

# Wellington Runners and Walking Club AGM Co-president's Annual Report 2024

Nigel Raymond

Another year of enjoyable runs, walks, and good company. This year the club has especially focused on the core activities for the existing members, including five bus trips. We have celebrated member's achievements particularly those completing major road and trail events, both around NZ and some overseas. Substantial effort has been put into work aiming for the club to be sustainable longer term. The part-time employment of Emily Daly as a Membership and Marketing Officer has been invaluable. I want to thank all members who have joined in and contributed to the club during the year.

## Events and Activities

### Sunday Weekly Meetup for Runs and Walks

Our weekly runs and walks have been the cornerstone of our club's activities, around Wellington's amazing coastline, hills, and many trails and paths. The walking group has been consistent with a good quorum of loyal members and has enjoyed coffee at the Park Kitchen in Miramar afterwards. In addition to the slow and faster running groups, a new group began to cater for those seeking a mix of running and walking. Thanks to each of the pack leaders.

### Excursions and Other Events

This year, we hosted several excursions and other events, including:

- **Bus trips.** There were five bus trips during the year to Wainuiomata (March), Whitby trails (June), Plimmerton Inlet (July), Waikanae River (Aug), and Aotea (Sept). These were all free to members, carefully planned and with excellent route maps by Mark Growcott. It was really great to explore new nature trails and scenery in the wider Wellington region, as well as the café after. Mostly we were lucky with fine weather (some rain on the last trip).
- **Movie Night** (20 July). Another very enjoyable evening at the Time Cinema, organised by Gordy. A chance to socialise, and so interesting to look back at past running, as well as stories of what of life was like in NZ and UK through old movie footage.
- **Annual Dinner.** An evening of good food and company at the Brentwood, and wonderful talks by Daniel, Emily and Gordy. Thanks to Bice and Maryse for organizing.

## Awards and Recognitions

We are proud to acknowledge the achievements of our members who have excelled in various events and competitions. Gordy will have more to add during the trophy and prize giving after the AGM. Some of the highlights included:

- Robert completing an extraordinary series of marathons and ultra-marathons
- Alicia completing the Berlin Marathon
- Nani completing her first marathon

- Susan completing 100k
- Our inspiring longstanding members Brian, Bill and Gordy for completing even more marathons, Goat's, and other events.
- Many others, also amazing and remarkable.

## Membership & Marketing

During the year effort has been put into both supporting the existing membership and seeking new members. We encourage members to let friends and acquaintances know of the club to come along. Emily Daly was employed as a Membership and Marketing officer and has developed a marketing plan. She has undertaken an overhaul of the look of our website to more clearly describe what the WRW offers. Emily has worked with Stan Wing, who has continued to oversee, consolidate and streamline our website and membership processes. A new WRW logo has been designed, which includes Wellington's coastal outline and clear wording of the club. Emily has recently also set up a Facebook business page, which will allow us to start some FB advertising early in the 2025 New Year. Other social media platforms remain additional options.

During the year the Wellington Harriers club rooms were visited and considered as a possible alternative venue. The conclusion on balance is that the current Matairangi room at the Akau Tangi sports centre is better for our present needs and has been booked for the coming year. A trial of an 8.30am start for 2 months over winter had mixed feedback from members and remains an option for 2-3 months of winter during 2025.

## Financial Overview

Our treasurer Tasi has overseen the WRW's finances and submitted the required 2024 annual report to NZ Charities Services. Tasi will be presenting the treasurer's report.

Our club has been fortunate having strong financial reserves, held with the BNZ. Interest from BNZ term deposits is the main source of the club's income, which as a charity is not taxed. Interest returns having been high during 2024 have aided the club but are likely to be less during 2025 due to falling interest rates. Existing members have been substantially subsidised with the club's activities (particularly the room hire, bus trips, annual movie night and dinner). The committee has accepted the approach of having negative financial annual balance again during 2024, while supporting the core purposes of existing members and the WRW (WMC) charter and has managed to keep this to a similar amount as for 2023 (just over \$5k/year). The committee continues to make efforts to ensure that expenditure is prudent.

## Committee

The WRW committee has met monthly during the year and worked well together. The 2024 committee members have been: Aliitasi Takuira-Mita (Treasurer), Gordon Clarke, Jane O'Connell, Lynda Young, Mikey Clarke (joint President), Paul Johnson, Sheryl Vibert, Nigel Raymond (joint President).

- We would welcome new committee member(s), as well as anyone able to assist with specific events
- It's always appreciated to hear from members about ideas to improve our club.

- We thank Lynda Young for her work on the committee, especially keeping excellent minutes and for her administrative expertise. The remaining members have made themselves available for re-election/continuing for the coming year.

## Plans

Looking ahead into 2025, we hope to build on this year's efforts:

- Continuing to support the current Sunday running and walking groups, 4-5 bus trips and existing social evening events. Additional events to be determined.
- Expanding our membership through outreach and marketing efforts. The committee is meeting with Emily Daly again on 17<sup>th</sup> December, to take stock and consider approaches for next year. Some Facebook advertising is intended to start by the New Year.