

# MILLINERY *Matters*

NEWSLETTER OF THE MILLINERY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

## A Note from the President

It has been a huge few months! We've had... Hat Walk... A MAARvelous Millinery Retrospective... the Design Award... the Student Award... the Gala... and the introduction of the MAA Block Library. All very successful events hosted around Australia, and enjoyed by members and the general public alike. We have certainly been raising the profile of Millinery.

MAA events cannot happen without our committed and dedicated volunteers, and these events are no exception. From setting up and dismantling events, balancing the books, managing social media posts, cataloguing the block library, handling hats, styling the photoshoot, sending out emails, creating artwork for events, producing the newsletter, judging and mentoring our competitions – our volunteers do it all. I am proud to say that so many members have supported each event that I hesitate to list names for fear of missing someone. However, each event requires a leader, and I wish to give special mention to Tracey Tau for Hatwalk, Sandy Forrester for The MAARvelous Millinery Retrospective, Jo Peterson for the Design Award with Lisa Watt for the Photoshoot and Rachael Hart for the Gala.

Of course, I would be remiss not to mention our amazing sponsors who once again supported our awards: House of Adorn, Hatters Millinery Supplies, Hataalk Magazine, Hat Atelier, Hat Academy, Haute Dogs Calendar, Louise Macdonald, Michele Cameron, Hat Blocks Australia, Richard Shaw Photography and The Hat Magazine.

Our members now get set for a full swing into their preparation for Spring Carnival with some members taking up the option to have a personal photo shoot with associate member, Richard Shaw, in August.

On a personal note, I want to express my heartfelt gratitude for the wonderful messages of support I have received as President and for the condolences on the loss of my dear friend and fellow member, Alison Morgan. Alison attended nearly every event offered by the MAA and her absence at the Gala was deeply felt.

Georgia Skelton



## Your 2025 Committee



### First row-Executive Committee

Georgia Skelton-President, Tracey Tau-Vice President, Kathy Campbell-Secretary, Sarah Mensforth-Treasurer

### Second row-Ordinary Members

Joanne Cooke, Sandra Forrester, Serena Lindeman, Amber Louison-Suwal, Jo Peterson, Julia Watson

## WORLD HAT WALK 2025

On Sunday, 27th April we came together, joining fellow hat lovers around the world for WORLD HAT WALK 2025.

This was the second time the event had been held in Australia, with walks being conducted in Sydney, Melbourne and Adelaide.

Participants enjoyed strutting their stuff and publicly showing off their favourite headwear. It was a fun way to celebrate the artistry of millinery.

We aim to grow the Australian event in both numbers and popularity, to further enhance the success of this growing global event.





## MAAVELOUS MILLINERY RETROSPECTIVE

A Millinery event in conjunction with National Trust Heritage Festival, "Unearthed", well attended by Hat Lovers & Milliners.

To celebrate 30 years of Millinery Australia, and to officially launch Millinery Australia's Archives, an exhibition was held at Meat Market in North Melbourne, where the 1st official MAA Meeting was held in 1995, and where Kangan TAFE commenced in 1997.

On display was the original Banner embroidered and made by Suzanne O'Brien in the early 2000s, when she was Secretary of the Association, along with our catalogued archives, memorabilia, and an exhibit of how a hat is made.



The afternoon included an excellent Exhibition of 60 Trans-Seasonal/Winter Hats by 20 of our Leading Milliners. Many thanks to Sandy Forrester and her archives team and to all the volunteers and milliners who got behind the event and helped out both behind the scenes and on the day.

### Guest Speakers:

**Katie Hall** - MP, Parliamentary Secretary Creative Industries

**Phillip Rhodes** - MAA Hall of Fame, Leading Milliner & Millinery Educator

**Tom McAvoy** - Fashion Anthropologist & Fashion Archivist



# MAAVELOUS MILLINERY RETROSPECTIVE

## Speech delivered by Katie Hall

Good afternoon, everyone. My name is Katie Hall and I am the Parliamentary Secretary for Creative Industries and the State Member for Footscray. I am delighted to be here on behalf of Minister for Creative Industries, Colin Brooks, to celebrate 30 years of Millinery Australia with you all.



As a politician, I'm no stranger to wearing many hats. While they might be more metaphorical than those on display today, the importance of millinery as an art form is not lost on me. Millinery Australia had their start right here at the Meat Market, upstairs at the aptly named Melbourne School of Millinery. It is fitting that 30 years later, the association and its wonderful collections have returned to celebrate all that has happened since.



From conventions to hat parades, classes and more, the Millinery Association has been working hard to preserve the art of hat making. Of course, it would be a simplification to call millinery just hat making. What many outside of the group here today do not realise is the holistic process of design and of creation. The breadth of possibilities is endless, something we are reminded of often come spring racing carnival.

As Parliamentary Secretary for Creative Industries, I am fortunate enough to experience much of what the wonderful creatives in Victoria have to offer. The Millinery catalogue is no exception. This has been recognised especially by the State Library of Victoria, who will take ownership of the Association's catalogue for eternal safekeeping, where it can be appreciated by everyone for decades to come.

Not only is this a wonderful reflection of the quality and scope of works undertaken by our fantastic milliners, but it is also a reflection of the place millinery has in our creative industries. More than just a craft, it is an art form. Fashion plays a huge part in all of our lives, particularly in Melbourne as the fashion capital of the Southern Hemisphere.

While we are here to celebrate the art, we are here equally to celebrate the artists. It is the talent, the dedication and the vision of milliners that is responsible for the enduring legacy that Millinery Australia has been able to provide. I know, as I am sure you all do, the value of the arts in all its forms. It is the arts, whether it is music, fashion, painting, or anything else, that really makes us human. Our ability to connect with one another, to understand each other despite barriers of language or culture. That is what I wish to thank you all for, for your contribution to the arts for over 30 years. These contributions, no matter how big or how small, play their part in keeping the spark of human creativity and inspiration alight.

To Sandra and everyone else who has worked to make today happen, thank you for your efforts – they do not go unnoticed. It is my pleasure to hand over to the leading milliner and Millinery Australia Hall of Fame member, Phillip Rhodes.

Thank you everyone.

# VALE ALISON MORGAN



Our beloved Alison Morgan passed away peacefully on the 6<sup>th</sup> of June, with her family by her side. Positive and happy until the end.

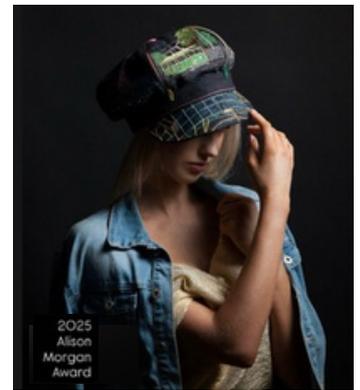
In all her years as a MAA Member, we never heard her speak ill of anyone. She was truly a great human being.

Prior to her passing, images of the Awards entries were shared with Alison, and she selected her favourites. We chose a block from the Kangan Institute block donation, where Alison trained, to be awarded to her selection. We hope that in honouring her love of Millinery and the Association, we will help to cultivate the beliefs which Alison lived by: kindness, gentleness, humility and respect.

Let us all follow her lead.



Jo Peterson Design Award



Kelly Maskell Student

Alison loved the association for the friendships and community and often said that millinery kept her going during her difficult times. Alison had a very long battle with cancer and her bravery is to be admired. She is now at peace. 🙏❤️

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## The MAA Block Library

This month will see the move of the blocks to The Essential Hat in Malvern, under the custodianship of Tracey Tau. We have catalogued 478 blocks and sold off several of the double-ups to help towards our costs.

Thank you to Jo Peterson, Tracey Tau, Chris Mullane, Sarah Mensforth, Georgia Skelton and Fiona Cooper for all the Sundays given to this huge job.

If you are a Fellow or Student member, and wish to be a part of the trial period August 1 to the October AGM: please email Sarah Mensforth at [treasurer@millineryaustralia.org](mailto:treasurer@millineryaustralia.org)

### Registrations fees are:

\$90 Metro;

\$60 Regional Victoria;

\$45 for Interstate members

PLUS a daily blocking fee of \$77 (inc GST)



# MAA Design Awards

The Gala at The Bank on Collins was a resounding success, marking our largest and most impressive event to date. Every guest embraced the glamour theme, creating a truly spectacular atmosphere. With nearly 130 attendees, 50 hats on display, and over \$3500 in prizes, this event is a must-attend for any millinery and fashion enthusiast.

A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated volunteers for their unwavering support of the Awards Photo Shoot, and Gala event.

Jo Peterson, Sarah Mensforth, Rachael Hart, Kelly Dart-Fagan, Lisa Hughes, Anita Marshall, Chris Mullane, Lisette Margani, Fiona Cooper, and all Committee Members went above and beyond to ensure the success of this event.



## Winners are Grinners!

**Congratulations Caroline Rayner, Kelly Maskell, Rebecca Share and Tracey Tau**

**Photographer : JamesChristieMedia**

## Thank you to our sponsors

House of Adorn - Hatters Millinery Supplies - Hataalk Magazine - Hat Blocks Australia  
Richard Shaw Photography - The Hat Magazine - Haute Dogs Calendar - Louise Macdonald  
The Hat Academy - Rebecca Share - Michele Cameron - Georgia Skelton



### Student Award

- 1st - Kelly Maskell
  - 2nd - Caroline Rayner
  - 3rd - Pam Kelly
  - Mary Lock
- Encouragement Award  
- Kylie Bannerman



Judges: Phillip Rhodes, Tracey Tau, Irene Moore  
Photographer: Richard Shaw - Model: Lacey Shattock HMUA Peggy Stasinos



Design Award  
**TOP 10**

Cynthia Jones-Bryson  
Kathryn Campbell  
Anita Marshall  
Leteisha Knecht  
Tracey Tau  
Angela Sullivan  
Irene Moore  
Rebecca Share  
Christine Waring  
Catherine Storm  
(L-R)

## The Winners

1st - Rebecca Share; 2nd - Tracey Tau; 3rd - Angela Sullivan  
Patrons Pick - Rebecca Share; Photographer's 'Pic' - Julia Watson  
People's Choice - Sue Younis



Judges: Louise Macdonald, Michele Cameron, Alicia Marshall  
Photographer: Richard Shaw - Model: Teresa Myers HMUA Peggy Stasinios

# ASSOCIATE SUPPLIERS

DISCOUNT CODES AVAILABLE IN THE MEMBERS AREA OF THE WEBSITE

## HATTERS MILLINERY SUPPLIES



Hatters Millinery Supplies offers a **10% discount to Fellow & Life Members**, and a **5% discount to Students** off a wide range of products. Simply sign up for an account online, and then contact Hatters to confirm your MAA membership to receive the discount. Discounts are not automatic, and only apply to current members.

**Location :** Sydney, NSW

**Web :** [www.hattersmillinerysupplies.com.au](http://www.hattersmillinerysupplies.com.au)

**Email :** [info@hattersmillinerysupplies.com.au](mailto:info@hattersmillinerysupplies.com.au)

**Phone :** 1300 428 837

## B UNIQUE MILLINERY



BUnique Millinery offers a **10% discount** to all Members, across the full range of Australian warehouse items. Just enter the discount Code at checkout and the discount will be applied. There is no restriction on order value or the number of times for use.

**Location :** Peachester, Queensland

**Web :** [www.buniquemillinery.com](http://www.buniquemillinery.com)

**Email :** [brenda@buniquemillinery.com.au](mailto:brenda@buniquemillinery.com.au)

**Phone :** +61 7 5494 9299

## HOUSE OF ADORN



Members can use their discount code to get **5% discount** every month when ordering online. Even better, Members who are signed up to the Adora's Club receive automatic discounts, and are the first to know about House of Adorn's specials.

**Location :** Melbourne, VIC

**Web :** [www.houseofadorn.com/adorasclub](http://www.houseofadorn.com/adorasclub)

**Email :** [sales@houseofadorn.com](mailto:sales@houseofadorn.com)

**Phone :** +6 13 9543 2268

## HAT BLOCKS AUSTRALIA



Hat Blocks Australia have been hand-making blocks and hat-maker's accessories for milliners and hat-makers around the world for 25 years. Located just outside of Adelaide, HBA is a premier hat block producer, with an extensive range of catalogued blocks, as well as vintage reproductions. HBA can also make you your very own custom block, just contact Darryll and Renee to discuss.

**Location :** Adelaide, SA

**Web :** [www.hatblocksaustralia.com.au](http://www.hatblocksaustralia.com.au)

**Email :** [hatblocksaustralia@gmail.com](mailto:hatblocksaustralia@gmail.com)

## Meeting Dates

Did you know that you can join our meetings from anywhere in the world, using the Zoom online platform?

If you are in Melbourne, meet up face-to-face at the Hawthorn Library 584 Glenferrie Rd, Hawthorn at 7:30pm. Unlimited off street parking available.

Tuesday July 30th Zoom

Tuesday August 27th Multicultural Hub + Zoom

Tuesday Sep 24th Zoom

No October meeting scheduled

Tuesday Nov 26th AGM Multicultural Hub + Zoom



Remember to keep checking the MAA website for new and exciting content. And there's plenty happening on our social media pages too.



Millinery Association of Australia



@millineryaustralia

You shouldn't ask why do you wear a hat? What you really should be asking is why are you not?

How can a look be complete without a hat ?

wisefamousquotes.com

## Social Media Hashtags

Use these hashtags on your social media posts to stay connected and grow your audience.

#millineryaustralia

#millineryassociationofaustralia

#collaborations

#hatcommunity

#hatmakersau

#maamembers

## Guest Speakers

We love to welcome guest speakers to our meetings.

If you would like to be a guest speaker or know of someone willing to volunteer around 30 minutes at commencement of a general meeting, please email the secretary with the contact details and topic to [secretary@millineryaustralia.org](mailto:secretary@millineryaustralia.org)

## Guess the Milliner CLUES

MAA member; only Fellow to win 2 Design Awards; Finalists in VRC Awards; won many FOTf Awards; FOTf judge; past Treasurer of the MAA



Answer : Felicity Northeast (VIC)

## NOTE FROM THE EDITORS

Good newsletters don't just happen and they are not interesting without good content. If you have a millinery story, a hatty photo or simply a suggestion for an event or future article that you'd like to share, then please email your great ideas to [secretary@millineryaustralia.org](mailto:secretary@millineryaustralia.org)

Co-editors Serena Lindeman & Georgia Skelton



Attendees are asked to register once for first meeting and then will be admitted to all subsequent meetings.

### 2025 Schedule

Thursday, 7th August  
Thursday, 4th September  
Thursday, 2nd October  
Thursday, 6th November  
Thursday, 4th December

**International Stitch and Chat**  
**- first Thursday of each month**  
**8.00am to 10.00am**  
**(Melb - AEST / AEDT)**

 **timezone converter**

Enjoy the chance to connect with the international millinery community via this informal online virtual gathering. So put the kettle on, bring along your stitching, and chat with others!

Your host for this event will be Michele Cameron, and she looks forward to welcoming you!

### Zoom Details:

**Meeting ID: 825 7178 5605**  
**Passcode: MA\_INT2025**

[Join Stitch & Chat Meeting Here](#)

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**Members only - Stitch and Chat**  
**Every Wednesday 1pm - 3pm - (Melb - AEST / AEDT)**  
**Unhosted event - Zoom Details in the members area of the website.**

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**Please follow @millineryaustralia on our social platforms**  
**and like and comment on our posts.**

**We love the attention!** 



**MILLINERY AUSTRALIA**

