

**THE MINUTES OF THE 107<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE BALMORAL BEACH CLUB**

**HELD AT THE CLUBHOUSE & ONLINE ON THURSDAY 24th September 2020**

- Chair Cathy Mackay
- Minute Taker Garry O'Sullivan
- Opening The Chair opened the meeting at 7:05pm.
- Present PRESENT IN PERSON
- John Bagnall (Patron)
  - Cathy Mackay(CM) (Chair and President)
  - David Hosking(DH) (Hon Treasurer)
  - Garry O'Sullivan (Hon Secretary)
  - Traicha Jandera (Captain)
  
  - The following Committee Members:
    - Karen Panaretto
    - Dick Morath
    - Andrew Bremner
    - Julie Coates
  
  - James Boynton, Hon. Solicitor
  - Ian Phillipps, Stephen Ryan, Greg Mackay, Allan Bolton and Clive Mancey
- PRESENT BY VIDEO LINK
- Duncan Adams, Jeanette Adams, Tony Arena, Jon Attwater, Meredith Aveling, Jackie Bourn, Jenny Bray, Ralph Bray, Graham Brown, Therese Burnett, Margaret Carney, Charles Davey, Brian Davidson, Peter Ellis, Barry Feyder, Elizabeth Harrison, John Hibbett, Jennifer Hole, Andrew Horsley, Rob Johnson, John Mather, Craig McGrory, Martin McRobert, Lori Middlehurst, Rachel Orpin, Anne O'Sullivan, David Smith, Anthony Smuts, David Watson, Moira Williams, James Winter (representing Grant Thornton, Auditors)
- Apologies Peter MacCormick OAM, Sandra MacCormick, Catherine McGrory

**OPENING**

The Chair, Cathy Mackay(CM) welcomed the Patron, John Bagnall, Life Members in attendance (Jackie Bourn, Jenny Bray, Brian Davidson, Peter Ellis, Rob Johnson and Martin McRobert) and the auditor, James Winter.

It was confirmed that a quorum was present, with 15 members physically present at the Club and a further 31 in attendance by video link..

The minutes of the 2019 AGM were accepted as a true and correct record.

## **PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – Cathy Mackay**

- CM reflected on the fact that many things were achieved and enjoyed before COVID-19 hit this year, which were all well-documented in the “new look” online Annual Report. Thanks must go to Garry O’Sullivan, Allan Bolton, Jackie Bourn and graphic designer Leigh McLennan who worked seamlessly to produce such a first rate Report. The changes implemented in the BBC communications this year will keep us moving forward into the new technological age. This year only 41 printed copies of the Annual Report were posted to members - a terrific achievement.
- CM reviewed the “rollercoaster ride” the Club has been on since the Board made the difficult decision to close its doors for the first time in its history, on 21st March 2020.
  - Securing the Club, instructing contractors and readying the Club for an indefinite period of closure, occupied hours of time for all Board members in the early weeks of lockdown.
  - The budget had to be revised to it could support the 25% reduction in annual subscriptions that intended to be offered to members.
  - A new take-away meal service was established, extra security and guest services installed, insurances reviewed, and sporting activities cancelled, with all that entails, and all this had to be communicated to the members.
  - Never before has the Club had to communicate with the membership so often.
  - The Board was making decisions and adapting as quickly as our Covid-19 Safety Plan allowed.
  - Board Meetings, Storytellers, Book Club, Yoga and New Members Induction nights have all gone online, using Zoom.
  - Virtual swim races were held, with the Corona Cup and there was great relief when the change rooms could be re-opened, with strict controls in place.
  - A trial of wristbands to enable member access, was commenced.
  - The Club’s tradition of commemorating Anzac Day was upheld. No large group of swimmers gathering this year, just a lone bugler playing the Last Post from the balcony of the club as the sun rose.
  - Creative thinking and planning have taken up hours of time but we look forward to rolling the Club into the next stage, while maintaining the Club’s special culture.
- CM thanked all the BBC Board members for making themselves available, usually at very short notice, to discuss ideas and make decisions on behalf of the Club, ensuring the health and safety of all members has been a priority in our decision making.
- CM thanked Jim Boynton, Club Honorary Solicitor, for all his legal advice to help us in this year.
- CM thanked all volunteers, convenors and sub-committee members who continued in their roles and kept the culture of the club alive.
- CM thanked Graham Brown, who worked overtime to help us re-work budgets, send extra communication and deal with all member enquiries.
- Looking forward, CM foreshadowed coming changes, as COVID restrictions are lifted:
  - Weekend use of tables, seating & BBQs from the October Long Weekend
  - Trial of swim races on the October Long Weekend
  - Rollout of individual PINs to members
  - A COVID SAFE Captain’s Dinner
  - The Erik Mather 2/4/6 Swim for Melanoma
  - Balmoral Nippers resuming

- CM welcomed two new Board Members, Ian Phillipps and Stephen Ryan
- In conclusion, CM noted that the Board recognises and understands that this is the members' club and it is paramount to provide as much access to the facility and its activities as is safely possible.
- CM hoped the rollercoaster ride was nearing its end, and that with the establishment of our COVID 19 Safety Committee the Board was able to check all ideas, suggestions and plans to see if they can be implemented more quickly.
- CM invited members to build the Club's "new COVID normal" together.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT - David Hosking**

DH directed members to the detailed Financial Reports and commentary, included with the Notice of Meeting. DH noted the following points:

- The consolidated deficit of the Club was \$13k (2019: \$180K surplus). The most material impacts to these results were:
  - The fall in global investment markets following the announcement of the Global Pandemic. Whilst the return on the Sinking Fund was -2.1% for the year – this was relatively good, given the Australian share market fell by 9.1% for the year.
  - The Club has been required to adopt a new Accounting Standard in relation to the new members joining fee where we are required, for the first time in 2020, to recognise new member joining fees over the average tenure of the membership (which is twenty years).
- The Annual member fees covered operating expenditure for the year and, after a period of sustained investment in refurbishing the Club and after the recent new member in-take, the Club will have just over \$1m in the Sinking Fund - an excellent position.
- COVID impacted the Club in many ways. The Board made the decision to reduce member subscriptions by 25% which will flow into the 2021 year. This is expected to be sufficient to meet operating costs of the Club for the year noting some expenses are naturally lower from restricting activity, and some higher to ensure members' safety as we meet the COVID protocols.
- DH offered his sincere thanks to:
  - Graham Brown for his valuable contribution this year – he has been an enormous support to all aspects of the Club and no task is too much trouble
  - The management and staff of the Club's fund managers, Apt, and Auditors, Grant Thornton, for their professionalism and dedication.
  - The members of the Finance Committee for their contribution to the strong financial position of the Club, and
  - John Mather, who is stepping down after 14 years of invaluable service on the Finance Committee.
  - Dick Morath, who is stepping down as convenor of the Finance Committee, noting that Dick's wisdom and insight has not only resulted in the continued financial strength of the Club, but to DH personally and professionally.

### **ELECTION OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### **Club Patron**

John Bagnall was the only candidate for the position of Club Patron and was declared elected, in accordance with paragraph 28(4) of the Constitution.

## **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee Members below were the only candidates for the positions and were declared elected in accordance with paragraph 28(4) of the Constitution:

Cathy Mackay (President)  
Garry O’Sullivan (Hon Secretary)  
David Hosking (Treasurer)  
Traicha Jandera (Captain)

The Ordinary Committee Members below were the only candidates for the positions and were declared elected in accordance with Rule 28(4) of the Constitution.

Karen Panaretto, Julie Coates, Andrew Bremner, Ian Phillipps and Stephen Ryan.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

There was no general business.

Peter Ellis congratulated the Committee for their management of the difficult situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Several members supported Peter’s comments.

## **CLOSURE**

CM expressed thanks, on behalf of all attendees, Allan Bolton and GO, for staging a very professional Zoom AGM, noting the many hours of work involved.

There being no further business the Chair closed the meeting at 7:27pm.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Accepted as a true and correct record by the Chair

Dated \_\_\_\_\_