

## **BURGHER ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA (INC)**

### **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

2023/2024

**NOTICE** 



### CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

Sunday 26<sup>TH</sup> November 2023
Come join with us to Celebrate Christmas at

### THE BAA

358 Haughton Road, Clayton 12.00 noon to 5.00 pm

\$35.00 pp - BYO

Meet up with friends and celebrate Christmas with fellowship, music, and dancing.

Caterer: Cha's Cabin
Glazed Leg of Ham, Roast Turkey, Roast Pork,
Roast Chicken, Roast potatoes including vegies,
Coleslaw, tossed Salad, Seafood Salad,
Bread Rolls and Butter
Dessert: Strawberry and Ice Cream
And a delicious piece of Christmas Cake

**Contact** Hermann & Carol Loos 0417 391 120

Hans De Zilwa 0419 292 939 Elaine Jansz 0417 570 405 Rita Van Geyzel 0419 887 982

Terry & Helen Backhouse 0429 987 300 or 0438 373 007 Rev. John & Annette Blaze 0400 401 804 or 0429 523 773

Annesley Caspersz 0450 803 153 Adrian Harris 0407 838 189 Sharneez Backhouse 0434 105 221



FOUNDED 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1980 Registration No. A 7821 A.B.N. 28 890 322 651

## BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INCORPORATED

358 Haughton Road, Clayton 3168

Postal Address
P.O. Box 75. Clarinda, Victoria 3169

NOTICE

Pursuant to Clause 13 (1) of the Constitution of the Burgher Association (Australia) Incorporated and on directions given to me by the Committee of Management, Members are advised that the **Annual General Meeting** will be **held** at **our Association's premises on Wednesday**, **15th November 2023 commencing at 7.00 pm.** 

#### The ordinary business of the meeting shall be: -

- To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022 - these will be taken as read as these minutes are attached as part of this Notice.
- To receive from the Secretary/Committee of Management the 2022/2023
   Annual report of the Burgher Association during the last preceding financial year. This Report will be taken as read as this report is attached as part of this notice.
- To receive and consider the financial statement submitted pursuant to Section 30 (3) of the Associations Incorporation Act. As required under Rule 36 (2) of the Constitution, a signed copy of the financial statement will be given to all attendees on the day of the Annual General Meeting to be held on 15th November 2023.
- To discuss proposed resolutions/amendments to the rules (if any);
- To elect officers of the Association and members of the committee, and
- To discuss any other business of which due notice has been given to the Committee of Management in accordance with the rules.

Under Clause 25 (2) (c) of the rules nominations for all positions on the Committee

Page 3 of 16 of Burgher Association (Australia) Inc.AGM Notice dated 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023

- 1. PRESIDENT
- 2. VICE PRESIDENT
- 3. HONORARY SECRETARY
- 4. HONORARY ASSISTANT SECRETARY
- 5. HONORARY TREASURER
- 6. HONORARY ASSISTANT TREASURER
- 7. EDITOR
- 8. PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGER
- 9. CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGER and
- 10. SIX (6) ORDINARY MEMBERS of COMMITTEE
- 1. Each nomination for any position by an eligible person must be proposed and seconded by eligible financial members. To conform to Rule 25 (2) a nomination form has been prepared and is attached to this notice.
- 2. The properly completed nomination must be placed in a sealed envelope with the word Nomination at the bottom left hand corner and delivered to the Association at its Postal address at P.O. Box 75 Clarinda on or before the close of business (5 pm) on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023
- 3. All nominations received on or before the above date will be opened at the Association's premises at 358 Haughton Road CLAYTON Vic. 3168 on Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2023 commencing at 6.30 pm and will be subject to scrutiny to ensure validity. All interested members are very welcome to be present.
- 4. The rules of the Association will be strictly followed in determining the validity of nominations.

Helen Backhouse - Honorary Secretary on behalf of the Committee of Management – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2023

#### Members are advised to please Note that: -

- 15 members personally present, being members entitled to vote, constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at the meeting.
- Only privileged and ordinary, and associate members who are financial and were members before 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 are permitted to vote and actively participate in the meeting – Clause 13 (8).

Other members are entitled and are cordially invited to be present.

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# THE BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC (BAA). The Minutes of the 2022 AGM, held at the BAA Centre Wednesday16<sup>th</sup>November2022 with Hermann Loos presiding

The President (Hermann Loos) declared the meeting open 7.15pm after announcing that the attendance of eligible members (17 members) had exceeded the quorum. He welcomed those present.

<u>Financial Members present</u>: Annesley Caspersz, Peter + June Frazer, Adrian Harris, Rowena Hamlett, Ted Gerryn.

<u>Apologies:</u> Mel Farrell, Denis Lobo, Tamaris + Wilhelm Lourensz, Ron + Jillian Mayne

He then addressed the items on the agenda.

#### ITEM 1 To confirm the minutes of the 2021 AGM.

Since the minutes were circulated to the member in the AGM Notice dated 1<sup>st</sup>September 2022 they were considered read. Members were asked if they wished to query any concerns regarding the minutes, as there was no response, the silence was assumed to be a unanimous acceptance of the minutes.

Proposed: Helen Backhouse Seconded: Rowena Hamlett

# ITEM 2 To confirm from the Committee of Management reports of the transactions of the Association over the preceding financial year (2021-2022)

Once again since the Annual Report addressing this topic was sent to the members in the notice dated 1<sup>st</sup>September 2022 it was taken as read, in the absence of any queries on the contents of this report, the silence was assumed to be a unanimous acceptance of the minutes.

Proposed: Breeda Foenander Seconded: Rita Van Geyzel

# ITEM 3 To receive and adopt the Financial Statement for year ending 30<sup>th</sup> June 2022 pursuant to Section 30 (3) of the Associations Incorporation Act.

This report was also made available to the Members in the AGM Notice dated 1<sup>st</sup>September 2022. The President Hermann Loos inquired if there were any questions on the contents of this report, as there were no queries from any member of the audience assumed to be a unanimous acceptance of the minutes.

Proposed: John Blaze Seconded: Carol Loos

### ITEM 4 To discuss proposed resolutions/amendments to the rules (if any):

There were no resolutions/amendments raised.

#### ITEM 5To elect Officers of the Association and Members of the Committee

As there were no contested positions for the Officers and Members of the General Committee, All nominated persons were requested to sign and accept the nomination forms received at the November 2022 General Committee Meeting. The above saw the following take office for the year 2022-2023

#### OFFICE BEARERS

President Hermann Loos

Vice President VACANT

Honorary Secretary Helen Backhouse

Honorary Assist Secretary VACANT

Honorary Treasurer Hans De Zilwa

Honorary Assist Treasurer VACANT

Editor Rita Van Geyzel

Customer Relations Manager Carol Loos
Public Relations Manager Elaine Jansz

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS** 

Committee Member Terry Backhouse
Committee Member Rev John Blaze
Committee Member Annesley Caspersz

Committee Member Adrian Harris
Committee Member VACANT
Committee Member VACANT

# ITEM 7 To discuss any other business of which due notice has been given to the Committee of Management in accordance with the rules

Hermann put to the member's present taking that fund raising events were almost non existence in the past year due to the pandemic, the general committee at its meeting in November 2022 decided that all future functions at the BAA will be held on a break even policy to attract more of our members to attend the functions. As such the BAA has taken the view that all sponsorships/donations excluding the sponsorships of children in their education via the DBU in Sri Lanka will not take place until we get back to normal as before the pandemic. This will be recorded on the Pledge page of the next newsletter.

As there was no further business to discuss or issued raised by those present, the President declared the AGM closed at 7.47pm

Hermann invited the members present to join the committee in some light refreshments.

Meeting closed at 7.47pm

Harvey Foenander Helen Backhouse Hermann Loos Hermann Loos
Outgoing Secretary Incoming Secretary Outgoing President Incoming President

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# Burgher Association (Australia) Incorporated Statement of Income and Expenses for the period 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Statement of income and Expenses for the period 1. July 20	122 10 30	June 2023	
		2022/23	<u>2021/22</u>
Member Subscriptions	(1)	2,690.00	2,785.00
Social Activities	(5)	15,406.00	360.00
Premises - Donations to use etc.	(3)	28,325.00	16,815.00
Grants – applied to appropriate areas for funding	(2)	5,000.00	4,500.00
Newsletter/Donations	(4)	1,280.00	909.78
Term Deposit Interest		351.82	334.53
		53,052.82	25,704.31
			*
Expenditure		2022/23	<u>2021/22</u>
Newsletter, AGM & General Operational cost Incl. Toners	(4)	12,731.28	8,819.25
Functions/Social Activities	(5)	16,408.62	2,903.84
Premises Maintenance incl. Utilities	(3)	5,506.80	5,142.60
Donations – Other	(8)	0.00	0.00
Sponsorship	(7)	2,841.00	4,505.00
Friendship & Care program	(4)	0.00	0.00
		37,487.70	21,370.69
Operating Income over Expenditure		15,565.12	4,333.62
LESS Operating Capital (Low Value/Grant Equipment) Costs	(6)	2,000.00	0.00
The second secon	(-)	13,565.12	4,333.62
Boloman Chart on at 20th June 2009	2		
Balance Sheet as at 30 <sup>th</sup> June 2023	3		
<u>Current Assets</u>			
Cash at Bank NAB		15,972.82	22,009.75
Prepayment - Deposit Winter Warmers Lunch August 2022		0.00	500.00
Fixed Deposit – St Georges Bank		174,999.91	152,872.86
Total Current Assets		190,972.73	175,382.61
Non Current Assets			
Cost – 358 Haughton Rd Clayton including Capital Expenditure	(10)	806,576.06	806,576.06
Revaluation Reserve	(10)	593,423.94	593,423.94
Total Non Current Assets		1,400,000.00	1,400,000.00
Total Assets		1,590,972.73	1,575,382.61
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		//	
Membership Prepayments	(1)	1,345.00	1,820.00
Halt Hire/Social Functions & Grants Prepayments		5,630.00	3,130.00
Total current liabilities		6,975.00	4,950.00
Non Current Liabilities			
Total Liabilities		6,975.00	4,950.00
Net Assets		1,583,997.73	1,570,432.61
Equity			
Members' Fund		1,570,432.61	1,566,098.99
Net operating Surplus		13,565.12	4,333.62
. •		1,583,997.73	1,570,432.61

Hans De Zilwa - Honorary Treasurer August 21st 2023 Hermann Loos - President August 21st 2023

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Note 1 - Membership Renewals	Receipts		
2022/23 Subscriptions received before 2022/23	1,290.00		
2022/23 Subscriptions received in 2022/23	1,400.00		
	2,690.00		
Prepaid subscriptions beyond 2022/23 paid at 30.06.23	360.00		
Prepaid subscriptions for 2022/23 paid in 2021/22	985.00		
Prepaid subscriptions beyond 2022/23 amounts to	1,345.00		
Note 2 - Grants Awarded	Receipts		
Multicultural Senior Citizens Organisational Support 2021-2024	2,000.00		
City Of Greater Dandenong - Australia Day Lunch	1,000.00		
Department of Social Services 2022-232 Volunteer Grants	2,000.00		
·	5,000.00		
Note 3 - BA (A) Premises	Receipts	Expense	
Hall Hire	28,325.00		
Gas	,	662.64	
Electricity		454.11	
Water		1,075.15	
Rates		3,314.90	
	28,325.00	5,506.80	
Note 4 - BA (A) NEWSLETTER (Bulletin) & General Operations	Receipts	Expense	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations	Receipts 1,280.00		
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary		665.65	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses		665.65 1,050.19	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations  Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary  Committee Meeting Expenses  General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs		665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations  Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary  Committee Meeting Expenses  General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs  Photo Copier Cost		665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses		665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service		665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service Telephone cost		665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92 60.00	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service Telephone cost Insurance		665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92 60.00 2,574.00	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service Telephone cost	1,280.00	665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92 60.00 2,574.00 5,138.84	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service Telephone cost Insurance		665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92 60.00 2,574.00	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service Telephone cost Insurance Operational Running Costs	1,280.00	665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92 60.00 2,574.00 5,138.84 12,731.28	
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service Telephone cost Insurance Operational Running Costs  Note 5 - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	1,280.00  1,280.00  Receipts	665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92 60.00 2,574.00 5,138.84 12,731.28	Gain/(Loss)
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service Telephone cost Insurance Operational Running Costs  Note 5 - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Winter Warmers Lunch	1,280.00  1,280.00  Receipts 5,286.00	665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92 60.00 2,574.00 5,138.84 12,731.28  Expense 4,424.50	861.50
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service Telephone cost Insurance Operational Running Costs  Note 5 - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Winter Warmers Lunch Sinatra After Dark	1,280.00  1,280.00  Receipts 5,286.00 1,745.00	665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92 60.00 2,574.00 5,138.84 12,731.28  Expense 4,424.50 1,849.48	861.50 (104.48)
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service Telephone cost Insurance Operational Running Costs  Note 5 - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Winter Warmers Lunch Sinatra After Dark XMAS 2022	1,280.00  1,280.00  Receipts 5,286.00 1,745.00 3,245.00	665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92 60.00 2,574.00 5,138.84 12,731.28  Expense 4,424.50 1,849.48 3,204.15	861.50 (104.48) 40.85
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service Telephone cost Insurance Operational Running Costs  Note 5 - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Winter Warmers Lunch Sinatra After Dark XMAS 2022 Australia Day Lunch	1,280.00  1,280.00  Receipts 5,286.00 1,745.00 3,245.00 2,440.00	665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92 60.00 2,574.00 5,138.84 12,731.28  Expense 4,424.50 1,849.48 3,204.15 3,298.40	861.50 (104.48) 40.85 (858.40)
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary Committee Meeting Expenses General Administration incl: AGM + Kitchen/Toilet replenishment costs Photo Copier Cost Friendship & Care Expenses Fire Equipment Service Telephone cost Insurance Operational Running Costs  Note 5 - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES Winter Warmers Lunch Sinatra After Dark XMAS 2022	1,280.00  1,280.00  Receipts 5,286.00 1,745.00 3,245.00	665.65 1,050.19 1,971.87 924.81 0.00 345.92 60.00 2,574.00 5,138.84 12,731.28  Expense 4,424.50 1,849.48 3,204.15	861.50 (104.48) 40.85

INCOME negatively impacted) by \$2.62 AFTER ALLOWING for a Grant of \$1000 from the City of Greater Dandenong. These grants are shown under Note 2

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Note 6 - OPERATIONAL CAPITAL COSTS		Expense
Low value/Grant asset purchases		2,000.00
·		2,000.00
Note 7 - Sponsorship	Receipts	Expense
Association payment	-	2,841.00
Note 8 - Donations	Receipts	Expense
		Nil
Note 9 - New Building Project		Expense
		0.00
Note 10 - Fixed Assets	2023	2022
Cost - 358 Haughton Rd Clayton	806,576.06	806,576.06
Capital Expenditure - See Note 9	0.00	0.00
	806,576.06	806,576.06
Revaluation Gain - Valuation Herron Todd White 26/05/19	593,423.94	593,423.94
	593,423.94	484,543.00

Please feel free to contact the President in writing direct at 1 St Georges Crt. Toorak 3142 with enquiries on or before 20th November 2023. This will enable the meeting to be productive in time usage and will permit for a considered answer to be provided to the AGM and ultimately to all Members. For the same practical and productive reasons no queries without such notice will be entertained

#### AAS 28 STATEMENT of CASH FLOWS

1st July 2022 TO 30 June 202	3
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Hans De Zilwa - Honorary Treasurer

August 21st 2023

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2023			
CASH FLOW FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2022/2023	2021/2022	
Receipts from, Donations, rent & member subscriptions	36,015.00	24,100.00	
Interest received	351.82	0.00	
LESS Payments for Donations & operating activities	-59,089.75	-21,588.69	
Receipts from Operating activities	16,686.00	1,269.78	
NET CASH SURPLUS/DEFECIT by OPERATING ACTIVITIES	-\$ 6,036.93	\$ 3,781.09	
CASH FLOW FROM INVESTMENT ACTIVITIES			
Net cash provided by Investing activities	\$ -	\$ -	
NET INCREASE/DECREASE IN CASH HELD	-\$ 6,036.93	\$ 3,781.09	
CASH AT BEGINNING OF FINANCIAL YEAR	\$ 22,009.75	\$ 18,228.66	
CASH AT END OF FINANCIAL YEAR	\$ 15,972.82	\$ 22,009.75	
NOTES TO STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS			
(a) Reconciliation of cash			
Cash at Bank	\$ 15,972.82	\$ 22,009.75	
(b) Reconciliation of net cash provided by operating activities to operate surplus			
Building Cost including other sundry cash payments	-\$ 5,567.70	-\$ 21,539.13	
Current Membership paid in previous period	-\$ 1,290.00	-\$ 1,305.00	
Prepayment of member subscriptions/Hall Hire	\$ 6,975.00	\$ 4,950.00	
Term Deposit movement	-\$ 22,127.05	-\$ 334.53	
NET CASH INCREASE by OPERATING ACTIVITIES	-\$ 6,036.93	\$ 3,781.09	

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Hermann Loos - President

August 21st 2023

# The 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Burgher Association (BAA)

It is with great pleasure that I present the 44<sup>th</sup> Annual Report of the Burgher Association. This report has been developed on the basis of the Association's activities and achievements over the past 12 months (1<sup>st</sup> July 2022 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2023), and ratified by the Committee of Management.

As in past years the Association continues to enjoy the confidence of all forms of Government (Local, State & Commonwealth), in view of its strong support for the Multicultural objectives of the nation. The continuing financial assistance that we receive in the form of Grants (for details, see the Financial Report) supports this assertion.

Since the opening of the BAA Centre on the 2nd August 2014, the hire of the premises has been an entire success. I would like to remind the Members that these premises have cost the Association a substantial amount of money and reiterate the plea made previously, that we desperately need your support to strengthen the Organisations finances, by utilising (hiring) these facilities for suitable events in your families. As many of you may have noticed, these premises are saturated with all the modern conveniences (you name it, we have it). So, come along and enjoy the BAA Centre, which belongs to you the Members.

The Organisation's Website has continued to be updated since it was established approximately thirteen and a half years ago. The information on the site has become quite informative as well as a convenient form of inquiry, particularly to access details of forthcoming social events and information concerning the availability of the BAA Centre for hiring/booking, and the vast amounts of links to very interesting topics relating to Sri Lanka. Once again I remind Members that the Web-Address of the Association is <a href="http://www.burgherassocn.org.au">http://www.burgherassocn.org.au</a>.

I will now comment on some important matters that have taken place over the past 12 months and allow our Treasurer, Hans De Zilwa to deal with the financial transactions that have occurred during the year of review.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

The President Hermann Loos manages the responsibility of maintaining the computerised Membership Recording System. This system continues to be an effective tool in managing the Membership process. The expiry date of the Membership continues to appear on the right hand top corner of the Bulletin address sticker. Notwithstanding numerous methods of follow-up, including the insert of a renewal application in the Bulletin, there continues to be a moderate

delay in the renewal of Memberships. I urge Members who have not renewed their Membership for the 2023/2024 period as yet, to do so prior to 31st December 2023. At the 30th June 2023, the Association has 262 Members, which saw a small drop from the previous period (273). We are continuing in our efforts to increase these numbers and have included a page in our quarterly bulletin on the BAA pledge to members and I hope those who are already Members, influence your friends and relations who are not, to join up.

Concerning Privileged Membership, Members are reminded that to be eligible for this form of Membership one has to be aged 80 or more and held continuous Membership for 10 years or be the Parent of a Member aged 80 or more. Over the past year under review there has been no Privilege Memberships granted. If you fit this criterion of Membership, please do not hesitate to come forward.

We continue to issue new membership cards to all new members, these are mailed along with the welcome letter, and this shows amongst other important data the benefits to Privileged Membership and also Associate Privileged Membership.

#### THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

The Committee you elected for the period under review met 11 times (excluding the 2022 AGM) on a monthly basis excluding the month of January 2023. The average attendance over this period was 9.2 persons out of average of 10.7 persons per meeting, which was an increase on the previous period by 10 percent. We still were not in a position to fill all fifteen (15) positions for all twelve (12) months of the year.

As in the past, this Committee has demonstrated its collective desire to voluntarily and with enthusiasm serve their fellow human beings without expecting self-adulation or praise. We must keep this focus in order to target like individuals who can successfully replace us. I extend my sincere appreciation to all my colleagues and congratulate them for their unrelenting dedication in efficiently managing the interest of the Association, which has continued to progress much further over the past year.

#### SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

The program operates with the guidance of the DBU. The new guidelines and objectives managed by the President. It only caters for students in need of finance (under specific rules) in Sri Lanka undertaking studies to complete the 'O' Level or the "A" Level examinations. The maximum period one child should take to complete the course mentioned is a period of four (4) years. This covers the years 10 through to 13 in school years.

#### FRIENDSHIP AND CARE PROGRAM

Carol Loos manages this program, with of course the conscientious support of Rita Van Geyzel. The team has unfortunately for the whole of this year due to Corona Virus (COVID-19) Pandemic have not been able to visit any aged care facility.

Besides the work carried out by Carol and her team, the Association has also from time to time assisted other members of the community in Australia to deal with bureaucratic issues and/or complicated issues dealing with government and other departments such as Taxation, Councils, and Insurance etc. The Association has also from time to time assisted new migrants from Sri Lanka settle down and on occasions permitted the use of the Club House free of charge in the case of worthy causes.

Helen Backhouse as part of her role as Secretary has taken it upon herself to keep a close eye on any sad developments such as illness, passing's etc., of members of the community and ensures that these occurrences are acknowledged, on behalf of the Association

Some of the names of those in the community (often Members) who passed away over the last 12 months were; Mrs Primrose Werkmeister, Mrs Doris Thurgood, Mr Malcolm Henricus, Mr Joe Walles, Mrs Doris Abel, Mr Cholmondley Willenberg, and Mr Ron Mayne, and any others who may have not notified or informed us.

#### THE BAA CENTRE

The BAA Centre has picked up momentum in regaining its position as a very popular venue for social events, meetings etc., for many similar Organisations/Clubs and families. Hermann has acted in the position of the Premises Coordinator of the BAA Centre and remains our contact together with Carol Loos (Customer Relations Manager) for the bookings of the premises. The day to day maintenance is managed by the Committee generally and is mainly responsible for dealing with the more complex issues.

The Hall has the capacity to hold 150 guests, we invite you to visit the website for all relevant rates, but briefly, its \$350 (non-members \$400) for full day and \$50 (non-members \$60) an hour for a minimum of 5 hours. I reiterate the need for your support by hiring the Centre for your family events. Mrs Carol Loos on 0423844101 is always available to assist potential hirers. We thank Carol and all the others involved for their contribution in managing the Centre over the review period.

#### **SOCIAL EVENTS**

The year ending 30th June 2023 saw an increase in the events held. This took into account the high cost of living expenses as such the BAA General Committee decided that until such time we are able to bring back the large audiences at our

functions, the ticket price will be based on the cost of the function so as not to make a profit.

The Function/Event during this time was:

	Function	Date	Venue
•	Winter Warmers Lunch	0	BAA Centre
•	Sinatra After dark	9 <sup>th</sup> October 2022	BAA Centre
•	Christmas Lunch	20 <sup>th</sup> November 2022	BAA Centre
•	Australia Day Lunch	26 <sup>th</sup> January 2023	BAA Centre
	Curry Lunch	3 <sup>rd</sup> April 2023	BAA Centre

These events had excellent attendances. Your support in making them a success is greatly appreciated. Congratulations to the Coordinators of the Event, the Committee Members, the wives/husbands of those on the Committee and the Members generally. Thank-you once again to the Membership for their support by attending the Function and look forward to your continuing attendance in the future.

#### **GRANTS**

The Treasurers Financial Report will provide you with the total amount of grants received over the 2022/23 period, the Victorian Multicultural Commission (a Victorian Government Department), has been our largest donor over the past years. This is testimony to their recognition that the Burgher Association is the representative Organisation of the Burghers in Australia and the contribution they make to Multicultural Australian Society. We thank them for their continuing support. As in the past, we also received this support from the City Of Greater Dandenong, Department of Social Services, Department of Premier and Cabinet - Support for Multicultural Seniors, The Multicultural Senior Citizen Organization Support. (Commonwealth and Local Governments), Australian Government - Community Energy Efficiency and Solar Grant, and extend our sincere appreciation to them as well. Mr Hermann Loos & Mrs Rita Van Geyzel continue to manage this program, with the assistance of others on the Committee.

#### OTHER IMPORTANT MATTERS

Our new Editor Rita Van Geyzel, has done an outstanding job by being the major force in the production of the quarterly magazine, we sincerely thank-you Rita for the amazing commitment you displayed in the discharge of the responsibilities undertaken by you.

Finally, I once again extend my sincere appreciation to all of my colleagues on the Committee of Management for their dedicated commitment over the past 12 months.

### Helen Backhouse Honorary Secretary

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#### 2023/24 Subscription Reminder

#### Dear Member

If you have not paid your subscriptions for the previous or current Financial Year, we will not worry you with further reminders except to say that you are a valued member of the Burgher cultural identity and we, through this Association, endeavour to maintain a focal point for the continuity of our cultural community traditions and unique identity. Please consider renewing your Membership.

Please refer to the address label and if the "Paid to Date" is a prior financial year we would appreciate your continued support of the Burgher Association. The Annual Subscription is \$20 and is payable on 1st July of each year. If you prefer you may make payments in advance for a future year's subscription. Please send your remittance to:

#### The President

Burgher Association (Australia) Inc. No 1 St Georges Court, Toorak Vic 3142

OR, pay by Direct Deposit at the nearest National Australia Bank quoting your Membership Number & Surname

BANK

National Australia Bank

RSR -

083 297

A/C No 51 547 7094

Please detach and enclose the payment slip below if paying by Post

MEMBER NO.
FROM:
Please find attached remittance for \$20 being member fees for the financial year
□ 2023/24 □ 2024/25 Other
MAIL TO: The President, Burgher Association (Australia) Inc. No 1 St. Georges Court, Toorak VIC 3142



The Burgher Association of Australia Centre is available for private hire (Dances, Birthday parties, Anniversaries etc). The BAA Centre is located within a short walk from Clayton railway station. The hall is licensed to hold 150 people. Tables and chairs for this number of attendees are provided. There is usually plenty of parking across the road and a few spaces on the property. Disabled access via ramps is available to both the front and rear doors and a disabled parking space is available. There is also a 'horseshoe' driveway permitting the dropping off of attendees under cover.

Commercial kitchen facilities are available including stainless steel splash walls, a commercial glass washer, dishwasher, stove, oven, hot water boiler, large freezer. refrigerator, and a bain-marie. There also is an alfresco area at the back that can be used for making the famous Sri Lankan Hoppers, BBQs or other activity that requires a shielded outdoor space. There are multiple reverse-cycle heating and cooling units servicing the main hall and kitchen. There are separate male, female and disabled toilets. More pictures available are on our website http://burgherassocn.org.au/baa-centre/

How to make a booking: Call The BAA Centre on 0423 844 101 to enquire whether the date, you wish to hire the hall for is available. If you are a member of the BAA, the price of hiring the Centre costs \$350 per day. Non-members \$400 per day. Minimum booking is 5 hours (\$300). Hours of operation Friday/Saturday 11AM to 12 Midnight, other days 10AM to 10PM. All bookings require a bond of \$250 that is refunded if the centre is handed back to management clean and undamaged. (\$2000 for age 21+ and under). A payment of \$100.00 will be deducted from the Security Fee deposit for cleaning of the premises, for the next day's Events. Hiring Agreement. NB: To book the hall, payment has to be made via the BAA Bank Account – details available on request. Depending on whether you are a member or non-member the full fee plus the deposit of \$250 must be paid to secure the date booked.



The Editor 33B Campbell Street,	H VIC 3204	
The Editor	BENTLEIGH VIC 3204	<b>To:</b>