



Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Alpine Club
held on Friday 27 October 2017 at 7.00 p.m. at the Canterbury Mineral and Lapidary Club, 110 Waltham Road, Christchurch.

Welcome

1. The President, Penny Brothers, welcomed all who were present.

Attendance

2. Penny Brothers presided over a meeting of 35 other members from throughout New Zealand and Australia.

Apologies

3. Apologies were received from Lindsay Wood, Guy Dubuis, John Cocks, Chas Tanner, Clare Kearney (NO rep.), Stu Gray, Donald Lousley, Gunther Hammer, Rob Moffat (SC rep.), Matt Humphries (SO rep.), Richard Wesley, Gillian Crombie, Dave Bamford, John Nankervis, Reuben McCormack (NM rep.).

4. It was moved: ***“That the apologies be accepted.”***
Rob Mitchell /RossCullen. Carried
5. Penny confirmed that a proxy had been received from John Cocks. She also noted that the Caroline Face had been skied that afternoon.

Matters Arising from the 2016 Minutes

6. It was moved: ***“That the Minutes of the 2016 AGM of the Club be taken as read.”***
Greg Siddells/Sam Newton Carried
7. There were two corrections to the minutes: item 14 (viii) add **“and no further funding would be required”**; and under apologies the spelling of Sean Norman should be Shaun Norman.

Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2016 AGM

8. It was moved: ***“That the Minutes of the 2016 AGM of the Club be adopted as a true and accurate record.”***
Greg Siddells/John Palmer Carried

President’s Report

9. It was moved: ***“That the President’s Report be taken as read.”***
Bob McKerrow/ Greg Siddells Carried
10. The President spoke to her report, especially noting the following.
 - (i) Club membership reached 4000 over the past few months so she assumed the Club must be doing something right.
 - (ii) The 100th issue of the Climber was published earlier this year.
 - (iii) Club activities have been successful, in particular national instruction, Section trips, private trips and also the Banff screenings.
 - (iv) The Banff screenings started as a member benefit but now have a major outreach function and are an enormous financial contributor to the Club. They are run by volunteers in the Sections supported by the office staff.

- (v) Travel insurance continues to be in high demand even though the insurer changed during the year.
 - (vi) All subcommittees are very engaged and do a lot of hard work. However currently the Climbing and Instruction subcommittee does not have a convenor. Penny noted that this may be impacted by perceived risks and possible tension between volunteer and professional instruction.
 - (vii) At the CCM in November 2016 it was agreed that a review of our governance structure be carried out as it was felt the Club Committee had become too large and was not nimble enough. This review, led by John Palmer, has been completed and a significant report has been produced. If the CCM this weekend agrees with the recommendations in the report, the Club will be embarking on a different governance model. The proposed model will be taken round all the Sections to gain feedback.
 - (viii) A big challenge for the Club during the year was the IT system, especially the website and membership management system. More work is needed on the latter.
 - (ix) Staffing has also been a concern at times. Karen Tait has been in the General Manager position for 51 weeks and had a steep learning curve at the start because prior the Club had been without a General Manager for a while. Also during her first year in the position the office has often been understaffed.
 - (x) Another challenge for the Club is that Sport NZ is only funding us half the amount we have been funded over the past few years as we no longer meet their funding criteria as well as we have in the past. Penny noted that the level of funding from Sport NZ may reduce further in future.
 - (xi) A geotechnical report for Murchison Hut noted a lot of movement. The hut is closed and only available for emergency shelter. Penny noted that many huts are being impacted by climate change and this will need to be considered in future.
 - (xii) Finally, Penny reflected on the capacity of the Club to provide the increasing number of functions that members would like and the strain this puts on the Club resources. In relation to this we need to consider whether the Club is volunteer led and staff supported or vice versa. Penny thinks both exist in the club and this can create strain and sometimes confusion.
11. Overall Penny noted that it has been a joy and pleasure to be President of such an active and supportive Club. The highlights for her were the 125th anniversary and also the journey she undertook last December visiting sites of historic significance to early members.
12. Penny then thanked John Cocks for his support as Past President and John Palmer as President Elect and noted that both had been a pleasure to work with. She also thanked the office staff, hut wardens, minute taker, Executive committee led by Geoff Gabites and all the Club Committee members. Finally she thanked her friends in the mountain community – she visited all 12 Sections over the two years and made many new friends and met up with old friends.
13. Questions were then taken from the floor as follows:
- (i) Greg Siddells asked about the governance review and constitution. Penny advised that a new governance structure will be proposed at the CCM tomorrow and if accepted will be taken to Sections for discussion. If accepted a new set of rules in accordance with the new structure will be drawn up.
 - (ii) Rob Mitchell agreed a review of governance was needed and hoped that what he saw as issues associated with four power bodies within the Club are resolved. He thought the four bodies are the President, Executive, General Manager and the Club Committee. Penny did not consider these to be power groups and said their functions were clear. She stated that the problem has been that there are 22 members on the Club Committee and that this meets only two times per year. Also she noted that the

skills of the members do not necessarily match need. She considered that more nimbleness and a simpler way of making important decisions were needed. Rob insisted he saw the four groups as power groups.

- (iii) Max Dorflinger thanked those who were enthusiastic and gave support when working on Pioneer Hut. He in particular noted that John Cocks did most of the paperwork. Penny acknowledged the work of the volunteers.

14. Geoff Gabites then thanked Penny for her work as President over the past two years and noted that to attend meetings she often skyped in from Norway. Geoff has been inspired by her energy and also awed by her climbing trips. On behalf of the Club he thanked her very much and noted that the Club has done very well under her leadership.

15. Stu Allan noted that in 1986 when we first got our database the Club had 1600 members.

16. It was moved: "***That the President's Report be accepted***".
Simon Williamson/Greg Siddells Carried

17. Those at the meeting then sang happy birthday to Penny.

Obituaries

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

Geoffrey Burton, Alan Shaw, Bruce White, Richard McElligott, Charlie Catt, Ralph Wills, Philip Booth, Ralph Miller, Thomas (Tom) Alton, Clinton Smith, Kenneth (Ken) Mason, Benjamin Letham, Conor Smith, Sawan Chand, John (Johnnie) Richards, Ian Jeffrey, Graeme Nuttridge, Arthur O'Kane, Alan (Mick) McNaught.

It was noted that Ed Cotter, a giant of NZAC, had died since production of the Annual Report.

Financial Report

19. It was moved: "***That the Financial Report be taken as read.***"
Greg Siddells/ Geoff Gabites Carried

20. Gillian Crombie was absent so Karen presented the highlights and in particular noting the following:

- (i) In 2017 there was a surplus of about \$73,000 compared with about \$32,000 in 2015/2016. This could be attributed to strong membership growth, strong insurance demand, Banff attendance, and also reduced staffing expenses as a result of being short staffed at times during the year.
- (ii) Income – huts represented approximately 25% of income, subscriptions about 25%, and Sport NZ about 5%.
- (iii) Expenses – noted the decrease in staff costs and instruction course and workshop costs, an increase in sponsorship and in FMC levies.
- (iv) Capital Expenditure – the loan balance was decreased by about \$61,000; there were additions to minor fixed asset (computers, Unwin); and there was a decrease in book stock level of about \$6000.
- (v) Loans and repayments - one fixed SBS loan has been repaid and another was reset for two years; the floating loan was also reduced.

- (vi) Highlights included the increase in membership, the Banff screenings, travel insurance, and that huts and lodges were steady, with Aspiring Hut doing especially well. It was noted that Aspiring Hut is due to have earthquake repairs in April.
- (vii) External funding – mid Tasman hut is progressing and another Meridian grant has been received for it; Sport NZ funds have reduced by half but this level is guaranteed for another 3 years.
- (viii) Summary – there is an improved cash flow because of the surplus; SBS loans continue to be paid off (for Unwin); reserve funds look good; the Aoraki Guide and Back Country Skiing guide are works in progress. SIRD (SI Rock Deluxe) and Wanaka Rock publications are doing well. John Palmer noted that because two guides were not published there was no income from them. Geoff Gabites noted that NZAC had proposed and agreed to increase their levy to FMC.

21. It was moved: “***That the Financial Report for the year be accepted.***”
Greg Siddells/ Sam Newton Carried
22. It was moved: “***That the Annual Report be adopted***”.
Greg Siddells/Ross Cullen Carried

Auditor

23. It was moved that: “***Ashton Wheelans continue as Club auditor.***”
Greg Siddells/Bob McKerrow Carried

Election of Officers

24. Penny Brothers introduced John Palmer as a passionate climbing enthusiast, with rock climbing being his main passion. He started his climbing career in the 1980s in NZ and then overseas. He has been a frequent contributor to many Club activities such as the National Bouldering Series and has convened the Publications subcommittee and been a frequent contributor to the Climber and NZ Alpine Journal and several other climbing publications. He is also an active photographer and a lawyer. She notes the Club is fortunate to have someone of his calibre. She then presented John Palmer with A.P. Harper’s ice axe.

25. The election of officers followed:

Honorary Secretary – no nomination
 Honorary Treasurer – no nomination Gillian Crombie wishes to stand down as Hon. Treasurer but will remain as caretaker until a replacement is found)
 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 – no nomination

26. It was moved: “***That the nominations as listed above be accepted.***”
Jane Morris/Rob Mitchell Carried

27. Penny noted that the Club Committee can co-opt into vacant positions.

NZAC Volunteer of the Year

28. This year the award goes to Matt Humphries from the Southland Section. He was unable to attend the AGM. Matt's citation especially noted that he has been very active leading Club trips and other activities. It was noted that the Southland Section has had a very active year.

Rule Change

29. Penny asked John Palmer to explain the proposed rule change which is covered on pages 26 and 27 of the Annual Report. The rule change resulted from an expectation that the Club Committee will support the governance review recommendations in which case it is anticipated that the recommendations would need to go to a membership vote. Currently Club rules say this must be a postal vote. The rule change will enable members to also vote by email or other digital means.

It was moved that: **"The second sentence in Rule 22.b. be amended to read 'Votes may be sent by post or fax, email or other form of digital communication as may be approved in advance by the Club Committee'.**

John Palmer / Penny Brothers

Carried

The rule change was carried unanimously.

General Business

30. Jaz asked it be noted that we traditionally have a novelty activity at the AGM, such as a debate. Penny said a volunteer is needed to run this.
31. Presentation of awards – it was noted that Sir G. Dingle, Robin McNeill, and Geoff Spearpoint all received Queens Honours. Also NZAC gained three NZ Outdoor Recreation awards – John Cocks the outstanding volunteer award; Sustainable Summits Conference the outstanding event award; and the NZAC National Youth Camp the Outstanding Programme award. The latter was presented to John Entwistle and Tony Burnell at the meeting. Karen explained that this camp is in its 6th year and is organised entirely by these three people. They take 20 teenagers rock climbing for a week and it is always well subscribed.

The meeting closed at 8.15 p.m.