

Burley Griffin Canoe Club Inc.  
Annual General Meeting

27th September 2020

1. Welcome

**Attendees:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Jeremy Cook | Helen Tongway | Diane Gibson |
| Bob Collins | John Lockie | Dave Gordon |
| Patricia Ashton | Scott MacWilliam | Dave Abela |
| Margi Bohm | Ted Hall | Anne Cronin |
| Richard Fox | Di Bell | Rachel Muldoon |
| Shadi Samir | Kel Watt | Margy Burn |
| Sue Powell |  |  |

**Apologies -** John H, Trent, Robert B

1. Minutes from previous AGM meeting (15th September 2019)

Draft Minutes from the AGM held on 15th September 2019 were accepted.

**Motion**: Accept Minutes for the 2019 AGM:

Proposed Di Bell ; Seconded: Helen Tongway

1. **Reports**
   1. *President’s Report:* see attached
   2. *Treasurer’s Report –* as per Annual Management Report attached

Patricia mentioned some breakdowns of income and expenditure, Utilities were down considerably due to Covid restrictions, Boat expenditure was up as we are now in a situation to spend on upgrading our fleet. Memberships were slightly down.

* 1. *Boat Captain’s Report –* Robert has produced a spreadsheet which is regularly updated. We only have about 5 racks available*.*
  2. *Safety Officer Report -* see attached

1. **Convener Reports:**
   1. **Membership** – see attached
   2. **Beginners** - numbers were down due to various reasons, weather, smoke, covid. Although we have had 7 new members over winter which is more than we usually have. Taste of Paddling – numbers were down with only 14 taking part, approx. 1/3 of usual, made $1300 (normally approx. $4k)
   3. **Canoe Polo** - no report
   4. **Whitewater/Slalom** - no report
   5. **Marathon**  - see attached
2. **Other business**

* **Wish to change our Operating Procedures from club debit card held by President and Treasurer, to one card which maybe held by any committee member with the approval of President and Treasurer.**

Proposal – that Operating Procedures allow one Debit Card to be held by any committee member with the approval of President and Treasurer

Proposed - Patricia Ashton Seconded – Anne Cronin - carried

* **To formulate duty statements for all committee members and convenors.** A sub committee of experienced club members to put together up to date duty statements for all committee and convenor positions
* Margi mentioned that Paddle Australia is now running on line Foundation Coaching courses which should be considered for any members wanting to assist beginners, juniors or improve their own skills. Will look into requirements (and costs – it was offered free of charge but now has fees attached)

1. **Committee Election**
   1. Nominations and election for the Public Officer;

Bob Collins was nominated and elected as the Public Officer for the meeting

Nominated: Patricia Seconded: Di Bell

b) The Public Officer, Bob, spoke to the meeting as follows:

As Acting Public Officer, in accordance with section 9 of the BGCC Constitution relating to annual general meetings, I declare the current committee dissolved and I advise that I will proceed to conduct an election for office bearers and other club positions.

As you aware, nominations have been called for in advance of this meeting. Nominations can also be accepted at this meeting. I remind the meeting that only current members are eligible for nomination and that they can be nominated and seconded and voted on only by current members.

c) PROCEED TO VOTING ON NOMINATED MEMBERS for the Committee

The Public Officer then proceeded with the voting on positions, commencing with the Secretary and Treasurer positions as there were nominations received for these positions. Other positions were then nominated and declared elected as below.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Position** | **Person** | **Nominator** | **Seconded** | **Status** |
| President | Bob Collins | Patricia | Scott Mac | declared |
| V President | Patricia Ashton | Bob | Margi | declared |
| Treasurer | Shadi Samir | Trent | Patricia | declared |
| Safety Officer | Margi Bohm | Margi | Patricia | declared |
| Boat Captain | Jeremy Cook | Jeremy | Bob | declared |
| Ordinary Member | Dom Hide | Dom | Patricia | declared |
| Ordinary Member | David Abela | Dave | Bob | declared |
| Secretary | Rachel Muldoon | Rachel | Patricia | declared |

d) Nominations and voting / agreement for non-committee positions.

Bob Collins advised that nominations had been received for some of the positions, as below, and the nominations were accepted. Further volunteers would be sought for vacant positions.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Position | Person |
| Membership Secretary | Patricia Ashton |
| Public Officer | Bob Collins |
| Editor | Sue Powell |
| Coaches rep | Margi Bohm |
| Webmaster | Geoff Collett |
| Assistant Boat Captain | Scott MacWilliam |
| Canoe Polo | ? |
| Marathon | Richard Fox |
| Marathon Event Co-ordinator | Bob Collins |
| Time Trials | ? |
| Slalom - ww | Kai Swoboda |
| Social Convener | ? |
| Publicity and Sponsorship | ? |
| Recreational paddling | ? |

The new Committee and Conveners were welcomed.

1. Meeting Closed - 12.05

BURLEY GRIFFIN CANOE CLUB

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

**2019–20**

The 2019–20 BGCC club year has been extraordinary – unfortunately more often in a bad way than good, courtesy of drought, bushfires, flooding rains and COVID-19.

Membership

Club membership totaled 232, down from 299 and 286 in the two preceding years. Although apparently within ‘normal’ fluctuation, this is potentially concerning given the large asset base the club now needs to support with the still relatively recent extension of the boatshed and subsequent changes to the club’s responsibility for land charges and utility costs. Higher membership is more palatable than higher fees.

There is undoubted community interest in paddling in Canberra, as the number of enquiries members receive as they set-up or wash-down boats in front of the shed attests. The challenge is to ensure our public facing communications, learner-support activities and opportunity for social interaction meet the needs of aspiring and new members. All current members have a role in creating and building the sense of club community.

Sadly Ian Castell-Brown passed away on 5 June 2020. Ian was one of our ‘south coast cousins’.

At the club’s 30th Birthday, James Harmer was recognised with Life Membership recognising his service to the club, paddling and canoe polo in particular.

Events

After BGCC’s incredible success in the 2019 PaddleNSW marathon series, competitive paddling in 2019–20 has been a relative disappointment.

The 24 Hour Paddle Challenge was itself challenged when bushfire smoke forced a halt and paddlers were pulled off the water as ash fell. Things had cleared by morning and paddlers who had gotten a few hours of unexpected sleep re-took to the river with a vengeance.

The drought caused the river level to fall to such an extent that the first event of the 2020 PaddleNSW marathon series, to be hosted by BGCC, was cancelled.

The decision to cancel may have been premature – and there are lessons to be learned here – as after drought come flooding rains.

A number of rain events in 2019–20 resulted in damage to the main pontoon and flushing of many of our buoys out into the lake. This damage toll doesn’t include the scrapes and bumps to club and private boats alike from moved snags and floating debris.

COVID-19 changed all our lives from March, requiring PaddleNSW and club events to be cancelled. Now that COVID restrictions have been relaxed there is a move to reinstate the club’s time trial (TT) series. This series is only as competitive as members want to make it—some compete against others, some compete against themselves from TT to TT. These low-key events have both paddling and social benefits, and deserve the support of members.

Canoe Polo

BGCC Canoe Polo hosted the Canberra Invitational in October which was well attended, attracting many teams from interstate. Unfortunately, BGCC wasn’t as successful as previous years, but conditions and weather were excellent and a good time was had by all.

Extraordinary events and social paddling

The club has not had a strong social or recreational paddling scene for some time. Attempts at spring social paddles have been stymied by windy weather that prevents excursions on to the lake. The purchase of three additional Platypuses (to replace two Prijons, which remain in the shed but now as private boats) will hopefully increase opportunities for recreational paddlers. Support from more experienced paddlers, even just once a year, would be welcomed to mentor recreational and beginner paddlers on weekly scheduled paddles and special paddles.

With the demise of club TTs, the opportunity for Nelligen paddles fell away. However coastal excursions were organised for paddlers preparing for the 2019 Hawkesbury Classic, with a return run from Nelligen to Shallow Crossing, and for one of the club’s main training groups to Moruya for some tinny wash riding. These events built rapport and camaraderie, particularly in a year when members didn’t get to travel away for the marathon series.

Finances

Despite the fall in membership, the club has maintained a reasonably healthy bank balance. This balance has been inherited and must be valued. Many community and sporting clubs have suffered because of COVID-19 and it is prudent for our club to manage its finances responsibly.

The club’s main pontoon is in need of replacement, with an expected cost of well over $10,000. This necessary purchase will take a major chunk out of the bank balance. While we have been fortunate to receive a number of grants this year—to support running of the club during COVID-19 and purchase of equipment—and while it would be nice to receive a grant to support purchase and installation of a new pontoon, this is not something we can rely upon.

Similarly, the club now has full responsibility for the boatshed and associated costs. While we are currently seeking review of our land valuation and whilst COVID and closure of the showers has reduced utility costs, BGCC must be run as a business.

Club boats

A major cost each year is the club’s boat replacement program. Regrettably there are then the costs of boat repairs. All members using club boats must recognise their limits and do their utmost to avoid damaging club boats, particularly bows and sterns. Seeking assistance to lift and carry boats is sensible and responsible, not a sign of weakness.

In 2019–20, additions and replacements have include a number of Vajda K1s (with easy seat and footplate adjustment), three recreational kayaks, and a 2-person surf ski. It is anticipated that next year will see the update of the surf ski fleet.

COVID-19

Club members use of the boatshed and facilities was restricted because of COVID-19, which emerged in March 2020. Many club members stepped up to help with cleaning and purchase of cleaning and sanitizing products when these were in short supply. And many members took to car-topping their boats to help minimise potential transmission and use of the shed.

The committee and Safety Officer introduced and updated restriction and return-to-play documents, and ensured signage and sanitizer were place throughout the boatshed. Despite some grumbles about closure of the showers, the club community was understanding and complied with ‘the rules’. This cooperation has been appreciated and enabled the club to continue operating with minimum disruption.

In conclusion

2019–20 is not a year we want to repeat.

COVID-19 has impacted everyone and, it is frequently said, has made people realise the importance of family and community. We have been relatively fortunate in the ACT, where paddling has continued to be allowed and has provided an outlet for many of our members. I hope BGCC members will appreciate what the club does and could offer them, and that they support and involve themselves in the club to make it better for all.

Jeremy Cook

President BGCC 2019–20

**Membership Report: 2019-2020**

**Total** membership tally for 2019-2020: **232**

Made up of: (*2018-19 286)*

Junior Females: 11 (“ *21)*

Junior Males: 11 (“ *21)*

Adult Females: 79 (“ *97)*

Adult Males: 131 (“ *142)*

BGCC membership was available in the combined fee system: when members paid their PNSW fees, the BGCC were added to give the one, combined payment. In August-September 2019 the new Paddle Australia membership system using *GoMembership* (plus *Stripe* for the money collection/distribution) came on-line. This was all that was needed for those with “simple”, Standard Level BGCC membership.

For club members who were eligible for a Club shed key and/or a rack to keep their own private boat in the Club Shed, we were still using the *Register Now* organisation to collect these fees.

All members still have use of club boats appropriate to their level of paddling skill, the hot shower and the kitchen facilities at no further cost – but subject to Covid-19 restrictions.

Membership was again lower than for the previous year, but well within the natural variation in numbers - as people come to Canberra for various work or education occupations – and then leave again.

Helen Tongway

Membership Secretary.

26th September, 2020.

**Safety Officer’s Report**

**September 2019-2020**

The last year has presented BGCC with a series of interesting challenges that have tested our Safety protocols. First in December-February, the fires blanketed Canberra with thick smoke for days on end. The particulate concentrations for hazardous particle, namely those with average diameter of less than 10 μm, reached levels as high as 1 kg per cubic meter of air. These levels are dangerous for any outdoor activity. The ACT government health site took a few weeks to get useful information to the public but fortunately I have been active in particulate pollution with the US Environmental Protection Agency. Working with health advisors we were able to put together a set of useful recommendations for BGCC members that was published in Blazing Paddles in December 2019. Further updates were provided when necessary via email.

Immediately following the fires, the Molonglo River came down in flood after heavy rainfall in the catchment. This provided an opportunity to teach those who were interested in how the water flows through the river bed in our part of the river, with an article published in Blazing Paddles showing where large debris will probably settle and be a hazard to paddles and boats. Another flood in August resulted in the buoys being washed into the lake. These have been returned and need to be cleaned up and reset in the river. I have been in conversation with Tom Hick regarding access to the duckie. He is available after the ACT election in late October. In the meantime, we need to clean up and repaint the buoys and prepare anchoring systems for them.

COVID-19 took us all by surprise. The ACT government regulations during the main lockdown were adhered to and members were advised of shed regulations via email. In June 2020, the ACT government started to relax regulations and I developed BGCC’s Return to Play documents. These were prepared with help from Paddle Australia and PNSW together with input from various club members. In August, further relaxations resulted in an update to the Return to Play document. Signage through the shed has been updated and is now current to the August regulations. Further signage updates are not as shed behaviours are now dictated by indoor floor area. Members are encouraged to (1) arrive, train, leave; (2) careful attention to personal hygiene; (3) social distancing rules set by the ACT and Federal governments of 1.5 m apart or no more than 1 person per 4 m2; (4) treat all communal surfaces as COVID contaminated. Hand sanitiser and disinfectant is supplied at numerous locations through the shed, including all hand basins and showers, and in all bays that do not have direct access to the main shed. Members are now required to sign in using manual sign up sheets or via QR code (still being finalised but will be installed soon). Showers are available for use with members being reminded of the risk of using showers, requested to clean the showers and to identify that they used the showers when they sign out of the shed.

All documentation regarding COVID are available on the BGCC website.

Racing and canoe polo competition has been minimal this year due to COVID-19.

Recommendations for Safety Officer for 2020-2021.

The duty statements for this position are not clearly defined. At the moment, the Safety Officer’s duties are:

1. Attend to all safety issues outside of club run events.
2. Liaison with Event Safety Officer in the lead up to the event to ensure that all issues have been identified and dealt with.

I never had the opportunity to test the efficiency of (b) due to the lack of events this year. Regarding (a), there are several issues that need to be worked through and protocols put into place:

* There is currently no mechanism for members to report safety issues to the Safety Officer. It would be nice if we could introduce a web based reporting system for members to report issues to the Safety Officer and committee.
* Major safety decisions need to be taken by the committee based on white papers presented by the Safety Officer. These decisions should not be made by the Safety Officer alone or in isolation. This protocol worked quite well for COVID-19 related issues this year although feedback took more than a week in most cases with the same people providing feedback all the time. All committee members need to be involved in this process.
* There needs to be a protocol for all committee members to review and contribute to key decisions in a timely fashion.

Margi Böhm, PhD

**BGCC MARATHON CONVENER REPORT**

Due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 only a small number of marathon events have been held to date.

The Frank Harrison races in Albury and the Bay Challenge in the first months of the year saw good numbers from BGCC participate. Windsor Club ran a stand-alone event mid-year which saw one BGCC member from the south coast participate.

BGCC’s own hosted events have also been significantly impacted. Concerningly low water levels in the Molonglo River saw the opening race of the 2020 Marathon Series events, to be held in the ACT, postponed to July. COVID-19 then saw all Marathon Series races at the time of this report cancelled.

The Burley Griffin Bash had to be postponed and the hope was to fit it in towards the end of the year. Subsequently, the BGCC Committee has determined not to hold the Bash in 2020.

The one event the club is now planning for is the 24-Hour event on the last weekend in November. The club has decided to trial a race-within-a-race model for the event this year. There will be a 16/8 option for those paddlers preferring to be off the water for 8 hours from 10pm.

Beyond the 24-Hour event other Ultra Marathon events in 2020 have been COVID-19 impacted. The Wyong Ultra was replaced by PaddleNSW’s first virtual race over either 15km or 30kn distances. Again, a number of BGCC paddlers participated in this event on our own waters. The Myall Classic has been postponed and the Hawkesbury Canoe Classic was cancelled. The Morrison 50 is a new event being managed by PaddleNSW on the last weekend in October. The Clarence 100 has also been cancelled for the 2020 event.

Richard Fox