

**Working for  
and representing  
hillwalkers and  
climbers**

**[www.mountaineering.ie](http://www.mountaineering.ie)**

**ANNUAL REVIEW 2017**

**Mountaineering Ireland**

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## MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND BOARD AND SUB COMMITTEES

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Michael Maunsell  
Ross Millar  
Clare O'Connor (appointed 31/08/2017)  
Patrick O'Sullivan  
Dawson Stelfox  
Alan Tees (resigned 05/03/2017)  
Shay Walsh  
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Helen Donoghue (from October 2017)  
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Máire Ní Mhurchú  
Ena Rafferty  
Helen Lawless, **Secretary**

### MOUNTAIN TRAINING BOARD OF IRELAND - WORKING GROUP

Paul Kellagher  
Dawson Stelfox  
Shay Walsh  
Jane Carney



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# MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND ANNUAL REVIEW 2017

During 2017 Mountaineering Ireland continued to deliver services and support to our membership in the areas of Hillwalking, Climbing, Access and Conservation, Talent Development, Youth Participation, Training, Membership Support and improving our communications. With the support of the Board, some of our core work surrounded advancements in our governance, financial management and safeguarding commitments.

There were a number of movements of staff during the year in both directions; Rozanne Bell (Membership Development Officer) left us after many years of dedicated service to pursue other interests as did Anne Kane (Youth Development Co-ordinator). I would like to express our thanks and best wishes to both for the future. In addition, Siobhán Quinn commenced as our Administration Officer and Ruth Carson as our Training Administrator, Website and Social Media Officer. Late in the year Ruth moved to new opportunities and Dr. Michelle Hardy Murphy resigned from Get Ireland Walking to take up a post within the HSE. Following receipt of additional funding for the Get Ireland Walking initiative from the Dormant Accounts Fund, Emer O'Leary and David Gaul came on board for the twelve months period of 2017. Also, during 2017, Ruth Whelan moved into a new role as our Membership Development Officer.

2017 saw continued success of our athletes competing in climbing competitions through our Talent Development Programme and with the growth in numbers participating in indoor climbing generally from a leisure perspective, this is all welcome and positive progress. As Mountaineering Ireland aims to encourage more young people to participate in climbing, Sport Northern Ireland provided funding covering a four year period for a Youth Development Officer in Northern Ireland. Kevin Kilroy was appointed to this position and his focus is on youth participation and developing sustainable clubs. Sport Ireland approved special funding for our Get Climbing programme from the Dormant Accounts Fund. This programme is targeted at hard to reach communities in the greater Dublin area and aims to promote participation in

indoor climbing. Grainne O'Brien was appointed as Programme Co-ordinator for Get Climbing.

The 2014 – 2017 Mountaineering Ireland Strategic Plan came to its natural end in 2017 and during the summer, the process commenced to develop a new strategic plan for the organisation, spanning 2018 – 2021. An extensive consultation process was undertaken, which included six regional meetings and an online survey. This enabled us to engage with our membership, key stakeholders, funders and partners in an inclusive process to create a road map to guide Mountaineering Ireland over the next four years. All views, suggestions and feedback were collated and assessed. The new strategic plan will be presented in March 2018.

In 2017 Mountaineering Ireland continued to host the Get Ireland Walking Programme on behalf of Sport Ireland. The funding for this programme is provided by both Sport Ireland and Healthy Ireland; this is totally separate to our core funding allocation as a National Governing Body of sport. On behalf of Mountaineering Ireland, I wish to gratefully acknowledge the funding we received from our funders in 2017: Sport Ireland (core grant funding, Women in Sport, Get Ireland Walking); Sport Northern Ireland (Sporting Clubs) and Healthy Ireland (Get Ireland Walking).

I look forward to building our partnerships with both Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland in the future to help develop and grow our supports and resources for our membership.

Finally, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to those who have supported our programmes of work during 2017: our members; volunteers; clubs; various working groups; the three sub-committees; the dedicated core staff team and the entire Board of Directors of Mountaineering Ireland. It has been a pleasure to work with some of the most committed and talented people I have come across.

Murrough McDonagh  
Chief Executive Officer

**“Some of our core work surrounded advancements in our governance, financial management and safeguarding commitments”**

*Mountaineering Ireland gratefully acknowledges the funding it receives from Sport Ireland, its Women in Sport programme and Dormant Accounts Funding, Sport Northern Ireland and Healthy Ireland for the Get Ireland Walking programme.*

# PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

The Board of Mountaineering Ireland is a dedicated group of volunteers who are committed to the representation and advancement of all aspects of mountaineering on the island of Ireland and in encouraging our members to participate beyond these shores. It is an immense privilege to serve in my role as President and work with colleagues on the Board on behalf of the mountaineering community.

I wish to pay tribute to outgoing members of the Board, former President and Board member; Ursula MacPherson, Board members Ross Millar, Francis Hackett, Honorary Treasurer Nicky Hore and former Chairperson of Bord Oiliúint Sléibhe (BOS) Shay Walsh. Between them they have contributed immeasurably to the development of mountaineering, the governance of our organisation and the promotion of skills and learning.

One of the major developments of the year has been the establishment of an All-Ireland Mountain Training Board, replacing the previous Bord Oiliúint Sléibhe and Mountain Training Northern Ireland. The newly established Mountain Training Board Ireland is the fulfilment of one of the strategic aims in our last development plan. I wish to pay tribute to Board members Dawson Stelfox and Shay Walsh and our Training Officer Jane Carney, who worked alongside me in bringing this project to fruition.

As mountaineers, the desire to strive for independence, personal responsibility and adventure are key principles underpinned by the development of personal skills to keep ourselves and our friends safe in the mountains. Such training, both formal and informal, is a key aspect of Mountaineering Ireland's work. The new Mountain Training Board is a sub-committee of Mountaineering Ireland, it will be chaired by Dawson Stelfox and will provide essential governance and direction in supporting our membership and our training providers.

The growing popularity of all aspects of mountaineering provides both opportunity and threat. Whilst the increase in participation is to be welcomed, in certain aspects it brings an increased challenge, both in terms of pressure on access and the impact on the mountains themselves. I wish to commend the work of our Access and Conservation Committee and our Hillwalking, Access and Conservation Officer Helen Lawless for their commitment to addressing these

challenges. The pressure of tourism and increasing footfall in our mountains is perhaps most visible along the west with the growing popularity of the Wild Atlantic Way. In some areas there also appears to be an increase in tensions related to access.

Continued access to the places we love and ensuring they are used and managed in a sustainable way must be at the forefront of our work in the period ahead. "Mountaineering Ireland's vision for the future of Ireland's mountains and upland areas", a significant piece of work developed through consultation with our membership, provides the basis for proactive and strategic engagement with policymakers and others who share our concern for Ireland's mountains.

Mountaineering Ireland has also continued to support and develop our younger members who have seen success in climbing competitions throughout the past year. In Edinburgh last May, three of our young climbers took podium places against a very strong field. It is a testimony to the work of Damien O'Sullivan and his team.

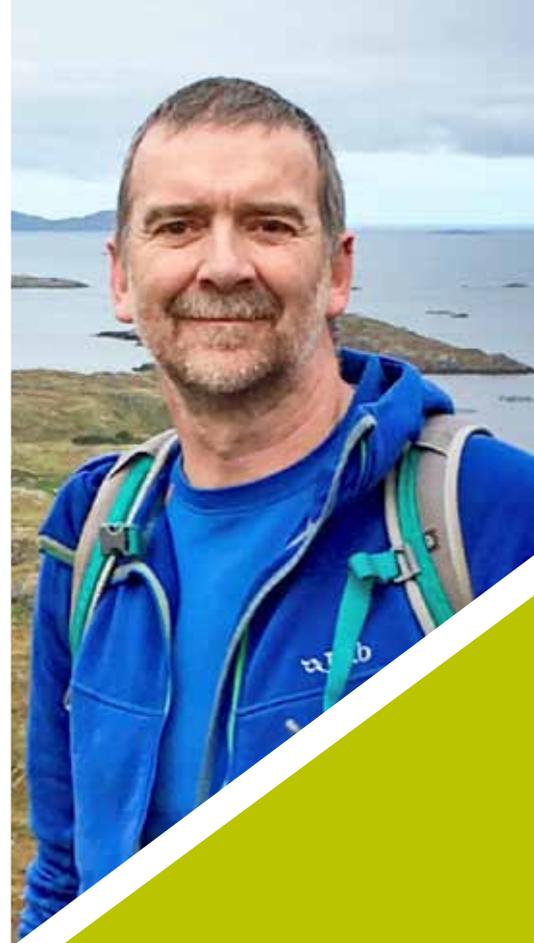
I wish to express my sincere appreciation to Sport Ireland and Sport Northern Ireland for their continued financial commitment to our work.

Can I also pay tribute to our CEO Murrough McDonagh, our entire staff team and all the volunteers who support our sub-committees and represent Mountaineering Ireland on a range of bodies. I would also welcome new staff members; Siobhán Quinn, Grainne O'Brien, Emer O'Leary and Kevin Kilroy to the staff team.

I would like to remember those members who have left us in the last year, in particular, Dublin/Wicklow Mountain Rescue team member Kevin Hallahan who died in a fall during a training exercise in North Wales. In a year that saw the tragic loss of Rescue 116 with its entire crew off the Mayo coast, I would like to pay tribute to all our emergency services, notably, our mountain rescue teams who come to our aid in times of need.

Finally, can I wish all our members a safe and adventurous year ahead in the mountains.

Paul Kellagher  
President



**“ The growing popularity of all aspects of mountaineering provides both opportunity and threat. Whilst the increase in participation is to be welcomed, in certain aspects it brings an increased challenge ... ”**



Mountaineering Ireland's work on access and the mountain environment focuses on two strategic objectives:

- ▶ To be a voice for Ireland's mountains; to protect and encourage responsible and sustainable use of the mountain environment;
- ▶ To improve and secure ongoing access to Ireland's mountains and hills and all the places (coastline, crags and forests) we use.

Many Mountaineering Ireland members contribute to our work towards these objectives; through our Access & Conservation Committee, as Club Environmental Officers, as Mountaineering Ireland representatives on other organisations and through personal action to protect access and the mountain environment. This collective effort is vital if Mountaineering Ireland is to deliver on its strategic goals.

The access and conservation work of Mountaineering Ireland volunteers is supported by our staff, including a full-time Hillwalking, Access & Conservation Officer.



# ACCESS AND CONSERVATION

## MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND'S VISION FOR IRELAND'S MOUNTAINS

Ireland's mountains inspire, shape and enrich the recreation experiences enjoyed by hillwalkers and climbers. Ireland has a limited amount of mountain land and the quality and special character of these places is being altered all the time by changes in land use, including changes associated with recreation activity. Mountaineering Ireland's vision for the future of Ireland's mountains, agreed by members in March 2017, is that **Ireland's mountain landscapes will be valued and protected as environmental, cultural and recreational assets.**

The vision document emphasises the importance of Ireland's mountains, and how these areas benefit all of society by providing beautiful scenery, fresh water, carbon storage and space for biodiversity, as well as opportunities for passive and active recreation. Mountaineering Ireland contends that Ireland's mountain areas are special and worthy of greater attention and investment, and that they must be celebrated and protected for the benefit of future generations.

To achieve this vision, Mountaineering Ireland is working with others who

share a concern for Ireland's upland areas and engaging with policymakers, with presentations to many groups during 2017, ranging from the IFA's Hillfarming Committee to the National Landscape Forum, and a number of policy submissions, most notably in relation to the National Planning Framework.

## HELPING THE HILLS

Throughout 2017 Mountaineering Ireland continued the Helping the Hills initiative, advocating a quality approach to the management of upland path erosion and making an input to a number of projects.

**ASCENT** – Mountaineering Ireland contributed to the Donegal County Council-led ASCENT project, by participating in the Errigal Stakeholders Group, joining a study visit to look at upland path work in Scotland, and also a visit to Croagh Patrick to meet with representatives of the Croagh Patrick Stakeholders' Group. At the end of 2017, following a path condition survey and local discussions, the Errigal Stakeholders Group agreed the best line for a repaired path on Errigal.

Slieve Gullion and Slieve Donard are also ASCENT sites, through Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. Input was provided to consultation

about future path work on Slieve Gullion and in November a number of Mountaineering Ireland members participated in an ASCENT workshop in the Mournes, where the Helping the Hills guiding principles were discussed and accepted as providing appropriate direction in how to address upland path erosion (see [www.helpingthehills.ie](http://www.helpingthehills.ie)). The importance of investing in looking after our upland paths, the need to build capacity to do skilled work and the value of sharing experiences all came through at the workshop in the Mournes.

**Croagh Patrick** – Mountaineering Ireland assisted the Croagh Patrick Stakeholders Group which undertook a path survey on the Pilgrim Route and went through a process to agree recommendations for repair of the route. This included a consultation with Mountaineering Ireland members in April and a site visit by a number of upland path experts in November to agree a repair solution for the summit cone.

**Slieve League** – After the inappropriate and poorly executed path construction work that was carried out at Slieve League in 2014, it was welcome to see remedial work finally taking place there at the end of 2017. While Slieve League will never again be what it was before, the new work by Scottish contractors is solidly built and in time should blend better into the landscape.

**Cuilcagh** – In April the boardwalk on the Fermanagh side of Cuilcagh became a social media sensation as the ‘Stairway to Heaven’, triggering greatly increased visitor numbers. This caused

traffic congestion, significant erosion at the top of the boardwalk, impacts across the summit plateau and other management issues for the Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark which is responsible for the site. Throughout the year Mountaineering Ireland highlighted this situation and urged action to curtail the damage.

## PROTECTING MOUNTAIN LANDSCAPES

Many of the challenges to the integrity of Ireland’s mountain environment present dilemmas which require careful consideration, not least in relation to windfarm development.

**Antrim Hills** – Early in 2017 Mountaineering Ireland decided to support the Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs (UFRC) in seeking a judicial review following the granting of planning approval for a windfarm on the eastern side of the Antrim Hills, in an upland area close to the Ulster Way. A protected costs order was secured which limited the financial exposure of both organisations. However a decision was subsequently taken to withdraw from the judicial review process as legal advice indicated the chances of success were not high.

**The Sperrins** – In August, with input from local members, Mountaineering Ireland made a robust objection to an application for a 33-turbine windfarm south of the Glenelly Valley in the Sperrins. As the proposed development is at the heart of the Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) if the application was to be approved it could represent a tipping point for

development in the Sperrins and other AONBs. In September Mountaineering Ireland participated in a conference to discuss the future management of the Sperrins; follow-on discussions are continuing.

**Wicklow Mountains** – Mountaineering Ireland, following consultation with local members, made a submission arguing that a windfarm proposed for Ballymanus Hill, on the threshold of the core Wicklow Mountains area and in close proximity to two other windfarms, would result in an unacceptable cumulative impact. The application was refused by Wicklow County Council however the developers have appealed to An Bord Pleanála.

**Cooley Mountains** – In August the spray-painting of a route along the Cooley Mountains with hundreds of yellow arrows was highlighted by a local hillwalker. In response a meeting was called by a local landowner, Mountaineering Ireland participated in the meeting and worked with local interests and the National Parks & Wildlife Service to agree a methodology for removal of the arrows. The bulk of the arrows were carefully removed by local landowners and recreational users, over two days in December 2017.

**Dublin Mountains** – The potential for conflict between tourism objectives and recreational interests came into focus with proposals for a Dublin Mountains Visitor Centre at Hell Fire Forest and Massy’s Wood. While welcoming certain aspects of the plans, Mountain Ireland, again with significant input from members, made a strong case that the true potential of the proposal lies in meeting the growing local recreational need, rather than creating a mass tourism product.

## IMPROVING AND SECURING ACCESS

As the national representative body for hillwalkers and climbers, Mountaineering Ireland’s policy is that we are seeking reasonable access for responsible users. Our aim is to have open, unrestricted access on foot to unenclosed hills, mountains and coastal areas throughout Ireland.

Mountaineering Ireland pursues its access aim through engagement with Government Departments,





State Agencies and through our involvement in organisations such as Comhairle na Tuaithe and the National Outdoor Recreation Forum in Northern Ireland.

**Wicklow Way judgment** – One of the highlights of the year was the High Court decision in February 2017 to overturn an award made the previous year to a woman who had sued Wicklow Mountains National Park after injuring her knee in a fall on a boardwalk section of the Wicklow Way. As the case presented a significant threat to continuity of access for all who enjoy Ireland’s outdoors Mountaineering Ireland provided assistance and evidence to support the High Court appeal.

Mountaineering Ireland was particularly pleased that the judgment addressed two key concerns – the responsibility of walkers for their own actions, and the fact that structures on the side of a mountain should not be treated the same as those in an urban park. Even though the judgment set down clear markers for the assessment of future cases, Mountaineering Ireland has made recommendations to the Department of Rural & Community Development for amendments to clarify the Occupiers’ Liability Act.

**Mountain Access Project** – During 2017 Mountaineering Ireland continued to push for progress on the Mountain Access Project which is being piloted in two areas, Binn Shléibhe near Clonbur, Co. Galway and the MacGillycuddy’s Reeks in Co. Kerry. The Mountain Access Project has been developed, through Comhairle na Tuaithe, to provide certainty of access to a defined mountain area based on

a voluntary agreement with all the landowners in the area. The project addresses the concerns of landowners through the provision of agreed access points, parking, stiles etc. Central to the proposal is an indemnity arrangement for all landowners in the Mountain Access Area. This indemnity has been agreed in principle and the Department of Rural & Community Development is currently working through the detail of how it will be implemented.

**Access in Northern Ireland** – Mountaineering Ireland contributed to the National Outdoor Recreation Forum’s response to a review of access legislation in Northern Ireland which proposed a new Outdoor Recreation Bill instead of amendments to existing legislation (which in many respects is not fit for purpose). Mountaineering Ireland also made its own submission and subsequently met the Department Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs to discuss the potential of an Outdoor Recreation Bill and how this could work in practice.

**Visitor Safety in the Countryside** – The Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group (VSCG) is a UK and Ireland-wide network bringing together more than 40 landowners and other organisations with a role in visitor risk management. Mountaineering Ireland joined VSCG at the start of 2017 and hosted the Irish branch meeting in December. The VCSG principles, which have been endorsed by a number of State agencies in Ireland, provide excellent guidance on how to create safe access to the countryside in ways that do not spoil the landscape and heritage, or lessen the visitor’s sense of exploration and adventure.



## ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE RECREATION

Respect for the wonderful, but fragile environment enjoyed by hillwalkers and climbers is one of Mountaineering Ireland's core values. Mountaineering Ireland aims to foster responsible recreation by building people's appreciation and understanding of the mountain environment, and by actively encouraging members to take responsibility for the impact of their activities.

## CELEBRATING IRELAND'S MOUNTAINS

Mountaineering Ireland held a weekend-long celebration of Ireland's mountain environment in the MacGillycuddy Reeks in May 2017. The event, which was delivered in conjunction with Cappanalea OETC, the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum and Killarney National Park Education Centre, included two splendid days of exploration and learning in the MacGillycuddy's Reeks as well as evening activities.

In conjunction with the Irish Peatland Conservation Council Mountaineering Ireland hosted two Blanket Bog Discovery Days, in the Wicklow Mountains and in the Blue Stacks. Both days were favoured with good

weather allowing participants to explore and experience the wonder of our bogland habitats.

## CLUB ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS

Mountaineering Ireland actively urges all affiliated clubs to appoint an Environmental Officer who can help to raise environmental awareness within the club and act as a point of contact for Mountaineering Ireland. In turn Mountaineering Ireland provides email updates, advice and training workshops. If your club is not part of this network, please get in touch.

## REPRESENTATION ON OTHER BODIES

Through combining local knowledge with the strength of a national body, Mountaineering Ireland aims to positively influence the development and management of areas that matter to our members. There are now over 20 volunteers representing Mountaineering Ireland on other organisations. In addition to the initiatives already mentioned, Mountaineering Ireland representatives contributed to:

- ▶ **Irish Uplands Forum** – AGM and networking event in the Slieve

Blooms; governance reviewed and membership numbers increased; working with the Heritage Council's Upland Partnership Co-ordinator; small grant introduced for research projects concerned with mountains.

- ▶ **Leitrim Walking Trails and Cycling Working Group** – Completed Arroo car park and trail in Glenade with full access agreements in place from landowners; Leitrim Way reviewed and priority works identified.
- ▶ **Wicklow Uplands Council** – path condition survey proposed for 100km of informal hillwalking routes; examining options to improve parking in the uplands; funding secured for a scheme to improve the environmental condition of upland farmland and commonages.
- ▶ **UIAA Mountain Protection Commission** – Review of the Environmental Section of the UIAA Summer Alpine Handbook; operation of the UIAA Mountain Protection Award Scheme.

Mountaineering Ireland thanks all those who are sharing enthusiasm for, and working to protect, Ireland's mountains and upland areas.

## FIND OUT MORE

Further information is available on [www.mountaineering.ie](http://www.mountaineering.ie), in the Irish Mountain Log and on Facebook.





# YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME AND GET CLIMBING



Mountaineering Ireland's Get Climbing programme was launched in May 2017 with funding from Sport Ireland through Dormant Accounts. In its first eight months, the programme introduced 120 young people from communities in Tallaght and Finglas to indoor climbing at their local walls. Many of these participants achieved NICAS Level 1 and

about 20 continue to climb at weekly club nights. Mountaineering Ireland support to these young people includes not only subsidising wall entry costs but mentoring and support from coaches as well as awards nights and competitions to recognise their achievements and continue to motivate them. Key to the success of this project has been building good relationships with the youth services and schools in the target communities as well as continuing to strengthen Mountaineering Ireland's relationships with the commercial climbing walls.

**“ I always look forward to the Wednesday evenings when we go climbing because I really like climbing and solving problems while climbing and being taught new techniques to overcome problems on a certain route. I can already see myself getting better and that wouldn't happen if the lessons weren't €3 because it wouldn't be as easy to go weekly ”**

**(Cian aged 16, Finglas)**



## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

In May 2017, Mountaineering Ireland launched a Youth Development Programme for Northern Ireland (YDPNI) after securing funding for a four year period through Sport Northern Ireland's Sporting Clubs initiative. The aim of the programme is to support and develop six sustainable volunteer-led youth climbing clubs in Northern Ireland by 2021. A Youth Development Officer is employed to deliver this programme, based at Tollymore National Outdoor Centre in County Down.

Developments made within the first year of the programme include:

### FORMAL INSTRUCTOR TRAINING

Club volunteers, coaches and staff of commercial climbing walls are supported in their roles through the YDPNI.

In year 1:

- ▶ 29 club volunteers and staff of commercial climbing walls received a two-day FUNDamentals of Climbing Movement training course at climbing walls across Northern Ireland.
- ▶ Six club coaches completed Northern Ireland's first ever route setting training qualification, delivered by the Route Setting Association at Hotrock Climbing Wall. These six people will now go on to further develop their skills through Mountaineering Ireland's route setting mentor scheme.
- ▶ Six club coaches completed the Climbing Wall Leading Award at Tollymore National Outdoor Centre.
- ▶ Six club coaches completed the Level One Climbing Coach Award at Hotrock Climbing Wall.

### CLUB SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT

In the summer of 2017, over 44 local parents and children attended a kick start event for the **Mourne Youth Climbing Club** at Hotrock Climbing Wall. Since then, local families have attended supervised Friday night climbing sessions with between 30 and 50 people in attendance each week.

The club has an agreed aim to venture out into the Mourne and far beyond in the coming years and a committee is currently in the process of being formed. Mountaineering Ireland has supported this developing club through improvements to the indoor climbing facilities at Hotrock and by providing coaching and mountaineering workshops over the winter months in partnership with Tollymore National Outdoor Centre.

**Youth Access to council run climbing walls** has also been improved with the **Ozone Climbing Wall** and **The Foyle Arena** both updating their entry policy for youth members. 14 – 18 year olds can apply for unsupervised access to the Ozone, following informed parental consent and passing a thorough practical test by a suitably qualified instructor. Under 8's can also now climb whilst supervised at the Ozone. The Foyle Arena also now has an unsupervised access policy in place for 16 – 18 year olds, similar to the Ozone.

The future **Belfast Youth Climbing Club** has agreed a clear aim to focus on outdoor climbing and trips through consultation meetings with interested local parents and climbers. There was great interest in the Murlough Bay Bouldering meet last summer which shows the appetite of young climbers and their parents in Belfast to explore these stunning natural environments on their doorstep.

**Gilford Community Centre** now has a full team of trained staff ready for supporting a youth climbing club, with a kick-start event on the 17th of April 2018. The local council has also invested in new holds for the wall and agreed to a quarterly full reset of their climbing wall. Local parents and climbers that attended Mountaineering Ireland's outdoor climbing sessions in the Mourne last summer will be delighted to hear!

The **North West Youth Climbing Team** has recently recruited several new volunteer coaches to meet the demands of their growing weekly youth climbing sessions at the Foyle Arena. Mountaineering Ireland has provided training support to help existing and new volunteers deliver high quality coaching and instruction to the youth members of their team.



The **Hanging Rockers Youth Climbing Club** was gifted with an entire wall of 38 new routes and boulder problems to help support their weekly youth climbing sessions. Mountaineering Ireland has also provided training support through FUNDamentals and instruction at club trips to Donegal, the Mourne and also this autumn - on the club's first sport climbing trip abroad to El Chorro in Spain.

A local group of young climbers at **Coleraine's North Coast Integrated College** reached out for support from Mountaineering Ireland's Youth Development Programme at the beginning of 2018. This group has been meeting regularly at their school climbing wall for over a year and hope to develop into a youth climbing club. Mountaineering Ireland was able to respond quickly with a full re-set of their climbing wall to keep enthusiasm high over the winter months.

Finally, the Youth Development Programme works in close partnership with Mountaineering Ireland's Climbing Development Squad and Indoor Climbing Competitions, offering coaching and route setting support at as many of these excellent events as possible. The Youth Development Programme could not function without the support of the Mountaineering Ireland staff team and volunteer board, funding provided by SportNI, and the passion and energy of the many dedicated club coaches, volunteers and instructors involved with youth climbing around Northern Ireland; sincere thanks to you all.



**“ As well as these structured training sessions a number of members of the Talent Development Squad travel to France to sharpen their climbing skills on the exacting sandstone boulder problems of Fontainebleau ”**

# TALENT DEVELOPMENT

## TALENT DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

The Talent Development Squad continued to provide approximately forty selected young climbers with a high-performance training environment in which to develop their climbing ability. The climbers are coached to develop their physical, technical and tactical attributes to aid their overall and long-term climbing performance.

The members of the Talent Development Squad are primarily coached at a 4:1 ratio on a monthly basis in the autumn, winter and spring. As well as these structured training sessions a number of members of the Talent Development Squad travel to France to sharpen their climbing skills on the exacting sandstone boulder problems of Fontainebleau. These training camps take place twice per year at Easter and Halloween.

## YOUTH CLIMBING TEAM

Under the guidance of Youth Climbing Team Coach Terry O'Connor the Youth Climbing Team trained for and competed in three rounds of the IFSC European Youth Cup, the IFSC World Youth Climbing Championship and the IFSC European Youth Bouldering Championship.

There were many promising performances, and a great deal of experience was gathered by the new team members on which to build for the 2018 season.

The Youth Climbing Team received a financial boost for 2017 with the sponsorship of the Youth Climbing Team by KPMG. Thanks to the sponsorship the Youth Climbing Team received a set of competition and training clothing made by O'Neills.

## EIMIR MC SWIGGAN – UIAA ICE-CLIMBING WORLD CUP

Eimir Mc Swiggan built on her experience from past seasons to deliver her strongest performance to date in the 2017 UIAA Ice-Climbing World Cup where she finished in a phenomenal 5th place overall.

Eimir put in a huge performance in the opening competition in the season in Colorado, USA placing 3rd. At the second round in Beijing, China Eimir climbed consistently to place 6th. Eimir's adoptive home country of South Korea hosted the third round of the competition, and home advantage helped her secure a stunning 2nd place. The two final rounds took place in quick succession in Switzerland and Italy. An early slip in the qualification round resulted in a disappointing 22nd

place, but Eimir was quick to regroup before the final round saw Eimir place 7th, and secured her 5th place ranking in the overall UIAA Ice-Climbing World Cup.

## IRISH LEAD CLIMBING CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2017 Irish Lead Climbing Championship took place across the weekend of the 25th and 26th of November at Awesome Walls Dublin. Sponsored by DMM the competition attracted some very high level climbers from all over Ireland as well as a number of very able visitors from further afield.

The level of climbing on display gave a clear demonstration of the current prowess of the top youth climbers across Ireland. Many of these young climbers are now at or above the level of most adults - largely down to the level of dedication from the young climbers and the high quality route setting and coaching at the climbing walls.

Winners:

Senior Male – **Ciaran Scanlon**  
Senior Female – **Lucy Mitchell**

Youth A Male – **Marcus Mc Dowell**  
Youth A Female – **Caoimhe Broderick**

Youth B Male – **Matthew Smith**  
Youth B Female – **Anna De Souza**

Youth C Male – **Reuben Aiken**  
Youth C Female – **Sarah Walker-Palin**

## IRISH BOULDERING CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2017 Irish Bouldering Championship was held in Awesome Walls Dublin on the 11th & 12th of March. The competition was run across two days with the qualification rounds taking place on Saturday and the semi-final and final rounds taking place on the Sunday.

The championship attracted a very strong field of climbers across all of the competition. A number of strong climbers from England competed and they really added to the level and atmosphere of the competition.

Winners:

Master Male – **Eamon O Riain**

Senior Female – **Victoria Watterson**  
Senior Male – **Darragh O'Connor**

Junior Female – **Sarah Hoare**  
Junior Male – **Luke Hackett**

Youth A Female – **Lizzie Nichols**  
Youth A Male – **Conor Orr**

Youth B Female – **Robin Casey**  
Youth B Male – **Darragh Hoare**

Youth C Female – **Rhyna Conroy**  
Youth C Male – **Daniel Ciobanica**



## YOUTH CLIMBING SERIES

The Youth Climbing Series has established itself as the premier climbing competition for youth climbers. The 2017 Youth Climbing Series opened at Awesome Walls Dublin before taking in rounds at Awesome Walls Cork and the Foyle Arena, Derry.

Each round of the competition attracted strong numbers of high standard climbers. Each round features three routes and three boulder problems for each competition category to attempt. After the three rounds of the Youth Climbing Series in Ireland, the top three competitors in each of the ten categories compete at the UK & Ireland Grand Final of the Youth Climbing Series.

Highlights from the Mountaineering Ireland team at the UK & Ireland Grand final was a 1st placing in the Male Youth A category for Michael O'Neill, a 2nd placing for Matthew Murray, and a 3rd placing for Sean Henchion in Male Youth D.





**“ Mountaineering Ireland and MTBI are in a unique position to provide and develop formal and informal training for all members, adding to their skill level, enjoyment and safety ”**

## **MOUNTAIN TRAINING AND SAFE PRACTICE**

Mountaineering Ireland’s strategic objective on training and skills development is: To maintain high standards in mountain training and support skills development.

After many years of effort, 2017 saw the formation of a single all-Ireland training board, Mountain Training Board Ireland (MTBI). Mountaineering Ireland continues to provide an annual suite of member offerings, such as: national and international meets; multi-discipline skills workshops; club training officer workshops and regional meetings; mentoring opportunities and award scheme provision. Mountaineering Ireland and MTBI are in a unique position to provide and develop formal and informal training, for all members, adding to their skill level, enjoyment and safety.

### **TRAINING FOR CLUBS**

The 2018 regional Training Officer meetings grew in success with the invaluable support of Mountaineering Ireland clubs who volunteered their time to host meetings for their region. Mountaineering Ireland provide the meeting room and their Training Officer to chair and present. These meetings provided training information and facilitated clubs in the development of their in-club training plans. A further 120 members participated and 20% of the 180+ clubs were

represented. This greatly facilitates the dissemination of information to our 12,000 plus membership. The training office provided over 30 training day opportunities and 24 clubs benefited from training grants in 2017.

### **SKILLS SERIES AND TRAINING RESOURCES**

The skills videos, presentations and training literature available on the training downloads section of the website continue to appeal to our members and facilitate training for providers, clubs and individuals.

### **TRAINING PROVIDERS**

The popularity of the Lowland Leader course continues to grow as awareness of the award spreads, supported by a reduced membership and registration fee package.

Annual Providers Workshops delivered by the Training Officer are an ideal opportunity for providers to: update; share learnings; develop skills and techniques; suggest changes; discuss teaching and instruction methods and induct for revised awards. Eligible continued professional development (CPD) events are essential to meet requirements for both providership and association membership. CPD events are:

- ▶ The Senior Providers workshop
- ▶ The Mountain Skills Providers workshop
- ▶ Skills Workshops in climbing, scrambling, hillwalking, teaching navigation
- ▶ Mountaineering Instructor Award workshop

## DIGITAL LOG FACILITY

The Digital Log (DLOG) system is a resource for all members of Mountaineering Ireland and 2017 saw new features introduced, such as adding images to accompany activity logs and entry compilation for trainers and assessors. Every member can create a record of their walks and climbs, add images and share with friends, employers and trainers. The online course reporting facility is used for all courses and all awards. Mountain Skills participants have been successfully registering free of charge and can have their training and assessment record kept.

## LINKS WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

### MOUNTAIN TRAINING

Our new DLOG system was based on the current Candidate Management System operated by Mountain Training in the UK, and continuing into early 2018, sees the integration of both systems allowing a

transparency of training records for Mountaineering Ireland/BOS candidates on the UK system.

This is particularly useful for those doing training in one region, and assessment in another, or indeed any of our candidates who go on to register for the higher awards provided by Mountain Training.

Mountaineering Ireland continues to be a full voting member of Mountain Training UK and Mountain Training Board Ireland is now in place, replacing MTNI and BOS. The Climbing Awards Review is now in the implementation phase, with three revised awards to be launched in April 2018. Collaborative work between all the training boards across the UK and Ireland has maintained the momentum essential to develop existing awards and add new awards to the suite of shared awards.

### SPORT IRELAND COACHING

There are currently four awards on the Sport Ireland Coaching Adventure Sports Framework, (Lowland Leader Award, Mountain Leader Award, Single Pitch Award and Multi-Pitch Award). The Level One Climbing Coach Award is also on the Sport Ireland Coaching Framework. Work continued throughout 2017 to improve the online reporting system between Sport Ireland Coaching and Mountaineering Ireland. Development of a peer review panel, to review new awards and an adventure sports framework working group, helped progress the training offerings.



### MOUNTAIN TRAINING BOARD IRELAND

Mountain Training Board Ireland is now in place, with members appointed and induction completed. The new board is now in operation and looking forward to the work ahead.

### WOMEN WITH ALTITUDE

The aim of the 2017 Women with Altitude meet, was to “Mentor Mountaineers”. The successful 2017 event took place in Tollymore National Outdoor Centre. This well situated and equipped facility provided a lovely and relaxed venue in which to host the developing Women with Altitude programme. As the national centre for Northern Ireland, it was an excellent opportunity to showcase this wonderful resource. Tollymore provided a warm welcome, cosy accommodation and hearty meals.

This initiative is designed to support skills development, independent adventure and provide mentoring opportunities for participants, leaders and instructors. A grant was awarded to support a Mountaineering Instructor Award candidate, who has since completed the award.

2018 will see the Women with Altitude objectives shift focus towards “Realising your Potential”. The event will move southwards to the Wicklow Mountains.

Registrations	2015	2016	2017
<b>Award</b>			
Mountain Leader Award	94	98	76
Hill & Moorland Leader	2	2	6
Lowland Leader Award	45	88	77
Expedition Module	?	?	48
Single Pitch Award	69	122	142
Multi Pitch Award	7	3	2
Climbing Wall Award	28	34	53
Climbing Wall Leading Award	6	7	2
Level 1 Climbing Coach	9	18	2
Mountain Skills Total Participation	1236	1187	1089
Total MI/MTBI and MT Awards	1496	1559	1497
<b>Fundamentals</b>			
Fundamentals 1	62	44	55
Fundamentals 2	59	29	35



# MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT AND SUPPORT

## MEMBERSHIP SUPPORT

Mountaineering Ireland appointed a Membership Development Officer in August 2017; key to this new role is engagement with both potential and existing members of Mountaineering Ireland and support for club development. Eight new clubs joined Mountaineering Ireland in 2017 bringing membership to a total of 12,500 which includes 184 Clubs and 1,570 individual members (31st October 2017).

## CLUB DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

Club development workshops were held at the Spring and Autumn Gatherings. These workshops were open to all club members, but the main emphasis is on providing support to club committees. The first workshop was presented by Out and About hiking group who outlined the club's recruitment programme, providing very useful information for other clubs trying to recruit and retain members. The second workshop focused on events, best practice and risk assessment.

## MEMBERS' FORUM

The Members' Forums held at the Spring and Autumn Gatherings are a key part of Mountaineering Ireland's democratic process, where clubs and members put forward items to be discussed. This can be the catalyst for further examination, or for a campaign to be launched. Discussions this year included Mountaineering Ireland's "Vision for Ireland's Mountains" and a proposal from the Irish Ramblers Club for Mountaineering Ireland to appoint a hillwalking committee and a hillwalking officer.

## MEMBERS' GATHERINGS

Mountaineering Ireland continues to host seasonal gatherings, providing important opportunities for members to come together and share their passion for the mountains.

The **Spring Gathering** took place in Kilkenny from March 3rd to 5th, hosted by Tyndall Mountain Club. Members availed of a variety of activities including

a talk by Kevin Higgins, walks in the Blackstairs, Comeragh Mountains, Slievenamon, Brandon Hill and activities with a training and environmental focus.

The **Autumn Gathering 2017** was organised in Donegal by a number of local clubs and some individual members. It was based in Letterkenny over the weekend of October 13 – 15th and was thoroughly enjoyable despite the weather. Members participated in walks in the Derryveagh Mountains and on the Inishowen Peninsula, climbing on nearby crags and an environmental workshop.

The 2017 **Scottish Winter Meet** was extremely well received, with courses in Winter Walking Skills, Winter Mountaineering Skills and Winter Climbing Skills. The Scottish Winter Meet provides an opportunity to progress skills from year to year.

The **Summer Alpine Meet** was held in La Berarde, France in July 2017. The two-week Summer Alpine meet continues to be a highly successful training opportunity. Participants completed the Introduction to Alpine Mountaineering, Intermediate Mountaineering and Advanced Mountaineering courses. Many others self-organised and took part in various activities including climbing and multi-day walking.

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mountaineering Ireland's Annual General Meeting was held in Kilkenny on the 4th March where members had the opportunity to have their say in the running of Mountaineering Ireland. The Honorary Secretary chaired the meeting and there were no changes to the board. The Chairperson emphasised the importance of the AGM with regards to organisational governance and in the accountability of the board to the membership. Key events reported included the decision of the High Court to set aside the award to a woman who had injured herself on a boardwalk in Wicklow, and the decision by the International Olympic Committee to include sport climbing as a trial sport in the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

**“ The Members’  
Forum is a key part  
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and this is often the  
catalyst for further  
examination or for a  
campaign or action to be  
launched ”**



insurance pages of the Members and Clubs section of [mountaineering.ie](http://mountaineering.ie). Mountaineering Ireland's insurance was renewed in 2015 for three years with insurance broker O'Driscoll O'Neil Ltd (Insurers: XL Catlin and ACE), so will come up for renewal later in 2018.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

Our sport benefits both physical and mental well-being, and offers the opportunity for active participation at all stages of life. Mountaineering Ireland encourages youths to enjoy our sport and therefore has a duty of care to ensure this takes place in a safe environment. On December 11th 2017 the *'Children's First Act 2015'* came into effect, whereby anyone who has access to minors (those under 18 years old) from a services, coaching and or training capacity, must undertake a Safeguarding Level 1 Course. Mountaineering Ireland's safeguarding policy can be found at: [www.mountaineering.ie/aboutus/downloads](http://www.mountaineering.ie/aboutus/downloads).

## **THANK YOU**

Mountaineering Ireland wishes to thank all members and all affiliated clubs for their support in 2017. The voluntary input of clubs and individuals within Mountaineering Ireland ensures that the organisation's reach is far greater than it would otherwise be with the financial and human resources available to the organisation. It highlights the passion that members have for their activities and the resource base we rely upon.

## **COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION**

### **STRATEGIC PLAN**

A steering group was formed to work with an external consultant on the preparation of Mountaineering Ireland's next Strategic Plan. Consultation included six regional meetings in November / December 2017, at which there was representation from 45 member clubs, and an online survey which attracted 1,000 responses. Thank you to all those who contributed to the consultation, your input has been invaluable to the process. The plan will be presented in March 2018.

### **WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA**

Mountaineering Ireland's website continues to be a valuable resource in keeping members informed, providing updates on the organisation's work, as well as documentation and resources.

Mountaineering Ireland's social media presence continued to grow, with increased activity across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. With over 14,000 followers, and some posts reaching 25,000 users Facebook is a popular means of engaging with members and the public.

### **IRISH MOUNTAIN LOG**

The Irish Mountain Log continues to be an important means of communicating with our members. It would be impossible to produce four issues a year, to such a high standard, without the significant input of key volunteers and the articles submitted by members. Sincere thanks to the IML editor Patrick

O'Sullivan, who is supported by Peter O'Neill, Coilin MacLochlainn and the Mountaineering Ireland staff team.

### **ARCHIVES AND MEMBERS' LIBRARY**

Members continue to the avail of the Mountaineering Ireland library, which consists of over 3,000 books in total that include the Joss Lynam and the Irish Mountaineering Club collections. Members can view the online catalogue through the Mountaineering Ireland website and email their requests to the office, from where they can either collect the books, or have them posted out.

### **INSURANCE**

The Mountaineering Ireland policy cover has not changed and detailed certificates are available to all clubs on renewal. The cover includes €13 million in public liability cover and limited personal accident cover. A breakdown of



# GET IRELAND WALKING

## INTRODUCTION

Get Ireland Walking is an initiative of Sport Ireland, supported by Healthy Ireland and hosted and delivered by Mountaineering Ireland. It provides opportunities and supports for individuals, groups and organisations who wish to engage in and promote the activity of walking. It does this through innovative programming, collaboration and partnership at local and national levels.

Get Ireland Walking now has 692 registered walking groups and sporting clubs. Walks range from local community walks, tracks, sports-grounds, trails and coastlines across urban and rural Ireland.

In 2017 Get Ireland Walking expanded its programme delivery to meet the needs of new population groups by: providing training for community champions; delivering key evidence-based programmes; and distributing resources across the country.

The following provides an overview of activities during 2017:

## ACTIVE COMMUNITY WALKING PROGRAMME 2017

The Active Community Walking programme was delivered through 29 Local Sports Partnerships in 2017, with 106 groups participating. The programme was evaluated through Sport Ireland.

## SCHOOLS WALKING PROJECT

Research suggests that teenage girls fall rapidly off the physical activity spectrum during adolescent years, and that children who are more active are also more likely to be active as adults. In response to this Get Ireland Walking secured Dormant Accounts funding for a schools project in 2017.

A needs assessment was carried out

with four DEIS post primary schools in Dublin. Arising from this GIW partnered with Active School Flag and developed 1,200 Branded Active School Walkway Packs, available in both Irish and English. These have been distributed to 900 primary schools, 100 post primary and 200 special schools.

## MEN'S SHED INITIATIVE

Following the identification of need, Get Ireland Walking initiated a programme with Men's Sheds. Due to budget and logistical constraints three counties were identified for a pilot project: Cork, Dublin and Galway. 133 men engaged across 30 Men's Sheds in the pilot.

Training was provided with the Irish Heart Foundation and through Local Sports Partnerships.

Resource packs were developed and made available to Sheds to support them to #GoWalking

## EVENTS AND COMMUNICATION

Get Ireland Walking attended events throughout the year providing information, advice and networking with those in attendance. This included distribution of 11,000 21 Day Challenge Cards and over 6,000 Get Active Go Walking Leaflets.

Social media following is growing with 4,865 Facebook Likes and almost 2,000 Followers on Twitter.

## STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN 2017-2020

The new Get Ireland Walking strategy was developed in consultation with various stakeholders and partners from government to local level. It was launched by An Taoiseach in November 2017. The action plan includes 20 GIW actions and 21 Partner actions across seven themes.

**“ This provides a platform to grow the activity of walking across the island, where people choose to walk more often for recreation, transport and health as part of their everyday lives ”**

## EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

Mountaineering Ireland is represented on the following organisations:

Coillte Social and Environmental Panels  
Comhairle Na Tuaithe  
Croagh Patrick Stakeholders' Group  
Dublin Mountains Initiative  
Errigal Stakeholders Group  
Irish Adventure Sports Training Trust  
Irish Uplands Forum  
Land Matters Task Force NI  
Leitrim Walking Trails & Cycling Working Group  
Mountain Training NI  
Mountain Training UK  
Mountain Rescue Ireland  
National Outdoor Recreation Forum (NI)  
Northern Ireland Environment Link  
UIAA Access Commission  
UIAA Mountain Protection Commission  
Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group  
Wicklow Mountains National Park Council  
Wicklow Uplands Council

## AFFILIATIONS

Mountaineering Ireland is affiliated to the following organisations:

European Ramblers Association  
Federation of Irish Sports  
Friends of the Reeks  
International Federation of Sports Climbing  
Irish Uplands Forum  
Northern Ireland Environmental Link  
Northern Ireland Sports Forum  
Union Internationale des Association d'Alpinisme (UIAA)  
Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group  
Wicklow Uplands Council

## WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

In addition to all of the above, during 2017 we also worked with the following organisations:

Activate Waterford  
Awesome Walls  
Belfast Hills Partnership  
BirdWatch Ireland  
Boulder World Belfast  
British Mountaineering Council  
Cappanalea Outdoor Education & Training Centre  
Sport Ireland Coaching  
Coillte  
Coiste Forbartha Dhún Lúiche  
Comharchumann Dhúiche Sheoigheach Teo  
County Wicklow Partnership  
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs  
Donegal County Council  
Dublin Mountains Partnership  
Dublin Climbing Centre  
Fáilte Ireland  
Foyle Arena Derry  
Ganaway Activity Centre  
Gartan Outdoor Education & Training Centre  
Geological Survey or Northern Ireland  
Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre  
Gravity Climbing Centre  
Heritage Council  
Irish Farmers Association  
Irish Girl Guides  
Irish Peatland Conservation Council  
Irish Peat Society  
Killarney National Park Education Centre  
Landscape Forum Ireland  
Local Sports Partnerships  
MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum  
Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark  
Mardyke Arena Cork  
Mayo County Council  
Mountaineering Council of Scotland  
Mountain Meitheal Ireland  
Mountain Research Ireland  
MountainViews  
Mourne Heritage Trust  
Murrisk Development Association  
National Parks & Wildlife Service  
National Trails Office  
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council  
Ordnance Survey Ireland  
Ozone Climbing Wall Belfast  
Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland  
Petersburg Outdoor Education Centre  
Play At Height  
Ring of Gullion Landscape Partnership Scheme  
Rural Recreation Section, Department of Rural & Community Development  
Scouting Ireland  
Soil Conservation Service of Iceland  
Sport Ireland  
Sport Northern Ireland  
State Claims Agency  
The Adventure Project

Tollymore National Outdoor Centre  
Trinity College Dublin Archives  
Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs  
Upland Path Advisory Group (Scotland)  
Wicklow Mountains National Park

## LIST OF CLUBS AFFILIATED TO MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND

(As of December 2017)

4 A's Walking Club  
ACARA Trekking Club  
American Womens Club Hillwalkers  
Aonach ar Siul (Nenagh Hillwalkers)  
Arklow and Wicklow Hillwalkers  
Ashbourne Hillwalkers  
Athlone Walking Club  
Awesome Walls Staff Club  
B.A.R.F.  
Ballyduff Upper Walking Club  
Ballyhoura Bears Walking Club  
Ballymac-Glanageenty Ramblers  
Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club  
Bandon Walking Club  
Bank of Ireland Hill Walking Club  
Banner Mountaineering Club  
Bantry Walking Club  
Beanna Beola Hillwalking Club  
Belfast Climbing Club  
Beltrubet Walks and Heritage Group  
Bishopstown Orienteering & Hillwalking Club  
Blackrock Hillwalking Club  
Blackstairs Ramblers  
Blarney Walking Group  
Blayne Ramblers  
Bogtrotters Hillwalking Club  
Bootleggers Hillwalking Club  
Boyle Curlew Hillwalkers Club  
Camp Walking Club  
Carran Walking Club  
Cavan Monaghan Climbing Club  
Cavan Walkers  
CIE Hill Walkers  
Clare Outdoor Club  
Clonakilty Hill Walking Club  
Clondalkin Hillwalking Club  
Club Cualann  
Club Siúlóide Chonamara Theas  
Cobh Hill Walking Club  
Coconuts Hillwalking Club  
Colaiste Pobail Setanta  
Colmcille Climbers Club  
Comeragh Mountaineering Club  
Cork Backpackers Club  
Cork Climbing Club  
Cork Climbing Co-Op  
Cork International Hiking Society  
Cork Mountaineering Club  
Cork Youth Climbing Club  
Crannagh Ramblers  
Croom Abu Walking Club  
Crosshaven Walking Group  
CROWS Hillwalkers  
Cumann Siul Cois Coiribe  
Cumann Sleibhteoireachta an Leith Triuigh  
Cumann Sleibhteoireachta Annascaul Walkers  
Cumann Sleibhteoireachta Chorca Dhuibhne / DingleHC  
Dal Riada Climbing Club  
DCU Rock Climbing Club  
Defence Force Association of Mountaineers  
DIT Mountaineering Club  
Donegal Co Co Hills & Trails Walking Club  
Dublin and Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team  
Dublin Cliffhangers Climbing Club  
Dublin University Climbing Club (Trinity College)  
Dungarvan Hillwalking Club  
Dunmanway Hillwalking Club  
Enniscrone Walking Club  
ESB Hillwalkers  
Ferrard Ramblers  
Fineos Hillwalkers  
Fitzambler  
Foxford Ramblers Walking Club  
Foyle Hillwalking and Rambling Club  
Galtee Walking Club  
Galway Bay Hillwalking Club  
Galway Climbing Co-Operative  
Galway Walking Club  
Glenwalk  
GMIT Climbing & Mountaineering Club  
Grange Con Ramblers Hill Walking Club  
Grey Lake Ramblers  
Garda Mountaineering Club  
GWATS – Gearagh Walkers and Talkers  
Hanging Rockers Climbing Club  
Hard Core Club  
Hardy Hill Hikers  
Hell Fire Rangers  
Hibernia Bushcraft  
Hillwalkers Club  
Imaal Walkers  
IRD Duhallow Hillwalking Club  
Irish Bushcraft Club  
Irish Christian Hillwalking Club  
Irish Geological Association  
Irish Mountaineering Club  
Irish Ramblers Club  
Kanturk Hillwalkers and Mountain Climbers  
Kenmare Walking Club  
Kilcoran Trekking Club  
Killarney Mountaineering Club  
Kilmacthomas Walking Club  
Kiltipper Ramblers  
Knockadosan Hill Walkers  
Laune Mountaineering Club  
Lee Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club  
Letterkenny IT Hillwalking Society  
Limerick Climbing Club  
Longford Ramblers and Hiking Club  
Lung Gompas  
Mallow Walking Club  
Marley Hillwalking Club  
Maumturks Walking Club  
Maynooth Hillwalking Club  
Mevagh Ramblers  
Mid Tipp Hillwalkers  
Midleton Climbing Club  
Midleton Hillwalking Club  
Mountain Meitheal Ireland  
Muintir na Sléibhte  
Mullaghareirk Ramblers  
N.U.I. Galway Mountaineering Club  
Na Cnocadóirí  
Na Coisithe  
Na Siúltóirí Buadáin  
Na Sléibhte Hillwalking Club  
Navan Trekkers  
Nire Valley Bogtrotters Walking Club  
North West Mayo Hillwalkers  
North West Mountaineering Club  
North West Youth Climbing Team  
Out and About  
Ox Mountain Ramblers  
Oyster Walking Club  
Peaks Mountaineering Club  
Rainbow Hillwalking Club  
Ramblers Country Tracks  
Rathgormack Climbing Club  
Rathgormack Ramblers  
Riverstick Ramblers  
Roscrea Ramblers  
Rosway Walkers  
Savage Craic Climbing Club  
Shanganagh Ramblers  
Siúl Walking Club  
Skerries Walking Club  
Skibbereen Walking Group  
Slane Striders  
Sleibh Mor Outdoor Sports Club  
Sliabh Luachra Hillwalking Club  
Slieve Aughty Walking Club  
Sligo Climbing Club  
Sligo Mountaineering Club  
Sligo Walking Club  
Sneem Walking Club  
Spartan Red Sox Walking Club  
Sperrins Hillwalking Club  
St Brigid's Youth Club and Community  
St. Kevins College  
Swilly Hiking Club  
The Feel Good Factor  
The GoyaGang  
The Leinster Explorers Hillwalking Club  
The N51 Trekkers  
The TEAM Project  
The Trekkers Mountaineering Club  
Tinahely Walking Club  
Tralee Mountaineering Club  
Tredagh Trekkers  
Trinity College Hiking Society  
Tuesday Trekkers  
Tullow Mountaineering Club  
Tyndall Mountain Club  
UCD Mountaineering Club  
Ulster University Jordanstown Mountaineering Club  
University College Cork Mountaineering Club  
Upper Limits  
Walkers with Altitude  
Walking Waterford and Beyond  
Wayfarers Association  
West Clare Walking Club  
Westport Hillwalkers  
Wexford Hillwalking and Mountaineering Club  
Winders Climbing Club  
Woolgreen Walking Club

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