

FMC monthly update July 2019... from Waikato TC and FMC Exec member Alan Grant

Hi all,

I've been in the club for about 20 years and have held a few committee positions including Club President 2014-2017 and Transport Officer 2014-2018. I was recently honoured to be nominated by WTC to join the National Executive of FMC (Federated Mountain Clubs), the peak body in NZ for outdoor recreation. This role started by me attending their meeting in Wanaka at the end of June and runs for 3 years.

As thanks for the opportunity and to help WTC members know more about recreation issues in NZ in 2019, I offered to update you all through a brief column in each monthly Bulletin as to what is happening in FMC as it strives to fulfill its mission of advocating for outdoor recreationists like us trampers. FMC was formed in 1931, has 22,000 members and over 100 clubs, like ours, as members. It is run by a 16 person Executive, all voluntary and lead by Jan Finlayson from Geraldine. I am the only one residing north of Taupo. It has a staff of about 1.2 FTEs with 4 officers located around the country working part time. It is funded by subs and grants from two charitable Trusts.

This month's column is by way of an introduction, and next month it will have more detail on various current issues. FMC has an excellent website at www.fmc.org.nz and another info site at www.wilderlife.nz. These are both worth a look to see what's on offer. The main site has FMC's Strategic plan and copies of recent submissions made by FMC on various matters. While Wilderlife has lots of info on great things to do in the outdoors. In addition FMC publishes and distributes free to members a quarterly mag called Backcountry with lots of interesting and relevant info.

FMC is founded on 4 simple principles that it wishes to see maintained

- Access for all to the hills
- Equality of all in the mountains
- Stewardship of the Conservation estate
- Mountains without handle rails

I joined FMC to help the battle to retain these goals as all come under regular threat from development, tourism, weak government enforcement and climate change

Current issues being worked on by FMC, which I will expand on more next month include tramping restrictions caused by reacting to Kauri Dieback, the Backcountry Trust's efforts helping volunteers maintain and build NZ's huts and tracks, a review of Walking Access Act, the changes planned to Tenure review in the South, the review of Management Plans for various National Parks, offering Leadership Training for Clubs, what we can meaningfully do to reduce our impact as trampers on the environment, and lots more. I look forward to sharing more on these with you through this column each month

If you have any queries on any of this or would like more info, please contact me on 0274 501 530 or at alan.grant@fmc.org.nz. Have a good month enjoying our wintry outdoors.

Alan