

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2025

MINUTES



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Thursday 18 September 2025 7.00 pm

Durack room

Goulburn Club, 19 Market St, Goulburn

Chair: Jock McLean (President)

Minutes: Harold Higgins

Meeting opened at 7.04 pm

after the attendance list had been checked against list of eligible members.

Attendance

Members (29): Ian Aldridge, Mike Baker, Michael Beville, Mary Booth, Victoria Carrington, Linda Cooper, Alex Fry, Anne Fry, Bronwyn Gerathy, Jenny Hargraves, Harold Higgins, Mick Holt, Rhys Howitt, Marcus Imbens, Stephen Kitchener, Roger Lucas, Anna McCormack, Ian McCormack, Ron McLaughlin, Jock McLean, Bryan Mulquiney, Simon Morris, Marg Morris, Daphne Penalver, Victoria Redfern (Provisional), Julianne Salway, Robyn Sargent, Elly Spark, Howard Spark.

Documents available at meeting

—Agenda; Minutes of AGM 2024 held 17/10/2024; Financial Statements with Directors' Report for year ended 30/6/24; Constitution of the Goulburn Club (all previously available on the Club website).

—Nominations for Board (previously posted on the Club noticeboard).

1 Apologies

David Johnson, Fred and Helen Ranger, Gabrielle Couch, Brian Alsop, Danae Vitnell, Rod McCarthy.

2 Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting (17/10/2024)

Minutes of AGM 2024 were accepted. Moved Jenny Hargraves; seconded Robyn Sargent. **Carried.**

3 Business arising from minutes

The requested "walk around" of the Access Project will be done after this AGM.

4 Special Resolution

A special resolution to amend the Constitution regarding Temporary Membership. Existing Clause 9.1 is replaced by "*In accordance with procedures established by the Board, any person who is at least 18 years of age, may be made a temporary member of the Club.*"

Moved Ian Aldridge, Seconded Victoria Carrington, **Carried unanimously.**

5 Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Elly Spark's report on the year is attached to these Minutes and is available on the Club website.

Report was accepted. **Moved;** Rhys Howitt, seconded Mary Booth. **Carried**

Elly Spark advised that she would retire from the position of Treasurer after 13 years service. The AGM thanked Elly for her sterling service with a standing ovation.

6 Report on Access Project

Vice President Harold Higgins presented a report on the Access Project. Report is attached to these minutes.

7 President's Report

President Jock McLean presented a report on the year which is attached to these Minutes and is available on the Club website.

8 Retirement of 2023–2024 Board members

Howard Spark assumed the chair as Returning Officer and thanked the outgoing Board.

9 Election of Board members for 2024–2025

The following nominations for the 2024–2025 Board have been received appropriately and displayed for a week:

Nominations:

President: Harold Higgins

Vice-President: Elly Spark

Treasurer: Victoria Carrington

Board member (4): Marcus Imbens, Stephen Kitchener, Ian Aldridge, Anna McCormack

The President, Vice-President, Treasurer and other Board members were declared elected without voting.

President, Harold Higgins assumed the chair and thanked Howard Spark.

10 General business

None.

Meeting closed at 8.15 pm.

Signed by President Date

Treasurer's Report AGM 18 September 2025

REVENUE

Overall the Club is in a good position with no debts, \$187,000 in the bank and interest being received rather than being paid (see page 15 of the 2025 Financial Reports).

- The Total Revenue (p5) from contracts with customers of \$88,000 was \$7000 less than last year's \$95,000. However the cost of sales were less, so that the gross profit was actually \$1000 greater.
- After taking into account income from bank interest and rents our profit before income tax was \$18,000 more than last year.

CONCERNS

Bar Sales (substantially "Sale of Goods" p13) decreased from last year by \$20,000. This is below last year's budget expectations and follows a decrease from the previous year of about \$13,000. This indicates a steady decrease in club patronage. Reasons include no official Blues Fest, a decrease in function bookings and no volunteer cooked and donated meals being available. However, attendance on our routine trading days of Thursdays and Fridays are also in decline. Friday receipts have changed from \$31,000 to \$27,000 to \$22,000 over the two year period.

Significant expenditure was expected to occur this year on both the Garden Stage and the Lift project (more information will be provided by Harold Higgins) with both these projects having received Development Application (DA) approvals prior to the current financial year. Unfortunately the road to obtaining a Building Construction Certificate (BCC) for both these projects has been rocky, tortuous and somewhat circular so that any expenditure to date has been for fees and charges to assorted consultants and not on capital works.

BUDGET 2025-2026

- Trading income is projected to stay about the same.
- Rental income is expected to be similar. Our tenants seem happy and there is currently no indication that any of them will give notice.
- Rates, insurance and utility costs are all increasing, so the Building Occupancy costs for 2025-2026 will see an increase.
- Repairs and maintenance are expected to have continuing increasing costs. Club maintenance volunteers are in their late seventies and outside services have ever increasing hourly rates.
- There will be continuing costs in our quest for BCCs.
- Works are in progress on the footpath to make the Club accessible through the front door. This is funded through a grant of \$40,000 which was allocated for this purpose.
- We are hoping that this will also satisfy the BCC requirements for the Garden Stage. The stage will incur additional expenditure above a \$28,000 grant (not yet received).

LIFT FUNDRAISING

Your Board has not initiated any special fund raising for the lift during the 2024-2025 financial year. Funds currently in reserve should be adequate for short term lift related expenses. Until we have clear approval to proceed with a BCC it seems irresponsible to ask for major lift donations. Our accountant advises that members should be aware that In the event the lift project does not proceed, lift donations would be reallocated to general building improvements unless the donations were specified as being exclusively for the Lift project.

Elly Spark
Treasurer (2012-2025)

Access Project Progress Report Sept 2025

We submitted Construction Certificate documents for the Footpath Works noted as Stage 4, to Council late 2024 and received approval for the external works only on 6 May 2025. This was submitted first (of five proposed stages) as a result of Grant conditions requiring funds to be spent no later than November 2025.

Tenders were requested from five contractors for the Footpath although only two formal bids were received. The Contract was let to Innovative Concrete who are in the process of construction currently.

We received correspondence from Council 6 May 2025 which advised among many other things, that Staged Construction Certificates will not be issued and that The Fire Safety Upgrades must be completed **before** Council will issue a Construction Certificate. We have attended several meetings with Council following receipt of this letter to try to understand their requirements since the Fire upgrades are part of the DA. Not really resolved at this time.

We have decided however, to apply for a single CC for the whole of the work, prioritising the Fire Safety upgrades including ladies verandah replacement and the steel fire escape stair.

We will need to engage a BCA consultant to review our CC documents for compliance and then a fire engineering consultant to review the fire safety provisions for compliance. We are about to appoint the BCA consultant as part of this process. Any nonconformances arising from these reviews will need to be addressed in the CC documentation and may require a Modification to the DA together with additional fees. It is possible that the upstairs part of the Club may require to be closed if safe egress can't be maintained while the verandah is rebuilt. It also means that the Lift can't be started until the verandah is completed due to the fact that the old timber stairs cannot be removed to allow the lift work to commence. These stairs currently form a second means of escape in the event of fire as required by regulations.

I want to acknowledge the huge amount of work put into our project by Tim Lee Architects staff Tim Lee, Kylie McGovern and Alicia Walker- it's been inspirational. I also want to acknowledge the support of the Board during this sometimes frustrating process.

Harold Higgins

Goulburn Club - A.G.M. September 18th, 2025

President's Report

Good evening, fellow members, it is my pleasant duty and privilege to report to you on the activities of this wonderful club for the previous year.

To begin with, may I say that it has been an honour and a delightful experience to lead this club for the past year, meeting and greeting so many talented, positive people who enjoy visiting this building for its music, art, poetry and welcoming atmosphere, whether they be regular locals or first time visitors to our town.

MEMBERS

The membership of the club remains steady at a total of 242, comprising 217 financial, 4 provisional and 41 life members as recorded at our last board meeting. We remain at about the same level as previous years, with people coming and going from our community. We could always do with new faces, so invite your friends to come and have a drink, enjoy some music and chat and let them see how welcome they are.

FINANCES

A more detailed accounting is available for those who are interested in how we are travelling, but my overall view is that although we are holding our own financially, there has been a slow decline over the last two years in bar sales, caused I believe by several factors; fewer regular patrons, fewer large functions and gatherings, a tighter economy and this last winter has not been much fun to go out in. I could be wrong, but wiser heads than mine might have more accurate reasons.

BUILDING ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

There has been quite a bit of activity in this area:

- Restoration of mezzanine cornice and painting of mezzanine level
- Installation of security cameras
- Installation of closed circuit TV and new large-screen monitor
- Improved LED lighting for artists (art and music) in the gallery room
- Repair of flashing on Stone House roof
- All fire extinguishers replaced and updated
- Garden maintained to a good standard
- Side window between bar and gallery room updated and repaired (Thanks Ian McCormack)
- Beginning work on outdoors footpath entrance and concreting of ramp for disabled access.

Each piece of work has helped the functioning and appearance of our club and my thanks to those who have assisted, whether as paid contractors or as volunteers.

ART EXHIBITIONS

There have been 6 Art Exhibitions this year:

- Mag Marshall – BOLD
- The Taralga Art Collective
- Joe Zappia – Goulburn's Historic Buildings
- Goulburn and District Art Society
- Helen Strano – Art as Trauma Therapy
- Charles Weyman – Retrospective

The standard for the most part has been exceptionally high, and I would like to express my thanks to the efforts of our Art Coordinator, Rebecca Noonan, for her skill and good taste in selecting the works and the care and time she has taken in curating and displaying them.

SPECIAL FUNCTIONS

There have been fewer bookings for special interest groups this year, in fact only 11 in total, comprising –

3 birthday parties, 4 Southern Tablelands Arts gatherings, 1 lunch, 1 pizza dinner and meeting for young ANU Doctors in training, 1 Meeting and AGM for Volunteers for Peace, and 1 Psychic Pinup function.

It seems the Club has gone off the radar for special occasions not connected with music. We should look into this aspect of the club's activities.

MUSIC

Music is the area of the arts we are chiefly known for and the variety and standard of the music performed in this club has given me and others a great deal of pleasure and satisfaction this year.

Friday nights are music nights and we have a regular routine of:

- First Friday of each month, Garth and Friends and Australian Bush Traditional Music
- Second Friday, Open Mic Night,
- Third Friday, Celtic Traditional Music,
- Fourth Friday, various bands and musicians, both local and visiting,
- Fifth Friday, Cocktail hour, Lounge music and Folk Music Open Mic Night

Some of the notable nights have had Local Musicians such as:- Kial Malone, Trev Takenberg, Mike Baker, Ron McLaughlin, Gabrielle Couch and her "Live Karaoke" with Friends nights and Keva Prentice with her "Women in Song" Night.

We have also been entertained by visiting acts, such as

World Music of Moussa Diakite, The Casuals, The Bellhops, Hat Trick, Loose Surface, and Worlds Collide (blues, funk, pop, folk and jazz- something for everyone)

On Thursdays we have hosted the 'Grubs' (Goulburn Region Ukulele Band) and on some Saturday afternoons we have had Mike Baker and his "Market St. Moochers" (Jazz and 30s-40s standards) The various groups have also entertained people at the Masonic Village (Grubs) and at the Rotary Markets (Trads, Celts, Grubs, and Moochers)

SPECIAL OCCASIONS

Throughout the year various groups and bands have used the club as a venue for their own music making and we have been pleased to welcome them.

- Rocky Hill Musical Theatre Society (twice)
- Lilac City Brass Band
- Mulwaree High School Music Night
- St Patrick's Day Song Session

THANKS

Running a club such as this with its financial and regulatory obligations, and relying on it functioning by staffing with unpaid volunteers is a massive job, and I could have not managed to be its President without so many willing people to call upon.

A massive vote of thanks goes to the Current Board members, and as well as them, so many willing members who gave their time, skills and positive efforts to keep this club the wonderful place that it is.

First of all the Board Members:-

Harold, our Vice-President Music Committee member, Board minute taker, wine merchant, late-night bar worker, security TV installer, and countless hours of his own time taken up in correspondence and negotiations with architects, contractors, and local council officials.

Ian, our Secretary/ Manager, mountains of correspondence, written and digital, dealing with Liquor and Gaming Commission meetings, applications for grants, Music Committee work, bar work, and assisting Harold with Council business.

Elly, our valued Treasurer, Work Health and Safety supervisor, overseer of squash court bookings, sign-ins, and running our website.

Anna, our Membership Secretary, functions coordinator, calendar manager and sign-ins.

Griz, our cashier, ever reliable Thursday night and Sunday afternoon bar man and stock purchaser.

Marcus, our Jack of all Trades, opener and locker-upper, gardener, wood and fire man, bar stocker and bar worker.

Julie, our Publicity and Newsletter editor, Music Committee member.

Vollies Extraordinary:-

- Mary Booth - cleaning, food supervisor, catering for special events, Sunday Sessions work, helping to run the Bush Trad Gathering, bar closing on Trad nights. bar work.
- Ron McLaughlin - Grubs organiser, sound assistance, bar work, stand-in Bass Muso for many gigs, Sunday sessions work.
- Mike Baker – Music Committee, Visiting Bands liaison, Cocktail Nights music, “Moochers” organiser for Saturdays and Markets sessions.
- Ian McCormack – Mr. Fixit!
- Gabrielle Couch – bar work, Verandah Band on Sundays, special music nights (Eno Experience), Live Karaoke Nights (4!)
- Lyndell Allen and Lynette De Wolff – Sign-ins.
- Sarah Boot Guiver – cleaning bar work on Sundays.
- Rhys and Allison Howitt - bar work and special catering.
- Howard Spark – Maintenance on many occasions.
- Callum White and Jack Heath – Sound Techies for many gigs.
- Rod McCarthy – sound assistance and cleaning.
- Bronwyn Gerathy – bar work, especially on Saturdays for “Moochers” sessions.
- Jenny Hargraves – bar work and music selection and sheet music for Grubs functions.
- Shelly Hughes and Christine McLaughlin – bar work.

What a wonderful bunch, always supportive when asked to help, sometimes at short notice! My sincere thanks to all of you!

CLUB PRESENT STRENGTHS AND SOME FUTURE CONCERNS

Strengths

- The Members, - positive, friendly, supportive and welcoming to visitors;
- The Music Scene – Variety of genres and styles, pop, rock, blues, jazz, world, folk:- very impressive and something for everyone.
- Art and Atmosphere – thanks again to Mary and Rebecca, wonderful work!
- Building and Ambience – warm (especially the fires in winter!), welcoming, cosy, casual and relaxed.

Concerns

- Volunteers – we always need more to help spread the load; how do we gather them in? Suggestions welcome.
- Demographics – most of us are getting a little on in years, I certainly am. We need to seek out and encourage younger folk to come to our club, and retain them to give this place a younger demographic. Again, suggestions welcome.
- Bar Sales and other sources of income – money is tight, heavy drinking is (thankfully) decreasing, fewer celebrations being booked; perhaps some more publicity is needed.

SUMMARY Some people ask me - 'What do I do as President, actually?' Well,

1. I have no particular skills like other Board members,
2. I chair the Board Meetings (well I try) and sign the minutes and some legal documents,
3. I organise the Volunteers roster,
4. I sit on the Music Committee
5. Try to get to the club as often as I can
6. But I think the best job I have is coming into the club on a Thursday, Friday or a Sunday and meeting and welcoming new visitors, introducing people to each other, pouring beers, mixing drinks and being seen to be having a lovely evening or afternoon, which I always do.

I am so glad I was given the chance to be your President this year and have enjoyed every minute of it.

So, thank you all very much and have a good evening.