



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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FMC Member News September 2011

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

Air Access to Gazetted Wilderness Areas

FMC has made a submission to DOC strongly opposing any attempt to make aerial trophy hunting an excuse for air access into Wilderness Areas. You can read our submission via: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>

Tenure Review - The Poplars Station

FMC has made a submission commenting on the Preliminary Proposal for Tenure Review of The Poplars Station. You can get the link to our Tenure Review Archive via <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>.

Impacts of Heli-Hunting and Wild Animal Recovery Operations in Public Conservation Lands

On 13 September, Executive Member, Rob Brown, attended a meeting in Christchurch hosted by the Department of Conservation to discuss issues relating to Heli-Hunting and Wild Animal Recovery Operation concessions in public conservation lands. Increases in aircraft activity over conservation lands have the potential to seriously affect the amenity values of these areas, especially their impact on natural quiet. The matter is currently on-going but the FMC Executive will be giving the issue full consideration at its October meeting. We will keep you advised of the situation as it develops via this newsletter, our website, and the *FMC Bulletin*.

Executive Member, Brian Stephenson, Reappointed to NZ Conservation Authority

FMC is pleased to confirm that executive member and former president, Brian Stephenson, has been reappointed by the Minister of Conservation, Hon. Kate Wilkinson, for a second term on the New Zealand Conservation Authority until 31 May 2014. The authority has a pivotal role in planning for the management of public NZ's conservation lands and resources over the medium to long term. Our congratulations are extended to Brian on renewing his role with the NZCA.

Dr. Andy Dennis Appointed to Molesworth Steering Committee

Whilst on the subject of appointments, FMC is also pleased to announce that its nomination of Dr. Andy Dennis as conservation and recreation representative on the Molesworth Steering Committee was accepted by Conservation Minister, Hon. Kate Wilkinson. We congratulate Andy on his appointment and wish him well in the role.

Law Commission Review of Incorporated Societies Act 1908

FMC has made a submission to the NZ Law Commission regarding its review paper of the 1908 Incorporated Societies Act. If you would like more details, please contact the Secretary directly (secretary@fmc.org.nz).

Survey Results: What is "Quintessentially Kiwi?"

As part of their Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) review process, DoC conducted an on-line survey in order to ascertain what indigenous species and natural landscapes New Zealanders thought most defined them as Kiwis. The results of the survey are now in, and the information will be used to help guide content of the CMSs and assist with other decisions being made around management of species and natural features located on public conservation areas. To view the survey results, go to: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/consultations/how-doc-consults/consulting-on-conservation-management-strategies/what-defines-us/>.

Hut Bookings and Standards - Discussions with the Department of Conservation

FMC is holding a series of discussions with DoC concerning possible changes to the hut booking system (the popularity of some of the more accessible huts means that more of these may shift onto a booking system), and also the expectations of users concerning the types and standards of huts provided. FMC is keen to ensure that the value of the backcountry annual hut pass is not eroded as a result of any possible changes, and we also want to ensure that the amenities provided best reflect the expectations of our membership and other back country users. Representatives from DoC will be in attendance at our October executive meeting for further discussions, and we will keep you updated on any future progress via the usual channels.

Kauri National Park Proposals

A Department of Conservation representative has informed FMC that submissions made on the Kauri National Park proposals in May - July 2011 have now been considered and are being incorporated into a report that will be submitted to the NZ Conservation Authority shortly. The Authority in turn will then make recommendations to the Conservation Minister. We will keep you informed of any outcomes via this newsletter, the FMC website and *FMC Bulletin*.

New Hut opens in the Orongorongo Valley, Rimutaka Forest Park

On 17 September 2011, the Department of Conservation officially opened the new Turere Hut, in the Orongorongo River Valley, Rimutaka Forest Park, near Wellington. Turere Hut sits on the true right of the river just above 'Big Bend' and comprises a warden's quarters and 32 bunks in a 4 x 8 configuration. Turere Hut replaces Oaks Hut which will be unavailable for bookings after 5 September 2011. Rooms in the new Turere Hut can be booked separately or together. DoC is currently looking for volunteers to act as wardens over the summer period. For more details contact the Wellington Conservancy Office.

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

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.

Is this the Future Standard for Track Upgrades in New Zealand?



Spotted in a park in Singapore recently!

FMC often stresses that "Mountains should be without handrails," so this image might make many hardened trampers and purists recoil in horror!

However, I'm sure that there has been more than the occasional trumper, when groaning under the weight of a heavy pack during an ascent of a prolonged and steep incline, that hasn't fantasised about devices such as this to convey them to their destination faster and effortlessly!

For the record, the up (left hand) escalator worked fine when tested, and was even appreciated in the 32 degree Celsius heat and tropical humidity, but the return (down) device was inoperable. It may be some time before the routes to the likes of Powell or French Ridge Huts accommodate contraptions such as these!