



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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FMC Member News March 2010

Here is the latest news on FMC advocacy, highlights from the Executive meeting held in Dunedin on 6 March, and other significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in safe outdoor recreation.

Trampers Urged to Take Greater Care in the Outdoors

After the deaths last year of two trampers in the Tararuas, Mountain Safety Council is urging trampers to follow the Outdoor Safety Code by being aware of the weather, taking sufficient supplies and taking appropriate means of communication. Useful information about trip planning and safety can be found on the web via the following links: <http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz> or <http://www.landsar.org.nz> or for 406 MHz PLBs; <http://www.beacons.org.nz>. In addition the new "Services to Trampers" page on the FMC website may also be of use. Go to <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services/notices-to-trampers/> for further details.

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

From the months of delay in revising policy, it is clear that the public campaign opposing mining on conservation land has surprised the Government – It is important to keep up the pressure - Add your voice to the FMC campaign! **1)** Pick up your copy of the FMC's **2precious2mine** postcard from your club, write your personal message on it and post it to Prime Minister, John Key (it's addressed already and postage is free - Remember to include your address on it). **2)** Keep raising awareness with the wider public by continuing to place copies of FMC's November Bulletin in back country huts, dental and medical waiting rooms etc, once you have finished reading it. **3)** Visit the "Hands Off Mt Aspiring" Facebook group and sign up. The link is: <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#/group.php?gid=212544202493&ref=mf>. **4)** For those interested in threats to the Coromandel Region, a useful website to visit is <http://www.watchdog.org.nz> where you can find additional information and ways of lending support to their campaign.

Release of a public discussion document concerning the Government's intentions to review Schedule 4 land to be considered for mining is imminent. We will have more to say once the paper is released.

FMC has provided funds to create a website for all the groups campaigning to protect our conservation estate from increased mining activity, and in particular the threat to Schedule 4 protection of our most precious places like National Parks. At the site you can sign up to receive alerts later on, including a submission guide on the Government's proposals after they are released. www.2precious2mine.org.nz

FMC AGM - Auckland 12 June 2010

The AGM will be at Silver Oaks Motel (Ph 09 277 7320, email allenby.conf@silveroaks.co.nz) on Saturday 12 June 2010. This motel is sufficiently close to the airport that most people from out of Auckland should be able to fly in and fly out again in one day. All clubs have been sent a formal notice of the meeting and a request for any items of business.

Executive Vacancies

Two of our current members, Lex Smith (Napier/Hastings) and Viv Milne (Auckland) will not be standing for re-election to the Executive in June so there will be vacancies that need to be filled. We are most grateful to both Viv and Lex for their substantial contributions that they have made to FMC over many years. All clubs have been sent nomination forms and information about what being on the Executive involves.

Club Photo Competition – Deadline is 31 March 2010 - Hurry! Last Days!

There are still a few days left to post your entries on a CD to P O Box 1604 Wellington. The winners will be announced at the AGM. 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>.

Youth Forum - Auckland, 1 May 2010

Your Executive is keen to explore ways that clubs can attract more youth into their membership and also to canvas younger members on their thoughts on how they perceive FMC and its role in advocacy and in providing services. Executive members, Jane Dudley and Dennis Page, are hosting a forum in which young members from all clubs (not just the universities) are invited to attend to provide us with feedback and ideas that can be used to direct and guide Executive policy in return. Further details will be advised in the April Newsletter and clubs will be contacted individually shortly. In the meantime, start thinking of a club representative and issues that you would like us to consider. Two youth scholarship grants (training and expedition assistance) are also under consideration and further details will be announced after the forum.

Presidential Responsibilities

While the President is on leave the following points are noted: **1)** Executive member, Richard Davies will receive cell phone and e-mail enquiries in the first instance and will forward to other executive members as appropriate. **2)** Executive member, Brian Stephenson will handle media inquiries where appropriate, or refer to other executive members if necessary. Brian will also chair the AGM.

Join a Club Brochure

FMC has printed a generic "Join a Club" Brochure. Clubs can get as many copies as they want from our office (e-mail: admin@fmc.org.nz), at no charge, to use locally. They would be good in libraries, i- Sites, local outdoor stores etc.

Threats to our Wild Rivers

This issue is also ongoing from 2009, but there are no major issues to update you with at this time. In addition to our updates, you can monitor the wild rivers campaign coalition website via: <http://www.wildrivers.org.nz>.

Other News in Brief

Errors on New Topo50 Maps: Many members will be aware of recent publicity concerning the Manawatu Tramping Club's noticing of errors on the new Topo50 maps whilst tramping in the Ruahine Ranges. Members that use the maps and who find errors are encouraged to notify LINZ directly - A useful web link is: <http://www.topo50.govt.nz/contact-us.php>

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

Supporting our University Clubs: FMC will make a submission against the Education (Freedom of Association) Amendment Bill. Many university clubs are part of the student unions and receive funding from them – We are keen to ensure that the amendment does not have negative consequences for these clubs as a result of its proposed changes. The submission will be available for viewing on our website in due course.

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

Copies of Club Newsletters Wanted: We are keen to receive copies of your club newsletter. Please post it to P O Box 1604, Wellington. They all get forwarded to the Bulletin editor and it enables him to keep in touch with what clubs are doing.

Make use of this Newsletter in your Club's Newsletter: As well as receiving this newsletter electronically, there is a version on the FMC website (<http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/>) for club editors to download (as a MS Word document) and use in your club's newsletter. By doing so, you help to raise our profile amongst the membership and it also ensures that those members who are not connected to e-mail or the Internet have a chance to learn of our advocacy work. We would request, however, that you remember to acknowledge FMC as the source of any material used.

Send us your Photos for the Website Banner: 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.