



# Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

P O Box 1604  
WELLINGTON 6140

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

## FMC Member News May 2011

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

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



Is this trashed piece of forest in the Whitcombe Valley (pictured top left) the sort of fate that you would like to see for our conservation lands in the future? Will budget cuts to conservation funding result in more neglect of the backcountry at the expense of focussing on a few tourist icons?

If you would like to explore these issues and more, then Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand invites you to join us at our 80th Anniversary Conference, entitled "*Forever Wild? Our Conservation Lands in the 21st Century.*" to be held at Te Papa in Wellington on 11-12 June.

Hear from experts, policy-makers, politicians, recreation and conservation leaders, and those who enjoy our wild lands.

Visit our website <http://www.fmc.org.nz/conference> for more information. Register now: download a form to print and post <http://www.fmc.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/Conference/RegnForm.pdf>, or register online: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/conference/registration/>.

Registration is just \$100 (a 10% FMC discount applies to members) from now until 11 June.

FMC would like to thank the Department of Conservation and Forest & Bird for sponsoring this event and making the registration cost accessible for all.

For member clubs, please note that the FMC AGM will take place at 7:30pm on Saturday 11 June.



### Update on Mackenzie Forum

The Mackenzie Forum is making good progress on identifying the key issues for future land use in the Mackenzie Basin. FMC has an opportunity, along with other NGOs, to present on current and future recreational opportunities within the area, and will be doing so within two months. If you hunt, tramp, climb, or bike in the Mackenzie, Executive Member, Peter Wilson, would be keen to hear from you about where you like to go, and what issues that you might have been having with access so he can represent this at the Forum. Peter can be contacted via: [petergwilson@gmail.com](mailto:petergwilson@gmail.com).

## National Policy Statement on Biodiversity

FMC has made a submission to Ministry for the Environment on this National Policy Statement. The submission is available on our website via the following link: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>.

## DoC Conservation Management Strategy Surveys – Northland, Auckland and Waikato

The Department of Conservation is starting its review of the Conservation Management Strategies (CMSs) for the Northland, Auckland and Waikato Conservancies. Part of their initial consultation is to find out from the users of DoC assets in these areas what features are important. They are doing this by way of an online survey – A general link is: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/how-doc-consults/consulting-on-conservation-management-strategies/>. On this page you will find a *conservation management strategies by region* link that if clicked, will direct you to a map where you can select the region of interest and participate in the appropriate survey. FMC urges all members and supporters to get involved and to convey to DoC just how important it is to retain and maintain our backcountry tracks and huts.

## While We're on the Subject of Surveys... What is "Quintessentially Kiwi?"

As part of their CMS review process, DoC are also conducting another on-line survey in order to ascertain what indigenous species and natural landscapes that New Zealanders think most define them as Kiwis. A quick link to the survey is available on the DoC homepage (<http://www.doc.govt.nz>). DoC's Planning and Policy Unit are keen to get good coverage for the survey. Clearly, iconic places such as Mitre Peak and Tongariro will get lots of votes from the general public, but if you think that the Tararua's Southern Crossing, the Mokihinui River's gorge, the Paparoa Ranges, South Canterbury's Huxley River Valley, or your other favourite spots are also equally meritorious, then please make use of the survey's opportunity to have your say.

## Old Ghost Road Issues

The Old Ghost Road mountain bike track proposed for the Lyell Pack Track and out to Seddonville appears to have been given the go-ahead by DoC despite it not complying with the West Coast Conservation Management Strategy, and without any consultation with the local Conservation Board or the public. While being generally supportive of the concept of the track, FMC has serious concerns that a multi-million dollar construction project on highly valued conservation land can gain approval in a manner that over-rides the conservancy's brand new plan that was approved only last year. We feel that the process undermines all of the time and effort that our members and many others spent in reading, digesting and submitting on the CMS's 409 pages. Your executive is seeking clarification on the matter and will keep you posted.

## Walking Access Commission – Informative Visits to Clubs Available

Representatives from Walking Access have advised us of opportunities for a spokesperson to visit FMC's member clubs to highlight the commission's work and to better inform trampers and mountaineers on matters relating to access issues. Inquiries can be directed to: [contact@walkingaccess.govt.nz](mailto:contact@walkingaccess.govt.nz).

## Book Release – Summits and Shadows

A new book has just come out - "*Summits and Shadows*" by Dr Graham Langton. The book is about Jack Clarke, one of the early mountaineers in NZ. The FMC Mountain & Forest Trust supported the publication of this book and it is now available through bookstores or at a discounted price through the FMC book scheme - Go to <http://www.fmc.org.nz/sales/>.

## New Map Product

A company in Levin has developed the technique of printing Topo 50 maps (or any other map) onto cloth. The maps are rugged and water proof. They will give a discount to FMC members. For more details go to the following link: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/sales/maps/>