

DECEMBER



2019



2019 FMC photo competition overall winner: 'Tasman Beauty Ice Cave'. Thiago Amaral, Individual Supporter.

2019 FMC photo competition results

The winners of the 2019 FMC photo competition have been announced, and the results published in the November issue of *Backcountry*.

Overall Winner

'Tasman Beauty Ice Cave', by Thiago Amaral, Individual Supporter.

Above Bushline (no humen element)

Winner: 'The Gutter, Rakiura', by Peter McIlroy, Individual Supporter.

Runner-up: 'Arthur's Pass, in Otira Valley', by Michal Klajban, Christchurch TC.

Above Bushline (with humen element)

Winner: 'Tasman Beauty Ice Cave', by Thiago Amaral, Individual Supporter.

Runner-up: 'Syme Hut', Tony Gazley, Wellington TC.



2019 FMC photo competition Below Bushline (no human element) category
winner: 'Doubtful Sound', by Glen Howey, Wakatipu TC.

Below Bushline (no human element)

Winner: 'Doubtful Sound', by Glen Howey, Wakatipu TC.

Runner-up: 'Frosty Ferns', by Charlotte Patterson, Otago University TC.

Below Bushline (with human element)

Winner: 'Imp Grotto Cayon', by Alexandre Darrioulat, NZ Canyoning Association.

Runner-up: 'Goblin Forest on the Kapakapa Track, Tararua Range', by Rachael Hockridge, NZAC Wellington.

Nativa Flora & Fauna

Winner: 'Death from above', by Emma Rogers, Christchurch TC.

Runner-up: 'Curious kākāpō', by Linden Brown, West Coast Alpine Club.



2019 FMC photo competition Historic category runner-up: 'Climbing Mitre, Tararua Range, 1982', by John Rhodes, Masterton TC.

Historic

Winner: 'Descent from Barrier, 1968', by Russell Falconer, Individual Supporter.

Runner-up: 'Climbing Mitre, Tararua Range, 1982', by John Rhodes, Masterton TC.

Long Exposure

Winner: 'Okupaka Cave', by Glen Howey, Wakatipu TC.

Runner-up: 'Asbestos Cottage star trails', by Ray Salisbury, Nelson TC.

Forgotten Lands

Winner: 'Mavora Lakes', by David Soper, West Coast Alpine Club.

A big thank you to all entrants, and congratulations to all winners, runners-up and commended images. [Click here](#) to see a slide show of all winning images, and to learn how to enter next year's photo competition.



Claire McElwain on the Remarkables Grand Traverse. Photo by Danilo Hegg

Explore the Remarkables this summer

FMC has long been advocating for a Remarkables National Park. With summer holidays knocking at the door, we would like to encourage our members to get out

there and explore the area.

Recreational opportunities include tramping (Remarkables and Hector Mountains, Old Man and Old Woman Ranges, Garvie and Umbrella Mountains), mountaineering and rock climbing (Remarkables and Hector Mts), mountain biking and horse riding (Old Man and Old Woman Ranges), whitewater paddling (Waikaia and Nevis Rivers), hunting and fishing (Waikaia Forest, Nevis River).

[Click here](#) to read an article about summer activities in the Remarkables written by FMC Exec member David Barnes and published in *Backcountry* 211, March 2018.



2019 FMC photo competition Native Flora & Fauna category winner: 'Death from above', by Emma Rogers, Christchurch TC.

Kea Survey Tool

Playful, sociable and highly intelligent, curious, bold and often mischievous, the kea embodies the free spirit of those venturing into the mountains, prompting writer and mountaineer Paul Powell to state that "dead climbers get reincarnated as kea" (NZAJ 1975, Vol 28, p126).

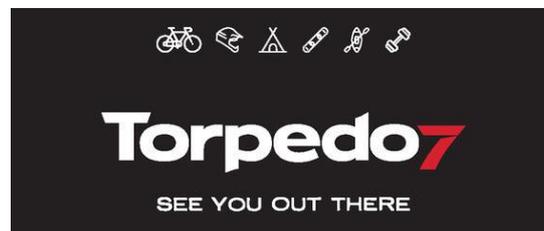
While the bird is everyone's favourite, anecdotal evidence suggests that its range and numbers have declined dramatically over the last few decades. The kea is currently [listed as 'Nationally Endangered'](#) in the New Zealand Threat Classification System, with the population trend showing a strong decline.

Population size estimates range between 1,000 and 5,000 birds. Truth is, we don't really know how many kea there are. The recently launched [Kea Survey Tool](#) aims to get a more accurate estimate of the bird's population size and geographical distribution. For the purpose, we need to

know both **where people see kea**, and **where people don't see kea**.

Anyone visiting the backcountry for one hour or more can contribute. All you need to do is set your intention to survey for kea in advance of your trip, then record your hours, approximate location, what you were doing and whether or not you heard or saw kea, for each hour that you were out and about.

All outdoors people getting out and about this summer are strongly encouraged to [use this tool](#). Any sightings of banded birds should be entered in the [online Kea Database](#).



Torpedo7 discount for FMC discount card holders

FMC welcomes Torpedo7 to our [member benefit scheme](#). Show your current FMC discount card in store to receive 20% off Torpedo7 branded gear and 10% off non Torpedo7 branded gear. (Discounts are off RRP and exclude electronics, gift cards and services).

If you don't have a discount card, then ask for it! Club members should talk to their committees, and paid-up Individual Supporters can [contact Rebecca Gray](#), our FMC Administration Officer.

Call for contributors to Wilderlife

Got a story or opinion you'd like to share with the outdoor community? A gear review, trip report or photo essay just bursting to reach thousands of like minded people? Advice and inspiration for families going tramping? Knowledge gained by your club that others can benefit from?

FMC always welcomes contributions to our [Wilderlife blog](#), so please get in touch with the [Wilderlife editor](#) if you'd like to be involved.

Contributions are entirely voluntary, and FMC will provide support and assistance for layout. You don't have to be a blog whiz, at a minimum, we just need your words and images!

FMC Office closure during summer

The FMC office will be closed from Saturday 21 December 2019 to Sunday 19 December 2020. All staff will be on leave during this period, and are unlikely to answer e-mails or phone calls.

For urgent enquiries, [contact FMC President Jan Finlayson](#) or [FMC Vice-president Tania Seward](#) - although chances are, they'll be in the hills, too. Otherwise, just send us an e-mail, and we'll endeavour to reply on 20 January.

Enjoy your summer adventures!



FMC member benefits

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



Not quite like Doctor Who would do it

Read our latest Wilderlife photo essay, from FMC Backcountry editor Peter Laursen about exploring the Lewis Pass tops with Shaun Barnett.



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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