



Annual Report of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc
For the year ended 31st January 2017
Seventieth Annual Report

www.wtmc.org.nz

P O Box 5068 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6145



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The Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club Committee presents its Annual Report on club activities for the year **1 February 2016 to 31 January 2017**.

The Current committee

Tony Gazley (President)
Emily Shrosbree (Vice President)
Graeme Hearfield (Treasurer)
Kirsty van Reenen (Secretary)
Illona Keenan (Chief Guide)
Kevin Cole (Assistant Chief Guide)
Bernie Dixon (Transport Officer)
Jane Latchem (Membership Officer)
Andrei Zubkov (Promotions Officer)
Richard Manning, Catherine Mills (Social Convenors)
Brian Goodwin (Ruapehu Lodge Convenor)
Caryl Ramos (Communications Officer)
Rebecca Day (Newsletter Editor)
Richard House (General committee and Webmaster)
Amelia White (General committee)



President's comments

For any information you think may be missing from this year's Annual Report just make a random choice from any of the past years and look there—for although many small things change within the club most of the important issues remain the same. After all, the club's existence is to 'encourage and facilitate walking, climbing, mountaineering, and skiing', and we have always done that and done it rather well.

But all this encouraging and facilitating doesn't just happen—and one major issue that has remained constant over the years is that the work of running the club continues to fall on a small group of volunteers who commit a lot of time and effort so that other members can enjoy the wonderful outdoors we have in our country. Certainly there is a reward in doing this but we nearly always need more help—we need committee members, we need trip leaders, and we need others to do the largely hidden but essential jobs such as organising speakers at club nights, maintaining and cleaning our vans, posting newsletters, and repairing the roof on our lodge at Ruapehu.

So at the risk of repeating the plea of almost every past year how about offering to help—we can almost certainly find something for you to do whether you work in IT, policy, or know how to swing a hammer.

We have a number of current committee members standing down this year and they all deserve a very big thanks for their contribution. Many of the vacancies have been filled and we look forward to welcoming these new members to the committee.

The club remains in good health when measured by activity and finances, and Steve Kohler has once again summarised this in the graphs below and there is no need for me to repeat the results in words.

And what can we look forward to in the next year? Mostly more of the same—but with a few added bonuses: we move back into our refurbished clubrooms; the lodge sub-committee is looking at ways to get exciting summer tramping trips to Ruapehu; and the club who protection trap line is to be extended, and that's just for starters.

So I hope you will come along with us and be part of, and contribute to, the WTMC community.

Tony Gazley, President

More information about WTMC:

Our website – <http://wtmc.org.nz/>

Our newsletter - <http://wtmc.org.nz/newsletter/>

Our journal – Members will have received this by post in December 2016. Produced by Tony Gazley.

Our annual reports and financial statements - <http://wtmc.org.nz/annual-report>



Committee Reports

Our Finances

Our Financial Statement for 2017 is available on the WTMC website at <http://wtmc.org.nz/annual-report>

The club has made a surplus of \$11,474 for the 2017 financial year, primarily due to a surplus of \$13,745 from transport and tramping activities. The Ruapehu lodge made a loss of \$7,068 for the year, a reduced loss from last year. WTMC, alongside TTC sponsored the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival, resulting in a surplus of \$1,236 for the club.

Graeme Hearfield, Treasurer

Chief Guide – The year in brief

People that lead trips are amazing! In 2016 around 86 people volunteered to lead at least one trip. Maarten Ruiten came out on top volunteering to do ten, then Fiona Elliott, Constanze Schwind, Amanda Wells, Henry Fisher, Barry Cuthbert and Tony Gazley all signed up to lead eight trips.

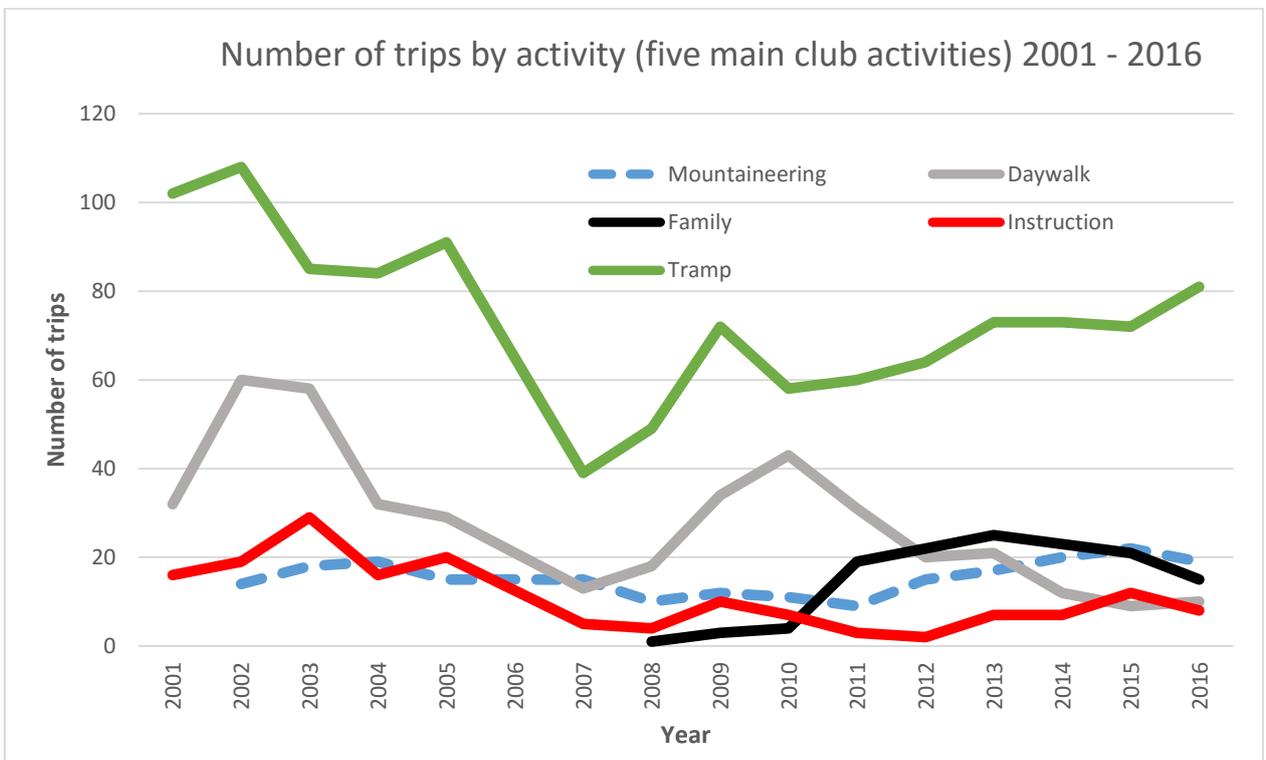
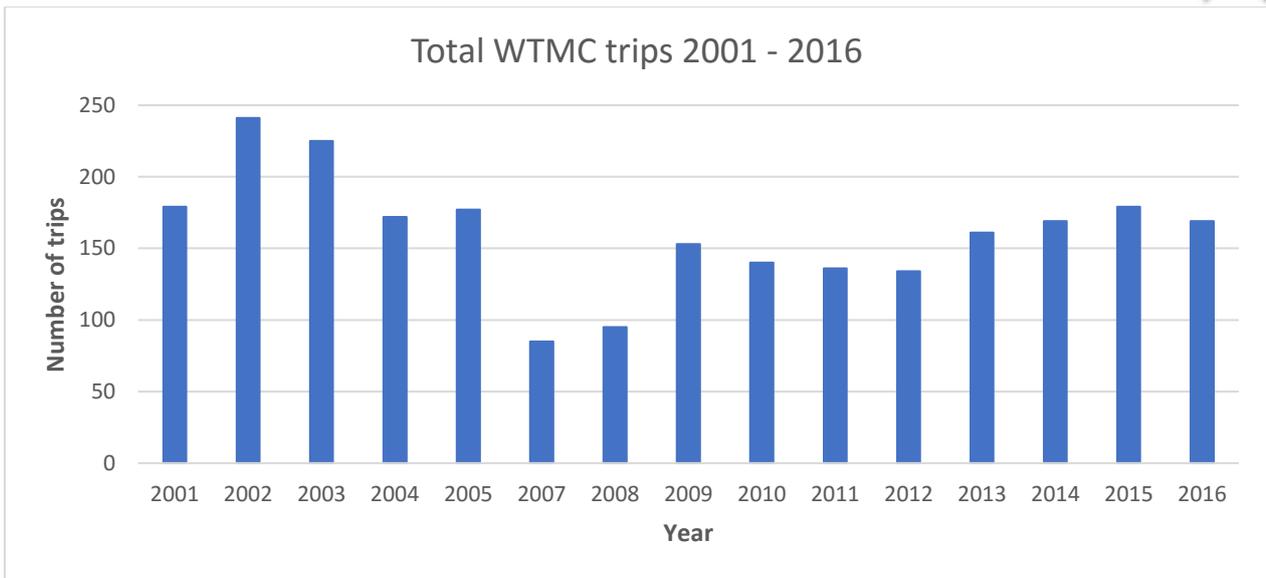
Thanks to all those people behind the scenes or in the public eye that help get all the trips Steve Kohler has reported on happening.

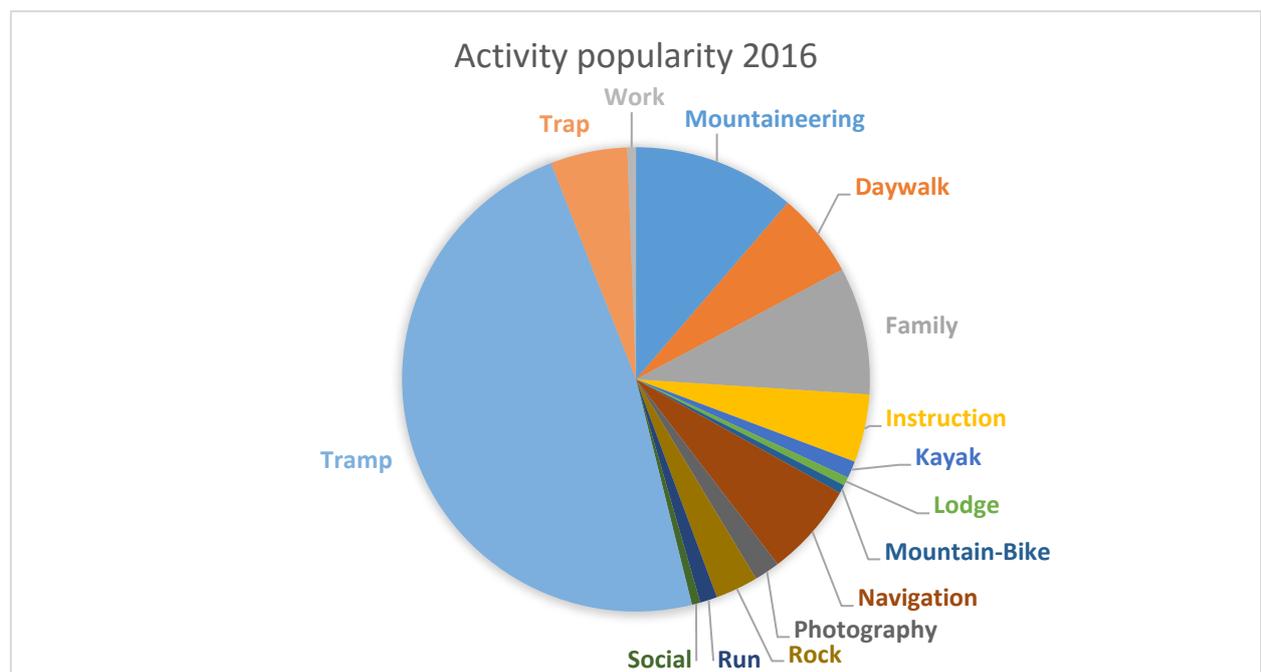
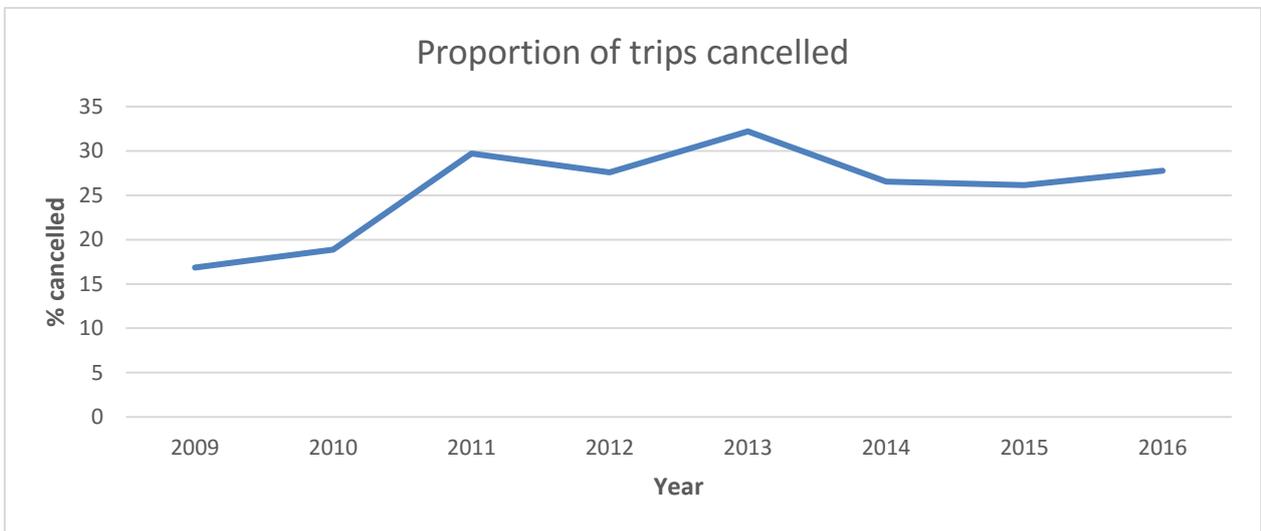
May fresh blood in the Chief Guide role bring new and exciting things like online sign up and trips to exciting destinations.

Illona Keenan, Chief Guide

Statistics

A big thanks to Steve Kohler for recording and calculating these statistics.







Our Assets

Ruapehu Lodge

Our lodge at Ruapehu has been upgraded from time to time with additions done by skilled tradesman and heaps of club members up to 30 at a time doing carrying, digging and lots of 'Gofa' work.

Many of the people involved with the enlargement years ago have continued to maintain the lodge to this date, and to those people we should be grateful.

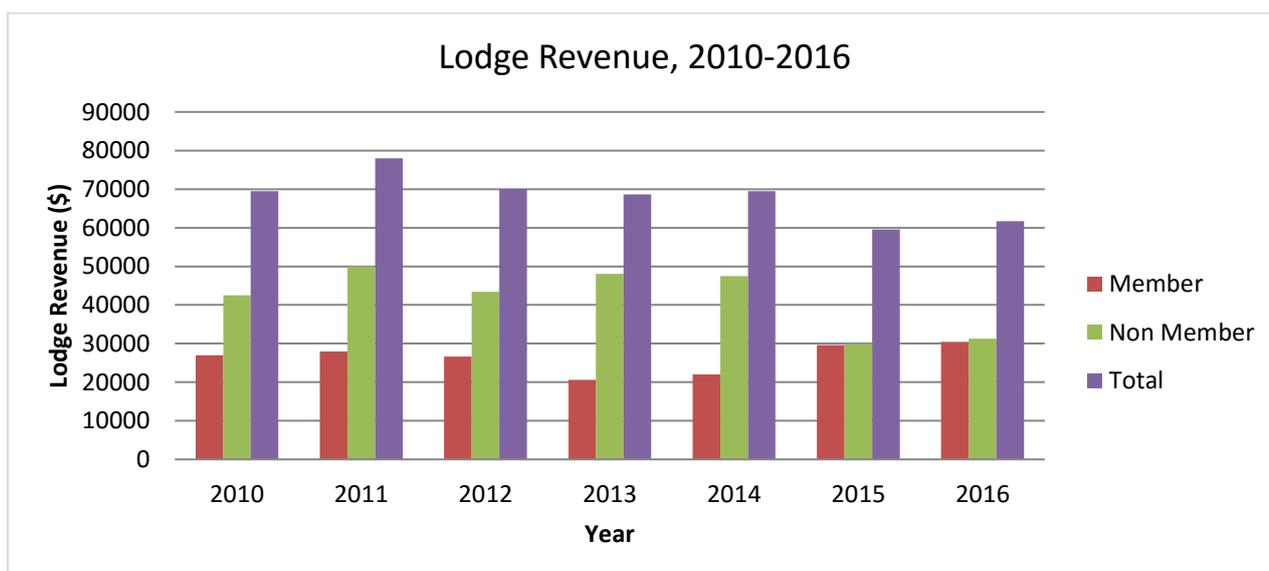
We have an excellent facility for the club to use close to some amazing lift facilities as well as walking, tramping and mountain bike tracks over variable terrain suitable for all abilities.

Like all the other lodges located on the mountain we have high use during the snow season and low occupancy over the period November to June.

R.A.L the lift operator for both Whakapapa and Turoa Ski fields are upgrading ski, snowboard and scenic lift facilities and installing snow making equipment which will give them the ability to extend the snow season beyond belief.

This will create an exciting experience on Ruapehu and give us the ability to increase our lodge occupancy and thus make it more financially viable.

Our lodge is purpose built for the many members now joining WT&MC. We are expecting a greater use of our lodge all year round and will be encouraging all members to come along for the ride. The more use the lodge gets the greater chance of it being improved further.



Brian Goodwin, Ruapehu Lodge Convenor



Paua Hut

The hut continues to get good usage and is booked most weekends from September to June. It's currently booked every weekend till end April 2017. It's a mixture of WTMC club trips, families and hunters. All are very positive in their feedback.

Bookings are taken mainly by email and non-members generally pay by internet banking. There have been discussions about changing the booking system, adding the facility to see online if the hut is booked. As booking officers, we would never wish to have personal details of who has booked the hut and their contact details put up on-line so any online calendar would be in addition to the calendar system we currently have. Names and contact details are important for us to have so we can follow up if there is an issue or if key is not returned. Therefore we continue with the system we have. It's the added work of keeping two calendars vs fielding a few extra emails or calls.

There has also been discussion about changing to a combination lock or lock box at the hut. We do not support this proposal. Currently there are three keys - one for the maintenance officer and two for bookings. Much time and effort has gone into maintaining the hut over the years - painting, putting in floors etc. We feel it's important to keep track of who is staying at the hut. Unlike a public hut there is gas, pots & pans & other items to make for a comfortable stay. As the Orongorongo valley is so regularly frequented, and the hut's proximity to the public campsite at the river, it's vital that the hut is kept locked. If there was a combination lock the number could potentially be passed around. If there's a lockbox, the same is true - the number can be passed around too easily and the combination would have to be changed frequently. A situation could arise that the person giving out the combination number and the person changing the lockbox or combination might be different, therefore potentially resulting in the wrong number being given out to people booked in. Neighbouring huts have been broken in to, we've currently been lucky with Paua Hut but the area is so close to the road end, it's important to maintain security.

Costs to stay at the hut remain \$7 per person per night for non-members. Members are free. We would propose that members remain able to use the hut at no cost. There has to be benefits from joining. Non-members could potentially pay a little more, but if it went up by too much people might claim to be members when they are not, or not pay and have to be checked and chased up. Just something to consider.

Ann and Phil Kendon

Club Vans

- The two club vans continue to be well-used, with roughly 34,000 km in total driven in 2016, up on the 29,000 km last year.
- On busy weekends, we have needed to hire extra vehicles on some occasions.
- Thanks to Gareth Morton and Pete Gent for continuing to clean the vans, and to Pete Silverwood for looking after van maintenance.

Bernie Dixon, Transport Officer (Logistics)

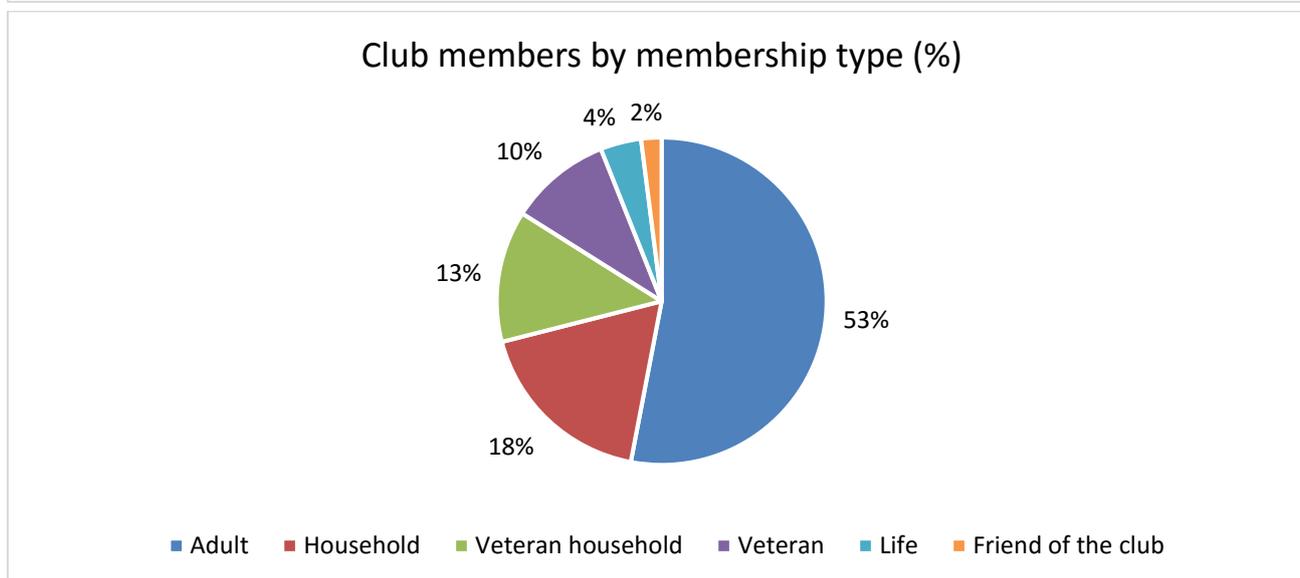
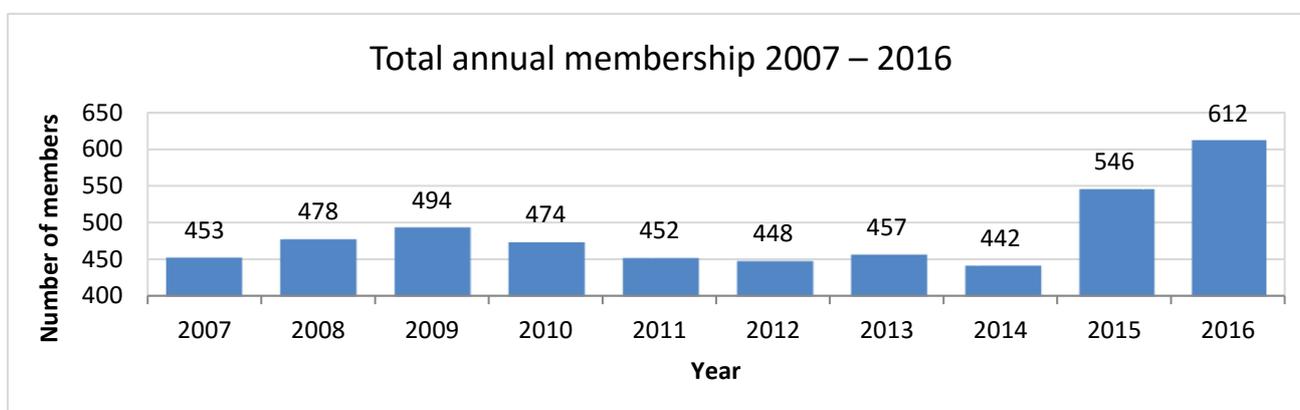


Our People

Membership

At the end of 2016, WTMC had 612 members in 398 households. Membership numbers have continued to rise (from 546 members in 331 households in 2015). 149 new members joined in 2016. New joiners peaked in March (26 new members) and November (24 new members) following new members' nights in February and October respectively.

Members are encouraged to keep the club's database up to date with any changes to their contact details, including email address. Please send your updated details to membership@wtmc.org.nz or notify the membership officer by post (PO Box 5068, Lambton Quay, Wellington 6145).



Jane Latchem, Membership Officer



Our Promotions and Communications

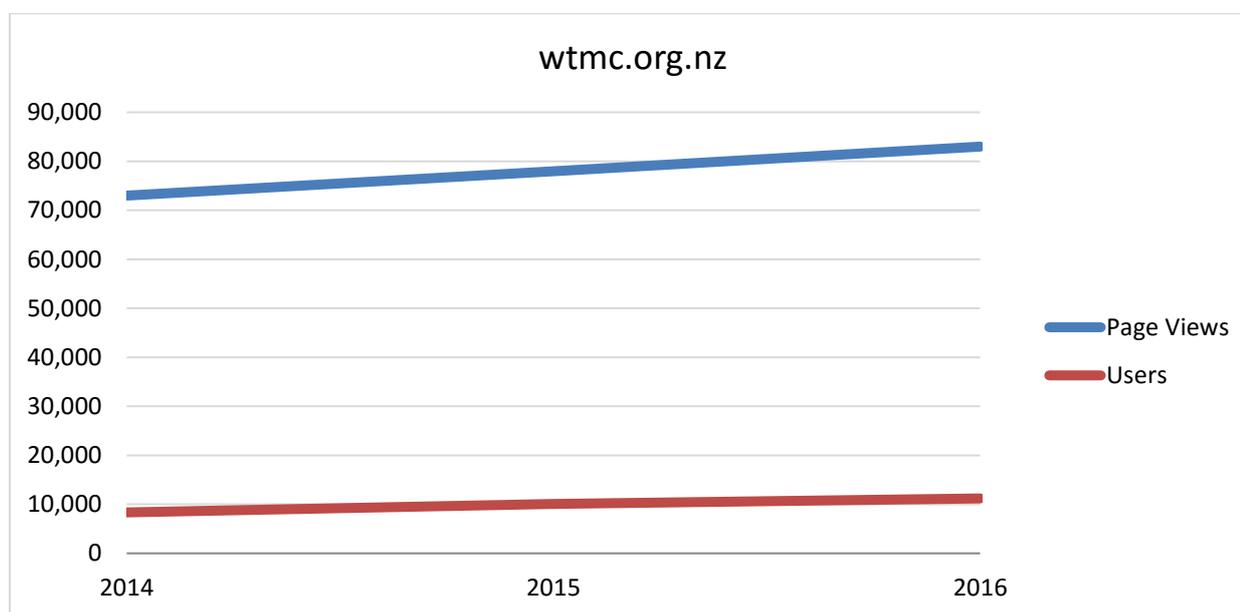
Promotions

- Our Facebook page continues to be a great way to stay in touch and update our members, we have over 1,100 likes at end of January 2017.
- We continue to average more than 30 people staying for the talks each night, and many more coming through to pick up gear.
- We held two New Members' Nights in 2016, each drawing about 100 people. Promoting this event through Facebook seems to be very efficient, for a minimal spend we can reach a very wide audience.

Andrei Zubkov, Promotions Officer

Website

Website traffic has continued to increase with page views rising to 83,000 in 2016 from 78,000 in 2015. Users increased from 10,080 to 11,200 for the same periods. Newsletter traffic and users have also increased.



Richard House, Webmaster
