



SOUTHERN HANGGLIDING PARAGLIDING CLUB

www.southernclub.co.nz

Annual General Meeting 2025

Minutes

- Location: Cardrona Hall, Cardrona
- Date: 14th November, 2025
- Time: 1800 - 1900 Food, Beverages and Mingle
1900 - 2115 Annual General Meeting
- Apologies: Sam Lees - Absent & stepping down as a general committee position
Nathan Hyslop - Absent & stepping down as a general committee position
Pete Helliwell - Absent
Vicki Zadrozny - Absent
Dan Pugsley - Absent
Zachery Morris - Absent
Daniel Diaz Rizo - Absent
Craig Smith - Absent & stepping down as a general committee position
- Attendees: Jesse Dhue (Club President), Christopher Adams (Club Secretary), Anthony Saupin (Treasurer), Bradley Franks (Safety Officer - PG), Ben Kellett (Airspace Officer), Louis Tapper, Tim Brown, Doug Patterson plus 22 members of the Southern Hanggliding and Paragliding Club.

The 2025 AGM was attended by similar members to the 2024 AGM and many matters were discussed to great length. Pizza was served instead of the BBQ due to wet weather.

- 2024 AGM Minutes:** Read and accepted as correct
Accepted: Richard Van Nieuwkoop
Seconded: Chris Connolly
- Presidents Report:** Presented by Jesse Dhue.
Thanks given to those who have organised events in the last year; Vicki for "Coupe de Coronet", Vicki and Dan for Magicland, Blake round for Acrofest and Tow days, Kinga for Wanaka Hike'n'Fly and thanks give to Zac for actively taking on the sites officer role, but a reminder that this is not a one person role, people need to assist.

The Gondola MOU was successfully renewed/updated, uneventful, however, this now allows all instructors to use this site. Ben led the charge with the website, it is now up and running well and has had minimal glitches.

Wanaka Airport expansion was touched on, thanks given to those who showed presence at events, showing that there are other users of the airspace.

Upcoming Constitution change was brought up, urging members to have input once the draft constitution is disseminated.

QLDC and Forestry Block, launch sites have been identified.

Ongoing White Chapel Road landing site issue, site has been planted on without community consultation, now no longer safe to use. The existing landing site on the other side of the highway is still available.

Online communication use and management regarding WhatsApp groups.

Member survey to be looked into in the new year.

The President's position will become available by April 2026 due to high demand of the position and priorities needing to shift elsewhere.

Still sitting around the second biggest club in the country.

Accepted: Tim Brown

Seconded: Mal Haskins

3. Safety Officers Report: Presented by Bradley Franks.

Brad has recently returned from travelling and flying abroad, commenting on the feedback he received from pilots overseas regarding the good safety culture within the SHGPGC.

CAA attended the latest Queenstown WOF Night, they were impressed with the level of knowledge that they saw being passed around by club members, something they do not see in other aviation communities. They wish to have more of a visual presence within paragliding operations and may do the odd spot check, they are not looking to pass out fines, just to ensure pilots are using safe equipment.

Total numbers of accidents are on the rise, per capita seems to be steady. Most accidents occur on the take off or landing phase of flight and most likely at the local flying site.

Correlation between the worst for having incidents tend to have the best improvement.

"Target Zero" initiative was brought up, an idea to change the mindset of pilots, to minimise the common incidents.

A request for more funds towards Safety Events.

A discussion was had around the difference in mentoring between NZ and other countries, focusing on a requirement for mentoring after completion of a PG course.

Accepted: Thomas Rold

Seconded: Dominic Eller

4. Financial Report: Presented by Anthony Saupin.

A simplified outline of the club's finances was explained to the meeting members.

At the time of the meeting the club's bank account was \$101,167 a \$4,676 increase over the previous year. A total income of \$30,385 and expenses amounting \$25,709.

The budget for the following year was then discussed.

Budget adjustments for legal given White Chapel and other landing options.

Bradley Franks proposed to put an unused portion of the club's bank account into a term deposit, meeting attendees unanimously supported this.

Amongst the normal financial discussion Ben Kellet proposed the club allocates \$20,000 for site development, a permanent plan for the Carpark Four launch.

Accepted: Helen Jeffery
Seconded: Bradley Franks

5. Council and White Chapel Landing, Wanaka Airspace: Presented by Louis Tapper.

Louis has put considerable time towards this agenda.

Wanaka Airspace - Any changes to the Wānaka airspace have major implications for paragliding activity in the region. A significant amount of work has already gone into responding to the council's consultation on the future of Wānaka Airport. We thank those that have submitted. The final report has not yet been released, and will likely be discussed by the new council in due course. Current sentiment appears to support Option 3, which would keep the airport as-is. Some airspace-related risks remain, and we will continue to monitor these closely.

White Chapel - Council is not obliged to inform members of the public when planting, however, they are required to consider recreation in the area, Shayne Galloway has been a part of this effort.

An existing field was originally lost due to liability and individual actions some time in the past, an idea to approach new land owners to request access - Helen Jeffery is happy to have an unofficial with the current land owner.

6. Flight Park/Forestry:

Tim Brown spoke about the forestry block development, in the near future access may be granted, however, the condition of the area is currently not suitable for launching.

7. NZHGPA's call for a SGM due to invalid voting at the 2025 NZHGPA AGM:

Jesse Dhue introduced the agenda and Blake Round spoke about the issues around the original submission of the NZHGPA's current constitution.

Mark Hardman requested clarification of what the constitution issues have caused, Blake explained that it resulted in an invalid vote and subsequently the board is now in "limbo". The SGM agenda is to formally elect the new board. A request for four delegates was put forward, they will need to write a letter to the NZHGPA requesting the SGM.

Nominated Delegates: Bradley Franks, Jesse Dhue, Louis Tapper and Tim Brown.

A vote was put forward and the meeting attendees unanimously voted for the delegates to:

- To call for an SGM,
- To vote on behalf on the club, and
- Accept the nominated delegates.

8. "Fairness, transparency and community engagement in club decision-making"

This agenda was presented "anonymously", the meeting attendees discussed at length.

No examples of breaches of the constitution were presented, the anonymous member's proxy did not present themselves.

Attending members unanimously voiced that there is no perceived unfairness and decisions made by the committee are made transparent at the AGM. It was agreed that the committee is in place to make decisions on behalf of the club members unless otherwise required by the constitution eg. for when an SGM is required.

A message from an attending member reminding that these issues can wear down committee members and that personal grievances can cost the club experienced volunteer members.

9. New Constitution:

Chris Adams explained to the attending members that a new constitution is in draft and will be sent to club members within two weeks. It was explained that the latest draft is essentially the old constitution re-written to fit the new framework and contents now compulsory under the Incorporated Societies

Act 2022.

Blake Round suggested seeking professional oversight which will be considered.

Louis Tapper suggested Joel, a lawyer that has been helping him.

The attending members agreed with the professional help and support spending club funds to do so.

Further discussion proceeded around the difficulty of getting the constitution through.

10. Remit from NZHGPA - Club Communication Policy

Proposer: Emlyn Revell-Nash

Secunder: Dave Gerner

Proposal

That the Southern Club adopt the following Communications Policy for Club Chats and Official Channels.

This policy does NOT cover the Buy & Sell or Events & Courses groups.

Scope:

This policy applies to all Club-managed electronic communication channels, including but not limited to email lists, messaging apps (e.g. WhatsApp), forums, and social media groups where membership is primarily made up of Club members ("Club channels").

Official communications channels means any Club channel used for:

- Committee announcements
- Safety, site and operational notices
- Flight planning and debriefs
- Meeting notices and formal Club information.

Commercial Posts - Frequency Limit:

Members may make no more than one (1) commercial post per calendar quarter per individual or organisation in any given Club channel, unless prior approval is given by the Committee.

The Committee may approve additional commercial posts on a case-by-case basis where they are clearly in the interests of members (for example: training, guiding, or services that materially support safe and enjoyable flying).

Definition of Commercial Posts, Gear Sales & Course Advertising:

For the purposes of this policy, a "commercial post" is any message that would be considered a commercial electronic message under New Zealand law - that is, a message that markets or promotes goods, services, land or interests in land, or a business or investment opportunity, whether for the member themselves or any third party. Refer to the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Act 2007 for more detail.

This includes (but is not limited to):

- Advertising training, guiding, accommodation or transport for payment or other financial benefit
- Promoting commercial events, courses (including "free" courses) or tours where there is a promotional or business benefit to the organiser.
- Posts that primarily direct members to a business website, booking page, or paid service, or that build a commercial brand or client base (even if the specific advertised course/event is free).

General Expectations for Club Chats:

The primary purpose of Club channels is to support safe, enjoyable paragliding – including sharing site information, conditions, safety learnings, trip planning, and building Club community.

Members are expected to:

- Keep posts relevant to flying and Club activities.
- Be concise, especially in busy flight-planning chats.
- Avoid repetitive or “spam-like” posting behaviour.

Enforcement and Process:

The Committee (or its delegated moderators/group admins) may:

- Request that a member edit or remove a post that breaches this policy
- Remove posts that are clearly commercial, involve gear sales in the wrong channel.
- Temporarily mute or remove a member from a Club channel in cases of repeated or serious breaches, after warning where practical.

Approved: Chris Conolly

Seconded: Derek Divers

11. Open Forum to meeting attendees

Chris Conolly: Will be running an SIV aimed at only NZ Pilots in February 2026 in partnership with ParaTow. Chris has also invited a Māori Elder to bless Coronet Peak in memory of Charlotte and Nico. Chris paid a round of appreciation to various club members including Mark Hardman for his service to club members, Sanae for her contributions and vast efforts and Jesse for his commitment as Club President.

12. Committee Vacancies/Elections

Jesse Dhue will stand down as Club President in April 2026, an SGM will need to be held to elect a new President. Essentially a new President will need to be elected before the current one can stand down as constitutionally a President must be in place.

Mark Hardman will be joining the committee as a General Committee Member with the condition to assist the club in bettering club engagement with the community but also to help the President and committee to function better.

Craig Smith will be stepping down as a general committee position.

Sam Lees will be stepping down as a general committee position.

Nathan Hyslop will be stepping down as a general committee position.

Chris Adams will stay on as Club Secretary until at least the next AGM.

All other positions remain unchanged.

The above elections and re-elections were unanimously voted via voice of the attending members

Approved: Chris Conolly

Seconded: Mal Haskins

The 2025 AGM was concluded at 2115, minutes compiled by Christopher Adams and reviewed by Jesse Dhue