



# Brukunga Community Association Inc. 2025 Annual General Meeting Minutes of Meeting

6.30pm Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> September 2025,  
Brukunga Hall

<b>Present:</b> Dianna Weber, Heidi Sowerby, Kelly Northey, Mike Palmer, Steven Wright, Suzanne Bowman, Pearl Schutz, Wayne Bowman, Joy Watkins, Heather Sowerby, Ken Sowerby, Andrew Goodman, Derek Charlton, Neil Coon, Kerry Northey, Nathan Watts, Nathan Foreman, Trevor Goodwin, Phil Franklin, Evette Franklin, Katrina Warner and Julie Wayne.
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<b>Apologies:</b> Mayor Leach, Councillor Jessica Szilassy, Matt Henderson, Sandy Liddel, Adam Yeager and Stella Jacobs.
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<b>Guests:</b> Jenny Wayne and Buddy Northey.
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(Quorum checked)

## 1. **Welcome & Acknowledgment of Country**

AGM opened by Heidi Sowerby @ 6:30pm

Acknowledgement of Country by Heidi Sowerby:

The Brukunga Community Association would like to acknowledge the importance that Brukunga holds for many First Peoples of Australia.

In the Tjilbruki Dreaming, when Tjilbruki was overcome with sadness and decided he no longer wished to live as a man, his spirit became a bird, the Tjilbruki (a glossy ibis), and his body became a martowalan (memorial) in the form of an outcrop of iron pyrites at Barrukungga – the place of hidden fire (Brukunga).

We pay our respects to Aboriginal Elders and acknowledge the cultural authority of any Aboriginal people present.

**Nathan Watts introduced as Chair the AGM.**

## 2. **Confirmation of Previous Minutes**

*Move that the Minutes from the AGM on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2024 be accepted as a true and accurate record.*

**Moved:** Mike Palmer    **Seconded:** Wayne Bowman    **Carried:** Unanimously

3. **Chairperson's Report (Heidi Sowerby) – attached**

*Move that the Chair's report be accepted as a true and accurate record.*

**Moved:** Heather Sowerby    **Seconded:** Andrew Goodman    **Carried:** Unanimously

4. **Treasurer's Report (Kelly Northey) – attached**

*Move that the Treasurer's report, financial records and auditor's report be accepted as true and accurate records.*

**Moved:** Wayne Bowman    **Seconded:** Trevor Goodwin    **Carried:** Unanimously

5. **Appointment of Auditor**

*Move for Andrew Frohling to be appointed as the auditor for the Brukungu Community Association Inc. for the 2025/2026 FYR.*

**Moved:** Katrina Warner    **Seconded:** Joy Watkins    **Carried:** Unanimously

6. **Secretary/Public Officer's Report (Dianna Weber) – attached**

*Move that the Secretary's report be accepted as a true and accurate record.*

**Moved:** Pearl Schutz    **Seconded:** Ken Sowerby    **Carried:** Unanimously

**Noted:** Nathan confirmed Dianna was not nominating for the committee this year. He thanked Dianna for her service as Secretary and for her contribution to the Brukungu Community Association Inc.

7. **Elections**

Nathan declared all nine committee positions vacant.

Ten nominations received from eligible financial members.

1. Michael Palmer
2. Suzanne Bowman
3. Kelly Northey
4. Pearl Schutz
5. Heidi Sowerby
6. Katrina Warner
7. Adam Yeager
8. Wayne Bowman
9. Joy Watkins
10. Andrew Goodman

Ballot arranged by Nathan and all financial members present voted.

Ballots collected and counted by Nathan, and Jenny Wayne (sister of Julie Wayne, visiting from Germany).

The following nominees were elected by ballot to the 2025/2026 committee:

1. Michael Palmer
2. Suzanne Bowman
3. Kelly Northey
4. Pearl Schutz
5. Heidi Sowerby
6. Katrina Warner
7. Adam Yeager
8. Andrew Goodman
9. Joy Watkins

The incoming Committee members were warmly welcomed by members and guests. Nathan thanked all those who had nominated with well wishes expressed for the incoming committee.

**8. Committee Positions**

The Committee will decide the Office Bearers and other positions at its first meeting, to be held following the AGM at 7.30pm.

9. Heidi thanked Nathan for offering his services and Chairing the meeting.  
Meeting declared closed @ 7:14pm.



## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT 2025**

It's my pleasure to present the Chairperson's Report for the past year for 24/25. What a busy and successful year it has been for the Brukunga Community Association Inc.

Our Community Garden is looking absolutely fantastic, thanks to our wonderful volunteers. This year we also unveiled a plaque dedicated to Lee Ritchie, a previous MBDC Community Resilience Officer, for her hard work and contribution to our Association.

**We've been active across the district too** – helping the Nairne Residents Association with their Christmas Carols, lending a hand at the Strathalbyn Rodeo, and representing Brukunga at the Nairne Anzac Day Memorial.

**We've hosted and supported many community events:** from our Stobie Pole and History Wall unveiling and the Mental Health Month BBQ with parliamentarians and councillors attending, to the Christmas Light Competition, which was bigger than ever and drew many visitors into town. We had History Week with Devonshire Tea, another successful Winter Warmer, and even a Federal Election bake sale, where we stepped in to help the CFS by running their BBQ while they were out fighting a fire. That's true community spirit.

**We also worked on our Watts Reserve clean-up**, and the project is now moving forward with approvals in place.

**This year has been another strong one for grant successes.** We've acquitted grants for hall improvements, workshops, our Stobie Pole art, the Beyond the Paddock BBQ, and new emergency kits with UHF radios. We secured \$20,000 from FRRR for the Fire Wise Garden project, sculptures, entrance signage, pathways, and support for Watts Reserve. We also received help from the Mary MacKillop Foundation, the Council Environmental Grants for the CFS Fire-Wise project, and most recently \$3,100 from the Dept of Social Services to cover public liability, insurance, website, and running costs – a big relief for us and to not do too as much fundraising in the future.

**On the awards front**, I'm proud to share that our very own Secretary, Dianna, was awarded Active Citizen of the Year by Mount Barker District Council – a truly well-deserved honour. The BCA itself was joint winner of Event of the Year for our 70 Years of Brukunga celebrations and mural and Stobie pole unveiling. And earlier this year, the BCA was nominated at the South Australian Volunteer Awards. Out of 30 organisations, we were 1 of only 4 finalists for the Andamooka Award, with Dianna, Stella and myself attending the ceremony. This was an incredible recognition of the hard work and commitment of our entire association.

**Looking ahead**, we're excited that in January 2026 the Epic Community Riders (around 2,000 riders) and the Men's Tour Down Under will pass through Brukunga, putting our town on show nationally and internationally. We are really wanting to decorate our town - watch this space for more details or contact us if you would like to get involved.

**Finally**, I want to thank our dedicated committee and members. To Di, Secretary, and Kelly, Treasurer, your efforts have been extraordinary. I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to our

hard-working committee (Vice Chair Katrina, and committee members Adam, Joy, Pearl, Mike, Sue and Dione), also our other volunteers that always assist us when needed Stella, Wayne, Derek and Neil to name a few (there are so many to name), and to our community members for their ongoing support and dedication. Together, we continue to make meaningful progress for our town. And to every volunteer and supporter who has helped along the way – thank you. We've achieved so much together, and the future of Brukunga is looking very bright.

**Heidi Sowerby**  
**Chair - Brukunga Community Association Inc.**



## **TREASURER'S REPORT 2025**

The BCA enters this new financial year in a much stronger position than we were just two years ago. Thanks to the tireless efforts of our fundraising team and the ongoing support of our community, we are no longer just “getting by” but are now in a very stable and sustainable financial position.

A huge & heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who has contributed—whether you’ve helped at BBQs or bake sales, purchased Brukunga merch, joined in at one of our events or provided generous gifts towards BCA activities.

Every effort, big or small, has brought us to the point where we now hold sufficient funds to comfortably cover our ongoing operational costs for several years ahead.

This provides us with the security we need to focus on building and improving our town, rather than worrying about day-to-day survival.

### **Grants and Projects:**

This past year has also been remarkable for the number of grants successfully completed and new ones secured.

Not only have we obtained fresh funding for exciting upcoming projects such as the joint CFS/BCA Firewise Garden and the Watts Reserve Project, but we have also finalised a host of grants that have already delivered real and visible improvements across Brukunga.

### **Highlights include:**

- Brukunga Hall improvements – lighting upgrades, a much-needed painting refresh, furniture & equipment upgrades and the installation of the Walls That Talk historical mural inside the hall.
- Community safety – purchase of a disaster-ready kit for the hall to support our town in future emergencies.
- Public art and placemaking – completion of the Stobie Pole Art Project.
- Community connection – grants that supported smaller but meaningful gatherings, such as the Beyond the Paddock BBQ and the Indigenous Plant Workshop.

These projects are not just “on paper”—they can be seen and enjoyed around our town every day and stand as evidence of what we can achieve together.

### **Online Store:**

Our online store continues to be a steady contributor throughout the year and has also continued to help us receive membership & other payments electronically.

This past year we expanded the online store merch range to include the new *Brukungu Where the Hell's That?* muscle tee as well as both winter and summer hat options.

The merch remains a fun and effective way to both fundraise and spread Brukungu's name far and wide as we've continued to receive a steady stream of photos from all over the world where our merch has travelled to.

Much as we wanted to see one of our Brukungu tees make it to space, the closest we've been able to get to that was having one spotted recently at Space Camp in the US!

### **Looking Forward:**

Unlike previous years, we now have the peace of mind that our essential costs are covered well into the near future. This gives us the freedom to shift our focus onto delivering the many town improvement projects that are already funded and ready to go.

With continued community involvement and wise management of both grants and fundraising, we are well-placed to keep building momentum and shaping Brukungu into a safer, stronger, and more connected place to live.

None of this would be possible without the support of our members, volunteers, and friends of Brukungu. Whether you've given your time, your skills, or your dollars—we thank YOU!

With this, I move that this Treasurer's Report, including the audited statements, be accepted, and that we again nominate Andrew Frohling as the Independent Auditor for the current financial year.

**Kelly Northey**

**Treasurer – Brukungu Community Association Inc.**

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT**  
**TO THE MEMBERS OF THE**  
**BRUKUNGA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

**SCOPE OF THE AUDIT**

I have audited the financial records of the Brukung Community Association Incorporated for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025. The officers of the Association are responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial records and all the information they contain. I have conducted an independent audit of the financial records to express an opinion on them to the members of the Association.

The financial records have been prepared for distribution to the members. I disclaim any assumption of the responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial records prepared as a special purpose financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

My audit has been conducted according to Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial records are free of material misstatement. My audit procedures include examination on a test basis of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial records together with an evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates.

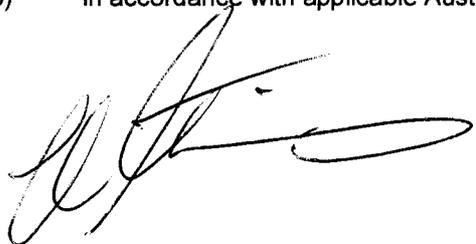
These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether the financial records present fairly according to the Australian Accounting Standards relevant to a special purpose financial report and statutory requirements a view of the Association that is consistent with my understanding of its financial position and operations for the year ended 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

**AUDIT OPINION**

In my opinion the financial records of the Brukung Community Association Incorporated are properly drawn up:

- a) to present fairly the financial position of the Association as at the year ended the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025 and the results of its operations for the year then ended, and;
- b) in accordance with applicable Australian Accounting Standards.



Andrew Frohling  
28<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**BRUKUNGA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.**

**PROFIT AND LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2025**

		2025	2024
<b>INCOME</b>			
Grants		\$29,290.00	\$63,390.00
Grants - Admin Fee		\$110.00	\$287.00
Memberships		\$322.91	\$154.56
Fundraising		\$7,653.34	\$7,567.88
Online Store		\$2,969.89	\$637.93
Gifts		\$1,171.69	\$501.70
Community Garden Gifts		\$280.26	\$93.00
Watts Reserve Project Gifts		\$3,267.30	\$0.00
Watts Reserve Project Bond		\$1,250.00	\$0.00
Sundries (Tea, Coffee, etc)		\$114.15	\$0.00
Interest		\$259.44	\$400.94
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>\$46,688.98</b>	<b>\$73,033.01</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Office Admin		\$0.00	\$211.85
Accounting/Auditor		\$275.00	\$0.00
Committee Fees		\$0.00	\$62.50
Community Garden Expenses		\$455.05	\$0.00
Website/Email Hosting		\$622.03	\$554.01
PO BOX		\$61.00	\$132.00
Subscriptions (Survey Monkey)		\$0.00	\$99.00
Fundraising Costs		\$1,913.21	\$4,076.39
Online Store Costs		\$3,266.95	\$444.74
Sundries (Tea, Coffee, etc)		\$69.31	\$0.00
Grant Expenditure		\$20,973.90	\$41,672.46
Insurance		\$2,138.50	\$2,441.05
Provision For Unspent Grant Funds		\$7,190.44	\$23,015.96
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>\$36,965.39</b>	<b>\$72,709.96</b>
<b>NET SURPLUS/DEFICIT</b>		<b>\$9,723.59</b>	<b>\$323.05</b>

**BRUKUNGA COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION INC.**

**BALANCE SHEET FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2025**

		2025	2024
<b>GROUP CAPITAL</b>			
Balance at 1 July		\$4,007.63	\$3,684.58
Add: Surplus (Deficit) for the year		\$9,723.59	\$323.05
<b>Balance as at 30/6/2024</b>		<b>\$13,731.22</b>	<b>\$4,007.63</b>
This is represented by:			
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Cash at Bank		\$43,703.62	\$26,789.59
Cash on hand		\$234.00	\$234.00
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>\$43,937.62</b>	<b>\$27,023.59</b>
<b>Less: CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accruals		\$0.00	\$0.00
Accounts Payable		\$0.00	\$0.00
Unspent Grant Funds		\$30,206.40	\$23,015.96
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>		<b>\$30,206.40</b>	<b>\$23,015.96</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b>\$13,731.22</b>	<b>\$4,007.63</b>



## **SECRETARY / PUBLIC OFFICER'S REPORT 2025**

Since our first revival meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023 until now, it has been exactly two years 185 days and still counting! In addition to the Chair and Treasurer reports, the following can also be taken into account:

### **Memberships:**

The association has grown to 50 financial members this year, with continued growth expected. Our presence in the wider community is increasingly recognised, reflecting the progress we are making. In addition to the members, we also have many volunteers who help across the Community Garden, BCA events and projects. Thank you to each member, friend and volunteer for also showing your support for our community.

### **Acknowledgements:**

Madam Chair, thank you again for your steadfast leadership and for consistently keeping us focused and moving forward. Your “obsession”—alongside the Grant Subcommittee—to securing and wisely utilising grant funding has had a meaningful impact on our community, enabling us to support a wide range of important initiatives.

Madam Treasurer, your dedication and perseverance in managing our financial responsibilities have truly stood out. Your “work smarter not harder” motto is appreciated with the results recognised both near and far. Maintaining our website, the town and BCA’s Facebook pages, as well as coordinating Brukunga merchandise, has contributed to our association being the envy of other nearby associations and towns.

To the entire committee, thank you for your unwavering support in all the initiatives led by the BCA. Your teamwork across gardening, fundraising, and advocacy with the council and other departments has been outstanding. Our collective lobbying efforts over the past two and a half years have led to meaningful progress on several key issues including the Brukunga Township Stormwater Drainage Assessment completed by MBDC and identified works prioritised for inclusion in Council’s future Stormwater Asset Management Plan.

Following our telecommunications forum in November 2023, MBDC were able to work with Nbn Co. and Telstra, and approved a Digital Connectivity Plan to proceed. Unfortunately grants for mobile black spot funding have stalled at State level and this needs to be addressed prior to applying at Federal level. MBDC intends to write to the Minister for Primary Industries and Regional Development regarding the issues surrounding digital connectivity, particularly in the areas of Brukunga, Dawesley and Harrogate. Councillor Jessica Szilassy has not given up on this issue and is continuing to support the BCA for reliable telecommunications within our district.

However, since 2023, key improvements include upgrades to regional mobile towers, which have expanded their coverage area, and we have sustained direct assistance from the NBN Co. management team, ensuring issues reported via the BCA are addressed without being redirected to call centres.

### **In Conclusion:**

The BCA has proven to be an asset, representing the interests of Brukunga and strengthening ties with neighbouring towns. This was a primary goal when the association was founded, with the intention of reconnecting with long-time residents and fostering positive relationships within both the immediate and broader community and MBDC, all with the aim of revitalizing Brukunga.

However, the association's ongoing success depends on greater community participation. I encourage everyone to volunteer, regardless of the scale of their contribution. Any support, no matter how small, is deeply appreciated and will benefit Brukunga as a whole.

I would like finish by thanking the association for my time as Secretary. It has been rewarding being on the Committee and creating new friendships and acquaintances and I look forward to seeing what future initiatives evolve.

Thank you

**Dianna Weber**

**Secretary / Public Officer - Brukunga Community Association Inc.**