

## **Rob Frost - FMC Executive Committee**

*Member of: Canterbury Mountaineering Club; New Zealand Alpine Club.*

*Residence: Christchurch.*



I'm a 40 year old trumper and climber based in Lyttelton, where I live with my wife and our three month old son. I value the accessibility of many places in the wilderness that I can share with my family, but I also love remote transalpine trips which involve a range of skills across a variety of terrain.

I wrote the mountaineering guidebook for Aoraki Mount Cook and Westland Tai Poutini, and spent over a decade working as a geotechnical engineer. I now run a small business, Mountain Journeys, which takes small groups on self-sufficient transalpine tramping trips and instruction courses. Our trips are authentic and low-impact; we avoid air access and carry everything we need.

The New Zealand backcountry offers experiences that allow people to develop a deep connection with the outdoors. I recognise that hunting, mountain biking, and packrafting are important ways for many kiwis to get amongst it, and FMC needs to be an effective advocate for these activities, not just tramping and mountaineering.

Much of DOC's draft legislation in recent years has been troubling; it seems to favour mass tourism over preservation, and FMC needs to provide a unified voice to negotiate better terms for our backcountry. We shouldn't lock away the backcountry as the preserve of a few capable elites; we still need to foster an appropriate balance of impact and accessibility to nature so that all people living in New Zealand have the opportunity to feel connected to the outdoors. Recent work of the Backcountry Trust should be commended - our hut and track network is an incredibly precious resource.

My time spent as a recreationalist, guidebook writer, and concession holder has provided me with an understanding of many facets of the New Zealand outdoor world, and my previous experience as a geotechnical engineer means I can also bring a technical understanding to the executive. If I have the privilege to be elected then I will do my best to contribute in a way that enhances collaboration, positivity, and respect.