

Fairfax Matters Inc Minutes - Annual General Meeting

Sunday 16th August 2026

St Mark's Anglican Church Hall, Buderim

1	Meeting Opened 1:30pm: - Christine Mohr (Chairperson)
2	Present: Executive – Christine Mohr (Chairperson), Marissa Bartlett (Secretary), Hugh Butler (Acting Treasurer), together with hub leads, committee members and supporters as recorded in the meeting attendance register.
3	Apologies: 36 had tendered apologies.
4	Confirmation of Previous Minutes: Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting (held 23rd August 2025) were tabled and confirmed as a true and accurate record. Moved: Christine Mohr, Seconded: Di Batten. Motion Carried.
5	Chairperson's Report: Annual Report 2025–2026 – see attachment - o Welcomed members to the 2026 AGM and opened with an acknowledgement of the traditional custodians of the land. - o Read a statement from Francine Wiig. - o Thanked the committee for their passion, commitment and energy since Fairfax Matters' inception in 2024, noting several members are stepping down at this AGM. - o Outlined the 2025–26 committee: Christine Mohr (Chair), Marissa Bartlett (Secretary), Gina Foster (Treasurer, resigned 7/7/26, replaced by Hugh Butler), and hub leads Marilyn Keene (Nambour, resigned 21/7/26), Annie Nolan (Coolum), Linda Taylor (Buderim/Maroochydore) and Frances Chegwidden/Zirkler (Eumundi/Yandina). - o Reaffirmed the mission: encouraging informed civic participation, promoting integrity in politics, and supporting an independent, community-minded candidate for Fairfax. - o Reported the year focused on consolidating and strengthening the Hubs and community connections built in 2024–25, as the group is not currently in campaign mode. - o Noted the Strategic Planning Day held 15th November 2025 to guide the focus and activities for 2026 and beyond, with this work to continue under the incoming committee. - o Acknowledged the move of the database, website and events management to the new "CORE" platform, with particular thanks to Hugh Butler for the many hours invested in deploying it. - o Highlighted a year of hub-led community engagement: Difficult Women forums, Over-65s focus groups, café and pub catch-ups, AI discussion forums, and direct advocacy through the Stop Gambling Ads petition. - o Reflected that while the seat was not won in 2025, over 13,000 voters backed the Community Independent candidate, demonstrating strong and continuing momentum. - o Looked ahead to 2026–2028, inviting members to join the new committee and continue building toward independent community representation for Fairfax. Motion that the Chairperson's report be accepted: Moved: Christine Mohr Seconded: Marilyn Keene – Motion Carried
6	Treasurer's Report and Financial Statement: see attachment - o The Profit and Loss Statement and Balance Sheet were tabled. Donations prior to Feb 2025 had been passed over to the Francine for Fairfax campaign and balance at 30 Jun 2025 was \$2 after the election. - o Noted that the AEC donation disclosure filing is up to date and compliant with requirements.. - o The Association is now using Xero accounting software, ensuring transparent transactions.

	- o Noted balance now \$4,00 due to generous donors. Most events are self funded, and events free but attendees encouraged to pay for the hall or paid forward. - o The Association's 2025 Annual Return has been lodged with the Office of Fair Trading. Motion that the Treasurer's report be accepted: Moved: Hugh Butler Seconded: Toni Ellis Carried
7	Declare all Positions Vacant and Handover to Returning Officer: Gerald Griffin took over conduct of the meeting for the purpose of calling nominations and running the election of office bearers.
8	Election of Office Bearers/Committee Positions: - o Nominations called from the floor. None. - o Chairperson – Linda Taylor: nominated by Gwen Farrelly, seconded by Christine Mohr – Motion Carried. - o Treasurer – Hugh Butler (Acting Treasurer) nominated Greg Sheather, Seconded Linda Taylor confirmed as Treasurer. - o Secretary – no nominations were received for Secretary; Hugh Butler was appointed as joint Secretary and Treasurer.
9	Close of Formal AGM: Meeting closed 1:45pm.
10	Afternoon Tea & Networking: Following refreshments, a follow-up meeting was held to confirm sub-committee/hub lead appointments and hear guest presentations.
11	Sub-Committee / Hub Lead Appointments: Annie Nolan and Frances Zirkler were appointed onto the committee as Hub Leads. We are looking for additional hub leads and others to lead such things as policy development, fund raising, hub leads and issue champions and will announce some over the next month or so. The committee to operate more collegial than hierarchical. If members have an issue they are passionate about or meet the community needs, the committee is there to support their activities.
12	Guest Presentation: Frances Zirkler – "Elders Matters" (Over-65s in Fairfax) Frances Zirkler presented on the issues facing older residents of Fairfax under the theme "Elders Matters". She noted the Sunshine Coast has one of the highest concentrations of over-65s, aged care residents and retirement village communities in Australia – a demographic that has traditionally voted conservative, with a large proportion being single, widowed or divorced women. The presentation drew on Fairfax Matters' ongoing program of over-65 engagement, including the "Connecting with Voters over 65" working group and follow-up strategy sessions, and outlined priorities for continuing to listen to and build relationships with this significant part of the electorate. The outcome will be specific actions and policies that an independent candidate can take to the next elections..
13	Guest Presentation: Prof Max Standage – Projections for the 2028 Election Prof Max Standage presented on projections for the 2028 federal election. He noted the continuing rise of One Nation, and that while Labor secured a record 94 seats at the 2025 election, this was achieved on a record-low first-preference primary vote of just 34%. Preference flows were significant, with over 24% flowing through to Francine in the final count. Polling indicates that by 2028, One Nation is likely to draw further votes from the LNP, and that Labor together with an independent candidate will make Fairfax a genuine four-way contest. It was noted that the Community Strong initiative for a Federal Party could assist Senate representation. The number one question on the polling booths in 2025 was which senate candidate. CSA was established for NSW senate positions – if the voters who had preferenced the five Queensland lower house MPs had voted for an independent Senate spot that may have likely resulted in a senate position,
14	Close of Meeting: Linda Taylor confirmed committee meetings are open to all Fairfax Matters members. Most will be online but there will be others face to face. She welcomed discussions with various members about potentially joining the committee to progress their passion about particular issues. Need marketing and social media expertise, fund raising, and policy. Meeting closed 2:35pm.

15	Next AGM: August 2027 – date to be determined.
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Chairperson signature: ____Linda Taylor Date: 14-Aug-2026