



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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FMC Member News June 2010

Here is a summary of activities by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand in June 2010, including highlights from the AGM, plus news on significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in outdoor recreation.

News from the Federated Mountain Club's AGM – Silver Oaks Motel – Auckland, 12 June 2010

Around 30 people comprising your executive, representatives from member clubs, political parties, Mountain Safety Council, Walking Access NZ, and the New Zealand Conservation Authority attended the 79th AGM of the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand. The following is a summary of highlights from the meeting:

Executive for 2010-11 (No Election Required):

President: Richard Davies (NZAC Wellington); **Vice President:** Quentin Duthie (NZAC Wellington); **Immediate 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 & NZAC Auckland), Lesley Topping (Alpine Sports Club) and Peter Wilson (Otago UTC).

Address by Hon. Kate Wilkinson – Minister for Conservation:

FMC was delighted that the Hon. Kate Wilkinson was willing to attend the AGM. Ms Wilkinson congratulated Richard Davies on his election as president and welcomed the opportunity to interact with FMC. The Minister said she sees her role as a steward of the conservation estate and expressed a desire to hear from organisations such as ours on issues of concern before they 'became too big.' Ms Wilkinson stressed that the National Government has no interest in risking the conservation estate and thanked FMC for its submission on the Schedule 4 discussion document. She emphasised the importance of having an informed debate on activities that occur on conservation land and that vocal opposition should not prevent such debates from occurring. The Minister and Department were also appreciative of the large contribution to conservation from the 10,000 volunteers whose efforts were equivalent to a fiscal contribution of \$15.8M per year. Also flagged in her speech was the need to encourage more people into the outdoors. She indicated that DoC is looking at reconfiguring its provision of facilities on conservation land into four 'Destination Management Frameworks': Icons for tourism, Gateways (easy starters), Local Treasured Places, and Backcountry Networks. The executive looks forward to liaising with the Minister and Department to ensure that the balance of these is not at the expense of some of our hard-fought-for and well-established backcountry network, in addition to ensuring that new features are sensitive in their size, scale and intent of use with respect to the environment in which they are located. It is not yet clear how the new 'Destination Management Framework' relates to the 'Recreational Opportunities Spectrum' and exactly what the impact of focusing funding on front-country and high use facilities will be for backcountry facilities that are so valuable for FMC's members.

Address by Hunter Donaldson – Walking Access New Zealand:

Hunter gave a brief overview of the Commission and its role (see <http://walkingaccess.org.nz>) and then outlined a new web-based mapping system that is scheduled for release in October 2010. The intention of the new mapping system is to clarify, and to make more accessible, information pertaining to access that presently is not always easy to find. Cadastral information will be overlaid onto topographical or aerial maps/pictures to assist with defining tracks and access points that can be used by the public. It is also the intention to incorporate an inquiry system and a register of areas where access can be problematic. The system is currently undergoing testing and FMC is involved with providing feedback on the prototypes presently being piloted.

Other Speakers:

- Don Ross, Chairman, New Zealand Conservation Authority, gave an overview of the Authority (<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/nz-conservation-authority-and-boards/nz-conservation-authority/>) and some of his own personal highlights in his role as chair. Executive member, Brian Stephenson, is the Federation's representative on the NZCA.
- Lloyd Klee from Aviation Safety spoke briefly on the new 406 MHz Personal Locator Beacons. He emphasized that it was important for owners of these devices to register them on line at <http://www.beacons.org.nz>, that the key number to register was the 15 hexadecimal number and not the serial number, and that activated but unregistered beacons would attract a fine.
- Kevin Hague (Green MP conservation spokesperson) thanked the Federation for its work and emphasized that it was a respected, long-lived organisation. He expressed a desire that as a voluntary group, we would not become over-looked as society placed more importance on organisations that promote economic values.
- Labour MP, Phil Twyford, presented a representative from the Hutt Valley Tramping Club with the Federation's prize for overall winner in the recent photo competition, more comprehensive details of which can be found in the June 2010 edition of *FMC Bulletin*.

Experts Needed Please

Are you interested in assisting the work of the Federated Mountain Clubs but don't have time to serve on the executive, or just want to focus on a particular issue? Your executive is interested in compiling a register of members who are willing to assist or advise us on matters that require expertise. Effective advocacy is an area that requires considerable time and effort of executive members and we would like to tap into additional talent/knowledge where we are able. Examples of expertise could include: Someone with extensive knowledge of conservation lands in a particular region; knowledge in an area such as high country tenure review or access issues; knowledge in an area of science such as biology, geology etc – particularly how they might relate to an issue such as pest control or mining etc; or someone who works regularly with other like-minded organisations. In addition to the above, you may be able to think of other areas in which you may be able to assist us. If so, we would be delighted to hear from you via secretary@fmc.org.nz.

Valuable Additions to Two Conservation Parks and the Opening of a Third

The Minister of Conservation recently announced the addition of 4000 hectares of wetland and lowland forest to the Westland Tai Poutini National Park, and the purchase (with Greater Wellington Regional Council) of private land at Baring Head for addition to the East Harbour Regional Park. Earlier, in May, the Minister opened the 65,000ha Oteake Conservation Park in the Hawkdun Mountains. FMC welcomes these wise developments.

Two New Huts to Open in Rimutaka Forest Park (Wellington) – 9 July 2010

On Friday 9 July 2010, the Department of Conservation will be opening two new huts (Haurangi and Papatahi) in the Orongorongo Valley near Wellington. A financial contribution towards the construction of Papatahi Hut was made from both the FMC Trust and the Hutt Valley Tramping Club. The huts will be open to the public via a booking system – consult the DoC website (<http://www.doc.govt.nz>) for details.

Mountain and Forest Trust Donations

The FMC Mountain & Forest Trust is a charitable trust that supports the work of FMC, as well as supporting projects that are in accord with FMC's objectives. One example is the contribution to the cost of Papatahi Hut mentioned above, and made possible by a bequest to the trust by Gilbert McCall, who had tramped with the Hutt Valley and Tararua Tramping Clubs. This contribution (plus another contribution from the HVTC) enabled the hut to be expanded from DoC's planned 6 bunks to a 10-bunk model. To donate to the Trust, please click on the following link: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/fmc-trust/>. To find out how to leave a bequest to the Trust in your will, please contact the Secretary via secretary@fmc.org.nz. In addition to electronic web access, donation forms are being sent to all clubs and supporters as they renew. All donations to the Trust qualify for a 33% tax rebate. Unfortunately, there is an error on the Donation Form. The form doesn't provide a space for the Expiry Date or Name on Card for people paying by credit card. Please add this information to the form.

Club Subscriptions

Reminder the all club subscriptions are due by 30 June. Don't forget to include the number of "Associates" on your return, please.

Mining Decisions Awaited

A decision from the Government on the Stocktake of Schedule 4 is expected in early July. FMC is confident that New Zealanders' passion for protected areas, particularly national parks, has been heard, loud and clear, by the Government. At the AGM, FMC members stressed to the Minister of Conservation that it is critical that the hard-fought-for Paparoa National Park and Wilderness Area remain protected by Schedule 4. Paparoa is a conservation and tramping gem.

FMC contemplates 2011 conference on "Our National Parks"

AGM attendees participated in a workshop on the best focus of a FMC conference in 2011 to celebrate 80 years of the Federation. The theme of "Our National Parks" was proposed and is being contemplated as the focus on a 2-day conference in June that will draw together the history and current status of New Zealand's premiere protected lands, and evaluate their future. The theme will not ignore threats such as mining or pest animals, but considerable emphasis will celebrate progress made and anticipate further progress in future. Your executive is beginning planning and all offers of assistance – including financial donations – are welcome. Please contact Ben Clendon on clendonb@gmail.com

FMC Congratulates John Nankervis - MNZOM

The Federation was delighted to learn that one of its members, John Nankervis (Life member, NZ Alpine Club, and long time member of the Tararua TC), was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for 40 years of service to mountaineering, as part of the Queen's Birthday Honours Awards. Wellington publication, *Capital Times*, exclaims 'that countless climbers, young and old, have been influenced by John Nankervis – or "Nank" to his friends. His passion extends beyond just climbing, into the landscapes which make the sport so enjoyable and the institutions that bring climbers together.' We extend our warmest congratulations to John for his prestigious recognition.

FMC Photo Competition

Congratulations to the Hutt Valley Tramping Club who won the inaugural Federated Mountain Clubs photo competition. Thanks also to all the clubs that entered, and particular thanks to Shaun Barnett and John Rhodes for their work on making it a tremendous success. We are compiling a CD of a selection of 100 of the photos entered and will be making this available free to clubs that entered the photo competition. Other clubs and supporters will be able to order a copy of the CD (\$10) – The order form will be in the mail to all clubs in July. Supporters should send \$10 direct to FMC, PO Box 1604, Wellington 6140.

Instruction Courses

We have recently added to our website comprehensive details of the Mountain Safety Council Courses and relevant links (<http://www.fmc.org.nz/services/instruction-courses/>). We urge clubs who want to gain instruction for their members to contact their local MSC branch if they do not feel they have the skills to run the courses themselves. Those clubs that are running their own courses and are happy to open them up to members of other clubs please contact the Secretary via secretary@fmc.org.nz. We can arrange for details of your course to go on our website or be circulated by email to clubs in your area.