



CAULFIELD HEBREW CONGREGATION

ק"ק אהבת שלום, מלבנורן, אוסטרליא

CAULFIELD HEBREW CONGREGATION
MINUTES OF THE 71ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
CAULFIELD SHULE, THE SUKIERT MEMORIAL HALL
572 INKERMAN ROAD, CAULFIELD NORTH, VICTORIA
ON SUNDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 2016 at 6.00PM

Attendance: As per attached sign in sheet.

Apologies: Selwyn Nadelman, Michelle Gold

Chairman: John Searle

Minutes: Yael Garkawe

1 Welcome

John Searle (JS) – Thanked President Anthony Raitman for asking him to chair the meeting. He welcomed all, and acknowledged the traditional owners of the land on which we meet. He confirmed that a quorum was present and welcomed members and visitors to the meeting. He then called for a minute's silence, to remember those members of CHC who sadly passed away during the last 12 months.

2 Confirmation of the minutes of the 70th AGM held on 9 August 2015.

David Prins proposed the following changes to the 70th AGM Minutes:

- Amend minutes to reflect the year 2015
- Minutes from SGM on 19 April 2015 to reflect that David Prins (rather than David Prince) had a query.

It was moved to adopt the above changes and confirm the 70th AGM minutes.

Moved: Allen Milner

Seconded: Daniel Jenshel

Motion Carried

3 Presentation of the President's Report

It has been an honour and a privilege to lead the Caulfield Hebrew Congregation this past 9 months.

At the time of nominating, I obviously underestimated the importance of the role and the commitment and time required to undertake the role to the best of my ability. I have learnt many things along the way and hope that these learnings will stand me in good stead as I take up my second year on Shabbat Bereishit.



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Being the President of the most successful Modern Orthodox community in Australia is awesome. As a community leader I have taken this responsibility very seriously and made every effort to meet the high expectations that you have of our shule. While I will be judged in time by our members, I know that Caulfield Shule has continued to grow and develop and yet, there are things that I and the Board and the leadership team could and can do better.

I am pleased to reflect that all of our successful programs have continued during the year and the number of people participating has grown. Over 500 people joined us at the Yom Ha'atzmaut Breakfast, Schmoozeday Tuesday and Caulfield Bubs continue to thrive and our speaker's circuit at seudat shlishit is the envy of the community.

We continue to host high profile and well regarded scholars and INKR 572 thrives. Our children's programs are gaining greater traction and our Bar/Bat Mitzvah programs provide the foundation for a love of Judaism, Israel and the importance of family. Just this week I have initiated discussions with Eli and the Rabbi to see how we can build momentum post Bar and Bat Mitzvah

Our relationship with Hineni continues to strengthen, and there can be no doubt that Caulfield Shule has laid out the welcome mat for all those who seek to be part of a Modern Orthodox community in a meaningful way.

The Darchei Shalom Soup, Sandwiches and Chat initiative has commenced and our comedy night was world class.

Through all this, we have continued to provide daily services, celebrate the chaggim with our usual energy, sustain the Daf Yomi learning group and further develop our adult education program.

Turning to the Board, let me acknowledge Amanda Joske who is not standing for re-election today. Amanda is currently living in Israel and while she is committed to Caulfield Shul is not able to put in the time and energy required to be an active member of the Board. I want to thank Amanda for her wisdom, passion and energy and look forward to catching up with her on her return to Melbourne.

Michelle Gold is a great asset to CHC. Her knowledge and understanding of process, and her thoughtful advice has been greatly appreciated. Michelle has been one of the key members of the board to progress our goal of recruiting an Outreach and education team



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Danny Gluck, a newcomer to the board last year has hit the ground running. He has taken on the role of being the Board representative for the Redevelopment and got involved in many other activities over the past 9 months.

Daniel Jenschel, also a new member of the Board has provided invaluable advice and support to me and the board. He has been instrumental in progressing the recruitment of the Outreach and Education team and is also proving to be a supportive link between CHC and Hineni.

You will note that after many years, Allen Milner is stepping down from the Executive but plans to maintain a core role on the board, particularly as editor in chief of the monthly calendar and Gabbai of the early morning minyan.

Selwyn Nadelman is also stepping off the Executive but I will say more about him later as we have nominated him to be Life Governor of the Caulfield Hebrew Congregation.

Greg, as our Treasurer, has brought rigour and accountability to our budget and while we have had a worse than expected year this year financially, I applaud the efforts that Greg has gone to make sure we know where we stand.

Robert as always is the fountain of all knowledge, a continued support to me and the Board with never ending energy, ideas, and commitment to instill and strengthen Judaism and its values, customs and laws into all of our thoughts and actions. I want to personally thank Robert for the way he has supported my transition into the Presidency.

This year will see two existing board members step up onto the Executive. Their past roles have been nothing short of exemplary and I am sure that they will continue and expand their role in taking up this new challenge. I speak of course of Jesse, who was the key driver behind another successful Yom Ha'Atzmaut Breakfast and Debbie Szental, the quiet achiever who has now embedded Tuesday Schmoozeday, and Caulfield bubs and Mitzvah Day into our weekly calendar. I know that Debbie has a few more ideas up her sleeve and look forward to helping make them a reality.

Our organisation would not be the envy of all if it were not for the staff at CHC. During the year we said farewell to Chavivah, Shelley and Miriam and I am delighted to see that they have each found a role to continue their careers.



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I also want to sincerely thank Yael and her current team of Sharon, Simona and Alida for building an environment which will continue to support the needs of our members. And also thank Rachel for her untiring work on the redevelopment and the Yom Ha'atzmaut Breakfast.

Of course I need to also mention Danny and Marie, for whom nothing is too much or too difficult.

Progress on the redevelopment program is continuing and I am excited at the prospects of building our community centre. The success of this centre will be judged not on the design and style of the building but by the way that it is used. We are investing in our community's future to ensure that our vision becomes a reality. To thank those that have been critical to the current success, we are holding a Shabbat Service and Kiddush in their honour later this year.

Senior appointments in an organisation such as this are critical and that is why the Board is delighted to be presenting to you recommendations for new contracts for our Senior Rabbi, Rabbi Genende and our world class Chazan, Dov Farkas. I have built an incredibly strong and trusting relationship with Rabbi Genende and value his vision and leadership. Dov has become a member of my speed dial as we are constantly testing out ideas, critiquing various activities and generally keeping in touch. Dov's genuine interest and commitment to Caulfield Shule is indeed unending.

I also acknowledge Rabbi Krasnajnski for his wise words and wisdom and would like to welcome Gedaliah as he steps up to the role of interim Chazan Sheni. Finally, Eli Solomon, Naomi Rubenstein and Viv Teshuva, and our dedicated madrichim are also to be congratulated for their work over the past 12 months.

Enough has been said about the impact that Adam Segal made on CHC but I will once again wish him and his family Behatzlacha in Israel.

Here at Caulfield Shule we are creating an exciting future. We have committed to appoint an outreach and educational team and redevelop our outdated facilities. We are putting in place strategies to link our activities so that there is a continuum of Jewish influences in our members' lives. I encourage you all to be a part of this future, join in our activities, encourage and support those leading the way and make a commitment to invest in our future. Our success in these endeavours will be measured by your engagement and participation.

It was moved to adopt the President's Report.



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Moved: Anthony Raitman

Seconded: Daniel Jenshel

Motion Carried

- 4 Presentation and adoption of the Treasurer's Report and adoption of the 2014/2015 Financial Statement.

To be inserted

Commented [A1]: Add in Greg's report

It was moved to adopt the Treasurer's report:

Moved: Greg Blashki

Seconded: Anthony Raitman

Motion Carried

- 5 Discussion and Questions on the Presidents Report and 2015/2016 Financial Statement.

David Mond: Queried the donations to the Building Fund by 20 members of \$20,000 each being allocated as a Shule asset rather than being treated as trust funds.

Greg Blashki: The receipts have been accounted for in line with the Australian Accounting Standards following advice received from Auditors.

Matt Szylitt: Asked for a run down on miscellaneous expenses.

Greg Blashki: Referred to the Treasurer's Report. The other \$93,000 is less than 10% of expenditure and relate to general office costs. Audit, bank charges, etc.

Tommy Winter: Queried the reduced number of mitpalelim and the number of shule members at the 19 minyanim offered by the shule through the week.

Anthony Raitman: The shule offers a large range of programs to both members and the wider community. Minyanim is just one of many programs offered by the Shule. We do not discriminate between members and non-members in tis regard.

Tommy Winter: Treasurer referred to seat rentals going up by COSV but have in fact doubled since 2007. We seem to be living beyond our means.



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Greg Blashki: The Treasurer was unable to verify figures quoted by Tommy. Seat prices do increase from year to year. Board is aware of expenditure and are constantly looking for solutions to minimise costs.

Gary Leber: Loss seems to have increased for the year.

Greg Blashki: The increase was due to seat rental and errors in the database and accounting system.

Howard Zeimer: Non Simcha Shabbat morning attendee numbers are dropping. Will be at a crises point within 5 years. What is the Board doing about this

Anthony Raitman: Friday nights are now a great success. Increasing numbers in shul is important to the Board and we are working this by coming up with new initiatives like the Barmitzvah Anniversary Club. This is a continuous work in progress.

Johnny Roth: level of Orthodoxy seems to have dropped in last 10 years and numbers seem to be dwindling.

Anthony Raitman: Our constitution classifies us an Orthodox organisation but we must also meet the needs of our members. We employ 3 different rabbis who provide a varying range of services to the community. The shule offers a wide range of activities to accommodate both the religious needs as well as communal needs (ie Shmoozeday) of our congregation.

Michael Richtman: How will the shule be able to maintain running of the new development?

Greg Blashki: New development must be self-funded.

Anthony Raitman: Board has always agreed that unless we have a way of funding operational costs of the development it will not go ahead and planning has commenced to achieve this.

David Mond: Ratification of change of name should have been sought before it was added to AGM notification as a constitutional amendment.

Anthony Raitman: The Board had not amended nor adopted a new name. We simply adopted the brand "Caulfield Shule" for promotional and marketing purposes and understood that to change the name required a resolution of members

David Mond: Sees this as a misrepresentation.



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Tommy Winter: Believes that numbers are dwindling on Friday nights and that they should be at more family friendly times (similar to the Rosh Hashanah model of finishing by 12.30pm).

6 Ordinary Business — Announcement of the Board of Management

Nominations had been received for the following positions (one nomination only received per position) resulting in appointment of all nominees:

- President
- Two Vice-Presidents
- Honorary Treasurer
- Honorary Secretary
- Six Members of the Board

President:	Anthony Raitman
Vice President (1)	Robert Weil
Vice President (2)	Jesse Braunstein
Honorary Treasurer	Greg Blashki
Honorary Secretary	Debbie Szental

Board of Management Members Danny Gluck
Michelle Gold
Daniel Jenshel
Selwyn Nadelman
Allen Milner

As the number of nominees did not exceed the number of vacant positions, the above were all elected.

John Searle congratulated CHC on its impressive leadership.

7 Election of the Auditors

A motion was forwarded to consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution of members:

“That, pursuant to clause 45 of the CHC Constitution, Sothertons SLA is elected as Auditors for the 2016/2017 financial year.”

Moved: Greg Blashki
Seconded: Robert Weil



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Motion Carried

8 Appointment of Life Governor

To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution of members:

"Noting that the Board resolved on 18 July 2016 to recommend the appointment of Selwyn Nadelman as a Life Governor of the Congregation that, pursuant to clause 11(1) of the Constitution, Selwyn Nadelman is appointed as a Life Governor of the Congregation."

Moved: Anthony Raitman

Seconded: Greg Blashki

Motion **Carried**

9 Officials of the Congregation

(1) To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution of members:

"Noting that the Board resolved on 18 July 2016 to approve a new five year contract for Rabbi Genende to commence at the completion of his current contract, that pursuant to clause 40(1) of the Constitution, the extension of the appointment of Rabbi Genende for a further term of 5 years, on terms and conditions to be set out in a document duly signed by the parties, be ratified and confirmed."

(2) To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution of members:

"Noting that the Board resolved on 8 August 2016 to approve a new five year contract for Dov Farkas (Chazan), that pursuant to clause 40(1) of the Constitution, the appointment of Dov Farkas (Chazan), on terms and conditions to be set out in a document duly signed by the parties, be ratified and confirmed."

David Mond: Would like to propose an amendment to the Resolution. It is rare to sign a 5 year contract in these economic times. Recommend the motion be changed to 3 year contract with a 6 month termination period.



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Moved: David Mond

Seconded: Myer Steinberg & Eskel Goldberg

Discussion:

Myer Steinberg: 5 year contract too long.

Stephanie Joseph: Knows nothing about the proposed Outreach Couple. However if terms change on Rabbi Genende's contract it may send wrong message to our members and send them away from shule.

Allen Milner: Shule seats have been filled over the past 10 years with Rabbi Genende's appointment. Recommend 5 year contract.

Anthony Raitman: Contract negotiated in good faith and includes termination clause. No performance bonus, however goals will be agreed.

David Mond: Previous contract for rabbi was a 5 year contract however now with the new Outreach Couple being advertised don't want to be limited by long term contract.

Resolution being put and seconded: Amend current resolution from 5 year contract to 3 year contract.

Resolution not carried.

(1) To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution of members:

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Moved: Anthony Raitman

Carried: Greg Blashki

Motion Carried

(2) To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following resolution of members:

"Noting that the Board resolved on 8 August 2016 to approve a new five year contract for Dov Farkas (Chazan), that pursuant to clause 40(1) of the Constitution, the appointment of Dov Farkas (Chazan), on terms and conditions to be set out in a document duly signed by the parties, be ratified and confirmed."

Moved: Anthony Raitman

Carried: Greg Blashki

Motion Carried



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10 Special resolution to change the name of the Congregation

To consider and, if thought fit, pass the following special resolution of members:

(a) "To change the name of the Caulfield Hebrew Congregation Incorporated to 'Caulfield Shule Incorporated'"; and

(b) "Subject to the Registrar of Incorporated Associations effecting that change of name under section 25(1) of the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012:

That pursuant to clause 44 of the Constitution of the Congregation, the Constitution be amended in accordance with the amendments set out in the marked up relevant pages of the Constitution as set out in Annexure A of the 71st AGM Notice to replace the words 'Hebrew Congregation' wherever they appear in the Constitution within the phrase 'Caulfield Hebrew Congregation Incorporated' with the word 'Shule'".

The Chair confirmed that 75% of votes are required to pass this resolution.

Anthony Raitman: Branding for redevelopment drove change of name. Received advice from Dynergy about the changes. Change of name would not detract from naming rights of individual halls / rooms in the shule and redevelopment. Agreed that maybe should have had a wider discussion with members however not proposing to change the history of the shule.

The Hebrew name is not part of the constitution and remains as is.

Greg Blashki: Name change supported by the Board. Personally never heard of the Shule being referred to as Caulfield Hebrew Congregation. Does not change the core of the shule.

Mimi Cohen: Word Shule old fashioned and does not fit in with Modern Orthodox or our future

Gary Leber: A Yiddish word. Need to use an English word. No need to change constitutionally.

Howard Zeimer: Invite the congregation to submit a logo and branding – this is a missed marketing opportunity.

Tommy Winter: In the past there has been upheaval in the shule when the Board has not listened to its members. Caulfield Hebrew Congregation is worldwide recognised. The word shule is not.

Yosi Aron: Caulfield Hebrew Congregation actually started as Caulfield School and Cultural Centre

Laurence Joseph: No need to change constitution. Use Caulfield Shule as the generic name.



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Matt Szylitt: No value in changing name.

David Prins: Branding name does not need to be the same as formal name. Never received copy of Board meeting discussion about change of name in constitution when requested.

David Mond: No record of discussion at Board meeting. Other synagogues rebranded by Dynergy have not been rebranded as Shule.

In favour: 2 people

Against: Majority

Resolution not carried

- 11 Announcement of election Results: Results announced earlier. No need to discuss as there was no election.
- 12 Hatikvah
- 13 Meeting concluded at 8.15pm.