



NZAC Club Committee Meeting Saturday October 17th, 2009

1. In attendance:

Peter Cammell (President), Phil Doole (Immediate Past President, Nelson/Marlborough Section), Helen Wilton (Honorary Secretary), Gillian Crombie (Honorary Treasurer), Geoff Gabites (Executive Committee Chair), Tony Clarke (Accommodation), John Palmer (Publications), Magnus Hammarsal (Auckland), Paul McCullagh (CNI), John Jordan (Taranaki), James Wright (Wellington), Philip Tree (Canterbury/Westland), Ian Rogers (South Canterbury), Nick Shearer (North Otago), Paul Prince (Otago), Chris Brown (Australia), Vonnie Crawford (Southland), Bruce Dowrick (Rockclimbing Convenor), Brian Alder (Overseas Climbing Convenor)

Staff: Ollie Clifton (Executive Officer), Pat Deavoll (Activities Coordinator)

Apologies

Chris Short – Instruction Convenor
Peter Barnes – Recreation Advocacy Convenor

2) Introduction (by Peter Cammell)

Peter outlined the goals for the weekend:

- Governance
- Strategic Plan
- Building trust between CCM and sections
- Discuss issues in depth to understand objections and develop solutions
- Go climbing!

Peter then outlined several key themes for the weekend:

- 'One club' with aligned objectives
- Club roles and responsibilities - the concept of 'collective responsibility' and CCM needing the 'right team'.
- Organisational alignment with strategic plan – both at Convenor and section committee level

3) Members Survey

Ollie Clifton presented the key points of the 2009 member survey.

- The NZAC membership remains an affluent one – fundraising initiatives aimed specifically at club members should continue.
- Members were more active across the board, especially so in general mountaineering.
- Publications, Huts, Photocomp and Banff continue to perform well in the importance vs performance ratings. Instruction and Advocacy both

underperformed. Current initiatives around developing intermediate instruction, and communicating advocacy committee work, should continue.

- Hut bookings and payments would be well utilised if made available online.
- Both the Climber mag and NZAJ could be improved by adding more alpine and intermediate level climbing content.

It was commented that guided groups are one of the biggest users of our huts currently. Guides have a lot to offer the NZAC.

4) Capital Works Funding and Fundraising Ideas

UNWIN HUT

- 48 bunk hut in a national park – unique position we should make the most of.
- Potential as outdoor lodge for education, a total package for schools.
- Sell bed-nights and other services eg guided walks, environmental education
- Need to build a business case for Unwin (current concession needs to be assessed).

Funding for Unwin from sections

The suggestion that each section needed to donate or loan as much of their reserve funding as possible to the Unwin project was discussed:

- Auckland: very protective of their reserve funds. Will give if National Office takes responsibility for Ruapehu Hut.
- Nth Otago: OK. Get funding more easily if have no money.
- Nelson/Marlborough: good possibility of a \$25,000 loan
- Canterbury/Westland: don't have a lot of money as have been making constant donations to National over recent years. Committee is split on support for Unwin.
- Taranaki: happy to contribute
- South Canterbury: happy to contribute
- Wellington: haven't discussed thoroughly as committee, but initial response was favourable.
- Otago: potentially have reserve funds of \$20k available, but had been keen to hold onto money for Aspiring Hut.
- Southland: happy to give, but will only be hundreds
- CNI: not opposed, but have got Whangaehu Hut to consider in the near future.
- Australia: in agreement, but hundreds not thousands. Advocated for using a range of options for raising the money.

Several key points came out of this discussion:

1. Sections should be encouraged to retain enough funds for their local projects – as a general guideline two years of operational costs. The contrary view was also expressed that if sections donated all their funds to national projects, this would force them to fundraise for their own local projects.
2. Sections need to be confident that National will take responsibility for their key projects. Historical hut allegiances are still very strong.
3. In addition to section donations, we will need to raise a low interest loan for approximately \$300,000.
4. We should apply the basic logic of saving to the Unwin project – pay off our mortgage first before doing anything else.
5. 100% of the Banff profits from the next two years should be dedicated to the Unwin project.

5) GOVERNANCE

The "Letter to Club Governors" paper prepared by Peter Cammell was discussed:

- The principle of collective responsibility will require each CCM rep to advocate for CCM decisions locally.
- CCM rep role – often falls to the only person willing to attend from the section committee
- Could we improve communications between meetings- skype, email
- Acknowledged that we wear many hats around the Board table – both decision makers and implementers.
- Agreement on the Strat plan will then need to be transferred to the section level. Eg align section portfolios with national portfolios.
- Health of volunteers (10-20%) rather than members needs looking after.- what motivates people to keep turning up?

Role of national sub-committees and conveners

- Sub-Committees need to be realigned according to Strategic Plan Eg Climbing: instruction, climbing and rock (3 committees)
- Need to work out conveners responsibilities - sort out in May 2010 CCM such that rule changes could be made at the October 2010 AGM. Should all conveners have a vote, or none? Need to reconsider status.

6) CONVENORS OF PORTFOLIOS PRESENTED THEIR VISIONS FOR THE COMING YEAR.

Brian Alder (Climbing):

- how to organise new committee structure will be an issue
- area will need a lot of commitment from Club and will take time (cultural changes)
- list of tasks in Strategic Plan may shorten as we become more realistic about what is possible to achieve

John Palmer (Publications):

- functional yet good-looking, informative and entertaining website is a priority
- print publications need to remain sustainable; both in terms of quality content and finances
- will need to find resource for maintaining fresh website content

Tony Clarke (Accommodation)

- building Unwin!
- continuing good management of the hut network
- committed to a network of 17 huts

Gillian Crombie (Finance):

- good start has been made – a lot for Executive Committee to do
- keep fine-tuning financial info for easy understanding

Geoff Gabites (Exec Committee)

- vision is that the Club continue to attract excellent staff clear about priorities and how they are measured
- grow broad based offerings for Sections

7) REPORTS FROM SECTION REPRESENTATIVES

CNI (Paul McCullagh):

- overhauled instruction programme by focusing on weather issues and appropriate activities to match the conditions, with fewer courses
- 350 people to Banff Film Festival – feel template will work in future
- 5-10% attendance at Section meetings
- Committee skill levels vary; lean operation

South Canterbury (Ian Rogers):

- 20 -30% attendance at Section meetings
- trips and working bees well supported
- few younger members
- aging but enthusiastic committee
- meetings open plus donation at door; attracting outdoor enthusiasts

Taranaki (John Jordan):

- stable but 'greying' membership
- difficulty attracting new young climbers despite climbing wall and good rock climbing – popularity of multi-sport noted
- always looking for quality speakers

Southland (Vonnie Crawford):

- 80 members, 4 meetings a year
- covering climbing walls
- optimistic
- Winter Climbing meet at Homer went well
- keen for speakers

North Otago (Nick):

- 4-6 meetings a year; few members are local
- climbing wall a strength – 10 to 30 people using regularly, lots of school age users
- mostly rock climbing and bouldering members but alpine also
- guest speakers needed
- need for members to access other Sections' calendars for Instruction courses

Nelson/Marlborough (Phil Doole):

- Nelson Climbing Club for indoor and rock climbers has started up
- will not be merging but members of NCC will be encouraged to join AC for alpine climbing or mountaineering in future.
- 10% members are active within Club
- membership possibly declining
- 700 people attended Banff Film Festival
- Do we need to clarify where Golden Bay sits with the N/M Section (eg, NZMFF screening)

Auckland (Magnus Hammarsal):

- good snowcraft course
- active section historically, less so in recent years
- 10 people on committee, 7 new this year – currently active climbers with fresh ideas
- membership steady at 400 after losses and gains - generation shift

- keen for trip or event calendar to be available on Club website, with auto emails to members when new items are added

Pete Cammell added to these Auckland points:

- organised rock climbing instruction
- quality speakers needed
- have recently rebolted Quarry, with positive feedback from non-members
- looking at a bouldering event
- young climbers need meetings to have value for them, be fun and social; also they communicate only online

Canterbury/Westland (Philip Tree):

- full instruction programme – can't keep up with demand
- membership 670 and growing
- 100+ attend most Section meetings
- committee is run as a series of sub-committees
- concerns included:
 1. website (Section keen to set up)
 2. looking into supplying own rental gear re: times of high demand
 3. the Section Rep/Chairman role in conflict
 4. a second shower and toilet urgently needed at Porter Lodge due to extreme popularity of whack and dangle trips

Australian Section (Chris Brown):

- increased committee size from 3 to 7
- struggling with organisation of bigger events (marketing etc)
- WA Climbing Association has been set up with 30 members
- Brisbane working towards similar membership
- Victoria – bush SAR and alpine snow and ice instruction
- 2 commercial operators supplied courses free – in return for membership
- interested in developing intermediate level instruction
- information dissemination has been a difficulty due to Australian distances
- redesigned newsletter well received
- 2 groups awarded Expedition Grants for this year

Wellington (James Wright):

- active Section
- trip programmes very popular – both rock and alpine
- need good speakers
- instruction courses - beginners only because of lack of instructors
- membership steady
- committee large and keen, generally inexperienced climbers; not strong on strategy and tactics
- area to work on: liaison with huts in North Island
- newsletter prime information source – more powerful than website

Otago (Paul Prince):

- 20 members on committee (14 are under 35; 7 new in last 3 years)
- snowcraft courses and rock climbing instruction
- Banff Film Festival popular due to general entertainment factor
- trips – cancellation often means that trip not offered again that month
- meeting attendance doubled to 35-40 per Club night
- looking for new venue – student end of town

- no climbing wall in Dunedin (business opportunity?)

Summary of key points from sections:

- Venue and speaker for meetings crucial to success of evening
- There is large un-met demand from Uni and Polytechs students...invite to evenings
- Instruction is a key driver for membership
- Get the website and social communication tools working urgently
- Events are the best way to raise funds and showcase club to outdoor community

The meeting ended at 3.30pm.



Minutes of the Club Committee Meeting of the New Zealand Alpine Club

Sunday 18 October 2009

Home of Mountaineering, Raycroft Street, Christchurch.

The meeting opened at 9am.

1. Attendance

In attendance were Pete Cammell (President), Phil Doole (Immediate Past President, Nelson Section), Helen Wilton (Honorary Secretary), Gillian Crombie (Honorary Treasurer), Geoff Gabites (Executive Committee Chair), Tony Clarke (Accommodation), John Palmer (Publications), Magnus Hammarsal (Auckland), Paul McCullagh (CNI), John Jordan (Taranaki), James Wright (Wellington), Philip Tree (Canterbury/Westland), Ian Rogers (South Canterbury), Nick Shearer (North Otago), Paul Prince (Otago), Chris Brown (Australia).

Staff: Ollie Clifton (Executive Officer)

2. Apologies

Vonnie Crawford (Southland).

3. Strategic Plan

It was moved that **“The CCM adopts the Strategic Plan according to the changes discussed at CCM, adding ‘conservation’ to the values.”**

Geoff Gabites/Ian Rogers CARRIED

Discussion points raised:

- see NZAC as one Club
- priorities decided at CCM
- capital raising becomes part of everyday activity
- expect each section to contribute to capital raising whilst retaining enough for section projects

It was moved that **“Sections are expected to release agreed surplus funds to support the Club’s capital projects.”**

Geoff Gabites/Paul Prince CARRIED

Action Point 1: A background paper be prepared for Sections by the end of October 2009 by Peter Cammell and Ollie Clifton. This paper will outline the overall capital raising plan for the Unwin project and give guidelines for what level of funds Sections should be retaining for their own projects.

4. Confirmation of Minutes

It was moved that **“The minutes of the May 2009 Club Committee Meeting be adopted as a true and correct record.”**

Phil Tree/John Jordan CARRIED

5. Membership Subscription Rate

It was moved that **“The Club resolves not to increase subscriptions for this financial year, but that the Executive Officer be directed to prepare a paper for the May 2010 CCM as part of the budgeting process, and thereafter on an annual basis.”**

Phil Doole/Ian Rogers CARRIED

6. Election of Vice Presidents

The role of a Vice President is to fill the Presidential role on a temporary basis in the event of presidential death or resignation or unavailability to attend a function as the Club’s representative. The Vice President must also be a Section Member.

It was moved **“That John Jordan be the North Island VP and that Nick Shearer be the South Island VP.”**

Phil Tree/Geoff Gabites CARRIED

7. Accommodation Policy

James Wright queried Clause 16 h) – it was clarified that h) becomes h) i and ii.

Pete Cammell queried Clause 16 f) saying that unnecessary constraint was implied.

It was moved that Clause 16 f) be reworded to **“Surplus accommodation revenue, after deduction of all applicable operating and maintenance costs, will be applied (in descending order of priority) to:**

- a) budgeted capital depreciation of accommodation assets (hut reserve allowance);**
- b) other accommodation costs; and**
- c) general Club funds.”**

Phil Tree/Nick Shearer CARRIED

8. Bolting Policy

Phil Doole outlined recent progress with this policy, noting that an extra provision was needed in Principle #7 to include bolting on public land. Bolting on public land should only take place under the relevant Management Plan policies.

Ian Rogers said that there is a place for everything but not for everything in every place.

Nick Shearer raised two points: 1) constraint of climbing development, and
2) consultation bureaucracy

It was moved **“That the bolting policy draft be endorsed and put forward for consultation, with the additional principle of bolting on public land, to the climbing community and key stakeholders, with the amendments noted at this meeting.”**

Phil Doole/Paul Prince CARRIED

8. CCM Induction Package

Discussion noted the following:

- blurb needed at front for context
- should be produced in booklet form

- it will need regular revision and updating
- needs to be sent out well in advance of CCM
- expectation of a 2 year commitment from CCM reps needs to be stated
- add an organisation chart

It was moved **“That the CCM Induction Package be adopted, including the additional points raised during discussion”**

Philip Tree/Geoff Gabites CARRIED

9. Finances

Ollie commented on Income and Expenses for the first quarter of the 09-10 financial year:

Income:

- First quarter positive result
- Good subscription and accommodation revenue
- Travel insurance has been good
- Stephen Venables tour successful.

Expenses:

- Hut revenue
- Late payments
- Membership brochures

Ian Rogers queried the seemingly low income for the Stephen Venables national tour; this was due to the timing of the income and hence did not appear in the first quarter's statements. It was also noted that the Venables tour was never intended to be a significant revenue earner.

10. Climbing Camp Dates

Discussion centred on the timing of the camp start and the consultation Philip Tree had done on this.

It was proposed **“That January 2nd should be the fixed start date for the Climbing Camp for the next 2 years; following this the date will be re-evaluated after consideration of the numbers attending.”**

Agreed by the majority by a show of hands. Nelson/Marlborough did not agree with this decision, preferring a New Years Eve start date.

11. General Business

Gifford's Crack bolting issues were discussed. It was agreed that there was an opportunity to develop better dialogue with FMC, and that a summit meeting or an invitation to the May 2010 CCM be organised. The intention of this discussion would be to clarify the nature of the NZAC - FMC relationship, especially any areas of overlap.

Action Point 2: Phil Doole and Ollie Clifton to email DOC Te Anau Area Manager to give the NZAC view (that bolts from Gifford's Crack should not be removed) and

indicate that the draft NZAC Bolting Policy is being consulted on. This correspondence will be copied to Rob Mitchell (FMC President).

Action Point 3: Look at ways to meet with FMC representatives in 2010.

Action Point 4: Look at ways to ensure the NZAC perspective is represented on the FMC Executive. This may include nominating the NZAC Access Convenor onto the FMC Executive.

In concluding the meeting, Pete Cammell thanked everyone and asked for feedback, which was:

- Satisfaction with the clarification of the Strategic Plan – the workshops were very useful.
- Good to actually be talking about climbing.
- Endorsement of the two day format of the CCM, with the first day being set aside for discussion.
- Now wanted the Capital Funding Plan to be described in detail.
- Felt like we had taken some steps to building trust as one club.
- A sense of achievement was felt by many.

The meeting concluded at 12.50pm.