

BUSHWALKERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC

2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

MINUTES

Date: Sunday 8 March 2020

Venue: 94 Grovedale Road, Floreat

Time: 5.10pm

ATTENDING

Members: Paul Aldridge, John Boyle, Graham Burnfield, Jacky Burnfield, David Coulter, Pauline Coulter, Warren Cummins, Diane Drew, Peter Drew, Liz Duncan, Sarah Ellis, Linley Ford, Dave Foster, Simon Hesp, Janet Hill, Pam Hoy, Warren Iremonger, Gary Jones, Maureen Jones, Charlie Matheson, Peter Moss, Steve Napier, Patsy Roche, Donna Rynne, Lorna Saunders, John Steele, Hugh Stickley, Irene Tarnay, Alan Tolley, John Young, Trudy Young

Visitor: Wendy Cummins

APOLOGIES

Irene Benson, David Caughey, Ruby Chan, Fernando di Camillo, Mary di Camillo, John Forde, David Healy, Francine Hendrick, Michael Hobday, Peter Laundry, Julie Norman, Jenny Vivian, Peter Wasser, Judy Wilson

The President welcomed everyone to the AGM.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM on 3 March 2019

Copies of the AGM Minutes for 2019 were available on the BOWA website and a few hard copies of the Minutes were available at the meeting.

Motion: *That the minutes of the AGM held on 3 March 2019 be accepted as a true and correct record* (Proposed Sarah Ellis, seconded John Steele) CARRIED

MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES:

- With Hugh Stickley's assistance, the Club has made good progress with enabling event leaders to include and edit the details of their proposed walks and restaurant evenings on the website
- Peter Wasser, in conjunction with John and Trudy Young, has amended the website so as to substantially complete the process of updating and ensuring consistency between BOWA forms and the website
- The Club has also uploaded Club officer Role Summaries, last year's AGM Minutes, the Constitution and the list of current office bearers onto the Members Only section of our website

CORRESPONDENCE

In the course of the year the Club has had had substantial communication with HikeWest Inc (formerly Federation of Western Australian Bushwalkers Inc (trading name, Bushwalking Western Australia), through monthly eNews bulletins and subject specific emails, in relation to:

- Draft WA Bushwalking and Trail Running Strategy 2019-29 and associated survey
- Australian Adventure Activity Standards and Good Practice Guides
- Insurance (including the annual Insurance Questionnaire)
- Wellington National Park
- 'Plan for our Parks'
- DWER's updated Operational Policy 13 re water catchments, released in July. (No access to 2km wide Reservoir Protection Zone and 3 months prior approval for activities involving more than 25 people)
- Notice of HikeWest's AGM on 15 October 2019, with proposed amendments to HikeWest's Constitution and to its previous name
- 2020 WA Hiking Expo on 3 May 2020
- Hyde Park Community Fair stand on 1-2 March 2020

The Club's official address was changed with Consumer Protection from Mike Hobman's postal address to 94 Grovedale Road, Floreat as from 14.3.19.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The President read his report, which addressed:

- This year being the Club's 40th anniversary of its first meeting on 6 February 1980 and the 25th anniversary of its incorporation on 21 September 1995
- The seeming success of the modifications which have been made to the Club's Events Programme following on from last year's AGM
- The consistently good attendance at walks, whether full day or half day
- The fact of 9 new members last year
- The Club's involvement with HikeWest initiatives, including the proposed 2020 WA Hiking Expo on 3 May 2020 and our support of the HikeWest Expo stand at the Hyde Park Community Fair on 1-2 March.

Motion: *That the President's report be accepted* (Proposed Jacky Burnfield, seconded Donna Rynne) CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT

Paul Aldridge presented his report.

- The Club's funds as at 31.12.19 were \$3,801.82.
- In 2019 we had a surplus of \$508.53, with expenses of \$1,170.47 and receipts of \$1,679.00. This compared with an operating deficit in 2018 of \$240.09. However, visitors' fees for 2019 were \$389 compared to \$119 in 2018, and the Club's website fee, due every second year, is payable in 2020.

John Young pointed out that fees for half day walks were raised last year from \$2 to \$5, meaning that walk fees were all \$5. He also commented, in relation to our insurance policy, that the premium for personal accident insurance had been slightly reduced to \$3.74 per member and that there had been 25 personal accident claims, mostly falls, across Australia in 2018/19. No public liability claims had been made.

Motion: *That the Treasurer's report be accepted* (Moved Alan Tolley, seconded Peter Moss) CARRIED

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Simon Hesp presented his 2019 BOWA Activity Statement:

- At the end of 2018 there were 57 Members. This year, 6 Members left the Club and 9 new Members joined. Therefore at the end of 2019 the Club had 60 financial Members.
- Members participated in 42 walks this year. In round figures:
 - There were 13 short summer walks with an average attendance of 12.
 - There were 6 short winter walks with an average attendance of 13.
 - There were 23 long winter walks with an average attendance of 12.
 - The average Member attendance for all walks was 10 and average Visitor attendance was 2.
 - 17 members led at least 1 walk
- Eleven restaurant evenings were organised throughout the year with an average attendance of 12.45.
- The movie night was attended by 8 Members.
- The Nannup camp had 3 walks with an average walk attendance of 10 Members and 4 Visitors.
- The Christmas BBQ was attended by 42 Members and 5 Visitors.
- The 2019 AGM was attended by 24 Members (plus one member set to rejoin) and there were 10 apologies.

Motion: *That the Membership Secretary's report be accepted* (Moved Pauline Coulter, seconded Warren Iremonger) CARRIED

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS FOR 2019

The President extended thanks to departing Committee member, John Forde. He acknowledged the challenge posed by so many current members having already made significant contributions to the Club, but urged others to volunteer for the Committee, including for the position of Vice-President, which had not been filled last year.

The following members were nominated and elected:

President John Young (Moved Steve Napier, seconded Lorna Saunders) CARRIED
 Vice-President NO NOMINATION
 Secretary Trudy Young (Moved John Steele, seconded Irene Tarnay) CARRIED
 Treasurer Paul Aldridge (Moved Donna Rynne, seconded John Boyle) CARRIED

Committee members:

Maureen Jones (Moved Alan Tolley, seconded Liz Duncan) CARRIED
 Simon Hesp (Moved Alan Tolley, seconded Liz Duncan) CARRIED
 Jacky Burnfield (Moved Alan Tolley, seconded Liz Duncan) CARRIED

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

John Steele has agreed to be appointed

Motion: *that John Steele be appointed financial auditor for 2020* (Moved Maureen Jones, seconded Lorna Saunders) CARRIED

WALKS PROGRAMME

- Maureen Jones was the contact person for the Walpole Camp on 27-29 March at Coalmine Beach Holiday Park. A number of members and visitors had registered.
- The programmed event for 3 May would be the WA Hiking Expo, which would be discussed in General Business.

- Maureen asked that members proposing to lead a walk or event fill in the form available at the AGM or at other events or contact her with the details of the intended walk or event, ie do not yet enter the activity directly into the events programme on the website. Once Maureen is satisfied with the balance in the proposed programme, leaders will be advised and the events can be entered.
- Leaders wishing to cancel an event (which would be done on the website by Hugh Stickley) or to make a significant change, such as venue or time, on the website should contact Maureen. An email would be sent to members advising of the cancellation or change.
- At the request of a number of the people at the meeting, it was agreed to reinstate the availability of a pdf three monthly programme on the BOWA website. There had been a reluctance to have that facility because of concern that members would rely on that programme rather than on the continually updated Events Programme on the website.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

The President advised that two honorary life memberships, for **John Steele** and **Charlie Matheson**, for “special and substantial services rendered to the Club”, were proposed by the Committee at its meeting on 20.11.19 for consideration at the AGM. Honorary life membership has previously been awarded to only 5 members: Patsy Roche (1998), Dave Foster (2005), Lorna Saunders (2007), Steve Napier (2011) and Peter Wasser (2017). We were fortunate that 4 of those 5 were present at this AGM.

John Young stated that Charlie Matheson:

- had been a BOWA member since 1988, so for 33 years
- was a member of the BOWA Committees for 18 of those years: 1990-92 (3 yrs) as President; 1989 and 1999-2000 (3 yrs) as Vice-President; and 1993-95, 1998, 2001-07 and 2011 (12 yrs) as a Committee member
- has served as a federation BOWA representative; was heavily involved in Bibbulmun Track Maintenance; has led many walks (often known simply as “Charlie’s walk”); and was renowned for his navigation instruction days.

Charlie had been a leader in the Club in so many senses.

Motion: *that **Charlie Matheson** be appointed an Honorary Life Member of the Club for “special and substantial services rendered to the Club”* (Moved Lorna Saunders, seconded Janet Hill) CARRIED by the required majority of 60% of those entitled to vote at the meeting.

Charlie responded with a speech of thanks.

John Young stated that John Steele:

- had been a member since 1995, so for 26 years
- had been on the BOWA Committee for 21 of those years: 2007-09 as President (3 yrs), 2006 as Vice-President, 1997-2005 as Secretary (9 yrs) and 2010-17 (8 yrs) as a Committee member
- had been Hon Auditor since 2013
- was from time to time a Federation representative
- was a frequent walk leader, and champion wildflower spotter
- excelled as the Xmas BBQ wine provider
- was an effective BOWA archives (as an organised repository of both Club documents and Club memories)

Motion: that **John Steele** be appointed an Honorary Life Member of the Club for “special and substantial services rendered to the Club” ” (Moved Steve Napier, seconded Pauline Coulter) CARRIED by the required majority of 60% of those entitled to vote at the meeting.

John also responded with a speech of thanks.

GENERAL BUSINESS

- The meeting indicated its support for the changes which had been introduced to the 2019 programme, including in particular monthly half day walks. A suggestion made by Lorna Saunders was occasional lunchtime restaurant get-togethers, for which there was meeting support.
- The WA Hiking Expo, organised by HikeWest and based on a similar event in South Australia, would be held at the Mundaring Perth Hills Discovery Centre on 3 May. Its aim was to encourage bushwalking in the community and to publicise individual walking and trail running clubs which participated. Detailed information about the Expo had recently been emailed to members.

John Young advised that he and Trudy Young had attended two preparatory meetings organised by HikeWest’s Dave Osborne. BOWA had now registered an expression of interest in an erected marquee (requiring a \$100 payment, refundable if the Club attends). A number of members (Diane and Peter Drew, Dave Healy, John and Trudy Young, and John Steele) have already indicated a preparedness to hand out flyers and to generally assist on the day. In addition, BOWA has agreed to lead Walk 5 at 11.30am (6km, hilly, 2-2 ½ hours), which it was anticipated would be for 15 pre-registered members of the public. We had two walk leaders, a potential for a third, and a number of tail end charlies, but of course we wanted a back up leader for a walk or walks we lead. A Walk 5 programmed for 9.30am currently had no leaders.

- Members were requested to take a flyer prepared for the Hyde Park Community Festival and the Expo, and to provide feedback as to how it could be improved.
- The meeting supported some form of 40th Anniversary celebration for BOWA. The present tentative date was Wednesday 15 July 2020.

John Young advised that the 30th Anniversary Dinner, organised by Peter Moss, was held at Siena’s restaurant in Leederville on 16 July 2010. 29 attended. Dave Foster was the keynote speaker.

John requested volunteers for a Committee to facilitate a 40th Anniversary celebration. Such a Committee would consider date and time; venue; appropriate cost; speakers; the possibility of a invitation flyer; and the identification and contacting of older and former members.

Alan Tolley, Jacky Burnfield and Graham Burnfield indicated their preparedness to be involved in such a facilitating group.

Matters canvassed were:

- Whether the event should be during the day (lunch or breakfast) or during the evening
- Whether we should hire a hall and perhaps self cater, or attend a restaurant or hotel (with mention made of the Flying Scotsman in Mt Lawley and

Clancy's at City Beach, each of which had a function room; the Fremantle and Swan Yacht Clubs, though the former was seen as now too expensive)

- The need to ensure easy mingling at the event
 - The need to have minimal background noise.
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- Steve Napier is kindly continuing as the Coordinator of the Bibbulmun Track maintenance roster. A roster for 2020 of those who carried out maintenance last year will be available soon. Warren Cummins and Charlie Matheson both indicated a preparedness to assist with maintenance.

DATE AND VENUE OF NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

9 March, 2020 at 7.30pm, at Diane Drew's home.

The Annual General Meeting was closed at 6.50pm.