

Wellington Tramping & Mountaineering Club Inc.

Notice is hereby given that the sixty first annual general meeting of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc. will be held in the Tramping Club Hall, Moncreiff Street, Wellington on:

Wednesday 16th April 2007 at 8.00pm

1. Attendance and Apologies
2. Approval of Minutes of the 60th AGM
3. Matters arising from the Minutes of the 60th AGM
4. Consideration and adoption of the Annual Report and Annual Accounts
5. Election of Officers to the General Committee for the 2008 / 2009 term
6. Consideration and election of Life Members
7. General Business

- Note: (a) Associate, Junior, Family Members and Friends of the Club do not have voting privileges.
- (b) Please bring your copy of the Annual Report (which includes the Annual Reports) to the meeting.

(Insert minutes from 07 AGM)

**Annual Report of
The Wellington Tramping & Mountaineering Club Inc.**

For the year ended 31 January 2008

Sixty-First Annual Report

President's Comments

The Committee is pleased to present to members the 2007/2008 annual report and accounts.

From the following reports you will see that we have had another successful year. Transport has continued to be an important issue and significant time has been put into this. In the meantime the bus has continued to be used whenever drivers have been available. The Committee year started without a Chief Guide and Assistant Chief Guide which was quite an extraordinary situation given the focus of the club. It was therefore very pleasing to have Geoff Keey and Renee Habluetzel approach Committee with a proposal for restructuring the two roles, spreading the workload and taking on the roles. This overall approach has worked well and will be trialed in other busy roles.

Committee met for a planning day early in the New Year. The purpose of this was to identify and discuss other issues that don't get normal committee time. The day was very productive and a range of items were discussed and action plans put in place.

We celebrated our 60th Anniversary in November with slides shows from the different generations on the Friday night, a very extensive photo display of our history on Saturday afternoon, a dine and dance on the Saturday night, and a picnic on the Sunday. Turn out was very good for all events and it was wonderful to see so many of our members having a good yarn about days gone by.

The Club ran a special Christmas trip down to the South Island which catered for all fitness levels. It's been many years since a trip of this kind has been attempted and it proved to be very popular with 25 punters signing up. The original trip planned changed halfway through with 19 punters doing a road trip around to the West Coast and over Arthur's Pass in the club bus.

I would like to thank committee for their contribution in the last year. We had a significant number of totally new Committee members and their enthusiasm, interest and drive for the club is to be commended. I would like to thank everyone for the great work they have done.

As well as committee, we have numerous other volunteers and I would like to acknowledge and extend my thanks to all the members who have helped out. Our other volunteers have welcomed new people on the door, issued gear, driven the bus and min-vans, led trips, taken bookings and ordered food for the lodge, looked after maintenance for the lodge and other huts, banked trip money, kept our website running, organised and instructed on courses and been involved in a variety of other tasks – your involvement has been magnificent. Thanks also to those landowners who have allowed us access through their properties, and to our Wednesday night speakers who have given their time.

Sue Walsh
President

General Committee Officers for 2006 / 2007

President	Sue Walsh
Vice Presidents	Darren Hammond
Secretary	Marie Henderson
Treasurer	Steve Austin
Chief Guide	Geoff Keey (appointed May 07, resigned Jan 08)
Assistant Chief Guide	Renee Habluetzel (appointed May 07, resigned Oct 07) Paul Jeffries (appointed Oct 07)
Newsletter Editor	Michael Lightbourne
Journal Editor	Grant Newton
Social Convenor	Marie Smith
Promotions Officer	Dave Bergin
Gear Custodian	Vacant Covered by Darren Hammond/Marie Henderson
Ruapehu Lodge Maintenance Officer	Murray Taylor (resigned August 2007) Ian Bunckenburg (appointed September 2007)
Membership Secretary	Bronwyn Bell

Committee Reports

Chief Guide

2007-2008 has seen a number of changes in personnel for the Chief Guide and Assistant Chief Guide's roles. Neither the previous Chief Guide or Assistant Chief Guide stood for re-election at the last AGM, and those roles remained vacant until May, when Geoff Keey and Renee Habluetzel stepped into the roles of Chief Guide and Assistant Chief Guide respectively. Later in the year, first Renee and then Geoff had to step down because of other commitments. Paul Jeffries stepped into the role of Assistant Chief Guide.

Those of us who have had roles as Chief and Assistant Chief Guide would like to thank everyone who has assisted us this year in these roles. The Chief Guide and Assistant Chief Guide's roles were reorganized this year to decrease the pressure on people doing the roles.

Where have we been?

The club's presence in the hills over the past year has been comprehensive both in the North and South Islands. The following parks/areas have been visited over the last year:

<u>North Island</u>	<u>South Island</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whirinaki Forest Park• Lake Taupo• Tongariro National Park• Kaimanawa Forest Park• Egmont National Park• Whanganui National Park• Ruahine Forest Park• Tararua Forest Park• Aorangi Forest Park• Rimutaka Forest Park• Wellington Regional Daytrips	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Marlborough Sounds• Richmond Forest Park• Raglan Range• Leatham Valley area• Abel Tasman National Park• Nelson Lakes National Park• Kahurangi National Park• Seaward Kaikouras• Aoraki/Mt Cook National Park• Tai Poutini Westland National Park• Arthurs Pass National Park• Inland Kaikoura Range• Mt Aspiring National Park

Activity levels

The 2007-2008 year was very active although some trips were cancelled due to lack of numbers or difficulties in finding leaders. In particular, it has continued to be hard to find leaders for kayaking, mountain biking and cycling trips. On the positive side, a number of newer trip leaders have emerged over the last year.

A major highlight of the last year was a trip to South Island taking the tramping club bus, the first such trip in many years. This trip enabled members to go tramping, rock climbing, cycling and kayaking in Aoraki-Mt Cook National Park, Arthurs Pass National Park, Ruataniwha Conservation Park and Tai-Poutini Westland National Park

The club also visited mountain ranges in Marlborough that we don't often visit including the Boulder Stream area of the Leatham Valley, and the Raglan Range.

Training

Snowcraft and AIC were successful again this year and saw a good number of people lift their skill levels. The weather was considerably better this year than the last. No Bushcraft course was run this year, but this is planned for April 2008. The leadership course was postponed because of changes in personnel in the roles of Chief Guide and Assistant Chief Guide.

Huts

Grant Newton represented the Club on the Tararua Aorangi Huts committee in 2007/08. Of note during the year was:

Mountain House – the club has recently done a tidy up of Mountain House, including removal of graffiti

Paua Hut – Mike Pratt and Phil Kendon have taken over the role of looking after Paua Hut, the Club's hut in the Tararua Ranges, from Gerard Galvin, who carried out this role for many years.

Smith Creek Shelter – a club tidy-up had to be postponed in February, but it is hoped to carry this out soon.

Hut renovation - DOC has renovated a number of huts in the Tararua Ranges, including the recent refurbishment of Dorset Ridge Hut

New huts - are planned including replacements for Kime and Atiwhakatu

Search and Rescue

2007-08 was a quiet year with few call-outs during the year. Club members have continued to participate in ongoing monthly training and the annual SAREX exercises.

Geoff Keey

Ruapehu Lodge

Over the 2007/2008 summer the sub committee has concentrated on a major project to reclad the bunk room wing on the exterior and the interior gib on those walls. This is due to a major problem of condensation being found during the winter on the inside of the exterior ply, ie inside the cavity walls. In December the gib was removed to dry the walls; the work to replace the ply is being undertaken as this goes to print. The six windows are also being replaced with double glazed windows to help conserve energy. There has been the usual ongoing minor maintenance as well.

This coming year we are planning a major redecoration of the interior of the lodge so as always we are looking for any members who are keen to help out.

Although the lodge was well used during the winter there is still considerable room for more bunk nights especially during the summer months.

Looking forward to seeing you at the lodge

Ian Bunckenburg

Total Lodge Use

-Weekend usage: 52.27% (Weekend Numbers; possible bed nights 1,408, used 736)

-Week usage: 33.69% (Week Numbers possible bed nights 3,520, used 1186)

Breakdown of who is using the lodge the most

- Members ratio for weekend; 51% (07)
- Non-member ratio for weekend; 49% (07)

- Members ratio for week; 41% (07)
- Non-member ratio for week; 59% (07)

WTMC Membership

Below is a summary of membership numbers over the last seven years:

Member info	2007 /08	2006 /07	2005 /06	2004 /05	2003 /04	2002 /03	2001 /02	2000 /01
Members start of year	432	429	428	435	423	364	368	396

Plus new members	30	41	34	41	34	52	46	55
Less resignations, deletions	-19	-28	-33	-41	-34	-28	-24	-37
Members at year end	481	442	429	368	428	396	423	435

The membership access database is a concern as data has been inaccurate during the year. The FMC query no longer works and there are various different numbers of members, dependent on which table is accessed. Resource needs to be assigned to ensure that it is accurate and easy to update and maintain.

Members are encouraged to keep the club up to date with any changes of address details (either through the club website or by emailing membership@wtmc.org.nz) This helps us to keep in touch via newsletters and other mail outs.

Bronwyn Bell

Promotions

General Items

The focus during the 2007/2008 committee year was on re-design of the club brochure and flyer and the creation of other supporting promotional material for the new members night. The brochure was kept updated with details of upcoming club night entertainment and was printed regularly. These details will be removed going forward as the maintenance overhead makes it redundant given the always more up to date event listings available on the website.

The club was promoted through occasional brochure drops at a number of tramping shops. A listing for the club has been submitted to the city councils activity website. A spinoff series of posters based on the well-received new members night designs has also been completed and will be made available on the website for people to download and print for workplaces, local shops, etc.

New Members Night

The annual new members night was held on January 30th this year. It was very successful, attracting approximately 75 potential new members. 35 club members volunteered to help out on the night and everyone that turned up also lent a hand to talk to people.

The night was promoted using a combination of event listings (city council website, radio station notice boards and one local newspaper), a poster campaign (the distribution of which other club

members assisted with) and a library display in the central library branch which was installed on the first floor for over two weeks immediately preceding the event.

Club Nights

An occasional roster during the year provided variety at the door and allowed regular club members to contribute and talk to potential new members about their club. The volunteers were drawn from a pool of about 15 people.

The average *recorded* weekly attendance at club nights was 51, which is consistent with the last couple of years. The actual attendance is likely to be 10%-15% higher than this as not everyone is in the habit of signing the door register. It may be worth considering a reminder here. A certain minority tend to neglect to pay the cover charge, although some improvement was noted in this following reminders from our social convener.

The busiest time of year was autumn, with winter being the quietest. A steady trickle of first-timers were welcomed throughout the year although there was the occasional quiet week.

Correspondence

A regular stream of enquiries and offers made its way to the promotions mailbox during the year and were dealt with promptly.

David Bergin

Transport

I would like to thank Alisa for organizing the ferry bookings for the South Island trips. Also all of the bus drivers and van drivers who gave their time to the club so we could get out into the hills.

During the last year the bus was still getting out and being used for club trips while we looked at all of our options for the future of the club transport needs. Some rust was removed to get its latest C.O.F and apart from on-going maintenance the bus has been running well. A new driver was approved last year and attained the required licences by the end of the year.

The bus was taken down to the South Island for the Club Christmas Trip and ran well during this time. The bus covered some extra kilometres going up the West Coast and over Arthurs Pass.

Work is continuing with finding a replacement option and we will be able to report back to the membership soon on this.

~~We are still looking for new drivers so if you think you would like to driver the club transport please contact me.~~

Andrew Trembath

Social Convenor

Since taking on the job of Social Convenor, I have been trying to work out what makes a well attended presentation. It appears to be a combination of the speaker and topic; weather; and time of the year.

The presentations about places have been pretty much split 50/50 between trips in New Zealand and overseas. However, not every Wednesday night has been about someone telling us their trip tales. Variety has been provided by presentations on gourmet tramping; the online encyclopaedia of NZ's section on outdoor recreation; Mana Island; new technology used to map the backcountry; how rangers look after the Hutt River; among other things. As it was our 60th Anniversary in 2007, we had two very popular presentations taking us through the history of the club. And not to be forgotten, the photo competition packed them in.

One innovation has been the introduction of an open mike night (thank you TTC for the idea!). Speakers can come along and give a presentation of up to 10 minutes on a topic. Quite often speakers may not have the confidence, or material to fill 30-40 minutes, and we potentially miss out on some quite good, though shorter presentations.

By tracking the door takings I'm able to report that July/August is definitely a quiet time. Winter weather means people are less inclined to leave their warm homes on a cold, dark night and I assume tramping numbers are down, so they don't come along to book trips/pick up gear. Also numbers in December drop, as people have so many other distractions in their lives, and the weather is better – so people are outside doing things in the evenings.

This year the job of the social convenor has been made much easier by the willingness of club members to do presentations; and help from Annemarie Wood, Lynda Bushe and Sarah Cartmell. The photo competition would not have happened without Sarah's invaluable input. Shaun Barnett was our judge for the competition and he has very generously agreed to come back and do it again in 2008.

Marie Smith

Gear

Although in 2007/8 there has been no person in the role of Gear Custodian, the management of the club gear has been handled as a combined effort with a number of members getting involved. The roster for duty on the gear room at club nights has been working well with a number of members getting involved. A mini-audit was conducted before the Snowcraft/AIC courses with a full audit of the gear being taken towards the end of the year. Feedback was also sought on the club alpine gear. These audits generated some repairs, and along with the feedback, ideas for improving the club gear. It has been very positive to see so many people getting involved and helping out with the club gear and it can be hoped that this will continue through the coming year.

Darren Hammond / Marie Henderson

(Add in annual accounts)