



**AUSTRALIAN SURF ROWERS LEAGUE INC.**

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020 - AGENDA**

**Venue: 51 Industry Place, Wynnum, Qld 4178**

**BACKGROUND**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the 2020 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be a virtual/hybrid meeting. Only the President, Michael Brooks, Treasurer, Don Alexander and Vice President, Edwina Wright will be at the meeting venue. All current Financial Members, Life Members and Hall of Fame Members will be provided with a link to enter the meeting, which will be live streamed on Zoom. We do have five constitutional changes that require a vote and one nomination for Life Membership. The constitutional changes will be put on the ASRL Web Site to allow any discussion that members may require prior to voting. Voting will open for these at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 10 June and close at the conclusion of discussion of these items on Saturday, 27 June. All members will receive an email providing a unique link for access to the vote, controlled by our webmaster Perry Brennan. Members will be asked for a simple yes or no. Constitutional changes require a 75% acceptance and the Life Membership requires a simple majority.

**BUSINESS**

10:00 am: President to open the meeting

Attendance book and apologies

1. To submit the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting for approval
2. To deal with business arising out of the 2019 minutes
3. To deal with any relevant correspondence
4. Presentation of 2020 Annual Report
5. Treasurer's Report and presentation of the Audited Financial Statement
6. Election of Office Bearers for the 2020-21 Season.

The following committee members have one more year of their term of office remaining:

President – Michael Brooks

Secretary – Natasha Tunney

Vice President – Don Cotterill





Vice President – Grant Wilkinson

Vice President – Geoff Wilson

No nomination has been received for the position Treasurer.

Only one nomination received for each Vice-President position, ratification required for:

Vice President – Edwina Wright

Vice-President – Rod Costa

Vice-President – Nic Sampson

7. Each of five Constitutional changes are to be voted on as a Special Resolution and each will only be passed if at least 75% of those Members vote in support of each Special Resolution. Voting will open for these at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 10 June and close at the conclusion of this discussion on Saturday, 27 June. The Five Constitutional Changes have been nominated by Don Alexander and seconded by Bert Hunt

**Delete All  
Background**

**It is important that the correct checks and balances are in place before any vote is taken on something as important as installing a new Life Member. Life Membership shouldn't be about a popularity vote but a reward for past service so passing each nomination through the ASRL Committee allows for the necessary checking prior to a vote.**

**5.2 Life Members**

- (a) The Board may recommend to the annual general meeting that any natural person who has rendered distinguished service to the Association and surf rowing, where such service is deemed to have assisted the advancement of the Association and surf rowing be appointed as a Life Member
- (b) A resolution of the annual general meeting to confer life membership (subject to clause 5.2(c)) on the recommendation of the Committee must be a Special Resolution.
- (c) A person must accept or reject the Associations' resolution to confer life membership in writing. Upon written acceptance, the person's details shall be entered upon the Register, and from the time of entry on the Register the person shall be a Life Member.



**Replace with**

**5.2 Life Members**

Any person nominated for Life Membership of the ASRL will be subject to the following:

- (a) The nomination must be submitted in writing by a nominator and seconder to the Secretary of the ASRL by the First day of April each year.
- (b) The nominator and seconder must be financial or long-standing past members of the ASRL.
- (c) The nominated person must have held membership of the ASRL and can be a present or past member.
- (d) The nomination must include full details of the nominee's history in support of the nomination. The nominated person should have rendered distinguished service to the Australian Surf Rowers League and surfboat rowing in general, where such service is deemed to have assisted the advancement of the Association and surfboat rowing.
- (e) The ASRL Committee will consider each nomination by checking on information provided against any criteria that exists from time to time.
- (f) The ASRL Committee must have met to either support the nomination going forward or reject the nomination by the date set out in the Constitution for the posting of a Notice of Motion for the AGM or SGM.
- (g) If the nomination is supported by the ASRL Committee it will be included in the business of the next AGM or SGM.
- (h) A resolution of the AGM to confer life membership on the recommendation of the Committee must be a Special Resolution.
- (i) In special circumstances the ASRL Committee retains the right to fully approve the award of Life Member outside the timelines and notification above. In this instance the membership at the next AGM would be asked to approve the actions of the committee.
- (j) Decisions of the ASRL Committee will be final and may be kept confidential.
- (k) A person must accept or reject the Association's resolution to confer life membership. Upon acceptance, the person's details shall be entered upon the Register, and from the time of entry on the Register the person shall be a Life Member.

**Delete All**

**Background**

**This Clause was included when we adopted the new Constitution 23 July 2016 to cover Board members with terms over two years. It only applied once.**

**12. EXISTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

The Committee Members in office immediately prior to approval of this Constitution under the Act shall continue in those positions until the next annual general meeting following such





adoption of this Constitution. After this General Meeting the positions of Committee Members shall be filled, vacated and otherwise dealt with in accordance with this Constitution.

**Add in Red  
Background**

**The additional words to 20 (a) are to allow future Annual General Meetings to be held virtually and/or hybrid**

**20. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

- (a) The Association's AGM shall be held in accordance with the Act and this Constitution. It should be held on a date and at a venue determined by the Committee **and may be a Virtual and/or Hybrid Meeting.**
- (b) Meetings and shall be held in accordance with this Constitution.
- (c) At least fifty-six (56) days' notice of an Annual General Meeting shall be given to those Members entitled to receive notice.
- (d) The below documents will be provided at least twenty-one (21) days prior to the Annual General Meeting:
  - i) the agenda for the meeting;
  - ii) Nominations for committee positions;
  - iii) any notice of motion received from Members entitled to vote; and
  - iv) forms of authority in blank for proxy voting.

**Delete Clause 33 (b)  
Background**

**Another clause that has been there forever, has never been used and suggests that one class of member has rights over other members.**

**33. ALTERATION OF CONSTITUTION**

- (a) This Constitution shall not be altered except by Special Resolution.





- (b) An amendment which affects the special rights of any particular class of Members must be approved by a majority of Members of that class present at a meeting, and need not be approved by any other class. Provided that the foregoing shall not apply to these classes of Members who have no special rights under this Constitution and hence there shall be no necessity to obtain majority approval from them on any issue unless the resolution purports to impose additional obligations on them, other than any increased annual subscription

8 We have one nomination for Life Membership, Stephen Gray. Voting will open for this nomination at 10.00 am on Wednesday, 10 June and close at the conclusion of this discussion on Saturday, 27 June

**ASRL LIFE MEMBERSHIP NOMINATION 2020: Stephen Bruce Gray**

I'm proud to nominate Stephen Bruce Gray for Life Membership of the Australian Surf Rowers League. This nomination is seconded by Mr Bert Hunt and the following is offered in support.

Fulfilling an early life ambition, Steve joined Clifton Surf Life Saving Club at 17 years of age in 1967. He was a perfect fit for Club life and this was the start of a star-studded career in surf lifesaving with a particular emphasis on surf boats, which saw him reach the highest of levels. He gained universal respect for his dedicated involvement which had an outstanding influence on the administration and competition of surf boats in Australia. There was a particular interest generated on surf boats in Tasmania where he was the State's inaugural ASRL President for six years from 2009 to 2014. During this time, he was particularly influential in establishing a firm base for the ASRL both within Tasmania and also in representing the State at National level.

A list of his achievements and awards is included as an attachment to this nomination.

Steve's capabilities and reputation became widely known and was no doubt enhanced by his taking up of carnival announcing duties quite early in his career. This was a result of an accidental act of volunteering his services which was typical of Steve's "ready to help" nature. This pleasant nature and overall knowledge had given him the attributes of an "announcing natural." He grew with it until he became one of Australia's longest serving and best beach Announcers. His forte of course was surf boats.

I first met Steve and worked with him at the Aussies at Moana in 1986. He had become a part of the National Announcing Team and was paired with me to work the surf boats. I could not believe my luck – he was an absolute joy to work with and he remained a member of the Aussies Team for 33 years. And so, commenced what has been acknowledged as the longest serving announcing duo in surf life saving's modern era.

Announcing gives you a lot of exposure and has a lot of hidden demands. These include not only speaking with credibility to the masses but speaking to and about dignitaries and current and prospective sponsors of Australia's wonderful sport of surf boat racing. This is in addition to the





basics of knowing the rules of boat racing, details of the history of previous performances of clubs, crews, and individual crew members. There is much more to announcing than simply race calling. From time to time announcers are obliged to deal with a wide range of carnival officials and other services. These include Referees, Sectional Referees, Chief Judges, Marshalls, Recorders, Support Services and Emergency Personnel, and also Coordinators. Accordingly, they must have acute knowledge of organisational and functional structures of the workings of boat carnivals. Steve could always be relied upon to provide correct assistance when a request was made. His interpersonal skills are excellent.

Many hours of research can be justified before major and also minor carnivals. Steve's energetic preparations always made for good listening. His voice was always at a pleasant pitch and understandable with well mannered, sensitive content even in an exciting boat race finish. His unselfish ability to combine with others was always at the highest order and was well appreciated by fellow Announcers and listeners. He was particularly active during National Boat Series Events like the Breakfast Cereal Series during which he undertook announcing at each State and for each of Tasmania's annual Navy Series of events, over a period of several years. This series is Australia's prime surf boat series which is still current in partnership with the ASRL in all States. The ASRL open carnivals commenced in the late 90s with the first commentary team provided at Dee Why 1998. Steve became involved in these annual events at Fingal Bay in 2001. As a highlight, his excellent call of the open final at Broulee Surfers 2009 won by Jan Juc is always remembered. He participated continuously until 2013 at the Stockton ASRL Open where he suffered a severe aneurysm of his aorta while actually announcing on the Saturday. This nearly took him from us and required open heart bypass surgery. He survived some intricate procedures and two prolonged periods in hospital.

He retained a desire to return to announcing and was able to participate for a lighter period of duties at Shell Harbour 2014. He continued in this mode until Elouera 2018 when it became obvious that his health could be irreparably damaged should he continue in the demands of an Announcing role. He still attends all ASRL events in Tasmania and also major events in other States. These majors included the most recent Open's at Elouera and Mollymook. In total he has participated in 18 annual ASRL Open Carnivals.

Steve is generally credited with giving the ASRL in Tasmania the impetus and drive to become a force to be reckoned with during the six years of his foundation Presidency. His participation also lifted the standard of ASRL announcing. There was particular interest generated in the administration and competition disciplines in Tasmania during Steve's involvement. This included the authorisation and commencement of the enormously popular female surf boat racing.

His greatest asset however is that he is a quality human being who has been a credit to the ASRL since joining some twenty odd years ago. Bert and I feel he is well deserving of the Life Membership accolade.

Moved Alan Griffiths, Seconder Bert Hunt





9. Advice from Hall of Fame Committee of two new inductees to the Hall of Fame.  
Election of Hall of Fame Committee (4 required from existing Hall of Fame Members plus President).

**Meeting closed.**

### **ROWERS' FORUM**

The AGM and Rowers' Forum will be live streamed on Zoom so Members will be able to access the AGM and the Rowers' Forum.

Natasha Tunney  
Hon Secretary  
ASRL

