



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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FMC Member News December 2010

We wish all FMC members a very Happy Christmas. Have a safe and enjoyable time in our mountains and conservation lands over the holiday break. Here is the latest news on FMC advocacy, highlights, and other significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in outdoor recreation.

Reminder - Consulting on Proposed Changes to FMC's Constitution

By now, all clubs will have received information on the proposed changes, and they can also be inspected on our website. Your Executive has looked in depth at the Constitution and to what extent it reflects the reality of Tramping and Climbing Clubs' structures in the 21st Century. Some significant changes are being considered and we 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.

Coastal and Marine Area (Taukuta Moana) Bill

FMC's submission has now been received by the relevant Parliamentary Committee - We have concerns about some of the procedures which may impact on access to recreational walking & tramping areas proposed by this Bill. Go to <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/Submissions/> if you are interested in reading our submission.

Mountain Biking for Selected Tracks in Kahurangi National Park - 3 Year Trial Approved

Recently, the NZ Conservation Authority approved some changes to the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan that permit a three year trial of mountain biking on the Heaphy, Flora Saddle to Barron Flat and the (full) Kill Devil Tracks. The season on the Heaphy Track is May through September commencing in 2011. Flora Saddle and Kill Devil tracks may be ridden all year round. FMC supports the NZCA's decision to extend mountain-biking opportunities in the Kahurangi National Park. While many tracks in the conservation estate are not suitable for mountain-bike use, we believe that with courtesy and consideration, user conflict should be minimal and that the above selection of tracks will provide challenging and satisfying experiences for mountain bikers. To assist with the trial's success, please remember the following courtesies: Don't ride in packs - maximum group size is six. Avoid periods of heavy rain - DOC may close the track from time to time to keep it in good condition. Please keep to the track - no off-trail exploring (on bikes). No night riding. Please keep the huts and verandahs bike-free. Bookings on the Heaphy Track, for overnight accommodation, are still required for riders.

Public Urged to Help Protect Kauri Trees

Anyone heading out to enjoy the northern bush this summer is being asked to do their bit to help stop the spread of kauri dieback, a disease attacking kauri trees. Kauri dieback can kill trees of all ages. Affected trees show yellowing leaves, canopy thinning, dead branches and lesions that bleed resin across the lower part of the trunk. John Sanson, Kauri Dieback Management Programme spokesperson, advises that the disease is spread by soil movement and there are simple things people can do to help prevent it - Always stick to defined tracks in parks and reserves and keep off kauri tree roots. Before entering or leaving areas of kauri forest, please clean footwear, tyres and any equipment that comes into contact with soil. This is especially important for people moving between areas of kauri forest as there are some areas are presently disease free. This summer, people will notice signs at parks and tracks across the natural range of kauri reminding them to always stay on track and to keep gear clean. There is also a website (<http://www.kauridieback.co.nz>) and free-phone number (0800 NZ KAURI) that people can call to obtain further information.

Submissions on Partial Review - Tongariro NP Management Plan and Routeburn Race Concessions

FMC has made separate submissions to the relevant bodies concerning these topics - For those that are interested in further details, please go to the following link: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/Submissions/> on our website.

Mt Brown Hut Community Project

This Westland initiative to refurbish an ex-NZFS hut and relocate it overlooking Lake Kaniere successfully concluded with a recent opening ceremony. FMC Mountain & Forest Trust assisted with some of the cost. For further details, go to: http://remotehuts.co.nz/huts/mt_brown_hut/

Walking Access Commission's Latest Newsletter

For those that are interested, the WAC's newsletter can be access via the following link:
http://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/store/doc/F_5350WAC_News_2010Nov_web.pdf

Land and Water Forum Engagement

The Land and Water Forum's Final Report is now available and can be downloaded for viewing from our website (<http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/>). A series of meetings is being held around NZ over the next 6 months to enable everyone to have an input in this discussion. To view the schedule of meeting dates, go to: http://www.landandwater.org.nz/index_files/meetings.htm. We will also have further details available in our January Newsletter.

It's Still Not Too Late to 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.

Further 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) 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. Details on how to order the new ones will be available on our website in the New Year. If you want to order the old ones at the old price, please get your orders in now to: admin@fmc.org.nz.

5) 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.

The FMC Administration office will close on 21 December and reopen on Tuesday 25 January 2011