

**MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB INC.
MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE
ON THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2020 AT 7.30 PM**

PRESENT: Trevor Rosen, Charlie Freedman, Michael Corrigan, Terry Simpson, Jenny Hosking, John Rankin, Kim Rosen, David Watkins, Ron Anderson, Richard Simpson, Alan Hosking, Denis Ward, Trevor Jupp, Jim Cone, Marshal Schaeche, Colleen Simpson, Daryl Hergt, Bruce Armstrong, Alex Hordijkeno, Keith Davidson, Gordon Proudfoot, Gaye Buchanan, John Moore, Paul Deveraux, Stewart Stanlake, Tony Cagney, Arthur Robertson, Miles Pearce, Jennifer Horne, Campbell Denovan, Les Littlejohn, Alexia Morgan, Marie Revill, John Ackerman, David Blackwell, Michael Blackett, Evan Field, Fiona Freedman.

1. WELCOME

The President, Trevor Rosen, thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Melbourne Walking Club. It is the first time that the AGM has been held remotely via Zoom video conferencing. The meeting opened at 7.30pm with Trevor Rosen in the Chair. Thirty-eight (38) members were present which is more than the required quorum under the Constitution.

2. APOLOGIES

William Bird, Bridget Larkin, Barry Revill, Marsha Rankin, Oliver Lucas, Keith Tupper

3. DEATHS

A minute's silence was held for four deceased members during 1 July 2019 to 30 September 2020: David Bleakley, Max Taebring, Graeme Seager, Keith Holmes. Also, in the last week, Peter Schulz passed away.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:

The Secretary, Michael Corrigan, asked that the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting as emailed to all members be confirmed.

Moved: Trevor Rosen

Seconded: John Rankin

That the Minutes as already emailed to all members be accepted as a true record.

CARRIED unanimously

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 2019 AGM:

Nil

6. CORRESPONDENCE AND MATTERS ARISING:

Nil

7. PRESENTATION OF REPORTS:

The Reports were presented by the following:

7.1 PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Trevor Rosen referred to his report published in the Annual Report and noted the effect that the Covid-19 pandemic had had on Club activities during the year. There were significant periods where walks and access/visits to Mt Buller Lodge and Walter Briggs Hut were cancelled or severely restricted. Emerging from severe restrictions to Covid-19 normal meant that walks resumed subject to strict government guidelines i.e. social distancing etc.

The Club Executive continued to meet via Zoom video conferencing except for the February 2020 meeting. This has operated successfully. Over the past year the Club Executive has consisted of 8 members. The President briefly explained how the Club Executive operates. Most Committee members have a designated portfolio though there are also General Committee members. The Executive Committee meets every 2 months. Prior to Covid-19 restrictions, meetings have been held at the President's home followed by a supper and a chat. A range of issues are addressed: activities, finances, administration, correspondence, emails, Mt Buller Lodge, Walter Briggs Hut, Parks Victoria, Bushwalking Victoria etc. Reports are presented at the meeting and discussed. The Executive Committee members communicate with each other between the two months. It can be time consuming but it is also rewarding.

To enable a Strategic Review of the Club's operations and activities a small Sub Committee was established, consisting of Trevor Rosen, Terry Simpson, David Watkins and Richard Simpson. A significant percentage of the membership is no longer actively involved in the Club or only occasionally involved in Club activities. The aim of the Strategic Review is to consider ways to increase member participation and also to attract new members. Membership has remained constant at approximately 270/280 members. The median age of the members is 65 years. Melbourne Walking Club is in the top 12% of walking clubs in terms of size in Victoria. An analysis of the Club's strengths and weaknesses was undertaken resulting in a Questionnaire being developed and emailed to all members. 109 responses were received (40% of membership). David Watkins and Terry Simpson have been very helpful in providing spreadsheets. A Report with recommendations is currently being prepared for the Club Executive. As Melbourne Walking Club has been in existence since 1894, Trevor Rosen was confident that the Club will be around for a long time yet.

On asking if there were any questions, John Moore queried if there would be any trips overseas or interstate. Trevor Rosen replied this issue will be part of considerations but will also require uptake from members. Resources and member participation will be necessary.

7.2 ACTIVITIES OFFICER'S REPORT:

Jenny Hosking advised that the Melbourne Walking Club is finally back walking again. The first walk on 28th October 2020 was the combined Metro & 3rd Wednesday walk, with Bruce Armstrong leading the Metro Walk and Jenny Hosking leading the 3rd Wednesday walk. Since then, the programmed walks have been well attended though members are still getting used to walking up & down hills and for over 12kms.

Once again, Jenny Hosking thanked the walk coordinators who have done a sterling job, regularly updating the program to comply with government updates relating to Covid-19 restrictions. The walk coordinators are well known and have been thanked many times, especially during the past year.

This time, Jenny Hosking particularly wished to extend thanks to all members who have been leaders of walks in the past 12 months. The walk program would not exist without these walk leaders. They also have had to reschedule walks. For many, it will be 3rd time lucky, before they get the chance to lead their walk. Unless you are Graeme Barker, 3rd Wednesday walk coordinator, who decided to break his leg during the lockdown. He is still recuperating, but hopefully he will be back on the trails soon.

7.3 TREASURER'S REPORT

Terry Simpson thanked Campbell Denovan for his role as the Reviewer of the Financial Statements and Daryl Hergt for his role in keeping the accounts of the Mt Buller Lodge.

As set out in his report the Mt Buller Lodge surplus for the year ending 30 June 2020 was \$14,929 and the General Account surplus was \$1,236. Total surplus for the Club was \$16,165. The combined cash assets of the Melbourne Walking Club were \$109,000.

The real financial impact of the closure of the Mt Buller during 2020 winter season due to Covid-19 restrictions will be reflected in 2021 accounts. Mt Buller Lodge earns 90% of its income over the ski winter season months of July, August and September.

For 2020 almost no income was received. Daryl Hergt is comfortable with Mt Buller Lodge's cash position at present as there are a couple of year's financial reserves. Financial relief was received from Mt Buller/Stirling Site rental and Bushwalking Victoria subscriptions. Terry Simpson encouraged more members and visitors to utilise the Mt Buller lodge in the summer months.

The General Account is back in surplus this year due to there having been no further capital expenditure in maintaining the Walter Briggs Hut. Visitor's Fees were introduced during the year which has been a benefit. Overall, the Melbourne Walking Club is in a sound financial position.

Trevor Rosen asked if Daryl Hergt would like to comment on the Mt Buller Lodge accounts. Daryl Hergt supported Terry Simpson's observations and encouraged more members and visitors to stay at the lodge in the summer months.

7.4 MOUNT BULLER LODGE REPORT:

The Convenor of the Mt Buller Lodge, David Jones was not present at the meeting but had prepared a written report. Trevor Rosen referred to Daryl Hergt for comment on the Mt Buller Lodge operations.

Daryl Hergt advised that the Mt Buller lodge has a Covid-19 plan which must be adhered to and was now open to members. The plan is displayed in the lodge along with appropriate signage and cleaning equipment. The online booking system is not yet operational. If members wish to stay at the lodge the contact person is Ian Morton, Booking Officer.

Trevor Rosen asked the meeting if there were any questions for Daryl Hergt. Paul Deveraux raised some questions about the transparency of bookings during the ski season and about the car park associated with the ski lodge being only for certain people. Daryl Hergt advised that the Melbourne Walking Club does not pay for the car park. The car park is assigned to a Committee member and is used to take supplies to the lodge. It is privately paid for by a Committee member. The new online booking system will result in changes to the current system and bookings should be more transparent. Daryl Hergt advised that any member can be a leader at the lodge. In fact, usually all the leader positions cannot readily be filled. With the new booking system, the Sub Committee will most likely look at who has booked and select a member who has the most leader experience. If a person is assigned to be a leader they can be coached about requirements. Gaye Buchanan raised a question as to whether fees will increase by next year. Daryl Hergt replied that the Sub Committee had tried to keep tariffs affordable but had advised of an increase of \$5.00 per night per category for the next seasons.

7.5 WALTER BRIGGS HUT REPORT:

Kim Rosen referred to her written report and advised that due to the pandemic visits to the Walter Briggs Hut were severely interrupted. From 8 July 2020 to 8 November 2020, there were no visits to the hut mainly due to the road to Donna Buang being closed. On 9 November 2020, the Subcommittee had a meeting at the hut. Tony Cagney is the immediate past convenor of the Walter Briggs Hut and Kim Rosen thanked him for all the work he instigated. Kim Rosen also thanked Lance Cranage ably assisted by Michael Blackett and Denis Ward, for the planning and construction of the new woodshed. Other maintenance work includes further painting inside and out.

Kim Rosen encouraged all members to visit the Walter Briggs Hut during the next year, particularly on Open Days, working bees and walks.

7.6 MEMBERSHIP REPORT:

John Rankin referred to his written report and took it as read. John Rankin advised that there were 282 members as at 30 June 2020, consistent with the past 5 years. Membership has steadily increased over the last 4 years. The trend has not continued this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. Potential members have not been able to complete their 4 walk entry requirement. As of tonight, 26 November 2020, there are 268 members including 34 women. At present, more women than men are applying to be members of the Club. There are 17 life members.

John Rankin thanked all the leaders for sending in their blue attendance sheets promptly. The blue attendance sheet is an important way of identifying potential new members.

7.7 WEBSITE REPORT:

Charlie Freedman referred to his Website Report and took it as read. Charlie Freedman advised that the past years' Circulars, Activity Programs and newly developed walk status page, are on the website. It is strongly suggested that prior to attending a walk, members check the Walk Status Page to view the current status of the walk i.e. proceeding/cancelled, required to contact leader or not, number limitations. As outdoor gatherings of 50 are now allowed, there is no need to register with the leader for the midweek walks. For the Sunday walks it is still necessary to register with the leader prior to attending the walk. Sunday walks may be held in more remote locations and be subject to Total Fire Ban or other restrictions and thus the leader may have to contact those registered to cancel the walk if necessary. Kim Rosen added further comments on booking for Sunday walks.

8. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS:

The Secretary announced that the only nominations which he had received for membership of the Executive Committee for 2021 are as follows:-

President:	Trevor Rosen
Senior Vice President:	Charlie Freedman
Secretary:	Michael Corrigan
Treasurer:	Terry Simpson
Activities Officer:	Jenny Hosking
Membership Officer:	John Rankin
General Committee Members:	David Jones, Kim Rosen and Richard Simpson

In accordance with the Constitution the above members were therefore duly elected unopposed. Michael Corrigan advised that at the first meeting of the newly elected Executive Committee, Jennifer Horne would be appointed Assistant Secretary due to this position being vacant. (Clause 9.3 MWC Constitution)

Trevor Rosen welcomed Richard Simpson to the General Committee and Jennifer Horne for joining the Executive and taking on the position of Assistant Secretary.

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.

Moved: Marshal Schaeche

Seconded: John Rankin

That Campbell Denovan be appointed as the Honorary Reviewer of the Club's accounts and the financial statements.

CARRIED unanimously

10. PRESENTATION OF 50 AND 25 YEAR BADGES:

Trevor Rosen advised that 2 members are eligible for 50 years badges; John Dunn and Philip Seager. 9 members are eligible for 25 year badges; Ron Anderson, Des Carroll, Alan Hosking, Roger Jukes, Trevor Jupp, Ian Mackie, Bores Marczuk, Daniel Meldrum and Alan Tickell.

Trevor Rosen also advised that the badges will be posted out to these members.

11. GOLDEN BOOT AWARD

Trevor Rosen announced that Jim Cone had won the Golden Boot Award again having completed 50 walks during the year. Les Littlejohn was second with 45 walks, Alex Hordijkeno and Oliver Lucas shared third and fourth with 38 walks. Trevor Rosen congratulated Jim Cone.

Jim Cone acknowledged it was a privilege to receive the award again this year. Jim Cone also took the opportunity to thank all the walk coordinators who kept in touch with members during the Covid-19 enforced lockdown. When government guidelines allowed walks, the MWC was able to start walking. Jim Cone commented that the Club was well managed and it was in very good hands. Jim Cone also advised that New Zealand is a great destination for walking.

12. OTHER BUSINESS INTRODUCED WITH PERMISSION OF THE MEETING

John Moore thanked the Executive Committee for their work and stated that it was great that more women have now joined the Club and were also committee members.

13. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Moved: John Moore

Seconded: Gordon Proudfoot

That the Financial Statements of the Club as published in the 2020 Annual Report be approved.

CARRIED unanimously

14. CLOSING OF THE MEETING

The meeting closed at 8.45pm

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

Trevor Rosen

President

Melbourne Walking Club