

GROTE

Business Precinct

AGM 2025 22nd October

President's speech

Thank you all for coming to our 25th year and this year's AGM .

We were formed in 2000 under the guidance of Deb Lavis and her team - with the objects and purposes to:

- Focus and support economic and community growth in the precinct
- Represent businesses and residents in the area
- Promote safety for businesses and residents and
- Link with othr precinct groups, Adelaide Economic Development, City of Adelaide, State government and other organisations to promote the area.

I believe that we have achieved those objectives very well- especially during the turbulent few years of the pandemic. Looking forward – I hoped to continue our collaborations with the many organisations that we have developed close working ties: # the SAPOL- with regular feed- back and report on safety issues of our precinct- Constable Harry McGregor has been appointed the Chinatown police who has gained respect and confidence with our community of businesses; our recent event of Safety and security in June – with Shawn McGregor and Senior Sergeant David Mitchel on personal and business safety and Cyber security is the key outcomes from the concerns raised – I have been working with the many international students in the precinct – some of whom have been scammed badly!

Grote business precinct will continue to run safety and security workshops with Shawn and to continue sharing information on key issues that affect business operations.

our regular meetings at committee level with inputs from Central Market management – our key stakeholder as we now have the largest developments in SA around our precinct which we will hear shortly about the extensions to Central market.

small businesses are the backbone of our economy – and our precinct has the concentration of hospitality businesses and the performance arts – Her Majesty Theatre –tonight we will introduce Kate Gould CEO on her views on the future of Adelaide Festival scene.

networking with other precincts and decision makers are also important aspects of our objectives and we will run sessions based on feedbacks from our regular newsletter and visits to businesses from our coordinator.

The Precinct could not have survived or accomplished so much without the financial support of the annual grant of \$25 k from the City Council – thank you – that finances the coordinator's wage and the upkeep of our website – market Quarter and quarterly newsletter. Thank you- Yvonne Merendi – our only coordinator for 20 of our 25 years – she certainly knows most of the businesses very well.

Thank you also to our school in the precinct – St Mary's College – Principal. Ms Heidi Senior – the drama and music students have featured heavily in our Christmas in Grote presentations for many years! Hopefully in future years we will have a Christmas budget to spread more joy with our traders and community.

I encourage anyone who is passionate about the Precinct to consider joining our membership and join the committee.

Thank you all for coming to celebrate this milestone with us tonight and I wish we will have many milestones to achieve ahead!

Thank You.

Cathy Chong