



NORTH STEYNE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INCORPORATED

AFFILIATED WITH SURF LIFE SAVING SYDNEY NORTHERN BEACHES - ABN 99 734 830 191

MINUTES OF THE 114TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NORTH STEYNE SURF LIFE SAVING CLUB INC. HELD ON SUNDAY 8TH AUGUST 2021 ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

(NOTE: Notice was sent to members on 23rd July 2021 that because of NSW Government enforced lockdown due to covid19 the AGM would be held by Zoom only and the Agenda restricted to essential business matters.)

Meeting commenced at 11.00am

1. WELCOME BY THE PRESIDENT

Chairperson, President, Christine Gibbs Stewart welcomed those in attendance including life members, members and sponsors to the 114th Annual General Meeting of North Steyne SLSC, the first AGM in the club's history to be held online via Zoom.

It was noted that while we are lucky to have the technology to meet today on Zoom and hold our AGM, but we wish we could be together in person at the Club to celebrate our achievements for the year. It is hoped that you and your family members are all safe and well, and we certainly look forward to when our Club is open, restrictions are lifted and we can be together again.

A special welcome was given to the life members and the distinguished and outstanding service members and to special guest John Garland of the Balgowlah RSL as well as Louis Tassone and Tracey Hare-Boyd representing Branch.

The traditional custodians of the land were acknowledged.

The Chair noted that that the AGM is taking care of essential business only as prescribed in our constitution. She acknowledged that the Life Members and Honours Panel has made a recommendation that Richard Donaldson be given life membership. This would not be addressed at this meeting given a number of life members cannot be present and that such an important occasion needs to be done in person. Another special general meeting will be held to address this when we can get together. We will also not be presenting other service awards.

PRESENT

[NOTE: those present at the meeting were taken from those present on the Zoom recording of the meeting]

Special Guests:

John Garland (Balgowlah RSL), Tracey Hare-Boyd and Louis Tassone (Sydney Northern Beaches Branch SLS).

Life Members and Distinguished Service Members:

Chris Gibbs Stewart, Keith Abraham, Frank Traugott, David Cowell, Paul Day, Arthur McCarroll, Deb Foote, Trevor Lane, Tony Falzarano, Jack Sutherland, Jo Cooper, Jack Sutherland, Bernard Burrows, Ronald Morton, Damien O'Shannassy, Paul Mathew, Richard Donaldson, David O'Brien, Shannon Job, David Cowell, Alex Salier, Dan Hillier.

Members: Cath Hillier, Sarah Lally, Jack Watt, Danielle Edwards, Joanne Cooper, Jodie Frazer, Michael Altenburger, David Guthrie, Claire Oxlade, Tim Laurence, Hanna Claire, Trae Hare-Boyd, Michelle Sas, Robert Szewczak, Shane O'Neill, Freya O'Neill, Claire Oxlade, Euan Cooper-Frater.

2. APOLOGIES

Jean Hay AM (Patron), David Hay (Patron), Des McAteer (Balgowlah RSL), Simon Fry, Adam Traugott, Tony Saunders, Jarrod Kraeft and Nigel Jenny (Manly Lions), Gary Sullivan, Peter Frater

That apologies be accepted.

Moved: Claire Oxlade **Seconded:** Jo Cooper **Carried**

3. MINUTES SILENCE

Condolences were extended to those who lost loved ones during the year. The passing of Sarah (Sadie) Ryan, who was our first female Distinguished Service member, was acknowledged, along with extending condolences for the passing of Jason Grose, brother of life member Shan Grose, and Iris Crampton, wife of life member Keith Crampton.

In tribute to the recent loss of members and friends within the surf lifesaving community, a minute's silence was observed.

4. CONFIRMATION OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

The Minutes of the 113th AGM held on 12 September 2020 were confirmed as true and correct.

Moved: Paul Day **Seconded:** Arthur McCarroll **Carried**

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THESE MINUTES

From the 113th Minutes there were 2 items of business arising –

1. Masterplan: An action for further consultation to be undertaken regarding the building masterplan. This was undertaken.
2. An action that the North Steyne emblem on the ground floor, beach entrance be fixed. It was noted that this was currently underway.

5. 114TH ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The Chair noted that despite the immense challenges faced, North Steyne had an exceptional 2020-2021 season. This success is down to 3 things – our resilience, our spirit and can-do ethos and our terrific, dedicated and hardworking members.

Like all other surf lifesaving clubs, North Steyne put extra precautions in place, occasionally needed to close our clubhouse, and we worked diligently to keep our Covid19 risk plans up to date. None of the decisions we make around COVID are easy, but we have an obligation to our members to keep them safe and follow health and safety protocols.

In our 114th season, we can proudly say that once again no lives were lost on North Steyne Beach whilst on patrol. Thanks to Dan Hillier for being an exceptional Club Captain and leading the team of our dedicated surf lifesavers and great patrol captains, and to Jack Watt as Vice-Captain for his outstanding service to the Club.

Our membership numbers held steady this season with a healthy increase in our Nippers. Well done to Brian Mariotti and Hillary Burrows for the growth in Nippers and the amazing results that we achieved at carnivals.

North Steyne welcomed 32 new Bronze Medallion holders and 25 SRCs to our patrols over the season. Trae Hare-Boyd, Chief Instructor, and Hanna Claire, his assistant, were acknowledged for coordinating the education program. Trae nor Hanna will be returning to the Board and a special thanks to them for all the work they have done. Thanks to Jodie Frazer, Youth Director, for all her work with the cadets and to Jo Cooper, Youth Assistant.

During the season we hosted three carnivals on North Steyne Beach. Under the guiding hand of Surf Sports Director Sarah Lally, with Assistants Deb Foote and Rob Szewczak, we staged a Nippers' Water Carnival, the Australia Day Boat Carnival and the Sydney North Beaches Branch Beach Carnival.

We had success at the Australian Championships. Congratulations to Caroline Yarnell for a Silver in the 60-64 yrs Women 1km beach run and Shannon Job for a Gold in the 30-39 yrs Male Champion Lifesaver. Shannon was also awarded Master's Competitor of the Year at the Sydney Northern Beaches Awards of Excellence.

Our social activities continued throughout the year with BBQs, gatherings in the Club Room, and our presentation night. It was a particularly difficult year, and thank you to Claire Oxlade, General Activities Director for all her persistence in getting things done. Thanks to Janice Faaolatane for all her assistance, and the great BBQ chefs extraordinaire in the A and A- teams.

We ran a very successful Ripper Nippers program once again and thanks to David Cowell for all that he does, not only with Rippers but with our sponsors and grants.

Behind the scenes we were busy working on the master-plan for our clubhouse. After a presentation at the AGM, we undertook more consultations and submitted a re-worked plan to the Northern Beaches Council in March.

We held several meetings and have commenced putting in place a strategy and defining our goals to 2025. What is clear is that we have many strengths and opportunities we can build on to make us a stronger Club in the future.

In January we farewelled our Office Manager Audrey Bruen. For 8 years, Audrey worked at North Steyne and we thank her for her dedication and the great support she provided. Cath Hillier has stepped into this role. When you look at our Annual Report which she puts together, you can see we are lucky to have someone with so many talents working for North Steyne.

I would also like to thank Frank Traugott who stepped into the role of Secretary. We are very lucky to have such great administrator, strategic thinker, and good negotiator assisting us in the day to day.

Jack Sutherland, Deputy President for 5 years now, undertook to really connect with people during lockdown and works to pass down our history and truly embodies the North Steyne spirit.

Special acknowledgement to Tony Falzarano as he is stepping down from the Board after 5 years officially in the Treasurer's role, but over the years has worn many hats in the financial management of the Club. He has been a truly dedicated and professional individual and we are very thankful for all his service.

We Congratulate 3 new life members of the Sydney Northern Beaches Branch who are also members of North Steyne: Bernie Burrows, Gordon Lang and Tracey Hare-Boyd. Life membership is not a small feat and is a tribute to these individuals for their outstanding contribution and dedication to the surf lifesaving movement.

To North Steyne's key sponsors the Balgowlah RSL, Manly Lions, and NED Australian Whiskey, our Patrons James Griffin, David Hay and Jean Hay AM, and Des McAteer, our members, and to all North Steyne Directors, thank you for your great support and outstanding contribution.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Tony Falzarano, Treasurer, presented the Financial Statements and noted another strong set of financial results in a difficult year. Highlights included: 1) net profit of \$47,809 and with allocated \$8,933 to the Future Fund and an increase to our accumulated earnings by \$56,383 to just over \$810,000; 2) Cash holdings increased by almost \$60,000 and are now over \$706,000; 3) Total income increased from \$285,000 to \$322,000. This increase is mainly due to an increase in grants and government assistance which more than compensated for lower interest and lower bar and BBQ income and also for not being able to run the Ocean Swim for a second straight year.

Total expenditure increased from \$207,000 to \$274,000. Main contributors to this increase were significantly higher cleaning costs, increases to Jobseeker top ups and increased lifesaving costs.

Our results were helped by new sponsor NED Australian Whisky, returning sponsors Pure Legal and Friendly Dentist, Balgowlah RSL and Manly Lions, SLSA, SLSNSW, Federal and State Government and the Northern Beaches Council. Tony acknowledged the support of Chris and Frank and all the Board, Trevor Lane, Audrey Bruen and Cath Hillier and the many members that have supported him during the year by helping volunteer on BBQ's, the bar, running carnivals and the Sun Run.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

Trevor Lane, Auditor, noted that his main task is to say that the financials show a true and fair view of what has gone on in the Club.

Trevor noted he keeps a count of some of the numbers going back 25 years and in that time the club has never made a loss. It made a book loss one year, but when you add back the depreciation it came out as a cash profit that particular year. Over those 25 years, the cash profits from the club have been about \$1.5 million. Of that \$1.5 million, half of it has been spent on capital expenditure – boards, skis, boats, the IRB's, various lifesaving equipment. So about \$700-800 thousand has been spent and the rest is in the bank, and this is reflected on the balance sheet. If the Board and the new people coming on can follow past traditions, then the club is in a very good shape.

The Chair thanked Trevor and Tony and noted the financial statements can be found in the Annual Report.

SPEAKER'S ON ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Q: Shane O'Neill noted the good financial results and asked what the overall plan is going forward for the use of the accumulated funds?

A: Tony noted that we are working on in the strategic plan. One of the big unknowns in terms of renovating the building is what we are going to have to contribute. In terms of what we are doing in addition to this is to ensure we have appropriate and modern equipment for our lifesaving members and for training and education. Of the reserves, over \$200,000 is in the Future Fund. We have not spent any of that to date, other than on the scholarships. The history of the club has always been prudent in making sure that if we spend money, we spend it well.

Q: Paul Day asked, what is the balance in the Future Fund right now?

A: Trevor noted that it is \$232,000.

Q: Paul also asked if we were awarding Future Fund scholarships this year.

A: Chris answered no, and unfortunately, we did not do that this year due to a review of the process.

Jo Cooper and Euan Cooper-Frater gave thanks for the scholarship received earlier this year.

David Cowell congratulated everybody that was involved in the Annual Report and the immense work that Cath Hillier and others put into it, with special thanks to Tony and Trevor.

Louis Tassone spoke on behalf of SNB. He congratulated the Board for getting through what was obviously a challenging season. He acknowledged North Steyne will be there to hold the fort for lifesaving and from his selfish perspective surf sports as well. He commented that North Steyne has always punched well above its weight on what it does for Branch. For example, the three new Branch life members, Tracey as President and a number of North Steyne members that have helped in the past. This includes Keith Abraham and without him we would not have carnivals on Sydney Northern Beaches for the last 15-20 years. Congratulations on being a positive role model for the rest of the 20 clubs that are in the Branch and congratulations on a great year and to another positive season coming up.

Q: Richard Donaldson asked the Chair to elaborate more on the building refurbishment as to the timeline and what is the next step.

A: Chris noted that a meeting with Council was held to discuss the master-plan. There are some aspects of the building project they are not necessarily in agreement with, but they will work with us to ensure we get what we need to operate effectively. Brian commented that the Council will now takeover this process. We will be able to further review and input into any design that is done by Council's team. He further noted that the process we went through is important in order to demonstrate that we are serious about the building, we are unified, and have consulted widely.

APPROVAL OF ANNUAL REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The 114th Annual Report and Financial Statements be approved.

Moved: Jo Cooper **Seconded:** Deb Foote **Carried**

6. MOTION OF AFFILIATION

MOTION: *“That affiliation be sought for the season with Surf Life Saving Sydney Northern Beaches Inc. (Branch). Further, that the articles, constitution, by-laws, regulations and resolutions, together with the awards and equipment at the Branch, Surf Life Saving NSW and Surf Life Saving Australia Limited be accepted without limitation.”*

Moved: Jo Cooper **Seconded:** Deb Foote **Carried**

7. ELECTION OF PATRONS, DIRECTORS, JUDICIARY PANEL AND TRUSTEES FOR SEASON 2021/2022

Chris Gibbs Stewart stepped down from the chair and declared all board positions vacant. She invited Tony Falzarano to temporarily take the chair for the election of the Board of Directors and assistant directors.

Tony noted that all positions had received nominations and only one person standing in each role. Tony read out names for each role and asked for a mover and seconder to confirm the election.

- President – Chris Gibbs Stewart
- Deputy President – Jack Sutherland
- Secretary – Frank Traugott
- Assistant Secretary – vacant
- Treasurer – George van Dyck
- Assistant Treasurer - Shannon Job
- Club Captain – Jack Watt
- Vice-Captain – Kyra Jenkins
- Chief Instructor – Dan Hillier
- Assistant Chief Instructor – David Guthrie
- Competition Director – Sarah Lally
- Assistant Competition Director – Deb Foote
- Assistant Competition Director – Ally Stirling
- Junior Activities Director – Bernie Burrows
- Assistant Junior Activities Director – Hillary James
- Assistant Junior Activities Director – Simon Herfort
- Marketing Director – David Cowell
- Assistant Marketing Director – Freya O’Neill
- General Activities Director – Claire Oxlade
- Assistant General Activities Director – Olivia Pennie
- Youth Director – Jodie Frazer
- Assistant Youth Director – Brian Mariotti

Moved: Danny Gompez **Seconded:** Paul Day **Carried**

Tony thanked those who served on the Board and particularly those who aren’t returning to their position next season.

Tony handed the chair back to newly re-elected President Chris Gibbs Stewart who noted the appointment and election of:

- **Patrons returning:** James Griffin MP, Des McAteer, Jean Hay AM and David Hay
- **Honorary Trustees:** Paul Day, Arthur McCarroll, Keith Crampton
- **Judiciary Panel:** Adam Traugott, Keith Abraham, Gordon Lang and one additional role to fill
- **Life Member & Distinguished Service Panel:** Shannon Job, Paul Day, Ron Morton & Arthur McCarroll
- **Rules Panel:** Adam Traugott, Keith Abraham, Gordon Lang, Damian O'Shannassy
- **Future Fund Committee:** Tony Falzarano, Paul Day, Tim Platt and Bernard Burrows

This concludes all the positions for the upcoming 115th season 2021 – 2022.

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

There is no General Business.

The Chair wished the new Board, panels, trustees and patrons all the best for the upcoming 115th season.

The Chair declared the meeting closed and thanked everyone for their attendance.

The Meeting closed at 12.00 pm.