

THE BOWER REUSE AND REPAIR CENTRE COOPERATIVE LIMITED
2022 AGM Minutes

Saturday, November 12, 2022, 2.00 - 3.00 pm

The meeting was held on Zoom.

Members in attendance:

Attendees: Sophia Clark, Stuart Grigg, Katherine Lindsay
Michelle Sheather, Shane Orion Wiechnik, Rose Dravitzki, Catherine Liu, Guara Kumar
Sharma, Sagan Rajbhandary, Eav Brennan, Catherine Dai

Non-member attendees:

Chair: Marcelle Psaila
Angus MacGregor

AGM Facilitator: Marcelle Psaili

Minute taker: Gaurav Kumar Sharma

Observers: None

1. List of Proxies

No proxies were submitted.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2021 AGM

The minutes of the 2021 AGM were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.

M: Marcelle S: Sagan

3. Annual Report

3.1 Chairperson

Reported by Marcelle Psaila

The Bower's work on waste reduction and reuse and repair continued. We met the challenges, we kept to our core values, and we continued to inspire and evolve. Fewer workshops, fewer opening hours, and less contact for deliveries or pick-ups by our truck meant we scaled back, but we are in a position to scale up again. We have come back!

All of the feedback from our workshops is always inspiring and a slice of how a short course can contribute to making a change in someone's life - from learning how to use power tools, to actually building or repairing something with your own hands. It empowers people in ways initially they may not have expected.

Much of the year was to position us for the year beyond Covid lockdowns and economic downturn that impacted each part of the work that we do in numerous ways. We have now arrived at this place. I accepted the role of Chairperson in August 2022 when Michelle Sheather, the previous Chairperson for the past three years, stepped in to assist with the operational functioning of The Boweras Gm Consultant.

Thank you to all involved in keeping the Bower going through this period.

Two board members will be retiring - Sagan Rajbhandary and Tonu Turri

Thank you to Sagan for his two years of service as Bower Board Secretary and to Toni for four years as Bower Treasurer.

3.2 Treasurer's Report

Reported by Sagan Rajbhandary (on behalf of Tony Turri who could not attend today's meeting)

The Bower reported a financial loss for 2021-22 of around \$150,000 noting the last quarter of the 2021-22 financial year staff cuts were made and more effort was put into fundraising which did see a stabilisation of funds. Going forward effort is being put into fundraising and revenue-raising programs and the contract with Sydney Community College is now renewed having lapsed. Contracts with the 21 Sydney Metropolitan Councils for our collection and rehoming services have all subsequently also been renewed.

Our overall Income has decreased with our revenue of \$64899 down on the prior year by 56% (2021 \$1,455,085; 2020 \$1,148,837; 2019 \$927,284 & 2018 \$877,485), resulting from the government support & Job Keeper incentives not being available vs prior year. Whilst in-store and online sales declined, we also experienced significant reductions in grants and council contributions with the COVID lockdowns and restrictions in 2021.

The shop sales significantly decreased from previous years during Covid and at times this was due to the closure of the shop as well as retail sector trends. Workshop numbers were also down due to Covid and then it has been harder to get them restarted both for our own courses and those also we provide to other providers such as Councils and Community Colleges.

3.3 Co-Operative Manager's Report

Reported by Michelle Sheather

The Bower has weathered the numerous Covid shutdowns, the pandemic, extreme weather conditions, and a retail sector recession over the past year. We have come out of this as a leaner organisation but have restarted all our key programs from DIY workshops, and repair cafes to regular collections and have growing shop sales. Our House to Home program continued throughout the above at times with contactless deliveries left in yards or on doorsteps.

The opening of the Summer Hill site is delayed but still in process. It was a Covid testing site and then had to meet local government sound/noise, and environment regulations including some decontamination of the site. We have re-negotiated to stay at Addison Road Community Centre (ARCCO) at Marrickville to keep our shop, building yard, and bike sales open.

Our Parramatta workshop operates for woodworking and bike maintenance classes as well as hosting the Parramatta Women's Shed. Our Redfern woodworking workshop at 107 Projects at Redfern operates many of our classes and Sydney Community College classes as well as a men's shed. Our electrical repair workshop at Banga Shed at Zetland has not been as successful as hoped with many people not collecting the items they leave for repair. We will reassess this going forward.

During the past year, the strategy of the Bower and the board in building up reserves over recent years has greatly assisted the organisation.

Adoption of Annual Report

The Annual report was approved as an accurate reflection of The Bower's operations for the financial year 2021-2022.

M: Stuart Grigg

S: Marcelle Psaila

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 2022.

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

M: Sagan Rajbhandary

S: Angus McGregor

Agreed

5. Election of Board Members

Member director applications:

New Board Members

Katherine Lindsay

M: Michelle Sheather S: Angus McGregor

Catherine Dai

N: Angus McGregor S: Michelle Sheather

Gaurav Kumar Sharma
M; Angus MacGregor S: Michelle Sheather

Board members re-standing for election:
Michelle Sheather

N: Tony Turri S: Sagan Rajbhandary

Agreed

Retiring Board Members
Sagan Rajbhandary

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.
Discussion ensued on the workshops and future Bower initiatives.

8. Close of meeting

The Chair extended thanks to all attendees for their support and formally closed the meeting.
The meeting officially closed at 3:00 PM.