

2022 AGM President's Report

I'd like to thank our Rabbinical Team, paid staff, volunteers, committee representatives, Trustees, our daily minyan attendees, and my fellow board members for their service to Elwood Shule during 2022.

I normally tend to keep a positive spin to my AGM reports and although I will detail some negative items, I'm still full of optimism for the future of Elwood Shule heading into 2023 and beyond.

With Covid restrictions eased coming into 2022 there were high hopes of returning to pre Covid services and functions. Sadly, Saturday evening services did not return and shiurim were held so infrequently that attendance was poor to non-existent. Other dates that would normally have been commemorated were sadly forgotten and not recognized.

Our annual Purim function was once again a highlight of the year being very well attended.

3 months prior to Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Karnowski resigned which left the Shule in a difficult position just prior to the High Holyday period. Many congregants were angry with the timing of Rabbi Karnowski's resignation especially as there had not been High Holyday services for the previous 2 years. With the assistance of Ronny Kowadlo, Rabbi Dovid Rubinfeld, formerly of Toorak Shule, was engaged to conduct services over Rosh Hashana and Yom Kippur while the search for next Elwood Shule Rabbi began. Rabbi Rubinfeld was very well received by the congregation. A farewell afternoon tea was organised for Rabbi and Rebbetzin Karnowsky and family.

Just days before Rosh Hashanah, Rabbi Effy and Shayna Mushka Block joined Elwood Shule full of enthusiasm and thrown into the spotlight. Weekly shiurim are being held and have been well attended by an eclectic mix of people. Plans to commence a Bat Mitzvah program and women's events have already been organized by Rebbetzin Block as well as having a full calendar of events for all in 2023.

Frustratingly the hall redevelopment has progressed slowly with a planning permit recently granted by the council. I would hope that a building permit will be granted in the first quarter of 2023 and a suitable builder will be found to commence shortly after that. Building costs have risen sharply over the last 3 years since planning started and we will need to try and obtain government grants to raise the shortfall we are now looking at.

Our finances are stable, and I would like to thank our members who have continued to pay their yearly memberships to keep our Shule open 365 days a year.

Looking forward I hope that more people, especially younger people will attend our Shabbat services and events.

Thank you to everyone for attending tonight.

Mark Kuran.

President