MELBOURNE WALKING CLUB INC.

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held at the Box Hill RSL on Thursday 27th November 2025 at 7.30 PM.

Present:

Kim Rosen (President). Neale Oxley (Secretary). Arthur Robertson (Treasurer). Trevor Rosen (Walter Brigg Hut). Charlie Freedman (Website and Circular). John Rankin (Membership). Julie Paris (Mt Buller Lodge). Susan Cranage Activities). Terry Simpson (Marketing). John Gates (General Committee Member).

Alison Anthony. Dean Howe. Colleen Simpson. Marsha Rankin. Francis Brennan. Daryl Hergt. Peter Matheson. Terry Keating. Natalie Spilling. Genevieve Webb. Tony Cagney. Jackie Mark. Brian Mark. Jim Cone. Luke Renehan. Helen Renehan. Sophie Lee. Ingrid David. Bridget Larkin. Graeme Barker. Lauris Hergt. Daniel Dewhirst. Miles Pierce. Leigh Unsworth. Chris Thomson. Ann Lewis. Philip Ward. Denis Ward. Michael Blackett. Tony Rogers. Lisa Osborn. Simon Shepard. Peter Shepard. Cynthia Lui. John Moore. Wayne Hansen. Ian Smith. Campbell Denovan. (Honorary Reviewer) David Watkins. Ian Morton. Maria Arturi. David Jones. Nicole Smyth.

Total 53 Members.

1. Welcome.

The meeting opened at 7.30pm with President Kim Rosen in the chair. 53 members were present which is more than the required ten per cent to make a quorum under the Club's Constitution.

Kim Rosen thanked everyone for attending the Annual General Meeting of the Melbourne Walking Club Inc. and noted that it was her second as President.

2. Apologies.

Barry Revill. Marie Revill. Tom Corrigan. Michael Corrigan. Mike Degendorfer. Gilbert Hollins. Doug Connell. Ewan Colson. Keith Tupper. Alex Hordijenko. Glenys Harrison. Susan Crook. Colin Crook. Stewart Owen. Jim Thurlby. Alex Cherny. Stephen Cherny. Anne Cherny.

Total 18 Members.

3. Deaths.

Kim Rosen reported that the following four members of the Club had died during the year:-

Hugh Gibson, Mark Dewhirst, Alan Shell and John Bertram.

One minutes silence was observed in memory of these members.

4. Confirmation of Minutes of 2024 Annual General Meeting.

Motion. That the Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting be confirmed.
Moved. Kim Rosen.
Seconded. Ann Lewis.

Carried Unanimously.

5. Matters Arising from the Minutes of the 2024 Annual General Meeting.

5.1 There were no matters arising.

6. Correspondence and Matters Arising. (Neale Oxley)

6.1 Neale Oxley reported that there was no correspondence.

7. Presidents Report. (Kim Rosen)

Kim Rosen referred to her Annual Report as President which detailed the significant achievements during the year. The complete Annual Report has been sent to all members of the Club. She made the following comments.

7.1 Over the last ten years the number of women members has increased to 70 and women now comprise a quarter of the total membership. Members were reminded that women were only allowed to become members of the Club in 2015. This has been a very positive development for the Club.

7.2 Kim thanked Julie Paris as the Convenor of the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee for the large amount of work that has been done during the year particularly in relation to the preparation of the lease renewal application with ARV (Alpine Resorts Victoria).

7.3 Kim thanked Sue Cranage for all the work she had done as the Activities Officer and for helping to expand the range of activities offered in the Activities Program.

7.4 Kim thanked Trevor Rosen as the Convenor of the Walter Briggs Hut Subcommittee and also for the all the additional work that he does assisting her as President.

7.5 She also thanked the other members of the Executive Committee for all the work they had done during the last year: - Neale Oxley (Secretary), Arthur Robertson (Treasurer), Charlie Freedman (Website and Circular), Terry Simpson (Marketing), John Rankin (Membership) and John Gates (General Committee Member).

7.6 She noted that Neale Oxley, Terry Simpson and John Gates are retiring as members of the Executive Committee this year. She again thanked each of them for all the work they had done over the years and for their contribution to the Club. She also noted that Alison Anthony and Dean Howe had nominated for election to the Executive Committee this year.

7.7 Kim also thanked all the Walk Coordinators; the Bike Rides Coordinator, the members of each Subcommittee, the walk and activity leaders and the many other members who work behind the scenes for their ongoing contribution to the Melbourne Walking Club.

8. Activities. (Susan Cranage)

Susan Cranage referred to her Annual Report and added the following comments.

8.1 She noted that 137 activities were advertised during the year and 129 of these had been successfully completed. The difference was mainly due to adverse weather conditions on the day.

8.2 The new Sunday Metro Walks coordinated by Cynthia Lui are proving very popular and have attracted some younger walkers who are very welcome as future members.

8.3 The Year to Date (30th June 25) monthly Walk statistics are included in her Report.

8.4 The Year to Date (30th June 25) breakdown of Members' attendance at the year's events shows that only 45.5% of the membership participated in any activity.

9. Mount Buller Lodge. (Julie Paris)

9.1 Julie read her Report which was very comprehensive and needed no further comment. The report includes detailed information about the lodge and the financial position.

9.2 David Jones asked about the insurance premium for the lodge and was informed that the lodge has now been valued for its reinstatement cost which was $3.41 million. The insurance cost had increased significantly this year. It was now just under $30,000. Details are in her Report.

10. Walter Briggs Hut. (Trevor Rosen)

10.1 Trevor referred to his Report and added the following comments.

10.2 Fortunately the Hut does not have any financial problems and the only regular expense is a peppercorn rent paid to Parks Victoria. There are also incidental expenses for repairs and maintenance items. There is a lease between Parks Victoria and the Club. The Hut is maintained by members of the Subcommittee with assistance from other members of the Club at working bees.

10.3 There were 14 events at the Hut during the year with a total of 158 attendees.

10.4 Trevor noted that there are always maintenance items to be performed at and around the Hut and track clearing was an ongoing job.

10.5 David Jones asked about the Hut insurance. The Hut is owned by Parks Victoria and as such is covered by the Victorian Government insurance scheme (The Victorian Managed Insurance Authority). In the event that the Hut was burnt down it is questionable if it would be rebuilt but damage from a falling branch for example would be repaired. The Club is very fortunate to have the Hut which was built by members in 1941. It does not need to be
valued for insurance purposes.

10.6 The Club has a close working relationship with Parks Victoria and the local Rangers and they are happy for us to occupy the Hut subject to the Club maintaining it.

11. Membership Report. (John Rankin)

11.1 John referred to his Report and added the following comments.

11.2 Membership has remained stable throughout the 24/25 financial year. There were 23 new members and 24 resignations during this period giving a total membership of 284.

11.3. Since 30th June 25 there have been 11 new members and 6 resignations.

11.4 As of 30th September 2025 the Club Membership stands at 288 which includes 70 women and 17 Life Members.

11.4 It is pleasing to see that over the last four years an influx of younger members has seen the median age of the members drop from 68 to 59. During this time 72 new members joined of which 38 were women.

11.5 Leigh Unsworth asked if there were any statistics on people who only did two or four walks. John replied that he could not answer that off the top of his head but that there were some who never completed the four walks. Some did more than four walks but did not complete them in the required 12 months. Almost everyone who did four walks within 12 months went on to apply for membership.

11.6 Kim Rosen explained that the Constitution allows for the Executive Committee to exercise discretion about the requirement to complete four walks within 12 months. However this only applied in special circumstances such as someone completing four walks outside the 12 month period because of illness or injury or other similar reason.

12. Website and Circular. (Charlie Freedman)

12.1 Charlie Freedman referred to his Report and added the following comments.

12.2 Charlie thanked all of the Walk Leaders for providing him with their walk details prior to the publication of the activity program on the website and their publication in the Circular. Charlie reminded the meeting that the details of any upcoming activity must be sent to him by the first Wednesday of the month in order to be included in the following month's Circular.

12.3 The website upgrade will enable the Club to give each Member a log in making it possible to pay annual fees via a secure link if they wish. It will also enable the Club to have a single list of members that is much easier to manage than the present system of multiple lists which are time consuming to keep up to date.

12.4 The new website will have the same content as at present but will be more modern looking. New features can be added. Members will be notified when this happens but do not need to take any action as the URL will be the same.

13. Marketing. (Terry Simpson)

13.1 Terry referred to his Report and added the following comments.

13.2 Terry explained that he has resigned from the Executive Committee and also his role as Marketing Officer. Marketing for the Mt Buller Lodge is now done by the Subcommittee and other activities and events are now being promoted by way of eBulletins and emails to all members.

13.3 The meeting was reminded that a large amount of work had been put into marketing during the last few years.

14. Treasurers Report. (Arthur Robertson)

14.1 Arthur referred to the Annual Financial Statements and added the following comments.

14.2 The Report is self-explanatory but questions are welcome.

14.3 The Club made a profit of $8734 due to the bumper snow season which was the best in a decade. What the future holds is unknown but it will have a great bearing on future income. In the past a good snow season could be expected once every 3 or 4 years but this now seems not to be the case.

14.4 Chris Thomson asked about the Club's public liability insurance policy and whether the premium is significant. Trevor Rosen answered and explained that the Club's insurance is arranged by the Executive Committee through Bush Walking Victoria (BWV) on behalf of Bush Walking Australia (BWA). BWA use a broker to arrange insurance policies for all of the affiliated bushwalking Clubs in Australia. The Club is covered for public liability, personal accident and office bearers insurance. We currently pay an affiliation fee of $4963 and an insurance premium of $2867 to BWV. The insurance premiums are lower than if the Club arranged its own insurance. The Mt Buller Lodge building insurance is a completely separate policy and it is arranged by the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee which also uses a broker.

15. Election of Club Executive Members.

15.1 Kim Rosen explained that all positions on the Executive Committee are declared vacant at the AGM.

15.2 Neale Oxley reported that in accordance with the Constitution he had received the following nominations for election to the Executive Committee for the 2025/2026 year.

President.	Kim Rosen.
Secretary.	Alison Anthony.
Treasurer.	Arthur Robertson.
Membership Officer.	John Rankin. .
Website and Circular.	Charlie Freedman.
Mt Buller Lodge.	Julie Paris.
Activities Officer	Susan Cranage.
Walter Briggs Hut.	Trevor Rosen. .
General Committee Member	Dean Howe.

15.3 Neale Oxley declared that each of the above members was duly elected to the Executive Committee unopposed.

15.4 Kim Rosen congratulated the members of the new Executive Committee and welcomed the two new members: - Alison Anthony and Dean Howe.

16. Appointment of Honorary Reviewer.

16.1 Kim Rosen was pleased to announce that Campbell Denovan has once again agreed to be the Honorary Reviewer of the Financial Accounts. Kim thanked Campbell on behalf of the Club for his contribution over many years.

17. Approval of Financial Statements.

Motion. That the Financial Statements as published in the 2025 Annual Report be approved.
Moved. Kim Rosen.

Seconded. John Moore.
Carried Unanimously.

18. Presentation of 50 and 25 Year Badges.

18.1 Kim Rosen announced that 50 year badges are being awarded to Charlie Freedman, David Jones and Gilbert Hollins. Gilbert Hollins was unable to attend but Kim presented badges to Charlie and David and congratulated each of them. They both spoke about their long involvement with the Club.

18.2 Kim also announced that 25 years badges are being awarded to Peter Begelhole, Stewart Owen and Jim Thurlby. None of these members were able to attend and their badges will be posted to them.

19. Awards of Life Membership.

19.1 Kim Rosen noted that nominations for Life Membership were a special event and that Life Membership was only awarded to Club members who had made a significant contribution to the Club over a sustained period of time. Two members had been
nominated this year.

19.2 The first nomination is for Barry Revill who is unable to attend tonight due to ill health. Barry was a member of the Executive Committee for a number of years, the Convenor of the Walter Briggs Hut for many years and he is still a member of that Subcommittee. He has made a significant contribution to the Club over about 30 years.
19.3 The second nomination is for Ian Morton who is present at the meeting. Ian was congratulated by Kim who related Ian's work within the Club. Ian joined the Club in 1986 and has been a member for 39 years. His late father, Gerald Morton, was largely responsible for the construction of the Mt Buller Lodge in 1992. Gerald was awarded Life Membership for his contribution to the Club and for his supervision of the Lodge and bookings for many years.

Ian assisted his father with maintenance and bookings even before becoming a member of the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee in 2002. He has been the Booking Officer ever since, a period of over 20 years. Until recently bookings were all done manually on paper including changes, cancellations and refunds. This was a very time consuming job. Ian implemented the new online booking system towards the end of the Covid period.

Ian is still the Booking Officer but he intends to step down from this position at the end of the year. He is now training a replacement, Simon Shepard.

Kim thanked Ian for all of the work he has done as the Mt Buller Lodge Booking Officer and for his contribution to the Club over very many years.

In recognition of his service to the Club Ian was presented with a Life Membership Certificate by Kim Rosen.

19.4 Ian spoke briefly about his time with the Club and noted that a member of the Morton family had been the Booking Officer for about 40 years. He noted that the online booking system had made the job much easier.

20. Golden Boot Award.

20.1 Kim Rosen noted that the Golden Boot Award is given to the member who has done the most walks or activities during the year. Kim started at the 5th highest and worked up to the winner.

5th Highest. Oliver Lucas. 43 Walks.
4th Highest. Doug Swinbourne. 47 Walks.
3rd Highest. Alex Hordijenko. 54 Walks.
2nd Highest. Jim Cone. 58 Walks.
Golden Boot. Terry Keating. 63 Walks.

Terry Keating was therefore declared the winner of the 2025 Golden Boot Award.

20.2 Terry Keating spoke briefly about how much he enjoyed going on walks and the company of fellow walkers. This was an important part of his life. Terry thanked the Club for making it all possible. Applause followed.

20. Special Business: Motion to Amend Clause 3.1.1 of the Constitution.

20.1 Kim Rosen explained that the Motion from the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee was to reduce the number of qualifying walks to apply for membership of the Club from four to two in a twelve month period. As required by the Constitution the Executive Committee sent a Report to all Members on the 17th October 2025 which included a number of submissions for and against the motion. Kim reminded the meeting that under the Constitution 75% of the members present must vote in favour for the motion to succeed.

Kim invited the Convenor of the Mt Buller Lodge Subcommittee, Julie Paris to address the meeting and Julie spoke in favour of the motion. Kim then invited other members to speak either for or against the motion.

Daryl Hergt spoke in favour of the motion.
John Rankin spoke against the motion.
Genevieve Webb spoke in favour of the motion.
Denis Ward spoke against the motion.
Leigh Unsworth spoke in favour of the motion.

Kim called on Julie Paris to move the motion.

Motion: That Clause 3.1.1 of the Constitution be amended to reduce the number of qualifying walks to apply for membership of the Club from four to two within a twelve month period.

Moved: Julie Paris.
Seconded: Daryl Hergt.

The members present voted and placed their ballot papers in a ballot box. A secret ballot was conducted.

Neale Oxley and Tony Cagney (Scrutineer) counted the votes and the results were:-

Number of ballots issued. 53
Number of ballots returned. 52

Votes For. 20
Votes Against. 32

Result: 62.5% of members present voted against the motion. The motion was declared lost.

21. Other Business.

21.1 Leigh Unsworth questioned why the MWC Constitution did not provide for proxy votes. He stated that he had informal legal advice that the rules of an incorporated association in Victoria must contain certain mandatory provisions including allowing for proxy votes. This was in legislation. A club can choose to add to the mandated provisions but cannot remove them.

21.2 Kim Rosen replied by stating that that Leigh was referring to the Model Rules for an incorporated association which are contained in the relevant legislation. However an incorporated association is not required to adopt the Model Rules and MWC has not done so. Our rules contain the mandated provisions.

21.3 Trevor Rosen noted that Leigh was correct in saying that the Club is an incorporated association and that it is governed by the Victorian *Incorporated Associations Reform Act* and the *Associations Incorporation Reform Regulations.* The Act says that an incorporated association may adopt the Model Rules but it is not required to do so. The rules must contain 23 specified matters insofar as they apply to that particular incorporated association.

21.4 However our Constitution, which was first drafted in 1982, and which was presumably based on an earlier Constitution, never adopted the Model Rules. Whether the Constitution should be reviewed to include other provisions such as proxy votes is a separate issue to be considered in the future and not at this meeting. This change would ultimately require an amendment to the Constitution.

21.5 Kim Rosen also noted that the current Constitution had been registered and approved by the Registrar of Consumer Affairs. This would not have happened if the Constitution was not valid.

22. Close of Meeting.

There being no further business Kim Rosen closed the meeting at 9.30pm followed by supper.

Neale Oxley
Secretary
Melbourne Walking Club Inc.