



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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FMC Member News November 2011

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

Work for FMC - Secretary and Webmaster Positions Available

The FMC is appointing a new Secretary and a new Webmaster. If you think you could work with FMC to achieve its aims these positions might interest you. They are a combination of voluntary work with some remuneration. Full descriptions of both positions are available on our website: <http://www.fmc.org.nz>. Applications for both positions close on 30 November 2011.

Winner of the Second Round of FMC Youth and Young Adults Scholarships Announced

FMC is pleased to announce that a second **\$1,000 Expedition Grant** has been awarded in 2011 (from the call for applications that closed on 16 September). **James Thornton** of the **Otago University Tramping Club** has received funding to assist with an expedition into the Worsley River, Bligh Sound and Glaisnock Wilderness Areas in Fiordland National Park (west of Lake Te Anau). This is a region comprising swift rivers, steep valleys and changeable weather that will test the group's self reliance and teamwork. The grant has been made possible thanks to the generous assistance from the FMC Mountain and Forest Trust and the Maerewhenua Trust.

Another round of grants - both for expeditions and skills acquisition - is currently available (closing date 6 April 2012). For full details and to download criteria and application forms, go to: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship/>

Dart - Hollyford Tunnel Proposal

DoC have advised that The Minister of Conservation has given notice of her intention to grant concessions under section 17Q of the Conservation Act 1987 to Milford Dart Limited to investigate, construct, operate and maintain a bus tunnel from the Routeburn Road in Mt Aspiring National Park to the Hollyford Road in Fiordland National Park. Any person or organisation may object in writing to the Director-General against the proposal, or make written submissions on the proposal. FMC intends to submit on the application but we also strongly encourage member clubs and individuals to prepare and send in their own submissions. Full details of the proposal and instructions on where to send submissions are available at: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/notified-concession-applications/dart-passage-tunnel-milford-dart-ltd/>

The closing date for submissions is 27 January 2012.

Attention Wellington and Wairarapa Clubs - Rimutaka Incline Proposals

The Greater Wellington Regional Council has received an application from the Rimutaka Incline Railway Heritage Trust for a concession to build and operate a railway between Maymorn (in Upper Hutt) and the Rimutaka Summit. The trust proposes building a railway on the old railway formation that includes the area running through Tunnel Gully and the Rimutaka Incline Rail Trail – a popular walking and cycling track. The formation was used as a railway until the Rimutaka tunnel was opened in 1955. Information on the proposed developments and how it may impact on walkers and cyclists can be found at: <http://www.rimutaka-incline-railway.org.nz/project/>

There will be two hearings on the application by Greater Wellington. The first meeting is with the Social and Cultural Wellbeing Committee on 23 November and then the matter will be considered by the full Council at its meeting on 15 December. Members of the public may make submissions at one or both sessions under the 'Public Participation' section at the start of each meeting. Note that if you do elect to speak at the meetings, you will need to notify Greater Wellington one or two days prior to the meeting and you are typically allocated only 3 minutes in which to speak - If you have many points to make, it would be advisable to lodge a full written report to the relevant committee in advance and then summarise this verbally on the day of the hearing. Further information on speaking and submitting can be found at: <http://www.gw.govt.nz/committee-meetings-calendar/>

Structural Changes to Club Membership

The Executive has confirmed that there will be two structures by which clubs will affiliate to FMC in 2012. Members can read the information sent to clubs via the following link: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/clubsecretaries/>

October Executive Meeting - Draft Minutes Available

The draft minutes of the October 2011 Executive Meeting are now available for inspection on our website. The link is: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/executive/>.

Club Activities and the Health and Safety in Employment (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2011

FMC has considered the effect of the Health and Safety in Employment (Adventure Activities) Regulations 2011 on club activities. Club activities provided for members are not affected. There are some issues around non-members on club trips and on events run for the public. Advice on this has been posted to clubs and is also available at <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/clubsecretaries/> (under Liability Issues).

Tenure Review - Manuka Point and Caberfeidh Stations - Feedback Requested

Any feedback from members that have knowledge of the environs surrounding Manuka Point Station (Rakaia River) and Caberfeidh Station (Hakataramea Valley) to assist with submissions as part of the Tenure Review process would be appreciated. Feedback can be sent to the Secretary via: secretary@fmc.org.nz.

Mid Pohangina Bridge

FMC has written to DoC Palmerston North advocating the retention of the bridge across the Pohangina River below mid Pohangina Hut.

Tui Mine Track and Tui Road Closure (Kaimai Foerst Park)

DoC has advised that the Tui Mine Track and Tui Road (near Te Aroha) are temporarily closed to the public to allow phase 2 of the Tui Mine Remediation Project to commence. The area will be a multiple hazard construction site, and public access is prohibited. The expected completion date for the project is July 2013 or earlier, if possible. All enquiries on this matter should be directed to the DoC Tauranga Area Office, phone 07 578 7677.

Auckland CMS Review - Survey Responses

The responses to DoC's recent survey on what places were special to people in the Auckland region are now available on the DoC website: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/current/auckland-cms-consultation/progress-updates/auckland-cms-review-survey-2011-responses/>

FMC Policies and Recent Club Circulars Pages now on the FMC Website

FMC's website has a page, <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/Policies/>, which has established FMC policies on it. Members can find out what our policies are from this link. Another page, <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/clubsecretaries/>, has links to recent circulars that have been mailed to clubs so all members can read what is being sent by FMC to their club.

Reminder - 2012 Photo Competition

A reminder that clubs can send their entries in now - You don't have to wait for the closing date in April. The revised entry form (one per club instead of one per photo) is at <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/photo-competition/>

Reminder - 2012 Tramping Calendar still available - A great last minute Christmas Gift!

FMC is supporting the 2012 NZ Tramping Calendar and by buying one you will in turn support FMC. The order form is now available on our website: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/sales/calendar/>. Clubs can buy this in bulk and get a substantial discount.

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