

Southern Cross Alpine Lodge - ABN 44 000 407 349

Annual General Meeting

13 May 2023

held in St Andrew's House Sydney & by Zoom.

Minutes: Margie Heath and Matthew McOrist

- 1. Meeting opened at 4.00pm** in prayer of thanks and request for wisdom. Graham Morrison (chair) welcomed those present in person and online (see attendance attached).
- 2. Apologies** were accepted (see attached – with the addition of Steve Thompson) and Declaration of Proxy Forms announced (see attached).
- 3.** Graham presented the **Directors' Report** (see attached) and commented further that the results of Covid are not quite over. All staff have valid WWCC and hosts are required to have completed Safe Ministry training. In response to a question, Graham noted that SCAL continues to insist on a statement of faith and recommendation from their minister for all people wishing to be members of the lodge, so that the Christian basis remains intact.

Work on a new constitution is ongoing and will be completed as soon as possible. This is necessary because the current 1963 Memo and Articles of Association no longer consistent with legal requirements in 2023. Although SCAL has not-for-profit status, re-classification as a charity (per ACNC legislation) would also give great benefits.

Graham moved that the report be accepted, seconded Jeremy Freeman. Carried.

- 4.** Brian Gaetjens presented the **annual audited financial report** for the year ended 31 December 2022 (see attached).

It was moved Brian, seconded Kevin Barraclough that the audited financial report be accepted. Carried.

Brian noted that accommodation income was the greatest ever, \$222K in 2022. Surplus for the year covers expenses. In response to question re large increase in depreciation, Brian noted that this resulted from a decision of the board to write off the expenses incurred in preparation and lodgement of a DA that has now been shelved. Jarrod Denny explained that new flame zone regulations make previously presented plans no longer financially viable, and a more modest addition of an extra bedroom is currently under investigation.

Brian also spoke on the wisdom of investigating appropriate contingency reserves in the new constitution. Tom Treseder suggested encouraging people to leave bequests to SCAL which would help build up funds.

A vote of thanks to Brian was proposed by Charlotte Hespe and carried by a round of applause.

5. RJW were re-elected as **auditors** on the recommendation of the directors.

Moved Jeremy, seconded Peter Matthews. Carried.

6. **Election of Directors:** Southern Cross has 7 directors, 3 of whom are appointed by Anglican Youthworks and 4 of whom are elected by our lodge members. With the retirement of Steve Thompson, we await his replacement by AYW Council. Debbie Jarman has also resigned. As a result, two member elected board members are needed.

Nominees: (order by ballot ...)

- Stewart Vella
- Jenny Morrison
- Ann Collins
- Chris Hinchcliffe

Scrutineers Mel Freeman and Matthew McOrist were appointed, and the background information on each of the candidates was received. The results of the ballot were duly announced as Stewart Vella and Ann Collins. With such close results and exceptional quality of all candidates noted, discussion ensued re the possibilities of their future involvement.

A motion was proposed by Charlotte: That attendees of the AGM request the Directors to consider appointing an extra director to the board and review the names of other candidates to be put forward to AYW to be considered as their appointment to the board. Seconded Peter Matthews. Carried.

7. **Motion re AGM Minutes:** That the Minutes of this Annual General Meeting be approved at the next AGM.

Moved Katherine Harwood, seconded Tom. Carried.

8. A report on **Maintenance Completed and Planned** was presented by Jarrod. Much work was accomplished at the recent working bee including the replacement of some bathroom ceilings, attention to skirting boards and construction of replacement bedroom storage furniture. With thorough cleaning, stocking of the pantry, sorting and checking including bedding and crockery, SCAL is well prepared for the winter season. Earlier the coffee making area was revamped to more than comply with health requirements, and heaters installed in downstairs bathrooms. Rubber will be provided for the steps in winter that will need to be maintained by hosts.

9. **Staff for the 2023 Winter/Spring Snow Season** was announced by Graham. All chefs and hosts have been notified and accepted their dates and positions. Graham noted a pleasing increase in the number of non-director hosts for this year.

10. Motion: “That the Directors are authorised, notwithstanding any material personal interests, to make resolutions regarding accommodation discounts to hosts and chefs as classes of persons, including where one or more of the Directors are members of that class, and otherwise in recognition of services to the lodge on a case-by-case basis, up to a full discount of the accommodation expense”.

Jeremy explained that this management issue was raised here to ensure full transparency in the granting of any accommodation discounts that could, for example, affect board member hosts or pose conflict of interest issues. Graham noted that in his opinion, the board already has this authority, but it was being brought forward here for total transparency.

Discussion followed. Opinions were generally divided between members who felt hosts should be paying towards their time at SCAL to cover such things as food and electricity, and members who felt hosts were in fact working hard while at SCAL and the Biblical principal that the worker deserves his wages should be applied. (1Tim 5:18 and Luke 10:7).

Moved by Jeremy, seconded Charlotte. Carried.

11. Brian Gaetjens presented the **2023 Snow Season Update** and reported that so far \$180K has been received for bookings, with some numbers still to be finalised. Current vacancies appear on the website, with some space in June and September at this stage. Early season bookings will greatly depend on early season snow.

A motion of thanks to Brian was proposed by Charlotte and carried by applause.

12. Other Business:

- a) How is the board refreshed? This will be covered in the new constitution. At present the chair and other positions are voted on by members of the board.
- b) Why is alcohol not permitted at SCAL in non-catered booking times - for example working bees? Peter proposed a review of alcohol policy, to especially cover booking times outside of the SCAL catered periods which include Snow season, Easter and post-Christmas. As it currently stands, it is not possible for working bee people to relax after work sharing a drink, or for people booking out the entire lodge to legally bring in alcohol.

In accordance with the wishes of members as previously surveyed, there is no suggestion that alcohol should be available during periods where SCAL is officially catering and there are children present. Apart from any other considerations, complying with RSA requirements would pose great difficulty.

It was agreed that all members could be resurveyed regarding availability of alcohol outside catered times. It was noted that during winter members and guests could enjoy a drink at the Smiggins Hotel if they so choose, but out of the snow season there are no venues available.

- c) Jane Bradshaw proposed that SCAL reviews its Child Protection Policy, in consultation with current Anglican policies. Graham noted that Ann Collins is the board member responsible for policies pertaining to protection for children and vulnerable people. Ann assured members that there has not been an incident at SCAL to precipitate this discussion. The SCAL policy document is reviewed every two years - next due in June 2024. The board will be happy to review and encourage familiarisation with the policy, and Brian noted that booking conditions should also be reviewed and regard to parental responsibility highlighted.
- d) What is the process for turnover of memberships at SCAL? Is there a wait list? Brian explained that there is always some movement in membership with new members predominantly being families. The board's membership sub-committee needs revitalisation, to follow up on membership availability / sale / purchase. There are a few members who are currently in long term arrears for payment of membership, and there is provision for forced sale of their membership if deemed necessary by the board.

13. Perisher Ministry update:

Margie Heath reported on ministry at The Alpine Church, thanking SCAL for their support over the season including provision of the weekly BBQ and special preparation by members at the recent working bee (see attached). Graham Morrison reported on the joys of chaplaincy work in the mountains and the importance of being a presence for the Gospel.

- 14. Jeremy closed in prayer for the coming season.** Tom proposed a vote of thanks to Graham for the meeting and his ongoing work. Meeting closed at 5.50 pm, with many attendees adjourning to a nearby venue for dinner.