



3rd March 2017

Federated Mountain Clubs: Update

Dear club committees

Thank you for your ongoing support, especially as we finally implement our affiliation fee increase, our first since 1996 and hopefully our last for the foreseeable future.

Now is a challenging time. Current curve balls we are working on include the tacky proposed tourism development in Oparara Basin, the disappointing access provisions in the overseas sale of Hunter Valley Station and proposed parking restrictions for the Tongariro Crossing, and that is just the unexpected items!

We deal with these - and other advocacy issues - as we attempt to pivot our organisation subtly towards active encouragement of outdoor recreation participation. To ensure our direction and values, as defined by our current Executive, are widely known and supported, we have included printed copies of our strategic plan and these will be sent to all clubs. Your feedback and collective wisdom regarding our activities is always appreciated.

We would also like to update you on some further matters as listed below. Several of these items are substantive and will influence FMC's activities for some time to come. None of these decisions have been made lightly.

Youth Membership

As part of our affiliation review, FMC resolved to waive affiliation fees for school-aged club members. This means both fully and partially affiliated clubs will be asked to declare their youth membership annually. These members will be eligible for FMC membership cards, but not bulletins.

We hope through this to both encourage youth membership of clubs and get a baseline participation rate of youth in our affiliated clubs.

FMC – FEDERATED MOUNTAIN CLUBS

www.fmc.org.nz | President: Peter Wilson (021) 1513486 | Vice-President: Jan Finlayson (021) 502297
Executive Officer: Jamie Stewart (027) 7674064 | eo@fmc.org.nz

Federated Mountain Clubs | P O Box 1604 | Wellington 6104 | New Zealand/Aotearoa

FMC Bulletin name change and updated design guidelines

After much deliberation, our Executive unanimously voted in February to rename the FMC Bulletin to "Backcountry – The quarterly bulletin of the Federated Mountain Clubs". The new name more intuitively represents the material we cover and will help us attract a wider and younger audience.

The new name will be accompanied by a slightly more contemporary look, but it must be emphasised that the content will not be substantially different. The bulletin in that sense, and in a printed form, is here to stay.

The bulletin name change was the final step in a review of how FMC presents itself, which has also seen the adoption of a re-modelled logo and new design guidelines for all publicly visible media. We have emailed your secretaries versions of the new logo to use on your websites as required.

Employment of FMC Development Officer

FMC has resolved to employ a Development Officer charged with improving the benefits and services that we provide to our members, including you as affiliated clubs. We ask that you make your members aware of this employment opportunity, and because of the short timeframe (applications due 10th March) we have emailed this advertisement to your secretaries.

The employment of this part-time staff member (0.4 FTE) – bringing our total staffing to 1.4 FTE – is made possible both by the continued and increasing support of the Maerewhenua Trust and administrative savings.

FMC Executive Election

It is the time of year that we look for people to put themselves forward to be considered for the FMC Executive. A nomination form is included in this package. Nominations must be received by the 7th of April.

Under procedures first used last year, affiliated clubs will vote by email. Information on candidates will be made available on our website after the closure of nominations, and further information will be sent regarding the voting process. We are only as strong and dynamic as the volunteers that put themselves forward to guide our future.

Wilderlife Website

FMC is on the cusp of launching a new website: www.wilderlife.nz The purpose of this website is to showcase our outdoor culture, communities and opportunities to a wider audience and attract prospective members to FMC and our affiliated clubs.

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The website will initially include an online magazine, a website version of our Safety in the Mountains handbook and a trip/event database calendar.

The latter will profile selected trips from each affiliated club alongside events such as mountain runs, rogaines and adventure races. The idea is to bring our wider outdoor community closer together. Initially, we will input the information and photos. Our medium term goal is that clubs will see the benefit of the website and be keen to enter their own information. There may in the future also be the possibility of feeds from wilderlife.nz to club websites. It is very important for clubs to understand this is only a publicity tool. There is no intention to provide any online sign-up or other interactive capability. How clubs manage their trips is their own prerogative. If any clubs wish to opt out of having trips profiled on wilderlife.nz please contact Jamie Stewart.

Outdoor Recreation Consortium funding round

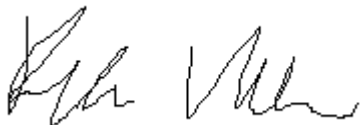
Prior to Christmas the Outdoor Recreation Consortium was again successful with an application to the DOC Community Fund. A further \$400,000 was granted bringing the total funding received to \$1.6 million over the last three years. This has allowed a further funding round which closes on the 14th of April.

Many clubs have contributed to the groundswell the Outdoor Recreation Consortium has helped to create, of active guardianship of our Backcountry huts and tracks, and we hope the many benefits of this are clear for all to see. Individual fulfilment, club spirit and the ability of a highly engaged outdoor community to better hold DOC to account for the work it is doing (or not doing) in the places that are special to us.

Further information, and application forms, can be found on the Outdoor Recreation Consortium website: www.hutsandtracks.org.nz

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely



Peter Wilson
President