

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board



Annual Report July 2014 – June 2015



Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board

Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2015

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



Banded Dotterel, Kaitorete Spit, P Langlands

Cover photograph: Members of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board at Lake Tennyson, St James Conservation Area, S Slatter 2015

L – R: David Round, Bruce Rule, Dr Robert Wynn-Williams, Sam Newton, John Lewis, Helen Ivey, Teoti Jardine, Dr Mick Abbott, Paula Smith

Absent: Peggy Burrows, Joseph Hullen, Peter Ramsden

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Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



Chairperson's Report – the year in review



This has been a challenging year with the Departmental restructuring bedding in, the majority of the Board members being new to the role and the need to complete the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy.

Finalisation of the CM22S has been a slow and frustrating process for the Board to work within a rigid template but still reflect the right outcomes for the region. We are grateful for all who made submissions and trust that the final document reflects most of the interests of most of the stakeholders and proves to be a useful guiding document for the next 10 years.

There are many imperatives with regard to conservation and recreation in the region. Two are making significant conservation gains outside the public conservation area, and encouraging greater participation in recreation for the health of our people. The conservation effort required in New Zealand is simply too great for the Department of Conservation alone and increasingly we will need to enlist the support and efforts of partners and volunteers. Also to get more of our young people off the couches and into the natural environment will require 'corridors' leading from our towns and cities into our parks and reserves. The volunteers who established the Prebbleton Nature Park have contributed to both of these needs and were very worthy recipients of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Award for 2014/2015.

The Board visited both the St James Conservation area and the Ō Tū Wharekai Wetlands in the Rangitata Basin during the year. These visits greatly enhanced the Board's appreciation of some of the major issues we face in the region including, for example, controlling wilding trees, gorse and broom. The Board is also convinced that the St James Conservation area deserves a higher legal status than its present classification as 'stewardship area' and agrees with the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment that it is very important to reclassify areas such as St James.

Many thanks are due to all the Board members who have contributed enthusiastically and thoughtfully to discussions throughout the year. We farewelled David Round at the June meeting, and we thank him for his many years of service to the Board and to conservation in our region. David has a wealth of experience and interest in the 'back country' and always contributed with good humour.

The Board acknowledges the considerable effort put in by Shirley Slatter in supporting the Board throughout the year in spite of all her other commitments and we thank her sincerely.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, likely belonging to Shirley Slatter, on a white background.

Dr Robert Wynn-Williams
June 2015



A message "penned" by a member of the public during a field trip to the St James area

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Introduction

This is the seventeenth 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.

This year there were a large number of new appointments, four in May 2014 and another four in July 2014, as well as a new Chairperson appointed.

Conservation Boards are independent bodies, established by statute. The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board represents the community of interest in the work of the Department of Conservation, and conservation in general, within the area of jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board works within a partnership between the Department and the Minister of Conservation and the public. As the public voice for community input into conservation, the Board is an independent trusted advisor to the Department and the New Zealand Conservation Authority.

The Board helps to achieve conservation outcomes for New Zealand and particularly the **Canterbury region** by:

- Contributing a strategic perspective to conservation planning, policy development and decision-making as a well-informed voice of the community
- Exercising powers of recommendation and approval for statutory management planning documents
- Advising on the implementation of statutory planning documents
- Advocating for conservation outcomes, including in public forums and through statutory planning processes

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

- To recommend the approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments (in particular the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy)
- To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
- To advise the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board
- To advise the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director General on any proposed changes to the status or classification of any land areas of national or international significance
- To advise the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director General on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board

- To liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters
- To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act 1987 or any other act of parliament

The roles and functions of the Conservation Board are set out in the **National Parks Act 1980 (section 30)** are as follows:

- To recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board (in particular the Aoraki/Mount Cook and Arthurs Pass National Parks)
- To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks (in particular the Aoraki/Mount Cook and Arthurs Pass National Parks)
- To review and report to the Director General or the New Zealand Conservation Authority as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board
- To give advice to the Director General or the New Zealand Conservation Authority on the interpretation of any management plan for a national park, and on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park, or the establishment of a national park, and on any other matter relating to any national park within the jurisdiction of the Board

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.



Kowhai, J Barkla

Annual Work Plan

The Board received a “Letter of Expectation” from the Associate Minister of Conservation, the Hon Nicky Wagner in early August 2014. This letter set out what the Associate Minister required the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board to achieve for the 2014/2015 year. She outlined four main areas that she wanted the Board to work on, and report on via this report.

Conservation Management Strategy

As outlined in the Chairperson’s report, this was the main focus for the Board this year. The CMS process in this financial year involved the Board receiving the draft Canterbury (Waitaha) CMS after the submission process had run. The Board held four CMS Committee workshops plus two Board meeting sessions and further e-mail conversations to review the documentation and public submissions. Particular attention was given to consistency with the Southland Murihiku and Otago CMS revisions and across boundary issues. There were four matters of CMS content on which the Board and the Department were unable to agree on, and these were sent to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for their consideration. The CMS is to be formally presented to the NZCA at their 4 August 2015 meeting.

Stewardship Land

The Minister asked the Board to work with the department to be prepared to give advice on any priorities for reclassification of stewardship land in the Canterbury region. To this end the Board undertook two field trips to look at how the CMS would work “on the ground” and also how Stewardship land was being managed and could be managed, and classified in the future. The biggest area of stewardship land that was identified in the report of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment on stewardship land, and one of the highest priority areas, was the St James Conservation Area. The Board took time to visit this area and familiarise themselves with the issues that this land faces, and the multiplicity of use that it supports. For further information on this, see the section further on in this report on the 10 April 2015 field trip.

The Board will continue to progress this work in 2015/2016, and await a priority list from the Department that they can offer advice on.

Other Functions

The main thrust for the Board here has been to participate in the commencement of the review of the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan. A subcommittee has been formed, whose task has been to proactively work through the existing plan, and indicate any areas they are particularly interested in or concerned about. As at the end of June 2015, the formal notification of the plan review had not been advertised by the Department, but the Board is well underway with their own internal processes.

The Board has been active in liaising with their local Fish and Game Council and have an appointed liaison member.

Advocacy

As a newly appointed Board this year with eight new members, the main focus on work has been in the three areas mentioned above. The Board has focussed on presenting the Annual Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Award, which this year went to the Prebbleton Nature Park. Board members have also been active in attending meetings and workshops related to their interests, and provide a Board voice at these events when required. This includes many varied community participation from the Canterbury Poets Collective to Council meetings; Water Zone committees to Thar Control Group meetings; Kea Conservation Trust workshops to Avon-Otakaro Network meetings; and many more. For a full list refer to the Advocacy section further on in this report.

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 and Aoraki/Mount Cook 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 and Water within the Board's boundaries are:

- Two national parks (Aoraki/Mount Cook and Arthur's Pass)
- Part of one national reserve (Lewis Pass Scenic)
- 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, Hawdon and Poulter predator-controlled areas (formerly part of Operation Ark)
- Two marine reserves (Pōhatu and Akaroa)
- One wilderness area (Adams) that is jointly managed between Canterbury and the West Coast
- A large number of recreation, scenic, historic, scientific, nature and other reserves and conservation areas including Stewardship areas. This includes in excess of 80,000ha of new Conservation lands at St James providing a diverse range of recreation and special protected areas.
- The DOC managed part of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere

The Canterbury Region directly administers 1,029,837 hectares including the 215 hectare Pōhatu Marine Reserve and the 512 ha Akaroa Marine Reserve. Last year has seen several additional Public Conservation Land (PCL) areas added to the region from tenure review processes and purchases. An example is the addition of part of the Tasman River bed to PCL in the form of a Scenic Reserve.

This is 24 per cent of the Canterbury Region.



Ō Tū Wharekai Wetlands area, T Norton

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. Four new members were appointed in May 2014 and another four in July 2014.

David Round retires at the end of June 2015 and both Dr Mick Abbott and Teoti Jardine have been reappointed for a term of another three years.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Dr Robert Wynn-Williams | Christchurch |
| • Dr Mick Abbott | Banks Peninsula |
| • Peggy Burrows | Amberley |
| • Joseph Hullen* | Tuahuriri (Kaiapoi) |
| • Helen Ivey | Glentanner, Mount Cook |
| • Teoti Jardine* | Arowhenua (Oxford) |
| • John Lewis* | Rapaki (Lyttleton) |
| • Sam Newton | Christchurch |
| • Peter Ramsden* | Kourakourarata (Banks Peninsula) |
| • David Round | Banks Peninsula |
| • Bruce Rule | Christchurch |
| • Paula Smith | Banks Peninsula |



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.	12 September 2014	Stronchrubie, Mount Somers
2.	21 November 2014	Christchurch DOC Office
3.	13 February 2015	Tuahiwi Marae, Kaiapoi
4.	10 April 2015	Hot Springs Hotel, Hanmer Springs
5.	26 June 2015	Christchurch DOC Office

Members' attendance

Board member	Area	Number of meetings attended *
Dr Mick Abbott	Little River	5
Peggy Burrows	Rangiora	3 +
Joseph Hullen	Tuahuriri (Kaiapoi)	3
Helen Ivey	Glentanner, Mount Cook	4
Teoti Jardine	Arowhenua (Oxford)	5
John Lewis	Rapaki (Lyttleton)	5
Sam Newton	Christchurch	5
Peter Ramsden	Kourakourarata (Banks Peninsula)	0
David Round	Banks Peninsula	5
Bruce Rule	Christchurch	5
Paula Smith	Banks Peninsula	5
Dr Robert Wynn-Williams	Christchurch	4

* from a total of 5 meetings
+ leave of absence granted



David Round reading the hut book from the historic Christopher (Ada) Cullers Hut book, on the St James Conservation Area Field Trip, April 2015, S Slatter

Field trips and site inspections

Two field trip case studies were undertaken during the year. Both field trips were designed to key the Board members into how the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy would work on the ground, and what issues there were in these two key areas, and to look at the issue of Stewardship Land being redesignated as other conservation status. Both field trips were of huge value to the Board, so that they could “see the issues on the ground”, and could discuss in context weed and pest problems, access and public usage, recreation, concessionaire usage and issues, CMS outcomes, conservation efforts and progress and outcomes of tenure review.

Further field trips could not be conducted, as the Board spent considerable time dealing with the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy at workshops, in order to get this planning document signed off within the timeframe set.

Ō Tū Wharekai Wetlands – Rangitata Basin, 12 September 2014

The Board met at Stronechrubie at Mt Somers and toured around the Ō Tū Wharekai Wetlands situated in the Rangitata Basin.

The following areas and sites were visited:

- Hakatere heritage buildings – members had a look at Stone Cottage and viewed maps and interpretive material to get an overview of the wetland and what the area means to Arowhenua and Ngāi Tahu
- Lake Heron – discuss vehicle access and consider how this is dealt with in the CMS, and view the proposed campground. Discussion on tenure review held
- Maori Lakes – observe lakes and discuss the issues surrounding them, including weeds, pests and access
- Lake Clearwater – Discuss complexities of Lake Clearwater and other associated lakes, management and use. Discuss land use intensification and effects on the wetland, and discuss Stewardship Land in relation to the wetland
- Potts River – Discuss work of Upper Rangitata Land Care group and weed issues, and concessionaire usage of the area.



Lake Heron



Mt Potts

St James Conservation Area 10 April 2015

The Board met at the Hot Springs Hotel, Hanmer Springs and travelled from there to the St James Conservation Area.

The following areas and sites were visited:

- Old St James Station buildings – discussion on what the buildings are used for, the historic aspect, the weed issues and how these are being dealt with, a look at the map and discussion on public use of the area.
- Lake Tennyson – discussion on the geography, the public usage and access, horse trekking and weed issues.
- Maling Pass – overview of general issues, public access, legal roads, 4WD and other usage, mountain biking.



Maling Pass

- Lake Guyon – lunch stop, and discussion on weed species in particular the incursion of Rowan Trees.
- St James Station existing buildings – the right of usage and access for the past owners, the horse herd, management of the area, and a visit to the revamped Christopher Hut and the historic Chrisopher (Ada) Cullers Hut, where usage and access was discussed.



Lake Guyon



Managed horse herd on the retired St James Station



St James Station Buildings

Community and DOC involvement in Board meetings

Throughout 2014/15 the Board welcomed presentations at its meetings from members of the public and from Department staff who were responding to requests from the Board for more information on topics, so members could make informed decisions.

As the Board had eight new members, there was a concentrated effort to provide background information on several topics that the Board wished to further explore.

These topics included:

- Tim Fraser, Commercial Partnerships Unit (CPU), DOC. A presentation on what the CPU is, and an overview of some of the major partnerships DOC is involved with.
- Janine Sidery, Senior Permissions Advisor, DOC. A presentation on how Permissions and Concessions are processed including when they trigger Board notification and consultation.
- The Honourable Nicky Wagner, Associate Minister of Conservation. The Associate Minister spoke to the Board about the role of Conservation Boards and her aspirations for conservation.
- Suky Thompson, Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust. A presentation on what the trust is about, their hopes and plans for the Spine of the Lizard walkway.
- Murray McKenzie, LINZ. A presentation on the tenure review process from a LINZ perspective and where the programme is heading.
- Andy Thompson and Don Bogie, DOC. An overview of the Destination Management Framework, the NZ Recreation Consortium and how DOC and the Community manage DOC huts and tracks.
- Bronwyn Barnard, Legal Services Manager, DOC. A presentation on Section 4 of the Conservation Act, and what this means for the Board, for DOC and for Iwi.
- Mark Christensen, NZCA, CACB liaison person. Mark gave a presentation and update on the role and activities of NZCA.
- Kara Edwards, Pou Tairangahau, DOC. A overview of the role of Pou Kuratai or Strategic Iwi Relationships Manager and how the Board fits with this.
- Poma Palmer, CMS Planner, DOC. An overview and introduction to the CMS process, and history of the draft Canterbury (Waitaha) CMS, and what the process is to get to sign-off by the Board and presentation to the NZCA.
- Cathie Brumley, National Park Planner, DOC. A introduction to National Park Management Plan review process, how this is managed and the role of the Board.
- Jeremy Severinsen, Tenure Review Manager, DOC. A presentation on tenure review, how the process works, how land is classified, and the rold of the Board in this.

Subcommittees

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Committee Structure – June 2015

Committee	Function	Membership
Land	Tenure review, weeds and pests, wild animals	David Round Helen Ivey Mick Abbott Sam Newton John Lewis Robert Wynn-Williams*
Water	Marine reserves, taipure, marine mammals, coastal pollution, marine farms, wetlands, Canterbury Water Management Strategy	Joseph Hullen Teoti Jardine Bruce Rule Paula Smith Robert Wynn-Williams*
Iwi	Oversight and liaison	Teoti Jardine John Lewis Joseph Hullen Peter Ramsden Robert Wynn-Williams*
Planning	Conservation Management Strategy, Management Plans, District Plans, Resource Consents, Advocacy, Business Planning	David Round Mick Abbott Peggy Burrows Paula Smith John Lewis Robert Wynn-Williams*
Concessions	Visitor management and development	Helen Ivey Teoti Jardine Sam Newton Robert Wynn-Williams*
CMS Priority Setting	Board to work with DOC staff in leading the review of the Canterbury Management Strategy	Full Board DOC Staff: Poma Palmer Dave Newey
Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review	Work with DOC staff in leading the review of the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan	Mick Abbott David Round Peggy Burrows Paula Smith John Lewis Teoti Jardine Sam Newton Robert Wynn-Williams* DOC Staff: Cathie Brumley

* Please note that the Board Chair, Robert Wynn-Williams 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. The submission and hearing process was carried out in the previous year, and this year the Board concentrated on receiving the draft CMS from the Department, and working their way through this.

Section 17F(k) requires the Conservation Board to: ***consider the revised draft CMS, request the Director-General to further revise the draft, and send the draft to the Authority for approval, together with a written statement on any matters of content on which the Director-General and the Board are unable to agree, and send a copy of the summary of submissions.***

The Board received the revised draft CMS from the Department on 20 November 2014. The Board created a “committee of whole” (the whole Board membership) which held workshops to consider the CMS as outlined below. Not all members were able to attend all workshops, and the number of participants is also listed below.

A hui with two Ngāi Tahu Board representatives and a Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu representative was held to achieve further understanding of the Ngāi Tahu submission, with matters from this hui brought back to the full Committee.

The Committee reached agreement with the Department on most revision, but also considered there were eight desirable revisions which could not be enabled by any submission, and these were referred to the NZCA for a consideration. The Committee also requested that an extra appendix be added to the CMS, which is also referred to the NZCA for consideration.

There are also three matters that the Board has not been able to resolve, and these have been referred to the NZCA as matters on which the NZCA will need to make a decision.

The Board was unable to complete its CMS consideration process within the prescribed six month time frame and sought from the Minister a time extension until 4 August 2015.

The Board approved the revised draft Canterbury (Waitaha) CMS for recommendation to the NZCA at the 26 June 2015 meeting.

The CMS is due to be presented to the NZCA on August 4 2015.

Date	Location	Number of Board members who attended workshops
20/11/14	Christchurch	11
26/1/15	Christchurch	11
12/2/15	Christchurch	9
11/3/15	Christchurch	8
29/5/15	Sockburn	9

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 plans were reviewed, amended or approved during the 2014/2015 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 2014/2015 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 and submissions on Tenure Review properties when required.
- Concessions, minimal required this year, but the Board takes an active interest in this process
- Draft Canterbury (Waitaha) Conservation Management strategy
- Advice to Environment Canterbury (ECAN) through submission on Resource Consent Application for River Mouth Openings

Liaison with Fish and Game Councils

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

Bruce Rule as the Liaison appointed member of the Conservation Board attended Fish & Game meetings, and met with the North Canterbury Fish and Game Manager on 16 May 2015. Discussions were held on a variety of topics, and both agreed to exchange public meeting minutes on a regular basis.

It is hoped that with this relationship being revamped, that the Board will continue to have a good working relationship with Fish and Game.

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
- Tenure review
- Response to the Associate Minister on the Letter of Expectation and a preparation of an Annual Work Plan, with this being reported on at each Board meeting
- A concentrated effort by the Board to develop an understanding of the issues surrounding “Stewardship Land” and the Ministers request that all Boards consider what status stewardship land should be reclassified to. This involved two field days and presentations on how tenure review process worked and how lands coming out of tenure review are classified.
- 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.

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.

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 consultations were made during the year.

Responsibilities under other sections of the Conservation Act 1987

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

No members were co-opted during the year

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 either wholly or partially within 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.



Hooker Valley, Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park, C Monteath

Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan

The Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management plan is coming up for review, and the Board have appointed a committee to deal with this. The committee has met once with the planner appointed to this process, and it is a topic at each Board meeting with an update.

As at the end of June 2015 the plan had not been formally advertised as coming up for review. Once this is done the Board will commence a formal process of consultation with the Department and other interested parties.



Aoraki/Mount Cook, C Montearth

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 2014/2015 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 2014/2015 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	Teoti Jardine
Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board	Joseph Hullen
Fish and Game	Bruce Rule
Mount Cook Museum Trust	Helen Ivey
New Zealand Conservation Authority	Robert Wynn-Williams (Chairperson)
Himalayan Tahr Control Plan Implementation Group	Helen Ivey

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.

This year the Department trialled a series of regional meetings where the Board chairs from the three Southern Conservation Boards (Canterbury, Otago and Southland) met on a regular four monthly basis to discuss areas of common interests or concerns.

This was received well by both the Department staff and Board Chairs and has been a valuable exercise. It is hoped that this will continue in the future.

Board Chairs have also had two meetings in Wellington where they have met with the Associate Minister of Conservation, the Director-General, the NZ Conservation Authority and other Board Chairs.

Community

The Board has continued to involve the community in its work. It holds meetings around the Canterbury area and the public are encouraged to participate in public forums at these meetings. This year has been a bit quieter with not so many public attending meetings, but the Board has been proactive in getting briefings on areas they needed information on.

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.

Board members have been active in other areas where they are members of Community committees or groups. This has included the likes of Water Zone Committees, Community Boards, Recreation groups such as the New Zealand Alpine Club, and some urban based groups that are associated with Christchurch and the earthquake recovery process. Board members are encouraged to attend community events, and report back to these at each meeting. The following is a list of community meetings that have been attended by Board members where they have contributed as a member but also as a Board member:

- Kea Trust meetings
- NZIAS Water Conference
- Clean Water Trust
- Federated Mountain Clubs
- Christchurch West Melton Zone Committee
- Christchurch Ground Water Protection Zone meetings
- Christchurch City Council and Community Board networks
- Banks Peninsula Water Management Zone Committee
- Governors Bay Landcare Group
- Orton Bradley Park Board
- Banks Peninsula Ecological Survey Steering Committee
- Summit Road Authority
- Summit Road Advisory Committee
- Summit Road Society
- Conservation Week
- Avon Atakaro Newtownk Strategic Steering Group
- Edible Canterbury Gardens in Schools Hui
- Volunteering Canterbury Trust Board
- Canterbury Poets Collective
- New Zealand Alpine Club forum

Conservation Board Award



The annual Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Award was held in Sockburn in June 2015. The recipient this year for the annual award Te Waka o Aoraki, was the Prebbleton Nature Park. Board members visited the site in June and the presentation was made at the site.

Prebbleton Nature Park comprises 2.6 hectares of former gravel pit and rubbish dump which was leased for grazing up until 2002. It is located in Springs Road, just south of Prebbleton, opposite the cemetery.

In 2003 a neighbour Michelle Frey, who was a student at Lincoln College at the time, presented a concept plan to Selwyn District Council. The idea was to recreate “a truly Canterbury landscape” by restoring the natural habitat. Since then gorse and broom have been cleared and over 7000 locally-sourced natives have been planted. The nature park is open to visitors every day and is used for recreation including picnics. It is especially popular with dog walkers.

The Board’s acting chairman Dave Round said it was remarkable what had been achieved in just over a decade, with the park becoming “a veritable oasis of marginal ecology set in the biodiversity desert of the agricultural plains, right at the edge of the sprawling city”.



David Round presents the Prebbleton Nature Park group with the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Award

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. Liaison representatives have been active in attending runaka meetings and updating the runaka on the work of the Board.

The Ngāi Tahu-nominated members of the board have formally met with both Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and Departmental staff with regards the draft Canterbury (Waitaha) CMS, and this has facilitated good discussion on appropriate content.

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

Non-governmental organisations

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

Community Conservation Partnership Fund

This is a fund set up by the Department to help fund community groups to do conservation work. Dr Robert Wynn-Williams was the Canterbury representative on the committee set up to select suitable recipients.



Cass Saddle Hut in Arthurs Pass National Park