

*Te Runanga Papa Atawhai o
Tāmaki Makaurau*

Auckland Conservation Board

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

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





COVER PHOTO: Auckland Conservation Board members from left to right Innes Logan, Lyn Mayes, Jane Jones, Nathan Kennedy, Karen Wilson, Emma Eichbaum, Glenn Wilcox, Andrew Jeffs, Rodney Ngawaka and Department of Conservation staff: Andrew Baucke, Tania Tarawa, Maggie Noble and John Galilee

*Tāmaki Makaurau
Herenga waka
Herenga Tangata
He wake eke noa
Naku te rourou nau te rourou
ka ora te iwi
Whāia te iti kahurangi kite
tuohu koe me he maunga
teitei.*

*Tāmaki of many lovers
Destination of waka
Destination of people
We share this journey
By sharing our resources
(foodbaskets) all the people
are sustained
Aspire to and reach for the
stars and lofty heights will be
achieved.*

Photos supplied by Board members

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I

Foreword to Annual Report, Auckland Conservation Board, 2016 – 2017

Tena koutou e nga rangitira e nga whaea

As I approach my second term on the Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Conservation Board, I am privileged to Chair such a diverse and dedicated Board. Board members have individual expertise in marine science, biodiversity, statutory process, cultural redress, tourism and communications and collectively bring a wealth of experience to our hui.

We represent the Auckland region and its 1.4 million people with the district structure consisting of: mainland Auckland; an Inner Islands District including Hauturu; and Great Barrier/ Aotea. We work closely with the Northland Board to have a unified approach to the co-governance of the Kaipara Harbour and this year we held our November meeting at the Pukorokoro Shorebird Centre with representation from the Waikato Board.

At the heart of our work is the ten-year Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) which came into effect in 2014. At the end of 2017, the Board will report on progress towards delivering the initial three-year milestones of the CMS. The Board prioritises those milestones which are at risk to allow time for discussion and to seek guidance from the Department. We are particularly concerned about how to address the impact that kauri dieback has in our rohe; how to reverse the decline of threatened species including fairy terns; and

dealing with conservation matters impacting our island communities. We seek solutions which support the Government's Battle for the Birds, War on Weeds and Predator Free goals.

The Board continues to work with Ngati Manuhiri and the Department to deliver a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island which is now awaiting final approval. Progress has been delayed towards develop the Motu Plan for the inner motu islands of Rangitoto, Motutapu and Motuihe pending agreement among the key parties about management and resourcing of the project.

The Board has submitted on proposals about the Future of Fisheries and the South-East Marine Protected Areas Rōpu Manāki Ki Te Toka seeking greater balance so that customary and environmental concerns are given due consideration. The Board also submitted to the Kiwi Recovery Plan supporting the intent to grow the population of all kiwi species by at least 2% per annum reaching 100,000 kiwi by 2030 through restoring their former distribution and maintaining their genetic diversity.

The Board has also provided advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority about the opportunity to reclassify stewardship areas around the Kaipara Harbour as a potential new conservation park.

The Board wrote to ministers asking for urgent action to mitigate the potential significant environmental hazard posed by the Niagara shipwreck to the Hauraki Gulf Islands. The Niagara was sunk in 120 metres of water by a German mine in June 1940 north-west of the Mokohinau Islands and fuel oil continues to leak from the wreck.

I appreciate the support given by Board members past and present and I acknowledge the work of retiring Board members: Deputy Chair Michael Fitchett and Karen Wilson; as well as the valuable contribution by Devon McLean from the New Zealand Conservation Authority. The work of the Board would not be possible without the Department of Conservation staff who support and administer the Board led by Director Operations Auckland Andrew Baucke and John Galilee, Statutory Manager. My role as Chair is made much easier from having a dedicated and diligent Department team and I learn much from our weekly meetings.

I look forward to the coming year and continuing to prioritize governance of the challenging milestones within the CMS.

Nga mihi maioha



Lyn Mayes
Chairperson



Report on Meetings and Activity 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017

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 development and 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 regional 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 Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987. 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 2017 was:

Lyn Mayes, Albany

Company Director, Chair
30/06/2017

Michael Fitchett, Auckland

Retired accountant, Deputy Chair
30/06/2017

Jane Jones, Auckland

Consultant, Deputy Chair
30/06/2018

Emma Eichbaum, Newmarket

Director 30/06/2018

Alec Te Aroha Hawke, Orakei

Event Director 30/06/2019

Innes Logan, Huapai

Company Director 30/06/2018

Nathan Kennedy, Waihi

Marutuahu ropu
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki
Makaurau 30/06/2017

Karen Wilson

Tamaki Waiohua ropu
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki
Makaurau 30/06/2017

Glenn Wilcox, Pukekohe

Ngati Whatua ropu
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki
Makaurau 30/06/2017

Rodney Ngawaka, Te Motu Aotea

Kaumatua, Treaty negotiator,
Trustee 30/06/2017

Zahra Champion, Kumeu

Scientist 30/06/2019

Andrew Jeffs, Auckland

Scientist 30/06/2019

From 1 July 2017 the board membership will comprise:

Lyn Mayes, Albany

Company Director, Chair
30/06/2020

Jane Jones, Auckland

Consultant, Deputy Chair
30/06/2018

Emma Eichbaum, Newmarket

Director 30/06/2018

Alec Te Aroha Hawke, Orakei

Event Director 30/06/2019

Innes Logan, Huapai

Company Director 30/06/2018

Nathan Kennedy, Waihi

Marutuahu ropu
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki
Makaurau 30/06/2020

Robin Taua-Gordon

Tamaki Waiohua ropu
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki
Makaurau 30/06/2020

Glenn Wilcox, Pukekohe

Ngati Whatua ropu
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki
Makaurau 30/06/2020

Rodney Ngawaka, Te Motu Aotea

Kaumatua, Treaty negotiator,
Trustee 30/06/2020

Zahra Champion, Kumeu

Scientist 30/06/2019

Andrew Jeffs, Auckland

Scientist 30/06/2019

Malcolm Page, Botany

Facilities Manager 30/06/2020



CAROLYN (LYN) MAYES is a company director and founder of Mad World in 2001 which is an environmental consultancy dedicated to building networks and collaboration to improve NZ's environmental performance through best practise best cost outcomes. She is a strong advocate for wider industry engagement in conservation programmes, her recreational interests include Olympic weightlifting. Lyn is a New Zealand Masters Olympic weightlifter holding national records in the sport and competing for New Zealand internationally.

JANE JONES (DEPUTY CHAIR) is a scientist and consultant. She was a member of the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board 2011-2014, has been a decision-maker for the Environmental Protection Authority with respect to the EEZ, and has worked in many parts of government. Her interests are in marine environment protection, earth sciences, biodiversity and archaeology. Jane is spending much

more time these days focusing on her archaeological and heritage research interests, and enjoys bush & beach walking and sailing whenever she can.

ALEC HAWKE is an event director and organises Māori cultural involvement for many events in Auckland. He is of Ngāti Whatua Ōrakei, Ngāti Whatua Runanga, Tainui and Ngāti Whatua Kaipara iwi.

RODNEY NGAWAKA is a treaty negotiator for Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai Ki Aotea and kaumatua/kaitiakitanga environmental advisor for the Ngātiwai Trust. He has represented iwi in many conservation programmes and is committed to iwi development. He is of Ngāti Rehua Ngāti Wai iwi.

GLENN WILCOX is the Ngāti Whatua appointee to the Board, an outcome of the Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Settlement. He was part of the Ngāti Whatua o Kaipara Treaty Negotiation team. Glenn is the Deputy Chair of the Independent Māori Statutory Board of Auckland, a trustee on

the Runanga of Ngāti Whatua and Chairman of the Committee of Management for the Otakanini Topu Farm.

NATHAN KENNEDY is of Ngāti Whanaunga and Marutūāhu descent, and was appointed to the Board as a representative for Marutūāhu. He has been the environment officer for Ngāti Whanaunga for the last 16 years, and is a passionate advocate for iwi participation in environmental management. An historic geographer by background, Nathan has been heavily involved in the development and application of Māori cultural and environmental indicators. He is also a geo-spatial analyst, and has worked for the Crown Forestry Rental Trust over the last seven years providing GIS support and sites of significance mapping for the Hauraki and Te Rarawa Treaty of Waitangi claims, and for Auckland Council mapping tribal rohe.

EMMA EICHBAUM is an executive director at Kantar TNS, one of the world's largest market research agencies. She is an experienced researcher who works closely with clients in the tourism sector to help them understand how to grow the high value visitor market to New Zealand, and to continue to deliver outstanding visitor experiences. Her interests include travel and photography.

INNES LOGAN is the publisher of SPASIFIK an award-winning magazine with a Pacific and Māori focus. Prior to that he was a reporter, editor, publisher, director, photographer in mainstream media. His company Oceania Media provides communications for Pacific organisations. Innes aims to promote greater conservation awareness among Pacific people living in Aotearoa. He is a keen kayaker.

DR ANDREW JEFFS is a marine scientist with the University of Auckland with a strong interest in the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment. He has an extensive knowledge of the New Zealand marine environment, especially in the Auckland region, through his scientific research, recreational activities and previously working for the Department of Conservation on coastal protection more than 25 years ago.

DR ZAHRA CHAMPION is a scientist with experience in the government sector and has a strong focus on research, innovation, commercialisation, policy and planning. She is passionate about science, innovation and business growth, with experience in presenting new ideas and gaining buy-in to these and setting up rigorous frameworks to support their success.

MALCOLM PAGE has held positions in parks operations, planning, policy and strategy, and has a range of management experience in recreation and access, heritage and landscape protection, ecological restoration, and environmental education and community engagement.

ROBIN TAUA-GORDON is an educationalist passionate about sustainable, environmental education who is currently working as environment and heritage officer for Te Kawerau a Maki. Robin works with stakeholders within the rohe to achieve outcomes while maintaining kaitiakitanga responsibilities to the area's heritage and environment. Her tribal affiliations are with Te Kawerau a Maki, Tainui and Te Rarawa.



Board meeting at Pukorokoro Shorebird Centre

3. ATTENDANCE

Individual Board members' attendance at Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Conservation Board activities during 2016-17 is displayed in the table to the right.

The sub-committee appointed to co-govern the development of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Te Hauturu-o-Toi/Little Barrier Island comprised Ross Aitken (seconded), Glenn Wilcox and Lyn Mayes. The sub-committee met with Department staff and Ngāti Manuhiri throughout the year.

MEETINGS, TRIPS & WORKSHOPS 2016 - 2017

- A 17 Aug 2016 meeting Auckland
- B 16 Nov 2016 meeting Pūkorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre
- C 5 Feb 2017 meeting Auckland Zoo and site visit
- D 10 April 2017 Joint meeting Aotea with Aotea Conservation Park AC
- E 11 April 2017 site visit Aotea
- F 31 May 2016 meeting Kawau Island field trip
- G Total Board attendance
- H Total Board field inspections

	Mayes	Fitchett	Jones	Champion	Eichbaum	Hawke	Jefferies	Logan	Kennedy	Ngawaka	Wilcox	Wilson*
A	■			■	■		■	■	■		■	
B	■		■	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	
C	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
D	■	■		■	■		■		■	■	■	
E		■					■		■	■	■	
F	■	■	■	■								
G	5	3	3	5	3	2	4	4	4	3	5	1
H	2	3	2	2	1	1	2	2	2	2	3	1

* Joined Board in November 2016

4. BOARD DISTRICT

The Department of Conservation has a long term vision:

New Zealand is the greatest living space on Earth

The Auckland Conservation Board aims to promote this through the delivery of the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy.

The Auckland Conservation Board's area of responsibility extends from the west coast to the east coast in the narrowest part of New Zealand. 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 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. In 2016, The Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee was established comprising representatives from iwi and the Aotea/Great Barrier Island community. In 2016 the Minister for the Environment also announced plans for a Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary which may see the transfer of the Board's responsibility for 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. The Board recognises the importance of making conservation real for the people of Auckland and delivering a first class conservation experience for the four million international visitors to Auckland each year.

The Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland region 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 Board has held meetings at the Mansion House and North Head in the report year.

The marine environment is an important part of the Board's district and areas of interest. The Board's area includes the Cape Rodney to Okakari Point Marine Reserve (New Zealand's first 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, was gazetted in August 2011.

The Department has restructured its operations so that the Regional boundary for the new Auckland region aligns as closely as practical with the Auckland Council boundary excluding the Kaipara Harbour in the North and including the Hunua Ranges and adjacent reserves in the South. The new district structure consists of Auckland/Tamaki Makaurau District; an Inner Islands District including Hauturu; and Great Barrier/Aotea District.

UPDATE ON OUR ROHE

WAKATŪWHENUA – LEIGH RESERVES COMPLEX

The Board approved the revocation of the Leigh Reserves Complex CMP in November 2017.

TE HAUTURU-O-TOI/LITTLE BARRIER ISLAND

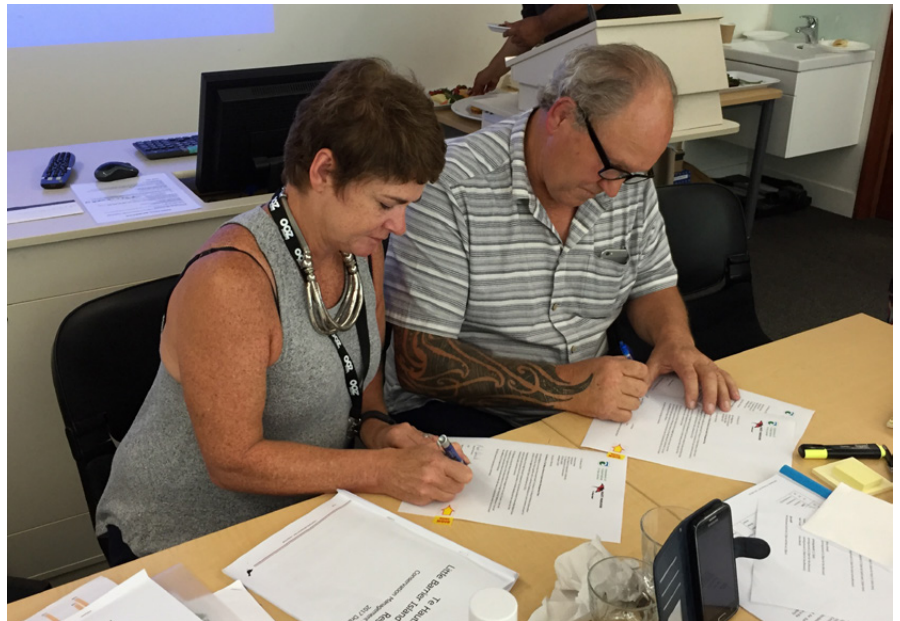
The CMP and summary of submissions were forwarded to the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the Minister of Conservation in February 2017. Comments were received from the Minister in March 2017 and from the NZCA in June. The Board is working with Ngāti Manuhiri to address the comments and will table the revised CMP at the Board's August 2017 meeting.

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. The Board has approached the Te Hiku Conservation Board to discuss transfer of authority.

MOTUTAPU & RANGITOTO ISLANDS & MOTUIHE ISLAND/TE MOTU-A-IHENGA

The Tamaki Makaurau Motu CMP has been delayed pending consultation with the Tupuna



Taonga Trust by the Department to address key issues relating to resourcing.

The Board also notes that the CMS milestone relating to which roads and tracks on Motutapu and Rangitoto Islands may be suitable for concessionaire guided mountain biking is still being assessed. The Board plans to visit the islands in 2018.

Visitor use and access to Motuihe Island continues to be impacted by the absence of a regular ferry service.

AOTEA/GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

Te Motu Aotea/Great Barrier Island contains the largest area of indigenous forest in New Zealand that remains possum free. The Board met with the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee in April 2017. A shared report on conservation work on Aotea is included on page 16.

MOTUORA ISLAND

The Motuora Restoration Society and the Department continue to work closely on the management of the island. A key objective of the CMS is to conduct work with iwi about interpretation for the island. Some early work has been done however treaty settlement outcomes for the island continue to be worked through.

TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND

The Department has established a monitoring programme to assess the impacts of visitors on the natural values of the island and the quality of the visitor experience. The supporters have engaged with Treaty partners regarding a number of proposals on the island such as an accommodation block and museum.



Kawau logging



Kawau lxxxxg



Helping prevent Kauri Dieback

KAWAU ISLAND

The Board met residents of Kawau Island at its May meeting (held without a quorum) and assessed the impact of the Department’s decision not to log the forest except where individual trees need to be removed for public safety. The Board recognises the challenge of pest control on the island with mustelids, wallabies and rats prevalent.

Plans for increasing visitor numbers to the Mansion House were deferred pending the decision on logging but work is now underway to look at opportunities to increase visitors including the potential for a camp site in the Mansion House grounds and use of the Mansion House for conference/meeting facilities.

BROWNS ISLAND (MOTUKOREA)

The motu is now managed by Auckland Council and will no longer be part of the Motu Plan.

KAURI DIEBACK

The Board received a presentation from the Department about its Kauri Dieback Recreation Project at its November meeting.

Having discussed the issues, the Board requested a further report that identifies forests free from the disease and a strategy to safeguard them. The Department presented this update to the joint Board and Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee in April. The Board has committed to reviewing management proposals and providing guidance to the Department on actions to prevent further spread.

MARINE PLACE

The Hauraki Gulf, known by many as Tikapa Moana and by others as Te Moananui ā Toi, is a national taonga. The Board appreciates the enormous value of the marine space to Aucklanders and visitors to the region and through its members is engaged in the Sea Change marine spatial planning process.

The Board has submitted on proposals about the Future of Fisheries and the South-East Marine Protected Areas Rōpu Manāki Ki Te Toka seeking greater balance so that customary and environmental concerns are given due consideration.

5. BOARD COMMITTEES

Active sub-committees at 30 June 2017 were as follows:

Communications

Emma Eichbaum, Zahra Champion, Alec Hawke, Lyn Mayes, Jane Jones

Hauturu CMP

Ross Aitken (co-opted) Glenn Wilcox, Lyn Mayes

Concessions

Emma Eichbaum, Michael Fitchett, Jane Jones

6. BOARD FUNCTIONS: SECTION 6M OF THE CONSERVATION ACT

SECTION 6M(1)(B) CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

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 draft Hauturu CMP was notified in August 2016 with a two month period for submissions. Submissions closed on 11 October 2016 with hearings held on the 8th November 2016 with Glenn Wilcox representing the Board at the hearings. The Hauturu Sub-Committee met in December with Ngāti Manuhiri to discuss revisions to the CMP.

The Board received the revised draft CMP at its February meeting which was attended by members of the Ngāti Manuhiri Settlement Trust. The Board resolved that the Hauturu CMP should be provided to the NZCA and Minister for comment. The Board and Ngāti Manuhiri Trust celebrated this considerable milestone for the first CMP arising from a Treaty settlement on the Gulf islands.

The CMP and a summary of submissions was forwarded to the NZCA and Minister in February with final feedback received in June. At the time of writing this report, the comments received are being reviewed and the revised CMP will be tabled at the August meeting.

Tāmaki Makaurau Motu Plan

The CMP process has been delayed pending further discussions between the Department and the Tupuna Makaurau Trust.

SECTION 6M(1)(C) CMS IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The Board reviews progress of the CMS which is summarised on a traffic lights report prepared by the Department. The Board focuses primarily on those objectives which are deemed as underway but at risk of not meeting 2017 target date and those which have been identified as not meeting the target date.

Endangered Species

The Board submitted to the Kiwi Recovery Plan noting that in an Auckland context brown kiwi

have been released into the wild to boost declining populations or to establish new populations on Motuora and Motutapu Islands and Tawaharanui in the Hauraki Gulf but that only Motuora Island has been established long enough to bolster mainland populations. The Board would like to see proposals for increasing populations in the Auckland region and whether the region is suitable to host other strains than the brown kiwi.

The Board has asked the Department to provide updates at each meeting on threatened species. Monitoring at Papakanui identified nineteen threatened, vagrant and migrant species which have benefited from the predator protection/trap network in place at this site, see table on page 14.

Three breeding pairs of Fairy Tern/Tara-iti were observed at Papakanui with a total of seven recorded nests of which only one was successful. The CMS has a target to increase numbers to 100 by 2021 by maintaining protection at key coastal sites however this is unlikely to be achieved due to tidal inundation, predation and abandonment and that the goal was predicated on higher fertility rates than are being observed in practice. The Board has asked for The Board has asked for a strategy to reverse this decline fearing the extinction of the species.

The Board met at Pūkoro Kororo Miranda Shorebird Centre to learn more about coastal ecology. Of

SPECIES	THREAT RANKING	OBSERVATION
Black Billed Gull <i>Larus bullen</i>	Nationally Critical	30-40 breeding pairs
Australasian Bittern <i>Botaurus pociroptilus</i>	Nationally Endangered	Injured bird seen
New Zealand Dotterel <i>Charadrius obscurus</i>	Nationally Vulnerable	Multiple breeding pairs
Banded Dotterel <i>Charadrius bicinctus</i>	Nationally Vulnerable	Multiple breeding pairs
Caspian Terns <i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>	Nationally Vulnerable	A few roosting birds but no breeding colonies
Wrybill <i>Anarhynchus frontalis</i>	Nationally Vulnerable	Minimum 15 seen
Lesser Knot <i>Calidris canutus rogersi</i>	Nationally Vulnerable	Hundreds seen
Pied Shag <i>Phalacrocorax varius</i>	Nationally Vulnerable	Minimum 6 birds seen
Variable Oystercatcher <i>Haematopus unicolor</i>	At risk - recovering	Multiple breeding pairs
White Fronted Tern <i>Sterna striata</i>	At risk - declining	500-600 breeding pairs
Bar-tailed Godwit <i>Limosa lapponica</i>	At risk - declining	Hundreds seen
Pied Stilt <i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	At risk - declining	Minimum 12 seen
Banded Rail <i>Gallirallus philippensis</i>	At risk - declining	Minimum 2 seen
New Zealand Pipit <i>Anthus novaeseelandiae</i>	At risk - declining	Multiple birds seen
North Island Fernbird <i>Bowdleria punctata vealleae</i>	At risk - declining	Birds heard
Ruddy Turnstone <i>Arenaria interpres</i>	Migrant	Several groups seen
Eastern Curlew <i>Numenius madagascariensis</i>	Migrant	3 birds seen
Sanderling <i>Calidris alba</i>	Vagrant	Minimum 2 seen

214 wader species worldwide, 63 have been recorded in New Zealand and 43 at Pukorokoro Miranda. Some of these are rare vagrants, while others are annual migrants in flocks of thousands.

The Board reviews all translocations at its quarterly meetings and took the opportunity to meet at Auckland Zoo to better understand the important role of the zoo in supporting our conservation efforts.

SECTION 6M (1)(F) FISH AND GAME COUNCIL LIAISON

Minutes and agenda are provided to the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council.

During the report year Michael Fitchett has been the lead point of liaison.

SECTION 6M(1)(G) DELEGATION OF POWERS BY THE MINISTER

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

7. 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 has made several submissions during the period as outlined in the Chair's report.



8. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES: OTHER SECTIONS OF CONSERVATION ACT

The Board ensures that the perspectives of whanau, hapu and iwi are understood before making decisions, and is working with iwi to progress Treaty settlements such as the Hauturu and Inner Motu Conservation Management Plans.

Ross Aitken (retired Chair) was co-opted to the Hauturu CMP Sub-Committee to ensure continuity through the process.

9. STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Board is very aware of the challenges of bringing a strong community voice to the Auckland region and its 1.4 million residents.

The Board has written to ministers expressing concern about the impact on the conservation estate from the adverse effects of increasing domestic and international tourism, and seeking information about the department's planning for managing this impact.

The Board reaches out to the community through its field trips which in the report year include visits to Maungauika (North Head); Pūkoro Mirānda Shorebird Centre, Auckland Zoo, Aotea and Kawau Island.

The Board has established a Facebook page [facebook.com/auckconservationboard/](https://www.facebook.com/auckconservationboard/) to more directly engage with the community.

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

JOINT REPORT

Auckland Conservation Board (Board) and Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee)

Aotea (Great Barrier Island) is situated to the northeast of Auckland and is the largest island off the coast of the North Island. Of volcanic origin, the landscape is characterised by forest-covered ranges — much of which is regenerating — farmland and settlements, and a maze of bays, islands and indented harbours. Coastal features include the tidal inlet, estuary and dune systems of Whangapoua, Awana and Kaitoke and the drowned valley system of Port Fitzroy. Along with Rakitu and other small islands along its coast, Aotea forms a distinct ecological district.

The Aotea Conservation Park was established in April 2015 under section 56(1) of the Conservation Act 1987, and is appointed by the Minister of Conservation. It has an advisory role to the director general and officers of the Department of Conservation. The Conservation Park covers approximately 43% of the Island and is a significant feature of the island and provides a range of cultural, recreational, economic and other opportunities for tangata whenua and the island community.

The establishment of the Advisory Committee does not alter the statutory functions of the Conservation Board in relation to the Conservation Park or Aotea. The Board has the responsibility for overseeing the development and implementation of the conservation management strategy (CMS) and conservation management plans (CMPs) for its region.

Lyn Mayes, Chair of the Board, attended the second meeting of the Advisory Committee on 5 December 2016 at which it was agreed to host a joint meeting of the Board and the Advisory Committee in 2017 to discuss how



Joint meeting of the Auckland Conservation Board and the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee

the two bodies could work together.

At the joint meeting on 10 April 2017 the interconnectedness of the island's ecology was acknowledged. It was agreed that it was important to look at things holistically across the island rather than focusing on legal boundaries, as the park is influenced by what happens on the land surrounding it. It was also recognised that in addition to the Board and Advisory Committee, the Great Barrier Local Board, Mana Whenua and local community interests must be considered in the management of the park.

The meeting focused on milestones for Aotea in the CMS with specific interest in progress towards the 2017 targets.

The meeting heard that:

- Progress has been made to develop and implement work programs for priority ecosystem located in Mount Young and northern Great Barrier.
- The Department has identified sites at Hirakimata and Te Paparahi for intensive pest management to ensure the recovery and preservation of threatened species.
- A technical feasibility study has been completed into the opportunity to return kōkako to the island.
- Some informal monitoring has been conducted to assess the effects of camping and tramping activities in Te Paparahi.
- A programme to eradicate rats from Rakitu Island is scheduled for the winter of 2018.

At its 12 June 2017 meeting committee members discussed strategic priorities including the place of Aotea in Predator Free NZ 2050, and the best way to co-ordinate efforts to deliver conservation goals for the island. As an outcome, the Department was asked to approach Auckland Council about its interest in co-sponsoring a proposed Aotea Predator Free governance group and report back to the committee. Both the Board and the Advisory Committee look forward to progressing consideration of a predator free Aotea in partnership with tangata whenua and the island community. The Board and the Advisory Committee look forward to working together to advise the Department on implementation of the CMS for Aotea, and to maximise opportunities for the island's communities, including promoting Aotea as a place for a new Great Walk.

*Auckland Conservation Board /
Aotea Conservation Park Advisory
Committee*

8 September 2017



One of the most familiar sounds in our night forests is the haunting call of the ruru or morepork

III

Appendices

APPENDIX 1

AUCKLAND CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

The table below outlines the Auckland Conservation Board budgeted and actual spending for 2016-17.

ITEM	ACTUAL \$ YTD	BUDGET \$ YTD	VARIANCE	FULL YEAR BUDGET
Board fees	6,963	8,000	1,037	8,000
Office costs	142	3,000	2,858	3,000
Travel & accommodation	5,020	6,000	98	6,000
Hospitality & events	4,224	5,000	776	5,000
Printing & publication	525	1,000	475	1,000
Education & training	648	5,000	4,352	5,000
Total	17,522	28,000	10,478	28,000

IV

Map of the Auckland Region

