



2018 SURFING NEW ZEALAND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

March 9, 2019

Adams Centre for High Performance

52 Miro Street, Mount Maunganui

Meeting Open: 10:35am

Present:

Surfing NZ Board and Staff

Chris Fougere - President

Matt Sale – Vice President

Andrew Vette – North Island Rep (Co-opted)

Russell Ritchie – South Island Rep

Trevor McKewen – Co-opted board member

Ben Kennings – General Manager

Nick Cowan – General Manager Funding and High Performance

Lee Ryan – Sport Development Manager

Boardrider Clubs present with voting rights (2018 affiliated and incorporated)

Present

Tia Lord (Northland Surfing Association)

Wini Paul (Ocean Beach Boardriders)

Bryan Thompson (Piha Boardriders)

Phil Wallis (Lion Rock Boardriders)

Gavin Houghton (NZ Stand Up Paddling Inc)

Michael Gray (Orewa Longboard Club)

Mark Hinton (Bay Boardriders)

Peter Mckinnon (New Wave Boardriders)

Logan Mills (Christian Surfers Association)

Ruchele Jungwirth (Point Boardriders)

Fiona Hareb (Oakura Boardriders)

Russell Ritchie (North Wai)

Tania Huria (Canterbury Scholastics)

Boardrider Clubs (affiliated with voting rights) via video conferencing:

Craig Williamson (Waitara Bar Boardriders)

Andrew McCulloch (Gisborne Boardriders)

Boardrider Clubs without voting rights:

Mike Hareb (Surfing Taranaki)

Pauline Pullman (North Coast Boardriders)

Craig Hooper (Kneeboard Surfing New Zealand)

Boardrider Clubs (affiliated without voting rights via video conferencing):

Greg Skinner (Maori Bay Bay Boardriders)

Attendees

John Wilson (Whangamata)
Phil Corcoran (Mount Maunganui)
Jacqui van der Beek (Mount Maunganui)
Jan McKenney (Mount Maunganui)
Jamie Brock (Mount Maunganui)
Gordon May (Mount Maunganui)
Robb Friend (Mount Maunganui)
Nathan Mouldey (Mount Maunganui)
Michi Jungwirth (Raglan)
Ady van der Beek (Mount Maunganui)
Darren Wederell (Mount Maunganui)

Apologies

Mark Pevats (Co-opted Board Member) and Greg Townsend (Life Member).

The Chairperson noted that the meeting had a quorum being 25% of affiliated boardrider clubs under clause 12.2 of the Surfing New Zealand constitution.

Minutes 2017 AGM**Matters arising from the 2017 Minutes**

John Wilson noted from the floor that governance training for directors had been recommended and accepted at the last AGM but did not appear in the minutes. Chris Fougere said this was an oversight and would be retrospectively added to the minutes and that he himself had completed a Sport NZ governance course within the past year and found it very beneficial. The Board agreed strong governance was needed.

Motion that the minutes of the AGM of Surfing New Zealand held at the conference centre of the Sunset Motel, Bankart Street, Raglan – Saturday 18th November 2017 are confirmed as a true and accurate record.

Moved: Trevor McKewen Seconded: Peter McKinnon

President's Report

Chris Fougere addressed the floor. He opened with an apology for the 2018 AGM being delayed due to an unforeseen set of circumstances and some process errors. He outlined who was on the Board and apologised for the absence of Mark Pevats due to personal circumstances.

The President noted 2018 had been an historic year in regards to competition surfing. New Zealand had ended the year with a representative qualifying to compete on the 2019 elite WCT men's and women's tours for the first time. Chris lauded Paige Hareb and Ricardo Christie for their achievements and asked that the floor applaud their efforts which duly happened. He also mentioned the results of Ella Williams, Billy Stairmand and Elliot Paerata-Reid for their performances throughout 2018.

The President spoke of his desire to be a unifier within the sport, resulting in a culture of “listening and transparency”. He cited the return of the Championships to Taranaki for the first time since 2007 as an example of healing that needed to happen in a challenging and often political environment, adding his congratulations to the Oakura Boardriders Club for their successful hosting the event. The floor applauded the club for their efforts.

Chris acknowledged the void left by the departure of the previous Chief Executive and also reminded the floor of his 2017 statement to stakeholders of directing the sport back towards competition and high performance pathways now that Surfing NZ was no longer actively driving The Ultimate Waterman (TUW) event. As an example, SNZ had run a high performance programme unique to surfing in 2018.

He then spoke to the organisation’s finances, noting that successive governments have cut funding to sport in recent years due to higher priorities. This had made it difficult for sport and many NSOs were struggling. SNZ’s funding had been cut three years ago and that one year remained on the current funding agreement with Sport NZ.

The president had tasked board and management with a central government strategy. He believed SNZ deserved a better funding deal from Sport NZ and we needed to press our argument.

He added his belief that surfing is on a major roll and had more opportunities than ever, particularly around the environment and mental health.

The president completed his address by asking clubs to push hard for growth, to think bigger and to grow capabilities.

In response to a question from the floor about the replacement of departing Chief Executive Greg Townsend, Chris said the organisation discovered it did not have the funds to honour a promise at the previous AGM for a worldwide search for a replacement.

The Board had decided funding challenges meant a new approach was needed. This had resulted in the implementation of a dual General Manager system overseen by the Board with members actively taking on particular portfolios in support of management.

It was decided Ben Kennings would be appointed as General Manager with an emphasis on “business as usual” practices. In the meantime, following a lengthy recruitment process, Nick Cowan was appointed for three days a week to act as General Manager, High Performance and Funding. This was designed to keep faith with clubs’ desire for improved high performance and also to grow income.

In summary, Chris explained Ben is in charge of managing the sport and Nick was in charge of Funding and High Performance.

The president agreed with a comment from the floor that the organisation had moved from being employee-led to board-led and said this had been deliberate.

Phil Wallis **moved** that the President’s Report be accepted. **Seconded** Pauline Pullman

General Manager's Report

Ben Kennings pointed to his original report which was included in the Annual Report but updated it verbally.

He acknowledged the work of volunteers and thanked them. The opportunity surfing now had as an Olympic sport was profound, the creation of the Oceania Surfing Federation had been a breakthrough and there had been many event highlights.

Finances had been tight and Ben expressed his thanks to the surfing industry for its ongoing support along with Health 2000, Bayleys Real Estate and Barrett Homes. There was acknowledgement of the Foundation North learn-to-surf programme and the ongoing support of several community trusts.

Special mention was made of the competitive achievements during 2018 and early 2019 of Paige Hareb, Ricardo Christie, Billy Stairmand and Kehu Butler. With Tokyo 2020 now only 17 months away the sport and athletes will be in the spotlight and that will bring increased opportunities.

Ben noted four key areas that he had identified at the start of his role and that he felt were important to him in his role as General Manager, Surfing New Zealand as an organisation and surfing as a whole – 1/ Culture, 2/ Service delivery, 3/ Sustainability, 4/ High Performance.

Ruchele Jungwirth (Point Boardriders) asked how Surfing NZ was going to change the culture of the sport. Surfing New Zealand noted that education was the biggest driver and an understanding within the community about roles and responsibilities for the governing body through to the clubs, athletes and the general surfing community.

Fiona Hareb (Oakura) suggested we add the environment as a fifth important area. Ben agreed and this was supported by Chris who said he sensed “real opportunities” in these areas and noted that was why Environment was featured as a pillar in the proposed SNZ Strategic Plan.

During question time, Chris acknowledged there was politics in all sport and he wanted the management team to work together and with stakeholders to achieve our goals.

Ady van der Beek **moved** that the General Manager's Report be accepted. **Seconded**
Ruchele Jungwirth

General Manager – High Performance and Funding Report

Nick Cowan was introduced to the meeting and spoke to progress in his area including presenting short and long term strategies in regards to our challenged financial situation.

Nick is the long-time manager of Dame Valarie Adams and has worked in high performance and funding for Athletics NZ, Tennis NZ and the Millennium Institute. It was explained he has been working three days a week for Surfing NZ in the HP and funding areas, although his initial commissioning had not involved seeking gaming money.

The Board had instructed Nick a month ago to focus on gaming funding as the most immediate opportunity to help the organisation address its current financial squeeze. He is

advocating a schools-based life skills surf programme which the Lion Foundation was prepared to support to implement in the Waikato-Bay of Plenty area. He told the meeting this proposal required the input of staff and had some “challenges in resource allocation and implementation”. This will soon go to the Board for a decision on resource support and implementation.

Nick noted that surfing was increasingly seen by government organisations such as Sport NZ and in HPSNZ as “an exciting and emerging” sport. Both agencies are more engaged than ever with us as a result. He added they also believe NZ can medal at the next Olympics in surfing. But he noted further attention was needed to develop the Sport NZ relationship.

Nick explained he advocated a tiered approach around funding with four key areas to tap for support and long term stability. These were Sport NZ, HPSNZ, community funders and commercial sponsorships.

Check points for all funding streams including government bodies such as SNZ and HPSNZ as well as other primary funders were consistent across all sectors. They are sound governance, diversity (e.g. female presence on boards), wellbeing, cause-related activity (e.g. environment protection) and mental health.

Recent controversies around NZ Hockey, NZ Football and Cycling NZ had only intensified their beliefs on governance improvement being critical. Surfing NZ was supporting this by boosting its “horsepower” on the Board.

He noted Surfing NZ also had a chance “to lead the charge” around women.

For corporates, they were interested in Influencers and cause-related activity, noting we had work to be done in both areas. The plan is to persuade Sport NZ to lift its current organisational funding, ideally doubling it within two years but that Sport NZ had told us we must sort the areas funders are focussing on which include governance and diversity.

Community funders would be pursued via a new national gaming strategy and that SNZ has the opportunity to increase dollars in this area but would be careful not to cannibalise club grants.

Phil Corcoran questioned the board in regards to the recruitment process for the General Manager of Funding and High Performance and what the role involved. The board noted that the recruitment process took place across LinkedIn, Seek and Sport New Zealand with three applicants shortlisted from 25. The role included preparing a high performance plan for the sport and securing funding for the organisation from the sources outlined.

Phil Corcoran asked about the pending funding from Lion Foundation for the proposed Surf for Life programme and HPSNZ funding for Ricardo Christie and if the funding had been confirmed in writing. Nick noted that confirmation of HPSNZ funding for Ricardo had not been confirmed yet but was looking promising.

Phil Wallis (Lion Rock) noted the organisation should be wary of gaming as a source of income due to the negative impact it could have on communities.

Phil Corcoran questioned the board if there was a conflict of interest in regards to Nick

Cowan being the athlete manager of Paige Hareb. The board noted they are aware of Nick's role as Paige's manager and that all interests have been declared in this regard. Nick confirmed that he does not receive any financial gain from Paige's HPSNZ campaign investment.

Financial Report

Ben and Chris led a report on the organisation's current financial state.

Pauline Pullman asked about the future of The Ultimate Waterman (TUW) and whether it would contribute to the bottom line after two years of not delivering licensing fees. Chris said that after recent discussions with Greg Townsend, there was an 80 per cent chance the event would run in Hawaii in November this year and return licensing fees of \$30,000 and 5% of profits to SNZ. Gavin Houghton (SUP) asked what provisions SNZ had if the event went ahead but the money wasn't paid. Chris noted that discussions with Greg confirmed that the licence fee was in place and there was no reason to suggest otherwise.

There was a request from the floor for an update of accounts for the past nine months. Matt Sale spoke to this, noting a surplus of \$75,000 at the end of the 2017 financial year. He added pressure on finances in the last financial year had proved "challenging" as Surfing NZ had "lost touch" with some funding providers of the past and that we "ate into some cash". This had made for cutting our cloth more tightly and reiterated that this was the reason a new CE was not appointed.

Matt explained finances were "tight" and cash flow "a bit lumpy". A deficit of \$11,000 was anticipated for the end of this financial year and that we had a "hole" around July and August that needed filling.

John Wilson (Whangamata) warned directors of their own personal responsibility for losses and said that while chasing gaming funding is not ideal, it was obvious the organisation needed to do that.

Matt confirmed line-by-line financial reporting was needed and being put in place and confirmed the liability issue. He added the organisation had faced challenges in the way financial reporting was being done but the addition of chartered accountant Mark Pevats to the Board and a switch to Xero accounting software had helped considerably. In response to a question from the floor, he added Surfing NZ was open to a new supplier for accounting services.

Resolution: That the audited annual financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2018 be accepted. **Moved:** Michael Gray **Seconded:** Phil Wallis

Strategic Plan

Trevor McKewen spoke to the proposed strategic plan, noting Surfing NZ had particularly unique funding opportunities in the area of environment and wellbeing. This had helped shape the three pillars of Environment, Participation and High Performance within the Strategic Plan which the Board is currently considering.

The Plan will have deliverables and KPIs added once Board feedback is completed and will then be distributed to clubs and placed online.

Elections:

Surfing New Zealand Board (Only authorised representatives of 2018 affiliated clubs that are incorporated were entitled to vote)

President

Nomination: Chris Fougere

Moved: Lion Rock Boardriders

Outcome: Chris Fougere was elected unopposed.

Vice President

Nomination: Matt Sale

Moved: Lion Rock Boardriders

Outcome: Matt Sale was elected unopposed.

North Island Rep

Nomination: Andrew Vette

Moved: Gisborne Boardriders

Vote: 11

Nomination: Phil Wallis

Moved: Lion Rock Boardriders

Vote: 2

Two clubs abstained from voting.

Andrew Vette was appointed North Island Representative for a two year term.

Andrew Vette and Phil Wallis made brief presentations to the floor and fielded questions.

Before voting took place, South Island Representative Russell Ritchie explained to the meeting that South Island boardrider clubs did not feel it was appropriate to vote on the North Island Rep position and advised that South Island clubs would abstain from the vote. He asked this be replicated by North Island clubs when the South Island rep was next voted for. Chris said this request should be looked at within any planned review of the Constitution.

There was a brief discussion on Gisborne's right to vote after voting authorisation paperwork was not submitted. Chris invoked his right as Chairman (Clause 12.4.4 in the Constitution) to allow Gisborne Boardriders to vote.

Board Member Representative

Nomination: Ady van der Beek

Moved: Bay Boardriders

Vote: 3

Nomination: Pauline Pullman

Moved: North Coast Boardriders

Vote: 8

Nomination: Tania Huria
Moved: North Wai Boardriders
Vote: 4

The three candidates made brief presentations before voting.

Pauline was appointed as Board Member Representative for a one year term.

Point Boardriders commended the calibre of the three contenders and urged Surfing NZ to consider working with the two failed contenders in some sort of role. This was supported by Chris and the Board who were greatly encouraged by the quality of contenders.

Remits:

Remit 1:

Point Boardriders *“Propose that SNZ run a priority system at every surfing event, both Open and Junior.”*

Discussion followed. It was resolved that Ben would look at what events priority could be applied to for next summer’s events and we would seek to provide it at as many contests as possible. The Board resolved this would be confirmed by November and would communicate a final decision in time for 2020.

The AGM unanimously agreed to this action.

Remit 2:

North Wai Boardriders *“North Island and South Island reps to the Surfing NZ Board be elected on alternate years to the President, Vice President and Independent Board member.”*

This remit was spoken to by Russell Ritchie who said it was required to prevent the potential loss of a huge amount of intellectual knowledge if the Board shed too many incumbents at the same time. It was agreed this would be looked at under an anticipated constitutional review to be dealt with under general business.

The AGM unanimously agreed to this action.

General Business:

National Championships

There was a brief discussion on next year’s National Championships being held in Dunedin. Chris indicated the board was supportive of a regional cycle based on four areas of Piha, Taranaki, Gisborne and the South Island.

Lion Rock noted they were keen to host the 2021 National Championships at Piha.

Constitution

Surfing Taranaki put to SNZ that it “should undertake a review of its constitution”. This was supported by Whangamata Boardriders who wrote “that Surfing NZ’s constitution be reviewed as it does not accurately and proportionately represent NZ surfing regions on the Board, women on the board, associated sports on the board and one vote per affiliated clubs

at the AGM or SGM.”

The remit was briefly spoken to by Craig Williamson. He said a review of the constitution was overdue and should be board-led with a small committee appointed to the task which should also include advice and support from Sport NZ.

The AGM unanimously agreed to this action.

Funding

Fiona Hareb (Oakura) said she would like to see increased funding for the ISA junior team which Chris acknowledged he would also support. She also raised the issue of selection criteria for NZ teams. The latter issue falls into work a sub-committee is looking at.

Phil Wallis (Lion Rock) suggested the organisation adopt a sponsorship template.

Sustainability

Wini Paul (Ocean Beach) urged the board to tell a stronger sustainability and diversity story and Nick Cowan replied the website needed to be audited to ensure it was communicating this.

Board Representation

Gavin Houghton (NZ SUP) spoke to his organisation's right for a representative on the SNZ Board. SUP had written to SNZ requesting this and while yet to receive a written reply, said he had been told the Board was not supportive.

He urged the board to revisit this view, pointing to the participation numbers SUP boosted and its commitment to the Environment and other causes. He felt funding opportunities could be achieved through SUP while also pointed out that podium finishes at major ISA events illustrated the sport also had elite athletes.

Chris noted a sub-committee would look at SUP's request and reply.

The meeting closed at 2.21pm with the president thanking all those present for their attendance and input.