

Life Membership

The Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club has 9 categories of membership which includes Life Membership. Life membership is not an automatic progression based on the number of years a person has been a financial member, but on special service to the club or to the furtherance of its objects. The nomination is commonly made by on the recommendation of peers.

The following is an extract from the Constitution on Life Membership:

7. LIFE MEMBERSHIP

On a motion of which previous notice has been given to the Committee or on the Committee's recommendation, any person who has rendered special service to the Club or to the furtherance of its objects may be elected to life membership by two thirds of those present and voting at a general meeting of the Club. Life membership shall have full privileges, but shall be exempt from payment of the subscription.

3. OBJECTS

(a) To encourage and facilitate walking, climbing, mountaineering, and skiing, but always subject to (c) and (d).

(b) To encourage and facilitate such field interest as accord with object (a), such as botany, photography, etc., but always subject to (c) and (d).

(c) To preserve and protect the native flora and the natural scenic properties of the bush and the country generally.

(d) To preserve and protect the native fauna, except for such shooting of native game as may be permitted by the Government from time to time, such shooting to be subject to the rules of the club.

(e) To endeavour to achieve, maintain and to co-operate in the preservation of the Tararua mountain and forest areas as a natural, unspoiled reserve and to oppose further substantial development which appears to violate this object.

(f) To encourage and facilitate social intercourse between members.

(g) To build and maintain huts and resorts and to cut tracks; and to co-operate with other clubs and to invest funds, and to do other such acts as may reasonably accord with the above objects, but always subject to (c) and (d).

The Club currently has 17 life members, six of which are deceased. Our life members are (in no particular order):

Bill Rice (deceased)	Graeme Hall (deceased)
Trevor Walsh (deceased)	Ethyl Carter (deceased)
Alan Dyer	Nick Jennings
Dave Catchpole	Karen Boswell (deceased)
Pete Goodwin	Brian Hunt (deceased)
Ron Fayle	Dennis Gazley
Kevin Griffiths	Allen Higgins
Jan Goodwin	Brian Goodwin
Sue Walsh	

Life membership is an honour and a privilege and the reasons for nominating club members should not be lost. The Constitution provides limited guidelines as to how a member becomes a recipient of a nomination. This document proposes to flesh out the guidelines and should be used in conjunction with the constitution and the biographies of our current life members. This document has been brought together with the help and guidance of current life members.

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General Guidelines for

Life Membership & Assessing Suitability for Nomination

1. The number of life members should be restricted to no more than 16 live life members. Life membership is a privilege and an honour and should not be denigrated by having too many people unnecessarily in this category.
2. Club members who are nominated for life membership should be at least a veteran member of the club, ie: they must have a minimum of 21 years financial membership. Any dedication to the club is bonded by a generous length of membership which shows the ongoing dedication to the club.
3. Unless a nomination has been put forward by the general membership, nominations for life membership will be canvassed from current life members. Life membership can be controversial with some members feeling, rightly or wrongly, they are due the privilege. To avoid embarrassing mistakes life members only will be queried as to appropriate people.

4. A nomination for life membership should be looked at in conjunction with current life members. This is to ensure the contribution is considered fairly against other life members and to ensure consistency in criteria
5. A nomination should be thoroughly researched and carefully presented to committee. If there isn't sufficient evidence of an outstanding contribution the nomination should be turned down.
6. Sustained commitment to the club over a short period of time is not sufficient for life membership. The individual must be committed to the club and have an ongoing involvement in the running of the club. Part of this commitment is shown by a generous length of membership: ie minimum of 21 years financial membership (veteran member).
7. Constant contribution to the running of the club: ie length of time spent on Committee, should be looked at in conjunction with other club involvement.
8. Unless the outstanding contribution is such that it deserves instant recognition, a nomination should not occur immediately but should be noted in the committee minutes for reference in the future.
9. When recording the nomination in the committee minutes care must be taken as to what information is actually recorded. All details must be recorded, if this is not possible enter only the motion with nominator and seconder.
10. Nominations for life membership do not have to occur on an annual basis, although this category should be checked each year.