

Annual Report of the

Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

For the year ended 31st January 2018

Seventy First Annual Report

www.wtmc.org.nz

P O Box 5068 Lambton Quay, Wellington 6145

Contents

The Current committee	3
President's comments	4
More information about WTMC:	4
Committee Reports	5
Our Finances	5
Chief Guide – The year in brief	5
Statistics	5
Our Assets	6
Ruapehu Lodge	6
Paua Hut	7
Club Vans	8
Our People	8
Membership	8
Our Promotions and Communications	9
Website	9



The Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club Committee presents its Annual Report on club activities for the year **1 February 2017 to 31 January 2018**.

The Current committee

Tony Gazley (President)
Emily Shrosbree (Vice President)
Graeme Hearfield (Treasurer)
Kirsty van Reenen (Secretary)
Richard House (Chief Guide)
Matt Conway (Assistant Chief Guide)
Rene Auer (Transport Officer)
Jane Latchem (Membership Officer)
Illona Keenan (Promotions Officer)
Catherine Mills (Social Convenor)
Brian Goodwin (Ruapehu Lodge Convenor)
Caryl Ramos (Communications Officer)
Aimee Patterson (Newsletter Editor)
Rodrigo Orquera (Webmaster)
Kerry Charles (General committee)



President's comments

The WTMC became an elderly 70 year old last year—but just seems to be going from strength to strength. Certainly our main activity has always been tramping, but we now have members involved in many other related outdoor activities. There have been small but very enthusiastic groups rock climbing, mountaineering, skiing and ski touring, mountain biking, canoeing, sea kayaking, canyoning, trail running—and the next big thing packrafting. This bodes well for the future of the club—a greater diversity of activities will be attractive to more prospective members.

Your committee has been busy as usual the last year attending to the many jobs that need to be done to keep the club functioning smoothly. Mostly these are completed in the background and do not affect members directly. However, one decision will become more obvious. After consulting many members of the club the committee has made the decision to publish the 2018 Annual Journal as an eBook. There are a number of reasons behind this decision: we know that the printed journal is not widely read, and that most younger members would prefer to be able to read on digital devices anywhere at any time; the journal can be animated, have links to other publications and photo galleries, and be available to non-club members; and additionally, given the cost savings, the club subscription rates will not need to be raised to cover the increasing costs to the club for such things as hall rental, maintenance to the vans and to our Ruapehu lodge etc. Those that enjoy their hard copy need not panic—we intend the the journal will still be published as a paper copy but only in numbers set by members pre-ordering and paying the printing cost—likely to be about \$20.

Any remaining savings will be set aside for existing, and future, conservation projects such as the club's who protection trap-lines, and to essential training such as subsidised first aid courses.

I am standing down as president but will continue on as ex-officio vice president, as well as continuing to attend lodge subcommittee meetings and assist with lodge matters. To all the other committee members and to those who helped out in non-committee but essential roles a huge thank you. Without your efforts the club would not function at all.

To all other members thanks for being part of the WTMC community—we hope you will stay with us and enjoy the good times.

Tony Gazley, President

More information about WTMC:

Our website – <http://wtmc.org.nz/>

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

Our journal – Members will receive this as an eBook (or hard copy if preordered) in December 2018. Produced by Tony Gazley. The 2017 journal is available [here](#).

[Our annual reports and financial statements](#)

[Minutes from Committee Meetings](#)



Committee Reports

Our Finances

Our Financial Statement for 2018 is available on the [WTMC website](#)

The club has made a surplus of \$29,932 for the 2017 financial year, primarily due to a surplus of \$18,159 from transport and tramping activities. The Ruapehu lodge made a surplus of \$682 for the year, compared to a loss from last year. WTMC, alongside TTC and VUTC sponsored the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival, generated \$3,012 of income for the club.

Graeme Hearfield, Treasurer

Chief Guide – The year in brief

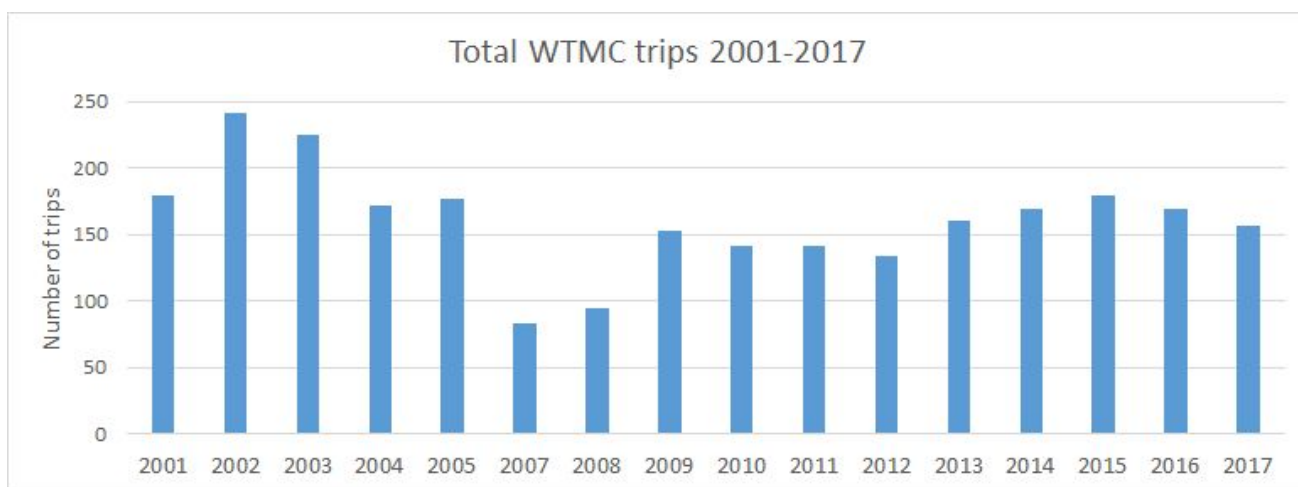
You will see from Steve’s statistics that we nearly matched last year in getting people out on trips, over 2,400 trip days, despite a slightly higher rate of trip cancellations. One weekend we had over 60 people out on trips. Thanks to all those trip leaders who made this possible. Trip cancellations were slightly higher than the recent years average at 31% with “no-signups” a significant cause. Fewer, more attractive trips is probably the answer, as low trip sign-up is disappointing for trip leaders

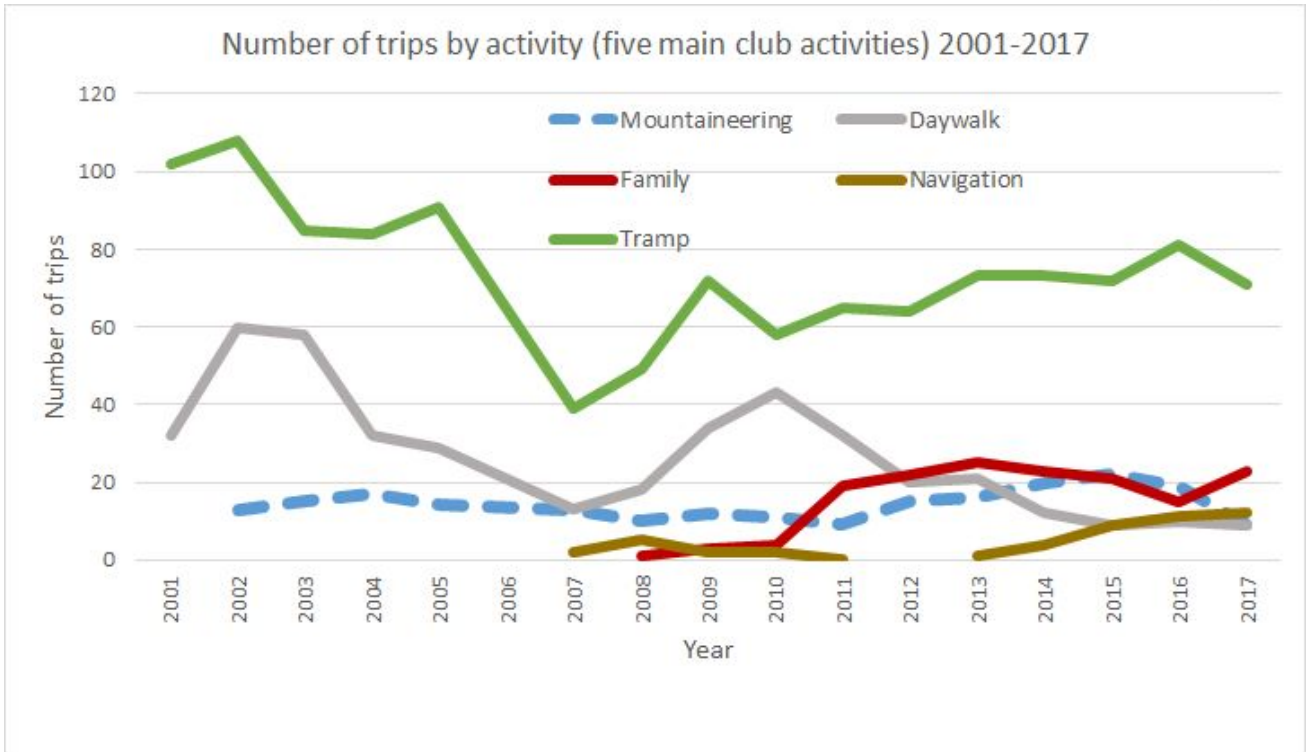
Last year we had two PLB activations on trips which resulted in rescue activity, but with no serious injuries. These events were reviewed by the committee and confirmed that the right decisions were made. This is a testament to the club’s procedures and training developed over the years, and we continue focus on staying safe in the outdoors. One of the real events came just after a emergency event training day for the committee, tempting fate perhaps!

Richard House, Chief Guide

Statistics

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





Our Assets

Ruapehu Lodge

The club owns an excellent facility on the Northern slopes of Mt Ruapehu which is the Whakapapa side at the top of the Bruce Road primarily to accommodate our club members and guests.



Our lodge has been well utilized in the past year to levels that have not been seen since 2011.

The lodge has been used by school groups, member family groups, Alpine use, the usual skiing and boarding and also a base for ski touring trips.

Summer use has also increased by both member and non-member people as a base for walking, running, mountain biking or just used as a place to relax. RAL the lift operator are also providing access to the upper mountain café. Beyond people have been able to follow the marked trails for sight seeing and go to the upper area of the mountain.

For those who have no transport or prefer to travel without the winter driving stress we have been providing transport to the mountain by means of vans on selected weekends and this has been proved popular and will be continued this winter.

Our lodge committee has been working on promoting the lodge to the many new members that the club has and the mountain facilities are continuing to be improved with newer lifts and snow making to extend the season especially for beginners and families.

As a result this financial year a modest profit has resulted from the extra use and we have managed to also cover the depreciation cost from work carried out in previous years. We are looking forward to continued or greater usage this coming year.

Brian Goodwin, Ruapehu Lodge Convenor

Paua Hut

In 2017, Paua Hut bookings went online. The new booking system has received good feedback and the hut continues to be booked most weekends with school holidays getting more back to back bookings as people can easily see which dates are available. Richard House helped develop the booking system and we have been adding little improvements throughout the year. There is now potential for the treasurer to easily check and follow up payments of non members if they wish.

Kate Cushing has kindly offered to take over Paua Hut maintenance from Mike Pratt. It'll be good to have someone in that role again after a few months of no one stepping up (and the hut temporarily running out of gas! Thanks Tony for valiantly walking some in.)

Mike had some disappointing feedback from Penny Sawkins at Bamboozla Hut, the hut which is neighbouring Paua Hut. She mentioned a few issues. Her wood pile has been depleted and while she knows that is may be people camping down at the river we also noticed Paua hut wood was emptied. It is not a big deal as Mike's scout group can restock both huts.

Pennie also noticed that her water line had been broken and fed into Paua hut tank. This as it took a while to reinstate. We have asked Pennie to let us know when that happened so hopefully we can mention it to the people who were there or see if anyone knows anything.



Over the years, we have established a good relationship with Pennie and her family and often we help out on Bambazoola and she lends us chainsaws and other tools.

It would be great to keep that spirit going as it makes maintenance much easier.

Ann and Phil Kendon

Club Vans

- The two club vans continue to be well-used.
- On busy weekends, we have needed to hire extra vehicles on some occasions.
- Thanks to Bernie Dixon and Matt Cowan for cleaning the vans, and to Pete Silverwood for looking after van maintenance.
- This year we lost our convenient van parks at the Interislander terminal as unfortunately Interislander needed the space. Many thanks to Interislander for the free parking they've provided to the club over the past years. The club is now looking for alternative long-term and convenient van parking. Many thanks to Jan and Brian Goodwin for accommodating the vans in Ngaiō in the meantime.

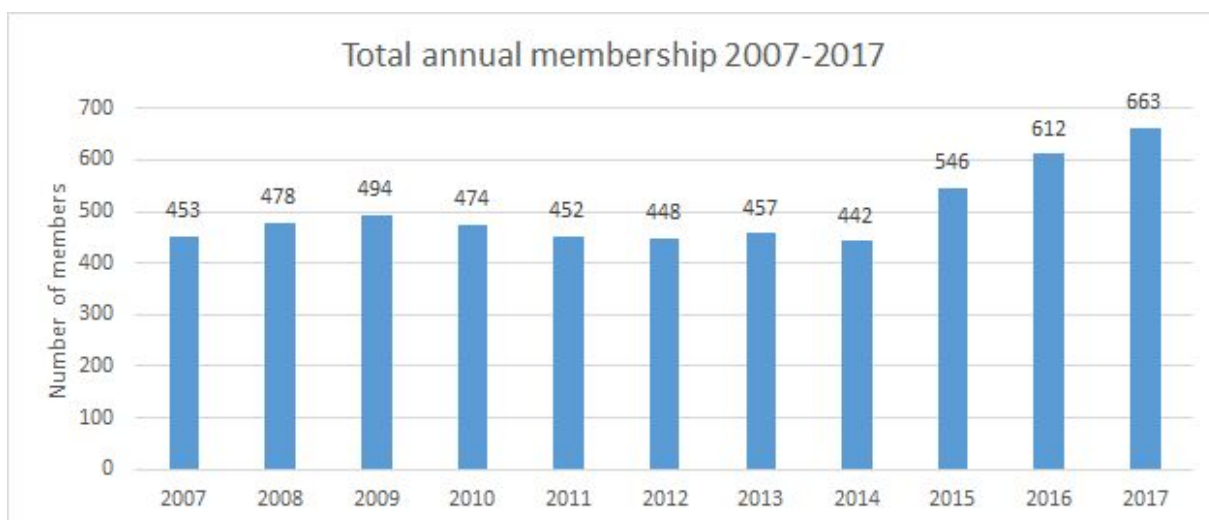
Rene Auer, Transport Officer (Logistics)

Our People

Membership

At the end of 2017, WTMC had 663 members in 415 households. Membership numbers have continued to rise since 2014. 158 new members joined in 2017, though 10 were former members rejoining.

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

- 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 a New Members' Night in Oct 2017, to draw in the people wanting to get out over summer. Promoting this event through Facebook seems to be very efficient, for a minimal spend we can reach a very wide audience.
- The Facebook page continues to have a large online audience. We have over 1400 likes and over 1400 followers. Our posts have been averaging at over 500 user views.
- We've started an Instagram page to go alongside Facebook and a hashtag #wtmcnz for users to share their pictures with the club. The page has 93 followers in 3 months.
- Thanks to Amanda and Katy, we held a Media and Emergency Communications Workshop. It was attended by 6 committee members and the emergency contact coordinator. Emily has put together guidelines in an online excel sheet for incidents. We propose that the committee will review and revise this strategy yearly.
- Introductory email communications to new members have been revised by the committee and made minor updates. The content layout is adapted to suit the newsletter format.

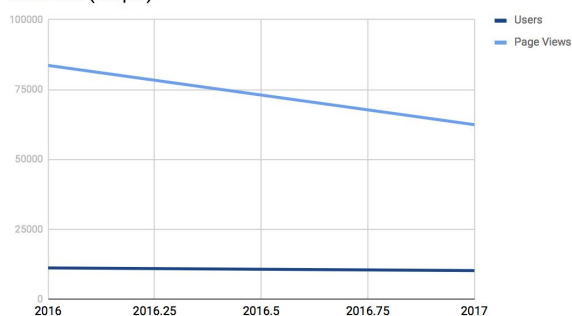
Caryl Ramos, Communications Officer and Illona Keenan, Promotions Officer

Website

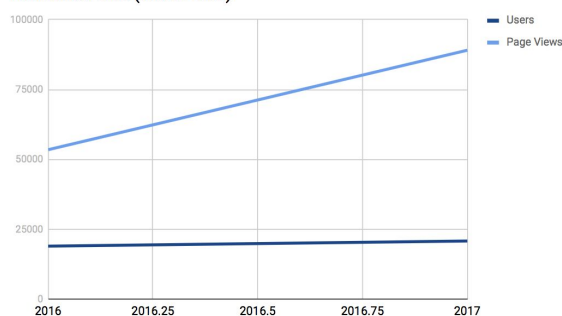
Ultimate goal was to completely replace the Drupal platform (old site) with WordPress (Newsletter only originally) while also implementing the latest security and privacy standards, this project would not see its conclusion during 2017 but mid January 2018. While migration ramped up during 2017 and both sites coexisted it was confusing to the users to say the least.

We also suffered a targeted spam attack on the Forum and measures have been implemented to secure it.

Main Site (Drupal)



Newsletter Site (WordPress)



Page views have dropped significantly on the Main Site from over 83,000 in 2016 to around 62,000 in 2017 but the Newsletter Site page views have increased at a greater rate from 53,000 to 89,000. Users on the Main Site dropped from 11,000 to 10,000 but have increased in the Newsletter Site from 18,900 to 20,700. Overall website Traffic and Users has increased, detailed metrics also show mobile access is gaining ground as a method to use our site.

Rodrigo Orquera, Webmaster