

*Te Runanga Papa Atawhai o
Tāmaki Makaurau*

Auckland Conservation Board

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

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





COVER: Auckland Conservation Board members (L to R Nicola MacDonald, Fale Lesa, Natalie Hansby; Andrew Jeffs; Kate Waterhouse; Lyn Mayes; Andrew Baucke - Director of Operations; Pengbo Jiang; Robin Taua-Gordon; and Glenn Wilcox) at Arataki Visitor Centre, Waitākere Ranges.

*Tāmaki Makaurau
Herenga waka
Herenga tangata
He waka eke noa
Mai i ngā wai rere a
Tōpuni tae noa ki te
mahana o Pūkoro.
Kainga ngā ika katoa.*

PHOTOGRAPHS:
Front cover: Auckland Conservation Board and Department of Conservation staff at Arataki Visitor Centre.
Back cover: Board field visit to proposed Huia Water Treatment Plant December 2019.
Photos supplied by board members

PUBLISHED BY
Department of Conservation
Private Bag 68908
Newton, Auckland 1141

ISSN 1172-1172-0514 (Print)
ISSN 1175-1172-1851 (Online)

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1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Tēnā koutou e ngā
rangatira e ngā whaea

During the report year, the Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Conservation Board – has focussed on its agreed work programme and in accordance with the 2018 review of the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy has set supplementary performance measures to the milestone reporting.

In conducting this work, the breadth of experience and expertise across our Board is of immense value. Board members have individual experience in marine science, biodiversity, biosecurity, statutory process, cultural redress, international relations, education, business and communications and collectively bring a wealth of experience to our hui and to the credibility of our submissions.

The Board has continued its education about threatened species. At every meeting, we monitor the available information on the current population size of each of the species (birds, plants, mammals, invertebrates, plants, arachnids and cetaceans) which are on our priority list and the Department's activities to

mitigate further loss. This brings context to our submissions for example the risk to Matuku Australasian bittern and the NZ long tailed bat from the proposed development in the Dome Valley and around the Hoteo.

I attended the annual Chairs' conference in August 2019 which was attended by Lou Sanson, Director-General at the Department of Conservation and the Hon Eugenie Sage, Minister of Conservation. The hui confirms the need for stronger more visible Conservation Boards. Since August, the Department has conducted a welcome review of support and administration, governance, and planning processes. I am pleased to note that John Galilee has been a key member of the system design work bringing his experience of serving our Board and breadth of knowledge of statutory processes to the review.

The Minister joined two of our Board meetings during the past 12 months. This is the first time in the six years as a member that we have received a visit from our Minister. The opportunity to korero with the Minister about issues of importance to our rohe provides further motivation to



our advocacy and commitment to position our Board as the human voice representing Auckland's natural world.

One of the key challenges for all Boards is how we put climate change at the centre of our work programme. The Institute of Directors reports that climate change is now the number one priority for boards and as a conservation board we must lead the korero and hold the Department to account as it develops its climate change policy. When we visited the Arataki Visitor Centre in the Waitakere Ranges in November, we could see from the lookout the skies coloured from the Australian bushfires.

The Board heard from Department expert Sam Parson about the projected impacts of climate change on recreation and heritage sites in Auckland and the Department's asset management planning and strategy to protect our biodiversity. We need to ensure our work on endangered species, erosion and marine protection is front and centre of the Department's planning



and has a uniform approach with Auckland Council.

In September I was invited to be the keynote speaker at the Mayor's Conservation Awards. This provided an ideal opportunity to share with the mayor and deputy mayor and invited guests our advocacy work including the potential threat from the RMS Niagara; increased dredging in the Hauraki Gulf and sediment disposal from urban development.

All 15 conservation boards cite the value of working relationships to amplify our collective performance. We have been working with the Northland and Waikato boards for several years, but in February we held our first joint meeting with the Waikato Board and Chair Alan Cockle and were joined by Minister Sage.

In the months since this hui, lives all over the world have changed as a result of Covid-19. Amidst the silence during lockdown the natural world re-emerged as we started seeing and hearing native birds in our rohe. We were afforded the time to walk around our immediate vicinity and find

places which we had not had time to visit before. At a time when we have been discussing how conservation boards should proactively address climate change, many people have had a sudden immersion into working from home. Travel and face to face meetings will still be necessary but perhaps on a reduced scale as people realise that virtual meetings have many benefits.

During the lockdown, our Communications Sub Committee met weekly to develop a blueprint for Board communications. This is a living document and will support the Board's work during 2020/21 and beyond on three major priorities which are marine habitats, threatened species, and supporting the Treaty Settlement natural environment aspirations of mana whenua acknowledging kaitiakitanga as the foundation for all outcomes.

Our Board represents the diverse ethnicities of the Auckland region. Together we have started a collective journey supported by our mana whenua to understand mātauranga Māori. We held a

cultural workshop in January led by Hauāuru Rawiri Pou Tairangahau at the Department as the first step in a series of hui for all Board members.

I appreciate the support given by Board members past and present and I acknowledge in particular the contribution from Glenn Wilcox who was appointed to the Board with me in 2014. During this time Glenn has provided me with friendship and counsel. He nominated me as Chair in 2016 and I hope that I have merited his support.

I also acknowledge Robin Taua-Gordon's contribution over the past three years as the representative for the Waiohua Tāmaki rōpū. Robin will continue on the Board until a replacement is appointed.

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, Statutory Manager John Galilee and Board Support Officers, Joanne Ah Young and Laura Chartres. 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 this my seventh and final year on the Auckland Conservation Board.

Lyn Mayes
Chair

2 INTRODUCTION

The Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Conservation Board Annual Report has been prepared by Board members. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Auckland Conservation Board submits this annual report.

Conservation boards are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987. Board functions are outlined in section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the conservation boards to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act.

Conservation boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. They represent the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation (the Department), within their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation boards have several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- the recommendation of the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice

- reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- the approval of conservation management plans
- the recommendation of national park management plans to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

Conservation boards also have several functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980. These functions include recommending the review or amendment of national park management plans and recommending approval of these plans by the Authority.

3 AUCKLAND CONSERVATION ROHE

The Auckland Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers an area of 2,430,884.34 hectares. This area 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 marks 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 Pūkoro / Miranda. The Board's district also currently includes the Kermadec Islands, located 800-1,000km northeast of the North Island.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit with respect to protected species.

Public conservation land and waters make up 44.97% of all the Board's total district. This consists of:

- 36,726.94 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 336,858.35 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals
- 729,606 hectares of Marine Reserves, including the 716,509 ha Kermadec Islands Marine Reserve.

These areas constitute approximately 8.38% of all public conservation areas in New Zealand.

In 2016 the Minister for the Environment also announced plans for a Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary, which could ultimately see the transfer of the Board's responsibility for the Kermadec Islands to another Conservation Board.

3.1 Conservation features of the area

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 1.6 million people living in Auckland and,

Figure 1 Conservation Board Jurisdiction



Auckland Conservation Board Public Conservation Areas 2020



Stunning panoramic views from the Waitākere Ranges

notwithstanding the hopefully temporary impact of Covid-19 on tourism, delivering a first class conservation experience for the domestic and 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 including Rangitoto and Motutapu, Mansion House and the coastal defence installations at Fort Takapuna and Stony Batter.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit. with respect to protected species. 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), Motu Manawa / Pollen Island Marine Reserve in the Waitematā Harbour, Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve and Te Matuku Marine Reserve on Waiheke Island. Tawharanui Marine Reserve, on the eastern coast of the Rodney district, is the newest reserve and was gazetted in August 2011.

The main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the Board's boundaries are:

- Aotea Conservation Park – 12,896.05 ha
- 173 Scenic Reserves – 23,829 ha
- 15 Historic Reserves – 312.53 ha
- 33 Recreation Reserves – 3,384.45 ha
- 73 Stewardship Areas – 64,825.43 ha
- 218 Marginal Strips – 943.18 ha
- 6 Marine Reserves – 719,605.96 ha
- 1 Sanctuary to Protect Marine Mammals – 336,858.35 ha

3.2 Board functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

1. To recommend the approval by the Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments
2. To approve conservation management plans, and the review an amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
3. To advise the Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board
4. To advise the Authority or the Director-General
 - a. On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and

- b. On any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
5. To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board
 6. To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

3.3 Powers of the Board under section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

1. Every conservation board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
2. Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each conservation board may –
 - a. Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - b. Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
3. The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board’s functions.

3.4 Board Functions under section 30 the National Parks Act 1980

1. To recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board in accordance with sections 45 to 47:

2. To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks:
3. To make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers under section 40:
4. To review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board:
5. To give advice to the Director-General or the Authority—
 - i. on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; and
 - ii. on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the

- establishment of a new national park; and
- iii. on any other matter relating to any national park, —within the jurisdiction of the Board.

3.5 Board membership

There were 12 elected Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Lyn Mayes was re-elected Chairperson and Andrew Jeffs was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The table below lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020 and their term of office.

3.6 Member profiles

Carolyn (Lyn) Mayes is a company director and founder of Mad World Ltd in 2001 which is an

TABLE 1 BOARD MEMBERSHIP

BOARD MEMBER	AREA	TERM START	TERM END	YEARS SERVED
Lyn Mayes	Albany	2014	2020	6
Andrew Jeffs	Auckland	2016	2022	4
Fale Lesa	Auckland	2018	2021	2
Glenn Wilcox	Ngāti Whātua rūpū; Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau	2014	2020	6
José Derraik	Bucklands Beach	2019	2022	1
Kate Waterhouse	Auckland and Aotea	2019	2022	1
Nicola Macdonald	Auckland	2018	2021	2
Malcolm Page	Botany	2017	2020	3
Natalie Hansby	Te Atatū Peninsula	2019	2020	1
Pengbo Jiang	Auckland	2019	2022	1
Robin Taua-Gordon	Tāmaki Waiohua rūpū; Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau	2017	2020	3
Nathan Kennedy	Marutūāhu rūpū; Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau	2014	2020	6

environmental consultancy dedicated to building networks and collaboration to improve New Zealand'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.

Dr Andrew Jeffs is a marine scientist at the University of Auckland and managing director of Two Fathom. He has broad scientific, environmental and business knowledge, as well as a prior knowledge of the Department of Conservation's work and functioning. He holds a PhD in Marine Science and a Post Graduate Diploma in Commerce.

Fale (Andrew) Lesā is a youth adviser at UNESCO and the vice chairman of Manurewa High School. He studied environmental management at the University of Auckland and worked on a marine biodiversity project with the World Wildlife Fund. In 2009 he was elected to the Manukau City Council. He takes great pride in helping to revive Waka Ama in South Auckland and offers a unique perspective as a New Zealand Samoan.

Glenn Wilcox is the Ngāti Whātua appointee to the Board, an outcome of the Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Settlement. He was part of the Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara Treaty Negotiation team. Glenn is a member of the Independent

Māori Statutory Board of Auckland, a trustee on the Runanga of Ngāti Whātua and chairs the Committee of Management for the Otakanini Topu Farm.

Dr José Derraik has a Master's degree in Ecology and PhD in Public Health. He was previously a senior human health advisor at MAF Biosecurity NZ, and invited member of the Royal Society of NZ Biodiversity Committee. José is a senior research fellow at the University of Auckland, having worked there for 11 years on clinical and epidemiological studies. He is passionate about the natural world, a keen hiker and climber, having acquired considerable knowledge on the interface between public health and the environment, biodiversity, and conservation.

Kate Waterhouse is an experienced business and conservation leader. She is a management consultant with business strategy and change experience across local government, the public sector and in service industries in New Zealand and globally. Kate advocates for biodiversity and chairs the Aotea Great Barrier Environmental Trust and is Deputy Chair of the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee. She is a poet, editor and mother of three daughters and has spent time in Auckland's nature from an early age.

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.

Natalie Hansby is an experienced senior manager in conservation, local government, and tourism, with experience in strategic planning, risk management, operationalising strategy and community empowerment. She has eight years' experience as a senior manager at Auckland Zoo and is a former board member of Girl Guiding New Zealand.

Nathan Kennedy is the nominee of the Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau — Marutūāhu rūpū entity. His iwi affiliations are with Ngāti Karaua, Ngāti Whanaunga.

Nicola MacDonald is of Ngāti Rehua and Ngāti Wai descent. She is Joint Chair of the Hauraki Gulf Forum and Chair of the Aotea Conservation Park Advisory Committee and a current member of the Māori Women's Welfare League. She has experience in leading environmental programmes such as the Restore Rakitū and Bring Back Kōkako projects

Pengbo Jiang is an experienced board member and advisor in public and not-for-profit sectors. He holds a Master's degree in Management and has a Certificate in Māori Studies. With a background in volunteering he is a recipient of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers in recognition of work in the community.

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.

3.7 Board meetings

The Board held 4 meetings during the reporting period, conducted three field visits and held three workshops to focus on delivery of priority areas. Venues for the meetings vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

3.8 Attendance
































































































The Table 3 summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the year. Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles.

TABLE 2 BOARD MEETINGS, TRIPS & WORKSHOPS DATE AND LOCATION 2019-2020

- A 14 August 2019 Auckland Zoo
- B 13 November 2019 Arataki Visitor Centre, Waitakere Ranges
- C 13 November 2019 Waitakere Ranges field visit
- D 9 December 2019 Huia WMP field visit
- E 13 December 2019 Tiritiri Matangi field visit
- F 28 February 2020 ASB Waterfront Theatre, Auckland Viaduct
- G 3 June 2020 video-conferencing
- H Total Board attendance
- I Total Board field inspections
- J 22 January 2020 climate change workshop
- K 22 January 2020 cultural workshop
- L 7 April 2020 annual priorities review workshop

 ATTENDED

TABLE 3 ATTENDANCE

	Mayes	Derriak	Hansby	Jiang	Kennedy	Jefferies	Leslie	Macdonald	Page	Taua-Gordon	Waterhouse	Wilcox
A											n/a	
B												
C												
D												
E												
F												
G												
H	4	3	4	4	0	4	3	3	3	2	3	4
I	3	2	1	3	0	2	3	1	3	2	3	1
J												
K												
L												



In February 2020, the Auckland and Waikato Conservation Boards held a joint meeting attended by the Hon Eugenie Sage, Minister of Conservation, at ASB Waterfront Theatre

3.9 Board committees

Membership of Board committees was reviewed in July, at the beginning of the reporting year.

TABLE 4 COMMITTEES

Communications	2015*
Lyn Mayes Fale Lesa Nicola MacDonald Malcolm Page	
Concessions	2016*
Malcolm Page Robin Taua-Gordon Glenn Wilcox	

* Date committee commenced

Communications committee

The subcommittee has developed a communications strategy which was presented to the Board in June 2020. This provides a framework and pathway for the Board's communications.

Concessions committee

The purpose of this subcommittee is to assess all notifiable applications for concessions and to provide advice to the Department.

4 AUCKLAND CONSERVATION BOARD WORK PROGRAMME – SUMMARY



#	Priority	Strategies/Actions	Performance Indicators	Activity by Board 30.6.20
1	Threatened species	Support predator free programme in Auckland region	Communications plan active	<p>Highlight Predator Free stories on social media. Celebrate return of native birds during Covid-19 lockdown.</p> <p>National Biodiversity Strategy Submission</p> <p>Submission on National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity</p> <p>Submission on Seabirds 2020: Reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in fisheries</p> <p>Visit to predator free island Tiritiri Matangi</p>
		Continually monitor threatened species in Auckland region	Report on 2018/ 2019 status of threatened species in the region and agree action programme with DOC	<p>Board reviews its priority list of threatened species (birds, cetaceans, plants, invertebrates, and mammals) at every Board meeting to understand how the threats are being addressed by the Department.</p> <p>Shared Threatened Species List with all conservation boards</p>
2	Freshwater habitats	Commission / request full assessment of stream and lake ecology across Auckland Council and DOC estate including a stock take of native fish levels	Board to report on the state of native freshwater fish species in Auckland and whether further measures to protect and restore their populations is required	Two of the Department's 50 priority catchments are in the Auckland rohe – The Hoteo and The Mahurangi
			Advocacy	Submissions to the Waste Management proposed landfill in the Dome Valley
3	Marine habitats and ecosystems	Develop a strategic plan or pathway to reverse a decline in species	Develop supplementary performance measures to better assess performance against CMS	Board adopted new supplementary measures at its 3 June 2020 meeting
		Ensure that our marine reserves and conservation land are not comprised by rapid housing development and construction	Advocacy	<p>Decision by CRL not to proceed with dredging in Hauraki Gulf</p> <p>Submissions – Waste Management NZ Landfill and the proposed Kaipara sand mining</p> <p>Briefing with Minister Sage</p>

3 Marine habitats and ecosystems	Continue to seek progress of the marine protection measures proposed to government agencies through Sea Change Process	Advocacy	Letters to Mayor, Minister of Fisheries about decline in crayfish Feedback to the proposed Sea Change Implementation for the Hauraki Gulf
	Continue to seek action to address the threat of oil from the RMS Niagara shipwreck	Advocacy	Briefing with Minister Sage to seek progress on RMS Niagara shipwreck
	Support and promote initiatives to protect marine mammals including Maui dolphin and Bryde's whale	Advocacy	Submission on the Threat Management Plan for Hector's and Maui dolphins
4 Treaty partners	Develop new milestones which reflect the range of CMS objectives and incorporate protection of cultural and historical resources and heritage	Board to develop supplementary measures	Board adopted new supplementary measures at its 3 June 2020 meeting
	Board's role in giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (Conservation Act 1987: section 4)	Board to hui – tikanga Māori	First hui for all Board members held in February 2020
	Advocate for progress to the CMP for the inner motu islands of the Hauraki Gulf	Commence work on Motu Plan	This performance measure relies on all parties to the process being in agreement. The Board recommends a change to this performance measure.
	Continue to work with Ngāti Manuhiri to deliver the Hauturo-Toi – Little Barrier Island CMP	At least one meeting to have been held with Ngāti Manuhiri about the implementation of the CMP	Report received from Ngāti Manuhiri. Meeting delayed due to Covid-19 Work continues to deliver the CMP
5 Ecosystems	Prioritise an acceleration programme for addressing kauri dieback in the Auckland region, where there is the largest estate of kauri	Board to develop new supplementary performance measures to better assess performance against CMS milestones which relate specifically to ecosystems with measurable milestones	Board adopted new supplementary measures at its 3 June 2020 meeting Auckland Council map and classification system which identifies areas and priorities and overlap with Department Board meeting held in Waitakere Ranges with site visit to the boardwalk area Submission on the potential impact of the Huia WTP on kauri dieback. Site visit. Letter to concessionaries for visitor tours to advise of risks and protocols Social media – Facebook promote news about kauri dieback
	Establish a sub committee to ensure oversight of DOC and Council plans for kauri dieback	Board has agreed that all members are part of this committee	Update on kauri dieback is included in every Board meeting
	Ensure there is an appropriate strategy to address myrtle rust and other diseases impacting native flora	Advocacy	Updates from Department

6 People connecting with nature	Work with iwi and hapū, Auckland Council, NGOs and other organisations to ensure that indigenous plants and wildlife thrive and their habitats are restored and regenerated	Board to develop new supplementary performance measures to better assess performance against CMS milestones	Board adopted new supplementary measures at its 3 June 2020 meeting Climate change workshop Letter to Prime Minister to support green recovery through nature based jobs Social media – resurgence of nature as a result of Covid-19 lockdown
Promote recreational benefits of conservation	Develop engagement measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and monitor visitors to top five visitor attractions on public conservation land • Number of people linked to the Board's Facebook page • Number of communications put out by the Board • Attendance by the public at Board meetings • Number of groups who have presented to the Board • Number of nominations to join the Board 	235 followers on Facebook Media releases – CRL 11 letters sent 2 public attendees at Board meetings 3 groups presenting to the Board	



View from Tiritiri Matangi



Board member Glenn Wilcox following kauri dieback protocols for accessing the board walk in the Waitakere Ranges



Field visit - Huiā WTP

4.1 Threatened species

During the report year, the Board has closely monitored the species which has identified for priority concern in the region. See Table 4 on next page.

The Board will continue to receive Department briefings on nationally critical species but will closely monitor the Department's activities with regards to 17 specific species.

4.2 Management plans

A major priority for the Auckland Conservation Board is to develop in partnership with the Trustees of the Tūpuna Taonga Trust a Conservation Management Plan for the Hauraki Gulf Tīkapa Moana/ Te Moana-nui-ā-Toi Inner Motu.

Following six years without progress, the Board has agreed that this can only be actioned when all parties agree to the process and the way forward to progress the development of the plan.

The Board has continued to advocate the need for resource to find a solution to the Minister of Conservation and the Director General. Until there is agreement the Board is unable to deliver on its statutory responsibility.

4.3 Auckland Conservation Board Advocacy

The Auckland Conservation Board made seven submissions during the year on policy papers and projects which impact the rohe. Each of the submissions relates to the Board's priorities as referenced in Section 4.

Submissions

August 2019

Submission to Water Care Services on the Huia Replacement Water Treatment Plant

The Board submits its concern that the significant earthwork associated with the WTP poses a risk of spreading Kauri dieback. The ecological impact of Kauri dieback in the region is a major biosecurity threat. The Board visited the site to understand better the impacts.

Updated Threat Management Plan for Hector's and Maui dolphins

The Board supports the measures outlined in the Plan of protecting Hector and Maui dolphins that will deliver the highest level of protection for these species.

September 2019

National Biodiversity Strategy Submission: Te Koiora o te Koiora

The Board submitted that the proposed vision is appropriate, but for the extent of the crisis we face now, 50 years is too long a timeframe. We are awash with diagnoses and vision – Sea Change and Predator Free NZ 2050 are two examples. Implementation is key. The strategy lacks urgency and is not specific enough about the action required.

The biodiversity crisis needs a strategy that reflects Auckland's unique risks and treasures

Unfortunately, the Auckland region faces a more acute set of threats to biodiversity and habitat loss than any other region in Aotearoa. This is due to historic biodiversity loss and habitat degradation

across marine, freshwater and terrestrial domains; made worse by increased development, damaging land use practices, population growth, increased urbanisation, reduced tree cover, and worsening climate impacts (including severe weather events, sea level and sea temperature rise and biosecurity risks).

December 2019

National Plan of Action – Seabirds 2020: Reducing the incidental catch of seabirds in fisheries

The Auckland Conservation Region is in the heart of the most diverse seabird region in New Zealand. North-eastern New Zealand has 41 breeding species of seabirds, 17 of which breed only in New Zealand, making the northern North Island one of the richest endemic seabird centres in the world.

The Auckland Conservation Board supports a major revision of the National Plan of Action for Seabirds 2020 toward adopting more ambitious targets and policy measures to provide greater conservation outcomes for New Zealand's seabird populations.

March 2020

Submission on National Policy Statement on Indigenous Biodiversity

The Auckland Conservation Board supports the need for a National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity which needs to be implemented within an integrated framework across the region.

TABLE 4 AUCKLAND THREATENED FAUNA AND FLORA

SPECIES	COMMON NAME	STATUS	COMMENTS
Bird	Matuku Australasian bittern	Steady decline since 1990	Highlighted species at risk from proposed new landfill site in Dome Valley
Bird	Taraiti, tara teoteo, fairy tern	35-39 birds	This season one pair has successfully bred at Te Ārai stream
Bird	Tuturuatu New Zealand shore plover	18 birds (6 breeding pairs)	Current status unknown as Covid-19 has prevented post breeding monitoring
Bird	Tāiko, black petrel	Approx 100 pairs on Hauturu and 1000 pairs on Aotea	Ongoing monitoring on Aotea
Bird	NZ storm petrel	Size of breeding population unknown	Work by NZ Seabird Trust on recapture, monitoring on hold due to Covid-19
Bird	Pāteke, brown teal	Observed decline in numbers on Aotea over recent years	Ongoing predator control and habitat restoration. Low flock count numbers and drought conditions over the summer months.
Cetacean	Bryde's whale	Around 135 whales use the Hauraki Gulf	Recovery programme in place
Cetacean	Maui's dolphin	63 individuals > 1 year	Sighting database and verification system
Cetacean	Kera wēra, orca	150-200 individuals	Passive monitoring
Plant	Kōwhai ngutu-kākā, kākābeak	A number of plants in cultivation on Motuihe	Recovery plan
Plant	Veronica jovellanoides	Riverhead Forest	Found in 3/6 monitoring plots at original site
Plant	Veronica speciosa	South Kaipara Covenant	No monitoring by DOC
Invertebrates	Wetapunga	Secure on Hauturu	Monitoring of Tiritiri and Motuora populations. Auckland Zoo conservation work
Arachnids	Katipo	Declining quantity with introduced spiders contributing to further decline	Weed control and predator control at sites may benefit species
Mammals	NZ long tailed bat	Unknown population declining at around 5-9% per year	Highlighted species at risk from proposed new landfill site in Dome Valley
Mammals	Short tailed bat	Te-Hauturu-o-Toi	No monitoring - pest free status of island
Reptile	Chevron skink	Aotea	Recovering slowly

May 2020

Submission on the Waste Management NZ application for a new regional Class 1 landfill at Wayby Valley between Wellsford and Warkworth adjoining Dome Valley

The Board has asked to be heard by Auckland Council when it reviews the resource consent application by WMNZ. The Board has expressed its concern about the impact of this construction on a range of nationally “threatened” or “at risk” native fauna which the applicant has identified as present at the site and to the plans for erosion and sediment control. There are species that are already endangered, and our Board is extremely concerned that even with the best management and mitigation programmes, species will be lost. Another priority is the release of sediment into the environment caused by the construction of this landfill. Urban development across the region is having a major impact on sediment discharges.

Alongside the environmental impacts, the area has significant cultural and historical values to mana whenua. The ranges above the proposed landfill area have hundreds of fresh water springs that move through this area and feed into the Hōteio River. The Hōteio River is of major cultural, spiritual and historic significance to Ngāti Manuhiri.

June 2020

Submission on Resource Consent Applications for the Coastal Marine Area (Offshore from Pākiri Beach) to extract sand

The Board has asked to be heard by Auckland Council when it reviews the resource consent application by Kaipara Ltd to extract up to a total of 2,000,000 m³ of sand from an area of 44 km³ within the coastal marine area over a 20 year period.

The Board has expressed its concern about the inadequacies of the application in relation to identifying and addressing possible impacts of the proposed activity on marine mammals in the vicinity of the transit route to and from the

sand extraction site. It is further concerned by the impact of the proposed extraction on the coastal sediment system. The appraisal of the likely effects of sand extraction give scant regard to the potential effects of longer term climate change, which include sea level rise, increased size of storms and increased frequency of storm events.

During the year, the Board received and responded to four Official Information Act requests.

TABLE 5 LETTERS FROM BOARD CHAIR ON BEHALF OF BOARD

DATE	TO	TOPIC
19.07.19	Conservation Board Chairs	Auckland Conservation Board's draft CMS strategy review
02.09.19	Senior SLM Advisor, Department of Conservation	NZ Transport Agency Surplus Property: Land to Vest in Auckland Council for Recreation Reserve at Waterview
02.10.19	Minister of Conservation	Response letter to the Letter of Expectations and Annual Work Programme
01.05.20	Marine Manager Policy, Department of Conservation	Feedback on the proposed Sea Change Implementation for the Hauraki Gulf
12.05.20	Prime Minister	Call for “green recovery” to revitalise economy through nature based jobs in Auckland
12.05.20	Mayor Phil Goff	Developing partnerships to reduce climate change
12.05.20	Minister of Fisheries	Decline of crayfish populations in the Hauraki Gulf
12.05.20	Director General Department of Conservation	Marine protected areas in the Hauraki Gulf
20.05.20	Chairs – Hauraki Gulf Forum	State of our Gulf 2020 report
27.05.20	Local Boards Chairs' Forum	Marine protection and priorities for the Natural Environment
16.06.20	Mayor Phil Goff	Addressing declining crayfish populations in the Hauraki Gulf



TOP LEFT Pāteke, brown teal
TOP RIGHT Taraiti, Fairy Tern
BOTTOM LEFT Hochstetter's Frog -
Conservation at Auckland Zoo
BOTTOM RIGHT Kororā, little penguin



Highlights

Marine Protection

In 2018 the Board submitted to an EPA hearing against the application for a consent to dump up to 250,000 cubic metres of dredged materials per year at sea. The Board submitted against the CRL application because the vastly increased barge movements across the Hauraki Gulf Marine Park to the dumping ground on the continental shelf beyond Aotea/ Great Barrier Island presents in our Board's view a significant and clear threat to the marine ecosystem in the park, especially the marine mammals. Following the granting of the consent to CRL, the Board expressed its profound disappointment that the potential impacts on the remarkable range of whales and dolphins in the Hauraki Gulf have not been taken into account. It noted that the Hauraki Gulf is an internationally outstanding habitat for whales and dolphins that deserves a higher standard of care.

Whilst the Board did not challenge the EPA's decision in the High Court, it supported the appeal by The Society for the Protection of Aotea Community and Ecology and local iwi Ngātiwai. The Board is delighted that in April 2020, CRL has withdrawn its marine dumping application.

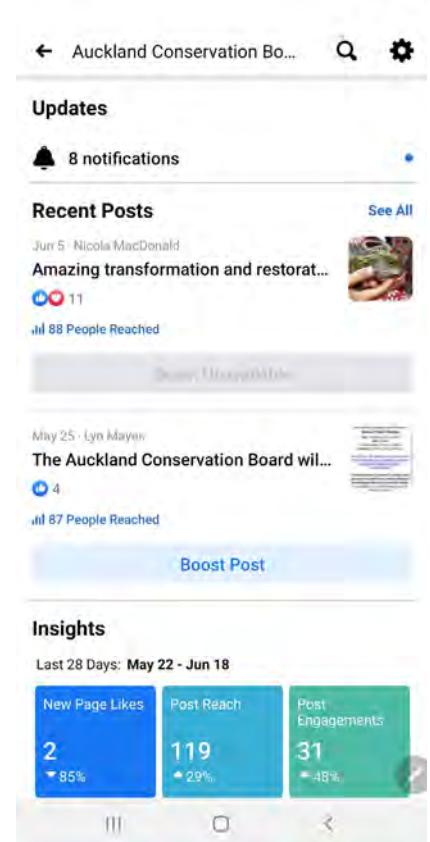
5 ADVOCACY

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison. The Board appointed various members to liaise with other groups and agencies. In February 2020, the Auckland and Waikato Conservation Boards held a joint Board meeting in Auckland. Board members were joined by the Hon Eugenie Sage, Minister of Conservation to discuss conservation issues across the two regions.

5.1 Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Auckland region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website. Updates from the Board were provided throughout the year on activities undertaken.



The Board maintains an active Facebook page.

As part of its commitment to increasing the profile of the Board, the Communications Sub Committee has developed a communications strategy which has been adopted as a "living document" by the Board.

TABLE 6 BOARD LIAISONS AND REPRESENTATIVES

BOARD MEMBER	GROUP AGENCY ORGANISATION
Andrew Jeffs	Auckland/Waikato Forest & Game Council
Glenn Wilcox	Northland Conservation Board
Fale Lesa	Waikato Conservation Board

AUCKLAND CONSERVATION BOARD COMMUNICATIONS STRATEGY

As part of its commitment to increasing the profile of the Board, the Communications Sub Committee has developed a communications strategy which has been adopted as a “living document” by the Board.

Organisational Goals

- The Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Conservation Board (ACB) to fulfil its role as an independent advisory body, established by statute, to represent the Auckland community; and offer interaction between the communities within its Auckland jurisdiction, and the Department of Conservation (DOC).
- Working with key stakeholder groups to best represent the wider conservation and environmental interests of Aucklanders – to ultimately connect Aucklanders with nature.
- The ACB to fulfil its advisory function regarding advocacy and issues pertaining to the Auckland region.

Overarching Communications Goals

- Increase visibility and awareness of the ACB among the Auckland public and all stakeholders; and, demonstrate the ACB's role and commitment to conservation via open, transparent, and clear communications- encourage meaningful ongoing engagement between the ACB and Treaty partners - mana whenua, whānau, hapū and iwi.
- To be seen and recognised as the expert trusted voice, on conservation and environmental issues pertaining to the wider Auckland region.
- Promote kaitiakitanga, and be the human voice representing Auckland's natural world – **He tātai taku ki Papatūānuku.**

6 AUCKLAND CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

The table below outlines the Auckland Conservation Board budgeted and actual spending for 2019-2020. To 30 June 2020.

ITEM	ACTUAL \$ YTD	BUDGET \$ YTD	VARIANCE	FULL YEAR BUDGET
Board fees	15,636	26,000	10,365	26,000
Advocacy Fees	1,455	0	(1,455)	0
Consultancy & Professional Services	810	0	(810)	0
Travel & Accommodation	540	6,000	5,460	6,000
Hospitality & Events	4,933	3,000	(1,933)	3,000
Printing & Publication	2,822	0	(2,822)	0
Education & Training	0	0	0	0
Total	26,196	35,000	8,805	35,000

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings. If you would like more information on the Auckland Conservation Board please see the website conservationboards.org.nz or contact the board support officer, at the Department of Conservation in Auckland at +64 9 307 9279 or email aucklandconservationboard@doc.govt.nz

