



ANNUAL REVIEW 2010
Mountaineering Ireland



www.mountaineering.ie

**Working for
and representing
hillwalkers
and climbers**

CONTACT DETAILS

STAFF (SPORT HQ, DUBLIN)

Karl Boyle
Chief Officer
Telephone (+353 1) 625 1115
karl@mountaineering.ie

Terry Canavan
Accounts Administrator
Telephone (+353 1) 625 1115
terry@mountaineering.ie

Una Feeney
Administrator
Telephone (+353 1) 625 1115
una@mountaineering.ie

Helen Lawless
Hillwalking, Access & Conservation Officer
Telephone (+353 1) 625 1115
helen@mountaineering.ie

Nicole Mullen
Training Administrator
Telephone (+353 1) 625 1117 (DDI)
nicole@mountaineering.ie

Alun Richardson
Training Officer
Telephone (+353 1) 625 1117 (DDI)
alun@mountaineering.ie

STAFF (TOLLYMORE MOUNTAIN CENTRE, COUNTY DOWN)

Angela Carlin
Coaching Development Officer
and Talent Identification
Telephone (+44) 284 372 5354 (DDI)
angela@mountaineering.ie

Paul Swail
Youth Development Officer
Telephone (+44) 284 372 5354 (DDI)
paul.swail@mountaineering.ie



Mountaineering Ireland promotes the principles of Leave No Trace.



MI BOARD AND SUB COMMITTEES

MOUNTAINEERING COUNCIL OF IRELAND BOARD 2010

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

BORD OILIÚINT SLÉIBHE/IRISH MOUNTAIN TRAINING BOARD MEMBERS 2010

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

ACCESS & CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS 2010

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

CONTENTS

MI ANNUAL REVIEW 2010	2
CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS	3
ACCESS AND CONSERVATION	4
YOUTH	8
PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT	10
TRAINING AND SAFETY	12
COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICES	14
RESOURCE UTILISATION	16





MI ANNUAL REVIEW 2010

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

MI's objectives are:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Karl Boyle,
Chief Officer

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



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

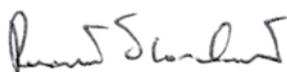
CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

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

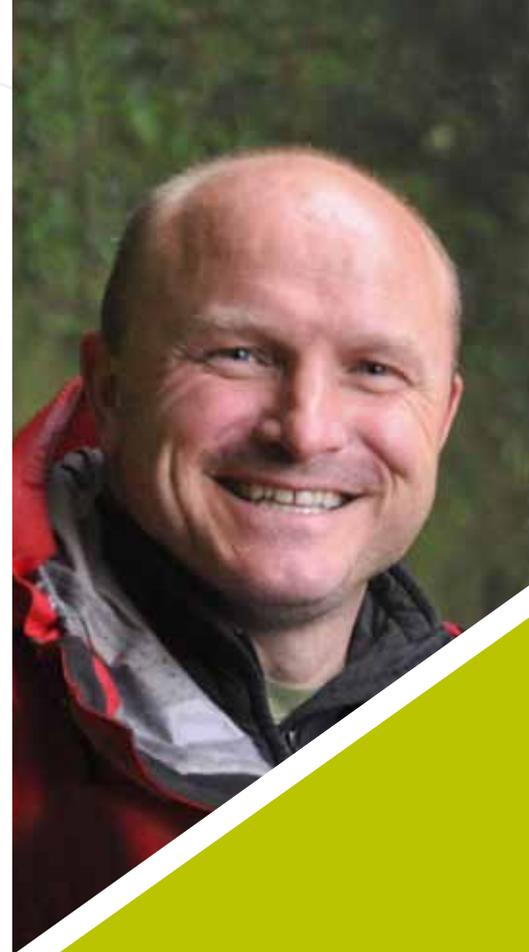
It has been a year of renewal for MI with a marked increase in membership. It is a singular pleasure to serve as Chairperson of a board of highly committed and selfless individuals who have given so much back to the sport of mountaineering. I am humbled to serve with such gifted volunteers who give so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

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

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



Ruairí Ó Conchúir
Chairperson



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



ACCESS AND CONSERVATION

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

To secure continued access to mountain areas and crags.

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

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

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

SECURING ACCESS

COMHAIRLE NA TUAITHE

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

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

PILOT MOUNTAIN ACCESS SCHEME

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

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

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

NORTHERN IRELAND

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

ACCESS ISSUES

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

PROMOTING CONSERVATION

OFF-ROAD VEHICLE ACTIVITY

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

BIRDWATCH IRELAND

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

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

DALKEY QUARRY

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

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

UPLAND PATH EROSION

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





PROMOTING RESPONSIBLE USE

LEAVE NO TRACE

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

MOUNTAIN MEITHEAL

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

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

MOUNTAIN TRAINING SCHEMES

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

CLUB ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICERS

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



REPRESENTATION ON OTHER ORGANISATIONS

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

COILLTE SOCIAL & ENVIRONMENTAL PANEL

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

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

IRISH UPLANDS FORUM (IUF)

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

DUBLIN MOUNTAINS INITIATIVE (DMI)

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

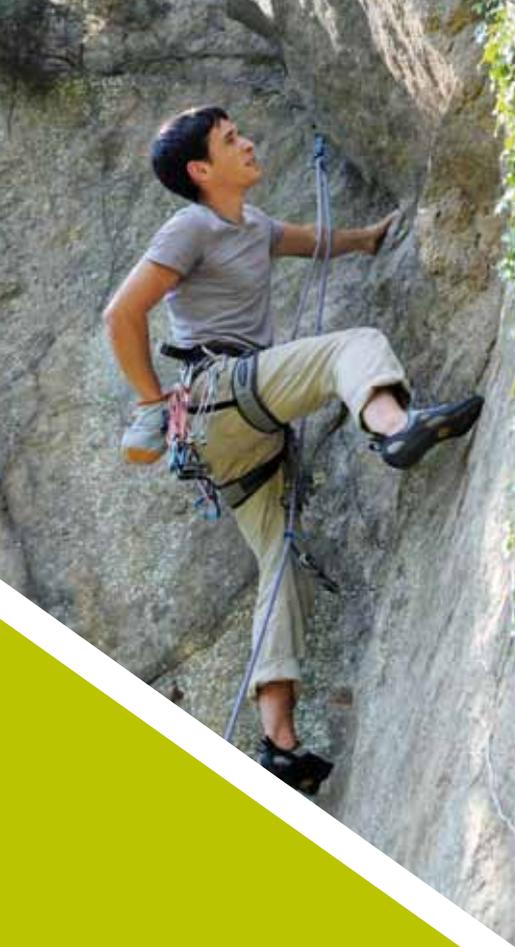
WICKLOW MOUNTAINS NATIONAL PARK (WMNP) COUNCIL

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

WICKLOW UPLANDS COUNCIL (WUC)

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





YOUTH

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

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

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

SCOUTING IRELAND



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

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

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

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

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

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

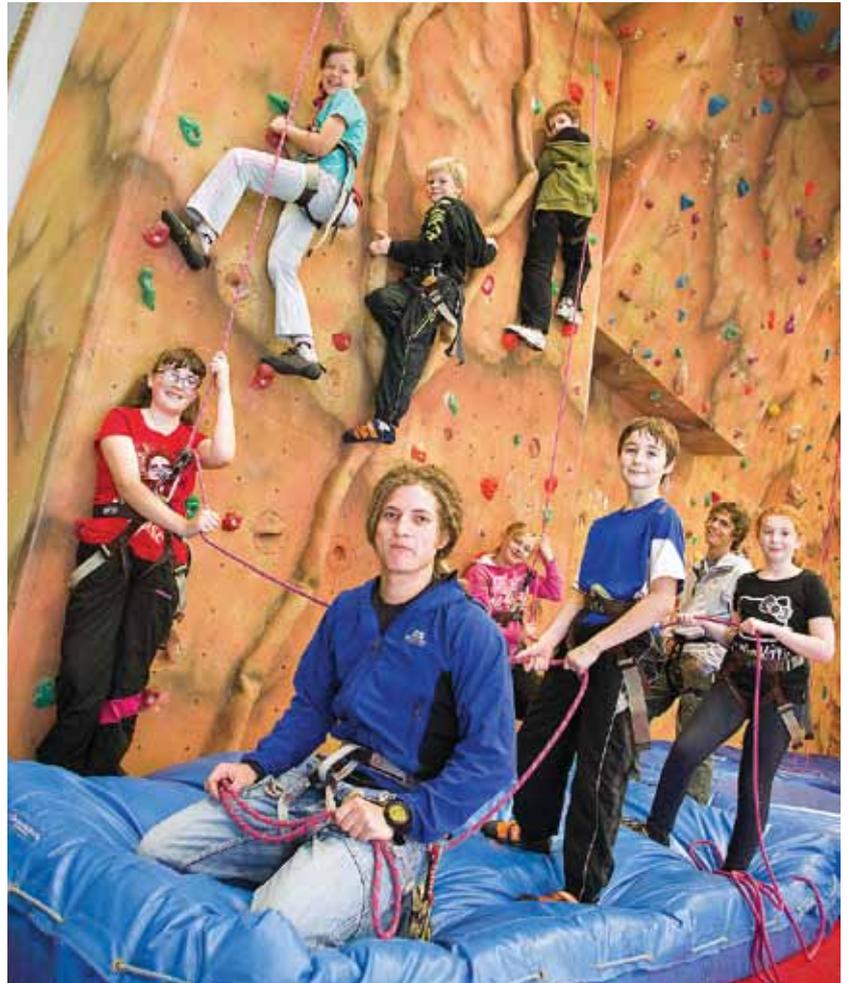
A number of training and assessment weekends were provided for Scouting Ireland aspirant Mountain Leaders in late 2010.

GIRL GUIDES

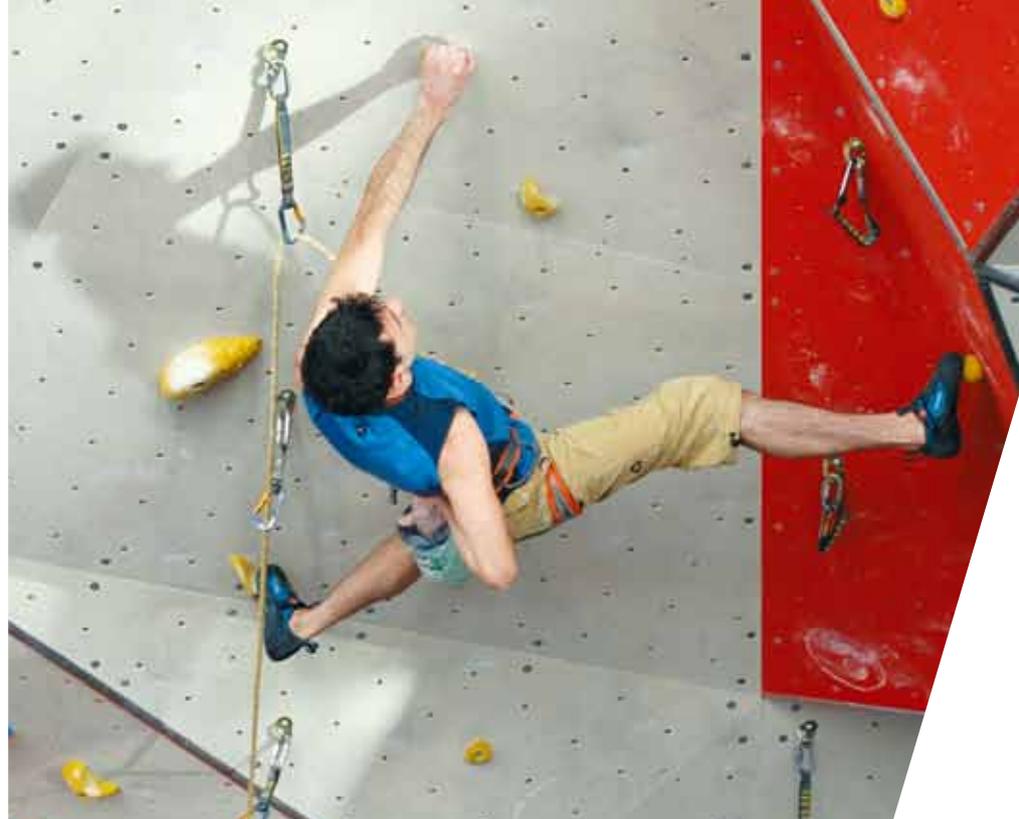
MI also hosted a training weekend for the Catholic Guides of Ireland (CGI) in Knockree during the autumn. This was the first step in supporting the development of a strong hillwalking programme in the organisation. Likewise, MI had discussions with the Irish Girl Guides (IGG), which will further develop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

GIRLS OUTSIDE KERRY

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



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



PERFORMANCE DEVELOPMENT

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

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

COACHING DEVELOPMENT

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

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

FUNDAMENTALS

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

NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS

YOUTH CLIMBING SERIES

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

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

IRISH BOULDERING & LEAD CHAMPIONSHIPS

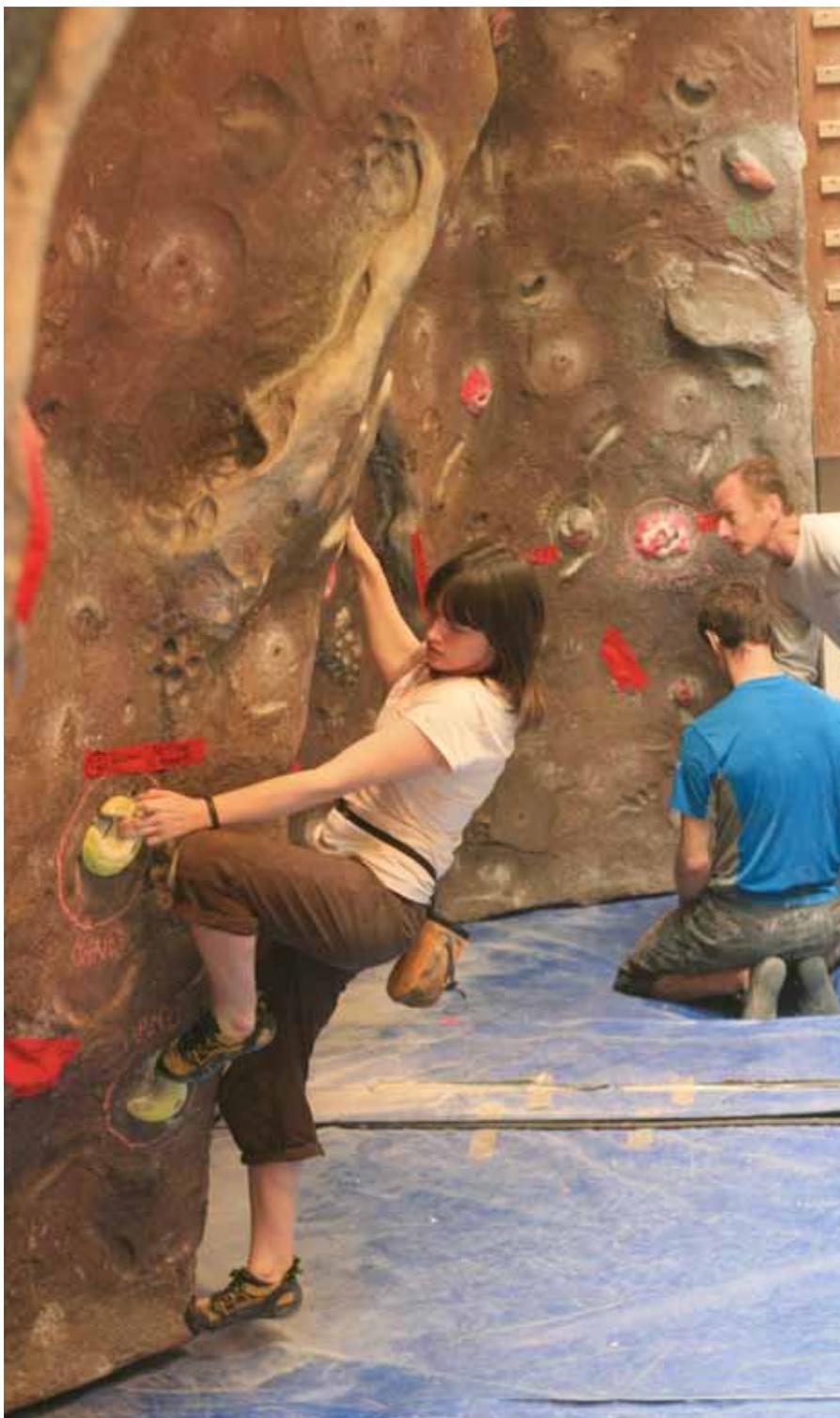
The first Irish Bouldering Championship was held on 6th May in Belfast. There was an extremely high standard of competition, in which Rob Hunter and Veronica Lee emerged as Irish Senior Champions, with Rachel Cooper and Andrew Colligan as the Irish Junior Champions. 2010 also saw the Irish Lead Climbing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

IRISH BOULDERING LEAGUE

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

INTERNATIONAL SUCCESS

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





TRAINING AND SAFETY

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

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

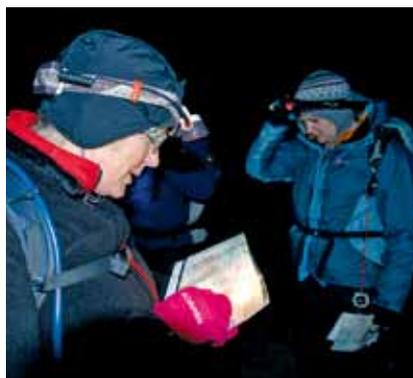
The efforts of many volunteers both on the BOS board and those unnamed individuals who help behind the scenes in many clubs and within the course provider community is greatly appreciated.

CLUB TRAINING OFFICERS WORKSHOP

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

TRAINING GRANTS

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



BOS TRAINING SCHEMES

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

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

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

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



BOS MOUNTAINEERING PROVIDERS

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

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

MODERATION AND AUDITING

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

CONTINUAL PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (CPD) WORKSHOP

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

TRAINING FOR FUTURE PROVIDERS

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

SUPPORT FOR MIA TRAINEES

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

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

MLTNI AND BOS WORKING GROUP

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

COACHING IRELAND AND THE 'ADVENTURE FRAMEWORK'

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





COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICES

IRISH MOUNTAIN LOG

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

MEMBERS' GATHERINGS AND MEETS

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

WINTER MEET

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

SUMMER ALPINE MEET



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

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

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



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

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

AUTUMN GATHERING

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

MOUNTAINEERING IRELAND LIBRARY

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

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

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

MEMBER DISCOUNTS

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



Participants in path repair workshop during MI Autumn Gathering.



RESOURCE UTILISATION

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

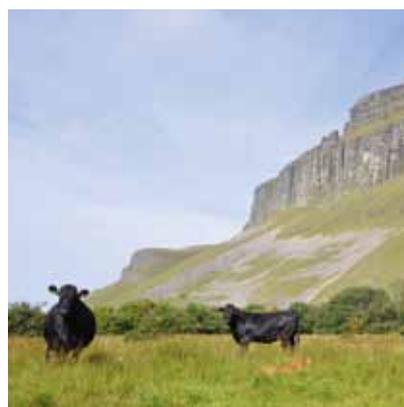
A key MI focus is to ensure a sustainable financial culture within the organisation. This is critical to the long term success of a strong and viable representative body for hillwalkers and climbers.

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

THANK YOU

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

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



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

EXTERNAL REPRESENTATION

Mountaineering Ireland is represented on the following organisations:

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

AFFILIATIONS

Mountaineering Ireland is affiliated to the following organisations:

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

WORKING RELATIONSHIPS

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

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

LIST OF MI AFFILIATED CLUBS

(As of 31 October 2010)

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

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

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



Mountaineering Ireland
Sléibhteoireacht Éireann

Sport HQ
13 Joyce Way
Park West Business Park
Dublin 12
Ireland

Telephone (+353 1) 625 1115
email: info@mountaineering.ie
website: www.mountaineering.ie

Tollymore Outdoor Centre
Bryansford
Newcastle
County Down
BT33 0PT
Northern Ireland

Telephone (+44) (0) 28 4372 5354

**CERTIFIED
CARBON
NEUTRAL®**

publication

John Marks
CarbonNeutral.com



This is a CarbonNeutral® publication, printed by a CarbonNeutral® certified company, where carbon dioxide emissions are measured and reduced at source. Unavoidable emissions are offset by supporting a variety of renewable energy and clean technology projects which save equivalent amounts of (CO₂e).

This publication is printed on Revive 100 Offset, an FSC certified material, which promotes sustainable and responsible forest management. FSC certification supports responsible forest management worldwide.