

BURGHER ASSOCIATION AUSTRALIA (INC)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2024/2025

NOTICE





FOUNDED 2nd 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**, **20th November 2024 commencing at 7.00 pm**.

The ordinary business of the meeting shall be: -

- To confirm the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 15th November 2023 - 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 2023/2024
 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.
- 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 of Management are hereby requested which are:-

- 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, 9th October 2024
- 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, 9th October 2024 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 – 1st September 2024

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 1st July 2024 are permitted to vote and actively participate in the meeting – Clause 13 (8).

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

Page 4 of 16 of Burgher Association (Australia) Inc. AGM Notice dated 20th November 2024

THE BURGHER ASSOCIATION (AUSTRALIA) INC (BAA). The Minutes of the 2023 AGM, held at the BAA Centre Wednesday15thNovember2023 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.

He then addressed the items on the agenda.

ITEM 1 To confirm the minutes of the 2022 AGM.

Since the minutes were circulated to the member in the AGM Notice dated 1stSeptember 2023 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 (2022-2023)

Once again since the Annual Report addressing this topic was sent to the members in the notice dated 1stSeptember 2023 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: Carol Loos Seconded: Sharneez Backhouse

ITEM 3 To receive and adopt the Financial Statement for year ending 30th June 2023 pursuant to Section 30 (3) of the Associations Incorporation Act.

This report was also made available to the Members in the AGM Notice dated 1stSeptember 2023. 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 2023 General Committee Meeting.

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The above saw the following take office for the year 2023-2024

OFFICE BEARERS

President Vice President Honorary Secretary

Honorary Assist Secretary Honorary Treasurer

Honorary Assist Treasurer

Editor

Customer Relations Manager Public Relations Manager

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member Committee Member

Committee Member Committee Member

Hermann Loos

Rev John Blaze Helen Backhouse

Adrian Harris

Hans De Zilwa

Annette Blaze

Rita Van Geyzel

Carol Loos

Elaine Jansz

Terry Backhouse

Sharneez Backhouse Maxwell Eliyathamby Sandra Eliyathamby

Michael Beven Karvn Beven

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 nonexistence the general committee at its meeting in November 2023 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 again 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 7.50pm

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

Meeting closed at 7.50pm

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

Burgher Association (Australia) Incor Statement of Income and Expenses for the period 1 st Ju		CONTRACTOR OF THE PERSON NAMED AND ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED ADDRESS OF THE PERSON NAMED AND	meller i me dinestre mermi fallementiles companies i mi alimans i qui	
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Social Activities	(1)	3,330.00	· and in the same of the same	2,690.0
Premises - Donations to use etc.	(5)	19,695.05	Francisco - Service Service - Francisco - Service - Serv	15,406.0
Grants – applied to appropriate areas for funding	(3)	29,260.00	and results to terrate between the control of the proper time. Since	28,325.0
Newsletter/Donations	(2)	5,000.00	Marie, malate de companie qui picitic di unio e con commerci, con consequente experiencimon.	5,000.0
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Expenditure		2023/24	Comments and the special field of the special	2022/23
Newsletter, AGM & General Operational cost Incl. Toners	(4)	15,918.70	and their transfer will be produced in the country of the page of	12,731.2
Functions/Social Activities	(5)	23,266.65	e distributions — (§ distribution of the second decree in a con-	"The Control of the Control of the Control of the State o
Premises Maintenance incl. Utilities	(3)	6,739.82	is defined any sample of $\frac{d}{dt}$ in the time, the factor of the $d\theta$ and $d\theta$	16,408.6
Donations – Other	(8)	0.00	A country country and contracting a country and a country country and a	5,506.8
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Fixed Deposit – St Georges Bank	A State Assert Special	182,013.02	 and although profession of entire time of monacone adjust a series 	174,999.9
Accounts Receivable	Prince of the contract of the	7,314.29	THE STATE OF	0.00
Total Current Assets	e 	208,233.22	 recopy deleterable when the rand type quantum energy port ; 4 	190,972.73
Non Current Assets	Province is registrated properly unbrinder, under extensionals of	1	committeesses principles, furnisher principles and section of the committee of the committe	130,372.75
Cost – 358 Haughton Rd Clayton including Capital Expenditure	(10)	806,576.06	describe from your last skinn symbols and services of the	806,576.06
Revaluation Reserve	(10)	593,423.94	n - terrangunan, anan <mark>dan sahaha etain saha saha sahaha sahahaman.</mark>	593,423.94
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Current Liabilities	Prefer scriptorium dem storic d'acquident	2,000,255.22	The contract of the contract of the party of the contract of t	1,590,972.73
Membership Prepayments	(1)	1,595.00	Control of Comment of Control of the Control of Control	4.245.00
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Hans De Zilwa - Honorary Treasurer	11000	The state of the control of the state of the state of the state of	ermann Loos - Pi	resident
August 21st 2024		(/	gust 21st 2024	

Note 1 - Membership Renewals	Receipts	The state of the state of the season of the season of the state of the state of the season of the se	to the contract of the present of the state
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2023/24 Subscriptions received in 2023/24	2,345.00	en yegendên ji waxen berri likiliyan gererininginen yegiteri e sanara (iya sara entaken beka	menten. With the continues specific contact of the first control, the specimens and continues and continues the continues of the control of t
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Prepaid subscriptions beyond 2022/23 amounts to	1,595.00		
Note 2 - Grants Awarded	Receipts	,	THE THREE IN THE STATE OF THE S
Multicultural Senior Citizens Organisational Support 2021-2024	2,000.00	To a provide the control of the cont	dy sales. Mr - en ren japogy
City Of Greater Dandenong - Sri Lankan Lunch	1,000.00	And described to the second se	and a second of the second of
Multicultural Festivals and Events Program Round One (Cultural Lunch)	2,000.00	entered the property of the territory and the te	e (1904) filipine - mende combinera serie i qual composi ingang-pambang mendekanggan sepaka serie mananda sesak
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Note 3 - BA (A) Premises	Receipts	Expense	
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Electricity	the second section was a second secon	541.63	A 1901 - 1903 Terrefille selferrement create an propriette engage engagementer
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Rates		3,262.45	and dependence of the participation of the particip
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Note 4 - BA (A) NEWSLETTER (Bulletin) & General Operations	Receipts	Expense	Tradebout to a service of the strategy before an expression of the region opposition.
Bulletin Advertisements/Donations	1,175.00	Section Section Section 2012 and 12 minimum of processing the section 2012 and 12 minimum of the section 2012 and 12 mini	ALL THE COLUMN TO SERVICE AND ADDRESS OF THE COL
Bulletin & Newsletter cost including Postage & Stationary	The second of th	715.59	
Committee Meeting Expenses		643.00	affilio and the soft of configurations had been considered as a gaven considered as a gaven of the configuration of
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elephone cost		112.50	and the special control of the second contro
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ote 5 - SOCIAL ACTIVITIES	Receipts	Expense	Gain/(Loss)
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ligh Tea	2,074.00	2,028.75	45.25
lopper Lunch	2,897.00	2,515.53	381.47
ultural Lunch		2,293.20	(2,293.20
hristmas Lunch (3,325.00	3,986.14	(661.14
ustralia day Lunch	3,249.75	3,355.04	(105.29)
ri Lankan Lunch	2,288.10	2,898.47	(610.37)
urry Lunch	2,296.20	2,543.32	(247.12)
	19,695.05	23,266.65	-3,571.60
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ound One, plus a Grant of \$1000 from the City of Greater DandenongT	haaa waxaata aya ah	own under Note 2	-

Note 6 - OPERATIONAL CAPITAL COSTS	and the same of the same and th	Expense	
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Association payment	Receipts	Expense	
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Note 8 - Donations	Receipts	Expense	ent - Not make the house different point of original services in approximate involved the instrugibles.
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STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS I	FOR YEAR ENDED 30		
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The 2023-2024 Annual Report of the Burgher Association(BAA)

It is with great pleasure that I present the 45th 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 (1st July 2023 to 30th June 2024), 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 fourteen 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 http://www.burgherassocn.org.au.

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

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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 2024/2025 period as yet, to do so prior to 31st December 2024. At the 30th June 2024, the Association has 282 Members, which saw a small increase from the previous period (262). 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 10 times (excluding the 2023 AGM) on a monthly basis excluding the month of January 2024 and again in February 2024 due to extended power outage in the area. The average attendance over this period was 9.4 persons out of average of 12.1 persons per meeting, which was an increase on the previous period by 2percent. We still were not in a position to fill all fifteen (15) positions for all five (5) 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.

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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; Mr Cholmondley Willenberg, Mrs Doris Thurgood, Mr Fred Clarke, Mrs Doris Abel, Mr Gorden Cooray, Mrs April Thambimuttu, Mr Sumit Siritunga, Mrs Linda Dole, Mr Doyne and Mrs Marlene Caspersz, Rev John Blaze & 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 2024 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.

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The Function/Event during this time was:

	Function	Date	Venue
•	Winter Warmers Lunch		BAA Centre
•	High Tea	17 th September 2023	BAA Centre
	Hopper Lunch	15 th October 2023	BAA Centre
•	Cultural Lunch	29 th October 2023	BAA Centre
	Christmas Lunch	26 th November 2023	BAA Centre
•	Australia Day Lunch	26 th January 2024	BAA Centre
0	Sri Lankan Lunch	17 th March 2024	BAA Centre
•	Curry Lunch	19 th May 2024	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 2023/24 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 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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ONLY IF COMPLETING A NOMINATION NOMINATION FORM

For positions on the Committee of Management 2024/2025 , being an undersigned Eligible financial member as per the rules/constitution of the **Burgher Association (Australia)** Hereby nominate..... To the position of Nominator: Seconder: One person cannot be nominated for more than the one spot TO BE COMPLETED ONLY AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AFTER THE FINAL COUNT IS DONE 1, being an eligible financial member of the Burgher Association (Australia) Inc. Hereby accept nomination for the post stated below and agree to serve in that capacity if elected. For the post of Mr/Mrs/ Ms.

This completed form or a replica thereof should be delivered to reach The Burgher Association (Australia) Inc at its postal address at P.O.Box 75, Clarinda Vic. 3169, no later than by close of business (5pm) on Wednesday 9th October 2024



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-morie. 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 are available on our website http://burgherassoon.org.au/baa-centre/

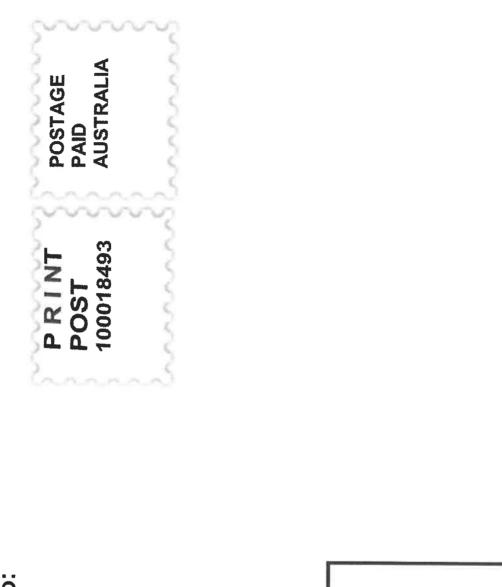
How to make a booking: Call The BAA Centre on 0423 844 101 to enquire whether the date, you wish to hire the hall for is available. If you are a member of the BAA, the price of hiring the Centre costs \$350 per day. Non-members \$400 per day. Minimum booking is 5 hours (\$300). Hours of operation Friday/Saturday 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 ace 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.











If undelivered please return to:

The Editor

33B Campbell Street,

BENTLEIGH VIC 3204

To:

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