

Wellington Runners and Walking Club AGM

President's Annual Report

2025

Nigel Raymond

Another year of enjoyable runs & walks, and good company. During 2026, we've focused on the core activities for the existing members. The bus trips for runs & walks around the Wellington region have been a highlight, as was also the club Annual Dinner. We have celebrated member's achievements particularly those completing major road and trail events, both around NZ and some overseas. The club committee continues its work organising activities for 2026 and in support of existing members, while attracting new members. I want to thank all members who have joined in and contributed to the club during the year.

In 2026, the club will officially restart on Sunday 18th January.

Events and Activities

Sunday Weekly Meetup for Runs and Walks

Our Sunday morning runs and walks remain the cornerstone of our club's activities, around Wellington's amazing coastline, hills, and many trails and paths. We are proud to acknowledge the achievements of our members who have completed various distance events and competitions. Gordy will have more to add during the trophy and prize giving after the AGM. The walking group has been consistent with a quorum of loyal members and has enjoyed coffee at the Park Kitchen in Miramar afterwards. Thanks to each of the pack leaders, for their support of the running and walking groups.

Excursions and Other Events

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

- **Summer BBQ Otari Bush** – on 2nd March. Again, fine weather for walks & runs through Otari's trails, and a BBQ afterwards at the Glen.
- **Bus trips.** There were four bus trips during the year to Newlands (March), Cannon Point & Birchville Dam (June), Camborne Walkway, Pauatahanui (July), and Te Whiti Park (Oct). These were all free to members, carefully planned and with excellent route maps by Mark Growcott. Really great to explore new nature trails and scenery in the wider Wellington region, as well as the café after. We were fortunately lucky with fine weather. There is a plan for 4-5 bus trips again during 2026.
- **Annual Dinner.** An evening of good food and company at the Brentwood. Wonderful talks by Robert and Roland: both incredibly inspiring and describing some of what has motivated their running careers. Thanks to Bice and Maryse for organizing, and Paul as MC.

The Movie Night which has been a feature over past years was no longer possible, as the Time Cinema in Kilbirnie has sadly been closed.

Membership

There continues to be a strong quorum of club members, both regular and attending as they're able during the year. The camaraderie and friendship of members is such a valued part of being members of the club.

Overall membership numbers have been gradually decreasing over at least the last decade or two. This has been with a loyal membership, but relatively few new members, an aging membership and gradual loss of long-standing members e.g., moving towns. This has also been a challenge for many similar NZ clubs, partly due to people's otherwise busy lives and as people connect in other ways to running and walking events and on-line meetups.

Boosting efforts to attract new members will be a focus of the committee during the coming year. Support of the wider club membership toward achieving this will be appreciated, both in ideas and any practical help. The club has over the last 1-2 years worked to set up a sound foundation, such as its bus trips, updated website, a draft new member information brochure, establishing a Facebook Meta account, designed fliers, and marketing advice from Emily Daly. During 2025, we have also developed a Code of Conduct located on our website, to articulate our positive culture.

WRW has great potential go appeal to new members, especially those 30 years and above. It can be a great experience to discover so many varied routes around Wellington's coasts, hills, paths and parks. The bus trips go to interesting places in the Wellington region, which otherwise may be unvisited. There are often inspiration and practical advice from those who have done lots of remarkable running and walking before. There are the friendship, support, and camaraderie that comes from being part of the club. Being spurred to take part in club activities is a great way to get outdoors, with the health benefits of staying active, reducing stress, and maintaining long-term fitness. The club has sought to be flexible and inclusive: whether someone is a new or seasoned runner or a social walker, there is a place for them.

Financial Overview

Our treasurer Tasi has overseen the WRW's finances and submitted the required 2025 annual report to NZ Charities Services. Tasi will be presenting the treasurer's report.

Our club has been fortunate in having strong financial reserves, built up by past members, 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. Annual membership fees have remained low. The club has sought to ensure support of existing members, who are substantially subsidised with the club's activities particularly the room hire, bus trips, and dinner. This has resulted in the club running a loss in the range of around \$5-8,000 per year during recent years, accepted then based on the principle of supporting existing members. Interest returns having been high during the last couple of years, although will be less during 2026 due to falling interest rates. The committee has reviewed the club's finances to help the club remain sustainable.

It is proposed from 2026 to rent the Matairangi Room in the Akau Tangi Sports Centre for 1 hour each Sunday, rather than until 10.30 or 11am, as use has been very low after the morning meeting, while costly. We will also not employ a room minder. This will mean that members will not be able to leave their gear in the room, e.g., could leave in their car. The committee has proposed no increase in membership fees for 2026, seeking for this to not be a barrier for

members. The combination of these changes should help the club to achieve a more balanced budget from 2026.

Committee

The WRW committee has met monthly during the year. The 2025 committee members have been: Aliitasi Takuira-Mita (Treasurer), Gordon Clarke, Jane O'Connell, Sybil Gregson, Mikey Clarke (joint President), Paul Johnson, Sheryl Vibert, Nigel Raymond (joint President). Thank you very much, to each of the committee members for their work and insights.

- We would welcome and are very keen for new committee members, to refresh and sustain the committee. Also, anyone interested able to assist with specific events or roles would be of great help.
- Stepping off the committee are Jane O'Connell, Sheryl Gregson, Mikey Clarke and Sheryl Vibert.
- Available to continue the committee for 2026 are Aliitasi Takuira-Mita, Gordon Clarke, Paul Johnson, Nigel Raymond.

Thanks

Special thanks also to:

- Ruby Ropati for having been our wonderful room minder.
- Mark Growcott for organising the bus trip routes,
- Stan Wing for ongoing website running and maintenance