

Merewether SLSC



Annual General Meeting Minutes – 2019-2020

Held at 10:30am 26 July 2020 – Club Function Room.

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 26 July 2020 from 10:30 am:

Present: President Nick Newton- Club Secretary Jamie Paras – Club Captain Kevin Buckley. Vice-Captain Dave Hoar. Education Trainer: Anthony Tietze – Youth Coordinator Sarah Bugbird.

Guests: Rhonda Scruton – Chief Executive Hunter SLS.

Members: Life Members: Rob Dan, Garry Miller, Sue Paul, Graham Walton, Phil Mosgrove, Jeff Agland Peter Alcock, Tony Robinson, Greg Nelmes, Bob Balks

Club Members: Norm Rodgers, Warren Sterling, Sarah Gray, Wayne Hogg, Kathryn Spong, Garry Semetka, Linda March, Phil Kendall, Stephen Baines, Chris Warren, Karen Wallace, Colin Lippiatt, Penny Britz, Brendon McNabb, Simone Prestini.

1. Annual General Meeting declared open by Nick Newton, President
 - I. Apologies –State Member for Newcastle Mr Tim Crackanthorp- Federal Member for Newcastle Ms Sharon Claydon. Newcastle Lord Mayor Nueitalia Nelmes.
 - II. Members: Tim Owen – Treasurer, Laurie March, Bradley March, Graham Lott, Adrian Harte, Bruce Rummins, Terry Quinn, Luke Menzies, Matt Fox, Simon Lovell, Todd Cathcart, Paul tipping, Simon Hill, Aaron Satchell, Gary Richards, Laurie Bradley, Kate Flint.
 - III. One-minute silence for Deceased Members
2. President’s Address by Nick Newton:
3. Confirmed the Annual General Meeting for 2019-2020 open and welcomed all members and invited guests to acknowledge this year patrolling season and club operations.

Unfortunately, we had an unexpected end to what has been a trying season. Following a long period of drought, we had the terrible and severe bush fires, heavy rains and then the Coronavirus outbreak ultimately forcing us and all our Surf Life Saving activities into shutdown, cutting short our season and impacting on the usual running and operations of our club.

As with other clubs we have had to “close up shop” and cancel several season activities including postponing our Junior and Senior Presentations and our AGM until a more suitable time as deemed by the authorities.

But in the background things continue as we need to reflect on the season that was, and we have carried on as best we can until things are back to normal.

From a patrol operational perspective, we kicked our season off with the “Raising of the Flags Ceremony” and our Club Captain Kev (Buckley) has done a great job of sorting out our patrols and working with the patrol captains and patrolling members to ensure beach operations ran smoothly and effectively. Also, thank you for the support and dedication of all our patrolling members as once again I can proudly say we fully met the needs and requirements of our Patrol Service Agreement. As I have stated many times the importance of achieving this demonstrates the commitment and professionalism of our members and further enhances our reputation as a reliable “can do” club.

Our seniors and juniors club membership continues to grow, with patrolling numbers strong. Our senior club registrar Jan Roche has worked hard to ratify our overall total membership status and we can report we are in a healthy position with a good solid membership base for not only going into the next season but for the future.

Likewise in his position as club secretary Jamie Paras has had a busy year with the administration tasks of facilitating our club meetings and keeping the committee aware of the constant stream of updated information we receive and ensuring we remain compliant to all of the ever-changing requirements needed to run our club successfully.

Our popular Juniors membership maxed out again this season. Set to a capped number of 320 the Junior leadership and age managers have done an excellent job of running the Junior activities. Their season went well highlighted by some great competition results and a successful end of season camp.

Unfortunately, with mounting work commitments we have to say goodbye to our current JAC as Julie (Sutton) is standing down. We want to thank Julie for all her time and effort given in running the Juniors and wish her the best in her latest work venture. To fill the void Chris (Warren) is stepping up to take over the position and we welcome Chris on board as the new JAC.

Over the season we have seen Sarah Bugbird and Anthony Tietze head the education teams in producing some outstanding new SRC and Bronze patrolling members. Credit must be given to the entire education team members for their time and the commitment shown with the training and member upskilling and to Sarah and Anthony for the effort they put in to bring it all together.

Of note for this season, and again thanks Sarah, were the number of our younger candidates successfully gaining their SRC and then enthusiastically joining our patrols – it’s wonderful to see so many young happy faces, having a great time while wearing the red and yellow.

Our club was also well represented at Branch level with several of our members holding positions; Simon Lovell – Director of Lifesaving, Sarah Bugbird – Director of Youth Development, Jamie Paras – Administration Advisor, Charlie Bugbird-Chief Training Advisor and additionally we also had Emma Gale, Dave Roche and Simon Lovell assisting Branch as Drone pilots and operators.

Sitting alongside the education team we have Nathan Wright organising and running our IRB training and proficiencies, assisted by Ralph Foster and Mark Owen. These guys are responsible for giving us some top drivers and crew members on our patrol teams and for the enviable and critical job of keeping this equipment running and in good order.

Nathan and Mark as Funda Finance continue to supply all the fuel for this equipment. I must also say a “thanks” here to Chris Warren who took on the job of looking after and maintaining our new Can Am SSV and to Kris Wall for his duties as Board and Ski captain in keeping our rescue boards repaired and available.

Another success for the season was the Beach Healthy Challenge. This is an “inclusion” program that was instigated by Dave Hoar that has had a great outcome. Apart from their scheduled monthly beach activities, with assistance by Sarah Grey as our inclusion officer we now have several participants joining us on our patrols.

As ever Dave has been the ideas man behind numerous fund-raising activities, including our by-annual Samaritan collections and continues to run his Beach Business Breakfast Club which not only supports our club financially, but has been a good source of contacts for our projects.

One of the season events to be cancelled was our annual Sponsor’s Breakfast where we recognise existing and welcome any new sponsors, for this season and with much appreciation we gained a new major sponsor, Sage Painting. Company owner Sean Hersee has joined with us and is keen to get involved and as part of his company’s commitment will be undertaking an external repaint of the clubhouse in the near future.

Of course we need to thank all of our sponsors who continue to support us and we will reschedule a sponsors’ event once we get up and running again. Thanks, in particular to our own guys at Funda Finance, E J Architects, Juice Plus, and Jezweb for helping us out through the season.

The change in overall operations of our function room have been successful with the Saturday and midweek bookings all going well and the Friday and Sunday night “cheap eats and coldies” showing to be very well attended with our club caterer Ian Edwards “The Blind Chef” and his team (including Mrs Paras Snr – aka The Boss) proving popular. Our forward business plan is to continue operating with this model to develop it further by building on the success we have already achieved.

Obviously just like other clubs and organisations the Coronavirus forced shutdowns have significantly impacted on our incoming revenue, but while we are not operating, we have mitigated our club's major running cost of power usage down to the bare minimum by way of only having essential lighting and the web cam in use with our cool room and all non-essential items shut down.

Financially we are in a reasonable position to get us through this period with a club operating account that should sustain us in the interim until we are permitted to again open. Additionally, our Club Treasurer Mark Owen has been managing our investments so at least we are still realising positive increases in our Building Refurbishment Fund account.

Our building refurbishment planning continues with another recent milestone achieved. In March, our plans went before the Urban Design Consultative Group – a group of Newcastle architects engaged by City of Newcastle to review major building projects, and although there were a couple of design change recommendations to “improve the flow” of the building there were no major issues noted that would stop us going ahead, with the group commenting:

“Given its prominent location on one of Newcastle’s iconic beaches, the rebuilt Surf Club will be an important addition to the fabric of the city and its design must be of the highest quality”.

We will shortly be working with Glen Spicer and his team at E J Architecture to resolve these recommendations and then go back to City of Newcastle with our plans. In the interim as a certified Quantities Surveyor, club member Arron Satchell is helping us to understand what the final building costs of this design will be as another step forward in this project.

During this “shut down” time your committee has taken the opportunity for undertaking some improvements and repairs including reviewing of some operational structures, equipment maintenance, replacement of the function room sliding glass doors and panels, installation of a function room storage bench area, kitchen maintenance, and Evan is working on upgrades to the surf cam and security systems so that once we are cleared to go, we can get back up to speed quickly.

Although we don't know exactly yet when we will be running our club presentation night, we still need to have in place all our award nominees and have selected the winners ready for when we do. Similarly for Branch, although for this year's Branch Awards of Excellence there will be a presentation by way of an electronic awards ceremony which will be a little different to what we know. However, the important thing is that everyone is recognised for their efforts and commitment over the season.

4. Dignitaries/Hunter Branch Surf Life Saving Address:

Chief Executive of Hunter SLS Rhonda Scruton addressed the meeting and congratulated Merewether SLSC on their continued success and commitment to surf lifesaving. This year proves to be a challenge and the way we do business has been changed dramatically due to COVID 19 restrictions.

Seasonal challenges have also impacted on several other Clubs in the cluster, Stockton with the beach erosion and the huge issues losing their beach.

Patrolling season was cut short as the risk to members had to be limited. 2020-2021 Season will be a further challenge due to the unknown with the merging pandemic. Branch has over 8800 patrolling members, SLSNSW will be keeping abreast of current matters relating to upcoming patrolling season and will advise accordingly. Thank you for your commitment and resilience displayed over the last couple months. We are all in this together and look forward to another season.

5. Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM from the 2018-2019 Season:

Motion to adopt the minutes: Passed

Moved: Norm Rodgers Seconded: Anthony Tietze

Matters arising: Nil

6. Presentation of Annual Report for the 2019-2020 Season

I. Motion to adopt. Passed

II. Moved: Norm Rodgers Seconded: Anthony Tietze

7. Presentation of provisional Financial Statements for 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

I. Motion to adopt- Passed

II. Moved: Norm Rodgers Seconded: Dave Hoar

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

Title	Representative
Patrons	Mr. Tim Crakanthorp MP Member for Newcastle, Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Nuatali Nelmes, John Adamson, Sue Paul.
Vice-Patrons	Mr. Evan Walton, Mrs. Susan Walton OAM, Mr Ross Taggart
Honorary Auditor	Robert Jones
Honorary Solicitor	Craig Doyle (McDonald Johnson)
Medical Officers	Dr Geoff Fowler
Ambulance Officers	St John Ambulance, Laurie Graham & Richard Taylor

- I. Motion to adopt list of Patrons, Vice Patrons, Honorary Auditor and Solicitor – passed.
- II. Moved: Robert DAN Seconded: Warren Sterling

9. Life Membership- No nomination from the Life Members Committee for 2019-2020.

10. Election of Club President 2020-2021

Life Member Rob Dan acted into the position of Club President and officially vacated the seat for nominations. Nick Newton unopposed and elected President for 2020-2021.

11. Election of Office Bearers for 2020-2021.

Officers: All positions declared vacant: No further nominations excepted.

Dave Hoar appointed Club Captain for 2020-2021. Elected

Gary Semetka appointed Vice Club Captain for 2020-2021. Elected

Gemma McMillian appointed WH&S Coordinator for 2020-2021. Elected.

Chris Warren appointed Junior Activities Coordinator for 2020-2021. Elected.

Norm Rodgers – Radio Operations – appointed.

All other positions remained as no new nominations submitted.

All nominations listed below:

Club Captain	Dave Hoar
Secretary	Jamie Paras
Treasurer	Mark Owen
Chief Training Instructor	Anthony Tietze
Registrar	Jan Roche
Director of Surf Sports	Vacant
Board and Ski Captain	Kris Wall
<i>Vice Club Captain</i>	<i>Gary Semetka * Nomination</i>
<i>Junior Coordinator Chairperson</i>	<i>Chris Warren * Nomination</i>
Youth Coordinator	Sarah Bugbird
Rookie Coordinator	Karen Wallace
IRB Captain	Nathan Wright
Boat Captain	Emma Gale

15. General Business

- (a) Life Member Ian Kelso raised the question regarding the newly approved Community Member category and how many do we have registered?

Response: Club Secretary Jamie Paras confirmed that the Club currently has 5 community members that fulfil roles in the bar/function room and contributing to membership as per conditions attached. The amendment to the Constitution has been approved by NSW Fair Trading accordingly.

- (b) Further information that the Annual Report has not been updated on the Life Members Board to reflect those how have passed away.

Club Secretary Jamie Paras stated that this will be updated accordingly and reflect current active Life Members of MSLSC. Life Members and Historical Officer to assist with this matter.

No further items arising.

Club President Nick Newton officially closed the AGM and thanked everyone for their attendance and invited all to participate in morning tea.

Meeting Closed at 11: 45am. 26 July 2020