



Minutes From General Meeting October 21st 2014

7.15pm Meeting open

Present; Adam Gibson, Zac Trembath-Pitham, Sarel Cilliers, Nick Tierney, Susy Goldner, Dave Reeve, Ruth Reeve & Glen Jones,

Apologies; Ross Ferguson, Graham Baxter, Ian Elliott

Motion to accept previous meeting's minutes;

1. Adam
2. Susy

Correspondence

Several letters have been received from BCC regarding the proposed development at KP North, mostly in recognition of the request for a meeting to discuss the above. No meeting has yet been arranged.

Crag Reports

Mt Coolum – Ian Elliott

As the weather is warming, Coolum is seeing increasing numbers of climbers including interstate climbers back for more of Coolums' unique rock. Conditions have been good and some long term hard projects have finally been put to rest.

Separation Anxiety has been rebolted with glue ins' eliminating the loose first bolt. This route has seen a lot of attention over the winter as its' short hard boulder style appeals to a lot of climbers.

The climbers are keeping the area clean and there are minimal issues with degradation of the area.

Helidon Hills & Mt Beerwah: No Report

Brooyar: No Report

Mt. Greville: No Report

Mt. Maroon: No Report

Glass House Mtns: No Report

Kangaroo Point: No Report

Mount French & Frog Buttress: No Report

President's Report – Dave Reeve

The quarter has been an eventful one with a number of developments which have kept us busy.

Last month, climbing activities at Mt Ninderry blipped onto the radar of the Sunshine Coast Council, courtesy of a complaint crossing someone's desk at the Council offices. The SCC act as trustees for the State in the management of the Mt Ninderry reserve, and for some years I've been aware that, given this arrangement is nothing like as well constrained by the legislative corpus as say QPWS are by the Nature Conservation Act, things could become awkward for us here.

In the event, the work we have been putting in over the previous four years paid dividends, and SCC were able to find their way to ACAQ as the "go to" point within the climbing community, and I should add, that ACAQ came with a positive recommendation from QPWS at Maleny. Having starting with our best foot forward, it was easy enough to pull together an ad hoc committee from the climbing community, and then arrange a meeting with SCC.

The meeting was very positive, with our committee being able to demonstrate that we represented a highly responsible user group, one that took their stewardship of the natural environment seriously. Of course, the issue of the safety of bolts came up, and we were able to make a convincing argument for the community's ability to self-regulate in this regard. In particular, the fact ACAQ was driving conformance to the EN 959 standard was seen as a big plus. I am quite unashamed of my constant pursuit of this goal because I know it keeps crags open, and if you haven't done so already, it would be great if you could read my [essay](#) which explains why we should go down this route.

The original complaint was to do with excessive noise and parking. We were able to explain that we have successfully handled a similar issue at Coolum with a combination of asking climbers to quieten down and a letter-box drop to the local residents explaining who we were, and providing them with a point of contact for any complaints they might have. Our awesome new Ninderry Crag Rep, Susy Goldner, has stepped up to use her considerable management skills to get these troubles ironed out between climbers and locals.

The second major development of the quarter was our lobbying of the Minister for NPRSR to ensure that Mt Coonowrin was included in the "Glass House Mountains Outdoor Recreation Initiative". This initiative from NPRSR is on course to revitalise the Glasshouse Mountains parks, and is something we are very keen to support. However, I knew from various conversations I had had, that the re-opening of Coonowrin was sitting in a "too hard" basket somewhere within the corridors of the bureaucracy. To my mind, it was simply

unthinkable that a major development of Glasshouse parks could go ahead without factoring-in the most iconic of all the Glasshouse peaks, so I sent the Minister, Steve Dickson, a copy of my [essay](#) on the subject and asked for a meeting; a request that was subsequently granted. A big thankyou goes to Steve for taking time to address the concerns of the climbing community.

In the meeting that ensued, it was agreed that the reasons for opening Coonowrin far outweighed those for keeping it closed, and it should be removed from the “too hard” basket to take its place alongside the other Glasshouse peaks in the broader Outdoor Recreation Initiative. I expect this will be a slow process, but one in which ACAQ will have an input. This will be a big win for the climbing community when it comes to fruition.

The third major development that has been demanding of our time is the access situation at Kangaroo Point North (KPN). Back in 2010, Brisbane City Council was very supportive of recreational climbing, and through ACAQ had been discussing the development of KPN and Howard Smith Wharves for that purpose. At both sites, the cliffs were stabilised to a degree suitable for rock climbing, and we were afforded the opportunity to be closely involved with this process. However, it would seem that all this good will was washed away with the floods, and now we find ourselves, four years later, having difficulty restarting what had been a constructive conversation.

We believe the [proposal](#) we submitted to Council was solid, and needs a more substantial response than that [which we got back from the Lord Mayor's office](#), which hinted at the possibility of geotechnical issues which would be looked at some point down the road, and certainly not within the scope of the current budget. Given we have the [geotechnical report and specification](#) for the works done at KPN, we are now asking Council to be quite specific about the perceived problem.

It is difficult to say what the problem is here, but, given that it is in the public interest for the machinations of Council to be transparent, we are posting the ongoing email saga into the public domain. Those of you who follow us on [Facebook](#) will already be aware of this activity. It is our intention to place the chain of correspondence on our website.

As a final point, I would ask folks to keep an eye out for the project Susy wants to launch which involves distilling the knowhow from policy works like Adam Gibson and myself and presenting it in a form that is useful to others within the community who want to become involved in the organisation, but are bewildered by the policy interface. It is important that we get intermediate leadership in place within our organisation, and doing so is not one of my strong points. Let's see what we can achieve.

Treasurer's Report – Ruth Reeve

Details are available on request, but in summary –

Income for Qtr: \$195.00
Expenditure for Qtr: \$536.39
Closing Balance: \$11,383.07

General Business

Susy Goldner discussed the letter drop to residents at Ninderry, and enquired if there would be interest in a group workshop to raise the skills of interested members and crag reps, in order to assist the exec in matters of legislation and dealing with Govt departments and land managers more effectively. She will put together a rough draft and present it at the next meeting.

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 6th January 2015 at 7.00pm.

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

No further business.

9.00pm Meeting closed