



## Minutes of the 2017 SYN Annual General Meeting

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**Wednesday 25 October, 2017 6.00pm – RMIT Building 8, Level 4, Room 13**

**Attendees:** Sally Whyte (President, Current member), Rachael Ward (Vice-President, Current Member), Tess Lawley (General Manager, non-voting), Campbell McNolty (Education & Training Manager, non-voting), Anita Michalski (Schools On Air Producer, non-voting), Lindsey Green (Content Development Coordinator, non-voting), Fiona Wright (Access Coordinator, non-voting), Jessica Lukjanow (National Project Coordinator, non-voting), Evrim Sen (Operations Manager, non-voting), Carlin Plumb (Current Member), Maria Dunne (Current Member), Josh Fithall (Current Member), Samara Barr (Current Member), Merryn McDonall (Current Member), Matthew Ward (Treasurer, Current Member), Rebecca Fary (Current Member), Paul Waxman (Current Member), Maria Dunne (Current Member), Josh Fithall (Current Member), Jessica Alice (Observer), Sam Manehert (Observer), Bridget Bourke (Observer), Sami Taylor (Observer), Jurgen Schaub (Current Member), Caleb Triscari (Observer), Gillian Langford (Observer), Shive Prema (Observer), Rachael Dexter (Current Member), Claudia Long (Current Member), Emma Buckley-Lennox (Current Member), Shantanou Joshi (Observer), Katie Doherty (Current Member), Natasha Grives (Current Member), Julia Kanapathippilla (Current Member), Sammie Beniac Brooks (Observer), Stefan Bradley (Current Member), Luke Michael (Current Member), Nikhik Kumara (Observer), Martin Dittman (Observer).

**Proxies:** None

**Apologies:** Hilary Dixon (current member)

**Meeting Open:** 7.00pm

### 1. Welcome and attendance, Acknowledgement of Country

### 2. Minutes of the 2016 SYN AGM

The minutes of the 2016 AGM presented to members.

**Motion:** *That the minutes of the SYN AGM held on 26/10/2016 be confirmed by members as a correct and final record of that meeting.*

**Forwarded:** Rachael Dexter

**Seconded:** Jurgen Schaub

**Carried**

### 3. Presentation of Annual Report by President

Sally Whyte (President): SYN's start to 2017 was very ambitious, and we've started ahead of schedule. We are confident that we're well on track to get our objectives for the current SYN

Strat Plan completed.

SYN has come to an agreement with RMIT regarding the SYN Spaces move, to find an accessible place for volunteers, and we're due to move next year, 2018. Our partnerships are strong, and we've had a lot of social impact on volunteers all over Australia via the SYN Nation project.

275 young people went through online and knowledge training via the SYN Nation project. Close to 5000 young people came through last year, across SYN. We're currently shortlisted for 3 CBAA Awards.

#### **4. Presentation of Financial Reports by Treasurer**

Matthew Ward (Treasurer):

The main financial impact for SYN was finding a new space. Due to this project, the Board accepted the operational staff's efforts would be refocused more on this aim. The Board also passed the allocation of some of SYN's own funds, into the large financial requirements of the project.

Considering the time dedicated to finding a new space, there may have been the consequence of losing some self-generated income. But SYN's maintained its budget well – and found a new space too.

In 2016, we had a surplus. In 2017, we made a deficit, meaning SYN spent more than we generated, which is an expected result. SYN is looking at only a \$24,000 deficit.

SYN's big investment was in the people we had, we've upskilled and brought in more staff. There was a \$110,000 increase in the salary line – due to an overall expansion and an increase in pay. Over 2016, we developed a surplus of cash, and have only currently spent half of it in 2017.

Considering that we have a new space going forward has made Ward proud of the board, and of the staff. It is noted that SYN is very controlled from a cost perspective.

**Forwarded:** Emma Buckley Lennox

**Secunder:** Claudia Long

**Carried**

#### **5. Items for members' consideration**

##### **5a) Acceptance of the 2016 audited financial reports**

**Motion:** *That SYN membership accept the 2015/2016 audited financial accounts as final.*

**Forwarded:** Rachel Dexter

**Secunder:** Rachel Ward

**Carried**

##### **5b) Appointment of Independent Accountants**

**Motion:** *That the SYN membership appoint Mark Lang on behalf of Navigator Accounting and Tax, 1668 Centre Rd, Springvale as auditors for SYN for the 2017/2018 financial year.*

**Forwarded:** Jurgen Schaub

**Seconded:** Rachael Dexter

**Carried**

### **5c) Appointment of Returning Officer**

**Motion:** *That the SYN membership appoint Claudia Long as the Returning Officer for the 2017 Annual General Meeting.*

**Forwarded:** Rachael Dexter

**Seconded:** Rachael Ward

**Carried**

### **6. General business**

There are no elections this year, as there was no contesting of the spaces on the board.

### **7. Election of President and ordinary members of the board**

The precedent for an RMIT student to have a position on the board is currently vacant, as no current RMIT students put themselves forward for a board position. The board will seek to fill this position as soon as possible.

Claudia Long, (Returning Officer), declared those who had submitted applications as elected due to there being no competition for any places being stepped down from.

Merryn McDonnell – **Elected President**

#### **Ordinary Members**

Joe Dreyfus – Ordinary Member

Carlin Plumb – Ordinary Member

Nikhik Kumara – Ordinary Member

Shantanou Joshi – Ordinary Member

Merryn gave a speech as SYN's new president – she plans to work closely with everyone, to continue making SYN the amazing media organisation that she sees it to be.

Speeches were made by each member of the board, in regards to their new positions.

Each are keen to help transition SYN to a new, strong relationship with RMIT.

Exiting members of the board were thanked, including:

- Matthew Ward

- Rachael Ward

- Emma Buckley Lennox

- Sally Whyte

**8. Meeting closed: 7.24pm**