

# **BUSHWALKERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC**

## **2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **MINUTES**

**Date:** Sunday, 12 March 2023

**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)*

Fernando di Camillo, Mary di Camillo, Ruby Chan, Warren Cummins, Liz Duncan, Sarah Ellis, Linley Ford (joined meeting part way), Robert Frew, David Healy, Simon Hesp, Gordon Hobday, Gary Jones, Maureen Jones, Stephen Napier, Mike Page, Marion Puccini, Alex Shaw, John Steele, Irene Tarnay, Alan Tolley, Clodagh Tolley, Peter Wasser, Ann Wilson, Judy Wilson, John Young, Trudy Young.

#### **(Non-member) GUEST**

Anne Halstead

#### **APOLOGIES (20)**

Paul Aldridge, Graham Burnfield, Jacky Burnfield, George Burns, David Caughey, Monica Caughey, David Coulter, Pauline Coulter, Diane Drew, Peter Drew, Dave Foster, Janet Hill, Warren Iremonger, Charlie Matheson, Pam Matheson, John McGuinness, Marj McGuinness, Colette O'Hagan, Diana Rosman, Lorna Saunders.

#### **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM on 13 March 2022**

(These Minutes, together with the President's report for 2022, were available on the BOWA website.)

*Motion: That the minutes of the AGM held on 13 March 2022 be accepted as a true and correct record* (Moved Simon Hesp; seconded Irene Tarnay) **CARRIED**

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

- Club badges - the Club has 16 embroidered Club badges and Embroidery Plus, which prepared and has retained the original 1985 art work, could provide 30 badges for a cost of \$10 plus GST

each. The Committee had decided to continue to distribute badges to new members but not to purchase a further 30 badges at this stage.

- The recently completed (and scenic) 2.5 km Mt Dale Circuit had been added to the length of Bibbulmun Track which BOWA maintains.
- Steve Napier's proposed presentation outlining the contents of the BOWA website was made at the Collie camp in October 2022
- The updated 'Guidance to Walk Leaders' was now on the BOWA website. The document includes a recommendation to brush boots before and after walks to minimise dieback transmission.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

BOWA had correspondence during 2022 with HikeWest, through monthly eNews bulletins and subject specific emails, in relation (most significantly) to:

- WA Hiking Expo 2022 and its cancellation
- Hyde Park Festival and its cancellation
- Insurance
- Australian Adventure Activity Standards
- Review and amendment of HikeWest's Rules of Association
- Submissions re draft Forest Management Plan 2024-33, draft WA Strategic Trails Blueprint, South32 Worsley Alumina's proposed Worsley Mine expansion, and Rio Tinto Darling Range exploration objections
- HikeWest's draft Member Protection Policy
- HikeWest's AGM on 25.10.22
- The planned WA Hiking Expo 2023

BOWA also had communications (most significantly) with:

- Consumer Protection (flowing from our incorporated association status)
- Bibbulmun Track Foundation (re track maintenance)
- Panthur, re BOWA's domain registration for bushwalkerswa.asn.au

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Sarah Ellis)**

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

Sarah:

- thanked the Committee members and members who had led walks
- emphasised the need for more members to volunteer to lead walks
- advised that there had been no increase in the Club's membership fees.

*Motion: That the President's report be accepted* (Moved John Young; seconded Alan Tolley) CARRIED

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

Ann tabled the calendar year 2022 statement of Income and Payments and a 2022 Accounts Reconciliation, audited by the Club's Honorary Auditor, John Steele.

Ann advised the meeting that:

- as at 31 December 2022 BOWA held \$3,411.09 cash in the Commonwealth Bank.
- expenses for the year had exceeded income by \$419.47, mainly due to a fall in membership subscriptions (by \$280) and visitor fees (by \$156); an increase in insurance premiums of \$1.74 for each member (from \$7.64 per person to \$9.38 per person), in circumstances where for insurance purposes the number of Club members was calculated as at mid-March each year; and a payment for two years of \$261.20 for Domain renewal and dedicated IP Address renewal. A pie chart breakdown of expenses was provided.
- online banking for payments had been set up.

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

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

Simon presented and tabled a detailed report, key features of which were:

- The number of Club members fell from 67 at the end of 2021 to 59 at the end of 2022. 9 members did not renew; sadly, Patsy Roche died; and two new members joined.

- 38 walks (excluding the regular Bibbulmun Track maintenance by rostered members) were held, including 6 at the Collie camp
- 12 walks were classified as easy; 1 as Easy/Medium; 16 as Medium; 7 as Medium Hard; and 2 as Hard.
- Average walk attendance, including the Collie camp, was 12.81. Excluding the camp, it was 11.81, ie in answer to a question from Trudy Young, one less member per walk.
- 51 members attended at least 1 walk, 29 at least 5 walks, and 20 at least 10 walks.
- The total distance of all walks was 490 kms.
- 13 members led walks, but 2 members led 15 walks, again emphasising the need for more members to be leading walks.
- 3 restaurant evenings were held.

*Motion: That the Membership Report be accepted* (Moved Mike Page; seconded Steve Napier) CARRIED

## **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2022**

The following office bearers were elected:

- President**            **Steve Napier** (Nominated by Irene Tarnay; seconded by Alan Tolley) ELECTED
- Secretary**          **Mike Page** (Nominated by David Healy; seconded by Steve Napier) ELECTED
- Treasurer**          **Ann Wilson.** (Nominated by John Steele; seconded by Judy Wilson) ELECTED

Gordon Hobday was prepared to take on the position of Vice-President, but had not yet met the BOWA Constitution's requirement (clause 6(b)) that he 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 **Gordon Hobday as Vice-President*** (Moved John Young; seconded Simon Hesp) CARRIED

## **ELECTION OF OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**Committee members:**

- Simon Hesp**            (Nominated by Robert Frew; seconded by David Healy) ELECTED

**Alex Shaw** (Nominated by David Healy; seconded by Mike Page) 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** and **Robert Frew** as members of the Committee* (Moved John Young; seconded Liz Duncan) CARRIED

Ann Wilson asked why the Club's Constitution contained a requirement that members could be elected as an office bearer (the exceptions being the positions of Secretary and Treasurer) or a Committee member at an AGM only if the member had led a walk. John Young explained that the requirement (together with the requirement of at least 6 months' membership) had been included in the Club's original 1980 Constitution, at the time when some younger members had split away from the Western Walking Club to form BOWA. The assumption must have been that, in the context of a pool of enthusiastic members, significant walking experience should be given priority when electing the new Club's executive. The exceptions were Treasurer and Secretary which required particular expertise. The ability of the Committee to fill vacancies was a fail-safe.

## **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 2023'* (Moved John Young; Trudy Young). CARRIED

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

- The walks programme was a work in progress. The Albany camp would be held in the first week in April, but walk leaders were sought for the rest of April.
- The Albany camp would be held over the three days of 3-5 April 2023. It seemed from a show of hands that about a dozen of those at the AGM would be attending the camp.
- Steve wished to increase the number of restaurant evenings on the Events Calendar.

- Steve encouraged members able to do so to enter directly onto the BOWA website events which they proposed to lead or organise. There was some unresolved debate as to whether it was open to all members to enter events and as to who was empowered to publish events entered. John Young emphasised that no event should be entered, and certainly no event published, without the agreement of the Walks Coordinator – not least because of the need to achieve balance in the walks calendar (between walks difficulty and length, as to walks' locations, and so on).
- The Club should ensure that the Dale shelter and associated track were neat and tidy for the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary southbound end-to-end Walk celebrating the opening of the newly aligned Bibbulmun Track in 1998. In response to a question, John Young stated that the Bibbulmun Track Foundation had requested an intense maintenance effort in readiness for walkers passing through each section and was providing information which would allow us to calculate when the walkers, who would leave Kalamunda in mid-July, would arrive at BOWA's section. The BTF had also requested that, if possible, maintenance volunteers welcome walkers as they pass through their area.
- It was noted that current members Dave Foster, Irene Tarnay and Simon Hesp had each walked the full Bibbulmun Track.
- The 'Bibbulmun Track and Shelter Maintenance Guide 2022' 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'.

## GENERAL BUSINESS

- The only suggestions for any changes to the Club's procedures or approach to the Events Programme was Alan Tolley's request that consideration be given to holding more mid-week walks.
- John Young gave a short presentation encouraging all members, but particularly current or prospective walk leaders:
  - to closely read the updated 'BOWA Guidance to Walk Leaders' on the BOWA website, and
  - to be familiar with the five relevant forms – the Walk Leaders' Checklist for Visitors, the emergency Contact and Medical Information form, the Walk Record Form, the Incident Report Form, and the Application for Membership form.

- Mike Page advised that the website accessible 'Club Bushwalking Safety Procedure' and associated links had been updated, including in relation to fire management and the suggested content of walkers' First Aid kits. Steps had been taken to achieve consistency between the document, the website and the 'BOWA Guidance to Walk Leaders'. Mike urged members to use the 'Safety Procedure' as a resource.
- There was discussion of whether a BOWA 40<sup>th</sup> plus anniversary celebration should await the Club's 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary in February 2025 or should be held at an earlier date. The strong feeling of the meeting was that the Committee should arrange a celebration sooner rather than later. It was noted that a BOWA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee comprising Jacky and Graham Burnfield and Alan Tolley had in 2020 recommended the Windsor Hotel in South Perth as a lunch venue for an anniversary celebration, but a get together at that time was rendered impractical by Covid-19.

The Club's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner, organised by Peter Moss and at which Dave Foster was the keynote speaker, had been held at Siena's restaurant in Leederville on 16 July 2010.

- John Young specifically thanked Fernando di Camillo, a relatively new member, for his initiative and skill over the past couple of years in putting together, with Mary di Camillo's assistance, and leading a number of quality new walks. Fernando's contribution was applauded by the meeting.
- John Young also thanked Sarah Ellis for her 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 Secretary and Walks Coordinator. Sarah's preparedness to serve as President during the past 2 years, in the absence of any other member being prepared to take on the role, was particularly acknowledged. John's thanks were supported by members' applause.

The Annual General meeting closed at 6.40pm.

### **DATE AND VENUE OF FIRST 2023 COMMITTEE MEETING**

The first Committee meeting was fixed, following the AGM, for 2pm on 21 March 2023 at Steve Napier's home, 8C Groves Ave, Attadale.