

THE BUSH CLUB INC

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**Held at McMahon's Point Community Centre
165 Blues Point Rd North Sydney at
6.30 PM on Thursday 6 December 2018**

Present: Suzanne Aubrun, Walter Baer, Bev Barnett, Kaye Birch, Tim Birks, Allison Boyle, Alan Brennan, Ewan Cain, Robyn Christie, Lydia Chua, Jolan Cikos, Roger Clarke, John Colyer, Graham Condén, Arthur Cunningham, Tom Dowling, Chris Edwards, Ian Edwards, Anne Fussell, Katrina Gaitero, Trevor Giblin, Katherine Gloor, Jill Green, Regina Haertsch, Tom Halbert, Shirley Hart, Alison Harvie, Diah Hendarwan, Carol Henderson, Jacqui Hickson, Tony Hickson, Elizabeth Hungerford, John Hungerford, Colin Isaac, Roy Jamieson, John Kennett, Liz La, Graeme Lawless, Lynda Lawless, Nicola Le Couteur, Graham Lewarne, Melinda Long, Robert Lowman, Rosemary MacDougall, John Maltby, Jan Mathieson, Belinda McKenzie, Ron Mead, Anthea Michaelis, Barbara Mitchell, Miho Mori, Myles Ormsby, Lynne Outhred, Jill Paillas, Chris Paine, Mike Pickles, Michael Pratt, Elaine Prior, Ingrid Radford, Julie Rea, Colin Reid, Pamela Reid, John Renzenbrink, Tony Sandrussi, Alan Sauran, Neil Schafer, Bob Taffel, Yumi Takahashi, Joe Van Der Velden, Peter Walton, Paul Webster, Dick Weston, Jan Wilson, Bob Wood, Marlene Wood, Christine Yates, Swee Yeo.

Apologies: Colleen Loudon, Keith Maxwell

President's Welcome to the Membership:

Bush Club President Tony Hickson welcomed the membership to the Annual General Meeting.

Confirmation of Minutes of the 2017 AGM:

Motion: "That the Minutes of the 23 November 2017 Annual General Meeting be confirmed."

Moved: Bob Taffel **Seconded:** Graham Condén **Carried.**

Treasurer's Report: Katherine Gloor (attached)

In her first year as Treasurer, Katherine expressed thanks to her predecessor Barbara Mitchell and Auditor Bob Wood for all their help and advice in the year.

The financial outcome for the 2017/18 year was impacted by:

- Increased spending on first aid training
- Lower membership fees
- Additional contribution to Bushwalking NSW (BNSW)

These resulted in an operating deficit of \$242.64 and a reduction in cash assets to \$42,524.

There were no questions from the floor and the Treasurer presented the Motions:

Motion 1: "That the meeting receives and adopts the audited and signed Financial Reports* of 30 June 2018 as submitted"

* Income & Expenditure Statement, Balance Sheet and 'True and Fair' declaration signed by the President and Treasurer in accordance with the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 for a tier 2 association, signed Audit Report.

Moved: Walter Baer **Seconded:** Chris Edwards **Carried.**

Auditor, Bob Wood, expressed concern in previous years about the build-up in cash reserves given the Club's not for profit status. To address this concern, it was decided at the 2017 AGM to allocate \$5 from each member's fees (\$25) to conservation organisations. These were intended as one-off donations pending annual reviews of the Club's financial position. The motion passed at the 2017 was open ended on how long these

donations would continue. In the 2018/19 year there will be major expenditure on the Club's 80th birthday activities and website redesign. It is considered imprudent to repeat these donations in 2018/19. Therefore, the following motion is proposed:

Motion 2: *"That the meeting agree that there be no future allocation of membership fees to a special conservation fund, unless otherwise agreed at an AGM or Special General Meeting."*

Moved: Ingrid Radford **Seconded:** Shirley Hart **Carried.**

Walks Secretary's Report: John Hungerford (attached)

John expressed thanks to those you had assisted him in the year in fulfilling his role as Walks Secretary. He reserved special thanks to Lynn Dabbs for her work on twice weekly updating the walks program through the walks update program.

He indicated that 106 individuals had led walks during the year. The most attended walk being one led by Treavor McAlister with 38 attendees. The most prolific leaders were Yuri Bolotin (52 walks), Roy Jamieson (34 walks), Adrian Jones (27 walks) and Bob Seibright (22 walks). There were 517 activities during the year, almost 10 a week.

John also spoke to the 80 leaders 80 walks project to celebrate the Club's 80th birthday. Twenty-two activities have already been registered, and John encouraged members to nominate an activity to contribute to the project. Special systems are in place to assist in this process.

Attracting and Encouraging Leaders Report: Chris Edwards (attached)

Twenty-nine new leaders have led activities in the year. Chris proceeded to read out the names of the new leaders.

Chris concluded by thanking all the leaders for their contribution to the Club and indicated she is stepping down from the position.

Membership Secretary's Report: Lydia Chua (attached)

The current membership of the Club is 616 full members, including 18 life members, and 102 prospective members.

Lydia highlighted the following developments during the year:

- New applications have increased at a steady rate
- The average age of new applicants is lower than the Club's overall average, making for a successful Club going forward
- There is an increase in the percentage of prospective members progressing to full members
- The higher than historical average of new members willing to lead walks

Lydia expressed thanks to those who assisted her during the year including the support received from President, Tony Hickson, She especially thanked Jan Mathieson, Katherine Gloor and Jacqui Hickson for filling in when she was absent.

President's Report: Tony Hickson (attached)

Tony thanked leaders, committee members and participating members for making it a fantastic year for the Club. Highlights included:

- 517 activities in the year including a great variety of activities and locations
- The success of the focus on attracting younger members and the associated increase in weekend walks with special mention to Roy Jamieson for his many Saturday walks
- Excellent attendance at Club training days and the positive feedback from attendees

- Continuing popularity of social events
- Kaye Birch's initiative in suggesting and then undertaking the role of Welfare Officer
- The success of the walks update program with over 50% of activities added through this process

Coming challenges include:

- More younger members and leaders
- More multi-day pack walks and accommodated walks
- Increased number of higher graded walks with emphasis on walks away from the Sydney environ
- Development of a new website with the assistance of volunteers Lionel Sonntag, Peter Watkins, Swee Yee and Geoff Bishop

Other business: Comments by members

Neil Schafer indicated his intention to lead a walk for club members eighty years of age and older in celebration of the Club's 80th birthday.

Elizabeth Hungerford suggested, with the support of other members, the Club discard the use of stick on name tags for Club functions and adopt name tags that can be pinned to members' clothing to avoid the easy dislodgement of tags.

The President handed over the meeting to Rosemary MacDougal as Returning Officer.

Rosemary MacDougal took the Chair thanking the outgoing Committee and declaring all positions vacant.

Election of Office Bearers for 2018-19

Nominations were:

President: Tony Hickson

Vice President: Jan Mathieson

Vice President: Vacant

Secretary: Colin Reid

Assistant Secretary: Colleen Loudon

Treasurer/Public Officer: Katherine Gloor

Membership Secretary: Lydia Chua

Walks Secretary: John Hungerford

Events Coordinator: Allison Boyle and Julie Rea

Ordinary Member Responsible for New Leaders: Vacant

Ordinary Member: Anthea Michaelis

Auditor: Robert Wood

No further nominations were received from the floor, all members voted in favour of the new committee and auditor and the Returning Officer declared all above to be elected unopposed.

Following confirmation of committee positions for 2018/19, Rosemary invited Tony Hickson to retake the Chair as President.

The meeting closed at 7:00 pm.

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