

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
The Illawarra Ramblers
Friday 13th December 2024
AGENDA

Meeting opened at:

Present:

Apologies:

- 1 *President's Opening Remarks***

- 2 *Minutes of Previous AGM..... Page 2***
Amendments:

Acceptance proposed:
Seconded:
Passed:
- 3 *Business arising from Previous AGM***
Nil

- 4 *Annual Report***
President's Report **Page 6**
Financial Report..... **Page 7**
Activity Report..... **Page 10**

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

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

Position	Nomination
President	John Groom
Secretary	Heather Yeatman
Treasurer	Peter Jack
Program Manager	Stuart Almond
Newsletter Editor	Pam Hayes
Website Manager	Penny Howes
Membership Secretary	Anne Murdoch
Activities Recorder	Michael Feltham
Training and Special Interest Co-ordinator	Colleen Barclay
Publicity Officer	Julie McDonald

7 *Other Business*

Meeting closed at:

Heather Yeatman

Secretary

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 3rd December 2022

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 3rd 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 90th 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</i>	<i>JOHN GROOM</i>	
<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>Phil Prentice</i>	<i>Seconded: Chris English</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>PENNY LOVIBOND</i>	
<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>Pam Hayes</i>	<i>Seconded: Peter Jack</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>PETER JACK</i>	
<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>Penny Howes</i>	<i>Seconded: John Stewart</i>
<i>Program Manager</i>	<i>STUART ALMOND</i>	
<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>Phil Prentice</i>	<i>Seconded: Penny Howes</i>
<i>Newsletter Editor</i>	<i>PAM HAYES</i>	
<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>Peter Jack</i>	<i>Seconded: Chris English</i>
<i>Website Manager</i>	<i>PENNY HOWES</i>	
<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>Anne Murdoch</i>	<i>Seconded: John Groom</i>
<i>Membership Secretary</i>	<i>ANNE MURDOCH</i>	
<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>Chris English</i>	<i>Seconded: Denise Aubourg</i>
<i>Activities Recorder</i>	<i>CAROLINE HUDSON</i>	
<i>Nominated:</i>	<i>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>	

Nominated:

Peter Jack

Seconded: Denise Aubourg

Committee Member

VACANT

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

Item 4 - President's Annual Report 13 December 2024

Enhancing the **Rambler's** experience for us all came with improvements in routines as we strived to more clearly present on our website, lift the warmth of our personal welcomes, clarify expectations between leaders and participants as well as highlighting safety first in all that we do.

Beyond the routines there has been a focus on fine tuning the frame of our public profile softly publicising who we are, what we do and that there could be **fun** doing it. The Illawarra Flame, the Kiama Bugle, and even, albeit briefly, ABC Illawarra have shone a light on us. Trips away are quite reportable. Rail Trails Australia and Bicycle NSW have comprehensively reported on our travelling adventures which in turn can attract, and certainly maintain, membership. The current programme features 1 holiday and 2 walking trips including 1 with paddling options.

Training has been another focus. The offer of subsidised first-aid training for our paddlers in February has drawn an amazing response. 18 starters. Something learned along the way is that our paddlers already engage in a self-organised rescue training process, not commonly done with other groups. There will be spillover to our other activities from the Leadership Training the cyclists have undertaken. Our club's e-bike insurance driven leadership accreditation is a standout within the Bicycle NSW cycling community. We are now steadily incorporating learned safety, and courtesy, processes into our activities without noticeably detracting from the friendly way we do things. A big thank-you is warranted for Bicycle NSW Master Ride Leader Werner Steyer, accreditor of 5 of our 11 leaders. Werner is the club's guest at tonight's Xmas Party. Thank you, Werner.

Covered in the quarterly newsletters to members was the news that 2 past leaders, Sue Martin and Life Member Pam Robinson had passed away. A great loss in both cases.

Their passing served to endorse the aspirations of this committee to focus on succession, encouraging and appointing potential future leaders. This is often more easily begun with shared leadership, as on trips. From this you should expect to see continuing experienced, capable people serving on the committee.

Interwoven with our PR public face is our visibility in the community via advocacy. The club does not have a standing role on either Shellharbour or Wollongong Councils. Invitations to comment on Council projects come to us as individuals from time to time where the practice has been to respond as individuals. Our club has the potential to be heard loud and clear on issues which affect us. The **State Upper House Inquiry into e-scooters, e-bikes and other e-mobility devices** was a case affecting walkers and cyclists, our core being, and on which Sam Garrett-Jones prepared an excellent submission. This resulted in the club's attendance at a hearing at State Parliament House. Googling the committee title will lead a reader to see Hansard scripts of the proceedings. Bicycle NSW encourages affiliates like us to have a wish-list of council projects to add purpose and **fun** to our activities. They are running a webinar "**Engaging Your Council.... Now is the best time,**" this coming Monday, 16 December, 7pm. See the Bicycle NSW website or ask a committee member for Zoom details and feel free to attend.

The attached reports tell the year's story. Treasurer Peter is far more eloquent talking about money than I am. He's warming up to speak.

Membership is stable. Events by number of activities, and attendance, are up, and even if you can't be with us, that new measure of the club's health, the fun-ometer, will be getting a real workout at tonight's Xmas celebration.

John



Statement of Assets and Liabilities
at June 30

	2024	2023
Assets		
Current Assets		
Bendigo Bank Statement Account	\$ 12,204.31	\$ 12,665.55
Deposit AGM Venue		\$ 100.00
Total Current Assets	<u>\$ 12,204.31</u>	<u>\$ 12,765.55</u>
Non Current Assets	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 12,204.31</u>	<u>\$ 12,765.55</u>
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	\$ -	\$ -
Non Current Liabilities	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Net Assets	\$ 12,204.31	\$ 12,765.55
Retained Earnings		
Net Surplus for all prior years	\$ 12,765.55	\$ 12,698.94
Net Surplus/Deficit for current year	<u>-\$ 561.24</u>	<u>\$ 66.61</u>
Total Retained Earnings	<u>\$ 12,204.31</u>	<u>\$ 12,765.55</u>

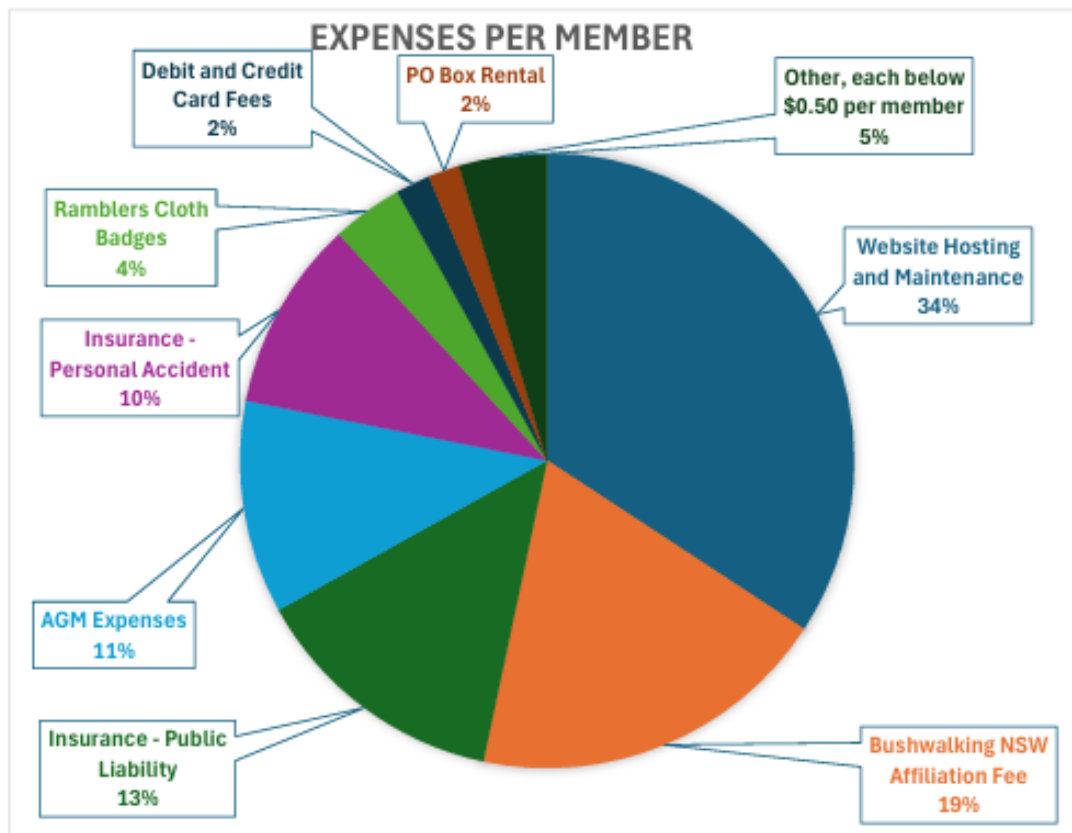


Statement of Income and Expenses
for the twelve months ending June 30;

	2024	2023
Income		
Membership Fees		
Membership Full Online (\$40pa)	\$ 2,080.00	\$ 2,480.00
Membership Senior Online (\$35pa)	\$ 6,475.00	\$ 5,985.00
Membership Senior Print (\$55pa)	\$ 110.00	\$ 275.00
Total Membership Fees	<u>\$ 8,665.00</u>	<u>\$ 8,740.00</u>
Debit and Credit Card Fees	-\$ 170.04	-\$ 165.51
Net Membership Fees	<u>\$ 8,494.96</u>	<u>\$ 8,574.49</u>
Other Income		
Bank Fees Refunded	\$ -	\$ 28.50
Interest Income	\$ 95.42	\$ 75.47
Total Other Income	<u>\$ 95.42</u>	<u>\$ 103.97</u>
Total Income	<u>\$ 8,590.38</u>	<u>\$ 8,678.46</u>
Operating Expenses		
AGM Expenses	\$ 1,043.81	\$ 889.84
Bushwalking NSW Affiliation Fee	\$ 1,781.65	\$ 1,844.70
Dept Fair Trading - Ann Registration	\$ 54.00	\$ 50.00
Leader Training - Cycling	\$ 100.00	\$ -
Member Welfare	\$ 99.90	\$ 64.00
PO Box Rental	\$ 154.00	\$ 148.00
Postage and Stationery	\$ 108.99	\$ 105.03
Printing - Business Cards	\$ 52.98	\$ -
Ramblers Cloth Badges	\$ 348.50	\$ -
Refund Subscriptions in Advance	\$ -	\$ 70.00
Mobile Telephone	\$ 15.00	\$ 15.00
Website Hosting and Maintenance	\$ 3,190.90	\$ 3,046.90
Insurance - Personal Accident	\$ 935.42	\$ 1,143.59
Insurance - Public Liability	\$ 1,266.47	\$ 1,234.79
Total Operating Expenses	<u>\$ 9,151.62</u>	<u>\$ 8,611.85</u>
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	<u>-\$ 561.24</u>	<u>\$ 66.61</u>
Membership		
Membership Full Online (\$40pa)	52	62
Membership Senior Online (\$35pa)	185	171
Membership Senior Print (\$55pa)	2	5
Total Membership	<u>239</u>	<u>238</u>



	2024	2023
Total Member Fees at \$40.00 per member	\$ 9,560.00	\$ 9,520.00
Senior Member discount; \$5.00 per senior	-\$ 935.00	-\$ 880.00
Printed Newsletter Fee; \$20.00)	\$ 40.00	\$ 100.00
Total Membership Fees	\$ 8,665.00	\$ 8,740.00
Average income per member (fees and interest)	\$ 35.94	\$ 36.46
Expenses per member		
Website Hosting and Maintenance	\$ 13.35	\$ 12.80
Bushwalking NSW Affiliation Fee	\$ 7.45	\$ 7.75
Insurance - Public Liability	\$ 5.30	\$ 5.19
AGM Expenses	\$ 4.37	\$ 3.74
Insurance - Personal Accident	\$ 3.91	\$ 4.81
Ramblers Cloth Badges	\$ 1.46	\$ -
Debit and Credit Card Fees	\$ 0.71	\$ 0.70
PO Box Rental	\$ 0.64	\$ 0.62
Other, each below \$0.50 per member	\$ 1.80	\$ 1.28
Total expenses per member	\$ 39.00	\$ 36.88
Surplus/Deficit per member	-\$ 3.06	-\$ 0.42



Activities 2023-24

THIS YEAR (2023-2024)				PREVIOUS YEAR (2022-2023)			
Activities	Participants	Average		Activities	Participants	Average	
SPRING 23				SPRING 22			
Walks	24	203	8	Walks	20	150	8
Cycles	31	400	13	Cycles	23	329	14
Paddles	12	191	16	Paddles	8	139	17
Trips	3	45	15	Trips	3	65	22
Social	2	89		Social			
Training	1	29		Training			
Cancellations	8	0		Cancellations	5		
Total	73	957	13	Total	54	683	13
SUMMER 23				SUMMER 22			
Walks	28	207	7	Walks	20	199	10
Cycles	26	353	14	Cycles	26	390	15
Paddles	13	195	15	Paddles	13	164	13
Trips	0	0		Trips	1	13	13
Social	0	0		Social	1	46	
Training	0	0		Training	0	0	
Cancellations	5			Cancellations	3		
Total	67	755	11	Total	61	812	13

THIS YEAR (2023-2024)				PREVIOUS YEAR (2022-2023)			
Activities	Participants	Average		Activities	Participants	Average	
AUTUMN 24				AUTUMN 23			
Walks	24	188	8	Walks	29	225	8
Cycles	33	402	12	Cycles	16	204	13
Paddles	11	175	16	Paddles	11	196	18
Trips	5	75	15	Trips	3	40	13
Social	0	0		Social	1	11	
Training	0	0		Training	0	0	
Cancellations	8	0		Cancellations	13		
Total	73	840	12	Total	60	676	11
WINTER 24				WINTER 23			
Walks	33	266	8	Walks	31	295	10
Cycles	36	341	9	Cycles	28	394	14
Paddles	11	149	14	Paddles	12	178	15
Trips	1	27	27	Trips	1	26	26
Social	1	8		Social	0	0	
Training	0	0		Training	0	0	
Cancellations	8			Cancellations	7		
Total	82	791	12	Total	72	893	12
TOTAL	295	3343	11	TOTAL	247	3064	12

THIS YEAR (2023-2024)				PREVIOUS YEAR (2022-2023)			
Activities	Participants	Average		Activities	Participants	Average	
BY ACTIVITY TYPE				BY ACTIVITY TYPE			
Walks	109	864	8	Walks	100	869	9
Cycles	126	1496	12	Cycles	93	1317	14
Paddles	47	710	15	Paddles	44	677	15
Trips	9	147	16	Trips	8	144	18
Social	3	97		Social	2	57	29
Training	1	29		Training	0	0	
Cancellations	29			Cancellations	28		
Total	295	3343	11	Total	247	3064	12