

Yarra Riverkeeper Association Inc

Minutes of AGM 2019

17 October 2019, proceedings began 6.45pm, AGM began at 7.30pm

The Salon
The Abbotsford Convent
1 St Heliers St, Abbotsford

The Riverkeeper Andrew Kelly welcomed members and guests to the 2018 YRKA Annual General Meeting and acknowledged the Wurundjeri, the traditional owners of the land on which the meeting was held, and paid his respects to ancestors past and present.

Guest speaker

The Riverkeeper introduced Shaya Rubinstein, Head Brewer at Urban Alley Brewery, Docklands, Melbourne, see [www. https://urbanalley.com.au/](http://www.urbanalley.com.au/)

Shaya gave an engaging and fascinating talk about:

- the qualities of Melbourne's drinking water;
- how our river's water is an advantage for brewers; and
- how modern craft breweries can play a role in environmental sustainability and wastewater treatment.

His speech was warmly applauded by all present.

President to Chair the AGM

Andrew Kelly thanked the guest speaker the introduced the Chair of the YRKA Christopher Balmford to preside over the 2019 AGM. The Chair opened the formal part of the AGM at 8pm by noting that the numbers of members in attendance, together with the proxies received, added to greater than 10% of the current membership numbers and, as a result an AGM quorum under the Association Constitution (clause 36(2)) had been achieved.

Annual General Meeting

1. Welcome and acknowledgement of elders

Christopher Balmford welcomed all, acknowledged the Elders, and asked all present to sign the attendance sheet and noted the apologies and proxies.

The Chair noted that the numbers of members in attendance, together with the proxies received, added to greater than 10% of the current membership numbers and, as a result an AGM quorum under the Association Constitution (clause 36(2)) had been achieved.

2. Attendees

Tony Isaacson, Will Shelmerdine, Andrew Kelly, Ian Wong, Gillian Jervis, Nicole Kowalczyk, Kym Ortenburg, Christopher Balmford, Warwick Leeson, Janet Bolitho,

Professor John Brownbill, Tim Curmi, Cr Amanda Stone, Lincoln Kern, Jane Clark, Ron Lewis, Ian Penrose, Sue Gordon, Peter Greenberg, Anne Thorpe, John Thorpe, Phil Ukes, Paul Prentice, Ian Thomas.

3. Apologies

Maryann Ballantyne, Marie Kayak

M. Elvins, Kevin Ritchie, Margaret Sanders, Cr Misha Coleman, Douglas Yardley, Vanessa Thomas, Greg Davey

4. Proxies

Proxy for Chairperson of Meeting

Barbara Brown

Proxies for Christopher Balmford

David Redfearn, Rosalind Wallis, Gwen Stephen, Janet Taylor, Robert Zahara, Melbourne University Boat Club, Ian Thomas (a second one), Courtney Carthy, Jane Toner, Katrina Sherlock, Vivienne Halat, Jenny Rickards, Matilda Bowra, Douglas Yardley, Scott Seymour, Ruth Elizabeth Hargrove, Daniel Kelly, Eliza Kelly, Melissa Mundi, William Balmford, Grace Balmford, John Merory, April Seymour, Maudie Palmer AO, Andrew Lucas.

Proxies for Andrew Kelly

Cr Jackie Fristacky, Jennifer Garrison, Charles Hope, Healesville Environment Watch Inc

Proxy for Ian Penrose

Anne Penrose

Proxy for John Brownbill

Helen Sestero

5. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

Motion that the minutes of the 14 November 2018 Annual General Meeting be confirmed

Moved Warwick Leeson, seconded Gillian Jervis

6. President's Report:

Christopher Balmford thanked the Riverkeeper and the guest speaker then spoke to his report as set out in the Annual Report, see

<http://yarrariver.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/2019-YRKA-Annual-Report.pdf>.

He also announced that the board had nominated the Treasurer for a Certificate from the Commonwealth Bank which she was awarded. The president presented it to her.

He thanked John Gollings AO for donating his time (and photographs) to photograph the Yarra River closed catchment from a small plane. And he thanked Maudie Palmer AO for arranging Mr Gollings' contribution.

He anonymously thanked 2 donors who were both present at the meeting.

4 Riverkeeper's Report

Andrew Kelly spoke to his report, see the Annual Report at <http://yarrariver.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/2019-YRKA-Annual-Report.pdf>.

He thanked members and supporters for enabling the work which he feels privileged to undertake.

Motion that the Riverkeeper's report be received

Moved Warwick Leeson, seconded Tim Curmi

7. Treasurer's Report

Motion *That the financial statements and Treasurer's report as circulated be taken as read.*

Moved Kym Ortenburg, seconded Ian Wong

Gillian Jervis spoke to the Treasurer's report circulated with the meeting agenda papers and noted the operating profit at 30 June 2019, which was largely the result of the generous donations received during the financial year and the Grants and Sponsorships received during 2018/2019.

The Chair thanked Gillian for her tireless work as the YRKA Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

Motion: that the financial statements and Treasurer's report for the 2018/2019 financial year be approved and adopted

Moved Sally McPhee, seconded Anton Tejada

8. Appointment of auditor

Motion: that Kevin Jessop ACA be appointed auditor for the financial year 2019/2020

Moved Nikki Kowalczyk, seconded Tony Isaacson

9. Special Resolution - Changes to Clause 12 of the YRKA Constitution

The Chair explained the reasons (as set out in the Notice of Meeting) behind the recommended changes to the Constitution. The changes are 2 new objectives to be added to the Association's Objectives in clause 2 (c) of the Association's constitution, namely:

- "to work towards, and support, the creation of other waterkeeper organisations"; and
- "to contribute to the rehabilitation of waterways and to water policy development that is consistent with the Association's vision".

The new objectives would be inserted before the existing final objective, so that they became the second and third last in the list — see the mark-ups in the attached copy of the Constitution marked "2019 YRKA AGM proposed changes to Constitution marked-up".

Discussion The President reported that Maria Kayak, Honorary Member, had emailed the Riverkeeper to say she was concerned about the word “work” in the first proposed new objective. She thought it should be omitted on the grounds that such work:

- on waterways that *were not* tributaries of the Yarra might distract the YRKA from its work for the Yarra; and
- on waterways that *were* tributaries of the Yarra was already allowed under the first objective in the existing Constitution which reads “to be an effective, independent public advocate for the Yarra River and its tributaries”.

The President responded that the board felt that sometimes this sort of work might indeed be needed. And that to say it was being done under the objective relating to “tributaries” might alienate people – particularly anyone interested in contributing to work the YRKA might do for the Maribyrnong River, given their likely sense that the Yarra was a tributary to it.

The President invited further discussion, there was none. So the motion as included in the agenda was put to the meeting.

Motion: To change the Constitution of Yarra Riverkeeper Association Incorporated in the way marked-up in the attached copy of the Constitution marked “2019 AGM proposed changes marked-up”.

Moved Warwick Leeson, seconded Andrew Kelly

10. Election of committee members

According to clause 52 of the Constitution all positions on the YRKA Board were declared vacant. The Chair noted that, since the number of members standing for election was less than number of positions on the Committee, all those duly nominated were declared elected (under clause 53(2) and 54(2)).

- Andrew Kelly, Riverkeeper and Vice President
- Christopher Balmford, President
- Gillian Jervis, Treasurer
- Christopher Balmford, Secretary
- Ian Wong (though, on leave from the board)
- Warwick Leeson
- Janet Bolitho
- Sally McPhee

11. Thanks

The Chair thanked everyone for attending. In particular, he thanked:

- Skye Blackshaw, for the cakes and biscuits she makes for each board and committee meeting. He asked the Treasurer to pass on those thanks to Ms Blackshaw;
- Ian Wong for his outstanding work as Executive Officer, which has helped the Association position itself for the next stage of its growth; and
- the Yarra Riverkeeper, Andrew Kelly, for his ongoing outstanding efforts on behalf of the river and the Association.

To close the meeting, the President recounted how the Commissioner for Sustainability had stepped up to accept an Award on behalf of the Association at an event at which no-one from the Association was present.

The president closed the meeting at 8.30pm

Signed **Christopher Balmford YRKA Chair**