



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 2015/16

Due notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Merewether Surf Life Saving Club, Inc. will be held at the Clubhouse, Corner Watkins and John Parade, Merewether Beach on Sunday 17 July 2016 from 10.00 a.m.

MINUTES

1. OPENING OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING BY NICK NEWTON, PRESIDENT

- I. Time: 10:07am
- II. Attendance – Dave Hoar, Mark Owen, Scott Kirkman, Sue Paul, Jamie Paras, Anthony Robinson, Wayne Hogg, Anthony Tietze, John Adamson, Grahame Lott, Nick Newton, Susan O'Loughlin, Kevin Buckley, Iain Kelso, Susan Walton, Evan Walton, Robert Dan, Glenn Crompton, Rachel Soars, Norm Rodgers, Greg Struck, Nathan McKelligott, Rhonda Scruton, Henry Scruton, Glenis Powell, Lawrie Flick, Peter Alcock, Jennifer Campbell, Evan Jobling, Karen Wallace, Sarah Bugbird, Bernie Sabine, Dom Wilson, Mark Woodcock, Graham Adam, Penny Britz, Warren Sterling, Emma Gale
- III. Apologies – Nathan Wright, Adrian Harte, Ross Taggart, Toni Woodcock, Trudi Lanarch, Craig Doyle, Steve Stallard, Patricia Stallard, Gary Miller, Kris Wall, Simon Lovell, Kaye Lott, Meredith Veale, Charlie Bugbird, Laurie Graham, Bruce Rummins
- IV. One minute silence for Deceased Members

2. PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS BY NICK NEWTON

- I. The club received 100% compliance for lifesaving and the Hunter Branch was the only branch in NSW with all clubs complying.
- II. Thanks to the Education department for their dedication and ongoing training of many new members and existing members. Thanks to the Committee who have done a fantastic job running the club. These guys keep the club running smoothly.
- III. Sponsorship – one of our strong points this season. Adrian Harte has been integral in this area. Port Waratah Coal Services (PWCS) gave the club a grant during the season and will be giving the club a second grant this coming season. Additionally there is the possibility of the club obtaining a federal grant and if the federal grant comes through as well as the PWCS money, this will allow completion of the kitchen upgrade. Juice Plus has also come on board as a Gold sponsor and is keen to continue into the next season. PRD Nationwide and Safe Hands Property Management have also come on board this season as Gold Sponsors and may also continue next year. In addition John and Lyn Twohill, from the Beach Hotel, have given the club over \$6,000 for one of the club's older surfboats which will go on display in the Hotel once their renovations have finished. This past season has also seen the Merewether Boardriders club donate a rescue board and run the Hunter Branch boardriding competition. Dave and Lisa Hoar have also done a wonderful job with Ducks for Dollars fundraising, as did Bob Hawes with the corporate ducks. Furthermore the Beach Breakfast community is growing thanks to Dave. All of these businesses and groups are vital to supporting the club.
- IV. The function room income is steadily building with more bookings, and hopefully will become even more sustainable into the future, especially with the full kitchen upgrade.
- V. Looking towards the future, there is still the potential for upgrading the clubhouse, and the club is currently in discussion with Council about renovations. We are also close to signing a

new 20yr lease which would help in ensuring club security, as well as hopefully delivering a maintenance program. All good news for the club.

VI. Again, thanks to all the committee and members for making it all happen.

3. HUNTER BRANCH SURF LIFE SAVING ADDRESS - RHONDA SCRUTON, CEO AND HENRY SCRUTON, PRESIDENT

Rhonda Scruton, CEO

- I. Thanks for the invitation. Thanks for 'no lives lost and a breach free' season. The Branch has set the record in Australia. Thanks to Dave Hoar as Club Captain. Across the Branch we have saved 234 lives across 13 clubs, with 33 after hours callouts. Well done to the callout team at Merewether. These people are on standby for callout, via sms from Henry, if needed.
- II. Leases for the clubs – the Hunter is the only Branch trying to get leases for all clubs, in one hit. The Central Coast kind of did as they built new clubhouses, but it became unsustainable. On the 26th January Crown Lands released a position paper on leases for surf clubs. Adrian Harte lined up with the Manager for Crown Lands to discuss the paper. The Branch clubs banded together to work together. At present many clubs are under different leases, with different contracts and different expenses / bills etc. and the main income for many clubs is function room hire, in the decaying buildings. E.g. Cooks Hill is currently putting \$1.8 million of their own money into a building (some money in a bequest) on land, which has no lease. Branch employed the ex-manager of Crown Lands (Brett Phillips) who ended up working unpaid and Jodi McKay to work with Rhonda to work out the best way of moving forward to get workable leases for all the clubs. Lake Macquarie Council is in favour of clubs doing their own and Newcastle City Council doesn't want responsibility of the clubs. Port Stephens Council has a good working structure where clubs do everything themselves.
- III. In the past there has been no asset management plan and no building replacement strategy for the surf clubs. They also still need a building maintenance schedule from Council, and behind that we want an asset management schedule e.g. when to replace windows etc.
- IV. Currently pushing for a lease which includes rights to commercial kiosk and hall hire, 20yrs lease and a renewal 20yr lease. In addition we are looking at a business plan behind the running of each club. There are strict rules of commercial business on crown lands which need to be adhered to. NCC gives \$10k a year – which is great; however kiosks do provide more income than that per year. Some clubs down south have huge function room hire incomes per night.
- V. Also looking at a Clubhouse replacement strategy for all 13 clubs. The buildings, which are all subject to harsh environmental conditions, need help. Meeting Wednesday to try and move forward; so we have the background documents ready to go.

Henry Scruton, President

- VI. Little Ripper program. This is the program that is looking at utilising drones over the surf for various activities. Initial testing has occurred at Swansea over the last season. The testing included ropes and balloons in the water to represent people, and then trialling getting the drone at correct height to read balloon (representing the head of a person). This was also trialled with Henry and a mannequin in the water. Some larger drones in America can fly for 2hrs and carry 8kg payload. This is much longer and heavier than we are trialling. Other activities could include drones replacing helicopters in searching from sharks etc.
- VII. In the program people work in teams with one person operating the drone, and another person operating the camera. Still in trial mode. The program has opened for volunteer operators and camera people.

- VIII. Congratulations also for a breach free season. Congratulations to the executive, members, and Graham Lott on his Branch role. Thanks also to the members who help with the ducks for dollars.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF THE AGM FROM THE 2014-2015 SEASON

- I. Moved: Tony Robinson Seconded: Kevin Buckley
 II. Matters arising - nil

5. PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE 2015-2016 SEASON

- I. Motion to adopt
 II. Moved: Anthony Robinson Seconded: Penny Britz

6. PRESENTATION OF PROVISIONAL FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 1/7/15 - 30/6/16

- I. Mark Owen to talk about financials for Treasurer (Ross Taggart)
 - Incomes and expenses stated. Net assets ~\$447,000, in bank - \$285,000
 II. Motion to adopt
 III. Moved: Sue Paul Seconded: Jamie Paras

7. 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 Nelmes, 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 Jones
Honorary Solicitor	Craig Doyle (McDonald Johnson), Nicholas Dan (Bilbie Dan)
Medical Officers	Dr J. Sippe, Dr J. Dan, Dr C Finlay-Jones
Ambulance Officers	St John Ambulance, Laurie Graham

- I. Comments
 - Rob Dan - Can we review these lists before next year?
 - Nick Newton - yes
 - Penny Britz - What do medical officers do?
 - Nick Newton - They used to do training in schools, help with training at the club. They were more of a key role in the past, but not so much these days.
 II. Motion to adopt list of Patrons, Vice Patrons ,Honorary Auditor and Solicitor
 - Moved: Karen Wallace Seconded: Wayne Hogg

8. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

- I. Graham 'Tamba' Adam asked to leave room
 II. Ian Kelso stood up to talk as a nominator of Graham Adam for life membership
 - Tamba joined Merewether in 1997. Terrific member, gone above and beyond what is needed as a member. Represented the club at all levels, and achieved bronze, silver and gold at all levels. Always in the water and on the beach. Great presence, liaison and facilitator between Merewether surf club and board club. Extensive knowledge of this beach and its conditions. In the past Graham has helped with the club renovations. He checks the security of club at night and is the clubs 'Unofficial'

security guard. Previously the club would be left open. Graham is also a great rep for the club during Surfest time, as well as liaising between council, club and organisers.

- III. Rob Dan seconded the nomination and stood up and spoke further
 - Tamba has been recognised and nominated before but he previously didn't cover the guidelines. Tamba has probably undertaken more rescues than most others at this beach. I always ask Tamba where to go when going out in the surf, if he's available. I have also witnessed him doing rescues. In addition the surf doesn't have to be big to need rescues, but Tamba is always there to help. He has taught a lot of other members surf skills. He also fills in and sells raffle tickets at the Beach Hotel, either when rostered or more frequently when others haven't turned up. Tamba has raised the profile of this beach. He is also pretty well known throughout Newcastle as a great representation of a lifesaver.
- IV. Show of hands to accept the life membership nomination
 - Majority concurs to present life membership
- V. Tamba asked to return to the room
- VI. Presentation of life member pin to Tamba

9. ELECTION OF PRESIDENT

- I. All positions declared open
- II. Past President John Adamson stepped up to conduct nominations for President
 - One nominee for President – Nick Newton
- III. Congratulations to Nick

10. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

- I. All nominations listed below:

Club Captain	Simon Lovell (new)
Secretary	Jamie Paras (new)
Treasurer	Mark Owen (new)
Chief Instructor	Warren Sterling
Registrar	Angela Tiedeman (new)
Director of Surf Sports	Emma Gale (new)
Board And Ski Captain	Glenn Crompton (new)
Vice Club Captain	Richard Taylor (new)
Youth Co-Ordinator	Vacant
Rookie Co-Ordinator	Vacant
IRB Captain	Nathan Wright
Boat Captain	Emma Gale (new)
WH&S Officer	Anthony Tietze
Member Protection Information Officer	Kate Flint
IT Co-Ordinator	Evan Jobling
Publicity Officer	Vacant
Radio Officer	Dave Hoar (new)
Gear and Equipment Officer	Bernie Sabine
Merchandise Officer	Warren Sterling
Historical Officer	Tony Robinson

11. HONORARIUMS FOR THE 2016-2017 SEASON

- I. Unchanged from last season:
 - President, Secretary, Treasurer - \$500
 - Chief Instructor, Registrar - \$250
- II. Motion to adopt
- III. Moved: Tony Robinson Seconded: Karen Wallace

12. DETERMINATION OF CLUB FEES FOR THE 2016-2017 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 2016)	\$35.00

- I. Motion to adopt the membership fees for the 2016-2017 season
- II. Moved: Greg Struck Seconded: Jamie Paras

13. RESOLUTION FOR AFFILIATION WITH HUNTER BRANCH

- I. Moved: Karen Wallace Seconded: Sue Paul

14. GENERAL BUSINESS

- I. Kevin Buckley – There is a shark deterrent buoy up near Forster, is that an option for Merewether?
 - Henry Scruton – the buoy at Forster is really new stuff. It is currently being trialled. Other methods are being trialled further north e.g. another trial option is a bubble compressor system. When they work out what works best they will look at putting them up and down the coast.
- II. Anthony Tietze – From when can we pay Membership fees?
 - Nick Newton – Renewing members can pay from now on.
- III. Warren Sterling – Thanks to Peter Campbell, for all his hard work and getting us compliant with the new WWCC
- IV. Wayne Hogg – will the old guys still get a chance to pay registrations with cash?
 - Nick Newton – yes, we will cater for the ‘morning crew’
- V. Nathan McKelligott – Will there be a transfer of money regularly for member fees to Juniors?
 - Mark Owen – yes
- VI. Bernie Sabine – Thanks to Penny Britz for all her work with raffles and keeping our good relationship with the Beach Hotel
- VII. Nick Newton – Thanks to Emma for her secretary work over the last 6 seasons
- VIII. Peter Alcock – Need to change life members names to ‘Jill’ Lydiard and ‘W.J.Lydiard’

Meeting Closed: 11:04am