

**BUSHWALKERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC**  
**2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**MINUTES**

**Date:** Sunday, 10 March 2024

**Venue:** Scarborough Tennis Club, 101 Deanmore Road, Scarborough

**Time:** 5.05 pm

**ATTENDING (26)**

*Quorum is 12 Full or Honorary Life Members: Constn cl.9(e)*

Bill Bampton, Warren Cummins, Fernando di Camillo, Mary di Camillo, Liz Duncan, Elena Frew, Robert Frew, David Healy, Simon Hesp, Janet Hill (joined meeting part way), Gordon Hobday, Gary Jones (joined meeting part way), Maureen Jones, Charlie Matheson, Stephen Napier, Mike Page, Alex Shaw, Hugh Stickley, John Steele, Irene Tarnay, Alan Tolley, Peter Wasser, Ann Wilson, Judy Wilson, John Young, Trudy Young.

**(Non-member) GUEST**

Davina Porock

**APOLOGIES (24)**

Irene Benson, Graham Burnfield, Jacky Burnfield, George Burns, David Caughey, Monica Caughey, Ruby Chan, David Coulter, Pauline Coulter, Diane Drew, Peter Drew, Sarah Ellis, Dave Foster, Bob Frayne, Warren Iremonger, Pam Matheson, John McGuinness, Marj McGuinness, Marion Puccini, Lorna Saunders, Howard Smith, Rick Walne.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM on 13 March 2023**

(These Minutes, together with the President's report for 2023, were available on the BOWA website.)

*Motion: That the minutes of the AGM held on 13 March 2023 be accepted as a true and correct record (Moved John Young; seconded Maureen Jones) CARRIED*

## **MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS AGM MINUTES**

- The BOWA 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration was successfully completed with a function at the Charles Hotel on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023 with over 40 members in attendance. Irene Tarnay's reflections on her very early completion of the Bibbulmun Track was a highlight
- The topic of undertaking mid-week walks was raised; there was general interest for this to continue
- A further update to the 'Guidance to Walk Leaders' has recently been made on the BOWA website. Similarly, the Bibbulmun Track maintenance guide has been further updated and Peter Wasser advised that he recently added it to the club website

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

BOWA had correspondence during 2023 with HikeWest, through bi-monthly eNews bulletins and subject specific emails, in relation (most significantly) to:

- WA Hiking Expo 2023
- HikeWest's risk management approach
- HikeWest's support of the DLGSC Strategy Planning workshop held in September 2023
- HikeWest's AGM on 25/10/23

BOWA also had communications (most significantly) with:

- Bibbulmun Track Foundation (re track maintenance)

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Steve Napier)**

Steve's written report, which had been sent to members with the AGM Agenda, was tabled.

The report:

- thanked the Committee members and members who had led walks
- emphasised the need for more members to volunteer to lead walks

- reminded members of the upcoming Pemberton camp (16-18 April 2024) and described the proposed walks and activities over the duration

*Motion: That the President's report be accepted* (Moved Charlie Matheson; seconded Trudy Young) CARRIED

### **TREASURER'S REPORT** (Ann Wilson)

Ann tabled the calendar year 2023 statement of Income and Expenses and a 2023 Accounts Reconciliation, audited by the Club's Honorary Auditor, John Steele.

Ann advised the meeting that:

- as at 31 December 2023 BOWA held \$3,259.86 cash in the Commonwealth Bank.
- expenses for the year had exceeded income by \$151.23. BOWA applied for and were granted \$836.00 through the 2023 HikeWest Grants Programme. This is being progressively spent on various items (backpack for Bibbulmun Track maintenance; 5 first aid kits for walk leaders; promotional flyers to encourage new members); total insurance cost for members is \$9.38 per member (the same as for 2022) – on a query from John Young, Ann confirmed this to include public and personal liability insurances but additional fees (approximately \$5 per member) are also payable for membership of the federal and state representative groups; in total around \$15 of a normal members \$25 annual membership is paid for mandatory insurance and membership fees.
- A pie chart breakdown of expenses was provided.

*Motion: That the Treasurer's report be accepted* (Moved John Steele; seconded Janet Hill) CARRIED

### **MEMBERSHIP REPORT** (Simon Hesp)

Simon presented and tabled a detailed report; numbers for 2022 are shown below in parentheses for comparison. Key features reported were:

- The number of Club members fell from 59 at the end of 2022 to 56 at the end of 2023. This is the same number of members as at the end of 2018.

- 37 walks (excluding the regular Bibbulmun Track maintenance by rostered members) were held, including those at the Albany camp; this compares to 38 walks during 2022
- 17 (12) walks were classified as easy; 0 (1) as Easy/Medium; 11 (16) as Medium; 5 (7) as Medium Hard; and 4 (2) as Hard. (2022 numbers are shown in parentheses for comparison)
- Average walk attendance was 9.75 (12.81 in 2022)
- 43 members attended at least 1 walk (51), 25 at least 5 walks (29), and 15 at least 10 walks (20).
- The total distance of all walks was 479.4 kms (490km).
- 13 members led walks (15), but 2 members led 15 walks, again emphasising the need for more members to be leading walks.
- 6 social events were held, including the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary, AGM and Christmas get-togethers.

*Motion: That the Membership Report be accepted* (Moved Irene Tarnay; seconded John Young) CARRIED

## ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2023

The following office bearers were elected:

- President**            **Steve Napier** (Nominated by Charlie Matheson; seconded by Mary di Camillo) ELECTED
- Secretary**        **Mike Page** (Nominated by John Steele; seconded by Alex Shaw) ELECTED
- Treasurer**        **Rob Frew** (Nominated by Steve Napier; seconded by Ann Wilson) ELECTED

2023 Vice-President Gordon Hobday chose not to re-nominate for the committee. No-one at the meeting offered to take on the position of Vice-President; as such this role will need to be appointed at the first meeting of the new committee, later in March 2024.

## ELECTION OF OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**Committee members:**

- Simon Hesp**        (Nominated by Charlie Matheson; seconded by Liz Duncan) ELECTED
- Alex Shaw**        (Nominated by Peter Wasser; seconded by Dave Healy) ELECTED

**Hugh Stickley** (Nominated by Simon Hesp; seconded by Dave Healy) ELECTED

Two other members were prepared to join the Committee but had not yet met the Constitution's requirement (clause 6(b)) that they have led a walk.

Motion: *That the meeting supports the appointment by the Committee at its first meeting, under clause 6(d) of the Constitution, of **Mary Di Camillo** as a member of the Committee* (Moved Elena Frew; seconded Judy Wilson) CARRIED

Motion: *That the meeting supports the appointment by the Committee at its first meeting, under clause 6(d) of the Constitution, **Bill Bampton** as a member of the Committee* (Moved Mike Page; seconded Trudy Young) CARRIED

## **APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR**

John Steele was thanked by the President for having audited the Club's accounts for some years.

Motion: *'That John Steele be appointed financial auditor for the Club for 2024'* (Moved John Young; seconded Alex Shaw). CARRIED

## **WALKS PROGRAMME** (Steve Napier)

- Due to the record hot summer, limited walking occurred in this period; however, several social events were held
- The Pemberton camp would be held over the three days of 16-18 April 2024. A show of hands indicated that a good proportion of those at the AGM would be attending the camp.
- Steve wished to increase the number of restaurant evenings on the Events Calendar.
- The 'Bibbulmun Track and Shelter Maintenance Guide 2024' and the associated maintenance roster had been completed. The roster was being distributed and the Guide would be placed on the members' only BOWA website under 'Members'. John Young raised concern about the significant additional time required to complete maintenance each trip as a result of the Mt Dale circuit being added to the BOWA responsibilities by the Bibbulmun Track

Foundation some 18 months ago. Mike Page commented that last year during his scheduled visit, 2 additional people were invited to complete the work due to the additional work required and that allowed the work to be done (through splitting duties on the day) to be completed to the required standard in the time.

## **GENERAL BUSINESS**

- Election of Honorary Life Members *Constitution cl 5(f)*

*Motion: John Young declined the nomination to be elected as an Honorary Life Member*

- Election of Honorary Life Members *Constitution cl 5(f)*

*Motion: the election of Sarah Ellis as an Honorary Life Member  
Proposed Dave Healy, seconded Irene Tarnay; this was carried unanimously (60% of the eligible AGM attendees required)*

- Steve Napier thanked Sarah Ellis (elected in absentia) for her contribution to the Club and provided a summary of her long term contribution to the club. Sarah, who joined the Club 20 years ago, had been a Committee member for 15 of those years, including being President (5 years in 2 stints), Vice-President, Secretary, Membership Officer and Walks Coordinator. Sarah's preparedness to serve as President in 2021-22, in the absence of any other member being prepared to take on the role, was particularly acknowledged. Sarah's election was supported by members' applause.
- Maureen Jones queried that status of the club's Covid-19 policy; Steve Napier highlighted that at the October 2023 meeting the committee agreed that the requirement for double vaccination be removed and replaced by meeting current government requirements; John Young highlighted that this policy change had not been communicated to members and that several walks had been held where out-of-date Walk Leader forms were used; Steve committed that this would be addressed at the March 2024 committee meeting
- Payment of annual membership subscriptions is now due; Trudy & John Young highlighted that insurance is payable each year in April based on our member numbers at the end of March; members who have not paid the renewal subscriptions but have not resigned will thus still be due for insurance coverage; Hence we need to ensure that membership fee renewals should be more proactively managed at the start of each calendar year.

The Annual General meeting closed at 6.25pm.

**DATE AND VENUE OF FIRST 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING**

The first Committee meeting was fixed, following the AGM, for 6:30pm on 19 March 2024 at Rob & Elena Frew's home, 144 Burniston St, Scarborough.