“Let us wander into the mountains of life and seek those peaks which lead to higher ideals.”

To UNDERSTAND where we stand
Freedom of the hills

FMC will maintain a sound value system and policy platform drawn from the collective wisdom of our FMC whanui and founded on a respect for the natural environment and an individual's right to recreate within it.

1. Develop policy when required, and seek member contributions. Ensure policy is reviewed regularly.

2. Commit to examining our policy, campaigns and backcountry culture through a lens that recognises climate change and our need to adapt to its challenges, at the same time as reducing our collective contribution to greenhouse gas emissions.
Stewardship of the Land

FMC has an abiding stewardship ethic, guided by our constitutional object to ensure the “conservation and wise management of New Zealand’s natural wild lands, mountains, lakes, rivers and coasts”. We will seek to continuously challenge what this ethic requires within our organisation and our wider community.

3. Protect and enhance conservation planning law in New Zealand to ensure conservation values continue to come before economic values on public conservation land. Increase public understanding of how this is achieved.

4. Plan a national conference or workshop biennially from 2017.
Enduring Relationships

FMC must build lasting relationships with other groups, organisations and individuals that have similar long-term perspectives emphasising respect, active protection and connection with our wild places.

5. Collaborate with other organisations concerned with the line between conservation and development. These organisations include: NZDA, Whitewater NZ, Trailfund NZ, Forest and Bird, Fish and Game and DOC.

6. Increase our understanding of how our stewardship ethic mirrors or differs from an indigenous worldview, and talk more with Iwi with a view to building long-term relationships and applying Tikanga Māori and Te Reo Māori increasingly in our activities.
The explorers of the past were great people and we should honour them. But let us not forget that their spirit still lives on. It is still not hard to find one who will adventure for the sake of a dream or one who will search, for the pleasure of searching, and not for what he may find.

Sir Edmund Hillary - *Challenge of the Unknown*
To INSPIRE outdoor recreation
The Heart of the Outdoors Community

FMC is in a position to build membership throughout the outdoor recreation community which will strengthen our advocacy, broaden our appeal to outdoor recreationalists and improve the leadership we provide. FMC seeks to become the heart of the Outdoor community.

7. Emphasise the importance of tramping as a core part of the kiwi identity, and a foundational skill for all outdoor activities.

8. Promote and encourage the range of outdoor activities that tramping leads to, in order to recognise our outdoor community, broaden the appeal of FMC and our clubs, and connect with the next generation of adventurers.

9. Foster the participation of young people in the outdoors. Ensure that the conditions are right for as many young people as possible to experience an outdoor spark.

10. Lead the renewal of mentoring within our clubs and communities and reach out to all outdoor users to build a highly experienced and skilled outdoor community.
Telling Our Stories

FMC must continue to tell the stories that are important to us to as wide an audience as possible. We can achieve this both through our own publication and writing and also through collaborating with others.

11. Be staunch to preserve our independence and authenticity. Provide opinion leadership and also a platform for the many voices and sub-cultures within the outdoor community to express themselves and find common ground and a wider audience.

12. Publish the respected FMC Bulletin as our flagship quarterly journal. Ensure that FMC Executive contribute quality and timeless content. Grow our outdoor networks, through the newsletter, website and social media.

13. Fuel an improved design ethos in all of our activities and media

14. Broadcast our messages through collaboration with others, including an increase in opinion pieces and stories published in all forms of media. Continue to improve media relationships.

15. Ensure the culture and history of the outdoor recreation and conservation movements are cherished and promoted.
Keeping Our Fires Burning

FMC clubs and supporters have an enduring connection with the land. We celebrate that relationship and promote their recreational activities. We also encourage volunteering on public conservation land and act to enhance public access and recreational opportunities.

16. Embolden volunteer guardianship of our hut and track network. Lead the Outdoor Recreation Consortium and seek sustainable funding for ongoing volunteer hut and track maintenance.

17. Encourage clubs and other members to be actively involved in stewarding public conservation land to protect and enhance natural values.

18. Support the development of outdoor recreation opportunities when appropriate, considering the range of opportunities already available in a location.
“We must closely guard the welfare of our National Parks and Reserves. These should not be regarded as the property of our minister or the government. They belong to the people of today and tomorrow. We must fight for their protection if necessary.”

Fred Vosseler
Inaugural President FMC - 1932

Previous and detail right: Group on the Waiiopehu Track, at the second lookout, during the official opening day of Waiiopehu Hut, 4 March, 1928. From left to right: G H Field, W H Field (MP), W F G Vine, J R Smith, A J Hilkie and H A Mealand of Tararua Tramping Club, W N Pharazyn, F W Vosseler (President Tararua Tramping Club), E Phillips-Turner (Secretary Forestry Department), and J Logan of Levin-Waiiopehu Tramping Club. Photograph taken by George L Adkin.

G L Adkin Collection, Alexander Turnbull Library
To ADVOCATE when required
Cherishing Our Places

FMC is known for successful advocacy to increase legal protection and appropriate management of our natural landscapes. Previous successes include the creation of National Parks, Conservation Parks and Wilderness Areas.

19. Ensure promised Forgotten Lands reclassification is followed through and identify specific places where further advocacy is necessary.

20. Contribute to High country management initiatives including tenure review and collaborate to preserve dryland eco-systems and water quality.

21. Partner with the Walking Access Commission and DOC to advance public access to the outdoors.

22. Promote our previous successes including the creation of High Country Parks, Wilderness Areas and National Parks and advocate for further extensions of these networks where appropriate.
Maintaining Readiness

FMC must be well respected politically, particularly by the Minister of Conservation, the Department of Conservation and all political parties. We remain strictly apolitical.

23. Pay honorariums to our President and Vice-President to attract the right people and to enable them to spend sufficient time on the roles.


25. Maintain a wide network of experts, including a Legal Reference Group, to ensure sound advice when required.
Reacting When Necessary

FMC patrols the line between conservation and development. Recent examples of successful intervention in partnership with other groups include the Fiordland Monorail and Dart-Hollyford Tunnel. There may be times when other work has to put to the side while we fight for the integrity of places and recreational opportunities that are important to us.

26. Monitor development proposals and respond appropriately.

27. Ensure that the Haast Hollyford ‘Zombie Highway’ concept is consigned finally to the dust-bin of history.
“And those who sleep in close bags fitfully, Besieged by wind in a snowline bivouac - The carrion parrot with red underwing, Clangs on the roof by night, and daybreak brings, Raincloud on purple ranges, light reflected, Stainless from crumbling glacier, dazzling snow.”

James K Baxter – Poem in the Matukituki
To ensure WE endure
Solidarity With Our Members

FMC is responsible to our affiliated clubs, our individual supporters and the wider outdoors community whose interest we claim to represent. It is imperative that we stay actively connected to our people.

28. Produce an Annual Report, monthly emails newsletters and regular mail-outs to clubs and individual supporters.

29. Seek new membership from clubs, groups, rōpū and individuals that share our backcountry kaupapa and appreciation.

30. Schedule FMC Executive visits to clubs.

31. Maintain the FMC Membership benefits program.
A Working Executive

The democratically elected FMC Executive is the hub of our organisation. The Executive as a collective is responsible for the strategic direction of FMC as well as delivering our initiatives. The achievement of our goals is dependent on the skills, passion and energy of our Executive.

32. Identify skills required by Executive members and provide coaching/learning opportunities.

33. Expect Executive members to write an annual report of their activities to accompany the Executive election forms.

34. Expand the role of the administration sub-committee to be expressly responsible for risk management, financial planning and oversight, as well as executive and staff recruitment and development.
Our Professional Staff

FMC has a small professional staff charged with undertaking administrative duties and supporting the Executive. Success is judged by outcomes – not head count or floor space.

35. Provide organisational resilience by documenting administrative processes and ensuring cross-cover is available.

36. Find Administrative efficiencies so resulting savings can be reallocated into other areas of FMC’s work.

37. Valuing our administrative staff by providing timely feedback and performance reviews. Reward and recognition
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