Megan Dimozantos bio

I am an NZAC member, a PRANZ (Packrafting Association of NZ) committee member and the Chair of Search and Rescue Rotorua Incorporated. I have spent my entire adult life playing in the wilderness as packrafter, mountain biker, tramper, skier, climber and alpinist. I have an unhealthy infatuation with topo maps, and I am also a hobbyist photographer. I moved from Australia to New Zealand 14 years ago, and to this day, I am still in awe of New Zealand's magnificent back country. I am based in Rotorua and spend most of my time in the bush around the Central North Island Te Ika-a-Māui. Tongariro, Kawekas, Kaimanawas, Whirinaki and TeUruwera are my "local" playgrounds, but I certainly enjoy the occasional road trip to other areas of the country!

My varied professional life means I bring a range of skills to the table for FMC. I have worked in leadership, project management, event management, sales and technical services across a broad range of industries from retail, to media, to industrial gases to construction. I have experience working with charitable trusts and community and government organisations. Currently, I run my own business as a maintenance and renovation tradesperson, which affords me the flexibility to get out into nature.

I have long been an admirer and supporter of FMC's work and in a world where there is increasing pressure to develop and undermine our beautiful wilderness areas, the role of FMC will be increasingly important to protect our wilderness values. Sustainable and innovative growth is key, and for me, standing by and merely observing our conservation battles is frustrating. In putting myself forward to the FMC executive I hope to be able to make a meaningful contribution to preserving New Zealand's unique native wilderness and ensuring these areas remain available for recreation. My main interests are conservation and advocacy. I also have a passion for our unique backcountry huts and ensuring this network is maintained in balance with the natural environment surrounding it.