



## **2023 Surfing New Zealand Inc Annual General Meeting**

**Location:** Arataki Community Centre, Zambuk Way Mount Maunganui and online via Microsoft Teams

**Date and Time:** 10:00am Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

### **Minutes:**

**Meeting open: 10:05am**

#### **PRESENT:**

##### **Surfing New Zealand Board and Staff**

Heath Kerr – Appointed Board Member (Chair)  
Deb Bowry – Elected Board Member (Deputy Chair)  
Alan Te Moananui – Elected Maori Representative  
Keri McKenzie – Elected North Island Rep  
Jimi Higgins – Elected South Island Rep  
Cath Lomax – Appointed Board Member  
Emily Davidson – Appointed Board Member  
Matt Wood – Appointed Board Member

Ben Kennings – Chief Executive

#### **Voting Members**

Ahipara Boardriders – Nancy Bird  
Ocean Beach Boardriders – Lew Hart  
North Coast Boardriders – Tia Lord  
Northland Surfing Association – James Phillips  
Piha Boardriders – Chelsea Withers  
Orewa Longboard Club – Quetin Bright  
Point Boardriders – Luke Hughes  
Whangamata Boardriders Club – Paul Biddle  
Bay Boardriders Club – James Jacobs  
Kneeboard Surfing NZ – Craig Hooper  
Gisborne Boardriders – Flo Bub  
Hawkes Bay Boardriders Club – Keri McKenzie  
Kaikoura Boardriders Club – Alan Temoananui  
North Wai Boardriders Club – Roxanne McKerras  
Sumner Longboard Club – Will Jamieson  
South Coast Boardriders – Jimi Higgins  
South Island Surfing Association – Adian Bonisch

The Chairperson noted that 17 affiliated clubs and organisations were present at the meeting constituting a quorum of more than the required 40% of 35 affiliated under clause 22.13 of the Surfing New Zealand constitution.

#### **Guests**

Russell Ritchie  
Nathan Mouldey  
Jamie Brock



Greg Illing  
Bruce Tod  
Sylvia Lindsay

**Apologies:**

Peter Fitzsimmons – Life Member

**Meeting Proceedings:**

This meeting will be governed by the current Rules of Surfing New Zealand New Zealand.

**AGM Minutes:**

Motion that the minutes of the AGM of Surfing New Zealand held online via Microsoft Teams on Saturday 19th November 2022 are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

**Moved:** Hawkes Bay Boardriders **Seconded:** South Island Surfing Association **Motion:** Carried

**Matters arising from the minutes:** No matters arising from the previous minutes.

**REPORTS**

- Chairperson's Report **Heath Kerr**
- Management Report **Ben Kennings**

Motion that the Chair and Management Reports be accepted.

**Moved:** Hawkes Bay Boardriders **Seconded:** South Island Surfing Association **Motion:** Carried

Reports published in Annual Report.

**FINANCE**

- Annual Financial Reports **Ben Kennings**
- Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2023

**Resolution:** That the unaudited annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2023 are received.

**Moved:** Hawkes Bay Boardriders **Seconded:** South Island Surfing Association **Motion:** Carried

Financial Report published in Annual Report.

**APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS**

- Heath Kerr was reappointed by the Board Appointments Panel in September. This is Heath's final three-year term.

Current appointed board members:

Emily Davidson (one year remaining in first term)

Cath Lomax (two years remaining in first term)

- Heath advised the membership that Joe Hitchcock has stood down from the board due to other work commitments. Joe will continue to work with the board in an unofficial capacity including as a member of the Complaints Assessment Committee. The Board Appointments Panel recommended Matt Wood fill the vacant position. Matt was shortlisted in the



appointments process this year. Matt works for Maritime NZ with a background in sailing and stand up paddleboarding. Matt has previously worked in volunteer organisations seeking funding.

Matt spoke to the meeting about his appointment and background.

## **ELECTIONS**

Alan Te Moananui was the sole nomination for the **Maori Board Representative**

Jimi Higgins was the sole nomination for the **South Island Board Representative**

Note: No voting required in 2023. Alan Te Moananui and Jimi Higgins have been re-elected unopposed. Nominated board members have three-year terms.

Existing elected board member terms are outlined below:

### **North Island Board Member Elected**

Keri McKenzie (two years remaining on second term)

### **General Board Member Elected**

Deb Bowry (two years remaining on second term)

## **REMIT:**

Keri McKenzie spoke about the journey of the board, the changes over the past three years and the work completed to get to this stage. She noted the difference between her roles with her own Hawkes Bay Boardriders Club and being on the SNZ board and the work around strategy, compliance, health and safety and finance as well as defining governance and operations as part of the SNZ Board.

Background on all remits including position statements from Surfing New Zealand and the Remit submitter can be sourced in the remit and voting forms.

### **Remit 1 – Lion Rock Boardriders**

**The Constitution is amended such that the number of appointed directors is reduced from four to two and the number of elected directors is increased from four to six.**

This remit was discussed including the difference between appointed and elected members, Sport New Zealand recommendations, the appointments process, gender split and current board experience.

The motion was put to a vote (The remit is regarded as a special resolution requiring a two thirds majority). For: 1, Abstain: 4, Against 18

The motion was not carried.

### **Remit 2 – Bay Boardriders**

**That the position of Athletes Representative is reinstated to the SNZ Board**

James Jacobs from Bay Boardriders talked to the remit.

Bay Boardriders sees value in the Surfers Rep position to bring competitors viewpoint to the



table, help with dispute and conflict resolution and bridge the gap between SNZ officials and surfers.

It was noted that an athletes rep role on the board would include all governance tasks and that the applicant would need board level experience. It was viewed unrealistic and uneconomical for the athletes rep to attend all events and that would fall into an operational capacity.

Discussion took place regarding the formation of an advisory group to capture a wider voice. The SNZ board committed to setting up an advisory group with the structure and terms of reference to be determined. It was noted that an advisory group would provide greater engagement and collaboration with stakeholders.

The motion was put to a vote (The remit is regarded as a special resolution requiring a two thirds majority). For: 4, Abstain: 4, Against 15

The motion was not carried.

### **Remits 3 – 5**

#### **That all SNZ board members have titles and role descriptions**

**That the South Island and North Island board representatives be required to have regular hui with their respective club representatives to form better relationships and understanding of what their constituents think.**

#### **North Island and South Island director roles**

James Jacobs from Bay Boardriders spoke to the first two remits.

Clause 19.8 h of the constitution highlights opportunity for Board members to take up roles and responsibilities, engaging in activities where appropriate.

SNZ noted that the board is governed by legislation, then the constitution and charter which all outline the role of the board. All are equal and elected as a Director with the same liability noting this is slightly different to a boardrider club where you have a role.

It is important to get better alignment and the structure right to avoid the time taken up with distraction such as mediations, court hearings, disputes and complaints.

Key focus areas in strategic plan outline a good structure and the plan is for the entire surfing community including boardrider clubs, athletes and coaches.

The structure of SISA was discussed as a successful way of engaging clubs and getting volunteer support.

The SNZ Board support and believe quarterly meetings may be helpful and will be put in place in 2024.

In the new year there will be a separate board email address for stakeholders. Governance matters will be dealt with by the board and operational matters will be directed back to staff.

No vote was taken on these remits as the roles and duties of the board are set out in the constitution and stakeholder hui are operational matters.



### **Remit 6 – Gisborne Boardriders**

**a) Surfing NZ reviews the issues raised by Gisborne Boardriders in relation to the National Team Qualification Policy and reports back to all members.**

**b) The Nationals becomes part of the NZ Surf Series, not being a separate quota level in the NZ Team Selection Policy.**

Florian Bub talked to the remit on behalf of Bay Boardriders.

Flo noted that some items in the remit have been addressed but finding an independent selection panel is important. He believes there is no appetite for the Nationals to be a stand alone quota and that it should be included in the NZ Surf Series quota.

Discussion took place around the selection policy and criteria. We believe we have come up with a good option for allowing expat Kiwi athletes to return to New Zealand to qualify for representative teams and that the policy is objective and transparent but noted not everyone likes it.

Motion a) was put to a vote (The remit is regarded as a general resolution requiring a majority).  
For: 12, Abstain: 0, Against 9

The motion was carried. SNZ will conduct a review of the selection policy.

Motion b) was put to a vote (The remit is regarded as a general resolution requiring a majority).  
For: 7, Abstain: 3, Against 13

The motion was not carried. SNZ noted that this motion will form part of the overall review.

### **Remit 7 – Bay Boardriders**

#### **That the CEO role and contest director role are split**

The remit was discussed. The board agreed that the roles should be split and that the organisation is working toward this.

The board noted that to split the roles, the cost is close to \$15,000. At present, it is not financially sensible to split the roles.

No vote was taken on this remit as it referred to operational matters.

### **Remit 8 – Lion Rock Boardriders**

#### **SNZ adopts a policy of transparency**

Lion Rock Boardriders were not present at the meeting so the remit was taken as read.

The Board has responded to many of the issues in today's discussion and is comfortable with their experience and the experience of the board appointments board.

Monies paid to Russell – on board for 6 years never received any money for Board duties. He did receive \$210 day when judging as do all other officials. The constitution had 3 different clauses which were contradictory – Russell ultimately had to decide to be on the board or be a judge as per the current constitution – he chose to resign from the Board. Board has moved on from this and considers it to be over.

No vote was taken on this remit as it referred to operational matters.



**GENERAL BUSINESS UPDATES:**

Bay Boardriders raised voting rights at the AGM.

Discussion was centred around voting rights being based off the number of members in each club rather than one vote per club.

The board noted that the majority of NSOs have a simple voting system per club or via individual members. Any change would be constitutional, and a special motion would be required and the clubs could vote on the matter when raised.

SNZ thanked those attending in person and online for giving up their Saturday morning to attend the meeting.

**Meeting closed: 12:10pm**