

PRESIDENTS REPORT

I am delighted to introduce the 80th Annual Report of Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand.

Eighty years of advocating for the interests of trampers and climbers is an impressive record that is the envy of many of our partner organisations.

2010 marked the beginning of a new era in the history of the Federated Mountain Clubs with myself and Quentin Duthie being elected President and Vice-President respectively.

We were joined by other new members Chris Munn, Ben Clendon, Peter Wilson and Lesley Topping. Rob Brown and Tony Haddon returned to the Executive after wide old heads return to the Executive.

Quentin and I have invested a lot of time this year in boosting Federated Mountain Clubs' presence around Wellington policy-circles. Being Wellington-based provides good access to politicians and public servants, and Quentin and I have spent a lot of time building relationships here and with other NGOs.

I expect that investing in this engagement will pay dividends during election year, and also in working with the Department of Conservation as it attempts to carry on its good work in the face of savage budget cuts, and then slow starvation as what is left of the baseline will shrink substantially in real terms.

In order to turbo-charge our partnership with other NGOs and decision makers, I was personally delighted that the Executive agreed to host a conference in June 2011. This has been a major undertaking for a working group of myself, Quentin, Ben Clendon and Chris Munn. More information about the conference can be found later in this publication.

Sometimes diligent work behind the scenes is insufficient to achieve our goals, and we need to flex our muscles. It was heartening to see how FMC members, among many others, stood up to the government and sent a clear message that our wild places are worth more alive than dead. We will watch the government's plans to expand mining on non-Schedule 4 land closely.

This victory could only be achieved because so many groups and people worked together.

Richard Davies
February 2011



Richard Davies, Red Hills Range – Olive Wilderness Area

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2010-11

Working better together

Partnership has been a key theme for the Federated Mountain Clubs this year. We were involved in the Land and Water Forum, an experimental, and exciting initiative set up by the Ministers of the Environment and Agriculture. The Land and Water Forum brought together a huge number of stakeholders who covered the spectrum from conservationists to industry groups. The forum produced a report to the Ministers on options for better management of freshwater and we look forward to decisions being made.

Our work on this group led to an invitation to participate in a collaborative process over the future of the Mackenzie in a collaborative process over the future of the Mackenzie country. As this Annual Report goes to press, Federated Mountain Clubs will be working with a range of groups with a stake in the future of the Mackenzie country to develop options for its future management – and we hope, its protection for all generations.

Nurturing the future of tramping and climbing

FMC, with the generous support of John Simpson and the Maerewhenua Trust, and the Forest and Mountains Trust, established a "Youth Scholarship" programme to encourage more young people on self-reliant adventures in New Zealand. We look forward to the first expeditions (or 'missions' in the modern parlance) taking place.

The High Country

Mike Floate has worked tirelessly to ensure that FMC inputs into the tenure review process. While disappointed with the current government's approach to the High Country, FMC remains involved. The Mackenzie is likely to be the key focus for the next year.



Richard Davies, Victoria Range – Victoria Conservation Park

Conservation law

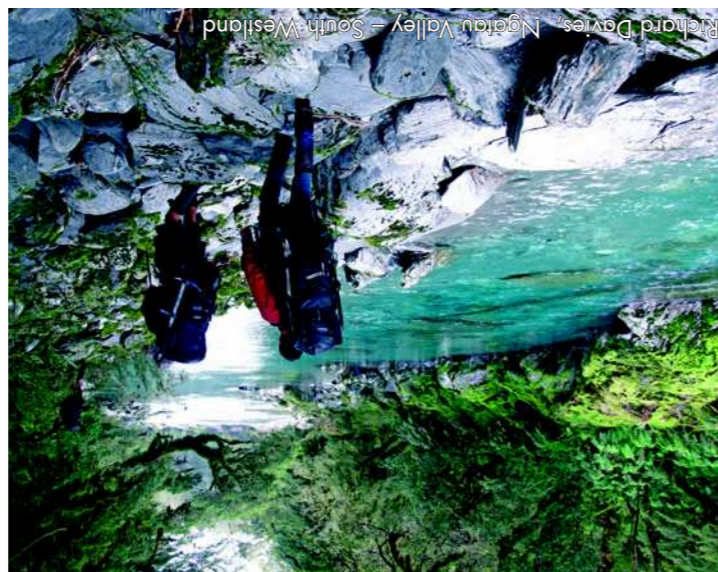
FMC has continued to advocate to DOC and the Minister of Conservation that an incorrect interpretation is being applied by some of its staff that heli-hunting is a WAKO activity. This view is shared by a number of our partner NGOs.

FMC has advocated against the proposed Game Animal Council. We do not think that this proposal will improve outdoor recreation in New Zealand, and it will certainly lead to poorer conservation outcomes, by fragmenting an integrated approach to conservation management that we currently have in New Zealand.

As mentioned in the regional summary, FMC strongly opposed a proposal to freehold land in the Craigieburn ranges (Crystal valley).

Recreation facilities

FMC has worked with DOC to rationalise some of its approaches to hut fees, the annual hut pass and booking systems. In particular, we're concerned about the removal of exclusion of huts from the annual hut pass system, and have concerns about the length of some booking seasons (i.e. booking shouldn't be required when hut bookings are low) and about the appropriateness and manageability of booking small, unstaffed huts (e.g. Crosbie's Clearing).



Richard Davies, Niguel Valley – South Westland

CAMPAIGNS

Mining

Those who care about our wild places, which pleasingly is a great deal wider than just FMC members, secured a major victory when the government backed down on its plans to remove land from Schedule 4 to make it available for mining.

It wasn't a total victory, and FMC remains deeply concerned about some of the government's proposed changes, especially the move to allow the Minister of Energy to sign-off on access arrangements to conservation land. This is bad, unprincipled policy making and FMC is cynical about the intentions of the government.

FMC will continue to watch policy development in this area closely, and will respond to specific mining proposals on a case by case basis.

One of the silver linings from this unfortunate process has been that the lack of protection for some of the highly valued non-Schedule 4 land such as Lewis Pass National Reserve and much of South Westland has been highlighted. FMC supports a push by Forest and Bird to have some of this land added to Schedule 4.

Wild rivers

The other major campaign focus has been as part of the Wild Rivers coalition. This coalition brings together all our partners who care about a precious and very scarce resource – our few remaining wild rivers. Forest and Game, Whitewater New Zealand, CORANZ, Fish and Game, Jeiboot New Zealand, New Zealand Rafting Association form the coalition. Thanks must go to Tony Haddon for his work representing FMC as part of this group. The Wild Rivers coalition has selected the Mokihini as its primary focus, and for good reason. If we are to lose the Mokihini, with its incredible biodiversity value then no river in New Zealand is safe. Over the year the coalition has carried out a number of activities including:

- > A wild rivers photo exhibition at Parliament
- > A day on a wild river
- > A well attended rafting and kayak trip down the Mokihini!

The coalition is also deeply concerned about other rivers under threat such as the Hurunui. The situation in Canterbury was confused by the government's decision to remove the elected councillors of Environment Canterbury and replace them with Commissioners. FMC will continue to monitor the situation in Canterbury through our role on the Coalition and the Land and Water Forum.

We must closely guard the welfare of our National Parks and Reserves. These latter we should not regard as the property of our minister and our government departments, but that they belong to the people of today and tomorrow.

We must fight for their protection if necessary.

Fred Vosseler
Inaugural President
Federated Mountain Clubs
First Annual General Meeting 21 May 1932

Richard Davies – Spencer Range, St James Conservation Area



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
80th Annual Report 2011

Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)
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Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

PATRONS

Allan Evans QSM
Arnold Heine OSM

EXECUTIVE 2010 - 2011

President

Richard Davies (Wellington)

Vice President

Quentin Duthie (Wellington)

Immediate Past President

Rob Mitchell (Dunedin)

Secretary

Phil Glasson (Kapiti Coast)

Treasurer

Graeme Lythgoe (Wellington)

EXECUTIVE

David Barnes (Dunedin)
Rob Brown (Christchurch)
Ben Clendon (Wellington)
Owen Cox (Kapiti Coast)
Tony Haddon (Nelson)
Baz Hooper (Wanganui)
Robin McNeill (Invercargill)
Barbara Morris (Taupo)
Chris Munn (Wellington)
Dennis Page (Hutt Valley)
Brian Stephenson (Auckland)
Lesley Topping (Hamilton)
Peter Wilson (Dunedin)

Auditor

Markhams Miller Dean Audit

FINANCE

FMC continues to rely predominantly on membership subscriptions for its operating budget. During the year SPARC restructured and re-focused its grant process. FMC (along with a number of other organisations) was unsuccessful with its application for a SPARC grant. The drop in income was offset by a generous offer from the Maerewhenua Trust to take up the shortfall.

Financial management continues to be prudent though the increase in GST resulted in a 2% loss on income from October. This also highlighted the inflexibility in the process by which our subscription can be changed. The Executive is recommending changes to these rules at the AGM but is optimistic that a continuing increase in Individual Supporter membership and managing to stop the decline in financial club membership will mean that no sub increase will be required in 2012.

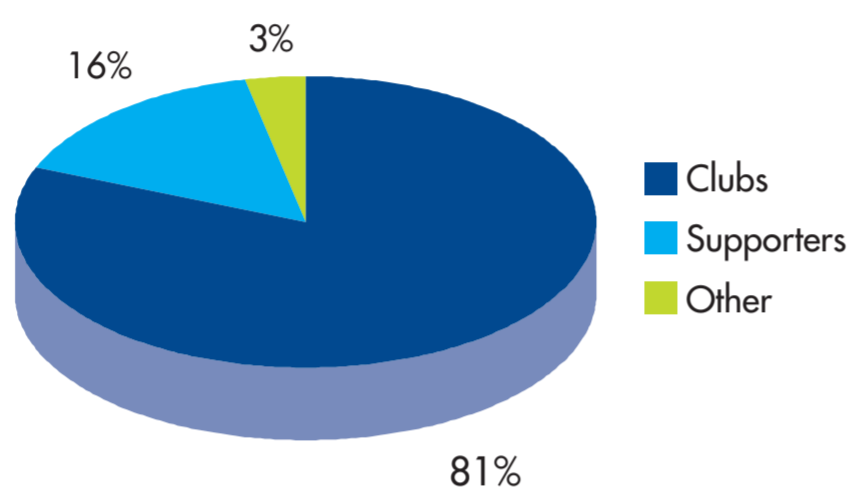
Over the year 2010-2011, Federated Mountain Clubs operated within the anticipated budget and concluded the year with a deficit of \$600 instead of the budgeted deficit of \$4250. Once again expenditure was below budget which is a reflection of the real pressure to maintain a high level of activity in what is a voluntary organisation.

Key sources of revenue were:

Subscriptions	\$93900 (up 4% from last year)
Interest from invested funds	\$13490 (down 13% from last year)
Maerewhenua Trust	\$15000 (for 7 months)

For the full audited Annual Accounts for the year ending 28 February 2011 refer to the separate booklet. (Also available on the website).

Source of Sub Income



MEMBERSHIP

Club financial membership continues to show a slight decline and we hope that the proposed changes to the rules will enable us to adapt the way clubs register with FMC to better reflect the 21st Century.

The growth in Individual Supporter membership is encouraging and in terms of dollar figures this growth is offsetting the decline in financial club membership. During the year we recorded our 100th member joining directly via the website.

Individual membership has moved to a 12 month year based on date of joining which has improved our ability to retain Individual Supporters from one year to the next. This area continues to show good growth.

Club "associated" members neither contribute anything financially nor receive any services but they are an important category when trying to gauge just how many people FMC actually represents.

We made a special effort during the year to attract Polytechnic Institutes as Associate members. The intention of this promotion is to make young people who are active in Outdoor Recreation aware of the work of FMC. We were pleased to welcome Whitireia and Te Tai Poutini Polytechnics. We will approach the remaining ones again.

The effort to attract secondary schools which teach and assess Outdoor Recreation at the senior level continued and we maintained a membership of 25 schools representing 1300 students.

Mountain Safety Council Branches were also encouraged to join and we now have 5 MSC Branches. The MSC Branch structure is vital to meeting the instructional needs of our clubs and it is important that FMC and MSC Branches work closely together.

A summary of membership as at 28 February 2011 is:

	As at 28 February		
	2009	2010	2011
Number of affiliated Clubs	84	82	82
Club financial membership	8672	8520	8513
Club associated membership	2476	3290	6011
Total Club Membership	11148	11810	14524
Individual Membership	320	363	443
School & Polytech Students	n.a	947	1288
Mountain Safety Council Branches	n.a.	n.a.	68
Total	11468	13110	16323
Associates (Schools & Polytechs)	12	25	27
Associates (MSC Branches & Others)	19	19	24

FMC FOREST & MOUNTAIN TRUST

The FMC Forest and Mountains Trust is a charitable Trust which supports the work of FMC and also supports tramping and climbing in New Zealand.

The trust is grateful for the many donors who have made donations and bequests over the last year.

The Trust has continued to make a significant contribution to tramping and climbing in New Zealand. Key projects in the last year include:

Support for Hillary Low's book: *Pushing his luck, a report of the expedition and death of Henry Whitcombe.*

The Trust was pleased to support this book which takes a significant story from the New Zealand back country, the 1863 crossing of Whitcombe Pass and descent of the Whitcombe, and cleans up many errors that came about through a poor translation of Lauper's original text.

Mt Brown hut

The Trust was delighted to support this community project. A group from Kokotahi, aided by volunteers and donors from the "permat" online group have funded and built a new Mt Brown hut. Set on the 'front ranges' above Lake Kaniere, Mt Brown hut offers a valuable addition to recreational opportunities on the West Coast.

Rock and Pillar Trust

The Trust was pleased to support the work of this Trust which is restoring Big Hut in the Rock and Pillar range.

Income	
Donations	\$8915
Bequests	\$2000
Interest	\$12,127
Total	\$23,042
Expenses	
Administration	\$99
Audit	\$960
Envelope Appeal	\$3658
Grants	\$3000
Travel	\$140
Total	\$7,857
Net Surplus	\$15,185

For detailed accounts refer to the full Accounts booklet

TRUST DONORS

The Trust thanks all its donors in the last financial year. Their support is vital to the ongoing ability of the Trust to promote Outdoor Recreation in NZ.

The following people made donations of \$20 or more:

Peter Alspach	Paul Laird
Stanley Bathgate	Chris Leaver
Eric Bennett	Joy Liddicoat
Ronald Bennett	Denise Mayes
Jenn Bolderson	Mike McConchie
George Booth	Patricia McDonald
Helen Burns	Anne Mohrdeck
Phil & Diane Cawley	K Moretta
Christopher Corkery	John Nankervis
Philip Crosier	Euan Nicol
Alison Downard	Peter Orange
Evelyn Entwistle	Ken Ridley
David Evans	Marcel Robb
Ronald Fayle	Kevin Simpkin
Pip Forer	A G Talbot
Colin Freland	Jonathan Taylor
Allan Grogan	William Veal
Jenny Harper	Gina Waibl
Derek Herd	Michael Walsh
Brian Hodge	Janet Wilson
Bruce James	Beryl Young

In addition the Trust received 103 other donations which were either anonymous or under \$20

The Trust has received the following bequests during the year:

Peter Jagger	\$2000
Tararua Tramping Club	

Bequests have been received from the estates of:

Ida Hamilton	2002
Gilbert McCaul	2004
Owen Wilkes	2006
Ronald Greenwood	2007
Henry Millward	2008

CONFERENCE

A major focus for FMC in its eightieth year will be to host a conference bringing together a range of NGOs and other stakeholders to examine the key issues that will face our wild lands in the 21st century.

This marks the continuation of a long line of influential FMC conferences. Thirty years ago, Federated Mountain Clubs set the agenda with the 1981 *Wilderness Recreation in New Zealand* conference, drawing a line in the sand around the over-development of the back-country. As we enter our ninth decade, it is timely for Federated Mountain Clubs to host another forward-looking event. What new challenges will the next few decades

bring for those who enjoy our wild places? Just as importantly, what opportunities can we harness to ensure the integrity of wild places and the continued opportunity to enjoy them?

This major event will be held at Te Papa in Wellington on 11/12 June 2011 and we expect that this will lead to ongoing work between NGOs to deal with future challenges.

1981: FMC 50th conference "Wilderness Recreation in New Zealand" at Rotoiti, Nelson Lakes.

TODAY: the concept of "wilderness area" is part of the Conservation Act 1987 and nine large areas are managed for their wilderness values.

1991: FMC 60th conference "Backcountry recreation 2000" at Rotoiti focusing on regulation and public access.

TODAY: concessions have stood the test of time and the Walking Access Act 2008 establishes a Commission to improve access to public land.

2011: FMC 80th anniversary conference "Forever wild? Our conservation lands in the 21st century" at Te Papa, Wellington.

What will the future for public conservation land look like? How will we protect what we value? This is your chance to be part of debate and dialogue that will shape that future.

AROUND THE REGIONS

North

Northern recreational opportunities

Ideas generated from the FMC-organised forum in Auckland in late 2009 were communicated to the Director-General. The Department acknowledged the merit of the recommendations made, but also advised that its focus is now on implementation of the Destination Management Framework. FMC expects that the ideas generated though this forum will inform the Department's thinking.

Kaimanawas

The ongoing difficulties of access to a block of privately owned land adjacent to boundaries of the Kaimanawa Forest Park continue. DoC has advised it is continuing negotiations with the owners in the hope of ensuring access for trampers across parts of this land.

One route has been secured via a provision in the licence agreement with the new lessee, and FMC is very appreciative of this gesture by the owners. We hope that further routes will be available in the future.

Tongariro partial plan change

FMC submitted on this plan change which included, among other things, requests by skifield operators to provide over-snow vehicular transport on the skifield, and proposal to allow sections of walking tracks to be opened further for limited mountain biking events. FMC felt these proposals would have little impact on tramping and climbing members.

Central

Baring head purchase

FMC was delighted with the decision by Greater Wellington Regional Council, the Department of Conservation and private benefactors to purchase the land around Baring Head. We expect that this will become a valuable addition to recreational opportunities close to Wellington.

Greater Wellington Regional parks planning

FMC was largely comfortable with the direction proposed in this plan. FMC submitted on a number of aspects of interest to recreationalists in the lower North Island.



Brent Henson, Hutt Valley TC



Jean Garman, Manawatu TSC

Top of South

Molesworth

FMC provided input into the development of a new plan. This has been put on hold pending discussions between iwi and the Office of Treaty Settlements.

Crystal Valley ski-field

The Director General of Conservation has approved a land-swap which will see public conservation land in the Craigieburn Range (Crystal Basin) fall into private ownership. FMC strenuously opposed this for two reasons. Firstly FMC is opposed in principle to the privatisation of part of the public conservation estate. Second, in this case the land was acquired by the Nature Heritage Fund and forms an unbroken stretch of public conservation land from the main divide to the Canterbury plains.

South

Mt Aspiring plan

The Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan is with the New Zealand Conservation Authority and FMC awaits progress on this.



Ian McLraith, Hutt Valley TC



Sue McKee, Hutt Valley TC



Paul Knox, Over 40s TC

