

## **2026 AGM Convenor Report for the FSP AGM on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 2026 - Nigel Ford**

The Box Factory Meetings continue to meet on the first Friday of the month. Attendances have been wonderful. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of FSP has seen many returning to our meetings and new poets coming along. It Was very pleasing to see how many 1<sup>st</sup> time readers have been turning up, including 8 at our February meeting.

Launch of Anthology No 49 on 6<sup>th</sup> June at the beginning of the regular monthly meeting at the Box Factory was organised by the Editors, Martha Landman and Avalanche who also organised subsequent regional launches to appreciative audiences. Thank you to Editors and Kerry Tredrea who was the Judge of the Satura and Nova Prizes. Congratulations to Geoff Johnston for his Satura win and to Peter Goers for his Nova win.

Launch of New Poets 26 and Single Poet 2025 held at the Effective Living Centre on 26<sup>th</sup> October was a great afternoon and very well attended. Congratulations to New Poets, John Atkinson, Kylie Dinning and Matt Gaughwin for your wins in the New Poet 26 competition and thank you to the Judge, Ivan Rehorek, AKA Avalanche. And congratulations to Cary Hamlyn for winning the Single Poet competition and thank you to the Judge, Kathryn Pentecost.

The new Editors for this year's Anthology submissions are Elizabeth Salna and Erica Jolly.

Both the New Poets 26 and the Single Poet Competitions are on again this year as the FSP Committee considered the numbers and standards of submissions high enough to justify the Single Poet competition being run every year. Submissions opened on 1<sup>st</sup> April with the closing date for both is 31<sup>st</sup> May. There will be no extensions for any competitions ever again, so get in on time or wait another year. Information is on the FSP Website and Facebook pages.

I want to thank all the members of the current FSP Committee being, Nigel Ford, Erica Jolly, Veronica Cookson, David Cookson, Kristy Willett, Fred Willett, Sue O'Brien and Ben Adams. I want to make special mention of Veronica Cookson for continuing in the Secretary role. I also want to thank Treasurer, Kirsty Willett for staffing the sign-in desk and Fred Willett for staffing the book sales desk. They also bring Erica Jolly to our meetings and attend all launches to sell books.

And I again want to thank 2 people who continue to support FSP providing us their professional services in areas that may go unnoticed; Helen Hutton for her great work in producing all our books for publication and Ian Gibbins for providing all the IT support for our website and Facebook page. The quality of their efforts should never be unappreciated.

Last year FSP had its 50th anniversary on 11<sup>th</sup> November. The events organised by the Subcommittee were an outstanding success with guests and visitors attending from far and wide.

Some of highly successful events worthy of mention include; The Poetry Love In at the Box Factory on 7<sup>th</sup> November, the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner at the Cooper's Alehouse in Adelaide on the actual anniversary date of 11<sup>th</sup> November and ended with the launch of co-founder Richard Tipping's latest book of poetry at Ern Malley's on the 12<sup>th</sup> November.

And FSP produced a historic book, Chronicle, our largest ever publication, which records the 1<sup>st</sup> 50 years of FSP's existence and has been sent to National and State Archives and Libraries.

I'd like to thank everyone who volunteered to be a part of that massive task of organising everything, so thank you to Erica Jolly, Sue O'Brien, Fred Willett and Jude Aquilina, with added support from Kristy Willett, Ian Gibbins, Ben Adams, Rory Harris and others, including

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myself, but especially to Erica Jolly whose passion made this 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Chronicle so successful.