

# **Maling Road Business Association – Annual General Meeting**

**1/11/17 @ Squisito**

**Attendees:** Nicola Bergelin , Margaret Browning, Athena Katopodis, Kenn Buckley, Nancy Russo, Denise Fraser, Lucinda Bakhach, Andrew Scawen, Robert Vickery, Linda Vickery, Stavros Zikou, Circe Zikou

**Apologies:** Peter Barclay, Shurojit Shome, Yim Huynh, Pam Thomas

## **AGM Opened at 6:07pm**

**2016 Minutes:** Kenn Buckley asked about the sign at the back of the antique centre. Nicola responded that she had just received permission from the landlord and the sign would hopefully be up by the end of the year. Moved to be accepted by Athena Katopodis and seconded by Margaret Browning.

**President's Report:** Nicola Bergelin read out her President's report. Achievements during the previous twelve months include; New Branding, New Website, Another successful KK, two shopping events (including a new one mid year), Another successful Auto Classico, Easter activities, Mother's Day Competition, Trader social media workshops, Continued relationships with Boroondara Council, Canterbury Rotary, Canterbury Residents Action Group and other community groups. Nicola thanked Peter Barclay for leading and managing the Auto Classico event. Nicola also thanked the rest of the committee, including Margaret Browning who is leaving the Committee.

All attendees received a copy of the full report and all documentation will be available in the trader portal on the Maling Road Website.

**Treasurer's Report:** The Financial Report 2016/17 was completed by Margaret Browning and an external auditor. The report was distributed to all in attendance. Income was similar to last year. Expenses included new brand strategy, new website as well as the usual main expenses of KK, advertising and Marketing Coordinator costs. The same grants were applied for and granted.

The Financial Report and the Committee Report and Declaration have been signed by Margaret Browning and Nicola Bergelin. The above mentioned were all Committee members and Office Bearers for the entire financial year to 30 June 2017.

Committee resolved that the Balance Sheet as at 30/06/2017 and the Profit and Loss account for the year ended 30/06/17 together with the Committee's Report and the Committee's Statements be received and approved. Moved by Athena Katopodis and seconded by Andrew Scawen.

Committee also resolved that the Association appoint ASR Partners as auditors of the next years financial report. Moved by Athena Katopodis and seconded by Andrew Scawen.

Margaret stated that she loved being on the Committee, and that is was a highlight of her time on the street. It was wonderful to not be in a silo.

**Coordinator's Report:** Stavros read out the Coordinator's report and reviewed some of the achievements of the Association and their role over the past year. It has been a very busy year and some notable achievements were – the extensive range of Maling Road Marketing Promotions and Campaigns, New Website, EDM database, social media posts and engagement. 2017 was a dynamic year that has set the Association for the year ahead.

Andrew Scawen asked about having database sign up forms in stores. Spoke about the benefits of EDMs

Athena moved to accept all reports. Seconded by Margaret Browning.

**Election of Office Bearers:** There was no election as nominations filled the vacancies.

President: Nicola Bergelin

Vice President: Peter Barclay

Treasurer: Vacant

Secretary: Athena Katopodis

General Committee: Shurojit Shome, Chris Henry

Andrew Scawen offered to fill one of the General committee vacancies. Nicola Bergelin nominated him and Athena Katopodis seconded.

Athena moved to accept the nominations and Margaret seconded.

Nancy asked if landlords typically came to meetings. It was agreed that the Association would reach out to landlords more.

**Special Resolution:** Stavros explained why the rules changed. Simplicity and also the vagueness about the committee numbers and number of members at general meetings required the rules to be reviewed.

Nicola moved to accept the new rules. Seconded by Margaret Browning.

### **General Business:**

- Constant feedback is that traders struggle to find out information. Is it because the information is hard to find or because people don't read newsletters or emails. Trader portal should assist with that.
- Logos and newsletters will be on the trader portal
- At capacity of events. Association will look at more general marketing
- Kenn discussed tourist buses. Circe explained that those types of bus tours don't exist anymore as they more aimed to inner suburbs or outlet shopping. The Chadstone tourist buses were mentioned. These are managed by Chadstone Shopping centre who have a

large budget. Maling Road is restricted by its limited budget. Coordinators are looking into the ADTW (a database that many tourist websites pull their data from). Will also look into the new hotel in Box Hill and retirement villages.

- Lucinda mentioned that Special Rate Renewal has kicked off. There are two rates – ground level and second floor. Andrew asked if we could increase the rate, but Nicola explained that considering the current climate, increasing the rate would upset many people.
- Robert Vickery discussed looking at advertising in individual Air BnB properties. It was agreed to look into this idea.
- Nancy offered to help with anything the Association needed help with.
- Stavros and Circe said they were reviewing the winter shopping event.
- Kenn discussed new plastic bag laws and the possibility of logo'd eco bags.
- Kenn stated that he feels like Maling Road looks like a disgrace, no maintenance done by Council for over 5 years. There are weeds in the flower boxes, paving depressions, seats and bins need re-sanding. Landlords not taking care of buildings. Nicola highlighted the use of Snap Send Solve. Also the Association is working with CCAG to beautify what they can. Lucinda responded that she'll take the feedback back to Council.
- Kenn also discussed the trucks from the development. Nicola responded that several complaints have been made and they have a case manager working on the case.
- Stav discussed the shop façade improvement project and Lucinda elaborated. Email to be sent to traders.
- It was discussed that the Traders Association can only contribute to a small amount of foot traffic.
- Nancy discussed having permanent music playing in the street. Also a review on ambient lighting. This can be included in the consultation with Council regarding new works in 2019/2020.
- Robert discussed leaving lights on over night to give the street a nicer feel.

The Committee would like to thank the staff at Squisito for hosting the AGM.

**Meeting Closed 7:55pm**