

**MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB INC.**  
**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**HELD VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE**  
**ON THURSDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2021 AT 7.30 PM**

**PRESENT:**

Trevor Rosen, Kim Rosen, Jenny Hosking, Alan Hosking, Denis Ward, Bruce Armstrong, Michael Corrigan, Stewart Stanlake, Charlie Freedman, Tony Cagney, Terry Simpson, Colleen Simpson, Daryl Hergt, Gaye Buchanan, John Rankin, Jim Cone, Keith Davidson, John Gates, David Jones, Richard Simpson, Neale Oxley, Matthew Smith, Marshal Schaeche, Campbell Denovan, Alexia Morgan, Ron Anderson, Keith Tupper, John Moore, Ian Smith, Ewan Colson, Alex Hordijkenko, Bruce Whorlton, Michael Blackett, Gordon Proudfoot, Miles Pearce.

**1. WELCOME**

The meeting opened at 7.30pm with the President, Trevor Rosen, in the Chair. Thirty-five (35) 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. For the second year in a row it is being held by Zoom video conference due to Covid 19 restrictions. It is expected that next year the AGM will once again be face to face.

**2. APOLOGIES**

Andy McLean, Tony Rogers, Lisa Osborn, Barry Revill, Marie Revill, Michael Ward, David Watkins.

**3. DEATHS**

A minute's silence was held for the following members who died between 1 July 2020 and 30 September 2021: Keith Holmes (1973); Peter Schultz (2001), Garth Lamey (1991), Lance Cranage (LM, 1976). More recent deaths: Evan Field (1972) and Stuart Brookes OAM.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING:**

The Secretary, Michael Corrigan, asked that the Minutes of the 2020 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 2020 AGM.

Moved: Terry Simpson

Seconded: Daryl Hergt

CARRIED unanimously

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE 2020 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 2021 Annual Report and noted that for a second year in a row Covid-19 restrictions and lockdowns had limited Club activities during the year. There were significant periods where walks and access/visits to the Mt Buller Lodge and the Walter Briggs Hut were either cancelled or severely restricted. Emerging from the restrictions to "Covid normal" in early November 2021 meant that walks resumed subject to government guidelines and vaccination requirements agreed on by the Club Executive.

The impact of the Covid 19 restrictions and lockdowns has had a severe impact on the finances of the Mt Buller Lodge. This follows on from a similarly disrupted ski season last year. This issue will be discussed in detail when the Mt Buller Lodge report is presented by David Jones.

On the positive side some of the successful activities which were able to take place included a summer Club trip to the Mt Buller Lodge in March, a record attendance at the Walter Briggs Hut Open Day in April, a very popular Combined Walk with the Melbourne Women's Walking Club at Arthur's Seat in May and the completion of the initial series of one day walks along the 210k Goldfields Track in Central Victoria between March and June. Another significant achievement has been the successful implementation by the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee of a new online booking system for the Mt Buller Lodge.

Overall club membership remained fairly constant at about 270 members and pleasingly more women were now joining the club with two being members of the Executive Committee.

The other major development during the year has been the completion of a strategic review of the Club's operations and activities and the implementation of the report's recommendations by the Executive Committee. The broad aim of the review was to reform and reinvigorate the Club. A new Activities Subcommittee has now been established together with a new Marketing Subcommittee. As a result the Club now has a Facebook page, an updated Circular and a refreshed website. New types of activities are also planned which it is hoped will appeal to both current and potential new members. In regards to the Mt Buller Lodge a new initiative has been agreed upon which will enable members to book the entire lodge for a set period during the summer months for their exclusive use at a special rate. It is hoped that many members will take advantage of this great offer.

The President thanked all members of the Executive Committee for their ongoing work, the members of the various subcommittees and the walk co-ordinators and leaders for their contribution to the Club.

## **7.2 ACTIVITIES OFFICER'S REPORT:**

Jenny Hosking referred to her report published in the 2021 Annual Report and the attached annual statistics report.

The new Activities Subcommittee was formalized in May 2021. Members include all of the walks coordinators and Stuart Galloway, John Rankin, Alexia Morgan and Gaye Buchanan. New initiatives include having lunch at a venue after a walk on a Tuesday, bike rides and a base under cover trip to the Mt Buller Lodge every quarter.

She noted that the member participation rate for the year for walks was 42.3%. This was an increase of approximately 5% despite many walks being cancelled or limited participation due to Covid 19 restrictions during July to October 2020, March 2021 and May to June 2021. Two events which attracted substantial participation were the Open Day and naming of the Lance Cranage Woodshed at the Walter Briggs Hut (35 members and visitors) and the Combined Walk with the Melbourne Women's Walking Club at Seawinds, Arthurs Seat (40 members and visitors).

A successful base under cover trip at the Mt Buller Lodge was held over the Labour Day long weekend. The initial series of walks led by Kim Rosen along the 210k Goldfields Track between Mt Buninyong and Bendigo were impacted by severe storms and Covid 19 travel restrictions.

Jenny Hosking thanked all of the walk coordinators for both the weekday and Sunday walks programs and David Watkins for preparing all the statistics relating to the walks program.

She also thanked all the members who had led walks during the year.

She noted that at the time of preparing her report Metro Melbourne was in lockdown but subsequently the regular walks program had resumed on 3 November 2021.

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

Terry Simpson referred to his Treasurer's Report and the annual Financial Statements published in the Annual Report.

He 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 the Financial Statements the Mt Buller Lodge deficit for the year ending 30 June 2021 was \$17,009. This compares to a surplus in the previous year of \$14,929. The General Account surplus was \$3,684. The total deficit for the Club as a whole was \$13,325. This compares to a surplus in the previous year of \$16,165.

The total cash assets of the Melbourne Walking Club as at 30 June 2021 were \$87,029. This compares to \$109,073 for the previous year.

The real financial impact of the closure of the Mt Buller lodge during 2021 winter season due to Covid-19 restrictions will be reflected in the 2022 accounts. Mt Buller Lodge earns 90% of its income over the ski winter season months of July, August and September.

For 2021 almost no income was received. Daryl Hergt is still 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/Mt Stirling site rental and Bushwalking Victoria subscriptions. Terry Simpson strongly encouraged more members and visitors to utilise the Mt Buller Lodge during the summer months and to take advantage of the new exclusive use option.

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 on walks were introduced during the year which has been a benefit. Overall, the Melbourne Walking Club is in a sound financial position.

Daryl Hergt supported the Treasurer's comments about the financial position of the Mt Buller Lodge and the need for more members to stay at the lodge during the summer.

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

The Convenor of the Mt Buller Lodge, David Jones referred to his written report. He also referred to the severe loss of income for the lodge caused by the Covid 19 lockdowns and restrictions which had endured for the last two years.

Summer use was desperately needed to make up for the winter shortfall. As previously mentioned a new initiative has been introduced to allow members and their guests to have exclusive use of the lodge for a short period during the summer at a special rate. David highlighted the many attractions at Mt Buller and the excellent facilities at the lodge.

Winter tariffs will rise next year due to the recent rate valuation increase and a substantial insurance premium increase of about \$5000.

The site rental for 2021 was \$8,533 but a rebate of \$2,834 was received. The other large payment was the Mt Buller service charge of \$10,149.

The new online booking system has been very successful and it has made booking the lodge more efficient and easier.

Trevor Rosen noted that David Jones was retiring from the Executive Committee this year and would no longer be the Convenor for the Mt Buller Lodge. Both Trevor Rosen and Daryl Hergt thanked David for his contribution over many years.

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

Kim Rosen referred to her written report and advised that due to the Covid 19 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 due to lockdowns and travel restrictions and also due to the closure of the road to Mt Donna Buang for three weeks following severe storms. However there were still a total of 18 visits to the hut during the year including working bees.

Subcommittee meetings were able to be held at the hut on 9 November 2020 and 23 March 2021. An Open Day was held on 18 April 2021 with a record 34 people attending. The hut was in very good condition overall. New guttering had been installed on the western side of the hut. A new track through the bush had been marked from the hut to the Healesville Rd from where you could walk to Ben Cairn.

Kim Rosen thanked Tony Cagney for his work as the previous Convenor of the hut. She also thanked all the current members of the Subcommittee for their work and support of the hut. There are now 11 dedicated members of the Subcommittee.

Kim Rosen noted the death of Lance Cranage in March. He was a Life Member of the Club and a dedicated supporter of the Walter Briggs Hut over very many years including 11 years as Chairman of the hut subcommittee. Amongst other things he was largely responsible for the construction of the new woodshed next to the hut which is now named in his honour. He will be sadly missed by everyone who knew him.

Kim Rosen encouraged all members to visit the Walter Briggs Hut during the next year, particularly on Open Days, working bees and walks to the hut. A special Open Day will be held on 5 December to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the opening of the current hut in 1941.

### **7.6 MEMBERSHIP REPORT:**

John Rankin referred to his written report and took it as read. John Rankin advised that there were 269 members as at 30 September 2021 which was slightly down on previous years as shown in a table contained in his report. This was due to Covid 19 lockdowns and the inability to go on club walks during this period. This number included 39 women members and 16 Life Members. Membership had steadily increased during the four years prior to this year.

The median age of members is 65 years which means half of all members are under 65.

John Rankin thanked all the leaders for sending in their blue attendance sheets promptly. It is from the Visitors list on the Blue Sheet that he identifies potential new members to whom John sends information about the Club and, after four walks, an invitation to apply for membership. The information is also used to compile statistics for the Club and for insurance purposes

### **7.7 WEBSITE REPORT:**

Charlie Freedman referred to his written report and commented that the website continues to attract interest from both members and visitors.

A new banner has been created for the homepage which was designed by the new Marketing Subcommittee.

Old copies of the “Melbourne Walker” magazine are currently being scanned and will be available for viewing or download on the website. This magazine was published by the Club annually from 1929 to 1991.

A “Walks Status” page appears on the website which lists all current walks and any cancellations or changes due to Covid 19 restrictions or lockdowns.

The monthly Circulars are available on the website and back issues are kept online for one year. There is also now a link to the Mt Buller Lodge booking system.

Charlie welcomed any contributions and photos from members relating to Club activities or bushwalking in general for publication in either the website or the Circular

## **7.8 MARKETING**

Richard Simpson referred to his written report and commented that a new Marketing Subcommittee had been formed following the recommendations of the strategic review undertaken in 2019/2020 and a survey of members.

There is a need to promote and market the club to both existing members and to the wider community. Existing materials have been added to while modernizing some publications and the website and a new Facebook page has been created.

The Marketing Subcommittee has worked with the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee to promote the lodge particularly during the summer months and to increase patronage during this time. Further opportunities to promote the club and its activities will be considered in the future.

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

Trevor Rosen thanked all of the members of the Executive Committee for their work over the past year and their contribution to the successful running of the Club.

The Secretary announced that the only nominations which he had received for membership of the Executive Committee for 2022 are as follows:-

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

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

Trevor Rosen noted that he had been the President of the Club for the previous three years as allowed by the Constitution. Prior to that he had been either the Acting President or President for a further period of four years making a total of seven years in that role. Given that nobody else had nominated this year to become President he had once again agreed to nominate for another year as Acting President. Although it was rewarding to be the President of the Club he hoped that someone else would nominate for this position next year.

Trevor Rosen welcomed Neale Oxley as the new Secretary of the Club. He thanked Michael Corrigan for his work as the previous Secretary and also David Jones for the work he had done as the Convenor of the Mt Buller Lodge. He announced that Jenny Hosking had agreed to be the new Convenor for the Mt Buller Lodge and would be so appointed at the next Executive meeting.

**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.

MOTION: That Campbell Denovan be appointed as the Honorary Reviewer of the Club's accounts and the Financial Statements.

Moved: Trevor Rosen

Seconded: Terry Simpson

CARRIED unanimously

**10. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

MOTION: That the Financial Statements of the Club as published in the 2021 Annual Report be approved

Moved: Marshal Schaeche

Seconded: David Jones.

CARRIED unanimously

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

Trevor Rosen advised that 2 members are eligible for 50 year membership badges: - Geoff Brown and Stan Nirenberg.

Four members are eligible for 25 year membership badges: - Leo Brophy, Anthony Crocker, Steve Menhennet and Bill Moran. Trevor Rosen congratulated all of the above members and advised that their badges will be posted to them.

**12. GOLDEN BOOT AWARD**

Trevor Rosen announced that Jenny Hosking had won the Golden Boot Award having completed 57 walks and activities during the year. Jim Cone was second with 41 walks and Terry Keating was third with 36 walks.

Trevor congratulated Jenny Hosking and advised that she would be presented with the Golden Boot statuette when they next met in person.

**13. OTHER BUSINESS INTRODUCED WITH PERMISSION OF THE MEETING**

On behalf of the club Miles Pearce thanked Trevor Rosen for agreeing to remain President for another year and for all the work he had done over the years. He also thanked the Executive Committee for their work during what had been a difficult year.

John Moore supported the above and commented that the Club had been in existence since 1894 and based on what had been said tonight it he was sure it would have a bright future.

**14. CLOSING OF THE MEETING**

The meeting closed at 9.00 pm

MINUTES CONFIRMED:

Trevor Rosen  
Acting President  
Melbourne Walking Club