



## AVALON BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC

### Minutes of the 91st Annual General Meeting

Held at Avalon Beach SLSC Club Room on Sunday 31 July, 2016 at 3:00pm

#### Preceding Meeting

A formal acknowledgement of country was extended to the Guringai people, the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting took place.

Voting procedures were outlined, a quorum declared and the meeting opened at 3:08pm.

#### 1. Apologies

Apologies were received from the following:

Club Members: Donald Mitchell, George Shuttleworth, Ian (Rick) Wright, Warren Mitchell, Paul Sheehan, Reg Wood, Richard McEvoy, Rick Millar, Bruce Muston, David Plunkett, Steve Jacek, Bernadette McKay.

Sponsors: Stephen Crawford & Cathy Neich - Col Crawford Hyundai,

Invited guests: Dick Persson, Northern Beaches Council, Mr John Brogden, Patron

#### 2. A minute's silence to honour our lost members and fellow surf lifesavers

A minute's silence was observed.

#### 3. Reading and acceptance of the minutes of the 90th Annual General Meeting

Richard Cole proposed that the minutes of the 90<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 26 July 2015 be taken as read and that Item 9 be amended from "20 Years' Service Awards" to "Long Service Awards".

Motion: That the notice of meeting be taken as read and minutes accepted with the proposed amendment.

Moved by Christine Hopton. Seconded by Warren Young. All present in favour. None against. Motion Carried.

#### 4. Business arising from previous minutes

There was no business arising from the previous minutes.

#### 5. President's welcome and summary of the 2015/16 season

Richard Cole welcomed the following special guests, Mr Rob Stokes, Member for Pittwater, Mrs Bronwyn Bishop, Patron, Mr Alex McTaggart, Northern Beaches Council, Mr Bob Grace, former Pittwater Councillor, Mr Steve McInnes and Mr Darren Warrener from Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches, to the AGM.

Richard presented a summary of the 2015/16 season and informed the AGM that the Club was very fortunate to be such a strong, family based, cohesive, inter-generational Club. The Club has great facilities, a strong balance sheet, a dedicated management team, meticulous and enthusiastic trainers, a booming nippers program, an exciting youth program, great surf sports teams, a thriving gym and well-attended social and community events.

2015/16 was a successful year with no lives lost, 80 rescues, 100 first aid treatments and 450 preventative measures throughout the season. Richard congratulated Mel Hall for her successful year as Club Captain.

53 members attained their Bronze medallion and 42 members attained their SRC, with 145 Awards presented. Richard praised the effort of Louise Lindop and her dedicated team of trainers.

Community events such as the Lion Island Challenge, Carols by the Sea, Pittwater Ocean Series and the Big Swim had been strongly subscribed, and Richard thanked all of the organising committees and the many volunteers for their tremendous efforts that make these events so successful.

Richard congratulated Pim Van Gestel and his team as, under their leadership, Nippers have thrived this year honing their skills in a variety of waterproofing, board training, fitness and coaching sessions culminating with the Club's best ever point scores at Branch and State carnivals. With 438 Nippers this year having fun every Sunday morning, the Junior Club continues to be strongly subscribed and very successful.

Youth age groups comprising Cadets, Rookies and Bronzies have also had a great year under the leadership of Junior Club Captain, Mike Stanley Jones. Youth membership has increased from 22 members in 2012/13 to 97 members in 2015/16 and we were proud to have our Youth Program recognised as the Initiative of the Year at SLSNB Branch Awards. With dynamic activities targeted at this age group, and the waiving of membership fees, the Club is trying hard to retain these members within our club to become the lifesavers of the future.

Surf sports teams collected a cabinet full of medals over the year. The Antiques surf boat team continued their extraordinary run with a silver at Aussies and the U/23 Pinkies excelled with victories at Branch, at the interstate titles representing NSW and in the Trans-Tasman Cup representing Australia. They are travelling to the Worlds in September and Richard wished them the best of luck over in Amsterdam. The Avocados, Krusties and Avalon Beach Reds also had some great results in our new boat, the Darryl Johnson.

Masters competitors shone this year with Chris McGuckin again the standout winning three state gold medals. There were also good results at Aussies with three fourth placings by Darren Warrener, Grant Salmon and Chris McGuckin.

IRB teams achieved some great results across the winter season culminating with a bronze at State by Matt Mayall, Blake Taggart, Melissa Hall and Amelia Barber. The team continues to grow with some promising results from our novices Todd Barber and Zach Dale.

The Club received a plethora of awards at the Northern Beaches Branch Awards of Excellence and Richard congratulated all of our winners and nominees; Outstanding Service Award - Christine Hopton, Northern Beaches Council Initiative of the Year - Avalon Beach SLSC Youth Program, Streets Most Outstanding Club for Administration - Avalon Beach SLSC (shared), SNB Championship Point Score - Avalon Beach Pinkies (Nick Sampson, Matthew Mayall, Tom Curnow, Andy Bright, Nathan Wellings (sweep)), Rescue of the Month May / June 2015 and Rescue of the Year - Avalon and Warriewood SLSCs Beverley Tilbury, Kate Munro, Donna Wishart, Kerry McEwan (Avalon Beach), Russell Lamb and Jen Spencer (Warriewood).

The Club organised an array of fun social events to thank members for their hard work during the season including nipper sleepovers, End of Season Party, Presentation Night, various dinner and drink events as well as the regular Friday and Sunday afternoon sessions at the bar. Richard thanked Nick Sampson, Matt Mayall, Nathan Wellings, Pete Carter and all the boaties for managing the bar, which has made a tremendous contribution to the Club's finances.

Richard thanked Brent Williams and Maree Yong, operators of the CrossFit gymnasium, for their great support to our surf sports teams, nipper and youth groups this year.

The Board of Management also had a productive year establishing a draft Strategic Plan, formalising new Club policies and management agreements, developing a new Constitution and website and IT data storage. Information sharing practices will be rolled out in the coming year.

Additionally a number of building upgrades have been completed including; cupboards and white board to the meeting room, furniture for the Club Lounge, AV cupboard to the Bar, glass washer, new nipper's clothes cupboard, new board racks, heating in the Club Room and a new exterior door to the IRB store. Equipment upgrades include four new trailers, an IRB trailer, new surf boat, new boards for Nippers and SRCs and a commitment to purchase a new IRB.

In the coming season, the Club will be focussing on the adoption and implementation of the Strategic Plan that will shape the future of the Club over the next five years and beyond as well as developing and implementing some exciting new initiatives to improve patrol attendance, an area highlighted in the inaugural SLSNSW Club Sustainability Indicator Report requiring improvement.

Richard thanked all of our sponsors for their support throughout the year with special mention to our major sponsors, LJ Hooker Avalon Beach, Col Crawford Hyundai and Avalon Beach RSL.

Richard also thanked our Patron, Bronwyn Bishop for her staunch support and involvement with the Club over the past 20 years as well as her strong support of the Surf Lifesaving movement and hoped that Bronwyn will continue to support the Club.

Richard closed his presentation by thanking his Board of Management team and Club Officers for their dedication to their portfolios and efforts throughout the year, Christine Hopton for handing over the Club in such great shape and for her continued assistance, Leanne Austin for her help on a daily basis, and his wife Cilla for her support.

## **6. Financial Report for the 2015/16 season**

Kevin Veale, Alternate Director of Finance, presented the financial report as provided in the 2015/16 Annual Report. Kevin informed the meeting of the Club's very strong result declaring a \$65,000 net profit, \$310,000 in net assets, and with expenditure of \$106,000 on new equipment throughout the season, the Club still finished the financial year with a strong balance sheet.

## **7. Presentation, consideration and adoption of the Annual Report for the 2015/16 season**

Richard Cole presented the 91st Annual Report for the 2015/16 season and thanked all that were involved in the production of the report with special acknowledgement of the efforts of Claudie Moffat and Christine Hopton.

Motion: That the 91st Annual Report for the 2015/16 season including the Audited Financial Statements be accepted and adopted. Moved by Richard Cole. Seconded by Louise Lindop. All present in favour. None against. Motion Carried.

## **8. Invitation to speak to the Report**

Richard Cole invited speakers to talk to the Annual Report.

Mrs Bronwyn Bishop thanked Richard for the kind words in the Annual Report and reconfirmed her commitment to surf lifesaving because she passionately believes in what the movement stands for and what it does. Bronwyn said that members represent an icon of an Australian organisation and its members embodied the very essence of what being an Australian means. What brings people together is the ideal of saving a life – someone who needs your help. Bronwyn also acknowledged and praised the efforts of the women of Avalon Beach SLSC and Warriewood SLSC who jointly rescued a rock fisherman and praised the Carols event as one of the nicest Christmas family events on the northern beaches – a happy mix and exemplified how the surf lifesaving movement reaches out and embraces all. Bronwyn commented that Avalon Beach SLSC had been exemplary in many ways, acknowledging the completion of the building and collaboration with Pittwater Council to achieve this result. Bronwyn hopes that the culture of the former Manly and Pittwater Councils rubs off on Warringah Council under the recently merged Northern Beaches Council, otherwise she could not see much benefit for surf life saving clubs under the merger. Bronwyn praised Richard Cole's stewardship and that Richard had proven that he was up to the task. Bronwyn concluded by reminding members to remain committed to the principal that binds members together – the care of another individual that you may never know.

Mr Rob Stokes, MP, acknowledged the Life Members, Members of the Committee and all members present at the AGM and thanked them for their service for the past patrol year. Rob endorsed Mrs Bishop's comments regarding the collaborative approach we have taken to training, community events, and the most fundamental issue for surf life saving clubs, providing life saving services on the beach. Rob thanked all that were involved in recording the patrol statistics as they are helpful to garnering financial support for surf life saving. Rob said that whatever support the Council and Government provided, they would be unable to afford to pay for the amount of effort we provide on a voluntary basis. Rob thanked the Club for the community events that we provide; the Lion Island Challenge, the Doug Crane Classic and the Ocean Swim and also thanked the Club for the use of the club sustainability index and setting an example for other clubs in Pittwater and further afield.

Darren Warrener, on behalf of Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches, congratulated the Club on a solid and strong year, both financially and from a community perspective. Darren thanked the Club for the successful running of the Branch carnival, which brought all areas of the Club together, as well as complimenting the running of the Branch Board Riding championships.

Warren Young spoke on behalf of all Club members and congratulated Richard Cole and the Club on the outstanding work throughout the year. Warren also congratulated everyone involved in producing the Annual Report.

## 9. Presentation of Awards

Richard Cole informed the meeting of the recipients of Club Awards presented at the June Presentation Night:

- The Norman Cook Most Outstanding Member of the Year - Jeff Nesbitt
- Presidents' Award - Johnny Harper, Xanthe Friend, Todd Barber
- The Chris "Detho" Dethick – Boatie of the Year - Beverley Tilbury
- Rookie of the Year - Daphne Rhodes
- Patrol Captain of the Year - Nina Mills
- Patrol Member of the Year - Alan Moran
- Junior Member of the Year - Jack Wetherall
- Max Watt Competitors of the Year - U/23 Pinkies Nathan Wellings, Nick Sampson, Andrew Bright, Tom Curnow, Matt Mayall

Mike Stanley Jones presented the Steve Parkes Award for Achievement in Lifesaving Education to Louise Lindop who was very honoured to receive this Award.

Richard Cole presented Long Service Award Certificates to Troy Fogwell (20 Years), Warren Young (30 Years), Peter Akehurst (40 Years). Richard McEvoy (30 years) was unable to attend the AGM to accept his Award.

## 10. Nominations for Life Membership

Richard Cole informed the AGM that no nominations for Life Membership had been received by the Life Members & Service Honours Awards Committee.

## 11. Notice of Motion of Special Resolution to change the name of the Club

Richard Cole informed the AGM the reasons behind the proposed change of name. The Club had historically been known as Avalon Beach Surf Life Saving Club, however, in 1990 it incorporated as Avalon Beach Surf Lifesaving (one word) Club Incorporated. The proposed change in official name brings the name of the Club back to historical and common usage (as depicted on our logo), and into line with Surf Life Saving Australia Limited, Surf Life Saving New South Wales and Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Incorporated.

Motion: That the name of the Club be changed from Avalon Beach Surf Lifesaving Club Incorporated to Avalon Beach Surf Life Saving Club Inc. Moved by Roger Sayers. Seconded by Robert Hopton. All present in favour. None against. Motion Carried.

## 12. Notice of Motion of Special Resolution to replace the existing Constitution with a new Constitution

Richard Cole informed the AGM the reasons behind the proposed adoption of a new Constitution, namely the current constitution, adopted in 2008 and entirely suitable for its time, would now require numerous amendments to address ongoing change. The wording is now seen as somewhat inflexible, specifies procedures that are no longer aligned with current Club practices, and was out of line with recently adopted SLSNSW and SLSA constitutions. The proposed constitution was based on a template created specifically for surf clubs and remedied the above issues. The proposed constitution also provides both the framework and safeguards needed to operate as a successful club, without the specific parameters that may restrict how the club chooses to operate in the future. Specific rules regulating the operation of the Club will be adopted as a set of By-Laws that can be amended as required by the Board of Management.

Richard informed the AGM that all members received a copy of the proposed constitution by email with the notice of the AGM and have had the opportunity to raise questions or concerns with himself and the committee. Richard also thanked the Committee for their exceptional work.

Motion: That the Constitution dated July 2008 be replaced by the Constitution dated July 2016 attached as Annexure A to the Notice of this meeting. Moved by Leanne Austin. Seconded by Kevin Veale. All present in favour. None against. Motion Carried.

**13. Election of Office Bearers for the season 2016/17**

Richard Cole read the list of the Club Position Nominations (as outlined in the 2016 Constitution) and acknowledged that almost all of the Board of Management and office holders had sought re-election.

Motion: That the Club position nominations as read be elected. Moved by Christine Hopton. Seconded by Roger Sayers. All in favour. None against. Motion carried.

Richard informed the meeting that Life Member, Peter Akehurst, who has held the position of IRB Competition Manager since 1994 and been on the committee since 1989, would not be seeking re-election. Richard acknowledged the diversity of roles that Peter has held, his many achievements throughout his life saving career and thanked Peter for his extraordinary service to the Club over many decades.

**14. Notice of Motion for Affiliation with Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc and Surf Life Saving New South Wales.**

Motion: That affiliation be sought for the 2016/17 season with Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc and Surf Life Saving New South Wales and that Avalon Beach Surf Life Saving Club Inc declare affiliation with Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc and Surf Life Saving New South Wales.

Moved by Richard Cole. Seconded by Warren Young. All in favour. None against. Motion carried.

**15. General Business of an urgent nature only**

Roger Sayers presented a photo collection to Bronwyn Bishop and thanked her for her support over the years.

There was no further general business of an urgent nature.

**16. Date of Next AGM**

The 2016/17 AGM will take place on Sunday 30 July, 2017.

**17. Meeting Closure**

The meeting was declared closed at 3:58pm.