



MILLINERY AUSTRALIA

## Annual General Meeting Minutes

**HELD: Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2024 @ 7.30pm AEDT (Melb)**

Time	Item
19:36	<b>1. Meeting Open &amp; Welcome</b>
	<b>2. Nomination of Meeting Chair</b>  <b>Motion:</b> that Kathy Campbell (Secretary) be appointed the Chair of the meeting  <b>Motion Passed – Second: Georgia Skelton</b>
	<b>3. Apologies &amp; Meeting Attendance</b>  <b>Apologies were received from:</b> Rebecca Share, Oksana Caretti, Elizabeth Hemsley, Irene Moore, Nayana Nilmini, Michaela Manning (Proxy), Catherine Storm (Proxy), Louise Macdonald (Proxy), Julia Watson (Proxy)  <b>Meeting Attendees:</b> Alison Morgan, Amber Louison-Suwal, Bronwyn Shooks, Catherine Kelly, Chris Mullane, Christine Martin, Christina De Prada, Cynthia Jones-Bryson, Delphine Nicholson, Desleigh Lobsey, Felicity Northeast, Georgia Skelton, Ginetta Rositano, Helen Wilkinson, Jo Peterson, Joanne Cooke, John Westwood-Hill, Kathryn Campbell, Kelli Dart-Fagan, Kylie Heagney, Lauren Ritchie, Lisa Watt, Lisette Margini, Lynette Lim, Margaret Watson, Mary McCann, Mary Mohr, Michele Cameron, Nicholette Pottier, Robin Rivett, Robynne Dowd, Rose Hudson, Sandy Forrester, Sarah Mensforth, Serena Lindeman, Sue Younis, Sue Cummiskey, Tracey Tau, Weis Mauduit-Jansen  <b>Quorum:</b> Achieved – current paid membership of 87 Fellow and Life Members. Attendees in excess of 10% requirement, representing more than 2 States.
	<b>4. Minutes</b> <b>a. Passing September 2024 Meeting Minutes</b>  <b>Motion:</b> to Approve the September Meeting Minutes  <b>Motion Passed – Second: John Westwood-Hill</b>  <b>b. Confirmation of the 2023 AGM</b>  <b>Motion:</b> to Confirm the Minutes of the 2023 AGM  <b>Motion Passed – Second: Christine Martin</b>

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	<p data-bbox="331 190 743 255"><b>5. Reports</b> <b>a. Secretary's Report</b></p> <p data-bbox="379 293 1398 356">There is no separate President or Vice-President Report this evening. I will be incorporating as much in to my Secretary Report as possible.</p> <p data-bbox="379 394 1414 488">As you are aware, this year was a little rocky for the Committee, but I think as a Membership, we have weathered the storm well, such that we can move in to 2025 with a fresh and renewed outlook.</p> <p data-bbox="379 526 1422 759">I would like to thank all those current and past members of the 2024 Committee for their volunteerism and enthusiasm in the tasks they have undertaken throughout the year. Many thanks Mary Mohr, Jane Moy, Cynthia Jones-Bryson, Penelope Gervaise, Nicholette Pottier, Jo Ramsay, Wendy Diggles and Possum Ball. Many thanks to John Westwood-Hill for stepping on to the Committee half way through the year as the Social Media coordinator, to see us through to the end of 2024.</p> <p data-bbox="379 797 1406 960">Additionally, I would like to thank all those members who stepped up in to sub-committee and organisational roles for our events, such as Hat Walk and the Design Awards and Gala. Organising such events would not happen without the dedicated time of members to get these events off the ground, and to keep them running.</p> <p data-bbox="379 999 1398 1263">From a personal perspective, the role of Secretary proved a little more than initially expected this year. I had to adjust the role and its expectations to take on many tasks that would have otherwise been undertaken by the President and Vice-President. However, it has also been a rewarding experience, and has allowed me a greater appreciation of the Association, it's functioning, and its role in bringing together a very niche group of people from across Australia with a love of millinery in all its forms. I have enjoyed many laughs along the way, and had many great discussions with milliners from all over Australia.</p> <p data-bbox="379 1301 1418 1464">As an Association, we have built a reputation among our membership, and the public, for hosting a variety of events, and via our social media presence, which showcases and promotes millinery at its best, from the everyday to wearable art, costume and couture. This is something I feel very passionate about, and will continue to promote what we do whenever I am given the chance.</p> <p data-bbox="379 1536 612 1568"><b><u>2024 IN REVIEW</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="379 1606 509 1637"><b>Hat Walk</b></p> <p data-bbox="379 1641 1422 1769">This year, we held the inaugural Hat Walk in April across Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane. As a new event, we attracted reasonable numbers, with the expectation that this event will grow in strength over the years, to hopefully one day rival the crowds of London and Barcelona.</p> <p data-bbox="379 1807 1358 1870">Many thanks to those members involved in organising this year's Hat Walk events.</p> <p data-bbox="379 1908 699 1939"><b>Design Awards &amp; Gala</b></p> <p data-bbox="379 1944 1394 2072">July saw our Design Awards, Student Awards and Gala come to the fore in Sydney. It was fantastic to have a NSW perspective on this event, and I know that many members who entered the Awards and attended the Gala, were thrilled with the organisation of the Awards as well as the Gala Evening.</p>

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	<p>When the themes of 'Pearl' and 'Priscilla, Queen of the Desert' were announce back in February, there are a great reaction from members and students alike, greatly evidence by an influx of new and reinstated memberships.</p> <p>Entry numbers were greater than they had ever been before, reflecting the open-ended nature of the themes, allowing for expansive interpretations. We all saw this when the images were placed on Instagram and Facebook. The variety of interpretations on the single word theme of Pearl was staggering, with no two pieces alike in any way. Truly a wonderful reflection of the dexterity and creativity of millinery.</p> <p>We would not have been able to appreciate this year's Awards without the diligent hard work and attention of the core organising committee of Andrea Cainero, Penelope Gervaise, Nicholette Pottier and many other volunteer members.</p> <p>Judging to a T, we had the skillful eyes Margret Gill, Andrea Cainero, Rick McGill and Donny Gallela. Photography was in the hands of Wendell Teodora, hair and makeup by Kathryn Lee and Kristie Defino of The Home Studio.</p> <p>The Student Awards were once again headed by Georgia Skelton, with expert judging and feedback also provided by Serena Lindeman, Alison Morgan and Michele Cameron for the Mary Lock Encouragement Award.</p> <p>Congratulations to all those who entered the Awards, to those who took home the goodies, and to our 12<sup>th</sup> inductee in to the Hall of Fame, Sandy Forrester.</p> <p><b>Melbourne Cup Week Photography</b> Once again, there was a great member response to the Melbourne Cup photography opportunity. Richard Shaw did a fantastic job with the images, and it was lovely to see the photos coming through. I do hope that those of you who took advantage of this were pleased with the results. Many thanks to Richard for being a supportive Association Member.</p> <p><b>Governor's Reception</b> Vic Governor's Melbourne Cup Eve reception at government house was well attended by many members from Victoria, NSW and QLD. We had over 20 Association members attend, including most of the Design Award Top 10. Happily, most had something millinery on their heads, and it was great to see many of the public also donning a chapeau.</p> <p><b>Melbourne Cup Week Millinery Award successes</b> Melbourne Cup week has gone in the blink of an eye, but it is certainly worth remembering the wonderful entries that went in to this year's Lillian Frank Design Awards.</p> <p>Congratulations to all the entrants, to those who made it to the top 12, and those who were in the final 3.</p> <p>Congratulations to Kathryn Lee, Andrea Cainero, John Westwood-Hill, Irene Moore, Catherine Storm, Julia Watson, Anita Marshall and Jo Peterson.</p>

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	<p><b>Member Meeting Guest Speakers</b>  During the early part of the year, we were treated to many wonderful guest speakers, organised and interviewed by Wendy Diggles, and covering a wide range of topics.</p> <p>This year, we heard from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Member Michele Cameron in February</li> <li>• Katie Vale of the British Millinery Association in March</li> <li>• Member Kathryn Lee in April</li> <li>• Costume Designer, Jennifer Irwin in May</li> <li>• Member Andrea Cainero in June</li> <li>• Member and 2024 Design Award Winner Bronwyn Shooks in July.</li> </ul> <p><b>Stitch &amp; Chat</b>  Stitch and Chat has once again run well throughout the year with a staggered number of participants in both the weekly Wednesday members', and the once a month International opportunity. Many thanks to Michelle Cameron for spearheading this.</p> <p><b>Member Experiences</b>  Member experiences are always an important agenda item for the Committee. It is often difficult to find experiences which the Committee believes will be interesting, engaging, and geographically attainable.</p> <p>These specific workshops were organised by members.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In February, 2 Eva Foam workshops were held at Lumins Workshop.</li> <li>• In May, many attended the Top Hat Leather Workshop organised by Nicholette Pottier.</li> <li>• Post Design Awards &amp; Gala saw an afternoon tea and a Crinoline workshop with Cynthia Jones-Bryson, hosted by Catherine Kelly at Hatters Millinery Supplies.</li> </ul> <p><b>State and Regional Shows and Competitions</b>  Once again, many members entered the state and regional shows as well as other millinery competitions, with success and prizes galore for their many wonderfully-created pieces.</p> <p>The Association provided the following sponsorships this year for shows and competitions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EKKA (Brisbane) - \$440</li> <li>• Melbourne Royal Show - \$400</li> <li>• Sydney Royal Easter Show - \$400</li> <li>• Royal Adelaide Show - \$400</li> <li>• Hatterment - \$200</li> <li>• MA Design Awards - \$3000</li> </ul> <p><b>Archiving Sub-Committee</b>  Work began this year on the archiving of the Association's physical history in the form of documents, photographs and materials. Sandy Forrester, Michele Cameron, Christine Martin and JD Mannington have spent many hours working on this project, bringing together pieces of the Associations history from various sources, and this data is now in the hands of Archivist, Nicole Thoedore. Nicole confirmed to me a few days ago that she has so far worked for 79 hours,</p>

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	<p>cataloguing, archiving and digitizing 315 individual documents, which she estimates to represent approximately 25% of the original total documents.</p> <p>Nicole is currently working under a limited contract which will be reassessed by the new Committee.</p> <p><b>30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Aprons</b>  This year we saw the opportunity to support our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration by the introduction of a special apron for members to wear. The aprons were well-received. 10 aprons were given to the Top 10 winners of the Design Awards, with an additional 27 aprons sold. There are still 3 left if anyone would like one. Send me an email if you would.</p> <p><b>Website Update &amp; Social Media</b>  During our planning session, the Committee recognised the urgent need to update and tidy up our website, so that it would provide a more valuable resource to our members, as well as a more refined introduction of the Millinery Association to the public. Prior to her departure, Jo Ramsay began this massive task, in line with our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations, as well as working with other members to provide valuable resource pages, and recognising the wonderful achievements of our members. Unfortunately, work ceased with her departure. This is certainly an important area to continue working on.</p> <p>Our Social media was taken well in hand by Jo Ramsay this year. She worked countless hours every day posting and reposting, and grew our exposure and followers as a result, with positive feedback given by many.</p> <p><b>Membership Forms</b>  This year we updated our Membership Forms in response to the removal of Certificate IV in Millinery at a TAFE level here in Victoria. Many thanks to those members involved in the consolidation and redrafting of these forms.</p> <p><b>Christmas Bauble Exchange</b>  Jo Peterson has once again organised the exchange of Christmas Baubles amongst interested members. Looking forward to seeing the creative Christmas tree treats that are received.</p> <p><b>Membership</b>  Membership of any organisation ebbs and flows, and we did see many new membership applications come in, including 3 new Fellows and 1 pending Student in the last 3 weeks.</p> <p>Welcome to newly minted Fellow members - Desleigh Lobsey, Amanda Ashman and Amber Louison-Suwal.</p> <p>Our current total membership numbers is 172:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Life Members – 12</li> <li>• Fellow Members – 130 -&gt; Renewals paid by 74; 56 as yet unpaid.</li> <li>• Student Members – 19 -&gt; Renewals paid by 4; 1 x Student Award Winner Free Membership; and 14 as yet unpaid</li> <li>• Associates – 11 -&gt; Renewals paid by 6; 5 as yet unpaid.</li> </ul>

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	<p>There were 8 Member and 8 Committee Member meetings held throughout the year. The average number of members in attendance at the meetings was 35 members.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to wish all the members a lovely relaxing festive season with your family and friends. For me, I will be taking a month off from my business to spend time with my husband while he is back on his annual return to Australia.</p> <p>Well that's certainly enough from me. I do apologise for the length of the report...hence not mentioning everyone's name along the way. Apologies also if I have forgotten anything or anyone.</p> <p><b>b. Treasurer's Report</b></p> <p><b>Motion:</b> to Approve Financial Reports for the 2024 year &amp; Ratify payments made by the Committee</p> <p><b>Motion Passed – Second:</b> John Westwood-Hill</p>
	<p><b>6. Incoming Committee</b></p> <p>Declaration - All Committee Positions Vacant</p> <p>Nomination &amp; Voting of Positions</p> <p>The following Members have been voted (by a show of hands) in and confirmed as the new 2025 Committee Members:</p> <p>6.1 President - Georgia Skelton  6.2 Vice-President – Tracey Tau  6.3 Secretary – Kathryn Campbell  6.4 Treasurer – Sarah Mensforth  6.5 Ordinary Committee Positions x 6 – Julia Watson; Joanne Cooke; Serena Lindeman; Sandy Forrester; Jo Peterson; Amber Louison-Suwal</p>
	<p><b>7. Year in Review</b> – slide show prepared by JWH was shown</p>
	<p><b>8. Other</b></p> <p>Michele Cameron confirmed that she is happy to continue to host the monthly International Stitch &amp; Chat sessions. Many thanks Michele.</p>
20:16	<p><b>9. Meeting Closed @ 8.16pm</b></p>