

Merewether SLSC

Annual General Meeting 2014/2015 - Minutes



Meeting Start Time: 10:05am

Agenda

1. Opening of Annual General Meeting by Nick Newton, President

- I. **Attendance** – Nick Newton, Emma Gale, Ross Taggart, Dave Hoar, John Adamson, Wayne Hogg, Iain Kelso, Evan Walton, Garry Miller, Richard Taylor, Henry Scruton, Rhonda Scruton, Susan O’Loughlin, Linda March, Laurie March, Charles Bugbird, Steve Stallard, Warren Sterling, Scott Kirkman, Jen Campbell, Pete Campbell, Peter Alcock, Rachel Soars, Simon Lovell, Sue Paul, Phil Mosgrove, Terry Wall, Karen Wallace, Norm Rodgers, Penny Britz, David Soars, Anthony Robinson, Greg Wendt, Anthony Tietze, Brad Clarke, Kris Wall, Kathy Spong, Nuatali Nemes,
- II. **Apologies** – Tim Crakanthorp, Sarah Bugbird, Laurie Graham, Jeff Agland, Brad March, Susan Walton OAM, Patricia Stallard, Rob Freedman, Toni Woodcock, Mark Woodcock, Bruce Rummins,
- III. **One minute silence for Deceased Members**

2. President’s Address by Nick Newton

- Successful season with the club meeting 100% of its patrolling obligations. In fact all clubs in the Hunter Branch achieved this.
- Big driver behind this was the training and education teams who have been constantly bringing newly skilled members onto the beach and into the IRB.
- Thank you to Charlie for all his hard work and effort this last season, and previous seasons. Charlie is stepping down from the Chief Training Officer role next season and Warren Sterling is stepping up.
- The patrols dealt with challenges including sharks, and the changing landscape along the beachfront. There has been noticeably increased patronage along this stretch of the beach and an increase in injuries up the top area. This has been attended to well. With the prospect of more patronage in the future, this trend is likely to continue.
- Great work by Adrian Harte who has been steering the sponsorship group, and has been instrumental in securing the Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS) Sponsorship as well as the Community Building Partnership (CBP) grants. This money has been going towards function room upgrades and hopefully this continues into the future. Next season there will be a focus on kitchen upgrades, with the aim to increase revenue return and become sustainable into the future.

- New major sponsorship this season was also obtained from PRD Nationwide and Safe Hands Management, thanks to Nathan Wright, with funding going towards IRB upgrades and maintenance.
- This season also saw the retirement of some long standing patrol members. Phil Mosgrove (24yrs 100% service), Greg Wendt (11yrs 100% service), Greg Nelmes (53yrs 100% service) and Garry Miller (56yrs 100% service). These members leave big boots to fill on patrols, but will still be seen around the club. Thank you to these members on their commitment and dedication to the club and patrols.

3. Hunter Branch Surf Life Saving Address by Henry Scruton

- Congratulations to the various club committees on achievements this last season. This is a good club with happy people who are eager to turn up and patrol or help the club.
- Congratulations to Charlie Bugbird on his time as Chief Training Officer – each time he presents a squad they are trained well, happy and good quality.
- Education side of the club has shown to be improving constantly.
- The Surf Sports is also improving. Congratulations to John Adamson on his achievements this last season.
- Hunter Branch has now become the first branch in NSW, in the history of patrolling, for all clubs to receive 100% no breaches. Well done everyone. Terrific achievement.
- To those stepping down from roles – congratulations on your achievement. Well done.
- An upcoming talk of possible interest for members is by Barry Bruce from CSIRO. He is coming to Branch and will be talking about sharks. Open to all.
- Finally, well done to Nick and Committee on a good season.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM from the 2013-2014 Season

- I. Moved: Charlie Bugbird, Seconded: Dave Hoar CARRIED
- II. Matters arising – none.

5. Presentation of Annual Report for the 2014-2015 Season

6. Motion to adopt the Annual Report for the 2014-2015 Season

- I. Moved: Tony Robinson, Seconded: Linda March CARRIED

7. Presentation of the Financial Statements for the 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015 by Ross Taggart

- Sorry for delay in distribution of financial statements.
- It's been a good year for the club, and after depreciation of assets there has been a profit ~\$20k

- Liabilities are up this season, from \$6k last season to \$24.5k. This is due to a couple of reasons:
 - The boat at the beach hotel was damaged and John Twohill is looking to process a claim that will allow him to purchase one of our older boats to replace the one that was lost ~\$6-7K
 - Grants received ~\$16.5k have been unspent at the moment as of 30th June. This will be spent over the coming period. The club received in total \$25k (PWCS) and \$20k (CBP) funding for function room and kitchen upgrade.
- Seniors report - \$2.6k loss of IRB motor deposit. Club paid Midcoast Marine, and the company went into liquidation. Correspondence has been occurring but it appears there will be no return of funds and the Club has lost the money.
- Acknowledge Norm Rodgers, the license manager. Sales for function room have increased from \$77k to \$91k. Norm also provides great operational support. Thank you.
- Acknowledge Susan O’Loughlin on function room work. Great communication with myself in operating the business side of the club.
- Acknowledge Penny Britz on her work in overseeing the Friday night raffles which have seen a doubling in income. Great Work.
- Work will continue on improving the function room, with the aim to make it a commercial kitchen and hopefully produce more income.

8. Motion to adopt the Financial Statements for the 1st July 2014 to 30th June 2015

- I. Moved: Peter Alcock, Seconded: Warren Sterling CARRIED

9. Presentation of Club Patrons, Vice Patrons and Honorary Positions

| Title | Representative |
|--------------------|---|
| Patrons | Mr. Tim Crakanthorp MP Member for Newcastle, Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councilor Nuatali Nemes, John Adamson, Sue Paul |
| Vice-Patrons | Mr. John Twohill, Mr. Evan Walton, Mrs. Susan Walton OAM, Mr. Tony McGrath, Mrs. Anne McGrath, Mr. Alan Taggart |
| Honorary Auditor | Robert Allan |
| Honorary Solicitor | Craig Doyle (McDonald Johnson), Nicholas Dan (Bilbie Dan) |
| Medical Officers | Dr J. Sippe, Dr J. Dan, Dr C Finlay-Jones |
| Ambulance Officer | St John Ambulance, Laurie Graham |

10. Motion to adopt list of Patrons, Vice Patrons and Honorary Auditor and Solicitor

- I. Moved: Penny Britz, Seconded: Charlie Bugbird CARRIED

11. Life Membership – Nil

12. Presentations – nil

13. Election of President

- I. Current President steps down and John Adamson steps up for election
- II. Only one nominee – Nick Newton. Nick elected unopposed

14. Election of Officers

- All nominees listed below.
- All unopposed and elected

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Club Captain | David Hoar |
| Secretary | Emma Gale |
| Treasurer | Ross Taggart |
| Chief Instructor | Warren Sterling (new) |
| Registrar | Peter Campbell (new) |
| Director of Surf Sports | Nick Brunette (new) |
| Board And Ski Captain | Mark Woodcock |
| Vice Club Captain | Simon Lovell (new) |
| Youth Co-Ordinator | Vacant |
| Rookie Co-Ordinator | Vacant |
| IRB Captain | Nathan Wright |
| Boat Captain | Toni Woodcock |
| WH&S Officer | Anthony Tietze (new) |
| Member Protection Information Officer | Kate Flint |
| IT Co-Ordinator | Evan Jobling |
| Publicity Officer | Rachel Soars |
| Radio Officer | Richard Taylor |
| Sunday Morning Events Coordinator | Bruce Rummins (new) |
| Gear and Equipment Officer | Bernie Sabine |
| Merchandise Officer | Warren Sterling |
| Historical Officer | Vacant |
| Competition Manager (Seniors) | Toni Woodcock |

15. Honorariums for the 2015-2016 Season (unchanged from last season)

- President, Secretary, Treasurer - \$500
- Chief Instructor, Registrar - \$250

16. Motion to adopt the Honorariums for the 2015-2016 season

- i. Moved: Dave Hoar, Seconded: Penny Britz CARRIED

17. Determination of Club Fees for the 2015-2016 Season (unchanged from last season):

| Membership Type | Fee |
|---|---------|
| Senior Active & Cadets (registered on or before 31st October) | \$90.00 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| Senior Associates (Not patrolling) | \$125.00 |
| Over 65's Associates | \$65.00 |
| Junior Active member (1 st child) | \$90.00 |
| Additional junior active members | \$70.00 |
| Junior Associate (parent) | \$70.00 |
| Family Membership (1 adult, 2 children) | \$195.00 |
| Additional family members | \$70.00 |
| LATE membership fee (after 31 st October 2015) | \$35.00 |

18. Motion to adopt the membership fees for the 2015-2016 season

- i. Moved: Sue Paul, Seconded: Kris Wall, CARRIED

19. Motion to continue affiliation with Hunter Branch

- i. Moved: Charlie Bugbird, Seconded: Karen Wallace CARRIED

20. General Business

- Rhonda Scruton thanks the Merewether members for helping with ducks for dollars.
- Nick Newton thanks all committee members. The support is wonderful and he would be lost without them.

21. Address by Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Nuatali Nelmes

- Well done to all newly elected members.
- Rhonda and I have been working with the coastal working party for a while now and the Merewether Beach area has now been completed with significant upgrades in last 18 months.
- The buildings have not been touched yet, but are on the radar. The Council is under significant financial pressure at the moment; however it is looking at financial sustainability in the next two years and will then look towards future improvements. Previous future planning has focused on short term (1-2 yrs.) however the Council is now aiming to look beyond this time frame.
- NSW used to have rate capping, unlike some other States, but no longer. So now the Council had increased rates to provide more income and get more work done in the area.
- Any questions?

Is there any possibility for wheelchair access to the club, in the future (Peter Campbell)?

I helped carry someone up to the function room, in a wheelchair recently, and on occasion people do require wheelchair access to the top part of the club. Is it possible to look at a ramp from out back Henderson parade to the club? Or any other possibility for access?

Response (Nuatali Nelmes) – plans for new buildings were done many years ago, however there is no money at the moment for building a completely new surf club.

Discussions have been undertaken with Hunter SLS, and grant funding would be needed for works like this. Under new building requirements (Basix) any major renovations must include disabled access, so wheelchair access would be included. Original plans looking at pushing building backwards. In the shorter term Nick has been working with Council to retrofit the current building, but no disabled access is likely in the next 12 months. In addition different community groups have been asking about the grassed areas e.g. Jefferson Park. But this also won't undergo any changes for many years, unless separate funding is sourced. Options for club upgrades / improvements or new buildings should also be linked to what may happen with Jefferson Park.

As the lease for the café has changed the club has lost space including showers downstairs. Is there any scope for additional facilities for members downstairs (Ross Taggart)?

Merewether is one of the only clubs that only has shower facilities upstairs, not downstairs. The club originally lost this area when Mark Prince took over the café / area downstairs. When functions are on in the function room the upstairs toilets and showers need to be locked to keep them clean for the paying function room hirers and then members don't get access. Club members then need to share public ones downstairs with café. If Henderson Parade and Jefferson Park changes don't go ahead, the club could still do with additional shower and toilet facilities downstairs.

Response (Nuatali Nelmes) – do expect Jefferson Park to happen, but not right away. The Council budget is run very fine at the moment. In the April 2015 storms there was about ~\$10mill expenses etc. Council does not have a liquidity issue at moment, but needs good forward planning. Council has just employed a planner to look ahead 4 years, not just 1. The question for the club is whether the club undergoes a major renovation or minor in the short term? i.e. Do you spend money and fix up the building where it stands and wait for big renovation, or redo whole building now, before any works at Jefferson Park, and hope they all are cohesive. The Coastal works is one of 4 major works programs being undertaken at the moment by Council.

Response (Nick Newton) – our forward plan for the club building focuses on ~ 8yrs life after which we would look at a replacement club building. Must keep in mind the café downstairs is also involved with usage of the club building. Council is looking at giving the café some of the lifeguard room for additional storage.

Response (Ross Taggart) – Mark Prince didn't use as much space. PJ now uses a lot more space.

Response (Nuatali Nelmes) – the Council would love to do Jefferson Park now, but underlying is hard rock, resulting in expensive construction. There is the possibility of an underground carpark, but will need critical mass / money to make it happen. The beach area is changing and there is a need to capture private investment, but also to ensure money goes towards public domain areas also. For Merewether SLSC to look

ahead 8yrs is probably a good timeframe for Jefferson Park also. A new budget was adopted in June and considerations for the next budget generally occur at the end of the year. The surf club should aim to get any funding considerations / requests to Nuatali by end of year to try and get in next budget.

Response (David Soars) – doesn't Jefferson Park result in section 94 contributions?

Response (Nuatali Nelmes) – still expensive works for getting through bedrock.

Response (Rhonda Scruton) – roads might have to change also, as the flow of traffic won't necessarily work as is, with Jefferson park changes.

Response (Nuatali Nelmes) – traffic works on Frederick St. will happen this year.

Will the Lifeguards be back next season on Saturdays? (Rhonda Scruton)

Response (Nuatali Nelmes) - Yes

Response (Rhonda Scruton) - We weren't consulted

Response (Nuatali Nelmes) – does the presence of lifeguards help over winter?

Response (Nick Newton) – during day times during the week this most likely helps with day swimmers. On weekends it's usually evenings when incidents occur, so a possible restructure of starting and ending times may be better e.g. having expanded hours – maybe clubbies starting earlier, council guys staying later.

Response (Nuatali Nelmes) – I still need to talk to Phil Moore to get updated and discuss the lifeguard's situation. This will happen next week. Regardless Council wants to make sure that they cover public safety and not overuse volunteers. Some beaches don't have many volunteers and so there may need to be different coverage at different beaches.

The club still has no tenure over the building, will this change soon? (Rhonda Scruton)

If the club earns more money, then there is currently nothing stopping Council taking back over. The building here at Merewether is probably second last to getting upgraded and private investors won't touch input of money, into any partnerships in improving or investing in the club or buildings until there is a lease for the buildings.

Response (Nuatali Nelmes) – The Council won't be throwing clubs out of buildings

Response (Rhonda Scruton) - Hunter SLS was thrown out of Surfhouse years ago. The clubs also still don't have building maintenance schedules. Also the policy of the Council lifeguards is don't treat first aids, leave that for the volunteers, and focus on the rescues etc.

When the club gave up space for the café, the club used to get rental income. The club seems to keep giving more space to the café and the rental income has been taken away. What does the club get back now? (Steve Stallard)

Response (Nuatali Nelmes) – The club should get money from the coastal reserve money pot? Previously some café leases were with clubs, some with Council. Now all leases are with Council. The rental income is only a small amount in the scheme of

things and the spread is now a bit fairer and goes to all clubs, and other coastal reserve buildings. The shift started in 2009, regarding reorganising all leases. Since then the community is getting about 5 times more money now.

Response (Rhonda Scruton) – The clubs didn't get any money from Council over the last season. I have been chasing this up with Council and it's only just looking like a possibility now.

Meeting Closed: 11:08pm.