



new horizons

TASMANIA

2019/2020
AGM Report

New Horizons Tasmania
Annual General Meeting Minutes – 18th November 2019

Meeting Opened: at 7.08 pm

Present: Maureen Roberts, June Cox, Tess Rae, Peter Rae, Olwyn Nilon, Justin Nilon, Edwina Dick, Melody West, Andrew McCarthy, Justin Marshall, Lorna Wilson, Scott Schilg, Phil Moir, Penny Nicholls Alan Dengate, Leanne Arnott, Ruth Symons, Saskia Van Heek, Carolina Ascui, Mel Phillips

Apologies: Belinda Kitto, Bowen Family, Chris Symons

Andrew McCarthy thanked all those present for attending.

Previous Minutes: Minutes of previous AGM as true and correct record.

Moved: Olwyn Nilon

Seconded: Ruth Symons

Carried

Business arising from previous meeting

Nil.

Chairperson Report: -as tabled and presented by Andrew McCarthy

Accepted by Meeting:

Moved: Maureen Roberts

Seconded: Scott Schilg

Carried

Manager's Report (Southern report also provided): - as tabled and presented by Edwina Dick

Accepted by Meeting:

Moved: Edwina Dick

Seconded: Saskia Van Heek

Carried

Financial Report: - as tabled and presented by Justin Marshall

Accepted by Meeting:

Moved: Justin Marshall

Seconded: Alan Dengate

Carried

Nomination of Auditor:

A motion was tabled to appoint *Synectic* as the Auditor for the 2019/2020 financial year

Moved: Justin Marshall

Seconded: Leanne Arnott

Carried

Election of Office Bearers:

The following Board Members were confirmed for a further two-year term, i.e. until AGM 2021

Leanne Arnott

Andrew McCarthy

Lorna Wilson

Penny Nicholls

Confirmation of following Board members for completion of existing terms, i.e. to be reconfirmed at AGM 2020.

Scott Schilg
Phil Moir
Melody West
Justin Marshall

Penny Nicholls and Alan Dengate are nominated as the appointed directors to the Board.

MOTION: That the nominations be approved

Moved: Olwyn Nilon Seconded: Justin Marshall Carried

Public Officer

Motion: That the Public Officer role is incorporated into the Acting CEO position

Moved: Tess Rae Seconded: Scott Schilg Carried

Nomination of Patrons:

Motion: That Peter Rae, Tess Rae and Jim Wilkinson be appointed again as Patrons

Moved: Andrew McCarthy Seconded: Olwyn Nilon Carried

General Business:

Constitution Changes

This is still being finalised and will be done as a Special General Meeting.

Meeting closed: at 7:37pm



2020 has certainly been a year like no other and quite possibly one of the most challenging in New Horizons history. The current funding challenges combined with the impacts of COVID 19 have made it a difficult year for our staff, volunteers, board and most importantly our members. In true New Horizons spirit we have faced these challenges and pivoted to keep our members connected to each other and the Club through online catch ups, social media groups and check in phone calls. Our staff also adapted to working from home very quickly ensuring our business continuity. It is a real joy that in term 3 our programs recommenced, and our members are back together doing what they love. Ensuring New Horizons has all of the COVID safe procedures and practices in place has also been a huge undertaking and I thank the entire team for their care and creativity in ensuring all of our members safety.

During the year the Board have maintained their momentum, increasing our meetings to monthly to ensure that New Horizons remains a member focused organisation. Navigating the funding opportunities of the NDIS has been a key priority and the board commissioned a consultant to explore these opportunities and provide recommendations. These recommendations are now being worked through by the board to form part of the operating plan in 2021.

This year we welcomed new Board member Alan Dengate, a long-time member, mentor and athlete at New Horizons. Alan brings with him not only vital lived experience, but also several years of board experience from working with the Mowbray cricket Club. He and Lorna Wilson will be working on creating a members committee, the purpose of which is to increase the members voice in the decision-making process of the organisation.

A substantial piece of work by board members Penny Nicholls and Phil Moir has been the formalisation of the Governance Committee. The purpose of the Governance Committee is to ensure that the Board fulfills its legal, ethical and functional responsibilities through governance policy development, recruitment and selection of the board members, education of board members and board evaluation. It is essential to ensure we have an effective board that will guide New Horizons through this funding uncertainty and lead the organisation to grow and prosper. Terms of Reference have been developed for this committee, Penny and Andrew McCarthy have both nominated to join this subcommittee and we are now recruiting for an external member with strong governance expertise.

Board member Phil Moir along with the New Horizons staff have also worked closely with a Work Health and Safety consultant to implement a Work Health and Safety Management System. This has also been implemented and whilst New Horizons has always prioritised the health and safety of its members, staff and volunteers, this system has added another layer of certainty for the organisation and its members.

A significant thank you to our Treasurer Justin Marshall and Secretary Scott Schilg who provide our financial and meeting reporting. Their expertise and skill set are an important asset to New Horizons. Can I also thank outgoing board member Melody West for her service to New Horizons over the past 4 years. Melody has been a wonderful contributor on our board – her positive approach which is strength-based and focused on building capacity has been impactful as we have navigated the NDIS environment.

On behalf of the board, I would also like to thank the New Horizons staff for their dedication and above and beyond approach. Working at any not for profit is always personally fulfilling but it also comes with significant commitment – the saying “on the smell of an oily rag” comes to mind. Our core team of Belinda, Edwina, Ruth, Saskia and Stuart have worked tirelessly for this organisations over the past 12 months. Even in this stressful environment of no secured funding they have kept looking forward and focused on the core purpose of New Horizons.

Finally, can I also congratulate all of our members on their achievements during the year. It has been a difficult time and many have missed incredible experiences due to COVID but it has been wonderful to see many showing leadership in keeping morale up and the group connected. I am hopeful that 2021 will bring certainty for New Horizons and it will continue to grow and make a difference in our members lives because they certainly make a difference in ours.

Leanne Arnott.

Chair

9/11/2020

New Horizons Tasmania -CEO's Report 2019- 2020

New Horizons Tasmania (NHT), like our peers the world over, looks back on 2020 through the all-encompassing lens of Covid.

The second half of 2019 was filled with fantastic activities, including a mega fundraising effort, with our spectacular Gala '007 Bond Ball' —a real highlight— but for obvious reasons, I will focus on the what was to come.

From the unknowns at the beginning of the March 2020 shutdown, to re-launching our programs in July, and now preparing for the re-opening of our state borders; the pandemic brought about new ways of working as well as a huge appreciation for all that we usually take for granted. Our members are in many cases health-compromised, so here, at the end of this very unusual year, we are grateful that our NHT family remain in good health.

Covid brought with it a reminder of the importance of sport and recreation in our lives as a driver for increasing and maintaining physical and mental health, as well as playing an irreplaceable role in inspiring vital human connection.

The people we work with and represent are far more isolated (in all ways) than most of the population, so it was critical to establish new online programs and maintain other methods of contact with our group for the duration of the Tasmanian shutdown. Re-starting our programs encompassing covid-safe protocols provided a new challenge, however these are now engrained and NHT feels ready to support our members to safely remain active in to the future.

Even more challenging than Covid (from an organisational perspective) for NHT have been our on-going funding challenges. In February this year we received the disappointing news that once again we had been unsuccessful in our attempts to secure NDIS ILC funding. Many hundreds of hours have gone in to our preparation for these grants over three years, and for our staff and board, I confess that this was a major blow. We received immense public and media support, which was indeed uplifting. We certainly appreciated the support given in response by the Tasmanian government in the form of some one-off funding to investigate the possibility of aligning our programs with the NDIS (so, charging participants through their NDIS plans).

For an organisation with the equivalent of just 3.3 full-time staff state-wide, it's a delicate balance to keep a strong focus on growing dynamic, quality programs, with the necessary dive into such resource-heavy organisational change. Funding it seems, will remain a significant stress for the time-being, As always though, NHT will continue to power through the challenge.

This brings me to our reason for being— providing life-affirming, vital, inclusive sport and recreation! Despite a rather significant break, and the cancellation of many activities and carnivals, there was still great activity in 2020.

On the sport front, in January NHT partnered with Tennis Tasmania and the Launceston International, and were represented by a group of our athletes working as volunteers at this tournament with a growing national profile. Working in an operational capacity and learning more about the staging of events (whilst being fantastic ambassadors for NHT and sport inclusion as a whole) was a terrific experience, and has also strengthened our bonds with Tennis Tasmania,

NHT were proud to again work with Cricket Tasmania to send a team to represent Tasmania at the National Inclusion Cricket Carnival in Geelong in January. Cricket Australia deserve congratulations for this incredible initiative, which offers all players so much more than just a week of great sporting competition.

In February we were thrilled to continue the interstate cricket, welcoming a visiting team from Victoria for a weekend of sport and socialising in Launceston in February, centred around our wonderful Awards Night.

Several weeks after this visit, our world changed. While adapting to online programs and closing the office for ten weeks, NHT staff immersed themselves in the transition from an inefficient, ageing database, to the use of Salesforce (a CRM system commissioned with the financial backing of the Tasmanian Government). The organisation was also able to complete a thorough WHS review with expert assistance and has since trained all staff and volunteers in new protocols, as well as conducted new venue assessments.

So— what of post-shutdown for NHT? Launceston remains as the NHT headquarters, with 12-15 weekly programs currently back up and running. Our growing Hobart operation is now almost 3 years old, and we are so grateful to the Commonwealth Bank, whose community grant made the establishment of this possible. Our Scottsdale group meet weekly in the North East for mixed sporting activity. Our North-West group have continued to meet for monthly dinners, and soon we will start recruiting for a new leader, with the impending retirement of super-star, Lyndall Hall.

At our essence, NHT are facilitators, supported by an inimitable group of volunteers and partner organisations, clubs and businesses (far too many to list here) to make all of our activities a reality. It is an immense privilege, and we remain determined to be a key influencer in building truly inclusive communities right across the state, through working to ensure that equitable opportunities in sport and recreation are available for all.

Despite the uncertainty that surrounds us, I know that this incredible organisation and our members will continue to thrive— for the people entrusted with ensuring the future of New Horizons will accept nothing less.

Edwina

New Horizons - Southern Sport & Recreation Report 2019-2020

Stuart Schultz (Southern Co-ordinator)

2019-20 for New Horizons Tasmania (NHT) in the South (much like the whole organisation) is a tale of two halves.

July 2019 saw 5 Southern members selected for the state AFL inclusion team, representing Tasmania in Sydney – and 2 of these athletes (Craig Blaschke and Dylan Pace) selected in the All Australian team.

In late July, we held a Sports Day in conjunction with TasTAFE with 23 students and teachers involved in a range of activities. It was great meeting new people, with a number of them subsequently joining our expanding southern group and activities

From July-December 2019, our Southern Wednesday sessions offered fun and varied activities - engaged in a range of different sports each week including basketball, soccer, tennis, cricket, table tennis, badminton, tenpin bowling, lawn bowls, mini golf, self-defence and even some hip-hop dance! We'd like to express our heartfelt thanks to Rebecca and the team at Convict City Rollers, who again leant us their premises in North Hobart for these activities, extending right through the financial year.

In September, we were in full swing with the cricket program with 11 players training each week on Monday nights. We are lucky to have a great partnership with North Hobart Cricket who have provided their indoor training facility free of charge for us to train and club members helping facilitate some varied skill development sessions. These sessions uncovered some new talent who were on show at the first North v South cricket match which was held on Sunday 3rd November at the Trevallyn Cricket Club. This great day was supported by both Tas Tavs and the host club, who gave us full use of their facility.

A squad of 13 and 2 emergencies was named for the National Cricket Inclusion Championships (NCIC) in Geelong in January 2020. With a great cross-section of state talent and a number of new players (including 3 new players from the South), our team outperformed all expectations to elevate their standings as now a legitimate threat in a National competition – unbelievable since our first team's trip three seasons ago. I was proud of our team's efforts off the field too with all players behaving, respecting one another and enjoying each other's company.

We re-booted our Wednesday club program on the 17th February with nearly 100% of last year's participants coming back for hopefully another year of fun and activities together.

Unfortunately, a global pandemic put a spanner in the works from March-July 2020! Whilst I had some personal leave during April, I returned in a work-from-home capacity in early May and was re-deployed to focus on some other areas of the organisation whilst our sporting programs were on hold. This period gave us all a lot of perspective and thinking outside of the box on how we can still stay in contact with our valued members and their families as well as having a chance to take stock and plan for what our programs will look like once restrictions are fully lifted.

One of my big wins during this period was the weekly Zoom sessions. Each Wednesday, members from state-wide logged in to some refreshing and engaging conversations. It was enjoyable getting to know more about some familiar faces but also meeting new members. In the climate at the time, it was even more imperative that we use social connection to improve/maintain mental health and the mental health component was a focus of mine in each session.

I have received some really encouraging feedback from a number of the attendees to the sessions; including how one parent has seen her son become more verbal – 'he is enjoying it each week and is talking and

answering you which is a big milestone!'. The Zoom sessions are a great way for members state-wide to meet and stay in touch we are considering having this component continue.

Overall, it was an interesting 2019-20 period. Since re-commencing post Covid restrictions, we have expanded and broadened the amount of Southern programs on offer. These include a stand-alone Basketball program, Gymnastics, an extra Multi-sport program (day timeslot), Southern AFL training session and a Lawn bowls program.

Personally and on behalf of New Horizons, I'd like to thank AFL Tasmania for supporting us with providing me office space for the past 2 ½ years — it has been fantastic to be based with such an inclusive team at Blundstone arena. The time is right to now find a base where we can welcome members to 'drop in', but we look forward to continuing our fantastic relationship with AFL Tas for many years to come.

Stuart Schultz

2019/2020 Sport & Recreation Programs

Activity	Coach	Primary Volunteer	Venue
North			
AFL	Darrin Geard	Sue Bowen	NTCA Ground
Basketball	Dominique Vittori		Newstead College Gym
Boccia	Ro Blaney	Saskia van Heek	Max Fry Hall, Trevallyn
Cricket	Liam Devlin	Sue Bowen	NTCA ground
Golf	Greg Bowen and Andy Barnes		Launceston Country Club
Gym/fitness	MyGym instructor	Brian Abey	MyGym
Rebound Therapy	PCYC instructor	Sharon Peck	PCYC
Soccer/futsal	Sam Moore	Ruth Symons	Newstead College Gym
Social Bowls	Reg & Joy Terry	Maureen Roberts	NHT activity room
Swimming – lanes	Maggie Squires / Paul Hinds	Donna Furfaro	Launceston Aquatic Centre
Swimming – program pool	Maggie Squires / Paul Hinds	Donna Furfaro	Launceston Aquatic Centre
Taekwondo	Angela Coppleman	Meredith Rattray	Newstead College Gym
Tennis	Robyn Hanson	Beth Grayston	AIC Tennis Club
Craft	Ruth Symons	Kelly Binns & Maureen Roberts	NHT activity room
Junior Song & Dance	Maryann Keach	Angie Williams	NHT activity room
Senior Song & Dance	Melissa Wimmer	Phil Hebblethwaite	MelissaWimmer Studio 11 Talune St, Youngtown
Woodwork	Nick Hansson	Brian Abey	Launceston Church Grammar School
Choir (fortnightly)	Maryann Keach	Noelene Burndred	NHT activity room

Dinner Club (monthly)	Saskia van Heek		Various restaurants/pubs
Games Night	Lorna Wilson		NHT activity room
South			
Basketball	Priyanka Chadha & Phoebe Borthwick		C-block 83 Federal St North Hobart
Cricket	Stuart Schultz		North Hobart Cricket Club
Gym Ability	Hannah	Penny Nicholls	Gym Sports Kingston
Multi Sport	Stuart Schultz	Priyanka Chadha	C-block 83 Federal St North Hobart
Lawn Bowls	Stuart Schultz		North Hobart Community Bowls Club
AFL training	Stuart Schultz	Joel & Sam Berry	KGV Oval Glenorchy
All Abilities Tennis	Stuart Schultz		Domain Tennis Centre
Zoom weekly session	Stuart Schultz		Online
North East			
Sport Activities	Vicki Forsyth	Pat Young	Scottsdale Stadium
North West			
Sports Program	Lyndall Hall	NW Volunteers	Somerset Primary School & sporting clubs
Dinner Club	Lyndall Hall		Various community venues