



2022 Surfing New Zealand Inc Annual General Meeting

MINUTES

LOCATION: Online via Microsoft Teams

DATE: 19th November 2022

MEETING OPEN: 10:00am with Karakia and minutes silence for those who have passed.

PRESENT:

Surfing New Zealand Board and Staff

Deb Bowry – Elected Board Member (Chair)
Russell Ritchie – South Island Rep (Deputy Chair)
Alan Te Moananui – Maori Representative
Keri McKenzie – North Island Rep
Heath Kerr – Appointed Board Member
Joe Hitchcock – Appointed Board Member
Cath Lomax – Appointed Board Member
Emily Davidson – Appointed Board Member

Ben Kennings – Chief Executive
Lee Ryan – Development Manager
Dan Westerkamp – Events and Projects Coordinator

Voting Members

Northland Surfing Association – Tia Lord
Piha Boardriders – Chris Barron
Lion Rock Boardriders Club – Phil Wallis
Orewa Longboard Club – Greg Illing
Whangamata Boardriders Club – Justin Rogers
Christian Surfers NZ – Logan Mills
Bay Boardriders Club – James Jacobs (vote), Nathan Mouldey and Brian Willows
Papamoa Boardriders Club – Gavin Bisman
Hawkes Bay Boardriders Club – Keri McKenzie
New Plymouth Surfriders Club – Mark Dwyer (vote) and David Farr
Kaikoura Boardriders Club – Alan Temoananui
Northside Boardriders Club – Ray
North Wai Boardriders Club – Russell Ritchie
Canterbury Scholastics – Simone Entwisle
Point Surf Team – David Entwisle
South Coast Boardriders – Jimi Higgins
Buller Boardriders – Julian Young
South Island Surfing Association – Tania Huria

The Chairperson noted that 18 affiliated clubs and organisations were present at the meeting constituting a quorum of more than the required 40% of 31 affiliated under clause 22.13 of the Surfing New Zealand constitution.

Guests

Peter Fitzsimmons – Life Member
Phil Corcoran
Simon Fritchley
Steve Tyro



Apologies:

Ocean Beach Boardriders Club
Gisborne Boardriders Club
Greg Townsend – Life Member

AGM Minutes:

Motion that the minutes of the AGM of Surfing New Zealand held online via Microsoft Teams on Saturday 20th November 2021 are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: North Wai Boardriders Club **Seconded:** Papamoa Boardriders Club

Matters arising from the minutes:

Lion Rock Boardriders questioned why the minutes from 2020 Annual General Meeting were distributed an hour before the 2021 AGM. It was noted that the 2020 minutes had been published on the SNZ website since June 2021.

REPORTS

Chairperson's Report: Deb Bowry

Resolution: That the Chairpersons report be accepted.

Moved: North Wai Boardriders Club **Seconded:** Buller Boardriders Club

Management Report: Ben Kennings

Resolution: That the management report be accepted.

Moved: Christian Surfers NZ **Seconded:** Hawkes Bay Boardriders Club

FINANCE

Annual Financial Reports – Ben Kennings

Resolution: That the annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2022 be accepted.

Moved: Piha Boardriders Club **Seconded:** South Island Surfing Association

APPOINTED BOARD MEMBERS

Introductions to newly appointed board members Cath Lomax (three-year term) and Emily Davidson (two-year term).

Current appointed board members:

Heath Kerr (one year remaining)

Joe Hitchcock (two years remaining)

ELECTIONS

No voting required in 2022. Nominated board members have three-year terms.

Keri McKenzie was the sole nomination for **North Island Representative**

Deb Bowry was the sole nomination for the position of **Individual Board Member**

Existing elected board member terms are outlined below:



Alan Te Moananui (one year remaining) – **Maori Board Member Elected**
Russell Ritchie (one year remaining) – **South Island Representative Elected**

REMITTS:

Bay Boardriders Club Remits – See Appendix 1

High Performance/Pathway Planning

It was noted that the Surfing New Zealand does have a draft high performance plan that was developed in conjunction with our top athletes at a training camp and in line with High Performance Sport New Zealand. Surfing New Zealand to publish this plan on the SNZ website including the development of an athlete pathway plan for use by athletes and parents.

Discussion took place around the need to acknowledge the winners of the NZ Grom Series with trophies.

The meeting discussed funding via two means – sponsorship and the surfing foundation. It was explained that the SNZ must get the sponsorship pitch correct and the work that has gone into this with both management and board. SNZ has approached upward of eight corporate sponsors without success to date. The surfing foundation is a medium – long term project that needs to be set up correctly including the legal structure, charitable status and purpose. The success of the project will be determined by the support of the surfing community.

Under 12 Division

The Sport New Zealand Balance is Better philosophy was explained to stakeholders. Surfing New Zealand agrees with this philosophy and as such the NZ Grom Series does not include an Under 12 Division.

The focus for this age group should be developing skills rather than competition. Competition can be achieved at a community level which reduces time and expense of national travel.

It was noted that we have one pinnacle event for this age group being the Primary School Championships held annually. SNZ would also support any application to include surfing in the AIMS Games.

Judging

The option of four person panels was discussed. It was noted the cost of this is approx. \$1,000/event and could be subsidised by entry fees.

The notion that there is bias judging is disappointing, frustrating and without evidence. Our judges work tirelessly at events and do their best to deliver quality sporting experiences. Online judging workshops prior to events is one option to help grow the understanding of the judging criteria and mechanics of a judging panel.

Online Judging Workshop

The use of the 2021 National Championships footage featuring Kehu Butler and Billy Stairmand was discussed. It was noted that this footage was used as a good example of different approaches to surfing that need to be compared during heats. As our library of video content grows, additional footage will be included and replace current clips.

Competition Programme

It was noted that where swell and weather conditions permitted, divisions would be scheduled



through to completion at events in the coming summer. The migration of our event management system to Live Heats will also help with heat scheduling well in advance of when surfers participate.

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Life Membership

A motion was put forward to award Lewis Joyce life membership.

Moved: Canterbury Scholastics

Seconded: Hawkes Bay Boardriders

Lewis has committed himself to surfing in Te Waipounamu. Lewis was one of the original members of SISA, recognising the need for a regional body to provide competitive surfing pathways for South Island-based surfers. Lewis for years was the main sponsor for the SISA grom series and has contributed not only at a SISA level but also locally through the Northside Boardriders and Nationally as an official. Lewis continues to contribute to South Island surfing through judging, as contest director for a number of competitions, Treasurer of SISA, Manager of SISA equipment, Cleaner of SISA gear, Lifetime member of SISA

2. Annual Report

The annual report was distributed to all stakeholders prior to the meeting.

3. Next AGM – dates to be confirmed for November 2023. Confirmation of online or in person meeting also to be confirmed.

Meeting closed: 12:01pm



Appendix 1 – Bay Boardriders Remit

2022 REMIT FORM SURFING NEW ZEALAND INCORPORATED

Remit

High Performance/Pathway Planning

Bay Boardriders is one of the largest clubs in the country, with a growing base of young high-performing surfers, and numerous elite surfers across a range of divisions in the national competition. This year, our club has had two male NZ representatives in both the junior and open men divisions, and two junior female reserves. We also have affiliated surfers that compete in the QS, with one at the highest level in the World Challenger Series.

In recognition of our high-performance athletes, and a growing number of high-performing junior surfers, we would like to understand and learn more about the following;

- Is high performance a key priority/focus of the SNZ committee, and does the committee have aspirations to plan and build the infrastructure around high performance to help develop a world champion?
- Is there a high-performance and pathway strategy? As a club, we would like to know that the planning and infrastructure are in place so our high-performing athletes know what milestones they need to reach to achieve their ultimate goal, and what they need to be doing to achieve those milestones. Also, we would like to understand if the infrastructure and support systems are in place to assist them in reaching an elite level. We appreciate that there first needs to be a plan or strategy in place from which to build the infrastructure around.
- If such a plan/strategy is being developed, what does this look like and can clubs be involved in creating this?
- There might be a fair amount to gain by working alongside other sports who have come from a similar position and gained consistency on the world stage. Snowsports NZ for example, has podiumed 5 times in the last 4 years after not having won a medal in 26 years. SNZ may already have strong ties with other sports that have a winning strategy that you can look to for inspiration, but perhaps the Snowsports NZ example may be useful.

We appreciate that SNZ has limited resources and capacity and that the national competition series alone takes resource significant time and resources. In recognition of this, we would like to know if a key priority/directive of the SNZ committee is to focus on high-performance planning and infrastructure.



We understand that funding can help increase capacity and resources, and therefore question whether the committee members have been working in this area and if they have been actively looking for funding opportunities to achieve this objective.

U12 Division

The club has a considerable number of U10 and U12 junior surfers, many surfing at an extremely high level. At the tip of the iceberg, we had two 11-year-old boys come first and second in the U14 Billabong Grom series this year. Based on the observations of our club members, we believe it is important for the development of the country's elite surfers (to build toward a future world champion) to have them compete nationally at an early age. Therefore, we request that SNZ seriously consider including an U12 division in the Billabong Grom Series. If resourcing were a barrier to this then perhaps SNZ could liaise with the hosting club at each of the competition locations to help with running this division.

As the club sees the participation and development of surfing at a young age to benefit the sport, we are currently looking at the application requirements to get surfing included in AIMs games in the coming year(s).

Judging

The massive inconsistency in judging over the past year has been a frustration raised by many individuals – both surfers and supporters. It appears that the judging panel can be biased with their scoring, or that the head judge has not been stepping in to minimise or manage the ranges in scoring. It was epic to see a 4-judge panel in Taranaki, and the high and low scores being discarded, this certainly has made the scoring much fairer and removed the questionable scores as observed previously. Hopefully, this will continue going forward, as historically the inconsistencies and standard of judging have not at times been seen as fair or acceptable

As stakeholders with a vested interest, the club finds it concerning that there can be a vocal and staunch club supporter who is a judge, an NZ junior selector, and a Board Member. This would appear to be a massive conflict of interest and needs to be addressed.

Watching surfers miles away from the carpark, at low tide in the afternoon in Piha with the summer crowds is hard enough let alone trying to judge them. It would be fantastic if the judges could move down onto the sand when required to eliminate (or at least minimise) missed waves and get a much better feeling for the surfer's maneuvers that they are performing.

Online Judging workshop

We would be grateful if, at the end of this workshop, the examples of wave scoring between two of the finalists in the 2021 Open Men's final were not used. We feel this is rather a contentious result, and perhaps there is a more clear-cut example that could be



used instead.

Also, one of the wave examples relates to the scoring of an air reverse. We feel elite surfers need to have air reverses in their bag of tricks, and we should be encouraging surfers to be attempting these progressive moves as currently there aren't many surfers that regularly perform them.

We would hate to think it is misconstrued by workshop participants that this maneuver does not yield good scores and that this example is best left out. Also, at the club level, we should be overscoring generously these maneuvers to encourage more of them to occur.

Competition Programme

A great initiative of SNZ to address COVID restrictions was to run certain divisions entirely (from start to finish) over one designated day. E.g U14 boys and girls on Saturday, and U18s on Sunday.

This approach can also have other benefits. The cost of traveling to compete in SNZ events is considerable, and would no doubt be a factor in whether or not some athletes can afford to compete.

These travel costs could be considerably less if there was certainty knowing that a particular division would start and be completed on a particular day. This could mean those traveling may only need to bear the costs of staying one night away as opposed to two nights. This would help competitive surfing to remain accessible and possible to everyone from a logistical and financial perspective. The last thing we want to see is for competitive surfing to become available to only the wealthy.

Also, for some families, they plan a weekend away with an event, and having a set (daily) schedule for the event can enable them to plan their weekend away with confidence.

We can appreciate the benefits of having a flexible schedule, but also question whether these benefits outweigh the cost.

Thanks for taking the time to consider these matters and suggestions. I know that many others are passionate about surfing development and supporting club members, and all of the above thoughts are coming from a good place. We would love to be involved in any initiatives or projects that could help support our NZ surfers.

Club

Bay Boardriders

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SUBMITTED BY

Proposer

James Jacobs on behalf of

Club

Bay Boardriders

Signature

Seconder

Nathan Mouldey

Club

Bay Boardriders

Signature

NOTE:

Submission of remits close at **11:59pm, Friday 21st October 2022**. All remits to be sent to benkennings@surfingnz.co.nz.