

SEPTEMBER



2019



Kayaker in Morgan Gorge, Waitaha River. Photo: Kev England.

## **Waitaha River hydro application declined**

At the end of August, the Minister for the Environment David Parker announced that an application from Westpower Ltd to build and operate a hydro-electric power scheme on the Waitaha River in Westland has been declined.

FMC would like to congratulate the Minister on a thoroughly considered decision that puts protection of the environment ahead of commercial interests and development on public conservation land. The news is welcomed by recreational users and environmental organizations around the country.

[Read more](#)

---



Lake Angelus Hut, Nelson Lakes National Park. Photo: Nicola Ponsonby, FMC Individual Supporter

## **Feedback on current Hut Service Standards**

The Department of Conservation's Hut Service Standards were first approved in 1999. They were last reviewed and revised in 2004.

DOC manages and maintains a network of 950 backcountry huts. Other organisations, such as the Backcountry Trust, are now maintaining some of these huts and there have been a number of changes in backcountry recreation since 2004.

DOC has announced an imminent review of the Hut Service Standards, and has contacted a number of stakeholders for a first round of consultation.

FMC is being involved in the early stage of the consultation, and has submitted comments on the current hut service standards.

[Read more](#)



Pinnacles Hut, Mount Somers. Photo: Shaun Barnett

## Mount Somers huts on DOC booking system

In August this year DOC announced its intention to add Pinnacles Hut and Woolshed Creek Hut on Mount Somers (Canterbury) to its online booking system.

FMC canvassed feedback from southern tramping clubs and individual supporters, and submitted an extensive document for DOC's consideration.

DOC has now confirmed that both huts will be on the booking system for the summer season, starting 1 October 2019.

[Read more](#)

---



## Waitaia Bay forestry road application declined

FMC is pleased to report that “*The Waitaia Forestry Limited application (WK-28733-OTH) for a concession (considered as a reconsideration) for a right of way easement over Coromandel Forest Park has been declined, as the Minister has decided not to proceed with the proposal.*”

The proposal for a private forestry road through Coromandel State Forest Park came up in 2016. [FMC opposed the proposal](#), and wrote a [comprehensive submission](#) to the Department of Conservation.

[Read more](#)

---



James Thornton on the summit of Mt Strauchon. Photo: Nina Dickerhof.

## **New 'Ohau-Landsborough' NZAC guidebook underway!**

James Thornton, Nina Dickerhof and Ross Cullen are working on this title which will replace the [Barron Saddle – Mt Brewster guidebook](#) in spring 2020, with more than 100 new climbs since the current edition.

The authors are requesting colour photographs for publication and information such as errors and omissions in the current edition, changes to existing routes, access, huts, and of course, new routes.

Please contact the authors directly:  
[j.m.thornton@live.com](mailto:j.m.thornton@live.com) (Landsborough, Hunter/Makarora, West of the Hooker Range, McKerrow Range)

[rosscullen.kiwi@gmail.com](mailto:rosscullen.kiwi@gmail.com) (Bush Stream, Twin Stream rock and ice climbing)

[nina.dickerhof@gmail.com](mailto:nina.dickerhof@gmail.com) (Dobson, Hopkins, Huxley, Ahuriri, Barrier Rane, Ben Ohau Range)



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

## **Outdoor Community campaign - Family Tramping**

The celebrated activity for the [2019/20 Outdoor Community Campaign](#) is Family Tramping.

Since July, we've published a number of [articles on Wilderlife](#) to inspire and inform parents of the youngest trampers to get out in the hills and consider FMC clubs. Recently we spoke to the family trip coordinators of the Tararua TC and North Shore TC as well as FMC staff members with young tramping families. From those discussions, we've put together a resource filled with [advice for clubs on family friendly trips](#). We hope your club will find inspiration to reach out to the next generation of tiny trampers!

If your club also has a family program, or has a crack at running a few family friendly trips, we'd love to hear how it goes! Drop us a line: [development@fmc.org.nz](mailto:development@fmc.org.nz).

---



## **Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award - Journey Grants**

FMC has a number of cash grants to give to young people to help with the Gold and Silver adventurous journey component of the award. If you know any local schools, individuals or groups involved in this award, we'd love for you to pass on information about the grant.

The next round of applications close on the 15th of November. [Visit our website](#) for more info or to apply.

---



## **Pukekohe Tramping Club 50th Anniversary**

Calling all past and present members of the Pukekohe Tramping Club: [you are invited to the club's jubilee](#), held over the weekend of 9 and 10 November.

Activities include a lunch event (with anniversary cake!) and a club day walk in the local area.

Contact [pukekohetrampingclub@gmail.com](mailto:pukekohetrampingclub@gmail.com) to learn more.

---

## **Parawai Tramping Club 50th Anniversary**

All members, past and present are warmly invited to PTC's celebration:

### **Friday 8 November**

Gather at Parawai Lodge at Otaki Forks in the evening. Those that want to can stay overnight!

### **Saturday 9 November**

Gather at Otaihanga Boating Club from 3:00pm for meet and greet.

In the evening there will be a catered birthday dinner and cutting of the Jubilee Cake.

### **Sunday 10 November**

Walk the Paekakariki Escarpment.  
Gather for lunch at Finns in Paekakariki.

To find out more or register, go to <https://www.parawaitc.org.nz/index.php/jubilee>

---



Kea in flight over the Buchanan Peaks, Lake Wanaka. Photo: Danilo Hegg

## Kea Summit : Te Anau, 30 Nov - 01 December 2019

We're confident many of our members will be interested in attending the Kea Summit. Visit [www.keaconservation.co.nz/projects/2019-kea-summit/](http://www.keaconservation.co.nz/projects/2019-kea-summit/) for more information.

---

## Club "Little Ads" in *Backcountry* magazine

Does your club have a lodge, gear hire service, van or anything else you'd like the wider outdoor community to use? A reunion or event you'd like to advertise to all *Backcountry* readers?

FMC 'Little Ads' appear at the back of each issue. Activities or services which aren't intended to make a profit (i.e. reunions) are free, all other club ads are charged at 50% of the normal rates.

Visit [our website](#), or contact Dan Clearwater [adverts@fmc.org.nz](mailto:adverts@fmc.org.nz) 021 215 7059 to place an ad.

---



**FMC member benefits**



**New on Wilderlife: The Hilly Billy brain**



**Donate to the Mountain & Forest Trust**

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

Our most popular post on Wilderlife recently was Ken McIver's excellent article on the Hilly Billy Brain. Ken relates the story of how he has developed this "Back country decision making tool".

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)

**Copyright © 2019 Federated Mountain Clubs NZ (Inc), All rights reserved.**

Editor: Danilo Hegg. Feedback welcome to [eo@fmc.org.nz](mailto:eo@fmc.org.nz)

If you would like to subscribe to our newsletter, e-mail our [administrator](#).

PO Box 1604  
Wellington, 6140  
New Zealand