

**Minutes of the 2016 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Alpine Club**  
held on Friday 4 November 2016 at 7.30 p.m. at the Cashmere Club, Colombo  
Street, Christchurch.

**Welcome**

1. The President, Penny Brothers welcomed Karen Tait as the new NZAC General Manager and Jocelyn Douglas as Minute taker. She apologised for the late circulation of the Annual Report and Minutes.

**Attendance**

2. Penny Brothers presided over a meeting of 40 other members from throughout New Zealand and Australia.

**Apologies**

3. Apologies were received from Sam Newton, Donald Lousley, John Nankervis, Rob Mitchell, Chris Munro and Derek Crombie.
4. It was moved: ***“That the apologies be accepted.”***  
Shaun Norman/Ross Cullen. Carried

**Matters Arising from the 2015 Minutes**

5. It was moved: ***“That the Minutes of the 2015 AGM of the Club be taken as read.”***  
Greg Siddells/Jaz Morris Carried
6. Norman Hardie advised that Hilary Harrington, who was listed in the obituaries in the Minutes of the 2015 AGM, was better known as Larry Harrington. This will be amended to read Hilary (Larry) Harrington.

**Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2015 AGM**

7. It was moved: ***“That the Minutes of the 2015 AGM of the Club be adopted as a true and accurate record.”***  
John Cocks/Nick Shearer Carried

**President’s Report**

8. It was moved: ***“That the President’s Report be taken as read.”***  
Greg Siddells/Simon Williamson Carried
9. The President spoke to her report, especially noting the following.
  - (i) 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations:
    - These are running from March 2016 to March 2017
    - The anniversary dinner is to be held November 5, 2016
    - A challenge has been put out to members to identify and visit geographical features with the name Harper, Ross or Mannering over the 2016/17 summer.
  - (ii) The Taranaki Section was welcomed back into the fold.
  - (iii) A very successful Sustainable Summits conference was held at Aoraki/Mt Cook in August. It focused on practical solutions to sustainability issues in the mountains to protect our future mountain environment.

- (iv) All activities during the year have been very successful, including Section trips, Banff, the photo competition, and the national and volunteer instruction Courses. All committees have been very engaged and have active convenors.
  - (v) Challenges for the Club have included the redevelopment of three websites, alpineclub.org.nz, climber.co.nz and climbnz.org.nz. The first two of these have been launched and, while largely successful, there have been some negatives. As an example, there is now no function to invite members to make donations when renewing their membership online and this has had an impact e.g. on the Expedition Fund capital. Development of the climbnz.org.nz route database is on hold while the governance and financing of the project is considered.
  - (vi) Staffing. Unexpectedly, the Club has had to recruit two new General Managers within six months and for several months during the year has run without a General Manager. There has been one other staff resignation and staff have taken leave. This has led to huge workloads for staff and the Executive Committee. Thanks especially go to Geoff Gabites for his oversight during the interim periods.
  - (x) The IT and staffing challenges have raised questions about Club governance, including issues around the governance/management interface and succession planning and job descriptions. A proposal to hold a governance review is to be considered at the November 5-6 Club Committee Meeting (CCM).
  - (xi) The above issues have delayed the Strategic Planning exercise.
  - (xii) There is a need to address the Club's obligations under the new Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 for both staff and volunteers, especially as our core activities do carry some risk. There is a need to embed a culture of safety in all our activities.
  - (xiii) Finally, the President thanked members for donations during the year. She also thanked Geoff Gabites as Executive Chair, John Cocks (for the past four years as President Elect, President, and Immediate Past President), Gillian Crombie as Hon. Treasurer and George Edwards as Hon. Secretary. Overall the Club has a very hard working and committed staff, very supportive volunteers and a large and engaged membership.
10. It was moved: "***That the President's Report be accepted***".  
 Greg Siddells/Chas Tanner Carried

## Obituaries

11. A minutes silence was held to remember those Club members who had died during the past year. These were:

Mallory McCornish	George Goodyear
H Tom Barcham	Steve Dowall
Paul Wood	Nicola Andrews
Dale Thistlewaite	Stuart Holloway
Eric Jacomb	H Dion Ambler
Gergo Verhas	Roger Barrowclough
Robert (Bob) Entwisle	Ian (Dick) Seddon
Colin Putt	Desmond (Des) de Terte
Russell Braddock	Howard (Howie) McGhie

## Financial Report

12. It was moved: ***“That the Financial Report be taken as read.”***  
Ross Cullen/Greg Siddells Carried
13. Gillian Crombie presented the highlights, in particular noting the following:
- (i) CAANZ (previously NZICA) imposed a new standard for Not for Profit Organisations with respect to accounts. We are obliged to comply with this and hence the accounts now have a shorter format.
  - (ii) The Operating Surplus for 2016 is \$32K. We budgeted for a \$31K loss so have done better than expected. This is a result of: an increase in membership; an increase in grants and donations; and an increase in revenue from hut fees and from instruction and events.
  - (iii) Expenses 2016: there has been an increase in employment costs; an increase in the costs of providing services and activities; an increase in grants and sponsorship given out, including Sustainable Summits and marketing; and an increase in depreciation (ICT Project amortisation).
  - (iv) Capital Expenses and Loans and Stock Movements: the Club has decreased the loan balance by \$54K; has made fixed asset additions (computer upgrades, Unwin water tanks and security); and has decreased book stock levels by about \$10K.
  - (v) Loans and Repayments: as of January 2016 the Home of Mountaineering is now mortgage free; the SBS Bank reducing loan has been reduced by \$16K – and subsequently reduced further; the pay-back of member loans for the Unwin rebuild started in January 2016 and is continuing. It was noted that two members have converted their loan balances to donations.
  - (vi) Gillian noted the highlights as being: a further increase in National Instruction Courses and Banff; Travel Insurance being maintained with a new provider – more expensive but still well subscribed; a good growth in subscriptions; Huts and Lodges doing well; reductions in loans; and the Photography and Yoga workshops.
  - (vii) External funding: The DoC Community Fund for the mid-Tasman Hut – building is progressing. The Southern Trust provided funds for mattresses for Porter Lodge and the South Canterbury Community Trust provided funds for mattresses for Unwin. Grants have also been received for maintenance

projects for Godley, Pioneer, Elcho and Dasler Huts. The Sport NZ fund remains the same for the 2016-17 year, but an application needs to be lodged in December 2016 for following years funding.

- (viii) Summary: the cash flow is \$11K; SBS and member loans have decreased; the Home of Mountaineering loan is repaid; reserve funds are positive; and publications monies are down though some publications are still in progress.

14. Queries from the floor

- (i) Dave Ellis noted that interest hadn't reduced by very much even though loans are being paid back. Gillian advised that significant repayments were made in the second half of the year and the reduction in interest will be more apparent this year.
- (ii) Pete Cammell noted that Gillian Crombie has done an excellent job as Hon. Treasurer. He asked what caused the significant increase in accommodation income. Gillian advised that tourist numbers nationally were up about 20% from last year, and this was impacting on hut numbers especially at Ruapehu, the Aspiring group, Homer and Unwin. Pete Cammell asked about future priorities – Gillian suggested paying off debt.
- (iii) Gillian noted that banks will not lend on huts that are not on our own land. Arthur's Pass Hut and the Home of Mountaineering are on our own land so we can borrow on these.
- (iv) Do accounts include funds held by Sections? Gillian replied that they do not as the HOM does not control the Sections. HOM does not know what funds the Sections hold. The auditors considered this as part of their review and accepted that this is not required.
- (v) Geoff Gabites asked the value of the Home of Mountaineering. The rateable value is greater than \$400K.
- (vi) Greg Siddells noted that no fees are paid to the Hon. Secretary. He feels the Club should consider this. Penny Brothers explained that the Hon. Treasurer gets no payment but Gillian Crombie carries out an accounting function as well and has been remunerated for this at a low rate for the last four years. It has already been agreed that the Minute taker be paid, but this is separate from the Hon. Secretary position which is unpaid.
- (vii) Chas Tanner asked what we owe on Unwin and the timeline for paying. We owe about \$175K.
- (viii) It was noted that the website was completed in 2015 but is not entirely satisfactory. Erik Bradshaw has set up a small committee to consider ways it can be improved. He considers about six months more work is needed and no further funding.

- 15. It was moved: “ ***That the Financial Report for the year be accepted.***”  
Jaz Morris / Yvonne Pfluger Carried
- 16. It was moved: “ ***That the Annual Report be adopted***”.  
Greg Siddells/John Jordan Carried

### **Election of Officers**

17. It was noted that nominations were meant to be received one month prior to the AGM. As this did not happen, the nominations will be noted at the AGM and confirmed at the CCM (as allowed by the Rules).

Honorary Secretary – no nomination  
Honorary Treasurer – no nomination (Gillian Crombie as caretaker)  
Publications Committee Convenor – Ross Cullen.  
Accommodation Committee Convenor – Richard Wesley  
Executive Committee Convenor – Geoff Gabites  
Recreational Access Committee Convenor – Shane Orchard  
Climbing and Instruction Committee Convenor – Pete Cammell

18. It was moved: **“That the nominations as listed above be accepted.”**  
Penny Brothers/Greg Siddells Carried

### **Auditor**

19. It was moved that: **“AshtonWheelans continue as Club auditor.”**  
Gillian Crombie/Greg Siddells Carried
20. Pete Cammell congratulated and thanked Gillian Crombie for her work over the years. Penny endorsed this.

### **NZAC Volunteer of the Year**

21. This year the award goes to Richard Brazier and Max Dorfliger for their work on Centennial and Pioneer Huts.

### **General Business**

22. Chas Tanner noted that Rule 11 lists the Standing Committees. He would like to see the Climbing and Instruction and Recreation Access Committees included in the list.
23. Penny Brothers said that these committees are given the same status as those actually constituted under the Rules. She noted that several Rules need to be modified to reflect what the Club actually does. This will be considered at the CCM.
24. Simon Williamson noted that changes to Rules need to be approved at the AGM but need to be notified in advance. This will be discussed at the CCM.
25. John Cocks noted that since Sam Newton had resigned there has been an enormous load on volunteers. John thanked them, especially Penny Brothers and Geoff Gabites.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.