



Annalese Fowler
Minutes officer
November 28, 2018 Minutes
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Minutes of AGM

Date: Tuesday, November 20, 2018

Time: 7h00pm

- Present:** Rose Hudson, Felicity Northeast, Georgia Skelton, Katherine Cherry, Annalese Fowler, Marea Bright, Rachel Henry, Possum Ball, Lisa, Robin Rivett, Louise MacDonald, Catherine Ellen, Sinead Howard, Louise Macdonald, Lisa Hughes, Kim Williams, Irene Moore, Laura Dunnington, Jennifer Wood, Margaret Watson, Wendy Stone, Karin Goodman
- Zoomers:** Linda Ford, Chantelle Lauder, Wendy Diggles, Lou Swann, Enza Geddes, Amanda Smith, Kylie Heagney, Lisa Bell, Jo Honan, Di Robertson, Lorraine Gill, Helen Wilkinson, Ginetta Rositano, Bec Bayss, Sandy Aslett, Abigail Fergusson, Catherine Kelly, Bren PC, Jo Peterson, Belinda Osborne, Lisette Margini, Victoria Henderson, Lynette Lim, Kylie Williams, Lou Swann, Catherine Kelly, Victoria Henderson
- Apologies:** Chris Mullane, Leteisha Knecht, Shara Gillahan, Cessiah Alice, Lys Stevens, Sandy Forrester, Mary Mohr, Christine Waring, Cathy Chivers, Peter Caretti, Karen Bailey, Christine Martin, Allison Morgan, Lauren Ritchie, Alana English, Cessiah Athorn, Christine Lyndsay, Shalene Clancy, Gillian Andrew

1. Georgia started the AGM at 7.02pm.
2. Welcome Marea Bright one of our life members and some people we haven't seen before.
3. Minutes form 2017 AGM
A copy is here should anyone wish to refer to them.
Forwarded by Louise MacDonald
Seconded by Katherine Cherry
4. **President Report**
Rose Hudson
Hello to all in the room and zoomers all over Australia.
See Rose Hudson's report below:

AGM President's speech

Another Millinery Association year is drawing to a close and another committee will say its goodbyes.

Two years, I became President of this Association after a whirlwind week of phone calls texts and emails. I remember attending the Cup Week drinks at the Rendezvous Hotel in Flinders Street and talking about the AGM and asking someone who the next President might be, never thinking for a minute

it would be me. That's how quickly things can happen. As you know, I stayed on for two years aided and supported by two fantastic committees some of whom left last year, and some, like Georgia, Felicity and Sandy who stayed on.

I'd like to pay tribute to the members of the committee this year who all did a fabulous job, some of whom were under very trying circumstances.

Felicity Northeast, our treasurer. Calm, kind, unflappable, sensible, indefatigable and honest - traits you want in a treasurer. We found ourselves talking or texting almost on a daily basis about MAA work. Sometimes as early as 6.30 in the morning and a text or two might be exchanged at bedtime. We became very close over the two years, discovering we share the same values and love of a cheeky rosé. The MAA work will finish, but the friendship will continue I'm sure.

Georgia Skelton. What can I say about Georgia that I haven't already said? I'll try. Georgia is hardworking and dogged. She stepped up to the position of Secretary when Annalese's new job made it impossible for her to continue. Georgia warned us she would need help and for the first few months we were all on eggshells around her know any moment she might blow up and quit, because mastering the intricacies of Mailchimp, website maintenance as well as all the other million little things the job of Secretary entails was almost too much for her to handle. But then, just like that, she became the consummate Secretary. I was amazed at her ability to adapt and learn new things, I couldn't have done what Georgia did. We didn't always see eye to eye, I'm sure I annoyed her on numerous occasions but she is a rock. She says what she thinks, and doesn't hold grudges. That what I love about her. This year on top of MAA work she ran her own millinery school and had two frail elderly parents to relocate into care. No easy task but she managed to keep all the balls in the air somehow. Thanks Georgia, we were so lucky to have you for two years on this committee.

Sandy Aslett, our Queensland champion. Sandy is so one eyed it's not funny. I'm part of the Queensland milliners facebook page and I see what she writes, she is a cracker! Pro Queensland through and through, 'let show 'em how we do things up here' kind of thing. I love it! She is a wonderful asset to the association but the killer instinct and competitive streak in Sandy is what propels Queensland millinery along. Easily explains the success in her previous life as a champion sportswomen. Good luck for 2019 Sandy.

Lisa Bell had a funny old start to 2018. She decided that this year, she would come back on the committee as our NSW ordinary member. Previously in 2017 having relocated to Sydney with the family and settling two children into new schools and environment she thought she might take it easy...well. Life can pull some funny tricks sometimes and our best laid plans can go out the window. Our elected Vice President, Lauren Ritchie took up the opportunity to travel to London and stay on, working for some wonderful milliners there including Edwina Ibbottson and Jane Taylor. She wasn't coming back. We wished her well but we were left with a Vice President shaped hole that needed filling. By the end of the first day of our January planning meeting, Lisa stepped up into the Vice role. Having done it before it was no stretch for her. She brought to the role her skills in marketing and social media, her contacts with the Sofitel Hotel group and the VRC have been invaluable.

Thank you Lisa for being an amazing support to all of us and a wonderful Vice President.

Annalese Fowler started off as our secretary and a highly credentialed one at that. She possessed all the skills, all the knowledge, took meeting minutes like a demon, was adept with computers, she talked the talk. Then her new job with Ronald McDonald House Charities went from a quaint little part time thing to an all encompassing behemoth and she had to resign from that position, which Georgia stepped into. Annalese stayed on as an ordinary member, taking and writing up the minutes from all our meetings. Another level headed, hardworking woman. I appreciate everything you've done for the committee this year Annalese, with all the work stresses you've been under, thank you so much.

Jo Honan from South Australia is a quiet achiever. She was often quiet in meetings, didn't say anything much unless she had something to say. Or maybe she couldn't get a word in with all the motor mouths in competition. Jo took on the Design Award this year. For the first time, the Award left Melbourne and Adelaide hosted the 38 entries that travelled over the border. Jo organised the model, the photographer, the makeup and hair specialists as well as unpacking, cataloguing and displaying for the judges all the hats. She hosted lunch for the judges and helped wrangle Phillip Rhodes, who had stayed on for Masterclasses with a group of very keen Adelaide milliners. I saw Jo develop this year from a shy person into a capable confident organiser of the single biggest event the MAA holds each year. I'm so happy for you Jo and pleased it was such an enormous success. You and your Design Award will be a very hard act to follow. The committee is very fortunate to have you again for 2019. South Australian millinery will explode in the next few years. Along with the steadfast established milliners, like Lorraine, Christiana Heather and Di, a whole new crop are on their way up through the ranks. With the inclusion of a second South Australian member on the committee, Louise Swann nominated as Secretary, I just know you're in good hands. Thanks for everything Jo.

Katherine Cherry has nominated for the position of Vice president for 2019 and what a wonderful VP she will be. She was fabulous to have on board this year. She helped Georgia enormously in the role of de facto assistant secretary. We have her to thank for some of the best guest speakers we've had, Rachelle Unreich and Rosie Boylan were highlights this year. Her laconic humour and easy going nature made for a nice balance in robust committee discussions. She organised and kept records for the wear a hat comp, she wore a hat to every meeting making some of us (me) feel inadequate and small. As a milliner, she has the best nurse's bedside manner. Always calm and sometimes with a view point different to mine but one which I valued always. Although she's a traveller and it's hard to tie her down for long, Katherine was still able to contribute when overseas recently, that's dedication for you. She's off to a bucket list destination next, Iceland. I just hope they have Zoom there. Thank you for everything Katherine, you've been amazing and lovely and kind and funny.

Greensborough's loss was Darwin's gain when Helen Wilkinson went north the the NT. I met Helen last year at Hats Off to Adelaide in Vlad's feather flower class. She sat near me and made a big impression. She was laid back, funny and I liked the way she talked about her millinery and the millinery business. Helen has some strong opinions but always made sense. I

remember spruiking the MAA in class and something I said must have stuck because she nominated for a position and became an ordinary member on this year's committee. Give a busy person a job, they say. This year Helen ran a café, a beauty business as well as her millinery business. Talk about juggling. Her intricate paper folding technique got her into the top ten of the Myer VRC Oaks Day Millinery Award and she managed to visit Melbourne in September for the Sofitel Girls day out at Flemington, the tyranny of distance doesn't hold her back and the committee is so fortunate to have her nominate as Treasurer for 2019. My best wishes and thanks to Helen.

Thanks also to Bronwyn Shooks whose brief, bright reign on the committee ended early because of the heavy workload of her job. Thanks Bron.

Achievements of this committee

There are so many things, big and small, I can proudly say we achieved for the members this year and last year.

We turned around the bitterness and divisiveness that had prevailed for a few years. Of that I am very proud. I wanted an association where members could come to meetings and enjoy themselves, this we achieved. I hope it continues. Our membership increased. The tiered system now includes associates and students. This extra revenue will go toward more Masterclasses and other activities for members. We now have more than 170 Fellow members, the break down being 72 in Victoria, 29 in Queensland, 20 in NSW, 13 in South Australia 3 in ACT and 2 each in WA, NT, and Tasmania. At last count we had 11 associate members across Australia and student members in most states. The student members are the future of this association so it's well worth nurturing that support base.

We have insurance for committee members now which wasn't something we had in the past.

We have a privacy policy. We have a code of conduct.

When Mr Stephen Jones accepted an invitation to a cocktail party hosted in his honour last year, we were thrilled to bits. But then, this year he accepted our invitation to be the Patron of our Association. I think this is the single most rewarding thing we did. We had help, Kim Fletcher smoothed the way and Stephen's lovely PA Annika worked on him as well. Stephen's wonderful quote on our website sums up his feeling about Australian millinery

"It's an honour to be the Patron of the Millinery Association of Australia for many reasons; Australian millinery has an effervescence and inventiveness which is unique in the world, the milliners themselves have always been so hospitable to me and most importantly when I get off the plane in Australia, it feels like home."

We supported the inaugural Hat Week Australia in July of this year, an initiative of Kim McMillan and Carole Maher, I hope the MAA supports this week of millinery learning again in some way in the future.

One of our last decisions as a committee was to approve sponsorship of The Melbourne International Millinery Competition (MIMC) convention, run by the Essential Hat's Catherine Ellen. It's great to see the initiative taken with educational opportunities for members which in turn support our associate supplier members, as delegates purchase materials from them for classes. Any education for milliners is good education and what the MAA ethos is all about.

We have forged a friendship with the management of The Emerald Peacock who wants us to be a part of the Millinery Salon each year from now on. The first one was held in October this year and the Emerald Peacock are keen to make it even bigger and better next year. This was a millinery event for 10 milliners, with invited guests from their mailing list, finger food and cocktails for an afternoon of millinery shopping in an intimate setting. Next year it is planned for September. Keep an eye out for notification.

The feedback we have been getting about the **Awon Golding** classes has been very positive, with people saying they love the technique and have enjoyed Awon's easy going way of teaching. We feel the master class model is a good alternative to the big expensive traditional millinery convention. I think the next committee should start thinking about who they will bring out next year.

I want to wish all the nominees the best of luck tonight, the statements submitted were timely and demonstrated a willingness to work for the members. I think as an association we are very lucky to have these good people step up for nomination. Since the July and August meetings we have been calling for people to consider running and these milliners representing a great cross section from most states in Australia, decided to stand after discussions with us on the committee. There was talk as recently as today about the nomination process. On October 20 via email to all members we called for written nomination submissions to be in to us by the 14th but that didn't mean the nomination process was over, far from it. We needed to collate the submissions and upload them to Mailchimp in order to send out so the members could process what the nominees were offering. We needed to set a date because we didn't intend to send a Mailchimp out every day as nominations came in dribbling in. As it was there was no stampede. Of course people can still nominate tonight, but think of this as a real election, it would do a politician no favours if he or she were to stand at the polling booth shouting vote for me vote for me without a policy, without genuine reasons why they should be voted in. I think its naïve to nominate at such short notice. Even though its in our all important Rules, I think our members expect more from the nominees than that.

Let that be the end of the nomination discussions. The people standing, who nominated in a timely manner are the people who want to do the job for all the right reasons.

We are here to elect a new committee so let's get on with it.

Thank you for the marvellous opportunities you gave me as President, I've had a wonderful time. I will now retreat to my quiet corner and cheer the next committee on to greater things as the Millinery Association turns the page to the next chapter.

Thank you.

5. Vice President Report

Lisa Bell

It's been a pleasure to be on the committee this year with some lovely ladies. It unexpectedly fell on my lap this afternoon is sent through all emails. Lots of behind the scene stuff and as visual things. It takes a village to put these things together so thank you.

We took a great deal of time and strategy to put this together so a big win. He is very generous and kind and supportive of the community in Australia. There was a big link there. A very special thanks to Kim Fletcher as was the link. Special mention in the Hatalk magazine.

VRC took a while for me to put proposal together. In particular the work we undergo in putting the work together for the Oaks Day award. I wanted to give them state, student design award some state a broader community and inclusive committee, An international miller on Oaks Day competition thank you Awon for that. They did have one main focus this year it was the new members stand. It looks amazing. In saying that I think the wheels started turning this year. Especially when I got off the stage from some the people I had met with came to chat to me.

They let the models walk down the catwalk this year. And this was something part of my story the importance of walking down that catwalk. So it's a big deal to have that airtime.

The MAA design award winter getting the automatic top 20 spot and breaking up the judging panels this year with Awon.

Something else I did this was to focus on the social media platforms especially on Instagram. Not easy when milliners are producing a lot of hats.

Needs to have a strategy, a budget and focus for 2019 in order to increase our followers. I really like a story we really to tell a story, our tools, small things our MAA pages are for the public a lot of milliner follows us but is it essentially for the public.

2019 it would be good to start profiling our milliners, videos, photos it needs to look good, some photos some online editing tools. We don't need models, can achieve really good results with some online tools.

I am excited for what will be on the agenda for next year and my best wishes to the incoming committee.

6. Treasurers Report

Felicity Northeast

I report for the AGM on the financial year 1 November 2017 to 21 October 2018, so its not about his month where a lot of expenditure has occurred.

There a couple things I have to cover at the AGM. Fees – Fees will stay the same

Student
Associate
Life
Joining fee \$25

These fees are to be paid by AGM if you were to vote or up to 28 day after the AGM 28 December 2018. If late payment is made 20% is added for late subscription.

The other things that has to be presented, finalised 10 days ago and have been signed off.

Attached is the following:

1. Profit and loss statement for year ending 31 October, 2018
2. Balance statement for year ending 31 Oct 2018
3. MAA fee structure

This up from previous year I estimated that we would have an increase as we had students and tiered members.. But this was higher than what we thought.

\$550, interested gain through term deposit.

Student competition gain money we were prepared to run at a loss gained \$550 from competition.

Expenses are tricky as they only reflects a small amount of Awon's classes.

We have all the money in from Awon's class but we had hardly paid out for those expenses.

Up by \$3/4K if we remove that event.

We weren't planning to be up.

General expenses, accounting, room rental were all lower than previous year, saved about \$3000,00 over the year.

In January year we planned to start spending some of our money. We looked at various ways and looked at so that I benefits all our milliners. We had a few other recommendations. This was however, not taken up.

With limited time we looked at how to spend it. But we decided we could do was Awons classed at about \$3000,00 that is in the next financial year.

We have gift membership as part of our prizes, reflected again in next year's report.

There still a bit of money in the bank for the next committee.

31 October \$69, 031.00

Notes:

The signatures and bank authority for MAA account including the term deposit will be transferred to all incoming MAA committee and one other MAA member.

Thank you to all the members for association for allowing the MAA to go on a computerised system we now have a really good way to plan, budget and reflect on our finances.

Thank everyone that has been on the committee it has been a great team. Best wishes to the new treasurer and part of the team. I would like to than Rose Hudson, she came in to the position realised she was not ordinary and would go for president. So went to president. Rose through all ups and downs continued to be enthusiastic, positive big ideas and to be in the position who had to be real peoples person and she was and the backing of the time got her think things in different ways.

7. Secretary report

Georgia Skelton

We began the year with 142 members and close with 176. This is an increase of approx. 22 % largely due to the tiered membership success.

I would like to thank everyone for the tremendous support and encouragement that I have received throughout this year as secretary of the MAA

As you all know, it was not my chosen or dream role and I had to navigate skills I did not have, and at times ran on my computer instincts. Thanks go once again to Lauren Ritchie for her assistance.

I had wanted to complete the collation of the history of the MAA during my time. Rose, Katherine and I have made a big dint in it, but with the secretary job thrust upon me, a difficult year a personally, I am afraid I have left the job unfinished. I have been very proud of my input into the MAA during the last 2 years as a committee member.

I plan to be of support to the incoming committee, if they require it from me.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Rose Hudson for her leadership and the committee for their support, both professionally and personally. I am so grateful for the friends I have made.

I am proud of the achievements of the 2018 committee and of how we are handing things over to the next team.

I wish the 2019 committee all the best for a wonderful year ahead.

Announcement of students from TAGE – I haven't been advised so will pass this onto the new committee.

8. Voting

I have lots of proxies and need to appoint 2 returning officers to count
Rose Hudson
Felicity Northeast

All position are now declared vacant as at 7.35pm on Tuesday, November 20, 2018.

Call for any new nominations for the 2019 committee not yet received by the 2018 committee. All ready have a nomination from Possum Ball nominating for president no other nominations received.

Possum Ball elected President

Katherine Cherry nominated as vice president, no other nominations, Katherine elected vice president

Lou Swan – nominating for Secretary – no other nominations, Lou elected secretary

Helen Wilkinson – nominating for Treasurers- no other nominations – Helen nominated

Jo Honan – SA
Sandy Aslett – QLD
Jo Peterson
Wendy Diggles – QLD
Rachel Henry
Amanda Smith – WA

Uncontested the above members voted in as the new committee for 2019.

New Committee for 2019 are:
President – Possum Ball
Vice president – Katherine Cherry
Treasurer – Helen Wilkinson
Secretary – Lou Swann

General Committee members for 2019 are:

Jo Honan – SA
Sandy Aslett – QLD
Jo Peterson
Wendy Diggles – QLD
Rachel Henry
Amanda Smith – WA

Forwarded by - Annalese Fowler
Seconded by - Louise Macdonald

Possum Ball accepted the roles. I am so happy, I put off becoming a member when I finally become a member I couldn't stop talking about it. Now I'm president. I hope to get more guidance from outgoing committee. I am looking forward to working with new committee.

9. Katherine Cherry

Thank you I enjoyed on the committee and being with these amazing women. WE have big shoes to fill I hope we can continue the work and put some of our own stamp on it.

10. Lou Swan – Secretary 2019

I am looking forward to working with new committee and very grateful for the opportunity.

11. Helen Wilkinson

I am excited to step up to treasury position.

12. Jo Honan

Pleased to be involved again this year.

13. Sandy Aslett – QLD Member

I wanted to thank the outgoing committee for the most amazing work they have done in 2017 and 2018 I have seen so much progress over the time. It's just fantastic. Georgia you have done a brilliant job also to Rose and Vice President they all volunteers well done. Welcome to the new committee and look forward to see how

our states can be of assistance and move the MAA forward. Welcome Wendy Diggles happy to have another partner in crime in Queensland.

14. Jo Peterson

Excited to be an ordinary member and work with amazing people all over Australia.

15. Amanda Smith

I've now been a member for 3 years. Last year felt so blessed by all the work you have all done. I work remote I live further away. Looking forward to getting to know and work with the other members.

16. Wendy Diggles

Pleased to be involved in the new committee and working with Sandy Aslett

17. Rachel Henry

I've been member of association for 2 years I am excited to be an ordinary member. Want to keep the momentum going. I am going to try keep us all connected as a family.

Meeting closing - Possum Ball I officially close the last meeting for 2018 at 7.59pm on Tuesday, November 20, 2018