



# The FMC Executive

## FAQs for prospective Executive members

*Thanks for showing interest in volunteering to join the FMC executive. If you have any more questions, or would like to chat with people from the team, please [contact us](#).*

### **How often does the Executive meet?**

The Executive endeavours to set meeting dates up to a year in advance. Currently there are 4 meetings a year: early March, June and November are typically in person, and September is online.

Meetings are usually on a Saturday. For the in-person meetings, other events such as informal socialising, campaign launches and a half-day tramp are often scheduled for the weekend, for those with interest and time.

### **What does the Executive do?**

The Executive is a 'working executive'. This means that the voluntary Executive members contribute to FMC's work, such as critiquing proposals, debating and making decisions.

The work of the Executive is varied yet our core function is advocacy, such as writing submissions and liaising with the Department of Conservation and other relevant stakeholders. One or two key FMC campaigns are often also underway to support our advocacy work.

The Executive also leads and contributes to running the organisation itself; meaning aspects of membership, policies, communications, publications, finance and so on.

FMC does have a small number of part-time staff and key contractors, whose roles support the Executive and have responsibility for certain aspects of FMC's routine operations.

Nearly all of FMC's communications are done by email.

The Executive is both reactive and proactive. It has to ensure FMC responds effectively to current concerns and also has to keep an eye on the future and think ahead.

Each Executive member will be on two or more Committees. One will usually be the Regional Advocacy Group for the area where they live – you can join other Regional Groups if you wish. Other committees will be standing sub committees (e.g. Membership) or sub committees formed to deal with a particular issue or campaign.

Sub committees discuss issues by email group, phone, and/or online meetings.



### ***What other meetings are there?***

FMC has regular engagement with a wide range of other parties around the country - for example with various government agencies, particularly DOC both at Head Office and regionally, with politicians, iwi, other aligned NGO's and so forth. The President and Vice President typically carry the biggest share of this load but Executive members are encouraged to contribute according to their expertise and willingness to engage. Many meetings are held on-line but FMC will pay travel costs where required.

FMC sub committees also meet online as needed during the year or when working on a specific project.

Serving as a FMC Executive member may offer the opportunity to be nominated for certain boards and entities such as the NZ Conservation Authority/Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa, NZ Geographic Board/Ngā Pou Taunaha o Aotearoa , regional Conservation Boards, the FMC Mountain and Forest Trust or the Backcountry Trust.

It is hoped that Executive members will make contact and visit member clubs in their region to learn about current issues of concern to Club members and to explain the work of the FMC.

### ***What expenses are paid?***

All reasonable travel, meals and incidental expenses relevant to FMC work are reimbursed.

### ***What can I contribute?***

If you have read more than a few editions of FMC's *Backcountry* magazine, you'll have a handle on many aspects of FMC's work. Our website <https://fmc.org.nz/> - especially the *What We Do* section is also a great place to find out more about our work.

FMC needs Executive members with skills, expertise and/or interest in;

- Legislation relevant to lands, recreation, governance, liability, safety etc
- Land management, planning and policy
- Communications, marketing, social media, websites, publications, promotions
- Scholarships for youth and benefits for members
- Membership systems and administration
- Finance and budgeting
- FMC's governance, management and policies
- Services for member clubs, history and culture
- Local recreation issues, access and more...

Every Executive member brings their own set of interests and initiatives. Support will be given to those with enthusiasm for relevant projects and contributing to the work and goals of FMC.



One of the strengths of the Executive is that you don't have to be involved in everything; you can contribute in accordance with your interests, expertise and time. However, being part of a working committee means there is an expectation that you will be involved and actively contribute.

### ***What general skills do I need?***

- To be a self-starter: everyone on the Executive is expected to find areas to be involved in, or come with ideas to progress. Support will be available, but it will be up to you to seek it, and to show your own initiative.
- A willingness to listen to other points of view and appreciate that others may look at an issue through a different lens to yourself.
- The skill to put your thoughts in writing.
- Ability to read and interpret relevant material -some issues are complex and multifaceted, take time to understand and are unlikely to have easy answers.
- Awareness of the prevailing political environment and its impact on how FMC needs to operate for maximum effectiveness.
- Adequate IT skills to use email efficiently and cloud based Google Drive.
- Good geographical knowledge of Aotearoa New Zealand is helpful, as is keeping a sense of humour and balance!

### ***Who will I meet in the Executive?***

One of the advantages of being on the Executive is the chance to meet people from different backgrounds each with a common interest in mountain recreation from widely different parts of NZ. Executive members bring a wide set of skills to the table.

### ***Who does FMC employ?***

FMC currently has two employees:

- The Executive Officer Operations, who primarily supports the Executive's advocacy functions, and ensures all FMC operations run smoothly.
- The Executive Officer Administration, who handles membership administration, routine accounting, and specific projects such as the annual photo competition.

FMC also contracts the services of:

- Communications expertise with responsibility for FMC's general communication and specific channels (website, newsletter, social media, and more...).
- A financial controller who has oversight of all financial matters and reports to the Executive.
- A *Backcountry* magazine editor, proofreader, designer and printer.
- IT and website support.

In addition FMC may engage people from time to time to work on specific projects.

### ***What next?***

If you have any more general questions, or would like to talk to members of the Executive, please [contact us](#).

