



The Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

P O Box 1604
WELLINGTON
www.fmc.org.nz

Minutes of the 78th Annual General Meeting

20 June 2009 at Brentwood Motel, Wellington

The meeting opened at 9:15am and the President welcomed representatives from clubs and NGOs and accorded a special welcome to Hayden Smith (LandSAR), Darryl Carpenter (MSC) , Kevin O'Connor (DoC) and to Mike Floate. After lunch the President welcomed Mike Britten (RNZ Forest & Bird)

The following were present as delegates representing clubs

Auckland Catholic TC	Anne Dudley
Auckland UTC	Jane Dudley
Canterbury UTC	David Round
Heretaunga TC	Lex Smith
Hutt Valley TC	Graeme Lythgoe, Dennis Page
Kaumatua TC	Carol Lough, David Ryrie
NZ Alpine Club	Phil Doole, John Nankervis, Robin McNeill, Richard Davies, Quentin Duthie
Otago T & MC	Rob Mitchell
Palmerston North TC	Tony Gates
Parawai TC	Owen Cox
Tararua TC	Alan Wright, John Nankervis, Peter Smith
Taupo TC	Barbara Morris
Waikato TC	John Wilson, Jean Wilson
Wellington T & MC	Marie Smith, Steve Austin
West Auckland DTC	Paul Thurston

The following clubs submitted proxy votes which were held by the person named

Buller TC	Rick Barber
Fiordland T & ORC	Robin McNeill
Hokonui TC	Robin McNeill
Howick TC	Viv Milne
Katikati TC	Brian Stephenson
Masterton TC	Owen Cox
Napier TC	LexSmith
Nelson TC	Rob Mitchell
North Otago TC	Viv Milne
Peninsula TC	David Round, Quentin Duthie
Rotorua TC	Barbara Morris
Taumaranui TC	Barbara Morris
Toitoti Trekkers Club	Paul Thurston
Waimea TC	Dennis Page
Womens Outdoor PC	Brian Stephenson

The following were present as observers

John Tristram	Hutt Valley TC
Graeme Hughes	Palmerston North TC
Ian Bade	Parawai TC
Phil Glasson	Parawai TC
Chris Tews	MSC, Parawai TC
Hannah McGregor	Victoria UTC

Apologies

Apologies were received from

Kate Wilkinson (Associate Minister of Conservation)
David Parker (Labour Party Spokesperson on Conservation)
Metiria Turei / Dr Russel Norman (Green Party)
Peter McSkimmin (CEO SPARC)
Barbara Marshall, Allan Evans, David Barnes

THAT the apologies be received Alan Wright / Arnold Heine CARRIED

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THAT subject to the final sentence of Item 3 “Annual Accounts” being amended to read: “*There was a short discussion regarding possible increased costs, and a query as to why Clubs were not consulted on the changes to the honoraria. Concerns were also expressed regarding the lack of any notice given to member Clubs about this change prior to the close of nominations for election.*” the minutes be confirmed.

Phil Doole / John Nankervis CARRIED

Annual Report

The President presented the 78th Annual Report which had been circulated to clubs beforehand and asked for discussion and question on the Annual Report

Minister of Conservation

At this point the meeting suspended normal business to welcome the Minister of Conservation, Hon Tim Groser and then invited him to speak to the meeting.

The Minister spoke on the theme of a *Conservation Economy* and stressed the importance of the Conservation Estate to NZ. (The text of the Ministers speech is available on the FMC website)

After taking questions from the floor a vote of thanks to the Minister was proposed by David Round and carried by acclamation

Annual Report ctd

The meeting returned to the Annual Report.

Questions / comments from the floor of the meeting:

- Phil Doole Congratulated the Executive on the production of the monthly newsletter as being a very good way of keeping clubs informed about the work of the Executive
- Alan Wright Congratulated the President on producing a much more concise, easier to read, slimmed down Annual Report
- Mike Floate Echoed the previous two comments
- John Nankervis Asked Mike Floate for his observations on the new Government's attitude towards Tenure Review and asked if the FMC Executive had considered undertaking any analysis of how effective its advocacy work was.
- Mike Floate Replied to the question indicating his interpretation of the change in Government policy was not a forward movement for our interests. Of concern was a possible increasing use of covenants resulting from the Tenure Review process which did not grant any access rights, resulting from the changed Tenure Review process.
- President Replied indicating that no detailed analysis of the efficacy of our advocacy had been undertaken and reminded the meeting of the real difficulty in getting people who are volunteers to take on an advocacy role which in many other organizations is handled by professional staff.
- Quentin Duthie Asked that the Annual Report also include the next years budget and some indication of the activities and advocacy issues that were expected to be dealt with in the following 12 months

THAT the 78th Annual report be adopted Rob Mitchell / Viv Milne CARRIED

FMC Annual Accounts

The Treasurer presented the Statement of Accounts for FMC for the year ending 28/2/09

The Treasurer noted that the surplus of \$23000 was planned to be used up this year and was due more to the timing of activities rather than the organization making an excessive surplus.

John Wilson Asked what the purpose of the Trust Donation to FMC was

It was explained that this was a reflection of the fact that people make donations to FMC but these are all channeled through the Trust and it was appropriate from time to time for the Trust to support FMC. It was also noted that one of the aims of the Trust was to support FMC. Concern was expressed that while this was accepted FMC could not expect to rely on the Trust as a source of income.

John Nankervis Asked if FMC had considered the drop in Interest rates and commended the Treasurer for achieving reasonable interest rates in a difficult climate

It was noted that a drop in interest income had been budgeted for

THAT the Annual Accounts for the year ending 28/2/09 be approved

Graeme Lythgoe / Lex Smith CARRIED

Mountain & Forest Trust Annual Accounts

The Treasurer presented the statement of accounts for the Mountain & Forest Trust for the year ending 28/2/09

John Nankervis Asked why the Gilbert McCaul bequest had not yet been used

It was explained that there had been difficulty finding a suitable project but since the end of the financial year the Trust had approved the expenditure of \$26000 from this bequest supplemented by interest income to go toward the funds provided by DoC and the Hutt Valley TC to replace Shamrock Hut in the Orongorongo Valley.

Members present commented that they thought this was a very appropriate use of this bequest bearing in mind the wishes of the donor.

Ian Bade Asked why a bequest had been shown as a movement in equity rather than income.

It was acknowledged that this was a technical issue that did not affect the overall income of the Trust. The Treasurer would correct this in future.

THAT the Annual Accounts for the FMC Mountain & Forest Trust for year ending 28/2/09 be approved

Graeme Lythgoe / Quentin Duthie CARRIED

A vote of thanks to the Treasurer for his stewardship of the funds was carried by acclamation

Constitutional Amendments

1 *Amend by addition to 6(a)*

Add following the words “Immediate Past President”
the words “who shall hold this position for the duration of the term of the current President”

After discussion on this amendment the following motion was put

THAT the amendment be approved Phil Glasson / Graeme Lythgoe LOST

2 *Amend by replacement in 6(a)*

The sentence “Four Vice Presidents: Two of whom shall be resident in the South Island and two of whom shall be resident in the North Island”

to be replaced with: One Vice President

Consequential change: Replace “Vice – Presidents” in 6(d) with Vice President

3 *Amend by replacement in 6 a)*

The sentence “Ten Executive Members”

be replaced by “Up to Thirteen Executive members”

Consequential change: Replace “ten (10) Executive Members” in 6(d) with “Up to thirteen Executive members”

After discussion on this amendment the following motion was put

THAT the amendment be approved Phil Glasson / Viv Milne CARRIED

4 *Change to timing of Preliminary notice of meeting & calling for nominations*

Amend clause 8(c) by replacing the words “five (5) weeks before the end of each financial year” with the words “fourteen (14) weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting”

5 *Change to closing date for nominations*

Amend clause 6(f) by replacing the words “30th April in each year” with “eight (8) weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting”

6 *Change to closing date for notice of business*

Amend clause 8(c) by replacing the words “30th April” with “eight (8) weeks before the date of the Annual General Meeting”

There being no discussion on this amendment the following motion was put

THAT these amendments be agreed to Phil Glasson / Allan Wright CARRIED

7 *Increase of number of votes a club delegate can exercise*

Amend clause 8(f) by replacing figure two (2) in the sentence “No delegate shall be permitted to exercise more than two (2) votes of the club he or she represents” with the figure three (3).

There was discussion on the point that this would increase the maximum number of votes a person could carry from 4 to 5. This was contrary to an explanatory note which had been sent to clubs and was not what the NZAC had intended when proposing the amendment. The meeting agreed that the amendment should be put as originally moved and the Executive investigate the issue of the maximum number of votes a delegate could have and make recommendations in a following year if it was considered necessary

The following motion was then put

THAT the amendment be agreed to Phil Doole / Robin McNeill CARRIED

Election of Officers

Following were nominated by 30 April deadline and as the number of nominations does not exceed the number of vacancies they were all declared elected

President	Rob Mitchell
Nth Island VP	Owen Cox, Viv Milne
Sth Island VP	David Barnes, Rick Barber
Secretary	Phil Glasson
Treasurer	Graeme Lythgoe

Executive	Richard Davies	Jane Dudley
	Quentin Duthie	Robin McNeill
	Barbara Morris	Dennis Page
	David Round	Lex Smith
	Brian Stephenson	

It was noted that one of the South Island VP positions was vacant and after discussion the meeting acknowledged Rick Barber's agreement to be nominated for this position.

THAT the meeting confirm Rick Barber's election as South Island VP

Brian Stephenson / Rob Mitchell

This left one vacancy on the Executive for which FMC had received a nomination from Basil Hooper (Wanganui TC).

There were no further nominations from the floor and the President declared Basil Hooper elected to the Executive for the following year.

The meeting then adjourned for lunch at 12:30

Workshops

In the afternoon the meeting split into 3 workshops which met for an hour and then reported back to the meeting.

BULLETIN

This question of changing from A5 to B5 (Listener size) was discussed. The reasons for a change being a more attractive magazine with improved layout and consequent wider appeal. The disadvantage being the 50c / issue increased cost of postage. The actual printing costs were marginally cheaper for a B5. The group were not opposed to the change but thought the opinions on clubs, balancing increased readability with increased postage costs should be further explored

There was also discussion on the effect of a changed format on our current advertisers, although it was felt they would adapt in time. Advice from the Bulletin advertising manager indicated he thought it unlikely there would be increased income from a larger-sized publication.

Agreement that the content should focus on a balance between advocacy and "people" stories. (eg profiles of clubs, schools, people). Everyone saw the Bulletin as an important and essential means of communication with clubs.

No one was opposed to changing the name to something more meaningful but no one had any suggestions !

Suggestion was made that the Bulletin not be available electronically until three months after publication, but that individual advocacy articles be available on the website as soon as practicable. A vote of thanks was expressed to Shaun Barnett – the present Editor – for his work with the Bulletin.

During the report back a suggestion was made that FMC has an informal discussion with Forest & Bird about their magazine to learn from their experience.

CONSERVATION

The planned workshop on the Wild River campaign was broadened to the wider gamut of FMC advocacy and campaigning. The aims of the workshop were to clarify FMC's vision, list the threats and opportunities presenting themselves, note what work is currently being done, and decide how to turn what we could do into what we will do. Put another way: what are we doing, what could we be doing, and what are our priorities.

We were reminded that conservation is one of the core objects of our Constitution, that as well as advocating and campaigning for recreational opportunities, we have a mandate to seek protection of the quality of the outdoor experience (e.g. biodiversity), the places available (e.g. protecting the boundaries of conservation land), the proper management of those places, and public access to them.

FMC has a responsibility to deal with specific issues as well as keep a perspective of the wider context. For example, one cannot simply fight one hydro-dam without addressing at some level the drivers for the threats to that river be they climate change, economic growth or energy inefficiency. It was noted that advocacy was much more powerful when the FMC voice at the centre is magnified by local members with on the ground knowledge and involvement. Also, that while NGOs like Forest and Bird were focused on "giving nature a voice", FMC's strength was in its members who enjoy and know the land we're advocating for. However, there is a challenge to inspire clubs to be more active in advocacy and to give them the members the tools to be more involved. There is great benefit to working with other organisations with aligned aims, including the NZDA and iwi.

Key current issues were: tourism and concessions management; DOC funding and complementary sources; water and wild rivers; tenure review.

Ongoing issues were: law reform, overseas investment, Treaty settlements, engaging in planning and governance, public access.

Potential campaign areas were: wild rivers, NI recreation opportunities, and club conservation project sharing.

Through all these issues, consistency of message is required. Prioritisation of the above topics was left to the executive to work on.

YOUTH

This group discussed ways of getting young people into clubs. (More emphasis on web based promotion and communication was suggested)

The idea of a FMC scholarship needs further exploring

The idea of a Film / Video festival for young people could be considered

The Bulletin could include articles / profiles on young people

FMC could arrange to “audit” club websites and offer suggestions as to how to make them more attractive to youth.

FMC could consider arranging alpine camps to promote itself to younger people.

A question was raised as to whether the problem was with the “youth” or whether it was with clubs because the membership of the NZ Alpine Club was growing and it was younger members making up the increasing numbers.

In response to a question the workshop had not considered how to promote FMC to the young people currently attending Outdoor Education Courses at Polytechs around NZ

The President thanked the meeting for their contribution to the workshops and reminded the meeting that each of these workshops would be reported back to the Executive the next day.

General Business

There was a brief discussion on how FMC maintained a balance between promoting its advocacy and avoiding becoming a business operation which needed to generate funds to sustain its advocacy.

A question was raised as to whether FMC is prepared to become party to legal proceedings on RMA appeals to the Environment Court, such as may happen in the case of the Mokihinui. The general feeling of the meeting was that this was probably not the best use of FMC's time and funds, but that FMC can campaign in complementary ways.

The difficulty of finding people in a voluntary organisation who could attend meetings with Government Departments and other NGOs in normal work time was noted.

There being no further general business the President thanked everyone for their attendance and participation.

Meeting closed at 4:15pm

Confirmed: _____

Date _____