

**Lauren Kelley – FMC Executive Committee**

*Member of: New Zealand Hang Gliding and Paragliding Association, Packrafting Association New Zealand, West Coast Alpine Club*



Somewhere in the boggy scrub near Rakiura's Gog and Magog I heard my first kiwi call. Several days later my companions and I found ourselves stuck in tents that were folding over in fierce winds on top of the Tin Range. It was then I decided I wanted to be an FMC Executive member. Well, that's not exactly true, but experiences like this have cemented my fascination with New Zealand's outdoors and my desire to protect and share our wild spaces.

My work and volunteer experience includes editing the book, *Caves: Exploring New Zealand's Subterranean Wilderness*, about the exploration of New Zealand's major caves which won an Ockham award for best first book in 2018.

Before that, I worked as a GIS (mapping) analyst near Christchurch and I continue to use my mapping and geography skills. I also volunteered with Forest and Bird for several years as a local committee member. This was a great opportunity to grow my knowledge of the legislation and policies designed to protect and manage our public conservation land, including submissions processes. I currently work for DOC as a Community Ranger in Greymouth.

I am glad to bring these skills plus a focus on nature advocacy and education in and for the environment to the FMC Executive and also love to be a part of encouraging families to recreate in the outdoors.