



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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FMC Member News May 2010

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

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) 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/out again in one day. All clubs are reminded that numbers for catering are due with Administration Officer by **3 June** (Morning tea, afternoon tea and lunch will be provided). In addition, all Clubs are urged to send in proxy votes if they cannot send delegates. A club can assign their proxy vote as follows: i) to any person who is a member of any FMC club and will be attending; ii) to a particular Executive member, or; iii) ask the Secretary to assign their proxy to an Executive member. Proxies and Delegate names are due with Administration Officer by midday on 10 June 2010 please. Clubs were sent material relating to the AGM earlier this month. In addition, the 2010 Annual Report and the Annual Accounts can be downloaded from our advocacy page (<http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/>) as pdfs.

Other points concerning the AGM as follows:

Main Speaker: Hon. Kate Wilkinson (and also available to answer questions).

Other speakers: Mark Neeson (CEO of Walking Access) will introduce the mapping project, and Don Ross (Chairperson, NZ Conservation Authority) will talk about the role of NZCA.

Mining Our Place – Deadline Extended to 26 May 2010 for The Schedule 4 Discussion Document

If member clubs and individuals have not done so already, there is still time to make a submission on the Schedule 4 Discussion Document – the deadline has now been extended to 26 May 2010. If you are pressed for time or confused as to how to go about making a submission, then do visit <http://www.2precious2mine.org.nz> or consult our website <http://www.fmc.org.nz> where quick submission forms and links to other resources are available to assist you. The Federation's submission can also be viewed via our website (<http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>) and the Executive acknowledges the extensive work of Richard Davies in its compilation.

If your club has prepared a submission and would be happy to share it with other clubs, please email it to secretary@fmc.org.nz and we will place it on our website as a resource for other clubs to use.

In recent weeks, tens of thousands of New Zealanders turned out in both Auckland and Nelson to protest against mining – a submission will help to add to this pressure on the government. Also, the New Zealand Conservation Authority has advised the Minister of Conservation that mining is not compatible with the essential nature and the legal framework of a National Park. The Authority does not support the removal of any land in a National Park, no matter how small, from the protection of Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act. The Authority opposes joint Ministerial approval for access to Crown land because it lowers the bar for undertaking mining activities in all public conservation areas. FMC is pleased with the authority's stance on this matter.

Appeals Lodged against Mokihinui River Dam Consent / Wild Rivers Campaign Meeting

We are pleased to report that the Department of Conservation, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, and Whitewater NZ have all lodged appeals with the environment court against the consent granting an 85 m dam on the Mokihinui River. Your executive in considering ways in which it can assist with the appeals, and is collecting data to determine how many trampers have visited the Mokihinui River valley in recent times. Any accounts of club trips, members' private trips, or friend's, acquaintance's or neighbour's trips throughout the Mokihinui area are sought – Please send details to: Tony Haddon, via: tony@kaka.co.nz.

Wild Rivers Campaign Meeting (14-15 May 2010)

Executive members, Richard Davies and Quentin Duthie, spent two days with members of the Wild Rivers campaign steering group in Wellington. Representatives from Fish and Game, the Freshwater Anglers, CORANZ, Whitewater NZ and Forest and Bird met and discussed recent developments in the Mokihinui and Canterbury, upcoming threats and priorities for the coming year. For the latest on wild river issues, please consult the following link:

<http://www.wildrivers.org.nz>.

Subscription Renewals Due

Clubs are reminded that their club affiliation fees are now due. Invoices were sent in March. Individual Supporters receive their renewal invoice a year after they last renewed and payment is expected the following month.

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

A small group of club representatives assisted executive members, Jane Dudley and Dennis Page, in exploring issues that could help clubs attract more members under the age of 30 years and also how the Federation can raise its profile with this demographic. Jane and Dennis would especially like to acknowledge the input from Anton Gulley (Auckland University TC), Brian Duffy (Alpine Sports Club) and Nick Plimmer (Otago University TC) who gave up a full Saturday to aid the cause. The ideas and recommendations will be compiled into a report for consideration at the Executive's June meeting, immediately following the AGM.

Executive Member, Brian Stephenson, reappointed to Walking Access Commission

Your Executive is pleased to announce that Brian Stephenson has been reappointed as a member on the Walking Access Commission for a term of three years. For those unfamiliar with the commission and its functions, visit <http://www.walkingaccess.org.nz/> for further information. Brian is also one of the two board members on the Steering Committee for the Walking Access Mapping Project, due for completion later this year. Fellow executive member, Robin McNeill, is also a co-opted member of the Steering Committee.

New Lake Angelus Hut (Nelson Lakes NP) Officially Opened

A new 28-bunk hut at Lake Angelus (Nelson Lakes National Park) was declared 'officially opened' by the Minister of Conservation, Kate Wilkinson, on 21 April 2010. It replaces a similar sized hut on the same site. In order to manage visitor numbers in this popular area, and to avoid issues associated with overcrowding, DoC is putting in place a summer booking system. Booking for Angelus Hut bunks and camping sites for 1 October 2010 to 30 April 2011 will be on-line from July 2010 – see <http://www.doc.govt.nz> for further details.

Other News in Brief

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

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. FMC encourages members to support all providers where possible to ensure their continued contribution to our card.

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/>

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.

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