



# Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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WELLINGTON

[www.fmc.org.nz](http://www.fmc.org.nz)

## FMC Member News May 2009

*Here is a summary of the activities by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand in May together with news on significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in safe outdoor recreation. If your club would like special assistance, please contact your local Executive representative or email the Federation direct.*

### FMC's Upgraded Website goes Live!

Check out the Federation's new look website on <http://www.fmc.org.nz>. The new website reflects the changes in web technology since the FMC's first website was developed a few years ago. As the site develops clubs and members should find it much more relevant and up to date. The site was designed by a professional company and your Secretary, Phil Glasson. Phil is now maintaining the site. We have aimed for a more attractive and user friendly site., We welcome recommendations on how to make the site more valuable and interesting. Please send your ideas to Phil at: [secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz)

### Update on Executive Nominations and AGM Elections

Since the AGM mailout to clubs Rick Barber has withdrawn his nomination for President but retained his nomination for the Executive. Your President Rob Mitchell is returned unopposed. The number of nominations for all positions matches the number of positions and so no elections will be required. Viv Milne and Owen Cox are carrying on as the North Island Vice Presidents. Robin McNeill and David Round have completed the maximum of three years as South Island Vice Presidents, and David Barnes and Tony Haddon will be filling these positions. The Secretary, Phil Glasson and Treasurer, Graeme Lythgoe, have also renominated unopposed.

### Annual General Meeting

The 2009 Annual General Meeting will be held at the Brentwood Motel, Wellington, on Saturday 20 June 2009, commencing at 9.15am. Proceedings will include; presentation of the annual report and annual accounts, declaration of the election of officers and discussion on recommendations for constitutional amendments that will provide for better operational efficiency. The current constitution is available at: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services/>

**AGM Workshops:** In the afternoon, there will be workshops to enable club input to areas the Executive is considering. As this goes out to clubs, the topics are still being finalized. The likely topics are: The Bulletin – Changes and Upgrades, The Future Management of the FMC (following on from the points raised at last year's AGM), and a Conservation based workshop. Other topics will be advised later.

**Speaker:** We are pleased that the Honourable Tim Groser, Minister of Conservation, has accepted our invitation to address members and friends. He will speak, answer questions and stay for morning tea

### Subscription Renewal

All clubs are reminded that the affiliation fee is now due. As soon as your club fee is paid, you will be sent the new Discount Cards. If you pay by direct credit, please don't forget to also return the renewal form with your club's details so that the transaction can be administered and recorded correctly.

### NZ Topo 50 Maps

We are waiting on details from LINZ and cannot, at this stage, give any information about prices, dates etc. As soon as details come to hand, we will send a special promotional circular to clubs.

## **FMC Travel Club**

This was set up, to provide members with the opportunity to join a small group of like-minded travellers and enjoy a tramping based holiday overseas. Participating in a Travel Club trip also supports the Federated Mountain Clubs. Everyone wins! The new-look FMC website contains a dedicated Travel Club page (<http://www.fmc.org.nz/travel-club/>) with links to the upcoming 2009 trips as well as a preliminary list of 2010 trips. From the website, members can make inquiries about bookings, as well as contacting John with new ideas for future itineraries or offers of help with leading trips.

## **FMC Challenges Granting of WARO Heli-hunting Concessions in Canterbury**

In March and again in May, the Federation wrote to the Department of Conservation expressing serious concern about the granting of concessions to Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) for helicopter trophy hunting in the Canterbury high country. We highlighted member dissatisfaction about the approval for increased helicopter hunting activity and consequential degradation of recreational amenity – particularly the value of natural silence - for trampers, climbers and other users of conservation areas. Your executive is seeking a more balanced management of deer hunting by the DoC. For further information, please consult the FMC website.

## **Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan - Federated Mountain Club's Submission**

Executive members are making good progress with the Federation's response to the draft management plan developed by DoC planning staff in Otago. DoC is providing information on the plan via their website. The reference is: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/mt-aspiring-national-park-draft-management-plan/> Members and clubs with special interests, and issues that they want addressed, should contact David Barnes; [mcilroy.barnes@clear.net.nz](mailto:mcilroy.barnes@clear.net.nz).

## **Tenure Review Progress**

Federated Mountain Clubs is active on many submissions at present. It is developing submissions on Emerald Hill, on the Rock and Pillar Range, and The Branches lease in the Shotover catchment. A submission on the tenure review for Glenfellan Station in the headwaters of the Nevis Valley is also being finalized and your executive is seeking improved access for trampers, mountaineers and backcountry skiers in the Diggers Creek area. Submissions on the Mt Aspiring Station in the Matukituki Valley are also close to completion. The Federation is also developing submissions on other properties under review. These include: Cambrian Hills, Cluden, Deep Creek, Long Gully, and Mt Pisa. Members who have issues that they believe FMC should consider in submissions should contact: David Round; [djround@xnet.co.nz](mailto:djround@xnet.co.nz), or Mike Floate; [mike.floate@xtra.co.nz](mailto:mike.floate@xtra.co.nz). In addition, Mike Floate would also welcome any offers of assistance from members that could accompany him on his inspections of high country properties undergoing review.

## **Ministerial and Opposition Portfolio Changes**

Your Executive liaises directly with the offices of the Minister of Conservation and the Labour conservation spokesperson. In the recent reshuffle, the Labour Party appointed the Hon. David Parker as their conservation spokesperson, with Steve Chadwick moving to Culture, Heritage and the Arts. A keen trumper and lawyer from Dunedin, David Parker was the minister in charge of tenure review in the last Labour government. National has appointed the Hon. Kate Wilkinson as Associate Minister of Conservation supporting the Hon. Tim Groser who is both Minister for Conservation and Overseas Trade. A lawyer from Canterbury, Kate Wilkinson is also Minister of Labour and Minister for Food Safety and Associate Minister of Immigration.

## **Government Proposals to Change the Resource Management Act (RMA)**

Further to the item in our March Newsletter, your Executive continues to monitor proposals to reform the Resource Management Act and other environmental laws. The Environment Minister recently announced that one of the topics in the Government's RMA reform Phase II is the relationship of the Conservation Act and the RMA. The Minister said: "An activity that occurs on conservation land can require resource consent from the local council under the RMA and also a concession from the Department of Conservation to operate under the Conservation Act. While the purposes of the legislation are distinct - some of the issues being considered are the same. There may be scope for single processing timeframes or memorandum of agreements where issues are dealt with in common." We will continue to monitor these developments and their potential to impact upon outdoor recreation...