

**87th
ANNUAL REPORT**

1 JULY 2015 – 30 JUNE 2016



Hobart Walking Club Inc.

**GPO Box 753
Hobart
Tasmania 7001**

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Executive Committee

(October 2015 to October 2016)

President:	Philip Le Grove
Vice President:	Storm Foulkes
Vice President:	Andrew Davey
Secretary:	Jane Long
Assistant Secretary	Lee Parker
Treasurer:	John Kerrison
Walks Secretary:	Rupert Manners
Ski & Hut Secretary:	Simon Benham
Membership Officer:	Geoff O'Hara
Committee Members:	Trish Colles Andrew Furminger Henk Brolsma
Auditor:	Geoff Morffew
Annual Report Editor:	Jane Long, Philip Le Grove

CLUB DELEGATES (at 30 June 2016)

Bushwalking Tasmania STSA	Andrew Davey Fred Koolhof, Andrew Davey, Liz Koolhof
Tasmanian Bicycle Council Inc Clarence Tracks and Trails	Linda and Tony Cook Barry Ford

PRESIDENT

The Club has completed a busy year. Member participation in activities is up compared to last year and this is despite some 50 trips being cancelled because of poor weather conditions. As well our membership numbers have continued to trend up looking at the last 3 years. Further insight into these numbers can be found within the Annual Report but it highlights a healthy Club. It also confirms that there are many volunteers who are working to ensuring the Club operates effectively providing activities for all of us.

To support the Executive Committee's mission to 'Make it Easy to Go Walking' 4 new improvement projects were identified as well as the finalisation of a project started in the previous year.

1. Website Review (Jane Long) – this project was set up to look at the good, the bad and the ugly of all things in our website to improve the experience from a user's point of view. The project team undertook a survey of website users to gather information and during the latter part of the year commenced making improvements to the website. Their work will continue into next year.
2. Encouraging Walk Coordinators (Rupert Manners) – This improvement project was to assist walk coordinators by establishing a routes database to identify potential trips. Coordinators will find this tool in the members section of the HWC Website.
3. Circular Review (Henk Brolsma) – our Monthly Circular is the glue that pulls the Club together providing the information on the activities we all enjoy. This project to look at content relevancy and presentation of the activities was delayed and will start early in the new year.
4. Simplifying Membership Renewal (Geoff O'Hara) – subscription renewal is a busy time for Club Officers

and this project delivered an easier process to minimise the paperwork in the long term.

5. Constitution Polish (Storm Foulkes) – this project was started last year and will finalise the new Constitution when a motion to adopt the ‘polished’ constitution is put to the AGM in October.

Bushwalkers and PLB’s (or lack of) were to the fore during the year. Our Club was involved in the search for the single bushwalker on Mt Anne with 3 members, Vicki Martin, Jamie Cotton and Paul Challen, responding to a call for assistance. The Club received a letter of thanks and a special mention for the rescue team from a very grateful walker.

Before this incident occurred the Executive Committee was considering a suggestion submitted by a Club Member to bulk purchase 15 PLB’s (personal locator beacon) and offer them to members with a small subsidy. The offer was so popular that we had to run a second offer. Overall we sold 31 PLB’s to members.

In December several members of the Executive attended a meeting of bushwalking clubs and the Parks & Wildlife Department to review the Overland Track User Guidelines. In 2013 the managers of the Overland Track introduced user guidelines for bushwalkers intending to use parts of the OLT during the booking season to access other walks in the region and to control walker numbers. Our submission to the review covered 3 aspects. Overall we were happy with the guidelines and were looking for changes to improve signage accuracy; training of OLT staff to improve the management of non OLT walking groups and to increase the awareness of the User Guidelines; and to remove camping restrictions for non OLT walkers at Waterfall Valley.

A training day held for Walk Coordinators saw 22 members attending. The facilitator Stuart Scott, who has a background in Emergency Services, gave participants several very workable frameworks to use when a group is confronted with

increased risk through changing conditions. With lots of 'what if' situations to practice on, course participants were given opportunities to learn in a very practical way.

During the year a decision was made to offer our library of books to the State Library Service, and transfer photos and important documents to the Tasmanian Archives and Heritage Office (TAHO). We appointed a club volunteer to the position of Club Archivist with the specific role of liaising between TAHO and the Club to ensure a smooth transfer of records. The transfer process has now begun.

For the first time the Club acted as hosts to a visit by members of the Canberra Bushwalking Club. This was a new initiative in our program and will see the HWC visiting Canberra in October.

The Club again had a site at the Sustainable Living Tas Expo held at PW1 during October. This event has been a good opportunity to promote the Club, catch up with members and talk to the public about membership opportunities.

The Club is very fortunate to have so many members who put their hand up to take on one of the many roles in the Club. We are successful because our volunteers put in a lot of effort to keep the Club running. Thank you to the Subcommittees, delegates and custodians and the walk coordinators who have all done a wonderful job.

Our Club Executive Committee are a strong team of members working together to ensure the objectives of the Club are achieved and in particular making it easy to go walking. Thank you for support and hard work throughout the year.

See you on the track.

Philip Le Grove, President

MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the HWC was 910 members on 30 June 2016; an increase of 47 on FY 2015. We had 125 new members join the Club, 19 members were late in re-joining, 5 members re-joined after a short absence, and 3 members joined from other clubs, giving us this healthy 47 member increase. 105 members did not renew their membership.

Sadly Club members Warwick Ashley, Allan Christian, Barbara Ditcham and Frank Morris passed away during the year.

Renewals for Club members were made easier with more electronic options to renew membership and pay membership fees. Plus all members were asked to complete an enduring Risk Form, providing the option for no paper renewals next year.

Significant numbers of members are choosing the option to renew electronically, however the paper renewal option will be retained for the foreseeable future. Also more members are joining the Club via the Members Area of our website, and members are increasingly accessing their details through the Members Area enabling members to personally update their Club membership details and membership profile.

Below are the membership statistics for 2016; previous year data is provided for comparison.

Age Group Statistics at 30th June 2016

Age	FY 2015-2016			FY 2014-2015			FY 2013-14		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
16-18	0	2	2	0	1	1	0	3	3
19-24	2	4	6	2	2	4	1	1	2
25-29	2	7	9	3	7	10	4	8	12
30-39	6	11	17	13	20	33	11	15	26
40-49	21	35	56	21	38	59	26	44	70
50-59	80	126	206	80	118	198	82	122	204
60-69	159	208	367	169	215	384	154	192	346
70-79	112	83	195	90	64	154	91	65	156
80-89	24	22	46	22	20	42	17	20	37
90+	2	4	6	2	3	5	3	4	7
Unknown	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	408	502	910	402	487	889	389	475	864

Membership Statistics at 30 June 2016

Category	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012
Hon. Life Members	10	11	10	11	13
Hon. Associate Members	1	1	1	1	1
Associate Members	4	4	3	1	1
Members	781	762	723	702	695
Prospective Members	114	111	127	87	58
Total	910	889	864	802	768

35 Year Membership Certificates

Nine members attained 35 years in the Club and were awarded Certificates. They are:

Roger Bradshaw	6/04/1979	Christine Patterson	6/03/1981
Marcie Nahodil	6/01/1981	David Tongs	28/03/1981
Ruth Raward	6/01/1981	Anneliese Ortmann	7/04/1981
Erik Parris	18/02/1981	Hazel Roper-Power	16/10/1981
Jenny Burleigh	1/03/1981		

50 Year Membership Certificates

Seven members attained the significant milestone of 50 years membership in the Club and were awarded a Gold Certificates. They are:

	Date joined
Erika Shankley	1/01/1960
Ian Weeks	23/01/1966
Stuart Whitney	25/01/1966
Frank Lawrence	5/02/1966
Patsy Merhulik	2/04/1966
Lorraine Minchin	6/05/1966
Robert Richardson	19/11/1966

Club recipients of Long and Significant Service Award are:

Margaret Knight	2011	John Adams	2013
Stuart Whitney	2011	Jim Anderson	2013
Hillary Goodwin	2011	Rosalie Davis	2013
Sylvia Ledger	2011	David Hardy	2013
Anna Rau	2011	Fred Koolhof	2013
Roger Reed	2011	Pam Powell	2014
Phyl Wyatt	2011	Chris Rathbone	2014
Barry Ford	2012	Vicki Martin	2014
Jenny Ford	2012	Midj Jones	2014
Gloria Barnes	2012	Geoff Morffew	2015
Adrian Jowett	2012	Tony Rae	2015
Margaret Gould	2012	Paul Geeves	2015

Club Life Members are:

John Cannon
Andrew Davey
Bruce Davis
Brian Haas
David Leaman
Val Linsell
Sheila Reynolds
Stephanie Schulz
Bob Wyatt
John Wythes

Geoff O'Hara, Membership Officer

TRIPS SUB-COMMITTEE

Trips Secretary	Rupert Manners
Trips Data	Jill Finch and earlier Vicki Martin
Walks Programmers	
Overnight	Paul Geeves
W/E SE+ Day Trips	Judy Bond
W/E MM+ Day Trips	Chris Rathbone
Monday (Toddles)	Helen Dalla-Fontana
Monday SE/SM	Rob Hill
Tuesday	Heather Hurd
Wednesday	Mary Jolly
Thursday	John Kerrison
Midweek SE/SM	Duncan Hamilton and earlier Felicity Walch
Midweek SNQ	Rinda Burgess
Dog Walks	Dawn Hendrick and earlier Kathleen McLaren
Cycle Programmers	
Thursday SE	Cecilia Eriksson
Thursday Mod	Helen Daly, David Pears (part of the year) and earlier Brian Haas
Tuesday Int	Chris Howard

It has been another busy and active year. There were 734 (2015: 704) trips that went ahead in the year with a participation of 8526 (2015: 7837). Many thanks to all the programmers and coordinators who helped make such a fantastic program possible. 50 trips were cancelled during the year, mainly because of bad weather.

The spread of trips undertaken is similar to previous years with our dominant grade being day walks in the MM category. Overall the number of participants per trip has increased marginally to 11.6 members per trip (2015: 11.1). Rob Hill introduced SE/SM walks on Mondays as some of the numbers on the SE walks were getting too high. Mary Jolly reported Wednesday MM walks were generally attracting numbers in the 20's each week.

Midweek walking trips that went ahead increased from 296 to 352. This resulted in a small drop in the number of participants per trip. The reverse happened on weekend walks with the number of walks that went ahead reducing by 42 and a resultant increase in the number of participants per trip. Overall participation on weekend walks fell 12%.

Paul Geeves, Overnight Programmer, reported the 2015/16 overnight walks program was strong with a wide range of trips offered throughout the year and very good range of extended summer trips.

Dawn Hendrick, Dog Walks Convenor, reported that our canine companions continue to be well catered for, with some people “borrowing” dogs for these walks and others coming along for the sheer enjoyment of watching dogs having fun.

Cycling is our fastest growing activity with participation up by some 19%. Some of the cycle trips have enough participants to warrant the formation an extra cycling group. Volunteers please.

Helen Daly, Thursday Moderate Cycle programmer, reported longer/ harder and shorter rides on the same day have been programmed during summer months to cater for popular Thursday riding. Average numbers of 14 per cycle crept up to 28 on one occasion.

Linda & Tony Cook coordinated several cycle tours throughout the year -

- Tamar River Tour: 3 days and 180 km - a popular, tour timed to enjoy the Tamar region in its springtime magnificence;
- Southern Tour: 4 days and 170 km – an undulating and scenic tour from Hobart around the Channel;
- NW Tour: 8 days and 250 km -a wonderful tour on sealed rural roads including an extra overnight camp up at Quamby Bluff;
- Caveside Easter Camp: an enjoyable camping trip involving fabulous bush walks and cycling conditions.

The number of Coordinators organising trips is a staggering 181 (2015: 172). So 20% of the members are coordinating one trip or more.

The leading Trip Coordinators were as follows:

		Trips	No of days
Rupert Manners	Walks	22	61
Paul Geeves	Walks	9	35
Linda Cook	Cycle	8	25
Alison Street	Walks & Kayaking	8	23
Helen Daly	Walks & Cycle	19	22
Felicity Walch	Walks	18	18
John Cannon	Walks	15	17
Tony Woolford	Walks	3	17
John Cornwell	Cycle	7	16
Rob Hill	Walks	16	16
Helen Dalla-Fontana	Walks	15	15
Judith Holmes	Walks & Cycle	13	15
Judy Bond	Walks	15	15
Nick Hume	Walks & Cycle	12	15
Brian Haas	Cycle	6	14
Dawn Albert	Walks	2	14
John Kerrison	Walks	8	14
Chris Rathbone	Walks	9	13
Carmen Walker	Walks	13	13
Geoff O'Hara	Walks	4	12
John Street	Walks & Cycle	6	12
Andrew Davey	Walks	4	11
Dianne Martin	Walks	11	11
Andreas Hack	Walks	3	11

Overall the statistics show the Club is going very well. The one area of concern is the drop in weekend participation.

See the following tables with all the details.

SUMMARY OF TRIPS

<i>Day Trips Walking</i>		<i>2016</i>			<i>2015</i>		
		<i>Trips</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Particip/ per trip</i>	<i>Trips</i>	<i>Participants</i>	<i>Particip/ per trip</i>
	LR	5	38	7.6	15	90	6.0
	MR	35	286	8.2	31	205	6.6
	LM	24	262	10.9	33	279	8.5
	LE	7	85	12.1	4	70	17.5
	MM	174	2426	13.9	176	2225	12.6
	SR	4	30	7.5	1	20	20.0
	SM	40	549	13.7	23	340	14.8
	SE	104	1381	13.3	88	1233	14.0
	SNQ	47	445	9.5	52	457	8.8
	NQ	45	560	12.4	39	770	19.7
	DWNQ	10	55	5.5	11	75	6.8
	FB	3	9	3.0	14	36	2.6
	Kayak	4	20	5.0	1	4	4.0
		502	6146	12.2	488	5804	11.9

SUMMARY OF TRIPS cont.

Day Trips Cycling			2016			2015		
	Int/cyc	46	437	9.5	46	456	9.9	
	Mod/cyc	65	863	13.3	62	692	11.2	
	SE/cyc	51	570	11.2	51	471	9.2	
	Tour	8	109	13.6	5	42	8.4	
		170	1979	11.6	164	1661	10.1	
Extended			2016			2015		
	FB	4	12	3.0	6	25	4.2	
	LR	4	32	8.0	4	12	3.0	
	MM	23	208	9.0	14	143	10.2	
	MR	25	128	5.1	27	166	6.1	
	SM	2	8	4.0	1	26	26.0	
	Kayak	4	13	3.3				
		62	401	6.5	52	372	7.2	
Total		734	8526	11.6	704	7837	11.1	
Weekend		150	1413	9.4	192	1603	8.3	
Midweek		352	4733	13.4	296	4201	14.2	

Walks Database

The Walks Data database was transferred to the HWC website to enable members to directly input details of their planned walks, thus saving a lot of time for the Walks Data person. Members can also view the Database at any time and so keep abreast of upcoming trips. The Circular is also produced from this database. Chris Rathbone and Jill Finch were the Club stalwarts who organised this and they are to be congratulated on making this happen. To me it seemed seamless but that was only because of the huge amount of effort Chris and Jill put into it.

Routes Database

I have put together a Routes Database of walks which the Club has done over the last seven years. This is about 1,000 different walks and I have detailed notes or a GPS track for about 500 of the walks and I would be able to obtain details of many of the other walks on request. This Database has been put together to help coordinators with ideas for future walks and to facilitate them in carrying out the walk.

Track Clearing

During the year Malcolm Sherlock, Rupert Manners and Henk Broisma got chainsaw licences so we could clear some tracks of fallen trees etc. We also persuaded Parks to allow us to use chainsaws on some designated tracks. During the year we did work on the Slide Track, Bruny Island, Cape Surville Track, Burgess Bluff track, Mt Picton track and Kermantie Falls track. The Club purchased a chainsaw and related equipment. Many thanks to all those who contributed.

Incidents

There were as usual a few incidents during the year, a few broken bones but thankfully nothing very serious and all the incidents were handled well.

Vicki Martin

Vicki who has done the Walks Database job for the last 10 years retired. Jill Finch has taken over the role with assistance

from Vicki. Thank you Vicki for a wonderful job done over so many years.

Rupert Manners, Trips Secretary

SEARCH, RESCUE & TRAINING SUB-COMMITTEE

Members: Pam Powell (Convenor), Malcolm Sherlock (Police Liaison), Tony Rae, Jamie Cotton, Stuart Whitney, Ian Draper, Sue Denman, Chris Rathbone, John Kerrison (Exec Rep)

The committee is responsible for the organisation and conduct of introductory training days, maintenance of a call-out list for rescue activities, organisation of search groups, training of club members and monitoring the overall safety of the Club's activities.

Training Trips

The committee continued to run the Essential Skills training days required for new members to gain full membership in the Club. This program covers all aspects relating to day walking trips.

During the 2015/2016 year we scheduled seven Essential Skills 1-day training events with 75 prospective members attending. This compares with 91 for the previous year. In each year the committee made available 7 Essential Skills training days. The decrease in numbers is despite higher number of prospective members who join the Club requiring training. This trend is very concerning given the large numbers of new members who don't register for training.

Training Activities

We organised the annual training weekend at the Steppes Reserve in April. The program included: navigation, first aid, review of a serious walking incident, and food preparation and planning and stoves display. This was followed by the BBQ and on Sunday a walk to Cradle Hill. The weather was overall fine: Saturday was overcast and intermittently sunny with a cool breeze; Sunday dawned with clear blue skies, warm

temperatures and no wind. The Steppes Historic reserve looked great, with some new works evident in the form of benches, fencing and a general clean-up of vegetation and cutting back overgrowth. Thanks everyone who gave their time to make the weekend a success.

The club organized training for experienced walks coordinators delivered by Stuart Scott. The training focused on emergency management, search, rescue and survival, not on how to avoid getting into an emergency situation. Many of the situations covered are unlikely to occur in the majority of the walks the club provides. It was, however, an interesting day providing those that attended a better understanding of how to cope with an emergency.

GPS training was also provided to a cohort of club members at Risdon Brook Dam.

Search and Rescue

The sub-committee maintains a search and rescue call-out list from which we are able to mobilize searches when alerted by the Police. These callouts can range from remote difficult searches to local one day searches. In recent years the police have tended to use helicopters to fly over wide spread search areas, sometimes locating the lost person in the process. This has resulted in more 1-day searches or multi-day searches where the searchers go home each night. The sub-committee has continued to update and revamp our call-out lists using mobile phone technology. We now have 3 primary police contacts who are able to send a text message to our expanded search list and a follow-up message to the member's email address with details of the search. The secondary contacts get in touch with those who are not on mobile phone or email. This enables us to get the message out quickly and get responses back quickly.

Callouts / alerts: On Friday 23rd October we responded to a police call-out for a walker lost on Mt Anne. In poor flying conditions three club members, Jamie Cotton, Vicki Martin

and Paul Challen, together with their with over-night gear were air-lifted to High Camp late in the afternoon. The search continued until late Saturday morning when the missing walker appeared, somewhat battered and bruised, on the Scotts Peak road

The SAREX training for search volunteers will be held in September this year on the north-east coastal area and will be scenario based with land and marine workshops scheduled. The last day will feature a vertical rescue. Call-out list members have been encouraged to participate.

Incident Monitoring

The committee has a role in monitoring incidents occurring on club walks and if necessary making recommendations to the Executive regarding action. There have been a number of incidents reported this year, mainly involving breaks, sprains, falls and the like. Mobile phones played a large part in an incident on the Tasman Trail leading to the successful rescue of the injured walker by nightfall. On another walk due to a combination of mistakes and errors of judgement ended up with walkers spending the night in the open (this wasn't an official club walk as the walk had been called off by the walk coordinator). There were a number of other incidents that had an impact on walks such as medical issues, party members becoming separated from the main body of walkers/bike riders, etc. This includes an ambulance called to a walk on Mt Wellington and a walker separated from a Mt Wellington party being picked up by a rescue helicopter.

Thanks

We once again want to record our thanks to those who led training days, ran training activities and participated in searches during the year.

Pam Powell, SRT Convenor

CIRCULAR SUB-COMMITTEE

Co-ordinator: Jim Anderson
Editors: John Gora, Doug McLean, Stephanie Schulz
Trips Data: Jill Finch/Vicki Martin
Mailing Officer: Lawrence Hemsley
Emailing Officer: Geoff O'Hara
Circular production hosts & hostesses; mailing helpers; cover artists & photographers.

Circular production numbers as at 30 June 2016 are:-

Circular style	Members	Others	Total	%
Print	327	10	337	38.6
Email	535	0	535	61.4
Total	862	10	872	100.0

Members who pay to receive a printed circular are now offered an email version as well. In this table, those members subscribing for print and email are counted in the Print category while members who subscribe for email alone are counted in the Email category.

Thank you to all of the above-mentioned team for their dedication in producing the monthly circulars.

In 2016 we have had an average of 8 mailing helpers per month at production homes, some of whom are regulars travelling to all suburbs. Perhaps others could assist when production is near their home. Addressing and wrapping the monthly circular is a pleasant social event which takes a couple of hours at most.

Jim Anderson, Circular Co-ordinator

SOCIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

Members: Gill Fitzgerald (Convenor), Trish Colles (Exec Rep), Vonda Kerrison, Vicki Martin, Margaret Williams.

In July 2015 we had a lunch at Buckingham Bowls Club with Tornies Catering. The event was attended by 42 Members and guests who enjoyed the food and companionship. It was good to see the range in ages, the more senior Members showing their prowess by coming out tops in the quiz.

On November 14th we had another function, this time a dinner at Rosny Park Bowls Club, again with Tornies excellent catering. 63 people attended and it was another successful event, proving that HWC Members enjoy talking, as well as walking and other outdoor activities.

The December Christmas BBQ was at Gordon at the home of Rupert & Wyn Manners. Their lovely big gardens are ideal for a function such as this. There was a good turnout and some took advantage of the offer to camp and partake of breakfast in the morning. Thank you to Rupert & Wyn.

On the 28th.January HWC held the annual Australia Day picnic at Orana. This was well attended by walkers, cyclists and strollers, all enjoying the BBQ, the beach and relaxing in the shade of the trees. Thank you to Phyl Wyatt for organising the day.

Gill Fitzgerald, Social Convenor.

PUBLICATION SALES

Sales figures for the financial year ending 30th June 2016 were as follows:-

<i>The Tasmanian Tramp:</i>	Shops	Individuals	Total
No.24		1	1
No.38	2		2
No.39	1	3	4
No.40	10	1	11
CD Tramp Nos.1-23		6	6
<i>Safety in the Bush</i>	1	3	4

Total items remaining:

“Tramps”

No.21 – 16

No.23 – 25

No.24 – 50

No.25 – 71

No.26 – 49

No.27 – 7

No.31 – 56

No.32 – 48

No.34 – 40

No.35 – 33

No.38 – 40

No.39 – 83

No.40 – 80

Tramp index 1-23 - 50

Safety in the Bush - 47

Emergency Medicine - 90

A list of current prices of all Club publications is shown on the HWC website, with all back copies of “Tramp” selling for only \$2. The Tasmanian Tramp CD still continues to be popular with members and non-members, probably indicating the current trend to reading articles electronically.

We look forward to the release of Tramp 41 in September this year.

Ruth Raward, Publications Sales Officer

EDITORIAL SUB-COMMITTEE

The Tasmanian Tramp No.41 is complete, printed and released September 2016. The hard working committee have once again produced an excellent publication. The committee members include: Helen Daly - Editorial Convener, John Cannon, John Adams, Karen Marriott, Gladys Seymour and David Seymour. Each member brings a range of expertise and together make the task less difficult and an overall enjoyable experience. Once again without the great stories, photos, poems and sketches submitted by members who walk, cycle, photograph and sketch we would not be able to continue to produce this journal. Many thanks to all involved.

Helen Daly, Editorial Convener

ENVIRONMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

Members: Paul Geeves (Convenor), D. Jupe, P. Watson, A. Davey (Exec Rep).

During the 2015-16 year the Environment Committee prepared a submission to the Tasmanian Government review of the Place Names Act. This was the only formal submission for the year.

Consideration was given as to whether a Club submission was needed on the changes to the Freycinet Management Plan but as the suggested changes only related to the visitor services zone it was felt that no submission was necessary.

Informal discussions continued on a range of issues including further Club discussions on Cradle Mountain Access issues including the Dove Lake chairlift proposal and the policy for walks using parts of the Overland Track, priorities for road and track access to the TWWHA and access to tracks and campsites impacted by the Three Capes Track development.

I would like to thank the Committee members for their assistance and valuable contributions.

Paul Geeves, Convenor

SKI & HUT SUB-COMMITTEE

Members: Simon Benham (Secretary), J. De Burgh, A. Holding, L. Koolhof, F. Koolhof, F. Lawrence, I. Picken, F. Rader, R. Rader, T. Rae, A. Davey, S. Newbold.

We have had another successful year at the hut. Usage has been quite high, with fees more than covering running costs. I would like to thank the Hut Committee and the Club Executive Committee, and all those who have contributed to the running and maintenance of the hut in the past year. Thanks also to all those who have stayed at the hut and left it in good

condition. The turnout for the wood stacking bee was very pleasing. I will be relinquishing the position of hut secretary at the October Annual General Meeting. It has been a privilege to serve the club in this position and I am grateful for all the help I have had while doing so. I hope that the hut will continue to give pleasure to club members in the years to come, and will remain as it has historically, a place where members can find refuge from the elements, and feel free to share with others on an equal footing.

Simon Benham, Ski and Hut Secretary

FACEBOOK

At 9.07 pm 14 May 2010, the Hobart Walking Club (the Club) commenced the initiative to attract interest in and new members to the Club through a Facebook group. There is continued enthusiastic following of the Club Facebook group with new members and the increased posting of trip photos.

There were fewer FlashWalks posted to Facebook between July 2015 and June 2016 compared to previous years. There were only five FlashWalks (compared to 20 in 2014-15) but there were four FlashKayaks and one FlashWorkingBee for track clearing which demonstrates its versatility. The Facebook group has increased its membership to approximately 830 (compared to 600 in 2014-15). The Facebook group was one of the methods used to disseminate a survey requesting members' feedback on the Club Website.

The Club Facebook continues to be used by:

- Club members to:
 - o share photos
 - o cancel and provide updates on walks
 - o organise FlashWalks and other activities as track clearing / working bees
 - o sell gear and equipment
 - o promote interest in interstate and overseas trips
 - o share relevant Club information and links to websites
- Non Club members to:

- become aware of the Club and what it offers
- request information on joining the club
- access links to the Club website

The Club Facebook Administration provides:

- information on Club activities
- links to Local, State Government and other organisations websites – including Parks and Wildlife Service, Forestry, Fire, Police and Bureau of Metrology on track / road closures, weather reports / warnings and projects and proposals relating to the Clubs areas of interest
- help to Club members with setting up and ongoing use of Facebook
- potential members with information / links on joining the Club
- relevant topics on cycling

Gill Mosmann, Facebook Administrator

WEB MANAGER

The "walksdata" trips database moved onto the Members website in December and has been successfully nursed along, with significant effort from the new Trips Data person - Jill Finch. Unfortunately the web developer has been unable to respond to most of the requests to fix ongoing and new problems with the website, particularly the trips database. Fortunately the problems have not been critical but they continue to affect the ease of operation.

In February a review of the HWC website was commenced as one of the 2016 Improvement Projects. As part of this a survey of Members was undertaken to obtain feedback on the website. The responses provided useful information for the Website Review Group.

In light of problems in existing website, lack of response from the web developer and requirements for enhanced functionality, the long term future of the current website

remains in doubt. A completely new supplier and web site are being considered.

Chris Rathbone, Web Manager

GENERAL MEETINGS ENTERTAINMENT

2015		
July	John & Vonda Kerrison	Galapagos & Machu Pichu
Aug	Alastair Richardson	The Bookend Trust
Sept	Rupert Manners & Philip Le Grove	S.W. Cape Circuit
Oct	Vicki Martin	Walking in Japan (A.G.M.)
Nov	Mark Wapstra	Plants in the Tasmanian Bush
Dec	Henk Broisma	Walking the Camino St. Francis
2016		
Feb	Fred & Liz Koolhof	Walking on Mt. Kenya
March	Justin Helmich, PWS Project Manager	The 3 Capes Walk
April	Kevin Doran	Let's hit the high spots! (Tasmanian peaks)
May	Kevin Doran <i>(replacing scheduled speaker unavailable due to illness)</i>	A look at the Overland track over the years
June	Andrew Davey	'Rugged Tasmania'

Thank you to all who have provided a varied and entertaining program over the last year. Also grateful thanks to the technical experts for the smooth running of the equipment.

Gill Fitzgerald, Entertainment Co-ordinator

EQUIPMENT

The Club has gear for hire to members for both club and private trips or activities within Tasmania.

The equipment includes:

- 4 tents – 2x2 person Macpac "Olympus"; 2x1 person Macpac "Microlight". These tents are suitable for use in all seasons.
- 5 rucksacks - 2 Aiking – 1 Universal, 1 Womens; 2 Macpac - 1 Cascade, 1 unnamed; 1 Berghaus 30+10 daypack
- 2 Trangia cooksets c/w fuel bottles
- 2 sleeping mats - 1 Thermarest self-inflating 3/4 length; 1 closed cell foam full length
- 2 PLBs - GME Accusat
- 1 compass - Silva Starter
- 1 pair waterproof overpants
- 1 pair knee length gaiters

Other equipment also available includes:

- 1 Siemens 16mm sound projector c/w spare reels.
 - 1 Leica P2000 35mm slide projector c/w spare magazines.
 - 1 Waterworth 35mm slide/strip projector.
 - 1 Linda Hostess 6 litre urn.
 - 1 Audio Telex P.A./Cassette Recorder c/w extension speaker.
 - 1 Realistic FM Wireless Microphone System.
- Cassette tapes and vinyl records of "folk" and other dance music.

Usage has continued to drop from that of previous years. From only 6 reservations for equipment over the last year, 2 bookings were made - 1 2x2 persons tents; 1x1 person tent.

Brian Haas, Equipment Custodian

LIBRARY

As outlined in the Presidents Report, the Club Library was reviewed in 2016. The role of Librarian ceased and a new role of Club Archivist instigated in July 2016.

DELEGATES' REPORTS

BUSHWALKING TASMANIA (BWT)

Some of Parks held an “all Clubs” meeting concerning the Overland Track (OT) area last November. Many of the issues mentioned received ongoing attention from BWT due to more adverse reports. As a result, all members of Bushwalking Tasmania agreed to a unanimous position to resolve the problems which received an excellent hearing from the General Manager of Parks. The General Manager suggested BWT redraft the guidelines for discussion. The agreed position says:

“While Parks may have some preferences in the way the Overland Track is used, importantly there is deliberate **flexibility** in approach for traditional or customary use of the Overland Track area ...”

The changed examples of walks consistent with the guidelines are:

“I Cradle Valley >> Waterfall Valley or Lake Rodway >> Cradle Valley with Barn Bluff or Cradle Mtn trip” and “VI Narcissus >> Falling Mtn or Gate Post (Traveller Range) >> Narcissus “. One should not have to notify to walk Narcissus to Du Cane Gap.

The push to regain camping at Waterfall Valley succeeded. Bookable platforms have been planned, but are yet to be installed; free to book and use, apart from the usual Park Entry Fee.

BWT saw and wrote to a number of Authorities to emphasise the importance of traditional practices by Tasmanians, of which bushwalking is a key activity. BWT wants access, affordability and customary use by Tasmanians to have a priority position, not subsumed into tourism as if a mere commercial undertaking.

The annual Get Together was in the Northwest, based at Guilford. The event was well attended and successful, although the weather could have been sunnier. Walks to Mt Tor, Valentines Peak, Magnet Mine and several waterfalls occurred.

Whatever the outcome of a proposed cableway for Cradle Valley, BWT made it known that Tasmanian walkers strongly wish to retain private car access to the Dove Lake area to prevent being stranded out of hours, or unable to start walks early. The expense of a cableway ride for a carload of walkers or a family compared to driving would be a highly significant negative for many. Correspondence implied commercial tourism interests want a cableway in the hope of more profit by attracting more visitors. The effect of a cableway on traditional use of the area by Tasmanians seems to have received extremely little attention. Parks expressed mixed feelings, with very senior staff mostly not supportive due to likely problems for Parks.

The national body, Bushwalking Australia, chose November of 2016 in Hobart for its AGM. There is a reasonable chance the next President of the national body will be a Tasmanian for the first time – no guarantee. This could be useful as Tasmania has a different view on some matters to some other States. For instance, we do not specifically train persons as “leaders” which increases responsibility, hence liability, for the person running an activity.

Parks upgraded the Ritakuna Creek area near the Three Capes track for ‘domestic’ walker use, as agreed. Similarly, we look forwards to a new campsite not far from Lunchtime Creek. An agreement to allow work on the Cuvier Valley track commenced, but slowed due to change of General Manager of Parks. Some other matters were similarly affected as the Acting GM needed time to familiarise himself with many matters.

BWT trialled a summary table of activity for easier reading than the more detailed minutes, this was well accepted. Biannual telephone hook-ups in lieu of some face-to-face meetings to save cost and travel time for participants were agreed. Andrew Davey and Philip Le Grove were HWC delegates for all or much of the year. At the last BWT AGM Andrew was again voted president.

Andrew Davey, Delegate.

SOUTHERN TASMANIAN SKI ASSOCIATION (STSA)

The 2016 season was a good season due to excellent State-wide snow falls, including to low altitude. The season provided about seven weekends for local downhill skiing (and ski-touring). All three tows ran and much skiing pleasure had.

Our Club participated well in running tows on their duty weekends with one weekend having a record number of helpers for recent years. The necessary ski patrol continues to be heavily dependent on our Club. Fortunately there were only a few serious incidents.

The web cams have proved their worth by reducing unnecessary trips to sight snow conditions. Some prior grooming work low on the Mawson Tow slope had a little further attention to help capture local seeds and prevent erosion.

While there are many email exchanges between Andrew Davey and Elizabeth (Liz) Koolhof on behalf of HWC and the STSA, formal STSA meetings were usually attended by Fred & Liz Koolhof. Andrew, Liz & Paul Vince have again helped patrolling additional to their roster. Thanks are due to Tim Metcalfe who has also helped manage our tow operation weekends. Andrew, Tim and Paul have also helped overcome tow motor and generator issues.

Late in the reporting year funds were allocated to the proposed 'Alpine Visitors Centre' to replace the former

Sitzmark building and Belt Issue. Another round of comment from potentially affected groups and some roadwork is required before building may commence. STSA and the patrol look forwards to overcoming the often frozen floors of the interim containers for the patrol and public shelter in winter and very poor heating.

Andrew Davey, STSA Delegate

TASMANIAN BICYCLE COUNCIL INC

The Tasmanian State and Local Governments have realized the enormous potential of staging an 'Enduro World Series Mountain Bike Event' at the once financially disadvantaged small town of Derby. Two thousand riders, crews and visitors, plus fifty to sixty journalists and photographers will provide television coverage around the world showcasing our magnificent state, and this will go on to attract of thousands of visitors in the future. The financial benefit will be spread across the state because the visitors will seek accommodation and many opportunities to sample regional cuisines, wines and local attractions.

It is encouraging to acknowledge all southern councils have been very active with implementations, improvements and extensions to tracks and trails which will assist safer cycling and hopefully, there will be fewer cars on the roads thus promoting a healthier and fitter population.

Linda & Tony Cook, Delegates

CLARENCE TRACKS AND TRAILS COMMITTEE

The Committee meets bi-monthly under the auspices of the Clarence City Council. The Committee is made up of community representatives from walking, mountain biking, horse riding, positive ageing and disability access groups. Apart from regular meetings, specific purpose meetings are held from time to time. The Committee operates under the Tracks and Trails Action Plan 2015 – 2020.

Space does not allow me to detail every activity over the last twelve months. Highlights of interest are:

- Signage – members will have noticed the vastly improved information and directional signage on the Tangara Trail and other tracks. Unfortunately vandalism to some signs does occur.
- Single Hill – fencing of the reserve area, shortly to be transferred to the Council, has been completed. Access track construction is also underway.
- Lauderdale to Rokeby Coastal Trail – construction of this track is on hold as access through the Police Academy Shoreline is now opposed by Tasmania Police. Negotiations are continuing.
- Lauderdale to Cremorne Coastal Trail – a report is being prepared identifying a track alignment and construction costs. In the meantime a rough footpad can be followed. A new access track has been constructed from the end of Forest Hill Road to the coastal reserve.
- Blessington Track South Arm – construction of this coastal track will commence following the issue of an Aboriginal Heritage Permit.
- Caves Hill Track – construction completed and track open.
- Meehan Range – a new track has been constructed to provide a more graduated access to the ridgeline. Other work in the Flagstaff Hill is well advanced.

Work has continued with reconstruction and resurfacing of many tracks and trails in the Clarence Municipality. The heavy weather over the last couple of months has caused the repair of washouts and clearance of many tree falls.

The Club benefits from the pro-active stance of the Council in the development and maintenance of the track network in the Municipality.

Barry Ford, Delegate

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND REPORTS

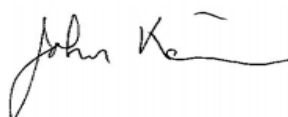
STATEMENT BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

In the opinion of this Committee the accompanying financial statements and the notes fairly represent the financial position of the Hobart Walking Club Inc. at 30 June 2016 and the results of the Club's financial performance for the year ended on that date.

This statement is made in accordance with a resolution of this committee and is signed on behalf of the committee by:



Philip Le Grove, President



John Kerrison, Treasurer

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE *for the year 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016*

	Notes	2016	2015
		\$	\$
Income			
Members Subscriptions		29,594	28,498
Donations		250	52
Sale of Publications		933	2,511
Lake Dobson Hut Fees		3,760	3,994
Interest		2,814	2,721
Social Functions		3,632	3,543
Equipment hire		35	90
Sales to Members		7,568	219
Sundry		5	430
		48,591	42,058

Less Expenditure

Post, Printing, Stationery	2,429	4,191
Website	794	0
HWC Office Rent	2,640	2,747
Meeting Room Hire	856	714
Bank Fees	164	159
Travel Expenses	686	557
General Meeting Expenses	555	324
Printing Tramp	0	7,995
Posting Tramp	0	673
Other Publication Expenses	571	194
Stock Reduction	2 741	820
Lake Dobson Hut	3 2,903	3,762
Social Functions	3,988	4,350
Volunteer Recognition	537	605
Printing Circular	4,737	4,664
Posting Circular	3,589	2,774
Insurance	3,007	832
Cost of Sales to Members	8,237	0
Training	1,245	1,521
Affiliation Fees	1,122	1,090
Marketing & Promotion	115	90
Office Equipment	1,378	1,206
Track Clearing	837	1,188
	41,131	40,456

Surplus for the year **7,460** **1,602**

Accumulated surplus 30/06/15	81,309	129,707
Transfer to Hut Replacement Fund		50,000

Accumulated surplus 30/6/16 **88,769** **81,309**

BALANCE SHEET at 30 June 2016

	Notes	2016 \$	2015 \$
Members Equity			
Accumulated surplus		88,769	81,309
Hut Replacement Fund		50,000	50,000
		138,769	131,309
Represented by:			
Current Assets			
Commonwealth Bank chq a/c		17,314	19,147
Tasmania Perpetual Trustee – Long Term Fund		80,000	70,000
Payments in Advance		7,987	
Publications stock	2	4,540	5,281
		109,841	94,428
Non-current Assets			
Lake Dobson Memorial Hut	1(c)	43,540	43,540
		43,540	43,540
Total Assets		153,381	137,968
Less Current Liabilities			
Payments in Advance		14,612	6,659
Funds held In trust		0	0
		14,612	6,659
Net Assets		138,769	131,309

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Statement of accounting policies

(a) The financial statements are special purpose reports specifically prepared for distribution within the club. The Executive Committee has determined that the club is not a reporting entity as defined in the Statement of Accounting Concepts 1: Definition of a Reporting Entity and therefore application of all accounting standards is not mandatory.

(b) The stock of publications has been valued at the lower of historical cost and estimated realisable value.

(c) The Lake Dobson Memorial Hut is located on a site which is retained by the issue of an annual licence. A longer term lease is not available. The hut and its contents are recorded at book value of \$43,540 as at 30 June 2005. The hut is unlikely to have any market value.

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
2. Stock adjustment		
Stock at 30/6/2015	5,281	6,101
Safety in the Bush reduction	741	820
Stock at 30/6/2016	4,540	5,281

3. Lake Dobson Memorial Hut

Gas & Firewood	782	1,406
General Hut Maintenance	975	1,223
Crown Land Licence Fee	792	792
Derwent Valley Council Fire Levy & Rates	354	341
	2,903	3,762

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

To the members of the Hobart Walking Club Inc

Scope

I have audited the special purpose financial report of the Hobart Walking Club Inc (the Club) comprising a Balance Sheet and Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2016, together with explanatory notes. The Executive Committee of the Club is responsible for the preparation and presentation of the financial report and the information contained therein and has determined that the accounting policies used are consistent with the financial reporting requirements of the Club and are appropriate to meet the needs of the members. No opinion is expressed as to whether the accounting policies used are appropriate to the needs of the members.

I have conducted an independent audit of the financial report in order to express an opinion on it to the members of the Club. I disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purposes than for which it was prepared.

The audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards to provide reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free of material misstatement. My procedures included examination, on a test basis, of evidence supporting the amounts and other disclosures in the financial report, and the evaluation of accounting policies and significant accounting estimates. These procedures have been undertaken to form an opinion whether, in all material respects, the financial report is presented fairly in accordance with the accounting policies adopted so as to present a view that is consistent with my understanding of the financial position of the Hobart Walking Club Inc and the results of its financial performance.

The audit opinion expressed in this report has been formed on the above basis.

Limitation of Scope

It was not possible for the Executive Committee to establish complete accounting control over cash received until its initial entry in the accounting records, nor was it practicable to perform audit procedures to satisfy myself that all income had been received and recorded. Verification therefore has been limited to the receipt of funds recorded in the Club's financial records.

Audit Opinion

In my opinion the special purpose financial report presents fairly the financial position of the Hobart Walking Club Inc as at 30 June 2016, and the results of its financial performance for the year then ended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Geoff Morffew', written in a cursive style.

Geoff Morffew, FCPA

15 August 2016