

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

*Meeting opened at: 10:35*

*Present: Alan Binns, Alan Ryan, Anders Klasson, Anna Salway, Anne Murdoch, Athalie Martin, Carl Neville, Cassie Knox, Cheryl Aldrich, Chris English, Cindy Ryan, Colleen Barclay, Col Meharg, David Jenkins, Denise Aubourg, Fred Morrison, Graham Smith, Graham Spooner, Helen Singleton, Janelle Tyson, Jan Liddiard, Jennifer Meharg, Jill Hawkes, Jim Cowling, John Groom, John Healy, John Stewart, Jon Marks, Kay Elliott, Liz Rouse, Lyn Osborn, Marie Ledwos, Maureen Binns, Greg Robertson, Michael Feltham, Narelle Hush, Neil Williams, Pam Hayes, Patricia Jenkins, Penny Howes, Penny Lovibond, Peter Aubourg, Peter Bique, Peter Jack, Phil Hale, Phil Prentice, Reddy Krishna, Ron Audus, Ronda Bique, Ros Tierney, Roy Winstanley, Sergio Rodriguez-Sanchez, Shashi Krishna, Stuart Almond, Tad Ledwos, Teresa Urbanski, Ursula Lischer, Vivienne Audus, Pam Robinson, David Currie*

*Apologies: Caroline Hudson, Julie McDonald, Robyn Sim, Sandra Feltham, Fay Walker, Keith Walker, Trish Mackey, Michael Sampson, Debbie Kay, Roger Lyle, Sharon Knightley, Elaine McDermott, Sue Martin, Theresia Zadkovich*

**1 President's Opening Remarks**

Thank you everyone for being here. This is potentially the largest turnout we have had as there have been over 70 registrations, though some will be arriving after the meeting.

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

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 have been distributed and need to be accepted.

*Moved: Peter Jack*

*Seconded: John Groom*

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

**4 Annual Report**

It has been a busy and challenging year but also a very positive one. On all measures, we have regained momentum. Our membership numbers have been steadily increasing. Our finances remain solid 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. Thank you to all the leaders who have been so committed and all those participants who have been so enthusiastic. These figures also reveal how much more the leaders have taken on in the last year so – and, as such, are a very clear indication that we need to find ways to encourage more members to make the move into leading some activities.

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 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 are in the process of applying for affiliation with Bicycle NSW which will bring with it leader training and protection as well as cover for the club and individual cyclists. 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 despite being in WA for a few months. 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 more 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.

Peter Jack reported that:

- the Illawarra Ramblers finances are in good health with a small increase in membership income and an almost matched increase in expenditure for insurance.
- The Committee has budgeted for First Aid Training and would be offering a 50% discount to members attending.

See Treasurers 2023 FY report.

### **5 Proposed Amendments to the Constitution** - Nil

The President stepped down and handed over to the Returning Officer, John Groom for the election of committee members for the coming year.

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

For the election of the President John Groom temporarily handed over the role of Returning Officer to Peter Aubourg.

<i>President Nominated:</i>	<i>JOHN GROOM Phil Prentice</i>	<i>Seconded: Chris English</i>
<i>Secretary Nominated:</i>	<i>PENNY LOVIBOND Pam Hayes</i>	<i>Seconded: Peter Jack</i>
<i>Treasurer Nominated:</i>	<i>PETER JACK Penny Howes</i>	<i>Seconded: John Stewart</i>
<i>Program Manager Nominated:</i>	<i>STUART ALMOND Phil Prentice</i>	<i>Seconded: Penny Howes</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor Nominated:</i>	<i>PAM HAYES Peter Jack</i>	<i>Seconded: Chris English</i>
<i>Website Manager Nominated:</i>	<i>PENNY HOWES Anne Murdoch</i>	<i>Seconded: John Groom</i>
<i>Membership Secretary Nominated:</i>	<i>ANNE MURDOCH Chris English</i>	<i>Seconded: Denise Aubourg</i>
<i>Activities Recorder Nominated:</i>	<i>CAROLINE HUDSON Penny Howes</i>	<i>Seconded: Colleen Barclay</i>

<i>Training Co-ordinator</i>	<i>COLLEEN BARCLAY</i>	
<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>Peter Jack</i>	<i>Seconded: Athalie Martin</i>
<i>Publicity Officer</i>	<i>JULIE MCDONALD</i>	
<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>Penny Howes</i>	<i>Seconded: Peter Jack</i>
<i>Welfare Officer</i>	<i>PHIL PRENTICE</i>	
<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>Peter Jack</i>	<i>Seconded: Denise Aubourg</i>
<i>Committee Member</i>	<i>VACANT</i>	

The vacant Committee member position will be discussed at the first committee meeting of the year.

## **7 Other Business**

### **1. Thanks to Penny Howes for her dedication as President**

Both John Groom and Phil Prentice spoke in recognition of the great contribution Penny Howes has made in her role as President. She has steered us through tricky cycling issues and brought all arms of the Illawarra Ramblers together.

Warm applause and many thanks were offered to Penny by/from the assembled members.

### **2. Internet security**

Jim Cowling raised the matter of the importance of internet security regarding the Illawarra Rambler website and member database. Penny Howes reported that the Illawarra Ramblers website, behind which sit the member records, is secured by Hosting Australia, a wholly owned Australian Company operated on-shore.

The Committee will discuss at the next committee meeting.

### **3. Positive feedback from new club members**

Marie Ledwos –spoke together with her husband, Tad, as new members. They are enjoying walking with such an organized, positive, welcoming group of people.

***Meeting closed at: 11:12***

*Penny Lovibond*  
***Secretary***