



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

P O Box 1604
WELLINGTON

FMC Member News February 2009

Your FMC Executive hopes that you all had great holidays though January and Waitangi weekend that allowed you, your friends, and families, to enjoy our magnificent mountain environment. Through the summer period, FMC has been busy on the submission front. Here is a summary of recent activity...

St James Conservation Area

Your FMC Executive has made a submission to DoC on the management of outdoor recreation in the St James Conservation Area. It recognizes its high potential for remote tramping and climbing and supports managing the St James Walkway as a low-key tramping experience with new camping areas at the trail ends. FMC also recognizes the potential for other carefully managed outdoor activities in the eastern sector such as horse riding, four wheel driving, and mountain biking. Inclusion of the area into the Lewis Park National Reserve is favoured, with integration of recreation in the eastern area being linked to recreation planning in Molesworth.

Molesworth Conservation Area

FMC Executive member Tony Haddon has met with other recreational interest groups and members of the Molesworth Management Committee to progress how to improve the recreational opportunities in the conservation area. Your FMC Executive will be preparing a submission and welcomes recommendations from individuals and member clubs. Contact: tony@kaka.co.nz

Rakiura CMS

Former FMC Executive member and authority on Rakiura, Rob Brown, has been assisting the FMC develop a submission on the Rakiura CMS. FMC is pressing for strict management of recreation concessions in the remote areas especially around the Tin Range and Port Pegasus. It is also seeking meaningful boundaries for the southern 'wilderness' zone. For comments and suggestions please contact secretary@fmc.org.nz

Mokihinui – Lyell: Track and Hut Proposals

A submission to the Buller District Council has been prepared by Exec member Quentin Duthie in support of proposals by a local trust for the development of old mining walking trails in the Mokihinui-Lyell area on the West Coast. The first project is to clear and restore the Lyell dray-road for walkers and mountain bikers. DOC has agreed to allow a helipad on the saddle. In addition, the trust has begun marking a route down the South Branch of the Mokihinui River. The second stage plan is for two, 6-bunk, huts on the saddle, and a tramping track down the South Branch to the Mokihinui Forks Hut. The huts will be built and maintained by the Trust, open to the public, and administered under the DoC hut fee system.

Your Club Logo is Needed!

In a forthcoming issue of the bulletin, FMC plans to feature an article on clubs and the editor requests that club secretaries send him a digital copy of their club logo. Please send this as a high-resolution **jpeg** or **tif** file to bulletin@fmc.org.nz, or send on CD to Shaun Barnett, PO Box 14-224 Kilbirnie, Wellington 6023. If you want a chance for your club to feature, please ensure your logo reaches Shaun by April 30th.

DoC Meeting on Outdoor Safety

Your FMC will be represented at a February meeting of outdoor recreation interest groups organized by DoC. It will be aimed at developing new measures that will improve safety for recreational users and tourists in conservation managed areas. FMC welcomes input from clubs or members on any concerns they have and any ideas on possible new safety measures. Please send your thoughts and feedback to: secretary@fmc.org.nz

Remarkables – Lake Alta Water Concession Management

FMC has received a response from DoC advising that the equipment used at Lake Alta for snowmaking has been removed to comply with concession requirements - almost two months after the end of the ski season. DoC thanked FMC for bringing this concession breach in the Conservation Area to their notice.

Waiorau and Hillend Access

The Minister of Conservation has advised that DoC has been successful in negotiating improved access from the Waiorau roadend, near the Snow Farm base building, to the Pisa Conservation Area. Your FMC welcomes progress and has emphasized to the Minister that it opposes the \$20 toll. At the time of press, we are still awaiting a reply regarding the access to Mt Roy via Hillend Station.

Tenure Review Progress

Submissions are currently being prepared for Braemar Station near Lake Pukaki, Riverslea and Shingley Creek and the Branches in the Upper Shotover. Your FMC is also involved in preliminary assessments of other leasehold properties entering the tenure review process. These include: Emerald Hills (Rock & Pillar Range), Cluden (Dunstan Mts), and Cambrian Hills (St Bathans). The current review of the Mt Gladstone Lease has raised issues regarding the future of the Hodder Huts and public access to Mt Tapuae o Uenuku and your FMC will be monitoring this closely. If you have any access or conservation issues to be addressed, please contact: secretary@fmc.org.nz

Mountain Safety Council EPIRB Research

The MSC is conducting important research into public awareness about the new generation of emergency personal locator beacons that became operational this year. You are invited to participate in a short online survey that will take approximately 5 minutes to complete. If you would like to participate in the survey, please click on the link below: www.median.co.nz/beacon1 (Please cut and paste this link into your web browser if the link doesn't automatically take you to the start of the survey).

Kaimanawa Forest Park – Umukarikari – Mt Urchin Track Reopened

DoC advises that they have now reopened an old track along a ridgeline linking the Umukarikari Range with Mount Urchin in the Kaimanawa Forest Park. Members of the Rotorua Tramping & Skiing Club, and the Taupo Tramping Club spent a weekend nailing up orange marker triangles, and cutting through thick bush and windfalls - which gave them an appreciation of the difficult work which DoC has accomplished on this track! Temporary signs at the Umukarikari and Urchin ends have been installed, and marker poles (blue metal with red reflective top) have been erected along the open tops sections. Consult your March FMC Bulletin or with the DoC Tongariro Conservancy for further details.

FMC Membership Discount Card

Work is well underway on the 2009/2010 card with a number of new providers that your Executive hopes cardholders will find appealing. FMC encourages members to support all providers where possible to ensure their continued contribution to our card. Unfortunately, some providers are discontinuing their support for various reasons. The FMC's New Zealand Sleeping Bag line will no longer be available due to product supply; our supplier has joined with their competitors and gone overseas for product. As always we encourage your feedback on the card and also appreciate any input in providing names of potential providers for us to follow up. Feedback can be directed to Executive member, Lex Smith, via: smithers@xtra.co.nz

2009 AGM

A reminder that this being held at the Brentwood Motel, Wellington, on Saturday 20 June 2009 and that nominations and notices of motion must be lodged with the secretary by 30 April 2009. Members and representatives of clubs from outside Wellington are also reminded to make any accommodation bookings as soon as possible. (Ph 04 920 0400, or e-mail reservations@brentwoodhotel.co.nz)