

Annual Report of the

Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club Inc

For the year ended 31st January 2019
Seventy Second 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 2018 to 31 January 2019**.

The Current Committee

Emily Shrosbree (President)
Tony Gazley (Vice President)
Graeme Hearfield (Treasurer)
Heather Garven (Secretary)
Richard House (Chief Guide)
Matt Conway (Assistant Chief Guide)
Rene Auer (Transport Officer)
Jane Latchem (Membership Officer)
Illona Keenan (Promotions Officer)
Tony Stephens (Social Convenor)
Brian Goodwin (Ruapehu Lodge Convenor)
Sumudu Jayalath (Communications Officer)
Aimee Paterson (Newsletter Editor)
Rodrigo Orquera (Webmaster)
Kerry Charles (General Committee)



President's comments

WTMC continues to thrive. We've had a steady stream of new members, a bumper winter season at the lodge and successful summer too, we've had club members a-top Aoraki Mt Cook, run two pack-rafting safety courses and further forayed into bike-packing and canyoning. We've installed new traps to continue to protect who in the Ruahine, trained members in first aid, river safety and bushcraft, now have monthly local mountain biking trips and continue to have an active families group. We've acquired a club dehydrator, bought new mountain shelters and canyoning gear and moved the [journal](#) to a snazzy online publication.

Just reading that list I am more out-of-breath than halfway up the track to Field Hut! And all that is without even a mention of the multiple trips out in the hills pretty much every weekend of the year thanks to three fantastic packed schedules. This year we've had the highest number of person-days tramped since 2003!

Of course everything on that list (and more) has been made possible by our members actively volunteering their time, energy and ideas to not just keeping the club ticking over, but to ensuring we continue to adapt and branch-out to maintain a thriving community of participating members. A big thank you goes to the WTMC Committee, as well as everyone else who plays their part in helping the club run smoothly (over 70 members were on the invite list to our 'thanks-for-helping-out' event in January!).

The 2018/19 Committee set ourselves some priorities to focus on at the beginning of the year. Namely, (i) promoting a more environmentally-conscious approach to tramping, (ii) maintenance on Paua Hut and (iii) how best to use revenue from subs and fundraisers. We've made some good progress against these priorities over the year. We now have a [brochure of environmental tramping tips](#) available on the club website and have put funds towards supporting our trap-line checkers, as well as scholarships for members to build skills in outdoor activities such as packrafting, alpine, ski-touring and canyoning. Members are encouraged to let the 19/20 Committee know what they feel the upcoming priorities should be.

In August, we launched our scholarship fund, made possible from fundraising success of once again bringing the [NZMFF](#) to Wellington. Since then, we've supported 12 members to build their skills across a range of activities, by providing financial backing to the tune of almost \$5000. Each one of these scholarship recipients has committed to sharing their new (and existing) skills and experience with the club community so this scheme is a great way for WTMC to invest in our future.

To all our members thanks for being part of the WTMC community—we hope you will stay with us and continue to enjoy being part of, and contributing to, such a buzzing club.

Emily Shrosbree, President

More information about WTMC:

Our website – <http://wtmc.org.nz/> Our FaceBook page - <https://www.facebook.com/WTandMC/>

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

Our [journal](#) – Now an online publication (hard-copies available by pre-order). Produced by Tony Gazley.

[Our annual reports and financial statements](#) and [Minutes from Committee Meetings](#)



Committee Reports

Our Finances

Our Financial Statement for 2019 is available on the [WTMC website](#)

The club has made a surplus of \$25,542 for the 2019 financial year, primarily due to a surplus of \$12,686 from the lodge. WTMC, alongside TTC and VUTC sponsored the New Zealand Mountain Film Festival, which generated \$3,648 of income for the club.

Graeme Hearfield, Treasurer

Chief Guide – The year in brief

Note: 2017 figures in brackets.

We have had an active year with 163 (157) trips run and 2759 (2500) person days on trips. The relatively low 24% (31%) of trips cancelled was due to better weather and fewer no-signups. We had 69 (76) people sign-up to lead trips. Just as a reminder that we continue to need new leaders, 31% of those 69 had not lead a trip in the previous year. So if you are interested in leading trips, do talk to the chief guide or put you name down for the leadership courses. One longer term downward trend is the number of Fit trips. In 2018 there were 5 compared to 11 in 2013. We need more F grade trip leaders to propose trips.

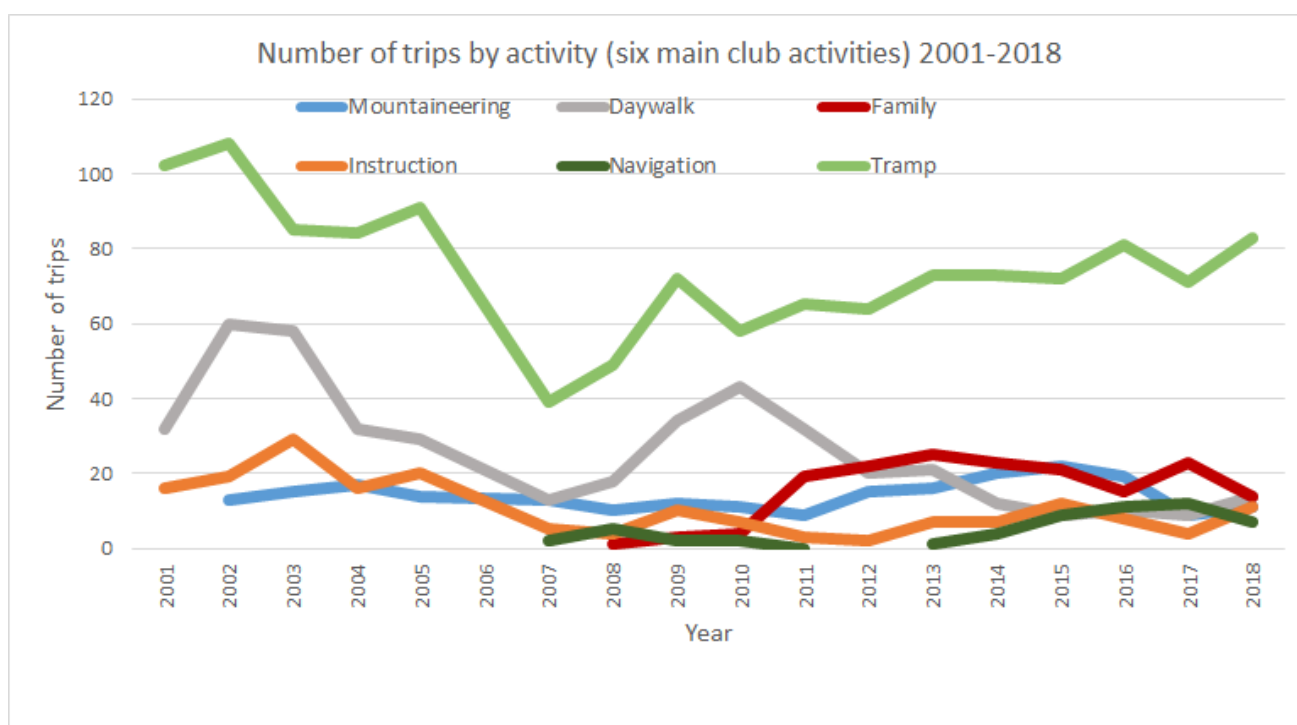
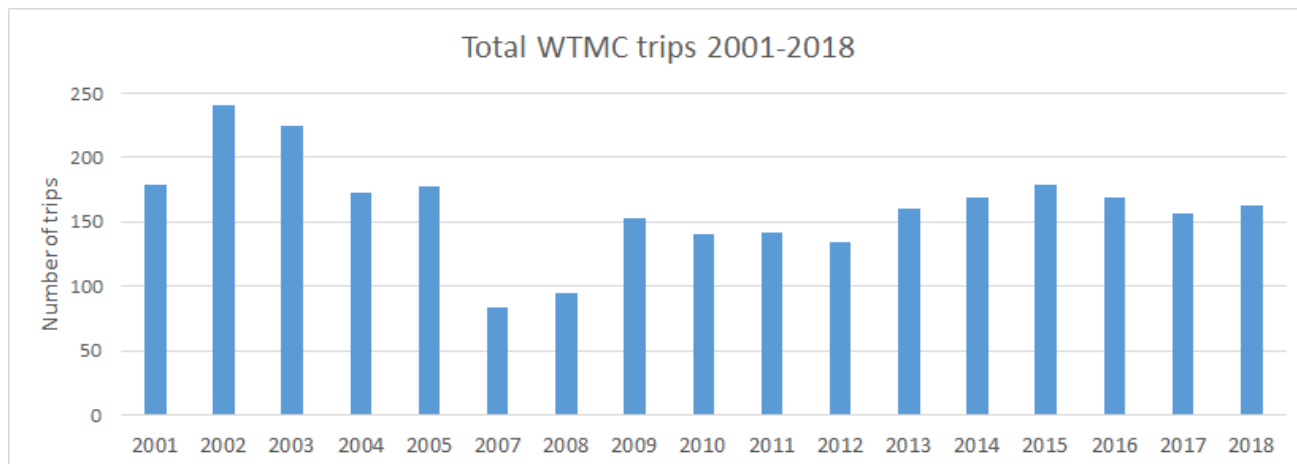
Instruction has continued to be a popular element of the programme covering traditional areas of snowcraft, leadership, bushcraft, nav, first-aid, and mountain biking. As a relatively new activity we have had the first two packrafting courses with a total of 21 people attending and more than a quarter of those now have their own packrafting gear. The website newsletter has some packrafting stories for those wanting to learn more about the activity.

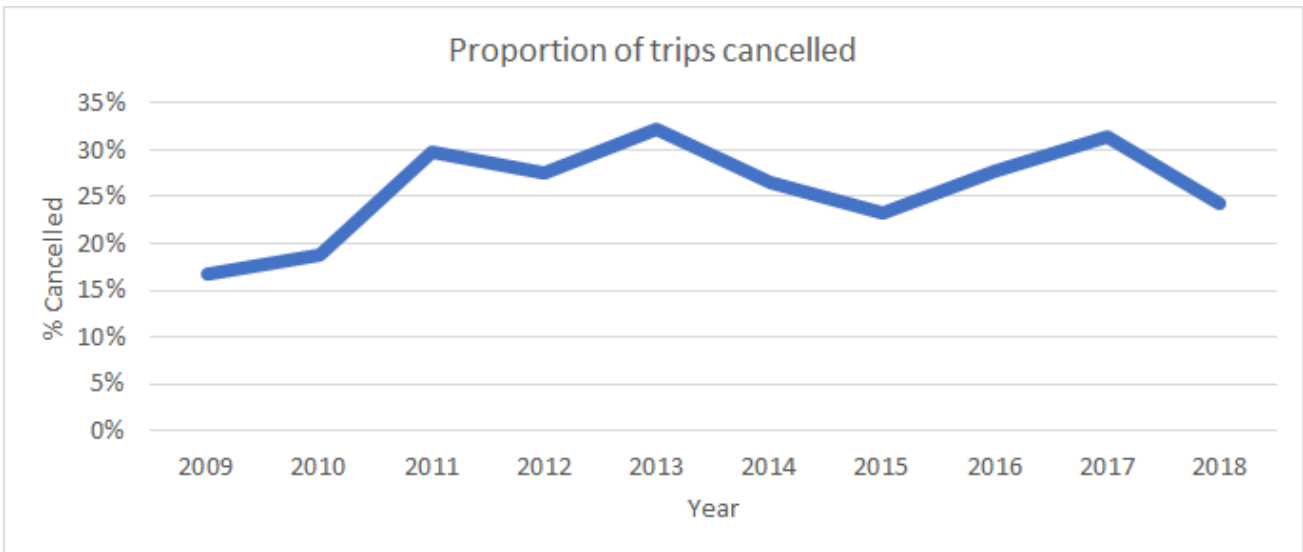
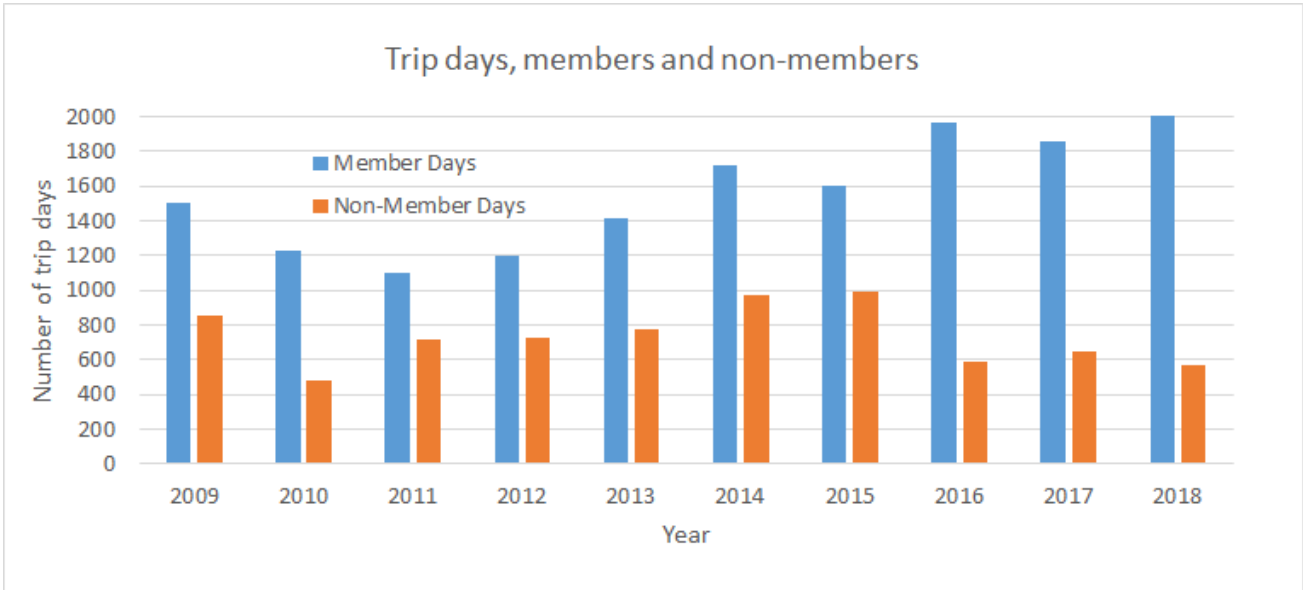
Richard House, Chief Guide



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 on 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 again to higher levels than last year which had already been the highest usage 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 guests as a base for walking, running, mountain biking or just used as a place to relax.

'Open Lodge' from new year for the two weeks following was very successful and saw numbers exceeding that of previous years over the full duration of the opening period.

RAL the lift operator are preparing to install a Gondola up from the 'Top of the Bruce' so have not been providing lift access this summer to the upper mountain, but trails have been marked out for alternative access.

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 and main 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 we have had increased revenue due to the extra use.

Having greater numbers at the lodge is also requiring us to re-think our processes for training and providing a good experience for those who have not been there before. This is also putting a greater workload on those doing the organizing to keep the building to an acceptable standard.

Last year improvements have been adding in a custodians room by using dead space in the ski room which gives us more booking flexibility. We have also improved the lounge and dining heating.

Brian Goodwin, Ruapehu Lodge Convenor

Paua Hut

The online booking system continues to work well. There's been increased level of use at the hut, possibly a result of people seeing what nights are available. 77 bookings were made for the 2018 calendar year, which included at least 138 members (adults and children) and 136 non-members. We get lots of back to back



bookings, especially in the holidays. In January we anticipated a need for more keys as there were 5 consecutive parties using the hut. We cut 2 more keys. The system of picking up and dropping the keys from our mailbox works with virtually no complaints. The only time it broke down was when two separate groups failed to return the key promptly - one person was two weeks late. We have signage up in our mailbox to remind people to return key promptly and we act quickly if we notice a key is still out. We continue to favour the key system we have over a code. Many people are booking 3 or 4 months out. If they needed to get in touch with us in the week before they go to get a code that would be a lot more work for us - we're not a manned office!

2018 saw the hut rates for non members rise to \$10 per adult and \$5 per children. Members continue to be free. We're still not closing the loop and checking if payments are made. This could be an area of development for 2019.

Despite the increased level of users the long drop seems to be coping. Just when it looks like it's getting too full it seems to rot down quickly. Doesn't look like it needs moving just yet but we can monitor. We can source plenty of teenage volunteers for when it does.

The water tank is currently empty. A combination of a dry summer and increased use. Water can be sourced from Green's stream. We have a notice up about that and no one has complained. Many huts would be in a similar position at this time of year.

There's an ongoing concern about people creating a fireplace in the trees next to Paua Hut. We suspect this is people camping and not staying at the hut. Undergrowth near the hut has also been removed which would suggest evidence of people camping there instead of using the DoC site down by the river. We could talk with DoC about this as the fire risks are huge in amongst the trees around Paua Hut.

A few maintenance jobs: the rope for the rope swing will need replacing soon (knowing when we last did it). Phil is happy to do this when we have a chance. The outside of the hut could do with a clean. We're looking into replacing the rat trap lure with a longer lasting lure that automatically replaces.

Ann and Phil Kendon

Club Vans

- The two club vans continue to be well-used. They have each completed approx 17,000km this year bringing the odometer readings to 235,000km & 190,000km
- In May 2018, parking for both vans was secured at Kiwi Storage, Newlands. Many thanks to Jan and Brian Goodwin for accommodating the vans in Ngaiō for the period between vacating parking at the Interislander terminal and taking up parking at Kiwi Storage.
- One van received a rebuilt gearbox this year and both vans received repairs for rust on the roof.

Rene Auer, Transport Officer (Logistics) and Pete Silverwood, Van Maintenance

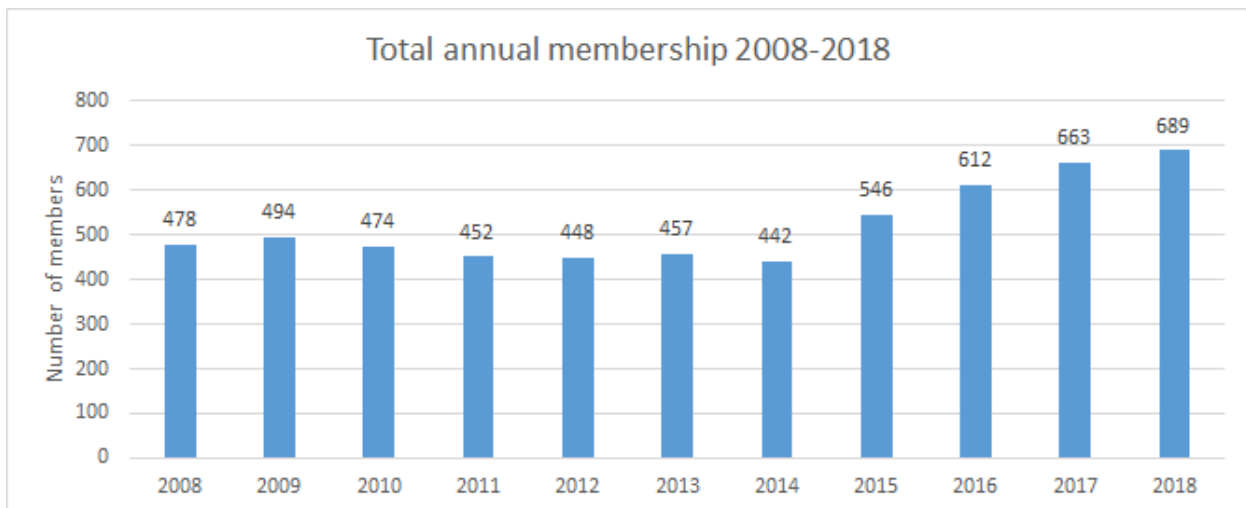


Our People

Membership

As at the end of 2018 the club had 689 members (208 single-person households, 39 single-person veteran households, 118 multi-person veteran households (incl children) and 297 multi-person households (incl children). We have 20 life members and there is one 'associate member' in a 'life' member household. We have 6 friends of the club. Of the 689 members, 138 are child members plus there is 1 junior member. During 2018 the club had 145 members join (104 adults and 41 children), slightly less than the 158 members joining in 2017.

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

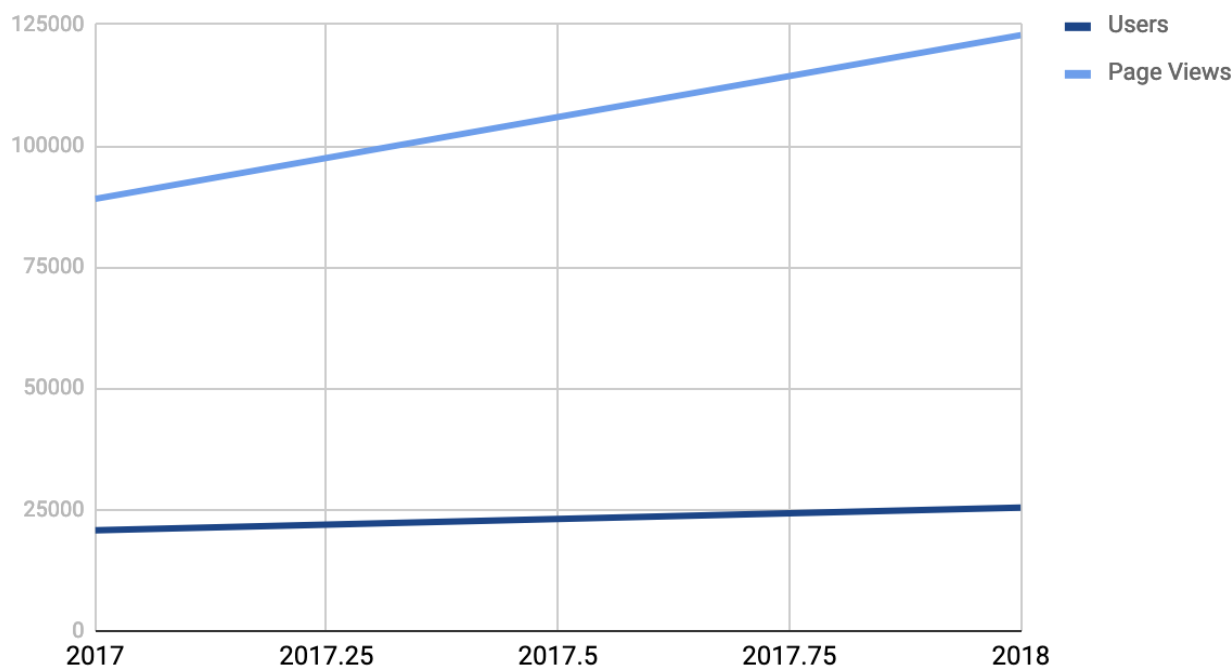
- We continue to average more than 30 people staying for the talks each night, and many more coming through to pick up gear.
- We held a New Members' Night in February 2019 with more than 100 people showing up. Promoting this event through Facebook seems to be very efficient, for a minimal spend we can reach a very wide audience.

Sumudu Jayalath, Communications Officer and Illona Keenan, Promotions Officer

Website

Website usage continues to rise with page views increasing from 89,070 to 122,825, and users from 20,772 to 25,421.

WTMC.org.nz Traffic



We also fended off a couple of heavy spam and phishing events on the Forum, Newsletter comments and emails; our anti-spam system continues to work well with only a minuscule amount making it to actual published content, but it's eventually addressed by one of the site operators.

Unfortunately our site performance and reliability has degraded significantly rendering it quite frustrating for all its users. Apologies for that taking so long to resolve, but there are plans in the pipeline to address this.

Rodrigo Orquera, Webmaster