Equity and representation*

SP NSW is committed to equity in society and within the party. As a step in this direction, the executive is working on the following draft statement and welcomes input:

*"We appeal for representation of all sectors of society at all levels of government. Within our organisation we aim for equal representation--in areas including gender, sexual orientation, race and ethnic background, disability status, age and religious affiliation--among our candidates, executive and officebearers. We seek out and encourage members of all backgrounds and identities to consider these positions in the party."*

Science Party Women continues to hold dinners every couple of months. Not all who attend are members, but all are interested in improving politics.

#### *Concluding remarks*

I'm proud of what we've established in less than a year and I'm excited for 2018! Thanks to James and the federal executive for their support.

We started the branch with Eve Slavich, Ruth Gordon, Jake Hibberd, Tom Geiser and myself on the executive. Tom resigned in March, leaving a casual vacancy and Markus Pfister stepped into that position. I thank the executive for their counsel.

I thank Gwen for jumping on board with social media. Many thanks to Tom Byrt for preparing the forthcoming Treasurer's Report. I thank Saritha for all of her work for the party and for keeping me on track throughout the year.

We have a lot to look forward to!

## 2. SP NSW Treasurer's Report 2017



### Science Party NSW Incorporated Financial Statements for the year ending 30 June 2017

#### Income and Expenditure Statement

##### Income

Donations	\$168.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$168.00</b>

##### Expenses

Meeting Expenses	\$122.00
Stripe Fees	\$4.15

<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$126.15</b>
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<b>Net Earnings</b>	<b>\$41.85</b>
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#### Balance Sheet

##### Assets

Cash at bank	\$163.85
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$163.85</b>

##### Liabilities

Reimbursements owed to members	\$122.00
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$122.00</b>

<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$41.85</b>
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