

# Merewether SLSC

## Annual General Meeting Minutes- 2019



Meeting Commenced 10:00am

### **Agenda**

#### **1. Opening of Annual General Meeting**

The 2018-2019 Annual General Meeting of Merewether SLSC declared open by Nick Newton, Club President

#### **Members present -**

Nick Newton, Jamie Paras, Kevin Buckley, Mark Owen, Anthony Tietze, Julie Sutton, Sarah Bugbird, David Hoar, Anthony Robinson, Margaret Newton, John Adamson, Steve Stallard, Wayne Hogg, Glenis Powell, Iain Kelso, Penny Britz, Sue Paul, Phil Mosgrove, Michael Spillane, Janice Roche, Susan O'Loughlin, Norm Rodgers, Adrian Harte, Warren Sterling, Kate Flint, Evan Jobling, Rebecca Farr, Karen Wallace, Kathryn Spong, Sarah Gray

#### **Apologies -**

Mr. Tim Crakanthorpe - MP Member for Newcastle, Lord Mayor of Newcastle Councillor Nuatali Nelmes, CEO of Hunter Surf Lifesaving Rhonda Scruton, Charlie Bugbird, Sharon Claydon, Simon Lovell, Gary Miller, Trish Stallard, Robert Dan

#### **2. One-minute silence in remembrance of our deceased Members**

#### **3. President's Address by Nick Newton:**

Thanks to our Club Captain, Vice-Captain, Patrol Captains and our dedicated patrolling members, we ran our beach well throughout the season, again with no recorded breaches and complying to all of our Surf Lifesaving manning and equipment requirements. Along with this, we also met our Newcastle City Council patrol operation obligations and our Club Captain has sent his thanks for everyone's diligence on patrol and for persevering with the patrol app.

We had difficult conditions right throughout the season, with nearly every patrol day having to contend with the issue of strong, constant sweeps and rips. But our patrols performed well and managed the situations, accordingly, keeping the public safe, although these trying conditions did result in us performing a number of rescues, both when the beach was open and closed. This shows why we must always remain alert and vigilant at all times.

Unfortunately, things can work against us, and as an organisation as hard as we do try this is sometimes not enough – as shown by the events along our Northern stretch of the beach, which resulted in tragedies previously unknown to us, they have affected and saddened us all.

However, as terrible as those events were, we must move on and we will take the learnings to improving the processes of not only how we operate but also making us better and more efficient at what we do in the future. Coming will be changes in structure and more opportunities for developing specialised skills and the opportunities to be working with other rescue support services.

Of course, for us to be on the beach at all requires a huge amount of organising and effort from all of our members, our juniors and their management team – our education and training teams providing us with competent and confident lifesavers and crews, our patrolling members and your team captains managing the beach no matter what the conditions – each month for seven months of the year. We have our supporters who assist in various ways. In particular, I need to thank Peter and Louise Glennie from Juice Plus and Nathan Wright and Mark Owen from FUNDA Financing for their ongoing and significant financial support in helping us with much needed funds.

Of course, behind the scenes we have the running of the club, which is accomplished by our dedicated committee members and management team, who quietly go about making things happen and getting the job done. A huge thanks goes to these members and I can't thank them enough, not only for their huge efforts and continued support, but for everything they do. As I've said many times, without them we simply couldn't function as a club and again, as individual thanks to you all.

Some of the season highlights:

As always, at the start of and during the season, we update gear and equipment as funds and opportunities arise. Our patrolling members will be pleased to know that we have a new Can Am SSV ordered for an August preseason delivery. Financing this vehicle was accomplished by using two available grants and the sale of our old machine, resulting in the need for minimal additional funds added to the purchase – around \$4-5k. This amount has now been offset by some additional funding (\$4000) received at the Branch Presentation.

Penny and her Beach Hotel raffles team have done a great job and netted us over \$7300 to date. Penny has asked that if anyone would like to join the team, you are more than welcome to be part of the fun – just give her a call!

We – Surf Lifesaving – have officially been recognised as a dedicated rescue service. This has a lot of implications, particularly for our callout teams and will affect a number of training requirements and skills upgrades.

We continue to run Christmas Day as a voluntary patrol and still never have a shortage of numbers. Thank you to everybody who comes along to assist and, importantly, enjoy themselves.

We very successfully ran our Christmas food appeal for a very appreciative St. Vinnies. It was an outstanding collection resulting in a huge amount of food and items. In June, we also ran a winter appeal collection and had a good result.

Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was very successful and well attended. It is rapidly growing each year and is turning out to be a very effective way of getting community involvement along with highlighting our club with the associated games and public resuscitation demonstrations by our education team. As an example of the popularity of this event, last

year we buried 90 eggs and came up short. This year. It was around 200 eggs and came up short again!

We continue with the planning for progressing our club refurbishment. With the recent position structure and changes in Newcastle City Council, we again had to resubmit our proposal for the "Agreement in Principle", to clear us to continue ahead in the current format. This agreement has now been given, along with advice from council, on proceeding with the Development Application. This marks a huge step in the process and enables us to keep moving forward with our planning.

This year, Drones were introduced to our Branch area with the main purpose of "monitoring marine activity", with Emma Gale and Dave Roche piloting on behalf of Merewether SLSC and Simon Lovell piloting on behalf of Hunter Branch – understanding that, due to the military airport, the whole area around our beach is restricted air space and requires appropriate licencing and official permission before any launching.

Although not affecting us directly, we had the 'Catch and Release' drum line trial off our beach through the summer months. We know they caught a few 'large fish', but we have to wait for the official report to see how effective this program is.

We had a professional painter come in and give a much-needed refresh to the function room. We had an anonymous donation of internal gas heaters for the function room.

We have a new function room manager (Rebecca Farr), taking over from Emma. Rebecca has thrown herself into the role and it also includes taking the Bar Manager position, which now allows the long-suffering Norm freedom to move on to other activities.

We had Santa again visit our beach, to the delight of our junior members. Again, this position and that of the Easter Bunny were filled by your club captain.

We had a visit from the Cessnock Air Force Cadets for a presentation on our patrolling and emergency service techniques.

Our junior members continue to grow in strength, with another strong season and high-end results in competition. Oscar Wright was runner-up for the Junior Branch Surf Lifesaver of the Year and also received the President's Shield – great effort! Trish Stallard represented the Masters with good results at Branch, State and Aussies.

As part of our 'Inclusion Program', we have affected an alliance with Another Sunrise – suicide prevention group. We also have our ongoing association with the NDIS Healthy Change Challenge team running their regular boot camps, with our help.

The last day of patrol saw us have our patrol games, which was a lot of fun for those involved, along with a BBQ and the all-important after coldies celebration – it was a great day.

The Beach Business Club celebrated four years of attending and supporting our club.

We have a number of members now in Branch positions – Jamie Paras (Administration Advisor), Charlie Bugbird (Education Advisor), Sarah Bugbird (Director of Youth), Grahame Lott (Branch Life Membership Committee and Branch Gear and Equipment Steward) and Simon Lovell (Director of Lifesaving).

At the Hunter Surf Lifesaving Awards of Excellence, Charlie Bugbird received the Branch 'Assessor of the Year' award.

So, quite a lot has happened, with a lot more to come in the next season. Again, a huge Thank You to everyone for their support, efforts and diligence throughout the season.

- Nick Newton

#### 4. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM from the 2018-2019 Season

I. **Moved:** Anthony Robinson      **Seconded:** Anthony Tietze

II. **Matters arising:** Nil

#### 5. Presentation of Annual Report for the 2018-2019 Season

I. Motion to adopt

II. **Moved:** Penny Britz      **Seconded:** Norm Rodgers

III. **Matters arising:** Nil

#### 6. Presentation of provisional Financial Statements for 1st July 2018 to 30th June 2019

n.b - Financial Statements presented in draft format only due to timing of meeting. Financial Statements have not yet been submitted to Taggart Partners for audit.

I. Motion to adopt

II. **Moved:** Kate Flint      **Seconded:** Sarah Bugbird

III. **Matters arising:** Nil

#### 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 Manning, 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
Ambulance Officers	St John Ambulance, Laurie Graham, Richard Taylor

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

II. **Moved:** Sarah Bugbird      **Seconded:** Kate Flint

III. **Matters arising:** Nil

#### 8. Life Membership

Nil Life Membership nominations.

#### 9. Presentations

## 10. Election of President

Nick Newton unopposed for 2019-2020

## 11. Election of Officers 2019-2020

All nominations listed below:

Club Captain	Kevin Buckley
Secretary	Jamie Paras
Treasurer	Mark Owen
Junior Activities Coordinator	Julie Sutton
Chief Instructor	Anthony Tietze
Registrar	Jan Roache (New)
Director of Surf Sports	Bill Sidwell
Board & Ski Captain	Kris Wall
Vice Club Captain	Dave Hoar
Youth Co-Ordinator	Sarah Bugbird
Rookie Co-Ordinator	Karen Wallace
IRB Captain	Nathan Wright
Boat Captain	Emma Gale
WH&S Officer	Kathy Spong
Member Protection Information Officer	Kate Flint
IT Co-Ordinator	Evan Jobling
Publicity Officer	David Hoar
Radio Officer	Dave Hoar
Gear and Equipment Officer	Chris Warren (NEW)
Merchandise Officer	Warren Sterling
Historical Officer	Tony Robinson

## 12. Honorariums for the 2019-2020 Season

Unchanged from last season:

President, Secretary, Treasurer - \$500

Chief Instructor, Registrar - \$250

I. **Motion to adopt**

II. **Moved:** Evan Jobling      **Seconded:** Karen Wallace

III. Matters Arising – Iain Kelso questioned whether current amount adequate. Nick Newton confirmed current amount adequate as the honorariums are funded back to the club through donation.

**13. Determination of Club Fees for the 2019-2020 Season and increase of \$10 on all categories of membership.**

<b>Membership Type</b>	<b>Fee</b>
Senior Active & Cadets (registered on or before 31st October)	\$100.00
Senior Associates (Not patrolling)	\$135.00
Over 65's Associates	\$65.00
Junior Active member (1 <sup>st</sup> child)	\$95.00
Additional junior active members	\$75.00
Junior Associate (parent)	\$100.00
Family Membership (1 adult, 2 children)	\$200.00
Additional family members	\$75.00
LATE membership fee (after 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2019)	\$35.00

- I. **Motion to adopt the membership fees of the 2019-2020 season**
- II. **Moved:** John Adamson      **Seconded:** Adrian Harte
- III. **Matters Arising:** Junior Associate (parent) fee to be amended to correct price of \$100 on fee table above.

**14. Resolution for Affiliation with Hunter Branch**

- I. **Moved:** Kate Flint      **Seconded:** Anthony Robinson
- II. **Matters arising:** Nil

**15. Motion to approve a new category of community membership.**

Nick Newton forwarded motion to adopt a new category of membership for Merewether SLSC (Community Member), as defined below:

- (a) Any adult person who is involved in the bar and function room operation and conduct of the fundraising activities for the Club and who does not qualify for any other category of membership, or who does not wish to join the Club in a category of membership for which they are qualified, are required to become a Community Member.
- (b) A Community Member shall have limited use of the Club premises and facilities as determined from time to time by the Management Committee.
- (c) A Community Member is not entitled to obtain a gym key.
- (d) A Community Member will not be eligible for a role on the committee.
- (e) A Community Member will not have voting rights of members at the Annual General Meeting and all Special General Meetings on all matters including the election of officers, ballots, motions, and any other matters where voting is required.
- (f) The yearly fee for this category of membership will be set at the Club's AGM and/or waived by the Executive Committee upon the amount of voluntary hours completed.

I. **Motion to Adopt Community Membership Category at a cost of \$65**

II. **Moved:** Sarah Bugbird                      **Seconded:** Jamie Paras

III. **Matters Arising:**

Nick Newton indicated that benefits of having Community Membership category allows Merewether SLSC to access greater funding and government initiatives. We are a community-based organisation and wish to embrace all individuals. Nick reiterated that individuals wishing to become a Community Member must still meet membership criteria and this membership category does not abuse the membership categories of the constitution.

Steve Stallard asked about membership status of Boot Camp participants.

Phil Mosgrove questioned the wording of part a of membership definition (“any adult person who is involved in the bar and function room operation and conduct of the fundraising activities”)

Julie Sutton sought clarification on whether or not a Working with Children Clearance is required for individuals to hold Community Membership. This was confirmed as a requirement.

Norm Rogers indicated that the Merewether Board Riders commonly use downstairs club facilities and would like to come to an agreement as to how they can contribute to the club in return.

Fee for this membership was discussed. Given limited roles a nominal figure of \$65 should be paid. Consensus that this should not be waived based on involvement.

**16. General Business**

Merewether SLSC recognises and thanks the NSW Government’s Department of Justice for the ongoing funding of state-wide operations, which benefit all members through our co-operative agreement.

Merewether SLSC thank the Federal Government for the Beach Safety Equipment Funding which directed \$5,000 to every SLSC for the purchase of vital rescue equipment, first aid and medical supplies.

A number of activities at the club continue throughout the offseason. The Urban Mess/Inner City Winemakers Luncheons are continuing to attract interest. ‘Cheap Eats at Coldies’ has commenced on Friday and Sunday evenings with \$10 meals provided by ‘The Blind Chef’.

A reminder that a number of club members ‘Working with Children’ clearances are coming up for renewal. All members are required to ensure currency of this. Please advise Jan Roche (Registrar) of WWC renewal once complete.

Anthony Tietze advised that two ‘Skills Maintenance’ dates have been set as the 15<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> September, commencing at 9am.

Anthony Tietze announced that both a Bronze Medallion and Surf Rescue Certificate Course will commence on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> October, 2019. Posters and information to be supplied in due course.

Julie Sutton spoke about a successful 2018-19 Nipper’s season with 314 members. She thanked her dedicated committee members. Registrations for 2019-2020 ‘Nippers’ season will open in August, 2019. Registration and uniform stores to be held in the Function Room.

Julie indicated that assistance is required to maintain connection between the experienced and newer junior members.

**Meeting Closed at 10:52am**