**Minutes of the 2022 Annual General Meeting of the New Zealand Alpine Club** held on Friday 28 October 2022 at 7.00 p.m. at the XCHC Café, 376 Wilsons Road, Christchurch.

## Welcome and Attendance

## The President, Clare Kearney, welcomed all who were present, thanked them for attending and acknowledged Tūāhuriri mana whenua. She presided over a meeting of about 35 other members from throughout New Zealand.

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

Apologies were received from John-Roper Lindsay, Lindsay Smith, Geoff

Gabites, Mary Rose Blackley, Chas Tanner, Pat Campbell, Ann Metcalfe, Claire

Jones, Elizabeth Thevenard, John Cocks, Gillian and Derek Crombie, James

Broadbent, Geoff Spearpoint, Peter Hillary.

Moved “***The apologies be accepted”.*** Yvonne Pfluger / Ross Cullen Carried

1. **In Memorium**

## A minute’s silence was held to remember those Club members who had died

## during the past year. They were: Hugh Barr, Andrew Mitchell, John Nankervis,

## Ben Winnubst, Sarah-Jane Bayram, Brigitte Richards, W K Allan Berry, Adrian

## Cooper, M Jane Putt, William (Bill) Gordon, Nancy Cawley.

1. **Confirmation of Minutes and Matters Arising from the 2021 AGM Minutes**

Moved ***“The Minutes of the 2021 AGM of the Club be***

***adopted as a true and accurate record.”***

Jim Peterson / Nick Shearer Carried

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

1. **President’s Report**

Clare Kearney presented a summary as follows.

* The year was still Covid interrupted but as things eased, hut use and instruction courses increased, and the Tūpiki Trust and ACAT (Aotearoa Climbing Access Trust) were underway.
* Work started on the refurbishment of Aspiring Hut in October. Clare thanked the staff, donors, volunteers and those working on the site. It is hoped the hut will open in the New Year.
* Clare thanked the NZAC staff for their year’s work and noted changes that occurred during the year, including Karen Leacock (General Manager) returning from maternity leave.
* Clare also thanked past Presidents and others who helped her in her role as President.
* Clare thanked Mike Pryjma who is leaving the Board as a Section Representative and is being replaced by Josh Schoombie.
* In particular Clare thanked Lindsay Smith for his term as President of the Club.

Moved ***“The President’s report be accepted.”***

Myles Perry / Dara Shearer Carried

**6. Financial Report**

Financial highlights were presented by the General Manager.

* Operating expenses came out about even. Subscriptions were down as membership numbers dropped largely due to a decrease in Australian Section members who were not able to travel to NZ during Covid lockdown; National Instruction income was down but so were expenses such that a small surplus was generated; Publication expenses were down a little mainly because only one book was published during the year; donations and grants were up significantly, largely due to bequests; Banff was very successful; wages increased a small amount because of changes during the year e.g. staff training. Overall expenses were up, partly because hut fees were reduced (Covid) yet expenses such as waste removal from huts and wardens were still high.
* CapEx and cashflow. There is an operating cash surplus of about $449,000, a decreased loan balance of about $28,000, additions for fixed assets/work in progress about $32,000 (mostly Aspiring Hut initial costs). The SBS loan for Unwin was fully repaid by November. Member loans were also cleared and all obligations completed before work started on Aspiring Hut.
* Banff Film Festival provides valuable funds to NZAC. The surplus last year was about $113,000. The Club must work hard to continue its relationship with Banff.
* Looking ahead. While subscriptions were down last year they are looking good this year; Accommodation is going very well this year; Instruction in winter was impacted by sickness; there is a large investment into Aspiring Hut at the moment. The total cost of Aspiring Hut will be about $1,096,000 and there is a shortfall of about $106,000. The General Manager is now seeking member loans for Aspiring and has already received about $40,000. It was noted there are still funds in the CDF which could be used if necessary but trying elsewhere first. Thankyou to all who have donated.
* Summary Cashflow is good; Unwin loans paid off; several bequests received; the Club is in a strong position despite Covid.

Stu Allan asked about the age group of those who resigned. The General Manager said it was mostly younger members, maybe because no youth camp was held. To be discussed at Board meeting.

Rob Mitchell asked what planning is in place for the Ruapehu huts.The General Manager said a long term strategy is needed and Ruapehu Hut does need work. This will be considered once Aspiring Hut rebuild is completed. Whangaehu has had some recent maintenance. Ruapehu Huts will be part of discussions at the Board meeting tomorrow.

Penny Brothers asked if there was a long term agreement with Banff, given it is such a big success and is therefore a big risk. The General Manager said in the past the Club has had a two year contract with Banff but during Covid this was reduced to one year. The Club has now succeeded in again getting a two year contract but Banff is not willing to lengthen this.

Moved ***“The financial report be accepted.”***

Ross Cullen / Myles Perry Carried

1. **Appointment of Auditor**

The auditor provides a review rather than audit of accounts.

Moved ***“NZAC appoints Ashton Wheelans as auditor for the Club.”*** Yvonne Pfluger /Myles Perry Carried

1. **Honorary Membership**

The following have been granted Honorary membership of NZAC.

Sir Tipene O-Regan. Tā Tipene was awarded a knighthood in 1994 and the

Order of NZ in 2022. He was 2022 New Zealander of the year. Tā Tipene led the

Ngāi Tahu Claim process through the Treaty of Waitangi, culminating in the Ngāi

Tahu Settlement, which specifically recognised the importance of Mt Cook to

Māori and returned ownership to them. With the guidance of Tā Tipene the name

Aoraki was formally reinstated and the maunga gifted back to the people of NZ.

This Honorary Membership is the Club’s formal acknowledgement of the

importance of this gift to the climbing community. The Club also acknowledges

his scholarly interest in history and ethnology which resulted in the Cultural

Mapping Project and creation of Kā Huru Manu an excellent resource for climbers.

Daniel Joll. Daniel is based in the Chamonix valley. He has travelled and climbed

extensively at high levels throughout the world and has helped

establish some of NZ’s hardest climbs, summer and winter. In particular, in NZ he

has helped establish long and challenging rock routes in the Darrans. He is

founder of the Expedition Climbers’ Club and NZ Alpine Team and a mentor and

coach to a new generation of climbers. He started the very successful

Remarkables Ice and Mixed Festival.

1. **Life Membership**

Clare acknowledged and thanked Margaret Clark for her attendance at the meeting. She received life membership in 2016

The following were granted Life Membership of NZAC.

Anne Todhunter neé Palmer. Anne and husband own Mt Heron station, Lake Heron Air, and are partners in Methven Heliski. Anne is a lawyer by training and has been an IFMGA guide, though is no longer high guiding. In 1991 Anne became one of only a few fully certified female guides internationally and the 2nd in NZ. She was Chief Guide at Aoraki for the 1993 and 1994 summer seasons. In 1987 she established a new route on the South Face of Aoraki Mt Cook. Anne is a role model for young women.

In her response Anne said she was very humbled to be made a Life Member, that mountains have been the centre of her life for a long time and she is very supportive of the Club’s role, especially in advocacy and instruction.

Penny Webster. Penny has been an elite cyclist, multi-sport athlete and adventure racer and now enjoys introducing other people to the mountains and mentoring them. She has extensive climbing experience overseas (including Aconcagua and Everest in 2018) and most recently has climbed all 24 3000 metre peaks in NZ (between 1981 and 2016). She is one of 24 mountaineers to have climbed all NZ’s higher peaks and the 4th woman to have done so. She has served on the National Instruction Committee and established a programme for a standardised syllabus for NZAC snowcraft instruction.

Penny responded that she was very honoured and humbled to be awarded Life Membership. She loves climbing at all levels and wants everyone she takes out to enjoy the mountains.

Nick Shearer. Nick is an Oamaru dentist and long term member of the Club. Nick has climbed and ski mountaineered with considerable success in NZ and overseas. This includes first ascents in the Himalaya. He is a generous contributor to all North Otago Section activities, especially for the indoor climbing wall, bouldering events, Elcho hut maintenance, and trip leadership. He is currently co-editing Titirea/Aspiring Guidebook. Nick was NZAC Vice-President 2010 to 2012.

In response Nick thanked the Club very much and pointed out that he has never been a solo mountaineer and a lot of people have accompanied him.

Also Life Membership was awarded to the following who were not in attendance:

Bruce Dowrick. Bruce is a designer and builder and lives in Wanaka. He has established a number of significant crags and routes in the South Island, especially round Wanaka and Queenstown. He has also been instrumental in the development of major crags, alpine and multi-pitch routes in the Darrans. He has extensive mountaineering and skiing experience and overseas rock climbing experience. He is a founding member of Wanaka Rock Climbing Club and a key advocate for climbing in Wanaka. He is a frequent contributor to the NZAJ and Climber.

Gary Brehaut. Gary has been a Section Committee member and Chairman of the South Canterbury Section for many years, as well as Section Representative on the Club Committee. He led and organised many Section instruction courses from the 1970s to the 2000s and has been an active member of S & R for more than 30 years, being a key liaison person for the police and DoC. He has advised and helped many young climbers in South Canterbury. In the past he has been responsible for Unwin Hut bookings, provisioning and maintenance. He has been an active mountaineer, mainly in the Canterbury region of Southern Alps and has also been active in rock climbing, skiing, mountain biking and alpine photography. He has had two seasons in the Antarctic for the NZ Antarctic Programme.

**8. Volunteer of the year announcement**

Jim Davidson is an Auckland Section member and Committee member. He has given vast amounts of time to instruction and mentoring of Club members. He has organised Instruction courses and been on many trips in a mentoring capacity. Jim is an accomplished mountaineer and helped develop the instruction pathway with the Instruction Committee. He is an active climber and over the past 12 years has climbed all 3000m peaks in NZ.

**General Business**

Penny Webster asked about a volunteer warden for Aspiring Hut. The General Manager said the Club will be revisiting this and noted that duties are split with DoC because of the Matukituki Agreement.

Clare Kearney introduced Graham Zimmerman, current President of the American Alpine Club, accomplished alpinist, climbing advocate and climate activist. Graham was in on-line attendance at our AGM and is to address the Club on climate change at the end of the AGM.

**Meeting Closed** 8.05 p.m.