

**Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Alpine Club** held on Friday 1 November 2019 at 7.15 p.m. at The Three Boys Brewery, 572 Ferry Road, Christchurch.

**1. Welcome and Attendance**

The President, John Palmer, welcomed all who were present and thanked them for attending. He presided over a meeting of 53 other members from throughout New Zealand and Australia.

**2. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Pete Cammell, Jan Arnold, John Cocks, Claire Jones, Gunther Hammer, Nick Shearer, Jim Strang, Don Bogie, George Edwards, Limbo Thomson, Margaret Clark, Helen Lilley.

**3. Confirmation of Minutes and Matters Arising from the 2018 Minutes**

It was moved: ***“That the Minutes of the 2018 AGM of the Club be adopted as a true and accurate record.”***

Mike Pryjma / Lindsay Smith                      Carried

There were no corrections to the minutes and no matters arising.

**4. President’s Report**

The President, John Palmer, spoke to his report, especially noting the following:

- (i) The first set of elections under the new governance structure has occurred. There was a very high standard of nominees. Congratulations to the new Board members and also to Lindsay Smith, the new President.
- (ii) This AGM represents the end of the interim Board. Its high calibre members Included: Penny Brothers, who did an extra year as President to cover the change in governance structure; Claire Kearney who is a governance expert and who will induct new Board members; Richard Wesley who is continuing his role in charge of accommodation; and Geoff Gabites – more on him later.
- (iii) It has been a busy year for staff – especially Ashlee who had twins. Thankyou to Francis for filling in for Ashlee in the office.
- (iv) Big items of work during the year included the Management Plans for Aoraki/Mt Cook and Westland /Tai Poutini National Parks. These Plans alarmed many people as they were tourist enabling yet did not acknowledge the relationship with climbers in those National Parks. John Palmer was awed at the amount of work John Nankervis and John Cocks put into preparing the NZAC submissions to the Plans.  
The Management Plans have since been withdrawn for further work.
- (v) Access and advocacy are becoming more important to the Club and more work is needed in this space, especially with respect to access to North Island crags. Closures at Arapiles are also a concern. Climbing Clubs are looking to NZAC for leadership in this area.

**5. Obituaries**

A minute's silence was held to remember those Club members who had died during the past year. They were:

Keith Royce, Caleb Jennings, Martin Hess, Peter Hicks, Neville Bonnington, Alan Aitken, Shirley Skinner, Trevor Chinn, Brian Cleugh, David Blunt, Peter Robinson, Kevin Hanks, Anthony (Tony) Norman, Ruth McCance, John Pybus, Diane Parton, Marie Shaw, David Skinner, Fred Shaw and Arnold Heine.

## **6. Financial**

Financial highlights were presented by Gillian Crombie.

- The surplus for the year was \$131,794, the largest for some time. Much of this was made up of donations and bequests but also came from an increase in membership and book sales and from Banff.
- Banff for Auckland and Canterbury/Westland (C/W) Sections were run by Headquarters to overcome GST issues.
- There was a decrease in hut costs overall and an increase in hut income, a decrease in Committee expenses because of the change to the governance structure, a decrease of SBS and member loans of \$35,000 (member repayments are continuing), an increase in Reserve Funds of \$44,800, an increase in the Development Fund by \$26,000, an increase in membership income, a significant increase in publication sales and also in member donations and bequests.
- The overall cash held has increased by about \$116,000 with Reserve Funds making up \$45,000 of that. These Reserve Funds are held in separate accounts and not available for general Club funding.
- The Mid-Tasman hut continues as a work in progress - grants are fully expended.
- Travel insurance has been well supported
- National Instruction has increased.
- Administration costs are similar.
- New carpets and heat pumps have been installed in the office.

External Funding received included \$10,000 from the Community Trust for the Mid-Tasman hut and Banff income and levies from Sections.

### **Questions were then welcomed from the floor.**

Nina Sawicki asked if there was any shortfall to complete the Mid-Tasman hut. Response was that only the toilet and transport from Oamaru are to be completed but funds are available for these.

Geoff Gabites asked how much longer the member loans run on Unwin –they should be tidied up by the end of 2020.

Nina Sawicki asked how much use Aspiring Hut gets. Response was that it is sometimes overcrowded.

The C/W Treasurer, John Lindsay Roper, asked for clarification on GST issues for Banff for the Auckland and C/W Sections – Gillian explained that the Auckland Section was still over the GST limit even though Banff funds were shared with Headquarters. Hence GST was paid for the Auckland Section this year. This impacts on everything else the Auckland Section does. Gillian said this issue needs to be looked at further and Section finances need to be

consolidated.

Gillian advised that cash flow is being managed carefully.

## 7. Appointment of Auditor

It was moved that: ***“NZAC appoints Ashton Wheelans as auditor for the Club.”***  
Gillian Crombie / Sam Newton                      Carried

Gillian noted that Ashton Wheelans carry out a Review of the Club finances. They are not required to do an audit.

John Palmer said that the Club financials are in great shape thanks to Gillian.

## 8. Presentation of Life and Honorary Members

John explained the requirements for Honorary Members. Those recommended by the Selection Committee are:

**Julianne Clyma** – grew up in Invercargill. She was selected mainly for her experience in expedition mountaineering. She is a qualified guide and has done a lot of work in that space. She is a role model for young women and now lives in Switzerland.

**Lloyd ‘Kiwi’ Gallagher** - is a New Zealander who grew up and climbed in NZ before moving to Canada in 1965. There he amassed an impressive resumé of climbing. The Canadian Alpine Club has included him in their list of notable climbers. He is a philanthropist in relation to an élite rescue service and has also has brought families with troubled backgrounds into climbing.

Five Life Members were recommended by the Selection Committee. John explained there had been a paucity of nominations during his Presidency hence a greater number than usual have been nominated this year. They are:

**Christine Jensen Burke** who lives in Sydney but was born in Timaru. She has a law degree and Masters in Environmental Law. She has spent a lot of time climbing the 8000 metre peaks in a short space of time and was the first Australian or NZ woman to complete the seven summits using the Carstensz option in 2013 – the highest mountains on each of the seven continents - and the NZ woman using the Kosciuszko version. She is very active in the climbing community, though not in NZ.

**Cliff Ellery** lived in Hamilton but is now in Kinloch. He is the chief protagonist in North Island rock climbing and also very active in the Central North Island Section. He has developed quality crags in the North Island and has produced guidebooks at his own expense for North Island crags. He also donates to rebolt routes so they are safe for others to use.

**Gillian Crombie** is a long standing member of the C/W Section and is also Honorary Treasurer of the Club. She has worked under many Presidents and Office Managers during her time as Treasurer and has done an excellent job for the Club, including dealing with major projects. She has lots of institutional knowledge. She was

outstanding Volunteer of the Year at the NZ Recreation Association outdoor awards in 2018.

**Phil Doole** has been a Club member since 1978. He has a Bachelor of Surveying and has been connected to the Otago and Nelson/Marlborough (N/M) Sections. He has been a Club President and convenor of the Recreation Advocacy Committee. He lost his legs in a survival epic on Mt Cook. Prior to that he had done a lot of climbing, and has continued to do so since his accident. Four months after his rescue he climbed in Peru/ Bolivia and has since climbed several high NZ peaks. Phil replied and thanked the N/M Section and also Ollie Clifton (General Manager when he was President). He set the groundwork for the Unwin re-development. He had a gap of 10 years away from the Club in the 1990s because he was working in recreation management for the Department of Conservation. He is sad that little has happened in recreation planning in the last 10 years.

**Max Dorflinger** is a long-standing member of the C/W Section and is a cabinet maker. In 1970 he emigrated to NZ from Europe. Major ascents in Europe included the North Face of the Eiger. He also has an impressive list of ascents in NZ including the 1<sup>st</sup> solo ascent of the Caroline Face, which he completed in 15 hours. He has worked as a mountaineer at Mt Cook and has contributed a lot to the NZAC hut network, especially maintenance at Pioneer and Centennial and Porter Lodge. In 2016 he jointly received Volunteer of the Year for NZAC.

Max replied and said the climb of the Eiger was almost 50 years ago and was a turning point in his life as he then decided to come to NZ.

#### **9. Volunteer of the year announcement**

Ant Steed, nominated by Pete Cammell, is an Auckland Section member and a stalwart of the Auckland Section Committee, a tireless advocate of working bees, and a great supporter of Auckland Grammar quarry climbing. He has also given a lot of time to instruction.

#### **10. General Business**

None

#### **11. Concluding comments from John Palmer and Lindsay Smith**

John said this AGM ends his role as President (actually ended on 1 October). He said it had been a pleasure to lead the Club but he was now passing the ice axe to Lindsay Smith – the first President under the new governance model.

Lindsay then acknowledged John's valuable input to implementing the new Governance structure and thanked him for the way these changes were carried out with such a lovely mix of humour and professionalism.

He also thanked the outgoing Board for handing over the Club in such outstanding heart. He introduced the new Board – Ross Cullen (N/M), Gerald Lanning (Auckland), Nina Sawicki (Wellington), and Yvonne Pfluger (Queenstown). He pointed out the diversity of the new Board – two males and two females and two North Island and two South Island members. He also introduced Mike Pryjma (Australia) and Jim Petersen (C/W) who represent the Sections on the Board.

**Meeting Closed 8.20 p.m.**

