



Albert Sailing Club Inc.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
ALBERT SAILING CLUB INC.  
SATURDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2021

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Albert Sailing Club held at the Albert Sailing Club clubrooms, 1 Aquatic Drive, Albert Park commencing 6.15 pm.

### Attendances

Charles Bagossy, Rita Bagossy, Noah Bajayo, Christopher Bennell, Peter Bennell, Graeme Blunt, Joe Chircop, Tim Falkiner, Paul Farrell, Jenny Farrell, Ron Fergusson, Walter Green, Noel Howitt, Hamish Gilsenan, Don McKenzie, Dot McKenzie, Faye McKenzie, Geoff Matthews, Madeline Paul, Mick Ralph, Jon Rawlings, Richard Rawlins, Greg Ryan, David Scammell, Tony Schalken, Sue Schoene, Ralph Schoene, Leslie Scott, Mark Snell, Rod Thomas, Cindy Tilbrook, Jamie Wilson, Jack Woods, Steve Milton (Zoom), Mike Gratton (Zoom)

### Apologies

Peter Bennell, Damien Blumenkranc, Steve Dunn, Pam Webster, Anne Kaczorowski, Ron Lackington, Di Maloney, Arthur Misson, Brenda Misson, Mick Ralph, Geoff Saliba, Jane Scammell, Tony Schalken, Mark Snell, John Whelan

### Proxies

Walter Green (to the Chair), Mick Ralph (to Rod Thomas), Mark Snell (to Graeme Blunt), Peter Bennell (to Cindy Tilbrook), Geoff Matthews (to Rod Thomas)

### Confirmation of Minutes of Last AGM

Motion: That the draft Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Saturday, 16 May 2020 be confirmed.

Proposer: Graeme Blunt    Seconded: Greg Ryan    Passed

### Committee Report

The Committee Report (as attached) was delivered by the Commodore, Cindy Tilbrook. The report recounted how the Club and its sailing activities had been impacted by the Corona virus. The Club had, though, weathered the extended period of closure extremely well and the membership and financial position remained strong. The Commodore was encouraged by the number and enthusiasm of new club members.

The Report covered the sailing program (Steve Dunn, Rear Commodore), the training and juniors programme (Rod Thomas and Don McKenzie), grants and acquisitions, external relations, social

activities, financial results, SEDA, other school relationships and the sailing precinct, future directions and acknowledged the contribution of the club committee and members who had taken on specified roles and tasks.

Motion: That the Committee Report be accepted.

Proposer: Cindy Tilbrook Seconded: David Scammell Passed

### Treasurer Report

The Treasurer's Report (as attached) was delivered by Commodore in the Treasurer's absence. Despite the Covid 19 lockdown which affected a number of income sources, there were savings in other areas, with the support of the members, the club still managed to end the year with a profit of \$14,134.48.

Proposer: Lesley Scott Seconder: Jack Woods Passed.

At this stage all committee positions were declared vacant.

### Election of Flag Officers and Office Bearers for 2020/2021

Committee Nominations were received from the following:

- Cindy Tilbrook – Commodore
- Rod Thomas – Vice Commodore
- Steve Dunn – Rear Commodore
- Joe Chircop – Treasurer
- Paul Farrell – Club Captain
- Tim Falkiner – Secretary
- Don McKenzie – Committee
- Peter Bennell - Committee
- Tony Schalken – Committee
- Graeme Blunt – Committee
- Greg Ryan – Committee
- Michael Gratton - Committee

As the number of nominations for officer positions and for general committee positions did not exceed the number of vacancies, all the above nominees were declared elected in terms of the club's rules and bylaws.

Meeting closed at 7.00 pm.

Tim Falkiner  
Secretary  
Albert Sailing Club

### Announcement of Club Member of the Year

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Commodore announced that the Club Member of the Year for the 2020-2021 year was Jack Woods. She outlined the contribution Jack had made to the club over a number of years and presented him with his award. The announcement was met with acclamation.

# Albert Sailing Club: Committee Report

## Annual General Meeting: May 8 2021

I am again privileged to present this Committee report on the activities of the Albert Sailing Club for the year ended 31 March 2021.

My second year as Commodore has, once more, been one of significant challenges, following my first year as Commodore when we couldn't sail due to low water levels in the lake. At the AGM last year, I reported that the club again wasn't sailing due to the impact of the Corona Virus and the subsequent temporary closure of the club.

As we now know, that temporary closure lasted for the majority of last calendar year and sailing activities only began again in earnest in the early months of 2021, with social get-togethers and activities still curtailed to some extent. For our sailing members, this was particularly frustrating as lake water levels remained high for the majority of last year and excellent sailing conditions would have been available had our members been able to come to the lake and sail. As reported further in this report, the extended closure also impacted the club in many other ways.

I am, however, delighted to advise that our club weathered the extended period of closure extremely well. A high level of members renewed their membership when invoices were sent out in December, our financial position remains strong, and I have been encouraged by the number and enthusiasm of new club members who have joined since the club reopened.

### Sailing Program (Steve Dunn, Rear Commodore)

After months of on again off again sailing with only the occasional trophy race here and there due to the Covid pandemic, combined sailing with APYC recommenced on Oct 31<sup>st</sup> with an informal round the island race. This format continued until it seemed we may get a clear run with the Bill Hooper Series commencing on Nov 21<sup>st</sup>.

Thanks to Cindy's non-Corona Series and a bit of fun in Rod's competition building Bath Tub boats and the online regatta series, along with virtual drinks over Zoom, the momentum was able to be kept going to some extent during the COVID lockdown period.

Rostering during this period was very difficult with many members rightfully choosing to stay home in the early period post lockdown. A huge thanks to Ron Lackington working hard to ensure sufficient duty crew were always available, even if it meant stepping in himself to make up the shortfall. If not for members such as Ron our club could not operate, take a bow Ronnie.

A number of committee changes down at APYC has seen a large amount of race management expertise go with Brian Jones retiring from the role of Club Captain. With little experience in APYC the results production, race programming and presentation arrangements has fallen on the shoulders of ASC since resuming after COVID. There appears to be some interest in members at APYC stepping up, and it's very obvious Brian has left some big shoes to fill.

The successful running of the **Bill Hooper Series** was followed by a successful and well attended **Commodore's Series** in early January 2021, then by the **2021 Summer Championship and Handicap series** commencing end of January, and the final Summer handicap Race4 scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>. By the time this goes to print hopefully our **Winter Series** will be well underway.

After almost two years in the making, our new **Aurora Adventure RHIB** from RibForce Marine in Brisbane is now operational. A quality rescue craft and a major step up in performance and handling. A huge thanks to Stephen Lincoln for building the trolley and with assistance from Paul Farrell for making it all happen.

The Club's committee boat **Ariel II** having sat idle over the COVID period required a significant overhaul of the motor. The difficulty being the motor is a heavy lift and retrieval of the boat is not simple and as a consequence maintenance had to be done with the motor in situ on water. Many thanks once again to Stephen Lincoln and Don for arranging this difficult task. The recommendation is the motor on our RIB's be serviced yearly and the committee

boat at least every two years. Any member who would be able to assist and make the process a bit more straight forward would be more than appreciated.

Finally, I'd like to recognise the efforts of our **Club Captain Paul Farrell**, who has spent a busy year identifying and fixing all things that necessitate running of races week in week out, such as upgrading to NBN, Rescue boat maintenance and registration of new RIBs, maintenance of buoys and flags... to name a few. Well done Paul.

### Training/Juniors (Rod Thomas)

The club was active with training programs and activities, in the period November to March after COVID regulations were eased.

An adult and youth Learn to Sail program conducted on Saturdays and Sundays in February and was well attended with 13 new members. The club's new fleet of RS Zests proved ideal for this with reduced rigging time and the flexibility for sailing 1up or 2up.

For juniors there was junior development (8 - 12 year olds) in Ozi Optis and youth development (13 - 16 year old) programs in Boatshed Pacers on Saturday afternoons in school Terms 4 and 1, There was also a school holiday program in January in ASC Ozi Optis.

The junior programs are a joint effort between Albert Sailing Club and the Albert Park Boatshed with : curriculum defined by our ASC Instructors; program administration shared between ASC and the Boatshed; and sessions run by Boatshed Instructors. There were between 5 and 10 participants in each of these programs with most participating on a temporary membership arrangement with hopes that some will progress to full club membership and other club programs and activities.

The Victorian Optimist Association again signed up for a 2020 winter training program with 20+ boats from Melbourne clubs. Unfortunately, this program was cut short in early July when full COVID lockdown restrictions prevented boating activities. The Victorian Laser Association conducted a two day program in late November as restrictions eased. Both class associations again have training programs scheduled at our club in the 2021 winter season.

Don McKenzie and Rod Thomas have again been managing the club training programs, and instructing in the case of the Learn to Sail program. Our club is indebted to them for their efforts in this area, but it continues to be an area where more assistance is required.

### Grants

The club had a busy and successful year in applying for a range of available grants.

\* In mid 2020 we received \$1000 through the Victorian Government Community Sport Sector Short Term Survival Package scheme, with a further \$500 later in the year.

\* Also in mid 2020 a Victorian Government Athlete Travel Grant application for \$750 for a promising ASC junior Laser sailor was successful.

\* In late 2020 we were successful with a Parks Victoria Albert Park Sports Club major category grant application for the purchase of 4 new RS Zest training boats.

\* an application for a Round 1 20/21 Victorian Government Sporting Clubs grant in the Skill Development category was unsuccessful. An updated application has been submitted for the Round 2 program which closes in mid May. Thanks to Peter Bennell who prepared the applications with support and advice from Don and Rod.

### External Relations

Many of our routine external liaisons were put on hold during the CoVid closure, with a reduced interaction with Parks Victoria and the Albert Park Community Sporting Tenants Association. We did continue our input into the weed cutting program by Parks Vic and were active in submitting grants to assist in our future operations. As a result, we received funding from Parks Vic for the purchase of a further four Zests, and we are now the proud owners of the largest Zest fleet in the country. (Thanks Peter Bennell for your work in obtaining these grants for us). These colourful boats are great for beginners and equally great at receiving positive comments from passers-by.

## Social Activities

Activities in 2020/21 were curtailed, with no face to face activities possible in the March to December 2020 period due to COVID restrictions.

In the August to October 2020 we organised a number of new and novel online activities which engaged and entertained (?) our more active club members during the lockdown period :

- \* ASC Drinks and Chat via Zoom 4 to 5pm on Saturdays at Doug's ASC Virtual Bar
- \* Non-Sailing Corona Series online Nautical Quiz at 2pm on eight Saturdays
- \* Bathtub Boat building competition which produced a range of innovative boat designs.
- \* A number of "Virtual Regatta" e-sailing races

It was February before the green light was given for clubhouse activities within limits:

- In mid March we had Friday Twilight Sailing and a new members dinner in our clubhouse. This was attended by a range of new members and longer term members and was well received.
- On the last Sunday in March we had a well attended Club Picnic and Sailing Day for members, their families and friends. The club sailing boats and RHIB powerboats were put to good use and the foreshore and club facilities enjoyed by those who came along.

Graeme Blunt and Tony Schalken have been particularly pro-active in coming forward with ideas to attract new members and my thanks go out to them. Thanks also to our flag officers who were involved in organising these social activities.

We look forward to more social activities in the 2021/22 club year.

## Financial Results

The financial results for the year are set out in the Financial Report and the Treasurer's report. Whilst our income for the year was reduced, partly due to the decision by the committee to reduce membership fees by 50%, we also had significant reductions in many of our expenditure areas, including rent and utilities. As a consequence, we achieved a profit for the year of just over \$14,000, relative to the loss incurred in the previous year of some \$27,000. Thanks to Hristina Burduja and Damian Blumenkranc for their work as our Treasurer over the course of the year.

Our financial reserves continue to remain steady, which ensures that the club enters this new period from a position of financial strength and stability and ongoing viability.

## SEDA, other School Relationships, and the Sailing Precinct

Our long-standing and sound relationship with SEDA continues and the decision was made during the year to renew their licence agreement for a further two year period.

As indicated in the report at last year's AGM, Albert Park College now operates during the week in the APYC buildings and we understand that all of the opportunities that this liaison provides continue to be investigated by APYC.

Partly due to the CoVid pandemic and partly due to the further deferral of the unification vote, work has not progressed on the development of the 'Sailing Precinct' concept.

## The Future

As advised to members earlier this year, ASC believed that we would be proceeding to a vote on the unification of ASC with APYC early this year. However, a few months ago, APYC requested a further deferral of the vote and it is now likely that the vote will not take place until the first half of 2022.

This was extremely disappointing to the ASC strategy group, who had effectively put in more than four years of quite extensive work into preparing a proposal that we believed provided the optimal future for both clubs, together with a significant amount of work into evaluating building options for a combined club. Many thanks to the members of that working group: Rod Thomas, Don McKenzie, and John Whelan, and to Rob Caulfield and Ian Coleman for their input into the building aspects.

Whilst the unification outcome is a disappointment, it has presented ASC with the opportunity to revisit and review our own club, with a view to revitalising our facilities, increasing the involvement of members in the club, and

encouraging new members to not only join, but also become active and participating club members. Whilst yet in the early stages, this project will be conducting a review of our earlier strategic planning exercises, seeking member ideas and input into the process, and encouraging all club members to become more actively involved in the club and its renewal to ensure that ASC remains viable and successful into the future. It is extremely encouraging to see the number of new nominations for committee positions this year as fresh faces will bring new perspectives and ideas into the management of the club.

### Acknowledgements

I reiterate my comments from my report last year: It would be almost impossible to quantify the contribution made to the club by volunteers. Club members and their families do our : boat maintenance; operation of the galley and bar; repairs and maintenance of our clubrooms and yards; operation of the tower each Saturday; compilation of duty rosters year-round; race management and rescue boat duties each Saturday; organising and helping with our working bees; editing, compilation and distribution of the quarterly Mudpuddler; weekly production of Snippets; coordination of our marketing and promotional activities; running of our social events, and a multitude of other tasks. I acknowledge and thank everyone who has contributed to the club either on a regular basis or just once or twice over the course of the last year. Without you all, this club would not continue.

We are seeing some changes in our Committee membership in the coming year, and I thank all of our former committee member who have decided to step aside at this time. Of significance, John Whelan, a former Commodore of the Club, has decided to step aside from committee duties after many years of active involvement. He has, however, agreed to continue to provide his expertise as and when required and to continue the important task of managing our club insurance policies. Thanks John for your long-standing commitment to the club and your contribution to the work of the committee.

Our flag offices, Secretary and Treasurer work tirelessly for the club. They, together with other committee members, meet each month year-round. They are also invariably at the club each Saturday helping out and, in between, responding to a multitude of emails and other requests as well. I also pay acknowledgement to Jack Woods, who continues in his role as our Membership Secretary even though he is no longer a formal member of the committee.

I must also extend my personal thanks to Rod, our Vice-Commodore. Rod was the key driver in ensuring that our club stayed up-to-date with the never-ending changes to CoVid requirements and without his work in this area, we would not have been able to re-open as quickly and successfully as we did once restrictions lifted. I have also sought Rod's guidance and input on a host of matters throughout the year and his ongoing support to me, and his dedication to our club, requires particular acknowledgement. Thanks Rod.

And finally, to our members. You are the core of our club and the reason for our existence. We have weathered a significant storm during the last year that has been the downfall of many businesses and organisations. But the loyalty of our members and their ongoing support of the club has ensured that we face from a position of financial strength and with the opportunity to re-invigorate our club and see it safely into the future. Thanks to each and every one of you.



Cindy Tilbrook  
Commodore