



# Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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## FMC Member News April 2010

*Here is the latest news on FMC advocacy and significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in safe outdoor recreation.*

### **Mining Our Place – The Schedule 4 Discussion Document (2precious2mine)**

The Government's Discussion Document has now been released and all clubs have been sent a special newsletter concerning the submission process. We encourage you and your club to lodge a submission strongly opposing the changes proposed by the Government to increase mining on conservation lands. Don't forget, the deadline for submissions is 4 May 2010! Visit <http://www.2precious2mine.org.nz> or consult our website <http://www.fmc.org.nz>.

Auckland club members are urged to support a "March against Mining" up Queen Street on May 1. Assemble 11am in lower Queen Street. FMC is supporting this event, which is being organised by Greenpeace, by distributing posters to clubs and outdoor shops. We suggest you dress-up in tramping gear, and bring a club banner or flag. <http://dontunderminenz.org/>. See <http://www.2precious2mine.org.nz/events> for other activities around the country.

### **Mokihinui Consent Damned and Uncertainty over Canterbury River Management**

The panel of commissioners hearing the resource consents for the 85m Mokihinui River dam announced a split decision (2 to 1) to grant the consents. FMC is very disappointed in this poor decision. In addition, the dam is unnecessary given the recently consented (and much lower impact) Arnold and Stockton hydro schemes. We firmly believe that the conservation and recreational impact of the dam is too great. Your Executive is monitoring the responses of other like-minded NGOs and DoC to determine how best we can respond - Rest assured, we will respond!

In other news, the Environment Canterbury Act rushed through Parliament this month changed the criteria and process for water conservation orders in Canterbury. Five environment groups in the Land & Water Forum (of which FMC is a member) issued a statement protesting against, these changes: <http://tinyurl.com/yz4jy9j>. FMC is particularly concerned about the future of the Hurunui. Damming Lake Sumner and the South Hurunui would significantly alter the tramping experience in this area. The Wild Rivers campaign partners will meet in May to plan the next year, which is likely to focus on the Mokihinui and Hurunui rivers. Keep up with developments via: <http://www.wildrivers.org.nz>.

### **Youth Forum – Airport Gateway Hotel, Auckland, 1 May 2010**

By now, all member clubs should have received an invitation to send a representative to this event that is being held at The Airport Gateway Hotel, 206 Kirkbride Road, Mangere, commencing at 9.30 am. Full details of the event are included in the covering letter. We are keen to have as many clubs' input as possible and hope that you would consider sending a member to attend. There will also be the opportunity to partake in a day walk (ca. 4 hr) in the Waitakere Ranges and west coast on Sunday 2 May, to further explore ideas in a less formal setting. Clubs are urged to send a RSVP to Executive contact, Jane Dudley ([jane.dudley@gmail.com](mailto:jane.dudley@gmail.com)) ASAP please.

### **FMC AGM - Auckland 12 June 2010 – Update**

The AGM will be at Silver Oaks Motel (Ph 09 277 7320, email [allenby.conf@silveroaks.co.nz](mailto: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. Nominations for Executive positions and vacancies closed on 15 April. At the time of closing, the following nominations were received: President: Richard Davies (NZAC, Wellington); V. President: Quentin Duthie (NZAC (Wellington)); Immed. Past President: Rob Mitchell (NZAC, Otago & Otago T & MC); Secretary: Phil Glasson (Parawai TC); Treasurer: Graeme Lythgoe (Hutt Valley TC); Executive: David Barnes (Otago T & MC), Rob Brown (NZAC, Cant'y), Ben Clendon (VUWTC), Owen Cox (Parawai TC, Wgtn T & MC), Tony Haddon (Nelson TC), Baz Hooper (Wanganui TC), Robin McNeill (NZAC, Southland), Barbara Morris (Taupo & Nga Tapuwae TC), Chris Munn (Tararua TC), Dennis Page (Hutt Valley TC), Brian Stephenson (Alpine Sports Club), Lesley Topping (Alpine Sports Club) and Peter Wilson (Otago UTC). Additional information concerning the AGM will be sent to all clubs in early May.

The current Executive wishes to acknowledge the immense contributions to FMC that the departing members; former president, David Round, former vice presidents Viv Milne, and Rick Barber, long standing membership convenor, Trust secretary and previous Vice President Lex Smith, and youth membership convenor, Jane Dudley have contributed over many years.

## **New Nationwide Mountain Radio Service Established**

A new national mountain radio service has been established that now coordinates and covers the majority of New Zealand from Stewart Island to the centre of the North Island including all main alpine environments. The New Zealand Mountain Radio Service, established on 20 March 2010, combines:- Canterbury Mountain Radio Service (CRMS) covering the whole of the South Island and Stewart Island;- Wellington Mountain Radio Service (WMRS);- Central North Island Mountain Radio Service (CNIMRS), and;- Hawkes Bay Mountain Radio Service (HBMR) covering the majority of the North Island. The new amalgamated NZ Mountain Radio Service will now provide an integrated service, assist in sharing knowledge and provide improved communication service to those entering the outdoors New Zealand-wide.

## **Partial Review of Tongariro National Park Management Plan**

The Tongariro Taupo Conservancy is considering a partial review of the Tongariro National Park Management Plan. The review will relate to: (1) The number of transport concessions granted for the Tongariro Crossing; (2) The maximum daily number of passengers for transport operators on the Tongariro Crossing and; (3) The use of over-snow vehicles within ski area boundaries. At the moment the Conservancy is seeking informal feedback from interested groups and individuals, with a view to including this in policy changes to the Draft Partial Review Document ca. mid-2010. The closing date for comments is mid-June 2010. To assist the FMC submission, please e-mail your comments to Barbara Morris [btmorrison@paradise.net.nz](mailto:btmorrison@paradise.net.nz). Alternatively you can obtain further information or e-mail your comments directly to [pjenkins@doc.govt.nz](mailto:pjenkins@doc.govt.nz)

## **Queen Charlotte Walkway Issues**

Access issues connected with the Queen Charlotte Track in the Marlborough Sounds have recently come to the FMC's attention, including the proposal to impose a user-access fee. "*Queen Charlotte Track: Origins and Issues*" is a useful background paper and the link to this can be obtained via <http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/petemcd/qct/qct2010.pdf>. FMC will consider this issue in more detail at its June meeting. In the meantime, your feedback is welcome and can be sent to us via [secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz)

## **Otago Issues**

(i) **Sale of Hunter Valley Station:** This 6468 ha. Pastoral Lease at the head of Lake Hawea has been recently advertised for sale. FMC has concerns because the sale has implications on access to the Hawea Conservation Area and also, indirectly, access for transalpine trips into the Wills, Landsborough, Huxley and Ahuriri Valleys. We will be monitoring the situation closely and will keep you posted. (ii) **OCB Matters:** FMC will be monitoring the discussions of the Otago Conservation Board, particularly over matters concerning the Mt Aspiring NP Management Plan (including frequency of helicopter landings permitted at Bevan Col and the proposals for a special filming zone in the Forbes Mountains), the Dart-Hollyford Tunnel proposals, management of freedom camping and helicopter-based trophy hunting. (iii) **New Mountain Biking Track for Dunedin:** As an attempt to better manage the aspirations of both trampers and mountain bikers on the popular Pineapple Track that gives access to Flagstaff, Swampy and Silverpeaks, an alternative track is being built by local mountain biking groups with the support of the Dunedin City Council.

## **Other News in Brief**

**Walking Access Contestable Funding for Outdoor Projects:** The Walking Access Commission has funding available to support projects aimed at enhancing access to the outdoors. Further information can be obtained by visiting the Access Commission's website (<http://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz>). Applications for funding close on 14 May 2010.

**New FMC Discount Card Released:** The new 2010-11 FMC Membership Discount Card has just been printed and will be sent to clubs shortly. There is a wide variety of providers ranging from travel to equipment.

**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. We would request, however, that you remember to acknowledge FMC as the source of any material used.