



## VRA Annual General Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 19 May 2016  
**Location:** Mont Albert Scout Hall, Surrey Drive Box Hill (Melway 47C11).  
**Time:** 7:30pm

**Open:** 7.42pm

### **Attendees:**

Vic Sedunary, Andrew Baker, Richard Homburg, Peter Chen, Ainsle Cummins, Don Baker, Kay Brooks, Peter Brooks, Andrew Hunter, Neil Phillips, Andrew Walker, Rod Edmonds, Di Baker, Grant Jeffrey, Daniel Percy, Tom Lothian, Tina Smith, Kate Gavens, Karen Dukes, Alicia Dymovski, Ron Fredrick, Jon Sutcliffe

### **1) Welcome (President)**

Tom welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Thank you for attending and thank you for your involvement in the VRA. Highlights from the annual report:

- Big year for the VRA participation, membership way up
- Successful year financially
- All events went well

### **2) Apologies**

Ian Herbert, Gail Davis, Nat Phillips, Jane Phillips, Greg Robinson, Karen Robinson, Merv Trease, Bev Trease, Thor Edgeton.

### **3) Minutes of Last Meeting (May 2015)**

Moved: Don Baker

Seconded Ron Fredrick

### **4) Correspondence**

Tom flagged that Radio National are doing a show on rogaining as part of their program 'Body Sphere'. This will be a nice plug going into the world rogaining championships. Radio National will be at the Creswick event to experience rogaining and are interviewing a number of VRA members.

### **5) Reports**

- a) **President- Tom Lothian**
- b) **Treasurer – Don Baker**
- c) **Competition Manager- Grant Jeffrey**
- d) **Membership – Phil Giddings**
- e) **Volunteers – Geoff Hudson**

Note all reports are included in the 2015 Annual report available separately on the website prior to the meeting.

Moved: Neil Phillips

Seconded: Ron Fredrick

## **6) Election of Office Bearers**

Tom thanked the committee for all their support and the pleasant environment of the committee.

Tom handed to Peter Chen as the returning officer.

Peter thanked the committee for their hard work. He gave a vote of thanks to all of those involved in setting events. Also to all those people who do the jobs behind the scenes.

### **a) President**

Nominations: Co-President Tom Lothian and Andrew Baker. Tom described the way a co-president would work. Essentially Tom playing a front of house role and Andrew working behind the scenes to get jobs done.

Rob Edmonds asked a question about what the challenges are for the VRA going forward. Tom outlined (1) volunteer participation, (2) over-reliance on the committee to undertake key roles. Key areas of focus – reducing equipment needs and improving the event management systems. The finances and membership are both in good order. There are opportunities for greater publicity. We are not proactively seeking this because of time constraints on the committee.

We now distribute to 3,700 people every month via email. We can keep ticking on fairly well without huge strategic intervention.

Andrew Walker asked about succession planning. Tom noted that getting people into key roles is a challenge. The strategy is that upping membership and competition numbers will assist in getting key positions filled. As well as this the use of electronic media assists in helping with volunteer numbers.

We can now start logging how many times someone has rogained in between volunteer stints and can you this data to 'soft touch' ask people to volunteer for rogaining.

The committee are trying to reduce the workload and jobs to support reduced workload.

Moved: Don Baker

Seconded: Ron Fredrick

Moved

### **b) Vice President**

Nominations: Ron Fredrick

Moved: Kate Gavens

Seconded: Rod Edmonds

Moved

### **c) Secretary**

Nominations: Alica Dymovski

Moved: Tom Lothian

Seconded: Kate Gavens

Moved

Discussion was had on how we might support Grant's transition out of Competition Manager and Phil's in if; we could reduce Phil's workload. Phil described his role. Event system support and membership issues. Phil is also webmaster and does a lot of work to keep the website up to date on next events. Phil does lots of 'bits and pieces' to keep things moving like organising schools coaches and training day coaches, the 24 hour rogaine bus.

Admin liaison, webmaster, bits and pieces support (helping with the bus, navigation training volunteer spruiking) are the three key areas.

Admin liaison role will be advertised to the general membership base.

Jon Sutcliffe is happy to do the webmaster supported by Andrew Hunter as deputy webmaster (rogaining helpdesk function).

Bits and pieces – get Andy to do the backend support for training days, schools coaching coordinator to become a role for the schools event.

'Membership secretary' – some work that has to be done to keep the membership database up to date. Access is broadly held by the committee to the database but Phil has been doing the work to keep it up to date. This will be advertised as part of the admin liaison role.

As a further aside – Tom outlined that the new requirement for school coaches will be a working with children check. He encouraged those who are thinking of being a coach to get a working with children check.

**Action** – Daniel to organise t-shirts for volunteer coaches

### **d) Non Event Treasurer**

Nominations: Don Baker

Moved: Tom Lothian

Seconded: Grant Jeffrey

Moved

**e) Competition Manager**

Nominations: Phil Giddings

Moved: Ainslie Cummins

Seconded: Kay Brooks

Moved

**f) Committee Members (4)**

Nominations: Vic Sedunary

Moved: Ron Fredrick

Seconded: Don Baker

Moved

Nominations: Andrew Hunter

Moved: Tom Lothian

Seconded: Richard Homburg

Moved

Nominations: Richard Homburg

Moved: Tom Lothian

Seconded: Daniel Percy

Moved

Nominations: Thor Edgerton

Moved: Jon Sutcliffe

Seconded: Tom Lothian

Moved

**g) Coopted Members (3)**

Nominations: Grant Jeffrey

Moved: Ron Fredrick

Seconded: Ainsle Cummins

Moved

Nominations: Jon Sutcliffe

Moved: Ron Fredrick

Seconded: Peter Brooks

Moved

Nominations: Brett Sparks

Moved: Andrew Baker

Seconded: Peter Brooks

Moved

Tom thanked Peter Chen as the returning officer.

### <Break for Pizza>

## 7) General Business

### 1) General publicity

Outlined the proposition to up publicity via advertising to the membership base a potentially paid position for a small number of hours to support publicity.

Neil and Ainslie outlined opposition to the proposal seeing at as a big step to move to paid positions.

Discussion was had on advertising publicity officer as a non paid position.

Members present discussed – do we need or want to grow?

Tom outlined that while we are not having capacity issues now, we could into the future. It is however, not something we need to worry about now.

Ainslie mentioned that tapping into the link up group might be a way to drum up support for more entries.

General consensus of members present is that we retain the volunteer approach to the publicity position.

Rod Edmonds commented that linking websites will help.

**Action:** Committee to advertise publicity and admin liaison position through mail chimp.

Andrew Hunter outlined that the key issue discussed at the committee meeting last week was how we re-engage schools which are on the decline from the schools championship event. Andrew made the comment that we should springboard off the work Geoff Hudson is doing to get schools involved in the adventure series.

Neil mentioned that the Outdoor Education group are a good option for getting schools into rogaining. Neil mentioned that they have a new rogaining coordinator.

2) Neil – how do we change the number of people volunteering/filling key committee positions?

Could we co-locate skills training, meetings on course setting etc... with the VRA committee meeting so that key upcoming volunteers are rubbing shoulders.

Neil happy to progress the idea.

Alicia as a new committee member endorsed the idea.

Ron raised the concern that we don't get the committee meeting off track – Neil committed to managing this.

Andrew Walker suggested there are more communications back from the committee through the e-news. Tom outlined that his hope is with his new role he can cover things like a one minutes you-tube presidents piece etc... All contingent on having the time.

3) World Championships

Total entrance in the low 700's. Initial concerns that the event may be financially challenging have been unfounded with these numbers. All going well. Minor hiccups are the building of a prison in the middle of the course (not complete before the event). Big thanks to Greg Robinson, Phil G and Don B for doing all the behind the scenes work.

World Champs next year in Latvia. The following two are blank.

**8) Closure of Meeting**

9.22pm

**9) Presentation – Ron Fredrick, cycling in Cuba**



