

## Think Again - AGM - A point of arrival and departure

This evening the Synagogue had its annual A.G.M . There were 1000,s of people in attendance, full house sign was put up but importantly much was achieved. I outlined in my Rabbis report that a synagogue is made up of a Body and soul. The Board of management is the body and the Rabbi is supposed to be the soul. I then noted that Herman Gutman was in attendance. He has been to every AGM from the inception more than 50 AGM's so I guess Mr Herman Gutman epitomises the soul of our Synagogue.

The Rabbis task is to make sure that the soul does not run out on dry.

A Synagogue is like an orchestra. Everybody plays a part. When someone is out of time or missing it makes a vast difference to the sound of the whole of the orchestra. Phil Wicks has been the honorary secretary for the past 11 years, he will be standing down from the position, and I echoed our Presidents words of gratitude to the contribution that Phil has made.

I take this opportunity to thank the entire Board for their ongoing support and commitment to Coogee Synagogue. The Synagogue is an important component of our lives ; it is a safe house where one can meditate pray or just have time out; it is like a second family. The Charter of the shule is to be there for everyone and Coogee does try. As mentioned on the night our treasure has been very diligent in finalising a contract between myself and the Synagogue. This serves us well as an organisation in being transparent, accountable and responsible as an incorporated non for profit organisation. It was also noted that Billie Glass almost single handedly has built a new Synagogue website. [www.coogeesynagogue.org](http://www.coogeesynagogue.org)

Reports were presented by The President - Andrew Silvers, the treasurer Harry Bernfield (I believe there is money in the account); Ladies Auxiliary President Monica Foltyn and Barry Borer as the president of the Kindergarten.

I also acknowledged that Shuie is taking on the role as youth leader. I am confident that he will be able to bring to the table many activities and programmes to engage our youth.

Mazal Tov, to all of our elected representatives on the Board. May God bless you all with satisfaction and pride in the work that you undertake for the wellbeing of Sydney Jewry, in general and Coogee Synagogue in particular.

As always see you in shule  
Good Shabbos  
Elozer Gestetner  
[rabbi@coogeesynagogue.org](mailto:rabbi@coogeesynagogue.org)