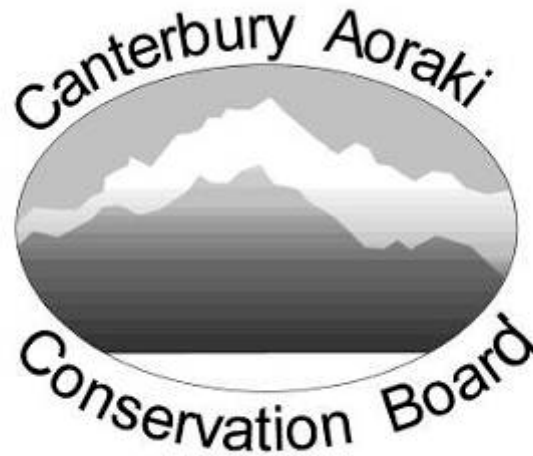


Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board



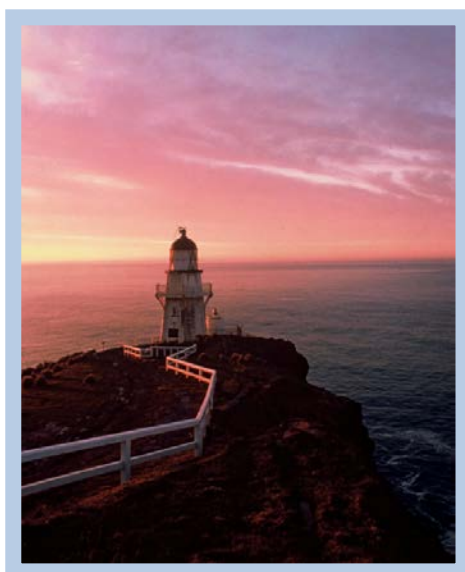
Annual Report July 2013 – June 2014



Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board

Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2014

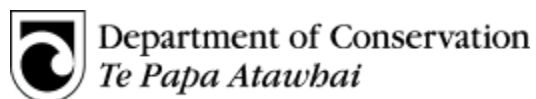
Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
Pursuant to Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987



Akaroa Lighthouse, which sits above the new Akaroa Marine reserve

Cover photograph: Cyclists relax at Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, M Langford

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Chairperson's Report – the year in review



A great deal of change has taken place within the department, with most positions from director-general to administrative, and the boundaries and functioning of most areas of jurisdiction, experiencing some kind of shift. Conservancy-level administration is a thing of the past and the board now receives reports about activity in Canterbury from an eastern South Island services team and an eastern and southern South Island partnerships team. Boards have been reviewed also, and while many signaled changes at that level are yet to come into play, membership numbers have generally been maintained or improved, and provincial lines of jurisdiction for the most part remain; this is the case for the Canterbury-Aoraki board.

Shirley Slatter took over the board liaison position from Megan Hieatt at our February meeting in Aoraki. The two have managed an exemplary baton change, in quotidian and greater ways, Shirley bringing the high levels of skill, dedication, and attention to detail to the role as Megan had previously. Our thanks go to Megan and to the other people, too numerous to name, who have moved on since the departmental review process began.

Andy Roberts, services, and Barry Hanson, partnerships, provide frank and rigorous reports for their regions in what is, as intended, as seamless an institutional structure as possible, and Leonie Fechny, North Canterbury partnerships manager, continues to work closely and positively with the board. The department-board relationship is candid and constructive. The new nationwide departmental framework has had practical difficulties, with physical remoteness of some managers from staff, and a degree of disjunct in the partnerships-services relationship standing in the way of potential high effectiveness. There are substantial good news stories, however, perhaps the best of which is that there is a strong will, at the highest level, to deal with awkward aspects of the new structure.

Canterbury's draft Conservation Management Strategy emerged in June as a fully-formed preliminary version after several years' consultation and writing. The depth of knowledge and fluency of the planning team are deeply appreciated. Submissions were heard by panels including board members in late October and early November. They tended to support the board's position of favouring strengthened planning, in particular, for natural heritage, maintenance of backcountry facilities, and reclassification of stewardship land. Realisation of a Mackenzie dryland park was proposed by several. Submissions also tended to concur with members' concern about what we saw as the undue place of the political Statement of Intent in the draft. A large number of submitters wished to see stronger, more binding imperatives used in objectives.

Since hearing submissions, the board has had no engagement in the Strategy's further development, despite requests for involvement, a situation we regret. With the imminent departure of most remaining members who have worked on the document since its inception, there is cause for great care to be taken in connecting work already done with final stages of

development. Next steps are to meet, along with the Otago and Southland boards, to examine shared issues, and to receive the final draft.

Local, regional and national water management continue to absorb board attention. In addition to papers written concerning the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, a substantial submission was made on proposals to amend the national policy statement on freshwater management. The board has been involved in Resource Management Act matters, and letters have been sent to Standards New Zealand and the Minister with responsibility for the Standards Act, the former about the out-datedness and paucity of mandated tests for freshwater contaminants; the latter about the lack of Vote funding for their upgrade and development.

Economic development continues apace in the region's water management, in the board's view outstripping attention to environmental care, specifically prioritised in the CWMS. We are grateful for the careful work of people such as the department's John Benn, who, with others, contributes to the broad body of knowledge about Canterbury's waterways, work which we anticipate will eventually lead to decisions reversing environmental decline, though perhaps not before the public has glimpsed the externalities of unsustainable water use. For now, reform of the Resource Management Act that would remove environmental bottom lines is stalled but has been flagged as an election issue.

Crown pastoral leases continue to move through the tenure review process, with preliminary proposals for two large properties put forward. Land re-designated freehold will be affected by RMA changes. The board remains concerned that the process frequently delivers proposals that are not consonant with the hierarchy of the objects of Part 2 of the 1998 Crown Pastoral Land Act. LINZ' in-house authorship, rather than sub-contracting, of the most recent proposals to emerge, provides some relief in that the process is kept closer to public interest. LINZ was approached by the land committee, not for the first time, about comprehensively upgrading the concept of good husbandry, a vague construct the board considers should be qualified and quantified by the large body of knowledge now available to be used in that way.

At his final meeting in April, John Keoghan presented a comprehensive paper about management of pastoral leases from his agronomist's viewpoint, an excellent document which is now available to inform the land committee's future activity. Many thanks to this dedicated group for its year's work.

Ngai Tahu members maintain strong links with their communities, bringing detailed reports to the board table and underlining the effectiveness of the iwi liaison committee.

Concession applications with triggers for board scrutiny have been few. A number of requests to use the public conservation arena in what could have been considered high-impact ways have come to the board's attention by means other than concession triggers, and in one case, due to a trigger but too late for a thorough response to be made; the updated concessions process has had a reasonable proving period and is due for appraisal, with these things, at least, in mind.

Conservation koha has been recommended to the Minister as a subject for dialogue and development, with a view to encouraging visitor consideration and appreciation for the natural assets of the public conservation estate and the work of the department.

Plant ecologist Nick Head won the Loder Cup, the nation's longest-standing and most prestigious prize for dedication to botany, as the board's nominee. It was awarded by the Minister at a ceremony in September, attended by board members, nomination supporters, former recipients, and other champions of conservation.

Te Waka o Aoraki, our annual Canterbury-Aoraki Conservation Board Award for the recognition and encouragement of conservation initiatives in Canterbury, was awarded to the Hurunui College Nina Valley Restoration Group at a celebration in December, with director-general Lou Sanson present to honour them and the other finalists.

As I write this, board succession planning is well underway. Four new members' terms began in May, and four further members will join them in July. The second group includes a Ministerially-appointed chair. We have farewelled the highly-capable and dedicated John Keoghan, deputy chair and chair of the land committee, and Jimmy Wallace, who has chaired the planning committee incisively and with great good humour. Alan Grey, a skilled and hard-working member of the land committee, and Neil Hamilton, who contributed much to planning, have also completed their terms.

Board membership involves commitment to and engagement with conservation values and multifarious networks, and synthesis of input from the colloquial to the technical, and from flaxroots to governance levels. The thoughtful and knowledgeable contributions members make to conservation are truly valued. Thank you all.



Jan Finlayson.
27 May 2014.



Loder Cup award 2013

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Introduction

This is the sixteenth annual report from the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board, as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board is a twelve-member citizen body appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987, Part IIA and Section 6.

It is a policy-making and advisory body for a range of activities on public conservation land and all other functions of the Department of Conservation.

The roles of the Conservation Board are set out in the Conservation Act 1987 as follows:

- To recommend the approval of conservation management strategies (in particular the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy)
- To approve conservation management plans
- To advise on how conservation management strategies and management plans will be put into practice
- To advise on proposed changes to the status of land areas of national and international significance
- To liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters
- To carry out other powers delegated to it by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act 1987 or any other act of parliament

The Board is serviced by the Department of Conservation.

Section 60 of the Conservation Act requires that every Conservation Board provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority with an annual report as soon as practicable after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement, the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board submits its Annual Report for consideration.



Board current area

The Board's area of jurisdiction extends from the Conway and Clarence rivers in the north, and west to the main divide, including all of the Arthur's Pass National Park.

The southern boundary is the catchment of the Waitaki River at Kurow, along the river to the east coast.

The coastal boundary is the twelve-mile limit for marine reserves and the Exclusive Economic Zone for marine mammals.



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

- Two national parks (Aoraki/Mount Cook and Arthur's Pass)
- Part of one national reserve (Lewis Pass)
- Eight conservation parks (Craigieburn, Lake Sumner, Hanmer, Ahuriri, Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park, Ruataniwha, Hakatere and Te Kahui Kaupeka, part of Hawea and part of Oteake.
- Hurunui and Hawdon predator-controlled areas (formerly part of Operation Ark)
- One marine reserve (Pōhatu) and one marine mammal sanctuary (Banks Peninsula). As of 8th June 2014 this changed to two marine reserves – Pōhatu and Akaroa.
- A large number of recreation, scenic and historic reserves and stewardship areas
- Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere joint management with Ngāi Tahu

The Canterbury Region directly administers 1,029,837 hectares including the 215 hectare Pōhatu Marine Reserve and the 512 ha Akaroa Marine Reserve.

This is 24 per cent of the Canterbury Region.



Limestone at Castle Hill

Membership

The Board comprises eight general members and four appointees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu (*), in accordance with section 273 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998. At the end of April, four members terms finished (^), and four new appointees started (#). Their first meeting was 27th June 2014. At the end of June 2014 four more members completed their terms (+)

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Jan Finlayson (Chairperson)+ | Geraldine |
| • Dr. John Keoghan^ | Rolleston |
| • Jimmy Wallace^ | Geraldine |
| • Mal Clarbrough+ | Christchurch |
| • David Round | Banks Peninsula |
| • Alan Grey^ | Christchurch |
| • Neil Hamilton^ | Loburn |
| • David Matheson+ | Christchurch |
| • Joseph Hullen* | Tuahuriri (Kaiapoi) |
| • Te Awhina Arahanga*+ | Taumutu (Auckland/Christchurch) |
| • John Lewis* | Rapaki(Lyttleton) |
| • Teoti Jardine* | Arowhenua (Oxford) |
| • Mick Abbott # | Banks Peninsula |
| • Peggy Burrows # | Amberley |
| • Sam Newton # | Christchurch |
| • Paula Smith # | Banks Peninsula |



Jan Finlayson, Chair



Mal Clarbrough



Te Awhina Arahunga



Neil Hamilton



Dr John Keoghan



Jimmy Wallace



Teoti Jardine



Alan Grey



David Round



John Lewis



Joseph Hullen

Conservation Board meetings

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board held five meetings during the reporting period. The venue for Board meetings is chosen to ensure as wide a coverage as possible, and to enable members of the public throughout their district to have access to the Board.

1.	20 September 2013	Godley Hotel, Lake Tekapo
2.	8 November 2013	Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu, Wigram, Christchurch
3.	14 February 2014	Hermitage Hotel, Aoraki/Mount Cook
4.	11 April 2014	Rapaki Marae, Rapaki, Lyttleton
5.	27 June 2013	Christchurch DOC Office

Members' attendance

Board member	Area	Number of meetings attended
Jan Finlayson	Geraldine	5 *
Mal Clarbrough	Christchurch	5 *
Teoti Jardine	Arowhenua (Oxford)	5 *
John Lewis	Rapaki (Lyttleton)	5 *
David Round	Banks Peninsula	4 *
Joseph Hullen	Tuahuriri (Kaiapoi)	4 *
David Matheson	Christchurch	3 *
Te Awhina Arahanga	Taumutu (Christchurch)	3 *
Dr. John Keoghan	Rolleston	4 ^
Jimmy Wallace	Geraldine	3 ^
Alan Grey	Christchurch	2 ^
Neil Hamilton	Loburn	0 ^
Mick Abbott	Banks Peninsula	1 #
Peggy Burrows	Rangiora	1 #
Sam Newton	Christchurch	1 #
Paula Smith	Banks Peninsula	0 #

* from a total of 5 meetings

^ from a total of 4 meetings

from a total of 1 meeting

Field trips and site inspections

Three field inspections were conducted during the year as follows:

Lake Tekapo and environs - 19 September 2013

The Board visited areas around Lake Tekapo. They stopped at various places which included:

- The Tekapo Scientific Reserve where Neil Bolton and Joy Comrie from the Twizel Office discussed past and current management of the reserve and the huge gains in the control of rabbits over the past 26 years.
- The David Scott Research plot near Mt John, where they looked at the work of Dr David Scott, and then moved onto Lake McGregor and discussed issues around camping and recreation in the area.



- The Board moved onto a site near Lake Tekapo where Dean Nelson from DOC gave a talk on the Kaki programme.
- The Board were able to access the hydro canals near Irishmans Creek to view properties and had a good discussion about tenure review with Tim Whittaker from the DOC Alexandra office.
- Mount John Observatory was visited at night time, and the Board was hosted by Alan Gilmore from the University of Canterbury. They had a good look around the facilities and learnt about some of the research.



Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park - 13 February 2014

The Board did a field trip from Peters Point on SH80 up into the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park. They stopped and looked at various places which included:

- At Peters Point Neil Bolton from DOC Twizel discussed Wilding Pine issues, trials for spraying and control of pines, and pointed out the problem areas visible to the Board from this site.
- Stopped at the Tasman Delta and discussed the Tasman Valley Predator Programme, as well as Kaki release and braided river bed birds.
- Met at Glentanner Park for morning tea and discussed Hovercraft proposal and the Kaki/Bird Hide proposal
- Moved onto the Tasman Valley road and Blue Lakes Carpark to discuss the road realignment and tarsealing, and the Blue Lakes Carpark redevelopment. Also discussed was Tenure Review and grazing in the park.
- Regrouped at the Emergency Services Building in the Aoraki/Mount Cook Village and Ray Bellringer and Shirley Slatter did a presentation and outline on what the LEOTC programme at Aoraki involves.
- Travelled out to the White Horse Hill campground and discussed the campground development and how the campground operates and the Camp Host Programme
- From here Board members walked the Hooker Valley Track to look at the new swingbridges and track redevelopment.



Board members and Megan Hieatt (DOC) on the Hooker Valley track

Banks Peninsula - 10 April 2014

The Board did a field trip around Banks Peninsula and stopped and looked at the following:



Grant Campbell (DOC) talks to Board members about the Hay Reserve

- Starting at the DOC Motukarara Native Plant Nursery where the work of the nursery was explained and a quick look around the model gardens and the nursery

- Moved onto Little River, and then stopped at the Hilltop Tavern to discuss Deer Eradication on the Peninsula
- Travelled to Hinewai Reserve at Akaroa, where Hugh Wilson outlined what the Hinewai Reserve is about, what they have achieved and what they hope to achieve in the future. Lunch and a short walk followed.
- Headed over to the Hay Reserve where Grant Campbell from DOC gave a talk on the history of the reserve and why it is so special. A short walk around the reserve was taken to look at the amazing vegetation.
- On to the Rapaki Marae where the Board was welcomed on, had dinner and an evening of korero about the history of the Marae and the area.

Community involvement in Board meetings

Throughout 2012/13 the Board welcomed presentations at its meetings and field trips from a number of different organisations and individuals.

These included:

- Sam Newton from the NZAC talking about New Zealand Alpine Club
- Warren Chin from DOC updated the board on invertebrate conservation in Canterbury and the Central South Island
- Donna Falconer from the Eastern Falcon Conservation Trust talking about preservation of the Eastern NZ Falcon
- Nick Wall, and independent water tester outlining the project he has been involved in with testing water from the Rangitata River
- John Cocks – president of NZAC discussing waste disposal issues in alpine areas
- Pam Richardson presented on Banks Peninsula and Conservation

Members of the public also attended Board meetings in Lake Tekapo, Aoraki/Mount Cook and Rapaki Marae. In addition, Board members bring concerns to the meetings that have been raised with them by the community.



NZ Falcon feeding young

Subcommittees

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Committee Structure – May 2014

Committee	Function	Membership
Land	Tenure review, weeds and pests, wild animals	John Keoghan Mal Clarbrough David Round Alan Grey David Matheson Te Awhina Arahanga Jan Finlayson*
Water	Marine reserves, taipure, marine mammals, coastal pollution, marine farms, wetlands, Canterbury Water Management Strategy	Joseph Hullen Alan Grey David Matheson Neil Hamilton Teoti Jardine Jan Finlayson*
Iwi	Oversight and liaison	Te Awhina Arahanga Teoti Jardine John Lewis Joseph Hullen Jan Finlayson*
Planning	Conservation Management Strategy, Management Plans, District Plans, Resource Consents, Advocacy, Business Planning	Jimmy Wallace Mal Clarbrough Dr John Keoghan David Round Neil Hamilton John Lewis Jan Finlayson*
Concessions	Visitor management and development	Mal Clarbrough John Keoghan Alan Grey Te Awhina Arahanga Teoti Jardine John Lewis Jan Finlayson*
CMS Priority Setting	Board to work with DOC staff in setting priorities for providing annual reports on outputs to the Conservation Board.	Full Board DOC Staff: Poma Palmer Dave Newey

* Please note that the Board Chair, Jan Finlayson is an ex-officio member of each sub committee

Board functions under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

The work carried out during the year under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 was as follows:

Conservation Management Strategies

To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of Conservation Management Strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies under the relevant enactment 6M(1)(a)

This process of reviewing the Canterbury Management Strategy (CMS) continued on from the previous year.

342 submissions were received.

A series of ten submissions hearings were held in 2013 in late October and early November, where 69 submissions were spoken to.

These hearings were attended by the following Board members (and also two DOC staff at each meeting):

Date	Location	Board Members
21 Oct	Christchurch DOC Office	Jan Finlayson, John Keoghan
22 Oct	Geraldine DOC Office	Jan Finlayson, John Lewis, David Round
23 Oct	Twizel Mackenzie Country Inn	Jan Finlayson, Jimmy Wallace
24 Oct	Christchurch DOC Office	David Round, John Lewis
25 Oct	Rangiora DOC Office	Mal Clarbrough, Neil Hamilton
1 Nov	Christchurch, TRONT Office	Jan Finlayson, Mal Clarbrough
4 Nov	Christchurch DOC Office	Te Awhina Arahanga, David Matheson
5 Nov	Christchurch DOC Office	Mal Clarbrough, Te Awhina Arahanga
6 Nov	Christchurch DOC Office	Te Awhina Arahanga, John Keoghan, Joseph Hullen
29 Nov	Rangiora DOC Office	Neil Hamilton

As at end of June, the Common Issues Reports had been received by the Board. The next stage will be to review these and the draft CMS before sending to the Conservation Authority for approval.

Conservation management plans

To approve Conservation Management Plans, and the review and amendment of such Plans, under the relevant enactments 6M(1)(b)

No management places were reviewed, amended or approved during the 2013/14 period.

Implementation

To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director General on the implementation of Conservation Management Strategy and Conservation Management Plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the board 6M(1)(c)

As above

Change of status

To advise the Conservation Authority or the Director General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance 6M(1)(d)(i)

No areas of national or international importance have changed status or classification during the 2013/14 year.

Conservation advice

Any other conservation matter relating to any areas within the jurisdiction of the Board 6M(i)(d)(ii)

Conservation matters the Board has given advice on to the department or NZCA or other government departments or bodies with an interest are:

- Tenure Review, including advice to the department; advocacy to LINZ.
- Concessions, including Barhill Cherstey Irrigation scheme
- Draft Canterbury Conservation Management plan and strategy
- Scientific Reserve Management
- Himalayan Tahr control and research – mainly discussion
- Advice to Ministry for the Environment on freshwater reform
- Advice to Standard New Zealand about Freshwater Contaminants
- Advice to Judith Collins about public funding of Standards for Freshwater Contaminants
- Advice to the Minister on review of Conservation Boards, and also around a Conservation tax or Koha
- Advice to LINZ on Dry Creek and management of Crown Pastoral Leases and on Good Husbandry
- Dr John Keoghan wrote a paper on “An Agronomists Perspective on Management of Pastoral Leases” for distribution to LINZ and for incoming Board members
- Advice to Canterbury Water Management Strategy on progress to targets
- Advice to ECAN on Rangitata Resource Consent

Liaison with Fish and Game Councils

To liaise with Fish and Game Councils on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board 6M(1)(f)

Liaison has continued in an informal manner with the Fish and Game council.

Delegated functions

To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act 6M(1)(g)

The Minister has not delegated powers or functions under this sub-section.

Other functions

Every Board shall have such other functions as are conferred on it by or under this Act or any other Act 6M(2)

The Board ensures that its decisions and recommendations are consistent with the requirements of Section 4 and the Conservation Act 1987.

Powers of the Board under Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

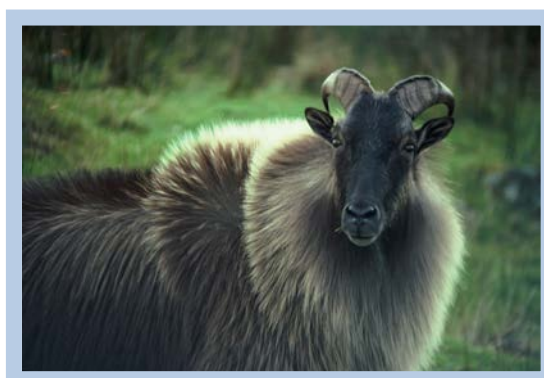
Section 6.1 Every Board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions 6N(1)

The Board has focused its efforts during the year on:

- Preparation of the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy for review
- Canterbury Water Management Strategy and draft Zone Implementation Plans
- National Freshwater Management matters
- Tenure review
- Access issues in the Hurunui valley and Lake Sumner
- Resource Management Act matters
- Management of Himalayan Tahr
- Conservation Board Review

The Department and Board have worked together throughout the year and tried to address each of the aforementioned issues, as dictated by available resourcing.

The Board has tried to focus on policy issues and became involved in management issues only when comments or advice were requested by the Department.



Bull tahr

Section 6.2 Without limiting the generality of sub-section (1) of this section each board may 6N(2)

Advocate its interest at any public forum or in any statutory planning process 6N(2)(a)

There are 10 district plans within the Board's area of jurisdiction.

The relevant committees monitor legislative changes, District Plan Reviews and resource consent applications and take appropriate action where conservation values are threatened.

Appoint committees from members and other suitable persons and delegate to them functions and powers.

Each committee of the Board has the power to act on behalf of the Board in accordance with its delegation, and any decisions made are ratified at the following Board meeting.

One advisory committee has been appointed by the Minister of Conservation to operate under the agency of the Board. This is the Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee, which is a joint Section 6N(2)(b) and 56(2) Conservation Act committee. That committee is chaired by the Chairperson of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board, Jan Finlayson. However that committee has not met this year.

Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee

The Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee holds the status of a committee of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board and has delegated to it the following functions and powers of the board in relation to the Pōhatu Marine Reserve.

No committee meetings have been held this year.

Akaroa Marine Reserve

The Akaroa Marine Reserve was gazetted in May 2014 and opened by the Minister of Conservation, the Honourable Nick Smith on the 8th June 2014.

The establishment of the new Marine Reserve provides an opportunity to focus the Board's attention on future needs and purpose of Marine Reserve advisory committees in the context of the wider Akaroa Harbour marine environment.

This will be an opportunity for the new Board to explore.



Seals on the rocks in the Akaroa Marine Reserve

New Akaroa Marine Reserve Opened

Date: 08 June 2014

From: Office of the Minister of Conservation

New Zealand's newest marine reserve in Akaroa Harbour was formally opened today by Conservation Minister Dr Nick Smith, and local MP and Environment Minister Amy Adams to coincide with World Oceans Day.

"World Oceans Day is about recognising the need to better protect marine life and that is what we are doing in creating the Akaroa Marine Reserve," Dr Smith says.

"This newly protected status is well deserved. The scenery surrounding the reserve is some of the most spectacular coastline anywhere in New Zealand with its huge volcanic cliffs, wild sea caves and unusual sea stacks.

"Some of the hundreds of species that will benefit from the reserve include giant bull kelp, green and horse mussels, sea tulips, hydroids, sponges, sea squirts, sea anemones, cushion, snake and biscuit stars; fish like blue cod, butterfish, blue moki, leatherjacket and white pointer sharks; birds like penguins and shags and marine mammals like fur seals and Hector's dolphins."

The 512-hectare reserve covers the south eastern corner of the Akaroa Harbour. The reserve status means all marine life is protected and that fishing and the removal of any living or non-living marine resource is prohibited. Most of the rest of the harbour is managed under a Taiapure established in 2006.

"Akaroa is an iconic harbour and is hugely popular for its recreation, scenery and heritage. The reserve will enhance Akaroa's growing nature-based tourism and will be an economic as well as an environmental asset for the Banks Peninsula community," Selwyn MP and Environment Minister Amy Adams says.



Hector's dolphins in Akaroa Harbour

"I appreciate that this reserve has been a contentious local issue spanning 20 years of debate. We need to recognise that marine life in the Akaroa Harbour is not as good as it should be and that this reserve is about ensuring it improves for future generations. The next step will be integrating the local management of the Akaroa Taiapure and Akaroa Marine Reserve so the two mechanisms work together."

"I wish to acknowledge and thank the 20 years of diligent conservation advocacy by the Akaroa Marine Protection Society for this reserve. The process has not been helped by a clunky and outdated Marine Reserves Act which has been particularly disempowering for the local rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu. New reserves initiated since like at Kaikōura and the Subantarctics have got around the Act and used special legislation. I have a personal ambition to rewrite the 1971 Marine Reserves Act after my experience in Akaroa because I believe we can create a much better process," Dr Smith says

"The oceans are the new frontier for conservation. This is the fourth marine reserve the Government has put in place this year and we are on track for a record ten by year's end. New Zealand needs a representative network of marine habitats in permanent protection just as we have on land," Dr Smith concluded.

Draft general policies

The Conservation Authority may consult any Conservation Board about the draft of a general policy after receiving submissions on it 17b(3)(1)(ii)

The General Policy for National Parks and the Conservation General Policy were adopted in May 2005.

Freshwater fisheries management plans

Draft freshwater fisheries management plans are to be prepared by the Department in consultation with the Conservation Boards affected by them 17K(1)(a)

No such plans affecting the Board's district are in preparation at this time.

Reduction of width of, or exemption from, marginal strips

The Minister of Conservation shall consult the relevant Conservation Board about any proposal made by a Crown Land disposal agency to reduce the width of, or provide an exemption from, a marginal strip, and on being satisfied that it is reasonable in the circumstances to do so, the relevant conservation board...may request the Minister to publicly notify the proposal. 24BA

No applications were considered.

Responsibilities under other sections of the Conservation Act 1987

Co-opting members of the Board 6Q(1)

Four members of the incoming Board who were due to start on the 1st July 2014, were co-opted onto the Board to attend the meeting of the 27th June 2014, to facilitate a smoother succession from one Board to the next. They didn't have voting rights, but could speak at the meeting. They were not formally part of any particular committee at that point.

Advice on granting lease or licence in the absence of a CMS or CMP

No advice was given during the year.

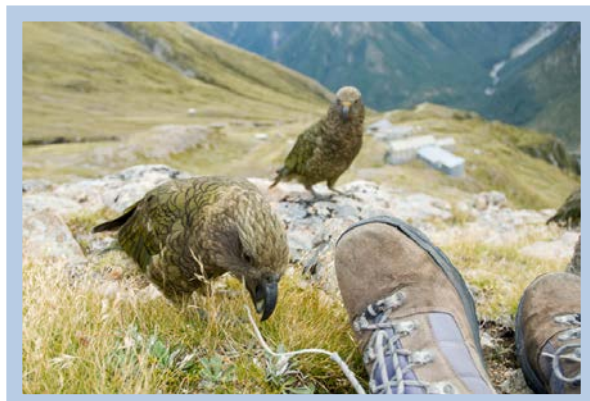
Board functions under the National Parks Act 1980

The Board is responsible, in conjunction with the Department, for preparing draft reviews of management plans, for hearing and deciding on public submissions on any draft review and for recommending any review to the New Zealand Conservation Authority for approval Sections 30(a) and 45-47

There are two national parks in the Board's area of jurisdiction. Each national park has a management plan which is reviewed at 10-year intervals.

The Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan has been reviewed and was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on 13 December 2007.

The Aoraki Mt Cook National Park Management Plan was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on 14 April 2004.



Advise on any other matter relating to National Parks 30(f)(iii)

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park

The Board continues to have an ongoing interest in the management of the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, and advises the Department where required on concessions and other matters.

No amendments were made to the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan in the 2013/14 year.

Arthur's Pass National Park

The Board continues to have an ongoing interest in the management of the Arthur's Pass National Park, and advises the Department where required on concessions and other matters.

No amendments were made to the Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan in the 2013/14 year.

Liaison

The Board has appointed various members to liaise with outside agencies and the Department's regional offices as follows:

Liaison persons

Organisation	Liaison Person
Otago Conservation Board	David Round
West Coast Conservation Board	Dr John Keoghan
Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board	Joseph Hullen
Fish and Game (1) North Canterbury	David Matheson
Fish and Game (2) Central South Island	David Matheson
Mount Cook Museum Trust	Te Awhina Arahanga
Ngāi Tahu	Te Awhina Arahanga
Environment Canterbury	Jan Finlayson (Chairperson)
New Zealand Conservation Authority	Jan Finlayson (Chairperson)
Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee	Jan Finlayson (Chairperson)
Aoraki and Te Manahuna/Twizel Offices	Mal Clarbrough
Raukapuka/Geraldine Office	Jan Finlayson
Mahaanui and Christchurch Offices	Joseph Hullen
Rangiora Office	Joseph Hullen
Himalayan Tahr Control Plan Implementation Group	Dr. John Keoghan

Other Conservation Boards

The Region's immediate neighbours are the Otago, West Coast Tai Poutini and Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Boards. The Chairperson and liaison members monitor minutes of the various Boards for issues of common interest.

Community

The Board has continued to involve the community in its work. It holds meetings around the Canterbury area and the public is encouraged to participate in public forums at these meetings. This is seen as successful, with a number of people from local communities taking the opportunity to bring their concerns to the Board.

The Board seeks to represent the public interest and continues to strive to learn the views of the public. It would like to encourage more people to attend meetings and take advantage of the opportunity to address the board during the public forum.

During the 2013/2014 year, no Associates meetings were held in South Canterbury – probably due to the Department’s restructuring. A good number of people from conservation and recreation organisations used to attend these meetings, and the Board would like to see these meetings reinstated.

During field inspections the Board takes the opportunity to meet members of local communities in their own environments and to observe and discuss issues. This is seen as an essential part of the Board’s work to forge good-neighbour relationships with the community, Board and Department.

Conservation Board Awards

The annual Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Awards were held in Rangiora in December 2013. There were four finalists for the annual award Te Waka o Aoraki, which was presented by Lou Sanson, the new Director General of the Department of Conservation, to Hurunui College Nina Valley Restoration Group for working to conserve great spotted kiwi and restore the conservation values of the Nina valley.

The other finalists were also commended for their outstanding work and contributions to conservation in Canterbury – the Lake Heron Conservation Trust for predator control around the margins of Lake Heron, WELRA whose aim is to eliminate wilding trees from the Waimakariri Basin and restore the ecology and landscape values in that region, and Greening Waipara whose aim is to improve biodiversity in the Waipara Valley.



District and Regional Councils

The Board has continued to develop a good relationship with councils. Councillors and district mayors are invited to attend meetings and local issues often appear on the Board’s agenda.

Iwi

Ngāi Tahu nominates four members of the Board. They are individually selected by their Papatipu Rūnanga, and their status as representatives of local hapū is endorsed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Board minutes are circulated and conservation issues of concern feature regularly on meeting agenda of both organisations.

The Ngāi Tahu-nominated members of the board ensure a Ngāi Tahu perspective is considered before any final conclusions are reached.

John Lewis was the Board nominee for the Community Conservation Partnerships Regional Assessment Panel for the South and Eastern South Island Region.

Non-governmental organisations

The Board has continued to foster regular meetings with non-governmental organisations, when appropriate.

Loder Cup

The Board put forward a nomination for Nicholas Head for the Loder Cup in 2012/13.

This award is New Zealand's longest standing premier conservation prize awarded for services to botany.

Nick was successful in being awarded this prestigious cup by the Minister of Conservation, the Honourable Nick Smith at a celebration held in Christchurch in September 2013.



Jan Finlayson, Nick Head and the Honourable Nick Smith with the Loder Cup