

Notice of the 27th Annual General Meeting of Maple Street Co-operative Society Ltd Tuesday 28 November 2006

Notice of AGM: The Annual General Meeting of Maple Street Co-operative Society Limited for the financial year 2005–2006 will be held at The UpFront Club (31 Maple Street, Maleny) on Tuesday 28 November 2006 from 6.30 pm. Refreshments will be provided, and we ask that members confirm their attendance in advance for catering purposes.

Special Resolution: There will be a Special General Meeting after the AGM to put a Special Resolution to members. This is to alter a rule allowing directors to borrow up to \$2 million on behalf of Maple Street Co-operative. The current amount the Directors are authorised to borrow is \$300,000. Members please note that these rules were set up under the Co-operatives Act 1997 Qld, and that the amount that \$300,000 could buy at that time would not gain the same commodity value at today's rates.

It is proposed that the Rules of Maple Street Co-operative be amended as follows: Section 44 (4a) (V) – Amend to read:

“...purpose to change or encumber all or any of the property of the Co-operative to the limit of \$2,000,000 (\$2 million) for the time being.”

Notice to Members: Copies of the Auditor's Report are available to members at Maple Street Co-op's office.

Proxies: Any member who is unable to attend the AGM, but would like their vote recorded, can complete a proxy form nominating another member to vote on their behalf (forms are available from the Secretary; phone 5494 4634).

Nominations for Directors: If you'd like to be a Director of your Co-op, please lodge your nomination form with the Secretary by Friday 24 November (forms are available at the Co-op). You will

need a member to nominate you and a member to second that nomination. All Board members are expected to have and use an email address and to come to meetings prepared, having read and absorbed circulated material. The purpose of the Board is to oversee the setting of policy, to be involved in strategic planning and to represent the entire membership.

Appointment of Directors: We currently have six Directors. Two will be retiring and standing for re-election at the AGM: Kamala Alister and Douglas Gillies.

Directors' Attendances at Meetings: During the financial year 2005–2006, Maple Street Co-operative Society Ltd held 12 General Board Meetings, one Special Meeting and one Weekend Retreat. Directors' attendances are as follows:

	Board	Special	Retreat
Kamala Alister	12	1	1
Sidonie Bouchet (resigned Aug 05)	1	–	n/a
Mike Eales (app. Dec 05, res. Apr 06)	5	1	1
Leigh Findlay	9	1	1
Douglas Gillies	12	1	1
Dawn Goddard (resigned Sep 06)	11	1	1
Marc Kalifa	10	1	1
Pauline Rigby (elected Nov 05 AGM)	7	1	1
Heather Stephens (resigned Jul 05)	n/a	n/a	n/a
Al Tudorin (resigned Mar 06)	6	–	–
Tony Woodhouse (elec. Nov 05 AGM)	6	1	1

Mary Meadows, Secretary to the Board of Directors

Agenda for Maple Street Co-op's 27th AGM

Tuesday 28 November 2006

Facilitator: Leigh Findlay

- Welcome and Apologies
- Confirmation of Minutes of the Year 2004–2005 AGM
 - Directors' Report for the Financial Year 2005–2006
 - General Manager's Report
- Auditor's Report and Financial Statements
 - Appointment of Auditor
 - Appreciations
- Appointment and Election of Directors
 - General Business
 - Special General Meeting: Resolution to Alter Section 44 (4a) (V)
 - Meeting Close (snacks provided)

General Manager's Report

Operations for the Year Ended 30 June 2006

The financial year 2005–2006 proved to be yet another year full of surprises. It started off with the usual planning, and the Co-op expected to have another successful year with the “big project” being the renovations. And this is how it panned out for the Co-op, with a record year (and the Council finally approving our plans; more on this at the AGM).

Then, in October 2005, the Co-op got wind of some problems that The UpFront Club was having and, in the spirit of co-operatives helping out other co-ops, we finished up including The UpFront Club's operations in Maple Street Co-op's. Fortunately, this was with the blessing of the vast majority of members at the various meetings held to endorse the process. Well, it's been quite a challenge, to say the least. Obviously there had to be changes, and not all of these went as smoothly as I would have liked. Isn't hindsight a wonderful thing? Anyway, after a significant investment in terms of capital, staff and members, we now have a very viable Club that is having a much wider appeal to many more members. Although the financials for the Club look like a disaster area (and this was expected, given the accumulated losses and the six-week closure due to the renovations), operations have significantly turned around and I, for one, am very positive about the future.

None of this could have happened without a great deal of help from others. I would like to thank Co-op staff, who have been terrific in filling in for my absences on “Club” business, and the Club's staff, past and present, particularly Operations Manager Kelly Robson for her foresight, vision and determination in achieving such a wonderful outcome; it is a pleasure to work with her. I also thank the Board of Directors for their support through very trying and stressful times, and for their courage and commitment to ensuring a viable future for the co-operative movement in Maleny. Lastly, I thank the members who have been so wholeheartedly supportive of what the Maple Street Co-operative has been doing.

I look forward to another interesting and challenging year!

Alan Harrington, General Manager, Maple Street Co-operative

Directors' Report for Maple Street Co-operative Society Ltd for the Year 2005–2006



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 co-operative principles.

Operational Result

Maple Street Co-operative has sustained another excellent year with a record turnover and a healthy profit of \$63,669.07 before tax.

State of Affairs

The audited accounts are available for inspection at the Maple Street Co-op office, and copies will be available for perusal at the 28 November AGM.

The most important change to the Co-operative is the acquisition of The UpFront Club by Maple Street Co-operative. This merger occurred with the overwhelming support of members of both co-operatives and is proving to be a positive move for the Co-op and the wider community. Our special thanks to Co-op Manager Alan Harrington for his business acumen and enthusiasm in helping to move this important community asset to a more sustainable financial position. At the Board's September meeting, Alan was appointed General Manager of Maple Street Co-op, overseeing the shop and the Club.

Maple Street Co-op has invested over \$100,000 in capital improvements at The UpFront Club. The improvements were carried out over six weeks in May–June with tremendous Club volunteer and community support. Our particular thanks to Operations Manager Kelly Robson for her skill and attention to detail, and to the many helpers who have contributed to bringing the standards of the Club to new heights.

The Co-operative has taken on a line of credit of \$300,000 from the Maleny Credit Union to fund extensions to the shop premises and the renovations of the Club. Nearly half of this has now been spent, including around \$50,000 lent to the Club.

It's been pleasing to be able to welcome a record number of new members who have joined steadily through the year at the rate of nearly 20 new members each month. With the addition of Club members to our books, we now have in excess of 800 fully paid-up members.

Events Subsequent to Balance Date

There has been no significant alteration to the State of Affairs of Maple Street Co-operative since the end of the financial year.

However, action is in course to transfer the Liquor Licence, and at that time the Transfer of Engagement will be complete. This is expected to take place before the end of the 2006–2007 financial year.

Review of Operations

• **Board Matters:** This last year saw several changes on the Board of Directors. Heather Stephens resigned at the July 2005 meeting, Pauline Rigby and Tony Woodhouse were elected at the last AGM, and Mike Eales was appointed at the December Board meeting. Since that time, we've also received the resignations of Mike Eales, Dawn Goddard and Al Tudorin.

Al served on the Board with great dedication for

many years, and we especially appreciate the expertise and commitment he brought to the redevelopment project. We wish him well in his move to Melbourne.

The Board continues to hone its commitment to operating in line with the Carver Model of Policy Governance. A Directors' Retreat over the weekend of 18–19 March included additional training as well as short-, medium- and long-term planning based on the model. We thank Dawn Goddard particularly for her work on the Co-op's Policy Governance model.

• **Expansion of Premises:** As a result of much hard work and careful planning, we are looking forward to carrying out major extensions to the shop premises in the new year. While we'd have liked to have begun these extensions during 2006, there have been delays due largely to negotiations with Council. These have now been completed, with Council giving final approval in November 2006. We look forward to a definite expansion in product lines when the new space is completed.

The extensions will add an extra 169 square metres of space plus a 38-square-metre deck, which will double the size of the existing building. The expansion includes provision of 11 parking bays at the rear of the shop.

• **Newsletter:** Under the editorship of talented member Ruth Parnell, *Maple Street Co-op News* continues to flourish. Distribution has grown to 2,800 copies per issue through the Shop and Club, via mail to subscribers and around the community. Special thanks to Ruth and all the regular contributors.

• **Website:** The Co-op's website content has grown considerably in the past year due to the hard work of Ruth Parnell as well as webmaster Jonathan Adkins. The site contains huge amounts of useful information about the Co-op and how to start a co-operative, as well as loads of articles from the newsletter plus the two most recent editions downloadable as PDF files, and much more. The website is receiving a consistent and impressive 900 visits each month!

• **Shop and Club Surveys:** During October and into early November, the Board carried out surveys of members and customers of both the Co-op shop and The UpFront Club. The surveys included a wide range of questions on products and services, and preliminary results will be made available at the AGM and reported in the next newsletter.

Concluding Remarks

We offer a warm welcome to the staff and members of The UpFront Club who've joined us this year.

As always, we wish to offer heartfelt thanks to the many people who continue to make the Co-op a vital and dynamic part of our community: once again Alan Harrington; Board Secretary Mary Meadows; the Co-op's dedicated staff and packers; The UpFront Club's hardworking staff including, again, Kelly Robson as well as chef Sonia Allen; and all of our members especially.

I wish everyone a rewarding and joyful year ahead!

Kamala Alister, on behalf of the
Board of Directors of Maple Street Co-operative

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