



## AGM 2023 MINUTES

*Saturday, November 25 from 2 - 3 pm online*

**Chair and meeting facilitator of the meeting Marcelle Psaila**

### **1. Welcome & Apologies**

Welcomed everyone to the 2023 Bower AGM. Declared the meeting open and gave a welcome to country.

### **Attendees and apologies**

#### **Members:**

Claire Pamerter  
Bruce Diekman  
Nathan Smith  
Angus McGregor  
Henry McKenna  
Kirk Simmons

Rochelle Porteous  
Paul Wade  
David Anthony Mansfield  
Michelle Sheather  
Charlie Stephenson  
Brian Driver

#### **Guests:**

Linda De Rosa

#### **Appologies:**

Rose Dravitzki  
Christine Simmons

### **2. Accept New Bower Members**

#### **Accept three new members:**

- Angus McGregor
- David Mansfield
- Charlie Stephenson

**M:** Michelle Sheather

**2nd:** Henry McKenna

### **3. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2022 AGM**

**M:** Angus McGregor

**2nd:** Michelle Sheather

### **4. Annual Reports**

#### **Chairperson (Marcelle Psaila):**

- Over the last FY, Bower maintained its status as a leading Not For Profit supporting environmental, waste and social issues. Over the last FY the profile of reuse and repair has received more media attention and government interest helping drive

repair into the mainstream. The Bower continued its advocacy with the government to help drive policy changes in this area.

- Over the year the Bower maintained its operations within the Marrickville store while laying the groundwork for its move into the larger Summer Hill site in August.
- The Bower continued its work educating the community and offering repair workshops on bikes, electricals, and upholstery as well as our high-demand tiny house course showcasing what can be done with recovered materials.
- Overall it was a successful year working with our partners, funders, donors, local councils and the community to place us in a strong position for the upcoming years.
- Thanks go to all our partners, the Bower staff, volunteers and the Bower Board members, who volunteer their time to help make the Bower the success it is.

#### **Treasurer (Henry McKenna):**

- Zetland and Paramatta centres closed and Summer Hill opened this year. The move came at a cost-reducing the profit for the year.
- Reporting a loss of \$26,000 for the year, which is lower than the previous year's loss of \$152,000.
- The theft at Marrickville resulting in monetary and equipment loss further reduced the profits for the year.
- The biggest expense has been on salaries.
- Sales has gone up This FY from the previous FY, but it is still not up to pre-COVID levels.
- The Tiny House course and sales brought in great revenue.
- Acknowledge David Mansfield and Michelle Sheather for their excellent work.

#### **GM (Michelle Sheather):**

- Recruitment is on for a new GM.
- Marrickville's lease is due to be renewed. It will have to be renewed as we have a shop there.
- More publicity is required for Summer Hill to bring people in.
- Grants received from the City of Sydney.
- House to Home program Give Now appeal raised \$11,000.
- Bring back Art from Trash.
- The financial situation has improved from the last FY, but not there yet.
- Inner West council supporting sustainability Hub at Marrickville.
- Renewed the relationship with the City of Sydney community council and 21 local councils.
- New initiative of the festival of repair launched successfully.
- Workshops and repair cafes for furniture, electronics and clothing.
- Our Right to Repair Petition received 4,000 more signatures.
- Architect proposing smaller tiny homes for the homeless.
- Saved 30,000Kgs from landfill.

- Could no longer host the Women's shed in Parramatta due to moving centers.
- Average sales for e-bay and Shopify.
- Highest members this FY.
- Ready for a strong start to 2024.

## 5. Adoption of the Audited Financial Statement

**M: Henry McKenna                      2nd: Charlie Stephenson**

## 6. Resolutions- two resolutions read out

1. Increase the board members from 7 to 9 board members.

**M: Angus McGregor                      2nd: Henry McKenna**

2. Increase the membership fee to \$20 (from \$16.50).

**M: Angus McGregor                      2nd: Henry McKenna**

## 7. Strategic Plan 2022-27 - updated October 2023

- Improve communications on waste and sustainability.
- There is no shortage of facilitators to plan more workshops, etc.
- Focus on expanding online sales.
- Have to secure House to Home.
- The risks are the same. Ready for Growth.
- The current business plan runs to the end of this year (2023).
- A new business plan is to be developed next year for the next 3 years.

## 8. Election of Board Members-

Angus McGregor is the returning officer. The Nominations he received are as follows:

1. Marcelle Psaila
  - Nominator - Katherine Lindsay
  - 2nd: Shwetha Prem
2. Paul Wade
  - Nominator: Marcelle Psaila
  - 2nd: Paul Wade
3. Christine Simmons
  - Nominator: Michelle Sheather
  - 2nd: Christine Simmons (self-nominated)
4. Kirk Simmons
  - Nominator: Michelle Sheather
  - 2nd: Angus McGregor
  -

New Board members gave a short introductions

Marcelle outlined how the Board Search committee is formed annually, composed of existing board members and the role/s are advertised through our membership Bower social media,

Seek volunteers and Ethical jobs. The committee reviews each applicant and determines if they proceed to an interview based on the skills required by the Board. For this year looking for legal, marketing, and fundraising.

There are two Independent Director Board members whose terms expire at this AGM; one Director will renominate (Marcelle Psaila) and one will become vacant.

**Close of meeting**

Thank you. A much stronger position than a year ago, at Summer Hill finished Stage 1 of the Strategic plan and is ready to move on to the next stage. Meeting closed 3.00pm

Sign

Marcelle Psaila

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Psaila', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chairperson

Date: 28/11/23