

BUSHWALKERS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA INC
2025 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
MINUTES (DRAFT)

Date: Sunday, 9 March 2025

Venue: Scarborough Tennis Club, 101 Deanmore Road, Scarborough

Time: 5.04 pm

ATTENDING (24)

Quorum is 12 Full or Honorary Life Members: Constn cl.9(e)

Bill Bampton, Jacky Burnfield, Warren Cummins, Fernando Di Camillo, Mary Di Camillo, Ruby Chan, Liz Duncan, Sarah Ellis, Linley Ford, Elena Frew, Rob Frew, Simon Hesp, Janet Hill, Warren Iremonger, Gary Jones, Maureen Jones, Steve Napier, Mike Page, Erica Reynolds, Alex Shaw, Hugh Stickley, Irene Tarnay, Peter Wasser, Judy Wilson.

(Non-member) GUESTS

Julie Hawes, Warren Hawes

APOLOGIES (21)

John Bullock, Graham Burnfield, Annette Byers, David Coulter, Pauline Coulter, Diane Drew, Peter Drew, Glenn Finnigan, Helen Finnigan, David Healy, Gordon Hobday, Wendy Ivery, Julie Norman, Davina Porock, Lorna Saunders, John Steele, Alan Tolley, Clodagh Tolley, Ann Wilson, John Young, Trudy Young.

Steve Napier welcomed all attendees, and especially the newer members, to the Annual General Meeting. He noted that this is our 45th year as a club.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM on 10 March 2024

(These Minutes, together with the President's report for 2024, were available on the BOWA website.)

Motion: That the minutes of the AGM held on 10 March 2024 be accepted as a true and correct record (Moved Bill Bampton; seconded Irene Tarnay) CARRIED

CORRESPONDENCE

BOWA had correspondence during 2024 with HikeWest, through their monthly eNews bulletins and subject specific emails, in relation (most significantly) to:

- Advice on insurance
- WA Hiking Expo 2024
- HikeWest's new seniors walking program
- HikeWest's AGM on 30/10/24

BOWA also had communications (most significantly) with:

- Bibbulmun Track Foundation (re track maintenance)
- Associations Inc WA (newsletters and annual statements submissions)
- Marsh Insurance (annual questionnaire)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT (Steve Napier)

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

The report:

- Highlighted the success of the year in terms of walks and events completed plus the high level of membership
- thanked the Committee members (seven of whom are planning to continue) as well as retiring committee member Mary Di Camillo for her support; he also encouraged members to join the committee, especially women who are over 50% of the club's membership
- expressed gratitude to the members who had led walks during the year
- emphasised the need for more members to volunteer to lead walks
- discussed the successful Pemberton camp (16-18 April 2024) and highlighted the upcoming Margaret River camp (8-10 April 2025)
- thanked the high percentage of members who have already renewed their club membership

Motion: That the President's report be accepted (Moved Janet Hill seconded Elena Frew) CARRIED

TREASURER'S REPORT (Rob Frew)

Rob tabled the calendar year 2024 statement of Income and Expenses and a 2024 Accounts Reconciliation, audited by the Club's Honorary Auditor, John Steele.

Rob advised the meeting that:

- as at 31 December 2024 BOWA held \$2,677.83 cash in the Commonwealth Bank.
- Income for CY2024 was \$1,645.00 and expenses were \$2,227.03, thus expenses for the year had exceeded income by \$582.03 (compared to last year's deficit of \$151.23); significant cost items included website costs (\$304.80), club badge stock replenishment (\$396), support of club functions – AGM & Christmas party (\$577)
- the total cost per member is similar to last year (\$14.56 per member inclusive of public liability insurance, personal accident insurance, HikeWest and Bushwalking Australia levies); as discussed at last years AGM, in total around \$15 of a normal members \$25 annual membership is paid for mandatory insurance and membership levies.
- It was noted that the last annual club membership fee increase (to the current level of \$25) was in 2006
- A summary breakdown of income and expenses was provided.

Motion: That the Treasurer's report be accepted (Moved Marion Jones; seconded Alex Shaw) CARRIED

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Simon Hesp)

Simon presented and tabled a detailed report; numbers for 2023 are shown below in parentheses for comparison with the 2024 numbers. Key features reported were:

- The number of Club members rose from 56 at the end of 2023 to 64 at the end of 2024. Two new members have been added in early 2025 with a further 2 members to be approved at the March 2025 committee meeting, bringing the March 2025 membership number to 68. This will be the highest number of members since at least 2018.
- 40 walks (excluding the regular Bibbulmun Track maintenance by rostered members) were held, including those at the Pemberton camp; this compares to 37 walks during 2023
- 14 (17) walks were classified as easy; 1 (0) as Easy/Medium; 9 (11) as Medium; 13 (5) as Medium Hard; and 3 (4) as Hard.
- Average walk attendance was 11 (9.75 in 2023)
- 50 members attended at least 1 walk (43), 29 at least 5 walks (25), and 16 at least 10 walks (20).
- The total distance of all walks was 495.45 kms (490km).
- 17 members led walks (15); Steve Napier led 12 walks.
- 7 social events were held, including AGM and Christmas get-togethers, but excluding the Pemberton camp social events

Simon highlighted that 2024 was a very successful year in terms of membership numbers, walks completed and walk attendance.

Motion: That the Membership Report be accepted (Moved Sarah Ellis; seconded Alex Shaw) CARRIED

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2024

The following office bearers were elected:

President	Steve Napier (Nominated by Alex Shaw; seconded by Simon Hesp) ELECTED
Vice President	Alex Shaw (Nominated by Elena Frew; seconded by Hugh Stickley) ELECTED
Secretary	Mike Page (Nominated by Janet Hill; seconded by Rob Frew) ELECTED
Treasurer	Rob Frew (Nominated by Mary Di Camillo; seconded by Hugh Stickley) ELECTED

ELECTION OF OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Committee members:

Simon Hesp	(Nominated by Elena Frew; seconded by Maureen Jones) ELECTED
Bill Bampton	(Nominated by Elena Frew; seconded by Maureen Jones) ELECTED
Hugh Stickley	(Nominated by Elena Frew; seconded by Maureen Jones) ELECTED

During the meeting, no other member indicated that they were prepared to join the committee. However, after the meeting Linley Ford indicated that she is prepared to join the committee; Linley will be duly elected to the committee at its first committee meeting (as allowable under Constitution Clause 6d - to be held on 14th March 2025).

APPOINTMENT OF AUDITOR

John Steele was unable to attend the meeting, due to recent surgery. He was thanked, in his absence, by the President for having audited the Club's accounts for some years. John had indicated to the President and Treasurer that he was again prepared to act as the Financial Auditor during 2025.

Motion: 'That John Steele be appointed financial auditor for the Club for 2025'
(Moved Irene Tarnay; seconded Liz Duncan). CARRIED

WALKS PROGRAMME (Hugh Stickley / Steve Napier)

- Due to the usual hot summer, limited walking occurred in this period; also, several social events were held; the walks programme will be confirmed over the coming months
- The Margaret River camp will be held over the three days of 8-10 April 2025. A show of hands indicated that a good proportion of those at the AGM would be attending the camp.
- The Bibbulmun Track maintenance programme and roster were discussed as well as the usual club event to our Mt Dale section of the BT; members were encouraged to volunteer to assist the rostered members who carry out this very important task every 2 months, to support the on-going maintenance of the Bibbulmun Track

GENERAL BUSINESS

- Simon Hesp highlighted that club walks that occurred in the recent past were deleted from the BOWA's online Calendar of Events; he queried if those historic walks could still be accessed; Hugh Stickley indicated this is possible
- Steve Napier reminded members that payment of annual membership subscriptions is now due; as our club insurance is payable each year in April based on our member numbers at the date specified in the Insurance

Questionnaire, typically mid-March, members who have not paid the renewal subscriptions by that specified date but have not resigned will therefore be included in our insurer's calculation of premium; hence we need to ensure that membership renewals continue to be proactively managed to avoid our insurance premiums being unnecessarily inflated; Steve highlighted that he has sent out email reminders on this to all club members and said that, as per last year, he would telephone each member who had not renewed their membership (as per this explanation) **[Action: Steve Napier]**

- Steve Napier further commented on the issue of membership fees; HikeWest has indicated that there is likely to be an increase in bushwalking club insurance for 2026; as discussed during the Treasurer's report, and given there has not been an increase in annual club membership fees since 2006, it is probable that the Committee will approve an increase in annual fees; other fees (including Visitor Walk contributions) will also be considered along with benchmarking against costs charged by other Perth bushwalking clubs; Mike Page confirmed that under the Club Constitution (Clauses 8 a & b), it is the role of the Committee to make such changes (and that it doesn't need the approval of the AGM for any such changes); Steve highlighted that this change will most probably be made at the final Committee meeting for 2025 (usually held in October)
- Sarah Ellis requested that the Committee consider the running of a mid-year club social event (e.g. she offered to run such an event mid-week in King's Park) that is subsidised (either partially or fully) by the club; Steve Napier agreed that the Committee would discuss this at its next meeting **[Action: Steve Napier]**

The Annual General meeting closed at 6.06pm.

DATE AND VENUE OF FIRST 2024 COMMITTEE MEETING

The year's first Committee meeting date was fixed, following the AGM, for 6:00pm on 14 March 2025 at Bill Bampton's home, 17B Noongah St, Nollamara.