



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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FMC Member News March 2009

Over the past month Federated Mountain Clubs has been active representing the interests of trampers and climbers in a range of forums. Here is a summary of recent activity. Your Executive welcomes information on areas of special interest to you or your club. If you would like special assistance on particular issues, please contact your local Executive representative or email the Federation direct.

DoC Meeting on Outdoor Safety

Executive members Brian Stephenson and Richard Davies represented Federated Mountain Clubs at a forum aimed at developing improved safety procedures for trampers, climbers and other recreationists using national parks and other areas managed by the Department of Conservation. A review will be coordinated by Mountain Safety Council, which will be liaising closely with Federated Mountain Clubs. Clubs are invited to send their views on how the DoC safety systems can be improved. Please send your feedback to: secretary@fmc.org.nz

Government Proposals to Change the Resource Management Act

Your Executive is monitoring proposals to reform the Resource Management Act and other environmental laws. The Phase One changes contained in the Resource Management (Simplifying and Streamlining) Amendment Bill, are currently being considered by a Parliamentary Select Committee. Significantly, some of the changes alter the role of the Minister of Conservation. Federated Mountain Clubs encourages members and member Clubs to read the following submission guides and send in submissions. The closing date is 3 April 2008. Your Executive is currently considering its submission. Phase Two of the Government's proposals will cover water issues, local government and an Environmental Protection Agency, and may involve changes to conservation laws. Expect to hear more from us in due course, but in the meantime, please check out the following key web links:

Proposals to Amend the Act:

http://www.parliament.nz/en-NZ/PB/Legislation/Bills/3/4/c/00DBHOH_BILL90451-Resource-Management-simplifying-and-Streamlining.htm

Submission Guidelines: Environmental Defence Society <http://eds.org.nz/>

Conservation Board Nominations

DoC is currently calling for nominations to 3-year terms on the Conservation Boards. These Boards determine policy and liaise with each Conservancy office. Members are appointed for their general knowledge and expertise in the broad conservation area and not as representatives of any particular organisation. Not with standing this, it is valuable to have members of clubs affiliated to the Federated Mountain Club on these boards. If you would like a nomination form please contact the Secretary at: secretary@fmc.org.nz. Nominations close on 6 April 2009.

Ideas for New Parks in the North

Your Executive would welcome recommendations from members on ideas for the development of National or Conservation Parks in the Auckland, North Auckland, Coromandel and Bay of Plenty areas. These areas are the home of most New Zealanders, yet there is relatively little provision for local outdoor recreational opportunities. The Department of Conservation has asked for ideas from FMC. Please send your ideas to Executive members Viv Milne: miine@ps.gen.nz; Brian Stephenson, brian@bwstephenson.com; or Barbara Morris: btmorrison@paradise.net.nz

Federated Mountain Clubs Membership Discount Card

We regret to inform you that the operators of the Bluebridge and Humpridge business have ceased offering their discounts on the current card (early termination) and will not be offering a discount for inclusion on the 2009/10 card.

Rakiura CMS

Federated Mountain Clubs has lodged its submission on the Rakiura Conservation Management Strategy with the Department of Conservation. Executive member David Barnes worked closely with Rob Brown on the proposal which incorporated views from a range of trampers. Key points made were:

- Disagreement with the proposed wilderness zone, which would exclude the prominent granite peaks, Gog and Magog.
- Acknowledgement that to get a satisfactory boundary, we will have to accept limited guiding in the Port Pegasus area, but with expectation that it will not involve the construction of facilities.
- Opposition to helicopter landings at East Ruggedy and near Mason Bay.

The input of interested Federated Mountain Club members in this process to date is appreciated.

Mountain Safety Council

Federated Mountain Clubs is participating in a review of the Mountain Safety Council strategic plan. This will be discussed in detail at the Council meeting in Wellington on 16th April. The Federation will be emphasizing the need to improve engagement of local Mountain Safety Council branches with tramping and climbing clubs to determine their training needs.

Land SAR

Strategic planning within the national search and rescue organization, LandSAR, is underway. Please contact Executive member Richard Davies, if your club has recommendations or ideas that will help the organisation's activities in the coming year, and its development. His email address is: richard.daviesnz@gmail.com

Tenure Review Mt Aspiring Station

The Mt Aspiring Station Tenure review proposals have been released for public comment. The review proposes additions to the conservation estate (which could in time be added to the National Park) and formalises public access. You can check out details of the proposals on the LINZ website: www.linz.govt.nz/crown-property/news-stats-reporting/crown-property-in-the-news/2009/.mtaspiring. Federated Mountain Clubs is reviewing key elements and will be making a submission regarding recreation and conservation interests. If you or your Club wishes to make a contribution please email: David Barnes mcilroy.barnes@clear.net.nz or secretary@fmc.org.nz. Work is also being done on Tenure Review for the Carrick, Deep Creek and Long Gully leaseholds.

Living Rivers Coalition

Federated Mountain Clubs is working with Forest and Bird, Fish and Game and the NZ Recreational Canoe Association to establish guiding principles for the responsible management of New Zealand's rivers from their sources to the sea. There is broad agreement amongst Coalition members that the natural and recreational values of remote and wild rivers need continuing protection; there is a need for equitable management of water used for irrigation; better national planning of river use for hydro development and a need to protect rivers from farm and industrial pollution. The coalition is working on ways to increase public awareness on these issues. Members with expertise in river management and interested in contributing should contact Executive members Tony Haddon (tony@kaka.co.nz) or Quentin Duthie (quentin.duthie@gmail.com).

2009 AGM - Executive Nominations and Items of Business

A reminder to all clubs that nominations are currently open for election to the Executive. It is good to have a geographical balance on the Executive and at the moment we have no one from the region of the Wanganui Conservancy area (Manawatu through to Taranaki) or the Northland Conservancy region. Nominations close on 30 April and you can get a nomination form from your club or from the Secretary at secretary@fmc.org.nz. The top half of the South Island generates a fair amount of activity and more support in that area would help as would coverage in the Waikato & Bay of Plenty. Please think about it. Federated Mountain Clubs is a highly regarded NGO and working on the Executive gives you a genuine voice influencing the decisions that affect the area NZ'ers tramp and climb in.

AGM Business: A reminder to all club secretaries that any business you want discussed at the AGM in Wellington (20 June) must be advised to the Secretary no later than 30 April.

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