

**MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB INC.  
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.**

**HELD AT THE VENETO CLUB BULLEEN  
THURSDAY 24<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7.40 PM.**

**PRESENT:**

Trevor Rosen, Kim Rosen, Charlie Freedman, John Rankin, Neale Oxley, Jenny Hosking, Richard Simpson, Michael Corrigan, Oliver Lucas, Denis Ward, Alan Hosking, Margaret Silverton, John Gates, Daryl Hergt, Lauris Hergt, Mark Dewhirst, Shirley Oxley, Keith Davidson, Michael Blackett, Michael Degendorfer, Stuart Galloway, Terry Keating, Ian Smith, Matthew Smith, David Watkins, Roger Jepson, Ron Anderson, Stephen Seymour.

**1. Welcome.**

The meeting opened at 7.40pm with the President Trevor Rosen in the Chair. Twenty eight (28) members were present which is more than the required quorum under the Constitution.

The President, Trevor Rosen, thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Melbourne Walking Club.

**2. APOLOGIES:**

Terry Simpson, Colleen Simpson, Campbell Donovan, John Webb, Peter O'Donoghue, Richard Jasek, David Ikin, Gordon Proudfoot, Jim Cone, Miles Pierce, Bridget Larkin, Alex Hordijenko, Ewan Colson, Keith Tupper Barry Revill, Marie Revill, John Moore

**3. DEATHS:**

A minute's silence was held for the following members who had passed away between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 and 24<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Evan Field, Vern Routley, Gerald Moreton, George Cattermole, John Horan, Bill Moran.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

The President, Trevor Rosen asked that the Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting as emailed to all members be confirmed.

**Motion:**

That the Minutes as emailed to all members be accepted as a true record of the 2021 AGM.

**Moved:** Terry Keating.

**Seconded:** John Rankin.

Carried Unanimously.

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 2021 AGM:**

Nil.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS ARISING:**

Nil.

**7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:**

The Reports were presented by the following members of the Executive Committee;

**7.1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT:**

Trevor Rosen referred to his Report published in the 2022 Annual Report and made the following comments. This year has been a lot better than the previous regarding Club activities. People have been able to resume walking with the easing or removing of all Covid 19 restrictions.

The Mt Buller Lodge has had the best season ever in terms of winter bookings and the Walter Briggs hut has had a lot of use.

The Club continues to evolve. We did a strategic review of the Club's operations a few years ago. The purpose being to see how we could introduce more activities and get more members to participate and also how to attract new members. We have now introduced monthly bike rides and some shorter walks followed by lunch one of which was oversubscribed. There have been two Club dinners which were both well attended. It is a good idea to have some purely social events during the year as they provide a great opportunity for members of different ages and interests to get together. Statistics from the Membership Report show that the median age of our members is 67 meaning that half are under this age and half above. We need to think of ways to cater for this broad range of people. The Activities Report shows that only 34 per cent of members participated in a walk. The Committee is aware of this and it is trying to introduce new types of walks and other activities in order to attract more people and to also market what the Club does.

The President thanked everyone who has worked on the Executive for the past year, all those who have worked on Subcommittees, the Walk Coordinators and Walk Leaders and all those whose work behind the scenes makes the Club work successfully.

There were no questions from the floor.

**7.2 ACTIVITIES OFFICER'S REPORT:**

Jenny Hosking referred to her Report published on the 2022 Annual Report and made the following comments. For the last financial year the walks program was affected by restrictions pertaining to Covid 19. However the Activities Subcommittee continued to meet during the year. Topics discussed were succession planning , bike rides, weekend walks and

extended base under cover walks. The outcome of this has been that John Rankin has agreed to be Coordinator of the bike rides activities. At present we only have one ride in each four month program, the next being 19<sup>th</sup> December from Nunawading to Hawthorn a distance of twenty seven kilometres. If there is more interest, we will include more bike rides in the program.

We want the weekend walk activity to expand and it is now planned to include an additional Sunday walk on the Mornington Peninsula. Colleen Simpson has offered to coordinate the Sunday Peninsula walks program. There are now walks planned in the first quarter from January to April.

Four base undercover walk activities are planned for Mt Buller and these will be in the program. This is a good chance to meet other Club members as well. Presently we have plans for Australia Day, the Anzac Day long weekend and the Mt Buller opening day weekend which will be booked online through the booking officer Ian Morton. There will also be a closing day activity in October.

There was a callout for volunteers and there was some response. It seems that most members are willing to initially get involved with helping out with a recce so we are hoping to formalise this and have a member's recce list. Leaders can seek assistance from this list. This is still a work in progress.

Oliver Lucas resigned from assisting David Watkins with the weekday Metro Walks and Doug Swinbourne has taken over the role. Many thanks to Oliver for performing this role over the last fourteen years.

Jenny thanked all of the Walk Coordinators who have done a sterling job :- David Watkins, Metro walks ; Graeme Barker, Third Wednesday walks; Gordon Proudfoot, Easy Metro walks; Ron Anderson, Peninsula walks; John Rankin, Bike Rides and Kim Rosen, Sunday Country walks and visits to the Walter Briggs Hut. In addition Jenny thanked the members who are part of the Activities Subcommittee: - Kim Rosen, John Rankin, David Watkins, Stuart Galloway, Alexia Morgan and Gaye Buchanan. Thanks also to all our leaders of walks over the last twelve months.

### **7.3 TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Terry Simpson was unable to attend the meeting. His Treasurer's Report is taken as read. The President, Trevor Rosen stated that the only broad comment he had was that the Club overall is in a very good financial position. Members may not be aware that there are two distinct accounts; one the General Account for the walking side of the Club and another quite separate Account for the Mount Buller Lodge. The Lodge account is managed by Daryl Hergt who is the Financial Officer for the lodge and the lodge is managed by the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee. There will be a Mount Buller Lodge Report presented next but fortunately this snow season has been a bumper one. This was needed as the previous two seasons were a disaster as the Lodge was basically closed for two years due to Covid 19 lockdowns and restrictions and it needed a boost to its finances.

#### **7.4 MOUNT BULLER LODGE REPORT:**

Jenny Hosking referred to her Report and made the following comments. The Mount Buller Lodge had a fantastic summer and winter season in 2022. The Lodge was well frequented as well.

All of the Melbourne Walking Club committees strongly encourage members to visit Mt Buller in 2023 and stay at the Lodge. The summer tariffs for 2022/2023, including the exclusive summer use of the Lodge for \$350 per night (min stay two nights), have not increased. Additionally we are organising Base Under Cover activities for Mt Buller which will be shown in the four month program so individual members can also stay up there.

Jenny thanked the Mount Buller Lodge Subcommittee for operating and maintaining the Lodge and for ensuring there were sufficient funds available to survive the two winter seasons without bookings. David Jones, Daryl Hergt, Roger Jepson, Ian Moreton, Ernie Lawrence, Chris Jepson, Bruce Whorlton and Quentin Mushins.

The President Trevor Rosen endorsed Jenny's comments about staying at the Lodge and also recommended the summer season and referred to some of the great walks available.

#### **7.5 WALTER BRIGGS HUT REPORT:**

Kim Rosen referred to her Report and made the following comments. Kim noted that she had had the pleasure of being the Convenor of the Walter Briggs Hut for the past three years. It is a great place and an asset for the Club and she recommended that members make a visit.

The hut is cared for by a very active and enthusiastic Subcommittee of twelve people who also assist with casual working bees. We have four Subcommittee meetings a year and arrange advertised working bees that the rest of the Club can participate in.

There was a very successful Open Day in December last year with thirty seven people attending. Another Open Day is scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> December this year and all are welcome.

The hut is looking its best for many years with the exterior freshly painted and we are continually working on other projects such as the rock paving in the clearing near the hut.

One of the topics mentioned in her the Report was the Warburton Mountain Bike Proposal which was sponsored by the Yarra Ranges Council. The proposal was to construct a network of mountain bike tracks around Warburton two of which were in in the protected rainforest within the Yarra Ranges National Park. Even with the involvement of many experts and lawyers, the Victorian Planning Minister did not approve this part of the proposed development. We were informed of this decision by the Victorian National Parks Association on Melbourne Cup Day. This is a great result for National Parks generally in Victoria and the top of Mt Donna Buang and the hut in particular. Kim thanked the President Trevor Rosen for preparing a detailed submission on behalf of the Club to the independent inquiry.

## **7.6 MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

John Rankin referred to his Report and made the following comments. He highlighted the point that membership had been stable for the last seven or eight years, the numbers go up and down but hover around the 270 mark.

We missed getting a lot of new members during the lockdowns because people could not get out to do qualifying walks. In the first year of lockdowns we attracted 9 new members and in the second year 12 new members. There have been twenty new members in the last year so the Club is getting back on track in terms of new recruitment. New members are listed in his Report.

Membership in terms of women has continued to increase and in fact most new members are now women outnumbering men. We have 42 women now and 15 life members. The median age of the group is 67 and that has risen by a year in the last couple of years so we are an ageing group and need to keep younger members joining.

Other statistics are that 113 members are under 67 but there are 74 under 60. In terms of turnover, 130 members of the Club have joined in the last 14 years and 68 in the last 5 years.

We introduced name badges during the year so visitors and new members could get to know other members. These were issued to all who had done 1 walk in the last 12 months. Every new member gets one automatically.

Finally thanks to all walk leaders who send in their Blue Forms. These are used to identify visitors and potential new members and are also kept for insurance purposes. We have a great stack of them. David Watkins also uses them to prepare walk statistics and any other information we need.

## **7.7 WEBSITE REPORT:**

Charlie Freedman referred to his Report and made the following comments. Last year I reported that some Melbourne Walker Magazines had been scanned and put on the website. This job is now complete and the entire set of the magazine is now on the website as PDF files. They are quite good reading and are all available to either download or print.

Related to this is the MacDonald Index which took some time to locate but a copy eventually surfaced. It appears that McDonald in 1969 took all of the Melbourne Walker Magazine and prepared a proper index of all the articles and different topics. The Index is now scanned and on the website.

If anyone has comments or finds errors in the website please let the webmaster know.

## **7.8 MARKETING REPORT:**

Richard Simpson referred to his written Report and made the following comments.

Marketing is about communication. Thanks to Charlie Freedman, who has been terrific to work with, we have done a lot of work lightening up the Circular with things like a colour masthead and little ads etc which it is hoped might prompt some members to join various activities.

Critically, when people search or stumble onto the Club either on our website or Facebook page, they can go to the Circular and get a different impression to just reading black and white. It shows people's faces who are having a good time so we are trying to make the thing very friendly to new members. Photos of walks are also posted on Facebook. This is all about trickle down systems not overnight results. Most kids don't use Facebook anymore, a lot in this room don't use it but the generation under us do use it, the 30 to 40 year olds are using it. Your adult children should be encouraged to have a look and even join the Facebook page. Over time the trickle down effect may pick up the odd member. We looked at Hobart Walking Club which has about 800 Club members and 3000 Facebook members of which a few become Club members over the journey.

The next step for marketing might be advertising in external magazines such as the Seniors magazine for example. The Club needs to keep renewing its membership. We are trying to do two things; one to attract new members and two, getting more members to participate.

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:**

The Secretary, Neale Oxley announced that the only nominations he had received for membership of the Executive Committee for 2023 were as follows;

President: **Trevor Rosen.**

Senior Vice President: No nomination.

Junior Vice President: No nomination.

Secretary: **Neale Oxley.**

Treasurer: **Terry Simpson.**

Activities Officer: **Jenny Hosking.**

Membership Officer: **John Rankin.**

General Committee Members: **Charlie Freedman, Michael Corrigan, Kim Rosen and John Gates.**

In accordance with the Constitution each of the above members were duly elected unopposed.

The President, Trevor Rosen commented about the nominations for the Executive. Ever since he has been on the Committee there has never been a contested election for membership of the Executive. He thanked all those who had agreed to serve on the Committee for the next year but said more members should nominate. They are the same people this year as last year and the year before with the exception of John Gates who has agreed to join. John has been a member of the Club for two years and is a member of the Walter Briggs Hut Subcommittee. Trevor also thanked Richard Simpson who is retiring from the Executive after two years. He has contributed greatly to marketing and promoting the

Club and its activities and has agreed to continue assisting the Club in that area but not as a Committee member.

Trevor Rosen noted that nobody has nominated for the positions of either Senior or Junior Vice President, both positions being provided for in the Constitution. Traditionally there has been a line of succession from the Vice Presidents to President but this has not happened for some time. It highlights the need for more members of the Club to volunteer to join the Committee and become an Office Bearer. This can be done at any time of the year, not just at the Annual General Meeting. Trevor asked that if any of the members who were present tonight had any interest in joining the Executive Committee or a Subcommittee they should speak to him. It is essential for the Club to have new members joining Committees.

Trevor Rosen spoke about his own position. This is his ninth year as either President or Acting President. He said he is really there by default because no one else is willing to be the President of the Club. It is time for a change as it is not good for the Club to have a single President for so long and hopefully someone else will come forward during the year or at the next Annual General Meeting. Trevor Rosen stated that he will not nominate for President again next year.

#### **9. APPOINTMENT OF PERSON TO REVIEW FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.**

Trevor Rosen thanked Campbell Denovan for again making himself available as a suitably qualified person to review the books of account of the Club for next year. He explained to the meeting that this is needed to satisfy the requirements of the relevant legislation and Consumer Affairs Victoria.

#### **10. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.**

**Motion:** That the Financial Statements of the Club as published in the 2022 Annual Report be approved.

**Moved:** Trevor Rosen.

**Seconded:** Charlie Freedman.

Carried unanimously.

#### **11. PRESENTATION OF 25 AND 50 YEAR BADGES.**

The President noted that this year there were four members of the Club eligible to receive a 25 year badge but unfortunately none were present. They are **Campbell Denovan, Alex Hordijenko, Keith Tupper** and **John Webb**.

There are three Club members eligible to receive a 50 year badge. Two are present, **Daryl Hergt** and **Stephen Seymour**. Trevor Rosen presented them with their 50 year badges. Unfortunately the other candidate **Alan Shell** was not present.

Trevor Rosen congratulated all of the above members and noted that badges will be posted to those not present.

## 12. PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATES TO LIFE MEMBERS:

The President explained that the Club's Constitution permits the Executive Committee to nominate suitable members for Life Membership of the Club. The requirements for this are:

- 1. Exceptional service to the Club.
- 2. Served on either the Executive Committee or other Subcommittees.
- 3. Club membership for at least 10 years.
- 4. Must be an active contributor to Club activities within 5 years of the nomination being made.

This year there were 4 members to be awarded Life Membership:-

- 1. **Oliver Lucas**, member since 2003 who has assisted with Metro Walks since 2009.
- 2. **Ron Anderson**, member since 1995 who has been the Peninsula Walks Coordinator since 2012 and is a member of the Activities Subcommittee.
- 3. **Roger Jepson**, member since 1994. President 2003 to 2006 and Executive Committee member in many roles. He is now a member of the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee.
- 4. **Daryl Hergt**, member since 1972 and served on the Executive Committee in many roles. He manages the finances of the Mt Buller lodge and is a long standing member of the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee. Daryl also played a large role in the development of the Lodge.

The President congratulated all four members for this achievement and presented them each with Life Membership Certificates.

## 13. GOLDEN BOOT AWARD.

The President announced that **Terry Keating** had achieved the greatest number of walks this year. He listed the top 5 walk participants:-

- 5. **David Watkins**, 32 walks.
- 4. **Oliver Lucas**, 35 walks.
- 3. **Alex Hordijenko**, 41 walks.
- 2. **Jim Cone**, 47 walks.
- 1. **Terry Keating**, 57 walks.

The President congratulated Terry and presented him with the Golden Boot statuette.

## 13. MEETING CLOSURE.

There being no further business or questions the President closed the meeting at 8.45 PM.

Trevor Rosen  
President  
Melbourne Walking Club