



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ILLAWARRA RAMBLERS CLUB INC.  
HELD ON SATURDAY, 6<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 2018 AT THE RHODODENDRON PARK, MOUNT PLEASANT**

**Meeting to Open at: 10.30am**

**Present:** P Howes, J Groom, P Prentice, C English, R Tierney, J Cowling, J Healy, C Meharg, T Presland, G Waine, F Morrison, S Delaney, J Meharg, A Ryan, J Hawkes, P Freeman, N Freeman, J Wood, B Wood, J Polonis, C Tenhave, M Tenhave, N Bearns, S Almond, J Gal, A Martin, T Ashton, R Guy, S Martin, P Jenkins, D Jenkins, B Parker, A Murdoch, P Bique, L Mulder, G Wellings, P Jack, G Burgess, R Bique, N Williams, T Urbanski, I Gspurning, W Gspurning, J Tyson, G Smith, A Patterson, J Liddiard, M Feltham, S Feltham, B Voller, R Krishna, D Currie, P Mackey. (53)

**Apologies:** F Newsome, B Fairhall, R Verdon, P Hayes, E McDermott, P Robinson.

**1 President's Opening Remarks**

The President, Penny Howes welcomed members and friends to the Meeting and said how pleased she was to see everyone in this beautiful environment, particularly since we had been experiencing such inclement weather.

**2 Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2017**

Copies of the Minutes of last year's Meeting were available for all members to read and approve as a true copy.

**Motion:** "That the Minutes of the AGM held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September, 2017 be approved as a true copy".

**Moved:** F Morrison

**Seconded:** J Healy

**3 Business arising from Previous AGM**

No Business Arising

**4 Annual Report**

The President, Penny Howes then gave her Annual Report to the AGM for 2017-2018.

It's been another good year for the Illawarra Ramblers Club. We have continued to have activities almost every day of the week and in some cases more than one on the same day. A total of 353 were scheduled between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2018, of these 330 went ahead. There was a total of 3652 participants. These numbers are slightly lower than the previous 12 month period though the average of 11 per activity was the same. None of these activities would happen without the leaders. Over the period, there were 51 leaders. 13 of them led 10 or more activities, collectively leading two thirds of the total activities that went ahead.

	2017 – 2018				2016 - 2017			
	Scheduled	Cancelled	Went Ahead	No. Partic'pts	Scheduled	Cancelled	Went Ahead	No. Partic'pts
Spring	87	7	80	870	107	15	92	1012
Summer	85	4	81	1026	90	10	80	924
Autumn	90	5	85	869	90	9	80	832
Winter	91	7	84	887	87	3	84	903
Total	353	23	330	3652	374	37	337	3671
Average				11				11
Walks			143	1174			132	1122
Cycles			120	1436			116	1495
Paddles			47	664			75	821
Training			3	41			n.a	n.a.
Social			5	206			5	183
Trips			12	131			9	50

We currently have 294 members, compared to 300 this time last year. Now that our membership is for 12 months from date of payment, the number fluctuates each month. Around 20% did not renew but this was partially made up by the number of people who joined for the first time. Of the total membership 71% are Seniors, 91% receive the newsletter online.

During the course of the year we have been in touch with both our local councils. In May, at the request of the Dapto Library, Chris English and Russell Verdon organised a display and presentation about the Ramblers Club. This was very well received and generated interest in the club and a few new members. We have been in contact with the Shellharbour Council on two issues. Phil Prentice and other kayakers have been lobbying councillors and engineers regarding better launching facilities for kayaks. We have also recently written to Shellharbour Council to express our dismay and concern regarding the newly imposed restrictions on cycling across Slaters Bridge in Oak Flats.

I will be standing down as President of the club having held the position for two years. I would like to thank all those members who have given me so much support during this time. I would particularly like to thank each of the committee members who have given me unwavering support and have worked tirelessly to keep things running smoothly.

Chris English has been involved in the Ramblers Club since the 1990's. She joined the committee in 1997 and took on the Walks Co-ordinator role which she has held ever since. During these last two decades, under Chris' guidance, the range of activities has expanded, the number of leaders has grown and the overall number of activities has increased exponentially. Chris is very knowledgeable about bushwalking, she knows many of the members and understands the workings of the club better than most. She has encouraged new leaders in her quiet but effective way, assisting with recces, participating in their first walks and providing support when issues occur. Having been an integral part of the committee for so many years, Chris has now made a decision to stand down. Thank you for your huge contribution, Chris. I have enjoyed working with you and am grateful for the support you have given to me especially over the last 2 years.

After 6 years as Treasurer, John Groom has also made a decision to step down. Thank you John for your astute management of the club's finances. You are leaving us on a very solid footing. John oversaw the financial aspects of our transition to online membership payments. He moved us to electronic banking and has put in place a very effective formula or trigger point for fee adjustments. On a lighter note but equally important matter, we now sit upstairs in the 2<sup>nd</sup> last carriage on the train to Sydney thanks to John's observation that the 2<sup>nd</sup> carriage from the front was invariably full. In early 2015 he single-handedly

organised the club's t-shirts which are worn by many members and envied by others. Thank you also for the thoughts and ideas you have brought to the committee. I for one will miss your candid humour, the bouncing of ideas and our sessions pouring over those spreadsheets.

Ros Tierney, as Membership Secretary, is the point of contact for enquiries about our club as well as queries from members. It is a vital role and reflects who we are, how we care about our members and how welcoming we are to potential new members. Ros does a wonderful job in every respect.

Trish Mackey is an excellent secretary, very diligent and organised. She is always willing to help and so often has gone way above and beyond what her job entails.

Russell Verdon has added a new dimension to our publicity efforts. We are now very visible in Facebook which generates interest in our club and what we do. He has also been vigilant in installing posters and business cards in various shops around Wollongong.

Phil Prentice is very conscientious in following up and tracking our activities and the participation numbers. He knows a lot of people in the club, has contacts outside the club and takes initiative on issues that matter to us. He is a good sounding board and has brought some fresh ideas to the committee.

Ronda Guy has re-invented the training role by incorporating special interest activities. They have been a great success thanks to her enthusiasm and excellent organising.

Fred Morrison is our Public Officer and as such keeps an eye on our compliance with the incorporation rules. With his legal background he is an invaluable attendee at our committee meetings.

I've been in the Ramblers for over 10 years and on the Committee for nearly 8 years. The camaraderie, mutual respect and teamwork that we have in our club is something special and I think it is one of the main reasons for our success. Thank you everyone for your support and commitment during my time as President.

Before I hand over to John for the Treasurer's report, are there any questions about this report?

## **5 Treasurer's Report**

The Treasurer, John Groom then gave his Annual Report to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2018.

Hereunder is the financial statement for the year just ended with a comparison to the previous 12 months and a projection of income and expenditure for the year just began.

Working on the rough formula ventilated at the last AGM, member's funds on hand have been allowed to decrease to a point where in the course of a year they will now approximate to one year's membership income. Hence, the minor fee adjustment.

With the increases in regular committed outgoings we need to continue the stable membership income which comes from developing new leaders and activities, and warmly welcoming those who want to come on our journeys with us.

## Illawarra Ramblers Inc

### Financial Statement 2017/2018

Balance Bendigo Bank Cheque Account 30/06/2018 \$1,890.33 30/06/2017 \$4366.87  
 Bendigo Bank Term Deposit 30/06/2018 \$8,000.00 30/06/2017 \$7500.00

	2017/2018	2016/2017	BUDGET 2018/2019
<b>INCOME</b>			
Membership Fees	9,240.00	9,776.00	11,000.00
Bank Interest	183.22	169.53	150.00
Donations		1.00	
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>9,423.22</b>	<b>9946.53</b>	<b>11,150.00</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Bank Fees	15.95	14.95	15.00
Postage	552.50	640.50	600.00
Post Box	127.00	124.40	130.00
Stationery	144.92	102.48	150.00
Web Expenses	5,103.32	4,125.83	4,500.00
Printing	175.00	265.00	200.00
Training	28.50	50.00	100.00
Confederation	1,966.25	1,785.00	2,000.00
Insurance	2,167.00	2,065.50	2,200.00
AGM	535.78	992.19	400.00
Xmas Party (Nett)	487.43	234.82	250.00
Stripe (Membership Data)	255.78	254.39	260.00
Fair Trading Filing Costs	45.00	44.00	45.00
Welfare		75.00	
Phone (Purchase of)	78.00		
Publicity			600.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>11,682.43</b>	<b>10,774.06</b>	<b>11,450.00</b>
<b>DEFICIT</b>	<b>2,259.21</b>	<b>827.53</b>	<b>300.00</b>

**Motion:** "That the Reports be accepted".

**Moved:** J Healy

**Seconded:** M Tenhave

#### **6 Proposed Amendments to the Constitution**

None

## 7 Election of New Officers for the Coming Year

The President, Penny Howes now stood down from the Chair and Fred Morrison took the Chair as the Returning Officer for the election of the Committee. He declared all positions vacant and called for candidates to stand for each position for the coming year.

The Election of Officers for the coming year is as follows:-

<b>President</b>	Ros Tierney		
Nominated:	P Prentice	Seconded:	P Howes
	Elected		
<b>Secretary</b>	Patricia Mackey		
Nominated:	R Tierney	Seconded:	J Polonis
	Elected		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Peter Jack		
Nominated:	P Howes	Seconded:	J Groom
	Elected		
<b>Program Manager</b>	Stuart Almond		
Nominated:	C English	Seconded:	P Howes
	Elected		
<b>Website Manager</b>	Penny Howes		
Nominated:	P Prentice	Seconded:	P Mackey
	Elected		
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Ros Tierney		
Nominated:	P Mackey	Seconded:	N Williams
	Elected		
<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Pam Hayes		
Nominated:	P Howes	Seconded:	J Groom
	Elected		
<b>Activities Recorder</b>	Phil Prentice		
Nominated:	R Tierney	Seconded:	N Williams
	Elected		
<b>Training Officer</b>	Ronda Guy		
Nominated:	R Tierney	Seconded:	C English
	Elected		
<b>Publicity Officer</b>	Russell Verdon		
Nominated:	P Howes	Seconded:	R Guy
	Elected		

The Returning Officer, Fred Morrison expressed his congratulations on the election of a highly qualified committee being elected. Fred Morrison then stood down from the Chair.

The Training Officer, Ronda Guy then asked if she could thank Chris English for her years of service on the Committee. Ronda Guy said that Chris had always been there to answer all questions, give guidance when requested, and was great walks leader. Ronda Guy further stated that Chris English will be sadly missed on the Committee.

The new President, Ros Tierney then took the Chair and thanked the Members who have stood for the Committee. Ros Tierney also said she felt that a President should come from the ranks of the Committee as they had a knowledge of the workings of the Committee. The President, then closed the Meeting and thanked members for their attendance at the Meeting.

The Meeting closed at 10.50am.

The President invited those attending to join one of the two walks – a walk up the hill above the Park to be led by Penny Howes, or an easier walk around the Gardens led by Max Tenhave.

Before setting out on the walks, all attendees posed for a Club photograph.

At the completion of the Walks, a delicious BBQ lunch was served by a band of cooks – Jack Gal, Graham Waine and Phil Prentice.

Penny Howes/R Tierney  
**President**

Patricia Mackey  
**Secretary**