

# 2022 PaddleNSW Annual General Meeting



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On Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022

**Meeting Commenced – 7:37pm**

**Present:** **Life Members:** Helen Brownlee AM, Tony Hystek, Lynn Parker

**Board Directors:** Bob Turner (Chair), Karen Forbes, Naomi Johnson, Kiaran Lomas, Annette Mathews, Bron Powell

**Members:** Patricia Ashton, Richard Barnes, Matthias Boer, Cheryl Bretag, Mark Bretag, Brian Cork, Neil Crabb, Ian Davey, DJ DuBose, John Duffy, Kate Eckhardt, Alanna Ewin, Darren Forbes, Gabrielle Frawley, Bruce Graham, Peter Grimes, Matthew Godsell, Andy Halliday, Robyn Hawes, Tracy Hillman, Julee Hunt, Chris Johnson, Duncan Johnstone, Bert Laurendet, Kaye Laurendet, Robert Law, Peter McIntyre, Andrew McKay, Tom Nolan, Joy Robinson, Richard Robinson, Kevin Songberg, Gareth Stokes, James Stuart, Merry Sugiarto, Bethany Tate, Karen Tate, Peter Tate (Minutes), Angus Thompson, Chris Thompson, Katie Vander Donk, Elizabeth van Reece, Esther Wheeler, Laura White, Simon Wilkes, Lee Wright, Richard Yates

**Guests:** Ross Bidencepe (CEO – Sport NSW)

**Apologies:** Paul Barnes, Paul Brandon, George de Vos, David Dibdin, Gaye Hatfield, Anjie Lees, Denise Rogers, Mitchell Webb

**Paddle Australia:** Liam Bourke (National Integrity Manager)

## **BUSINESS**

1. The meeting was scheduled to commence at 7:30pm. When more members joined, PNSW CEO Peter Tate declared a quorum was present at 7:37pm, and invited PNSW Indigenous Advisor Darren Forbes to deliver the Acknowledgement of Country. Darren talked of unity, collaboration, respect and walking as one. In Gathang language – Buwadi Yawatung Wakal.

Chairperson Bob Turner opened the meeting and thanked all those in attendance with special welcome to Life Members Helen Brownlee, Tony Hystek and Lynn Parker. Bob thanked his fellow Directors for their enthusiasm and strategic drive, and the staff members.

2. **Meeting protocols:** Peter Tate read the apologies, which were accepted. He explained some members were holding proxy votes on behalf of other members, and how the voting procedure would be conducted in the chat box. Peter advised PA National Integrity Manager Liam Bourke had been invited to be the meeting scrutineer, however he became unavailable due to a plane flight. Instead, Ross Bidencepe, CEO of Sport NSW, graciously accepted a late request. Peter thanked Ross in advance for counting the votes.
3. **Previous Minutes:** The minutes of the previous PNSW Annual General Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> September 2021 were accepted as a true and correct record – *moved Darren Forbes, seconded Kiaran Lomas - carried.*
4. **Business Arising:** Nil.

5. **2021/22 PNSW Annual Report:** Peter Tate summarised a few key points from the Annual Report. He thanked the PNSW Paddlesports and Committees, and the 18 affiliated clubs for their contributions in the report. Peter also thanked our Board Directors and the astute leadership of Bob Turner. The Olympics and Paralympics are a very special time for our athletes, coaches and officials every four years. Congratulations to all our representatives, not just at those pinnacle multi-sport events, but also in all disciplines at international, national, state and club level.

One typing error was identified in the table depicting Director attendance at meetings during the past twelve months. With that amendment, on behalf of the Board and Management, Peter formally presented the 2021/22 PNSW Annual Report which was accepted by the members – *Annette Mathews/ Karen Forbes – carried.*

6. **2021/22 Statement of Accounts:** Peter presented the Audited Financial Accounts, which record net assets of \$466,394 as at 30 June 2022 emphasising PaddleNSW remains in a sound financial position. The state peak body recorded a surplus of \$132,313 in 2021/22 (*\$103,419 in 2020/21*). Peter explained the unusual level of surplus for the second consecutive year, was due to another generous COVID recovery grant from NSW Treasury. Members Tony Hystek and Bruce Graham requested more detail be available in the 20-page Financial Report. The Freestyle Committee shall be asked to clarify whether they conduct their banking with PaddleNSW or Paddle Australia.

It was moved that the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2022, the Directors' Report and the Independent Auditor's Statement thereon, be accepted – *Karen Forbes/ Peter McIntyre - carried.*

7. **Amendments to the PaddleNSW Constitution:** The last revision and amendments were made a decade ago. Members had discussed the proposed changes at the Club & Member Forum held online 5<sup>th</sup> September 2022. Opportunity was also available for written submissions. Feedback and those written submissions were summarised and circulated by the CEO to all registered attendees. Peter explained three proposed motions had been withdrawn by the Board, based on Member feedback. The remaining motions were put to Members, requiring 75% in favour for the motion to pass by special resolution.

(1) Throughout the document replace "Australian Canoeing" with "Paddle Australia".  
*Moved Chris Thompson/ Annette Mathews – carried.*

(2) Replace "his/her/him/she/he" with "their/they" as appropriate throughout the document.  
*Moved Ian Davey/ Bron Powell – carried.*

(3) Remove Clause 21 (Seal) and re-number accordingly.  
*Moved Chris Thompson/ Annette Mathews – carried.*

(4) Clause 27.1 Quorum at General Meetings. A quorum for General Meetings shall be ~~2% of Individual members and Clubs represented by their Delegates~~ twenty (20) financial members.  
*Moved Andy Halliday/ Mark Bretag. 31 in favour, 18 against, 63% – motion lost.*

(5) Clause 33 Auditor. A properly qualified auditor or auditors shall be appointed by the ~~Association in a General Meeting~~ Board. The auditor's duties shall be regulated in accordance with the Act, or if no relevant provisions exist under the Act, in accordance with the Corporations Act and generally accepted principles, and/or any applicable code of conduct. The auditor may be removed "and replaced" by the ~~Association in a General Meeting~~ Board.  
*Moved Chris Thompson/ Karen Forbes. 30 in favour, 17 against, 64% – motion lost.*

(6) Clause 41.1 Compliance. Clubs acknowledge and agree that they shall: (a) be or remain incorporated or registered in New South Wales or ACT....  
*Moved Annette Mathews/ Darren Forbes – carried.*

8. **Election of Life Member/s:** Peter read citations for two outstanding and long-serving members of PaddleNSW – Kaye Laurendet and Chris Thompson. Annette Mathews also spoke to the motion on behalf of Kaye, whilst PNSW Slalom Chair Brian Cork and Chris' son Angus spoke in support of Chris.

It was moved Peter Tate/ Annette Mathews that **Kaye Laurendet** be bestowed Life Membership of PaddleNSW – *carried unanimously*.

It was moved Peter Tate/ Brian Cork that **Chris Thompson** be bestowed Life Membership of PaddleNSW – *carried unanimously*.

Both Kaye and Chris accepted the honour, responding humbly and proudly.

9. **Election of Directors:** Returning Officer Peter Tate advised at the close of nominations on 8<sup>th</sup> September we had received five nominations for four available Elected Director positions. One nominee had since withdrawn his nomination, to allow a clear passage of election for the other candidates. The remaining nominations were from Kate Eckhardt, Annette Mathews, Tom Nolan and Laura White. All were duly declared elected as PNSW Board Directors for a two-year term – *Esther Wheeler/ Chris Thompson - carried*.

10. **Motion/s on Notice:** Kevin Songberg (seconded Tony Hystek) spoke to his motion that an independent strategic review of PNSW is undertaken within 6 months of the 2022 Annual General Meeting (AGM) covering the below 7 items. Reporting of the review is to be provided to PNSW members. The purpose of this review is to help identify anything that we can improve and provide guidance on the future direction of PNSW for the benefit of all its members.

1. What is the PNSW strategic plan relative to the Paddle Australia strategic plan, and the paddling needs of NSW.
2. PNSW goals.
3. What is PNSW's operational plan and how is it to be implemented.
4. What has PNSW achieved in the 12 months prior to the 2022 AGM and what are the learning experiences from this.
5. Role and authority of the PNSW Board relative to paid positions of CEO and accountant.
6. How many paid positions there should be to cover admin, operations, events, fund raising and grant applications, safety and education, communication & promotion and interaction with Government etc. Positions are to be identified.
7. Review of CEO position and voluntary Board positions and what each should be delivering. The Review to also provide advice on whether Board positions should receive some extent of remuneration.

The motion was passed 25 in favour, 22 against – carried.

11. **Other Business in accordance with the Constitution:** The Board recommended Tomas Weiszer and Peter Power continue as the PaddleNSW Auditors – *Peter McIntyre/ Annette Mathews – carried*.

12. **General Business:** Bob invited Patron Helen Brownlee to address the Members. Helen warmly congratulated the two new Life Members, and reminded those in attendance we are a volunteer-driven state sporting organisation, not a company with many staff.

Peter thanked the current leadership team of Bob Turner and Naomi Johnson who were stepping down from their roles. Bob, in particular, has led the state peak body in an outstanding manner for the past five years and deserves tremendous credit for our good standing with Paddle Australia and our fellow state paddle organisations.

13. **Close:** Bob closed the meeting at 9:40pm in readiness for a presentation by Richard Barnes.