



Minutes From General Meeting January 15th 2013

7.05pm Meeting open

Present; Steve Peckman, Nathan Jorgensen, Graham Baxter, Ria Zoeller, Adam Gibson, Rob Parer, Lucy Stirling, Elizabeth Cuskelly, Daniel Gordon, Alex Stevens, Mark Gamble, Phil Box, Proude Hawkins, Dave Reeve, Ruth Reeve & Glen Jones

Apologies; Joel Simpkins, Mike Olsen, Will Olsen & Tom Olsen.

Motion to accept previous meeting's minutes

Proposed; Graham Baxter

Seconded; Adam Gibson

Correspondence

Crag Reports

Mt Coolum – Ian Elliott

The year 2012 started off with controversy over bolting in an area which the Falcons were known to frequent.

With the increasing numbers of climbers now climbing hard grades, the LH end of the cave has seen much more attention than in previous years.

This was also the area where the falcons nested.

2012 saw the falcons nest at the RH end of the cave. They hatched at least 2 chicks and I have a confirmed sighting of 3 falcons flying in November so they raised at least 1 chick. I was away for all of Nov. so missed the flight of the chicks from the nest but have recently seen 1 juvenile.

The current nest site is in the middle of an aid route {Gothic Architecture} which sees little traffic.

We need to formulate a management plan for the coming breeding season so as not to interfere with the falcons choice of nesting sites while allowing access to most of the routes. None of the most popular routes are under threat.

Coolum is now seeing consistent numbers all year and no longer experiencing a significant fall in numbers during winter.

Helidon Hills & Mt Beerwah – Phil Box

Helidon Hills report.

National Parks have closed off the vehicle access road through the forest to the top of Redcliffs to all vehicles except to those permitted to drive on the roads. I still have access via my relationship with Murphys Creek Escape campground. If anyone needs vehicle access to Redcliffs just contact me. There is still significant evidence from the great floods of 2011 in the various creeks around the district. Looking down from the top of Redcliffs the creek bed is still pretty much sterile of any foliage or even weeds so the walk in via Paradise Creek Road is a breeze. The local redneck pops his head up on occasion and abuses people accessing the parking spot. As before stand your ground and he will back off. Goanna Point access can only be walked now as the original road through Bob's property has been completely obliterated. Park off the road at the bottom of Paradise Creek Road and start the walk from there. I recently walked through a significant portion of the forest both at Redcliffs and Goanna Point with Mike Olsen and company to do some plant biology. Super interesting plants in evidence and healthy populations seen of rare plants.

Beerwah report.

Tourist track still closed. This notice is still up on the Nat Parks web page. "Mount Beerwah summit trail, including access to the cliff face lookout, is closed until further notice due to a major rock fall. Mount Beerwah day-use area's picnic and toilet facilities remain open. Alternative climb sites include Mount Tibrogargan and Mount Ngungun. On-the-spot fines are issued for accessing an area closed to the public." Lee Cujes and JJ O'Brien put up two pitches of free climbing on the Bolt Route (Stainless Anticlimb) which is big news. They got shut down at the overhangs finding that no logical and practical way could be pushed through them. Would have been awesome to see it go all the way to the top without aid. Rest of the mountain is definitely open via any route to the top.

Mt. Greville, Mt. Maroon, Filinders Peak, Glasshouse Mtns – Mark Gamble

Nothing to report.

Mount French & Frog Buttress – Steve Peckman

Steve was voted in as Mt French & Frog Buttress rep at this meeting. Welcome on board Steve! Nothing to report as yet.

A brief note on the role of crag reps.

On behalf of the exec I would like to thank all our crag reps for their previous voluntary efforts, and while we appreciate the hard work of our reps over the years, we are now moving into a new phase where we will see closer interaction with QPWS - at least for our higher traffic crags - and this will bring

more responsibility to the job of being a crag rep. Certainly we can expect Coolum, Frog, Brooyar and Tibro to be under scrutiny in the very near future.

In light of this, and as we move forward with the QPWS Operational Policy, we are asking for all 2013 crag reps to agree to;

- 1. Attend ACAQ quarterly meetings, and/or*
- 2. Provide a short report on developments at their crag for each quarterly meeting*
- 3. Accept the responsibility of visiting their crag regularly enough to have a good feel for what's been happening there*
- 4. Understand the issues particular to their crag in regards to bolting and retro bolting*
- 5. Meet with rangers and QPWS staff as a representative of ACAQ when such meetings are called.*

If you are interested in representing the ACAQ in SEQ, please let me know via e mail at Secretary@climb.org.au . All popular SEQ crags will be allocated a rep in the coming weeks, so if you know anyone who would be willing to take this important role on, please feel free to forward this request on to them also.

President's Report

Looking back to when the ACAQ was established a few years ago, it is easy to forget that we have seen many great changes since our first meeting as a group, and since our first meeting with DERM. Now, several years on, DERM's successor NPRSR has a clear list of who's who in the climbing community, what they do, and what they are responsible for. It's the first time a formal agreement has existed between those who manage our National Parks and State Forrest's and the climbing community as a whole. We can now negotiate access instead of having to wear blanket bans on our favourite crags. Just when we may feel like we're not getting anywhere it's worth remembering that we have come a long way in a few years. This remains a work in progress, but crucially, progress is being made.

Treasurer's Report

*Income for the qtr: \$1,435.75
Expenditure for the qtr: \$2.64
Closing Balance: \$7,883.65*

General Business

Motion by Dave. Proude is at KP all the time and could really do with a business card to hand out when conducting ACAQ affairs. **Agreed.**

Motion to create some new signage at KP regarding no top roping though fixed equipment, and advertising the ACAQ presence at the crag. **Agreement**

*that funds should be made available from the treasury, and that BCC sign makers would be a good place to get quotes for quality signage. **Agreed.***

***KP.** Proude has warned of a thief at KP lifting some ropes belonging to Riverlife. Although no direct action could be taken at the time, it was noticed and all climbers are reminded to be vigilant. On a not entirely separate matter, the thief was unceremoniously dropped by his belayer moments after his light fingered activity. Karma payback maybe?*

***KP.** Discussion continues regarding erosion at the top of KP and possible solutions. Situation has become even more apparent since the recent cliff top debris clean up which has drawn attention to the total lack of stability of the surface. Adam suggested approaching heavy users and commercial operators like Riverlife, with a view to garnering financial support for installation of sleepers for the cliff edge. Adam also suggested seeding the cliff top with native grasses with the hope that they will gain a foot hold and assist with stability, although a better long term solution is clearly needed. It is largely agreed that the cliff top will continue to erode until a permanent hard top artificial surface like covercrete is applied, but this is some time away. Any major work will need geo-tec reports and BCC on board.*

***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.** April 16th 2013 at 7.00pm. Location; Urban Climb, 2/220 Montague Road, West End Qld 4101.*

No further business.

8.10pm Meeting closed