

# Canterbury Hang Gliding and Paragliding Club AGM

## Minutes of the 2021 AGM

Venue: The Good Home Ferrymead, Christchurch  
5<sup>th</sup> August 2021

### **Members present:**

Paul Conaghan, Stuart Mackintosh, Colin Hogg, Patterson Stark, Alex Cornford, Chris Walker, Dave Dennis, Jean Brossard, Mark Nichols, Ondra Wieden, Warren Simonsen, Bill Degan, Derek Mckee, Rob Kennedy, Eder Oliveira, Cameron Scott, Deane Landreth, Colin Stuart, Peter Sykes, Johan Pretorius, Samantha Kidby.

Apologies: Ryan Scarlett, Donald Payne

Meeting opened at 7:00 pm

### **1. Officer reports**

#### **1.1. President – Colin Hogg**

Introduction

I would firstly like to thank Matt Barlow and Brad May for their previous president tenure, they were involved at a particularly tense time in the club's history, primarily related to the Sky Diving Kiwi's issue around access and landing at Sumner beach - it was a tough time and I remember Matt's report well from last year it took a toll for sure resulting in Matt standing down.

With regards to SDK Mark Nichols took on the mantle of working SDK and has done a great job - he will report on this later.

Despite this there were no volunteers at last year's AGM, including myself, to take on the role and be voted in, which left the club in a precarious position.

It's fair to say that had the club not agreed to get an MOU signed and Mark taking on that task and I was lobbied by a few members to stand, I would not have offered to be president. The exec followed a process, and I was then appointed as president.

I have enjoyed my time over the last 10/11 months and have to thank all of the exec who have all done a great job and really do all the work and I rely on as subject matter experts - Paul as Secretary and Finance, Stuart PG Safety, Warren HG Safety, Donald HG Sites, Ondra HG Sites, Ryan Airspace Officer.

Whilst it is constitutionally correct that the exec could appoint me as president I feel that the members have the right to vote on who they would like to be president at the AGM. As such I will be stepping down at this meeting but I am willing to stand again to be elected if that is the wishes of the club members.

That said what have we been up to in the last year.

Summary of activity over the 2020/21 year.

- As a club we have represented our disciplines at the following events that were facilitated by NZHGPA.

- o The Christchurch Kite Day - thanks to Jen Corbet and Ryan Scarlet for representing the club on the day - see letter from Nick Taber.
- o Flying NZ National Flying Championships - West Melton - Shout out to Dave Dennis for a pretty dynamic paramotoring flying demo, Matt, Adriel and Donald HG + whanau, Stuart and myself from a PG perspective. See letter of appreciation and the most recent comments below.
  - "Further to the CEO thank you for the CHGPC putting on an excellent static and paramotor show at the recent FAI Airshow in February at West Melton, Christchurch. Of interest NZHGPA Pilot Grant Firth attended the FAI AGM and wrote an excellent report, from which I would like to pass on the FAI appreciation in the extract below;
  - From the FAI (one of our major stakeholders) - Recent Flying NZ events had included participation of various FAI member groups including hang gliding, paragliding, aero-modelers etc. It was very appreciated and well worth the effort to raise awareness of the different flying interests. Putting up a display or demonstration attracts lots of attention and provides a better understanding of the sorts of things we are up to. The next Flying Nationals is to be held February 2022 at Omaka airfield and we would be encouraged to participate there.
  - Please pass onto your members at the next club meeting and thank you again to the Christchurch Club for flying the flag and being such great ambassadors for the sport, nice one
- The exec voted to support Matt Barlow's proposal that the club support his application on behalf of the club to gain funding from New Zealand Community Trust to support the set up, and purchase of equipment, of a club run Hang Gliding coaching with the aim of getting more Hang Gliding Pilots into the sport.

This issue is particularly important when you look at what the national numbers of HG pilots are - the following have been taken from Ian Manton's NZHGPA administration report.

There were 5 new Hang Glider novice pilots last year and there are 162 new PG2 pilots.

These are new pilots into the sport for HG in 2020/21 it is a total of 5 so things can be massively improved.

It's interesting to note that within our ecosystem of schools Canterbury have contributed around 45 - 50 or about 30% new PG pilots in 2020/21.

It is also interesting to note the National statistics:

Here are some base numbers - this is contingent on the pilot entering their Flying interest. This is also Active Members, NOT including Student Membership.

Paragliding / Speedwing / powered HG or PG

National; 1186 ~ 85% of membership

CHGPC = 240 (20% of national PG pilots)

Hangliding / Powered HG or PG

National: 187 ~ 15% of membership

CHGPC = 27 (14.4% of national HG and Powered HG/PG)

This data was not available at the time the exec approved Matt's initiative but it fully supports the case for encouraging more HG pilots into the sport and club.

- Two social events held at Three Boys Brewery for Pizza and beer - thank you to all who attended and talked at the second event. I see these as being critical to growing a sense of unity and community and would like to see these continue if the membership sees benefit in this.

Some other smaller initiatives

- Moved to generic emails and away from personal emails - thanks to Steve O'Shaughnessy and Stuart for helping with some of the more techie bits.
- Set up a CRM system to enable better communication with members
- Would like to review the club website and may have a person (non-club member) willing to donate their time to do this

I'm a great believer in the fact that you cannot change the past but you can influence the future. It is the exec's responsibility to move the club forward in a positive direction that represents the wishes of its members and the environment in which it operates. You can see from the statistics that there is an increasing number of PG pilots and a decreasing number of HG pilots. As a club and exec we need to ensure that we have a long term strategy that caters for the current and future operating environment. As such we need to operate with best practice in terms of Governance to ensure the long-term viability of foot launched flight.

### **1.2. Secretary and Treasurer – Paul Conaghan**

The club is in a very good financial position with the current account at \$24,206. We asked for remits to be presented, but none were submitted. It would be good to spend some of this money as it mainly spent on donations & landowner gifts.

We are running around the 263 members which is an increase of 12 from last year.

Mark Nichols suggested that Cheeseman may need further funding this year due to road damage. Paul replied that the reports on TVNZ stated that the damaged road was under DOC control, and they would be repairing it. Colin suggested that instead of donations we could pay them for use of the top lodge for a competition. It could be \$100 per pilot, so if we had 30 pilots that could raise a substantial amount more than what we currently donate them. Further discussion to be had around this.

Asked for approval of the financial statements.

Motion put forward to accept the accounts by Paul Conaghan and seconded by Colin Hogg.

Carried unanimously.

### **1.3. Airspace Officer – Ryan Scarlett**

Report read by Paul Conaghan.

An extremely quite year airspace wise with zero incidents and zero airspace issues affecting the club.

Officer Contribution

- Assisted with editing the 2020/21 site guide.
- Creation of posters for the 2021 kite day and Flying NZ National Championships 2021
- Representation for the club at kite day
- Creation of general information sign for Taylors

Thanks to the rest of the committee for all they've done for the club this past year. Apologies I won't be standing again for the airspace officer role. I'm glad I got to contribute to a few projects over the last 2 years but feel like it's a good time to let someone else with new knowledge and ideas have a go.

Whoever the new officer is please get in touch with me and I'll arrange for our substitution in the Canterbury Airspace Users Group. The group meets at 10 am on a Friday, 4 times per year. Meetings are held at the airport, or now you can video call in!

### **1.4. HG Safety Officer – Warren Simonsen**

There haven't been many WOFs this year. There has been the odd occasional thing that shows that even a fresh set of eyes can pick up some things that tend to be glanced over when you are rigging and doing your pre-flight check. Standard rules need to be a bit more observed, particular the right-hand rule and keeping the take-off corridor clear. If there is an injured pilot and a helicopter is called, please encourage all pilots land to keep it the space clear for the

helicopter. Politely say hello to a pilot who looks new to the site and check that they have been inducted by a recognised site-experienced pilot. It might just save an accident if they're not aware of the obstacles there, which is the reason we are getting a site sign put up. If you see a pilot about to take off, have a quick look over as the chances are over the years something will be missed. Taking videos of pilots taking off is good to show people instead of just going up to them and saying "that looked horrible" or "that looked good". It's hard to interpret when it's said, but easier when you can see it on a video.

### **1.5. PG Safety Officer – Stuart Mackintosh**

CHGPC PG Safety Officer report 2021.

At a national level:

- there is a renewed focus on safety and as a result:
  - there has been a new national safety officer role created and appointed
  - The Accident Reporting System has been revamped with some new questions that allow for better reporting and analysis. Included in the new questions are some human factor questions.

At a club level:

- Trauma simulation day at Garden City Helicopters/Westpac in April was attended by myself and Matt Barlow along with others from around NZ. This day was recorded and will form part of an evening session open to all pilots that will be hosted in Christchurch and streamed to the rest of NZ. This session will consist of scenario commentary and a question answer session with medical & rescue personnel. The aim is to better equip pilots to manage both accidents and the arrival of rescue services. The date for this session will be in October.
- In the 10 months since the last AGM there have been 14 accidents and near misses reported. Unfortunately one of these was fatal and another one serious. The remaining 12 were minor or near misses.
- For comparison in the previous year (10 month period) there was also 1 serious and 1 fatal but half the number of minor/near misses. This is actually a good sign, not that there are more accidents but that we are reporting more. I still believe that we are not capturing/reporting all that we should be. (if I were to guess, we are probably missing a significant number of events).
- If I am to be re-elected my goal is to continue to push for more accident reporting, hopefully increasing the number of events reported but decrease the average severity of those events. Through accident reporting, common threads can be drawn and attempts made to mitigate hazards through training, education or hazard removal.
- I encourage all pilots to report accidents and near misses. Reports are anonymised, without blame and their purpose is to collect data to make our sport safer. Anyone can make a report, even if only a witness. If pilots are reluctant to report then they can relay the details

to me and I can report on their behalf.

- Common threads in 2020/21:
  - Several accidents/incidents were the result of dangers that are warned about in the site guide.
  - Under estimating the effect/magnitude of rotor

As a final note, I believe that there needs to be work done to educate pilots about the usefulness of being open about accidents and changing the attitudes from 'my accident is my business' to 'my accident is something others can learn from'. Some pilots get it and file reports of their own volition, a lot don't but when I speak to them after an incident, they are quite happy to discuss and share and in only one case a pilot refused to speak to me.

- Work is being done to investigate the feasibility of adding more weather stations. Possible locations include Mt. Pleasant, Little River and Mt. Cheeseman. We are looking at using existing infrastructure to host these station(s). The intention is to apply for community funding to cover the hardware and hopefully some of the running costs associated with these.

#### **1.6. Sites Officer HG – Donald Payne**

Colin read this report on Donald's behalf as he is standing down and is not here this evening.

Thanks To Colin our president & Paul our sec /treasurer. I believe the admin of our club is in excellent hands and I am grateful for their efforts and encourage you all to support them as best we can.

Thanks to Mark Nichols & Derek McKee for being available & helping me when I am stuck.

Thanks to Bill Degen and Nick Taber for standing up for the HG Community.

Thank you to all the excellent support of the membership and good luck to Adriel, he has my full support.

I look forward to supporting our PG safety officer Stu getting more weather stations and maybe rolling frequency radio repeaters we can use going at a couple of our major sites.

Thanks to Colin and Stu for their efforts progressing excellent access to existing weather stations and possible sites. Does anyone have a hook up in Orion?

Thanks for the excellent support of the weather station maintenance crew Rob & Cliff and Derek, Gary and Sam as backup.

Thanks to Warren for his free servicing of our dead sensors and holding the weather station gear.

What we have spent in the last year on weather stations.

- \$50 direction pot bought and it works.

- \$60 yet to spend on a speed bearing should get one going

I think buy a new \$310 one for stock to keep the holfuy at dale going and back up for the dodgy ultrasonic Taylors holfuy.

A replacement holfuy and sensor is around NZ \$1200 plus sim card data fees.

I suggest we buy some superior tempest units US\$320+ youshop shipping say NZ \$50 + GST.

These bolt onto a pole and have half a dozen sensors and most importantly claim to produce a better forecast within 3 months of install or refund.

Sensor solar powered connect -50m max wireless to a USB powered hub and local Wi-Fi. No sim card & data fees needed.

A cell phone version will be available later next year.

Thanks to those who I've been helped by, and I've met in my short time in this club and helping with HG sites. I will keep helping folks for free to help them get their air band rating.

Good luck to Adriel, he has my full support, please give him yours.

Thanks to Colin, Paul, Ondra, Stuart and Nick Taber who have our backs. Please support them. Great Flying!

### **1.7. Sites Officer PG – Ondra Wieden**

Last year it was good news we didn't lose any sites, but we didn't gain any new sites either. It would be good to get more places to fly. I will try to talk to the ski field behind Hanmer Springs this spring or summer. Hopefully I will go more to St James to fly this summer and do some XC fun there. I have just changed some windsocks and ordered some new ones. Big thanks to Ross Groom who changes the wind socks at Taylors quite regularly. We have updated the sites guide after about 5 years. Please read it even though you think you know the sites there has been some stuff that has changed. Please spread the word about it as we have so many new pilots and they don't know we have the website. The site guide is a guide only, it doesn't tell you how to stay safe and it doesn't state all the hazards at the sites. I could do an induction on the phone if you need it, get in touch with me. There will be the new sign going up to Taylors. Please read it and point it out to other pilots. The river is closed for lambing until further notice.

### **Skydiving Kiwis Update – Mark Nichols**

Mark gave a summary of the activities he has undertaken with Skydiving kiwis. In July 2020 the CAA wanted both parties to get together to create an MOU which was acceptable. He collected some information from the Hang Gliding community and drafted changes to the MOU, for

example, things that could improve safety, like visibility of landing area; increasing awareness of how and where Hang Gliding pilots operate. It took two months to get any engagement from them and ultimately, he had a meeting with Sam. It was a good discussion and Sam seemed to understand the concerns. Mark presented him with changes to the MOU. There was no response. Mark tried to follow up with him from December to March, during which time they changed location and moved their operation closer to the Life Saving Club, which is the area where the Hang Gliders land. Sam had the opportunity to engage but did not respond to emails or texts. This was followed up by Nick Taber and the airspace officer from NZHGPA. The issue was discussed with the CAA and Mark demonstrated that we had tried to engage but the CAA said they cannot force people to engage.

In summary, we operate under VFR. The landing area is under Christchurch City Council bylaws, zoned as an open space coastal zone. Permitted activities include coastal recreation activities. This means the use of land and water for casual recreation activities. Mark's interpretation is that Hang Gliding and Paragliding are permissible activities. Commercial activities require a safety management plan. As far as we are aware Skydiving Kiwis haven't launched a safety management plan, but we cannot guarantee it.

## **2. Discussion on the NZHGPA Remits**

Remits were read out & voted on

Remit 1: all in favour

Remit 2: all in favour

Remit 3: all in favour

Remit 4: all in favour

Remit 5: 14 for, 1 against, 6 abstentions

Remit 6: 9 for, 2 against 10 abstentions

Remit 7: 20 for, 1 against

Remit 8: all in favour

Remit 9: 20 for, 1 against

Remit 10: all in favour

## **3. Election of officers**

### **3.1. President**

Colin Hogg nominated by Paul, seconded by Mark

Carried unanimously

### **3.2. Secretary and Treasurer**

Paul Conaghan nominated by Ondra & seconded by Jean

Carried unanimously

### **3.3. HG Safety**

Warren Simonsen nominated by Colin & seconded by Stuart

Carried unanimously

### **3.4. PG Safety**

Stuart Mackintosh nominated by Paul & seconded by Jean

Carried unanimously

### **3.5. Sites Officer HG**

Adriel Kind nominated by Derek & seconded by Warren

Carried unanimously

### **3.6. Sites Officer PG**

Ondra Wieden nominated by Pete & seconded by Paul

Carried unanimously

### **3.7. Airspace Officer**

No-one was available to stand at the AGM

Note: Post AGM Jean Brossard was nominated by Ondra & seconded by Colin. This was voted unanimously by the executive committee.

#### **4. Any other new business**

Colin gave a breakdown of the changes to the Societies Act.

Paul proposed that the accounts be accepted. This was seconded by Colin and carried unanimously.

#### **5. Approval of 2021 Budget**

Pete proposed that the exec have a budget of up to \$1000 for site initiatives. This was seconded by Simon.

Carried unanimously

Ondra proposed that \$1000 be available for a competition/fun day with the intent of it being self-funding through entry fees. Jean seconded this.

Carried unanimously

Unanimous approval of 2021 Budget

Meeting closed at 9:05 pm