



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 20th of November 2015
at the YMCA, Christchurch**

Present: The President, John Cocks and forty-three members

Apologies: J Nankervis, R Cullen, P.Cammell. Accepted, J Cocks/P Tree

Minutes of the 2014 AGM: Moved be taken as read, J. Morris/S Newton, carried
Moved that they be taken as a true and accurate record, J.Morris/S Newton, carried

President's Report: Moved be taken as read, P Brothers/S Gray, carried
The President then spoke to his report. Some of the highlights mentioned were:
The club membership was strong with the highest ever membership numbers.
We now have an additional section – Central Otago, and there is strong interest in re-establishing Taranaki section.
The sections are undertaking a lot of activity.
Our professionally run instruction courses are going from strength to strength with increased numbers attending.
The Banff Film Festival has had record numbers attending and sessions held.
The National Indoor Bouldering Series is going from strength to strength.
The Photographic Competition is the oldest photo competition still being held in NZ and this year entries were of a very high standard.
In the Publications area we continue to produce to a very high standard. The referendum on the future of the Climber and Journal resulted in the status quo.
The ICT project to set up last year to install a new system has just been launched, later than planned, because it has proven to be a very large project.
Our relationships with FMC and DoC are stronger than ever and are proving the strength of cooperation.
All this reflects on the people in the club, both volunteers and staff. All our activities involve volunteers, with many people involved, but there are some who particularly deserve recognition. Richard Thomson, who has relinquished the position of Publications Chair, Paul Prince, who has left for the USA after a particularly onerous stint as the chair of the Climbing and Instruction committee, Richard Wesley who chairs the well performed Huts committee, Gillian Crombie who manages the Club's financial affairs with great efficiency, and Pete Barnes who has just relinquished the chair of Recreational Advocacy but remains involved. And finally the Executive committee which meets monthly to keep the clubs affairs on track, chaired by Geoff Gabites who recently was awarded the Volunteers and Supreme awards by the Outdoor Recreation organisation.
Our staff are committed and hard-working , led by Sam Newton our General Manager resulting in a strong and multifaceted organisation. Sam was awarded a Churchill Scholarship to visit European alpine clubs.
Margaret McMahon is to everyone the face of the club, and a stalwart in times of crisis such as computer glitches and guidebook recalls. Narina Sutherland is our insurance expert and helps in most areas as necessary. Kester Brown sets very high standards in our publications, and Sefton Priestley has been working night and day on the ICT system to ensure we have a system that will greatly benefit the club, as well as fulfilling his event programming role. Simon Middlemass and Pip Walter do a great job down at Unwin hut ensuring we get a good return for our investment.

It was moved that the President's Report be accepted, P Brothers/ J Morris, carried

Obituaries

It was acknowledged with sadness the passing of the following members, and a minutes silence observed.

Ray Burrell

Richard McMurray

Paul Hill

Hilary Harrington

Campbell Simpson

David Galloway

Dick Tornquist

Robert Boyd

Warwick Provan

Carol Nash
Stuart Haslett
Catherine Sintenie

Calum Hudson
Tom Barcham

Simon Bell
David Cooper

Financial Report

Moved that it be taken as read, G Crombie/J Morris, carried

On Gillian's behalf, Sam presented the highlights:

In the Profit and Loss statement we show a surplus of \$114,000 as against the 2014 result of \$13,000 surplus. This was due to external grants and donations from sections, and as these grants and donations were for special projects, thus we do not have \$114,000 in our bank account.

Capital expenditure for ICT has totalled \$86,000

We have decreased loans by \$20,000

There has been an increase in guidebooks stocks but they are selling well

Of the outstanding loans, the loan on the Home of Mountaineering should be repaid in January 2016, the SBS facility has been static but since balance date has been reduced and member loans for Unwin hut will start to be repaid in June 2016, though some may delay this or forgo repayment.

Highlights for the year are the large increase in national instruction courses, the slow growth in subscriptions, the increase in Banff viewing numbers and screenings held and thus increase in income, new guidebook publication and good income from huts and lodges. Travel insurance has had spectacular growth but has resulted in a negative loss ratio for the insurer who has withdrawn and its replacement will be more expensive and different.

We have received external funding from CCPF to cover major projects, and also \$25,000 from gaming trusts plus funding from Meridian for specific hut projects. We do not rely on external funding to run the club, only for specific projects, thus if the funding dries up we don't run into difficulties.

It was moved that the financial statements be approved, J Morris/G Gabites, carried

It was moved that the Annual Report be adopted, P Brothers, S Gray, carried

Election of Officers

The following were elected unopposed:

Honorary Secretary	George Edwards
Honorary Treasurer	Gillian Crombie
Accommodation Convenor	Richard Wesley
Executive	Geoff Gabites
Publications	vacant
Climbing and Instruction	no convenor but being coordinated in the interim

Appointment of auditor: moved that the existing auditor be reapproved, G Crombie, G Gabites, carried

Volunteer of the year

John named the Volunteer of the year as Al Walker, for his work over the years on the maintenance Of Homer Hut and the Winter Homer Climbing Meet as well as organising the Homer Hut 50th Anniversary.

New President

John then introduced the new President, Penny Brothers. John mentioned she had already been very involved in her President elect year with the new Strategic plan and 125th Anniversary. He then presented her with the presidential ice axe.

Penny briefly outlined her life so far, and her delight at being able to get more fully involved with NZAC. Looking ahead she saw the 125th anniversary as a great opportunity to capitalise on what our predecessors had created, and felt that that access, and sustainability of our mountains was critical. She proposed a vote of thanks to John for an outstanding presidency which was carried with acclaim.

General Business

1. 125th Anniversary – part of this is the Sustainable Summits Conference, for which registrations open in February. Sections are encouraged to stage their own events
2. Pat Prendegast showed samples of her book and paintings for sale, partial proceeds of which would go to the club.

John closed the meeting at 8.16, and members were shown the new website. Following this the Great Debate ensued, chaired by Stu Gray. The topic was ‘That rockclimbing is training for the real thing’ On the affirmative were Jaz Morris, Al Uren and Andy Harris, on the negative John Palmer, Penny Brothers and Eric Thatcher.

Jazz recounted how he had become introduced to climbing by reading books, and by a friend who insisted rockclimbers were dirtbag hippy scum. He felt it was a branch of gymnastics, whereas the real thing is mountaineering where you go for the summit.

Eric expressed amazement at Jaz’s eloquence, and felt his opponents were assuming mountaineering was the real thing, whereas in 20 years he had worn out 20 pairs of rockclimbing shoes and had amazing finger strength. He said one day he might climb a major peak. He questioned whether skateboarding was training for surfing, and similarly felt rockclimbing was terrible training for mountaineering, that’s why he’s no good at it..

Al said he would stand up but had broken his ankle bouldering. His progress had been from bouldering to the SW ridge of Aspiring to Mt McKinley. He felt there were only three sports worth anything, bullfighting, mountaineering and car racing. He said mixed climbing consisted of scratching around and grunting a lot, which required you to be a good rockclimber but it was athletic thuggery.

Penny said she had done a few pitches and had more to do and was focussed on the next hardest one, and how was that not the real thing? A day on a great rock system with a great view, what you put in is what you get out, how is that not the real thing? Rockclimbing can be done any time with a friend. She had to have a hip replacement after mountaineering, but never had such trouble rockclimbing. She felt it all came down to what you want to do and enjoy doing and rockclimbing is as real as any other form of climbing so why make the distinction?

Andy felt that Penny had taken skills learnt at Yosemite to higher ranges. He felt Alpine climbers are who you aspire to be. The Everest movie was not about rockclimbing. Climbing is the end result, you don’t want to watch the All Blacks training, you watch the game. Mountain climbing has been around longer than its poorer cousins. You learn climbing skills on rock to get better at the real thing.

John said he had been on a few debates of similar level where the opposition had been sad little men. Jaz spoke of the past, incoherently. Al had to break a leg. Mountaineering was a sad little pond and these people are the weed. Rockclimbing is everywhere as he illustrated from the photos in the annual report.

The summing up tended to be a continuation of the trade of amusing insults.

Stu asked for a show of hands to decide the result and declared the affirmative the winners, while Penny protested the chair’s bias.