

**Minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Alpine Club**  
held on Saturday 18 May 2008 at 3 p.m. at the YMCA, Hereford Street, Christchurch.

**1. Attendance**

The President, Phil Doole, presided over a meeting of 25 other members from throughout New Zealand.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from James Broadbent (C/W), Pat Campbell (C/W), Judy Reid (Past President), Paul Prince (Otago), Murray Bolt (Otago), Nancy Cawley (C/W), Peter Barnes (C/W), Kyle Beggs (Otago), John Nankervis (Wn), Brian McGlinchy (Wn), Ann Hall, Jim Costello, Darryl Carpenter (Wn and MSC), Paul Day (Australia) and Matt Nielson (Australia).

**3. Introduction**

Phil Doole welcomed everyone to the meeting, especially Rob Mitchell (FMC President) and Steve Schreiber (MSC and MGA representative). He noted that after the AGM there would be a Section forum.

Phil Doole advised that Pat Prendergast had offered two paintings for sale with part of the proceeds from any sale to go to the Unwin Lodge fundraising efforts.

**4. Proxies**

One proxy was received from Hajime Kimura, Japan. The chairperson of the meeting was his nominated proxy.

**5. Confirmation of Minutes**

It was moved: ***“That the minutes of the 2007 AGM of the Club be adopted as a true and accurate record.”*** Rob Mitchell /Ross Cullen CARRIED

**6. Matters Arising from the Minutes**

Phil Doole advised that the next day would be the first CCM at which, for the first time, only one official representative from each Section would be present.

He also noted that no issues had arisen as a result of the changes to the Club Rules nor with the change to the financial year.

**7. Obituaries**

A minutes silence was held to remember those Club members who had died during the past year. These were Darran Cathcart, Ralph Naylor, Margaret Cookson, Don Hutton, John Stanton, Alister McDonald, Arthur Tschepp, Keith Isherwood, W Trevor Park, Hamish McDonald, Anton Wopereis, Sir Edmund Hillary, Jack Rattenbury, Jack Ede, Leon Phease, Beverley Williamson, Gottlieb Braun-Elwert, and Carol Holland.

**8. President's Report**

Phil Doole commented briefly on his report, especially noting that:

- i. The most significant event for the NZAC in the previous year had been Sir Edmund Hillary's death and the Honour Guard and outdoor Mountaineer's Farewell that the Club had organised for Sir Ed's funeral.
- ii. Phil also noted the recent death of Gottlieb Braun-Elwert, climber, guide and conservationist.
- iii. He had visited many Sections during the year, including the Australian Section.
- iv. The focus of the Instruction subcommittee has been on benchmarking.

- v. Conservation Management Strategies are coming up for review but there was concern that these are tending to become watered down.
- vi. The financial reports have been impacted by the 16 month financial year but things are now starting to look healthier.
- vii. The proposed Unwin Lodge renovation is a major challenge for the coming year.
- viii. The CCM will be focusing on reviewing the Club's Strategic Plan.
- ix. He noted that Club officials often have to react very quickly with media releases and it is great that we have a system that enables that to happen.
- x. Phil thanked all those volunteers who had helped run the Club. He especially acknowledged the work of Garth London as accommodation convenor and thanked Tony Clarke for taking this job on. He also thanked Kristin Foley who is relinquishing the rock climbing portfolio.

In response to the President's report, Rob Mitchell noted that with respect to the Conservation Management Strategies, FMC is looking at making it easier for Clubs to make submissions by preparing a template on a DVD. Pat Prendergast noted that she had received information from DoC that they appreciate the quality of NZAC submissions.

## **9. Financial Report**

- i. Gillian Crombie explained the financial statements. The following were noted in particular:
  - The biggest challenge has been the one off 16 month financial year. This meant there were issues associated with how to present the information.
  - The loss has been larger than hoped for but cashflow has been strong throughout the year.
  - The operating loss was \$14259.00 and the increase in cash available was \$13657.00. But it needs to be noted that large amounts had been spent on Unwin Lodge during the year.
  - A good budget with strong controls has been set for the coming year.
  - A large portion of the Club Hut Funds came from donations.
  - Aspiring funds are hard to control because the Department of Conservation (DoC) looks after the funds and simply provides us a report. In the past year a lot has been spent on maintenance. Geoff Gabites raised concerns about the passive role we have in spending income from Aspiring and noted that if the funds were actually held by NZAC, different spending decisions might be made. Rob Mitchell explained that the Matukituki Agreement requires an agreed budget between NZAC and DoC and that the Executive committee might need to provide more guidance to the Otago Section if stronger controls are wanted. Gillian did note that now that our financial year lines up with DoC, it should be easier to determine how things are going.
  - Ross Cullen noted that there had been a significant drop in guide book sales and asked how on line sales were going. Ollie Clifton explained that on line sales should be up and running by Xmas. He also advised that some other ideas are being trialled, for example Bivouac 'sales and displays.' It was suggested that Trade Me would be another tool we could use and Rob Mitchell encouraged NZAC to open discussions with FMC because they carry out a certain amount of trading by email.
  - Pete Cammell noted the increase in creditors and suggested the Club needs to collect cash sooner rather than later. Gillian explained that this was probably a timing issue. Ollie Clifton also noted that the Club has started being a bit more ruthless in this regard, and with some success.

ii When asked where the cashflow surplus was held, Gillian advised that it was in call and interest earning accounts and that the Club only keeps what is needed in a working bank account. It was noted that earnings on this may decrease during the coming year.

iii It was moved: “ ***That the Financial Report for the extended 16 month year be adopted.***” Gillian Crombie /Chris Short CARRIED

### **Accommodation Report**

Tony Clarke presented the Unwin Lodge report. He noted that the Unwin renovations are a major challenge but that progress is being made. The work needed on Unwin has largely arisen because of deferred maintenance over the years. To date the warden’s quarters have been re-roofed and re-insulated and the main common room has been re- roofed and insulated. This summer it is planned to extend the recladding to the common room and install new joinery and also to install new windows in the common room. Longer term it is planned to refurbish the bunkroom wing. There are three options for this:

- refurbish; or
- replace; or
- replace using part of the common room area.

At the last CCM the Accommodation subcommittee was asked to develop a fundraising strategy for the second option. It is planned there will be a mix of bunkroom sizes and that part of the bunkroom area will be shut down in winter. At some later stage the family rooms will need to be upgraded.

Rob Mitchell asked that the subcommittee consider installing cooking facilities in the family units for when large groups are using the main kitchen.

Discussion was then held on sustainability issues, especially with respect to heating. It was agreed that this could lead to a good fundraising potential as manufacturers will be interested in showcasing sustainable options.

It was moved that “ ***The Accommodation subcommittee give serious consideration to sustainable design principles as part of the Unwin Lodge upgrade.***” Neil Pilbrow/ Peter Taylor CARRIED

Rob Mitchell asked about the flood risk to the Lodge but Ian Rogers advised that as a result of work done by Transit on the State Highway, the Lodge is now well protected from floods. Also behind the Lodge will be dug out and drained.

Ollie Clifton then summarised the fundraising plan. The target is \$680 000 with the initial target being \$50000 by June 2009 to be used for recladding. Funds will mostly be sought from the membership, but also Guides, Tourism Operators, overseas climbers, funding bodies and commercial businesses such as construction companies will be approached. Ideas developed to date are:

Discounted/donated materials	\$60 000
Raffle	\$35 000
Speaking tour	\$40 000
Funding applications	\$50 000
Major sponsors/donors	\$100 000
Club hut funds	\$20 000
Club member donations	\$20 000
Community loans	\$100 000

Ollie then explained a possible raffle proposal involving selling 1000 thicketts for \$100 each. This is to be further discussed at the CCM.

Ian Rogers advised that he is putting in place guided tramps/climbs for non-climbers and people with money!

### **9. Election of Officers**

The following nominations for office bearers were received:

Honorary Secretary – Jocelyn Douglas      Geoff Gabites /John Jordan

Honorary Treasurer – Gillian Crombie      Ross Cullen /Phil Tree

Publications Convenor – vacant. To be discussed at CCM. The suggestion was made that the position needs a job description.

Accommodation Convenor – Tony Clarke      Ian Rogers /Vonnie Crawford

Executive Subcommittee Convenor - Geoff Gabites      Gillian Crombie /Pip Lynch

It was noted that these positions have a limit of five continuous years.

It was moved:      ***“That the nominations as listed above be accepted.”***  
CARRIED

**Auditor** – Pauline Noonan has advised that she is no longer available to be the Club auditor.

It was moved that: ***“The Executive Committee appoint the Club auditor.”***  
Gillian Crombie/Ian Rogers      CARRIED

### **10. NZAC Volunteer of the Year**

This is the first year that this award has been presented. An excellent nomination was received from the Auckland Section for John Salisbury. John has been very involved in organising events such as Banff, Christmas dinners, connections with new members. He gets beginner climbers out, leads trips, goes on Section working bees, liaises between the Auckland section and Auckland Grammar. He provides stability on the Section committee.

The award is an engraved ice axe donated by the Edgar Glass family.

Geoff Gabites commented that the Club runs on volunteers and this needs to be acknowledged and highlighted. Phil Doole advised that some Sections were concerned about the ‘competitive element’ of the award and as a result it was suggested that it need not be limited to one person per year. This is to be further discussed at the CCM.

### **11. General Business**

- i. Phil Doole thanked everyone for attending and also those who have contributed to the Club over the year.

The meeting closed at 4.50 p.m.