

Megan Dimozantos

Member of: New Zealand Alpine Club, Packrafting Association New Zealand. FMC Individual Supporter.

Residence: Rotorua



Based in Rotorua, I'm an avid tramper, mountain biker, packrafter, climber, trans-alpinist and skier. I'm happiest when I'm in the hills, adventuring and exploring. We are so lucky to have the wild places that exist in Aotearoa NZ, and it is a privilege to play a part in protecting these wild places and our access to them.

I've been on the FMC Executive for 3 years and have been actively involved in resolving the Mokai station access (Ruahine), the submission on the Opawe Road stoppage, advocacy relating to Waipakihi road closure and Western Kaimanawa access, advocating for a Lake Dive hut replacement, working to heal the relationship between recreationists and Mana Whenua in Te Urewera, and Whakapapa winter parking and access restrictions. Following the devastating effects of Cyclone Gabrielle, I have been compiling and distributing regular updates for our outdoors community. I represent FMC on

the Land Safety Forum, the Tongariro Alpine Crossing consultation group, and the National Biking on Conservation Land Stakeholder group. I have also written multiple articles for *Backcountry Magazine*.

I've worked in leadership, project management and change management for a number of years, ran my own business doing home maintenance and renovations, and was Festival Director for the Rotorua Bike Festival for a number of years. I now work for the Backcountry Trust as the North Island Project Manager. My work involves supporting teams of volunteers to do hut and track work on Public Conservation Land. I have also been a LandSAR volunteer for over a decade and currently serve as an elected member on the LandSAR Board.

My varied work has allowed me to develop relationships with other stakeholder organisations, Iwi, and within DOC. My work on the ground keeps me well-informed, realistic, and grounded, something which I think is probably one of my biggest strengths. I have a reputation for getting on with the job and getting things done.

The protection of our backcountry huts and tracks network, and our access to it, is of significant importance, and given my line of work, something I am already incredibly invested in. The Backcountry

Hut Pass needs a significant review. I would like to see DOC spending more money in the field, and making sensible decisions about infrastructure, especially taking climate change into consideration. We need to be engaging meaningfully with landowners, Iwi, DOC, other NGOs and, of course, our member clubs, and we need to have genuine relationships that allow us to navigate challenges sensibly without jeopardising our future advocacy efforts. In addition to this, we also must make sure we don't take our eye off our core business, such as statutory reviews, the reclassification of stewardship land, and access.

The thing I want most for FMC is for us to be progressive in the way we go about our business, and to be focusing on things that are most important to our members. We need to ensure we produce the best long-term outcomes for our community, and the next generation. I'm seeking your vote for FMC President so I can lead a positive, progressive and effective team of recreational advocates.

Neil Silverwood

Member of: NZAC Canterbury / Westland Section, NZ Speleological Society, NZ Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association, NZ Canyoning Association, West Coast Alpine Club and PRANZ.

Residence: Blackball

New Zealand has set aside just one third of our landscape for public use and conservation. It is heavily contested, with economic interests in friction with recreation and conservation. Leadership in this space is needed now more than ever.

Please support me to lead FMC as its next president. I've been an Executive member for six years, two of these as vice president. I joined the Exec, and served as VP, because I believe in FMC's kaupapa – a future where recreation is sustainable and available to all; that all Kiwis deserve to experience pristine, wild spaces and a world class track and hut network – and I believe in the importance of advocating strongly for recreation and the environment we recreate in. If elected, I will lead by example with tact, courage, and integrity – and I will invest the time and energy needed to take FMC forward.



I aim to lead the FMC Executive to achieve the following...

- Ensure FMC continues to be a well-known, well-regarded, leading voice for recreation no matter what political and social changes or challenges occur
- We are actively working alongside other NGOs and Iwi to create enduring protection of our wild spaces and taonga lands and waters
- Positive outcomes are achieved from conservation law reform and national discussions on recreation and related conservation
- The backcountry track and hut network remains as comprehensive and intact as it is now for many years to come because we have worked with DOC and government leaders to realise its value
- Long-term funding is secured for the Backcountry Trust so they can get on with their important mahi
- FMC takes a science-based approach with regards to climate change and other pressing environmental issues
- The Exec has a clear shared purpose and works together collegially as a team
- FMC works actively with member clubs to understand and support your needs

During my time on the Executive, I have advocated strongly to save the Waitaha River from hydro development and led our Wild Rivers park campaign. Last year, I co-wrote FMC's stewardship land submission for the Western South Island reclassification. As vice president, I helped grow the

organisation to 100 member clubs, collectively 22,000 members – now we truly represent a diversity of non-powered outdoor recreational pursuits! I also co-led our two largest legal cases, the successful Paparoa derogation case and the ongoing Griffin Creek case, and I oversaw a staffing restructure and creation of a brand new role, Communications Officer. Being VP was an excellent introduction for becoming president and gave me the opportunity to build relationships with DOC and other organisations.

I'm a qualified outdoor instructor and have managed large outdoor education centres. I'm also a professional photographer producing stories on recreation and conservation nationally and internationally. I co-produced the book, *Caves*, which won major awards in NZ and internationally and I was *New Zealand Geographic's* Photographer of the Year in 2017. Collectively my work has put a spotlight on recreation and the need to protect our wild spaces.

I've also worked for DOC and was the lead author on operational plans for karst and cave management. This gave me an in-depth understanding of DOC's systems and planning processes as well as conservation legislation. I've been a SAR member for 20 years (CaveSAR and LandSAR).

A life-long tramper, caver, climber, kayaker, skier, and more recently, packrafter, and paragliding pilot, I belong to several FMC member clubs. Being on the Exec is a way to give back for all the benefits I've received from recreation and the outdoors community. I want to invest the energy that's made me successful in these ventures into making this organisation the best it can be.

If elected I would invest 20-30 hrs a week into serving FMC and intend to stand for the full term of three years to provide leadership continuity to the Executive.

Here are some links if you want to learn more about me and work I have done:

- www.neilsilverwood.com
- FMC's submission on the West Coast stewardship land review:
<https://fmc.org.nz/2022/07/25/submission-on-west-coast-stewardship-land-reclassification-recommendations/>
- FMC's Wild Rivers campaign story map web page:
<https://fmc.org.nz/a-wild-rivers-park-for-new-zealand/>
- *NZ Geographic* magazine article on Antarctic science:
<https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/the-long-haul/>
- *NZ Geographic* magazine article on the Waitaha River:
<https://www.nzgeo.com/stories/a-tale-of-two-currents/>
- Interview with Kim Hill (2017):
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/saturday/audio/201850391/caves-exploring-new-zealand-s-subterranean-wilderness>

Mick Abbott

Member of: New Zealand Alpine Club. FMC Individual Supporter.

Residence: Dunedin.



Kia ora...

Like for many others involved in FMC, the outdoors have been a huge part of my life. They have shaped my values and who I am. I'm keen to be part of the FMC Executive, as I want to support FMC's efforts to connect all kiwis, at every stage of their lives, with the outdoors. FMC has always been a very inclusive organisation, bringing together all its members around a common purpose of fostering outdoor recreation. This means FMC continuing to be that strong and positive voice in maintaining access and backcountry facilities, and working closely with clubs, DOC and iwi as we keep looking to the future.

The skills I'd bring come from my personal and other activities in the outdoors, including lots of tramping, transalpine trips and climbing, including solo trips through Fiordland and across the Southern Alps. I've also designed packs, tents and sleeping bags for Fairydawn and Hallmark, been chair of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board while the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan review was being undertaken, co-designed DOC's Kiwi Ranger programme which was the pilot for DOC Kiwi Guardians programme, and also worked with iwi and DOC on the development of the Taranaki Crossing experience. I currently teach part-time landscape design at Lincoln University, and am part of www.wildlab.org.nz, a design and research group focused on connecting people with nature.

See you in the hills!

Mick

Judith Bogle

Member of: Waikato Tramping Club.

Residence: Tauwhare, Hamilton.



I was indoctrinated with a love of the outdoors from an early age by a father who grew up on New Zealand lighthouses. In my teens, the Spirit of Adventure Club introduced me to tramping, and I have tramped throughout New Zealand especially with the Kaimai ranges and Kauaeranga Valley being at my backdoor. Then I obtained a Master's degree in Earth Science and a Graduate diploma in Dispute Resolution, incorporating different aspects of Environmental Planning and Environmental law.

Currently, I am the President of the Waikato Tramping Club.

In 2020 at FMC's suggestion I took on the challenge with other experienced club members to train Trip Leaders in the region. I am a strong advocate for education being the core of safe and enjoyable tramping. In the meantime, I have upgraded our Code of Ethics and the trip leaders' registration to include guidelines for trip planning and risk assessment, and provided support to the University of Waikato Tramping Club.

To maintain and protect our backcountry for future generations we need sustainable management practices, especially with increasing demand for access both from New Zealanders and tourists. Decisions being made on Stewardship land, changes relating to co-governance (e.g. Te Urewera, Mount Taranaki and Tongariro crossing), and the possible introduction of a Great Walk in the Kaimai Ranges, affect all New Zealanders. My understanding of the complexities of Environmental Management relating to the community, business and policies will allow me to contribute to the direction we take to support New Zealanders.

Megan Dimozantos

Member of: New Zealand Alpine Club, Packrafting Association New Zealand. FMC Individual Supporter.

Residence: Rotorua.



Based in Rotorua, I'm an avid tramper, mountainbiker, packrafter, climber, trans-alpinist and skier.

I've been on the FMC Executive for 3 years and have been actively involved in advocacy relating to Mokai station access, the submission on Opawe Road stoppage, Western Kaimanawa access, Lake Dive hut replacement, Te Urewera, and Whakapapa winter parking and access. Following Cyclone Gabrielle, I've been compiling updates for our outdoors community. I represent FMC on Land Safety Forum, Tongariro Alpine Crossing consultation group, and the Biking on Conservation Land Stakeholder group. I've also written multiple articles for *Backcountry Magazine*.

I've worked in leadership, project and change management, ran my own home maintenance business, and lead the Rotorua Bike Festival. I've

also been a LandSAR volunteer for over a decade and serve as an elected member on the LandSAR Board. I currently work for the Backcountry Trust as North Island Project Manager.

My work has allowed me to develop relationships with other stakeholder organisations, Iwi, and DOC. My work on the ground keeps me well-informed, realistic, and grounded, which I think is one of my biggest strengths.

Protection of our backcountry huts and tracks network, and our access to it, is of significant importance. The Backcountry Hut Pass needs a significant review, and I would like to see DOC spending more money in the field. We need to be engaging meaningfully with landowners, Iwi, DOC, other NGOs and our member clubs, and we also must not take our eye off our core business of statutory submissions and access.

Jan Finlayson

Member of: New Zealand Alpine Club, Peninsula Tramping Club.

Residence: Geraldine.



I was FMC president from 2019-22 and vice-president from 2016-19. I've been on the executive since 2015.

Recreation, conservation, and public access are FMC's excellent constitutional objects - and my motivation for being on the executive.

The backcountry is a theatre for New Zealanders' adventure, camaraderie, solace, solitude, food-gathering, nature-watching, and more; everyone is equal there. It is essential to our nationhood and must be protected by

those in power. FMC's strong advocacy for our wild lands and Kiwis' place within them is crucial.

Holding the Department of Conservation to account over its lawful responsibilities to recreation and conservation is FMC's main day-to-day job. In my view, present important areas for advocacy include:

- A back-to-basics approach to recreation by DOC.
- Appropriate stewardship land reclassification, including wilderness expansion.
- Ensuring the Milford Opportunities Project is lawful and does not endanger other conservation land by precedent.
- Ensuring, post-pandemic, that recreation remains prioritised over tourism in line with the law.
- Implementation of outstanding tenure reviews.

In light of coming conservation legislative reform, FMC must advocate for new law that supports our kaupapa.

Additionally, FMC must continue work on realising opportunities for recreation under the new Crown pastoral land legislation.

Being with clubs and supporters, at club meetings and in the hills, is icing on the cake for executive members. I welcome invitations to meet with you.

A writer and a local body representative, I was formerly a farmer and a teacher. I belong to the New Zealand Alpine Club and the Peninsula Tramping Club.

Raymond Ford

Member of: Peninsula Tramping Club.

Residence: Christchurch.



I am standing again for the FMC Executive, because I strongly support the valuable work FMC does advocating for the backcountry and for the recreational community. Based in Christchurch, my background was environmental management, and I am active tramping and climbing in the backcountry .

Over the previous year, I led, and worked with other Executive members, presenting FMC's submissions on the Civil Aviation and Natural and Built Environment bills,

and the Department of Conservation's review of hut charges. More recently, we have been building a case to support the outstanding work of the Backcountry Trust.

FMC represents a diverse range of outdoor recreation interests. The organisation needs to maintain its strong links with our members and to reaffirm with our members the role of the organisation. But there are plenty of big challenges facing our community. FMC needs to play a constructive and strategic role, speaking on behalf of the outdoor recreation users, including:

- how we maintain the backcountry hut and track network, with increasing weather damage and diminishing budgets.
- the overhaul of NZ's environmental and conservation legislation.
- the review of the Department of Conservation's stewardship lands.
- working co-operatively with iwi around the country on the management of the outdoors.
- encouraging outdoor recreation activities, especially among younger people, 'new' New Zealanders, on our public land near our urban centres.

Being on the FMC Executive has its challenges, but a diversity of views is healthy. I particularly welcome the large number of people standing for the Executive.

Thank you for your support

Raymond

Rob Frost

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.

Stu Gray

Member of: New Zealand Alpine Club. FMC Individual Supporter.

Residence: Auckland.



I'm standing for a second year on FMC Executive. We have work to do. The voice of backcountry recreation is not as strong as it once was in policy makers' minds and the urgency of the bio-diversity crisis takes more of DoC's focus. We need to get better at listening to others – particularly to the aspirations of Māori, as well as landowners, other users and the wider public who can struggle to understand our concerns. Te Urewera was difficult for many last year but FMC built wide respect by a willingness to sit down, listen and kōrero.

This year we will face further stewardship land reclassifications as well as the complex review of conservation legislation likely getting underway which will no doubt challenge all our thinking. Getting commitment of funding for the highly successful Backcountry Trust is a priority. This is a great example of the outdoor community stepping up and taking responsibility, in this case for the hut and track network we all use.

About me: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/stugrayaucknz/>

- Active climber and tramper. Past president of the New Zealand Alpine Club.
- Represent Oceania on the management committee of International Climbing and Mountaineering Federation (UIAA); UIAA's 67 member countries offer valuable international insights.
- Assessor for annual UIAA Mountain Protection Award; member of climate change working group.
- Actively retired after career with Fonterra, both here and overseas. Governance experience, both commercial and NGO.
- Live in Auckland, but love getting into the hills from our holiday place at Castle Hill in Canterbury.

Emma Gregg

Member of: Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club.

Residence: Palmerston North.

My name is Emma Gregg and I am deeply passionate about native New Zealand and the wilderness experience.

I am an experienced trumper and I spend the majority of my weekends in amongst local hills and mountains. My love is for off track adventures, the more remote the better.

Despite my liking for remoteness and solitude, I am involved with a good variation of groups that also highly value our backcountry areas. I learnt my bush skills from hunters and have spent time working in pest control, clearing trap lines in steep valleys and untracked areas. I now work in a private hospital, utilising my problem solving and logistics skills by organising and helping to manage orthopaedic surgeries, but I still use my trapping experience by volunteering on several trapping projects in Tararua, Ruahine and Kaimanawa Forest parks. I also volunteer on hut projects, leading and organising teams who produce amazing work maintaining our huts.

I have experience in national level committees, having previously been an elected member of Dogs NZ Agility Committee, I believe all committees are in a better place with members who have a range of opinions and strengths, I also believe that any community needs to not remain static, but progress towards an ever changing future. The communities that share love for the backcountry are diverse and it is important that the needs and values of all groups are appreciated. Communication is always the answer and open communication with groups such as iwi and hunters only improve relationships and lead to better outcomes for all.

As a mother of 4 daughters who love nature, it is important to me that our huts, wilderness areas, rivers and mountains are protected now and for future generations to come, but in order for this to happen, access must also be protected. We must also provide protection and maintenance for our hut system and tracks. No other country in the world has the privilege of New Zealand's hut network, it is a valuable asset.

I don't do things by halves, if elected, I'm all in. Let's get things done, for members of the FMC community and everyone else who feels the same love for New Zealand's backcountry.



Lauren Kelley

Member of: Packrafting Association New Zealand; West Coast Alpine Club.

Residence: Blackball.



As New Zealanders, we live in a special place – an archipelago of unique landscapes and wildlife – where experiencing the outdoors is part of our cultural identity. We are so lucky for this.

I've served on the FMC Executive for three years. During that time, I've co-led FMC's Wild Rivers campaign and created the [web page](#) for it. I've put my GIS (mapping) skills to use producing interactive online maps, helped edit a 12th edition of FMC's Safety in the Mountains, and I'm currently working on a significant update to the FMC website (due out later this year). I'm also convenor of FMC's Expressions committee which oversees our social media and general public content, I'm on

FMC's Management committee, and I've actively contributed to the overall direction and decision-making of the Executive.

My professional experience includes working as a DOC community ranger, where I gained a deeper understanding of the legislation and policies that govern public conservation land; working as a GIS analyst in Canterbury; and editing, *Caves: Exploring New Zealand's Subterranean Wilderness*, an award-winning book about the exploration of New Zealand's major caves. I currently work in a role supporting teachers and students to understand their local environment and take action for sustainability.

I'm based on the West Coast near Greymouth and I'm a member of the NZHGPA, PRANZ and the West Coast Alpine Club. The sense of wonder I've experienced tramping, climbing, paddling and paragliding has galvanised my desire to protect our wild spaces for future generations.

Paul McCredie

Member of: Tararua Tramping Club.

Residence: Wellington.



I joined the Tararua Tramping Club as a mad keen, raw teenager many years ago. Today I'm still leading trips with this club as well as having served as the newsletter editor and archivist.

I'm passionate about supporting our member clubs and helping them thrive. Without healthy clubs, FMC is nothing. To that end, I'm an active member of both the Alpine Club and Wellington Tramping & Mountaineering Club.

Conservation, stewardship, access and wilderness issues of Te Waipounamu/South Island rightfully get much of the attention from FMC. However Te Ika ā Māuii/North Island with its larger population is equally deserving of focus. We love our backcountry too.

Equally worthy of attention is our relationship with Tangata Whenua. In this regard it has been heart-warming to see the recent progress made by FMC in understanding the connection of Tūhoe to Te Urewera. The cultural dimension Tūhoe bring to the whenua is to be celebrated and is an area of FMC policy I would like to see built upon.

Paul McGahan

FMC Individual Supporter.

Residence: Christchurch.



I have had a long association with conservation and environmental management work and through my personal interest in backcountry pursuits.

This all started in the Waitawheta Valley, Kaimai and Coromandel Ranges and soon extended to trips into Urewera and Tongariro NP's, the Kaimanawa and Kaweka ranges. I was fortunate to become a ranger for the Department of Lands & Survey and later, DOC. Conservation work has included: Ranger at Urewera National Park; Ranger, Mt Aspiring National Park; Senior Ranger Reserves (Westland Land District); Senior Conservation Officer (Recreation, Tourism and Historic) West Coast; Tourism/Environmental Consulting including working with communities on projects e.g. Hump Ridge Track and UNESCO work on World Heritage Sites in SE Asia, Australia and Solomon Islands; Contract - DOC Biodiversity including Hutton's shearwater Kaikoura.

I have tramped extensively throughout New Zealand and visited or worked on several offshore islands including Raoul and Hauturu. Volunteer work on conservation projects has included cat trapping on Hauturu, takahē work, in Fiordland NP, and Hutton's shearwater translocation, Kaikoura. Other volunteer work has included Ambulance Officer, St John, Graeme Dingle Foundation - Youth at Risk Project, Christchurch; and inaugural Chair of the Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust for five years. I also served as a Chair of the former North Canterbury Conservation Board.

I have followed the considerable work and effort FMC have put into furthering the interests of stakeholder tramping clubs and other members in advocating for recreation and the environment of the backcountry and believe I could contribute to such effort as a member of the Executive.

Rob Mitchell

Member of: New Zealand Alpine Club, Motueka Tramping Club.

Residence: Motueka.

Over the past two years Rob has been investigating the evolution of the Milford Opportunities Project which is exploring ways to develop mass tourism in the Fiordland National Park

Rob Mitchell has keen interests are protection of the intrinsic natural park values, improving management of recreational opportunities, maintenance of NZs network of back country huts and tracks, and more effective management of tourism on public conservation land, and fostering enjoyment of outdoor recreation amongst young people



Between 2005 and 2018 Rob served on the FMC Executive and was president 2008-2010 and has extensive experience in management of tramping, cross country skiing and alpine climbing groups.

Rob has been an active tramper since his teens learning his skills in the Silver Peaks outside Dunedin and in the Otago alps. Currently a member of the Motueka Tramping Club, Rob has been a member and committee member of the Otago Tramping Club, the Otago University Tramping Club and an active member of the NZAC for six decades serving in many roles. He chaired the Otago and Southern Australian Sections, and has served on the committees of the Wellington and Nelson Marlborough Sections. He convened the Membership and Advocacy activities within the National Club Committee, a foundation member of the Wellington Face Rescue Team and edited the NZ Alpine Journal for four years.

Rob's served on the Department of Conservation's Otago Conservation Board from 1999 to 2005. During this time he was convenor of the Scientific Advisory Committee.

For five years while living in Auckland, he was invited to join the Executive and serve as deputy chair of Auckland Friends of Regional Parks.

In professional life, Rob trained as a secondary teacher then diplomat, before a career in strategic communications management and consulting. While living in Melbourne, Rob was elected a councillor in the City of Malvern for two terms.

A graduate of the University of Otago holds Masters degrees in History and Marketing Management, and a PhD in sustainable organisation management.

Keith Morfett

Member of: Whitewater New Zealand. FMC Individual Supporter.

Residence: Hokitika.



I have a passion for our wild places, the preservation of their intrinsic values and our egalitarian approach to public conservation land.

In my time on the executive, I have been an active member of the Management, Top of the South and Forgotten Lands committees; convenor of the Southern Regional Committee and the FMC appointee to the Land Safety Forum. I take an active interest in general advocacy issues such as the stewardship land review, DOC planning processes pertaining to National Parks, CMS's, and access issues. I was recently appointed as a trustee of the Mountain and Forest Trust - FMC's primary funding body.

I was born in England, lived in Wales then Scotland, and have travelled extensively visiting remote and protected areas around the world, eventually settling in Hokitika - my home for the last 30 years.

I have been an enthusiastic but not especially skilled caver, rock climber, mountaineer, white water paddler, trumper and fly fisher. I have an in-depth knowledge of the rivers, valleys, ridges and peaks between the Taramakau and Whataroa rivers and two titanium knees for my efforts. My 25-year involvement with Land Search and Rescue and its associated training and governance has given me insight into the ambulance at the bottom of the cliff.

We live in fast moving and fluid times with a backdrop of a climate emergency and biodiversity crisis. I am motivated to work within the FMC executive to employ my skills and experience to advocate for outdoor recreation and conservation.

David Round

FMC Individual Supporter.

Residence: Diamond Harbour, Banks Peninsula.



I want FMC to continue to speak for our wild lands and for us, the ordinary New Zealanders who own them and love them. FMC must retain its core values and well-established policies, and communicate them to people increasingly estranged from the beautiful reality of the hills.

We stand at the beginning of very dark times. Tourist crowds will soon be yesterday's issue, but our troubled future will see new threats to our wild lands and simple healthy pleasures, as well as some old ones.

Regrettably, the Department of Conservation has not lived up to the high hopes many of us cherished for it.

It may be harder just to reach the hills and find undamaged tracks.

The public conservation estate will be more vulnerable to economic exploitation when tourism is no longer available to justify its protection.

We will need alliances with kindred spirits in other organisations.

Our respect for Treaty principles must not blind us to today's urgent environmental and social realities. We must be sensitive without being sentimental.

Our principles sound trite, but that very triteness is evidence of their overwhelming good sense. Politicians of all persuasions must respect Nature and the public's right to enjoy and be refreshed by our natural heritage. We must carefully scrutinise any proposed changes to conservation legislation to ensure that they will promote wise decisions and wise living

FMC does not need 'reform'. Its traditions, principles and vision are sound. We just need to live up to them.

Neil Silverwood

Member of: NZAC Canterbury / Westland Section, NZ Speleological Society, NZ Hang Gliding & Paragliding Association, NZ Canyoning Association, West Coast Alpine Club and PRANZ.

Residence: Blackball

I've been an Executive member for six years, two of these as vice president. I joined the Exec, and served as VP, because I believe in FMC's kaupapa and want all kiwis to have the opportunity to experience adventure in NZ's outdoors.

During my time as Vice-President, FMC was a strong, active voice for recreation, our membership grew to 22,000, and for the first time we reached 100 member clubs.

My work on the Exec includes co-leading FMC's largest legal campaigns – the Paparoa derogation case (which we won, thus protecting the natural quiet of Paparoa National Park), and the Griffin Creek case to protect a significant river for canyoning. I co-wrote FMC's submission for the West Coast stewardship land review and have been a heavy lifter on the Exec team. I have a great deal of energy and time for FMC.



I currently work as a freelance photojournalist focusing on stories about conservation and adventure in our wild corners. Stories I've covered range from climate change research in Antarctica to the construction of the Paparoa Track and a young family walking the Te Araroa. I also co-wrote and photographed the award-winning book, *Caves: Exploring New Zealand's Subterranean Wilderness*. My work promoting conservation and recreation was recognised by NZ Geographic as photographer of the year in 2017.

If you believe, as I do, in strong advocacy for recreation and the protection of the places where we recreate, please support me to continue serving FMC and the outdoor community on the Executive.

Tony Walton

Member of: Auckland Tramping Club.

Residence: Auckland.



I have been a member of the FMC Executive since 2020, with my current roles including convenor of the FMC Northern region and the Membership committee. In my time on the Exec I have been the lead for several FMC submissions, including the BOP CMS, the Incorporated Societies Bill and Regulations, Freedom Camping Regulations, the Auckland Regional Park Management Plan (RPMP) review and draft plan stages and the Auckland Council Annual Budget 2023/2024.

By virtue of our written and in person submission on the RPMP, FMC has been acknowledged in the final plan as a regional stakeholder representing tramping organisations. The task now is to capitalise on that with establishing ongoing meaningful conversations with Regional Parks management.

I am also the convenor of a new committee responsible for taking FMC through its re-registration as an incorporated society (as required by the 2022 Act), and will similarly be supporting our member clubs similarly.

I have been president of the Auckland Tramping Club since 2013, and a founding trustee of the Kaimai Ridgeway Trust that coordinates the maintenance of tracks and huts in the Kaimai Ranges. I am an active tramper throughout our country, and actively participate

in backcountry track maintenance activities in the Kaimai and other areas as a member of Backcountry Trust project teams. I find track maintenance very rewarding so as to better encourage outdoor activities for all who love the backcountry.

Through participation in all of the FMC regional email groups I keenly follow the many recreation issues around the country that present themselves to FMC, and frequently I am able to comment usefully on them based on my own tramping experiences.

I am keen to have your support so that I can remain on the FMC Executive for the longer term in order to provide local representation for our northern members, to grow and support our membership, and to ensure that nationally recreation is in the forefront of management of our wonderful public lands.