

Essendon Bushwalking Club Inc. A0005559B

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting Wednesday 8th June 2022, 7.30pm St John's Uniting Church, Essendon

1. **Declaration of opening:**

The meeting was declared open by the President Kevin Egan at 7:35pm.

2. **Apologies:**

Marek Turski, Sue Baxter, Bill Casey, Greg Passlow, Janine Passlow, Glenda Bradley, Ros Huggins, Tony Creedy

3. **Confirmation of Minutes of the 2021 AGM:**

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 9th June have been circulated and were accepted on motion.

Proposed: Darren McClelland

Seconded: Mark Lucy

Carried.

4. **Business arising from the Minutes of the 2021 AGM:**

Nil

5. **Correspondence pertaining to the AGM:**

Nil

6. **President's Report:**

Kevin Egan gave a verbal review of the highlights of the year.

Hello Everyone and Welcome to the Annual General Meeting of the Essendon Bushwalking Club.

As I read this report Covid-19 is still with us and there is continued uncertainty about how it will affect us in the future whilst we continue to try to live with it.

In the last year we had further periods of lockdown and restrictions which have affected our activities, not only during the specific periods when the club more or less went into hibernation, but also indirectly now when we do have a freedom to move around and have a program of club activities. A casual look at the program shows that we aren't operating as many activities as we did three years ago, and the numbers walking are not as high. This can partly be linked to our aging membership as well as a lingering distrust amongst some of the current health situation.

During this year the ongoing Covid-19 situation caused us to introduce a policy that walkers must be fully vaccinated if they are to participate in club activities. Despite the state government easing their restrictions, for now the committee has decided to maintain that policy for the EBWC.

The committee has also looked at carpooling in the current situation. Many of our members do want carpooling, and others don't. In practice anyone who doesn't want to

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carpool will simply drive to the meeting point alone anyway. There is no point in the club saying to people you have to, or you must not carpool. But we will say this: our policy is that *everybody sharing cars should wear a mask*.

We have now had a full year of using our new online walks booking system. Generally it has worked well. Most members seem to be happy with it, and it reduces the workload of the walks coordinator. Of course there are a very small minority of members who lack computer facilities and knowledge who are struggling with it. Some of these people find ways around their difficulties and do cope with the system. We are trying to maintain a hard copy of the program which can be printed, but it is always subject to change. The reality is that in recent times we have not been able to produce a full program four months in advance, and the hard copy of the program becomes out of date almost as soon as it is printed. We always recommend that for an up to date program, look at the website. If you can access the system, it is advisable to constantly review it as you can be sure from one day to the next changes can happen. If you have problems with the online system, don't hesitate to talk to the committee or walks coordinator for assistance.

Many members have failed to adapt to the new system in one way, and that is in renewing their membership. Whilst we still offer the option of completing the old paper form and mailing it to our post office box, if you can we do prefer that you renew your membership online. Renewing your membership is a two step process – not only do you need to complete the paperwork or the online system and agree to the Acknowledgement of Risk, you also need to pay your fees which can be done either by the traditional cash / cheque in the mail system or via the electronic funds transfer method which we prefer as it makes the treasurer's job much easier.

Our financial situation is good but is subject to cost pressures, and for this coming year 2022-23 we decided to increase the fees to \$45 per year to maintain the club's financial health. With most people not requiring paper copies of the walks program and Old Man Emu, we thought it fair that the minority who want paper copies mailed to them pay an extra \$10 to compensate the club for the postage and stationery costs.

Despite the difficulties of the pandemic, our membership numbers have remained stable with the numbers being around mid 180s for most of the time. Every year after the AGM there is always some attrition amongst the membership, but fortunately new members have replaced the old. Some walk leaders are no longer putting on walks, but some of our newer leaders have been active. Some members recently completed the Bushwalking Victoria leadership course and we hope to see them putting on walks soon. If you're not a leader, I would encourage you to do the BWV course when the opportunities arise.

One great achievement for the club in 2021 was putting on the First Aid course. Over 20 members updated their First Aid certificates, and there is a good chance that on your next walk there will be someone there who has done the course.

The club could not have functioned without the efforts of our committee. During the lockdown we continued to meet via Zoom which has saved the committee having to travel long distances around Melbourne which makes life easier for us. Modernity is transforming the activities of the club and, along with the online walk booking system, we are also now doing most of our financial transactions digitally – I don't think we've written a cheque in almost a year, having changed to an EFT footing.

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Thank you to our secretary Kathy Andison, now in her second year, who is doing one of the most important roles in the club and is doing a fine job. It was great to see Darren McClelland take on the role of vice-president. He was the inspiration behind us running a first aid course and it wouldn't have happened but for Darren. Kathy and Darren are reviewing our Rules of Association, and we hope in a few months they will present some changes that will make the rules more efficient.

Glenda Bradley took on the treasurer role, in very difficult conditions due to Covid-19 lockdowns making the transition to the new treasurer very difficult. Michael Howes continues to adapt Old Man Emu to the needs of modern times. Its function has changed in recent times, being now more of a general interest and news vehicle that will come out from time to time rather than the traditional three editions a year when it was used to preview the next series of walks. When I last saw him, Michael was unsure whether he'll continue on the committee – if he doesn't, I would like to say a big thank you to Michael for his many years of service to the club.

Leanne Cleary came onto the committee a year ago and has done a great job as the Records Secretary duties and has also been busy reviewing our records to ensure people receive their long term membership certificates. Mark Lucey has been helping out with many of the technical equipment issues, finding us a new speaker system and preparing the slideshows at our club meetings. Unfortunately, Mark is leaving the committee at this meeting. Louise Williams has combined her duties of managing the Facebook account whilst also being on the committee of Bushwalking Victoria, but unfortunately is now dropping her BWV duties due to pressure from her day job. Fortunately for us Louise is making EBWC her main priority. Didimo Tonelli took on the roll of walks coordinator in the last year but is now moving on from the committee, no doubt to make up for some lost time with other interests. Fortunately, due to the reduced workload of the modern online system, Col Purchase is able to devote the time to again be Walks Coordinator.

Thank you also to others who have helped out around the club, including Xi Huang for her efforts with Col in managing the online walks booking system, Gina Casalbuono for supplying tea & coffee at our live meetings in the hall, and Chris Jarvis for being our contact at Bush Search & Rescue.

Of course, I also am moving on. Club rules prevent anyone being in the president role longer than two terms, and I don't think the new president will want the old one on the committee, looking over his or her shoulder all the time. Whoever takes over from me will have a different style and I won't be telling the new committee how to do their job. The new leadership deserves everyone's support and so I say to you to give them a fair go. The challenge for everybody else in the club is to now take your turn on the committee. We need several new committee members and so I ask you all to consider if you can help in some way, perhaps on the committee, perhaps as a walks leader. If we don't fill these positions, we don't have a club. A club is only as good as its membership.

Thank you for your support of myself over the last few years.

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7. *Treasurer's Report:*

Statements in accordance with section 30 (3) of Associations Incorporations Act 1981 were distributed, read and discussed by Kevin Egan, President.

Due to rising costs and more activity after the lockdowns, we had a \$140 deficit for the financial year. The bank balance as at 17 May 2022 was \$5,060.84, with \$50 in petty cash (\$5,110.84).

The Treasurer's report was accepted.

Proposed: Leanne Cleary

Seconded: Michael Howes

Carried.

8. *Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members:*

The President, Kevin Egan called for nominations for the position of the President;

President:

Darren McClelland

Nominated: Ron Bell.

Seconded Michael Howes

There being no other nominations, Darren was declared elected.

Vice President:

Louise Williams

Nominated: Kathy Andison

Seconded: Darren McClelland

There being no other nominations, Louise was declared elected.

Secretary:

Kathy Andison

Nominated: Leanne Cleary

Seconded: Hilary May

There being no other nominations Kathy was declared elected.

Treasurer:

Glenda Bradley

Nominated: Noelene Ryan

Seconded: Louise Williams

There being no other nominations Glenda was elected (subject to her acceptance of the nomination).

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5 General Committee Members:

Leanne Cleary

Nominated: Kathy Andison
Seconded: Margaret Whipp
Accepted nomination

Mary Moskal

Nominated: Darren McClelland
Seconded: Ron Pearce
Accepted nomination

Dianne Whitmore

Nominated: Louise Williams
Seconded: Joanna Aldenhoven
Accepted nomination

Rose Perich

Nominated: Leanne Cleary
Seconded: Margaret Whipp
Accepted nomination

Robert Irvine

Nominated: Michael Howes
Seconded: Louise Williams
Accepted nomination

Carmel Kozolup

Nominated: Leanne Cleary
Seconded: Gina Casalbuono
Accepted nomination

There being 6 nominations for 5 positions, an election was conducted by secret ballot.

Leanne Cleary, Rose Perich, Carmel Kozolup, Dianne Whitmore and Mary Moskal were declared elected as the 5 general committee members.

9.

Proposal for Life Membership:

There were no proposals for Life Membership

10. ***Meeting declared Closed.***

There being no other business the meeting was declared closed at 8.20pm.