



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on the 31st October 2014
at the YMCA, Christchurch**

Present: The President, John Cocks and 36 others

Apologies: Dave Bamford, Conway Powell, Terry Cole, Jack Buzelin, Rob Mitchell, John Nankervis, Stu Grey, Margy O'Reilly. Sustained, Ross Cullen/Greg Siddells

Proxies: nil

Confirmation of the minutes of the 2013 AGM – Greg Siddells/Richard Thomson, Carried

Presentation of the Presidents Report – taken as read, Ben Winnubst/Greg Siddells

Speaking to the report, John related that he had only been President for two weeks when news was received of two members stranded in a storm on Taranaki. This proved to be tragic and a lot of the Clubs staff time was taken up in dealing with it. In particular John acknowledged the work put in by Sam Newton and Magnus Hammarsal, and the efforts of Paul Prince and the Instruction committee leading to a report, the recommendations of which were being actioned. This event required huge input and as a new president John was heartened by the way club members rallied round and assisted in what needed to be done. Apart from this major event John felt that things had gone well for the club in the past year. In the huts area the news of the CCPF funding scheme was exciting and we await further details. John acknowledged the work of Sam and our permanent head office staff, and thanked all who had contributed to running the club over the past year.

Moved, that the Presidents report be accepted, Paul Prince/Greg Siddells, Passed

Obituaries: The passing of the following members was acknowledged with sadness:

Stephen J S Barker	Hiroki Ogawa	Nicole Sutton
Magnus Kastengren	Peter Manning	C A Ian Saunders
Colin J Burrows	John N Rundle	S Lindsay Simpkin
Robert(Bob) Cawley	Ivan T Pickens	Colin Wright
Ari Kingan	Alex Gourlay	Andreas Fransson

Financial Report

The financial report was presented on a Powerpoint presentation by Sam Newton and Gillian Crombie. They reported that the budget set in March was a zero budget, ie break even, but by its very nature this can fluctuate +/- 10%. Often club assets are not land but we do own Arthurs Pass hut and the Home of Mountaineering and their value has risen considerably. The Home of Mountaineering has \$16000 left to pay off by 2016 and the Unwin members loans (\$220,000) will start being repaid then. The SBS credit facility has been reduced from \$125,000 to \$101,000. Huts are generally self-supporting when staff hours spent on them, and renovations are ignored. In the publications area the Climber magazine print costs are largely paid for by advertising, but not the production costs. Members entirely subsidise the NZ Alpine Journal. Reprints of guide books and new books have significant upfront costs, and the margin on guides is good but they take a long time to sell.

The Aspiring agreement means that DoC collects fees and handle maintenance and expenses and the surplus is retained for major works. It is cost neutral for NZAC. The Westland agreement is similar – Pioneer and Centennial take care of themselves – they are rarely in surplus but rarely require a payment.

Of the special funds, the D O W Hall fund supports publishing of mountain literature and is funded by donations, the Expedition Fund is funded by donations and is strictly money in, money out, as is the Access/Bolting fund.

SportNZ funding is up from \$40,000 to \$55,000, and we are very fortunate to receive this, but it is for the specific purposes of national instruction and volunteer training. We also obtain other grants from pub charities and other gaming funds.

Travel insurance is becoming more popular and we get 10% of it to cover the staff time involved. There was some discussion on the value of travel insurance to members.

The Banff Film Festival is of huge financial benefit to the club.

Our loan balance jumped from \$150,000 to \$395,000 two years ago but is now steadily declining.

Our subscription income has steadily risen from \$240,000 to \$275,000 over three years.

Incident management has been very expensive for the club, with the Ruapehu accident costing round \$50,000 and the Taranaki one \$40,000.

Section donations are the life blood of the club, and are largely derived from Banff proceeds. Sections used to pay for work on huts but now the club does, and returned section levies pay for capital projects.

For the future it is important we adhere to our capital plan, including the Unwin repayment, and invest in the website and hut improvements. We will maintain our stock of publications and revise and reprint as necessary. We will monitor at risk income such as Banff, Insurance and Sport NZ funds. It is planned to match inflation with price increases, and listen to members to enable us to increase the value of membership.

Phil Doole, who could not be present had scrutinised the financial report and wished them to have annotations added, for reasons explained to the meeting, in that he was concerned funds were not being used in the manner agreed to. But Gillian pointed out that if we did this we would run out of cash. The president was concerned that if these annotations were used it would delay the acceptance of the accounts. A motion on the annotations lapsed. Gillian stated she would be uncomfortable going back and changing the accounts. The president proposed that the AGM direct the Club Committee to address the points Phil Doole has raised, seconded by Hugh Logan. Hugh felt the matter would be better dealt with by the CCM and reported back to members. The motion was put and carried

It was proposed that the Treasurers report be accepted, Geoff Gabites/Richard Thomson, carried.

The motion was put that the Annual Report be accepted, Ross Cullen/Philip Tree, carried

Election of Officers

The officers listed in the notice of meeting were elected unopposed, as follows

Honorary Secretary George Edwards
Honorary Treasurer Gillian Crombie
Publications/Community chair Richard Thomson
Accommodation/shelter chair Richard Wesley
Executive committee chair Geoff Gabites
Climbing/instruction chair Paul Prince

Appointment of Auditor

That the current auditor be reappointed for another year, Greg D Siddells/ Ross Cullen, carried

NZAC Volunteer of the Year Award

The President announced this year's award went to Terry Cole, the Chairman of the Australian Section. Terry had taken over and revived the Australian section and provided a one man working bee at our NZ huts.

General Business

Paul Prince thanked the staff at headquarters for all the work they had done for him, some at all hours of the day or night.

Panel Discussion

After a short break a panel discussion on the subject "That NZAC is becoming risk averse" was held, chaired by Hugh Logan.

Peter Cammell argued that we were not risk averse, just risk aware, and argued the virtues of education, skills and experience.

Stu Allan quoted an account of an incident in the Tararuas in 1922 and wondered if anything had changed in the intervening years. He felt our accident rate in the workplace and on the roads was relatively high.

Geoff Gabites felt the NZAC generally reflected the attitudes of modern society and there was an attitude of making the outdoors safe, by apportioning blame, blame someone, but not me. Thus NZAC is not risk averse, just reflecting society.

Daniel Joll felt the clubs structure made it risk averse. He gave an example from his own experience which he felt showed the club has institutionalised risk aversion.

Yvonne Pfluger felt the club should be about helping people who want to go into the mountains together and assisting them to manage their exposure to risk.

Jaz Morris was concerned at the danger of trying to manage risk by paper work. It is becoming difficult to organise volunteers to help instruction, whereas you go to the RIMF and it is paperwork free.

Some free flowing discussion followed among the speakers. In closing Hugh said, that as expected there was no simple answer, and the purpose was to air the issues. He felt that personal responsibility was important and that we go out to enjoy the mountains because of the risk, but we need to manage risk. One of the roles of NZAC is to impart the skill to manage risk. He thanked the contributors for covering a wide spectrum of arguments.