



**Working for  
and representing  
walkers and  
climbers**

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

**ANNUAL REVIEW 2013**

Mountaineering Ireland



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# MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND ANNUAL REVIEW 2013

The contributions of many members made 2013 a memorable year for Mountaineering Ireland. One of the most significant highlights was the change in Government policy which saw the potential sale of Coillte harvesting rights abandoned. Mountaineering Ireland, along with the trade union, IMPACT and the Irish Timber Council made a rational and coherent argument that convinced government of the value of the Coillte estate and its state ownership to the Irish people.

In 2013, Mountaineering Ireland members gave their time to contribute to our Strategic Development Plan for 2014 – 2017.

The commitment of people at the six regional meetings helped to shape a strategy that will provide the direction for our work on your behalf over the next four years. Fundamental to all of this work is our commitment to deliver upon the vision for all walkers and climbers to

- ▶ enjoy secure and responsible access to Ireland's mountains and the other places we use in Ireland; and
- ▶ have the opportunity to improve their skills, to explore, to be adventurous and to maximise their potential within our sport.

Mountaineering Ireland raised significant concerns about the future of Comhairle na Tuaithe as a result of little progress on its core objectives, especially that of access and, in particular, the Mountain Access project and a National Indemnity Scheme. Phil Hogan TD, Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government outlined an action plan and timeframe, which has provided some hope that Comhairle na Tuaithe will be more effective. Mountaineering Ireland has been a significant contributor to the outputs of Comhairle na Tuaithe, including the publication of a leaflet on access and liability in 2013.

A single Mountain Training board on the island of Ireland will emerge following a decision by Sport Northern Ireland and Mountain Training Northern Ireland to move in that direction subject to appropriate public and equality consultations. Mountaineering Ireland hosted a Mountain Training conference in Tollymore National Outdoor Centre in November 2013, which brought together a significant gathering of instructors, scheme providers, outdoor education centres and members to discuss the current challenges and changes of Mountain Training across Ireland and the United Kingdom. The role out of the new Lowland Leader Award and the existing Climbing Wall Award were also milestones for Mountain Training in 2013.

Sadly, Mountaineering Ireland lost a number of members as a result of accidents in the mountains during 2013. This is a reminder of the risks that we all face and must accept when we go into the outdoors. It is important that we continue to communicate these risks, provide opportunities for people to develop sound skills, good judgement and responsibly introduce novices to adventurous activities. To the family and friends of all those who lost loved ones in 2013, may they rest in peace.

I would like to recognise the contribution the Colmcille Climbers, the Foyle Rambling and Hillwalking Club and the Kenmare Walking Club made hosting fantastic Spring and Autumn Gatherings. Volunteers, representatives to other organisations, club administrators, coaches and many others contributed hugely during 2013 and we look forward to your continued support in 2014.



Karl Boyle,  
Chief Executive Officer

**“ One of the most significant highlights was the change in Government policy which saw the potential sale of Coillte harvesting rights abandoned. Mountaineering Ireland, along with the trade union, IMPACT and the Irish Timber Council made a rational and coherent argument that convinced government of the value of the Coillte estate and its state ownership to the Irish people. ”**



*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

The mountains of Ireland have been cherished places by visitors and locals alike for centuries. The term 'mountain landscape' engenders thoughts of wildness, rugged rock and bog and is ingrained in our national psyche and reflected in art and folklore. Even Ireland's relatively small area of mountains contributes hugely to our society. One example is that almost 82% of Ireland's potable water is captured from our mountains. Over the past number of years, and during 2013 in particular, Mountaineering Ireland has been working to address some of the threats to Ireland's mountain landscape.

The Helping the Hills initiative and the 'Uplands Working Group' are both led by Mountaineering Ireland to support appropriate management of the uplands. Our knowledge towards Helping the Hills, an initiative aimed at promoting good practice in the management of upland path erosion was enhanced through site visits to the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales by a diverse group of representatives from state and voluntary bodies. Their experiences were then shared at a well-attended seminar in November. Likewise, the continued work of the Uplands Working Group has seen progress towards recommendations for Rural Development Measures to be implemented in the Common Agricultural Policy Programme 2014 to 2020, measures that could contribute to the sustainable management of the mountain environment.

I am extremely proud of the role Mountaineering Ireland (all 11,509 members) had in convincing the Government not to sell Coillte's harvesting rights. The tipping point for me was when Mountaineering Ireland's CEO led a packed briefing of TDs, Senators and their advisors in the Houses of the Oireachtas, a briefing which had an immediate impact given a significant statement in response from the Chief Whip of one of the Government parties. The success of the Oireachtas and Northern Ireland Assembly event in the Mourne Mountains in June further highlights the strong relationships Mountaineering Ireland has developed throughout the island and our on-going work at a lobbying level, work which we will continue.

I am always encouraged whenever I see or read of young people flourishing in our sport. Whether that is a youngster navigating their way through the mountains or topping out on a route in their local climbing wall, both must be continually encouraged and promoted. 2013 saw the development of supports in this area for coaches and leaders with

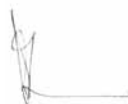
coaching workshops, a Club Training Officer Workshop, a Scouting Ireland Leaders Moot, and the Mountain Training Conference provided for the benefit of those both volunteering and working within our sport. A new Development Squad structure has been established to harness the potential of young climbers and provide further assistance to their development and I look forward to their continuing success locally and on the international stage.

The Irish Sports Council and Sport Northern Ireland continue to be strong supporters of Mountaineering Ireland and the impact of these contributions is significant. With such funding so too comes responsibilities, especially in the areas of governance and finance and the Board has taken many steps to improve performance and ensure our structure is fit for purpose in this regard. The direct investment by both bodies allows Mountaineering Ireland to have an effective staff team who support and represent members through programmes, skills and communications. Furthermore, there is the public service that Mountaineering Ireland provides be it in terms of direct and indirect support to youth organisations, the education sector, the tourism sector and other initiatives and projects. Amongst these in 2013 were our contributions to Get Ireland Walking, the regulation of Adventure Activity, the National Trails, Scouting Ireland, and communicating good practice through the Walk Safely leaflet and other initiatives. I believe we have been an effective and respected voice for our membership on the many issues we face.

Following the adoption of the Strategic Development Plan 2014 – 2017 at an Extraordinary General Meeting in Kenmare during the Autumn Gathering, the direction of travel for Mountaineering Ireland is now set out for the next four years but its delivery requires an on-going input from all of us be it at individual, club or national level. I urge you all to play your part however small it seems.

On behalf of the Board and our membership, I want to thank the Chief Executive Officer and his staff for their on-going work and their dedication and enthusiasm.

Finally, I wish all Mountaineering Ireland members an adventurous and enjoyable 2014.



Ross Millar,  
Chairperson



**“ I am always encouraged whenever I see or read of young people flourishing in our sport. Whether that is a youngster navigating their way through the mountains or topping out on a route in their local climbing wall, both must be continually encouraged and promoted. ”**



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

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

During 2013 many Mountaineering Ireland members contributed to our work towards these objectives, as members of 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 objectives.

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



# ACCESS AND CONSERVATION

## SECURING ACCESS

### MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND'S AIM

As the national representative body for walkers and climbers, Mountaineering Ireland's policy is that we are seeking reasonable access for responsible users. Our aim is to have open, unrestricted access on foot to unenclosed hills, mountains and coastal areas throughout Ireland. Where there isn't direct access to these areas from the public road, access should be achieved via routes leading from the public roads and car parks, through or around the enclosed fields out onto the open hillside.

Mountaineering Ireland pursues its access aim, primarily through building relationships with other upland stakeholders, including our involvement in Comhairle na Tuaithe (the Countryside Council) and working with Sport NI and Outdoor Recreation NI in Northern Ireland. We urge Mountaineering Ireland members to contact us for advice and support when concerns arise regarding access. As well as helping members enjoy their activities, this flow of information ensures that Mountaineering Ireland's work at national level to secure access is based on a comprehensive and up-to-date understanding of the situation on the ground.

## COILLTE SALE ABANDONED

The proposed sale of harvesting rights to Coillte forests, and the risk that a change in management could have had negative implications for public enjoyment of our State forests, was undoubtedly the largest access issue faced by Mountaineering Ireland during 2013. Coillte owns almost 7% of the land area of the Republic of Ireland, with much of this in the uplands.

As well as direct lobbying against the sale, Mountaineering Ireland campaigned with other concerned bodies through the Save Our Forests initiative. In February a briefing was held for Oireachtas members, where the importance of Coillte's estate for recreation, and the flawed economic rationale for the proposed sale, were both highlighted.

The most important lesson from the Coillte situation was the lack of certainty regarding public access to State-owned land. While Coillte maintains an open access policy, this has no legal basis; a similar situation pertains in our six national parks. Arising from this, a key action within Mountaineering Ireland's development plan for 2014-2017 is to secure a right of public access to publicly-owned lands for responsible recreation.



## ACCESS BILL DEBATED IN THE DÁIL

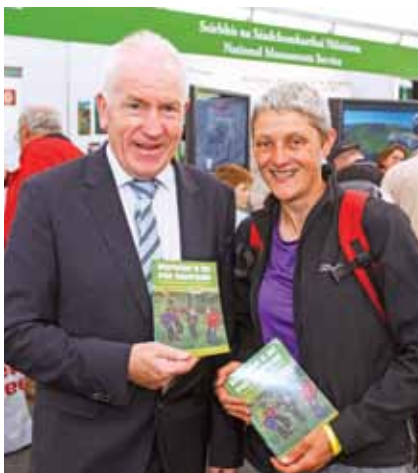
Labour Party TD Robert Dowds succeeded in having a Private Members' Bill on Access to the Countryside debated in the Dáil on 14th June, where 20 TDs contributed to a three-hour debate. Mountaineering Ireland welcomed the debate, but emphasised that legislation alone will not address the recreation management issues that exist in Ireland. Many elements are needed including: a strategic and co-ordinated approach to recreation management; physical infrastructure such as car-parks and stiles; an access route network to connect public roads with unenclosed uplands and coastal areas; erosion control on upland paths; and a low-level trail network to give all communities access to off-road walking; all supported by information and education initiatives. The key point is that legislation alone would cause more problems than it would solve; investment is essential to protect our natural environment from the impact of tourism and recreation, and to leverage the benefits that can flow from outdoor recreation.

## COMHAIRLE NA TUAITHE

Mountaineering Ireland has actively contributed to Comhairle na Tuaithe, the body charged with the co-ordination and development of outdoor recreation in Ireland, since its foundation in 2004. During 2013 Mountaineering Ireland voiced concern about reduced staff capacity and slow progress on many of Comhairle na Tuaithe's actions. As Comhairle na Tuaithe is supported through his department, Minister Phil Hogan attended Comhairle's December meeting, where he listened to members' concerns and gave a commitment to review Comhairle, revamp the National Countryside Recreation Strategy and consider how to achieve better co-ordination and progress in this area.

## ACCESS AND LIABILITY LEAFLET

A public information leaflet on access and occupiers liability, initially drafted by Mountaineering Ireland, was signed off by the Attorney General's office and the members of Comhairle na Tuaithe and published in September. The Recreation in the Irish Countryside



leaflet provides clear information for recreational users and landowners about property rights and access, rights of way, the responsibility of recreational users and occupiers' liability. All users of the countryside have a responsibility to be familiar with and understand this information. The leaflet is available on the Mountaineering Ireland website and hard copies are available from the office.

## MOUNTAIN ACCESS PROJECT

Comhairle's pilot Mountain Access Project has yet to come to fruition, though progress was made during 2013 with consultation on the formation of a management group for the MacGillyduddy Reeks. Mountaineering Ireland kept pressure on for the completion of a State indemnity scheme and the testing of the mountain access model in other upland areas.

## LISSADELL JUDGMENT

The Supreme Court decision in November on the Lissadell public rights of way case implies that the burden of proof is set unreasonably high against anyone asserting a public right of way anywhere in the Republic of Ireland. Even if that burden of proof was lower, it is important to recognise that public rights of way would not deliver the extent of access that is desired by Mountaineering Ireland members and the recreation community in general. The judgment illustrates the need for fresh debate on how balance can be achieved between the property and privacy rights of landowners, and the need for the people of Ireland to have reasonable access to the countryside for responsible recreation.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

Mountaineering Ireland contributed to further consultation on the preparation of a 10-year Action Plan for the development of Outdoor Recreation in Northern Ireland. Mountaineering Ireland's submission emphasised the policy, legislative and structural changes required over the next decade.

Mountaineering Ireland, and members who use the area, also contributed to the development of an outdoor recreation strategy for the Sperrins AONB.

## PROMOTING CONSERVATION

### MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND'S AIM

Ireland has a very limited stock of mountains and other wild lands. Mountaineering Ireland's work on conservation focuses on protecting the quality and character of these areas.

## HELPING THE HILLS

Most readers will be aware that increased numbers have led to the loss of vegetation and soil on many popular paths in upland areas. Arising from discussion at the Helping the Hills conference in September 2012, and subsequent consultation with conference participants and members, in March Mountaineering Ireland adopted a set of principles to guide the management of path erosion in Ireland's upland areas.

The Helping the Hills initiative continued throughout the year. In September Mountaineering Ireland arranged a study visit for 12 participants from a range of backgrounds, to gain insight into the management of upland paths and outdoor recreation in the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales.

This was followed by a seminar in November attended by more than 50 people, where the emphasis was on communicating lessons from the study visit and discussing the guiding principles referred to earlier. The keynote address and presentations from the seminar are available on [www.helpingthehills.ie](http://www.helpingthehills.ie).



**Croagh Patrick** – In May, Mountaineering Ireland met with Murrisk Development Association to discuss the report of the 2012 Croagh Patrick footpath assessment; Mountaineering Ireland also presented the recommendations from the assessment at a seminar in Murrisk in November. The seminar agreed to the formation of a management group for Croagh Patrick and the development of a code of practice for users.

**Cuilcagh** – In December, Mountaineering Ireland voiced concerns about proposals for significant intervention to manage path erosion on the Marble Arch side of Cuilcagh.

**Mountain Meitheal** – Mountaineering Ireland congratulates the volunteers involved in Mountain Meitheal South East on completing their first project, the Saunders Lodge track towards Lough Curra and Galtymore in the Galtee Mountains. This was achieved with the support of Mountain Meitheal Dublin/Wicklow volunteers, who also continued their work in Wicklow this year, as well as launching a new website [www.mountainmeitheal.ie](http://www.mountainmeitheal.ie).

## NATIONAL UPLANDS WORKING GROUP

In January, the National Uplands Working Group convened by Mountaineering Ireland in 2012, made a strong submission to the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine (DAFM) regarding measures to support the management of upland areas under the Rural

Development Programme (2014-2020). In May, the Working Group facilitated an update meeting for a wider uplands consultation group. The Working Group maintained contact with DAFM throughout the year and presented its proposals at a number of events including Mountaineering Ireland's Autumn Gathering in Kenmare. The proposals centre on a targeted agri-environment programme for the uplands. This would support continuity in low-intensity hillfarming to deliver farm produce, but also reward farmers for the delivery of public goods such as landscape, biodiversity and recreation opportunities.

## WINDFARMS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENTS

In May, Mountaineering Ireland welcomed An Bord Pleanála's decision to refuse planning permission for a five-turbine windfarm at Rockmarshall in the Cooley Mountains. The Board concluded that the development would damage the visual amenity of the area and interfere with the character of the landscape. Mountaineering Ireland had submitted comments against the original application in 2012.

Mountaineering Ireland submitted an initial objection to an application to erect 14 wind turbines in the area of the Robber's Table Walk in the Sperrin Mountains, an area that has already been significantly impacted by windfarm development.



In December, Mountaineering Ireland lodged an objection with Wicklow County Council to an application for a 9-turbine windfarm on Butter Mountain in north-west Wicklow. Mountaineering Ireland objected as the proposed turbines would dominate views of the Wicklow Mountains from Brittas, Tallaght and Rathcoole, because of the proximity of the site to Dublin, and the impact the windfarm would have on walkers doing the popular circuit around the Kilbride hills.

Mountaineering Ireland does not oppose all renewable energy developments in upland areas, rather we argue that development should be located where it does not destroy the essential character of our upland and coastal landscapes.

Mountaineering Ireland also submitted comments in December on the route options being considered for the Grid Link high voltage electricity line linking Knockraha in Co. Cork with Kilcullen in Co. Kildare. Mountaineering Ireland's concerns related to how the pylon line would affect sensitive upland and rural landscapes, and the impact it would have on the experiences of walkers and climbers in the Comeragh Mountains, the Galtees, the Blackstairs and on the Wicklow Way.

Following receipt of a report in October of a newly created track in the Blue Stacks, Mountaineering Ireland contacted the relevant authorities. Donegal County Council investigated the matter as an alleged unauthorised development and work was stopped within a couple of days. The track, which is 3-4m wide and extends for more than 2km in a wild and remote area of the Blue Stacks, has made a serious impact on the landscape. Work on the track had been ongoing for about five weeks before it was reported to us, had the work been reported sooner, some of the damage could have been prevented.

## **ENCOURAGING RESPONSIBLE USE**

Responsible enjoyment of the hills and countryside is an important value within Mountaineering Ireland and our sport and runs throughout much of our work.

## **CLUB ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS**

We're delighted to report that the number of clubs with Environmental Officers continued to increase in 2013, going from 105 to 122. Mountaineering Ireland provides regular email updates, advice and training workshops for Environmental Officers. The five workshops held in 2013 all proved popular, with a total of 60 people attending. As well as input from Mountaineering Ireland, each workshop included a field trip led by somebody with expertise on the upland environment. As this knowledge filters down within clubs it should enrich members' experiences and heighten appreciation for the special places we visit. If your club hasn't appointed an Environmental Officer, or you're not receiving our updates, please contact us.

## **LEAVE NO TRACE**

Being a partner in Leave No Trace Ireland allows Mountaineering Ireland to promote responsible enjoyment of Ireland's outdoors in cooperation with many other organisations. In addition to making a financial contribution to the programme, we have embedded the Leave No Trace approach in our training schemes, events and publications. During 2013 Mountaineering Ireland volunteers played a key part in developing resources to support the Leave No Trace education programme and preparing a new operational plan for Leave No Trace Ireland. Our Leave No Trace activity also included an awareness day for clubs on the Dingle peninsula in August, and an awareness session for Mountaineering Ireland staff in November.

## **EVENTS POLICY AND GUIDELINES**

Throughout 2013, Mountaineering Ireland continued to promote its Policy and Guidelines for Organised Events in Ireland's Mountain Areas. The document provides practical advice for all those involved in organising events such as walking festivals, challenge walks, adventure races and fundraising hikes. The policy also highlights the responsibility that participants have to choose events that are well-planned

and have minimal adverse impact on the environment. In addition, Mountaineering Ireland contributed to the development of a toolkit to support the planning of sustainable challenge events in Northern Ireland. Mountaineering Ireland is also working with Fáilte Ireland, and other members of Comhairle na Tuaithe, to develop national guidelines to promote good practice in the organisation of outdoor activity events.

**Upland environment leaflet** – In December, Mountaineering Ireland secured funding through the NIEA Challenge Fund to develop a user-friendly field guide to Northern Ireland's upland environment. The leaflet, which will provide an introduction to habitats, flora and fauna, should help walkers and climbers achieve a stronger connection with the natural environment.

## **REPRESENTATION ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS**

Mountaineering Ireland's work towards its access and conservation objectives is supported by voluntary representatives on a number of other organisations. Mountaineering Ireland's network of representatives expanded considerably in 2013 as we succeeded in having members appointed to five new Coillte Social & Environmental panels. New representatives were also appointed to FSC Ireland, the Galtee Steering Group and the Dublin Mountains Initiative. 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.

## **FINALLY**

Visit the News or the Access & Environment pages of [www.mountaineering.ie](http://www.mountaineering.ie) to download submissions referred to in this report.

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



## YOUTH

Mountaineering Ireland's objective to support and promote the participation of all age groups, especially youth, in every aspect of mountaineering drives the focus of Mountaineering Ireland's youth programme. Mountaineering Ireland co-ordinated a wide programme during 2013, including a Scottish Youth Meet, Aspirant Mountaineers' workshops, Youth Trad Climbing camps and continued support for Scouting Ireland.

Mountaineering Ireland encourages all clubs to provide youth opportunities and is willing to support those clubs who do so.

### YOUTH CAMPS & ASPIRANT MOUNTAINEERS

A number of successful climbing camps for young club members were coordinated by Mountaineering Ireland in 2013. A sport climbing trip to Mallorca and a bouldering trip to Fontainebleau, France were extremely successful providing a variety of opportunities to climb in different styles.

Students from all over Ireland attended an Aspirant Mountaineers' workshop in the Mourne Mountains. Aimed at giving college club leaders the skills and techniques needed to stay safe in the mountains of Ireland, the workshop was well attended. Participants in the Aspirant Mountaineers' workshop were then given the chance to further their development in a Scottish Youth Winter Meet, run in tandem with the Mountaineering Ireland Winter Meet in Glencoe.

### YOUTH CLIMBING SERIES

The Youth Climbing Series has become an integral part of the climbing calendar for young climbers. It offers fun climbing competitions and is open to all young people, whether new to climbing or those who already have some experience.

Each year there are two qualifying rounds in Northern Ireland (Gortatole OEC and Ozone, Belfast) and two in the Republic of Ireland (Mardyke Arena, Cork and UCD, Dublin). After competing in one of these qualifying rounds, young climbers from both areas compete at an All-Ireland final round (Awesome Walls, Dublin). The top three climbers from each of the competition categories then go forward to compete to compete against young climbers from all over the United Kingdom and Ireland at the Grand final.

The 2013 Grand final was held at the EICA climbing wall in Ratho, Scotland. A full team of thirty climbers travelled to represent Mountaineering Ireland at the event. Despite the huge numbers of competitors and the daunting venue the young climbers rose to the challenge. Across the group there were many strong performances and the improvement of the team ranking year on year is indicative of the rising climbing standards.

### SUPPORTING SCOUTING IRELAND'S HILLWALKING PROGRAMMES

Mountaineering Ireland continued to support the ever growing Scouting

**“ The Youth Climbing Series has become an integral part of the climbing calendar for young climbers. It offers fun climbing competitions and is open to all young people, whether new to climbing or those who already have some experience. ”**



Ireland hillwalking programme. Throughout 2013 Mountaineering Ireland's Training Officer and volunteers made contributions to the programme and were always available for consultation. In November, Mountaineering Ireland supported a Scouting Ireland Moot, which brought together many budding leaders.

Scouts now engage with hillwalking across 9 stages. Stages 1 – 7 takes Scouts through the Mountain Skills programme and following Level 7 they can go forward for Mountain Skills Assessment.

## TRAD CLIMBING WORKSHOPS

Summer 2013 saw the second year of Mountaineering Ireland's traditional climbing workshops for young people. These events were very well attended, with young people given the chance to learn the skills needed to climb in the Irish environment. In addition to the development of young climbers, this also served as an opportunity to involve parents, club coaches and instructors in this type of event thereby building

everyone's awareness of the importance of managing the development of each young person appropriately. This was complemented by a host of opportunities for youth clubs to go climbing and bouldering in Glendalough, Dalkey Quarry, the Mournes and Fair Head.

## GIRLS OUTSIDE DUBLIN

As part of Mountaineering Ireland's Women in Sport funding, Mountaineering Ireland invested in Girls Outside Dublin. This was directed through Gravity Climbing Centre and Awesome Walls. In total more than 400 girls benefited from the programme, which introduced the youths to climbing over the course of three sessions, with the opportunity for those interested to follow on through other classes and clubs.

This initiative aims to increase long term participation in mountaineering. Mountaineering Ireland would like to thank the efforts of Gravity Climbing Centre, Inchicore and Awesome Walls,

Finglas for supporting this project. Evidence of the initiative should be visible in future youth events and competitions.

## SCHOOLS

Schools are a key medium to attract young people to our sport. In 2013 Mountaineering Ireland explored a number of ways to build teacher capacity and attract new youths to our sport. A schools project was delivered in Kilkenny to enable physical education teachers engage their students in climbing. Mountaineering Ireland also provided support to St. Brendan's, Killarney and St. David's, Artane.

Feedback from the Kilkenny project was then used to develop a schools programme that was piloted in winter 2013 at the Hotrock Climbing Wall bringing schools to the wall, engaging youths in climbing and informing their teachers of the potential and breadth of the sport. The intention is to develop a pathway for school children that can be rolled out across the island.





# TALENT DEVELOPMENT

## INTRODUCTION

Mountaineering Ireland's objective in this area is to develop a talent development pathway to high performance. The Talent Development Programme is supported by a large and dedicated cohort of parents, coaches and volunteers. The continued effort and dedication of these people have allowed the young climbers to achieve continually improving levels of performance. In May 2013, Damien O Sullivan, who in 2009 with the help of Mountaineering Ireland and a group of other keen climbers was a founder of the Cork Youth Climbing Club, was appointed Talent Development Officer following on from his predecessor, Neal McQuaid.

Workshops, to support young climbers who are not yet at the stage of joining the Talent Development Squad, were instigated. These workshops are open to young climbers who are keen to improve their skills. The Talent Development Workshops have been focused mainly on improving the movement skills of the participants. Participants are coached by experienced climbing coaches at the workshops and are given advice on what aspects of their climbing performance they should focus on in their training.

## COACH DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOPS

The ever increasing number of young people beginning to climb has resulted in a growing demand for coaches to help these young people improve their climbing skills in a safe and effective manner. Much of the coaching of these young climbers is currently carried out by the parents of the young climbers, volunteers and the staff of the various climbing walls that run youth climbing classes. The Mountaineering Ireland Coach Development workshops serve to help these people to become better coaches. In four one-day workshops the topics covered were: Coaching Climbing Movement; Introducing Young Climbers to Lead Climbing; Injury Prevention for Young Climbers; and Competition Preparation for Young Climbers.

## TALENT DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

The Mountaineering Ireland Talent Development Squad was formed in autumn 2013. Forty young climbers were invited to join the Talent Development Squad. The Talent Development Squad training sessions generally take place on a monthly schedule. The purpose of the Talent Development Squad is to provide young climbers with a high-performance environment in which they can learn new skills under the tutelage of experienced climbing coaches.

In addition, Talent Development

**“ The development of talented young climbers is supported through the Talent Development programme. The programme is supported by a large and dedicated cohort of parents, coaches and volunteers. The continued effort and dedication of these people have allowed the young climbers to achieve continually improving levels of performance. ”**



## IRISH COMPETITIONS

Mountaineering Ireland's competitions cater for climbers of a very wide range of ages and abilities; climbers from seven to seventy, and from novices to seasoned stalwarts with many decades of climbing experience under their swami belt!

## IRISH BOULDERING CHAMPIONSHIP

The 2013 Irish Bouldering Championship took place at the Gravity Climbing Centre in spring. Dominic Burns clinched both the Male Senior and Junior titles. Dominic took the senior title ahead of Eddie Barbour and Mike Mullins, while Eoin Acton and Daragh O'Connor took silver and bronze in the male Youth A category. Scottish climbers took all the accolades in both the Female Senior and Youth A category with Rachel Carr taking 1st place, Eleanor Hopkins and Jessica Mc Caskey in second and third respectively. In the Male Youth B final Sean Hoare emerged victorious ahead of Philip Murphy and Jack Flynn. Female Youth B Becky Whaley took 1st place ahead of Gabriella Stewart and Anna Nelson.

## IRISH LEAD CLIMBING COMPETITION

With the increase in the number of young people climbing at a very high standard the decision was taken to divide the Irish Lead Climbing Championship into a senior and a junior competition.

The Junior Irish Lead Climbing Championship was held at Awesome Walls, Dublin in October. The young climbers competed in eight different categories. In the eldest age group, the Juniors, Ciaran Scanlon and Vanessa Woods took the titles. In Youth A Dominic Burns and Niamh Hebblethwaite were 1st. In Youth B Jack Flynn and Eleanor Lawrence took the top placing. In the youngest category, Youth C, Carson Carnduff and Anna Nelson took 1st place.

The Senior Irish Lead Climbing Championship competition was held in November, also at Awesome Walls, Dublin. The senior competition is open to climbers aged fourteen and above. Defending champion Alex Waterhouse succeeded in retaining his title in the Senior Male category. Lucy Mitchell took the Senior Female trophy in style. In Masters Male Conor O'Connor was dominant while Calvin Torrans took the Veterans Male.

## IRISH BOULDERING LEAGUE

The Irish Bouldering League is a challenging but fun competitive climbing outlet. With individual rounds of the IBL attracting over one hundred competitors, the IBL remains an ever popular part of the calendar for the climbing community. There were five rounds in the 2013 Irish Bouldering League. Competitions took place at Play at Height, Gravity, Midleton, Awesome Walls and Tollymore. At the end of the five rounds the league results were calculated based on the top three



results of climbers who competed in at least three rounds of the league. In Senior Male Harry Fogg and Dominic Burns tied for 1st place, with Daragh O'Connor taking 3rd. In senior female Niamh Hebblethwaite took 1st place from Sophia Herman. In Male Junior Kieran Mc Kenna took 1st ahead of Jack Flynn and Sean Hoare. The Junior Female winner was Eleanor Lawrence ahead of Aoife Mc Lain and Sarah Hoare.

## INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

There is now a group of young Irish climbers competing frequently at International Federation of Sports Climbing competitions. The group includes Dominic Burns, Daragh O'Connor, Eoin Acton and Jamie Rankin (all Male Youth A). The IFSC operates a world ranking system for all of its registered competitors. Dominic Burns is currently ranked number 1, Eoin Acton number 12, Daragh O'Connor number 17 and Jamie Rankin number 25 in the world.

The European Youth Cup (EYC) is a series of three bouldering competitions held across Europe. Dominic Burns remarkably, given he was one of the youngest in his age group, was placed 1st overall in the 2013 EYC. Dominic also competed at the IFSC World Youth Climbing Championships in Canada. Dominic is funded under the Sport Northern Ireland Athlete Investment Programme.





**“ Mountaineering Ireland’s aim is to build upon the success of the Club Training Officers’ workshop over the past number of years and increase the support to clubs both in terms of actual training opportunities as well as online support via Mountaineering Ireland’s website. Club training resources have been added to mountaineering.ie with a range of documents covering some key areas of Mountain Training. These can be used in the club environment and support in-house club training sessions. ”**

# MOUNTAIN TRAINING AND SAFE PRACTICE

To maintain high standards in mountain training and support member skills development is the training objective of Mountaineering Ireland. The provision of general mountaineering safety advice and the training of hillwalkers and climbers is central to the aims of Mountaineering Ireland and its training sub-committee, Bord Oiliúint Sléibhe (BOS), the Irish Mountain Training Board.

There were a number of significant developments in Mountain Training during 2013, all ably managed by Mountaineering Ireland’s Training Officers Alun Richardson and, following Alun’s departure, Jane Carney. Jane was a provider of the full range of Mountain Training Awards for many years and she holds the Mountaineering Instructor Award and has a degree in education.

## NEW AWARDS

The Climbing Wall Award and the Lowland Leader Award were launched in June and October respectfully. Both awards have been well received with significant interest and registrations. The Lowland Leader Award is for those taking their first steps into the world of leading groups on day walks, along clearly defined tracks and trails, in forests, coast and countryside during summer conditions. The Lowland Leader Award is attracting a diverse range of registrants from club members, tour guides and the health promotion sector.

The Climbing Wall Award is for climbers who are in a position of responsibility when supervising climbing activities on indoor or outdoor climbing walls, artificial boulders and towers. It covers the supervision and management of activities such as bouldering, the teaching of basic movement skills and roped climbing, excluding the teaching of leading. 2014 will see the launch of the Climbing Wall Leading Award and the Level 1 Climbing Coach Award.

Mountaineering Ireland will also be developing Rock Skills 1 and Rock Skills 2, which are personal skills courses for rock climbers, on a similar basis as that of Mountain Skills for walkers. These courses will improve personal climbing skills and be a useful preparatory step for those contemplating other leadership or instructor training schemes.



## TRAINING FOR CLUBS

Supporting skills development for members is central to Mountaineering Ireland and 2013 saw several club workshops take place around the island, with workshops and talks delivered for clubs and, also, leadership and skills workshops as part of our Spring and Autumn Gatherings. Mountaineering Ireland encourages each member club to nominate a Club Training Officer whose role it is to support skills provision with their club. The Club Training Officers’ workshop is aimed at helping clubs to address their training needs and improving the skills needed to teach navigation within the Club environment. The Club Training Officers workshop was delivered on the 2nd and 3rd of November in The Burren. 16 participants from 12 different clubs participated and this was very positive both in terms of the spread of clubs and the range of experience which added to the event.

Mountaineering Ireland’s aim is to build upon the success of the Club Training





Officers' workshop over the past number of years and increase the support to clubs both in terms of actual training opportunities as well as online support via Mountaineering Ireland's website. These club training resources have been added to mountaineering.ie with a range of documents covering some key areas of Mountain Training. These can be used in the club environment and support in-house club training sessions.

Clubs are eligible to benefit from both the Club Training Grant and the Club Mentor Scheme. New arrangements were put in place in 2013 and now there are two application periods each year - January 1st to June 30th and July 1st to December 31st. Mountaineering Ireland encourages clubs to consider their skills needs, talk to Mountaineering Ireland's Training Officer and benefit from the supports available.

2014 will see additional workshops provided both as part of Mountaineering Ireland's meets and gatherings and also independent of these.

## MOUNTAIN TRAINING CONFERENCE

Mountaineering Ireland's Mountain Training Conference held in Tollymore National Outdoor Centre on November 28th and 29th was a significant event celebrating Mountain Training on the island of Ireland. The primary aim of the conference was to bring together all those involved in all aspects of mountain training on the island of Ireland to discuss some of the critical challenges and build awareness of certain important developments, including the potential of the regulation of adventure activity and

the ongoing work towards an all-island Mountain Training Board. Attendees included: course providers; award holders; centre managers; Mountain Training board representatives; Education and Library Board staff; club and individual Mountaineering Ireland members. The conference also provided an opportunity to review the training schemes. A commitment was made to deliver such a conference triennially.

## COURSE PROVIDERS

The number of Providers approved to deliver BOS Awards has increased steadily over the last few years and did so again in 2013. There are now 71 Course Providers working across all the training schemes and awards. The introduction of new training schemes gives course providers opportunities to develop both their personal skills and also broaden the range of training they provide. Maintaining high standards amongst Course Providers is of the utmost importance and moderation of new and existing Course Providers is a key role of the Training Officer.

## COACHING IRELAND AND QUALITY AND QUALIFICATIONS IRELAND

Intensive work with Coaching Ireland has seen significant developments in a number of projects. The inclusion of the Single Pitch Award, Multi Pitch Award, Mountain Leader Award and Lowland Leader Award on the Adventure Sports

Framework has been agreed and will be finalised by the end of January 2014. The assessment of Mountain Tutors under the Coaching Ireland Tutor Assimilation programme has been progressed with 7 tutors having completed all requirements for graduation with a further 3 tutors to fulfill their requirements in early 2014.

The Level 1 Climbing Coach Award will be piloted during 2014 and Mountaineering Ireland and Coaching Ireland have worked closely together on its development. This award will be placed on the existing Coaching Ireland Framework, as a Level 1 Coach and will have equivalence across all sports in Ireland and the United Kingdom.

Quality and Qualifications Ireland, the new integrated agency replacing the Further Education and Training Awards Council, has seen Mountain Skills (Level 5), Rock Climbing Skills (Level 4), Single Pitch Rock Climbing (Level 5) and Single Pitch Rock Climbing Assessment (Level 6) submitted at the evaluation stage and are due to be included as modules for programmes starting in 2014. This update has permitted a much needed review and revision of the previous approval and administrative process.

## ALL-ISLAND MOUNTAIN TRAINING BOARD

Mountaineering Ireland's Mountain Training Board, Bord Oiliúint Sléibhe became a full voting member of Mountain Training UK (MTUK) in 2012







and 2013 saw major advancements towards an all-island mountain training board. In the short term, a working group has been created to consult with both Mountain Training Northern Ireland (MTNI) and BOS. The objective is to create a new all-Ireland Mountain Training Board under the leadership of Mountaineering Ireland.

## REGULATION OF ADVENTURE ACTIVITIES

In 2013, the Irish Sports Council, Sport Northern Ireland, Coaching Ireland, the governing bodies for adventure sports Outdoor Education Ireland and the commercial activity centres presented a proposal to the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport recommending a voluntary accreditation model for the commercial adventure activity sector.

The Minister for Sport has since requested the Irish Sports Council to explore a registration of activity providers based on a set of standards to be set down by the Irish Sports Council. Mountaineering Ireland is represented on the steering group which formed in December 2013 and will progress this matter in 2014.

Registrations for Training	
Mountain Skills	808
Mountain Leader Award	106
Walking Group Leader Award	0
Lowland Leader Award	28
Single Pitch Award	142
Multi Pitch Award	4
Climbing Wall Award	37

Number of Course Providers	
Mountain Skills Training	69
Mountain Skills Assessment	20
Mountain Leader Award	11
Walking Group Leader Award	4
Lowland Leader Award	5
Multi Pitch Award	4
Single Pitch Award	11
Climbing Wall Award	5



# COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICES

## MEMBERS GATHERINGS AND MEETS

Mountaineering Ireland's spring, autumn, winter and summer gatherings and meets are important opportunities for our community to gather together and share experiences, knowledge and, most importantly, their passion for the mountains. Personal skills development is an integral part of the winter and summer meets in particular, offering a chance for individuals to progress their personal mountaineering confidence.

## SPRING AND AUTUMN GATHERINGS

The Foyle Hillwalking and Rambling Club and Colmcille Climbers jointly hosted the 2013 Spring Gathering in Gartan Outdoor Education Centre. The hosts and the venue proved to be hugely popular as did a wide range of activities including many great mountain walks, an environmental workshop, a movement workshop and climbing on Cruit Island. The Spring Gathering also included the formal proceedings of the annual general meeting of Mountaineering Ireland, on Saturday 8th March, which was followed by a members' forum. The delegates approved Mountaineering Ireland's principles to guide the management of path erosion in Ireland's upland areas.

The members' forum brought up, in particular, the threat of the Coillte estate being sold by the state. It also served as part of the strategic development plan consultation process with a number of focus groups reviewing Mountaineering Ireland's mission statement.

Kenmare, Co. Kerry was the destination for the 2013 Autumn Gathering. The host club, Kenmare Walking Club, developed an extensive programme, including a range of interesting workshops. The organisers made use of many resources within the Kenmare area, especially the event's base, the Carnegie Arts Centre. An extraordinary general meeting took place on Sunday, 20th November. The motion to the EGM, the proposal of Mountaineering Ireland's

Strategic Development Plan 2014-2017, was approved.

This was followed by a members' forum. Amongst the issues and topics debated were, insurance and cover to non-members/guests; Mountain Access projects; the Devils Ladder report and its status; and equipment demonstrations at events.

## SUMMER AND WINTER MEETS

A Scottish Winter Meet with the most exceptional winter conditions was followed by Mountaineering Ireland's second Summer Alpine Meet in Italy. The Glencoe area was at its best for Mountaineering Ireland's Winter Meet with conditions described as 'the best in forty years'. A choice of 3-day courses was offered, giving walkers and climbers an opportunity to learn a wide range of winter skills including avalanche awareness, winter navigation, and ice climbing skills.

The Summer Alpine Meet was held in Val Masino, Italy. Alpine training courses for beginners to experienced participants, and excellent multi-day hiking options were provided. The feedback from many participants while hugely positive on the value for money of the Italian side, sought a more traditional focus and location for Alpine Meets. 2014 will see the Summer Meet return to Ailefroide in the Massif des Écrins.

## IRISH MOUNTAIN LOG

The Irish Mountain Log's reach grew again in 2013, with the final issue reaching more than 11,500 readers. The editorial team, ably led by Patrick O'Sullivan despite his busy day job as a Public Health Doctor, continues to hit these high standards and Mountaineering Ireland sincerely thanks Patrick and the team (Peter O'Neill, Colín MacLochlainn and Rozanne Bell). Equally, congratulations to all those who had articles published during 2013.



**“ Mountaineering Ireland's spring, autumn, winter and summer gatherings and meets are important opportunities for our community to gather together and share experiences, knowledge and, most importantly, their passion for the mountains. ”**

## WEBSITE AND ONLINE MEMBERSHIP MANAGEMENT

Mountaineering Ireland launched a new website in 2013 with a significant amount of content and resources. In addition, both individual members and clubs interacted with a new online membership management system in 2013. For individual members the transition was relatively seamless. For clubs the change was certainly more challenging and Mountaineering Ireland would like to thank all clubs for their support and commitment to this project. Indeed, the feedback provided by many club administrators has made the system more user friendly for everyone. The contribution of Mountaineering Ireland's Una Feeney and Terry Canavan who have supported clubs through this change and had to adapt to these new systems also is greatly appreciated.

All members, once their email address is recorded on their record, can access their personal data and update it if needed. Clubs control all their own data and renewals. Mountaineering Ireland has ensured that the most appropriate security features have been used to maintain data integrity. We plan to add more features during the course of 2014.

## INSURANCE

2013 saw savings passed on to members from the 30% reduction in Mountaineering Ireland's members' insurance scheme premium. The policy cover has not changed and detailed certificates are now provided to all clubs. The cover includes €13 million in civil liability cover and limited personal accident cover. Mountaineering Ireland's insurance broker is O'Driscoll O'Neil Ltd and the underwriter is Lloyds Sportscover Syndicate 3334. In 2013 there were a number of claims (all death benefits) on the policy but the premium for 2014 is not affected.

## JOSS LYNAM (1924 - 2011) COLLECTION AND LIBRARY

Mountaineering Ireland secured funding from both the Heritage Council and the Irish Sports Council to progress the archiving of Joss Lynam's collection. In spring 2013 the collection was transferred to Trinity College Dublin

Archives where an archivist has been employed to progress the project. The entire collection will take more than two years to archive, however, the mountaineering catalogue will be complete by spring 2014.

Mountaineering Ireland was also donated Joss' library and over the course of autumn and winter 2013 these books and the existing Mountaineering Ireland and Irish Mountaineering Club collections have been catalogued by the Irish Mountaineering Club Librarian, Bénédict Reau and are now searchable online.

## GUIDEBOOKS

The first Mountaineering Ireland App was published in spring 2013 in the form of Donegal Rock Climbing. Mountaineering Ireland would like to thank Iain Miller, Unique Ascent for his efforts in preparing and editing the App's contents.

2013 brought the final contributions and editing to the eagerly awaited hillwalking guide to Ireland's 2,000ft mountains. The publication will go to design in early 2014 and be available to purchase later in the year. Mountaineering Ireland would especially like to thank Margaret Tees for her fantastic commitment to this project.

## WOMEN WITH ALTITUDE

The annual Women With Altitude event was held in Glendalough in April 2013. The event encourages women hillwalkers and climbers to share ideas, learn new skills, enjoy themselves and benefit from mutual support. Women With Altitude is an ongoing focus as part of Mountaineering Ireland's Women in Sport initiative.

Encouraging and inspiring women to fulfill their potential in hillwalking and climbing is central to the objectives of the Women with Altitude initiative. It is hoped this will raise the profile of women in mountaineering and see more women become involved as volunteers within Mountaineering Ireland.

A series of regional workshops and sessions were also organized with mixed results. 2014 sees Women with Altitude move to Connemara - [www.womenwithaltitude.ie](http://www.womenwithaltitude.ie).



## GET IRELAND WALKING

Get Ireland Walking ([www.getirelandwalking.ie](http://www.getirelandwalking.ie)) is a collaboration of sport and health promotion. Get Ireland Walking is funded by the Irish Sports Council and the Health Service Executive (HSE), led by Mountaineering Ireland and supported by Irish Heart Foundation, HSE Health Promotion, Age and Opportunity, Gaelic Athletic Association, Ireland Active, Arthritis Ireland, and others. The initiative seeks to maximise the number of people participating in walking for health, wellbeing and fitness throughout Ireland and, in particular, get people active in their own communities.

The Get Ireland Walking Initiative was formally launched at a seminar held in May 2013. This national seminar provided an opportunity for all sporting, recreation and health promotion agencies and organisations to discuss and generate ideas on how the Get Ireland Walking Initiative can work to support and enable all stakeholder efforts. A partnership agreement was formally marked in December when senior representatives of the Get Ireland Walking partner organisations affirmed their organisations' commitment to the Get Ireland Walking Initiative.

## THANK YOU

Mountaineering Ireland wishes to thank all members and all affiliated clubs for their continued support. The work of volunteers throughout Mountaineering Ireland's clubs is a true barometer of the passion members have for hillwalking and climbing and the mountain environment. The information provided by members multiplies the impact of Mountaineering Ireland staff and only through these efforts can we support you to address your local issues.



## EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

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

Coillte Social and Environmental Panels  
Comhairle Na Tuaithe  
Dublin Mountains Initiative  
FSC Ireland  
Galtee Steering Group  
Irish Adventure Sports Training Trust  
Irish Uplands Forum  
Leave No Trace Ireland  
Mountaineering Coordination Group (UK and Ireland)  
Mountain Training NI  
Mountain Training UK  
Mountain Rescue Ireland  
National Coordinating Committee for Cave & Mountain Rescue  
National Trails Advisory Committee  
National Uplands Working Group  
Northern Ireland Environment Link  
Wicklow Mountains National Park Council  
Wicklow Uplands Council

## AFFILIATIONS

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

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

## WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

**In addition to the above, during 2013 we also worked closely with the following organisations:**

Awesome Walls  
Birdwatch Ireland  
British Mountaineering Council  
Coaching Ireland  
Coillte  
Dublin Mountains Partnership  
European Forum on Nature Conservation and Pastoralism  
Fáilte Ireland  
Fix the Fells  
Ganaway Activity Centre  
Gartan Outdoor Education Centre  
Gortatole Outdoor Education Centre  
Gravity Climbing Centre  
Heritage Council  
IMPACT Trade Union  
Institute of Technology Sligo  
Irish Cattle & Sheep Farmers Association  
Irish Creamery Milk Suppliers Association  
Irish Farmers Association  
Irish Girl Guides  
Irish Sports Council  
Kilfinane Outdoor Education Centre  
Leenane Development Association  
Local Sports Partnerships  
Mardyke Arena Cork  
Mountaineering Council of Scotland  
Mountain Meitheal  
Mountain Rescue Ireland  
Mountain Research Ireland  
Mourne Heritage Trust  
Murrisk Development Association  
National Parks & Wildlife Service  
National Trails Office  
Northern Ireland Environment Agency  
Ordnance Survey Ireland  
Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland  
Rural Recreation Section, Department of Environment, Community & Local Government  
Scouting Ireland  
Sport Northern Ireland  
Teagasc  
Tollymore National Outdoor Centre  
Trinity College Dublin Archives  
Wicklow Mountains National Park

## LIST OF CLUBS AFFILIATED TO MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND

**(As of December 2013)**

4A's Walking 4A's Walking Club  
Acara Trekking Club  
Annascaul Walks  
Aonach ar Siúl  
Arklow and Wicklow Hillwalking Club  
Athlone Walking Club  
AWOL Hillwalking Club  
Ballyduff Upper Walking Club  
Ballyhoura Bears Mountaineering Club  
Ballyvaughan Fanore Walking Club  
Bandon Walking Club  
Bank of Ireland Hill Walking Club  
Banner Mountaineering Club  
Bantry Walking Club  
Beanna Beola Hillwalking Club  
Belfast Association of Rockclimbers and Fellrunners  
Belturbet Walks & Heritage Group  
Bishopstown Orienteering and Hillwalking Club  
Blackrock Hillwalking Club  
Blackstairs Ramblers  
Blarney Walking Group  
Blayney Ramblers  
Bogtrotters Hill Walking Club  
Bootleggers Hillwalking Club  
Boyle Curlew Hillwalking Club  
Bushcraft Club  
Cahiriveen Outdoor Club  
Carraig Dubh Climbing Club  
Carran Walking Club  
CIÉ Hillwalkers  
Clare Outdoor Club  
Clonakilty Walking Club  
Clondalkin Hillwalking Club  
Club Cualann  
Club Siúlóide Chonamara Theas  
Cobh Hillwalking Club  
Coconuts Hill Walking Club  
Colmcille Climbers  
Comeragh Mountaineering Club  
Coolaney Walkers Club  
Cork Co-op Climbing Club  
Cork Backpackers Club  
Cork Mountaineering Club  
Cork Youth Climbing Club  
Crannagh Ramblers  
Crosshaven Walking Club  
Crows Hillwalkers  
Cumann Siúl Cois Coiribe  
Cumann Sléibhteoireachta an Leith Triuigh  
Cumann Sléibhteoireachta Chorca Dhuibhne - Dingle Hillwalking Club  
Dal Riada  
DCU Rockclimbing Club  
Defence Forces Association of Mountaineers  
DIT Mountaineering Club  
Dublin University Climbing Club  
Dublin Wicklow Mountain Rescue Team  
Dungarvan Hillwalking Club  
Dunmanway Hillwalking Club  
Dunsany Walking Club  
Enniscrone Walking Club  
ESB Hillwalking Club  
Evolution Climbing Club  
Ferrard Ramblers Club  
Fineos Hillwalking Club  
Fitzambers  
Foxford Ramblers  
Foyle Hillwalking and Rambling Club  
Galtee Walking Club  
Galway Walking Club  
Garda Mountaineering Club  
Glenwalk  
GMIT Mountaineering Club  
Grey Lake Ramblers  
GWATS – Gearagh Walkers and Talkers  
Hanging Rockers Climbing Club  
Hillwalkers Club  
Hotrock Climbing Club  
Imaal Walkers  
Institution Mountaineering Club  
Irish Christian Hillwalking Club  
Irish Geological Association  
Irish Mountaineering Club  
Irish Ramblers Club

Kenmare Walking Club  
Killarney Mountaineering Club  
Kilmacthomas Walking Club  
Knockadosan Hillwalkers  
Laune Mountaineering Club  
Lee Hillwalking & Mountaineering Club  
Leinster Bushcraft Club  
Letterkenny IT Hillwalking Society  
Limerick Climbing Club  
Lung Gompas  
Mallow Walking Club  
Mayo Eagles Ramblers Club  
Marley Hillwalking Club  
Maumturks Walking Club  
Maynooth Hillwalking Club  
Mevagh Ramblers  
Midleton Hillwalking Club  
Midleton Climbing Club  
Mountain Meitheal  
Muintir Na Sléibhte  
Mullaghareirk Ramblers  
Na Cnocadóirí  
Na Coisithe  
Navan Trekkers  
Nire Valley Bogtrotters  
Northern Ireland Youth Climbing Team  
North West Mayo Hillwalkers  
North West Mountaineering Club  
North West Youth Climbing Club  
NUI Galway Mountaineering Club  
Out & About  
Ox Mountain Ramblers  
Oyster Walking Club  
Peaks Mountaineering Club  
Poolbeg Ramblers  
Queens University Mountaineering Club  
Rainbow Hill Walking Club  
Rathgormack Climbing Club  
Rathgormack Ramblers  
Riverstick Ramblers  
Roscrea Ramblers  
Rosway Walkers  
Savage Craic Climbing Club  
Shanganagh Ramblers  
Shelmalier Walking Club  
Siúl Walking Club  
Siúltóirí Buadain  
Skibbereen Walking Group  
Slane Striders  
Sleibh Mór Outdoor Sports Club  
Sliabh Luachra Hillwalking Club  
Slieve Aughty Walking Club  
Sligo Mountaineering Club  
Sligo Walking Club  
Sneem Walking Club  
Spartan Red Sox Walking Club  
Sperrins Hillwalking Club  
St. Kevin's College, Dublin  
Stryker Hiking Club  
Swilly Hiking Club  
The Goya Gang  
The Team Project  
The Trekkers Mountaineering Club  
Tinahely Walking Club  
Tralee Mountaineering Club  
Tredagh Trekkers  
Trinity College Hiking Society  
Tullow Mountaineering Club  
Tyndall Mountain Club  
UCC Mountaineering Club  
UCD Mountaineering Club  
University of Ulster Jordanstown Mountaineering Club  
Waterford IT Mountaineering Club  
Wayfarers Association  
Westport Hillwalkers  
West Clare Walking Club  
West Wicklow Walkers  
Wexford Hillwalking and Mountaineering Club  
Winders Climbing Club  
Woolgreen Walking Club

E&OE





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