

## TCIA AGM 5 July 2012

Attending; Bill Baxter, Tony McKenny, Garry Phillips, Simon Young, Alex Lewis, Al Adams, Tim Whelan, Alex Wilson, Nick Hancock, Dave James, Steve Cameron.

Apologies; Gary Keuhn, Mark Savage.

2011 Minutes certified true and correct. Proposed Alex Wilson, seconded Al Adams.

Presidents Report from Bill Baxter. Thanks to Alex and Nick for keeping TCIA going. Good to see new skilled climbers in TCIA. Appears this year TCIA taking on Indoor Climbing qualification. There was a cash donation to Polytechnic of \$1800 for ropes. There was an email sent to all members asking if this was OK. There were 10 replies to Bill all strongly in favour of doing so. Number of members increasing due to Cert IV students. TCIA has had a long (7year) partnership with TAFE/ Polytechnic. Training of Cert IV's by Alex Wilson( Polytechnic), assessment by TCIA. Difficulties arise when assess a candidate from TAFE which will be discussed after AGM. "Is a 50% pass rate (Cert IV's) acceptable for entry into a professional body?" "Are we looking for a higher level?" In the old days people were good or bad. Now Cert IV's can do tasks but are they any good? i.e. can the TCIA recommend the instructor?

Garry Phillips- Sees the need to move assessment further from training days.

Bill Baxter- Increasing numbers of people. Amount of work increasing for Alex Wilson. Should we go to a three year recertification? We should look at our standards.

Report proposed true by Tony McKenny, seconded by Alex Wilson.

Treasurers Report by Alex Wilson. As of 1 May 2012 \$8690 in TCIA bank account. \$1800 donated to Polytechnic to buy new ropes. In the last 6 days 15 people had recertified so there should now be c. \$6900 in account. The \$1800 provided greatly needed gear for TAFE, 500m static rope, 25 screwgate and dynamic ropes. TAFE matched funding and bought 14 helmets and 14 harnesses.

Simon Young asked if TAFE kept certificates for rope bought.

Alex Wilson confirmed they were.

Tony McKenny stated the accounts need to be audited and suggested Michael Watts on Elizabeth Street.

Alex Wilson confirmed he would do it next week.

Report proposed true Tim Whelan, seconded Alex Lewis.

Bill Baxter said Alex Wilson would need to organise an audit and the Nick Hancock would need to get the minutes to Corporate Affairs.

Al Adams states the \$1800 was a small recompense for TAFE / Polytechnic covering TCIA liability.

Tony McKenny stated TCIA has limited liability as it is a charitable organisation.

Alex Wilson said Bruce Morley TAFE/Polytechnic supports TCIA and giving the \$1800 would ensure even more favourable support.

Nick Hancock as Public Officer declared all TCIA positions vacant.

President: Dave James proposed by Garry Phillips, declined.

Tim Whelan proposed by Alex Wilson, declined.

Mark Savage proposed by Alex Wilson, seconded Tony McKenny, unanimous agreement.

Secretary: Nick Hancock proposed by Bill Baxter, seconded Tony McKenny.

Treasurer: Alex Wilson proposed by Simon Young, seconded Tony McKenny.

Membership Secretary: Alex Wilson proposed by Tony McKenny, seconded by Bill Baxter.

Vice President: Garry Phillips proposed by Simon Young, seconded Tony McKenny.

Executive Members: Simon Young proposed by Tony McKenny, seconded Alex Wilson.

Alex Lewis proposed by Tony McKenny, seconded Alex Wilson.

Webmaster: Al Adams proposed by Nick Hancock, seconded Bill Baxter.

Public Officer: Nick Hancock proposed by Alex Wilson, seconded Tony McKenny.

AGM closed.

Alex Wilson reported on Indoor Climbing. Looked at Educational Standards. Concerned schools using indoor climbing walls without qualifications. 14 schools have a wall and current education standards say schools need a TRA qualified person to use the wall. There are only 5 TRA's working in schools. Therefore an imbalance. Alex and others had rewritten the standards. TRA considered relevant more for outdoor climbing. Had spoken to Tony McKenny. Wrote a course for indoor climbing, skills, rescue and leadership. Four two day courses had been delivered for 25 candidates at 3 schools so far. A manual is available. There are five assessed units and these need to be passed as well as TCIA joined in order to instruct indoors. There is two yearly recertification, \$65, first aid cert and 12 sessions. A current TRA or MPG can supervise indoor climbing as well. Four candidates had failed. Some need to fulfil requirements on briefing or a video recorded rescue to qualify.

Bill Baxter- advised caution, the process need to be manageable and could fail if too complex.

Alex Wilson- wrote the manual to make qualification manageable. Logbook prior to qualification.

Tony McKenny- Do education guidelines show this change?

Alex Wilson- Yes. Edn Dept lawyer present as well. 12 sessions will take some time to fulfil so there will be a lag before those trained will become TCIA certified.

Tony McKenny asked about bouldering walls.

Simon Young- TCIA needs to adapt to keep up with changes.

Alex Wilson- There is a big variation in the quality of indoor walls and anchors. Course can identify some of these deficiencies. Some negative feedback, "Been doing it for years". Don't like TCIA interfering.

Tony McKenny- Can Alex send out current info for general comment.

Alex Wilson- will do.

Tony McKenny- Propose to use committee members to check it.

Garry Phillips- Should we train and assess on the same weekend?

Alex Wilson- Have begun to run a longer course, Mon-Fri 3 hrs day with a better outcome. More time to absorb training.

Simon Young- is Indoor at bottom of TCIA qualifications?

Garry Phillips-Yes.

Bill Baxter- Can TRA operate indoors?

Garry Phillips- A few points, interlock matting, 2.4 metre solo height.

Simon Young- A good TRA should have no problems indoors and should be able to see any problems.

Bill Baxter- there should be an operations manual for each wall.

Tony McKenny- two way twistlock karabiners not foolproof. Recommends screwlock or 3 way autolock.

Simon Young- Is indoor certification nationally accredited?

Alex Wilson- Yes. Lack of TCIA ABN a problem for those invoicing us.

Al Adams- ABN exemption if less than \$50K turnover. TCIA shouldn't worry about it it's their problem.

Bill Baxter- Difficulties with assessments especially last year. Assessed a couple of people who could *just* do it. To me that's not good enough. Had always been clear cut, pass or fail, difference now closer. Previously someone wanting to be an instructor who was not a climber had failed previously.

Garry Phillips- same concern about indoor climbing.

Tim Whelan- Is logbook sufficient?

Bill Baxter- Problem is not that' its during assessment, long set up, 4 clients abseiled in one hour, is that acceptable, is it value for money?

Tim Whelan- timeliness should be assessed.

Alex Wilson- some schools unsafe but already have TRA, training poor, shows a lack of currency.

Bill Baxter- Do we pas people knowing that they will gain experience?

Simon Young- If candidate can do it on the day we should pass them.

Bill Baxter- Its more complex, e.g. last year, candidate slow but safe, client in instructional harness inside out.

Nick Hancock- TCIA resource shy on participants, hard to test candidates fully.

Tony McKenny- Professionals have safety through experience, newcomers just use a system.

Simon Young- We should fail if candidates use gear outside manufacturer's advice, e.g. harness inside out.

Alex Wilson- Cert IV course set as TCIA standards, timetabled to leave as big as gap as possible between training and assessment. Cert IV's have to climb in their own time if they wish to pass TCIA.

Tony McKenny- There should be a gap between indoor climbing and assessment.

Garry Phillips- recently people who were incompetent had passed.

Bill Baxter- we should be able to say this guy is good not OK.

Tony McKenny- How do we fix problem?

Simon Young- In rope access, rate discrepancies minor and major, pass and fail.

Alex Wilson- Garry informed Alex Wilson a candidate was not OK. We can reassess, i.e. revoke qualification and reassess.

Simon Young- Can we document when we pass conditionally, i.e. x no. of sessions before we certify.

Nick Hancock- better to fail them completely and make them come back for reassessment.

Alex Wilson- I don't award any units of competency at all if someone fails TCIA assessment.

Bill Baxter- My concern is this area. Polytechnic has one system that fits all. Candidates need to cope with places more difficult than Lassies.

Alex Wilson- We do valid assessment at two sites with two assessors. Assessors collaborate before passing candidate. Easy to know if good enough. Very keen to see second assessment. At end of first we don't know. Only after second session is decision made. Clients pay for two assessments we should do both.

Dave James- we need to be sure.

Al Adams- Only one observation. Are you (Bill) worried about TCIA reputation or Coroners Court? You shouldn't worry about the future.

Bill Baxter- I need to be able to say a candidate is way good.

Simon Young- Assessors need to communicate.

Alex Wilson- After last year's assessments Polytechnic was in hot water. A Cert IV didn't like being failed. Alex supported Bill Baxter failing after mark Savage had passed candidate on first session. Need to complete both sessions before we decide.

Nick Hancock – Are we going to always do two assessments?

Alex Wilson – Yes we need to do two.

Steve Cameron- So can we not fail people?

Alex Wilson- If client doesn't understand why they failed we give them a second assessment.

Al Adams- People who are close see why they failed. The woeful don't.

Simon Young- No second assessment if unsafe to take on cliff.

Alex Wilson- Candidate has paid for two. So two assessments unless seriously unsafe, otherwise we provide a training session.

Simon Young- What if we know of someone who has previously passed but we now know to be incompetent.

Tony McKenny- We chase it up and would advise National Parks.

Alex Wilson- Tell District Supervisor Of parks, record evidence.

Steve Cameron- Do we write to principal of school?

Tony McKenny- We've bitten our lips and not done anything for years.

Tim Whelan- We should tell principals the current TCIA guidelines.

Simon Young- Better not to state names, just give TCIA guidelines to principals.

Alex Wilson- I will contact the lady who notifies schools of the requirements.

Simon Young- Would be great if Alex did so.

Tony McKenny- Yes can we do so. TCIA has been the standard for 21 years, since 1991.

Simon Young- Its in the TCIA's best interests to do so.

Alex Wilson- Has asked Parks Education Exemption to have a tick box for adherence to Education Standards for the activity.

Tony McKenny- Not a requirement for a private TCIA instructor.

Tim Whelan- If there is an incident, questions will be asked if activity conducted at industry standard.

Nick Hancock- Asked about expired qualifications.

Bill Baxter- 2010 expirees should be removed.

Al Adams- Should we move to three yearly recertification?

Alex Wilson- Prefers two yearly. Should continue with it, more control. Phones referees about log books.

Nick Hancock- Confirmed TRA is not a led climbing qualification and does not qualify a TRA as a SPG (Single Pitch Guide).

Garry Phillips closed the meeting.