



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

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FMC Member News August 2010

Here is a summary of activities by the Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand in August 2010, plus news on significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in outdoor recreation.

FMC Scholarships for Youth and Young Adults - Application Forms now Available!

Further promotional details concerning these scholarships are now available in the August 2010 *FMC Bulletin* and the criteria and application forms are available for downloading on the FMC website (<http://www.fmc.org.nz>). The first round of applications closes on Friday 1 April 2011 with the winners to be announced at the June 2011 AGM – The recipients will have up to one year after that with which to spend their grants. The current FMC Executive gratefully acknowledges the generosity of the FMC Mountain and Forest Trust for making this awards scheme possible.

Sale of Department of Conservation Land

FMC has learnt of two parcels of land currently owned by the Crown and controlled by DoC, which DoC is considering selling to neighbouring landowners. We have taken this issue up with the Department and the Minister from the point of view that the particular sales are not in the public interest and the general lack of consultation with stakeholders when such sales are proposed. FMC would be very interested to learn of any other areas of land that DoC manages on behalf of the Crown that are being proposed for sale. Please send details to FMC Secretary via: secretary@fmc.org.nz.

Club Database Survey

The results of the survey FMC conducted among its member clubs are now available via the following link: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services-to-clubs/>. There is insufficient demand from our clubs to warrant investigating a generic FMC Software package further. Clubs interested in moving to an electronic database or updating their present system should go to this webpage and have a look at the other links to companies that provide database solutions.

FMC Membership / Discount Card

The following companies have joined our Discount card scheme:

Outdoor Connection (Whangarei); Whakatane Great Outdoors; Hikoi, Cambridge; Sportsworld, Cambridge.

These companies have joined us through the efforts of the local club - A big "Well Done" to those clubs. Their discount applies to all FMC members and details are on our website. If your club has not yet approached a relevant local retailer then we urge you to do so. All clubs have been sent promotion stickers to give to retailers and a form for the retailer. If you need more stickers and forms, just contact Gail Abel at admin@fmc.org.nz. We have sent promotional stickers to existing discount providers so these should start to appear. Mention them when you are in the shop so the retailer knows that FMC members are coming in to their shop.

Results of FMC Northern Forum held 2009

In October 2009 FMC hosted a meeting comprising clubs, DoC and other interested people to discuss how to develop Outdoor Recreation Opportunities in the top half of the North Island. Our detailed submission to DoC as a consequence of this forum is now available on our website.

Greater Wellington Regional Parks Management

In December 2009, FMC commented to the Greater Wellington Regional Council on their Management Plans for the parks they control. In July, we made a further submission on the draft final plan - Both submissions can be viewed via: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>

Have you seen Chamois in North West Nelson/Kahurangi?

DoC is interested to know of any chamois sightings north of the Buller River to ensure that populations do not establish there. Recent articles about the Mokihinui and Old Ghost Road mentioned the presence of goats in the area, for which DoC has active control programmes (North Branch; South Branch under review). An astute reader of the Bulletin noted that chamois were once released in the Glasgow Range above the Mokihinui. Chamois are widespread in the Richmond Ranges and Nelson Lakes, but not north of the Buller River. DoC confirms that chamois have periodically appeared north of the Buller, in the Karamea and Cobb Valleys, and also near Murchison. FMC requests that trampers notify the nearest DoC office if they see chamois in Kahurangi National Park or other areas north of the Buller, such as the Lyell-Mokihinui.

Silver Peaks (Dunedin) Recreational Survey Results

For those members that completed the online survey on recreational use of the Silver Peaks area last year, your attention is drawn to the following link, where the results are available: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/silverpeakssurvey>. As a result of the survey, some changes are proposed and these can be inspected via the official media release at: <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-doc/news/media-releases/changes-planned-to-silver-peaks-scenic-reserve/>

Fishers Track – Kurua Road Access Issues (Tongariro-Taupo Conservancy) - Update.

Further to the item in the July Newsletter, FMC has now received a response from the Ruapehu District Council about continued public access over Fishers Track (National Park Township). Public access is still freely available on this track and no fee is payable to any landowner provided trampers and cyclists remain on the road reserve, which has been marked by boundary posts. In reality this means staying downhill of the boundary posts when passing through the area under dispute as uphill of the posts is in private land and could be subject to a \$10 charge imposed by the landowner.

NZ Walking Access Commission Newsletter

The NZ Walking Access Commission has published another issue of its newsletter, *Accessing New Zealand*. Please go to <http://www.walkingaccess.org.nz/page/7/Latestnews.html> to read it.

We could still use some 'Expert' Help, please...

Are you interested in assisting the work of the Federated Mountain Clubs but don't have time to serve on the executive, or just want to focus on a particular issue? Your executive is interested in compiling a register of members who are willing to assist or advise us on matters that require expertise. Effective advocacy is an area that requires considerable time and effort of executive members and we would like to tap into additional talent/knowledge where we are able. Examples of expertise could include: Someone with extensive knowledge of conservation lands in a particular region; knowledge in an area such as high country tenure review or access issues; knowledge in an area of science such as biology, geology etc – particularly how they might relate to an issue such as pest control or mining etc; or someone who works regularly with other like-minded organisations. In addition to the above, you may be able to think of other areas in which you may be able to assist us. If so, we would be delighted to hear from you via secretary@fmc.org.nz.

Reminder – FMC Mountain and Forest Trust Donations

The FMC Mountain & Forest Trust is a charitable trust that supports the work of FMC, as well as supporting projects that are in accord with FMC's objectives. To donate to the Trust, please click on the following link: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/fmc-trust/>. To find out how to leave a bequest to the Trust in your will, please contact the secretary via secretary@fmc.org.nz. In addition to electronic web access, donation forms have been sent to all clubs and are being sent to supporters as they renew. All donations to the Trust qualify for a 33% tax rebate. Unfortunately, there is an error on the Donation Form. The form doesn't provide a space for the Expiry Date or Name on Card for people paying by credit card. Please add this information to the form.

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