39th Annual General Meeting

MCC Long Room Wine and Food Society Inc.

Hans Ebeling Room – MCG

Wednesday 25th November 2026

Secretary's Report

I would like to welcome everyone to the 2026 Annual General Meeting, my first as Honorary Secretary.

Having taken on the role of Secretary in November, I am delighted to present my first report to members, outlining both our recent events and the work happening behind the scenes.

Membership:

Our current membership stands at 339, with a waitlist of approximately 1,000. As the popularity of our Society continues to grow, so too has the scope of the Secretary's responsibilities. To accommodate this increase, Matthew Fraser has taken on the role of Membership Administrator and now oversees all matters relating to membership and waitlist applications. I wish to thank Matthew for his hard work and commitment in this capacity.

Events:

At the conclusions of 2026, our volunteer Committee Members will have planned and successfully delivered 15 functions, welcoming approximately 3,200 guests throughout the year. Across these events, guests will have enjoyed more than 16,000 courses of food, averaging five courses per guest, and will have sampled over 105 different wines. If each guest tasted just one glass of every wine presented, that would equate to an extraordinary 22,400 glasses of wine served across our events. These achievements reflect the dedication, expertise, and commitment of our Committee Members in creating memorable experiences for our members and guests.

Whilst our Society continues to be a place where friendships are forged and lasting bonds are formed over great food and exceptional wine, it is also important to acknowledge the many wine industry experts and talented chefs who contribute so generously to our events. Throughout the year, they have shared their knowledge, experience, and passion with our members, enriching each occasion and enhancing our appreciation of the food and wine we enjoy. Their willingness to provide insight into

their craft has been a key factor in the ongoing success, enjoyment, and educational value of our functions, and we thank them for their valued support of the Society.

A reflection of the high calibre and popularity of our events is that every luncheon this year sold out within ten business days of going on sale, with many reaching capacity in significantly less time. We continue to remind members that invitations for upcoming luncheons are distributed on the day following each function, and we encourage early bookings to avoid disappointment.

Invitations to our Christmas functions for both members and wait list members have now been distributed, and we anticipate that both events will once again sell out. Members will enjoy a festive Christmas-themed luncheon in the Long Room, while our wait list members will be treated to the return of the ever-popular Hawker Market-themed event.

These Christmas celebrations have become highlights of the Society's calendar, providing a wonderful opportunity for members and guests to come together and celebrate the festive season. Members are also welcome to join us at the wait list function.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first 12 months in the role of Honorary Secretary and would like to acknowledge Ian Maguire for ensuring a seamless transition when I stepped into the position. His guidance, support, and willingness to share his knowledge have been invaluable, and I am sincerely grateful for the assistance he has provided throughout the year.

With the retirement of Ian Kerville, the Society farewells a valued contributor whose editorial expertise has played a significant role in the production of our event menus and the Society Magazine over many years. Ian's attention to detail and commitment to quality have helped maintain the high standard of publications enjoyed by our members.

I am pleased that Russell Snibson has accepted responsibility for these important functions and has taken on the role of Editor of the Society Magazine. Producing the magazine is a substantial undertaking, requiring many hours of dedication, coordination, and careful attention to detail. I would like to sincerely thank Russell for stepping into this role and for the commitment he has shown in ensuring the continued success of this important publication.

The Society extends our thanks to Functions Experience Coordinator, Elissa Cohen, whose expertise is integral to the success of every event.

I look forward to celebrating our 40th year with all of you. The Wine Subcommittee has organised a wonderful program of events, and we have plenty to look forward to as we mark this special occasion together.

Yours Sincerely,

Robyne Somerville

Honorary Secretary