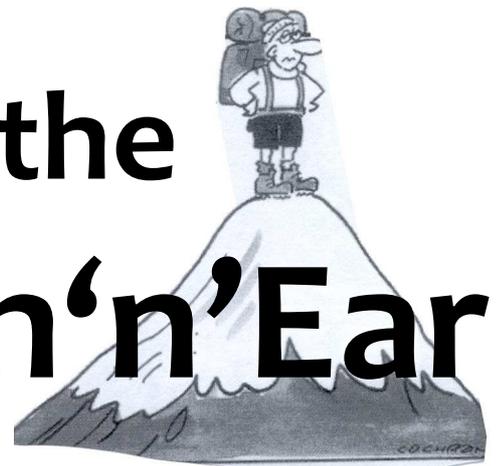




the Mouth'n'Ear



Newsletter of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club



Seaward Kaikoura Range from Mount Fyffe

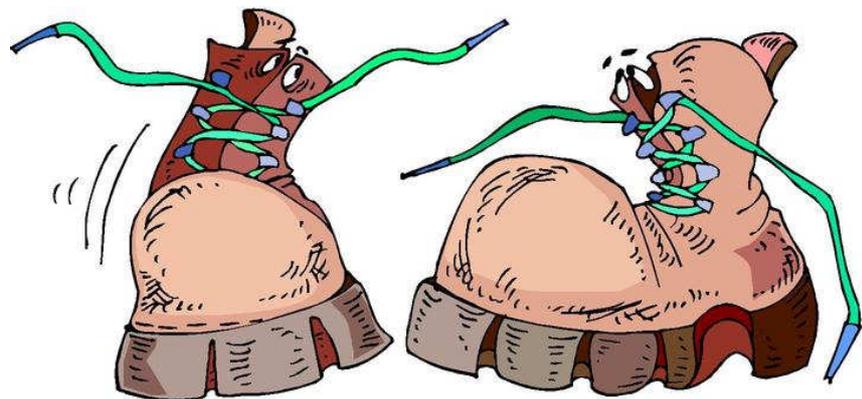
In this October issue: Locator Beacons; Kai on the Fly; Mt McKay (Nelson Lakes NP); Aorangi Cycle Crossing; Mt Fyffe Circuit (Seaward Kaikouras); FMC News.

Deadline November Newsletter: 13 November

Send contributions to newsletter@wtmc.org.nz, or PO Box 5068 Wellington.

Topographical Turpitude

with the Chief Guide



Greetings All,

Summer Trip Planning Meeting is 6:30pm Monday 2nd for 2hrs at TTC Club rooms. All welcome, please bring Maps and your ideas you may have. I am looking forward to creating a great Summer Schedule. Food supplied for the meeting.

A big thank you to Craig Bellhouse for all your help as Assistant Chief Guide, go the Big OE. Welcome to Melissa Hewson as the new Assistant Chief Guide

Club Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) are available to Leaders of Labour weekend trips (in the gear room).

Still looking for leaders for the Spring Schedule let me know if you are interested.

The Lodge is 2 mins from the Whakapapa car park, the envy of most New Zealanders. To make the most of this great Lodge opportunity contact Brian Goodwin by email lodgebookings@wtmc.org.nz or ph 479 6799.

Don't forget about Paua Hut free for members and \$6 per person per night if non-member. Paua Hut for Bookings Phil Kendon ph 475 7625 pauahut@wtmc.org.nz

UPCOMING TRIPS:

October 30-Nov 1: Wellington Based Day Trips

Day	[M]	Mystery Nav	Marie Henderson
MTB	[E/M]	Waihi Falls (MTB) & Honeycomb Walk (Daywalk)	Stijn Schepers

November 6-8: Rimutaka Forest Park

Family	[All]	Paua Hut - Guy Fawkes	Constanze Schwind
Tramp	[E/M]	Whakanui / Paua Hut	Melissa Hewson
Day	[M/F]	Tapokopoko - The Peak	Murray Sutherland
Instr	[All]	MSC First Aid Course	MSC

November 13-15:		Mt Egmont/Taranaki (North)	
Rock	[M]	Organ Pipes	Leader Required
		Experienced rock climber required to join!!!	
Cycle	[M]	Around The Mountain	Amanda Wells
Tramp	[E]	Holly Hut	Mike Phethean
Tramp	[M]	Kahui Hut	Sandra Beaubien & Phil Pharand
Tramp	[F]	Summit / Pouakai	Leader Required
		Wellington Day Trips	
Day	[E]	Makara Walkway	Mika Verhuel
November 20-22:		Ruahine Forest Park (Mokai)	
Tramp	[E]	Iron Bark	Leader Required
Tramp	[M]	Lake Colenso	Dan Addington
		Ruahine Forest Park (Kawhatau Base)	
Tramp	[E]	Crow Hut	Leader Required
Tramp	[E/M]	Mckinnon Hut	John Hoffeins
Tramp	[FE]	Lake Colenso / Mokai Patea Range	Leader Required
		Castlepoint	
Camping	[All]	Castlepoint	Leader Required
		Wellington Day Trips	
Day	[E/M]	Wainuiomata Water Collection Area	Leader Required
November 27-29:		Kahurangi National Park (3 Days)	
Tramp	[E]	Salisbury Hut Flora Saddle	Amelia Moody
Tramp	[M]	1000 Acre Plateau	Anthony Mulick
Tramp	[FE]	Wangapeka / Haystack / 1000 Acre Plateau	Jenny Cossey & Tony Gazely
		Durville Island (3 Days)	
Cycle	[M]	Durville Island Cycle Trip	Anna Lambrechtsen
		Camp Wainui	
Family	[All]	Camping / Daywalks based at Camp Wainui	Andrew Squires
Day	[E/M]	Johnsonville to Makara	Megan Sety & Katherina Monien

Murmurings from the Kitchen



Hello all!

Firstly, a big thank you to everyone who joined in and helped make the inaugural WTMC quiz night a success. All the comments that reached us were positive, so look out for the next one! Any ideas always gratefully received.

Coming Soon:

21st October- Daniel Moore- cycling around Samoa.

28th October- Social night- 'cos everybody gets time off for good behaviour :)

Please remember that we are always looking for interesting ideas/ people/ experiences for Wednesday nights.

Lastly, the photo competition is getting closer. Photo's (on disc preferably) need to be submitted by the 4th November. Categories are: Flora and fauna, Water, Landscape, Dramatic and tramping with WTMC

We'd like to use the winning photographs in the next WTMC Calendar. So, as well as being the usual good photo, we need the images to be landscape and a high resolution (ie 5 Mega pixels or more). We also would like to submit the winning photos into the FMC competition, prizes (not to mention extra kudos) for the photographer and the club.

WTMC Annual Journal - Last Plea!

Hello trampers & kayakers and mountain bikers and...

This is a final plea from the annual journal editors. We have had a very discouraging number of contributions for this years journal - only 5 folk have contributed so far.

Unfortunately this means if we don't get a LOAD of articles before our deadline of the end of October there won't be a journal this year.

This would be such a pity as we have the budget to do a nicely presented journal with loads of colour photos. We have all the templates set up ready to go, we just need your articles and photos.

So please spare an hour to contribute as we would all like to hear your stories. Don't leave it for someone else to do. Also remember there are flights to Christchurch up for grabs for the winning article.

From the still forlorn but forever hopeful Journal Editors :-)

Locator Beacons

As you are probably aware, the club recently purchased 3 locator beacons. At club night recently Steve Austin gave a presentation about these devices. A number of people asked questions about the use of these. There appears to be two main concerns about locator beacons. They are:

1. That the use of locator beacons may encourage people to take greater risks.
2. That locator beacons might be used in circumstances that do not justify their use.

It was good that these matters were brought up. Since that meeting I have given a bit of thought to these two concerns. I have come to the conclusion that it is unlikely that either of these situations would arise on club trips. My reasons are as follows:

Risk

I have owned a locator beacon for about seven years. (It is the old type that is now obsolete). The trips I have undertaken (club and private) subsequent to that purchase have not involved any greater risk; I do the same type of trips, the same grade, and in the same conditions as I did beforehand. Similarly carrying a first aid kit does not encourage me to take greater risks.

I cannot say that everyone who takes a beacon with them will not take greater risks, but I feel that this is unlikely to happen within the controlled environment of a tramping club.

The theory that people will take greater risks if they take locator beacons on trips is like saying that people who buy cars with air bags will take greater risks with their driving. It's unlikely. Also, having a locator beacon does not reduce the pain resulting from a broken leg!

Unjustified Use

There have been items in the news over the years about people calling the emergency services from their cell phones for inappropriate reasons – wanting a taxi, or a pizza delivery etc. Cell phones have been used on club trips on at least a couple of occasions that I'm aware of to call the emergency services. I don't believe that a cell phone has been used inappropriately on a club trip. So why would locator beacons be used inappropriately?

As Darren pointed out at the meeting, it would be difficult to define the exact situations in which a locator beacon should be used. It would ultimately be up to the trip leader to make a decision. In reality it is likely to be a group decision. The March issue of the FMC Bulletin contains an article which gives some indication about the circumstances in which locator beacons could be used. (I seem to have lost my copy!).

A Final Thought

I understand that it won't be mandatory for beacons to be taken on club trips. However, I do recommend that if they are available, trip leaders do take them. They don't weigh a lot, and they do provide a good option if a punter is injured or incapacitated.

- **Ray Walker**

KAI ON THE FLY

With Aunty Rata

Hi there fellow trampers and welcome to the inaugural column of "*Kai on the Fly*". Yep, this column is going to be a regular feature in the newsletter for the next wee while. You may be able to get rid of it if you write enough trip reports but I think I'm probably safe until at least 2012.

I'll endeavour not to stray into the "*bang it in, boil it up and bolt it down*" (H. Smith) school of cookery, as it requires no explanation. Nor will this column be an attempt to pontificate on the fine art of gourmet cooking. People have written books on that subject; go to the library if interested.

Your Aunty Rata likes to think of herself as more of an elegant assembler of ingredients to make okay kai. She reckons this is what you lot should aspire to as well. There is more to life than cooking, especially when you are out tramping. Food in the hills doesn't need to be flash. At the end of the day whether you are at a hut or camping there is not a lot of competition from other fast food outlets.

It is possible to eat fairly well without much effort though and I'm here to help. You can help too of course – feel free to send your questions and/or favourite tramping recipes to the newsletter editor and if he feels like it he will pass them on to old Aunty Rata and if she feels like it, she may even use your material in *Kai on the Fly*.

No recipe this month though, just my top 10 tips on warming up for the big feed.

1. Just because you are the trip leader doesn't mean you cook the kai. Cooking should be a labour of love. Allocate the task to the person who loves doing it the most and sit back and enjoy the results!
2. Pack a big, light weight plastic spoon for serving. Nobody really likes their cup returned to them with dinner dripping off it.
3. The chopped garlic that comes in the glass container from the supermarket and is full of sugar, salt and other preservatives, additives and flavourings is just fine decanted into a film canister or some other light weight packaging. Nobody really likes peeling and finely chopping actual cloves of garlic after a hard day in the hills.

4. Milk powder or coconut cream powders are not only light and easy to transport they are also an excellent source of protein and can be used to thicken and flavour pretty much any meal. Yes coconut cream powder is expensive but you can buy it in bulk from Moore Wilsons.
5. The reason for lugging fresh veges into the hills is not to fill up your pack but to ensure you have an excellent source of vitamins and minerals, and they add flavour, colour and texture to your dinner. If you overcook the vege you remove all of the above. You may as well have left them in the fridge and popped a multi vitamin. It is not possible to over undercook the veges.
6. Soups are like milk and coconut powder, light and easy to transport. They can be used as a hot drink pre-dinner, or if there is a lack of flavouring for the main meal chuck them in. Soup thickens everything and adds flavour, plus soups tend to be salty and you need to replace the salt you have sweated out all day. If you must carry extra stuff in your pack soup sachets are more edible than cards or crosswords.
7. Before you head out make sure you are on top of your punter's food preferences. Most of us are flexitarian but you will sometimes encounter people who can't eat stuff for good reasons such as allergies. It makes sense to leave out ingredients that cause some of your party grief or come up with an elegant compromise such as adding the creatures after the veges have taken their portion. Food assembly is all about problem solving!
8. The Club website gives guidance on quantities of particular food groups to take per person. The most important is the 120g of carbohydrates per person. Except that as George Orwell pointed out not all animals are equal. If your trip consists of lots of fat stomachs you need to take more ingredients (carbs) for assembly otherwise people will be hungry. Under catering is, on balance a greater crime than over catering.
9. Slapping together decent kai is all about the assembly process. Before you start think about your ingredients and the order in which you want to cook them. Yep, some ingredients take longer than others. Dried veges and powdered stuff generally likes to be mixed and soaked in cold water for a bit prior to heating (to allow for rehydration and maximum lump production).
10. The cook does not, in any circumstances, have to clean up that is what the rest of the team is for.

WTMC Calendar - STILL AVAILABLE!

We still have a few of these calendars (which run up to December 2010) left. They contain winning and commended photos from the past two years' photo competitions, in a standard wall calendar format. These will make a great gift for friends and family!

If you are interested, please email promotions@wtmc.org.nz, or see Amanda at a club night

Mt McKay – Nelson Lakes

Alpine 1 Medium/Fit – August 13 to 16

by Sharron Came
photos by David Jewell



The original plan was to access Mt McKay (2300m) from the Sabine Valley but once we discovered that the water taxi across Lake Rotoroa was closed for the winter and that the avalanche risk was high we opted instead to approach via the Rainbow Valley.

The Rainbow Valley is home to cattle as well as Canadian geese so it is best to focus on the views around you rather than what you are walking in. We parked the Club van under a big pylon and headed up valley following the river. Despite the light drizzle and low cloud, once we passed Rainbow gorge we had partial views of the lower halves of many of the peaks that are alleged to inhabit the eastern part of Nelson Lakes NP including Mt Paske (2216m), Beldevere (2114m), Kehu Peak (2220m) and Mt Chittenden (2205m).

We stopped for lunch where Paske stream joins the Rainbow and debated whether to abandon our designs on Mt McKay in favour of a warm, dry bed at Paske hut. Although the forecast was pessimistic it was not actually raining so we decided to keep heading up the Rainbow and camp as planned where the Rainbow separates into north and south branches. So we wandered past the turn off to the Begley valley and searched out a sheltered campsite relatively free of rocks, mud, snow and cow pats. We should be so lucky...

From above our campsite we had good views back down the Rainbow and up towards the lower slopes of what we are pretty sure were Kehu and McKay. While David went in search of a feasible route through the clouds the rest of us built a fire. We spent a pleasant evening fire side endeavouring to dry out our wet socks without burning holes into them. In this game, Nigel and myself were the big losers but I drew some comfort from the fact that any

holes were on the top of my sock rather than areas where coverage is more critical such as the toes or heel. Harry was disqualified because his socks already had holes in their heels before they went anywhere near the fire.

It didn't rain in the night. We got up early on Saturday thinking the weather had defied expectations and that we would have little choice but to attempt an ascent of Mt McKay. This sense of opportunity lasted for about half an hour then the drizzle arrived and got more persistent and the clouds came down to meet us obscuring the route. Thinking that navigation would be difficult and that we would only be able to see the inside of clouds anyway we had a change of heart. We elected to strike camp and retreat to Paske Hut. Only 2 out of our party of 7 said "I told you so" within my hearing.

The walk back down the Rainbow and then up Paske creek was pleasant enough, especially if you were not at the front trying to make steps in the soft snow. As a snow wader Mike now enjoys a reputation without parallel. He hardly complained at all. His stoicism was rewarded by the rest of us failing to offer to share the burden. Once at Paske hut we were able to get a fire going and enjoy an afternoon of cards fuelled by sour worms and chocolate. In order to up the ante Harry promised to swim if he lost. Demonstrating strategic nous to a degree not always evidenced in the actual card games he left open minor details such as when and where. By the time we retired for the night it was one game all. You could have cut the tension with an unopened Swiss army knife.

Sunday dawned clear and cold. Ant took care to restock the woodshed. I am almost certain others offered to assist with this task. His activity was definitely the focus of close supervision by multiple parties. As a wood gatherer and chopper Ant now enjoys a reputation without parallel. We were able to pack up and head back down Paske creek in the soft snow with Mike in the lead. At least we had yesterday's footprints to sink into.

There had not been any talk of swimming, and we were one game all in the cards so I was slightly surprised to see Mike take a quick dip in the Rainbow towards the end of the walk out. No he wasn't pushed, although he may well have been if Harry and I had known then that he and Steve were going to defeat us in the third match decider on the ferry.

Team = Harry Smith, Steve Austin, Nigel Sands, Mike Phethean, Ant Mulick, David Jewell and Sharron Came.

41°25' Traverse (aka Aorangi Crossing) MTB Medium – October 3 & 4

by Hans Wiskerke

Some people go all the way up to the Central Plateau to do a bit of cycling, and indeed the well-known 42 Traverse is up on the trip schedule for early December. That should be an interesting ride, on average downhill, starting on a crisp summer morning and probably

ending with that nice combination of tired legs, lots of thirst and an after-party in the Lodge. Well, the 41°25' is slightly different!

The setting:

A hilly range between Martinborough and the south coast, offering good hunting opportunities for people dressed in green, riding around on quads, as well as spectacular views.

The cast:

Anna – our cheerful and fearless leader, especially downhill

Nicole – escaping the Canadian winters, but forgot her socks

Mika – always finding a way to get scratched or bruised

Jon – wanted to see the other side of Lake Wairarapa this time

Harry – keen to test his all-round bike on the tracks

Hans – always in for a Traverse, but forgot his beanie

The weather:

Early spring. Note that spring can be defined as the season between winter and summer, and early spring is probably more like...winter? Anyway, Harry's presence gave us the confidence that the weather would be great on Saturday, with a predicted southerly tailwind on Sunday.

With these ingredients we set out around 7.30AM on a Saturday from platform 9, drove to a very sleepy Martinborough, and started cycling south-east. Turning left from the main road to Lake Ferry after 10 mins, there was hardly any traffic, and after the first hilly bits we took on to a gravel road heading into the Aorangi Forest Park. Peddling in paradise with a bit of sun, a mix of uphill effort and downhill speed, we made it to Sutherlands Hut for lunch. By then we had crossed a few fords, where the punters showed different methods to pass, but all of us ended with wet feet. Sun still shining!



According to the talkative guy on the quad it was about one hour walk to the top, but probably he did not take into account the weight of our bikes, panniers, and eventually tired muscles. The Kennett MTB guide noted 'at least an hour, mostly walking' and that didn't

allow for tents, sleeping bags and the lot either. To cut a long story short, we decided to save the \$6 fee at the Pinnacles DOC campsite at the end and found a small grassy patch next to the track somewhere half way the crossing instead. Four tents could just be fitted on a grassy patch and Mika & Hans found a mini plateau between the trees providing some shelter from the wind. Shortly after, a delicious carbo-rich pasta was ready. Cycling near the ridge the water was scarce, but near the campsite there was a small stream. And oh, did I mention that the sun was replaced by a serious southerly in the meanwhile?



The main decision on Sunday morning was on how many layers of clothing would be required. One cyclist kept to shorts, some had 3 or even 4 layers of shirts / vests / windbreakers, and also beanies and gloves were used. Some rain and a bit of hail added to the adventurous feeling. The track however was more friendly to cycling than the last bit on Saturday, and apart from one rodeo-on-a-bike effort by Mika, we all made good progress and saw the coastline getting closer. The last bit of the track had the option of a shortcut over private land to reach sealed road, or to do another river crossing and climb up another ridge. Both options were explored, and in retrospect the shortcut was definitely shorter and less steep (both downhill and uphill).

The final leg of the ride enabled us to enjoy the southerly tailwind (apart from the occasional light shower), the Mrs Mac Pies at the Pirinoa country store, and a well deserved coffee / hot chocolate / snack at a cafe in Martinborough. Having done the trip once, it certainly asks to be ridden once more, possibly with slightly better weather. Without panniers it could be done as a tough day ride (if cars at either end), and with some more walking involved it is a challenging overnight tramping trip in a beautiful area.

Mount Fyffe Circuit – Seaward Kaikouras Alpine 1 Medium – September 11 to 14

by Michael Lightbourne

For this trip we had the club's second van – 'DPY', and took it across on the ferry. It's easy to drive and a real asset of the club. It took a bit over two hours to get to Kaikoura and the Mt

Fyffe carpark. The forecast was for clearing weather on Saturday, but on Saturday morning it had already cleared, and the decision was made to do the circuit climbing Mt Fyffe first.

It's a gentle climb to Mt Fyffe Hut on a gravel road, where we stopped for a break. There wasn't a breath of wind. From the Hut we continued to climb, finally getting into some snow, to Mt Fyffe (1600 metres). The climb had started from near sea level, so we were feeling it near the top. In fact after this I could have returned to the Hut and felt satisfied with the day's achievements. Unfortunately, at the top of Mt Fyffe, our day had only just begun.

From Mt Fyffe, the Circuit continues along the ridge to Gable. At Gable there was a sudden drop, which was not identifiable on the map. Struggling down this near cliff, I was no longer the steady, calm and in-control leader that I usually am, but we managed to encourage each other to the bottom. From here we walked across a narrow section of the ridge, and put on our crampons for the climb to Gables End. We didn't need ice axe and crampons for very long, but we certainly needed them there. It was good that we needed them, because we were carrying these heavy items a long way. It was only a short climb, but after the earlier ascent, was almost unbearable.

I had been fearing the descent from Gables End, because that is an identifiable and major descent on the map, and I was right to be concerned. It is very unsettling when the way ahead is so steep that you can't see the track, and it was a case of going from one marker pole to the next, and reassessing the situation at each pole. It is true that at this point we were passing through spectacular country, and I would have published photographic evidence with this report, but I was in such a state of horror that my camera remained inside my pack while I concentrated on getting through this without causing myself serious injury.

Looking back on it now, a lot of the fear was created by none of us having done this route before, and next time would perhaps not be so scary, but looking back at the near cliff from the base at Kowhai Saddle, we decided it would be a very nasty face to have to climb up.

From Kowhai Saddle, there is a route down Kowhai River to Kowhai Hut, and it is here that you fully appreciate the difference between a route and a track. There was no track at all, just the occasional orange marker to guide the way. It was now getting very late in the day. My shorts had been torn on the rock and loose stone coming down from Gables End, Nic's boots were falling apart and were being held together by a gaiter strap and a shoelace, and Sarah had dropped her camera in the river never to be seen again. Light was fading, and they were keen to get to the Hut, but after 10 hours on the go I called an end to the day's walking. We were fortunate to find a tiny grassy patch amongst rough country, and set up the fly, which did have to sit on rocky ground. We managed to make a good dinner and spent some time appreciating the stars.

We made the right decision to stop. It turned out the Hut was half an hour away through similar difficult terrain. The Hut is set in a beautiful location, and we spent a long time just sitting here, enjoying the sun rise over a hill and spreading its warmth into the valley. From

the Hut there is a track beside the Kowhai River, and it was a very enjoyable stroll back to the Mt Fyffe carpark. We had completed the Circuit in two days, as expected. We found a great campsite near the carpark, at the edge of the river.

We had one more day at Kaikoura, a day that might have been needed if the weather had been rough, but it turned out to be perfect (making me wonder what the Circuit would be like in other conditions). So with our spare day we drove to the Kaikoura Peninsula Walkway, which is a very Easy walk, but I wouldn't have had it any other way after what we had been through earlier in the weekend. The first half of the walk is across farmland, offering great views of the Seaward Kaikoura Range, and the return is along the coast where there were many seals. We nearly had to return on the farm track, due to the high tide almost blocking the coastal route! We then drove to collect the Fit group who had climbed Mt Saunders (I take my hat off to them), and we all went to town to have a lunch that satisfied our craving to eat some fish.

It is a nice drive up the coast on SH1 to Picton, and we arrived far too early for our 6pm sailing. Then it was annoying to find out that the ferry was running late, but looking back these little things really don't matter when you consider the weekend as a whole. It was fun being part of a game of 500 on the ferry that turned into an epic battle due to Harry Smith playing in the opposing team – it was a game that John Hickey would have been proud of.

In conclusion, I say be careful about any trip into the Seaward Kaikouras. Certainly there are Family trips to Mt Fyffe Hut, even Mt Fyffe, or from Kowhai road end to Kowhai Hut, but if you go any further into the interior of the Range I say – watch out! This is an area that should be left for serious (and crazy) mountaineers.

The mountaineers were: Michael Lightbourne, Nicola Jackson, and Sarah Day.

FMC News

Here is the latest news on FMC advocacy and significant developments of importance to trampers, climbers and all interested in safe outdoor recreation.

FMC Opposes Government Investigation of Mining on Conservation Land

At the end of August, the Minister for Energy and Resources, Gerry Brownlee, announced that the government wants to assess the mining potential in National Parks, Wilderness Areas and other core conservation lands. These lands, listed in Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act, are currently off-limits to mining. The Minister of Conservation's recent decision to exclude the most ecologically valuable part of the proposed Oteake Conservation Park from the final boundaries gives a strong indication of the Government's intentions. Fortunately, an amendment at the time Schedule 4 was created in 1997 will ensure that any changes to the Schedule will require consultation with FMC and other

organizations. Your Federation is opposed to this brazen threat to treasured national parks and other public conservation lands, that FMC has fought so hard for over many decades. We will be developing information and a campaign for you to get have your say (see the next Bulletin and our website soon). First: we encourage you to send a photo of a favourite conservation place to the Prime Minister - You can email a digital photo to him at j.key@ministers.govt.nz with an explanation of why you don't want it mined; or you can post a photo-print and write on the back like a postcard (Prime Minister, Freepost, Parliament) - simple, powerful and personal. Second, join our petition against mining on conservation lands. There is a petition that you can print from the FMC website; sign, circulate amongst friends and colleagues then send it to the government. The petition is all located at: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/mining/> together with additional information such as a copy of Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act, and a list of reserves that are currently protected. It is important that FMC members make their views known.

Wild Rivers Campaign Launch

The Federation recently joined other recreationists and conservationists in a Wild Rivers campaign to increase protection for New Zealand's remaining wild rivers. See the August *FMC Bulletin* for more details. With the Mokihinui decision imminent, the Hurunui Water Conservation Order under appeal, and dam proposals becoming more frequent, it is time for a coordinated campaign to assert the value of wild rivers and highlighting the development threats they face. FMC will put some funds towards this campaign, most likely to produce a high-quality poster. We would welcome your help in this campaign via the following: 1) Will your club be willing to deliver Wild Rivers campaign material (such as a magazine) to tramping huts over the summer - if so, how many can you deliver? 2) Please put 28-29 Nov in your club trip schedule as a "Day on a Wild River" - more details will follow on events on a wild river near you. 3) Send us your photos and stories of your favourite wild river, describing why it should be retained in a wild state - email to wildrivers@fmc.org.nz and, <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/rivers>.

Hurunui River Conservation Order Decision and Dam Applications

The decision on Fish and Game's application for a Water Conservation Order on the Hurunui River was recently released. It approved an Order for protection of north branch and Lake Sumner with some protection for the main stem to the coast. However, it excluded the South Branch from the Order as an attempt at a 'balanced' or compromise decision. Both sides are likely to appeal the decision to the Environment Court. For further information: <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/issues/water/freshwater/water-conservation/application-water-conservation.html>

Concurrently, the Hurunui Water Trust applied to Environment Canterbury for water storage and irrigation take involving a 75m-high 7km-long dam on the South Branch and a weir on Lake Sumner raising the lake level up to 3m. The flow of the main stem would lose its natural variability and be reduced by 32 cumec. FMC submitted against this proposal because it will fundamentally alter a wild river that is much loved by trampers. It would also impact significantly on conservation values, e.g. removing habitat for the black-fronted tern, and is in direct conflict with the Water Conservation Order that FMC supports. We are reliably

informed that low-impact alternatives for water storage are available. For further details, see: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>

St James Conservation Area – FMC Submission

The Federation has made an extensive submission to the Department of Conservation on future management of the St James Conservation area near the Lewis Pass. We emphasized strong support for the management of tramping, climbing and other outdoor recreation opportunities such as mountain biking and family camping, that arise from linking the area with Nelson Lakes National Park, the Lewis Pass National Reserve and the Molesworth Station Farm Park. We opposed any directive, including from DoC, which focused on *utilisation* of conservation land rather than *protection*. FMC's understanding of the "conservation economy" policy is that it relates to the value that can be gained from keeping landscapes and eco-systems in a natural state, as opposed to the conventional economic view that natural resources in conservation lands should be exploited or harvested. Some proposals suggested for managing the St James area include wind farms, and water storage lakes for hydro or irrigation schemes. FMC has opposed these as inappropriate conservation management. For further information consult: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>

Kahurangi National Park Partial Review

Your Federation has made a submission on this – Please see <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/> for further information.

Te Araroa Walkway - Oriwa Ridge Proposal

Your Executive has considered the proposal for the Te Araroa Walkway through the Tararua Ranges after consulting with Wellington tramping clubs on this matter. The suggestion to use the Oriwa Ridge is opposed by FMC because the area is currently untracked and managed as a remote experience zone. Please contact Executive member, Owen Cox (owencox@paradise.net.nz) if you would like further information on this matter. The FMC submission is on : <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>

Tenure Review

The Preliminary Proposals for the Tenure Reviews of the Craigroy and Ben Nevis Stations (leased by Pioneer Generation Ltd., and covering a total of almost 19,000 ha) were advertised for submissions on 12 September (closing date 30 November, 2009). The high and mid altitude plus the valley floor sectors of these properties are of high significance because of their recognized recreation and conservation values. Clubs or individual members who would rather see the creation of a new conservation park in preference to the valley floor being inundated by hydroelectric development, can assist the Federation's cause by lodging a submission. Copies of the proposals can be obtained from Darroch Valuations, Dunedin (Level 1/401 Moray Place, Dunedin 9016 or <http://www.darrochvaluations.co.nz>).

Government Backtrack on Protecting Lakeside Landscapes and Access

There is potential for negative impacts on iconic lakeside landscape and recreational amenity values following the Government's decision to reverse a clause that blocked Tenure Review

on lakeside properties and to delegate planning authority to LINZ, DoC and local councils. These changes are designed to assist short-term economic development, and some fortunate lessees stand to make huge capital gains (based on amenity value) while the public purse gains nothing from the sale of former Crown land. FMC believes the Government should review its decision because the Resource Management Act is not an effective, or a fair way, to resolve this matter. We will be following this issue closely and will be making submissions where appropriate.

Review of Aircraft Management at Milford Sound

After lobbying from the tourist aircraft industry, the Government has ordered a Ministerial Review of aircraft management at Milford Sound. The Review will examine aircraft management provisions in the Fiordland National Park Management Plan that were endorsed by the NZ Conservation Authority and the previous Government. The industry is seeking to overturn a compromise agreement between aircraft industry and other recreational users of the National Park that was the result of extended negotiations over many years. Any change instigated by the Government could damage the authority of national park management plans. As a party in the original negotiations, FMC will be arguing that the provisions of the existing National Park Management Plan be confirmed by the National-led government.

Aircraft Management in Conservation Areas

The Federation has written to DoC's Canterbury Conservancy to comment on its proposed Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) framework – including its impact on 'natural quiet' and wilderness areas, deer number reductions and interactions with other users. In its submission (<http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/submissions/>), FMC applauds the requirement for GPS data loggers to be used by WARO operators and for the data to be made available to the Department. In the interests of public safety, sound aircraft movement and land management, FMC has regularly advocated that this equipment should be used by all tourist, film industry, search and rescue, and charter aircraft undertaking concession activity over the public conservation estate. It is fortuitous that new, stringent requirements of the New Zealand Food Safety Authority have apparently enabled DoC to add this requirement.

New Book on Alpine Explorer, Jacob Lauper

FMC, through its Mountain and Forest Trust, will provide funding for a new historical book by Hilary Low. The publication, to be produced by Canterbury University Press, is a translation of the record of Swiss-German explorer Jacob Lauper, who accompanied Henry Whitcombe on his 1863 exploration of the Rakaia headwaters.

Search and Rescue Governance

The Land SAR AGM is on 26 September. The Council will be considering a proposal to change the constitution. This change would remove the council and instead have a direct line of accountability from the membership (SAR groups) to the Board. SAR groups would then vote at the AGM rather than the Council. Your Executive is currently considering its position on the above proposal and we will report further in future newsletters.

Place Your Club Order for the New Topo Maps

All clubs should now have the FMC Bulk Order forms for the new Topo Maps and be collating orders from members. Individual Supporters (i.e. people who paid their subscription directly to the FMC and who do NOT belong to a club) can download an order form and details from <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services/maps>.

Auckland Recreational Planning Forum in October

Reminder that the FMC will be holding a half-day forum in Auckland on Saturday 31 October 2009 to gather opinions on outdoor recreation opportunities in the northern regions of the North Island. In addition to FMC, representatives from tramping clubs, DoC and regional councils will be in attendance. Those interested in attending or obtaining more information should email northforum@fmc.org.nz by 10 October 2009.

Wanted - Lively Tramping Photos

We would like to have fresh photos of our member clubs to use as banner photos across on the FMC website. If your club has a photo that you think might be suitable please email it to webmaster@fmc.org.nz. Shots must have a very wide format (croppable to a ratio of 4.3:1). We are looking for lively shots in interesting locations with club groups with four or more people!

Posters / Safety in the Mountains Booklet

The FMC has stocks of posters featuring national park scenes and its own Safety in the Mountains Booklet. All are at very reasonable prices. Details and an order form are on <http://www.fmc.org.nz/services>.

FMC Bulletin Survey

As the club is a member of the FMC (Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ Inc) we like to ensure club members can be involved in the chance to express their views on items they present to us as being a member club. In the August FMC Bulletin (pg 30 and 31) they outlined the pros and cons of possible changes to the bulletin that all our members receive.

We encourage all members to take part in their survey as this gives you the opportunity to comment on what you would like to see in the FMC Bulletin. The survey is on their website <http://www.fmc.org.nz/FMC Bulletin/> and as stated the survey replies can be emailed to admin@fmc.org.nz or the survey form can be printed out and sent to the address on the form.

Send me an email if you have any problems downloading the survey and I can send you a copy by email.

Simone

secretary@wtmc.org.nz

Supply of Back Country Cuisine at Wholesale Prices

It's that time of the year where WTMC members are offered the opportunity to purchase dehy food at wholesale prices from Back Country Foods Ltd, Invercargill.

The aim of this promotion is to increase awareness of the product within the Club (for consumption on club trips only) and can effectively promote the product to the wider "outdoor recreation" community.

The offer is only available to Club members and you are asked to be discreet and do not abuse the privilege being extended to the Club by bragging to others.

If you want to take advantage of this, please download the order form at

<http://www.assess.co.nz/pages/BCOrderForm.doc>

It is strictly one order per Club so complete your order on the downloaded form and give to either me OR Allen Higgins at club on or before Nov 4th or email treasurer@wtmc.org.nz with the reference number(s) and quantities of items being ordered.

Preference for payment is via internet banking; WTMC **06-0582-0013409-00**. Please make payment at time of order (incl GST) and I'll put a forum notice on the club www once the items arrive (late November) to advise pick up.

Steve Austin

Newsletter

The Mouth'n'Ear is now also published on the club's website – IN FULL COLOUR!

If you would prefer to receive email notification when the newsletter and other club publications are put on the website, instead of receiving printed copies in the mail, send an email to newsletter@wtmc.org.nz.

The views expressed in the articles in this newsletter are not necessarily the views of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club. Any queries or comments should be directed to the writer of the article.

All published trip reports (or other written articles that aren't committee reports) are in the draw to win a \$20 book voucher!

Congratulations to Sharron Came, winner of the August draw, for the Alpine Instruction report.

FROM THE GREEN CROCS

Spring is in the air, and we have lots of people getting away on club trips, which is fantastic. It seems that trip sheets are filling up as fast as they go up on the board! There are still a few trips on the Spring Schedule which need leaders, if you would like to see these trips run, all volunteers to lead these trips (or any extra trips!) are gratefully accepted, Paul or Craig would love to hear from you. Speaking of Craig, he is leaving us in November to work in Canada, and Melissa Hewson will be taking over from him as Assistant Chief Guide. Craig has done a great job as ACG, and we will miss him. Good luck in the Great White North mate, and hope to see you again in a year or 2!

Personal Locator Beacons featured in my last column, the club has purchased 3 of these, and we are just working out the final details of how these will be made available to club members, and we hope to have them in the gear room for Labour Weekend.

Trips that take a club PLB will be required to provide full intentions sheets to the weekend contact person, even though this is a current requirement, not all trip leaders are providing these details at present. I think it is important to remember why we collect this information, which would be vitally important to SAR in the (unlikely) event of an emergency. Trip leaders have reported having trouble getting some punters to provide details of an emergency contact, please remember we collect this info so that we can contact your loved ones if something happens and your trip is delayed. Please provide this information to your trip leader when requested.

Recently, I met with our webmaster, Shane Connolly. Our excellent website is the way that most people first find out about our great club, and Shane has done a fantastic job for a number of years now keeping the site going. Shane is now working with Dave Bergin on a few more improvements, but has asked for suggestions on what changes club members would like to see. You can add your suggestions at <http://www.wtmc.org.nz/craig/wiki/pmwiki.php> and follow the How Could We Improve The Clubs Website link? Or you can email webmaster@wtmc.org.nz.

Receiving the clubs annual journal is one of the highlights of the year for many members, I am sure, but this years journal is in doubt as the editors have not received enough contributions to date to make publication worthwhile. If you have been thinking about writing something for the journal, or would like to, please email Jackie on jackiefoster00@gmail.com with your article. The deadline is the end of October.

You can always contact me on president@wtmc.org.nz, or I am usually around on club nights

Darren Hammond

