

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN
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Annual General Meeting

16 MAY 2022 0906 UTC (1836 ACST)

Meeting Opened 1836 ACST

Welcome to country read by David Packer.

Present: Bridie Letford, David Riley, David Packer, Peter, Lesley Venning, Luke Tansell, Robert Hart, Hans(?), Don Eickhoff, Lawrence Crighton, Jason Wight, Abigale Raeck.

Online:

Will Chappel, Andrew Braund, Laura Gransbury, Robyn Willison, Kylie Willison, Fiona Lewis, Bridie Letford, David Dempsey(late)

David Packer declared there was a quorum and so the meeting proceeded.

Apologies:

Sharon Ede

Previous AGM: Bridie reported that the minutes had been circulated with the original meeting invitation. Moved Don, seconded David Riley.

President's report: [3:20] Read by David Packer

David Packer: (from transcript)

Last 12 months have been a challenge to say the least.

I'd like to express my heartfelt thanks to the current board for their determination and valuable input during the term of this board.

We continue to battle limitations caused by ongoing COVID issues and the ensuing collapse of city-center foot traffic.

We also had to contend with a very difficult and uncompromising landlord.

All current board members found their past year highly stressful and some resigned for various reasons.

Despite the challenges of the past year, I'm proud to say that the board and our supporters, have been able to take Makerspace from a situation of a monthly

income shortfall of some \$7500 to a situation where we are now able to operate at a gross monthly surplus of some \$1,500.

None of this would've been possible without the support of our partner Green Industries, championed by Sharon Eade. The effort put in by MakerSpace members to fundraise then move and reopen the Maker space at its new home, has been truly amazing.

I would also like to acknowledge the fantastic support given to us by Lesley Vening and the board of the WEA. Their understanding and generosity has provided Makerspace with a new home and we can now operate and grow. The committee of the Grote St businesses precinct [threw] their substantial support behind us, for which we are forever [in their debt]. To the many MakerSpace members who elected to keep paying their subscriptions despite much of MakerSpace not operating, I thank you.

Through all this MakerSpace has continued to offer an incredible space where people could learn new skills and share their ideas.

I wish the new board all the best for the coming year and I hope this new opportunity will allow them to grow Makerspace, and offer members [these] exciting facilities.

End of Transcript.

Treasurer's Report [6:16] In lieu of a formal Treasurer's report, Andrew Braund offered to provide a general rundown, which was appreciated. [Andrew's connection was intermittent].

- Appointed Project Alfred 6 weeks ago to tidy finances up. A draft received last Friday, final report received today. To be tabled. Andrew noted that it had been a long time coming [reliable finance statement] and thanked all involved. [broken...]
- A BASS Credit to be received in a week or two.
- Andrew's done some spreadsheets to project costs. In 6 months \$10k due to pay Project Alfred.
- Need to focus on getting the building work done and new members, to get cash for new equipment.
- Expressed appreciation for WEA.
- Offered to answer questions.

Bridie - offered to put the Project Alfred report in Slack.

D.Riley - noted we are in a positive situation, where that after all the outgoings, we are still able to pay the rent at present and eventually buy more assets. And that's just at baseline now. With workshops and education coming back online, I can see that moving quite positively.

David P: That's a massive change from our previous situation.

Compared [...] the roughly \$117k per year... to rent the Franklin St site.

Kylie requested a copy of the report to put questions to Andrew.

Bridie uploaded 4 attachments and the report to Slack. The attachments were supposed to be circulated with the AGM notification and which Laura reported hadn't arrived for her.

[12:50] Laura requested an acknowledgement and an apology from the board for this and past boards. "I do not believe that the board has been living up to their responsibilities, and I know I'm not the only one who feels this way." Kylie and Robyn agreed. Andrew also agreed, specifically on not addressing the financials until now. Laura further drew attention to the lack of mention in the president's report of the ops team's efforts. That when she came on as Ops Manager, there was talk of closing down the Space and the Ops Team's efforts, not the board's which turned it around.

Bridie corrected that she had done work on that too. She offered a personal apology for any of her own personal failings. She had sent a series of recommendations to the Chair email to try to alleviate the key concerns moving forward. She apologised to anyone who felt that she had not represented them in the way that they think she could or should have. Bridie didn't think it appropriate to apologise on behalf of previous boards which might have had some responsibility.

[15:34] David Riley apologised as the chair for the longest period involved, acknowledged that there were multiple failings due to various circumstances.... Including people not stepping up when needed. Expressed gratitude for the new members stepping up to volunteer for board positions. David also reminded members that he'd put in a massive effort over the period that he was Chair.

[16:00] Bridie mentioned the challenges of working where key people in the membership just complain.

[18:00] Kylie said her comments weren't intended as hurtful, but more feedback about necessity of accounts done, and minutes, establishing the members' register, so we've got a really good foundation to start from and that we're meeting the state requirements of the SA Incorporations Acts.

Bridie - the membership may not have realised the extent of the challenges the board was dealing with.

[19:00] Kylie - works both ways perhaps. The board may not have been aware of the seriousness of breeches of the incorporations act.

[19:50] Don, Communication has not been as solid because he was not aware of issues.

[20:48] David Riley - mitigating circumstances, being members / volunteers and board all at the same time means people are busy ...

[21:16] Bridie: Important to continue the forums, a lot of ways communications can be improved.

[21:39] Ruth: People need to remember we are all volunteers who have other obligations for work, family etc as well as this group

[23:29] Laura: Reiterated that she had been looking for an apology and acknowledgement that things had gone wrong. Laura and Kylie had flagged

issues, brought specific complaints to the board, repeatedly without resolution. No mention of the volunteer ops teams efforts has upset her.

[24:50] Bridie: Don't want to see any of the members in the distress that people have been in over the time on the board. It impacted her health and work. Board members, volunteers, ops teams members because of the pressure and responsibility they felt and that's not going to serve the association moving forward. Its not good for our people. There are a lot of very hurt people in the room right now, and I don't think any of it is invalid or unwarranted. The Association needs to work through some of that hurt and help heal that...

[26:40] Don : motion:

Addendum to acknowledge the super human effort put in and have had a positive outcome because of that. David Riley seconded.[28:24]

[28:30] David Riley: Call for board nominations.

All positions on the board are open

Next step to select a committee, and the committee can appoint a

[29:50] Noted by Laura that Andrew's audio had gone.

Bridie: There are 7 applicants for the 8 positions. Can we nominate them in bulk

David R: It's up to the membership.

[30:54] Bridie: There are 7 applicants for the 8 positions. Does anyone have any objections to nominating in bulk Andrew, David, Lawrence, Kylie, Robyn, Will and Fiona?

No objection,

[31:00] David Riley: " We have an objection in the room here from Abigale".

[31:07] Abigale: "One of the members in that list still has open issues ...<broken. ...

Robyn called for summary of what Abigale's objection was.

David Riley: "Abigale has pointed out that there is one individual on the list that she has basically had a, how would you describe it..."

Abigail: "They had multiple issues of confrontation..."

David Riley: "...open issues, direct and open issues with those people and feels uncomfortable not being able to make her vote in private. David asked if members were prepared to vote individually due to Abigail's objection? There being no objection it was decided to vote for the board as individuals.

Don didn't have access to slack.

Bridie - he can just shoot me an email. David Riley offered to help Don get his vote in.

[32:56] DD Joined

[33:00] Robyn, "There's a printer in G11 attached to the office computer."

[33:31] Bridie “And David Dempsey is just jumping in” David Riley: “He can read all the minutes”.

[34:12] Laura reminded Bridie that she was voting as Sharon (proxy) as well. Agreed by Bridie.

[35:00] Bridie: there are 11 responses and a total of 18 people in the room. And yes David Riley you can abstain. And just to be clear on what will constitute a valid nomination (election) It will be a majority vote of the people that voted.

Bridie mended the count to 17. The nominee with the lowest vote is 10 which is a majority.

So, everyone who was up for nomination has received a majority vote.

Laure complemented Bridie on the ease of the selection method.

David R congratulated the members who had been elected.

Bridie reported that the new board for SA Makers is:

- Andrew
- David,
- Lawrence,
- Kylie
- Robin
- Will and
- Fiona.

Given that there are 7 positions there, it gives the board a spare position should it wish to appoint someone in the future because the maximum is 8.

David R. mentioned that Don had earlier offered to assist the board.

Don introduced himself as one who runs **Techspace Learning**, a not for profit. David Riley re-iterated that Don’s only potential conflict of interest if the board was interested in him joining was that Techspace also runs similar workshops to ours.

[40:01] Brodie asked all the new board members individually if they had any conflicts of interest to declare. None were declared apart from Robyn being a member of Hackerspace, and a previous board member, and Andrew being a previous board member.

Bridie called for Don’s surname to be provided for the minutes. It Eickhoff

David Riley called for any other matters, then raised the potential for forming a fundraising and events committee. It was left for the new board to deal with.

David Riley asked that if any members had more grievances, that they table them before the new board meets.

David congratulated the new committee and closed the meeting.

Bridie offered her support to the new board.

David R handed back to David Packer to close the meeting.

44:30 David P thanked those who attended the meeting and declared it closed.