



## AGM 2025 MINUTES - DRAFT

*Saturday, November 23 from 2.00 to 2.48 pm online*

**Chair and facilitator of the meeting Paul Wade**

### 1. Welcome & Apologies

Paul welcomed attendees and delivered the Acknowledgement of Country.

<b>Board Members</b> Shwetha Prem - Director Marcelle Psaila - Director Craig Rudd - Director and Treasurer Michelle Sheather - Director Christine Simmons - Director and Secretary Paul Wade - Director and Chair	<b>Members</b> Bruce Diekman Stuart Grigg Carrie Hamilton Kirsten Junor Nathan Smith CEO David Somerville Greta Warner
<b>Guests</b> Brian Driver Craig Forbes (partial only)	<b>Apologies</b> Kirk Simmons

Paul welcomed attendees to the meeting and declared it open as there was a quorum of 10 members as required. He presented the agenda and asked for any input.

Stuart Grigg asked for an update regarding the status of the Redfern Centre at 107 Redfern Street. Paul asked the CEO to cover it in his report if appropriate.

### Attendees and apologies

### 2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2024 AGM

M: Marcelle Psaila                      S: Paul Wade

### 3. Annual Reports

- Chairperson's Report - Paul Wade

Paul acknowledged the positive trajectory of the Bower over the last year and recognised the contribution made by staff and volunteers and in particular the CEO, Nathan Smith. He mentioned the work done by the Board to assist the CEO in terms of focussing on a smaller number of activities. The Board has also assisted in terms of improving business processes where possible. He formally thanked the staff, volunteers and donors.

- Treasurer's Report - Craig Rudd

Craig explained he had taken on the role of Treasurer in August 2025. He characterised the 2024-25 year as a year of consolidation with consistent and careful management of costs in particular. Some income streams showed improvement grant income was down on the previous year. The focus on expense management resulted in a small surplus and improved the cash position.

He acknowledged the previous Treasurer, Henry McKenna's achievement in steering the Bower through a very difficult period.

- Chief Executive Officer's Report - Nathan Smith

Nathan described the year as a year of doing fewer things better with a focus on more core activities. Some indications of the success of the strategy were that House to Home assisted 50% more households, 50% more workshops were delivered and 170 tonnes of reusable goods were diverted from landfill, approximately triple the previous year.

Store sales grew in both Marrickville and Summer Hill with the latter being significant from a small base. The result was a turnaround from deficit to a small surplus.

He feels there is now a solid foundation for the future. The team is trying to make the Bower more responsive and make it easier for clients to deal with the Bower. Support from various organisations such as the City of Sydney, Inner West Council and SSROC has been significant and there has been a strengthening in the partnership with Youth off the Streets.

He thanked the staff, volunteers, the board, partners, donors and members for their support and contributions.

In response to the question regarding the Redfern Centre he explained that the City of Sydney would not be renewing the Redfern lease, due to end 30 June 2026, and in fact would like Bower to vacate sooner if possible. This will also mean the Marrickville Mens Shed is without a site. Nathan has been in discussions with both the City North and Waverley Mens Sheds to see if a combined approach could be taken. The potential Green Square site options is now unavailable. Nathan will keep Stuart informed. David Somerville indicated an interest in being involved as well.

#### 4. Resolutions

There were no resolutions.

#### 5. 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 2025.

Paul thanked Henry McKenna, in his absence, for his work over the last financial year.

M: Stuart Grigg              S: Paul Wade

#### 6. Election of Board Members

There are three Directors standing down: Henry McKenna, Shwetha Prem and Kirk Simmons. Paul thanked the outgoing directors and acknowledged their significant contributions and commitment.

There are three Directors whose terms expire at this AGM, and are standing for re-election:

- **Marcelle Psaila**, previously an independent director, and re-standing as a member director.

M: Craig Rudd              S: Shwetha Prem

- **Christine Simmons** (member director)

M: Craig Rudd              S: Paul Wade

- **Paul Wade** (member director)

M: Stuart Grigg              S: Brian Driver

#### 7. Close of meeting - 2.40pm