



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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FMC Member News February 2011

Here is a summary of activities by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand in February 2011, plus news on significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in outdoor recreation.

Rule Changes

Clubs are reminded that the Executive is very keen to receive feedback from as many clubs as possible about the proposed rule changes. These changes have been sent twice to all clubs and are available on our website at <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/>. We have had replies from 11 clubs to date and would hope that another 40 clubs will send in some feedback before the end of February. Feedback to date suggests that the changes are generally supported with some questions around details. Are there clubs out there which are opposed to one or more of the changes? If so, we also need to hear from you. Club replies can be sent to: secretary@fmc.org.nz.

FMC 80th Conference, 11-12 June 2011: Forever Wild? - Our Conservation Lands in the 21st Century

On the 11th and 12th of June 2011, at Te Papa in Wellington, FMC with support from partners, such as the Department of Conservation, Forest and Bird and New Zealand Deer Stalkers Association, is hosting a major conference on the occasion of our eightieth year. This conference provides us with an opportunity to step back from the day to day issues we are immersed in, and to look at the big changes that are coming and to resolve what we need to do about them.

The first day will include speakers such as the Minister of Conservation, Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, Mark Christensen (prominent RMA lawyer), Kay Booth (Tourism and recreation researcher), and many others. On the second day we will use workshops and small groups to map out how we can address any challenges – e.g. looking at whether legislative change is required, and how clubs and individuals who love the outdoors can be heard. This is a major undertaking from FMC and we would appreciate the support of clubs and club members. Registration material will be sent to clubs shortly, but if your club would like to make a donation towards the running of the conference, please contact conference@fmc.org.nz. In addition, if you would like to register club members you can contact us at the same address.

FMC Photo Competition - Correction to Entry Details

The 2011 FMC Photo Competition is now open. Please note that the promotional flier that was sent to clubs recently has an error with regards the number of entries per category - The correct number is **TWO** entries per category, maximum, per club, and not 5 as stated in the flier. Entries close on 17 May 2011 and the winner will be announced at the 80th Conference / AGM in June. Entry details are available via the following link; <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/photo-competition/>, and they will also be published in the March Bulletin.

FMC Youtube Video Competition

New in 2011 and complementing the Photo Competition is the FMC Youtube Video Competition. The purpose of the competition is to give members of affiliated clubs and others the opportunity to use their talent to showcase on video the recreation of tramping and mountaineering in New Zealand. Details on the various categories and how to enter can be found via our website, <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/Videocomp/>. The closing date is 31 September 2011 and clubs will be sent copies of the videos for viewing on club nights. For inspiration, go to <http://www.youtube.com> and search for "Tramping."

FMC Youth and Young Adults Scholarship Scheme - Hurry, Last Days for 2011 Applications!

You have just over one month remaining to take advantage of the first round of this scheme! Further details and application forms are available for downloading via <http://www.fmc.org.nz>. Applications close on Friday 1 April 2011 with the winners to be announced at the June 2011 AGM – Start finalising your application now!

FMC Represented at the Mackenzie Basin Sustainable Futures Trust Meeting

Executive member, Peter Wilson, represented FMC at the inaugural meeting of this trust in Twizel on 10-11 February. This is a government and community initiative to improve the long term environmental management within the Mackenzie Basin. As most members will be aware, the basin is currently undergoing significant development and landscape change. Intensive dairying, farm forestry, and tenure review are all gathering speed, and threaten the basin in its current form. However, there is also a significant opportunity to try to achieve some form of consensus about how that development might take place.

Although this forum falls somewhat outside FMC's core interests, by being involved we add another voice in the push to achieve a dry-lands park on retired pastoral lease land in the basin. (A useful link for those interested in adding their voice to the dry-lands campaign is: <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/what-we-do/campaigns/save-the-mackenzie/mackenzie-quick-submission-form>). We also add considerable value to discussions with our long experience of strategic (and balancing conflicts and interests) and spatial planning within the conservation estate.

Members of the Trust and working party include farmers, irrigation interests, business and community groups, environmental NGOs, and local and regional government. The panel is consensus-based, which means that agreement can only be achieved when all participants agree. The Minister for the Environment, Nick Smith, has indicated that he wants to make greater use of collaborative, consensus-based panels in the future as a way of resolving environmental problems at a high-level, possibly avoiding litigation and speeding up plan development. This "Scandinavian-style" environmental management approach may be the way of the future. As things progress, Peter would be keen to hear from members about the Mackenzie Country, and in particular, which special places in the basin you value. That way he can advocate for them around the table on behalf of you and your club - contact: petergwilson@gmail.com.

Wolds and Maryburn Tenure Review Submission

FMC, with extensive assistance from Mike Floate, is preparing a submission for the review process for these two high-country stations in the Mackenzie Country. As well as walking, other recreational opportunities in this region include mountain biking, rogaining, kayaking and fishing. Elevated areas, such as the Mary Range, have considerable potential for interesting day-trips that would encompass views across the Mackenzie Basin and to Aoraki/Mt Cook. The submission is due with Land Information NZ by the end of the month, and we will make it available on our website soon after.

Help Save the Mokihinui River

Meridian plans to drown one of our most pristine rivers, the West Coast's Mokihinui, by building an 85-metre-high dam. In February, Federated Mountain Clubs president, Richard Davies, along with Forest & Bird, White-water NZ and three members of parliament visited Meridian's Wellington office to ask the state-owned electricity generator to save this wild river and the 16 threatened bird species that call it home. The Department of Conservation opposes this destruction of 330 hectares of rainforest and river-bed on public conservation land - Land that DoC administers on behalf of all New Zealanders. But Meridian won't take no for an answer! ***YOU can help protect the Mokihinui River.***

Please send Meridian an e-card asking the company to save this wild river via the following link: <http://www.forestandbird.org.nz/saving-our-environment/freshwater/wild-rivers-/send-e-card-meridian>



Photo: From left; Whitewater NZ representative, Jo Dovey; United Future leader, Peter Dunne; Federated Mountain Clubs president, Richard Davies; Forest & Bird general manager, Mike Britton; Labour MP, Chris Hipkins; and Green Party MP, Kevin Hague (in front) at Meridian's Wellington office

Executive Member Appointed to Southland Conservation Board

Further to our announcement last month, FMC is pleased to advise another appointment to a conservation board. Executive Member, Robin McNeill, has recently been appointed to serve on the Southland Conservation Board. Robin will need no introduction to the majority of our members owing to his longstanding contributions to the *FMC Bulletin* via Uncle Jacko's Cookery Column and as editor of *Moir's Guide South*. Robin's wealth of knowledge and practical experience will indeed make him a valuable asset on the Southland board and we wish him well in his new role.

Fishers Track / Kurua Road Access (National Park Village)

Ongoing access problems on this track have now been resolved by the Ruapehu District Council with a purchase of small parcels of land to ensure the existing road alignment (which passed through private property) remains. Work will commence shortly on upgrading the track as part of the Mountains to the Sea cycleway project. Completion of the upgrading is projected for around April this year. In the meantime, the track is open to trampers and cyclists, although caution will be required as heavy machinery will be working in some areas. FMC commends the Ruapehu District Council for taking this positive step to ensure long-term public access to this track.

Club Invoices and Discount Cards

The renewal invoices for the year 2011/12 will be in the mail to all clubs soon. We hope clubs will be able to renew promptly. This year will see a change in the format of the Discount Card. The number of Discount providers has reached a point where they could not be listed on the card itself so we have produced a nice credit card sized membership card and a separate leaflet promoting our Discount Scheme. Clubs can use the Discount Scheme leaflet to promote membership of their club and membership of FMC.

Join a Club Brochure

Clubs that want to run a membership drive should remember that FMC has available a generic "Join A Club" brochure. This is free to member clubs and has a space where you can put a pre-printed label with contact details for your club. If you need help doing a pre-printed label contact the Secretary. Brochures can be ordered from Gail Abel in our office at admin@fmc.org.nz.

Walking Access Commission - Enhanced Access Fund, 2011 Proposals Now Open for Consideration

The New Zealand Walking Access Commission has a contestable fund for activities related to obtaining, developing, improving, retaining, administering and signposting walking access opportunities. The Enhanced Access Fund may also be used to support access research and education. Applications are now invited from individuals and community organisations. Further information, including guidance for applicants and an application form, is available via the following link: <http://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz>.

Guidelines for the Management of Unformed Legal Roads

The first edition of this document is now available on the Walking Access Commission's website (<http://www.walkingaccess.govt.nz/page/6/Publications.html>). The document is described as 'best practice' guidelines for local authorities and interested parties on the administration of unformed legal roads. Clubs may find it a useful reference to clarify their position if ever in discussion, debate or dispute with their local council about unformed legal roads in their area.

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