



Minutes From General Meeting April 16th 2013

7.10pm Meeting open

Present; Steve Peckman, Proude Hawkins, Dave Reeve, Ruth Reeve & Glen Jones, Dan Roe, Ian Elliott, David Hogg, Nigel Joyce, Antoine Moussette, Joel Simpkins, Eric Straw, Alex Turnbull, Rob Parer, Isabelle Morgans & Royce Genn

Apologies; Phil Box, Ross Ferguson, Adam Gibson, Ria Zoeller

Motion to accept previous meeting's minutes

Proposed; David Hogg

Seconded; Joel Simpkins

Correspondence

Crag Reports

Mt Coolum – Ian Elliott

Coolum has seen consistent high numbers due to the wet weather and the fact that climbers are accepting the challenge and are climbing progressively harder grades.

Qld Fire and Rescue recently used Coolum cave as a vertical rescue training venue, utilising the bolts installed by climbers.

A recent graffiti attack has been cleaned up. It was targeted at two climbers and a particular route so was possibly done by a climber. No idea of the perpetrators.

We need to formulate a management plan for the coming falcon breeding season. There has been very little activity in the critical areas recently and closing some high routes from mid June or when pairing behaviour is observed, until the falcons choose a nest site, would seem to be a good plan. Once the nest site is identified, the routes not impacted can be reopened. As eggs are laid in mid August, this would mean a two month closure.

None of the affected routes are highly used because of difficulty of accessing the start of the climbs.

Helidon Hills & Mt Beerwah – Phil Box

Nothing to report

Brooyar – Graham Page

Nothing to report

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

Mt. Greville: Nothing to report

Flinders Peak: Nothing to report

Mt. Barney: Nothing to report

Mt. Maroon: The Park ranger Justin O'Connell contacted me to say that the Cotswold summit track (upper section only) would be closed in the upper section for a short period, following the recent weather event (Oswald), which historically, has been the cause of rock falls & slides. This has now passed & the weather is again stable, so the upper-track has been re-opened. These alerts were posted on Qurank.

Glass House Mtns:

Ngungun: QPWS have plans afoot to stabilise the upper track on Ngungun & have contacted a ACAQ for feedback & consultation purposes

Beerwah: The ongoing issue with regards to the closure of the hikers track up the north face is creating problems amongst the general outdoor community. There is some talk amongst climbers of possibly different access routes, thus making the mountain accessible again to the general public & day tripper users.

Tibrogargan: I haven't heard of any issues there, other than a couple of accidents posted on Qurank. We are again entering "falcon" breeding season (well nearing it), so we (ACAQ) should perhaps look at re-establishing signage on "Remains Of The Day" re staying off it during the winter months? [This will definitely be happening....notification will be posted on Qurank and Facebook – Dave]

The other ongoing issue with Tibro is signage for the summit re no rock throwing. Dave has been following up on this & he can perhaps provide more details re a final solution to this problem.[we believe a sign has been approved and will be installed shortly – Dave]

KP: was contacted by BCC re Earth Hour observance on Sat. 23 March & passed this on to the ACAQ rep for that crag.

Mount French & Frog Buttress – Steve Peckman

Track work is needed in the immediate future around 'Gladiator'. Weekend repair works recommended for late June to be organised via Qurank. Aiming for 5-10 volunteers. Ranger in charge Justin O'Connell has ok'ed this.

The sceptic system has been condemned and approval has been given for a new toilet block to be built after the 1st of July 2013. The new design included "solar shower cubicles" but these were knocked back. ACAQ to push for these.

A proposal for the redevelopment of the camp ground to include car based camping has been put forward but was knocked back. Should further consultation be entered into to lobby for redevelopment?

Much debate is still circulating about the need for more bolted anchors to be installed to protect trees, more public discussion is needed before this is to proceed. Would ACAQ/SCQ fund some more anchors?

There was a minor ground fall on infinity last Saturday the first incident in a while.

Nothing further to report.

President's Report – Dave Reeve

1. It has been a busy quarter with some progress at QPWS. There have been significant changes at the State Govt level with clear access to management personnel now defined. QPWS personal on the ground are being proactive in engaging with user groups, and it seems that a substantial effort is being made to remove barriers to the use of National Parks and State Forests. We applaud this change in attitude. We are delighted to have Nat Smith as our main contact point within QPWS Sunshine Coast area, as Nat has a history of good communication with the climbing community, and has a pragmatic attitude to many of our issues and concerns.

There was a recent meeting between ACAQ members and QPWS at Ngungun to discuss the walking track below Flat Battery Wall. There is a plan, now mostly implemented, to keep climbers and walkers on different tracks to minimise the potential for conflict, and to release large sections of eroded track for revegetation. We applaud the work QPWS have been doing here. Nobody was happy with the gross erosion that was occurring along the old track. There was also a discussion regarding fixed anchors, and the need to discourage the use of trees as anchors in this area. The importance of taking the correct technical approach to this was emphasised as the anchors are neither standard rock climbing anchors nor are they relevant to industrial fall arrest anchors. ACAQ hope to pull together the necessary technical expertise to provide a well-engineered solution. We are concerned that a precedent will be set here, and if so, we want to be sure that the solution chosen is fit for purpose. It is felt that such issues help define the involvement of the community, and that in matters of conservation and recreational development user groups have a valuable contribution to make.

2. Sign at the summit of Tibrogargan: At the Ngungun meeting QPWS has indicated that a sign has been approved for installation on the summit to alert visitors to the dangers of throwing rocks off the summit.

3. Bolting in National Parks. Discussion about how the new Operational Policy will work regarding;

- a) maintenance of existing routes in NP's.*
- b) approval of a new route in an established area*
- c) approval of new routes in a new area*

Steve Peckman recently tested the new OP with QPWS approval gained for maintenance of two anchors on one route, and another totally new route in an established area, which is a first and should be seen as a significant forward

in these matters. Nice work Steve. However, the approval process needs to be put on a more formal basis, and Dave Reeve is working on a format for submission from climbers to QPWS. Likewise, QPWS are working on their format for formal acceptance or rejection of a submission. We expect to run a trial ‘climb’ through the process in the near future. Both parties agree that the OP is of little use without a tested formal process behind it.

4. Mt Coolum. A draft Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) was drawn up by QPWS as an instrument to formalise cooperation between ACAQ and QPWS regarding climbing at Mt Coolum. The overall form of the document was commendable, and indicative of the firmer footing we need as stakeholders within the National Parks. Currently, the agreement is stalled over a couple of points of contention. ACAQ’s position is that such restriction as are placed on access must reference the Nature Conservation Act as the primary authority. It is our belief that any restriction on the aspirations of our members must be fully reasoned. If we have clear conservation arguments as to why a certain recreation resource should not be developed, then we can sell this to our members. Arbitrary rules are a recipe for conflict five years down the track. We don’t believe our objections are being looked upon as unreasonable, it is just that they will push the MOU into the “too hard for now” basket. This is a public policy issue, and we need to give it time to resolve.

Treasurer’s Report – Ruth Reeve

Details are available on request, but in summary –

Income for Qtr: \$90

Expenditure for Qtr: \$506.30

Closing Balance: \$7,425.60

General Business

- 1. Proude Hawkins has been advising BCC about a large loose block currently causing closure of the main wall at KP from Honed & Buffed down to Adams Rib. He also has new business cards to hand out whilst conducting ACAQ matters at KP.*
- 2. Signage for KP - regarding no top roping through fixed equipment, and drawing attention to ACAQ and SCQ - is ready for installation on the light boxes.*
- 3. Howard Smith Wharf. The 10th April deadline has passed but ACAQ’s previous plan still stand, with belay platforms included in recent pictures issued by BCC. The wharves are being restored and pilings are going in now.*
- 4. Dave has produced a huge document regarding development of KP North, including risk assessments, public liability issues and engineering documents.*

5. **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. *Thursday July 9th 2013 at 7.00pm. Location; Urban Climb, 2/220 Montague Road, West End Qld 4101.*

No further business.

8.45pm Meeting closed