

Notice of the 25th Annual General Meeting of the Maple Street Co-operative Society Ltd Tuesday 26 October 2004

We encourage all members to attend and give some feedback on matters affecting your Co-op.

Notice of AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Maple Street Co-operative Society Ltd will be held at the UpFront Club on Tuesday 26 October 2004 from 6.30 pm. Refreshments will be provided, and we ask that members confirm their attendance in advance for catering purposes. We encourage all members to attend and give some feedback on matters affecting your Co-op.

Nominations for Directors

If you would like to be a Director of the Co-op, please lodge your nomination form with the Secretary by Thursday 14 October 2004. Forms are available from the Secretary (tel 5494 4634).

Notice to Members

Copies of the Auditor's Report are available to members at the Co-op's office.

Proxies

If a member is unable to attend the AGM and would like their vote to count, they can fill out a proxy form (available from the Secretary).

Appointment of Directors

Maple Street Co-op currently has eight Directors: seven as nominated at the previous AGM and Trudi McCaul, who has been a casual Director since

February 2004 and is now subject to confirmation at this AGM.

The Rules require two Directors to retire each subsequent year. Where we have more than two who have served for the previous two years, we are required to draw by lot two Directors. The four Directors who were subject to this process prior to the 2004 AGM were Kamala Alister, Suzanne Davidson, Heather Stephens and Al Tudorin. Heather Stephens and Al Tudorin are required under the Rules of Maple Street Co-op to stand for re-election at the 2004 AGM.

Directors' Attendances at Meetings

During the year, the Maple Street Co-operative Society Limited held 11 General Board Meetings. Directors' attendances were as follows:

Kamala Alister	8
Sidonie Bouchet	10
Suzanne Davidson	7
Leigh Findlay	7
Marc Kalifa	9
Trudi McCaul	4
Heather Stephens	7
Al Tudorin	7

Mary Meadows, Co-op Secretary

The Rules require two Directors to retire each subsequent year.

Marc Kalifa will give you an overview of where we are at in regard to renovations.

Agenda for Maple Street Co-op's 25th AGM

Facilitator: Sidonie Bouchet

- Welcome and Acceptance of Apologies
- Confirmation of Minutes of the Year 2003 AGM
- Directors' Report for the Financial Year 2003-2004
 - Manager's Report
 - Financial Report
- Appointment of Auditor
- Appreciations
- Appointment and Election of Directors
- Redevelopment Report, presented by Marc Kalifa
- Meeting Close (snacks provided)

Directors' Report for Maple Street Co-operative Society Ltd for the Year 2003–2004

Mission Statement

Our mission is to provide our community with healthy, ethical and progressive choices for personal and planetary wellbeing through the practice and promotion of cooperative principles.

Operational Results

On the financial side, Manager Alan Harrington ensured that the Co-op is now operating at a profit. All creditors are being paid when their invoices fall due, although an initiative to pay some large creditors within seven days has resulted in a substantial net gain for Maple Street Co-op.

For the year ended 30 June 2004, turnover was \$919,181, up \$186,713 on the previous year, with a net profit of \$60,858, a mammoth 229% (\$42,354) increase on the previous year.

The Board would like to thank and congratulate the financially savvy Alan Harrington for his foresight and hard work.

Renovations at the Co-op

At a strategic planning meeting held last year it was decided that the Co-op's main priority was to implement physical spatial changes. Consequently, the 2003–2004 year saw the Staff and Board of Directors actively working on shop renovation plans. The shop will be expanded, cooling systems and fridges will be installed and a juice bar will be included.

Directors Marc Kalifa and Heather Stephens were nominated as joint project managers. At the Maple Street Co-op's Annual General Meeting, Marc Kalifa will give you an overview of where we are at in regard to renovations.

Developing the back block behind the Co-op was also discussed at length this financial year. But after much consideration and a lack of response from members, it was decided that this development be put on hold until shop renovations have been completed.

During the year the Co-op installed whirlybirds and skylights, and a white ant inspection was also carried out.

Communication Initiatives

Improving communication flow within the Co-op was another issue reviewed. Several Directors attended the monthly staff meetings, and Director Sidonie

Bouchet is now the liaison between the Board of Directors and Staff. The Board also looked at the viability of a social audit, but decided not to proceed at this stage.

Maple Street Co-operative members are encouraged to express any comments or concerns to the Board of Directors at any time.

Other Co-op Developments

This year saw the exit of long-term auditor Deryck Paktsun, who has been replaced by David Bromet. David Bromet is proving to be very thorough.

Trudi McCaul joined the Board of Directors in February. The Co-op's internal policy on selecting Directors was then reviewed. It was decided that potential Directors need to present themselves to the Board, detailing their reasons for wanting to become a Director. The suitability, motivation, co-operative nature, commitment and time availability of applicants must be considered by the Board of Directors.

The development of a website designed by Jonathan Adkins and registered as <http://www.maplestreetco-op.com.au> also occurred this year. This is in the process of being further refined.

The Board of Directors agreed to pledge \$3,000 towards the purchase of the Obi Obi Cornerstone/Woolworths site as a Maleny People's Park.

Educational talks commenced in the month of June with permaculturist Morag Gamble sharing some of her discoveries.

Our newsletter distribution is now 2,500 copies per issue, and we're receiving very positive feedback. Congratulations to editor Ruth Parnell and all those who volunteer as newsletter contributors.

Votes of Thanks

A big thank you, once again, to Alan Harrington for all his work. Thank you to the great Staff team at the Co-op. These friendly faces go beyond what is required of their job description. They so obviously love the Co-op and the Co-op loves them. Also, a big thank you to the person behind the scenes, Secretary Mary Meadows, who reliably and consistently deals with all secretarial matters involved in running Maple Street Co-op.

Sidonie Bouchet, on behalf of the
Board of Directors of the Maple Street Co-op

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Manager's Report – Operations for the Year Ending 30 June 2004

In financial terms the 2003–2004 year was a record for the Co-op, as detailed in the Directors' Report. The rise in turnover and net profit will go a long way to ensuring that our redevelopment and extensions can be financed. As soon as we cost the extensions, we can look at providing some additional benefits to members. More on this later!

The year has been one of significant expansion of product lines sold by the Co-op. We have also been involved in a range of community activities, including trying to save the Obi Obi Creek site in Maleny from a proposed supermarket development and promoting our Healthy Living educational talks (thanks to Secretary Mary Meadows for the latter).

Our newsletter circulation keeps on peaking, now at 2,500 with over 100 copies being sent directly to subscribers and special groups. Thanks go to Ruth Parnell for her dedication in continuing to edit and desktop-publish the newsletter every two months.

My thanks also go to Staff members Rod Castle, Lori Sturtz, Sue Verstraten, Cheryl Reed, Yacoba Verstraten and Pamela Harrison as well as packers Scarlet Swain and Freya Olsen for a magnificent effort during the year. Last but not least, a big thank-you to the Directors for their input and support. I look forward to another prosperous and rewarding year for Maple Street Co-op.

Alan Harrington, Co-op Manager

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