

Tasmanian Climbing Instructors Association AGM

Wednesday 31st July – Republic Bar

Present: Alex McWhirter, Tim Whelan, Matt , Luke Hamilton, Richard Youd, Dave James, Ian Ferrier, Garry Phillips, Mark Savage.

Apologies: Tom Van Sant, Stu Scott, Sam Crammer, Renee Harrington

Previous Meeting: AGM 2018 Minutes Missing

Treasurer Report: Presented by Richard, accepted by all members.

Richard explained the TCIA has remained financially stable, although far less income has been transferred through the TCIA accounts. Lowering minimum numbers required for training and assessment courses could be an avenue to explore to increase net income for the association.

Tim outlined that cheaper assessment courses would lead to more registered instructors and income generated through ongoing membership fees. Tim also raised concerns with insurance costs potentially increasing in future.

Membership secretary: report delivered by Richard, concerns over low numbers of instructors current paid for 2019-2020 membership. Richard was thanked by all members for his ongoing commitment to the treasurer role, and assisting in managing the instructor registration renewal process.

Secretary Report: Presented by Luke Hamilton, accepted by all members.

Luke explained that courses are complex to organise and difficult to run with current required minimum numbers, all members agreed more training and assessment courses should be a priority and ideas for facilitating that are to be discussed later in general business.

President Report: Presented by Tim Whelan, accepted by all members.

Tim indicated the Freycinet report has been completed. Parks have drafted flying fox recommendations and future avenues for training/conducting this activity are yet to be explored.

OET and the TCIA are to continue *Ropes Rants and Rambles* event, this is to be tabled for later in the year.

Commercial operators have requested advice on safe operation, TCIA will look to support industry as best it can.

Idea of combining with Wild Education Tasmanian, commercial relationship has been declined at this stage. TCIA will continue to work with any commercial operator to provide training and assessment but is not entering into any exclusive partnerships at this stage.

BAI Training manual work commenced, much work is needed to create & updated training manuals and continue the work with a standard operating systems manual. This has been an ongoing project for Tim and his work here was commended by all members present.

All positions made vacant

Call for nominations for 2019/2020 positions

Secretary – Luke Hamilton – Nominated Tim, Second Mark

Treasurer – Richard Youd Nominated Tim, Second Luke

President – Tim Whelan – Nominated Alex, Second Dave

Vice President – Garry Phillips- Nominated Tim, Second Luke

Membership Sec – Nominations for the role are open to all TCIA members, role to be filled in coming weeks.

All positions filled unopposed.

General Business

Training Courses: TCIA seeks to streamline information processes on all training and assessment courses

Issue around courses running and critical numbers. Split training/assessment weekends could reduce numbers – i.e. adjusting the current ICG model when there are low numbers, one instructor could do training on day 1, then a second instructor could come in to assist with more instruction and assessments on day 2.

TRA/BAI – Issues around travel, but smaller courses to be trialled with 2 instructors to remain present for assessment only, this model could reduce costs for TCIA have 1 instructor present for training courses with smaller numbers when applicable.

ICG Course to be completed in coming weeks with smaller groups to trial this new method

DoE Off Campus Guidelines to be confirmed

Tim to update and continue developing training materials.

Possible land owner engagement: Community engagement in proactive positive move to ensure correct and respectful use of land aligning TCIA with traditional owners. CCT to be approached and confirm their position and ability to manage issues moving forward

Garry suggested caution

Dave suggested a proactive move could prevent further issue

Tim to speak with CCT

TCIA Interface: New training course booking system to be explored

Sand River: Issues have been raised around the use of Sand River and its capacity to cater for current impact. School groups have moved into the site, combined with considerable numbers of climbers resulting in high wear and tear. Introducing facilities to cater for these numbers could result in greater impact in the area. Sand River is located on crown land, users of the site are encouraged to follow all rules specified for Crown Land usage. Camping and toileting is discouraged and climbers should support the local community by camping in the free Buckland site.

Upgrading old TRA to SPG – a one off, short course/assessment to be offered for qualified TRA members that were assessed under the older TRA standards (ie. pre 2013). Historically, the decision was made to align with interstate standards, by offering distinct SPG and TRA qualifications, hence the current TRA is not the same as it previously was. Any members assessed on the old TRA standard will be invited to complete a one day upgrade to SPG if they feel confident operating at that level. These assessments will be offered freely to interested TRA's to fill gaps in the assessment matrix on an otherwise funded training/assessment weekend. The cutoff for this free upgrade assessment was agreed to be by the end of 2020 – allowing at least three assessment weekends for people to book on to.

Access to top/bottom of pitch - Concerns raised over some instructors using climbing areas where access to top of cliff is not possible. The TCIA does not mandate access to cliff top, or keep a ruling on which cliff sites have suitable cliff top access. Instructors are expected to use professional judgement.

Ropes, Rants and Rambles – Program to run again in 2019, Sam Crammer to be consulted for OET input/advice.

Address update: Official TCIA address to be updated to Richard's in Launceston, all members present agree on address change.

ICG course required for TRA/SPG/MPG instructors to run indoor sessions. As the ICG qualification has been required by the DoE Standards for anyone working with DoE students in an indoor climbing environment for several years now, and in recognition of the very specific skills and knowledge required in the indoor climbing environment, the TCIA have been phasing it out of the outdoor qualifications stream over the last few years. ICG is officially set aside in its own separate indoor climbing stream. See here: <http://tcia.asn.au/accreditation/> Prior to 2017, qualified instructors at the TRA/SPG/MPG level may have been considered to include indoor climbing under their qualification, but this can no longer be the case. Instructors must undertake the specific ICG course or separate assessment to recognise prior learning and experience, to be recognised with this qualification. For instructors qualified as TRA/SPG/MPG prior to 2017 that have been operating in the indoor environment, the TCIA will be offering discounted places on ICG courses – please contact the secretary to discuss getting access to one of these courses. These training/assessment places will be offered at the nominal rate of \$100, and be available until the end of 2020.

Insurance terms: Insurance changes for 2019 TCIA insurance confirmed and accepted by all present.

Meeting closed