

2023 PaddleNSW Annual General Meeting



Held by GoToMeeting

On Thursday, 14th September 2023

Meeting Commenced – 7:40pm

Present: **Life Members:** Helen Brownlee AM, Jeff Cottrell, Gaye Hatfield, Tony Hystek, Lynn Parker

Board Directors: Kieran Lomas (Chair), Kate Eckhardt, Bob Turner, Laura White

Members: John Allan, Richard Barnes, Cheryl Bretag, Mark Bretag, Cara Budge, Neil Crabb, Dominic Curtin, Julie Curtin, Chris Dickman, Alanna Ewin, Darren Forbes, Karen Forbes, Gabrielle Frawley, Andy Halliday, Robyn Hawes, Ken Johnson, Duncan Johnstone, Moira Maiava, Peter McIntyre, Clayton Norman, Maria Ouvrier, Andrew Pearce, Murray Reece, Wade Rowston, Sally Simons, Kevin Songberg, Gareth Stokes, James Stuart, Bethany Tate, Karen Tate, Peter Tate (Minutes), Szuszy Timar, Elizabeth van Reece, Mitchell Webb, Simon Wilkes.

Guests: Nil

Apologies: Jodie Adams-Brinkley, Richard Andrews, Steve Brinkley, Justin Borthwick, John Duffy, Adam Franklin, Freya Franklin, Nicola Frowen, Scott Gibson, James Harrington, Wayne Heaton, Peter Holz, Chris Johnson, Graham Johnson (Life Member), Justin Lennon, Annette Mathews, Nick Naughton, Christine Porter, Bron Powell, Denise Rogers, Merry Sugiarto, Chris Thompson (Life Member), David Young.

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 7:40pm.

Chairperson Kieran Lomas invited PNSW Indigenous Advisor Darren Forbes to deliver the Acknowledgement of Country. Kieran welcomed Life Members Helen Brownlee, Jeff Cottrell, Gaye Hatfield, Tony Hystek and Lynn Parker, and then highlighted a wonderful year whilst thanking his fellow Board Directors, the members of the PNSW Paddlesports and sub-committees, and most importantly the office-bearers and volunteers at club level.

2. **Meeting protocols:** Peter noted there were 23 apologies and explained some members were holding proxy votes on behalf of other members, and how the voting procedure would be conducted in the chat box.
3. **Previous Minutes:** The minutes of the previous PNSW Annual General Meeting held on 22nd September 2022 were accepted as a true and correct record – *moved Laura White, seconded Andy Halliday - carried.*
4. **Business Arising:** Nil.
5. **2022/23 PNSW Annual & Financial Report:** Peter Tate summarised a few key points from the Audited Financial Accounts. The PNSW Board reports a deficit for the financial year ending 30th June 2023 of \$42,588. This aligned very closely with the forecast budget, spending wisely after the organisation's coffers were bolstered by generous COVID recover grants from NSW Treasury during each of the two previous financial years. Those grants were an impetus for PaddleNSW to contract an Events Coordinator for the first time, and it also enabled the state peak body to keep annual club membership fees on hold, rather than increase them as most other states and indeed Paddle Australia did. PaddleNSW remains in a comfortable position to serve our members and the paddling community across NSW and ACT. The balance sheet as of 30th June 2023 indicates total equity in the organisation of \$423,806.

Chartered accountant Peter McIntyre agreed with the summation, explaining the organisation's cash flow closely correlated to the reduction in grants received. Kevin Songberg thanked the Strategic & Operations Review working group for their fine report, and believed the scope still had areas for further consideration. Some members validly expressed insufficient time to peruse the Annual Report, and it was agreed to circulate earlier to members in the future.

It was moved that the 2022/23 Annual Report including the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2023, the Directors' Report and the Independent Auditor's Statement thereon, be accepted – *Peter McIntyre/ Andrew Pearce - carried.*

6. **Election of Life Member:** Gaye Hatfield read a citation about outstanding and long-serving member Bob Turner. Fellow Life Member Lynn Parker also spoke to the motion, confirming the enormous commitments Bob has made over a significant period of time.

It was moved Gaye Hatfield/ Lynn Parker that **Robert Turner** be bestowed Life Membership of PaddleNSW – *carried unanimously.*

Bob humbly accepted the honour, saying it has been a huge privilege to serve the marathon community since 2010, and the PaddleNSW Board for eight years with five of those as Chair. He was joining a group of people he admires greatly, and he thanked all those that have assisted him along the journey.

7. **Election of Directors:** Returning Officer Peter Tate advised at the close of nominations on 31st August we had received two nominations for the three available Elected Director positions. Mark Bretag and Andrew Pearce were duly declared elected as PNSW Board Directors for a two-year term – *Darren Forbes/ Laura White - carried.*

Mark and Andrew addressed the meeting, sharing their experience in business and their paddling careers to date. Kiaran called for nominations from the floor to fill the third vacancy. With none forthcoming, the Board shall fill the casual vacancy at a later time.

8. **Motion/s on Notice:** Nil

9. **Other Business in accordance with the Constitution:** The Board recommended Tomas Weiszer continue as the PaddleNSW Auditor – *Jeff Cottrell/ Bob Turner – carried.*

10. **General Business:** Peter circulated the 2024 PNSW Event Calendar and thanked all the host clubs for supporting the respective PNSW Series, and Bob Turner for collating all the expressions of interest into one cohesive calendar. Peter also paid tribute to the three Board Directors stepping down from their roles: namely Joy Robinson, Kiaran Lomas and Bob Turner. Kiaran and Bob, as per our Constitution, have exhausted their 8-year term. Each was State Chair at some stage, and each made outstanding contributions on behalf of our members. Thank you.

Peter encouraged club delegates to attend either of the two upcoming online National Integrity Framework workshops: (a) 6pm-7:30pm, Monday, 18th September; or (b) 7:30pm-9pm, Tuesday, 26th September. Finally, although it was disappointing that only 15 of our 38 affiliated clubs attended the AGM, we were indebted to large numbers representing Newy Paddlers, LCRK and River Canoe Club (more than half the room between them) – without whom we would have failed to generate a quorum for the meeting.

Kiaran invited Patron Helen Brownlee to address the members. Helen warmly congratulated new Life Member Bob Turner and thanked all the Board Directors – especially those stepping down. She praised our 38 affiliated clubs and our Paddlesports who are integral to our paddling community. Helen commended the wonderful Annual Report and thanked the CEO for the amazing job he does. Viewing the 2024 PNSW Event Calendar, Helen looks forward to attending a few events and renewing friendships across a number of disciplines.

11. **Close:** Kiaran closed the meeting at 8:36pm.