

**Te Runanga Papa Atawhai o Tāmaki Makaurau  
Auckland Conservation Board**

**Annual Report**

**1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014**

*Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority pursuant to Section 6(0) of the Conservation Act 1987*



*Presentation of the Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Conservation Strategy to the New Zealand Conservation Authority 9 April 2014. From left to right: Yvonne Sharp - NZCA acting chairperson, Laurie Beamish – Conservation Board Deputy Chair, Brian Stephenson – NZCA.*

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**I. Foreword to Annual Report, Auckland Conservation Board, 2013 – 2014.**

Tena koutou e nga rangitira e nga whaea

As I approach my fifth year on the Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Conservation Board, commencing my third year as Chairperson, I have been privileged to share with our retiring board members, great pride in the Board and the work it has carried out over this period.

The Board has maintained close contacts with a number of communities of interest, given advice to the Department and Minister, and undertaken a considerable piece of work in conjunction with Department of Conservation staff to complete a new Conservation Management Strategy for the Auckland Conservancy. In respect to the retiring board members, it has been a pleasure to work with people who were only too willing to give their time, knowledge and energy to advance the cause of conservation for this and future generations.

The Board continues to be concerned with water quality in the Auckland region, in particular the excessive runoff of nutrients and contaminants into our waterways which threaten both our freshwater and our marine ecosystems. The conservation status of marine environments in our rohe also continues to be a major interest for the Board; from the critically endangered Maui's dolphin on the West Coast to Bryde's whale in the Hauraki Gulf - Tikapa Moana.

I appreciate the support given by Board members past and present, with special thanks to Department of Conservation staff who have worked hard with us to progress the Auckland Conservation Strategy, and I look forward to the coming year when we have more significant work to undertake in cooperation with our treaty settlement partners Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and Ngāti Manuhiri, preparing Conservation Management Plans for Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island and the Tāmaki Makaurau Motu plan.

Nga mihi nui

(signed)  
Ross Aitken  
Chairperson

## **II. Report on Meetings and Activity – 1 July 2013 to 30 June 2014**

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

The Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Conservation Board is an independent statutory body appointed by the Minister of Conservation. It was established by section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987. The Board has the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the conservation management strategy (CMS) and conservation management plans (CMPs) for its region. As well as providing for interaction between the public and the Department of Conservation at the conservancy level, the Board also acts as an advocate for the protection of conservation values. Its prime role is to advise the Department, and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA).

The functions of the Board are set out in Sections 6M of the Conservation Act 1987, and in the Marine Reserves Act 1971, the Reserves Act 1977. Under section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987 conservation boards are required to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) with an annual report.

### **2. MEMBERSHIP**

Membership of the Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Conservation Board as at 30 June 2014 was:

Ross Aitken, Mahurangi	Business mentor	30/06/2016
Lawrence Beamish, Umupuia	CEO Te Waka Totara Trust	30/06/2016
Stella Chan, Remuera	Barrister and Solicitor (retiring)	30/06/2014
Thomas Grace, Woodhill	Farmer	30/06/2015
Joan Knight, Birkenhead	Director Zerowaste NZ Ltd (retiring)	30/06/2014
Ian McDougall, Pukekohe	Semi retired grower	30/06/2015
Ian Rodger, Cockle Bay	Agricultural scientist (retiring)	30/06/2014

From 1 July 2014 the board membership will comprise:

Ross Aitken, Mahurangi	Chairperson (appointed by the Minister)	30/06/2016
Lawrence Beamish, Umupuia	CEO Te Waka Totara Trust	30/06/2016
Michael Fitchett, Grey Lynn	Retired accountant	30/06/2017
Thomas Grace, Woodhill	Farmer	30/06/2015
Alec Te Aroha Hawke, Orakei	Event Director	30/06/2016
Carolyn Mayes, Albany	Company Director	30/06/2017
Ian McDougall, Pukekohe	Semi retired grower	30/06/2015
Rodney Ngawaka, Te Motu Aotea	Kaumatua, Treaty negotiator, Trustee	30/06/2017

From 1 October 2014 the board membership will include three representatives of the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau who are

James Brown	Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau - Waiohua Tamaki Rōpū nominee
Nathan Kennedy	Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau - Marutūāhu rōpū nominee
Glenn Wilcox	Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau - Ngāti Whātua rōpū nominee

**Ross Aitken, Mahurangi:** the Board Chair was previously a senior General Manager of the Westpac Group both in New Zealand and Australia. He now owns and operates Waipiata Lodge with his wife Natalie. Ross is actively involved with Business Mentors in New Zealand and the Solomon Islands, he is a member of Tawharanui Open Sanctuary Society Inc, Forest and Bird Mid Northern and Hauturu/Little Barrier Island Supporters Trust. His recreational interests include kayaking, tramping and swimming.

**Laurie Beamish, Umupuia:** the Deputy Chair has almost 40 years marine experience commercial fishing and as a charter boat skipper voyaged extensively on both coasts of the North Island and Kermadecs. Laurie is CEO of the Ngāi Tai environmental arm, co – secretary of Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Tribal Trust, a trustee and member of the Ngāi Tai Tiriti negotiation team on the Tāmaki Makarau collective. He has direct ancestral links to both European and Maori first settlers in the Auckland region. Laurie’s recreational interests include traditional food gathering, Waka Taua, boating, surfing, and diving.

**Michael Fitchett, Grey Lynn:** is a retired accountant with commercial and legal knowledge. He has experience and networks in tourism and the maritime industry, working with local authorities, DOC and volunteer conservation groups. Michael is widely travelled throughout NZ, experienced with hearings & statutory processes, with advocacy skills acting as an advocate for Maritime NZ. His outdoor recreation interests include skiing, tramping, yacht racing, touring and photography.

**Thomas Grace, Woodhill:** is now a beef (previously dairy) farmer, and Rodney Local Board member, former Rodney District Councillor, who donated Thomas Grace Reserve to RDC. In the past he has chaired a number of community and sporting organisations, and his recreational interests include forest running and historic military vehicles.

**Te Aroha (Alec) Hawke, Orakei:** is an event director with Iwi Affiliation to Ngāti Whātua Orakei, Tangata whenua with knowledge of tikanga. Alec is an active member at Orakei Marae with a background in consensus building, networking and strategic planning. He has a ministerial appointment to Auckland University Council, Ngāti Whātua Orakei appointment on Vector Arena Events Committee. Recreational interests include biking, camping, fishing, gardening, walking.

**Mrs Carolyn (Lyn) Mayes, Albany:** is a company director and founder of Mad World 2001, also a management consultant who works to build networks and collaboration to improve NZ’s environmental performance, building consensus to create best practise best cost outcomes. She is a strong advocate for wider industry engagement in conservation programmes, her recreational interests include running, walking and gardening.

**Ian McDougall, Pukekohe:** was previously a commercial grower and exporter, now semi – retired working as a grounds man, gardener. Ian is the convenor for management of the Punga Punga wetland ecological site at Pukekawa, and served on Waikato Council Regional Pest Management Committee, and as a trustee of the ASB Community Trust. His outdoor recreation interests include game bird hunting and fishing.

**Rodney Ngawaka, Te Motu Aotea:** is a Treaty negotiator and Kaitiaki for the Ngāti Rehua Ngāti Wai Ki Aotea Trust Board Resource Management Unit. Rodney is a Kaumatua and Kaitiakitanga environmental advisor, his projects include planning for return of Kokako to Te Paparahi, Kauri Dieback PTA forum, and the Rakitu pest eradication. He contributed to a feasibility study by Ngati Rehua into eco –tourism, and developing a MOU with Windy Hill Catchment Trust for partnership to translocate Kakariki. He has been a Kaumatua, trustee and volunteer for Okiwi School, OPC, GBI Charitable Trust, Glenfern Sanctuary, Orama Christian Trust, Motu Kaikoura Trust, Kawa Marae, Motutairehe Marae. His primary recreational interests are in Kaitiakitanga.

### 3. ATTENDANCE

Individual Board member's attendance at Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Conservation Board activities during 2013/14 is displayed in the table below.

#### 2013 -14 Board

Meetings, trips & workshops 2013 - 2014	Aitken	Beamish	Chan	Glenn	Grace	Gummer	Knight	McDougall	Rodger
<b>12-14 Aug 2013 Aotea GBI</b>	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	N/A	√
<b>17 Sept 2013 CMS presentation</b>	√	X	√	√	√	X	√	N/A	√
<b>10 Oct 2013 CMS workshop</b>	√	X	√	√	√	X	√	N/A	√
<b>24 Oct 2013 CMS workshop</b>	√	X	X	√	√	X	√	N/A	√
<b>12 Nov 2013 CMS workshop</b>	√	X	√	√	X	X	√	N/A	√
<b>19 Nov CMS workshop &amp; Board mtg</b>	√	X	√	√	√	X	√	N/A	√
<b>11 Dec 2013 CMS workshop</b>	√	X	√	√	√	X	√	N/A	√
<b>4 Feb 2014 Board meeting</b>	√	√	√	√	√	X	√	N/A	√
<b>22 May 2014 Board meeting</b>	√	√	√	N/A	√	N/A	√	√	√
<b>25 June 2013 CMS workshop</b>	√	X	√	N/A	√	N/A	√	√	√
<b>Total Board meetings :</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Total Board field inspections</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Total Board Workshops</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6</b>

Key:√ - attended X - absent N/A – Not appointed OL – Overseas Leave

#### **4. BOARD DISTRICT**

The Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Partnerships region of the Department of Conservation extends from the west coast to the east coast in the narrowest part of New Zealand and the Auckland Conservation Board's area of responsibility covers the same boundaries. The entrance to the Kaipara Harbour marks the north western corner of the region and Mangawhai Heads the north eastern point. In the south west the boundary follows the north bank of the Waikato River and the south eastern boundary is on the Firth of Thames at Miranda. Public conservation lands also include many Hauraki Gulf Islands. The largest of these is Te Motu Aotea - Great Barrier Island, where about 60% of the land area is administered by the Department of Conservation, and the furthestest offshore are the Kermadec Islands.

The Board's district is a unique one in that it comprises the highly urbanised environment of the Auckland metropolitan area with one third of New Zealand's population, as well as extensive rural areas and remote offshore islands. How the people of Auckland feel about conservation is an important consideration for the Board and also of relevance to the rest of the country.

The conservation values of the Auckland region result from an unusually varied array of physical processes (tectonic, volcanic, sedimentary, and coastal marine) and a complex interweaving of cultural influences. All parts of the region have been occupied and used by tangata whenua at some stage over the past 1000 years or more. The Maori record of the district's natural character and its pre-European occupation are a significant aspect of the identity of the district. This was highlighted by the creation of a new historic reserve in July 2008, which includes the archeologically significant Matukuturua Stonefields and the remains of the volcanic cone Matukutureia (McLaughlin's Mountain).

The Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland region also encompasses areas of very significant European historical importance as well as areas of ecological, natural, and amenity value such as the Firth of Thames, Kaipara Harbour, Te Hauturu-o-Toi /Little Barrier Island, Tiritiri Matangi and Motuora, the inner Gulf Islands, Mansion House and the coastal defence installations at North Head, Fort Takapuna and Stony Batter.

The marine environment is an important part of the Board's district and areas of interest. The Board's policy jurisdiction includes the Cape Rodney to Okakari Point Marine Reserve (New Zealand's first marine reserve), the Kermadec Islands Marine Reserve (New Zealand's largest marine reserve), Motu Manawa / Pollen Island Marine Reserve in the Waitemata Harbour, Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve and Te Matuku Marine Reserve on Waiheke Island. Tawharanui, on the eastern coast of the Rodney district, is the last reserve to have been established in the Auckland region, and was gazetted in August 2011.

#### **Wakatūwhenua - Leigh Reserves complex**

The Department is working closely with Ngāti Manuhiri and other stakeholders such as the Auckland University Marine Laboratory, dive groups and commercial operators about management of the reserves. The group is exploring how to develop greater awareness of the ecological health of the reserves and better awareness of effective biosecurity measures (practical solutions) for use by the broader user base of community groups.

#### **Motutapu & Rangitoto Islands**

Rangitoto and Motutapu in the inner Hauraki Gulf were declared mammalian pest free in August 2011, since then a number of critically endangered species have been translocated including popokatea/ whiteheads translocated from Hauturu / Little Barrier Island with releases at the summit of Rangitoto, on Motutapu and onto Motuihe. Like the tieke /saddleback, the popokatea is a vocal and visible bird noticed by tourists and is an excellent advocate for restoration work. At the same time tieke / saddleback were also translocated.

The aim of these releases is to increase the genetic diversity of the populations through the addition of unrelated founders during the establishment phase of the birds on these islands. Kakariki, Pateke (brown teal) and Korimako (bellbird) have flown to Motutapu from other sites. In the past year more translocations have taken place notably Takahē and Kiwi on Motutapu and Motuihe.

The Department's Technical Development Group agreed to assign Dr David Town's time to make an outcome assessment of the Rangitoto - Motutapu pest eradication, to coincide with the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the bait drop. The work will involve field centre staff assisting in collation of data specific to the outcomes defined when the project was defended at the Resource Consent hearings. For example one predicted outcome was the colonisation by bellbirds, but an unpredicted one was the arrival of parakeets. The final report is due by January 2015.

The last summer's drought resulted in fresh water springs on Motutapu flowing at very low rates resulting in poor recovery of bulk water storage for the island. Further work is underway to look at alternative methods of capturing potable water for both residents and visitors.

Considerable storm damage in terms of downed trees and slips occurred during the recent storm events. All tracks and roads are open but there is still a lot of residual clean up to be completed once ground conditions improve.

The new Rangitoto wharf and waharoa is planned to be opened by the Minister and Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau on 14 August, 2014.

### **Motuihe Island / Te Motu-a-Ihenga**

Previous translocations of taonga species in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park included 60 Tuatara which were released on Motuihe Island / Te Motu-a-Ihenga on 25 March 2012 in a translocation project led by the Motuihe Trust and supported by the Department of Conservation (DOC) to establish a population of Tuatara near the heart of Auckland that's easy to reach and can be enjoyed for generations to come. The Tuatara came from Lady Alice Island off the east coast of Northland, in the Hen and Chickens group of islands managed by DOC. They were cleared of Pacific rats in the 1990s.

Each island now has a self-sustaining population of tuatara. Tuatara are doing well on Lady Alice Island, and the 60 tuatara moved to Motuihe Island/Te Motu-a-Ihenga represent less than 1% of the island's tuatara population. Tuatara were also released on pest-free Tiritiri Matangi Island in 2003. Their release on Motuihe Island/Te Motu-a-Ihenga means there are now two islands in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park the public can visit to see Tuatara in the wild.

### **Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island**

The Department is working closely with Ngāti Manuhiri and the Auckland Conservation Board to prepare engagement plans and programmes to inform and prepare for the conservation management plan drafting process. A joint working party has been formed and provides oversight of these preliminary processes.

A partnership with Fletchers Construction has now progressed work to upgrade the sewage system on Hauturu. This comes after two months of disruption caused by inclement weather. This project is collaboration between the Department, Fletcher Construction, iwi partners and the suppliers of the sewage systems.

Kakapo were returned to Te Hauturu-o-Toi in 2012 for the first time in a decade. Eight of the critically endangered flightless parrots were released on Te Hauturu-o-Toi after being captured on Whenua Hou/Codfish and Anchor Islands in Southland, and flown by helicopter to Hauturu from Auckland Airport in April 2012 the same day they were captured.



These birds were transported onto the island by members of the Kakapo Recovery Team and Ngai Tahu representatives, welcomed by representatives from Ngāti Manuhiri, Ngāti Rehua, the Conservation Board, the Little Barrier Island /Hauturu Supporters Trust and DOC staff. Kiore were removed from Te Hauturu-o-Toi in 2004, so Kakapo eggs and chicks should be safe and their food supply improved. Monitoring continues to determine if Hauturu can host a large unmanaged Kakapo population – so long as they can raise chicks without supplementary food. The Kakapo will stay on the island for at least ten years, when a decision will be made on whether to develop a full-time breeding colony.

### **Aotea/Great Barrier Island**

Te Motu Aotea / Great Barrier Island contains the largest area of indigenous forest in New Zealand that remains possum free. Seven bridges were completed between Forest Rd and the Upper Kauri Dam on the Kaiaraara Track, with work to upgrade of the Hot Springs, Tramline, Peach Tree and South Fork Track sections of the Aotea Track, which involved approximately 300 tons of materials flown to site. The Mt Heale Hut on Aotea / Great Barrier Island has been popular with trampers, in conjunction with “The Aotea Track” which was a combination of several existing tracks linking the two huts (Kaiaraara and Mt Heale), with options of including two campsites.

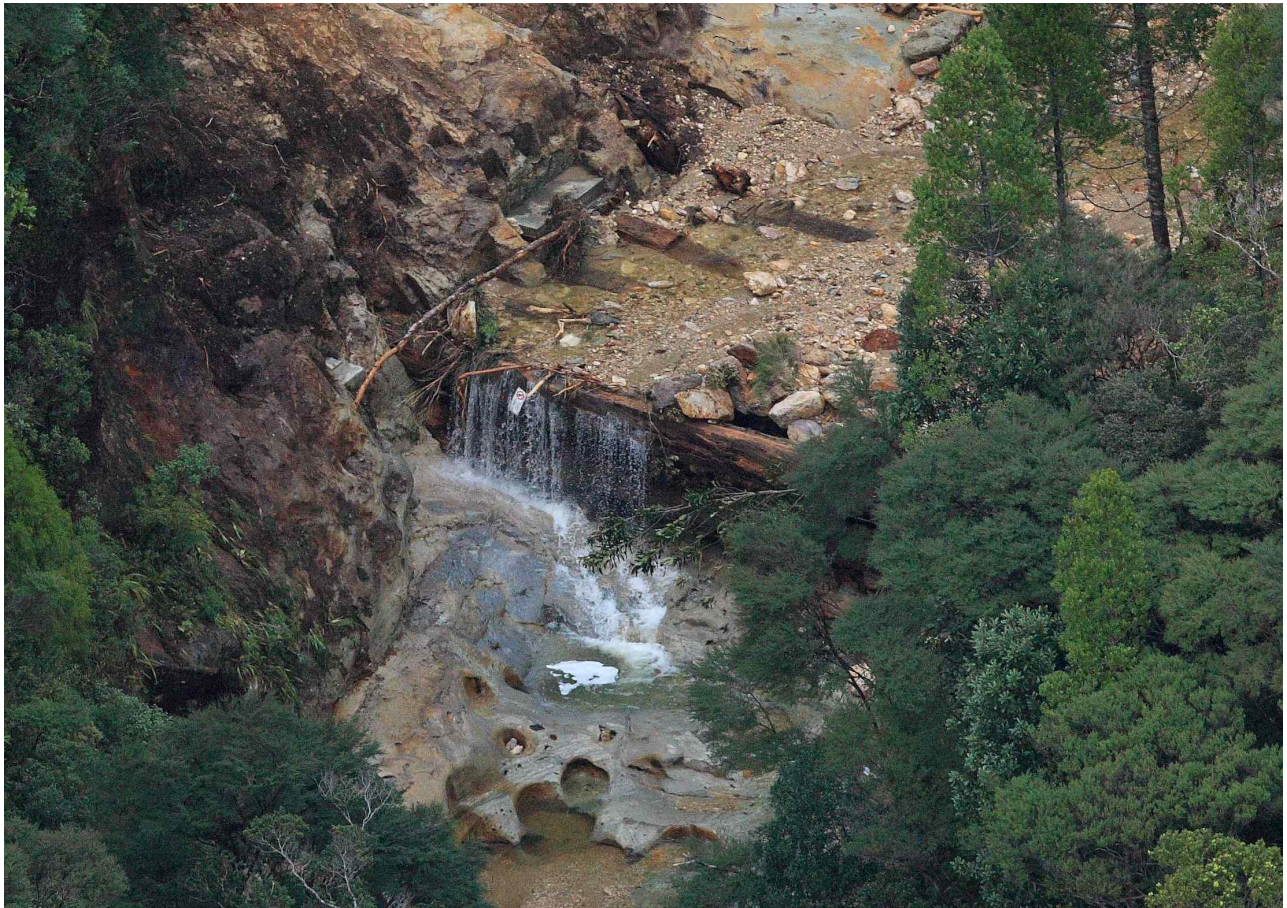


*The Kaiaraara Dam prior to the severe storm event 10 June 2014*

Entry to this track system was from several entry points (Hot Springs Track, Kaiaraara Track or Windy Canyon). The Aotea Track offered a spectacular three-day walk, something that is quite rare through the upper North Island. In December 2013, the Minister of Conservation gave notice of his intention to declare a Conservation Park on Aotea/Great Barrier Island, incorporating all conservation land managed under the Conservation Act on Aotea, excluding marginal strips. It includes 16 separate stewardship areas, an ecological area and a forest sanctuary area, which will retain their special status, and has a total area of about 12,100 ha. The proposed name for the park is Aotea Conservation Park. Submissions closed on 28 February 2014 for the Aotea Conservation Park proposal, after which hearings were held and a report provided to the Minister.

The northern half of Aotea – Great Barrier Island experienced an extreme adverse weather event on the night of 10 June 2014 with severe flooding and storm force winds. The Department relocated its operations to Okiwi Station after significant damage to infrastructure and visitor facilities in the north of the island left the office at Port Fitzroy without a functioning sewerage system, and the freshwater supply was knocked out. A major slip on the hillside above the office makes the office site unsafe in the long term. Work has commenced on plans to build a new office at Okiwi Station and extend the existing Okiwi workshop.

The weather event also caused substantial damage in the Kaiaraara Valley with four bridges and the historic Kauri dam destroyed, along with multiple landslides and windfalls. Board members were saddened to find that much of the Kaiaraara Valley track leading to the restored kauri dam which they had inspected in August 2013, had been washed away. Several hundred metres of board work across from the summit of Hirikamata to Mount Heale Hut was also destroyed, with many sections of board walk, steps and track completely obliterated, or smashed by windfall and uprooted trees. The Board's thoughts are with the DOC staff on Aotea who also suffered personally with damage to their own property, and now need to plan the rebuild and re route of many sections of track, in addition to relocating their office and workshop.



*Site of the Kaiaraara Dam - swept away by floodwaters following a severe storm event 10 June 2014*

The Minister of Conservation subsequently announced the establishment of the Aotea Conservation Park and indicated his intention to return to the island to open the park once survey and gazettal action has been completed. He also announced the opening of the Day 1 section of the Aotea Track with funding to repair and re-open the rest of the track in time for the coming summer. Fortunately, damage to Day 1 of this walk was minor, but the damage to Days 2 and 3 is substantial and will take months to repair. Plans are being developed to re-open a three day walk in time for the 2014-15 summer, but it will not follow the exact route of the Aotea Track as this will require more substantive work before it can be re-established. Approximately \$1m will be invested in repairs to visitor assets on the island.

The Minister also announced his intention to appoint an advisory committee for the new park. The advisory committee will be an opportunity for iwi and the local community to have input into the park's management. A paper is in preparation for the Minister which will discuss the size, membership and functions of the committee, and seek his decision on these. The committee will not be assuming any functions of the Conservation Board, which will continue to hold its functions in relation to the park and to Aotea /Great Barrier.

The substantial capital investment in renewable energy generation which has been undertaken on offshore islands has been a nationally significant project for the Department. Aotea / Great Barrier joined Motutapu, Tiritiri Matangi, Motuihe and Hauturu / Little Barrier as the fifth island in the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park where the Department built a solar power system to replace diesel generation. Motuora Island's solar power system was funded by the Motuora Restoration Society. Vector completed an impressive \$600,000 44 kW (p) solar power project on Raoul Island in the Kermadec Group which is generating savings of more than \$80,000 per year. Auckland has been a national leader in state of the art remote location sustainable energy projects. Not only are these systems using cutting edge technology but they are contributing to the pool of knowledge on how to do this work in places that severely challenge the logistical skills of staff and contractors.

Sustainable energy development is a key policy of Auckland Council on the Barrier and the Local Board was very pleased at the example the Department has set, regarding this project as a great example of central government leading by example. There have been significant operational cost savings. The generators only run for about ten hours per month in summer and 40 hours a month in mid winter, compared to 300 hours per month previously. This is also reducing environmental risks from the much reduced transport and handling of diesel fuels to our precious Hauraki Gulf Marine Park Islands. The solar power systems cost \$500,000 to provide electricity for DOC bases at Port Fitzroy and Okiwi. Power at the two sites, where 8 DOC staff are based, had been provided by four diesel generators. The solar power systems were installed as part of DOC's sustainability programme which aims to halve DOC's use of diesel to generate power. The Port Fitzroy solar energy system is now being relocated to Okiwi.

The Aotea /Great Barrier project was one of the largest off-grid solar power installations in the country, the 138 solar panels were generating more than 35,000kWh per year, and providing up to 80% of the power needed to run the bases. The system reduced DOC's diesel consumption on the island by up to 90%. In addition, the lower maintenance required on the new diesel back-up generators - two of the old Lister generators had clocked up an impressive 125,000 hours each has freed up staff to work on other conservation priorities. An added benefit of the new systems is how quietly they run in comparison to the old generators.

### **Boats**

In 2012 the Department commissioned two replacement boats, a six meter runabout named "Kaiarahi" (Ranger), was completed well ahead of schedule and is in operation from Sandspit near Warkworth. This craft has increased inner island operational flexibility including a much more comfortable and effective patrolling of marine reserves. The second boat an 8.4 metre aluminium craft replaced an aging "Aotea" to likewise increase operational flexibility and staff comfort and safety.

The Department's service vessel "MV Hauturu" had a survey and re paint in May 2014, returning to the outer islands run immediately following the storm event to transport much needed supplies. "MV Hauturu" was launched at Tauranga harbour for sea trials in February 1986, and commenced operations in Auckland in April 1986 so it is coming up to 30 years of service in 2016.

"MV Hauturu" was custom-designed to safely load, transport and un-load a mix of passengers, freight and dangerous goods and cope with the various facilities available where it must berth whatever the tide and prevalent conditions. It is authorised to carry dangerous goods and passengers. There are very few vessels in the Hauraki Gulf that have approval to do this. It has lifting equipment for loading large items of up to 1.5 ton. "MV Hauturu" has a generous carrying capacity – about 14 ton, with built in bulk diesel carrying capacity.

### **Kawau Island**

At Kawau, a project was completed in 2013 to re-roof and paint Mansion House included re-roofing of the Mine Manager's wing, the Annex and a longstanding requirement of the Conservation Plan to restore the historic accuracy of the roof form and chimney stacks. In addition, external painting and restoration of timber work was included in the project. Work was also undertaken on the Two House Bay Sea Wall, with metalling of the Coach Road and chipping of fallen pines over the Valley area made a big visual difference to these sites on Kawau.

The Board received a presentation at its May 2014 meeting regarding project planning to log the old pines which have become dangerous due to risk of windfall. The consent process for the pine logging operation is ongoing. Preparatory work is underway including renovation of the wallaby fence near Mansion House and upcoming weed and pest control programmes. Kawau also received damage in the winter storms with some trees damaging power lines and parts of the island going without power for some days.

### **Motuora Island**

The Motuora Restoration Society and the Department continue to work closely together on the management of the island. Temporary measures have been put in place to address the functionality of the current camp toilets. A business case to seek funding to upgrade the camp ground toilets will be developed.

### **Tiritiri Matangi Island**

A request from the Supporters of Tiritiri Matangi has been received to upgrade the old workshop in the historic precinct on the island. Plans to transform the current workshop to a museum to house the refurbished Cuvier light are being analysed. A further request has also been received by the Supporters to build a new bunkhouse to cater for overnight stay visitors. Projections for increased volume of day visitors has identified a need for a new toilet on the ridge track.

### **Rangitahua - Kermadec Islands**

Rangitahua - the Kermadecs are the most remote islands managed from Auckland. They present special management issues because of their distance off shore and ongoing volcanic activity. Sadly a volunteer team member Mihai Muncus-Nagy, was lost from Fishing Rock in January 2012, whilst measuring the sea temperature.

The Department took advantage of the deployment of HMNZS Otago to the Raoul area and completed the mid-year resupply for the team on the island in June 2014. A number of tasks were completed on this trip including felling the last Norfolk pines. An earthmoving consultant completed a feasibility report on extending the airstrip on Raoul. Materials to rebuild the five bay implement shed were successfully landed. The vessel "Braveheart" transported a new team of six volunteers to Raoul, and brought back a returning staff member and two volunteers.

### **Kauri Dieback**

The Department officially closed the tracks in the Mataitai Conservation Area near the Hunua Ranges to prevent kauri dieback disease (PTA) from spreading to the oldest and largest kauri forest in the Auckland region, on 21 March, 2012. One kauri is more than 800 years-old, and trees in the 680 hectare Mataitai forest are free of PTA. Board members follow work on kauri dieback closely, and were pleased to hear that additional funding was allocated in the 2014 budget for research work to be led by the Department.

## **5. MEETINGS AND INSPECTIONS**

The Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Conservation Board held four ordinary meetings in the reporting period:

- |                                   |                      |                                     |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. 13 <sup>th</sup> August 2013   | (118 <sup>th</sup> ) | Great Barrier Lodge, Whangaparapara |
| 2. 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2013 | (119 <sup>th</sup> ) | Boardroom, Auckland Office          |
| 3. 14 <sup>th</sup> March 2012    | (120 <sup>th</sup> ) | Boardroom, Auckland Office          |
| 4. 16 <sup>th</sup> May 2012      | (121 <sup>st</sup> ) | NZICA Conference room 3, Auckland   |

The following summary provides details of meetings and inspections undertaken by the Board, and other activities Board members have undertaken during 2013/14:

- a) The Board held its 118<sup>th</sup> meeting at Great Barrier Lodge, Whangaparapara on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2013, which included a public forum with presentations from a former board member Judy Gilbert on the work of the Windy Hill Rosalie Bay Catchment Trust, and from John Ogden, chairperson of the Great Barrier Island Environmental Trust.
- b) Board members attended a Hauraki Gulf Forum Seminar held at Auckland Museum on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2013
- c) A CMS workshop was held on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013 where the Department formally presented the draft CMS to the Board to commence its review of changes in comparison to submissions. The Board reviewed key issues and changes made by the Department at places in response to submissions. It was noted that the final CMS will be updated to reflect the status of Treaty settlements as at date of CMS approval, and that the Department had more work to do on milestones. The Board's role to review and respond to submissions, rather than add anything new was noted.
- d) A 2<sup>nd</sup> CMS workshop was held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2013 to review the Department's responses to submissions regarding Kawau, Tiritiri Matangi, Rangitoto and Motutapu, with the issue of mountain biking on Motutapu reviewed separately. The Board also reviewed submissions on policies regarding aircraft and helicopter landings, the Kermadec Islands, Mokohinau – Pokohinau Islands and Motukorea (Browns Island). Liaison with the Northland and Waikato Boards regarding integrating common issues was discussed. Dianne Glenn undertook to contact the Waikato Board Chair and Ross Aitken the Northland Board Chair.
- e) A 3<sup>rd</sup> CMS workshop was held on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2013 to review submissions and outcomes for the Leigh Reserves Complex – Wakatuwhenua Place, Hauturu, the Kaipara Place, common boundary issues with the Waikato CMS, Tikapa Moana – Firth of Thames Wetland Place and commenced work reviewing the general submissions.
- f) A 4<sup>th</sup> CMS workshop was held on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2013 to complete Part 1 reviewing any exceptions in the next workshop on 12 November, also review general submissions page 1 -19, Marine Reserves, Kermadecs and the Motu.
- g) A 5<sup>th</sup> CMS workshop was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 prior to the board meeting, to review portions of the CMS document and associated Response to Submissions document for the Coastal Defences section, also Part 3, Part 4, the Glossary and Appendices. The Board felt strongly that marine protection is a priority for the Auckland region and requested a formal response from the Department.
- h) The 119<sup>th</sup> meeting was held on 19<sup>th</sup> November 2013 in the boardroom of the Auckland office. The NZCA Liaison representative Mick Clout attended. The Board received reports on a number of developments:
  - the Marine Spatial Planning process being led by Auckland Council, in conjunction with Waikato, the Department and NIWA with external stakeholder groups.
  - The World Heritage site co – governance project with Auckland Council and Iwi to decide whether to apply for World Heritage status.
  - The requirement for Te Hauturu o Toi Conservation Management Plan under the terms of the treaty settlement legislation for Ngati Manuhiri.
  - The Minister's request for a report on a proposal to put all stewardship land on Aotea / Great Barrier Island into a Conservation Park.
- i) A 6<sup>th</sup> CMS workshop was held on 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 to review the milestones and the Department's responses to its requests before discussing Treaty Settlements.

- j) Board member Jo Knight attended an Environmental Defence Society workshop on 16 December 2013 which put a voluntary agreement in place with shipping companies to reduce speed and lessen the incidence of ship strike for Brydes whales in the Hauraki Gulf.
- k) The 120<sup>th</sup> meeting was held on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in the boardroom of the Auckland office. The Board received further reports on work on DOC's work with the Sea Sketch tool and the Marine Spatial Plan process, the Conservation Management Plan for Hauturu o Toi, and the Aotea Conservation Park submissions process. The Board made the statutory resolutions required to accept the records of its workshops and adopt the changes agreed, confirm the consultation undertaken with Te Uri o Hau and Ngati Manuhiri, that the Board had undertaken a rigorous review of the submissions, and recommend that the NZCA approve the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy.
- l) The Deputy Chair Laurie Beamish travelled to Wellington on 9<sup>th</sup> April to present the Final draft Auckland CMS to the NZCA, as the Board Chair Ross Aitken was ill and unable to travel. ( Copy report)
- m) A board member participated in the regional assessment process for the Community Conservation Partnership Fund - Putea Tautiaki Hapori (CCPF) following which applications were moderated at national level.
- n) The 121<sup>st</sup> meeting was held on 22<sup>nd</sup> May in the NZICA conference centre at Nicholls Lane, Parnell. The Board received further reports on the Sea Change marine spatial planning stakeholder working group consultation with communities around the Hauraki Gulf, the establishment of a Maui's Dolphin Research Advisory Group (MRAG) and the CCPF assessment process.
- o) The Deputy Chair Laurie Beamish travelled to Wellington on 11<sup>th</sup> June to attend a Board Chairs meeting with the NZCA and lunch with the Minister of Conservation, as the Board Chair Ross Aitken was overseas.
- p) A workshop was held on 25<sup>th</sup> June 2014 to consider the Board's responses to comments from the NZCA Auckland CMS committee.

## **6. BOARD COMMITTEES**

Active subcommittees at 30 June 2014 were as follows:

Conservation Management Strategy	Jo Knight (Convenor) and all Board members
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## **7. BOARD FUNCTIONS: SECTION 6M OF THE CONSERVATION ACT**

### ***Section 6M(1)(a) Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) approval***

The original Auckland CMS was approved by the NZCA in June 1995. An extension was granted by the Minister in June 2007, extending the life of the current CMS to 30 June 2010. The Auckland CMS was put on hold in August 2009 when the Conservator reported to the Board that he had decided not to engage in the expense of public notification until NZCA feedback on the Waikato CMS had been received. In September 2009 notification was received that the Director General had called in the delegation for notification of all CMS.

The Board approved a request to the Minister for a further extension until 30 June 2013, at the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2010. The Board received a draft new CMS template in January 2011 for comment. The Auckland CMS Review was officially restarted with the national launch of the CMS process on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2011. The North Island CMS Programme Manager tabled information at the May 2011 Board meeting and subsequently circulated indicative national conservation priorities table for Auckland to show the type of ecosystem that is a national priority at each of the places listed.

A CMS workshop was held on 23 June 2011 to identify and review priorities at places in the Auckland region, and board members subsequently attended place workshops with staff. On 17<sup>th</sup> August 2011, the Board were informed of the results of a workshop to discuss important conservation and recreation values in Auckland, and issues requiring attention in the draft Auckland CMS. A board workshop was held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 2011 to review initial work on the draft places. On 30<sup>th</sup> March 2012 a working draft of Part Two (the places chapters) was provided to the Board for members to review. The Board used online document collaboration to provide their comments to staff on Parts 1, 2 and 3 of the draft Auckland throughout 2012. A summary of the latest changes to the draft Auckland CMS and edited pre – notification draft was provided for comment on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012.

The draft Auckland CMS was publicly notified on Wednesday 5th December, following five years of work by Department staff and Auckland Conservation Board members. The submission period closed at 4.30pm on Friday 15 March 2013. The Board Chair Ross Aitken, Jo Knight and Ian Rodger sat on the hearings panel to consider the written submissions, and heard further verbal submissions on 9 & 10<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Revised copies of the draft CMS were provided to the Board on 10 September 2013 and formally presented at a workshop on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2013. The Board held a series of six workshops from September to December 2013, to review key issues and changes made by the Department at places in response to submissions.

On 4<sup>th</sup> February 2014 the Board made the statutory resolutions required to accept the records of its workshops and adopt the changes agreed, confirm the consultation undertaken with Te Uri o Hau and Ngāti Manuhiri, that the Board had undertaken a rigorous review of the submissions, and recommend that the NZCA approve the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy.

The Recommended Draft CMS was referred to the New Zealand Conservation Authority at its meeting of 9 April, 2014. The Authority welcomed the Auckland delegation with a powhiri. The Deputy Chair Laurie Beamish led the Tāmaki Makaurau response, and then spoke to the Draft document and about the process the Conservation Board had followed, supported by the Conservation Partnerships Director Meg Poutasi for the department. The CMS documents were presented in a specially made kete woven with the patiki pattern, symbolises the affinity of the coastal tribes with the marine environment in Tāmaki Makaurau.

The Conservation Authority appointed a sub-committee to review the Draft Auckland CMS, and provided its initial comments on 28 May 2014. The Board held a workshop on 25th June 2014 to consider the Board's responses to comments from the NZCA Auckland CMS committee, to provide a response to the NZCA August meeting. As of 30<sup>th</sup> June 2014 the Board's work with the CMS process is ongoing.

### ***Section 6M(1)(b) Conservation Management Plan approval***

No new conservation management plans have been presented to the Board. The Board received a report at the meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2009, recommending that the review of the North Head Historic Reserve Conservation Management Plan be amalgamated with the new CMS.

### ***Te Hauturu o Toi Plan***

The preparation of a conservation management plan for Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island (Hauturu Plan) is a requirement of the Ngāti Manuhiri Claims Settlement Act 2012 (refer sections 84-97 of that Act). The Department is responsible for preparing the Hauturu Plan in consultation with Ngāti Manuhiri (the Trustees) and the Conservation Board. The Board and Trustees have a pivotal role in the process as the decision-makers who approve the final plan.

Departmental staff met with Ngāti Manuhiri in December 2013 to discuss aspirations for the plan and at a high level when the process might formally commence. A collaborative working party comprising representatives of Ngāti Manuhiri and the Department was formed in February. A draft terms of reference was developed in March 2014 and presented to the Director Partnerships (Auckland) and the Director General.

The Chairperson of the Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Conservation Board and Department staff met with representatives of Ngāti Manuhiri in May 2014, and the Board approved the draft terms of reference in principle.

***Section 6M(1)(c) CMS Implementation and Monitoring***

- In April 2001, the Board agreed to monitor 16 out of the 24 key areas in the Auckland CMS per year, plus chapter 41: Marine Reserve Management as part of the CMS implementation monitoring process.
- In June 2008 the Board agreed to alter the way they monitored the implementation of the Auckland CMS. The CMS was then monitored through the Area Reports which were included in the Conservators Report to the Auckland Conservation Board from October 2007 until August 2013, and then in the Director’s Report.
- An implementation and monitoring plan will be developed for the 2014 -2024 Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Conservation Strategy.

***Section 6M(1)(d)(i) Advice on change of status or classification of any area of national importance***

In December 2013, the Minister of Conservation gave notice of his intention to declare a Conservation Park on Aotea/Great Barrier Island, incorporating all conservation land managed under the Conservation Act on Aotea, excluding marginal strips. It includes 16 separate stewardship areas, an ecological area and a forest sanctuary area, which will retain their special status, and has a total area of about 12,100 ha. The proposed name for the park is Aotea Conservation Park. Submissions closed on 28 February 2014 for the Aotea Conservation Park proposal, after which hearings were held and a report provided to the Minister.

Submissions on the proposed conservation park closed on 28 February 2014, with over 2,600 submissions received. The majority of the submissions were generated as a result of Forest & Bird issuing a call to its members to submit on the proposal. Hearings were completed in early April, with 26 submitters being heard. The Board was represented on the hearings panel.

The Minister of Conservation subsequently announced the establishment of the Aotea Conservation Park and indicated his intention to return to the island to open the park once survey and gazettal action has been completed. The Minister also announced his intention to appoint an advisory committee for the new park. The advisory committee will be an opportunity for iwi and the local community to have input into the park’s management.

A paper is in preparation for the Minister which will discuss the size, membership and functions of the committee, and seek his decision on these. The committee will not be assuming any functions of the Conservation Board, which will continue to hold its functions in relation to the park and to Aotea /Great Barrier.

***Section 6M(1)(d)(ii) Advice on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board.***

The Board has been fully engaged with completing it’s work on the Conservation Management Strategy, and commencing the process to prepare the Conservation Management Plan for Te Hauturu o Toi. It has not provided other advice to the Department or other agencies.

***Section 6M (1)(f) Fish and Game Council liaison***

Minutes and agenda are provided to the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council. Ian Rodger provided information of interest on Fish and Game activities and also the Taupo Fishery run by DOC as he is on the ‘Taupo Fish Advisory Committee’ (TFAC)

***Section 6M(1)(g) Delegation of powers by the Minister***

The Minister has not delegated any powers or functions to the Board.



## **8. POWERS OF BOARDS: SECTION 6N OF THE CONSERVATION ACT**

These powers provide the Board with the authority to run its affairs as it wishes and to advocate its interest through statutory processes. The Board values this opportunity to promote Auckland conservation issues and the conservation of natural and historic resources generally, however it did not make any submissions during the year.

## **9. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES: OTHER SECTIONS OF CONSERVATION ACT**

### ***Section 4 responsibility to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.***

At the December 2008 Board meeting the Board held a Strategic Planning workshop which decided that Treaty of Waitangi issues and matters concerning Maori would be integral to all the work of the Board.

### ***Section 6Q (1) Co-opting Members***

No members were co-opted in the 2013-14 year

### ***Section 16A (2) Exchanges of Stewardship Areas***

None were considered.

### ***Section 24BA Marginal Strip Exemptions/Reductions – Public Notification***

None were considered.

## **10. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT**

The Auckland Conservation Board has no responsibilities under the National Parks Act 1980.

## **11. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE WALKWAYS ACT**

Access is a significant area of interest to the Board, although the Board's responsibilities changed with the passing of the Walking Access Act.

## **12. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE RESERVES ACT**

The Board had no new responsibilities under the Reserves Act.

## **13. LIAISON**

Members have personal contact with a wide range of agencies, interest groups and non government organisations either as members or through holding positions of responsibility. The Board continues to look for opportunities to involve the Auckland Council and territorial local authorities in its activities. Board minutes are published on the website and newsletters received for the information of Board members.

Laurie Beamish provides strong liaisons with iwi, including Ngai Tai ki Tamaki, Marutuahu and Hauraki- Waikato.

Thomas Grace provides a liaison with the rural communities and interest groups in the western part of the region.

Ian Rodger provided a liaison with Fish & Game, and fresh water interests including the Taupo Fish Advisory Committee.

Dianne Glenn attended Hauraki Gulf Forum meetings as an observer for the Board.

Minutes and agenda are exchanged with Northland and Waikato Conservation Boards.

## *Appendices*

### **APPENDIX ONE: AUCKLAND CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT**

The table below outlines the Auckland Conservation Board budgeted and actual spending for 2013/14.

<b><u>ITEM</u></b>	<b><u>ACTUAL \$</u></b>	<b><u>(2012/2013)</u></b>	<b><u>BUDGET \$</u></b>
BOARD MEMBER FEES	\$13,406	\$9,079	<b>11,000</b>
TRAVEL - AIR FARES	\$584	\$3,152	<b>500</b>
TRAVEL - EXPENSES	\$4,003	\$3,418	<b>3,700</b>
PUBLICATIONS	\$392	\$588	<b>1,500</b>
ACCOMODATION & CATERING	\$2,280	\$2,573	<b>2,600</b>
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$0	\$0	<b>200</b>
	<b>\$20,665</b>	<b>\$18,810</b>	<b>\$19,500</b>

## **APPENDIX TWO: SUMMARY OF ISSUES**

Issues that the Board has been involved with during the 2013 -14 year include the following items:

### **1. Provision of Advice:**

<b>To:</b>	<b>Subject:</b>
Department of Conservation	Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Conservation Management Strategy
New Zealand Conservation Authority	Recommending approval of the Auckland CMS
Minister of Conservation	Naming the Aotea Conservation Park
Department of Conservation	Terms of Reference for Te Hauturu o Toi Conservation Management Plan

### **2. Public Forum & Invited Guests:**

<b>Group/Speaker</b>	<b>Subject:</b>
<b>13 August 2012</b>	<b>Meeting at Great Barrier Lodge</b>
Mr John Ogden	Great Barrier Environmental Trust
Ms Judy Gilbert	Great Barrier Environmental Trust
Ms Liz Westbrooke	Great Barrier Environmental Trust
Mrs Jenny Ogden	Member of the public
<b>19 November 2013</b>	<b>Meeting at Auckland Office</b>
Mr Mick Clout	NZCA Liaison
<b>22 May 2013</b>	<b>Meeting at Auckland Conservancy Office</b>
Mrs Dianne Glenn	Past board member
Mr Martin Gummer	Past board member

#### IV Map of Auckland region –



#### Key

1. Te Hauturu o Toi / Little Barrier Island Base
2. Aotea / Great Barrier Island Base
3. Mahurangi / Warkworth Office
4. Kawau Island Base
5. Tiritiri Matangi Island Base
6. Maungauika / North Head Office
7. Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland Office
8. Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland Visitor Centre
9. Motuihe Island / Te Motu-a-Ihenga Base
10. Rangitoto Base
11. Raoul Island / Kermadecs Base