

Minutes of the 2021 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Alpine Club
held on Friday 29 October 2021 at 7.30 p.m. at the Uprising Climbing Gym, 199 Ferry Road, Christchurch.

1. **Welcome and Attendance**

President Elect, Clare Kearney, welcomed all who were present to the meeting in Otautahi and thanked them for attending. Lindsay Smith, the President, sent apologies for the meeting and hence Clare presided over the meeting of 30 other members from throughout New Zealand.

2. **Apologies and Proxies – no proxies**

Apologies were received from Stu Gray, Louise Porteous, Greg and Tina Siddells, Dr Pat Campbell, Limbo Thompson, Lindsay Smith, Jonathan Hunt and John Cocks.

It was moved that: ***“The apologies be accepted.”***

Moved: Yvonne Pfluger Seconded: Ross Cullen. Carried.

3. **In Memorium**

A minute’s silence was held to remember those Club members who had died during the past year. They were: Scott Ewing, John Raymond Stewart, Roger Mann, Ron Webster, John Allison, Graeme Calvert and John Berragan.

4. **President’s Report**

Clare highlighted some aspects of Lindsay Smith’s report, in particular referencing the last two paragraphs in which he thanked Board members and the staff, and also members who have shown involvement in the Club.

5. **Confirmation of Minutes and Matters Arising from the 2020 Minutes**

It was moved: ***“That the Minutes of the 2020 AGM of the New Zealand Alpine Club be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.”***

Moved: Richard Wesley Seconded: Karen Leacock.
Carried.

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

6. **Financial Report**

Financial highlights were presented by Gillian Crombie. These included:

- The surplus for the 2021 year was approximately \$181,000.
- The total revenue was down by about \$94,000 largely due to a decrease in membership (about \$7000), publications (about \$48,000) and accommodation (about \$35,000) and no travel insurance.
- Cashflow – there was an operating surplus of approximately \$362,000 and a decreased loan balance.
- The SBS loan has almost been paid back with the remaining portion of \$500 (at 4.54% interest), to be fully repaid November 2021. Outstanding member loans for the Unwin rebuild stand at \$22,250,
- Regarding the budget, subscriptions and accommodation are below budget, the Sport NZ grant was reduced to \$20,000 for 2021-2022, five planned winter instruction courses were cancelled because of Covid, but

there was a Body Corporate reimbursement from earthquake repairs of \$22,000.

- In summary, the cash flow is in a solid position so will help cover current Covid restrictions, and loans have almost been paid off.

Questions were welcomed from the floor.

Geoff Gabites asked about membership. This is now about 4600 and while this is fairly static, there has been some new subscriptions. The Australian Section lost most members because of travel restrictions but it is likely these numbers will increase once Covid restrictions are eased.

Geoff Gabites asked about subscription levels. Currently there is no need to change the rates.

Geoff Gabites asked the average age of the membership and the gender split. The average age is 40-44 years old with about 42% of members being female.

Ross Cullen noted that the DW Hall fund balance included a grant for publications from a Club member which doesn't really belong there. However Gillian clarified that donated funds and Reserve funds are all kept in a separate account.

It was moved that: ***“The Annual Report, President’s report and financial report be accepted.”***

Moved: Jim Peterson Seconded: Yvonne Pfluger. Carried

7. Appointment of Auditor

It was moved that: ***“NZAC appoints Ashton Wheelans to review the accounts for the coming year.”***

Moved: Gillian Crombie Seconded: Nick Shearer. Carried

8. Volunteer of the Year announcement

Pat Prendergast, a Canterbury/Westland Section member, is the Volunteer of the Year. Her citation included that she established an enduring mid-week Wednesday climbing day for members 18 years ago. She organises all the locations and transport for these trips and as well sometimes runs multi day climbing and skiing trips. Pat also shares her excellent botanical knowledge, runs wilding pine eradication days at Ferintosh Station and recently she donated several of her water colours to Unwin Lodge.

Pat responded and explained that she started the group after she started working weekends.

10. General Business

A member asked about the status of the new Journal and Climber publications. Ross Cullen and Tom Hoyle responded and summarised the reasons behind the changes to the Climber and Journal, including that Covid precipitated the changes. The Club has now produced two issues of the new Journal. They are trying to reach a broader audience with these and feel they have succeeded. Tom noted that he is not flooded with articles for the Journals. However more articles are going on the website and there is a growing number of contributors to this. He feels the model is successful but as yet the right balance has not been achieved.

Ross would like to know what members think of the website.

A member then asked how the decision is made about what goes on the website and what goes in the Journal. Tom explained that the Journal remains the historical record of NZ climbing and includes all the usual Journal articles but

also tries to include anything of high quality or substance.

Nick Cowie noted that the new website has had a lot of hits – both new and repeated.

Yvonne asked about ClimbNZ. Tom noted he would like more support for this. Ross noted that Innsbruck University digitised all the old Journals and these are now on line. It is hoped that they will soon set up links to specific articles in the Journal. The old Climbers are also slowly being put on the website.

There being no further General Business, Clare then thanked the staff, Nick Cowie and all those who put this AGM together.

She also thanked Lindsay Smith for taking the Club successfully through Covid restrictions and also for solidifying the new Governance structure of the Club.

Meeting Closed 8.10 p.m.

The following is not part of the Minutes but is a record of the report presented to the Club after the AGM.

ACAT REPORT (Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust).

Anna Brook and Sam Newton presented information on ACAT. ACAT was seed funded by the NZAC. It was established as a result of increasing issues of access to climbing areas, especially in the North Island. Crag closures in the North Island have been devastating, e.g. Whanganui Bay, the Quarry. The aim of ACAT is to broker the relationship between landowners and climbers. Over the years NZAC has tried to deal with these issues but it was felt that they are better dealt with at a local level. So with ACAT, locals will deal with local issues but ACAT will provide a national framework to work through.

They noted that ACAT is run by a Board of Trustees, of which three members must be NZAC members, and a half time General Manager. This Manager is recruiting a team of volunteers. ACAT is looking for further funding as what they are able to do is limited by resources.

Anna and Sam then noted that ACAT will also be involved in advocacy on other issues in NZ, such as the MILFORD AOPPORTUNITES PROJECT and National Park Management Plans. As an example Anna explained a current project ACAT is involved with is the Mt Bradley Management Plan. Another example was negotiating climbing as a permitted activity under Covid Level 3.

It was noted that climbers can often add benefit to landowners, for example ecological knowledge, wilding pine eradication.

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The evening concluded at 8.50pm.