



# ANNUAL REVIEW 2010

Mountaineering Ireland



**Working for  
and representing  
hillwalkers  
and climbers**

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

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Mountaineering Ireland promotes the principles of Leave No Trace.



## MI BOARD AND SUB COMMITTEES

### MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF IRELAND BOARD 2010

Alan Tees **President**  
Ruairí Ó Conchúir **Chairperson**  
David Batt **Honorary Treasurer**  
Sandra Kennedy  
Ronan Lenihan  
Stephen McMullan  
Ross Millar **Honorary Secretary**  
Jerry O'Dwyer  
Patrick O'Sullivan  
Dawson Stelfox

### BORD OILIÚINT SLÉIBHE/IRISH MOUNTAIN TRAINING BOARD MEMBERS 2010

Ronan Lenihan **Chairperson**  
Calvin Torrans  
Colin Gibbon  
Charlie McManus  
Orla Prendergast  
Shay Walsh  
Alun Richardson **Secretary**

### ACCESS & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010

Ross Millar **Chairperson**  
Joss Lynam RIP  
Vincent McAlinden  
Danny McElhinney  
Frank Nugent  
Ruairí Ó Conchúir  
Ena Rafferty  
Derek Sargent  
Helen Lawless **Secretary**



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# MI ANNUAL REVIEW 2010

Mountaineering Ireland's (MI) membership rose to over 10,300 members during 2010, the first time it has exceeded 10,000. This reflects the growing awareness of our sport's health and well-being benefits. Equally, with the appropriate vision and investment our sport has the potential to have a significant impact on rural economies.

## MI's objectives are:

- ▶ Represent the interests of hillwalkers and climbers.
- ▶ Improve and secure access to the Irish hills and crags.
- ▶ Promote mountain training and safety.
- ▶ Encourage responsible and sustainable use of the mountain environment.
- ▶ Support members, and especially young people, in skills development.
- ▶ Provide appropriate services and effective communications to members.

In 2010 new key members of staff were recruited, including Helen Lawless, Hillwalking, Access & Conservation Officer and Alun Richardson, Training Officer. Both joined a dedicated staff team that aims to provide the best service to the growing MI community. All MI staff are mentioned within this report but I would especially like to note the commitment of Una Feeney and Terry Canavan, MI's Office Administrator and Accounts Administrator respectively.

During 2010 MI increased its focus on access, youth participation and

coaching development. In many respects 2010 will be remembered as a year of 'Partnership'; most notably MI's partnership with Scouting Ireland, and it is an opportunity for MI to support and structure the training and development pathways for young people in one of Ireland's largest youth organisations.

MI's commitment to the Mountain Access Scheme was reinforced during 2010 through direct support to the Rural Recreation Section of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs. The Mountain Access Scheme is a vehicle that has the potential to ensure continued access to our upland areas with the goodwill of landowners. Equally, MI welcomed new regulations banning off road vehicles in 13 Special Areas of Conservation, however, without enforcement these regulations will continue to be flouted by those who choose to wreak havoc in many upland areas throughout our island.

Finally, so many volunteers helped to make an impact on issues, projects and developments throughout Ireland. This commitment can be found in all aspects of our sport, within our clubs, committees and also in your valued feedback. I would sincerely like to thank all the members of MI for their continued support during 2010 and I look forward to meeting the challenges of 2011 together.

Karl Boyle,  
Chief Officer

**“ MI's commitment to the Mountain Access Scheme was reinforced during 2010 through direct support to the Rural Recreation Section of the Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs ”**



*Mountaineering Ireland gratefully acknowledges the funding it receives from The Irish Sports Council, Sport Northern Ireland and the Women in Sport programme.*

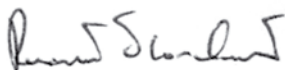
## CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

A Chinese proverb states, "The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The next best time is now". Mountaineering Ireland (MI) has been busy planting for many years and I regard myself as very fortunate to be Chairperson at a time when the fruits of these trees have begun to blossom and bear the most wonderful harvest. This past year will be considered a momentous year in Irish history imposing exceptional hardship on people throughout the country. It has also been a year of adjustment for a great many. The Irish uplands and the outdoors 'Green Gym' are proving to be a source of inspiration and renewal for many.

It has been a year of renewal for MI with a marked increase in membership. It is a singular pleasure to serve as Chairperson of a board of highly committed and selfless individuals who have given so much back to the sport of mountaineering. I am humbled to serve with such gifted volunteers who give so generously of their time. This 'giving back' is not only at an organisational level, but at events and within our partner organisations. MI has also an exceptional staff. During 2010 four new appointments were made. Our new Training Officer, Alun Richardson, is highly regarded internationally and has been greatly supported by Nicole Mullen as Training Administrator. Helen Lawless' appointment as Hillwalking, Access & Conservation Officer has had an immediate beneficial impact. Karl Boyle took up duties in January 2010. The new Chief Officer has shown great leadership in taking MI forward. These appointments add to what continues to be a very committed MI staff team in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

I wish to convey my deep appreciation to our funders in the Irish Sports Council, Sport Northern Ireland and most importantly our members. This continued fulsome support allows us to work on a wide range of projects and initiatives as outlined in some detail in this Annual Report. We are filled with a deep sense of pride reflecting on what has been achieved in 2010. The one outstanding area for me personally was our Youth Development work including groundbreaking work with Scouting Ireland. The signed MI – Scouting Ireland co-operation agreement offers a platform for both parties to work together to offer leadership, training and support to aspiring mountaineers.

All of these achievements have been supported by the effort of volunteers. This volunteering ethos remains at the core of our work. Never was this more in evidence than at Tollymore in October 2010 when the Belfast Association of Rock-climbers and Fell-runners (BARF), led by Vince McAlinden, hosted in excess of 200 people at an inspiring Autumn Gathering. MI needs committed people to take up leadership roles to support and encourage responsible use and enjoyment of the Irish uplands. I would like to thank all our volunteers throughout Ireland for 'giving back' so much. Reflecting on the Chinese proverb, we need committed tree planters who have the vision to see 20 years down the road and give hope and encouragement to the next generation of Irish mountaineers.



Ruairí Ó Conchúir  
Chairperson



**“ The signed MI – Scouting Ireland co-operation agreement offers a platform for both parties to work together to offer leadership, training and support to aspiring mountaineers ”**





# ACCESS AND CONSERVATION

MI's work on access and conservation is focused on two core objectives:

To secure continued access to mountain areas and crags.

To promote the conservation and responsible use of the mountain environment.

During 2010 many MI members contributed to our work towards these objectives, formally through roles on MI, club and other committees, and informally through vigilance and personal action to protect access and the mountain environment. This collective effort is vital if MI is to deliver on its objectives.

The access and conservation efforts of MI volunteers are supported by a full-time Hill-walking, Access & Conservation Officer. Helen Lawless was appointed to this post in April 2010, returning to MI after three years working with the Wicklow Uplands Council.

## SECURING ACCESS

### COMHAIRLE NA TUAITHE

Despite a slow start to 2010 when Minister O Cuív left the Department of Community, Equality & Gaeltacht Affairs (DCEAGA), Comhairle na Tuaithe, supported by the Department's Rural Recreation Section, has continued its work guiding the development and co-ordination of Ireland's emerging rural recreation sector. 2010 saw the appointment of three additional members to Comhairle from other outdoor sports, addressing a deficit of recreation representatives that MI had highlighted since Comhairle's formation.

MI representatives worked closely with the staff in the Rural Recreation Section during 2010 to progress implementation of the National Countryside Recreation Strategy and also liaised with the Rural Recreation Officers employed in 12 areas of the country. MI met with Minister Mary White, a Junior Minister in DCEAGA in October to discuss the work of Comhairle and other challenges to the upland environment.

## PILOT MOUNTAIN ACCESS SCHEME

The lack of certainty regarding access to the Irish countryside is a major frustration for hillwalkers and other recreational users, however a new Mountain Access Scheme being piloted by Comhairle na Tuaithe in two areas could help provide a solution.

By agreeing access with the landowners on the mountain, producing a map showing designated access points, indemnifying the landowners, providing parking and any infrastructure required to sustain recreational use, the Mountain Access Scheme sets out to manage recreational enjoyment of mountain areas in a way that minimises inconvenience for landowners and local residents and means that use of the area can be promoted with clarity and confidence.

During autumn, MI made study visits to the two pilot areas, Binn Shléibhe (or Mount Gable) in Co. Galway and Carrauntoohil in Co. Kerry, and provided detailed written feedback to DCEAGA on how the scheme could best develop and extend to other areas.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

MI maintained its strong relationship with CAAN (the Countryside Access & Activities Network) and also made a submission to the Northern Ireland Law Reform Commission regarding the 1983 Access Order and the need for its reform.

## ACCESS ISSUES

MI dealt with a number of specific access issues during the year, by providing advice and support to local members, liaising with Rural Recreation Officers, local authorities and state agencies. By contacting the MI office when any access difficulty is encountered, members can get guidance, plus this flow of information also ensures that MI's work at a national level to secure access is based on a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of the situation on the ground.

## PROMOTING CONSERVATION

### OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ACTIVITY

During the summer, Minister for the Environment, John Gormley introduced new regulations banning the use of off-road vehicles in certain areas. Given MI's track record of campaigning on this issue, this was welcome news. However, MI stressed the commitment, resources and co-operation required to implement the regulations, and drew attention to areas not covered by the new regulations that have also been damaged. Reports and photographs from members were valuable in making this case.

### BIRDWATCH IRELAND

MI made submissions in June to a consultation process by BirdWatch Ireland on the future of upland bird and sea cliff bird species. Both organisations

recognised their shared concern for the protection of upland and coastal environments and the potential to support each other's work. This has resulted in more information about upland birds in the Irish Mountain Log and encouragement to BirdWatch Ireland members to undertake Mountain Skills training.

## DALKEY QUARRY

In May, damage to a rockface in Dalkey Quarry triggered a process of engagement with Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) that has helped the Council recognise the enormous value of Dalkey to climbers in the east coast region. Council staff also gained an understanding of how risk is managed in climbing and the commitment of the climbing community to looking after the quarry. MI has urged DLRCC to designate Killiney Hill Park, including Dalkey Quarry, as a Special Amenity Area.

The efforts of the Irish Mountaineering Club, the [www.climbing.ie](http://www.climbing.ie) community and the many Dalkey climbers who voiced their concerns helped to shape a new constructive relationship with DLRCC. The Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport, Minister Mary Hanafin, visited Dalkey Quarry in October reinforcing its importance.

## UPLAND PATH EROSION

MI's study visit to the Carrauntoohil area included an informal assessment of the Devil's Ladder and the nearby Zig-Zags route also known as Bóthar na Gíge. The impact of greater numbers on the mountain, combined with natural erosion processes, raises the question of whether remedial work should be carried out to minimise further damage. On account of the national significance of Carrauntoohil, input was requested from MI members. Debate on the Devil's Ladder and other eroded routes will continue, but it is clear that any such work will be very expensive and should be sensitive to the character of the upland environment.







## PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE USE

### LEAVE NO TRACE

MI has continued to support the work of Leave No Trace (LNT), with financial support and by including the Leave No Trace message in MI publications and events. Vincent McAlinden represents MI on the Board of LNT Ireland and also Chairs the newly formed Education Advisory Group. This group will concentrate on compiling research and resources to support the delivery of the programme. MI Chairperson, Ruairí Ó Conchúir, and MI Honorary Secretary, Ross Millar are also deeply involved in promoting the work of Leave No Trace with Ross Millar having recently been appointed as Chairperson of Leave No Trace Ireland.

### MOUNTAIN MEITHEAL

Mountain Meitheal's path repair work continues to be an example of the positive impact that committed volunteers can achieve. During 2010 Mountain Meitheal carried out work in the Dublin and Wicklow Mountains, including an impressive stone-pitched path on Three Rock Mountain, and also supported workshops at the MI Autumn Gathering.

Mountain Meitheal produced a new DVD to promote the Leave No Trace message, copies of which are available to affiliated clubs through the MI office.

### MOUNTAIN TRAINING SCHEMES

A review of the access and conservation component in BOS training schemes was initiated, with the Mountain Skills syllabus being the first to be updated. Discussion on access and conservation was included in provider workshops and continuous professional development days throughout the year.

### CLUB ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS

All MI clubs were encouraged to appoint a Club Environmental Officer (CEO) to help raise environmental awareness within their club and act as a point of contact for MI. The number of CEOs increased to over 50 in 2010, regular email contact was established and training workshops for CEOs are being planned for spring 2011. Over time this should build to become a strong grouping of MI members working to protect the upland environment.





## REPRESENTATION ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS

MI's work towards its access and conservation objectives is supported by voluntary representatives on a number of other organisations. Brief feedback from these is provided below.

### COILLTE SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL

In summer 2010 Pat Dignam was appointed to represent MI on Coillte's Social & Environmental Panel for the Eastern District. In December MI made an initial submission to a review of Coillte's 13 District Strategic Plans, making recommendations, from a recreation perspective, on the management of Coillte forests. Given the importance of the Coillte estate and the very positive working relationship between MI and Coillte, MI members who would be interested in representing MI on the Social &

Environmental panel for other Coillte Districts should contact the MI office.

### IRISH UPLANDS FORUM (IUF)

In March 2010 IUF published a major study titled 'Challenges, Changes and Opportunities in the Irish Uplands'. Arising from this research, follow-up work to support a partnership approach to sustainable upland management was initiated in four upland areas. IUF is Chaired by Frank Nugent.

### DUBLIN MOUNTAINS INITIATIVE (DMI)

Milo Kane reports that the DMI's main activity continues to be through its involvement in the Dublin Mountains Partnership (DMP). Many MI members enjoyed the opening of the Dublin Mountains Way and publication of a 1:25k map showing the route during 2010. The DMP's volunteer ranger scheme saw an increase in numbers.

### WICKLOW MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK (WMNP) COUNCIL

Feedback from Mairead Kennedy shows that the WMNP Council met just twice during the year, though regular contact has been maintained between WMNP and MI. Severe weather events caused a setback to WMNP's pathworks programme and activities generally have had to be curtailed due to budget cuts. Despite this, WMNP continues to provide a weekend Duty Ranger service which is helpful in tackling off-road vehicle activity.

### WICKLOW UPLANDS COUNCIL (WUC)

Pearse Connolly represents MI on the board of WUC, which brings together recreation, landowning, tourism and community interests in the Wicklow mountains area. The WUC commissioned a strategic review in 2010, which will conclude in March 2011 with publication of a three-year plan.





## YOUTH

Youth development continued to be a core focus in 2010. The MI youth age limit was increased to under-23 to provide more affordable membership for students. New partnerships, new clubs and many new and existing volunteers made a significant impact on activities. MI's commitment to youth development saw new projects from Ganaway on the Ards Peninsula to the Mardyke Arena in Cork.

MI's Youth Officer, Paul Swail, co-ordinated a wide programme during 2010, including a number of outdoor weekends in Ireland and the UK for young people, the Climbing4Peace project in Fermanagh and a number of school based initiatives. Climbing classes for young people at the Hotrock Wall and at the Ozone, Belfast continued to increase participation. Four successful residential trips for young people, which promoted safety and individual responsibility in a controlled and supervised environment were conducted in 2010.

Youth development will continue to be treated with priority during 2011. A stronger focus on developing the leadership in third level colleges will also be a key component of the 2011 youth programme.

## SCOUTING IRELAND



2010 was an historic year for MI in that a formal agreement was signed by MI with the largest youth training organisation on the island of Ireland. Many years of close co-operation and hard work by MI Treasurer David Batt

and a great many others, has now ensured an exceptional foundation stone has been laid on which the development of future generations of young mountaineers will blossom.

Chief Scout Michael John Shinnick and MI President Alan Tees signed a Memorandum of Understanding and Co-operation where both parties agree to co-operate, work together and assist each other in areas of mutual interest and where;

- ▶ Scouting Ireland recognises Mountaineering Ireland as the National Governing Body of mountain sports in all its forms on the island of Ireland and through its sub-board BOS (Bord Oiliúint Sléibhe – The Mountain Leader Training Board) and Mountain Leader Training (Northern Ireland) which governs the awarding of mountain training award in Ireland and Northern Ireland respectively.
- ▶ Mountaineering Ireland recognises Scouting Ireland as the largest youth training organisation on the island of Ireland; that many people currently engaged in mountain sports in Ireland started their outdoor journey within the Scout Movement, and that Scouting Ireland has introduced a new staged progressive Hillwalking Adventure Skills programme, which is intended to give Scouts a pathway to progression into internationally recognised mountaineering qualifications.

The past year also saw the first joint training weekends run by MI and Scouting Ireland, which launched the Hillwalking element of the new scout programme called ONE. The programme will be rolled out to all 400 scout groups of Scouting Ireland over the coming two years. The new scout badge scheme incorporates a 9 stage hillwalking development taking Scouts from their first hikes up to international mountaineering experience.

**“ Youth development will continue to be treated with priority during 2011. A stronger focus on developing the leadership in third level colleges will also be a key component of the 2011 youth programme ”**



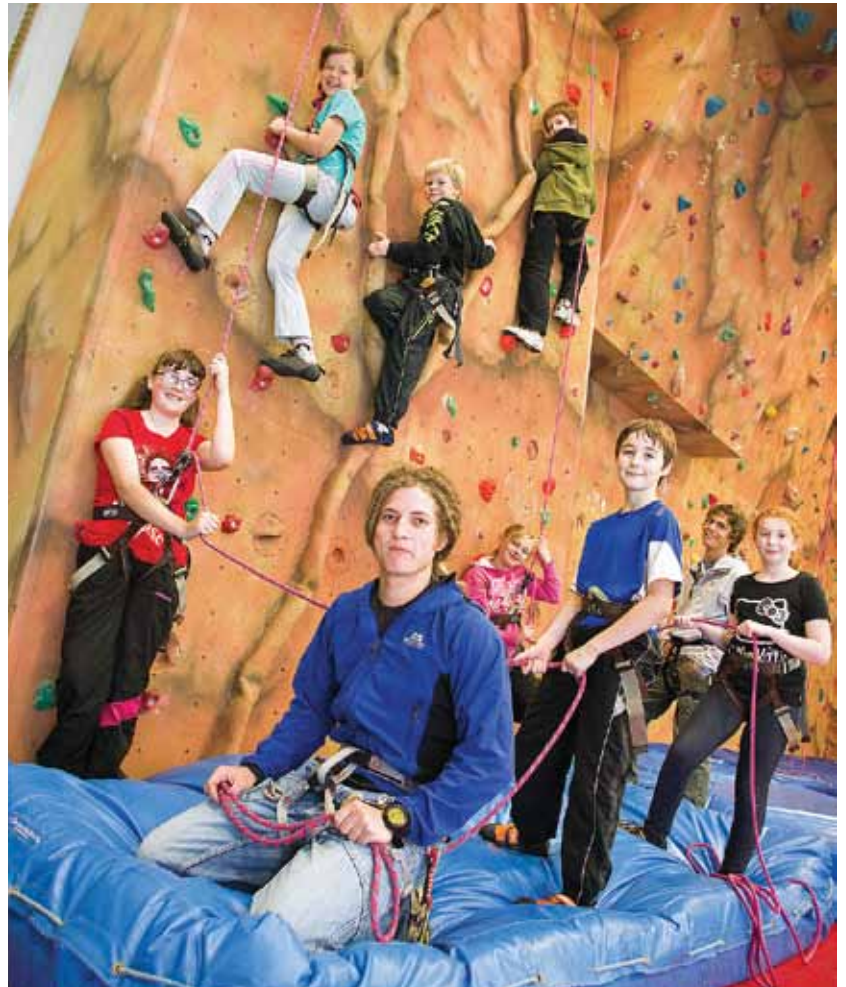
A number of training and assessment weekends were provided for Scouting Ireland aspirant Mountain Leaders in late 2010.

## GIRL GUIDES

MI also hosted a training weekend for the Catholic Guides of Ireland (CGI) in Knockree during the autumn. This was the first step in supporting the development of a strong hillwalking programme in the organisation. Likewise, MI had discussions with the Irish Girl Guides (IGG), which will further develop during 2011.

## GIRLS OUTSIDE KERRY

Mountaineering Ireland's Girls Outside Kerry project commenced in October 2010. The project aims to have 200 girls experience the outdoors, progressing their skills in hillwalking and rock climbing. Participants are encouraged to develop their leadership skills and become involved in local clubs. The project has been supported by local Kerry clubs and the Kerry Sports Partnership.



MI representatives and Scouting Ireland leaders at Lough Dan training weekend.





# PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT

**“ MI began the roll out of ‘FUNdamentals’ across Ireland, a programme which raises coaches’ awareness of agility, balance, co-ordination and of the body’s centre of gravity; important themes underpinning climbing movement ”**

With the appointment of a full-time Coaching Development and Talent Identification Officer, Angela Carlin, in November 2009, the year that followed was an important one for these two areas, with significant knock on effects for performance development.

## COACHING DEVELOPMENT

The development of performance climbing involves a lot more than just organising competitions; creating the right environment to nurture talent involves providing quality opportunities for participation and good coaching for novice climbers, structured opportunities for development and a host of other supports. A strong club can be the perfect way to create such an environment, and MI has been working hard to assist clubs, parents and volunteers who are willing to take on this task, providing advice on club development as well as specific support for coaches.

The formation of regional squads and an Irish Youth Team will be Performance Development priorities for 2011.

## FUNDAMENTALS

With an awareness of the importance of developing coaches at the grassroots level, MI began the roll out of ‘FUNdamentals’ across Ireland, a programme which raises coaches’ awareness of agility, balance, co-ordination and of the body’s centre of gravity; important themes underpinning climbing movement. In 2010, over 40 coaches attended ‘FUNdamentals I’ in Cork, Belfast, Dublin, Naas, Tollymore, Gortatole OEC and Gartan OEC. 2011 will see the first of the ‘FUNdamentals II’ workshops in Ireland, as well as continued efforts to develop UK and Ireland wide awards for coaching climbing.

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

### YOUTH CLIMBING SERIES

The Youth Climbing Series again grew during the course of 2010 with more participants and improving standards. 2010 started with the annual Youth Climbing Series (YCS) rounds in Belfast, Newcastle and Fermanagh.



At the Great Britain finals, where MI was represented by 13 young climbers, some impressive results were achieved; a 4th place in 11-13 boys for Jamie Rankin and a 5th in 14-16 boys for Andrew Colligan. Significant progress was made during 2010 in Cork where through strong volunteer effort Youth Climbing classes commenced at the Mardyke centre. The Youth Climbing Series in Northern Ireland has been hugely successful in providing a focus for young climbers and 2011 will see the YCS expanding its geographical spread to the rest of the island.

## IRISH BOULDERING & LEAD CHAMPIONSHIPS

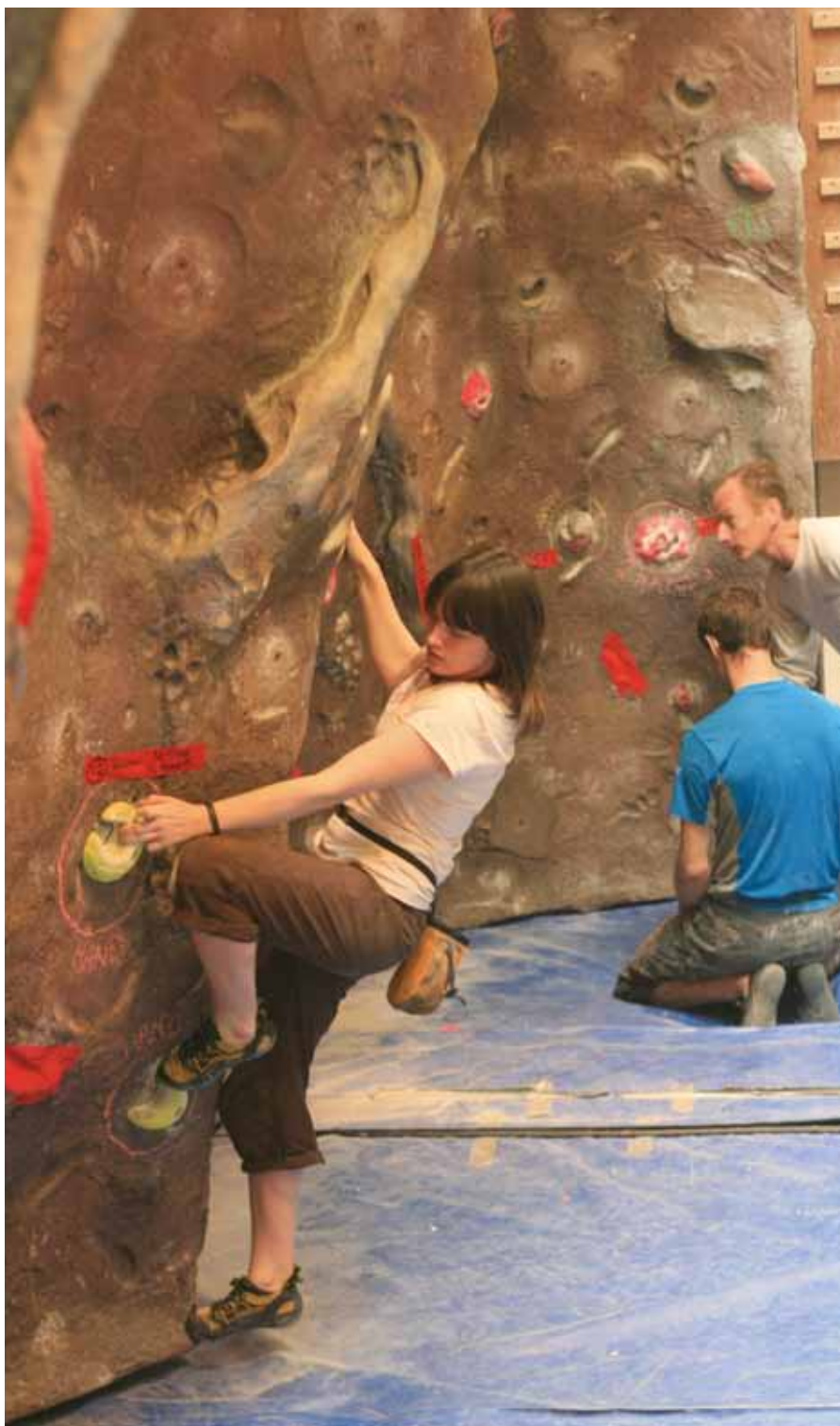
The first Irish Bouldering Championship was held on 6th May in Belfast. There was an extremely high standard of competition, in which Rob Hunter and Veronica Lee emerged as Irish Senior Champions, with Rachel Cooper and Andrew Colligan as the Irish Junior Champions. 2010 also saw the Irish Lead Climbing Championship take place for a second year in Dingle, with Rachel Cooper taking 1st place in the Senior Female category while Louis Mulloy was the Senior Male Champion. In the Junior categories, Andrew Colligan and Rachel Cooper were again successful, becoming Junior Champions in both Lead and Boulder.

## IRISH BOULDERING LEAGUE

The Irish Bouldering League plays a vital role, and the ongoing efforts of a voluntary organising committee again paid off in 2010, with over 200 competitors entering five rounds across the country.

## INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

2010 was an exciting year for competition climbing, with the UK hosting a round of the IFSC Boulder World Cup and the IFSC Youth World Championship there was unprecedented access to top-level international events. It can be partly attributed to this, that Ireland was represented, for the first time in years in international competition in both Junior and Senior categories, Nigel Callender (Boulder World Cup) and Rachel Cooper, Andrew Colligan and Lucy Mitchell (World Youth Cup).





# TRAINING AND SAFETY

The provision of general mountaineering safety advice and the training of hillwalkers and climbers are central to the aims of MI and its training sub-committee, Bord Oiliúint Sléibhe (BOS), the Mountain Training Board.

The training and safety efforts of MI volunteers are supported by a new Training Officer, Alun Richardson, who was appointed in March 2010. Alun is a member of the International Federation of Mountain Guides Associations and brings a wealth of experience to MI. The training and safety element of MI's work is greatly enhanced by a new Training Administrator, Nicole Mullen.

The efforts of many volunteers both on the BOS board and those unnamed individuals who help behind the scenes in many clubs and within the course provider community is greatly appreciated.

## CLUB TRAINING OFFICERS WORKSHOP

MI aims to have a Club Training Officer (CTO) within each club. The CTO workshop is open to any MI member who is willing to act as training officer for their club to help members develop skills and give greater confidence to club leaders. During 2010 two CTO workshops were run during May and November with a total of 12 club members attending.

## TRAINING GRANTS

Training related grants continued to be offered to both club and individual members. However, the small number of applications has identified the need to renew the awareness of training grants and encourage more clubs to avail of this support.



## BOS TRAINING SCHEMES

The continuing success of the Mountain Skills scheme is shown by the increasing numbers that take part in MS training, the integration of it into the Scouting Ireland hillwalking programme and the possibility of it being replicated in the UK.

The summer Mountain Leader Award (MLA) was re-accredited by the Union Internationale Des Associations D'Alpinisme (UIAA) as suitable for use by leaders during 2010.

Mountain Leader reassessment candidates do not need to wait until the next assessment, they can contact the MI office directly to arrange a reassessment when their consolidation period is completed.

Registrations for Training	
Mountain Skills	543
Mountain Leader	188
Walking Group Leader	61
Single Pitch Award	128
Multi Pitch Award	12



## BOS MOUNTAINEERING PROVIDERS

BOS-approved providers work in a variety of locations, from 'Outdoor Education Centres' to privately owned businesses. At the end of 2010, 52 BOS providers had been approved to run a variety of BOS courses:

Approved Number of BOS Providers	
Mountain Skills	52
Mountain Skills Assessment	18
Single Pitch Award	10
Multi Pitch Award	4
Mountain Leader Training	11
Walking Group Leader Training	4

## MODERATION AND AUDITING

During 2010 the Training Officer undertook eight moderations confirming that the professionalism of the mountaineering providers in Ireland is very high. Moderation is a chance for the provider and Training Office to exchange views and information and ensures the maintenance of a high standard of course delivery across the full range of mountaineering award training and assessment courses.

## CONTINUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) WORKSHOP

As part of the provider approval process, all providers are required to attend a minimum of one full CPD workshop during the three-year approval period. During 2010 four CPD workshops were run for Mountain Skills training and assessment, Walking Group Leader, Mountain Leader and SPA providers. The Training Office has also simplified the process of fulfilling this requirement by enabling groups of providers to design their own CPD.

## TRAINING FOR FUTURE PROVIDERS

The 'Train the Trainers' course is designed to train and provide further guidance to hill walkers seeking first-time BOS-provider approval. Twelve students attended the course at the end of May 2010. The final draft of the new provider agreement was put to BOS during 2010 and should be ready to use by spring 2011.

## SUPPORT FOR MIA TRAINEES

Mountaineering Instructors (MIA holders) are vitally important to the structure of mountain training in Ireland. To help potential candidates find out

more about the MIA and the standards required Dave Gaughran assisted by Orla Prendergast, Clive Roberts, Sinead Pollock and the Training Officer ran a series of workshops for prospective MIA candidates.

## MLTNI AND BOS WORKING GROUP

A Mountain Leader Training Northern Ireland (MLTNI) and BOS working group sat during 2010. The working group concluded that joining Mountain Leader Training (MLT) UK as a full voting member and not to remain as an observer should be explored by BOS. MI has put a discussion document before MLT to begin the process.

## COACHING IRELAND AND THE 'ADVENTURE FRAMEWORK'

The framework builds on and supports the quality work already in place in Adventure Sports and will ensure that standards are defined and maintained to the highest levels. Coaching Ireland and MI agreed a scheme for training its 'Providers' of MSA, SPA, WGL and MLA's to become Coaching Ireland 'Mountain Tutors'. The proposed training will be delivered through continuous professional training for the relevant qualified providers.





# COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICES

## IRISH MOUNTAIN LOG

The Irish Mountain Log has, under the editorship of Patrick O'Sullivan, continued to ensure a balance within its content. The quality of the Irish Mountain Log has drawn compliments from both internal and external readers, many of whom commented on the excellent production quality. The Irish Mountain Log continues to encourage staff and volunteers alike to contribute to the quarterly journal and the editor wishes to congratulate all those who had articles published during the course of 2010. For the first time the Irish Mountain Log was distributed through newsagents in Ireland, which as sales grow will help to offset increasing Irish Mountain Log costs.

## MEMBERS' GATHERINGS AND MEETS

MI's autumn, winter and summer gatherings and meets are an important opportunity for like-minded individuals to gather together and share experiences, knowledge and most importantly a passion for the hills. Training courses are an integral part of the winter and summer meets in particular, and, whilst not in themselves leading to any kind of formal qualification or award, offer a chance for individuals to progress the range of their personal mountaineering experience and competencies.

## WINTER MEET

In March 2010, 30 participants took part in MI's Winter Meet in the Adamello Alps, Italy. The purpose was to provide an alpine opportunity for walkers and climbers where participants could learn avalanche awareness, winter navigation, how to snowshoe and climb to snow covered and rocky alpine peaks.

## SUMMER ALPINE MEET



The destination in 2010 for the Summer Alpine Meet was Ailefroide, in the Massif des Écrins, France,

Mountaineering Ireland embraced social networking and social media with the integration of Facebook and YouTube on MI's website. This has allowed for greater instant communication with members. This has also provided another opportunity for members and non-members to hear what MI is doing and also to feedback in real time and in public.

During 2011 this will be further developed through a series of videos promoting good practice in all our activities.





where more than 70 participants enjoyed a range of workshops, courses, individual challenges and a range of walks and ascents. The half day workshops were successful and are something that MI will build upon for next year. Walking courses ranged from one-day skills programmes in navigation, GPS and local flora/fauna, to multi-day hut-to-hut walks across the region. The five-day Alpine courses offered participants a chance for adventure at altitude.

The vast majority of the feedback from the meets was overwhelmingly positive, however, some comments were made about the cost of travel to the meets. For 2011, it has been decided that the Winter Meet will take place in Scotland with another meet in Chamonix for those who want a similar Winter Alpine experience to 2010. The Summer Alpine Meet in 2011 will be held in Argentière.

## AUTUMN GATHERING

The Autumn Gathering was hosted by the Belfast Association of Rockclimbers and Fellrunners (BARF) Club in the redeveloped Tollymore National Outdoor Centre. The gathering united more than 200 members of all ages with a host of activities, including hillwalking, scrambling, climbing, path-repair, well-being workshops and a bouldering competition. A series of workshops were also held as well as two presentations and a hearty Mourne buffet dinner.

## MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND LIBRARY

MI has a large collection of well over 700 mountaineering and walking books, guides and magazines and newsletters. There are also many papers and reports covering access and conservation issues, safety issues and other general

information relating to Ireland. To search the online library database go to the MI website. The MI library database went online in early 2010. This allows members to search through the library catalogue on [mountaineering.ie](http://mountaineering.ie) from their own PC.

The long awaited guidebook *Rock Climbs in the Mourne Mountains* was published during 2010 and was launched at the Fair Head meet in June.

## MEMBER DISCOUNTS

MI's membership discount scheme continued to grow in 2010 and there are an ever increasing number of retailers and accommodation providers amongst others who offer discounts on the presentation of a valid MI membership card.



Participants in path repair workshop during MI Autumn Gathering.



## RESOURCE UTILISATION

**“ Mountaineering Ireland is a success primarily because of the active involvement of members volunteering for a wide range of roles, within clubs, on MI committees and as representatives on external organisations ”**

The implementation of MI's Strategic Development Plan (2009 – 2013) commenced in 2009. The strategy sets out a clear vision for the future growth and promotion of all aspects of mountaineering in Ireland with a major focus on supporting clubs and individual members who are primarily engaged in hillwalking together with enhanced support for youth participation in our sport.

A key MI focus is to ensure a sustainable financial culture within the organisation. This is critical to the long term success of a strong and viable representative body for hillwalkers and climbers.

MI developed its Strategic Reserves Policy during 2010. The objective of this policy is to ensure that MI is in a position to meet its financial commitments and honour all debts.

### THANK YOU

Mountaineering Ireland is a success primarily because of the active involvement of members volunteering for a wide range of roles, within clubs, on MI committees and as representatives on external organisations. MI is sincerely grateful to all the volunteers who make such a rich contribution to this organisation, our sport and the protection of the resource base we utilise.

To all club walk leaders, club officers, those who have submitted articles, reviews and photographs for the Irish Mountain Log, and those who have represented and supported MI – Thank you.





## EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

### Mountaineering Ireland is represented on the following organisations:

Coillte Social and Environmental Panel (Eastern District)  
Comhairle Na Tuaithe  
Cork Walking Cycling Network  
County Cork Local Sports Partnership  
Dublin Mountains Initiative  
Irish Adventure Sports Training Trust  
Irish Uplands Forum  
Leave No Trace Ireland  
Mountaineering Coordination Group (UK and Ireland),  
Mountain Heritage Trust  
Mountain Leader Training NI  
Mountain Leader Training UK  
Mountain Rescue Ireland  
National Coordinating Committee for Cave & Mountain Rescue  
National Committee for Commemorative Plaques in Science and Technology  
National Trails Advisory Committee  
Northern Ireland Environment Link  
Wicklow Mountains National Park Committee  
Wicklow Uplands Council

## AFFILIATIONS

### Mountaineering Ireland is affiliated to the following organisations:

European Ramblers Association  
Federation of Irish Sports  
Leave No Trace Ireland  
Northern Ireland Environmental Link  
Northern Ireland Sports Forum  
Union Internationale des Associations d'Alpinisme (UIAA)

## WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

### In addition to the above we also work closely with the following organisations:

Access and Conservation Trust (ACT)  
Birdwatch Ireland (BWI)  
British Mountaineering Council (BMC)  
Catholic Guides of Ireland  
Coaching Ireland  
Coillte  
Countryside Access and Activities Network for Northern Ireland (CAAN)  
Dublin Mountains Partnership  
Fáilte Ireland  
Ganaway Activity Centre  
Gortatole OEC  
Irish Girl Guides  
Irish Sports Council  
Kerry Local Sports Partnership  
Mardyke Arena, Cork  
Mountaineering Council of Scotland (MCofS)  
Mourne Heritage Trust  
National Parks & Wildlife Service  
National Trails Office  
Ozone Complex, Belfast  
Rural Recreation section, DCEAGA  
Scouting Ireland  
Sport Northern Ireland  
Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs

## LIST OF MI AFFILIATED CLUBS

### (As of 31 October 2010)

4A's Walking Club  
Acara Trekking Club  
An Óige Hillwalkers Club  
Aonach ar Siúl

Aquinas Award & Hillwalking Group  
Arklow and Wicklow Hillwalking Club  
Athlone Walking Club  
Ballyduff Walking Club  
Ballyhoura Bears Mountaineering Club  
Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club  
Bandon Walking Club  
Bank of Ireland Hill Walking Club  
Beanna Beola Hillwalking Club  
Belfast Association of Rockclimbers and Fellrunners  
Bandon Walking Club  
Belturbet Walks & Heritage Group  
Bishopstown Orienteering and Hillwalking Club  
Blackrock Hillwalking Club  
Blackstairs Ramblers  
Blarney Walking Group  
Blayney Ramblers  
Bogtrotters Hill Walking Club  
Bootleggers  
Boyle Curlew Hillwalking Club  
Burren Walking Club  
Cahiriveen Outdoor Club  
Carran Walking Club  
CIÉ Hillwalkers  
CIT Mountaineering Club  
Clare Outdoor Club  
Clonakilty Walking Club  
Clondalkin Hillwalking Club  
Clooney Quinn Hillwalking Club  
Club Cualann  
Club Siúlóide Chonamara Theas  
Cobh Hillwalking Club  
Coconuts  
Colmcille Climbers  
Comeragh Mountaineering Club  
Co-op Climbing Club  
Cork Backpackers Club  
Cork Mountaineering Club  
Crannagh Ramblers  
Croom Abu  
Crossbridge Walking Club  
Crows Hillwalkers  
Cumann Siúl Cois Coiribe  
Cumann Sléibhteoireachta - Annascaul Walkers  
Cumann Sléibhteoireachta Chorca  
Dhuibhne - Dingle Hillwalking Club  
Dal Riada Climbing Club  
DCU Rockclimbing Club  
Defence Forces Association of Mountaineers  
DIT Mountaineering Club  
Dublin Phoenix Nordic Walking Club  
Dublin University Climbing Club  
Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team  
Dungarvan Walking Club  
Dunmanway Walking Club  
Dunsany Walking Club  
Eagle Ramblers Walking Club  
ESB Hillwalking Club  
Ferrard Ramblers Club  
Fineos Hillwalking Club  
Fitzramblers  
Foyle Hillwalking and Rambling Club  
Foyle Trekkers  
Foxford Ramblers  
Galtee Walking Club  
Galway Walking Club  
Garda Mountaineering & Canoeing Club  
Glenwalk  
GMIT Mountaineering Club  
Goya Gang  
Grey Lake Ramblers  
GWATS Walking Club  
Hanging Rockers  
Imaal Walkers  
Irish Mountaineering Club  
Institution Mountaineering Club

Irish Christian Hillwalking Club  
Irish Geological Association  
Irish Quaternary Association IQUA  
Kenmare Walking Club  
Kerry Garda Hillwalking Club  
Kilchreest Ramblers Walking Club  
Killarney Mountaineering Club  
Kilmacthomas Walkers  
Kilronan Ramblers  
Kinsale College Mountaineering Club  
Knockadosan Dozen Hill Walkers Club  
Laune Mountaineering Club  
Letterkenny IT Hillwalking Society  
Limerick Climbing Club  
Lung Gumpas  
Marley Hillwalkers  
Maumturks Walking Club  
Maynooth Hillwalking Club  
Mid-Tipperary Hillwalkers  
Midleton Hillwalking Club  
Midleton Climbing Club  
Mountain Meitheal  
Muintir Na Sléibhte  
Na Cnocadóirí  
Na Coisithe  
Navan Trekkers  
Nire Valley Bogtrotters  
North West Mayo Hillwalkers  
Northern Ireland Youth Climbing Team  
NUI Galway Mountaineering Club  
North West Mountaineering Club  
Out & About  
Out & About NI  
Over the Edge Hillwalking Club  
Ox Mountain Ramblers  
Oyster Walking Club  
Peaks Mountaineering Club  
Queens University Mountaineering Club  
Rainbow Hill Walking Club  
Rathgormack Climbing Club  
Rathgormack Ramblers  
Rosway Walkers  
Savage Craic Climbing Club  
Shanganagh Ramblers  
Shelmaliere Walking Club  
Siúl Walking Club  
Skibbereen Walking Group  
Sléibhteoiri Óga Chairrai  
Sliabh Ban Ramblers  
Sliabh Luachra Hillwalking Club  
Sligo Mountaineering Club  
Sligo Walking Club  
Spartan Red Sox Walking Club  
Sperrins Hillwalking Club  
St. Kevin's College, Dublin  
Strabane Hillwalking & Rambling Club  
The Arch  
The Bushcraft Club  
The Team Project  
The Wayfarers  
Tralee Mountaineering Club  
Tredagh Trekkers  
Trekkers Mountaineering Club  
Tullow Mountaineering Club  
Tyndall Mountaineering Club  
UCC Mountaineering Club  
UCD Mountaineering Club  
University of Ulster Jordanstown  
Mountaineering Club  
Westport Hillwalking and Mountaineering Club  
West Wicklow Walkers  
Wexford Hillwalking Club  
Winders Climbing Club  
Woolgreen

E&OE



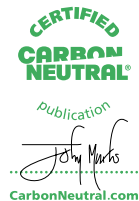
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