



# Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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## FMC Member News January 2012

*Welcome to a New Year of tramping, mountaineering and other outdoor recreational pursuits. Here is the latest news on FMC advocacy, highlights, and other significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in outdoor recreation.*

### **Dart - Hollyford Tunnel and Riverstone Monorail Proposals - Extension on Submission Dates**

Many members will be aware that the Department of Conservation is currently consulting the public on two proposals that it has received for concession applications concerning the above projects. Because both proposals are substantial with considerable accompanying information, DoC has granted an extension period of a further 15 working days to allow interested parties time to prepare and draft their submissions. **The closing date for submissions on the Dart-Hollyford Tunnel proposal is now 20 February 2012, and the closing date for submissions on the Riverstone Monorail proposal is now 19 March 2012.**

FMC is preparing submissions on both applications but strongly encourages clubs and individuals to prepare their own submissions if they have strong views on the matter. Members are welcome to contact us if they have concerns or to share information - The executive member contact for the Dart-Hollyford Tunnel project is Robert Mitchell ([rmitchl28@xtra.co.nz](mailto:rmitchl28@xtra.co.nz)), and the contact for the Riverstone Monorail project is Peter Wilson ([petergwilson@gmail.com](mailto:petergwilson@gmail.com)). Full details on both of the proposals and instructions on where to send submissions are available at: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/notified-concession-applications/>.



*A panoramic view of the Hollyford Valley taken from Conical Hill (Routeburn Track) in April 2008 - The proposed tunnel portal will exit into the valley floor at approximately just below the rocks and tarn in the left foreground of this picture. Will future walkers of this iconic track have to put up with noise and reverberation from bus engines, as it reflects and bounces off the walls of the valley sides, as part of their experience? Already some vehicle noise travels from vehicles crossing The Divide (SH 94, far left background of this picture) to reach the ears of trampers as they travel on parts of this track. Great Walks are more than just natural beauty - Natural quiet is just as important too! Just ask anyone that has walked the Tour du Mont Blanc and has stood, even from some distance away, by the Mont Blanc Tunnel Portal.*

### **Recent FMC Submissions**

FMC has made the following submissions over the last month; to DoC Otago opposing the granting of a concession to Heli-Tours Ltd for more landing sites, to DoC (Canterbury) opposing an amendment of the Aoraki/Mt Cook Management Plan to enable a realignment of a road in the vicinity of Tasman Glacier, and three submissions as part of the Tenure Review process on Ribbonwood, Caberfeidh and Manuka Point Stations. Full details of the submissions can be found at: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>.

## Youth Scholarships

FMC is offering more Youth Scholarships in 2012. There are two types of award available:

- A **Skills** Scholarship which provides a grant towards the cost of learning skills. This scholarship is five \$300 grants to contribute towards or cover costs of outdoor skills acquisition and training for young adults, including hire of an instructor for a club course or for an individual to partake in an instructor-training course.
- An **Expedition** Scholarship which provides a grant to cover a multi day expedition within mainland New Zealand. This scholarship is one \$1,000 grant to contribute towards a club-sanctioned, multi-day expedition (5 or more night's duration) led by a person under 30 years within mainland New Zealand or its offshore islands.

**Applications for the first round close on 6 April 2012.** For more details and to download the application forms and selection criteria, go to: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship/>.

## Hut Survey

The Auckland University School of Environment is conducting a Hut User Survey. You may have already heard about this but if not, we urge you to go to [http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HUT\\_USERS](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HUT_USERS) and complete the survey.

## 2012 Photo Competition

Time is running short now! All entries must be in by mid April. Details are on our website at <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/photo-competition/> and entry forms will be sent to clubs in early March.

## Adventure Smart Website

The Mountain Safety Council is promoting the use of the Adventure Smart website as an electronic method of ensuring that when you go into the outdoors you leave your intentions with a reliable contact. FMC is aware that the use of the DoC based paper system is variable around NZ and has an open mind about the new system. The link to the Adventure Smart Land-based page is <http://www.adventuresmart.org.nz/Outdoors-Intentions/Default.asp>. Your Executive is interested in hearing from members who have used the website.

## 2012 Fees

Invoices will be sent to all clubs in early March. This is the first year of the new fee structure and full details will be included in the mail-out.

## AGM and Executive Elections

Clubs are advised that the 2012 FMC AGM will be held at Sudima Hotel in Christchurch on Saturday 9 June. Formal notice of the AGM and nomination forms for the Executive will be sent to all clubs in early March.