

## FILM AUCKLAND INCORPORATED

### Minutes – Annual General Meeting 2021

Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2021

**4:30 PM – 5:15 PM**

Venue: Virtually via Zoom video conferencing

**Board Members:** Grant Baker (Chair), Alice Shearman (Deputy Chair), David Rowell (Treasurer), Marg Slater (Secretary), Graham Dunster, Sioux MacDonald, Gabriel Reid, Ngaire Fuata, Mike Rehu, Annie Dodman, James Brookes, Katie Kempe

**Executive Officer:** Amber Wakefield

**FAI Members:** Camillo Spath, Tyrone Payne, Wilhelm Voight, Craig Gainsborough-Waring, Steve Barr, Chris McKenzie, Tracey Colins, Davin Voot.

#### 1. Welcome & Apologies

Grant Baker welcomes members to the 2021 Annual General Meeting of Film Auckland Inc. Apologies: Mike Rehu, Katie Kempe, Jasmine Millet, Marie Jenkins.

Grant Baker moved that apologies be accepted, moved by Marg Slater, seconded by Alice Shearman.

#### 2. Minutes of 2020 AGM attached

Motion: That the minutes from the 2020 AGM be accepted

Moved by Graham Dunster, Seconded by Sioux McDonald.

#### 3. Reports - Chair, Treasurer, Executive Officer

##### Grant Baker, presents the Chair Report

Twenty Twenty one – the year that could have been. The year started off on such a positive note following the Covid fatigue of the previous year, with the industry gathering some serious momentum with various international productions choosing to shoot in NZ along with an unprecedented number of local productions.

As the year began to play out, little niggles started to creep in as New Zealand began losing it's poster child status as the preferred destination for producing screen content – MIQ was becoming a barrier, local crew were busy and rates were going up - resources were stretched. And then suddenly out of nowhere the rug got pulled with Amazon announcing they were relocating to the UK, followed soon after by the Covid lockdown of all lockdowns.

Unlike the initial lockdown last year, the industry was less reactive this time round assuming the pattern would be similar to last year, only to find the lockdown dragging on unexpectedly, having a massive impact on productions unable to make definitive return to work plans.

Thankfully for the Auckland Screen Industry it is seen as a major contributor to the local economy and is well supported by Auckland Unlimited who has direct lines of communication to government and can lobby on our behalf.

This relationship has seen more studio space being developed in Auckland and a proactive approach to building the local industry with capability funding and dedicated business development along with strategically targeted International Attraction to help regrow the industry since Amazon's departure.

Auckland Unlimited is providing a business support programme called Activate Tāmaki Makaurau with a range of support for businesses and freelancers. The Auckland Business Chamber is keen to support the Auckland Screen Sector and is offering complimentary membership. And the EMA is also keen to partner with Film Auckland to help support the Screen Sector.

Film Auckland acts as an advisory board to Screen Auckland and will continue to look for opportunities to build the resilience and health and wellbeing of the Auckland Industry. As we move from the elimination strategy to living with Covid hopefully more opportunities will open up and the industry will continue to grow and go from strength to strength. I would like to take this opportunity to thank my fellow board members who all volunteer their time tirelessly for the good of the industry and a particular mention to our Executive Office Amber Wakefield who's enthusiasm and energy keep us focused on the things that matter.

Motion: To certify the Chair report is an accurate account.

Moved by Marg Slater, seconded by Gabriel Reid.

#### David Rowell, Treasurer, presents the FAI Annual Report

The 2020/2021 Financial accounts have once again been completed by VCFO Chartered Accountants. VCFO do our bookkeeping and annual financial accounts under a sponsorship arrangement, and we thank them for doing a great job.

VCFO are the Film Industry's predominant specialist tax advisors, and a great sponsor for Film Auckland. They do a lot for the Industry behind the scenes, currently advising the IRD on industry matters. We should promote them whenever we can. Special thanks to Phil Gore who is now in charge of our account.

Auckland Unlimited Funding alignment: In past years we have accrued the Screen Auckland Grant income to the previous financial year, like we did last year. This is something we have been doing since Screen Auckland (through ATEED) started providing the funding. This year, however, Film Auckland Inc. entered into a Sponsorship Agreement with Auckland Unlimited (formerly Auckland Tourism, Events and Economic Development – ATEED) after balance date in May 2021, securing sponsorship income for Film Auckland Inc. of \$29,000 excl. GST in relation to the year from 1 May 2021 to 30 April 2022. The dates were specified this time. Consequently, as recommended by VCFO and agreed by the board, we have accrued the sponsorship income to our 2021-2022 financial year to properly align with Auckland Unlimited's financial year. The net result is no sponsorship income and therefore a loss for the year. We still get the funding, nothing has changed, and in fact, it will be a little higher next year, and we will be aligned going forward.

Another modest year of expenditure thanks to Covid, two events 1) Taking the Pulse 2) Election Forum, 3) Christmas gathering = Total \$8300. Administrative \$18,336 – what makes everything happen. Current balances: Savings: \$34,650.33, Checking \$1129.58, total

\$35,689.91 in the bank. Again, need to spend the money - wisely – in order to secure additional Auckland Unlimited Funding, expected by June/July 2022. Again we should continue to pursue other sources of funding through membership contributions and possible sponsorships.

Thanks to Amber, Grant, Alice, Marg & the Board.

Motion: To certify that the Annual Report accurately represents the financial position of Film Auckland Inc for the year ending March 31, 2021.

Moved by David Rowell, seconded by Grant Baker.

### Amber Wakefield, presents the Executive Officer Report

For the first half of this year Auckland's screen industry has been booming, experiencing a shortage of skilled workers and studio space. Then, on August 17th, we were hit with the Delta-variant of COVID-19, which has kept Tāmaki Makaurau in lockdown ever since. It's been a difficult few months for Auckland screen businesses and contractors although Film Auckland are weathering this environment comparatively well, and have secure reserves to continue operating in these uncertain times.

In 2020, as a response to the Covid epidemic and to assist the Ministry of Health with contact tracing, ScreenSafe began a simple online register of productions. The Board recognised a unique opportunity to harness the ScreenSafe database and create a tool to enhance sector connectivity, growth and sustainability - an 'Aotearoa Production Database'. Going beyond just Covid requirements for ScreenSafe and Ministry of Health, from availability of locations, studios, crew, rentals, through to industry connectivity, for the benefit of the wider screen industry.

In May, after initial meetings with Phillipa Mossman and Catherine Bates from the NZFC Attractions team, and Jasmine Millet from Screen Auckland, we created a white paper discussion document. The document outlines how the concept of the national production database could be of benefit to the NZ screen industry and we used it as a basis for discussion to enlist support from ScreenSafe and the Regional Film Offices (RFOs). Work towards this continues, although progress has been delayed due to ScreenSafes competing priority with COVID alert levels and surrounding H&S protocols.

We also participated in some wider industry conversations about what a Pan-Sector body might look like. Following this, we made financial a contribution towards stage one of the creation on the screen industry pan body.

In June we looked ahead to consider how we might observe Matariki as whānau and industry and what we can do to shape Matariki as a fruitful experience, before it becomes a national public holiday in 2022. We held a 'Observing Matariki' event, which was a success by all accounts. The feedback received was positive, reminding us on the importance of continuing to create physical events and increasing the sense of community within the Auckland screen industry.

In August, we moved into lockdown, placing planning for our next physical event centered around Pacifica, on hold. As the response to operating in an ever extending lockdown, FAI

remained open and flexible as to how we could serve our community best. We adapted by focusing on regular updates and communication with our members and contacts, and we started sending out a monthly bulletin "Auckland Screen Industry News." With the average open rate of 18% for e-newsletter in 2021, the bulletin has been a huge success consistently producing a read rate of 55-65 percent per issue.

We waived membership prices last year in response to Covid-19, which saw our membership numbers skyrocket. We realised that this surge in membership presented us with a chance to step up and provide value to our members. We were able to retain 50 percent of those new sign ups, as well as gain an extra 10 percent in membership, which can largely be contributed to our enhanced and frequent communication on the Board's actions and conversations.

All of the board members from the 2020/21 year are standing again, and I would like to thank them for their ongoing contribution. Its been a really great team, and I am so pleased everyone has expressed their interest to stay on.

I would also like to extend thanks to Jasmine Millet for her tireless work at Screen Auckland.

And lastly, thanks to our Chair Grant Baker, and Deputy Chair Alice Shearman, who have made considerable contributions to both Film Auckland and to the local industry.

The upcoming year will no doubt provide further challenges for our screen community, and I look forward to the part Film Auckland will play.

#### 4. Election of Officers & Committee

Grant Baker moves that the following is the Board for 2021:

Office Members:

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| 1. Chair        | Grant Baker    |
| 2. Deputy-Chair | Alice Shearman |
| 3. Secretary    | Marg Slater    |
| 4. Treasurer    | David Rowell   |

Board Members

5. Sioux MacDonald to continue on the Board
6. Ngaire Fuata to continue on the Board
7. James Brookes to continue on the Board
8. Gabriel Reid to continue on the Board
9. Mike Rehu to continue on the Board
10. Graham Dunster to continue on the Board
11. Annie Dodman to continue on the Board
12. Katie Kempe to continue on the Board

*Grant Baker proposed a motion that the nominees be elected to positions as proposed and thanks all the members. Passed unanimously.*

## 5. General Business

- [MIQ update](#): MIQ Applications for Cultural Sector open. Manatū Taonga (Ministry for Culture and Heritage) is able to sponsor up to 20 Managed Isolation Quarantine (MIQ) rooms per month to support the sector. The first applications for the month of December 2021 are due Tuesday, 23 November.
- [Reform of Vocational Education \(ROVE\) - Toi Mai](#), the workforce development council for the creative, cultural, recreation and technology industries, has now been established as of October. They will be starting engagement with the sector early next year to hear the needs of our sector.
- [Greenlit](#) an industry-wide collaborative strategy for implementing sustainability within the New Zealand film industry. Craig Gainsborough reporting that the steering committee are looking to engage within the industry early next year.

**Meeting closed at 5:15 PM**