



VICTORIAN RECREATIONAL FISHING PEAK BODY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

DRAFT MINUTES

Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2019, 9.30 – 10.30am  
Manningham Hotel and Club, Bulleen

**Attendees:**

Neville Dance, Sean Crombie, Rob Caune, Tony Cahill, Les Penrose, Graeme Evans, Steve Relf, Priya Cardinaletti, Russell Conway, Brian Wright, Doug Braham, John Hotchin, Brad Spiden, Peter Milley, Kris Leckie, Ron Lewis, Rob Loats, Lawrence Moore, Tony Leen, David Warren, Franz Grasser, Graeme MacPherson, Joy Sloan, Ian Whiteside, Halley Xu, Michael Burgess (Executive Officer).

**Apologies:**

Geoff Cramer, Justin Harzmeyer, Peter te Hennepe, Greg Hellsten, Bob Pearce, Pat Hutchinson, Tom Camp, Stafford Simpson, Bill Reddick, Geoff Fisher, Sarah Van Stokrom, Tim Hose, Christopher Collins, Daryl Hedley

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**MEETING OPEN – 9:40am**

**Welcome and Apologies**

Apologies moved by Graeme Evans, seconded by John Hotchin.

**1.0 Confirmation of 2018 AGM Minutes**

The previous AGM minutes were tabled.

*Proposed resolution: That the minutes of the 2018 annual general meeting be accepted*

**Moved:** Steve Relf      **Seconded:** Brian Wright **Passed**

**2.0 Chairman's Report**

Rob Loats tabled and spoke to his Chairman's Report. The Chairman noted it has been a very busy year for VRFish. The organisation has made substantial progress in implementing its new membership model. He reminded the members the VRFish Board is trying to future-proof the organisation for years to come. The Board and members were thanked for their support. The new operations will assist two-way communication and we will have member forums rather than State Council meetings. Members are encouraged to provide their input when communications are received from VRFish.

Many of VRFish's proposed ideas in the lead up to the State Election were taken on Board by the Andrews Labor Government. One of those items, the buy-back of commercial netting licenses was achieved this week. Everyone involved in the campaign should be congratulated, especially David Warren and Rob Caune.

While we were largely unsuccessful with our ask for habitat, VRFish was able to successfully advocate for a state-wide felled timber program with VicRoads. This is a great outcome for the long-term future of fish habit and better fishing.

Unfortunately, some of our ideas as part of the Fisheries Regulation Review are not being picked up so we need to put some effort into getting these items back on the agenda.

The introduction of the Carp Virus is an issue that seems to have gone on the backburner. Final conclusions are expected to be released by the end of the year, but they appear to be stalling.

The staff and the Board were congratulated for their efforts. There are a multitude of issues coming into the VRFish and we are run off our feet. We need to find additional revenue to increase our capacity.

### **3.0 Executive Officer's Report**

Mike Burgess tabled a document outlining VRFish's success and achievements over the last financial year across its 5 pillars of advocacy. The VRFish Annual Report is in preparation and the theme is our members. Mike thanked those organisations that have sent in a contribution. A huge focus has been the State Election and VRFish experienced success in the areas of boating infrastructure reforms, new native fish hatchery, Gippsland Lakes netting buy-back and recovery plan, on-water access to Tullaroop, an access program and artificial reefs.

So far 89 fishing clubs have joined VRFish as part of the new club supporter membership and represents 6,500 people. A further 67 individuals have taken up a new individual membership. Logos have been created for membership categories and will be circulated.

Communications continues to grow with 8,627 likes on Facebook, 1,592 followers on Instagram and 52,878 online subscribers. The VRFish website had 125,390 pageviews, 57,187 unique users and 100 articles were published. In the last financial year VRFish issued 24 media releases.

### **4.0 Auditors Report**

VRFish have had our accounting records independently audited through our new auditor. The financial statements comprising of the consolidated balance sheet, income statement, statement of changes in equity and cash flow statement, and notes to the consolidated financial statements were presented.

The end of year result was an overspend of \$13,036. Members were reminded that VRFish does have cash reserves to support this. This year with a State and Federal election and the introduction of our new membership model it was important VRFish had the resources it needed to fulfil these demands. As this is a new auditor, it was pointed out to members that expenditure line items have been displayed different to previous years. The total equity at 30 June 2019 is \$103,345. It was noted to members that \$48,925 was shown in receivables under current assets which is the 10% final instalment of our funding agreement. This explains why current cash assets is showing \$80,777 which is substantially less than the previous year.

Tony Leen asked what direction VRFish was taking with attracting sponsorship as he believes there is lots of opportunities considering how fishing and sporting clubs are able to attract. Mike responded that the VRFish Board is preparing to undertake a new strategic planning process and diversifying our revenue sources will be a focus of discussions. To be successful we will need to have the resources to attract and maintain sponsor relationship and VRFish may need to package up what we do into specific programs which could be more attractive to sponsors.

*Proposed resolution: That the 2018/2019 Financial Statements and the Auditor's Report be accepted.*

**Moved:** Steve Relf      **Seconded:** Joy Sloan      **Passed**

## **5.0 Appointment of Auditor**

*Proposed resolution: That VRFish retain the services of independent auditor Davidsons for the period 2019-2020.*

**Moved:** Steve Relf      **Seconded:** Priya Cardinaletti      **Passed**

## **6.0 Confirmation/Appointment of Board Directors**

Mike explained that nominations for Board Directors, including a Chairman were called for. In accordance to our Constitution an election is only held if the number of nominations exceed the number of nominations. With new members this year we were able to circulate the opportunity to around 300 emails and position descriptions developed up for the Board Director and Chairman Roles. This year the number of nominations received were equal to the number of vacant positions and therefore there was no need to run an election. Each nominee is presented as an Ordinary Resolution which will require a 50% majority of votes to be passed.

### **a. Chairman**

Nomination received from Rob Loats. No other nominations received.

*Proposed resolution: That Mr Rob Loats, who retires as a Chairman of the Company in accordance with clause 13.3 of the Constitution and, being eligible, offers himself for election, be re-elected as a Chairman of the Company.*

**Moved:** Graeme McPherson      **Seconded:** Peter Miley      **Passed**

### **b. Directors**

Nominations received from Russell Conway, John Hotchin, Halley Xu and Kris Leckie.

*Proposed resolution: That Mr Russell Conway, who retires as a Director of the Company in accordance with clause 13.3 of the Constitution and, being eligible, offers himself for election, be re-elected as a Director of the Company.*

**Moved:** Joy Sloan      **Seconded:** Neville Dance      **Passed**

*Proposed resolution: That Mr John Hotchin, who retires as a Director of the Company in accordance with clause 13.3 of the Constitution and, being eligible, offers himself for election, be re-elected as a Director of the Company*

**Moved:** Priya Cardinaletti      **Seconded:** Peter Miley      **Passed**

*Proposed resolution: That Mr Halley Xu, who retires as a Director of the Company in accordance with clause 13.3 of the Constitution and, being eligible, offers himself for election, be re-elected as a Director of the Company*

**Moved:** John Hotchin      **Seconded:** Doug Braham      **Passed**

*Proposed resolution: That Mr Kris Leckie, who retires as a Director of the Company in accordance with clause 13.3 of the Constitution and, being eligible, offers himself for election, be re-elected as a Director of the Company*

**Moved:** David Warren **Seconded:** Brian Wright **Passed**

### **7.0 Meeting Closed**

The Chairman closed the meeting at 10.15 am

**Signed:**



**Name:**

Robert Loats

**Dated**

15 November 2019

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