



# Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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WELLINGTON

## FMC Member News September 2008

### Improving Management of Aircraft Movements

FMC is conducting a review of the management of aircraft flights over national parks and areas managed by the Department of Conservation. Aircraft activity provides important support to conservation management activities and search and rescue, but increasing use of aircraft for tourism and recreational activities is impacting on intrinsic park values including natural quiet. Initial work has revealed considerable variations in management practices between the different conservancies. Clubs or individual members are invited to email FMC with their views on aircraft management. We would welcome your input. Please send your views to: Aircraft Management <[fmcadmin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fmcadmin@xtra.co.nz)>.

### Dart Hollyford Tunnel Proposal

Developers are proposing to submit another application to DoC for a concession to build a road in the Routeburn and a tunnel under the Ailsa Mountain Range in the Mt Aspiring National Park. FMC successfully opposed the firm's initial application and is monitoring developments.

### Poteriteri Wilderness

FMC is campaigning for the declaration of the Poteriteri region of southern Fiordland to be declared a wilderness area. Clubs are encouraged to write to the Department of Conservation supporting this proposal. Posters showing the landscape and recreational values of the region have been circulated to all member clubs. If you would like additional copies of the poster contact Gail Abel, FMCs Administration Officer in Wellington, at her email address: Poteriteri Posters <[fmcadmin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fmcadmin@xtra.co.nz)>.

### Tenure Review - The Larches

The Larches Station on the NW flank of the Pisa Conservation Area in Central Otago is undergoing tenure review. FMC is lodging a submission advocating protection of conservation values and improved recreational access from the Mt Barker Road to the Pisa Conservation Area. The Pisa Conservation Area offers excellent day and overnight tramping, cross country skiing and snowshoeing and horse riding opportunities.

## **Mt. Fox Radio Repeater**

FMC has written to and received some feedback from the Department of Conservation's West Coast/Tai Poutini Conservancy concerning Alpine Guides (Fox Glacier) proposal to site a radio mast in the vicinity of Mt Fox. This area offers spectacular panoramas of the glacier neve, high peaks of the Southern Alps and across to the Tasman Sea. DoC has given FMC assurance that the proposed location, located away from the summit, was carefully chosen to mitigate the negative effects whilst also providing the best communication coverage possible.

## **Waitaha Power Investigation**

FMC has been asked by the West Coast electricity generating utility, Westpower, for views on the recreational and conservation impacts of a proposal to dam the Morgan Gorge on Waitaha River. The upper Waitaha is an iconic tramping area and climbing area. FMC has written to Westpower seeking details of the proposal. Please let us know what you think! Waitaha <[fmcadmin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fmcadmin@xtra.co.nz)>.

## **Mokihinui Conservation Campaign**

FMC will be presenting its case opposing the damming of the river for generation of hydro electricity this month. The densely forested Mokihinui hinterland is an excellent area for remote tramping and backs onto the Kahurangi National Park (See the August 2008 FMC Bulletin). Clubs are invited to send letters to the Minister for Conservation on this issue. Alternatively send us your reasons for protecting the Mokihinui. Mokihinui <[fmcadmin@xtra.co.nz](mailto:fmcadmin@xtra.co.nz)>.

## **Views on Mountain Safety Council's Services**

FMC President, Rob Mitchell presented a discussion paper at the MSC AGM on 4 September. The paper highlighted the perceived strengths of the organization and areas for improvement. As one of the MSC founding members, FMC is keenly supportive of MSC's work.

## **Vale- Gottlieb Braun-Elwert**

The FMC Executive was saddened to learn of the news of the sudden death of leading mountain guide, Gottlieb Braun- Elwert, on 15 August. Gottlieb was a highly motivated and expert mountain guide. He was a leading advocate for conservation and mountain safety and his visionary approach will be sorely missed. FMC was represented at Gottlieb's funeral service by President, Rob Mitchell.

## **Club Help on 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, at <[secretary@fmc.org.nz](mailto:secretary@fmc.org.nz)>