



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

P O Box 1604
WELLINGTON

admin@fmc.org.nz

FMC Member News January 2010

Welcome to a New Year of tramping, mountaineering and other outdoor recreational pursuits. Here is the latest news on FMC advocacy, highlights, and other significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in safe outdoor recreation.

Campaign against Mining in National Parks and other Conservation Lands (2precious2mine)

This issue has not died down over the holiday period. It is crucial that pressure is maintained on the government well into 2010 - You can help by doing some or all of the following: **1)** e-mailing a photo of your favourite national park to the Prime Minister at j.key@ministers.govt.nz, or writing on the back of a printed copy and posting it for free, with an explanation of why you don't want it mined. FMC is getting printed postcards to assist the cause and these will be distributed to member clubs as soon as they come from the printer. **2)** Raise awareness to the wider public by placing copies of FMC's November Bulletin in back country huts over the summer period once you have finished reading it. **3)** If you are a Facebook fan then go to the "Hands Off Mt Aspiring" Facebook group and sign up. It has grown to 7900 members in just two months! The link is: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=212544202493&ref=mf>

Threats to our Wild Rivers

This issue is also ongoing from 2009 – As with the mining campaign, it is important to keep the threats to our wild rivers high in the public's profile. One way of accomplishing this is to distribute both the FMC Bulletin and the November issue of the Forest and Bird Magazine (which focuses on wild river issues) to back-country huts, waiting rooms, etc across the country. For the latest news on the wild rivers campaign please check the website <http://www.wildrivers.org.nz>.

Haast – Hollyford Road Proposal Reactivated

Interest in the proposal for a highway through this part of South Westland is currently being reactivated (e.g. see the following web link: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/3228497/Hollyford-road-back-before-Govt>). Federated Mountain Clubs is very concerned and will be monitoring developments. We welcome your feedback via: secretary@fmc.org.nz

Te Araroa – Oriwa Ridge (Tatarua FP) Decision

After consideration of numerous submissions, both for and against the proposal of the Te Araroa Trust to locate some of its trail along the length of the Oriwa Ridge in the Western Tatarua Forest Park, the Department of Conservation has decided against constructing a track in this area. Instead, support will be lent to using the existing network of huts and tracks from Waiopehu Hut, to Dracophyllum Biv, the central main range, and on to Waitewaewae Hut as was originally traversed by Geoff Chappel in his inaugural walk. Although there are some concerns with regards to the condition of some of the infrastructure in this area, coupled with the fact that it is an exposed alpine environment for some of its length, this is not inconsistent with some other sectors of the trail. FMC supports the above decision and supports the Trust's concept of a trail across the length of the country and in bringing its vision to reality.

Club Photo Competition – Deadline Extended to 31 March 2009

A reminder that clubs should be sending in their entries based on their own 2009 photo competitions. Note: the deadline for entries has now been extended to 31 March 2009. The entry form is in the November Bulletin or can be accessed on the website at <http://www.fmc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2008/11/photo-comp-entry.pdf>.

Club Jubilees

Federated Mountain clubs is able to promote your Club Jubilee on the FMC website (<http://www.fmc.org.nz/clubs/club-jubilees/>). Any club holding a Jubilee in the next 18 months should send basic information to secretary@fmc.org.nz

Statement on Presidential Leave

Due to personal circumstance your President, Rob Mitchell, has been granted leave from the position of President. Rob will still remain on the Executive and contribute to the work of FMC where possible. Rob's Presidential duties will be shared among the Executive until the June AGM.

NZAC Draft Policy on Bolting of Climbing Routes

The New Zealand Alpine Club is currently circulating a draft for policy on the bolting of climbing routes – The draft can be viewed via their website (<http://alpineclub.org.nz/>) or see the latest *Climber* magazine for a hard copy. Please take the time to review the draft and let the NZAC know of your views.

Temporary Closure of Ohakune - Turoa Access Road and other Infrastructural Closure Issues...

1) The Ruapehu District Council will replace the bridge at the 9 km point on the Ohakune Mountain Road over the summer period. The road will be closed from 18 January to 28 February 2010. Trampers/climbers will be unable to gain access to the area above the bridge if travelling from Ohakune. It is still possible to do the Round the Mountain Circuit during this period, provided you enter or exit from other points. For further information contact DOC Ohakune Field Centre, 06 385 0010, or the Ohakune Information Centre, 06 385 8427.

2) Members will be pleased to note that FMC has a new page on its website: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services/notices-to-trampers/> where any notices about hut / track closures can be published. This service is still currently in its infancy whilst we grow our network of contacts, but we hope it will rapidly expand in the near future.

Send us your Photos for the Website Banner

Users of the website may have noticed the eye-catching revolving display of tramping/mountaineering scenery and also of various members and clubs partaking in their recreational activities. We can always do with a few more pictures to add extra variety and interest – If you, or your club, has a photo capable of being cropped to a very narrow landscape picture that comprises members involved in a tramping/mountaineering activity, please send this to secretary@fmc.org.nz. We can do all of the photo editing. We would like a range of clubs popping up on our banner.

Other News in Brief

Mountain-Bike Race - North Canterbury to West Coast via Harper Pass: DOC has given permission for this mountain-biking event to go ahead, subject to certain conditions. See <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services/notices-to-trampers/>

Application by Outdoor Pursuits Centre (Turangi) for guiding and other concessions in North Island Conservancies: FMC has submitted on the application by OPC to undertake guiding and other outdoor activities in various DOC North Island conservancies. View the submission online at <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>

Greater Wellington Regional Council's Parks Management: FMC has commented to GWRC on their Management Plans for the parks that they control. View the submission online at <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>

50th Anniversary – Westland Tai Poutini National Park: Celebrations are to be held in the Fox and Franz Josef Glacier region from 26 – 28 March 2010 in honour of the occasion. Visit our website or go to the following link: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/events-and-awards/regional-events/west-coast/50th-anniversary-westland-tai-poutini-national-park/> for further details.

Results of DoC Survey – Vehicle Crime at Road Ends: for those who are interested, the following report: “*Vehicle Crime at Outdoor Recreation and Tourist Destinations: Prevalence, Impact and Solutions*” can now be viewed at the following website link: <http://www.doc.govt.govt.nz/upload/documents/science-and-technical/sfc298.pdf>. We also hope to present a summary in a future FMC Bulletin.

FMC Travel Club: There have been reductions in the prices of trips being offered by FMC Travel club. Go to the website link <http://www.fmc.org.nz/travel-club/> for details

Pack Liners and Posters: These are still available from our office – Details are in the Bulletin or on the website. You can see samples of the posters at <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services/posters/>

Access to DoC Estate: Please feel free contact us (via secretary@fmc.org.nz) if your tramping or climbing party had any difficulties over the holiday period in gaining access to any part of the conservation estate.