

Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting of CANOE RACING NEW ZEALAND



Date: 7.00pm Friday 11 April 2025

Venue: CRNZ HP Centre, Karapiro

1. Welcome

CRNZ Chair Greg Adlam welcomed all Life Members, Members, Club delegates, CRNZ staff and other guests. He thanked everyone for their attendance today and declared the 2025 AGM of Canoe Racing NZ Open. He then clarified the meeting procedures, speaking rights **and voting procedure**.

2. Errors

Mr Adlam advised an omission to provide a notice per 16 of the constitution and that at his discretion has determined that it is still appropriate for the meeting to proceed despite the irregularity, error or omission and presents a motion recommending to delegates

Motion: "That 2025 CRNZ AGM by Special Resolution proceed"

Moved: Mark Watson

Second: Ken Livingston

Carried: Yes

3. Roll call of delegates (to confirm quorum)

Mr Adlam introduced the Board members and staff present.

Present

CRNZ Board: Greg Adlam, Simone Spencer, Stuart Clark, Feeonaa Clifton, Garth Spencer.

CRNZ Staff: Graham Oberlin-Brown (CEO), Nathan Luce, Stacey Plowman, Danika Mowlem.

Club Delegates:

Club:	Delegate
Arawa Canoe Club	Ken Livingston
Bay of Plenty Paddlesports Inc	Chris Emmett
Eastern Bay Canoe Racing Club	Nigel Rowland
Eastside Paddlers	Dayle MacKenzie
Karapiro Kayak Racing Club	Tamara Donderwinkel
Kupe Canoe Club	Matt Flannery
Hawkes Bay Kayak Racing Club	Sam Stovell
Mana Kayak Club	Mark Watson
Marlborough Triathlon & Multisport Club	

North Shore Canoe Club	Ross Morley
Nelson Surfski Club	
Otago Kayak Racing Club	Dayle MacKenzie
Poverty Bay Kayak Club	Andy Kinsella
Southern Lakes Multisport Club	Dayle MacKenzie
Takapuna Boating Club	
Waitara Kayak Club	David Sleep
Waitemata Canoe & Multisport Club	Terry Newsome
Whanganui Multisport Club	
Wellington Kayak and Kneeboard Paddling Club	

A total of 14 clubs attended in person, this equal/exceeds the 10 clubs (50%+1 of member clubs) needed for a quorum.

Life Members present: Steve Richards, Gavin Elmiger.

4. Apologies

Anne Rodda
Darren Ward
John McDonald

5. Approval of minutes:

Mr Adlam presented the minutes from the 2024 CRNZ AGM held on Friday 19 April 2024.

Motion: "That the minutes of the 2024 CRNZ AGM as circulated be confirmed as a true and correct record of this meeting."

Moved: Ross Morley

Second: Ken Livingstone

Carried: Yes

6. 2024 Annual Report and Financial Statement

Mr Adlam asked CRNZ CEO Graham Oberlin-Brown to speak to the annual report for the year ended 31 December 2024. Mr Oberlin-Brown gave a brief account of the annual report and touched activities on the past 12 months.

It was acknowledged that it was a big year for Canoe Racing and a huge year undertaken by the staff, board and clubs as well in delivering the 2020-2028 strategy.

In acknowledging the Paris achievements, CEO invited Nathan Luce to speak. Nathan spoke to how all the sport shared in the achievements and reflected on 8 different clubs contributed to the 12 Athletes involved in the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

CEO continued, Commercial Partners who backed and invested in the sport were another key highlight noted.

Mr Adlam invited Stacey Plowman, CRNZ Finance and Business Operations Manager to give an overview of the accounts. Stacey gave a brief overview of the accounts.

The financial Report was emailed out ahead of the meeting. The CRNZ financial result was a \$220k deficit, which was better than forecast by \$185k. Largely this was due to NZOC and Paralympics NZ investing more funding during the financial period but also some lower spend in other areas against forecast.

Stacey outlined the board decision to increase the reserves from previous \$250k to \$400k, noting reserves balance of \$468k as at the end of 2024. This policy change is good for sustainability and healthy for accounts given that this cycle is going to be a lot more expensive due to the current global economic situation.

Stacey highlighted some expense items from the accounts as demonstration of the variances against forecast and outlined that additional revenue outside of HPSNZ, whilst up slightly on 2023, is very difficult in the current economy.

Overall comments were that we have a strong ongoing financial base with the recent commitment of increased HPSNZ funding.

Mr Adlam thanked the Audit and Risk Committee and opened the floor to questions from the delegates. Mr Adlam advised delegates an independent person, Scott Thorne, has agreed to work with the A&R committee as a finance practitioner to deepen knowledge in that committee and provide insight/overview.

Mr Adlam noted that the whole community is working hard and the finances are being run well in a tough economic environment.

Motion: "That the 2024 Annual Report and Financial Statements be received".

Moved: Chris Emmett

Second: Dayle MacKenzie

Carried: Yes

7. CRNZ Auditor

The Board proposed that existing Auditor Crowe Howarth is not reappointed as CRNZ Auditor and BDO Tauranga be appointed as CRNZ Auditor.

Mr Adlam spoke to the board proposal. Crowe Howarth have undertaken the audit of CRNZ for some 10+ years and a tenor of this length is uncommon in the boards view and more common practice is a change in auditor on a more regular basis such as every three years by way of example, noting some entities change annually. A change provides a new set of eyes over CRNZ and is good practice from a board governance perspective.

Motion: "that BDO be appointed as auditors for CRNZ for the financial year ended 31 December 2026"

Moved: Terry Newsome

Second: Ross Morley

Carried: Yes

8. **Announcement of Appointed Board Member**

Appointed Board Member position. Per 14 of the Constitution, board appointed member **Anne Rodda**'s first three (3) year term is due to expire at this AGM. Mr Adlam informed the meeting that the Board Appointments Panel had, per the constitution, convened and recommends reappointing **Anne Rodda**, with effect from the conclusion of this AGM, for another three (3) year term.

Moved: Ross Morley

Second: Ken Livingston

Carried: Yes

9. **Appointment of Scrutineers**

Mr Adlam announced a motion that per clause 16.16k, Peter Brown and Gary Waller be appointed as scrutineers for the election of Elected Board Members.

Moved: Nigel Rowland

Second: Ken Livingston

Carried: Yes

10. **Election of elected Board members**

There is one Board position up for election is year. Stuart Clark has served on the CRNZ Board for two terms and completes his last term at the conclusion of this AGM. Mr Adlam thanked Mr Clark for his time on the board.

Ken Livingston Arawa delegate asked to speak on the vote around the elected board member, Ken highlighted the importance of the Board guidance of an accounting background.

Mr Adlam confirmed that the Board Appointments Panel was satisfied that either candidate would be suitable for the board.

There are two (2) nominees for the position of elected Board member which are on the Ballot papers provided. Mr Adlam explained the voting process and that per the Constitution one member of a club may be elected by other clubs to be the delegate in their stead. This is specifically not a proxy vote, which is not allowed under the constitution, and the delegate must vote per the instructions of the club(s) they represent.

After one round of voting Mr Adlam announced that Aniwa MacKenzie is the successful candidate and welcomed Aniwa as a new Board member.

11. **Ballot Papers**

Mr Adlam moved a motion that the scrutineers destroy the ballot papers.

Moved: Tamara Donderwinkel
Second: Ken Livingston Carried: Yes

12. **Board Report**

Greg Adlam, Chair of CRNZ Board gave an update of the Board activities from the past twelve months and highlighted:

Acknowledgment of a great year – the board extended a letter to every athlete, coach and support staff of Olympic Paralympics 2024 as a thank you on behalf of the board, member clubs and the sport.

Recognition of everyone who represented CRNZ at every level outside of Olympic Paralympics and it is fantastic to see the breadth of paddling happening.

Acknowledgment that the clubs are essential to the sport. The board do not underestimate the value of the input of the sport.

Last year the AGM approved Dame Lisa Carrington and Gordon Walker as life members and these recognitions were acknowledged at Blue Lakes, Tikitapu in February 2025. Awards and recognition of those in our sport is important and we must continue to celebrate all those that bring their best by achieving or servicing the sport.

Stuart Clark's contribution to the board was acknowledged, and is stepping off the board (due to his maximum term being reached) and the great work that has been done over the last six years.

Mr Adlam thanked the clubs and AGM with how everyone operates with dignity and respect and the values the clubs operate with. Important part of the event is how we hold ourselves.

13. **Approval of New Canoe Racing New Zealand Constitution**

Greg Adlam, Chair of the CRNZ Board advised that the new constitution, replacing existing constitution dated 27 September 2008, aligns with the new Incorporated Societies Act requirements. Other mechanical matters have also been updated to ensure the constitution is contemporary.

A discussion point raised by Arawa Club was 1.65.4 of the proposed constitution

65.4 The surplus assets of CRNZ, after the payment of all costs, debts and liabilities, must be disposed of to some other organisation, or body having objects similar to the objects of CRNZ or any other not-for-profit entity or entities in New Zealand which are exclusively charitable and which share similar purposes to CRNZ.

Peter Brown invited to speak, Peter outlined the basis for this wording versus the previous was that an incorporated society cannot be seen to be benefitting its members and jeopardise the charitable status.

Motion: That the draft constitution presented be adopted as the Constitution of CRNZ effective from the end of this AGM.

Moved: Chris Emmett
Second: Matt Flannery

Carried: Yes

14. General Business/Questions from the Club Delegates

Mr Adlam advised there were no General Business items submitted by clubs prior to the AGM. He asked if there were items from club delegates presented that could be by ordinary resolution discussed, noting that if already presented in the meeting prior to the AGM then these items will not be discussed in General Business, additionally any life members may wish to raise matters.

Arawa delegate Ken Livingston, visibility of our Olympians at these 2025 Nationals appears to be a shortfall.

Motion put to delegates is, wishing to discuss the 2024 Olympic athlete visibility at 2025 CRNZ Nationals

Moved: Ross Morley
Seconded: Mark Watson

Carried: Yes

Chair invited Nathan Luce to speak. Nathan clarified that Grant Clancy, Hamish Legarth, Alicia Hoskin, Olivia Brett and Tara Vaughan are all present and racing but may not have competed yet in the competition, noting Friday is first day of three.

Two male athletes Max Brown and Kurtis Imrie are on sabbatical as well as Lisa Carrington and so are not expected to race.

He noted that some athletes may not be training centrally but are encouraged to train at their local clubs and were encouraged to do so over the Xmas New Year holiday periods.

He acknowledged that Nationals is not used as selection due to the timing and having to manage athletes' wellbeing and care. There needed to be a balance due to upcoming international racing, athletes depart in two weeks.

It was recommended to CRNZ that a communications piece ahead of Nationals to signal about who to see in action or not and why.

Delegates offered that being present, even if they aren't competing, is an opportunity for younger athletes to see and be amongst them, be on social media and even if they aren't racing to help connection and inspiration.

Life Member Steve Richards wished to acknowledge the passing of Mark Sutherland. Mark was the sports Olympic Coach between 1987 and 1992. He led the team through two Olympic Games resulting in multiple Olympic and World Championship medals and finals.

15. Meeting Close

Mr Adlam thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting.

Meeting Closed: 8:06pm