

**AGENDA**  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Held at Rhododendron Gardens**  
**25 November 2023**

*Meeting opened at:*

*Present:*

*Apologies: Caroline Hudson, Julie McDonald, Robyn Sim, Sandra Feltham, Fay Walker, Keith Walker, Trish Mackey, Michael Sampson, Debbie Kay, Therese Zadkovich*

**1 President's Opening Remarks**

**2 Minutes of Annual General Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022**

*Read*

*Acceptance*

**3 Business arising from Previous AGM - nil**

**4 Annual Report**

It has been a busy and challenging year but also a very positive one. Our membership numbers have been steadily increasing. Our finances remain steady as Peter will shortly explain. Details are in the Finance Report (July 2022 - June 2023). Most notably, there has been a pickup in the number of activities and participation rates. The Activity Report (Spring/Sep 2022 - Winter/Aug) 2023) has the details. In summary there were 29 leaders compared with 28 leaders in the same period last year. Overall there were 247 activities, an increase of 45% compared with the previous year. The number of participants increased by 55% to 3064. On all measures – membership numbers, finances and activities, we have regained momentum. It has been a good year.

Russell Verdon stepped down from the Committee in February having spent several years as Publicity Officer. As most of you know, he has now moved to Adelaide to be closer to his family. Julie McDonald stepped into the role in June.

We had a few special events earlier this year: Two 90<sup>th</sup> birthday lunches – Fred Morrison in February and Pam Robinson in May. Both Fred and Pam have had long and generous associations with the club and in many ways laid the groundwork for where we are today.

The issue of insurance for e-bike riders was a challenge we did not expect. Having considered the options, the committee unanimously agreed that members using e-bikes would need to join Bicycle NSW to ensure proper insurance particularly in the case of public liability. While this measure protects individual members, we had to consider how we equip and protect ride leaders as well as the club itself in the longer term. We have now applied for affiliation with Bicycle NSW which will bring with it leader training and public liability cover for the club as well as individual cyclists and leaders. It is a big step,

but given the increasing popularity of cycling, it is in our best interests to be affiliated with the relevant peak body. We of course continue to be affiliated with Bushwalking NSW,

Our Constitution requires that the President can be in the role for a maximum of two consecutive years, so today I will be stepping down from that role. It has been a privilege. We are all in the Illawarra Ramblers because we enjoy being outdoors, walking, cycling, kayaking and socialising. Several members have been with us for decades, many strong friendships have developed over the years and there is enormous enthusiasm among leaders and participants which makes our club special. Thank you for supporting me and the committee in so many ways.

I would like to thank the committee members who have worked hard to keep our club functioning so well. There is a lot involved and each person on the committee has contributed – Peter Jack (Treasurer) presides over our healthy bank account ensuring good financial management. Penny Lovibond (Secretary) organises our meetings, somehow manages to record our lively discussions and tracks all the incoming and outgoing correspondence. Caroline Hudson (Activities Recorder) keeps records of our activities and participation numbers, chases up tardy leaders and managed to keep across things while travelling for a few months in WA earlier this year. Julie McDonald (Publicity Officer) jumped in enthusiastically, looked at the demographics and targeted parts of the Illawarra where we are not as well represented, to attract new members. Stuart Almond (Program Manager) reviews the activities which are submitted, liaises with the leaders, makes adjustments if necessary and manages to do all of this wherever he is travelling. Colleen Barclay (Training Co-ordinator), with persistence, has successfully raised awareness of safety issues with regard to cycling, particularly the importance of wearing good quality helmets which are fitted properly. Anne Murdoch (Membership Secretary) keeps track of the memberships and follows up with those who need some reminding about renewing. She also responds to enquiries which is a vital role as it is the first impression a prospective member may have about our club. Pam Hayes (Newsletter Editor) communicates to our members via the newsletter and always manages to find a variety of articles and snippets which make it interesting. Phil Prentice (Welfare Officer) has a quiet way of keeping in touch with lots of people including those who we may not have seen for a while - a phone call or card lets them know that we are still thinking about them. It's a great team effort, thank you for your contribution and support over the last two years.

An additional thank you to our Public Officer, Fred Morrison. While not a committee position, it is an important role being our contact, as an incorporated entity, with the Department of Fair Trading.

Lastly, thank you to all the people who have helped out today with equipment, catering, setting up, the BBQ, the walks, the raffle and so on. The Rhododendron Garden is a lovely venue, we could not make it happen without your help.

I will now hand over to Peter Jack to report on our finances

**5 Proposed Amendments to the Constitution** - nil

**6 Election of New Officers for the Coming Year**

*President*

*Secretary*

*Treasurer*

*Program Manager*

*Newsletter Editor*

*Website Manager*

*Membership Secretary*

*Activities Recorder*

*Training Co-ordinator*

*Publicity Officer*

*Welfare Officer*

*Committee Member*

**7 Other Business**

***Meeting closed at:***

*Name of Secretary*

***Secretary***