Robin McNeill

time in the Hills in the coming year than betore. tracks and back-country look to have a sound tuture. We anticipate spending more going out of fashion, and - unless things go badly - with a bit more effort, our huts, The Federation is in good heart, outdoor retailers are selling tramping gear like it is

Administrator, Gail Abel's, quiet and friendly hard work. Gail continues in her role. impact. Everyone who has dealt with our office will have appreciated our Office more effortlessly and our services for members can expand with very little budgetary in the short term, it should mean that the secretariat and executive functions run out much of the Treasurer's function. While members will likely notice little difference will incorporate most of the Secretary's work, and a Financial Controller will carry our office administration. The part-time position of Administrator has been created and With both Josie and Graeme's departure, we have taken the opportunity to reorganise

FMC Mountain & Forest Trust. professionalism and good humour for 21 years. Graeme remains the Treasurer for the often thankless job: he has looked after our money and accounts with the utmost of of this often, for it is beyond most people's memory as to when he first took on this but with Graeme Lythgoe standing down from Treasurer, I have to remind myself is heading overseas and we wish her well. I know that no-one is indispensable, appreciated. Inimitable David Round will be missed. Our Secretary, Josie Broadbent, major contributions over many years, and Paddy Gresham's work has been much down at the AGM: Barbara Morris and Brian Stephenson have both made very Executive. It is thus with real regret that we say goodbye to members who are standing Again, we have been fortunate to have been supported by a strong and active

the last few years and I believe we stand stronger for that effort. public. We have taken time to engage with politicians, DOC and aligned NGOs over we hope it will, the Federation will become even more relevant to politicians and the following. If the Community Conservation Partnership Fund arrangement turns out as presence with a new, more engaging website and are building a strong Facebook offer an attractive combination here. We have taken pains to improve our on-line want to support our advocacy: the Internet and our Individual Supporter membership 35 years old who, as a rule, are not much interested in joining clubs, but nonetheless advocacy and services. We need to make the Federation attractive to those under The Federation's membership continues to grow as more people see value in our

fixed on the Red Hills in the pristine Olivine Wilderness Area. long passed their use-by dates. Our concern remains that their mining eyes are firmly Weet-Bix: at some stage the backers must surely realise that they and their road have same fate. The current Haast-Hollyford Road proposal looks flakier than a box of old the time of writing, we are encouraged that the Fiordland Link monorail will meet the resounding win with the proposed Milford-Dart Tunnel being declined consent. At We have strongly supported the "Save Fiordland" campaign and we enjoyed a

things that require our attention still lurk in the shadows. planning a campaign on this issue. In short, things are looking bright, but unpleasant saved for now, but this and many other Stewardship lands are still at risk. FMC is 10% of conservation land to be treated using 1080. The Mokihinui River has been Environment, Dr Jan Wright and by our own advocacy, including our prompting for This campaign is bolstered by reports from the Parliamentary Commissioner for the campaign is quickly gaining public support and is backed by all credible politicians. a predicted serious mast-year rat and stoat plague, but DOC's "Battle for the Birds" of some of his Cabinet colleagues. We have our bird populations under threat from great Ministers of Conservation; yet you can smell the carbon dioxide on the breath decisions and passion for conservation continue unabated - will rank as one of our In Dr Mick Smith we have a Minister of Conservation who – as long as his sensible stellar cast at senior management levels who I have confidence can turn this around. no-one has packed a spare. However, the Department is now in the hands of a recreation. The wheels appear to have fallen off the Department of Conservation and It is some of the best of times; it is some of the worst of times for conservation and outdoor

I am honoured to present the 83rd Annual Report of the Federated Mountain Clubs

PRESIDENTS REPORT

planning is overdue for a rethink, and FMC has plans in this area in the future. are required for any changes. The whole architecture and structure of conservation which are virtually silent on many back-country issues and where rear-guard actions current round we have concerns that the trend is to receive only advanced drafts The Executive has put in substantial efforts in reviewing proposed CMSs and in the

see tit to adopt our submissions. boards was accepted. Perhaps we can bask in diffused glory, should the Minister use of Conservation Management Plans that would be approved by conservation to give us credit in their report. In particular, our recommendation for widespread largely adopted by the review panel, although the panel pragmatically chose not important function. We note with some quiet pride that our recommendations were grown-up FMC babies from the 1930s and we strongly hold that they serve an Board Review were both useful and innovative. Conservation boards are essentially We believe that the Federation's contributions late last year to the Conservation

#### Conservation Board Review

Copies of Safety in the Mountains can be ordered through our website.

new member induction. been reprinted. It has been warmly received and many clubs offer it as part of their The revised edition of Safety in the Mountains sold out early in 2014 and has now

#### Safety in the Mountains

to use the trail; iv) DOC does not become the major funder of trail maintenance. sector Chost Lake to Goat Creek; iii) Trampers as well as bikers are encouraged minimum environmental impacts for the on-going trail construction in the sub-alpine undertaken in areas of excessive environmental impacts; ii) High standards with and DOC support. FMC is maintaining pressure to ensure: i) Restorative work is volunteer inputs to help implement it on a base of substantial national funding generally supportive of the cycleway and there have been impressive community Position Paper due to on-going controversy over aspects of the project. FMC remains This new 82km cycleway from Lyell to Seddonville was the subject of an FMC

#### Old Ghost Road

and track network.

positively influenced some DOC decisions during 2013 regarding our superb hut than 6000 copies. The topic of backcountry huts was very timely and perhaps Rob Brown and Geoff Spearpoint, it has been a spectacular success, selling more Storm in 2012 with a substantial \$5,000 grant. Written by trampers Shaun Barnett, The FMC Mountain and Forest Trust supported the publication of Shelter from the

#### Shelter from the Storm





will also be open to FMC individual supporters.

April and September (i.e. \$4000 in total prize money available) and the scheme the expedition awards scheme. There will be  $2 \times 1000$  grants available in both decided to discontinue the skills acquisition grants and redirect funding to expanding in awards being paid to recipients. Following a reassessment by FMC it has been An initial three year trial of the scheme ended in 2013 with a total of \$11,100

(Waitaki Ski Club) to attend an avalanche safety course (stage 1). 1991 summit rock-fall. In addition, one skills award was granted to Nick Plimmer as part of the team that was involved in a re-measurement of its height following the (Kahurangi MP); and Jim Anderson (NZAC North Otago) for a climb of Mt Cook Range; William Adlam (Taranaki Alpine Club) for a traverse of the Douglas Range footsteps; Mick Riordan (Canterbury University TC) for a traverse of the Paparoa tor a west-east crossing of the Ruahine Ranges following in William Colenso's the Baltour Neve around Torres Peak; James Chancellor (Auckland University TC) Pass to Mt Cook; Brendan Maggs (NZAC Canterbury) for exploratory climbs in applicants: Alastair McDowell (Auckland University TC) for a trek from Arthur's During 2013/2014, five expedition scholarships were awarded to the following support from the FMC Forest and Mountain Trust and the private Maerewhenua Trust. The Youth Scholarship Scheme was launched by FMC in 2010, with generous

#### Youth Scholarships

win political support.

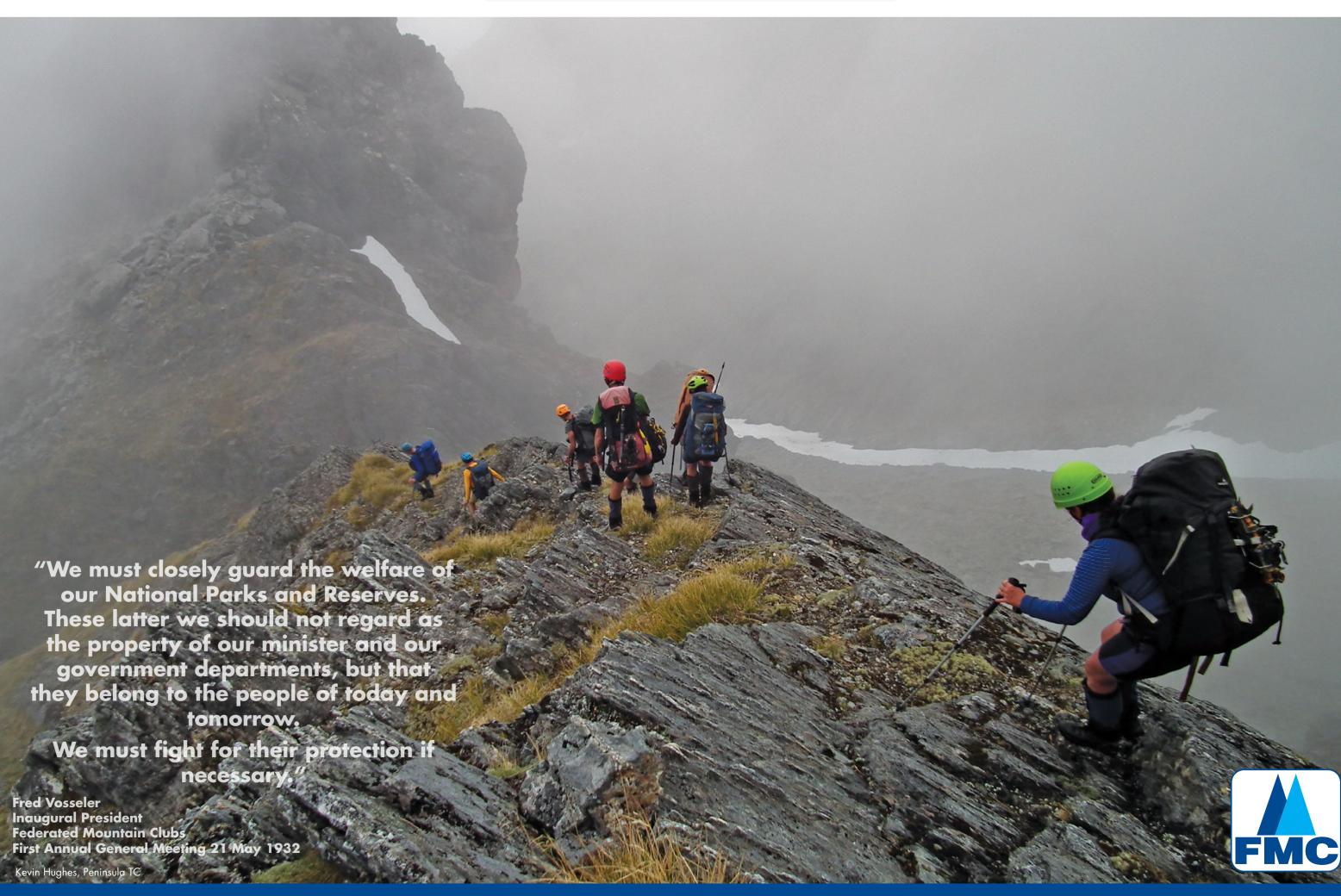
have their mining eyes fixed on the Red Hills and the strength of their campaign to the precious Olivine Wilderness area. Our concerns are that the potential tunders The current Haast-Hollyford Road proposal is economically unsound and would wreck

made via the Save Fiordland website, www.savefiordland.org.nz. campaign to undertake a judicial review may still be required and donations can be forests will share the same fate. Our 2012 pledge of \$15,000 to the Save Fiordland are encouraged that the Fiordland Link Monorail through the Snowdon and Mavora resounding win against the proposed Milford-Dart Tunnel. At the time of writing, we We have strongly supported the "Save Fiordland" campaign and enjoyed a

areas, including lobbying central and local government. Heritage Status such as Fiordland and continues to strongly advocate for these DNOW dive especially those with World is committed to preserving our wilderness areas, especially those with World

#### Fiordland - fighting over-development

HIGHLIGHTS FOR 2013-14





#### FINANCE

For the full Annual Accounts for the year ending 28 February 2014, refer to the separate booklet (also available on the website). FMC has maintained a healthy balance of income and expenditure despite the nil increase in the subscription rate over several years. Total income was \$184,631. Key sources of revenue were:

- > Subscriptions \$102,296 (up 4.6%)
- > Maerewhenua Trust \$31,250
- > Bulletin advertising \$25,174

Total expenditure was \$181,219 and was largely as budgeted except that some of the expenses associated with advocacy were lower than estimated.

Net current assets are \$213,471, mainly in term deposits.

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

Individual membership continues to grow and this is an important indicator of support for FMC as these members, although not 'club-able' are often very committed to the ideals that link FMC. The Executive must continue to promote the aims of FMC to the large numbers of people who participate in tramping or mountaineering but have not yet seen the advantages of joining an organisation that advocates on their behalf.

Total financial membership from clubs has increased. The challenge to attract a greater number of registered members from those clubs which elected "partial declaration" has been achieved in 2013-14 although there is more to be done. The efforts of the Membership team have also been rewarded through large increases in Associate membership from schools and Mountain Safety Council branches.

The summary of membership as at 28 February 2014 is:

The sommary of membership as at 20 reprodry 2014 is.				
	As at 28 February			
	2012	2013	2014	
Number of affiliated Clubs: Full	n.a.	47	48	
Number of affiliated Clubs: Partial	n.a.	36	35	
Total Affiliated Clubs	81	83	83	
Club financial membership: Full	n.a.	6192	6214	
Club financial membership: Partial	n.a.	2432	3043	
Total Club Financial Membership	8640	8624	9283	
Club associated membership	6959	5603	5165	
Total Club Membership	15599	14227	14448	
Individual membership	524	574	613	
School & polytech students	1445	1228	1987	
Mountain Safety Council branches	86	48	324	
Other	n.a.	147	147	
Total	17654	16224	17519	

#### **Membership Services**

Our website has recently been updated and the improvements in its orientation to members needs will continue. We have a growing presence on Facebook: www.facebook.com/FMCNZ

FMC continued to offer a range of services at special prices for members from the DOC hut pass to discounts from outdoor retailers and travel/accommodation providers.

The quarterly FMC Bulletin continued maintaining high standards and is widely recognised as an important forum for back-country news, advocacy, history and information for trampers (Uncle Jacko!). The Executive thanks Editor Shaun Barnett for all his efforts.

The monthly e-mail newsletter was ably edited by Claire Sims until her move overseas.

The FMC Photo Competition continued to gain strong interest with club members. The winners and place-getters for 2013 can be seen on the FMC website. A few of these fine images adorn this report.

#### AROUND THE REGIONS

#### North

#### **Conservation Management Strategies**

The northern executive team dealt with a heavy workload in early 2013 when three CMSs - Northland, Auckland, and Waikato - were publicly notified, all at the same time. Submissions covering the many issues raised were forwarded to DoC for consideration and can be viewed on the FMC website.

#### Aotea/Great Barrier Island

FMC submitted in favour of the proposal to reclassify valuable stewardship land on the island to conservation park status.

#### Kaimanawas

FMC's efforts to obtain access for members to areas of the East Taupo Lands in the Kaimanawa Ranges have been successful. Full details are available in the March 2014 issue of the FMC Bulletin.

#### Central and Top of South

#### Tukituki Irrigation

FMC made a submission to the Board of Inquiry into the Tukituki irrigation scheme consents under the RMA. The dam and the lake behind it would block access up the Makaroro River that is an important access to the NE Ruahines. The submission sought a requirement for the applicant to provide alternative access. At the time of writing, the Board of Inquiry has indicated in its findings that creating alternative access during and following the dam's construction will be needed.

#### **Hut and Tracks**

In the southern North island ranges, progress is being made with maintaining the hut and track system. Previous suggestions by DOC of a significant contraction have changed to a willingness to work with clubs and others on maintenance of a good network. A replacement hut at Maropea Forks in the Ruahines is being completed. Access is still difficult in some western Ruahines road-ends.

In the upper South Island, DOC is putting an emphasis on the facilities for Great Walks and other popular tracks in Abel Tasman, Kahurangi and Nelson Lakes National Parks but overall the backcountry hut and track system remains in good shape. The growing popularity of the Te Araroa Trail is putting pressure on some smaller huts in the St James and Richmond Ranges.

#### **Mountain Biking**

FMC recognises the growing popularity of mountain biking in the back country and is working to ensure safety and enjoyment for all on shared use tracks. Uniform and systematic promotion of the Mountain Bike Code of Practice is an important tool.







# 2013 PHOTO COMPETITION







The 3-year trial on the Heaphy Track has been judged a success in a review by DOC with high use and few registered complaints. The MTB access will continue under the present conditions (May-September) and any extension would require a change to the national park plan following public consultation. This is likely to be opposed by FMC. FMC does not support extensive hard-surfacing of shared use tracks.

## Canterbury - West Coast

The Canterbury CMS was reviewed. This was a 'post-draft' consultation which inevitably limited the influence of our submission. This process is not in keeping with the General Policy for Conservation and FMC made strong representations for fuller public input into CMSs. Submissions were also made on partial reviews of the Aoraki/Mt Cook (Tasman valley) and Westland/Tai Poutini (Fanz Joseph glacier) national park plans. The changes are not supported by FMC as they largely involve improving access for tourists through roading works that are damaging to landscape values and will require major flood protection works in the future (as is happening at Fox glacier). It is over 20 years since the Paparoa national park plan was reviewed. FMC has expressed concern about the lack of long-term planning for these parks e.g. post-glaciers.

#### South

The last year saw some major conservation battles. One major win was the decision by Minister of Conservation Hon Nick Smith declining the Milford Dart Tunnel, that if allowed, would have had significant impacts on conservation and recreation in the area. The decision on the Milford Link Experience Monorail in the Mavora and Snowden Forests, is another project which has major concerns for FMC. At time of writing the decision on this is hinging on an independent economic report of the project that has yet to be released. A third major project, the proposed Haast Hollyford Highway is slowly gaining momentum. At time of writing a resource consent is yet to be applied for. FMC has an action plan in place, and has taken the first steps in a campaign to fight this battle.

The southern executive team made detailed submission on the drafts for the Southland and Otago and Canterbury Conservation Management Strategies during 2013. FMC has also made submissions on helicopter landing and heli-ski concessions in the lower South Island, and on various infrastructure proposals for Fiordland.

## Federated Mountain Clubs of NZ (Inc) PATRONS

# Allan Evans QSM

Arnold Heine ONZM, QSM

#### **EXECUTIVE 2013- 2014**

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Robin McNeill (Invercargill)

Vice President

Peter Wilson (Dunedin)

Immediate Past President
Richard Davies (Wellington)

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David Barnes
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Owen Cox
Paddy Gresham
Patrick Holland
Sally Johannesson
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Lesley Topping **Secretary** 

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Treasurer

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(Kapiti Coast)

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(Auckland)

(Dunedin)

(Hutt Valley)

(Christchurch)

(Dunedin)

(Auckland)

(Hamilton)

(Taupo)



# FMC MOUNTAIN AND FOREST TRUST

The Trust Board focused its energy this year on establishing sound policy and procedures for managing the equity on the Trust.

During the year the Trust was pleased to continue to support the FMC Youth Scholarships with significant assistance from the Maerewhenua Trust. It also supported the restoration of Leaning Lodge on the Rock and Pillar Range, which was recently reopened by Otago Tramping and Mountaineering Club.

Donations continue to come in and the Trust is grateful to those people who provide support every year.

Income			
Donations/ Bequests	\$11,107		
Interest	\$27,143		
Total	\$38,250		
Expenses			
Administration and Audit	\$1,205		
Grants and Scholarships	\$5,000		
Trustee Travel	\$1,861		
Total	\$8,066		

For detailed accounts refer to the full Accounts booklet

#### TRUST DONORS

The Trust thanks all its donors in the last financial year. Their support is vital to the ongoing ability of the Trust to promote outdoor recreation in NZ.

The following people made donations of \$20 or more:

Margaret Aitken Warren Allingham Richard Atkinson Vanessa Beavis D Bell **Ronald Bennett** Helen Burns S J Camps Phil & Diane Cawley J Costello Philip Crosier Brian Davis David Evans David Fenn Donna Field Pip Forer John Garwood Brenda Glasson Stuart Gray Matt Gunn Jenny Harper

Arnold Heine

Noel Herman

Jan Heine

Mike Jacobsen Glem Macklin Don McConchie Mike McConchie Brian McGlinchy Craig Mountfort Euan Nicol John Nicholls Keith Paulin Louise Player-Bishop Neil Reid Marcel Robb A G Rosoman Bernie Rowe Ann & Robert Sherlock Ken Shierlaw

Jonathan Taylor James Thain Bob Ussher William Veal Chris West Dave West Janet Wilson

In addition the Trust received 115 other donations which were either anonymous or under \$20

Two bequests were received during the year from the estate of Ruth Hesselyn and that of Brenda Glasson. Bequests have been received in previous years from the estates of:

Ida Hamilton2002Gilbert McCaul2004Owen Wilkes2006Ronald Greenwood2007Henry Millward2008Peter Jagger2011Michael Taylor2012

