



the Mouth'n'Ear



Newsletter of the Wellington Tramping and Mountaineering Club



Family trip to Paua Hut (Photo by Daniel Moore)

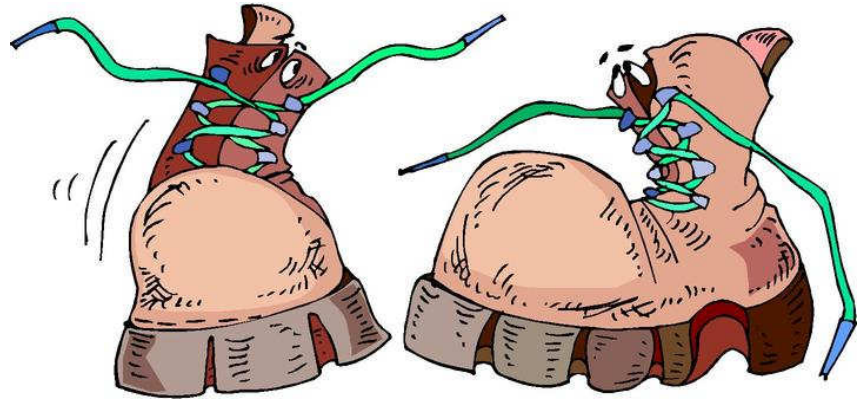
In this November issue: Weight Watching; Kai on the Fly; Northern Crossing (Tararua FP); Paua Hut (Rimutaka FP); FMC News.

Deadline December Newsletter: 11 December

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

Topographical Turpitude

with the Chief Guide



Greetings All

Tips for Leaders can be found on www.wtmc.org.nz. Go to [Home](#) » [Trip Information](#) » Trip Leaders Info.

Leaders, please let Gareth know the Speedo Reading of Van you have used by text 021-065-2399 or email transport@wtmc.org.nz

Club Personal Locator Beacons (PLB) are now available for use by club members. They are kept in the gear room.

Looking for leaders for the Summer Schedule 2010. Let me know if you are interested.

Bushcraft Course is planned for March 2010

Outdoor First Aid Course is planned for April 2010

Leadership Course is planned for May 2010

Murmurings from the Kitchen



Well, it's finally here.... possibly the biggest, most exciting, awe inspiring and most talked about Wednesday night of the tramping club calendar..... the international, world famous WTMC photo competition awards night is on the 25th November! Featuring the discerning expert judge, Te Papa's Athol McCredie, discussing the merits of the photos taken by our clubbies all over the world. Athol is the very busy curator of photography at Te Papa, so we're really honoured that he agreed to trawl through the approximately 150 photos and come and discuss his thoughts with us. Make sure to come and be dazzled the high quality of the photos..... and also maybe get a taste of where you want to tramp to in the next year!

Some things for the calendar.

18th Nov- Sue Walsh- Norway and Greenland.

25th Nov- * PHOTO COMPETITION AWARDS *

2nd Dec- Mike Phethean- Mystery Talk.

9th Dec- Steve Porteous & Jenny Lindberg – reconnecting people with nature.

16th Dec- Gear Only

23rd Dec- Gear Only

13th Jan- Gear Only

20th Jan- 1st meeting of year

17th Feb- New members night..... great night to come down and bring all those friends who want to go tramping, but haven't quite got there yet. Spread the word!

Just a reminder we are always looking for people to talk about their adventures, whether planned adventures or not, on Wednesday nights. It doesn't have to be a long talk either. It's been a fantastic year so far with some interesting topics. Thanks to everyone who have given presentations so far and we look forward to more to come. Speak to either Sally or Donna if you are keen to help us out.

Thanks and see you at Club

Sally and Donna

Weight Watching

With the holidays fast approaching some of us are planning longer trips. Such trips are always more enjoyable if you are not overburdened from carrying too much stuff. I have never heard anyone complain that their pack is too light. Consider some of these ideas and you may be able to save your legs and shoulders a bit of extra hardship this summer.

1. *Versatile items are king.* When considering what to take and what to leave out ask yourself whether the item in question has more than one use. For example a thin piece of cord can be used as a spare guy rope, a boot lace, or strung up inside your tent or fly as a clothesline. Therefore it is worth taking as you can leave behind the spare boot laces, extra guy ropes and any clothes line. A mug of a certain size doubles as a bowl. The uses that toilet paper can be put to are limited only by your imagination.
2. *A problem shared is a problem halved (or quartered – you do the math!).* Some items you need a little of but not a lot so consider whether the item can be shared between 2 or more people or whether a smaller size will do. For example a small

tube of toothpaste is sufficient and can be shared with others who have a passing interest in dental hygiene. Unless it is a back stabbing trip not everyone in the party requires a knife.

3. *Let the rivers carry the water* they are more experienced and better at it. Unless you are planning a tramp in a particularly arid spot, and I'm thinking maybe Aussie or the Sahara desert here, you are going to encounter water at fairly regular intervals. This means you do not need to carry 3, 2 or even 1 litre of it. This is particularly the case if your route takes you up a river valley. Scoop up water as you go using your hand or clip your mug to the outside of your pack. You do not want to get dehydrated but nor do you want to be a walking water well.
4. *Food packaging belongs in the recycling bin.* Before you head into the hills discard all unnecessary food packaging and transfer items into plastic bags or other light weight containers. Not only does this reduce the chances of you inadvertently littering our National Parks it will also reduce the amount of space your food takes up in your pack. This might not save heaps of weight but every little bit helps. If you are planning on having fires then a bit of paper is ok although see tip 1 (toilet paper).
5. *Consider taking dehydrated food.* The lightest option which also uses the least fuel thus saving you the weight of both food and fuel, is the commercial dehydrated food made by Backcountry cuisine. If you order in bulk through the club this food is good value for money. The nutritional quality and taste of this stuff is getting better all the time - try it when you are hungry you'll be pleasantly surprised! The next best option from a weight perspective is to dehydrate your own food. This way you get to tailor make your meals although they do take a little bit of cooking so you need a bit more fuel.
6. *Pack covers are useful.* Pack covers are light, cheap and take up little room. A pack cover should be put on your pack if rain threatens. It will keep your pack dry. A rain soaked pack weighs more than a dry pack, surprisingly more. Also a pack liner has many uses see tip 1 (groundsheet).
7. *Do not think like a squirrel.* You do not need to stockpile enough food and gear to last all season. You need gear and food appropriate for the type and length of your trip plus some emergency food rations. Food should be carefully calculated based on past experience. On this note, here is a hint, if your trip leader tells you to bring 300g of couscous bring 300g rather than the whole 500g packet. If you took too much stuff on a per day basis last trip then you know, all other things being equal, you can take a bit less next time.
8. *Is there a substitute?* Yes bread is nice for lunch but crackers are lighter and easier to keep in one piece. They also deliver more calories per gram which is what you are after on longer trips. A towel may be desirable but not your plus size, super

fluffy beach towel. Try one of those travelling towels that is super light, small and super absorbent. Do you need a spoon and a fork?

9. *Where will you sleep?* If you are travelling below the bush line where there are huts supplied by DoC then a fly or even a bivy bag may be all you need. Tents keep out sand flies but they are relatively bulky and heavy and more appropriate for alpine travel in areas without huts.
10. *Is your pack the right size?* Your pack should be the right size for your frame. If you are short and slight of frame then you need a smaller pack than someone who is tall and, shall we say, more generously proportioned. If your pack is too big for you, you will end up carrying too much stuff because it is human nature to fill the available space, plus others in your party will generously offer you some of their gear to carry.

– **Sharron Came**

KAI ON THE FLY

With Aunty Rata

Hi fellow trampers

Aunty Rata is a big fan of adding kumara to her kai when out tramping, kayaking or biking. Yes I know the little blighters are a bit heavy but they are packed full of vitamins and minerals - vitamin A, B6, C, calcium and iron. You may think kumara take a long time to prepare and cook relative to other carbs but this is the case only if you insist on peeling them (not necessary if they are washed), and fail to cut them into little pieces (indulge your inner sadist). The other great characteristic of kumara is its versatility – not only does it taste great unadorned but it plays nicely with sweet and savoury flavours.

Aunty Rata also thinks chickpeas are marvellous. It's hard to go past their cute shape plus they are a great source of protein, calcium, zinc, folate and fibre. Chickpeas can be purchased by the tin (usually about 400g). It is best to open the tin, get rid of the liquid, wash the chickpeas and transport them in a plastic bag. As long as you don't let them do too much sunbathing they will keep okay for a weekend.

Here are a couple of recipes co-starring both nutritional super heroes – kumara and chickpeas. Don't feel obliged to follow them slavishly, they are designed like modules for mixing and matching depending on your preferences, feel free to add quick protein like salami, tinned fish or pre cooked ham if you prefer and in the case of veges, what is in season is fine. My favourite variety of kumara for outdoor cooking is the orange one because of its cool colour and its skin is smooth making washing and chopping it a bit easier.

Happy assembling! If you have a great recipe featuring kumara or chickpeas that you have road tested in the hills send it to newsletter@wtmc.org.nz. Eventually, if we get enough great recipes we might be able to upload them onto the website.

December is the season of over indulgence so next month Aunty Rata will have a chat with you about Fat Boy Credits.

Moroccan Kumara and Eggplant Curry (serves 4-6)

Ingredients

1 tablespoon canola oil or a 10g sachet of butter (optional a bit of water will work also)
2 teaspoons of minced garlic
2 teaspoons cumin, coriander, cinnamon, ginger, sugar and tumeric
Chilli powder to taste
1 medium eggplant
3-4 courgettes
3 smallish kumara
2 cans Moroccan flavoured tomatoes (or plain tomatoes)
1-2 handfuls of cashew nuts or dry roasted sunflower seeds (optional but great source of nutrients)
1 can chickpeas *
120g of couscous#, quinoa, pasta, or rice per person
#if using couscous or quinoa take 2 teaspoons of vege stock or a packet of instant soup to season

Method

Heat water for couscous, quinoa, pasta or rice in a billy, add the relevant carb and cook or, if couscous/quinoa add it and seasoning# to the boiling water and take off heat and leave to cook.

Chop into small pieces the kumara, eggplant and courgettes.

In second billy heat the oil or butter (or use a bit of water if you didn't bring these), garlic and spices.

Add diced kumara and eggplant/courgettes and stir fry for a couple of minutes.

Add tomatoes and chickpeas, cook until kumara is no longer crunchy.

Add kumara mixture to rice or couscous mixture if there is room, add cashews and serve.

Spicy Chickpeas (serves 4-6)

Ingredients

1 tin chickpeas
500g couscous (or other carb as for above recipe)
1 cup red lentils
2 medium kumara
140g tomato paste (1 tub)
1 tablespoon coconut milk powder per person*
3 teaspoons each of cumin, coriander, cardamom, ginger and stock (vege, beef or chicken)
2 teaspoons garlic
Chilli powder to taste
10g butter (or a bit of water)
1 onion
2 courgettes
2 carrots or 2 peppers#

*Milk powder is an acceptable substitute

type of vege is optional but should be vege that cooks quickly also dried vege is ok if trying to keep weight down.

Method

Add a cup of cold water to a billy then add coconut cream powder, tomato paste and cubed kumara. Set aside.

Wash the red lentils and place in someone's bowl and cover with cold water. Soak. Add dehydrated veges if you are having these so they rehydrate a bit.

In your second billy fry spices, stock, onion and garlic using the butter or a bit of water. Once cooked add the rest of the fresh veges, the red lentils, a bit more liquid and cook.

Add sufficient water to the billy containing the kumara to cover the kumara and bring to boil. Add chickpeas and cook kumara. When kumara is nearly cooked and the liquid is boiling add couscous and turn off the heat. Stand for a few minutes.

If there is room combine the contents of both billies and serve otherwise serve a bit from each billy into people's bowls.

Northern Crossing of the Tararuas Medium Tramp – Labour Weekend

by Paul Christoffel
photos by Mika Verheul and Vlad Dvennik



I volunteered to lead this medium trip after Michael Lightbourne pulled out due to unfamiliarity with the route. On the trip list were six club members, plus Vlad. Vlad had never tramped in New Zealand, although assured me he had hiked in the Ukraine. Best let him know what he's in for, I thought. You will need to be fit. We will be walking over mountains. It will be muddy. There might be snow. You will need all this gear (referring him to the club gear list). None of this put Vlad off, and he looked young and fit. All the same, I took the precaution of trying to minimise his pack weight. He only had to bring a few veges for

dinner, while others were weighed down with tins of tomatoes, a kilogram of pasta and the like. Vlad got the first aid kit while others were burdened with the large fly, cooker, gas and billy etc.

When we met at the railway station I was relieved to see that Vlad was very well equipped, having spent over \$1000 at the Kathmandu sale. We were using public transport, so we took the train to Levin and taxi to the Poads Road, from where it was an hour or so walk to our camp site by the South Ohau River. Seven of us crammed under a large huntech fly on a windless, rainless night.

The morning dawned fine and the river was surprisingly low. However, the current was swift, and some were unwilling to get their boots wet. We therefore embarked on the rather tedious and muddy slog up Gable End Ridge over Richards Knob, the drop down over Butcher Saddle, and the final series of climbs up to Te Matawai hut. This turned out to be the toughest day of the trip. Vlad struggled at the back, despite being decades younger than some in the group. “Crazy trampers,” he muttered, sounding like a character out of a Marina Lewycka novel. We stopped regularly, and Hans and Mika had lunch almost every stop. But they also regularly dispensed exotic looking goodies, like some yummy Dutch things they called canoes. Han’s pack must have been heavy.

With the slow pace I was a little worried about the next day, which was largely red line for me. At the hut, several of us tested the weight of Vlad’s pack. It was heavy. Very heavy. We made him empty out the contents. What was in there? A mini-library of hardback books perhaps? Out came:



One large bunch of asparagus
1 kg carrots and potatoes
Half a cauliflower
2 heads of broccoli
Half a bunch of celery
3 capsicums
250 g beans; and
Two cucumbers

Needless to say, we ate healthily on this trip, starting with an entree of celery, cucumber and hummus (the latter courtesy of Mika). But there’s also a lesson here for trip leaders. When you have novice trampers on your trip, be precise about what they are to bring. I remember one trip where a newbie brought nothing for lunch or breakfast, as the trip leader had assumed that everyone on a medium trip would be experienced club trampers and had thus provided insufficient information. I had made a similar mistake (although at least I got the message through about appropriate gear).

Relieved of several kg of weight, Vlad (now re-named ‘Vegie man’) found day two a lot easier. Which was fortunate, as the day began with a steady climb up to the top of Arete, at

1500 metres. It was disappointingly claggy and cold up there, and we decided to head for an early lunch in the two-bunk Arete Hut. (Cozy, but a bit of a squeeze). On leaving we temporarily acquired two additional members for our party – a couple who were trying to find the route to Arete Forks, which was on our way. They had taken a wrong turning the day before in perfect weather, and ended up in Dracophyllum hut for the night.

The weather gradually cleared, and by the time we reached Waiohine Pinnacles visibility was pretty good. I was wondering how Vlad, on his first New Zealand tramp, would find the Pinnacles, but he glided over them with ease. A couple of the others were a bit hesitant in a one or two spots, but overall the traverse was pretty straight-forward.

I had stayed in Tarn Ridge hut twice before, but this time I discovered that it actually has views that consist of more than the inside of a cloud. The sky had cleared during the afternoon, and we could see right through to Dundas in the North. We were sharing the hut with a bearded guy who at 7 pm decided to head off to Dorset Ridge hut. It was still light when he left at 8, but wouldn't be for long. It isn't far, and I presume he got there ok.

Before the trip, the forecast for Monday was poor, with rainy northerlies expected in the morning and rainy southerlies in the afternoon. But the day dawned fine. It was claggy over Girdlestone but clearing rapidly as we headed towards Mitre. The top of Mitre was near windless with great views in every direction. Vlad was impressed, and his camera worked overtime. We paused there for ages, taking in the panorama and identifying landmarks like the aforementioned Dorset Ridge Hut.

It got warmer and warmer as we headed down. Not far from Mitre Flats we passed a Swedish guy in jeans with a day pack. 'He'll get hot climbing up there,' I thought. On Tuesday the Masterton police left a message on my answerphone asking if we'd seen him. By the time I got the message the Swedish guy had walked out, having got lost on the way down and spent a cold night in the bush.

We dallied for an hour in the sun outside Mitre Flats hut. I couldn't remember exactly how long it took to get to the road end, and there was no information in the hut. Dirk thought about two hours, but I was thinking we'd better allow for nearer three. We had a pickup at the road end arranged to take us to the Masterton train, our only way of getting home other than taxi. The sign at the bridge said four hours. If it took anywhere near that we would miss our train by a long way. I panicked, and set a fast pace. Way too fast as it turned out. It only took 2 ½ hours for the first of us to reach the road end, and the stragglers weren't far behind. We arrived at the station nearly 45 minutes before the train was due to leave. The ticket office wasn't even open yet. It was so nice not having to go over the Rimutaka Hill – although for some reason the train only went as far as Upper Hutt, and we were crammed into a railways bus for the rest of the trip.

I got an e-mail from Vlad a couple of days later. He was keen to get into the hills again, and was off to buy more gear for his next tramping trip. And this time he'd have a lighter pack.

The trampers were: Paul Christoffel, Hans Wiskerke, Mika Verheul, Dirk Naish, Robert Bettis, Bernard Smithyman, and Vlad Dvennik.

Paua Hut Family – November 7 & 8

by Angela Gilbert



What a wonderful weekend trip to Paua Hut. The weather was superb and we had enthusiastic children that loved the whole experience, helped by having each other as company and fireworks and chocolate snacks. More about that later.

We all met up at the Catchpool carpark on a beautiful Saturday morning at 10.30am. Constanze and Christian had organised this family tramp and had their 2 year old son, Gustav, along for the fun. He was a great wee boy

and ran on his wee legs for a good portion of the walk and hopped into his mother's backpack when he needed a break. Deborah was there on her own and Gustav took a shine to her over the course of the weekend - his wee hugs and antics making Deborah laugh often.

Daniel came with his two girls, Charlotte (6) and Alice (4) and the mountain buggy with their stuff in it. The mountain buggy manufacturers would have been proud to see the sterling service this model did in carrying all the gear (a huge Macpac backpack and a huge driesack) for Daniel's family.

Mike and I turned up with one less child than expected (she was sick), but our son Toby (6) had his friend Brennan (8) along as company and they both had a ball. Toby and Brennan carried quite a bit of their stuff in day packs and reduced the load on me and Mike. That left plenty of room for a box of fireworks. Choice!

We left the carpark at 11am (it does take a while to organise children) and started into the forest. The weather was lovely and warm and the shade below the trees was welcome. We made good time to Midway Bridge where we stopped for lunch number 1. The children played trolls under the bridge while we ate lunch. Other walkers seemed hardly fazed by it at all. Lucky for us, eh?

By the time we burst out into the river valley Gustav was asleep on his mother's back so Constanze continued to the hut while we waited for the others. They had taken a short side trip to the old hut 10 minutes from the river (I don't remember the name of it) so we waited for a wee while. The walk down the river valley took almost as long as the track from the carpark. Not too sure how that happened - children, water, mud, stones, drift wood. They are all of great interest to the kids. I caught my son trying to strip off for a swim at one point. I was last at Paua Hut at the start of autumn and I am sure I could see quite a bit of recent scouring from the winter waters as we walked down the river. There was a slip below Paua Hut on the clay cliff bank that wasn't there last time.

We caught up with another trip to Paua Hut - Melissa was leading a medium trip of keen trampers. They pitched their fly not too far from the hut.

Once we were at Paua Hut, Christian declared the water full of wriggly things and promptly boiled up a few kettle loads. Can't be too careful with children's tummies. The kids explored around and played in the hut and on the rope swing while we started dinner. Christian cooked up a storm and we ate pasta with tomato and vege sauce. Everyone had a healthy appetite. Mike prepared trifle for dessert and that went down a treat too.

We then waited for the darkness to kick in so we could set off some fireworks. Melissa's group had fireworks as well. They had also started a great campfire so we used that as our base and the kids got stuck in with sparklers. This kept them going for ages until it was truly dark. Then we let off scores of fireworks. Poor wee Gustav took a while to settle in the hut during the fireworks display so his parents missed most of the fun. I hoped there were no hunters stalking anything within cooe of our location. They would not be happy with us.

The kids were late into bed and after the excitement and novelty of it all died down, they all slept very well. The adults stayed up trying to re-design the trip list form to accommodate the extra information family trips require and discussing favourite German and English words. The things you do when there is no television, eh? Turns out that Constanze likes saying the word "photographer" and I like saying the word "Schluessel". We fell into bed and I was comatose almost immediately. Apparently Gustav woke during the night and his parents were concerned he may have woken us up. Not me! Didn't hear a thing all night.

In the morning we discovered something else was most definitely up and about during the night - it wasn't just Gustav and Christian. Melissa's pack had a huge hole gnawed into it from a cheeky rat. The muesli proved too enticing for the rats. Her pack was in the lean-to because they were all sleeping under the fly. So, be careful leaving your gear there overnight - perhaps keep your food with you! Melissa will be popping in to get her pack fixed after her next tramp!

My breakfast was leftover yummy pasta (there were a few other takers too). Mike seemed happy polishing off the last of the trifle for his breakfast. No wonder he had energy to burn on the way home. We were all packed up and ready to leave by 10am. There was a light misty

rain at times but within 20 minutes from the hut the sun was out and we had a lovely walk back to the car park. The children walked much faster back to the car than they did getting to the hut. Perhaps the lure of lots of chocolate snacks did the trick? We had lunch again at Midway Bridge and there was more troll action happening under the bridge. We popped out into the car park bathed in sunshine and happy with the weekend. What a lot of fun. Toby and Brennan were very happy with their adventure. That is what counts on a family tramping trip.

The group: Constanze, Christian, Gustav, Deborah, Daniel, Charlotte, Alice, Mike, Angela, Toby, Brennan.



Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc)

P O Box 1604
WELLINGTON

admin@fmc.org.nz

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

Threat of Mining in National Parks & other Conservation Lands

As a result of our opposition to the proposals that could open up conservation lands and national parks to mining FMC has been interviewed by the media. We have also undertaken a letter campaign to various print media (*The Otago Daily Times, The Independent, Listener and The Dominion Post*). The November 2009 *FMC Bulletin* will focus extensively on the case against the National Government's review. FMC urges all members to register their opposition to this political opportunism by the Minister of Energy and Resources. Mr. Brownlee is actively campaigning for changes to assist the private sector in plundering NZ's internationally renowned national parks; threatening the very cornerstone of our tourism and outdoor recreation opportunities. Our park network has been developed over a period of 130 years and is the proud birthright of all New Zealanders. You can support the campaign. Email a photo of your favourite national park, or other part of the conservation estate, to the Prime Minister at j.key@ministers.govt.nz with an explanation of why you don't want it mined. Alternatively, mail a photo-print and write on the back like a postcard (Prime Minister, Freepost, Parliament). For other updates and to join a petition against mining on conservation lands, please consult: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/mining/>. Other FMC initiatives are also in the pipeline. Your ideas are always welcome!

FMC Submits to the Ministerial Review of Milford Aircraft Management

South Island Vice President, David Barnes, presented FMC's case to the Associate Minister of Conservation, Kate Wilkinson, in Dunedin recently. A full copy of the submission can be inspected on our website, but key points made were:

- Milford aircraft management provisions in the current Fiordland National Park Management Plan should be endorsed and confirmed.
- The current allocation system was arrived at by way of extensive consultation approved by all relevant authorities including the NZ Conservation Authority. The process was also vindicated by a judicial review.
- The existing baseline figure for aircraft landings has a rational basis and adopts a precautionary approach.
- Without monitoring, increasing allowable landings will be based solely on commercial greed rather than managing adverse environmental and social impacts.
- The current allocation system had the support of aircraft operators - until it delivered commercially adverse outcomes to some of them.
- Although there is some evidence that the allocation system had some internal flaws, no evidence has been produced that justifies an increase in the total landings.
- If the commercial aircraft operators' challenge is allowed, it opens up the whole National Park Management Plan to challenge from other disgruntled user groups. FMC believes that this position would be politically irresponsible and managerially untenable.

Wild Rivers Campaign Ready to Launch

FMC is supporting a "Day on a Wild River" event on the weekend of 28-29 November 2009. Conservationists, trampers and other outdoor enthusiasts will gather at a number of wild river sites around the country to celebrate wild river values. We hope the media and members of the general public will come too. Please contact your local Forest and Bird branch or email wildrivers@fmc.org.nz to get your tramping club linked in to events in your area. The joint Wild Rivers Campaign (<http://www.wildrivers.org.nz>) will be officially launched very soon. Additional information can also be found on FMC's website too: <http://www.fmc.org.nz/advocacy/rivers>. In other river news: we're still waiting on Mokihinui decisions; the Hurunui dam consents have been postponed for a year; and a run of river hydro scheme has been approved for the Matiri River, at the southern entrance to Kahurangi National Park.

Planning in Final Stages for Northern Recreational Opportunity Forum

Executive members Brian Stephenson, Viv Milne and Jane Dudley are in the final phase of organization for the upcoming Recreational Opportunities Forum. If you have not yet registered your interest, you will need to do so promptly! The half-day event will be held in Auckland on the morning of Saturday 31 October 2009. The Forum will discuss proposals for outdoor recreation in the northern regions of the North Island. In addition to FMC and the public, representatives from tramping clubs, DoC and regional councils will be in attendance. Those interested in attending should email northforum@fmc.org.nz - Details of the venue and start time will be sent to registrants shortly.

Walking Access Commission Strategy Launched – Feedback Please!

The Walking Access Commission has distributed its Draft Walking Access Code and Walking Access Strategy for public comment by 19th December 2009. Your Federation has been actively involved in the development of these, and encourages clubs and individuals to

carefully consider the proposals. Please let us know if you have any ideas of how they can be improved. Copies of the documents are available on request. E-mail inquiries about the documents should be directed to the commission via: contact@walkingaccess.org.nz.

Welcome Discussions with Ngai Tahu on Te Urewera National Park's Management

FMC engaged with members of Ngai Tahu in recent discussions about future options for management of Te Urewera National Park. The Federation looks forward to continuing these discussions with the objective of achieving productive outcomes for key recreational groups that use this area of the North Island.

Conservation Board Appointments

We congratulate two long-standing FMC Executive members (Robin McNeill and David Round) on their appointments to Conservation Boards. The Boards advise the Department of Conservation on policy developments and advocate for recreation and conservation. Robin has been reappointed for a third term to the Southland Conservation Board and David has been appointed to the Canterbury Conservation Board. In addition, Brian Stephenson remains as an FMC representative on the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Their extensive knowledge of outdoor recreation matters provides valuable contributions towards managing our backcountry.

FMC Representative on Mountain Safety Council

We are pleased to announce that Phil Glasson has been appointed as the new FMC representative on the Mountain Safety Council at their AGM held in September.

LandSAR News

The changes that were proposed to the constitution (see September FMC Newsletter) were adopted at the Land SAR AGM on 26 September 2009. FMC looks forward to continuing to work with Land SAR under the new constitution.

Draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) withdrawn from NZCA Consideration

Due to an internal review of DoC's management and conservancy boundaries in the upper North Island, the Bay of Plenty conservancy has been disestablished and a new Bay of Plenty – East Coast Conservancy has replaced it. As a result of these changes, the draft CMS that FMC submitted on extensively last year, has been withdrawn from consideration by the New Zealand Conservation Authority. The current CMS will remain in place until new guidelines can be established, most likely after 2012. FMC understands that more comprehensive guidelines for Departmental CMSs are being developed following submissions from FMC and other user groups last year.

Wild rivers, wild voter

[A letter to the editor of the *Wairarapa News*]

I sometimes wonder if our MP John Hayes deliberately inserts something to rile me in his weekly column, *From the House*.

That of 28 October has a tailpiece about electricity generation-admittedly a topic about which a politician can please only some voters only some of the time. Like most of us, Mr Hayes supports sustainable energy; but he says, 'what about Meridian looking at the feasibility of a couple of dams in the Waiohine and Tauherenikau gorges to provide clean electricity, water for irrigation in summer and lakes for recreation.'

Here's what about it, Mr Hayes.

To you, the Tararuas may be no more than a strip of green wallpaper (white in winter) on the western side of the Wairarapa valley. But to a host of people from all over the lower North Island who know them well, the Tararuas are part of our heritage. Tararua gorges in their wild state provide superb recreation without anyone bastardising them into lakes. The Tararuas are a cherished place where the natural world is almost untouched by human intrusion, and we owe it to our descendants to keep them that way.

29 November is *Wild Rivers Day* in Wairarapa. Mr Hayes, I challenge you to attend the events that will be publicised in this paper, to learn why your dams are not wanted.

Build them in some other paradise, not the Tararua Forest Park.

John Rhodes
Greytown

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 Ray Walker, winner of the October draw, for the article on locator beacons.

The Mouth'n'Ear is also published (in colour) on the club's website.

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.

FROM THE GREEN CROCS

I mentioned the Club Journal in my last column, and I am happy to report that the 2009 Journal will be going ahead, so look out for that in your mailbox before the end of the year. Thanks to all who have contributed, and especially to Jackie and Tony, who have been very busy working on producing another great Journal.

Personal Locator Beacons have been a recurring theme in my column over the last few months, and I am happy to say that 3 beacons are now in the Gear Room, and are available for use on club trips. There is no charge for using these, and I would encourage all trip leaders to get in the habit of taking a beacon on their trips. Just a reminder that you do need to provide full intentions sheets to the weekend contact person, including which of the 3 beacons you have. We collect this information, which would be vitally important to SAR, in the (unlikely) event of an emergency, so please provide contact information to your trip leader when requested

A successful trip planning meeting was held at the clubrooms in early November, and we have a draft Summer schedule, which covers January to April 2010, for which we are now looking for trip leaders. See Paul or Melissa if you want to lead a trip, or add a trip to the schedule. You can also access the schedule on the Trip Planning Wiki link under Trips on the club website

Entries for the Club's photo competition closed on November 4th, and the photos will be shown and awards handed out on November 25th, so make sure you are early that night to get a good seat! Thanks to Donna and Sally for their hard work on that.

We held another driver training session recently, and we now have 20 trained drivers, which is great as it is easier to share the driving on long trips. Contact the transport officer Gareth Morton at transport@wtmc.org.nz if you'd like to become a club driver. Just a reminder that use of held-held mobiles while driving is illegal as of November 1st, it is especially important that members driving the club van follow this rule, for the safety of their passengers.

The committee currently has a vacancy for Vice President, this is a good learning role for a newer member who is keen to help out, but does not have a specific area in mind. Alternatively, it might suit a more experienced club member who would like to give something back to the club. Let me know if you'd like to know more about the role.

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

Darren Hammond