



# Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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## FMC Member News August 2009

*Here is a summary of activities by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand in August 2009, plus news on significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in safe outdoor recreation. If you have news you would like to feature in our September issue, we will welcome your input.*

### Record Snow Levels Mean High Avalanche Danger

Federation members making climbing, alpine tramping and skiing trips into the Southern Alps are warned of continuing high avalanche danger following record snow falls this winter. They should ensure that they carefully research the avalanche risks in the areas they intend to visit, and that they take appropriate precautions. The Mountain Safety Council website: [www.avalanche.net.nz](http://www.avalanche.net.nz) is updated daily and provides excellent intelligence. Additional information on Snow & Alpine Skills or Avalanche Awareness Training is available at <http://www.mountainsafety.org.nz/>

### Topo50 Maps Out in September

The release date for the new Topo50 Map series is 23 September 2009. The order form for these will be sent to all clubs shortly. Please collate orders from your club. The final date we will accept orders is 15 November. This is a one off opportunity to buy the new Topo50 Maps at a very competitive price. Further information is available from the FMC website or the LINZ website [www.linz.govt.nz/topo50](http://www.linz.govt.nz/topo50).

### FMC Bulletin Survey

In early September Clubs will be sent a survey to determine opinions on possible improvements of our flagship publication: the FMC Bulletin. We urge all Club committees to take the time to discuss this with their members and then return the survey before the end of October.

### Forum on Northern Recreational Opportunities

The Federation will be holding a half-day forum in Auckland on Saturday 31 October 2009 to gather opinions on outdoor recreation opportunities in the northern regions of the North Island. In addition to FMC, representatives from tramping clubs, DoC and regional councils will be in attendance. The objectives of the forum are: **i)** To set general objectives for developing walking opportunities in the north, **ii)** To prioritize specific suggestions for Northland, Auckland, the Gulf Islands, Coromandel and Kaimai areas, **iii)** To discuss issues associated with outdoor recreation, such as transport to recreation venues, public access issues, dual use of tracks, regional conservation issues, hut and track standards, and regional publicity, & **iv)** Canvas opinions on new National Parks and Conservation Parks.

Federated Mountain Clubs wishes to invite people who are interested in the bigger picture of tramping or walking opportunities and facilities, and who are willing to help formulate recommendations for the future. Those interested in attending or obtaining more information should email [northforum@fmc.org.nz](mailto:northforum@fmc.org.nz) by 10 October 2009.

### Te Araroa Pathway – Proposal for Oriwa Ridge, Tararua Ranges

A number of Wellington tramping clubs are concerned about plans to use Oriwa Ridge in the Tararuas for the Te Araroa Walkway. Details on the proposal can be viewed at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/>. This will be discussed at the FMC Executive meeting on 5th September. Clubs that have views on this proposal should make their views known to their FMC Exec contact or by email to [secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz).

### FMC Photo Competition

The FMC is running a photo competition for member clubs. Have a look on pages 40 and 41 of the August Bulletin for details. Entries will close in January 2010.

## **St James Management Plan – DoC asks for Input**

Last year the Government purchased St James Station at a cost of \$40 million to create the new St James Conservation Park near the Lewis Pass. DoC has released outline management plans and is seeking feedback from recreational users and the public on the following: **i)** ideas on day hikes and multiday tramps, **ii)** possible private accommodation on the St James walkway, **iii)** 4WD access over Malings and Edwards Passes to the Waiau between October and May, **iv)** Frequent access by aircraft to different sections of the park by trampers, hunters, fishermen, kayakers, rafters, mountain bikers & heliskiers, **v)** Possible use of the Waiau and the Clarence Rivers for hydro electricity or water storage for irrigation, and, **vi)** Possible use of the St James Range for wind power generation.

The St James Planning Discussion Paper is available for inspection at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/stjamesconsultation>. Clubs and Federation members are encouraged to make their own submissions either directly to DoC or through the Federation. Please send your views to us by no later than 5 September 2009.

## **Search and Rescue**

LandSAR is reviewing its constitution. This has led to a proposal to replace the current council with a new, smaller board. Your Federation believes it is important that LandSAR continues to consult closely with clubs and volunteers to ensure the continuing quality of Land SAR services. This will be best achieved if there is a FMC representative on the new management Board. The Federation's LandSAR representative is Richard Davies: [richard.davies@gmail.com](mailto:richard.davies@gmail.com). Richard would welcome any views that you may have concerning the above review.

## **FMC submission on Management of Adventure Events in the Harper Pass Area**

A local operator has applied to DoC for a concession to host an annual mountain bike race over Harper's Pass. Your Federation has made a submission and this can be viewed at <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>

## **Preliminary Proposal for Tenure Review of Manuhune Station**

FMC has submitted comments on the Tenure Review Proposal for Manuhune Station, located in the Albury Range near Fairlie, including improving access around the Tengawai River environs and along the crest of the Albury Range.

## **Need for Better Management of Helicopters on the Hump Ridge Track**

The Federation has written to DoC's Southland Conservancy alerting it to concession breaches involving helicopters in the environs of the Hump Ridge Track. We will report back as soon as we receive a reply.

## **Walking Access Commission – July Consultation with Interested Parties**

The Walking Access Commission held a successful forum with interested parties in late July. Your Federation joined with other recreational representatives and members of Federated Farmers to develop proposals for a NZ Outdoor Access Code and to promote the Commission's work. The Access Code should be released for public comment in October.

## **Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) and Big Game Council**

The Federation has written to DoC's Canterbury Conservancy to comment on its proposed WARO framework – including its impact on 'natural quiet' and wilderness areas, deer number reductions and interactions with other users. Further details can be obtained at <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>. Your executive was also represented at an initial meeting that was held in Christchurch recently to discuss the formation of the Big Game Council – We will keep you posted on developments as they come to hand.

## **Free WWW Track Information**

For some time, trampers, climbers and other recreationists have been able to use Google Earth and Virtual Earth, to plan trips. Now there is additional information. DoC tracks are available for the public to download, at the Koordinates website: <http://koordinates.com/layer/753-doc-tracks-may-2009/>.

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