



AUSTRALIAN ANGLERS ASSOCIATION (WA Division) Inc

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Minutes of Annual General Meeting 16 August, 2005 at WA Sportmans Association, Stancliffe Street, Mt Lawley WA.

The meeting was opened at 8:40 pm at the conclusion of the August Delegates' meeting. Outgoing President George Holman took the Chair.

Present:	George Holman	President	Terry Fuller	Surf Casting and Angling Club
	Jim Strong	Denmark Angling Club	Nick Allsworth	Northern Districts AC
	Don Cox	Melville Amateur AC	Stuart Hyde	Fremantle Amateur AC
	Joe Horvath	OSAC Beach		
	Wilf Core	Melville Amateur AC	Peter Barbascas	Lancelin Angling Club
	Kevin Hughes	Bunbury Angling Club	Pat Shinnick	Visitor (Lancelin Angling Club)
	Russell Bunce	Fremantle Amateur AC	Trevor Stam	Visitor (Surf Casting & Angling)

Apologies:

Rick Cameron, Chas Riegert, Adam Eastman, Martin Humbert.

Notification of Proxies:

None.

Visitor:

Pat Shinnick, Trevor Stam.

Minutes of previous AGM

Copies of the minutes of previous AGM held 24 August 2004 were given out to all Delegates. **Moved** Jim Strong, seconded Don Cox, the minutes are a correct record of the meeting, carried.

Business Arising from minutes.

None.

President's Report 2004/5.

Outgoing President George Holman gave his report as follows:-

This is my third President's report and at this point I wish to state it is my final one, as after three years it is time for a change. I have done as much as I can over the last three years, and it is time for fresh blood at the helm.

The last year has been a torrid one for me. About this time last year I was in hospital for seven weeks with a very serious infection in my knee, which kept me on the strongest possible antibiotics for a very long time. As a result my health and fitness suffered badly, and I was unable to work for quite some time. Many things I would have liked to have done simply could not be done, and it took me a long time to catch up with personal, work and volunteer activities such as Association work.

The program for this last year was to sort out State and National Records and promote State events.

The role of the National Records Authority needed to be clarified as some people believed they were an autonomous body and answerable only to the National President. At each convention since 1985 this State has been given the job of National records, and Richard Siudak and his team have been keeping the records and doing a good job. They are not autonomous but are acting on this State's AAA's behalf. This was clarified to me by the National President, John Cronin and he pointed out that our AAA Delegates Council is responsible and the AAA President is the first contact. We subsequently had a very positive meeting with the Records Authority group and sorted out a program of working together to promote records across the board.

We have since put all the fishing and drycasting records on our AAAWA web site, made a new records form to cater for State and National records and sent both lists and forms to local tackle shops and to other States. We look forward to this positive approach of cooperation and promotion.

State events took up a lot of our time and the first was a dry casting in October 2004. The involvement from the majority of clubs is not forthcoming even though the Surfcasters make their casting day available to any other club or members for participation and tutoring. Numbers were a bit light as a

result but the quality of the casting was excellent. I ask you all to make an effort for the forthcoming State events on 30 October this year and let us see more clubs and members involved.

Kevin Hughes has been the driver on the State Estuary, Rock and Beach group and with a small band of workers has conducted meetings to both sort out rules and regulations and organise both events. They prepared a promotional booklet which I thought was a very positive step and well received.

Both events, the Estuary on the Swan River and the Rock and Beach Cape to Cape, ran smoothly. The attendance could have been better as a reward for the organising committee's effort. Again, clubs need to get behind these events as this is a sure way of acknowledging the efforts of the few who do all the work. Thank you to Kevin and all those who supported him.

The State Boating Championship was held from Hillarys Yacht Club in 2005 and Pat Shinnick was the captain steering the ship and had a crew who certainly showed how to organise and run this event. The large attendance and positive results showed what can be achieved by good organisation, professionalism and the support of club members. Hillarys Club facilities and cooperation certainly contributed to the success of the event, and the weather cooperated also. To Pat and his crew a big thank you from all of us for the great effort.

To all the various winners, both individual and teams, in all our State events and over all champions go congratulations from all clubs and their members.

Also a very big thank you to all our sponsors and Trophy donors for their support of all our State events and Association activities over the past 12 months. We could not function without this continuing support.

July 2005 saw our three Fishing clinics held at Hillarys Yacht Club on the first three Monday nights. We had an attendance of 120 people per night which along with the workers is as many as can be accommodated at this venue. The continuing support of Ozflex Australia and Mako Tackle as the major sponsors for these clinics, and the Hillarys Yacht Club for the venue, were major contributors to the successful events.

Our lecturers excelled themselves, in particular Paul Willis and Adam Eastman and a lot of very favorable comment was made and has continued weeks later. We also invited contributions from clubs and tackle shops to promote themselves through the handout bags we give to all participants but only a few took up the offer. Those that did are still smiling!

A special thank you to the media, Hal Harvey and Phil Stanley of the Sunday Times, Mike Roennfeldt of the West Australian, John Curtis on ABC 720 radio and to the tackle shops who displayed our posters and handouts. To Terry Fuller, our secretary, thank you for all the hours you spent preparing material and contacting people to make the event go smoothly. Thanks to Nick Allsworth for organising and helping out in particular the Mako night. To all who helped in any way to make the events successful, thank you. There were many and I do not want to forget anyone. The Association benefited as a result.

A lot of work has gone into preparing and sending a State team to Yeppoon in September this year. The support of the Minister for Sport and Recreation has helped to make this possible and as a result we have a team of 19 travelling across Australia to represent us. There is certainly a cost to these individuals but they are a committed lot and are working together to achieve on our behalf. We wish them well.

Casting is the main events they are targeting, but they will be involved in all other events where possible. It would have been nice to see a lot more involvement from fishing groups, so maybe next time!!

Over the past three years there has been a lot of time spent dealing with fisheries management and Marine Parks. A policy of working with Recfishwest and Department of Fisheries and any other group involved in fisheries management and Marine Parks in a positive manner has certainly borne fruit. We would have been a lot worse off if it was not for the work we have put in, and our Recfishwest Board Member Terry Fuller and our alternative Board Member Pat Shinnick have put in the hard yards for our benefit. Terry has worked above and beyond in looking after all our interests and to him a very special thank you.

I have watched with interest the way that Recfishwest represents us as recreational fishers, and to say they are doing a great job would be an understatement. Government is starting to recognise them in a more responsible and positive way.

I would like to thank all the delegates who have attended and contributed over the last 12 months. I must confess even though the numbers are small, all are positive in their contributions which benefits us all and has made my job easier. The Executive has worked even harder even though the numbers are spartan and to see what they have achieved on your behalf is amazing. You have all made my job easier by your positive approach.

The "hub of the wheel" has been our secretary Terry Fuller as I can assure you without his expertise and commitment and huge amount of work he has put in we would not have an Association, let alone be recognised by all we are involved with in such a positive manner.

He has helped me more than I can acknowledge and at this point I wish to say a very sincere thank you Terry for all you have done for me and the Association as secretary/treasurer.

Something that has been creeping into the meetings of late is the lack of interest by a lot of clubs, but in particular by the boating clubs as the absence of delegates and apathy towards the Association is very apparent. The comment about "what do we do for them?" is expressed frequently and when I see the work that has been done over the last few years by our Association looking after all our interests, that comment disappoints me.

It does nothing to encourage people to take on the responsibilities of looking after our interests and the clubs. We need more new blood coming forward as most present workers have been carrying the load for a long time. We need a positive approach and enthusiasm and a willingness to help one another.

The future now lies with you, the clubs and your members, to work together to look after angling Statewide in a positive way to assure our fishing activities can continue and our clubs and Association along with it.

I know stricter fisheries and environmental management and increasing fuel prices and camping restrictions make life difficult, but you have to be in there putting in in a positive manner for us to enjoy our activities into the future. The biggest benefit the Association offers is the comradery of recreational anglers, something you cannot buy.

I wish you and the Association well for the future and I will help out where I can.

2004/2005 President, George Holman.

Auditor's Report.

Treasurer Terry Fuller reminded Delegates that the AAA auditor appointed for 2004/5, Kit Mavrantonis, had resigned for personal reasons, and that the Treasurer had asked for nominations or suggestions for a replacement. No one had been suggested. Don Cox to follow up a possible suggestion from the Melville Club.

Due to the pressure of AAA activities in recent weeks, and the general difficulty of getting audit services at this busy time just after the end of the financial year, an audit of the Association's finance had not yet been done. Copies of the Treasurer's report with detailed month by month summary of Income and Expenses was given out to all Delegates present.

It was agreed the audit was not urgent and would be done when possible.

Business Arising from Auditor/Treasurer's Report.

Pat Shinnick asked if the sponsorship shown was that provided as a result of the Boating Championships. Suitable words are to be added to the item heading in the summary.

Appointment of auditor.

Not possible until a suitable person or company is suggested.

Election of Officers.

Outgoing President George Holman reminded the Delegates he will NOT be standing for President, having done three years.

He declared all positions vacant. Due to the small number of nominations and absence of nominations for a number of positions, it was agreed that a secret ballot was not necessary. Voting was by show of hands.

President.	No nomination.
Senior Vice President.	No nomination.
Junior Vice President.	Nick Allsworth, nominated by Joe Horvath, seconded by Terry Fuller and was elected.
Treasurer.	Terry Fuller, nominated by by George Holman, seconded by Nick Allsworth and was elected.
Secretary.	Terry Fuller, nominated by by George Holman, seconded by Nick Allsworth and was elected.
Publicity Officer	No nomination.
Competition Officer.	Adam Eastman, nominated by Terry Fuller seconded by George Holman and elected.
Property Officer.	No nomination.

Trophy Officer. No nomination.
Records Officer. Adam Eastman, nominated by Terry Fuller seconded by George Holman and elected.
Independent Delegate. No nomination.

Recfishwest Board Members.

Two nominations were received.

Terry Fuller, nominated by George Holman, seconded by Nick Allsworth and was elected.

Pat Shinnick, nominated by Terry Fuller seconded by George Holman. Pat nominated only for the AAA Proxy (alternative) RFW Board Member position and was elected.

Other Business for the Annual General Meeting.

There was some discussion following the lack of nominations for critical positions on the Executive.

Already too much is expected of too few people who volunteer. This cannot go on.

It would be simple, but dangerous, to wind down the activities of the Association to match the amount of volunteer time.

Terry Fuller reminded Delegates that Integrated Fisheries Management was coming up fast. Allocation of catch shares between commercial and recreational fishing, and the management changes which would have to follow if this was not correct, could have a profound effect on recreational fishing in the future.

He gave examples of the different figures used for the Western Rock Lobster catch share. These vary by a factor of three, with the higher figure being used to decide management arrangements and the lower figure now being proposed to allocate catch share. This for a fishery where the need for a license means that all participants and numbers are known.

Now as much as ever, if not more than ever, a strong Association is needed to look after the interests of Club recreational fishing.

A chairman is required for each of the sub committees running the four AAA Events.

Rock and Beach and Estuary Sub committee. Kevin Hughes will continue as chairman until the Estuary event but will then step down. He does not expect to be in Perth for much longer.

Boating Sub committee. Pat Shinnick is working on this and will advise.

Dry Casting Sub committee. To be advised.

A letter is to be sent to the clubs advising of the situation with the lack of volunteers for the Executive positions and requesting help to fill the positions.

That concluded the business of the Annual General Meeting at 9:05pm.