**AGM  2021 AGENDA**  
**Saturday, December 4 from 2 - 3 pm**  
  
The meeting was held on zoom.

**Members in attendance:**

Michelle Sheather, Marina Antoniozzi, Tony Turri, Margy Vary, Rose Dravitzki, Sagan Rajbhandary, Bob Potter, Mel Lake, Helen Cooper, Jo Ylatalo, Bruce Diekman, Ashley Menegon (joined during the General Manager’s report)

**AGM Facilitator:** Michelle Sheather

**Minute taker:** Linda O’Malley

**Observers:** Daphne Drew, Linda O’Malley, Angus MacGregor

**1.3 List of Proxies**

No proxies were submitted.

**2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2020 AGM**

The minutes of the 2020 AGM were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

M:                Helen Cooper                  S: Tony Turri

**3. Annual Report**

**3.1 Chairperson**

Michelle Sheather reported that 2021 has been a year of many changes as the team adjusted to the continuing impact of COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions. Redfern has still been operating as a workshop space while Parramatta was closed during the shutdown period. Repair work has continued and online sales have increased.

There has been significant staff turnover and in response we have modernised HR procedures and policies including a review of job descriptions, award wages, and the Bower HR manual.

The strategic plan 2022-27 - the next five years, has been developed and approved by the board and is presented to the AGM. The next business plan will be developed after the relocation to the Summer Hill site.

Three board members will be retiring - Margy Vary, Helen Cooper and Linda O’Malley. Thank you to Mary for her four years of service and Linda and Helen for their service over the past two years.

**3.2 Treasurer’s report**

Tony Turri reported a solid financial outcome for the 2020-2021 financial year. Overall revenue has increased by almost $150,000 in the previous year. This has been driven by increased sales revenue, fundraising, and a solid program of workshops. Expenditure has also increased as a result of job keeper payments and consultancy fees.

Given the turbulence of COVID the financial results are solid.

Tony acknowledged the contribution of David Mansfield the accountant for his tireless work to ensure timely and accurate reports have been provided to the Board throughout the year.

Bruce Diekman sought an indication of the financial position so far this financial year. Tony Turri explained that despite the retail shop closures as a result of COVID restrictions, the financial status during the first few months of this financial year has been operating at a breakeven level.

**3.3 Co-operative Manager**

The General Manager, Daphne Drew provided the report. Although the period has been turbulent due to the pandemic, the organisation continued to provide a good foundation and motivation. Staff and volunteer commitment stayed strong, for example, requests from poverty-stricken families doubled in the House to Home program. The Bower team were able to continue this program despite other Bower operations being forced to close due to the NSW Government restrictions.

The impact of the retail shop closure was felt across the organisation as was the need to cancel face-to-face workshops.

The DA approval to move to the Summer Hill Depot has been approved. The plan to expand to this site where we can conduct workshops on site which we were unable to do before is an exciting opportunity for The Bower as an organisation. This will further increase our presence in the Inner West, and allow more storage and working areas for all of our operations.

On a practical level, The Bower makes a difference. We are looking after the environment and supporting people in our community who need help, or who benefit from feeling connected to this cooperative.

*[Ashley Menegon joined the meeting at this point.]*

There has been some staff turnover in the past year, with special mentions to Louise Grace, Program Manager, who is retiring after being a cornerstone of the Bower over many years, and Guido Verbsit retiring GM after 7 years.

A waste consultant has been appointed to further analyse waste issues and how they impact the work relating to The Bower at a state and local government level.

There remains a huge demand to collect items with online, in-shop, and phone inquiries. Over 3,000 requests came in through the online booking form alone. Many items are more for recycling than reuse and refurbishment. We still maintain agreements with the 21 Metropolitan Councils in Sydney for the Collection and Rehoming of pre-love (used) goods that we retail at Marrickville or make use of in the House to Home program.

We look forward to The Bower’s workshops’ program being able to restart in full at 107 Redfern, our Parramatta workshop, and at Banga (electrical repairs).

**Adoption of Annual Report**

The Annual report was approved as an accurate reflection of The Bower’s operations for the financial year 2020-2021.

M:     Bob Potter                             S: Margy Vary

Agreed

**4. Adoption of the Audited Financial Statement**  
To receive and consider the financial statements and reports of the Directors and the Auditor for the financial year ended 30th June 2021.

The Financial Statements were approved as an accurate reflection of the financial position of the Bower.

M:  Tony Turri   S: Margy Vary

Agreed

**5. Election of Board Members**  
Member director applications:

**Tony Turi**

Nominated: Helen Cooper, Seconded: Michelle Sheather

Tony Turri is resigning as Independent Director and applying to be a Member Director

**Sagan Rajbhandary**

Nominated: Sagan Rajbhandary, Seconded: Helen Cooper

**Marina Antoniozzi**

Nominated: Marina Antoniozzi, Seconded: Helen Cooper

**Rose Dravitski**

Nominated: Rose Dravitski, Seconded:  Michelle Sheather

**M:** Michelle Sheather**S:** Mel Lake

Agreed

**Noting non-member directors (agreed by the board at the November 24 board meeting) will be:**

**Angus MacGregor**

Nominated:  Michelle Sheather, Seconded: Helen Cooper

**Marcelle Psaila**

Nominated:  Helen Cooper,  Seconded: Michelle Sheather

**Retiring board members at the 2021 AGM:**

Helen Cooper

Linda O'Malley

Margy Vary

**6. Note of Appreciation**

Noting thanks to the AGM members in attendance, Bower board members retiring and future, and all staff and Bower volunteers.

**7. AGM Comments and Questions from the Membership**

The Chair of the Board welcomed comments or questions from the attendees.

Bob Potter noted that he has questions in relation to the role of the Banga electrical repair centre and will discuss these further with the General Manager on 14 December, 2021.

Th

**C8. lose of meeting**

The Chair extended thanks to all attendees for their support and formally closed the meeting.

**The meeting officially closed at 2:55pm.**