

AUGUST



2019



Climbing "Delusions of Grandeur (19)", a new route on Stewart Island / Rakiura.
Photo: Christian Miller.

2019 FMC Expedition scholarship applications

Last summer, University of Canterbury Climbing Club's Kevin Peng did some exploratory rock climbing in the Ruggedy Mountains on Rakiura. He was supported by an FMC Youth Expedition Scholarship.

What are you doing this coming summer? Do you have a big trip planned? An expedition you have been dreaming of but can't afford? Have you considered applying for an FMC Expedition Scholarship?

All FMC club members and individual supporters are eligible.
Applications close 20 September 2019.

More info here:

<https://www.fmc.org.nz/scholarship/>



Woolshed Creek Hut, Mt Somers. Photo: D Hegg

Feedback on booking system for Mt Somers huts

DOC is planning to add Woolshed Creek Hut and Pinnacles Hut on Mount Somers (Canterbury) to their booking system. There is no doubt that these are busy huts. On one hand, adding them to the booking system should provide trampers a guaranteed bunk. On the other hand, it will take away the possibility of spontaneous trips planned around weather and conditions.

What are your thoughts? How is it going to affect you and your club's recreation opportunities?

[Click here](#) to read more, and e-mail us your feedback by 25 August 2019.



Milford Sound is one of the places set to benefit from the tourism levy. Photo: Lee McKay, Women's Outdoor Pursuits.

New Zealand tourism levy to help kākāpō recovery and other projects

Tourism Minister Kelvin Davis announced 10 projects that will benefit from the newly introduced \$35/head international visitor levy.

FMC are particularly interested in the projects taking place at Milford Sound, the greater Westland region and the proposed visitor safety trial on

the Tongariro Crossing.

As always, FMC stands firm in two areas:

That tourism is a privilege, and that the priorities enshrined in the Conservation Act 1987 stand: conservation, then recreation, then tourism; and

That mountains should not have handrails - any visitor safety initiatives need to be based on sound data and reasoning, and be compliant with the current Conservation Management Strategy.

We look forward to engaging with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and the Department of Conservation as these projects unfold.

[Read more](#)



"Powder Hounds", by Jason Blair, West Coast Alpine Club. Winner of the Above Bushline with Human Element category, FMC Photo Competition 2018.

Photo competition entries closes very soon!

Individual Supporters have until the 1st of September, whilst FMC Clubs have until the 15th. All the details are on [our website](#). If you have any questions, or need assistance with your entry, please email photocomp@fmc.org.nz sooner rather than later!

You'll be in with a chance to win a prize out of a \$13,500 prize pool, including the Grand Prize from [Heritage Expeditions](#).

The prize is one berth on the ['Beyond Fiordland: New Zealand's Wildest Islands' cruise](#). The voyage explores the remote and rugged Sub-Antarctic Islands of New Zealand, followed by visits to Stewart & Ulva Islands and Fiordland. Dates are fixed; 13 – 23 December 2019. Prize is Ex Bluff, valued at \$5990 USD. Winner will be invited to submit an article on the experience for the June 2020 issue of *Backcountry*.



Family tramping above Lake Hawea. Photo: Maggie Evans, New Zealand Alpine Club.

FMC's Family Tramping project launched

We are pleased to announce that Family Tramping will be the celebrated activity of the Outdoor Community campaign for 2019/20. [Take a look on our website](#) to see what we're planning!

We've already started publishing [articles to inspire parents](#), and are working with several clubs to help create resources that clubs can use to encourage family participation. We want to hear from parents and clubs about tips, tricks and ideas to help get families into the hills, especially as part of FMC club activities! Email development@fmc.org.nz if you want to contribute.



The Duke Of Edinburgh's Hillary Award Journey Grants

Both Gold and Silver award seekers are now eligible to apply for these cash grants from FMC. The next application round closes on 15th September, and the one after that on 15th November. All information on the grants and application forms are [on our website](#).



Tararua Tramping Club members celebrate their club's centenary on Mount Kaukau, Wellington

Commemorative Tramps

FMC was delighted to see 179 people from the Tararua Tramping Club on top of Kaukau to commemorate the club's centennial.

We encourage other clubs to take a look back at their formation, and schedule your own 'commemorative tramp'. [Take a look at our website](#) for ideas of how to make it a fun event!

Parawai Tramping Club jubilee

Congratulations to the Parawai Tramping Club (Kapiti Coast) who celebrated 50 years of tramping last month!

The club is holding a celebration over 8-10 November. To find out more or register, go to <https://www.parawaitc.org.nz/index.php/jubilee>

Recreation Aotearoa funding

Recreation Aotearoa's Outdoor Activity Fund has \$150,000 available for local initiatives that enhance diversity and inclusion in outdoor recreation.

If your club has a project planned or underway that seeks to increase participation in outdoor activities, [have a read of the criteria](#) and consider applying before September 6.

Top-Up Membership

Are you a club member? Do you want to show your support for FMC? Top-Up your support to the level of an FMC Individual Supporter [here](#). Your extra support will mean FMC can advocate more effectively on your behalf AND you'll receive Backcountry straight to your mailbox.

FMC Executive club visits

It is important to the executive that we visit our member clubs, face to face to keep our finger on the pulse of our members. We keep a tally of which club's we've visited and when, but if your club feels like it is overdue and would like to invite us to speak, please [get in touch!](#)



FMC member benefits

Make the most of your FMC membership card. Discounts on travel and touring, outdoor gear, magazines and digital accounts.



New on Wilderlife: Climbing Mount Armstrong

Photo Essay: Climbing Mount Armstrong in Mount Aspiring National Park.



Donate to the Mountain & Forest Trust

To support activities such as research and or projects related to outdoor recreation, books, and more.

“We must closely guard the welfare of our National Parks and Reserves. These should not be regarded as the property of our minister or the government. They belong to the people of today and tomorrow. We must fight for their protection if necessary.” Fred Vosseler – Inaugural FMC President (1932)

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