



AVALON BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC

Minutes of the 92nd Annual General Meeting

Held at Avalon Beach SLSC Club Room on Sunday 30 July, 2017 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 3:09pm.

1. Apologies

Richard Cole welcomed special guests, Mr Jason Falinski (Member for Mackellar), The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop (Patron), Mr John Brogden (Patron), Mrs Kylie Ferguson (Northern Beaches Council), Mr Darren Warrener (Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches), and Life Members, Board of Management, Club Members and other guests.

Apologies were received from the following:

Invited guests: Rob Stokes (Member for Pittwater, Member for Education), Dick Persson (Administrator, NBC), Bob Grace (former Pittwater Councillor), Steve McInnes (CEO, SLSSNB), David McKay (Club Sponsor LJ Hooker Avalon)

Life Members: Don Mitchell, George Shuttleworth, Kevin Watt, Rick Millar, Warren Mitchell, Pete Carter and Reg Wood

Board of Management: Andrew Crow (Dep Dir Life Saving), Alan Moran (IRB Captain), Melissa Hall (Club Captain), Nick Sampson (Dir of Surf Sports), Matthew Mayall (Boat Captain).

Members: Peter Brennan, Jenny Brennan, Scott Ridley, Chris McGuckin, Brian Friend, Wilson Gamble, Jason Brown, Damian Geyle, Duncan Herbert

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 91st Annual General Meeting

Richard Cole proposed that the minutes of the 91st Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 31 July 2016 be taken as read.

Motion: That the notice of meeting be taken as read and the minutes accepted. Moved by Richard Cole. Seconded by Bob Head. 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 2016/17 season

Richard opened his address with the recount of a major beach rescue of three young girls caught in a rip at North Avalon performed by Brent Williams and members of Patrol 4, as well as the efforts of Nick Sampson who rendered first aid to an elderly person who had fallen onto rocks at Palm Beach. Richard reminded the meeting

that while the Club encompasses such a varied range of activities and programs, it is very important that we always remember and remain focussed on our core values and mission - to save lives, create great Australians and build a better community.

Richard thanked the 260 active volunteers for keeping our beach safe with no lives lost. Our patrols performed 32 rescues, 88 first aid treatments, 378 preventative measures and a combined 6,495 hours patrolling our beach.

Richard highlighted SLSNSW's Club Sustainability report, which provides a snapshot of Club statistics taken from the national database, Surfguard. While the Club generally performed well across most areas, the report highlighted a slight decline in membership, a poor conversion rate from Nippers to Cadets and General to Active Members, and the number of active proficient members attaining major awards – Bronze Medallion (BM), IRB Driver, Advanced Resuscitation Technique and Basic Beach Management. 41% of contributing active members also completed less than 20 patrol hours and Richard reminded the meeting that we rely on our active members to provide full strength patrols every time they are rostered and that next season we need to do significantly better.

Richard highlighted the many milestones that were achieved this year including:

- Life Member Ken Davidson, who achieved his 70 Year Long Service Award.
- Coordination and running of successful community events, commencing with the Lion Island Challenge, Carols on the Beach, the Avalon Surf Swim and the inaugural Around the Bends swim from Newport o Avalon.
- the Pinkies and Antiques Surf Boat Teams both bringing home Gold World Championship medals from the Netherlands. Both crews not only won their own divisions, they both came 4th in the Open divisions.
- Surfboat crews expanding to take a remarkable 11 crews to State and Aussies with great results across the board including 2 medals at a shortened Aussies.
- Nippers excelled with huge teams going to Branch and State and significant improvement in the water events in particular and so many progressing through to finals (60% of the State team!).
- Spectacular performances at the Branch and State Surfing titles.
- Our small Masters team had a good year with excellent results at the East Coast Masters, Branch and Freshwater carnivals, but medals proved elusive at the Aussies this year.
- IRB teams had some good results throughout the season with the standout achievement being the Rookie team of Todd Barber and Zach Dale who came first in the State Championships pointscore for the Mass Rescue.
- Under 15 Age Group conducted a tour to New Zealand, taking part in carnivals, team building, life lessons and out of your comfort zone experiences.
- A group of Bronze medallion candidates in Singapore were trained as part of a Singapore Nippers program culminating in Singapore based, fully qualified Age Managers and members of Avalon Beach SLSC.
- Training 40 new Bronze Medallion candidates, 39 SRC's, 24 Senior First Aid certificates, 1 Advanced First Aid, 17 ARTC, 8 Silver Medallion Beach Management, 2 new IRB Drivers and 11 IRB Crew.
- An abundance of social events at the Club, including Nipper sleepovers, Presentation Night, various dinner and drink events as well as the regular Friday and Sunday afternoon sessions at the bar and a live music program featuring amazing local talent.
- Adoption of the Avalon Beach SLSC Strategic Plan 2021, a plan that outlines goals, strategies and performance indicators to provide a framework for the continuing improvement of our Club across all portfolios.

Richard gave an emotional tribute to Nick Pinheiro, a much-loved student at Barrenjoey High School, an active patrolling member and Surf Boat rowing team member who tragically died this year.

Richard thanked and acknowledging the invaluable support of the Club's sponsors LJ Hooker Avalon Beach, Col Crawford Hyundai, Avalon Beach RSL and more recent sponsor Telstra.

Richard closed his presentation by congratulating all of the award winners this year including, Norman Cook Club Member of the Year, Volker Klemm, President's Award recipients Patrol Captain's Brian Wetherall, Adam Clerke and Alan Mahn, Louise Lindop and the Pinkies, who also won awards at the recent Branch Awards of Excellence, as well as all of the BoM members and officers, wife Cilla and family for their support.

6. Financial Report for the 2016/17 season

Bernadette McKay, Director of Finance, presented the financial report as provided in the 2016/17 Annual Report. Whilst the Club made a small loss this year, this was mainly due to the depreciation of new capital expenditure items. Financial expenditure last year focussed on the upgrading of board and rescue equipment. Additional expenditure was incurred through the participation of our competitive U23 Pinkies and Antiques surf

boat crews who competed at the World Championships held in the Netherlands, (both crews returning with Gold medals), as well as our Cadet travelling to New Zealand for an inaugural end of season tour. The Club's revenue increased significantly due to government and lifesaving grants, revenue generated from the function room hire and associated bar sales and more modest membership fees. Cash flow remains steady and our Club is proud of its ability to pay its bills within 7 days. The BoM will be focussing on returning a surplus in this current financial year with rigorous budget forecasting required for each portfolio and expenditure prioritised accordingly. We are confident that we can deliver a stronger financial result next year.

7. Presentation, consideration and adoption of the Annual Report for the 2016/17 season

Richard Cole presented the 92nd Annual Report for the 2016/17 season and thanked all that were involved in the production of the report with special acknowledgement of the efforts of Claudie Moffat, Louise Lindop and Leanne Austin.

Motion: That the 92nd Annual Report for the 2016/17 season including the Audited Financial Statements be accepted and adopted. Moved by Richard Cole. Seconded by Robert Hopton. 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.

The Hon Jason Falinski, MP thanked and congratulated the BoM for their efforts throughout the previous season, congratulated Ken Davidson on his 70 years of service to life saving and thanked John Brogden and The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop for their support as Club Patrons. Mr Falinski extended apologies on behalf of The Hon. Rob Stokes who was unable to attend the meeting as four Clubs were holding their AGM on the same day. Mr Falinski informed the AGM that the State Government had doubled the funding for Surf Life Saving Clubs and encouraged the Club to contact him about future funding. Mr Falinski spoke highly of surf life saving clubs on the northern beaches and across Australia and congratulated the Club on its youth training programmes.

Kylie Ferguson thanked the Club and volunteers and expressed her appreciation to all members of the Club for their efforts. Kylie spoke about the recent suicides in the northern beaches area and the impact to the community and informed the AGM that she has been working with both Barrenjoey High and the Northern Beaches Council to develop a shop front for youth to reach out to in the event that they can't speak to their families or friends.

The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop congratulated Richard Cole for the Annual Report and the engagement of the Avalon Beach SLSC with the local community. Mrs Bishop acknowledged the efforts of Richard Cole and Christine Hopton on the success of the new Clubhouse and despite the balance sheet showing a small loss that we have a lot to be proud of. Mrs Bishop defined surf life saving as *"everything that is good about the Australian character. It is voluntary. It is altruistic. Individuals who have come together to save someone's life, who have set out to do something right and is intrinsic to our very character. It is this desire to serve one's fellow Australians that has created such a strong, iconic national movement, the largest volunteer organisation in the country, the largest rescue organisation in the country. For all the good times, the difficult times, for the rescues and competition determination, each and every one can say, a job well done. Surf life saving carries high a principle of what it means to be Australian and I wish the club well for the coming season."*

Mr John Brogden acknowledged the special guests in attendance and stated he was pleased to see so many Life Members in attendance, noting that whilst people may age, their commitment never changes. Mr Brogden informed the AGM that he has been a patron for 21 years and that on the birth of his son he received a Nipper cap from our Club. Mr Brogden also acknowledged that as the Chairman of Lifeline he was very sad to hear of the loss of Nicholas Pinheiro. He advised that he had been a member of Lifeline for many years and that, unfortunately, suicide is on the increase and the northern beaches has been recognised as a suicide cluster. He would like people to know that life is for living and reminded those present of the importance of asking people in need if you can help. In the mental health sector, it is believed that you should ask the individual if they want to take their own life as we are all accidental carers and counsellors. Mr Brogden concluded by thanking everyone for all that they do and the lives that are saved on the beach.

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 - Volker Klemm
- Presidents' Award - Brian Wetherall, Adam Clerke, Alan Mahn

- The Chris “Detho” Dethick – Boatie of the Year - Ashley Cardiff
- Cadet of the Year - Lachlan Mills
- Patrol Captain of the Year - Nicholas Sampson
- Patrol Member of the Year - Terry Barber
- Junior Member of the Year - Connor Johnson
- Max Watt Competitors of the Year - U/23 Avocados
- Nathan Wellings, Amelia Barber, Ellie Di Biagio, Lauren Petersen, Chloe Scott
- The inaugural Warren Mitchell IRB Award - Peter Akehurst

The Rookie of the Year award was not presented at Presentation Night and the recipient, Matthew Robinson accepted his award at the AGM.

Louise Lindop, last year's Awardee presented the Steve Parkes Award for Achievement in Lifesaving Education to Darren Cutrie, Lucas Malloy and Greig Schuettrumpf who were very honoured to receive this Award.

Richard Cole presented Long Service Award Certificates to Matt Farmer (20 years), Darren Cutrie (20 years), Kevin Veale (25 years), Mark Heffernan (25 years), Col Campbell (25 & 30 years), William Wall (30 years) and Ken Davidson (70 years).

Ken Davidson remarked that *“all you need to do is hang around this beach for 70 years and breath in that fresh Avalon air.”*

Chris McGuckin (20 years), Duncan Herbert (25 years), Damian Geyle (25 years), Jason Brown (30 years) were unable to attend the AGM to accept their awards.

10. Nominations for Life Membership

Richard Cole informed the AGM that two nominations for Life Membership had been received by the Life Members & Service Honours Awards Committee (LMSHAC). Warren Young spoke on behalf of LMSHAC members and informed the meeting that life membership doesn't come easy and the Committee had been hearing about many committed volunteers at the Club. Life Membership is not awarded for years or service, or how well you compete at carnivals, it is awarded to individuals who rendered distinguished voluntary service in a sustained and conspicuous manner over an extended period of time. Befitting that requirement were this year's nominees”

- Mark Heffernan
- Louise Lindop

Motion: by Special Resolution that Mark Heffernan and Louise Lindop be conferred Life Membership of Avalon Beach SLSC. Moved by Richard Cole. Seconded by Ken Davison. All present in favour. None against. Motion Carried.

11. Notice of Motion of Special Resolution to adopt the strategic plan.

Richard Cole presented the Strategic Plan to the meeting and summarised the Strategic Plan scoresheet for this season as follows:

The Strategic Plan measures over 200 performance indicators across nine strategic priorities of the Club. Dark Green means the indicator has been achieved, light green is improving, orange is no change, pink is declining and red is not achieved. All indicators are benchmarked against the results of the 2015-16 season. It is important to recognize that the plan is ambitious. It will be difficult to fully implement and take a substantial effort over and above what all of us already do, but we think it is worth it. Our Club is improving every year and this plan gives us a clear direction. The scoresheet is in no way a criticism of the people involved or overseeing each portfolio, it is an objective means of tracking how we are doing against the goals we have set ourselves.

Lifesaving has seen us meet our key goal of no lives lost and our ratio of preventative measures has improved, however the number of our patrols decreased from 14 to 13 this year. We trialled full day patrols this year and have been putting a lot of effort into improving our patrol attendance. This year will see a shake-up of our patrol roster and we hope to see some good results from this in the upcoming season. We will also have a patrol trailer for the first time this season, which should significantly benefit our patrols.

Club Development and Sustainability has seen some good improvements in such things as a new community event with the around the Bends Swim and the appointment of a Club Safety Officer, however as you can see by the extent of red there is still a long way to go in this area.

Administration and Communication has seen some significant improvements across the board, with communication initiatives implemented and a lot of work going into updating the accuracy of member records and improving our registration and membership renewals. The accounts were switched from MYOB to Xero and an ideas exchange was held with administrators from other Clubs.

Governance and Financial Security also saw some good results, with revenue up 36% last year. Expenditure was also up however, resulting in an overall small loss. This was largely due to some abnormal items including tours to the Worlds and New Zealand, and significant ongoing capital expenditure resulting in substantial depreciation. While we have a fantastic new Clubhouse, there are still many capital improvements required and we need to continue to upgrade our old rescue and training equipment.

Youth Development didn't see much change, however it started from a very high base. Numbers remained steady and the tour to New Zealand was a great success.

Nippers remained strong with some excellent implementation of Education initiatives. Our surf sports results were down slightly from the previous year, however participation was excellent and there continues to be an effective "One Club" policy between Nippers and the Senior Club.

Surf Sports saw some improvements, particularly in the Surf Boats and participation rates of active members, however there is still substantial improvement to be made in the development and implementation of comprehensive competition strategies across all our major sports.

Education saw the number of awards remain consistent and the implementation of members portal training incorporated into the Bronze award. Our biggest challenge in education is the number of trainers. We really need more and I would encourage anyone who is capable and motivated to consider helping out in this area and becoming qualified as a trainer. It's an extremely rewarding role.

Our Clubhouse saw ongoing improvement and consistent maintenance implemented. Our venue hire improved significantly with total utilization of the event spaces up 62% to 117 bookings. Within that, private hire has increased by 79% with a commensurate increase in Club revenue as a result.

Overall the scoresheet for this year shows that there have been some significant improvements across the board. We are going forwards, not backwards, but we still have a long way to go to achieve our 5 year goals. We have a terrific and dedicated team in place and I am confident we can achieve those goals.

The Board of Management has been working frantically to keep the Club running, and has a long list of achievements over the past year, including:

- Completion of the strategic plan
- Development of Club By-Laws
- A sustainable financial position
- Choose Your Patrol initiative
- Singapore Nippers initiative
- Dropbox data storage and management implementation across all portfolios
- Building upgrades including a new external door to the board store, the trophy cabinet, a new projector for the Club Room, blinds to the Club Room and Meeting Room, new hose reels to the patrol store and racks for the patrol signs.
- A new externally mounted defibrillator
- Equipment upgrades including ordering a patrol trailer and new IRB, 2 new IRB motors, new spinal board, 4 new rescue boards, 6 new rescue tubes, a new set of Surf Boat oars and 30 new boards for Nippers and SRC's

Motion: That Avalon Beach Surf Lifesaving Club Incorporated adopt the Strategic Plan 2021 dated July 2017. Moved by Richard Cole. Seconded by Louise Lindop. All present in favour. None against. Motion carried.

12. Election of Office Bearers for the season 2016/17

Richard Cole presented the Club Position Nominations and acknowledged that almost all of the Board of Management (BoM) and office holders had sought re-election. Richard asked all holders of one of the 89 volunteer positions present at the meeting to stand and receive a round of applause.

Motion: That the Club position nominations as read be elected. Moved by Warren Young. Seconded by Robert Hopton. All present in favour. None against. Motion carried.

Richard informed the meeting that Melissa Hall, Director of Life Saving (Club Captain), and Andrew Crow, Deputy Director of Life Saving, who, for the past two years, have been a formidable team managing patrols and lifesaving operations were standing down from their positions. Richard welcomed new BoM Members Melinda

Akehurst as Co-Director of Life Saving (Club Captain) and Jason Dale as Deputy Director of Life Saving along with Peter Carter who was standing down as Deputy President to become Co-Director of Life Saving (Club Captain) with Melinda.

Richard thanked Louise Lindop who is standing down as Director of Education (Chief Training Officer) who has tirelessly, patiently and expertly taught, managed, administered and assessed our education programs for the past eight years. Louise will be continuing to provide her experience and expertise by remaining on the BoM as Co-Deputy President with Jeff Nesbitt. Richard welcomed new BoM Member Stephen Broderick as the new Director of Education (Chief Training Officer).

Richard also thanked Pim van Gestel, Director of Junior Activities (Nippers), who was standing down after two years in this position and congratulated Pim for introducing a new level of professionalism to the role and the success of the Nippers program which has flourished under his leadership. Richard welcomed new BoM Member, the enthusiastic and ebullient Dave Roberts to the role of Director of Junior Activities.

13. 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 2017/18 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.

14. General Business of an urgent nature only

There was no general business of an urgent nature.

15. Date of Next AGM

The 2017/18 AGM will take place on Sunday 29 July, 2018 at 3:00pm.

16. Meeting Closure

The meeting was declared closed at 4:20pm