

CAULFIELD HEBREW CONGREGATION
MINUTES OF THE 70th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD AT
CAULFIELD SHULE, THE SUKIERT MEMORIAL HALL
572 INKERMAN ROAD, CAULFIELD NORTH, VICTORIA
ON SUNDAY AUGUST 9 at 6.00PM

Attendance: As per attached sign in sheet.

Apologies: Greg Blashki, Jesse Braunstein

Chairman: John Searle

Minutes: Rachel Mihalovich followed by Anthony Raitman

1 Welcome

John Searle (JS) – Thanked President Robert Weil 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 69th AGM held on 15 September 2014.

Anthony Raitman proposed the following changes to the 69th AGM Minutes:

- the change of the title from 68th to 69th
- page 4, item 4, change of 2012/2013 to 2013/2014 Financial Statement
- page 5, item 8, change of 2013/2014 to 2014/2015 financial year.

It was move to adopt the above changes and confirm the 69th AGM minutes.

Moved: Anthony Raitman

Seconded: Selwyn Nadelman

Carried Unanimously Minutes confirmed

3 Confirmation of the SGM minutes from 19 April 2015.

The motion was moved to confirm the SGM minutes 19 April 2015.

Moved: Anthony Raitman

Seconded: Allen Milner

Carried Unanimously Minutes confirmed

4 Presentation of the President's Report

The President, Robert Weil presented his report covering the activities of CHC over the last 12 months.

It gives me great pleasure to present, this, my final report as president of the Caulfield Hebrew Congregation.

This past year has been one in which the world finds itself in an unprecedented state of moral confusion. . Israel is beset by violence perpetrated not only by our fanatical enemies, but sadly also by fanatics and zealots within our own ranks. The president of our closest ally appears to have Israel exposed to possible nuclear destruction. Judeo-Christian values that have been the

bedrock of our society are being displaced by the scourge of political correctness. I could go on.

The good news is that at our shule, the news is largely positive. Our major highlights have included, the annual Yom Haatzmaut breakfast which just gets bigger and better from year to year. This year we were honoured to have the Premier of Victoria Dan Andrews as keynote speaker. Special thanks to Jesse Braunstein for his dedicated and passionate efforts in ensuring the success of what is flagship event. We are already planning next year's breakfast which we anticipate will feature a world-renowned guest.

Caulfield Shule is the go-to destination for visiting personalities who in past year has included Rabbi Shmuley Boteach and Rabbi Shlomo Riskin. I wish to particularly single out Ravit Martinez the MDA paramedic, who delivered an emotional address about her involvement in operations in Gaza and the rescue mission in Nepal, and who went through a spiritually life-changing moment in front of our Aron Kodesh. This something that will be etched in my mind forever. We have also enjoyed a number of great speakers at our regular Cholent & Chat Kiddushim including renowned British journalist and author Melanie Phillips, and federal MPs Michael Danby and Josh Frydenberg. We will also be hosting in October, for a second time, the dynamic Rabbi Ronen and Penina Neuwirth, prominent leaders in the Israeli modern orthodox movement.

I have had the pleasure of welcoming many visitors from overseas and interstate many times throughout the year on Shabbatot and Yom Tovim. I am constantly hearing glowing compliments from them about how much they enjoy the services and what a 'haimish' atmosphere they feel in our shule. The beauty of the services is largely due to our 'world-class' Klei Kodesh team. So I take this opportunity to commend and thank, firstly, Dov Farkas, not only for his beautiful chazanut, but for his organization of the 'Kolot min Hashamayim' choir and his general infectious enthusiasm about everything he sets his mind to. My thanks also go to Aron Max our choirmaster and our Chevrah who are developing into a world class choir. In Gedaliah Levin we have Melbourne's best baal koreh and in Adam Segal, Melbourne's best gabbai and chazzan sheni. My thanks also Rabbi Phillip Heilbrunn for his outreach efforts to the sick and elderly and also for leading the overflow services. Special thanks also to Barry Mond for his running of the Or Chadash minyan as well as the overflow services. Rabbi Mottel Krasjansky is now in his thirty-second year of service to Or Chadash and continues to inspire all who come into contact with him.

Our daily minyanim remain strong and I would particularly like to thank Les Gescheit and Gerald Lever for their assistance particularly at the 8am minyan. These gentleman are remarkably dedicated but are not getting younger and it is important for the next generation to step up to the task.

I have been around this place for a long time, and through some turbulent periods, but as I have said many times this has been the most harmonious, and delightful board that it has been my pleasure to work with. At the outset let me make special mention tonight of our immediate past President Dr. Gary Frydman. Gary's tragic illness came suddenly, soon after I assumed the presidency and I had to adapt very quickly to a difficult situation as I was relying on his experience and mentoring. I thank each and every board member for rallying around me at the time to make my job that much easier. Every single board member comes with their special strengths and talents, and without exception each of them is totally devoted to our shule. Special gratitude goes to my vice presidents, Selwyn Nadelman and Anthony Raitman, who both put in countless hours of service. Selwyn is always on call to look after all the physical aspects of the property including security as well as special projects, in particular setting up our computerised membership/seat allocation system a task requiring nerves of steel. In shul he

also goes about allocating the aliyot and kibbutzim every Shabbat. I wish to thank Debbie and Mimi for their 'Tuesday Shmoozeday' efforts. I thank them on behalf of the elderly folk for whom Tuesdays are the highlight of their week. Debbie has also initiated a highly successful 'Caulfield Bubs' program which is going from strength. I understand a bridge club is the next exciting project.

Although Rodney Horin is stepping down from the board, the good news is that he will be devoting more time to our major development project. Rodney has been the driving force and the inspiration behind this ambitious project from day one. Thanks to Rodney's untiring efforts we are well on the way to achieving our goal of providing a state of the art community centre for the next and subsequent generations. I take this opportunity also to thank those generous families whose generosity has provided the seed capital for this exciting project. God willing we will achieve our dream. I would like to add that from my personal perspective, one of the most significant features that I am looking forward to in the new development is a dedicated 'Beit Midrash' as I firmly believe that Limmud Torah is the essential foundation of our past and our future.

My thanks also to my other executive members, treasurer Greg Blashki, and honorary secretary Allen Milner for their professionalism and dedicated service.

We are blessed with a wonderful professional staff who are the mainstay of our daily operational activities. I am pleased to report that our General Manager Miriam Suss has made a full recovery from illness and will be back on board very soon. She has certainly been missed. We were fortunate to have Rachel Mihalovich step in to the breach during Miriam's absence and she has performed admirably and has introduced many innovative ideas. I am pleased to report that Rachel will be staying on in the newly created role of Director of Business with particular focus on the redevelopment project. To the office staff, Shelley, Sharon and Yael as well as our financial controller, Jeff Freedman, let me say it has been a delight to work with you all and so much of our success is due to your professionalism.

Although we have enjoyed a record number of Smachot, especially Barmitzvahs and Batmitzvahs over the past year, our biggest challenge is to try and have these kids and their families, as well as young marrieds and their children remain connected with our shule. To this end, it is imperative that the congregation look toward appointing an outreach couple. I believe this must be a priority for the new board. Meanwhile I commend our departing Youth Director Dion Esterman who has done a truly amazing job since joining us. I wish Dion well in all his future travels and professional endeavours.

Finally, I cannot adequately express how fortunate is not only our congregation, but our community is to have someone with the leadership qualities of Rabbi Ralph Genende. His gentle demeanour and quiet manner belies the dynamism that has been responsible for the amazing success that the CHC enjoys. I never fail to be in awe of his wisdom, his vision, and his dedication. He has deservedly earned respect and admiration in so many spheres, in the government, in the military forces and among his rabbinical colleagues both at home and internationally. Thank you Rabbi Ralph for your leadership and your friendship to me and my family and indeed to all our members. May Hashem grant you and Caron continued strength and health to continue your vital role for many years to come.

To those who are stepping down from the board, thanks for your wonderful work. Although you will be missed at board level, I know that you will be still very much attached to our shule. I am so pleased that there will be some new board members stepping up who will provide a fine blend of youth and experience, led by a young and enthusiastic president who is already taking an active leadership role. As a 'Kohen' I bestow my blessings on our soon to be new board. May they enjoy much success, and may they derive enjoyment from their endeavours.

So, as I take my leave of the presidency, I take this opportunity to thank my family for their support and encouragement. I have thoroughly enjoyed the ups and learned from the downs. I am passionate about Yiddishkeit and I am passionate about our community. Sometimes this passion has made me outspoken on various issues. For this I am unapologetic! Every day has been a learning experience. Whatever success I may have achieved would not have occurred without the support of my colleagues, our Rabbis and others that I have been fortunate enough to have around me. It has truly been an honour to serve the shule that has been a part of my life since childhood and I hope to be able to continue serving this wonderful congregation in whatever way I can.

May all our families be blessed with a ktivah vachtimah tova and may Hashem bring peace to our beloved Medinat Yisrael and to the entire world.

John noted that uniqueness that Robert has completed his term of Presidency still having the support of the entire Shule.

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

Allen Milner, Hon. Secretary presented the Treasurer's Report prepared by Greg Blashki (GB) – The Honorary Treasurer.

Financially speaking the year to 30 April 2015 was a very challenging year with a loss of \$95,846 compared with the small surplus of \$3,355 in the previous year.

Details of the major items of income and expenditure are disclosed on pages 12 and 4 of the financial statements.

You will also find revenue details shown in the cash flow statement on page 7, but please ignore the break-up of individual revenue items on that page which are shown in error. The correct details are shown on page 12. (I apologise for the error which was due to a restructure of our chart of accounts during the year and the cash flow statement incorrectly picked up the wrong balances.)

The biggest impact on our results related to caretaking and security costs. Just before last year we moved from having an employed caretaker who also did some security work, to outsourcing all such roles. The result of this and related changes was as follows:

- Security expenses increased by \$59,408 (from \$32,768 to 92,175)
- Normal caretaking expenses increased by 37,564 (from \$40,115 to 77,678)
- On the other hand we saved \$66,372 in employed caretakers.
- The net effect was an additional cost of \$30,600 which was mainly due to increasing the number of hours we have a security presence. Unfortunately this would appear to be the price we need to pay for having more activities all through the week at our shule.
- Finally, also included in the caretaking costs was a one-off cost of \$13,000 for removing the rust and repainting our front fence.

The next largest impact on the annual results was an increase in employee leave provisions, mainly long service leave, of \$25,683. This is of course not a cash flow item but does reflect an increase in our liabilities.

Other significant increases were as follows:

- Kiddush expenses increased by \$11,383. This resulted from some enthusiasm to provide members with a better experience on Shabbat, but we got a little carried away. The problem was identified late last year and you will have noticed that the kiddushim seem a little less lavish, but hopefully still acceptable. In the coming year we are looking at searching for more sponsorships to keep everyone happy in this regard.
- Printing and postage costs increased by 10,823. This mostly related to the additional costs of printing and mailing out of the constitutional changes at the last AGM. We are looking to avoid this in future by making increased use of electronic distribution of documents to members.
- Professional fees increased by \$9,519. The main items related to a small property matter unrelated to the redevelopment and to resolving a staff dispute.

During the year revenue was relatively stable with net seat and membership revenue increasing by \$25,229 and small reductions in some other sources of revenue.

In terms of our program expenses, the major costs relate to providing kiddushim as previously discussed and providing the choir and special facilities for the High Holidays. This year our net program expenditure was \$182,151 slightly up on last years \$173,221. Many of our activities have their own income sources and whilst some do not break-even (such as the Inkr572 dinners), through the hard work of some board members and staff we have made surpluses on our Yom Ha'atzmaut breakfasts which help greatly.

As you know we recently obtained the members approval to proceed with expenditure on the redevelopment. Up to 30 April 2015 we have incurred expenditure of \$51,270 which, in accordance with accounting standards, has been treated as capital work in progress. This cost has been matched by donations which were received after year end.

The need to maintain our aging premises remains a significant concern and that is partially the focus of the redevelopment. During last the year we replaced our main switchboards which were in a very bad state for a cost of 56,755. This cost has also been treated as a fixed asset addition which will be written off progressively over future years.

Obviously your board has no wish continue to incur similar losses in future. The reality is that there is limited discretion to reduce expenses and also limited ability to convince members to pay more for seat rentals. In this situation, we are looking for opportunities to make our various programs cover their own costs by slight increases in fees if practical and by increases in donations.

Our budget for 2015 plans for a return to a small surplus before depreciation. The biggest improvements are expected to come from monitoring programs expenditure more closely and being more proactive in achieving recoveries and donations for our programs with a focus on having all programs being self-funded as much as possible.

Finally, I am pleased to report that we are currently in the process of installing a new computer based membership and financial system. We know the frustrations of not having accurate and up to date information and are optimistic that our new system will go a long way to making life better for all concerned.

A motion was forwarded to adopt and Treasurer's reports:

Moved: Allen Milner Seconded: Selwyn Nadelman

Motion Carried

6 Discussion and Questions on the Presidents Report and 2014/2015 Financial Statement.

Robert Rosenzweig: Employee expenses, page 4 was queried in terms of employee's benefits.

The question was taken on notice due to the absence of the Treasurer.

Robert Rosenzweig commented that the members were informed last year (recorded in the minutes) that they would receive detailed clear analysis of the financials and questioned as to why there is always such a hassle to get the financials in time.

David Mond noted that he was the one that raised the issue of expenses last AGM and queried that given the undertaking by the treasurer last year why they were not presented accurately this year.

Allen took the comments and questions under advisement to be referred to Greg.

David Prins noted that he asked the office for the financials and was told that they would be available on the night.

Robert Rosenzweig noted that the constitution stated that the statement of Income and Expenditure should be sent to the Congregation.

David Mond queried the meaning regarding the non current to current liabilities and why long service leave is in current liabilities.

Matt Szylit requested an itemised report from tonight. Raised concerns that the Treasurer was not here and no one could answer questions at the meeting for those that were interested.

Robert Rosenzweig requested for the financials to be sent out electronically and made available on line.

Robert Weil – will follow up questions that HAVE not been answered with the treasurer and respond to members.

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 2015/2016 financial year."

Moved: Allen Milner Seconded: Robert Weil

Motion Carried

8 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)	Selwyn Nadelman
Vice President (2)	Robert Weil
Honorary Treasurer	Greg Blashki
Honorary Secretary	Allen Milner

Board of Management Members	Jesse Braunstein Daniel Gluck Michelle Gold Daniel Jenshel Amanda Joske Debbie Szental
-----------------------------	---

As the exact number of vacancies were filled by the nominations received the above were elected by acclamation.

John Searle congratulated CHC on its impressive leadership, and hoped that the lack of competitiveness in aspiring to Board position showed no complacency. RW responded that despite the stability of the Board, there are many dynamic and motivated younger members who are working for CHC behind the scenes and on programs such as inkr572.

Anthony Raitman delivered the following speech.

I am honoured to have been elected unopposed as the next President of the Caulfield Hebrew Congregation. While I don't officially assume the role of President until Shabbat Bereishit, I would like to take the opportunity to say a few words at tonight's Annual General Meeting.

Firstly, I would like to congratulate Robert Weil on his achievements during his very long association with Caulfield Shul, most recently as its President and I look forward to his continued support and encouragement as Vice President.

I also wish to pay tribute to the three board members who did not seek re-election this year, Mark Salkin, Mimi Cohen and Rodney Horin. Each of your contributions to the board over the past few years has been significant and you can look back with pride at your involvement on the board. I am also thrilled to say that Rodney Horin has agreed to continue to chair the Redevelopment Committee as we head towards the town planning application in the coming weeks.

The new board brings together a mix of committed and passionate people who have agreed to work together to maintain Caulfield Shule's status as the most vibrant and active shul in Victoria. Those that were re-elected include Robert, Jesse, Selwyn, Allen, Greg, Debbie and Michelle. We have already formed a close bond as members of the previous board and will continue this work together. Joining us is a dynamic trio including Danny Gluck, Amanda Joske and Daniel Jenshel. Each of these new board members bring a range of skills to the board table and having spoken to each of them about their nomination, I am confident they will hit the ground running and make their mark.

When people heard that I was running for President of Caulfield Shul, more often than not it has been suggested that perhaps I was doing so because no one else wanted to. Well let me correct that perception by saying that I wanted to take on this role, so no one else needed to. The President is only as good as the team that surrounds him and I am confident that the team that has been elected tonight is one of the best.

There are many responsibilities that come with being the President of Caulfield Shul and by accepting this nomination, I have agreed to take them on willingly and comprehensively. The support of my family in this endeavour has also been a critical factor in making this decision.

Over the coming months I will be working with the new team to identify some of our priorities for the next year. To this end, Ilana and I would like to invite you to join us at the Kiddush after shul on Shabbat Bereishit where I hope to talk more about what we have planned.

For now, I will continue to fulfil the role of Vice President and support Robert as he leads us through the Yamim Noraim in just over a months time.

9 Special Business – Special resolution to amend clause 38 of the CHC Constitution.

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

"To amend clause 38 of the CHC Constitution so that it reads as follows (that is, as marked up below):

The Board shall not be empowered to authorise the expenditure of a sum exceeding ~~FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$50,000.00)~~ ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$100,000.00) for any one purpose out of the funds of the Congregation except for the purposes specified in Clause 4(g) hereof without the approval of members in a general meeting."

Moved: Anthony Raitman

Seconded: Selwyn Nadelman

Motion Carried

10 Announcement of election Results

11 Hatikvah

12 Meeting concluded at 7:00pm with the singing of Hatikvah and refreshments were served.