



Sydney Feminists AGM Dec 8th 2016

Secretary's Report

The Sydney Feminists often met physically here at the Women's Library from 7.30 pm till 8.30 pm or 9.00 pm and online via SKYPE. Most of our meetings delivered updates on social and screening events by the Sydney Feminists and updates on social media platforms. We often shared personal struggles with difficult enquiries, trolling and personal lives. The Sydney Feminists have provided that trust and safe space for all members to be able to vent out experiences.

I will first read out my report and conclude my time up here on smaller descriptions of other 2016 committee members who have contributed to this secretarial report.

This year with the Sydney Feminists, we began our 2016 cycle in February 2016 with Sarah de Jongh as Chair and new committee roles with Rhianna as Facebook admin, Joe as Treasurer, Pallavi as an academic student enquiries go to person, Miya as Instagram curator and myself as Secretary. This was when we were still figuring out if we were to run as a collective or continue as a hierarchy. We also established that the Sydney Feminists would have a stronger presence through social media.

In March 2016, we continued the organisation as a collective following the resignation of Sarah. This allowed everyone to try on different executive roles. We proposed a roster for the remainder of the year as well to sit within those different executive roles temporarily and we set up an email access plan in addition to this meeting. We have roughly stuck to this routine. We went through the 2016 planned Screening schedules, social MEETUP dates, venues and appropriate times for discussed dates.

No meeting in April 2016.

In May 2016, we explored other options of holding meetings via digital format (SKYPE) instead of the regular meetups due to inability to make certain meetings. We also first heard of Kim and her potential during this meet.

June 2016, we had a second full skype meeting. Jenna enquired for more Twitter curators. We received much enquiries from students. Website was worked on a bit more. YOUTUBE channel finally came to life with Kim now on board.

July 2016, Fernanda joined as an Instagram curator with Miya as guidance and a Facebook curator with Rhianna. I joined Jenna as a Twitter curator as well. The Colourism Project was introduced this month as an original project by Kim for the Sydney Feminists. Templates were designed by Miya to communicate with student or general enquiries.

August 2016, we received a generous donation from Epiphanie to assist us in purchasing a new documentary. In addition to the meeting, we somewhat explored fundraising method ideas for the Sydney Feminists.

September 2016, "Red Moon", the documentary we chose, was officially purchased. More Instagram followers. Reclaim The Night day announced.

October 2016, meeting held via SKYPE. Discussed social media platforms. We began having students to listen in on the meetings this month. The meeting was held one day early so as some of our members could attend "Fight like a Girl" with Clementine Ford. We received correspondence from Coralie of Collective Shout for a joint campaign to alter the sexual assault related policy. Colourism Project had begun turning into a large scale project





encompassing many contributors already. We participated in Kim's Domestic Violence short video as a reflection to October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Epiphanie joins Twitter as another curator. Month of Reclaim the Night as well. It was a well turned out night with many of our own attending. We ran a stall on the evening also.

November 2016, last month was big on the documentary "Red Pill". We had conversations about this controversy. Finally, we are planning a fundraiser but that will be put to the new committee of 2017. Announcing new original media educating workshops designed by Miya and Kim of the Sydney Feminists called "Respectful Relationships". The first trial was planned to be held at the juvenile centre for boys in Sydney but was pushed back.

This month, we will be having a preview free screening at Tess's house of the "Red Moon" for those who have opted to come.

Just a small blurb about the website. It has been slightly modified in the last 12 months with events being updated regularly, Miya and Tess contributing photos, Joe adding Sydney Feminists organised events and setting up membership and voting pages.

Now on to the smaller report accounts:

Kylie's Report:

This year I have marched with The Sydney Feminists in Reclaim the Night, which was an amazing experience. I've submitted a list of feminist musicians and music for the resources section of the website, and am working on updating the literature section. It's inspiring for me to be around the dedicated and fantastic women and men of The Sydney Feminists, so thanks for encouraging me to participate!

Tess's Report:

To date, TSF's Meetup Group has hosted 182 Meetups and has 352 members. This year we held 10 Meetups, all with successful turnouts. We consistently receive 5 star ranges and reviews of our Meetups by members of the group. The platform provides a safe space for feminists to gather, discuss important issues, socialise and network. We occasionally use it to fundraise and to promote other feminist or women's events. Our last Meetup gave members the opportunity to donate clothing, bedding and other products to women's shelters (an initiative of one of our members). Meetup continues to grow with new people joining each week. Some members go onto be volunteers so it has also been a useful recruitment tool. We aim to continue hosting socials and screenings on the Meetup in 2017

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Kim's Report:

This year, The Sydney Feminists have expanded our social media reach to include vlogging using Youtube as a platform.

The response from our audience has been good, with people engaging in posts and even sending through some artwork made in response to the videos.

The channel itself is slowly growing with 52 subscribers and the top video reaching 2600 views. As this is a new platform, we expect that the build will be slow but continuous.

In the upcoming year, goals for this platform include:

- Have a sustained schedule for video posting
- Create a better landing page for the channel
- Continue in efforts to grow subscribers to the channel
- Increase audience engagement on individual videos

The ultimate goal for this channel is to integrate our mission statement into each video, creating media that aims to teach feminist ideas and theory.

Rhianna's Report:

In 2016, The Sydney Feminists continued to utilise social media to raise feminist issues in the public realm. We have welcomed two new team members to moderate our Facebook page, responding to enquiries and to share a variety of content with our members. As several new members have joined our committee, we have been able to share original social media content on our Facebook page highlighting the intersectional nature of





feminism. Facebook has continued to be a vital tool to alert our members to our film screenings, socials, meetings and membership drives. Over 2016, our Facebook page has enabled us to forge positive relationships with local film-makers, comedians and musicians through sharing their work via Facebook. We have endorsed and supported vital activist campaigns including the ASU campaign for Domestic Violence leave, the Collective Shout campaign calling for advertisers to stop using sexism and objectification, the Fair Agenda campaign to stop funding cuts which would remove specialists from 1800-respect, and calls for Mike Baird to enact safe zones around abortion clinics in NSW. Due to our central location in Sydney, we strive to advertise local community events relevant to feminist issues. Over 2016, these have included two major concerts held by Hummingsong Choirs, The Edna Ryan Awards, Music NSW and The Liverpool Women's Resource Centre. As a result of these actions, we have continued to expand our social media audience. Our Facebook page has reached a total of 1,212 likes.

End of report.

