



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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FMC Member News November 2010

Here is a summary of activities by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand in November 2010, including items of note from the Executive Meeting held on 13 November, plus news on significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in outdoor recreation.

Consulting on Proposed Changes to FMC's Constitution

Your Executive has looked in depth at the Constitution and to what extent it reflects the reality of Tramping Clubs' structures in the 21st Century. Some significant changes are being considered and all Clubs will receive details and background to these changes soon. When this material has been prepared it will also be available on our website. The Executive would like all clubs to read the material and if they have any views on the proposal to make these known to the Executive by the end of February. The final proposals will be developed at the March 2011 Executive meeting.

DOC & Destination Management Frameworks

The Department of Conservation is redesigning the way it invests in each of its functions. In the recreation area, this is known as the "Destination Management Framework" (DMF). The idea behind the DMF is that there will be a national set of principles that each conservancy will follow to prioritise its spend on recreation. This will essentially involve a change of philosophy from managing assets to an approach that is based on providing a set of facilities that delivers on the goal of encouraging more people into tramping and using the conservation estate. There will be both challenges and opportunities for FMC and its members if the DMF is implemented. FMC will be attending a DOC workshop on 25 November to learn more about the DMF and it is also hoped to arrange a follow-up session in early 2011. We will keep you informed by means of this newsletter and with articles in the Bulletin. We may well need to call upon local knowledge for any issues that might arise in specific conservancies and we will be seeking to engage with our members as the DMF is developed.

Coastal and Marine Area (Taukuta Moana) Bill

Federated Mountain Clubs has concerns about some of the procedures which may impact on access to recreational walking & tramping areas proposed by this Bill. FMC has made a submission which will be available on our website when the Parliamentary Committee has received it.

Proposed Changes to Selwyn District Plan concerning Porter Heights Ski-field Developments

FMC has made a submission to the Selwyn District Council concerning proposed zoning changes to the District Plan that relate to potential new developments on the Porter Heights Ski-field - The submission can be read via the following link: http://www.selwyn.govt.nz/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/35981/S1701-to-S1800.pdf and then go to submission number 1716 on pages 21-24.

Cookbooks and Calendars

Does your club publish a cookbook or a calendar and would they like to market it to the NZ-wide tramping community? FMC is prepared to include links to Member Club publications and a small amount of specific advertising to promote your club's project on our website. Please send the details to: secretary@fmc.org.nz, for inclusion on our website. Also, on Monday 15 November, Radio NZ's Nine-to-Noon programme included a discussion with Kennedy Warne which made mention of FMC and aspects of cooking and food for tramping trips - A link to the interview can be found on our website.

FMC Mountain and Forest Trust Grants

The FMC Mountain & Forest Trust Board has recently approved some new grants. Go to: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/fmc-trust/> for more details

Plan a Club Christmas or Summer Trip to a Wild River

Help raise awareness of wild rivers and plan a club trip over the summer that incorporates one of our wild and scenic rivers - in either island! Whether your trip is short or long, by hard foot slog or using tubes, kayaks or rafts, we'd love to hear about it. Please write it up and e-mail the trip report and a couple of photos to us so we can publish it on the FMC website. Wild Rivers are special and many are readily accessible with a bit of effort, so let's enjoy them and share the experience in order that others can see why they're so valuable and worthy of preservation.

Attendance at Bushwalking Australia Incorporated's November Meeting

On the weekend of 19-21 November, executive member, Dennis Page, attended Bushwalking Australia's Executive Meeting in Melbourne and gave a presentation on Federated Mountain Clubs' activities and achievements. There was also the opportunity to compare notes between the two organizations. There are many issues that both groups have in common, such as: threats to conservation lands from mining, electricity generation, irrigation schemes, tourism and private concessions, conflict in areas that receive multiple use (e.g. horse riding, mountain biking 4WDs etc), preservation of natural quiet and so forth. In addition, clubs that are members of BAI also face many of the problems that are familiar to many of our clubs - aging membership, retention of members and encouraging youth participation. Spare copies of the *FMC Bulletin* were also distributed and were received with high acclaim! It is hoped that Dennis' visit will be that start of an enduring relationship between BAI and FMC where we can offer each other mutual support and assistance on common issues. In addition, many of the state presidents that were in attendance were keen to establish reciprocal links with FMC's member clubs with the aim of undertaking bushwalking/tramping trips in each others country. The link to BAI's website is: <http://www.bushwalkingaustralia.org/>.

Gentle Reminders!

1) FMC Youth and Young Adults Scholarship Scheme: Further details and application forms are available for downloading from the FMC website (<http://www.fmc.org.nz>). The first round of applications closes on Friday 1 April 2011 with the winners to be announced at the June 2011 AGM – Start thinking about ideas for your application now!

2) A Tale of Two Rivers DVD - Copies Still Available at No Cost to Clubs: Whitewater NZ has produced a quality film contrasting Meridian's plan for a destructive hydro-dam on the Mokihinui River with a hydro scheme proposed for the nearby Stockton Plateau that would benefit the Ngakawau River. The Tale of Two Rivers has superb footage of the rivers and plenty of interesting commentary (<http://rivers.org.nz/a-tale-of-two-rivers>). Member Clubs can obtain a free copy of this 30 minute DVD for showing on a club night from the FMC office by e-mailing admin@fmc.org.nz. Individual supporters can purchase a copy for \$15 (including postage).

3) Trial Use of Mapping Access Software Online for Walking Access Commission: You can help the Walking Access Commission by testing their online Mapping Access Software - Go to <http://www.arahikoi.org.nz> and sign up as a first time user - The system will send you a username, and then you can logon with that and the password you chose at the same website. Once you're successfully registered on the system, you can log back on and you will go to a page that has the website address, username and password for the mapping system itself. It's a bit convoluted, but Walking Access needs you to register so they can track how you go in the system while they're conducting further tests.

4) Tongariro National Park Management Plan - Partial Review: There is still a chance to make submissions on this Partial Review - Consult the November Newsletter for more details or information is also available on the DoC website: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/draft-tongariro-national-park-management-plan-partial-review/>. Clubs can either formulate their own submission or else send comments to FMC executive member Barbara Morris btmorrison@slingshot.co.nz by 30/11/2010. Submissions to DoC close on Friday, 10 December 2010.

5) Pack Liners: The stock of green FMC Pack Liners is nearly exhausted. After listening to comments from members we have reordered and the new ones will be white and twice the strength. The new ones should arrive before Christmas and pricing will be on the website. If you want to order the old ones at the old price, please get your orders in now to: admin@fmc.org.nz.

6) FMC Travel Club: As 2011 approaches, the plans for the 2011 Travel Club trips are firming up. Go to <http://www.fmc.org.nz/travel-club/> for more details and to down-load trip dossiers.