

Windsurfer Class Association of Australia

2025–26 Annual General Meeting — Meeting Minutes

Meeting:	2025–26 WCAA Annual General Meeting (virtual)
Meeting start:	7:37 PM (following registration of attendees)
Attendance:	29 members present at roll call; 42 members total attended (~12% of 356 members)
Chair:	Greg (President)

Summary

The 2025–26 Annual General Meeting of the WCAA was held virtually, with 29 members attending to discuss the association's progress and future direction. Greg and Peter delivered a comprehensive president's report covering four major challenges overcome during the year: a difficult handover from the previous administration; relocation of the UPU Nationals from Adelaide to Yeppoon, attracting 119 entries; progress on incorporation in Victoria using the Consumer Affairs Victoria Model Rules; and the introduction of the 5.0 sail initiative to encourage participation. The financial report showed strong results, with a \$14,000 surplus, 45 new members, and \$1,100 profit from merchandise sales. State representatives were re-elected to their positions, and members discussed the upcoming incorporation meeting scheduled for the end of the month, where five resolutions will be voted on to finalize the incorporation process. The meeting also covered updates on World Sailing affairs, including the July 3rd vote on a new constitution that could restore the class's official status, and discussions about the South African World Championships.

Virtual Meeting Attendance Session

The meeting began with participants joining a virtual session, with technical issues regarding video and audio resolved as people arrived. Greg noted that around 40 people were expected to attend, and by 5:37 PM, 29 participants had joined. The meeting started officially at 7:37 PM after waiting for additional attendees to register and join the call.

2025–26 WCAA AGM

Greg opened the 2025–26 WCAA AGM, noting it may be the last held under the current unincorporated structure if members approve incorporation. The meeting had good attendance, with 42 members present, representing about 12% of the 356 total membership. Greg reported significant progress on four major challenges: handover from the previous administration; venue relocation from Adelaide to Yeppoon for the Nationals with 119 entries; the incorporation process in Victoria; and modernization of communications, including a new website and merchandise program generating \$1,100 in profit. The association also approved the 5.0 sail initiative to encourage participation and invested \$8,400 in equipment distribution across states.

Membership and Insurance System Updates

Greg reported 356 current members and announced a new simplified system in which TPL insurance would be included with membership, with refunds available for those already covered elsewhere. Pete explained

that this change aims to eliminate verification issues and ensure all members have proper insurance coverage. The group also discussed the upcoming Parkdale 2027 Nationals, scheduled for January 21–25, 2027, which will celebrate 50 years since the first Australian Windsurfer National Championship. Financial updates showed a surplus of \$14,000, with \$8,000 allocated for equipment donations to clubs to help attract new participants.

Donation Setup and Fundraising Plans

The group discussed setting up donation capabilities for the association, with Scott explaining that they could use the Australian Sports Foundation (ASF) to process tax-deductible donations. Matty suggested incorporating donation options into fundraising efforts, particularly for major events such as hosting Worlds championships. The finance report was accepted, proposed by Matt Widnall and seconded by Scott Watson, followed by a brief mention of upcoming elections with single candidates standing for each position.

State Leadership and Incorporation Updates

Pete provided updates on state representatives, noting leadership changes across South Australia, ACT, Victoria, New South Wales, Queensland, and Tasmania. Greg and Pete will continue as president and vice president respectively, with Joanna and Stanley attending executive meetings to represent Northern Queensland. Pete announced an upcoming incorporation meeting at the end of the month, where five resolutions will be voted on to incorporate as an association in Victoria using Consumer Affairs Victoria's Model Rules, with Pete volunteering to lodge the application if approved.

Model Rules and IWCA Updates

The group discussed implementation of model rules for the organization. Andrew explained that the simpler model rules were chosen over custom rules, and noted that changes would require a vote and a fee of approximately \$450. Scott asked about broadening the class purposes to include other windsurfer classes such as Techno 293; Andrew confirmed the current language provides flexibility without requiring immediate action. Nick and Greg gave an update on the International Windsurfer Class Association (IWCA), explaining that a new constitution needs approval in a July 3rd vote to address current limitations and suspension status, with the goal of regaining World Sailing recognition and hosting the South African Worlds.

World Championships Planning Strategy

The group discussed the importance of announcing World Championships by August for the following year. Sarah explained that while this is a requirement under World Sailing regulations, it is not strictly enforced. Nick emphasized that the new executive should implement a three-year planning horizon rather than the current one-year approach, to ensure better event organization and planning. Greg provided an update on the potential South Africa World Championship event, describing it as a promising location with excellent sailing conditions, though final confirmation is pending. The discussion also touched on the class's growth, noting that while initial growth has slowed, there are emerging markets in Asia, South America, and North America, with Brazil recently becoming a member.

Windsurfing Competition and Training Updates

The meeting closed by focusing on windsurfing competitions and instructor training. The group discussed the status of the constitution ratification, currently pending and affecting executive actions. They explored

the possibility of alternating years for the Fiji and Waiheke competitions to grow participation, though concerns were raised about maintaining annual events for growing fleets. The discussion also covered instructor certification challenges, noting that Australian Sailing's requirements are costly and complex, leading some clubs to operate independently. The group agreed to investigate creating a streamlined insurance scheme for AWA members and to develop a community of practice for instructors. Finally, they discussed the Byron Marathon event's insurance coverage and planned to use the upcoming Nationals meeting to address youth training initiatives.

Action Items

Chris

- Investigate the possibility of a streamlined insurance scheme for Windsurfer Class Association instructors, including consultation with relevant insurance underwriters and legal advisors.
- Look into the possibility of an Australian Windsurfer Class Association streamlined insurance scheme for instructors and report back to the group.

Greg

- Lodge the incorporation application with Consumer Affairs Victoria immediately after the incorporation meeting, provided the resolutions are approved.
- Post the map showing the correct location for the South Africa Worlds event to help members book appropriate accommodation.

Pete

- Set up a Google Maps resource on the website showing where windsurfing tuition is available, including contact details, based on information from Scott and other states.

Scott

- Send Victoria's windsurfing tuition information and course pricing details to Pete for inclusion on the website.
- Continue development of the instructor community of practice (WhatsApp group and Google site) and share progress with the group.

Steve

- Discuss with Pete Doolan about adding the Byron Marathon to the NSW summer series calendar to ensure insurance coverage.

Collaboration / All Members

- All members: attend the incorporation meeting on June 30th and vote on the five incorporation resolutions.
- All members: send ideas and suggestions for youth training and youth sailing to Greg and Pete before the Nationals, to help structure the youth training discussion at the event.

- Greg and Dolly: attempt to locate and share copies of the 1979 TL7 training stream/booklet for windsurfing instruction, for possible use in updating instructor resources.
- All members: encourage participation in the upcoming incorporation meeting to ensure quorum and support for the transition.
- All members: send in advance any ideas for the open forum at the Nationals regarding participation, development, and event improvements.
- All state representatives: provide Pete with updated information on where tuition is available in their state for the website resource.