Knox and District Woodworkers Club
Annual General Meeting
Held at the Club on 7th October 2026

Meeting commenced: 1pm

Invitation to Attend
The OFFICIAL NOTICE, as an Invitation for the AGM on the 7th October 2026 at 1pm, was sent out by email in the September Newsletter and again in the October Newsletter on the 4th of October to all financial members. The Minutes were also emailed with the newsletter on 4th October 2026. All financial members were invited to attend the AGM and nominate for positions on Committee, via the nomination forms available online and at the Club.

Present: 40 financial members and guests attended the AGM at the Club rooms at 45 Glenfern Rd Ferntree Gully.

Apologies: None received

Minutes of the previous AGM:
Minutes of our previous AGM on the 1st October 2025, were made available for all financial members, via email by Gary Pope before this meeting. To be read at their leisure with the newsletter.
The Minutes were also made available in the Second AGM document along with the Clubs Activities to members and guests to read on the day of Knox and District Woodworkers Club AGM on the 7th October 2026.

Minutes **MOVED** Bill Orpen **SECONDED** Peter Collins

ACCEPTED
CARRIED.

President
Bill Orpen welcomed everyone to this AGM, and expressed how well the 1pm General meetings were working with more members attending. Bill thanked Lynette Hartley for putting the AGM document together, with help from Gary Pope.

Changes have been done around the Club extending the Toy Shed was great for the members and thanks for their patience. Moving Kidz Korner into the Rocking Horse stable closer to the machine shop has worked, they have had a great year with their activities. Well done to John Kors and his team. Thanks John. Sadly Todd MacDougall is moving up North and Frances Henderson will take over as Todd's replacement.

"Be In It" day was changed this year to a new format that worked well. Thanks and well done Jenny Stevens taking over Be In It and assisted by Harry Deschepper. Bill thanked Phil

Dunstan for another year as Treasurer. Bruce James has offered to assist Phil in the coming year.

We remained accident free for 11 months till Dick Webb tripped hitting his head receiving 17 stitches and is now making a full recovery. Soon after Andre Cook had chest pain and getting him self straight to hospital by calling an ambulance to get a Pacemaker.
If you get any pain call an ambulance straight away.

Reports

Treasurers Report

Phil Dunstan presented a comprehensive report in the printed AGM document, and highlighted some items.
We have had a Nett increase of $4,306 despite spending money on the extension of the Toy Shed, maintenance and new machines. We received a Grant from the Community Bendigo Bank, a big thank you to the Community Bendigo Bank. Funds were gained from excellent project work by Andre Cook and big effort by the Kidz Korner group. We raised the membership to $120 for the year with no workshop fees. We pay minimal charges to the bank for the use of cards and the Tyro machine.
Phil thanked Gary for his support with the financial report. Gary works behind the scenes and is very much appreciated. Thank you Gary.

Officiating Officer 2026-2027 roles: (Financial Opinion, Newsletter, IT): Gary Pope

Gary Pope submitted his offer again, to continue to provide an independent financial opinion for the affairs of the club in the coming year, if requested.
Gary would also be delighted to continue as Newsletter Editor and supporter of all manner of I.T. related matters.

Gary also requested it be MINUTED for clarity/transparency. That the many communications and instructions submitted virtually to Members, via the automated email/ Member Ties systems, and supplier renewals via email. Be recognised as 'Designated Representative Activities' by the 'Virtual Committee' as documented in below
https://www.knoxwoodies.org.au/virtual-team

The Committee tabled the independent financial report from Gary Pope, for the financial year ending in 2026, Gary made it available for members to view on the day.

Group Sections Reports

The Second Annual General Meeting document of reports was presented to those present, at the 2026 AGM. The document of reports, contained reports from Sections of the Club, highlighting the year's activities. Some of the authors of the reports were in attendance, had the opportunity to present their report and speak to the attending members, highlighting special events in their Sections.

This document of reports was graciously printed by Kim Wells MP office, in Scoresby.

For this we offer a very big ‘Thank You’ to Kim Wells MP and his office staff for their continuing support in the past and in the future.

My very grateful thanks as Secretary, to Gary Pope and Ros Fox from 8th Knox Scout Group for their computer knowledge and assisting me to put these reports together this year.
Lynette Hartley

Kidz Korner

John Kors presented the Kidz Korner report, highlighting Kidz Korner activities telling us about them.
Kidz Korner has been busy at Knox Festival selling 120 kits thanks to all the helpers setting up and on the day. Also the Knox Library with 12 helpers was a big day with over 74 sets sold.
There are 2 new helpers Michael and Louise on Tuesdays learning new skills, Darren and several others in the Club are helping. John is thankful for all the help he gets. There are no activities planned at the moment. John appreciates all the help he gets.

Christmas Toy Shed

Tom Noonan presented the Toy Shed report as written by James Allen.
Tom thanked the Committee for the extension of the Shed, it is a great result. We’ve got 272 toys at the moment, this amount will grow in the next months. Thanks to all the men and ladies who work in the shed, and at their homes for all their efforts. Tom told the meeting about the many activities.

Tom is especially proud of the Toy and Gift giving night in December and invited members to come along. The recipients are so grateful for the gifts they receive. The work and efforts that the Charities put into their organisations is commendable. The toys and gifts, reach people who would otherwise miss out on receiving a gift for Christmas. Tom told us his son and grandson came down from Brisbane last year and were so impressed with the display of gifts, that they have booked their tickets to attend again this year.

Projects

Andre Cook told us, he has had some easy and some complex projects with members in his team assisting him. Andre thanked all his team very much for their help and support. All the work out in the Toy Shed extension has been amazing with new heaters and machines being installed.

Andre thanked our President Bill Orpen for doing a great job as President and for his support with projects.

Maintenance

John Wood told us how sometimes his team are busy fixing and other times the machines are running well. De La Salle College donated machines to us, some were good and being commissioned for our members use, others were sold to members. One machine will make our own blades saving us money.

The big Stroke Sander will be commissioned. This will save the thicknesser having so much use. We are looking at getting a router sled.

In the next financial year a Duster Extractor motor will need to be replaced soon and bags costing around $9,000. Also $1,200 will be needed for inserts for the thicknesser and planer.

The little Thicknesser has come back from a warranty repair. New rules for it are soft wood only and only half a turn. It's not as powerful as the previous one.

Be In It

Jenny Stevens told us, out of 180 members in the Club only 20 members put their items in to be displayed or judged. It's great seeing what others in the Club are making on the days that we don't attend. We would like to see a bigger participation on the day to see what other members are making in the Club in the coming year, and thank you to those members who submitted their items this year.

Adoption of reports

Moved Bill Orpen
Seconded Andre Cook

Club Award Presentations

The Bill Gillingham Award

The late Bill Gillingham, was an extremely keen woodworker. At the start of this Club in 1988 there would be meetings at his home. He would share his skills and his work shop with members. Bill would seek out new members and give them guidance to build up their skills. Sadly Bill passed away 17th November 1990. This Memorial Award was designed in 1991 using some of Bills tools.

This ongoing Award is decided by the President, Secretary and the last recipient.

The Bill Gillingham Award for 2026 was awarded to Andre Cook.

For Andre's enthusiasm and tireless work on Club Projects the Club bestows upon Andre, the 2026 Bill Gillingham Award.

Life Membership Award

Life Membership award was held over to next months November General Meeting due to the recipient unable to attend the AGM due to illness.

Election of Office Bearers for 2026 - 2027

Nomination notices were made available to all financial members at the Club rooms and online, plus via follow up emails. Calling for members to nominate for Committee positions by the 7th October 2026.

Welcome Karin Orpen OAM JP

Our Club was fortunate again, to have Karin Orpen OAM JP presiding over the formalities of the day.

Bill Orpen invited Karin to chair the meeting, and address our Committee as the former Committee are stood down and nominations were called for, for the next 12 months.

Karin Orpen OAM JP thanked us for the invitation to attend our AGM, Karin also congratulated us on the AGM document this year as being one of the best she had seen. This document is ticking off a Legal requirement, and also being a celebration of what our Club has achieved in the last 12 months. This Club does so much in the Community that other Clubs don't do.

Committee Nominations

Karin called for all nominations, for the new Committee.

The new Committee are

Bill Orpen	President
Andre Cook	Vice President / Project Officer
Lynette Hartley	Secretary / Public Officer
Phillip Dunstan	Treasurer
John Wood	Maintenance Team/Purchasing Officer
Tony Deabe	General/Amenities
Jason Price	Maintenance team
John Thompson	Project Assistant

There being no challenges or other nominations received for Committee by the cut off date of 7th October. A complete set of uncontested nominations were received with no voting required and the new Committee appointed.

Karin Congratulated our Committee and Club as a whole for having a very productive year of activities and she loved our Second AGM report document this year. .

Well done to the outgoing Committee for a superb effort in keeping the Club both financially and safely in place during 2025-2026!

Committee nominations were agreed by a majority **ACCEPTED**

All AGREED

CARRIED

Meeting closed: 1.45pm