



## AVALON BEACH SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC

### Minutes of the 93rd Annual General Meeting

Held at Avalon Beach SLSC Ocean Room on Sunday 29 July, 2018 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 3:05pm.

#### 1. Apologies

Richard Cole welcomed special guests, The Hon Rob Stokes, Member for Pittwater, Mayor Michael Regan of Northern Beaches Council & Mrs Regan, Mr John Brogden (Patron), Mrs Kylie Ferguson (Northern Beaches Council), Cr Ian White, Mr Ross Bidencope (Surf Life Saving NSW), Darren Warrener (Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches), James Baker (Club Sponsor, McGrath Avalon) and Life Members, Board of Management, Club Members and other guests.

Apologies were received from the following:

Invited guests: The Hon. Bronwyn Bishop (Club Patron), Mr Jason Falinski (Member for Mackellar), Candy Bingham (Deputy Mayor, Northern Beaches Council), Kylie Ferguson (Northern Beaches Council), Steven Pearce (SLSNSW), Steve McInnes & Doug Menzies (SLSSNB), Adrian Venturi (Club Sponsor McGrath Avalon), Dianne Vickrage-Hill (Club Sponsor, AVEO),

Life Members: Reginald Wood, Stephan Jacek, Kevin Watt, Don Imison, Don Mitchell, George Shuttleworth, William Wall, Jack Watt, Rick Millar, Peter Akehurst and Roger Sayers

Members: Rick Mitchell, Tim Hixson, Duncan Herbert, Tom Waters and Chris McGuckin

#### 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 92<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting

Richard Cole proposed that the minutes of the 92nd Annual General Meeting held on Sunday 30 July 2017 be taken as read.

Motion: That the notice of meeting is taken as read and the minutes accepted. Moved by Richard Cole. 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 2017/18 season

Richard opened his address with a moving reflection of Club member, Steve Parkes, who sadly passed away in August 2017 after a horrific motorcycle accident in 2014. Steve will be remembered as a wonderful trainer and

leader and was respected for his endless and understated dedication and commitment, tirelessly serving his community and giving his time willingly.

Richard thanked the active volunteers for achieving the Club's primary mission with no lives lost at Avalon Beach during patrol hours. Patrols performed 32 rescues, 23 first aid treatments, 365 preventative measures and completed the highest ever total number of patrol hours (8787, compared to last year's 6495). The Club had the highest ever number of active members (313) and the highest ever number of youth members (122)) and trained more Bronze Medallions (59) and more SRCs (49) than ever before. The total number of awards trained was the second highest ever (166). The Club had the most successful Nippers team ever at SLSNSW Championships as well as a really well organised program on our home beach. We had the largest and most successful surfboat team ever at Branch, ASRL, SLSNSW and Aussies including teams representing NSW and Australia and a bronze, silver and two national gold medals. We also had our highest ever revenue, making over \$500,000 for the first time and a near record profit of \$84,750.

Richard was pleased to report that the Club is in great shape and that Avalon Beach was selected from the 21 Sydney Northern Beaches Clubs to be a finalist for Club of the Year at the Surf Life Saving New South Wales Awards of Excellence to be announced in August.

A 15-minute video of Club highlights was then shown. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I5Pm8QYX8YE>

Richard reminded those present that the Club's successes did not come about by chance. They came because the Club had a plan and have a very dedicated Board of Management who were resolved to implementing that plan. Richard highlighted how the Club is tracking against the Strategic Plan by reviewing the Strategic Plan Scoresheet Results and informing those present that the plan measures over 200 performance indicators across nine strategic priorities of the Club with all indicators benchmarked against the results of the 2015-16 season. Richard reminded that it is important to recognise that the plan is ambitious and the scoresheet is in no way a criticism of the people involved or overseeing each portfolio, it is an objective means of tracking how the Club is operating against the goals that have been set. Refer attachment for Plan Scoresheet.

Strategic Plan overview included:

- Life Saving: increase to the number of our patrols from 13 to 14 this year and the successful trial of patrol captain patrols at the beginning and end of the season. A new patrol trailer was welcomed and was a great success.
- Club Development and Sustainability has seen some good improvements in such things as the Gala Day initiative, however, there is still room for improvement in this area.
- Administration and Communication is looking very healthy across the board, with a youth representative appointed, a successful application for Club of the Year submitted and the Club joining the Avalon Palm Beach Business Chamber. 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 12.6% last year and the value of grants significantly increasing. The Club made a healthy profit and now has good cash reserves to build on. Investment in new equipment and capital improvements is reaping benefits and should decline over the next few years.
- Youth Development continued to improve, with the results reflected in Avalon Beach winning the inaugural Branch Youth Services Award.
- Nippers remained strong with excellent implementation of Education initiatives and great results at the State Championships. Nipper numbers were down this year from 435 to 349, which appears to be just an anomaly. There continues to be an effective "One Club" policy between Nippers and the Senior Club.
- Surf Sports saw great improvements, and the Surf Boat team had an outstanding year, however there is still substantial improvement to be made in the development and implementation of comprehensive competition strategies across all our major sports, particularly in our IRB's and Masters' teams.
- Education saw the number of Awards gained increase substantially and record numbers of Bronze and SRC's trained. Our biggest challenge in education is the number of trainers. Rick Mitchell and Michael King both achieved their Bronze assessor certification this year and Dave Roberts his Bronze trainers award. Richard encouraged anyone who is capable and motivated to consider helping in this area and becoming qualified as a trainer as it's an extremely rewarding role.
- The Clubhouse saw ongoing improvement and consistent maintenance implemented. Our venue hire improved significantly with daytime venue hire increasing by almost 100% thanks to concerted efforts by Leanne Austin. We will also see the installation of new honour boards in the Hall of Champions which has been a huge project led by Christine and Robert Hopton and Nick Sampson.

Additionally, the Club ran some wonderful community events including the Lion Island Challenge, Carols at the Beach and the Surf and Around the Bends Swims, held some great social occasions, lunches and parties. Our first ever Gala Day was a tremendous success which really brought the Club together and is something that we can all be proud of, reinforcing our One Club policy at Avalon Beach where all divisions of our Club support each other and are stronger as a result. The Club is able to provide support to other community organisations such as OneEighty and supporting the response to important community issues such as youth emotional health.

The Club also had some one-off events whereby Club members demonstrated CPR and rescue techniques at the International Convention Centre in Darling Harbour, entertaining 900 doctors of Haematology. Mike Stanley-Jones led the team in planning and preparing for the event which raised over \$4,000 for the Club.

Richard thanked and acknowledged the invaluable support from all of the Club sponsors with a special thank you to LJ Hooker Avalon Beach for their support over the past three years, as well as Aveo, Secure Parking, Johnson Bros Mitre 10 and Avalon Beach RSL for their long-term support. Richard also thanked Voss store for the new Boaties apparel along with Active Tree Services who provided an extraordinary contribution of funds to enable the purchase of a new surfboat.

Richard welcomed McGrath Avalon who has signed up to a three-year agreement to provide invaluable support to our newly rebadged McGrath Avalon Carols at the Beach event.

Richard informed the AGM that he was standing down as President, however, looked forward to remaining on the Board of Management in a different position stating it had been a genuine honour and privilege to lead the Club for the past three years.

Richard thanked all the members of our Club for their support, as well as every single member of the Board of Management and Club Officers for their extraordinary commitment to the Club. Richard thanked Louise Lindop and Leanne Austin, who have provided wisdom, guidance, professional rigour and a reliable sounding board throughout his term as Club President. Richard also thanked his wife Cilla and family Christopher, Julia, Fergus and Claudia, who are all active members of the Club, for their tremendous support over the past three years.

Finally, Richard thanked Ashley Cardiff who has nominated for the role of President next year, was grateful to have such a laudable successor, and wished him all the best in the role.

Richard reminded those present that the Club is an exceptional community institution, with a remarkable member group who continue to inspire him every day and that he looked forward to continuing to contribute to the Club in a different role.

## **6. Financial Report for the 2017/18 season**

Bernadette McKay, Director of Finance, presented the financial report as provided in the 2017/18 Annual Report and confirmed that the accounts had been prepared to satisfy the requirements of the Charitable Fundraising Act, the Associations Incorporation Act, and the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Act and the Club's constitution. The accounts comply with Australian Accounting Standards and were independently audited by Beweisz Accounting and Tax in accordance with Australian Auditing standards.

Operating revenues remained steady and a sizeable donation enabled the purchase of a new surfboat, the Roland Luke. A Building Facilities grant enabled the sealing of ground floor concrete surfaces. The Club's accounts were successfully migrated to new software benefiting and reducing the preparation of accounts for audit. Operational expenditure was reduced by 8% and the Club made a profit of \$84,750.

## **7. Presentation, consideration and adoption of the Annual Report for the 2017/18 season**

Richard Cole presented the 93rd Annual Report for the 2017/18 season and thanked all that were involved in the production of the report with special acknowledgement of the efforts of Emma Long and Louise Lindop.

Motion: That the 93<sup>rd</sup> Annual Report for the 2017/18 season including the Audited Financial Statements be accepted and adopted. Moved by Richard Cole. Seconded by Christine 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 Rob Stokes, MP acknowledged and thanked the Life Members, executive and all patrolling members of the Club throughout the past season and stated it was humbling to represent a Club doing such an extraordinary job. Rob congratulated Steve Broderick and his team of trainers for the development of the members and assessors to the Branch and for programs offered far away in Singapore. Rob congratulated the Surf Sports teams for their successes during the season and, in particular the beach management and all the patrols managed by Club Captains Mel Akehurst & Pete Carter.

Rob acknowledged the work the Club has been doing in the community, going above and beyond surf life saving, and congratulated Volker Klemm for coordinating the many events the Clubs hosts. Rob also thanked

and applauded the work the Club is doing for the emotional wellbeing of young people via the Tomorrow Man event and the support offered to OneEighty.

Rob concluded his remarks by thanking Richard Cole for being an outstanding community leader who has demonstrated his leadership in a quiet and humble way for serving our community. Rob also thanked Richard's family for supporting him and allowing him to do this role and said that Richard had done a superlative job as President.

Mayor Regan acknowledged and thanked the Life Members present, thanked Richard Cole for doing a fantastic job as President and congratulated the Club on its nomination for Club of the Year. Mayor Regan remarked that NBC were working hard behind the scenes to see what they can do to continue the service as it is, with paid contractors on Monday to Friday and volunteers on weekends. Mayor Regan acknowledged that this (the Northern Beaches) is a different area to Manly.

Mayor Regan congratulated the Club on lowering its costs and increasing its revenues as well as the investment in the community through the Tomorrow Man program, Carols and surf sports events stating that Northern Beaches Council want to be contributing, not driving, these events.

## 9. Presentation of Awards

Rob Stokes announced the Premier's Volunteer Recognition Program which recognises the contribution volunteers make towards strengthening our communities and congratulated the following Club members who received this award 40 years: Peter Akehurst, Geoff Searl, Ross Bidencope. 25 years: Wilson Gamble, Mark Heffernan, Mark Head, Kevin Veale, Duncan Herbert, Damian Geyle, Colin Campbell, William Wall, Warren Young, Stephan Jacek, Rick Mitchell, Pete Carter, Richard McEvoy, Terry Barber, Jason Brown, Daryl Johnson and Jean Harper.

Richard Cole informed the meeting of the recipients of Club Awards presented at the June Presentation Night and congratulated Bernadette McKay on her Most Outstanding Member of the Year award.

The Norman Cook Most Outstanding Member of the Year - Bernadette McKay

President's Award - Michael King

The Steve Parkes Award for Achievement in Lifesaving Education - Rick Mitchell

Patrol Captain of the Year - Ross Bloore

Patrol Member of the Year - Zach Dale

The Warren Mitchell IRB Award - Alan Moran

Junior Member of the Year - Henry McGilchrist

Cadet of the Year - Callum Archibald

Max Watt Competitors of the Year

The Bandits  
Ashleigh Norman,  
Rachel Strong  
Rebecca Elliott  
Ellie Mackay  
Peter Carter

Rookie of the Year (Bronze this season)

Imogen Ponton  
Ella Brady  
Sophie Jones  
Robyn Husband

Richard presented the The Chris "Detho" Dethick – Boatie of the Year Award to Nicholas Sampson at the AGM and acknowledged his rescue and first aid rendered to a gentleman who had fallen on rocks at Palm Beach.

Richard also acknowledged the award recipients at the Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches (SLSSNB) Awards of Excellence at which Avalon Beach won Community Education Program of the Year for the Youth Networking Program and the Inaugural Youth Services Award.

Further, four boat crews won the SNB Championships Point Score this year (best overall in their division at Branch carnivals) the Chanels, Double Denims, Avocados and the Bandits.

Richard also congratulated Patrol B3 who won SLSSNB's Rescue of the Month in November 2017 when their patrol, made up of largely new Bronze Medallion graduates who successfully rescued four men caught in a rip demonstrating that an excellent trainer and leader can take a group with no lifesaving experience and create a fully formed operational team within one year.

Richard presented a Long Service Award Certificate to Bruce Muston (30 years). George Shuttleworth (60 years), Daryl Johnson (40 years), Shaun Wolthers (25 years) and Richard Stutchbury (20 years) were unable to attend the AGM to accept their awards.

## 10. Nominations for Life Membership and Distinguished Service

Warren Young stated that recognition is an important part of our Club and the Club recognises its members for their service in many ways; certificates medals and recognition from the national body Surf Lifesaving Australia.

Warren thanked his fellow Life Member and Service Honours Awards Committee (LMSHAC) members, Chairperson Michael Byrnes, Bob Head, Roger Sayers, Bruce Muston, Melinda Akehurst, Peter Carter and Richard Cole and advised that the Committee apply a strict process to arrive at a decision for Distinguished Service and Life Membership awards to be put forward for endorsement at the AGM. This process can be difficult and often heated, and it is not every nomination that will get the okay.

Warren informed the AGM that two nominations for Distinguished Service had been endorsed by the LMSHAC and it was his pleasure to present these two very special awards to:

- Jason Brown
- Rick Mitchell (unable to collect his award due to overseas travel)

Motion: by Special Resolution that Jason Brown and Rick Mitchell be awarded Distinguish Service of Avalon Beach SLSC. Moved by Richard Cole. Seconded by Kevin Veale. All present in favour. None against. Motion Carried.

Warren highlighted that Life Membership is not a privilege for years of service and that each nomination was assessed on outstanding voluntary service to the Club. Life Membership is the greatest honour we can bestow on a member and befitting that requirement was this year's nominee:

- Terry Barber

Motion: by Special Resolution that Terry Barber be conferred Life Membership of Avalon Beach SLSC. Moved by Richard Cole. Seconded by Kevin Veale. All present in favour. None against. Motion Carried.

## **11. Election of Office Bearers for the season 2018/19**

Richard Cole presented the Club Position Nominations and acknowledged that almost all the Board of Management (BoM) and Club office holders had sought re-election. Also presented were the nominations for the Junior Activities Committee.

Richard also informed the AGM that a nomination for President had been received by Ashley Cardiff and thanked Ashley for his nomination.

Motion: That the Club position nominations as read be elected. Moved by Ross Bidencope. Seconded by Mark Head. All present in favour. None against. Motion carried.

Richard then handed the meeting over to Ashley Cardiff to take over the meeting

Ashley Cardiff thanked the meeting for his election as President, declared that it was a great honour to serve the Club, and looked forward to continuing the focus on community involvement and fostering our already good relationship with Northern Beaches Council.

Ashley thanked Richard for his outstanding contribution and leadership during his term as President and welcomed Tom Waters and Michael King to their new positions. Ashley thanked Dave Roberts, Steve Broderick and Jeff Nesbitt who were all stepping down from their roles.

Ashley congratulated all the 88 position holders across the Club and invited all present to stand up and receive a round of applause.

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

Motion: That affiliation is sought for the 2018/19 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 Ashley Cardiff. Seconded by Warren Young. All in favour. None against. Motion carried.

## **13. General Business of an urgent nature only**

There was no general business of an urgent nature.

## **14. Date of Next AGM**

The 2018/19 AGM will take place on Sunday 28 July, 2019 at 3:00pm.

## **15. Meeting Closure**

The meeting was declared closed at 4:25pm.