MALING ROAD BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, 6 November 2025 — 5:00pm
Location: Ashmore Harris

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1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened at 5:00pm by **Paul Merheb (President)**, who welcomed all attendees and acknowledged the contribution of the outgoing committee, Council's Economic Development team, previous marketing coordinators, and Community Bank Canterbury.

Paul reflected on his two years as President and thanked those who had contributed their time and effort to support the Maling Road precinct.

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2. Attendees and Apologies

Attendees:
Paul Merheb (Member - Chicken or the Egg), Gosia Gibson (Member - Lennox Wines), Alan Siavoshan (Member - Alley Cat Cafe), Linda Vickery (Member - Outwears), Robert Vickery (Guest), Lisa Luke (Member - Rustic Heart), David Mason (Guest), Kathy Koulouris (Member - Bendigo Bank), Juliann Byron (Member - Bendigo Bank), Zahara Valibhoy (Member - Buerre Cake & Pastries), Hayden Connolly (Member - Pop's Postie Rolls), Monique Johnson King (Member - Canterbury Kids), Chris Katopodis (Member - Canterbury Eyecare), Kirsty Spender (Marketing Coordintator - OakTree Business Solutions), Maria Cogger (Guest - Borondara City Council), Sue Chan (Guest - Borondara City Council), Meng Li (Guest - Trident Financial Services)

Apologies:
Christine Bottrell (Ashmore, Harris & James Travel Associates)

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3. Confirmation of Previous AGM Minutes

Motion: *That the minutes of the previous Annual General Meeting be accepted as a true and accurate record.*

- **Moved:** Gosia Gibson
- **Seconded:** Linda Vickery
- **Carried**

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4. President's Report

Paul presented the President's Report (attached), outlining the Association's work across events, trader engagement, marketing activity and partnerships.

Motion: *That the President's Report be received and adopted.*

- **Moved:** Paul Merheb
- **Seconded:** Alan Siavoshan
- **Carried**

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5. Treasurer's Report

A financial summary was presented by **Kirsty Spender (Marketing Coordinator)** and **Meng Li (Accountant)** on behalf of the Acting Treasurer.

Key points noted:

- The Association recorded an accounting deficit of **$17,139**.
- The deficit was primarily due to increased investment in events and marketing.
- **$14,988** in Council special rate and charge scheme funds were carried over into 2025/26.
- The Association concluded the year with just over **$76,000** in cash.
- Payables remained low, and the Association is in a sound financial position.
- Income remained steady, with the City of Boroondara Special Rate and Charge as the primary funding source.
- Sponsorship support, including from Bendigo Bank, enabled a full calendar of activity.
- Trident Financial Group was engaged to support accounting services.

Motion: *That the Treasurer's Report be received and adopted.*

- **Moved:** Kirsty Spender
- **Seconded:** Meng Li
- **Carried**

Attachment: Audit Report

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6. Marketing Coordinator's Report

The Marketing Coordinator's Report was presented (attached), highlighting:

- Introduction of a trader newsletter
- Activation of a WhatsApp group
- Significant digital engagement growth
- Successful precinct activations including Spooktakular, Auto Classico and KrisKindle

Motion: *That the Marketing Coordinator's Report be received and adopted.*

- **Moved:** Kirsty Spender
- **Seconded:** Gosia Gibson
- **Carried**

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7. General Business

7.1 Council Funding and Acquittals

Updates were provided regarding outstanding Council funding matters, with resolution expected shortly.

7.2 Sponsorship Process

The need for a more formalised sponsorship process was discussed.

7.3 Strategic Planning

A strategic planning session will be held in January 2026.

7.4 Marketing Opportunities

Discussion included website updates, radio advertising, sponsorship opportunities, and improved use of community networks.

7.5 Acknowledgement of Committee Contributions

Thanks were extended to Paul and Alan for their contributions.

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8. Special Resolution – Rules of Association

A special resolution to adopt revised Rules of Association was **presented** at the AGM. This is because the Association is currently operating on Rules from 2017 which are not compliant with the current Consumer Affairs Victoria guidelines. The motion is tabled to bring them into line with the CAV guidelines.

Motion: *That the new Rules of Association be approved.*

- **Moved:** Gosia Gibson
- **Seconded:** Linda Vickery
- **Carried**

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9. Election of Office Bearers

Nominations were called for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer.

The following office bearers were elected:

- **President:** Nadine Garrett
- **Vice President:** Gosia Gibson
- **Treasurer:** Linda Vickery
- **Secretary:** *Vacant*

Motion: *That the above nominees be elected to their respective positions.*

- **Moved:** Paul Merheb
- **Seconded:** Gosia Gibson
- **Carried**

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10. Election of General Committee Members

The following general committee members were nominated and accepted:

- Christine Bottrell
- Zahara Valibhoy
- Hayden Connolly
- Kathy Koulouris

Motion: *That the nominated general committee members be elected.*

- **Moved:** Nadine Garrett
- **Seconded:** Linda Vickery
- **Carried**

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11. Committee Vacancies

It was noted that the position of Secretary must be filled within 14 days to support good governance.

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12. Close of Meeting

There being no further business, the Chair thanked all attendees and closed the meeting at **5:51pm**.