

## Merewether SLSC

### Minutes for The Annual General Meeting 11 July 2021

Due notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of Merewether Surf Life Saving Club INC, was held at the Clubhouse, Corner Watkins and John Parade, Merewether Beach on Sunday 11 July 2021 at 10.00 a.m.

#### Minutes:

10am: Annual General Meeting officially declared opened by Nick Newton, President.

- I. **Apologies:** Mr. Tim Crakanthorp MP Member for Newcastle,
- II. Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Councillor Nuatali Nelmes.
- III. **Members Apologies:** Mark Owen, Dave Hoar- Chris Warren, Gemma McMillian, Rob Dan, Emma Gale, Adrian Harte, Nathan Wright, Greg Stuck, Kris Wall, Matt Fox, Craig Vanderburg, Richard Taylor, Phil Jobling, Tony Quinn, Tony Robinson-Graham and Sue Walton- Sarah and Rob Bugbird
- IV. **Members in attendance.**
  - Life Members:** John Adamson – Nick Newton (P) Ross Taggart, Peter Alcock, Evan Walton, Steve and Stallard- Phil Mosgrove, Jeff Agland-Iain Kelso- Sue Paul- Greg Nelmes
  - Active Members:** Jamie Paras (S)-Anthony Tietze-Scott Kirkman-Norm Rodgers-Colin Lippiatt-Garry Semetka – Jan Roache (R) – Stephen Baines -Dom Willson-Penny Britz-Terry Flynn-Michael Spillane-Phil Kendall- Kevin Buckley-Karen Wallace.
- V. **Associates:** Wayne Hogg.
- VI. **Guests:** Rhonda and Henry Scruton-Chris Paul
- VII. **Community Members:** Linda March
- VIII. One-minute silence for Deceased Members:
- IX. President's Address by Nick Newton.

Welcome everyone, welcome to our guests, **Branch CEO Rhonda Scruton and Branch President Henry Scruton**

**Life members and members.** Going into this season was a bit of an unknown for all of us, as with the Covid pandemic issue we weren't sure exactly what was going to happen but having said that we were confident in ourselves and confident in how we were going to operate.

Leading up to the start of the season we were receiving a huge amount of information from State centre, Branch and NCC. This along with attending numerous meetings at Branch, NCC and running a host of our own executive and committee meetings to ensure we had a good understanding of the situation. From this we formulated procedures and processes to accommodate the changes required and then we passed on this information to our patrol captains to prepare themselves. Additionally, we were to be assisted with NCC lifeguards patrolling seven days a week, so we were confident we could perform and manage our beach correctly.

So, what did happen to surprise us? Very little. We had good surf days and bad days but, some interesting first aid cases but things ran as per what we would say as normal and I think this was mostly owing to us being so lucky to live in this great area, but we would also like to think that it was at least some of the work that was put in preseason..... anyway, that's what we are going to claim.

In particular, one good result that did come from some of these changes is the way our Junior's now run their teams. As with other clubs we needed to cap our junior members to a reduced number so we could effectively manage their individual groups, and from this issue came the structure and implementation of a different and very efficient method of operation that has attracted the interest of other clubs who are now looking at similar processes to ours.

Recently we lost two very distinguished and important Club members, **Laurie March, and Garry Miller**. **Laurie** will always be remembered for his involvement with the Rescue Helicopter Service, Jet Boat Service and the Sygna rescue, and for major renovations of our club house over the years.

**Garry** for an amazing 57 years of beach patrol service and his love of, and involvement with surf boats, along with an extensive competition history and the training of surfboat crews for his beloved sport. Both were gentlemen and stalwarts of our club, and both are sorely missed.

Other things that happened.

- **Dave Hoar and Garry Semetka** (next seasons club captain if he hasn't already told you) did a great job both pre and during the season of working with the patrol captains and patrolling members to ensure all knew of any sop changes to keep beach operations running smoothly and effectively.

- Our Education Team again worked hard in producing some outstanding new patrolling members, IRB drivers and crews. Again, thanks must be given to the entire education team for their time, commitment and professional approach taken with the training and member upskilling – the education process for all the training is becoming more and more demanding and it's a credit to all our education team for the effort they put thanks to **Anthony Tietze and Nathan Wright** for leading the way and special thanks to **Richard Taylor** for his time and effort in travelling from the central coast.

- Branch ran a 2-day ALBERT IRB course - Australian Lifeboat Emergency Rescue Training that was very well attended by our members with **Nathan Wright, Oscar Wright and Ralph Foster** running that for us, all reports are it was a great weekend with a lot of information and a lot learnt.

While on IRB's, Merewether is dabbling in IRB racing again with **Oscar Wright** crewing up in a composite team with Nobbys.

Although with the critical job of keeping this equipment running and in good order, I think Mark and Ralph now have their work cut out for them.

Also, after 12 months our new IRB hull has finally arrived, this will be put into service later in the year following its official launching as the **LAURIE MARCH II**.

- **Simon Lovell** has stood down as Branch Director of Lifesaving, and we thank him for representing our club in that role for the past four years. Although Simon is continuing in his support operations role as a drone pilot
- As mentioned, our Nippers' numbers for this season were capped lower to around 220 with the junior management team doing an excellent job with the running of their activities, along some great competition results and a successful and fun end of season camp.
- We have had **Lauran Soars** doing a fantastic job of coaching and running a training schedule for our younger competitors.
- Although having to struggle with COVID restrictions our raffles team have again done a great job raising over \$11,271
- **Emma Gale** has now become one of SLS top drone pilots, not only is she highly active in support and rescue operations but also very much in the training role, travelling to various locations around Australia for training of their operators. Emma is also this year's Branch Awards of Excellence winner for Support Operations Member of The Year winner
- Thanks to **Kris Wall** for his duties as Board and Ski captain, with what seems a lot of additional use of the equipment this season it has been an ongoing task keeping our rescue boards repaired and available.
- **Kris Wall, Dave Hoar and Adrian Harte** are all to be thanked with their work in sourcing, liaising and recognition of our sponsors. Additionally, **Adrian Harte** has put together a great slide show representing our current sponsors ensuring they are properly advertised.
- **Dave Hoar** continues to manage our Beach Healthy Challenge inclusion program, along with our Sarah our inclusion officer and a regular team of helpers this continues to be a successful and popular event.

Thanks to the generosity of Merewether locals, visitors, and our club members we again successfully ran our biannual St Vinnies food donation drives,

Our Function EVENTS Room although being well utilised with daily hire has been struggling with functions along with our coldie's events, obviously Covid issues have had a significant impact on hire and coldies attendance but have also been let down by some catering issues. We are currently looking for another caterer if anyone knows of one that might be suitable to us. Having said that we continue to operate and need to thank our regular bar crew for volunteering their time, **Norm Rodgers,**

**Jamie Paras, Karen Wallace, Patrick Sarungallo, Liam Watson, Michael Spillane, Emma Gale, Warren Sterling, Kev Buckley** for stepping up when needed.

Our building refurbishment planning continues, although it seems at a glacial pace there has been quite a lot happening. Unfortunately, we are restricted to the speed and processes that council operate at in doing their business. Presentation booklet available

We had a successful running of the World Surf League event, again Merewether Beach was put on the world stage, with a great outcome and the organisers high praising our club and venue wishing to return one day. There was a lot of effort put in to making this event successful, some significant building electrical repairs were required to be

undertaken by council contractors, followed by numerous webcam and IT issues to resolve – which kept **Evan Jobling** busy and we need to thank **Glenis Powell** for managing the ticketing for Club members, and the critical role with running our club footy tipping contest.

This season our sponsors have been more important than ever, whether a major or minor sponsor, and we cannot thank them enough for what they do for us and what they provide for us, they are an essential part of the way we operate, and we are lucky to have them. we will recognise them more formally by running a breakfast event later in the year for existing and, welcoming any new sponsors.

Please take note of who our sponsors are and support them when you can.

**Nathan and Mark from Funda Finance for continuing to support the club with supplying all the fuel for our power rescue equipment.**

**Dave Hoar with Money Saver Home Loans and the Beach Business Breakfast club.**

**Susan Walton Optometrist**

**Ross Taggart - Taggart Partners**

**Brendan McNabb - McGregor and McGregor**

**Liam Benson – Zambreros**

Thanks to **Warren Sterling** for managing the club clothing, we also have some more options now for him to manage.

To keep things running as it should, your senior club executive and committee did work hard **Jamie Paras** with administration and facilitating tasks keeping us compliant and yelling at us if we are not.

**Jan Roche as Registrar** worked hard in the background to manage our membership status along with the enviable job of sorting and rectifying issues as they arose.

**Gemma McMillan** taking our meeting minutes, then disseminating all the information and sending it out to us.

**Mark Owen** for keeping a handle on our finances and managing our investments so we are still realising positive increases in our accounts.

The list could go on as every committee member deserves a mention for the job they do so well in making it all happen and we thank them all for their time and effort.

I want to again thank everyone for making our club such a great place to be and such a great organisation to be part of.

All our patrolling members for their time and effort in providing safe management of our beach, for without them we do not have a Club.

Our Education and Training teams for providing your valuable time and commitment to the task.

Congratulations and thank you to **Chris Warren** and the junior's management team and age managers that organise and train our juniors again, all our much-valued sponsors for continued support and association with our Club.

Also, the support of our community. Finally, our committee who are invaluable with providing their expertise and direction to make our Club not only function so well, but in making it such an enjoyable place to be and fantastic organisation to be part of.

Thank You.

### **Dignitaries/Hunter Branch Surf Life Saving Address**

**Henry Scruton President Hunter Surf Life Saving** addressed the Meeting.

Mr Scruton outlined the achievements of all Surf Clubs within the Hunter Branch and acknowledging specifically those of Merewether SLSC.

Club Patrols have been well patronised. Praise goes out to **Anthony Tietze** and the education team who have assisted Branch with the assessments and training.

Thank you to **Simon Lovell** who has retired from the Director of Life Saving – Hunter. We thank Simon a great deal and the commitment given by him to the Branch.

Simon is a proud member of Merewether SLSC and of Hunter Branch.

Congratulations to **Dr Emma Gale** who has providing professional assistance in Hunter Branch and SLSNSW with UAV Operations. Emma received the Hunter Award for Operations Support for the year.

Congratulations to the Junior Education Team and Nippers. The Albert Course was highly successful, and all Clubs from the Hunter Branch participated at Fingal Bay, 43 Members and 15 craft all together. We all look forward to September and hopefully that will still go ahead pending COVID restrictions. Confirm dates soon.

### **CEO Rhonda Scruton – Hunter Branch:**

Congratulations to Merewether SLSC on a successful year.

We have kept things going through ZOOM meetings. Branch has had changes to the Administration Team. We have been short staffed but trying to get the right information out there to the Clubs on time.

State Conference has been cancelled due the COVID Lock downs in Sydney.

Several other Annual Surf Club events have been cancelled due to the outbreaks.

Radio system is being upgraded to digital. Will advise when the radios are ready.

The Annual Reporting requirements are now due- affiliations with Hunter and SLSNSW. Call Out Teams – Financial reporting and more importantly membership renewals. Please be aware as of this financial year SLSNSW will cancel all memberships if not renewed by 31 October 2021.

Congratulations to you all with the community achievements, Lifeguard for the day through the Hunter Health Challenge. Also including the food drive with the Samaritans all this is well received and sets a great example to other Clubs.

Club leasing arrangements with Newcastle City Council is an ongoing issue and we are working continuously to secure these agreements.

Thank you to **Nick Newton** and **Anthony Tietze** with their tireless work with the DA and Club planning with Council. The re-development of the Club House is a major project and moving forward.

We have a new **Youth Coordinator Amanda Patterson**. Amanda has a lot of enthusiasm and brings a new approach to the position. We hope that Merewether can jump on board with ongoing support in this area.

We have changes to the way we do First Aid Training. Those changes will include how they are delivered. Merewether SLSC has a large education team and given Branch great support. Thank you.

We congratulate and acknowledge 40 years of association with the Newcastle Permanent. We will be getting promotional items such as umbrellas and rashies.

Junior competitions have been participating in and Nippers programs, well done.

Merewether SLSC has been doing well in all aspects, we have all on going challenges with COVID and drives us more to keep surf lifesaving in the Hunter protected.

We wish the best for the upcoming season. Thank you.

Confirmation of Minutes of the AGM from the 2019 to 2020 Season

X. **Moved: Garry Semetka** **Seconded: Anthony Tietze**

XI. Matters arising - NIL

Presentation of Annual Report for the 2020-2021 Season

XII. Motion to adopt. **Passed**

XIII. **Moved: Penny Britz** **Seconded: Greg Nelmes**

\*Presentation of the Audited Financial Statements for 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019 to 30 June 2020. I. Motion to adopt: Agreed - **Passed**.

II. **Moved: Garry Semetka** **Seconded: John Adamson**

Presentation of provisional Financial Statements for 1st July 2020 to 30 June 2021 III. Motion to adopt: **Passed**

IV. **Moved: Garry Semetka** **Seconded: Phil Musgrove**

## Presentation of Club Patrons, Vice Patrons and Honorary Positions

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

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

V. **Moved:** Penny Britz      **Seconded:** Michael Spillane

2. **Election of President for 2021-2022 – Elected Unopposed Nick Newton.**

3. **Election of Officers**

Club Captain	<b>*Gary Semetka –elected</b>
Secretary	Jamie Paras – Unopposed
Treasurer	Mark Owen – Unopposed
Chief Training Instructor	Anthony Tietze – Unopposed
Registrar	Jan Roche – Unopposed
<b>Director of Surf Sports</b>	<b>*Trish Stallard -Elected</b>
Board and Ski Captain	Kris Wall – Unopposed
<b>Vice Club Captain</b>	<b>*Gemma McMillian -Elected</b>
Junior Coordinator Chairperson	Chris Warren – Unopposed
<b>Youth Coordinator</b>	<b>Vacant</b>
Rookie Coordinator	Karen Wallace - Unopposed
IRB Captain	Nathan Wright – Unopposed
Boat Captain	Emma Gale – Unopposed
WH&S Officer	Gemma McMillian – Unopposed
Member Protection Information Officer	Kate Flint - – Unopposed
IT Co-Ordinator	Evan Jobling – Unopposed
Publicity Officer	Dave Hoar – Unopposed
Radio Officer	Norm Rodgers– Unopposed

<b><i>Gear and Equipment Officer</i></b>	Chris Warren – Unopposed
Merchandise Officer	Warren Sterling – Unopposed
Historical Officer	Tony Robinson – Unopposed

**Honorariums for the 2021-2022 Season (unchanged from last season)**

- President, Secretary, Treasurer - \$500
  - Chief Instructor, Registrar - \$250
- I. Motion to adopt ; Passed
- II. **Moved: John Adamson                      Seconded: Garry Smeteka**

**Determination of Club Fees for 2021-2022 Season:**

<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
*Community Membership	\$55.00
Family Membership (1 adult, 2 children)	\$200.00
Additional family members	\$75.00
LATE membership fee (after 31 <sup>st</sup> October 2021)	\$35.00

III. Motion to adopt the membership fees for the **2021 -2022 Season – Passed.**

IV. **Moved: Jan Roche                                      Seconded: Sue Paul**

I. Resolution for Affiliation with Hunter Branch 2021-2022

V. **Moved: Iain Kelso                      Seconded: Penny Britz**

**SECTION 3 - SUB-COMMITTEES Sub-committee elected at the Annual General Meeting:**

- a. Life Membership Committee The purpose of the committee is the investigation of all nominations for Life or Life Honorary membership, as covered by the Constitution Clause.

2.8.1. The sub-committee will comprise of the Club President and two (2) Life Members and will elect its own Chairperson. The two life members will serve a term of 5 (five) years and will be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

*Committee:*     *Nick Newton – President*  
                          *Phil Musgrove- Life Member*  
                          *Rob Dan -         Life Member*

**Move:**       **Garry Semetka**               **Second:**       **Anthony Tietze**

b. Constitution Committee To be elected as required for the purpose of revising the Club Constitution and comprising five (5) members, two of whom will be the President or Club Secretary and the Honorary Solicitor.

*Committee:*     *Nick Newton - President*  
                          *Jamie Paras - Secretary*  
                          *Craig Doyle – Solicitor*  
                          *2 x members to be advertised.*

**Move:**       **Garry Semetka**  
**Second:**   **Anthony Tietze**

## General Business

**Changes to the Constitution:**

**Motion to amend the reporting financial year. Currently:**

### **6.2 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:**

**(a) The financial year shall be from 1 July to 30 June in the following year.**

**Replaced with:**

***“ the financial year shall be from 1 April to 31 March in the following year”***

**Motion to adopt: Passed**

**For the motion: Unanimous**

**Against the motion: Nil**

### **3.1 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**(b) All annual meetings must be advertised in a **local newspaper** seven (7) days prior to the meeting and all members shall receive notification via some form of communication.**

*To be replaced with:*

***"All annual meetings must be advertised seven (7) days prior to the meeting and all members shall receive notification via some form of communication".***

**Motion to adopt: Passed**

**For the motion: Unanimous**

**Against the motion: Nil**

**Club Secretary Jamie Paras** addressed the meeting and wished to thank **Anthony Tietze** presenting the Annual Report for 2020-2021. Gratefully received and showcasing the efforts by our Club members over the season. Thank you, Anthony.

Also, gratitude and many thanks for the efforts and assistance that **Colin Lippiatt** has afforded the Club over the past year. Colin is our COVID Marshal who has been working behind the scenes ensuring we comply with all the requirements. Also, the effort and professional input with producing the Shore Dump and sway style on email. Thank you, Colin.

No further business – **President Nick Newton** declared the meeting closed and invited all members to partake in lunch.

**Meeting Closed: 11: 20pm.**

