



## Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ

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4<sup>th</sup> October

To: All Affiliated Clubs

Dear Club Committees,

FMC wishes you all the best for summer in the hills, let's hope the weather windows are long and strangers met become friends.

**Special General Meeting:** FMC would like to confirm that our previously advised Special General Meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> of November will be held at the Wellington Airport Conference Centre, starting at 9am. Please find included in this package:

1. An Agenda
2. The minutes of the previous General Meeting,
3. The Motions proposed by the Executive, with explanations
4. A Voting Guide (to understand how FMC General Meetings work)
5. An attendance and voting form for your Club.

Delegates are invited to a morning tea following. If clubs are unable to send delegates, they are encouraged to allocate their proxy votes to other club's delegates, or "the Executive"

**FMC Affiliation Fee Increase:** One of the Motions proposed by the Executive is an Affiliation Fee Increase, as previously advised to the clubs in August. FMC has been signalling the proposed affiliation fee increase since late 2015. It is the first increase since 1996 and we remain committed to keeping our membership broad and our affiliation fees low.

The proposal has received overwhelming support, but has also generated several ideas and concerns from clubs that we have taken steps to address:

- i) **Targeted Affiliation Fee Increases:** Several clubs with a high proportion of members on fixed incomes stressed the need to keep FMC Affiliations affordable. We are conscious of this and have kept the increase at the lower-end of what is required. We plan to balance our budget through both controlling costs and

further revenue initiatives including the new FMC Top-Up programme. This is an opportunity for club members to increase their contribution to FMC to the same level as an FMC Individual Supporter, and receive the FMC Bulletin directly. We have included flyers for this in this package and would appreciate your promotion of the opportunity through your membership. With your support, who-knows it might be another 20 years until we need to raise affiliation fees again.

- ii) **Broad-based Membership:** Several clubs suggested that FMC needs to seek wider membership from New Zealand's interested in the backcountry. We whole-heartedly agree and have been working towards this for some years both through our FMC Individual Supporter programme and our "Outdoor Community" campaign. We are attracting membership from a more broad-based group of outdoors people including canyoneers, rogainers, hunters and backcountry horse-riders, but this will take time to be financially significant.
- iii) **Affiliation Fee Discounts for Larger Clubs:** Several clubs expressed concern at the discount clubs with over 500 members receive for FMC Membership. These clubs (there are two of them) pay the full rate for their first 500 members, a reduced rate for the next 500 members, and a further reduced rate for any further members. This system has been in place since the 2011 reforms which brought transparency to FMC membership declaration and were designed to be cost-neutral for both FMC and individual clubs. It also recognises that FMC administration costs are substantially smaller for larger clubs relative to the revenue received. However, given the concerns expressed FMC has now begun talking to these clubs to see if there is a better solution.
- iv) **Youth Membership:** The Waikato tramping club challenged FMC to consider what we are doing to encourage youth/family membership. FMC reviewed our membership structure and benefits and decided the best solution was to waive affiliation fees for school aged children. Next year when clubs are asked to declare membership, an option will be given to declare gratis youth members and FMC membership cards will be provided to this group. Youth members will not be entitled to the FMC Bulletin.

**FMC Top-Up Programme:** As mentioned above FMC is initiating the FMC Top-Up option. The hope is that there are club members who would willingly contribute more to FMC, and if they do so, we can keep our club affiliations at the new proposed level for longer. This option will be publicised in the FMC Bulletin and FMC Newsletter, but we have also included FMC Top-Up Flyers in this package. We appreciate your support in circulating and encouraging this through your membership.

**Walking Access Commission – Information Sheet for Access to Farms:** Also included in this package are copies of this recently publishing Walking Access Commission. This publication

required a lot of negotiation to get into language able to be understood by the general public. We hope it proves useful for maintaining great relationships with farmers, for those clubs that regularly explore private land.

**FMC Communication:** FMC continues to communicate through the FMC Bulletin, our Facebook page and monthly newsletters. It is great to see a few more clubs using facebook groups and putting up stories and photos, which we are able to share with the wider outdoor community. We have reservations about facebook, but it sure is easy to use!

Again, thanks for your support (and time) in considering this information. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Peter Wilson or myself.

Take care in the hills.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jamie Stewart', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Jamie Stewart

FMC Administrator

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