

Megan Dimozantos - FMC President

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.