



MILLINERY AUSTRALIA

Member Meeting Minutes

HELD: Monday, 24th February 2025

7.30pm AEDT (Melb/Syd)

Time	Item
19:30	1. Welcome
	2. MAA Archiving Project & Guest Speaker – Nicole Theodore (introduced by Sandy Forrester).
	3. Apologies Fiona Eichler, Weis Mauduit, Margret Keeble, Kathleen Watson, Christine Waring, Elaine Mergard, Christine De Prada, Jane Moy, Wendy Skully, Desleigh Lobsey
	4. President's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <u>Overview</u> <p>Thank you all for attending. It's been an honour so far to serve you. We have a lot to discuss today, so if anything is unclear, please feel free to stay after the meeting for further clarification. This will help us avoid repeating information during the meeting. Please avoid writing your questions in the chat unless absolutely necessary, as it can be difficult to manage. Remember, if you have a question, others might be thinking the same. There are no dumb questions, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions throughout the meeting.</p> <p>First, I would like to extend my gratitude to our dedicated committee, who have been working hard on our behalf since the AGM. Our meetings have been creative, informative, friendly, and respectful, and have come at no cost to the MAA.</p> <p>Non-executive committee roles have been assigned:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Jo Cooke and Amber Louison-Suwal will be handling Associate member development with Jo Cooke also managing student member development and NSW Hat walk.• Serena will take on the newsletter and manage the newly but yet to-be-formed approvals committee.• Jo Peterson is our social media and website manager.• Julia Watson will manage Qld membership and manage QLD Hat walk.• Sandy Forrester is managing our archive project and presentation. <p>I would also like to thank the following non-committee members for their assistance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Lauren Ritchie for organizing our Google Drive and for her support to me as past president. Lauren will revisit the Google Drive before the AGM to ensure it remains tidy for the next committee.- Fiona Cooper for creating our artwork for the awards and for her continued support to me as past president.- Catherine Storm for providing expert advice for our MAArvelous millinery retrospective event, which Sandy will present tonight.- Chris Mullane and her husband, as well as Fiona Cooper, for volunteering their time at the block library.- Lisa Hughes for her advice on photography for the design award and other matters.

Time	Item
	<p>- Amelia, our VP's Tracey Tau's daughter, for her guidance in helping Tracey prepare a grant application for our Block Library. It's a slow process and Tracey will share information on this when news develops, but for now, please keep your fingers crossed and give a big thank you to Tracey for preparing all the necessary documentation.</p> <p>I would like to express my appreciation to Sarah Mensforth for her professionalism in updating our banking information. This task proved to be challenging, but Sarah handled it with grace and managed to streamline our authorized signatures to only reflect the current executive committee, as it should be. I was witness to Sarah's impressive efforts at the bank that likely put the manager on notice, so I have full confidence that our finances will be well managed.</p> <p>I would like to extend a special mention to Kathy Campbell for the invaluable assistance she has provided to Tracey and me. In the absence of Possum Ball and Wendy Diggles, Kathy efficiently managed the handovers for both President and Vice President roles. Her efforts in fulfilling all duties at the end of last year are greatly appreciated, so thank you Kathy.</p> <p>The committee has voted to reinstate the Hall of Fame award back to being a biannual event, starting this year. We would also like to clarify that Hall of Fame members will receive free entry to the Gala in 2025, but all other events will need to be paid for.</p> <p>Please join me in welcoming and congratulating our new Fellow member, Araks Nazarian. Araks is a past student design award winner, among other honours, so it's wonderful to have her join us as a Fellow.</p> <p>Regarding approvals for new members, Serena Lindeman will create and lead an approval committee comprised of Hall of Famers and Millinery TAFE teachers, both past and present. Who better to approve new members than those esteemed individuals voted in by our members for their contributions to the MAA, alongside teachers who understand the standards? This also helps lessen the load on the committee.</p> <p>As promised, next month, our meetings will return to a hybrid format, with both Zoom and in-person options available. If you can, please bring a small plate to share for supper. If you have any millinery items you'd like to sell, please bring them along; we will have a sales table for you. You will be responsible for managing your own sales, with no commission involved—this is strictly a member-to-member arrangement. If any other state has the numbers to create a similar get together, please email me and I will send you our not-for-profit information so you may also get a cheap venue as we are only paying \$5 per hour.</p> <p>Unfortunately, Kathy and I will not be in attendance so Tracey will run the meeting and Fiona Cooper has generously offered to help set-up the zoom connection to the TV.</p> <p>I will be away for a few weeks from March 12 and Tracey will act as President. I will be in contact with the committee but if a decision needs to be made and I can't be reached I will stand by the committee's decisions.</p> <p>We have a lot in the works here in Victoria, but please remember that if any of you wish to create and run an event on behalf of the MAA, you just need to email the secretary with your plan and budget. There is a form in the members area of the website for this purpose.</p> <p>This weekend, I will be in Sydney and would love to enjoy a drink and chat with any NSW members who can join me at The Darling Star, 80 Pyrmont St Pyrmont on Sunday night at 7:30 PM. Jo Cooke has the details if you need them. I look forward to catching up with you. And of course, wear a hat!</p> <p>Our Patron Stephen Jones has congratulated me on becoming your president and hopes to get to Australia and meet us later in the year. Fingers crossed.</p>

Time	Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Design Award – Jo Peterson</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme – “Celebration” (10 years since the Design Award was established) • Registration opens: March 8th • Registration Closes: May 16th, by 5pm • Due Date for Entries: May 22nd, no later than 5pm • Judging: Wednesday, May 28th • Photos: Thursday, May 29th & Friday, May 30th (if required) – Richard Shaw is the photographer • Mailing Address: Oakleigh BP Parcel Locker 1018132947, 164 Warrigal Road, Oakleigh, 3166 • Judges: Louise MacDonald, Michele Cameron and Alicia Marshall • Feedback: No written feedback will be provided by judges • Model: TBA • Announcements: winners will be announced at the Gala Evening • Prizes: TBA • Tickets: Members S105 + pre-paid postage label for return of entry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • asa • asa • asaS • <u>Student Award – Georgia</u> <p>Before I discuss this year’s student award, I want to extend my gratitude to Serena Lindeman for generously agreeing to gift a workshop to Kelly Dart-Fagan, one of last year’s winners, in place of the workshop with Wendy Diggles that I was unable to retrieve.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theme – “Street” • Registration opens – March 8th • Entry due date – no later than 5pm on May 15th • Entry fee - \$35 for members; \$50 for non-members PLUS a pre-paid return postage label to be included with submission • Prizes – to be announced shortly • Encourage all members (especially tutor members) to pass the competition details on to contacts in schools offering fashion and textiles studies. • Students only need to have completed one millinery class, either online or in person, within the 12 months leading up to May 15 to be eligible for the award. • Judges – Phillip Rhodes; Fiona Cooper; Irene Moore and Michele Cameron will again be supporting the Mary Lock Encouragement Award. • Each member student can receive 2 hours of online or phone mentoring • Reminder that a student can enter the competition over 3 consecutive years only, and only for the 3 years after becoming a student member. • <u>Gala Night – Georgia</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Date – Friday, 27th June • Location – The Bank on Collins (Melbourne City) – to be able to utilize the \$500 deposit that has been held over from last year’s cancelled Christmas function. • NO live social media announcements at the event – either attend in person, or organize another to share the event live with you. • GALA SUB- COMMITTEE IS NEEDED – 4 members • New Gala sub-committee should have a zoom meeting with 2024 and 2023 Gala sub-committee • Responsibilities of sub-committee include:

Time	Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Developing the budget for committee approval; ○ Setting up ticket sales through Humanitix; ○ Drafting Mailchimp email announcements for the public and members; ○ Collecting all hats, plinths, and mannequin heads (currently, we have 18 white heads and 60 wig stands, and delivering them to the venue); ○ Printing the exhibition display for all entries; ○ Setting up the exhibition; ○ Planning the menu, including drinks (we have a minimum further \$5,500 that we must spend through the venue); ○ Ensuring that a microphone and podium are in place; ○ Organizing the welcome table and ticket checking at the front door; ○ Arranging the distribution of hats to members who wish to collect them after the event; ○ Organizing the return of any remaining hats via post; ○ Sending a financial summary to the Treasurer. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● No sub-committee = the Gala is cancelled. In its place, we will host a party to announce the winners, showcase the millinery, and enjoy each other's company at a suitable community venue. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>Block Library – Georgia</u> <p>As many of you know, we have inherited an incredible collection of blocks from the Kangan Institute, a Victorian TAFE that recently closed its millinery courses. This closure has likely left our beloved member, Serena Lindeman, with a heavy heart. It marks the end of a significant chapter for her, and we wish her all the best in her next adventure.</p> <p>A major portion of the collection comes from the late Paris Kyne, a Victorian milliner and tutor to many of us. He bequeathed these blocks to Kangan with the hope that his students would use them. We are excited to take on the responsibility of housing them here in Victoria, where many of his students continue to create and thrive.</p> <p>Paris's family has been informed of the change in ownership and location, and we have expressed our gratitude to them. We are honoured to be the new custodians of this collection.</p> <p>Taking on this responsibility involves considerable effort and costs. It cost \$600 just to move the collection. Fortunately, my family has been able to offer free storage for the blocks at our warehouse in Keysborough until at least June. This arrangement allows us the rare opportunity to consider and catalogue the collection without incurring rental costs. We have also moved our other assets to the same location, leading to further savings. Although the space is ideal for now, it does have limitations, and the committee will welcome any ideas.</p> <p>The details of how the library will be utilized are still being developed. However, what has been agreed upon so far is that the library needs to be self-supporting, safe to use, and managed by a block library committee. We want as many members as possible to access the blocks, but we must emphasize that many of these blocks are irreplaceable, and we have a duty of care to them. For this reason, the blocks will not leave the library until all processes have been thoroughly tested, all risk analyses completed, and terms and conditions of use developed. Once we have established the outline, we will bring it to you for input. We appreciate your patience and understanding in this matter and encourage you to stay tuned for updates in this exciting endeavour.</p> <p>Jo Peterson, Sarah Mensforth, Fiona Cooper, Chris Mullane, Tracey Tau and I have begun the cataloguing process. And have catalogued 210 so far. Once it is complete, members will have access to view the collection online.</p>

Time	Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Georgia shared a look at the Block Library catalogue. It is still in the process of being put together. • Michele Cameron volunteered some time for block repairs and care. Potential for Men;s Shed volunteers to get involved, if needed. • Georgia reminded everyone that the blocks will only be available to financial members.
	<p>5. Financial Reports</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Financial Reports - P&L & Balance Sheet • Motion: to approve the Financial Reports and to ratify the payments made by the Committee – Motion moved by SM; Second – Serena Lindeman
	<p>6. Social Media – Jo Peterson</p> <p>Instagram</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular posts <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sunday - Sunday Sentiments ○ Monday - Hat Block Monday ○ Wednesday - Whatcha Wearing Wednesday ○ Friday - High Five Friday (shout out to members) • Hashtags and Handles <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ #millineryaustralia ○ @millineryaustralia • We don't know what you're up to if we can't find you • Millinery Australia can help your business by reposting your posts • Shout outs are a warm and friendly hug we can give each other • Like our posts, stories and reels... don't just stalk our account • Make a comment to Increase engagement • Followers – summary of our Instagram follower numbers and stats <p>Hootsuite – confirmed that we are not renewing as it is now over \$2000 a year. Looking in to alternatives.</p> <p>Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instagram link to our website is working again • Reverted back to corporate colour scheme after our 'Pearl celebrations • Milliner Profiles – reminder to send through update details to Secretary. New members need to supply their details, photo, socials etc. • Adding new stuff under the 'EVENTS' tab and private member section • Need to contact the host to tweak a few issues. • Check the website for updates about meetings and zoom recordings, competitions, events, plus there's lots of educational material under the 'Learn About Millinery' Tab
	<p>7. Heritage Month – Sandy Forrester</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebration of the 30 years of the MAA • As a part of the National Trust Australian Heritage Festival, MAA has created an event under the Festival theme of 'Unearthed' – MAARvelous Millinery Retrospective Millinery Exhibit • Millinery display, millinery process display, sales and advice • Details – Sat 17th May (2-5pm), Cobblestone Pavillion, The Meat Market • Tickets - \$40 to attend OR \$60 to display & attend (open to the first 20 milliners) • All details in forthcoming email

Time	Item
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Trust website will be advertising the event to their 15,000 members (approx) • Potential for future events to be held in each state, with potential state government grants to support
	<p>8. Hat Walk – Tracey Tau</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Event Date: Sunday, April 27th • Tracey is looking after the Melbourne Hat Walk – has lodged an application with the City of Melbourne re proposed route • Proposed route is from Floral Clock to Princess Bridge, along the Yarra River, circling back to the Floral Clock – approx. 1.4km walk, but has the potential for people to shorten or remain in place at the Floral Clock if walking that distance is difficult. • Julia Watson is the Qld rep • Joanne Cooke is the NSW rep • Oksana Caretti is the SA rep • Tracey to confirm our liability status with our insurers. To be a Free ticketed event so that we can keep track of who is attending the event. • Tracey to contact The Red Hat Society to promote the event to them, and hopefully encourage their members to attend the various events. • Tracey has contacted Deborah Hutton (via Canopy Bay) to seek her interest and potential involvement
	<p>9. General Business - Open to Members</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Araks confirmed that the Certificate III in Millinery in NSW. Potentially some short courses will be run at Ultimo.
	<p>10. Next Meeting Wednesday, 26th March @ 7.30PM AEDT – via Zoom & in person</p> <p>Hawthorn Library 584 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn, 3122</p> <p>NOTE – President and Secretary will both be absent from this meeting.</p>
20:45	11. Meeting Close