



Annual Report of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc
For the year ended 31st January 2015
Sixty-seventh 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 takes pleasure in presenting its annual report on the activities of the club for the year 1 February 2014 to 31 January 2015.

The Current committee

Amanda Wells (President)
Tony Gazley (Vice President)
Brendan Eckert (Treasurer)
Rebecca Day (Secretary)
Mike Phethean (Chief Guide)
Debbie Buck (Assistant Chief Guide)
Richard Lardner (Transport Officer)
Jo Fink (Membership Officer)
Mike Gilbert (Promotions Officer)
Sue Walsh (Social Convenor)
Brian Goodwin (Ruapehu Lodge Convenor)
Megan Sety (General committee and Newsletter Editor)
Richard House (General committee and Webmaster)



President's comments

It's been an intense year on committee, with a large number of change proposals considered and consulted on. This is alongside our business as usual, which involves overseeing and fine-tuning the policies and procedures that keep things safely ticking over.

We have successfully revised the club's membership structure. This has meant a simplification of our membership categories, including changing 'couple' membership to a 'household' basis. The goal of these changes was to make membership more attractive, particularly for families, so it will be interesting to see what effect they have over the coming year. These kind of changes are really important when you look at our overall membership trend, which over the past few years has not been healthy. Already we have had a larger than usual number of members join in the first two months of 2015, now that the new structure is in effect.

A parallel, membership-related conversation has been about our joining requirements. We've had a lot of informal feedback during the past few years that people can find our two-trips and nominating requirements off-putting. After seeking and gaining a lot of feedback on these ideas, Committee is putting forward a proposal for the 2015 AGM to consider. This proposal would mean removing the need to do two trips and to gain nominator/seconded signatures. Committee has not always been united on this issue, but the process of going through feedback and listening to the membership has led us to put this unanimously before the AGM for consideration.

At the AGM we will also be electing committee members for 2015/16. We are still looking for some people for some roles but I am hopeful that we will have a fuller suite of nominations by the time we get to the AGM. We have gaps because some people are taking well-deserved rests.

Mike Gilbert is stepping down from Promotions. Mike has put a lot of energy into championing the changes to the membership structure and joining criteria, and also been active in promoting better utilization of the lodge.

Mike Phethean and Debbie Buck are stepping down from the roles of Chief Guide and Assistant Chief Guide, which they have held for the past two years. Their efforts are reflected in our strong trip statistics for this year. Total person days and trip numbers have continued an upward trend in 2013/14, which is really encouraging for the committee and for the club as a whole. Trips are the core of what we do.

Brian Goodwin is stepping down as Lodge Convenor, after three years in the role. Brian has a long history of involvement in the Lodge and has played a key role in ensuring it continues to be maintained well and functions smoothly.

Sue Walsh is stepping down from the Social Convener role, having been on committee for a number of years (so large a number I hesitate to quantify it!). She has contributed an amazing amount to club, as is reflected in her Life Member status. Sue has been a valuable voice of wisdom this year as we have negotiated change while remaining true to the ethos of the club.



Thank you to everyone stepping down for the effort you have put in and the passion you have brought.

I'd also like to thank existing committee members who are looking to do another year in their roles. With our extremely full meeting agendas, it has not always been an easy year to be on committee and I've appreciated their energy and support.

Being on committee is about doing a specific role—but it's also about contributing to a group decision-making process, as we consider how best to keep the club strong and healthy. The club has been well-served by our 2014/15 committee. We've come up with new ideas, debated and refined them, sought feedback from you and then taken action based on your feedback. It's a great expression of the strength that comes from democracy.

One issue that we wrestled with at committee, sought your feedback on, and then decided to take no further was a new logo. It's clear that there is a lot of affection for, and identification with, our existing blue and yellow shield. Maybe we need to think about better tapping that passion people have for our identity and how we can communicate that to prospective members.

As we look ahead to another year, I am keen to focus on the community that is WTMC. After spending some time thinking about our membership structures, it's time to make sure we are embodying the kind of community that people want to join. That means valuing the people we have and making sure we support and encourage each other. Something that WTMCers are traditionally very good at.

Amanda Wells, President



Committee Reports

Our Finances

The WTMC balance sheet remains in good shape with cash reserves of \$239,567 as at 31 January 2015, up 15% from the previous year. Club income less expenditure for the year resulted in a surplus of \$16,920.

A deficit of \$4,680 was recorded for transport and other tramping related activities. Income from South Island trips reduced from the rebound experienced in the year prior, due largely to trip cancelation relating to poor weather. Only two years remain for van depreciation after which club transport should start to make surpluses contributing to future capital needs.

The lodge finances show a surplus of \$7,560 for the year. Good to see overall lodge income up 9% to \$80,285 given an average snow season.

Club operating costs were \$17,010 with the 11% decrease from prior year due to more reduced costs of the club journal.

Finally, I would like to extend my warm thanks to Ed Juchnowicz for again auditing the WTMC accounts for us.

Brendan Eckert, Treasurer



Our Trips

This was my second and final year as Chief Guide and I would like to say a thank you to all in the club as I have really enjoyed the job. I do recognise that it is time for someone else to carry out the role before I get a bit stale.

I would like to use this report to highlight the enormous amount of hard work that Debbie Buck, the Assistant Chief Guide has carried out. Debbie has been brilliant in both support and organising the trip sheets.

This year has seen some improvements in the information provided for our trips. Leaders are now encouraged to provide detailed descriptions of their trips, which appear both on our website and on our trip sheets. Thanks to Richard House and the web team for making this all work.

The trip schedule design was also changed as we adopted an A3 format designed by Megan Sety. This takes away the cramped nature of the previous schedule and allows for email addresses to be included. (Megan also is responsible for the pink colour of your schedules, something which receives far more feedback than this change.)

It was pleasing to see some more Christmas trips going out. I feel that we probably can get one or two more on next year. Longer trips really allow club members to experience New Zealand's wilds but also allow members to form great bonds of friendship.

Another growth area of the club is trail running, thanks to Sharron and others for getting this going.

Finally we are in the process of reviewing our safety procedures. I hope to finish the review by the time I step down in March. The coroner's report into the tragic deaths on Taranaki during the Auckland Alpine Club trip last year will be included in the review.

I would also like to thank a number of club members who have assisted with the organisation of tramping trips:

- Richard Lyth and Beth Piggot who have organised the family schedules. They have very ably picked up the job and we have had another year of successful family tramping.
- David Jewel has continued to organise the alpine schedule. I am very happy to see another year where the number of alpine trips has increased. The M in the WTMC is very much back.
- Steve Kohler (amongst other club support activities) continues to collect the club statistics for each trip which you will see in this report.
- Sarah Fisher who has been organising the emergency contacts for all the weekends.
- Barbara Keenan who as trip monies person has helped check trip fares are coming in.
- Pete Silverwood who in his role of gear custodian has kept the gear in good nick and ensured there is someone to hand it out.
- Amanda Wells and Illona Keenan for work towards setting up a trap line in the Ruahines for the club to monitor.
- Gareth Gretton and Rebecca Day for re-igniting our social trips.

Finally I would like to thank everybody who has led a trip this year. This is after all, what our



club is about and I feel members really appreciate the effort that goes into this. I would particularly like to thank all those who have led a trip for the first time. This year we focused on supporting new leaders and I was happy to see 13 people give it a go.

The increase in new leaders is the main driving force in the increase in trips in the last few years.

Instruction

One of our key points of difference as a club is that we have the resources to run instructional courses. These allow senior members to pass on their many skills to the new generation of trampers. This giving back to the club by senior members is greatly appreciated.

Amanda Wells lead the Summer Bushcraft assisted by Richard Lardner, Richard House, and Kevin Cole. Amanda and Illona Keenan ran the Leadership course. This course has been one of the key aids in getting club members to lead trips and we now see a great success rate from this course.

We ran our first ever Alpine Leadership Course this year, which has definitely helped increase the number of alpine leaders. The course was very useful, but being our first such course we will revise the content somewhat for next year, probably including an instruction night before hand. Thanks to David Jewell for providing his experience to this course.

Sharron Came, with the assistance of Allen Higgins, Marie Henderson, Tony Gazley, David Jewel and Brendan Eckert, ran another excellent Snowcraft course. There were more people on this year's course than last year and we have seen a marked increase in people on club alpine trips. Sharron's legendary inspirational talks are obviously doing the business.

Finally I would like to thank Craig McGregor for leading a Spring Bushcraft course assisted by Allen Higgins and Marie Henderson.

Somewhat disappointingly we did not get anyone interested in the River Crossing course. I can only speculate as to why but we will try and move it further away from Bushcraft next year.

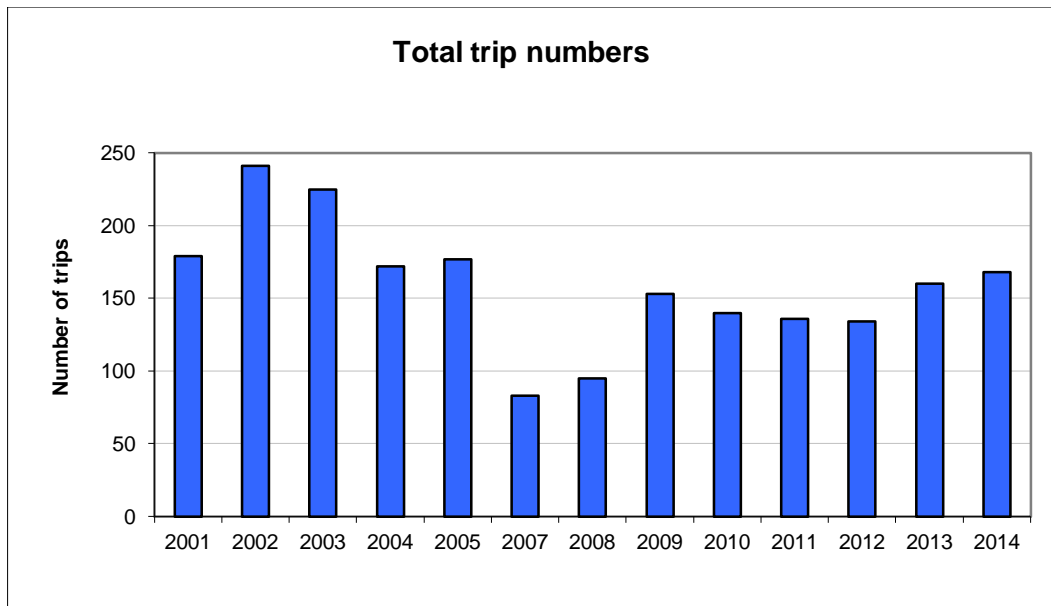
Search and Rescue

The club takes safety very seriously. As well as contributing volunteers to the local land search and rescue system run by the New Zealand Police, we also run instruction courses, operate a club contact system and maintain a supply of PLBs for taking on club trips.

Statistics

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

The club recorded another increase in trips run last year; while the rise was not as big as the year before, it is our best result for 10 years.

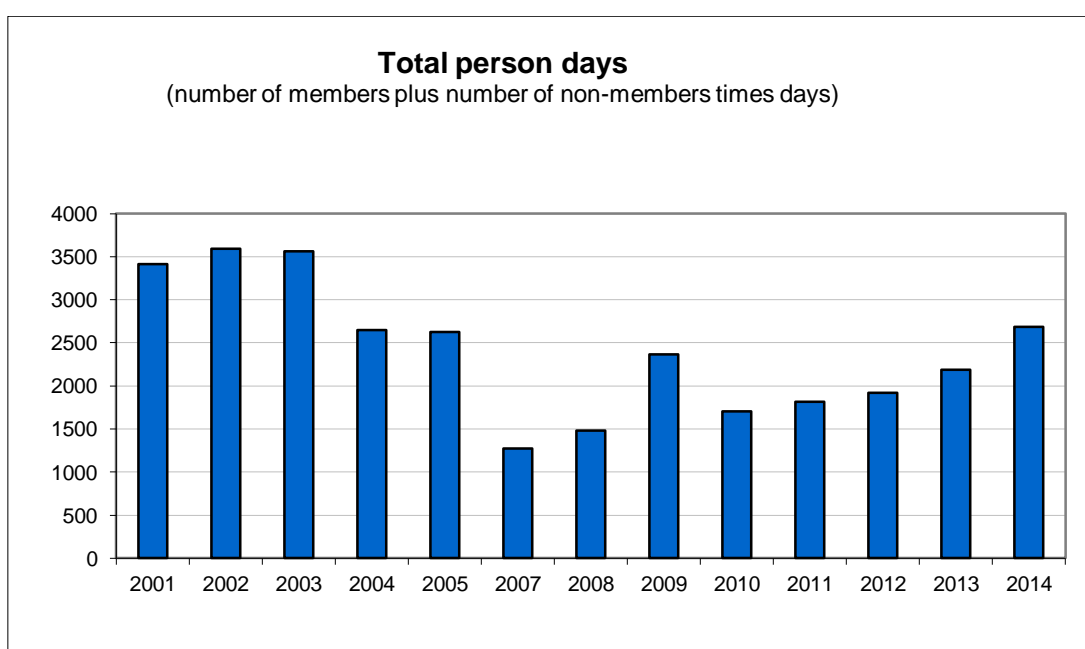


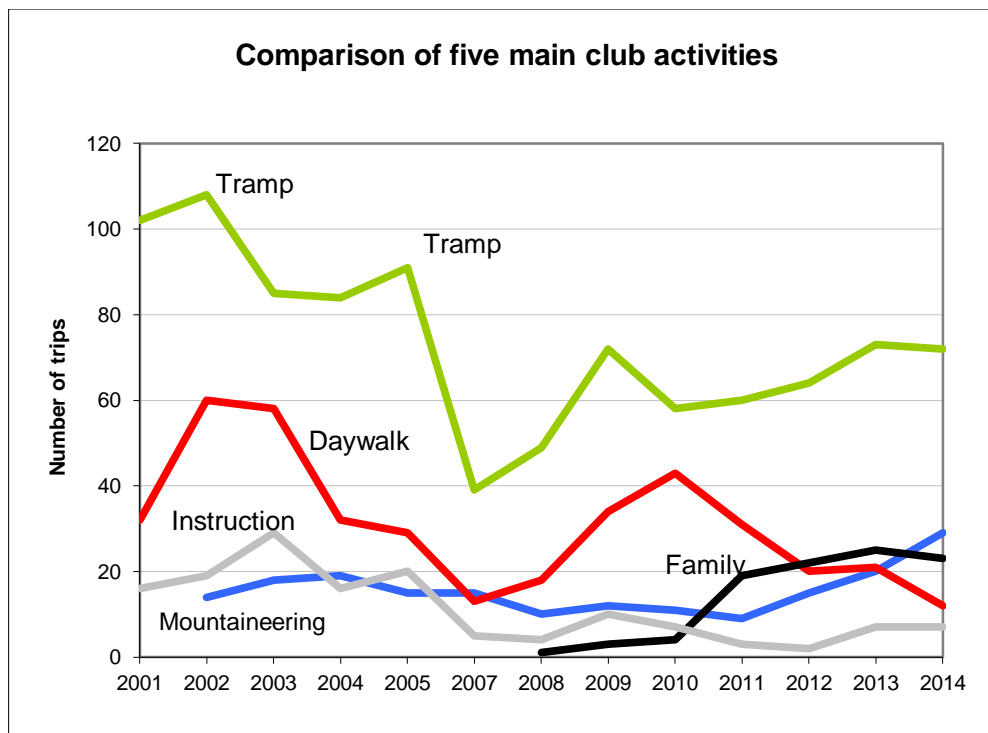
The number of person days increased by 23% which is very pleasing. While some of this is due to some good lodge trips it also indicates fuller trips and longer trips.

Both of these increases are despite trip successes suffering in the first half of the year from bad weather including two typhoons!

There was a strong increase in mountaineering trips: partly a reflection of better weather in the second part of the year and also an increase in interest in alpine activities. We are hoping to introduce more of the club to rock climbing over the coming year. We also hope to run an Alpine Instruction Course for the first time in a while.

Tramping, family and instruction were about the same as last year, a little consolidation after some previous years of growth. Day walks continued to drop in number as the club seems to focus more on getting away for longer.

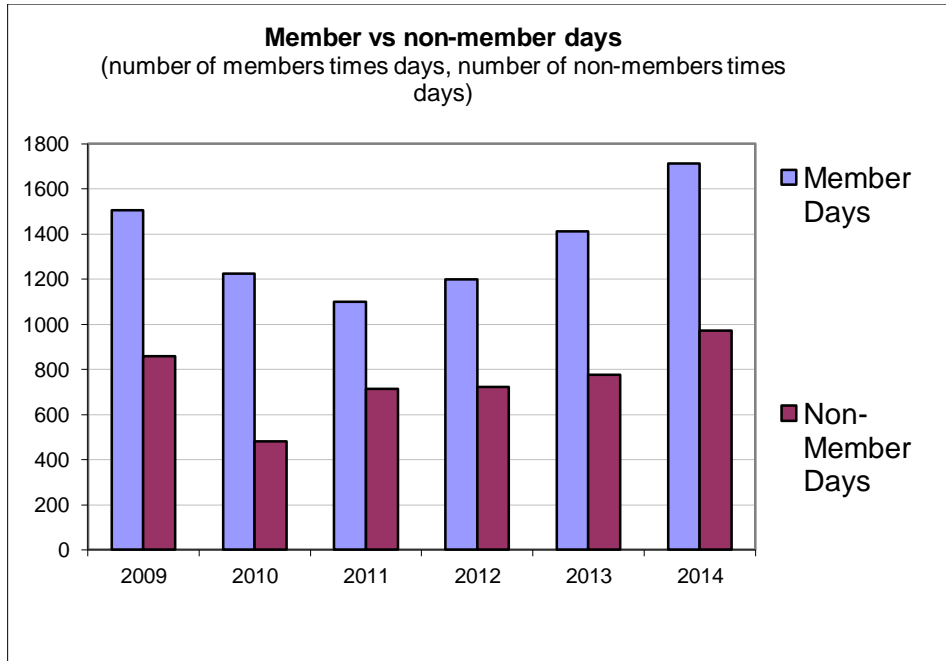


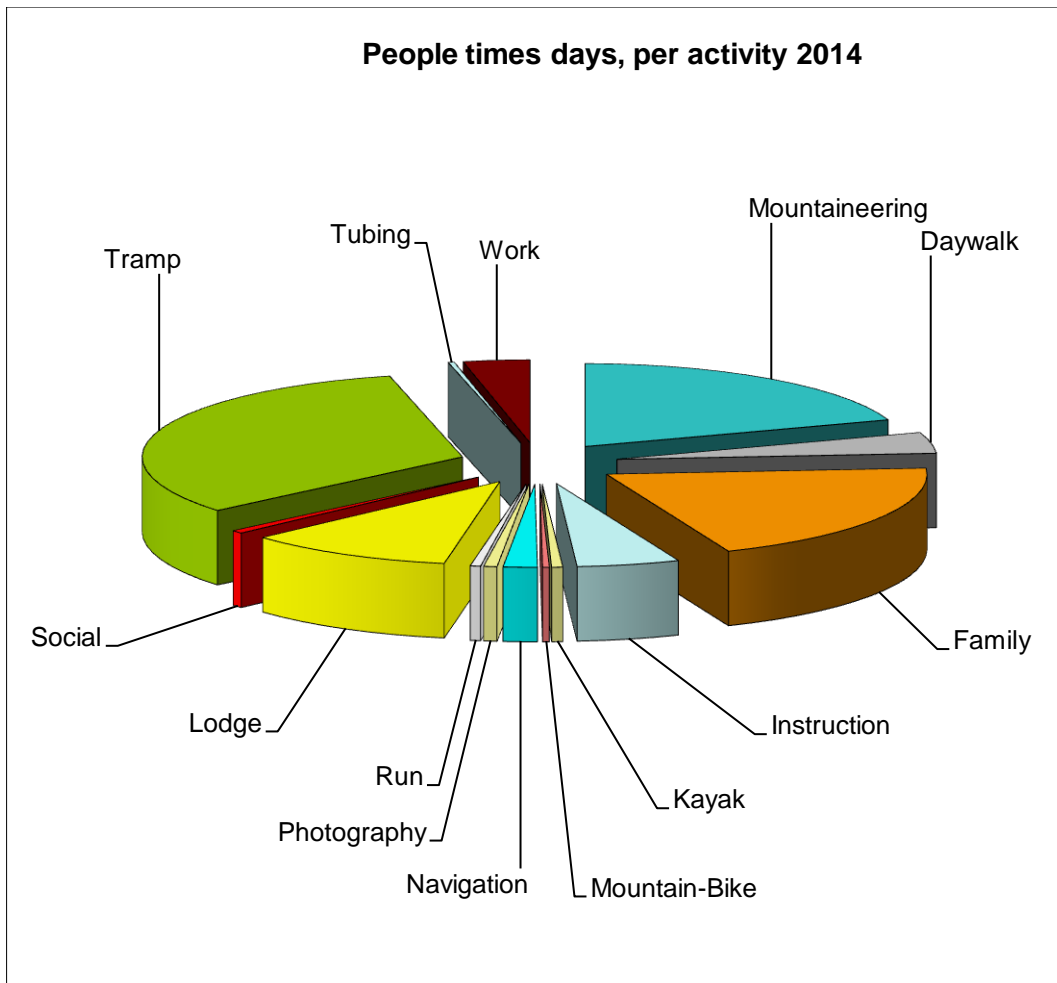


The increase in activity was more marked among members than non-members which is a good sign. Hopefully with some of the membership reforms this will continue and increase the feeling of club ethos.

It was also pleasing to see the number of cancelled trips decrease. A lot of trips are cancelled when the leader can no longer commit to the trip. Hopefully as we continue to increase the number of people leading trips more people can fill these gaps and even fewer trips will be cancelled.

The comparison of activities graph show how the mountaineering part of the club is growing. Also of note is the large number of member nights at the lodge—well done Mike Gilbert in promoting the club lodge. Families and tramping are now well represented but so are working party trips, a reflection of how we are going back to running volunteer trips. We managed two overnight work trips to Kapiti Island this year, among others.







Our Assets

Ruapehu Lodge

One of our most important assets, the club lodge on Mount Ruapehu, is still doing well despite the amount of time that it is empty during the year. Last ski season the lodge was well used except for the end of the season, when there was a drop off in usage even though there was excellent snow and weather conditions. This put a stop to it being the highest use season for several years.

We have promoted the lodge to more non-members in order to fill it and therefore it has seen more non-members enjoying the mountain experience. It has been a pleasure hearing the comments from them after enjoying the various activities available to them in the National Park.

Credit has to go to Mike Gilbert for his big effort in promoting the lodge van trips during the winter and other events such as the open lodge over the Christmas and New Year break. Thanks to those who volunteered to operate the lodge during that time. However, the open lodge idea was not so successful during the winter, so we have reduced the open lodge ski week last season to one. We are also intending to have an open lodge during Easter for a school holiday week.

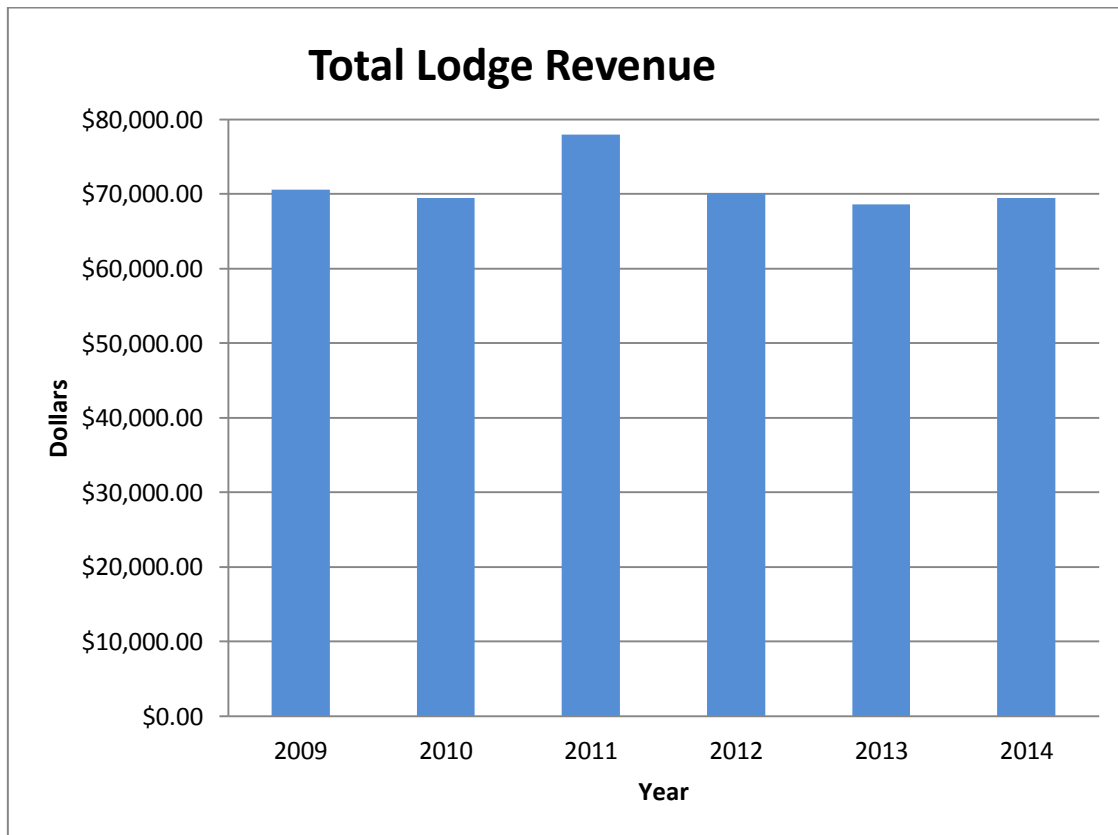
Thanks go to the regular people who donate their time like Kevin Griffiths (lodge maintenance officer), Andrew Trembath (food supply) and many others who quietly do various tasks during the winter without any prompting.

We also need to acknowledge the other regular groups that choose to use our lodge during the winter and helped to keep our usage up for many years: those from the Gisborne Ski Club and especially the group from New Plymouth who without fail have filled the lodge for many years.

Our sub-committee have been active in keeping the lodge in good shape and recognise that we must keep looking at the condition of the lodge to make sure that it is an excellent facility to attract new members and also outsiders, who do look at other facilities to make sure that our lodge is suitable for their purposes. Future plans have this in mind and also regular replacement of worn items are planned.

Lodge Usage Summer/Winter 2014

	Possible bed nights	Used Bed nights	% Utilisation
Summer	7008	503	7.2%
Winter	4608	1630	35.4%



Paua Hut

WTMC is fortunate to have our own slice of paradise nestled in amongst the beech trees above the Orongorongo river. I'm referring of course to Paua Hut, the scene of many an adventure over the past 12 months whether it be a junior bushcraft course, a club family trip or a base for a gnarly traverse of the ridgeline between Paua Ridge and Mt. Matthews saddle.

Usage has been very high in 2014. Users have been a mixture of clubbies (over half) and outsiders who are picking up the facility either by word of mouth or by finding it on the WTMC website. Literally only a handful of weekends have passed without the hut being used, and every weekend has seen the hut occupied since the beginning of September 2014. The hut is well used during the weekdays in the school holidays but during term time, usage during the week is almost nil. So if you are lucky enough to have the chance to escape the rat race during the working week, the hut is yours.

Speaking of rats, Mike installed a Good Nature self-setting rat trap towards the end of 2014. Although we don't at this stage have a digital counter attached to it, anecdotally it seems we have already caught at least a dozen rats in the subsequent five or so months. Mike also did a great job installing two new clear plastic roofing sheets in February 2015. These



replaced the old ones that had fractured in a number of places and were beginning to leak.

For those club members who have not been to Paua Hut for a while, pay it a visit and bask in the peaceful setting. It is an ideal weekend location for family groups, but equally for those a little longer in the tooth looking for a low key, convenient and scenic spot. You might even keep your feet dry if you catch the remainder of the summer. My daughter Lauren, her friend Ella and I did just that in late February, such was the gentle flow of the Orongorongo trickle.

Phil Kendon & Mike Pratt

Club Vans

The club continues to own two Ford Transit 12-seater minivans. The last financial year has seen a slight increase in van trips relative to the previous year. Altogether the vans were used for 60 trips the last financial year, as opposed to 54 the previous year.

The combined mileage driven by both vans within the last 12 months was approximately 28,000 km; an increase of around 2,000 km on the previous year. This level of van usage is still considered to be an acceptable level for retaining both vans and committee is hopeful of an increase in club membership over the next couple of years, as a result of changes of membership policy, which should increase van utilisation.

Over the past year we have had a number of weekends when both club vans have been in use and we've needed to hire vehicles. To cover these situations, we have signed a contract with Thrifty Rentals that we can use to hire rental vehicles when both club vans are in use. It is now club policy to use Thrifty Rentals if they have a suitable vehicle available. There are a number of advantages to this arrangement, including low rates of hire and the ability to use the club's own vehicle insurance policy when hiring Thrifty vehicles. The club's insurance cover is much more comprehensive than the cover that comes with standard hire arrangements. Club members can also take advantage of reduced rental rates from Thrifty for private use (contact the Transport Officer for more info).

There are approximately 60 vetted current club members who have volunteered to drive the vans. This is great, though we are always keen to encourage as many volunteers as possible to become familiar with driving the vans.

Thanks also to Gareth Morton and Pete Gent for taking on the job of cleaning the vans every month—not a glamorous job but an important one!

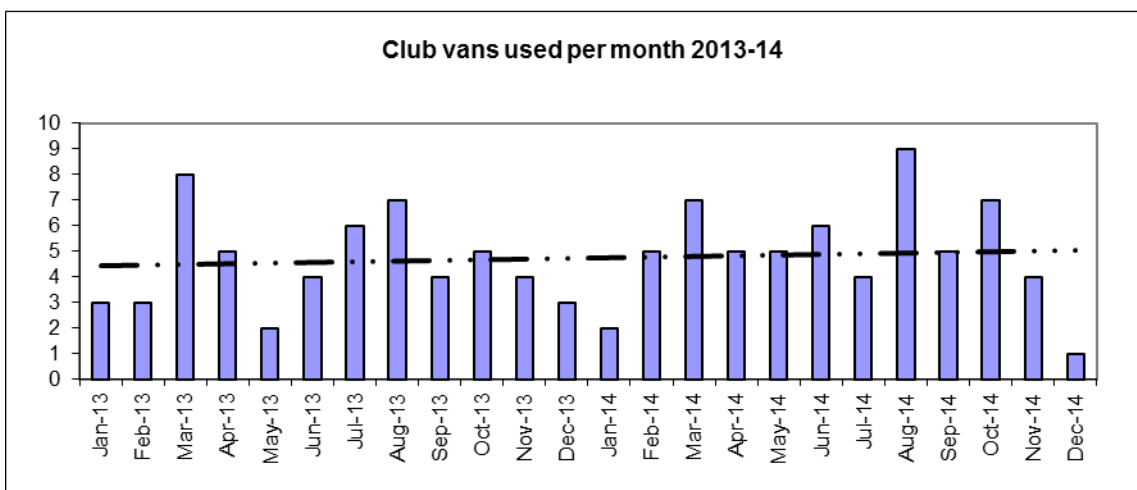
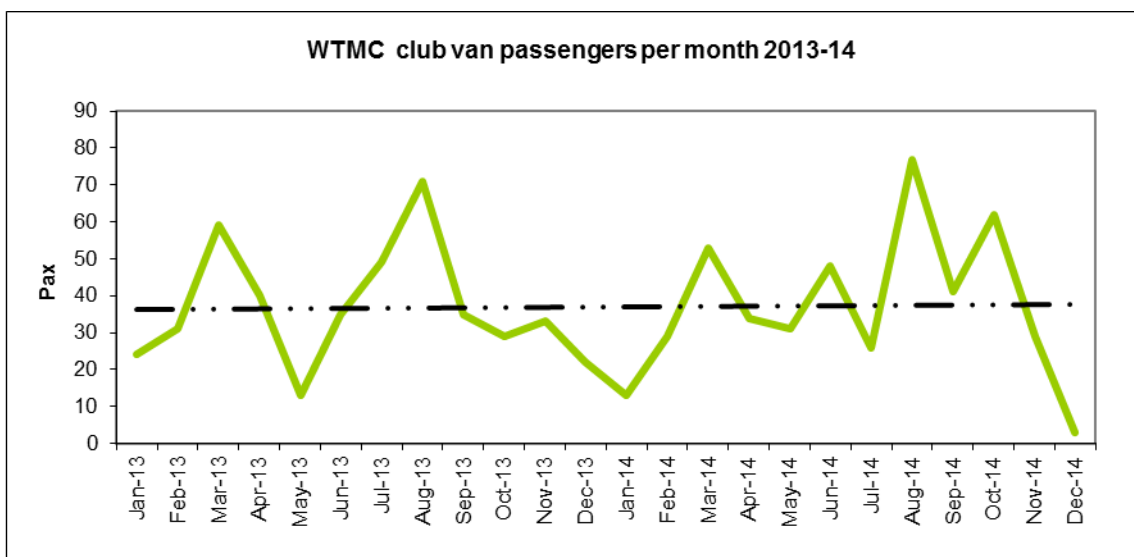
The van storage location at the Interislander ferry terminal is working well for the club and is particularly handy for South Island trips. Thanks again to Gareth Morton for continuing to arrange ferry bookings with Interislander for South Island trips.

Neither van suffered any major damage in the past year, although several sizeable bills were received for general wear and tear, as to be expected of vans this age. At the risk of stating the obvious, if you are driving a van and notice that one of the warning lights is



flashing or on, please take note and report this to the transport officer asap so it can be checked out.

In the interests of safety, this year we have re-introduced an old club policy in regards to the number of drivers that must be present on club trips. This was to address concerns expressed by members over driver fatigue on longer trips as well as to make sure that an additional driver is present in the event that the other driver is unable to drive the van for any reason (e.g. injury). The policy is now that for trips from Wellington to any location north of the Manawatu Gorge, or any trip with an anticipated drive time of more than three hours, there must be at least two drivers in the van. Feedback from members is always welcome on such changes.



Richard Lardner, Transport Officer

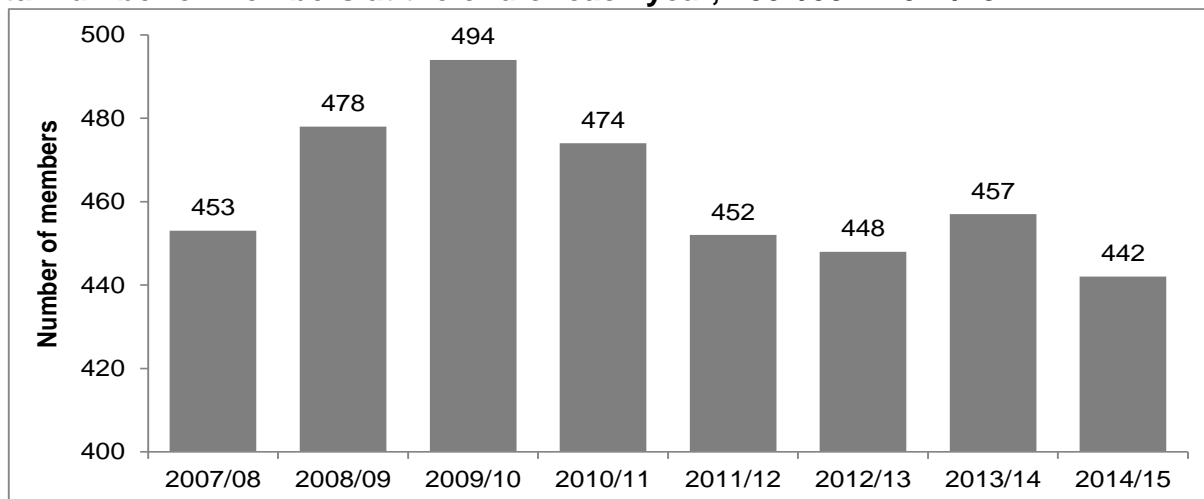


Our People

Membership

At the end of 2014, we had a total of 442 members, spread across 275 households. Our current membership is slightly lower than it has been in recent years.

Total number of members at the end of each year, 2007/08 – 2014/15



We welcomed 40 new members in 2014, including two returning members. This comprised 23 Seniors, seven Couple members, eight Children and two Associate members. However, 55 members resigned or were removed from the membership (this unfortunately included three members who died during the year).

Change in number of new members and resignations, 2007/08 – 2014/15

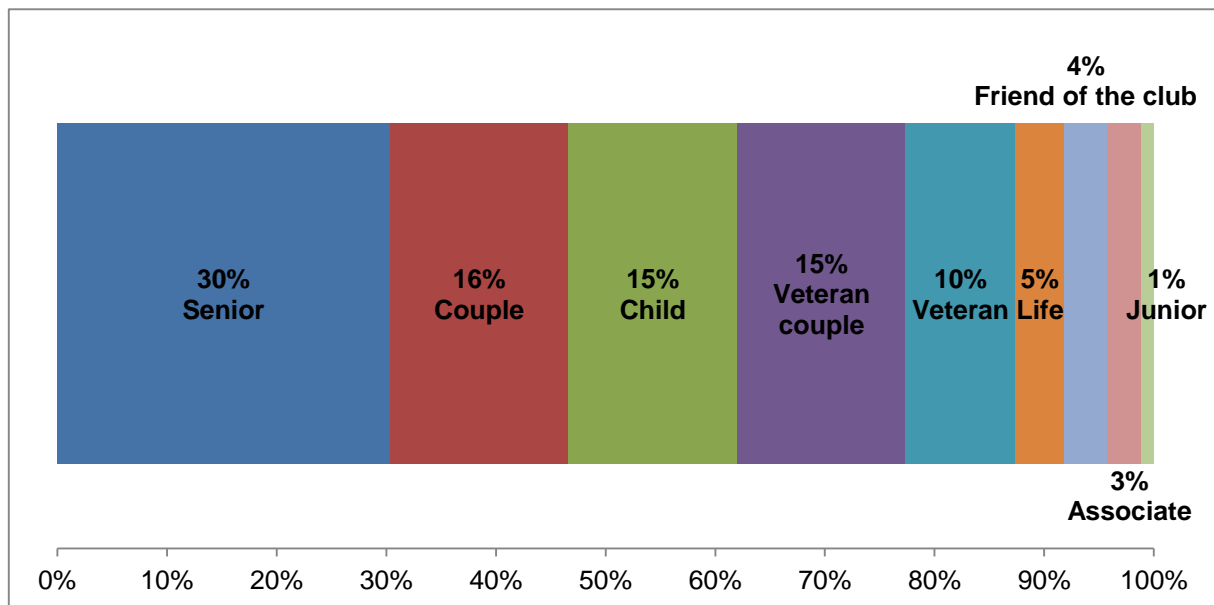


The increase in the number of resignations is concerning, and shows we cannot be complacent about our membership base. Half of the resignations (55%) were from Adult members, whilst a fifth (18%) were from Veteran Couple members.



Nearly a third of our 442 members are Senior members (30%). Another third is made up of Couples (16%) and Veteran Couples (15%). Child and Junior members are 16% of our membership. 10% of our members are Veterans, 5% Life members, 4% Friends of the Club and 3% Associate members.

Distribution of membership types, 2014/15



In 2014 we made several changes to membership-related things, which come into effect for the 2015/16 year. These include:

- simplifying the membership categories into household units (Adult, Veteran, Household, Veteran Household, Life, Junior, Friend of the Club)
- changing the fees for some membership types
- removing the \$15 joining fee.

In 2015 we will continue to consider how best to retain existing members and how to attract new members to the club. Part of this will be deciding whether the current joining requirements of the club should be modified, which is on the agenda for the AGM.

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

Jo Fink, Membership Officer



Our Promotions and Communications

The club has been working to take advantage of social media as a way to broaden our reach to potential new members, better connect with the future generation of up and coming trampers and most importantly strengthen our connection with our current members. A small group of volunteers is consistently posting useful updates and news to our Facebook Fan Page and our online newsletter is now developing as a new forum for discussion.

While we are still exploring ways to formalise this work within committee by continuing to pursue a Communications Officer role, this past year has seen significant improvement in standardising much of our work across a number of volunteers involved in the external and internal communications of the club. One of the great outcomes of this work, is our members are now communicating more often to committee and with one another. As a result, we are developing a more interactive dialog within the entire club.

This was most evident recently, when a number of members across several generations actively engaged in debate and discussion about our current logo through the Facebook Fan page and the online newsletter. This kind of interaction is a sign of a vital, engaged club and we're looking forward to increasing participation and communication from the wider membership.

We've also decided it's time we did a better job of letting people outside our membership know about all of our fantastic trips, volunteer work, social events and work projects. Having the newsletter online means it now possible to share this news with non-members with no financial cost to the club. After our most recent successful New Members night, we now have over 100 people signed up to receive emails about our newsletter and trip schedule.

Of course the focus of all this work is to ensure that we don't lose those people who come along for one trip, love it and disappear. We're hoping to bring them back again and again, whether it's to the Wednesday social night, volunteer working parties or trips.

As we look ahead to 2015, we still have more to learn about how best to reach our current and future members, but if the trend continues, we're on the right track to strengthening and growing our community.

Website and social media

Website

The website continues to be one of our most important avenues for communicating key information about the club—most importantly our trip schedule and essential information for going on trips. New members continually tell us when they arrive at the door on a Wednesday night for the first time that they've already read the information on the website. It's an excellent way to make sure our new and current members are fully informed. From 1 January to 31 December 2014 we've had 73,000 page views from 8,350 visitors, 93% of those were from NZ, with Australia, US, Brazil and UK being the next top five countries. This year, as with all our communications, we've worked to involve a larger number of

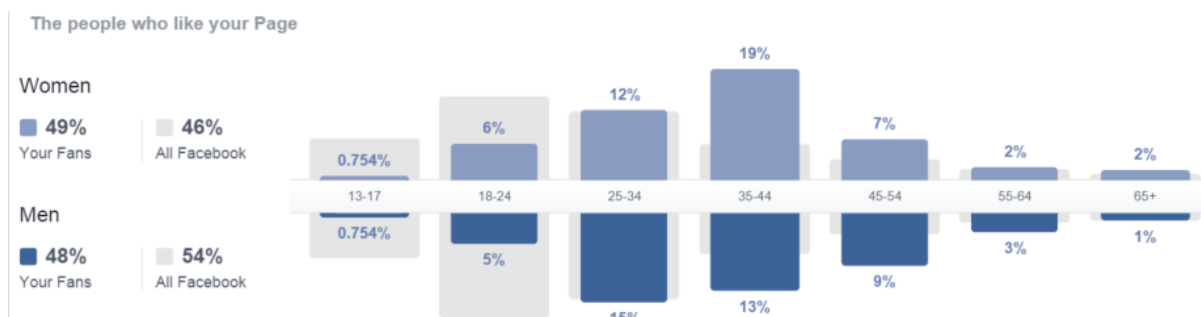


volunteers in a more standard way to ensure content is updated regularly. Thanks goes to Emily Shrosbree for contributing to this effort.

Facebook

Meena Kadri, along with Amelia White, Mike Gilbert and Amanda Wells, has continued to administer our Facebook Fan Page, which has been running since 2011 (<http://facebook.com/WTandMC>—like it now!). The page helps us spread news about the club to both current and potential members, as well as share important tramping news with our members. This past year we've focused on weekly promotion of club social nights as well as important club news, alongside helpful tramping updates like track closures, FMC activities, DOC announcements and more.

We've gone from 274 fans in 2014 to 413 this year—more than a 50% increase over the last 12 months, pretty healthy fan building for an established page. Our biggest fans continue to be women aged 35-44, along with men aged 25-34.



Our posts have an average of over 200 views, consistent with last year. The top five for the last three months got over 300 views each. Ones with lots of interaction include the February new trampers' night that we explicitly asked for shares on, a 'do you know these people' post, the SK post and so on. Our Wednesday night promotions sat nicely in the middle, which is a good result—they are what we want to communicate out, compared to other posts that are designed to lure fans in.

This past year has seen a great awareness among our non-committee members of the Facebook page as a way to communicate and we've seen increasing proactive efforts to help utilise the fan page. We expect the number of fans to continue to grow, as well as fan interaction. The audience of the Facebook page makes it one of our key communication mechanisms to reach future members.

Meetup.com

The Wellington Tramping Group Meetup site, <http://meetup.com/WellingtonTrampingGroup>, has been used this year mainly as a channel to promote club nights, particularly the New Trampers' Nights, as well as a handful of tramping trips such as the Christmas Stewart Island trip. It continues to be a useful channel to expose potential new members to our club and what we do.

Meetup has also been used as a tool for promoting the Ruapehu Lodge, both for winter van-lodge trips and for 'Open Lodge' in summer. We have seen great uptake in both areas, filling bunks that would otherwise remain empty and getting use of the vans during winter when they are traditionally less utilised. These trips have shown strong revenue and strong

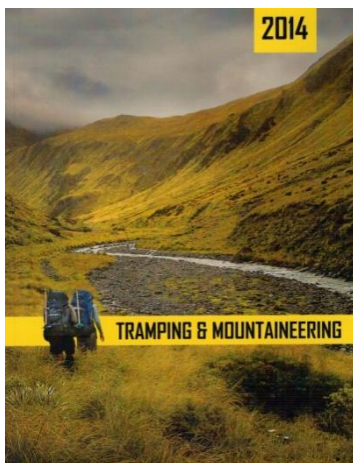


surpluses for both the Lodge and the Vans. The committee is currently evaluating the use of the vans and Meetup to ensure these trips are consistent with club trip policy and safety standards.

Club publications

After initial wariness at the online version of the newsletter, there has been growing appreciation for the benefits it offers. The online newsletter now has more 600 posts with 331 of those being trip reports. As a searchable database with tagged key words, the newsletter has now become an excellent resource for leaders to use in their trip planning. The newsletter format also allows comments and questions to be posted to individual trip reports, which means that anyone can ask a question about a specific trip report.

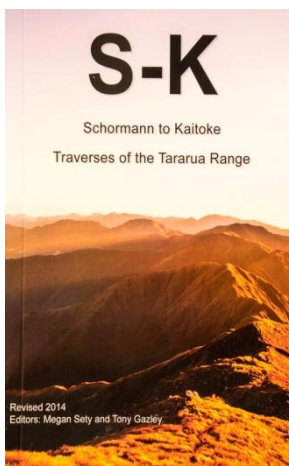
The growing archive is in part due to Emily Shrosbree, Amelia White, Mike Gilbert and Jo Fink, who helped to upload all the past newsletters dating back to 2011, a number dating back to 1998 and PDF files dating back to 2009 (see <http://wtmc.org.nz/newsletter/category/newsletter-pdf-archive/>). I'm hopeful that we can work towards making available the PDF versions of the newsletter dating back to 1948 and we'll be looking for volunteers to support this project.



Not all of our work is online. Ian Harrison did an excellent job compiling and publishing the 2014 Journal.

As always the journal features an excellent selection of stories and photos from New Zealand and afar.

In addition, Ian's first effort at the journal has brought some new features and style to the pages—make sure you give it a look!



This year also saw an updated publication of the book, “Accounts of week-end, two-day and 24-hour Schormann—Kaitoke (or Putara—Kaitoke) traverses of the Tararuas North Island, New Zealand via the Main Range, Tarn Ridge, the rivers and in reverse!”

Lindsay Cuthbertson began compiling and publishing this book in 1997, in honour of the club's 50th Jubilee.

This year he passed the baton to Tony Gazley and Megan Sety, who have updated the book with several new stories (<http://www.schormannkaitoke.com/>).



Club Nights

The last year has seen a higher number of club speakers than the previous year. It's wonderful that our clubbies are comfortable telling their stories and showing their photos to the rest of us. The range of places visited continues to be wide and varied covering different parts of our homeland and a variety of destinations overseas from our across-the-ditch-neighbours to the high north. Our external speakers have covered topics such as the Whio to Rob Susited's presentation on the book "Molesworth".

Our annual photo competition continues to draw a big crowd and inspiring entries; many thanks to Ian Harrison for arranging this evening again. The annual quiz night was well attended however the presentation that focussed on Ruapehu and the lodge was almost the exact opposite with barely a handful of people staying for the presentation. An interesting dilemma for us as we look at ways of promoting both the area and our super lodge. After that turnout, our thoughts of promotion of the lodge are to have very short snippets shown prior to the main presentation.

Another film evening was run and those that remained enjoyed the film. Occasional film evenings would be good to continue with the trick being to find a topical outdoor subject that can be viewed within 60 minutes.

Looking back at the presentations over the last couple of years there are two in particular that come to mind as being worthy to repeat every two to three years. The first one is the presentation on Tuatara along with the guest appearance of an actual Tuatara. As well as being generally interesting and having a chance to catch up on the latest research it's also a great evening to bring our younger members to. The other presentation is from LandSAR. It's a good reminder as to how they work and the stories have valuable tips and lessons.

We promoted club nights through the website, forum and regular posts on Facebook (thanks to Meena Kadri for coming up with photos and snappy words to encourage people down to club). Some talks were promoted via Meetup with a corresponding uptick in first-timers and non-members attending these. One small procedural change has been changing our door sign-in book to a tick-the-box book, along with a contact card for first timers and non-members to fill in if they choose. We probably get less accurate figures, but we also get less of a queue of people writing their names down at the door!

I'd like to thank all those who have helped me prepare and set up (DJ, Pete G and Emily in particular). I also want to thank Spencer who covered the role when I was on annual leave, and Pete G who held the fort when I was on an extended overseas trip.

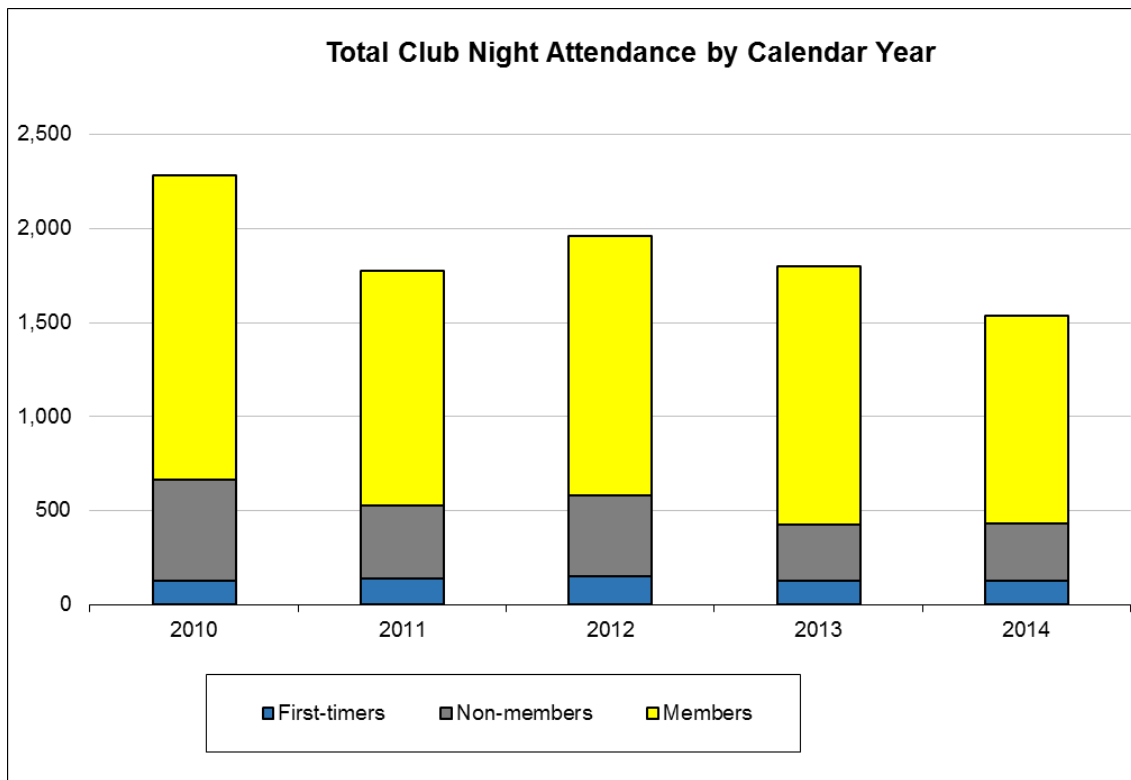
Top ten nights:

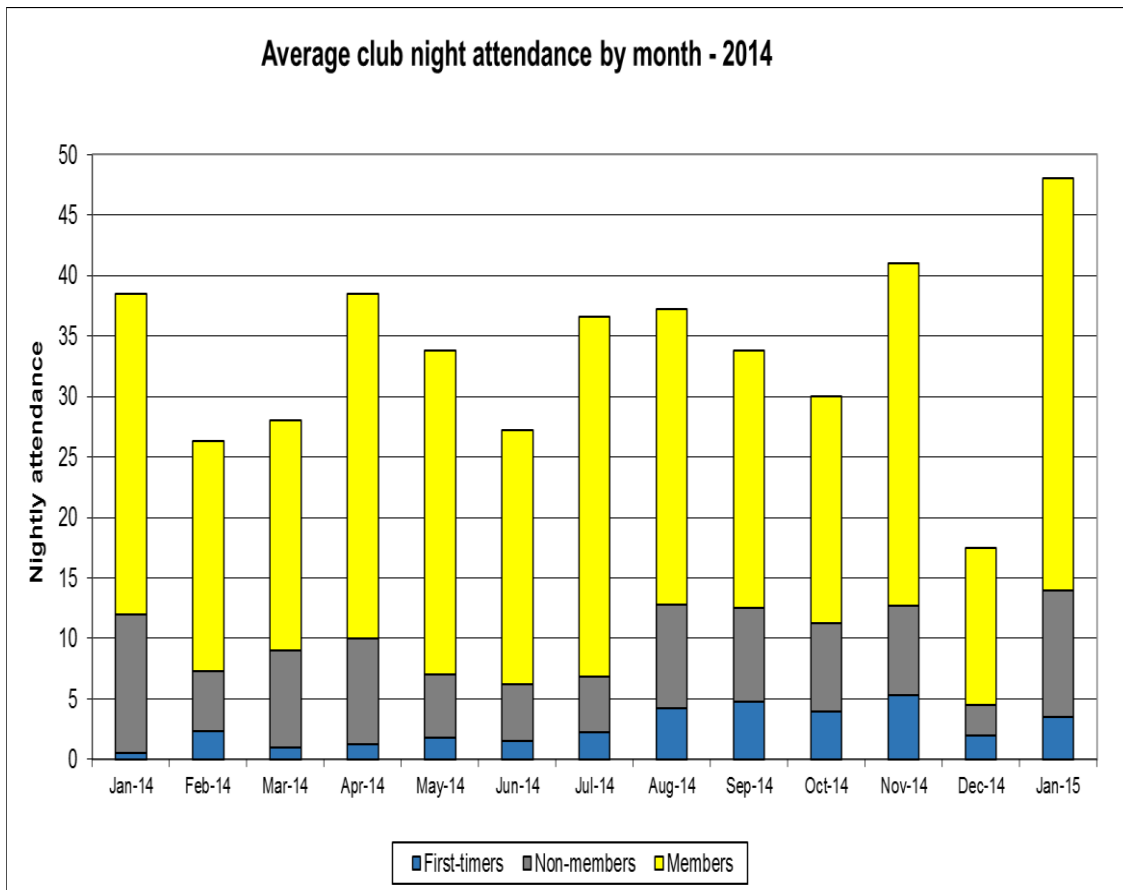
Attendance	Speaker	Topic
49	Tony Gazley	The Awesome Tararuas!
48	Harry	S-K
48	Emily	Mini Hut Bagging around Wellington
48	Sharron C	Trail Running @ Milford and Ruapehu
44	Tony Gazley	Forecasting NZ Weather in Alpine Environments
43	Mike G	Nepal - Trekking in Annapurna
41	Tony Gazley	Forecasting NZ Weather in Tramping environments
40	Neil Hickman	Lucky Strike Alpine
40	Sue W	Meanderings in the Far North



Top ten nights for first time attendees:

First timers	Speaker	Topic
13	Tony Gazley	Forecasting NZ Weather in Tramping environments
10	Tony Gazley	Forecasting NZ Weather in Alpine Environments
10	Mike G	Nepal - Trekking in Annapurna
8	Harry Smith	Cycle Touring in the Victorian Alps
6	Megan Sety	Off track adventures in the Orongorongos - finding Turere Stream and Matthews North Saddle
5	Sue W	Meanderings in the Far North
5	Darren Peters/ Lisa Whittle	Whio Protection
5	Sharon Brandford	Kawekas (Easter/ANZAC)
5	Spencer C	Sunrise Photo trip
4	Emily	Mini Hut Bagging around Wellington





New Trampers' Nights

We have run two very successful New Trampers' nights, in October and February. These have followed the format of previous years with 'stands' promoting Tramping, Alpine, Kayaking and Ruapehu Lodge. The club's changing activity base is shown by dropping of Daywalk and Cycle stands, as the club currently has less activity here than in the past; and inclusion of a Rock Climbing stand as the club is building up a great base of experienced rock climbers and running regular outings.

New Trampers' nights are timed around a 'spike' of easier tramps and a Bushcraft weekend, and means that we can provide people interested in tramping with activities they can follow on to.

Turnout was good with around 40 people in October and impressive 80 people in February. People mainly found out about the night on Meetup, our website, and through word of mouth. In February we ceased producing posters to promote the event, since conversion rates were very low (just one person in October).

An important innovation is to offer attendees a card to fill in their contact details and how they found us. Combined with the new online newsletter, this means that it is simple and easy to keep in touch with these potential new members and keep our activities front of mind for them.



Other activities

Our annual “thanks for helping out” Christmas barbeque was rescheduled to the General Practitioner Hotel this year due to rain. This turned out to be vastly easier to organise and run, and is likely what we’ll do in future. We got a great turnout from the many varied parts of the broad church that is the WTMC, which is valuable to keep cohesion within the club.

Megan Sety, Newsletter Editor
Mike Gilbert, Promotions Officer
Sue Walsh, Social Convenor
