



Minutes From General Meeting January 28th 2014

7.10pm Meeting open

Present; Rob Parer, Luke Doherty, Eric Straw, Elizabeth Cuskelly, Dan Gordon, Jonathon Schwartz, Lucy Stirling, Brendan Coulter, Callum Tyler, Steve Kloske, Ian Elliott, Adam Gibson, Ria Zoeller, TJ Clark, Stephen Cox, Bjorn Lyngwa, Ryan King, Daniel Batkin, Nathaniel Mitchell, Jan Pur, Zac Trembath-Pitham, Dan Roe, Lewis Templar, Sarel Cilliers, Jeffrey Lockett, Will Chan, Nik Terentyev, Proude Hawkins, Dave Reeve, Ruth Reeve & Glen Jones,

Apologies; Phil Box, Ross Ferguson, Graham Baxter, Ron Farmer, Antoine Moussette & Chris Moore

Motion to accept previous meeting's discussion points as the minutes are missing due to an unfortunate error when moving offices. No major motions or decisions were made at the meeting, and all agreed that the minutes of the meeting would have been largely functionary in nature.

Correspondence

Chris Williams via email asked; *I would like to know where we are with the bike path/pedestrian debacle at KP. I know that the original 'slow down' sign on the bike path has been repainted, but nothing else has been done there. I am unable to attend the meeting to ask the question myself.*

The Committee responded with the answer; Whilst we observe the debate with interest, the exec states that this is not an ACAQ matter as we deal almost exclusively with access and access related issues. The matter has been forwarded to Brisbane City Council's Infrastructure Committee, and all future enquiries should be addressed to them directly.

Crag Reports

Mt Coolum – Ian Elliott

Climber numbers have been steadily increasing as the weather has warmed up though Christmas /New Year was fairly quiet.

At Dave's request, I checked the bolts on Fruitbat and was unable to get more than a half turn on any. The redundant 4th bolt was out 10mm so I hammered it back in. It's useful for cleaning the route.

With the hotter weather the numbers have increased with 37 climbers reported on Sun. 19 Jan.

OZ day w/e was a big one with Lewis and Antoine shooting for the movie and lots of climbers there.

I expect the crag to get lots of attention until the cooler weather makes other crags more appealing.

Many climbers are now climbing much harder grades so the traffic jams on 3 or 4 most popular routes seems to be a thing of the past. Also the dry weather means all routes are open.

The Guide Book has also brought more climbers to the crag and increased the climber's economic contribution to the Coast.

*Regards,
Ian Elliott.*

Helidon Hills & Mt Beerwah – Phil Box

Nothing to report – its way too hot!

Brooyar – Graham Page

Nothing to report

Mt. Greville: *Nothing to report*

Flinders Peak: *Nothing to report*

Mt. Barney: *Nothing to report*

Mt. Maroon: *Nothing to report*

Glass House Mtns: - Dave Reeve

At Tibrogargan, the impact of the ever increasing visitor traffic is becoming obvious.. It used to be easy to miss the tracks to Slider and Celestial Wall. Now they are really very obvious. However, all tracks are looking reasonably stable with no tendency to multi-tracking. There is a lot off traffic on Troposphere and thence up on Halfway House. We will need to watch the stability of the track at the top of Troposphere. At the moment, there is no cause for concern either there or on Halfway House itself. The Caves route is showing serious wear and tear, and there is an ongoing problem with fires being lit in Cave 2. I have discussed the possibility of signage here with the RIC. Only a small percentage of the problem on Caves Route is likely to be due to climbers.

At Ngungun we are seeing a revival in interest. Perhaps due to improvements in access, perhaps due to the new SEQ guide. QPWS are doing great work with the tracking, though there are points on some of the climber access tracks that could use stabilisation. In light of the increasing visitor levels, the age of much of the fixed hardware at Ngungun is of concern. There are new anchors commissioned by QPWS on top of Flat Battery Wall, and some anchors at the top of the main cliffs have been replaced, but many of the lower cliff sport routes need attention.

Activity at Beerwah is cramped by the current closure of the tourist track. When the tourist track is reopened, it will be interesting to see whether it will attract substantial climber traffic apart from the aid route.

Kangaroo Point: - Proude Hawkins

I'm pleased to report that the effort in stemming the tide of incidents the crag seems to be taking effect. Good work and a thank you to all the people willing to step up and approach climbers that have a fault in their climbing setup and technique.

There are now several climbs that have been newly bolted and have anchors, they start at Moonlight Dilemma. I have no names or grades for for them yet, they should range from fourteen to nineteen.

The bolting issue comes of cause at these meetings i.e. putting lower bolts on some climbs and re-bolting of other climbs. As the ACAQ rep in touch with the climbers at Kangaroo Point, I get to hear what they are requesting and I have voiced their requests at the quarterly meeting.

There are some more, lower grade climbs now at the cliffs that are bolted and have anchors to keep the beginner and family climbers happy. We are going through a big surge in the numbers of climbers at cliffs with its popularity spreading though the community, with that comes the need to have more routes checked and hardware replaced on them.

End of report

*Kind Regards
Proude Hawkins*

Mount French & Frog Buttress – Steve Kloske

The summer months are usually quite slow out at frog but this summer has seen a lot more attention than is normal for the off season. The toilet and camp ground redevelopment projects were scheduled to begin in December however a fungal out break believed to be phytophthora put a hold on all other works and even resulted in a temporary park closure. The outbreak was later confirmed as suspected phytophthora. Part of the national parks response was to provide foot washing stations at several national parks to help limit cross infections in other parks.

ACAQ adopted a proactive response to the information provided and kept the wider climbing community aware of the progress national parks were making as information came to hand. ACAQ also suggested possible avenues for the spread and has advised of control methods.

The campground upgrades will remain on hold until the phytophthora issues

are settled but demolition and reconstruction of the toilet and septic block are still scheduled to commence in the near future.

A proposed track care weekend in mid march is still likely to go ahead with the support of the uni clubs.

*Nothing further.
Steve Kloske.*

President's Report – Dave Reeve

The Nature Conservation and Other Legislation Amendment Act (No. 2) was passed into law on the 7th November last year. Not surprisingly, many expressed concerns about an incoming government tinkering with such a flagship of the State legislation. Be that as it may, those of us who recreate on the public estate are clearly winners in at least one critical regard, as I will explain below.

The NCA has been amended to place an extra layer of protection between the public purse and civil liability claims. To see the importance of this amendment, consider that every crag that has been shut to climbing in the past has been shut on grounds of the public danger presented by rock fall. All too often resort to the truism that cliffs present a danger from falling rocks has been used as means to avoid the need to grapple with the management of cliff-based, recreational activities. However, I believe that in going forward, this will no longer be the case, and land managers are going to find it difficult to justify degradation through mismanagement of such iconic public assets as Mt Coonowrin.

To those of us with an ear to ground, the change in attitudes within NPRSR to the development of our sport has been marked, and nowhere more so than at Glasshouse. And it is not just all talk, real things are happening. Anyone who has visited Ngungun lately can attest to the quality track that now leads to the summit, with a properly constructed exit track for climbing traffic at the top of Flat Battery Wall. Also, QPWS climbing anchors will be seen along the top of the wall, placed with the view to taking the load off the trees. All this was done in full consultation with the climbing community via ACAQ.

Ngungun, being close to the village of Glasshouse with its suburban rail connection to the city, has a major role to play in the rising tide of adventure tourism. It is awesome to see QPWS getting ahead of the curve with this one, and making sure that the infrastructure is in place to cope with the likely visitor levels. The climbing community has a role to play in this process. We will continue to be available for consultation and input at every opportunity it is useful for us to do so.

Treasurer's Report – Ruth Reeve

Income for the qtr: \$60.00

Expenditure for the qtr: \$246.24

Closing Balance: \$9,596.24

General Business

Climbing On Sunshine - Lewis Templar.

Lewis reports a great days filming at Coolum Cave in the previous week, and that filming in general has gone very well. However, more climbers are encouraged to come forward, especially from the beginner end of the climbing spectrum. If you are interested in taking part or helping in any way, please contact Lewis

Bolting. *If you are about to bolt a new route in SEQ, please contact the ACAQ to allow a precedent to be set re QPWS Operational Policy on bolting. All correspondence should be directed to Secretary@climb.org.au*

Next Meeting.

Tuesday 22nd April 2014 at 7.00pm.

Location; Urban Climb, 2/220 Montague Road, West End Qld 4101.

No further business.

8.25pm Meeting closed