



# Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

P O Box 1604  
WELLINGTON

## FMC Member News October 2008

### St James Purchase Applauded

Since the 1960s FMC has been campaigning for the addition of St James Station to New Zealand's national park system. In 2003 FMC showed the Prime Minister the spectacular natural features of the Waiiau and Clarence River headwaters by air. The Crown \$40 million purchase of the Station announced early this month is acclaimed by FMC. Free recreational access to the Station will commence from early November. The Department of Conservation is inviting submissions from stakeholders, including FMC. Special areas of interest are: 1) 4WD vehicle access (e.g. Malings and the Edwards, should vehicles be permitted or not?); 2) Aircraft access; 3) Recreational hunting; and 4) New commercial concessions. Please send us your views to make sure that the management of this magnificent area gets off on the right footing. Please send your comments to FMC via the Secretary, Phil Glasson, [secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz)

### Molesworth Station Recreational Opportunities

FMC President, Rob Mitchell recently met with the Molesworth Steering Committee Group to discuss the improved recreational access and facilities (Molesworth includes the former leasehold properties of Molesworth, Tarndale, St Helens & Dillon). The meeting explored issues such as expanded opportunities for tramping, camping, climbing, mountain biking, improving access and addressing problems experienced by trampers wishing to visit the area. Added potential has come with the purchase of neighbouring St James Station and declaration of the Kaikoura Conservation Park. A new management plan will be developed in 2009. FMC encourages member club participation in the project. Let us have your views on new opportunities you would like to push for, or problems that need to be resolved. Please send your ideas and comments to: [secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz)

### Minister Responds on Conservation Management Strategy Guidelines

The Minister of Conservation, Hon. Steve Chadwick, has replied to FMC's request that the Department of Conservation Management Strategy template be maintained rather than diluted. FMC's concern was that weaker CMS documents could result in political and management interference in plans developed and agreed after stakeholders and public consultation. The Minister has noted FMC's concerns. After the first of the new generation of plans (from the Bay of Plenty) is reviewed by the NZ Conservation Authority, the Minister has indicated that she will be examining their recommendations carefully.

### Walking Access Bill Passed by Parliament

The Walking Access Bill was passed in late September, before the completion of the current parliamentary term. FMC acknowledges the broad cross party support that the bill received. As a result of lobbying by FMC and with support from Greens co-leader Russel Norman, and the Ministers of Rural Affairs and Land Information, a formal arrangement between the Overseas Investment Office and the Walking Access Commission will ensure that access issues are considered, and recreational stakeholders are involved, when setting conditions for the sale of sensitive land to overseas buyers.

### FMC Member on New Walking Access Board

Immediate Past President of FMC, Brian Stephenson has been appointed a member of the New Zealand Walking Access Commission. In accordance with the convention for appointments made shortly before an election, the appointments are short-term. Initial appointments are until 28 February 2009. If member clubs have recreational access questions that require investigation, we recommend that you either contact Brian direct: [bwstephenson@bwstephenson.com](mailto:bwstephenson@bwstephenson.com), or via, [secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz)

## Iconic High Country Properties on the Market

Waiorau (backing onto the Pisa Conservation Area) and Hillend (backing onto Mts Alpha and Mt Roy near Wanaka) are on the market. FMC is calling on the government to ensure that public access to these conservation areas is improved as part of the sale process. Are there any recreational access issues that FMC needs to be aware of here? If you have information, please contact FMC via the Secretary, Phil Glasson, [secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz)

## Pressure on Dingleburn Air Access

With the establishment of the Hawea Conservation Area, DoC has been under concessionaire pressure to increase the number of flights into the upper Dingleburn Valley. FMC advised DoC that there should be a reduction in air access to protect recreational values including natural quiet.

## Nevis Hydro Development Opposed

FMC has joined Fish and Game, and Forest and Bird in opposing plans for a hydro development on the Nevis Gorge in Central Otago, because of the impacts on water recreation and also the way in which a hydro scheme would destroy the remote recreational qualities of the Upper Nevis Valley.

## Mokihinui Matters

1) Mokihinui Hydro Scheme: Hearings continue and the recreation/conservation advocacy phase of the process has begun. FMC is scheduled to present a submission later this month (see: [www.wcrc.govt.nz/Mokihinui](http://www.wcrc.govt.nz/Mokihinui) or [www.wrap.org.nz](http://www.wrap.org.nz)). 2) "Old Ghost Road" Proposal: As a sweetener for its hydroelectric scheme, Meridian is proposing to create a dual-use hut/track system based on the heritage values of the area and in the adjacent Lyell. For more details, refer [www.meridianenergy.co.nz/Documents/Video/MeridianEnergy\\_For\\_Web\\_60mb.wmv](http://www.meridianenergy.co.nz/Documents/Video/MeridianEnergy_For_Web_60mb.wmv) and the FMC August Bulletin. Although FMC opposes the dam, it believes that there is some merit to the track proposals considered as a separate matter. We would be keen to gauge members' opinions on this issue – Please send any feedback to: [secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz)

## Orongorongo – Catchpool Valleys Planning

DoC is inviting submissions on future planning for the Orongorongo and Catchpool areas (i.e. conservation priorities, visitor amenities etc). All the Wellington area clubs have been e-mailed the contact details for making suggestions on these matters. The FMC would appreciate a copy of any suggestions you intend to make. Please send them to [secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz)

## Kaimai Forest Park Works

Care will be needed when planning trips into the Kaimais during October–November 2008. Two new bridges are being constructed over the Waitawheta River and the Wairere track will be closed

## Northland, Auckland and Waikato CMS Documents

No news on these planning strategies at this stage, although their release is flagged for late 2008 or early 2009. Clubs in these regions, and any others with a vested interest, are advised to be vigilant as the documents' contents will impact upon the areas that we recreate in.

## Advance Notice – 2009 AGM

This is being held at the Brentwood Motel on Saturday 6 June 2009. Clubs from out of Wellington are advised to make any accommodation bookings they require as soon as possible. (Ph 04 920 0400, or e-mail [reservations@brentwoodhotel.co.nz](mailto:reservations@brentwoodhotel.co.nz))

## Recreation and Conservation Advocacy

If your Club would like FMC support on any conservation, access or general recreational issues, please contact your FMC Executive liaison member, or send information to the FMC Secretary, Phil Glasson, [secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz)