



Meteor Incorporated
preserving science fiction

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Issue #1

Occasional news letter for members of Meteor Incorporated

June 2010

Office bearers elected at the annual general meeting on 16th September 2009 are:

President:	Paul Bray
Vice President:	Mark Loney
Treasurer:	Carey Handfield
Secretary:	Bill Wright
Committee member:	Bruce Gillespie
Committee member:	Rob Gerrand

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of an irregular bulletin to the members of Meteor Incorporated, who share a long cherished vision of one day acquiring secure premises to house a science fiction and research collection in Australia. The members of Meteor are the ongoing supporters of this goal.

We have good news! Meteor's Public Fund has received endorsement by the Australian Taxation Office as a deductible gift recipient with effect from 9th February 2010. This means that unconditional gifts of \$2 or more to the Meteor Incorporated Public Fund are tax deductible

It also means that our focus will change from establishing the organisation to developing an income stream through deductible gifts such as Donations, Collections and Wills & Bequests. So the committee has a lot of legal and administrative work to do before Aussiecon 4 on 2-6 September 2010 when we'll launch the Meteor Incorporated Public Fund with much fanfare.

Meanwhile, there's a need for discretion. It would be appreciated if members would keep the information low key for the time being. We're still developing material for the website as well as legal wording and administrative arrangements. The committee wants to be in a good position to respond to enquiries before making any public announcements.

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Meteor Incorporated's plans for the immediate future are outlined below.

Publicity

Once we've got legal wording sorted out and the website modified accordingly, publicity director Bruce Gillespie will co-ordinate publicity via e-mail lists and the blogosphere, including Facebook.

The message we want to get across is that unconditional gifts of \$2 or more to the Meteor Incorporated Public Fund are tax deductible for Australian taxpayers.

For an explanation of who we are, what we're on about and how to donate, enquirers will be referred to relevant pages in the website.



The Website

The structure of Meteor Incorporated's website won't change, but individual pages will be rewritten to reflect the deductible gift recipient status of its Public Fund and to publicise the tax deductible status of unconditional gifts for Australian taxpayers.

The new wording (which has yet to be drafted and legally vetted) must be consistent with whatever links to specific website pages are included in our internet-based publicity regardless of channel, for example, email lists, blogs or Facebook.

Wills and Bequests Policy

Legally acceptable wording is being developed for the Bequests page in the website, which currently is blank. Under present tax law, testamentary gifts to the Meteor Incorporated Public Fund are exempt from capital gains tax but they are not tax deductible.

Interim Storage campaign

The committee agreed on a campaign to raise \$10,000 for interim storage of selected items from collections acquired in an emergency until facilities are available to manage them properly. That would involve giving assistance to the donors to catalogue (or at least box-label) their collection and help with the disposition of material we don't want.

This is an interim objective to answer a pressing need that is becoming acute as fans age. It doesn't for one moment take our minds off the Association's primary objective, which is fund raising to acquire premises for a science fiction institution and research collection in Australia where such unconditionally donated collections can be properly managed.

Meteor's Profile at Aussiecon 4

The Committee will endeavour to have the Meteor Public Fund recognised as an official A4 charity. We won't be splurging vast amounts of members' subscriptions, but we *will* put an ad in Progress Report 4 (because that's an effective way of getting one's message across); and we'll be commissioning an ad in the souvenir Aussiecon 4 Program Book (because that permanently enhances the long term profile of Meteor Incorporated).

Jean Weber has organised a fan charities table at Aussiecon 4 to promote ASFF, Meteor and the major fan funds. We'll have flyers for that and maybe to stuff in convention show bags. Other than that, the committee has a number of ideas it wants to explore with the Aussiecon 4 committee. We'll let you know in the next news letter if any of those come to fruition