



MILLINERY AUSTRALIA

## Member Meeting Minutes

**HELD: Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> August, 2025 - 7.30pm AEST (Melb/Syd)**

Time	Item
19:30	<b>1. Welcome</b>
	<b>2. Apologies</b> Jess Maddox, Rachel Henry, Margret Keeble, Liza Georgia, Rebecca Share, Fiona Eichler, Fiona Sullivan, Andrea Cainero, Pam Kelly
	<b>3. Guest Speaker – Louise Macdonald</b>
	<b>4. Passing of July 2025 Meeting Minutes</b> 4.1 <b>Motion:</b> to approve the Minutes of the July meeting <b>Proposed:</b> KC; First: Christine Martin; Second: Joanne Cooke
	<b>5. Treasurer Reports</b> 5.1 Financial Reports - P&L & Balance Sheet – Overview 5.2 <b>Motion:</b> to approve the Financial Reports and to ratify the payments made by the Committee <b>Proposed:</b> SM; First: Lisa Watt; Second: Julia Watson
	<b>6. President's Report</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No guest speaker scheduled for next month.</li> <li>The block library trial period is in full swing and you can join at any time by emailing our treasurer for an invoice.</li> <li>Jo Peterson has been busy responding to our press requests from The Hat magazine, Hat talk and the VRC. Celia from the VRC magazine, is writing an article about the Design Award and our activities and hopefully will get something up on the FOTF website too. Jo has been working through issues in uploading the gala images on to the website and we appreciate your patience. Thank you, Jo.</li> <li>Those of you who have responded to the Fashion Festival Survey will need to get 4 images representing your brand along with contact information to me soon. I will be sending out an email after my next meeting with Todd with any requirements.</li> <li>Ekka has concluded with Millinery Australia sponsoring a \$200 prize. Thank you, Angela Sullivan for keeping an eye on things. Angela will report on this later in the meeting.</li> <li>A big thank you to Phillip Rhodes for volunteering to be our guest editor for the November / December issue of Millinery Matters. Please send anything of interest to Phillip.</li> <li>Melbourne Royal Show deadline for entries has been extended to Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> August.</li> </ul>

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	<p data-bbox="363 188 826 219">6.1 Richard Shaw photo shoot report</p> <ul data-bbox="363 259 1430 609" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="363 259 1430 609">• The Richard Shaw photo shoot was a success. 8 members participated who all enjoyed the experience. Thank you to student, Kylie Bannerman for agreeing to assist me on the day. The styling options donated to us by Alicia Marshall and The Essential Hat were generous and plenty. Lynette Pater from Luxe styling was engaged to style 5 editorial looks, which pushed some members in a different direction but proved to be rewarding. Richard loved the shoot and is submitting some of the editorial shots for publication. Fingers crossed they get some traction. I also sent these images to Celia at the VRC Magazine. The Millinery Association will be credited as the creative director and the images. I budgeted and charged on worst case scenario and as nothing went wrong, we saw a profit of \$500 for the MAA.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="363 649 831 680">6.2 2026 Lillian Frank Millinery Award</p> <ul data-bbox="363 721 1430 1621" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="363 721 1430 1621">• It's no secret that the majority of members have been dissatisfied with the way the VRC competition has been run over the last five years or so, and the recent survey confirmed this sentiment. Most members are frustrated by the video submission process, the lack of anonymity in the competition, and the challenges interstate members face in sorting tickets and models if they make it to the final. Jill Humphries, on behalf of the VRC, asked for our opinions, and as a result, the video component has been scrapped for this year. However, for the most part, the competition remains unchanged. We are unsure how many will be invited to the final, so it's wise to look to history, and prepare for a small selection. Each year around this time, discussions about the VRC award turn to disappointment and frustration, which I now see influencing the next generation of members. The days when Millinery Australia were the only participants in this competition are well and truly behind us, and it's time for us to accept this and adjust our attitudes accordingly. When we consider the competition as it stands today, without dwelling on the past, it presents an exceptional opportunity for milliners, and our members have been very successful in it. I understand the frustration of interstate milliners, but acceptance is key. This is a Victorian competition, and therefore, interstate members will naturally have a disadvantage, just as Victorians do for competitions in other states. Regarding the "not being anonymous" issue, I urge our members to reflect on the good old days when some of our members modelled their own work in the parade, which was hardly anonymous. The decision to compete is a personal one, but for the working, career milliner, it is a worthy endeavour. For those wishing to compete the <b>submission must be in by midnight 5<sup>th</sup> October and finalists notified by the 20<sup>th</sup> October</b> (15 days prior to the comp) I hope many of you enter and promote exquisite millinery on behalf of Millinery Australia. Keep posted as changes still may be on the way.</li> </ul> <p data-bbox="363 1662 1378 1729">6.3 Special General Meeting – to be held prior to September's Member Meeting – Rule Changes and Membership Categories</p> <ul data-bbox="363 1769 1406 1935" style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="363 1769 1406 1935">• Our September Meeting will begin with a special general meeting to vote on the rule changes that have been discussed at length. If this is news to you then I request that you go back through the minutes to catch up. Kathy will be sending out the relevant documents very soon and I urge everyone to read through them and send any questions through so the meeting goes smoothly and quickly.</li> </ul>

Time	Item
	<p>6.4 Membership Renewals</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Membership renewals will be sent out soon with no increase in fees. I urge everyone to pay on time to support our volunteers and assist in the planning for 2026. If you are facing financial difficulties that may delay your payment, please feel free to approach any committee member you are comfortable with to arrange assistance.</li> </ul> <p>6.5 State Round-up &amp; Reports</p> <p>Members in attendance at tonight's meeting:</p> <p>VIC - 21 NSW - 7 QLD - 4 SA - 1 WA - 0 TAS - 0 ACT - 0 NT - 0 Int'l – 0</p> <p>Current Membership Numbers: Total: 160; Fellows: 118; Life: 12; Associates:10; Students: 20</p> <p>6.6 Zoom Poll function testing – successfully tested</p>
	<p><b>7. Other</b></p> <p>7.1 2026 Christmas Soiree with Stephen Jones – Sandy Forrester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Confirmed function for Thursday, 4<sup>th</sup> December</li> <li>Cocktail party</li> <li>Members only (no guests/ partners etc)</li> <li>City venue TBD</li> <li>Sandy to put a post on Facebook to gauge interest for numbers</li> </ul>
	<p><b>8. General Business – Open to Members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>General discussion about the Millinery Award</li> </ul>
	<p><b>9. Next Meeting</b></p> <p>WEDNESDAY, 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER @ 7.30pm AEST</p> <p>Via Zoom &amp; In-Person:</p> <p>Hawthorn Library 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, 3122</p>
20:55	<b>10. Meeting Close</b>