



ANNUAL REVIEW 2018

Working for
and representing
hillwalkers and
climbers

www.mountaineering.ie

Staff (as of December 2018) Irish Sport HQ, National Sports Campus, Dublin 15

Murrough McDonagh, Chief Executive Officer

Telephone 00 353 (0)1 625 1115

murrough@mountaineering.ie

Siobhan Quinn, Administration Officer

Telephone 00 353 (0)1 625 1115

info@mountaineering.ie

Ruth Whelan, Membership Development Officer

Telephone 00 353 (0)1 625 1196

ruth@mountaineering.ie

Helen Lawless, Hillwalking, Access & Conservation Officer

Telephone 00 353 (0)1 625 1115

helen@mountaineering.ie

Jane Carney, Training Officer

Telephone 00 353 (0)1 625 1112

jane@mountaineering.ie

Damien O Sullivan, Climbing Officer

Telephone 00 353 (0)1 625 1117

damien@mountaineering.ie

Kevin Kilroy, Youth Development Officer for Northern Ireland

Telephone 0044 (0) 28 4372 5354

kevin@mountaineering.ie

Natasza Berlowska, Get Climbing Project Co-ordinator

Telephone 00 353 (0)87 7555908

natasza@mountaineering.ie

Mark Tallon, Accounts Officer

Telephone 00 353 (0)1 625 1115

accounts@mountaineering.ie

Jason King, Programme Manager (Get Ireland Walking)

Telephone 00 353 (0)1 625 1109

jason@getirelandwalking.ie

Emer O'Leary, Project Coordinator –

Men's Shed Project (Get Ireland Walking)

Telephone 00 353 (0)1 625 1109

emer@getirelandwalking.ie

Sarah Rossiter, Administration Officer (Get Ireland Walking)

Telephone 00 353 (0)1 625 1109

sarah@getirelandwalking.ie

Mountaineering Ireland Board and Sub Committees

Mountaineering Ireland Board 2018

Paul Kellagher, **President**

Paul Barron, **Chairperson**

Imelda Buckley (appointed 24/03/2018)

Helen Donoghue (appointed 24/03/2018)

Nicky Hore, **Honorary Treasurer** (resigned 24/03/2018)

Francis Hackett (resigned 24/03/2018)

Trish Kane (appointed 24/03/2018)

Ursula MacPherson (resigned 24/03/2018)

Colette Mahon (appointed 24/03/2018)

Michael Maunsell

Gráinne McLaughlin (appointed 24/03/2018)

Ross Millar (resigned 24/03/2018)

Clare O'Connor

Patrick O'Sullivan (resigned 24/03/2018)

Irene Sorohan

Dawson Stelfox

Geoff Thomas (appointed 24/03/2018)

Shay Walsh (resigned 24/03/2018)

Simon Walsh

Access and Conservation Committee Members 2018

Helen Donoghue (Chairperson from 25/03/2018)

Jack Bergin

Michael Maunsell

Vincent Mc Alinden

Máire Ní Mhurchú (resigned 25/04/2018)

Orla Prendergast

Helen Lawless, **Secretary**

Climbing Committee Members 2018

Simon Walsh, **Chairperson**

Ricky Bell

Angela Carlin

John Harrison

John Healy

Clare Sheridan

Peter Wood

Damien O Sullivan, **Secretary**

Mountain Training Board Ireland Members 2018

Dawson Stelfox, **Chairperson**

Kevin O'Callaghan, **Vice Chairperson**

David Batt

Stephen Creber

Maeliosa De Buitlear

Colin Gibbon

Lorcan McDonnell

Joe McKnight

Alan Mordaunt

Kate Thompson

Kieran O'Hara (Technical Advisor/Observer)

John Cousins (Observer)

Jane Carney, **Secretary**

Laura Griffin, **Administration Support**

Hillwalking Working Group (April – November 2018)

Gráinne McLaughlin, **Chairperson**

Trish Kane, **Vice Chairperson**

Paul Cherry

Aine McGirl

Russell Mills

Declan Murphy

Christian Schaffalitzky

William Smith

Margaret Tees

Helen Lawless, **Hillwalking Access & Conservation Officer**

Ruth Whelan, **Membership Development Officer**



Mountaineering Ireland Limited is a Company Limited by Guarantee.

Registered in Dublin No 199053.

Registered Office: Irish Sport HQ, National Sports Campus,
Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, Ireland.

Contents

CEO's Address	2
President's Address	3
Hillwalking, Access and Protecting the Mountain Environment	4
Climbing	8
Training and Skills	10
Youth Development Programme Northern Ireland and Get Climbing	12
Membership Development and Support	14
Get Ireland Walking	16
External Representation and List of Affiliated Clubs	17





Mountaineering Ireland Annual Review 2018

Mountaineering Ireland saw many positive developments during 2018, all aimed at supporting and increasing capacity for our core membership of hillwalkers and climbers. As we continue to expand our reach, we also ensured that our governance and best practice, supported by the Board, continued to be advanced in areas concerning the Governance Code, financial management processes and delivering all aspects of our legal requirements on child protection and safeguarding.

2018 presented many challenges regarding meeting all Mountaineering Ireland's objectives within the framework of the resources available, primarily human and financial. Notwithstanding these challenges, we provided a full range of services to our membership and increased capacity in some programmes.

2018 saw a slight movement on staff, in April, Grainne O'Brien moved on from the Get Climbing initiative to spend more time with her young family. In late December, both Emer O'Leary and Sarah Rossiter moved on from Get Ireland Walking into full-time roles within the HSE and Department of Justice respectively. I wish all three the very best in their future careers and would like to thank them for their contribution during their time with us. Damien O Sullivan moved from the Talent Development Officer role into a new position of Climbing Officer, Laura Griffin joined the team as the new Training Administration Officer, Natasza Berlowska joined Get Climbing as the Project Co-ordinator and Gerry O'Gorman came on board as our new volunteer National Children's Officer.

We saw some notable advances during 2018: the establishment of the Hillwalking Working Group; the formation of the Finance, Audit & Risk Committee and our affiliation to the Olympic Federation of Ireland. A major project which became operational in January was the establishment of the Mountain Training Board Ireland (MTBI). This saw the fruits of many years work, since March 2014 right up to the start of 2018 to merge Mountain Training NI (MTNI) and BOS to a single Training Board representing the island of Ireland. As a new Training Board, MTBI has had a successful transitional year and I wish the committee members continued success in the future. All these projects commenced during the year are extremely significant.

I was pleased to see some great achievements from our athletes at domestic and national level representing Ireland. Much credit must go to the sport climbing squads, their coaches

and support staff plus the club coaches and parents driving this sport forward at grass-roots level. Combined with the excellent facilities used in partnership with the commercial walls, we are clearly seeing the benefits of this highly dedicated group of people. I would like to pay a special tribute to Terry O'Connor, Mountaineering Ireland Head Coach since 2014, who stepped down from this role in late 2018. Terry provided many years of excellent service to Mountaineering Ireland in a coaching capacity long before becoming Head Coach and he will no doubt continue to support us. I wish Terry all the very best in the future.

We also saw a number of Board members step down at the AGM, all of whom I had built a strong personal relationship with. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each of them, for their support, time and guidance since I joined the organisation; Nicky Hore, Ursula MacPherson, Francis Hackett, Ross Millar, Shay Walsh and Patrick O'Sullivan.

Our new Strategic Plan was launched by the Board in mid-year, which provides a roadmap for the organisation to follow until 2021. Throughout 2018, we continued to build strong relationships with our core funders and partners in Sport Ireland, Department of Health, Healthy Ireland and Sport NI. These funding streams are channelled towards achieving our strategic goals and to developing improved collaborations with our partners to ensure we meet our objectives.

In summary, I would like to acknowledge my heartfelt gratitude to all our volunteers who are at the heartbeat of all things we achieve, to our dedicated and professional staff team, to our tremendous sub-committees and Board of Directors, who all combined to deliver an effort far greater than the sum of its parts. It's a pleasure to serve you and thank you for all the support.

Murrough McDonagh
Chief Executive Officer

“ 2018 presented many challenges regarding meeting all our objectives within the framework of the resources available, primarily human and financial. Notwithstanding these challenges, we provided a full range of services to our membership and increased capacity in some programmes. ”

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

Our mountains are places that we all love and cherish. As the national representative body for hillwalkers and climbers, 2018 has seen Mountaineering Ireland produce our new Strategic Plan 2018-2021. This plan followed a period of consultation around the country in face-to-face meetings and through online feedback from our members. This plan sets out our Purpose, Vision, Values and five Strategic pillars for the years ahead.

During our consultation many of our members emphasised the importance of continued access to Ireland's mountains. Without this access, hillwalking and climbing become impossible. Continued free access to our mountains is at the heart of what we do. 2018 has brought further challenges to the landscapes we enjoy. Whilst the recent issues with the planned sale of Luggala Estate brings the fragility of access into sharp focus, there are a myriad of other challenges across the country. Helen Lawless, our Hillwalking, Access and Conservation Officer continues to work closely with local clubs and communities, councils, central government and other key stakeholders. But access also comes with responsibility. Increasing footfall on Ireland's mountains, trampling and path erosion are ever more evident. It is a challenge that will not go away and one that will require a coordinated response. There are however some positive examples of this being addressed with progress at Errigal and successful pilot work on Croagh Patrick.

2018 also saw the successful first full year of operation for the new Mountain Training Board Ireland. This is the fruition of several years of work and commitment by Jane Carney, our Training Officer. The new structures will allow the sharing of knowledge and experience across the island of Ireland to the benefit of candidates on our training schemes. We are fortunate to have a training board operating as part of Mountaineering Ireland. The other training boards in England, Wales and Scotland, although operating in close cooperation with our counterparts the BMC and Mountaineering Scotland operate as separate entities.

Staff member Damien O Sullivan has now transitioned roles from Talent to Climbing Development. The rapidly growing popularity of this aspect of our sport is evidenced through attendance at three very popular climbing gatherings, Climbfest, the Fair Head and Burren Meets. The increasing number of climbing walls and climbers using the now excellent facilities presents opportunities for engaging a whole new generation of participants.

I wish to express our sincere thanks to Sport Ireland and Sport NI for their continued financial support for our work.

The past year also seen the formation of a Hillwalking Working Group following a motion to our AGM by a member club. This group has now concluded its work and its recommendation to the Mountaineering Ireland Board to form a Hillwalking Committee is now underway.

Behind the Scenes Murrough McDonagh our Chief Executive Officer, Siobhan Quinn (Administration Officer), Ruth Whelan (Membership Development Officer), Laura Griffin (Training Administrator Officer), Kevin Kilroy (Youth Development Officer NI), Natasza Berlowska in Get Climbing and Jason King, Emer O'Leary and Sarah Rossiter (Get Ireland Walking Team), continue to provide services on a daily basis to our members and organise important events such as our Spring and Autumn Gatherings to name but a few. I would like to thank all the staff team for their continued dedication.

I also feel it's extremely important to acknowledge that, behind the scenes of all the work Mountaineering Ireland achieves, much of our work is supported by a small army of volunteers. These volunteers make up the Board of Mountaineering Ireland, our sub-committees: Access and Conservation; Mountain Training Board Ireland; Finance, Audit and Risk; Climbing Committee and the Hillwalking Working Group. At a club level the often-unsung heroes of club Secretaries, Chairpersons and walk leaders provide so much to our everyday experience as mountaineers and deserve our thanks.

I look forward to meeting many of you on the hills in the year ahead.

Paul Kellagher
President



“Increasing footfall on Ireland's mountains, trampling and path erosion are ever more evident. It is a challenge that will not go away and one that will require a coordinated response.”



Hillwalking, Access and Protecting the Mountain Environment

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

- To strive for improved and assured access for responsible hillwalkers and climbers.
- To be a voice for the protection of mountain landscapes.

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.

The mountain, crag or coastal environment and access to these places are fundamental to continued hillwalking and climbing, and to the quality of the experiences we enjoy.

Improving Access

Mountaineering Ireland actively works to improve and secure reasonable access for responsible hillwalkers and climbers. Mountaineering Ireland acknowledges and appreciates that in the majority of hill and coastal locations public enjoyment of privately-owned land is available, mainly due to the goodwill and tolerance of the landowners rather than access being based on any formal arrangement. Increasing participation in outdoor recreation activities, whilst on many levels a very positive development, is exerting greater pressure on this largely unmanaged situation. Examples include gateways blocked by parked cars, reduced privacy for local residents, and the visible impact of increased footfall on our fragile upland environment.

Mountain Access Project

Although access in Ireland is within the remit of Comhairle na Tuaithe, a 2016 review of Comhairle identified a lack of coordination in the wider outdoor recreation sector. Proposals from Minister Michael Ring TD for a new National Countryside Recreation Council to replace Comhairle na Tuaithe were presented in May 2018, however there has been no further progress since.

Comhairle na Tuaithe's pilot Mountain Access Project, first proposed in 2009, includes measures to manage recreational activity, so as to alleviate



inconvenience for landowners and local residents, while at the same time giving certainty of access for recreational users in upland areas. Based on a voluntary agreement with landowners in a defined area, the project is being trialled in two areas, Binn Shléibhe near Clonbur, Co. Galway and the MacGillycuddy Reeks in Co. Kerry. In 2018 Mountaineering Ireland stepped up its pressure on the Department of Rural and Community Development to advance this project, in particular to complete a long-promised indemnity arrangement for landowners in Mountain Access Areas.

A study visit to the MacGillycuddy Reeks in August, and a meeting with representatives of the Reeks Forum, confirmed that this model of agreed access can work, but that it requires sustained resources for path repair work and other activities. In October Mountaineering Ireland's Autumn Gathering in Clonbur opened with a panel discussion on the role that outdoor recreation can play in the future sustainability of rural areas. Local TDs, Minister Seán Kyne and Éamon Ó Cuiv participated in a lively discussion chaired by journalist Lorna Siggins and attended by approximately 100 people. There was agreement amongst the panellists that clearer access arrangements can be good for rural areas, but that landowners must be indemnified.

Luggala Estate

Early in July the erection of 'Private Property' signage at Luggala Estate in Co. Wicklow brought the vulnerability of recreational access in Ireland into public focus. Awareness spread that the proposed sale of this iconic property could result in a change to the long tradition of public access on the estate's mountain lands. Mountaineering Ireland initiated a campaign urging the Minister for Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, Josepha Madigan TD to purchase the mountain lands of Luggala Estate (which include the mountains of Luggala and Knochacloghoge, the cliffs at Luggala and the popular route from the Pier Gates down to Lough Dan).



While clearly purchase by the State cannot be the solution to every situation where access is under threat, Luggala is at the heart of the Wicklow Mountains and surrounded on three sides by Wicklow Mountains National Park. In November Minister Madigan met with Mountaineering Ireland and other organisations concerned about the future of Luggala, and confirmed that her Department was in active discussions about the possible purchase of the mountain lands at Luggala as part of Wicklow Mountains National Park.

Northern Ireland

A 2017 review of Northern Ireland's existing access legislation prompted fresh thinking on the type of legislative framework required to support the continued development of Northern Ireland's outdoor recreation sector. In response to the review, Mountaineering Ireland contributed to a proposal from the National Outdoor Recreation Forum for the development of an Outdoor Recreation Bill for Northern Ireland.

The proposal was based on providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities for this and future generations, in a way that achieves a balance between the common good, the rights of landowners and protection of the natural environment.

In September 2018, Mountaineering Ireland made a second written submission highlighting the value and potential of the proposed Outdoor Recreation Bill.

Early in 2018 Mountaineering Ireland, in cooperation with the Ulster Federation of Rambling Clubs, facilitated a series of meetings with local hillwalking clubs that are regularly active in the Sperrins. This engagement culminated in a Walking in the Sperrins event in May where club representatives made presentations to officers from local councils and relevant agencies, highlighting the positives and opportunities for Walking in the Sperrins and emphasising the need for an active management plan for the Sperrins Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Recreational access in Ireland, north and south, is an evolving situation and Mountaineering Ireland is an active player in discussions at national level. We are strengthened in these discussions by knowledge of local issues and by solutions being found at local level. Local and national action must continue to support each other as we actively consider options for managing recreational activity and securing access for the decades ahead.



Mountain Environment

During 2018 Mountaineering Ireland continued to work towards its vision that Ireland's mountain landscapes will be valued and protected as environmental, cultural and recreational assets.

Helping the Hills

With increasing footfall on Ireland's mountains, trampling and path erosion are ever more evident. This is a concern for Mountaineering Ireland members, both in terms of damage to the mountain environment and in how erosion detracts from the quality of our recreation experiences.

Mountaineering Ireland started the Helping the Hills initiative in 2012 to raise awareness of upland path erosion and to highlight the need for skills and investment in this area. The Helping the Hills Guiding Principles, agreed in 2014, set out a consistent, quality approach to addressing upland path erosion (see www.helpingthehills.ie). Mountaineering Ireland's work in this area continued throughout 2018, mainly through involvement in projects at local level.

ASCENT Project - For the last four years, Donegal County Council has led the EU-funded ASCENT Project, which involves partners from five countries (including Northern Ireland) working together to address the management of increased visitor numbers on fragile natural environments. Mountaineering is part of the Errigal Stakeholders Group which in 2018 worked with the ASCENT team in Donegal County Council to procure and agree detailed specifications for habitat restoration and a sustainable path from the car park to the summit of Errigal.

Slieve Gullion and Slieve Donard are also ASCENT sites, through Newry, Mourne & Down District Council. Input was provided in November to path work proposed for Slieve Donard.

Croagh Patrick - Over the last year, the Croagh Patrick Stakeholders Group, which Mountaineering Ireland is also a member of, progressed its work towards repair and long-term management of the Pilgrim Route on Croagh Patrick. Trial path work was carried out in October to establish if the methodology proposed for the repaired path would work using the small blocks of stone found on the mountain. With the trial work evaluated and deemed to be successful, the next steps for the Croagh Patrick project are to complete an ecological report, obtain planning approval through a Part 8 procedure in partnership with Mayo County Council, secure funding and then proceed to implementation.

Upland management

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 resources.**

Ireland's mountains 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. Delivery of these benefits is a matter of delicate balance - farming practices, land use choices, recreational use - all have consequences for mountain environments.



Through written submissions, and engagement with other organisations that share a concern for upland areas, Mountaineering Ireland seeks policy measures focused on protecting upland landscapes, maintaining communities and rewarding sustainable farming practices.

A number of Mountaineering Ireland delegates participated in an Irish Uplands Forum conference in Mayo in October, on the theme of innovation and partnership in the uplands. The event focused on the potential of European Innovation Partnerships or EIPs (new agri-environmental schemes to benefit habitats and species in specific upland areas), the networking of locally-based groups under the umbrella of the newly established Uplands Partnership Management Board, and the value to society of upland ecosystem services.

The Uplands Partnership Management Board, which is supported by the Heritage Council and on which Mountaineering Ireland has a seat, provided funding in 2018 for study visits by upland partnership groups to other upland areas. Of the 13 trips completed, most focused on the management of recreation and also learning about the EIP model.

Visitor Safety

Mountaineering Ireland is a member of the Visitor Safety in the Countryside Group a UK and Ireland-wide network bringing together organisations with a role in visitor risk management. The VCSG guiding 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.





Empowering Members

Respect for the wonderful, but fragile environment enjoyed by hillwalkers and climbers, and being a positive voice for its protection, is one of Mountaineering Ireland's core values. Mountaineering Ireland actively promotes responsible recreation through social media, articles in the Irish Mountain Log, presentations to clubs and environmental awareness events.

Mountaineering Ireland's undertook a range of activities in 2018 to help expand the community of people passionate about Ireland's mountain, crag and coastal environment, and to empower more members to take action to protect these special places.

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 receiving this information, please get in touch.



Environmental awareness

Mountaineering Ireland hosted a weekend celebration of Ireland's mountain environment on Achill Island in May. The event, which was delivered in conjunction with GMIT Mayo, included two beautiful days of exploration and learning on Croaghnaun and Slievemore as well as indoor talks.

Mountaineering Ireland also held environmental walks in the Galtees and in Clonbur area during Mountaineering Ireland Gatherings, and a Love Your Landscape geodiversity walk in the Mournes.

Think Tank

In December Mountaineering Ireland's Access and Conservation Committee held a one-day Think Tank to consider Mountaineering Ireland's position and action plan in relation to access, outdoor recreation policy and the future of Ireland's mountains. The attendance of 17 people included members from 12 different counties, many of whom represent Mountaineering Ireland on other organisations, or who have different backgrounds in our sport. Arising from this event a Mountaineering Ireland Access & Conservation Network is to be established.



Representatives 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. This is achieved through the volunteers that represent Mountaineering Ireland on a variety of groups around the island. Mountaineering Ireland thanks these representatives, and all 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, in the Irish Mountain Log and on Facebook.



“The exceptional summer weather allowed climbers to get out on rock far more frequently than other years. That fine weather also encouraged climbers onto more committing faces with several new routes being established in remote locations.”

Climbing

Mountaineering Ireland’s new strategic plan aims to develop climbing by: strengthening climbing clubs, promoting adventure, personal responsibility and respect for the environment, supporting indoor climbing, developing competition climbing, encouraging youth participation and providing more inclusive participation opportunities.

The transition of job roles from Talent Development Officer to Climbing Officer for staff member, Damien O’Sullivan will allow Mountaineering Ireland to have a broader reach in the climbing community and an increase in activities in areas not related to talent development.

Climbing Participation

The exceptional summer weather allowed climbers to get out on rock far more frequently than other years. That fine weather also encouraged climbers onto more committing faces with several new routes being established in remote locations.

The three Climbing Meets: Climbfest; Fair Head and the Burren meet attracted good numbers of climbers from home and abroad. Each Meet has its own flavour and serves to attract a slightly different group of climbers but share the essential element of climbing being a social activity.

Spearheaded by Mike McClure of Sport Northern Ireland, the development of Altnadue Quarry provides an excellent example of a user-friendly sport climbing venue. The quarry proved to be extremely popular with climbers with a recorded 11,730 visits since its opening in May.

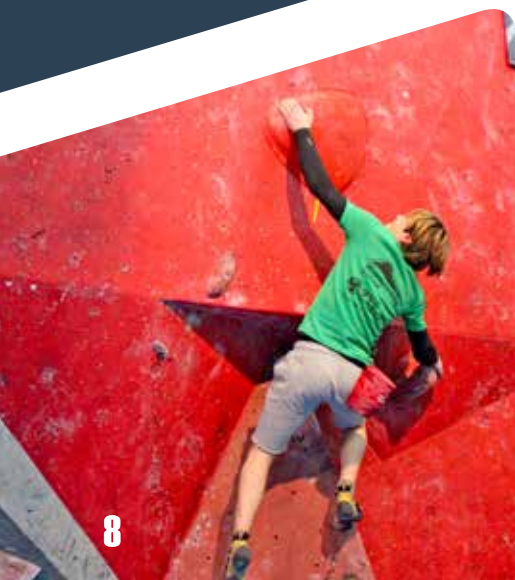
Indoor climbing continues to grow in popularity and provision. Mountaineering Ireland recognises the importance of indoor climbing walls and is assisting with coach education, and route-setting training.

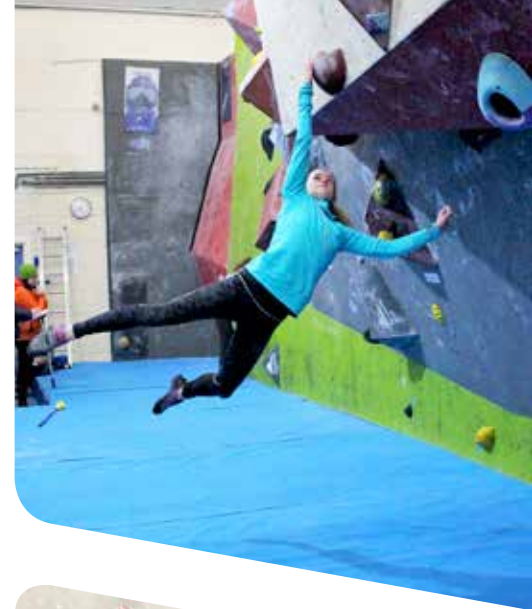
Youth Development

The Climbing Development Squad provides young climbers with opportunity to improve their climbing skills and performance in a structured and supportive environment under the guidance of a climbing coach. The squad meets six times per year, with three sessions in the spring and three in the autumn.

Climbing Competitions

The Youth Climbing Series took in three rounds, beginning in Awesome Walls Dublin on the 20th of January, then moving to Awesome Walls Cork on the 10th of February, before taking in the third round at the Dublin Climbing Centre on the 10th of March. Following the three rounds in Ireland the top three competitors in each of the categories qualified to compete in the Grand Final. This competition took place at the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena in Scotland on the 28th of April. The highlight of this competition in terms of results was found in the Male Youth D category with Sean Henchion, Daire Oglesby and Matthew Murray taking 1st, 3rd and 5th respectively.





The Irish Bouldering Championship took place at the Gravity Climbing Centre on the 3rd and 4th of February. Climbers in Youth A, Youth B and Youth C competed on Saturday, with all competitors completing a qualifying round of eight boulder problems. The top five climbers in each category progressed to a final round of four problems. The standard of performance of the young climbers across all categories continues to develop and impress. The senior climbers took their turn on the Sunday with strong fields in both the male and female categories. The senior climbers competed over three rounds; a qualification round, a semi-final and a final round. Again, the standard of performances was impressive, particularly in the final round when the very best climbers were pitted against some daunting boulder problems.

The Irish Lead Climbing Championship took place at Awesome Walls Dublin on the 20th and 21st of October. The youth climbers competed on Saturday. All competitors attempted two qualifying routes, with the top six moving to a more challenging semi-final route, and then the top three competing for the podium positions on a final route. The following day the senior climbers took their turn following the same format as the youth climbers. Despite a low number of entries in the senior categories the standard of climbing was very impressive.



Olympic Recognition

Because of climbing's inclusion in the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games Mountaineering Ireland has become a member of the Olympic Federation of Ireland. At the Olympic Federation of Ireland's AGM in June.

Youth Climbing Team

Under the guidance of Terry O'Connor, the Youth Climbing Team prepared to compete in rounds of the European Youth Cup in bouldering in Portugal, the Netherlands and Bulgaria. The team also competed in the European Youth Championship in bouldering in Belgium. The most notable performance for the team came early in the season when Michael O'Neil qualified into the final at the Portuguese round of the European Youth Cup.

Terry O'Connor decided to step down from the role of Youth Climbing Team Coach at the end of the 2018 competition season. Terry's coaching experience and knowledge helped the members of the Youth Climbing Team increase their personal performances beyond what many of them would have thought possible. Rob Hunter has taken on the role and will work with the Youth Climbing Team for the foreseeable future.



UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup

Eimir McSwiggan competed at the UIAA Ice Climbing World Cup finishing in 7th place in the overall World rankings, her best results being placed 5th at both the Korean and Italian rounds and stepping onto the podium in 3rd place at the Chinese round.



Training and Skills



Mountaineering Ireland's strategic objective is to promote mountain training and skills development.

- To realise the potential of the new Mountain Training Board Ireland (MTBI)
- To promote a range of courses, awards and training pathways and to support informal training to meet the needs of hillwalkers and climbers
- To support our training providers in ensuring training awards and courses offered are of the highest standard
- To be a reliable source of advice and information in relation to safety and good practice in mountaineering

Mountain Training Board Ireland

MTBI is fully operational and has completed its first year successfully. With the launch of the new Mountaineering Ireland Strategic Plan for 2018-2021 in June, enthusiasm remains high, despite the huge amount of work to be carried out.

In 2018 Mountain Training Board Ireland continued to administer quality assured internationally recognised mountain training awards and schemes, delivered by qualified and experienced trainers who underwent regular moderation and met CPD requirements. The Training Office provides an annual suite of member offerings; national and international meets; multi-discipline

skills workshops; club training officer workshops and regional meetings; mentoring opportunities and award scheme provision. MTBI are in a unique position providing and developing both formal and informal training and by consulting with stakeholders to review current provision and determine the way forward. We promote self-reliance, inspire participation and adventure through skills development, thus facilitating enjoyment and safety.

Training for Clubs

Regional Training Officer meetings and workshops, targeted in-club training by bringing clubs together to share ideas, inspire training and promote development within clubs. Thank you to the numerous volunteers involved.

Training grant funding doubled in 2018. This prompted more applications, lead to more training provision and an improved training ethos within clubs. It also helped to allay some of the fears associated with formal or informal training and assessment. The successful role models that emerged serve to inspire others to follow.



Mid-year the regional meetings extended to encompass all club officers and were duly supported by staff officers of membership development, access and conservation and mountain training. These joint events for members and staff, created invaluable opportunities for face to face communication and collective information sharing.

Skills Series & Training Resources

Online resources increased, as did member engagement with the; skills videos, presentations, library and training literature. They can be found on mountaineering.ie in the training downloads section and are of beneficial to; clubs, individuals, candidates and providers.

Training Providers

An increase in training providers covering the island of Ireland, has increased provision and diversity of courses. Providers have been updated and inducted in the revised climbing awards. Provision of the popular Lowland Leader Award grew, as did the number of candidates.

Annual Providers Workshops support high training standards and are delivered by the Training Officer. The benefits of gathering providers together are many and allow for: updates; sharing of learnings; development of skills



“ The Training Office provides an annual suite of member offerings; national and international meets; multi-discipline skills workshops; club training officer workshops and regional meetings; mentoring opportunities and award scheme provision. ”

Links with other Organisations

Mountain Training

The DLOG system, which runs in parallel to the Mountain Training UK Candidate Management System, continued to evolve and increase functionality for our organisation. Communication between the two systems allows for transparency within the home nation's training boards and transferability for candidates of UK & Ireland shared awards.

Mountaineering Ireland and Mountain Training Board Ireland continued as full voting members of Mountain Training UK. The Mountain Training Climbing Awards Review implementation phase saw the launch of three revised climbing awards and the completion of the new Rock Skills Scheme and new Indoor Climbing Assistant Award, ready for launch in January 2019. The collaborative work between all the training boards across the UK and Ireland has maintained the consistent momentum essential to develop the existing awards and add new schemes and awards to the suite of shared awards.

and techniques; discussion of syllabi, teaching and instruction methods and induction for revised awards. Continued professional development (CPD) events are essential to not only meet association and training board requirements, but also to feed the desire for knowledge and to appeal to the enquiring mind. Examples of CPD events are:

- Annual Providers Workshop
- Skills Workshops
- Environmental Workshops
- Mountaineering Instructor Award Workshop

Digital Log Facility

In 2018 the Digital Log (DLOG) saw further development and was under an initial review of its ability to meet organisational requirements. DLOG is a logbook facility where; routes, climbs, walks, scrambles, images and more can be recorded and shared, with friends, employers, trainers and assessors. The online course reporting facility records all award and scheme training records. Mountain Skills registration was introduced in 2018 and over 800 participants successfully registered. Online registration permits Mountaineering Ireland to store candidates' training and assessment records.

Sport Ireland Coaching

Mountaineering Ireland has four awards on the Sport Ireland Coaching Adventure Sports Framework and one Award on the Sport Ireland Coaching Framework.

Work continued throughout 2018 to improve the reporting system between the two organisations. The work of the peer review panel, tasked with reviewing new awards continues, as does that of the adventure sports framework working group, with a key focus on the development of training for Instructor and Leader developers.

Women with Altitude

Women with Altitude's aim is to "Realise your Potential", manifested in the 2018 event based in the Glendalough Hotel, Laragh. This accessible location gave access to climbing, scrambling and walking terrain. Women with Altitude continued to develop and strove to promote participation and support leadership amongst female mountaineers. Funded by Sport Ireland's Women in Sport Programme, is designed to support skills development, encourage independent adventure and offer mentoring opportunities for women.

Registrations	2015	2016	2017	2018
Award				
Mountain Leader Award	94	98	76	124
Hill & Moorland Leader	2	2	6	20
Lowland Leader Award	45	88	77	71
Expedition Module	-	-	48	71
Rock Climbing Instructor (Single Pitch Award)	69	122	142	116
Multi Pitch Award	7	3	2	10
Climbing Wall Award	28	34	53	77
Climbing Wall Leading Award	6	7	2	36
Level 1 Climbing Coach	9	18	2	23
Mountain Skills Participation	1236	1187	1089	1120
Total	1496	1559	1497	1668
Fundamentals	112	73	90	192

Youth Development Programme Northern Ireland and Get Climbing

Get Climbing

Launched in May 2017, this project has been funded by Sport Ireland through the Dormant Accounts Funding initiative and aims to introduce young people from disadvantaged communities to indoor and outdoor climbing. There have been 148 participants, who took part in climbing sessions during the second phase of the programme, mainly coming from Tallaght and Finglas. Apart from indoor lessons, a few of the groups had a chance to taste outdoor climbing in Dalkey Quarry and those who remained the most engaged were rewarded with coaching lessons to improve their skills. After both phases of the project there was forty-five participants who continued their climbing straight after their sessions had finished. Mountaineering Ireland supports those young people not only by subsidising wall entry cost but also by constant communication with their local youth service providers, which is important for the project becoming more independent in the future.

Youth Development Programme Northern Ireland

Now in its second year, the aim of this programme is to support and develop six sustainable volunteer-led youth climbing clubs in Northern Ireland by 2021. Kevin Kilroy (Youth Development Officer NI) delivers this programme, based out of Tollymore National Outdoor centre in Co. Down.

Mourne Youth Climbing Club

In 2018, the first Mourne Youth Climbing Club committee was formed and during the year, the committee worked towards gaining affiliation to Mountaineering Ireland. The committee also registered with Sport NI's ClubMark – Northern Ireland's quality standard for sports clubs.

Further developments were made to the club's training facilities in Hotrock Wall and Tollymore's Training Room, which saw regular routes being re-set.

In 2018, the club hosted its first Mourne Youth Trad Fest, a volunteer-led initiative to unite experienced local Mourne trad climbers with young climbers from all around Ireland. 10 volunteers and 10 young climbers participated. On the same weekend, many younger club members attended an instructor-led day at the recently redeveloped Altnadue Quarry alongside their parents.

The Friday Night Club sessions sustained their popularity to bring Hotrock and the Training Room to maximum capacity most weeks. Recently a new committee has been elected, comprising of many parents of club members and local climbing coaches.

Gilford Youth Climbing Club

Gilford Youth Climbing Club was formed in the summer of 2018 and has gone from strength to strength thanks to the enthusiasm and dedication brought to the club by a committee of local parents.

Following from a FUNDamentals of Climbing Workshop, club parents have embarked upon a journey to learn the skills of traditional climbing, so that they can share and experience the delights of rock climbing with their children.

North West Youth Climbing Team

Three additional route setters from the North West attended formal route setting training to continue to support club activity at the Foyle Arena, which continues to see a healthy turnover of new fun and challenging climbs for club members. The club continues to meet at their amazing local facility in the Foyle Arena.

Hanging Rockers Youth Climbing Club

During 2018 more parents took on club committee roles and engaged with training opportunities to become independent sport climbers. This journey culminated in the club's first trip abroad to the limestone sport climbing mecca of El Chorro in southern Spain. Parent members from as far as Sligo and Cavan travelled to Altnadue Quarry to hone their sport climbing skills alongside their children prior to their trip, under the guidance of qualified club volunteers and Mountaineering Ireland instructors.

The club wall was re-set, and instruction support offered at their annual Malin Beg and Tollymore trips.

The club has also seen an increase in adult members taking up and coming back to the sport.





North Coast Integrated College Community Climbers (NICCCC)

The NICCCC based in Coleraine, joined Mountaineering Ireland as an affiliated club after engagement with several events and training courses. One such event was the Murlough Bay Bouldering Day which was organised by the club and young local climbers experienced the delights of bouldering in this idyllic setting with the impressive cliff of Fair Head in the background.

Training opportunities were offered to club volunteers and many had their first taste of multi-pitch climbing at Fair Head and the club's wall was also re-set.

Ganaway Youth Climbing Club

Club activity has restarted at Ganaway Activity Centre, following a full re-set of the climbing wall and an open night for families, several parents and coaches have come together to form a new youth climbing club committee.

Club Supports

Outdoor Learning Symposium – hosted by the Field Studies Council and based out of Tollymore National Outdoor Centre, Mountaineering Ireland provided a series of subsidised workshops for rock climbers and interested young families in July 2019.

Formal Route Setting Training – a second round of route setting training was delivered at the Foyle Arena in 2018 by the Route Setting Association. 10 new route setters successfully passed the course.

Club Supports: grant application support for clubs were offered to four youth climbing clubs and were confirmed an equipment grant of £875.00 each.

Youth Mountaineering Week TNOC – this educational and active week for young climbers was supported through the time of one Mountaineering Instructor. Young climbers from as far as Cork travelled to attend a week of settled weather, lots of routes were climbed and key mountaineering skills developed.



“ The Get Climbing programme has afforded KCYP the opportunity to introduce participants to an alternative sport traditionally not associated with a disadvantaged area – rock-climbing. Over the past 6 months we have seen how this programme has improved our young people’s physical fitness levels, increased their self-confidence and improved their teamwork, increased their skill-set and overall improved communication skills and strengthened relationships with the youth workers. ”

**Patricia Kane, Youth Worker,
Killinarden Community
Youth Project**



Membership Development and Support

Membership Support

Our Membership Development Officer engaged with both new and existing members throughout the year, meeting potential clubs on a one-to-one basis and attending events such as the 50 Plus Expo and the Killarney Mountain Festival where both members and potential members visited the stand to learn more about Mountaineering Ireland. Support was on hand to help clubs ensure good governance with a particular emphasis on new regulations in relation to GDPR and Safeguarding. There were a number of talks in 2018, starting with Ricky Bell who toured Belfast, Dublin and Cork at the start of the year speaking about his climbing endeavours. December saw a great turnout for an inspirational and enthralling lecture by Paddy O'Leary who was presented with the Lynam Medal for a lifetime contribution to mountaineering. Eleven new clubs affiliated with Mountaineering Ireland in 2018 bringing membership to a total of 13,180 which includes 186 Clubs and 1,520 individual members as of October 2018.

Club Development Workshops

Four regional club support workshops were delivered between September and November 2018 reaching representatives from approximately 46 clubs around the country. The workshops were held in Derry, Bray, Sligo, and Killarney - one in each province. Clubs had the opportunity to meet Mountaineering Ireland's Membership Development Officer, Ruth Whelan who facilitated discussion around topics such as insurance, GDPR, safeguarding, membership renewal and encouraging new members.

Helen Lawless, Hillwalking, Access and Conservation Officer, who facilitated sharing of information on access in the local area, also covered, raising environmental awareness amongst walkers and climbers, path erosion and other conservation issues in the mountains. Jane Carney, Training Officer, led discussion on training in clubs, grants available, skills videos and fostering independence in club members. It was also an opportunity for members from different clubs to network with each other. Two additional workshops specifically for club development were run during the Spring and Autumn Gatherings.

Members' Gathering and Meets

The Spring Gathering took place in the Glen of Aherlow, Co. Tipperary from March 23rd to 25th based from the Aherlow House Hotel and hosted by Limerick Climbing Club with attendance up to 170 members at the Saturday evening dinner. Members availed of a variety of activities including a talk from Jimmy Barry who spoke about the Galtees, and along with Maureen O'Brien discussed the important work of SEMRA. Eight walks took place including the snow-capped Galtee Mountains and an environmental walk led by Matt Joy which traversed the Galtees from south to north.

The Autumn Gathering hosted by the Galway Walking Club in collaboration with Petersburg OETC on October 12 – 14th was a thoroughly enjoyable weekend despite the aftermaths of Storm Callum. The event commenced with a panel discussion on the role that outdoor recreation can play in the future

sustainability of our uplands areas. The panellists were the Government Chief Whip and Minister for Gaeltacht, Seán Kyne TD, Éamon Ó Cuív TD (Galway West), Helen Lawless (Mountaineering Ireland), Trish Walsh Director of Petersburg OETC and local farmer Tom Holleran. The rain did not dampen the spirits of nine groups which set out on various walks in the surrounding area.

The 2018 Winter Meet in Scotland hosted courses in Winter Walking Skills, Winter Mountaineering Skills and Winter Climbing Skills. Scottish Winter conditions present additional challenges to the summer mountaineer. Winter skills training recognises the need to extend our existing knowledge and supports safer and enjoyable participation in new adventures.

The Summer Alpine Meet was held in Val di Mello, Italy in July. The two-week Summer Alpine meet continues to be a highly successful training opportunity, where members can access skills courses in; Alpine Walking, Alpine Mountaineering, Alpine Climbing and a number of shorter technical rock climbing, glacier travel and crevasse rescue workshops. Others independent meet goers, plan and engage in their own adventures from long-distance walking routes to technical alpine routes.



Communication and Information

Annual General Meeting

Mountaineering Ireland's Annual General Meeting was held in the Aherlow House Hotel, Tipperary, on the 24th March where members had the opportunity to have their say in the running of the organisation. Full detail of the AGM are available in the AGM Minutes on our website.

Members' Forum

Two members' forums were held this year, one after the AGM at the Spring Gathering and the other during the Autumn Gathering. This is a key part of Mountaineering Ireland's democratic process where clubs and members raise items for discussion, and this is often the catalyst for further examination, or for a campaign or action to be launched. Topics discussed this year included the launch of Mountaineering Ireland's new Strategic Plan for 2018-2021, first aid training for clubs, discussions about charity and challenge events, the age profile within clubs, and the digitisation of both the Irish Mountain Log and membership cards.

Website and Social Media

Mountaineering Ireland's website (www.mountaineering.ie) remains a valuable resource for both individual and club members. The website offers relevant information, documentation and resources to ensure our members are informed and up to date with Mountaineering Ireland's activities and endeavours.

Mountaineering Ireland's social media presence grew in 2018, with increasing activity across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Facebook continued to be a popular means of engaging with members and the public with over 15,797 followers and one post reaching 16,548 users.

Irish Mountain Log

The Irish Mountain Log continues to be an important means of communicating to our members. As it is a membership-based publication it would be impossible to produce four issues a year to such a high standard without the significant voluntary efforts and contributions from our members. Sincere thanks to the IML Editor Patrick O'Sullivan, and the editorial team; Peter O'Neill, Aisling Spain and Coilin MacLochlainn who are supported by Mountaineering Ireland's staff team.

Archives and Members' Library

Members continue to the avail of the Mountaineering Ireland library, which consists of over 3,000 books that include the Joss Lynam and the Irish Mountaineering Club collections. Members are able to 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 to them. We would like to thank all our members who have donated collections to the library in 2018 and encourage all members to continue to use this extensive collection.

Insurance

Mountaineering Ireland's insurance was renewed in 2018 for three years with insurance broker O'Driscoll O'Neil Ltd (Insurers: XL Catlin and AXA). The changes included removal of all age restrictions on our Personal Accident Policy, an increase in Professional Indemnity Cover (for Committee Members/Coaches/Leaders) from €1.3m to €6.5m, Employers Liability Cover €13m now covers volunteers on a worldwide basis and an increase in Cyber Liability Cover from €250k to €500k. Full detail are available on www.mountaineering.ie.

“ The Members' Forum is a key part of Mountaineering Ireland's democratic process where clubs and members raise items for discussion, and this is often the catalyst for further examination, or for a campaign or action to be launched. ”



Safeguarding

On December 11th 2017 the 'Children's First Act 2015' came into effect, whereby anyone who has access to minors (under eighteen years olds) from a services, coaching and or training capacity, must undertake a Safeguarding Level 1 Course. Mountaineering Ireland now delivers Safeguarding Level 1 for all members that volunteer, coach or work directly with young people. As of the 11th March 2018 all clubs that have youths participating are required to conduct a risk assessment and display their Safeguarding Statement. Mountaineering Ireland's safeguarding statement and policy can be found at: <https://www.mountaineering.ie/membersandclubs/GardaVettinginClubs>

Thank You

Mountaineering Ireland wishes to thank all members and all affiliated clubs for their support in 2018. The work of clubs and individual volunteers throughout Mountaineering Ireland's membership ensures that the organisation's reach is far wider than it would otherwise be with the financial and human resources available to the organisation. It highlights the passion that members have for their sport and the resource base we use.



Get Ireland Walking

Summary

Get Ireland Walking progresses with a new awareness and confidence in the field of health, physical activity and walking promotion with significant growth across all areas of our work.

Programmes

Active Community Walking Programme 2018 (Partner Local Sports Partnership)
Active Community Walking Groups 80,
Number of Participants >1000

Schools Walking Project (Partner Active School Flag, Local Sports Partnership)
Primary - >500 Active School Walkway Packs circulated to Primary, Post Primary and Special Schools.

Men's Shed Initiative – Sheds ag Siúl (Partner Irish Mens Shed Association)
Kicked off in Cork with training of LSP tutors and a programme delivered for shedders over eight weeks.

This project has utilised existing resources and builds its sustainability through key partnerships.

Woodlands for Health (Partners, Mental Health Ireland, LSP, Coillte, University of Limerick)
Following on from the success of the Woodlands for Health programme in Wicklow and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, GIW helped coordinate and support the expansion in 2018 to mental health service providers in Wexford, Laois, Roscommon and Limerick.

Other Supports

Get Ireland Walking now has 1,116 registered Walking Groups/Clubs, significantly increased on previous years:

2016 – 363 Walking Groups Registered
2017 – 692 Walking Groups Registered
2018 – 1,116 Walking Groups Registered

- Community – 420 (active) (>6,000 walkers)
- Schools – 405 (>100,000 walkers)
- Sheds – 86 (>1,000 walkers)
- GAA Clubs - 255 (>5,000)

Events and Communication

Get Ireland Walking attended events throughout the year providing information, advice and networking with those in attendance. These included:

- 40,000 21Day Challenge Cards distributed
- 2,000 branded High Viz

- 5,000 Branded Hats
- 2,000 High Viz arm bands
- 1,000 Tee Shirts
- Pens, Notebooks, Kit Bags, USB's (tutors)
- 5,517 Facebook Likes (↑1K) and 5,753 followers (↑1.2K)
- 2,963 Followers on TWITTER (↑1K)

Other Successes of 2018

- Winner of the Nutrimino Health & Fitness Awards 2018 Innovation Category.
- Submitted journalistic style articles for the Irish Independent on Community Walking.
- Wrote four seasonal articles for the Irish Mountain Log.
- Presented and moderated a panel discussion at the National School Summit in Dublin.
- Presented and attended at the National Ploughing Championships.
- Presented at the National Health Promotion Conference in Galway.
- Coordinated the 1st National Community Walking Day during the European Week of Sport.
- Coordinated a series of Walking Workshops at libraries across several counties during the European Week of Sport in September.
- Led and helped coordinate the 1st Ireland Light's Up Campaign in Partnership with the GAA and Operation Transformation, including a community training day in Croke Park.
- Attended the 2018 Walk21 International Conference in Bogota and presented and acted as moderator on the Men's Shed Walking Programme and the Woodlands for Health Programme.

GIW Strategy and Action Plan: GIW Action Update

New working groups established in the areas of communications, education and training. All actions are being implemented and monitored through our mentors and advisors.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our Steering Group, Sport Ireland and the Department of Health for their continued support and to our host Mountaineering Ireland for their guidance and efforts in supporting the team to achieve its goals last year. We look forward to sharing our successes with you in 2019.

“Following on from the success of the Woodlands for Health programme in Wicklow and Dun Laoghaire Rathdown, GIW helped coordinate and support the expansion in 2018 to mental health service providers in Wexford, Laois, Roscommon and Limerick.”

External Representation

Mountaineering Ireland is represented on the following organisations:

Comhairle Na Tuaithe
Croagh Patrick Stakeholders' Group
Dublin Mountains Initiative
Errigal Stakeholders Group
Irish Adventure Sports Training Trust
Irish Uplands Forum
Leitrim Walking Trails & Cycling Working Group
Mountain Training UK
Mountain Rescue Ireland
National Outdoor Recreation Forum (NI)
Northern Ireland Environment Link
Planning & Land Matters Task Force NI
UIAA Access Commission
UIAA Mountain Protection Commission
Uplands Partnership Management Board
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 Sport
Friends of the Reeks
International Federation of Sports Climbing
Irish Uplands Forum
Northern Ireland Environmental Link
Northern Ireland Sports Forum
Union Internationale des Associations
d'Alpinisme (UIAA)
Visitor Safety in the Country
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
Bird Watch Ireland
Boulder World Belfast
British Mountaineering Council
Cappanalea Outdoor Education & Training Centre
Sport Ireland Coaching
Coillte
Coiste Forbartha Dhún Láiche
County Wicklow Partnership
Department of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (NI)
Department of Culture, Art and Leisure (NI)
Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht
Department of Health
Department of Rural and Community Development
Department of Transport, Tourism & Sport
Donegal County Council
Dublin Mountains Partnership
Dublin Climbing Centre
Fáilte Ireland
Foyle Arena Derry
Ganaway Activity Centre
Gartan Outdoor Education & Training Centre
Geological Survey of Northern Ireland
GMIT Mayo
Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre
Gravity Climbing Centre
Healthy Ireland
Heritage Council
Irish Cattle and Sheep Farmers Association
Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association
Irish Farmers Association
Irish Girl Guides
Irish Natura and Hill Farmers Association
Irish Peatland Conservation Council
Local Sports Partnerships
MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum
Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark
Mardyke Arena Cork
Mayo County Council
Mountaineering Scotland
Mountain Meitheal Ireland
MountainViews
Mourne Heritage Trust
Murrisk Development Association
National Parks & Wildlife Service
National Governing Bodies of Sport
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
Sport Ireland
Sport Ireland Trails
Sport Northern Ireland

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 2018)

4 A's Walking Club
ACARA Trekking Club
American Women's Club Hillwalkers
Aonach ar Siúl (Nenagh Hillwalkers)
Arklow and Wicklow 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
Barryroe Walking Club
Beanna Beola Hillwalking Club
Belfast Climbing Club
Belturbet Walks and Heritage Group
Bishopstown Orienteering & Hillwalking Club
Blackrock Hillwalking Club
Blackstairs Ramblers
Blarney Walking Group
Blayney Ramblers
Bogtrotters Hillwalking Club
Bootleggers Hillwalking Club
Boyle Curlew Hillwalkers Club
Camp Walking Club
Carraun 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
Colmcille Climbers Club
Comeragh Mountaineering Club
Cork Backpackers Club
Cork Climbing Club
Cork Climbing Co-Op
Cork Mountaineering Club
Cork Youth Climbing Club
Crannagh Ramblers
Crosshaven Walking Group
Crows Hillwalkers
Cumann Siúl Cois Coiribe
Cumann Sleibhteoireachta an Leith Triuigh
Cumann Sleibhteoireachta Annascaul Walkers
Cumann Sleibhteoireachta Chorca Dhuibhne / Dingle HC
Dal Riada Climbing Club
DCU Rock Climbing Club
Defence Forces Association of Mountaineers
DIT Mountaineering Club
Donegal Co Co Hills & Trails Walking Club
Dublin and Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team
Dublin Cliffhangers Youth Climbing Club
Dublin University Climbing Club (Trinity College)
Dungarvan Hillwalking Club
Dunmanway Hillwalking Club
Enniscrone Walking Club
ESB Hillwalkers
Ferrard Ramblers
Fineos Hillwalkers
Fitzamblers
Foxford Ramblers Walking Club
Foyle Hillwalking and Rambling Club
Galtee Walking Club
Galway Bay Hillwalking Club
Galway Climbing Co-Operative
Galway Walking Club
Gifford Youth Climbing Club
Glencree Walkers
Glenwalk
GMIT Climbing & Mountaineering Club
Grange Con Ramblers Hill Walking Club
Grey Lake Ramblers
GS Mountaineering Club
GWATS - Gearagh Walkers and Talkers
Hanging Rockers Climbing Club
Hard Core Club
Hardy Hill Hikers
Hell Fire Rangers
Hillwalkers Club
Imaal Walkers
International Women's Club Dublin
Irish Bushcraft Club
Irish Christian Hillwalking Club

Irish Geological Association
Irish Mountaineering Club
Irish Ramblers Club
Kanturk Hillwalkers and Mountain Climbers
Kenmare Walking Club
Kick Ass Adventures
Kilcoran Trekking Club
Killarney Mountaineering Club
Kilmacthomas Walking Club
Kiltipper Ramblers
Knockadosan Hill Walkers
Laune Mountaineering Club
Lee Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club
Limerick Climbing Club
Longford Ramblers and Hiking Club
Lung Gompas
Mallow Walking Club
Marley Hillwalking Club
Maumturks Walking Club
Maynooth Hillwalking Club
Mayo Hillwalkers Club
Mevagh Ramblers
Mid Tipp Hillwalkers
Midleton Climbing Club
Midleton Hillwalking Club
Mountain Meitheal Ireland
Mourne Youth Climbing Club
Muintir na Sléibhte
Mullaghareirk Ramblers
N.U.I. Galway Mountaineering Club
Na Cnocadóirí
Na Coisithe
Na Sléibhte Hillwalking Club
Navan Trekkers
NCIC Community Climbers
Nire Valley Bogtrotters Walking Club
North West Mountaineering Club
North West Youth Climbing Team
Out and About
Ox Mountain Ramblers
Oyster Walking Club
Pathfinders Mountaineering
Peaks Mountaineering Club
Rainbow Hillwalking Club
Ramblers Country Tracks
Rathgormack Ramblers
Riverstick Ramblers
Roscrea Ramblers
Rosway Walkers
Savage Craic Climbing Club
Setanta Mountain Goats
Shanganagh Ramblers
Shannon Trekkers Mountaineering Club
Siúl Walking Club
Siúltoirí Buadain
Skerries Walking Club
Skibbereen Walking Group
Slane Striders
Sléibh Mór Outdoor Sports Club
Sliabh Luachra Hillwalking Club
Sieve Aughty Walking Club
Sligo Climbing Club
Sligo Mountaineering Club
Sligo Walking Club
Sneem Walking Club
Spartan Red Sox Walking Club
Sperrins Hillwalking Club
Swilly Hiking Club
The Feel Good Factor
The Goya Gang
The Leinster Explorers Hillwalking Club
The N51 Trekkers
The TEAM Project
The Trekkers Mountaineering Club
Tinahely Walking Club
Tralee Mountaineering Club
Tredagh Trekkers
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
We Walk Together
West Clare Walking Club
Westport Hillwalkers
Wexford Hillwalking and Mountaineering Club
Winders Climbing Club
Woolgreen Walking Club

E&OE

This publication is printed on Edixion-Challenger FSC® Mix 190gsm Uncoated, an FSC® certified material, which promotes sustainable and responsible forest management. FSC certification supports responsible forest management worldwide.



Mountaineering Ireland | Sléibhteoireacht Éireann

Irish Sport HQ, National Sports Campus, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15, Ireland
Telephone 00 353 (0)1 6251115 email: info@mountaineering.ie website: www.mountaineering.ie

Tollymore Outdoor Centre, Bryansford, Newcastle, County Down, BT33 OPT, Northern Ireland
Telephone (+44) (0)28 4372 5354

