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Chatham Islands Conservation Board Annual Report 2021-2022



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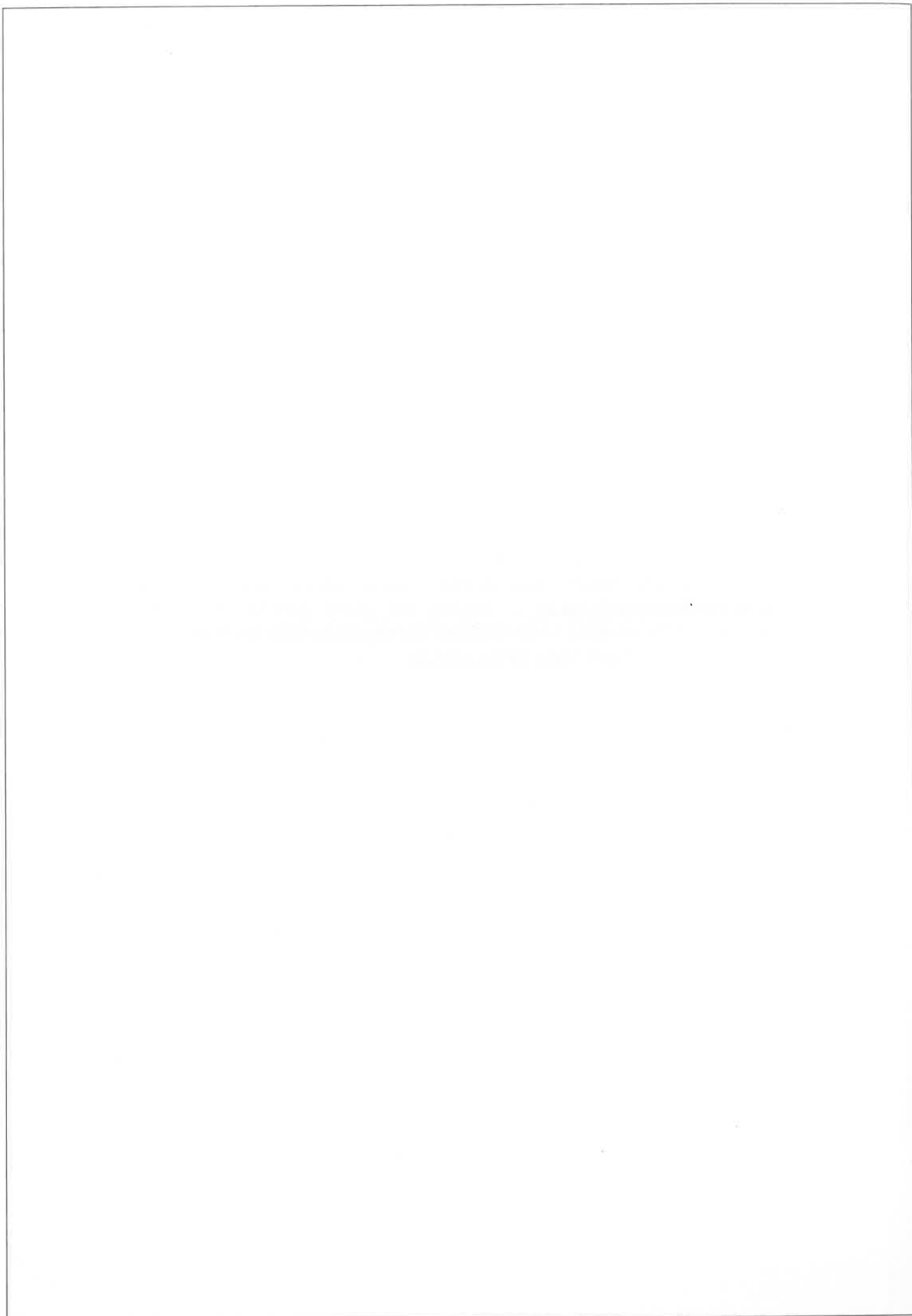
Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
pursuant to Section 6 (O) of the Conservation Act 1987

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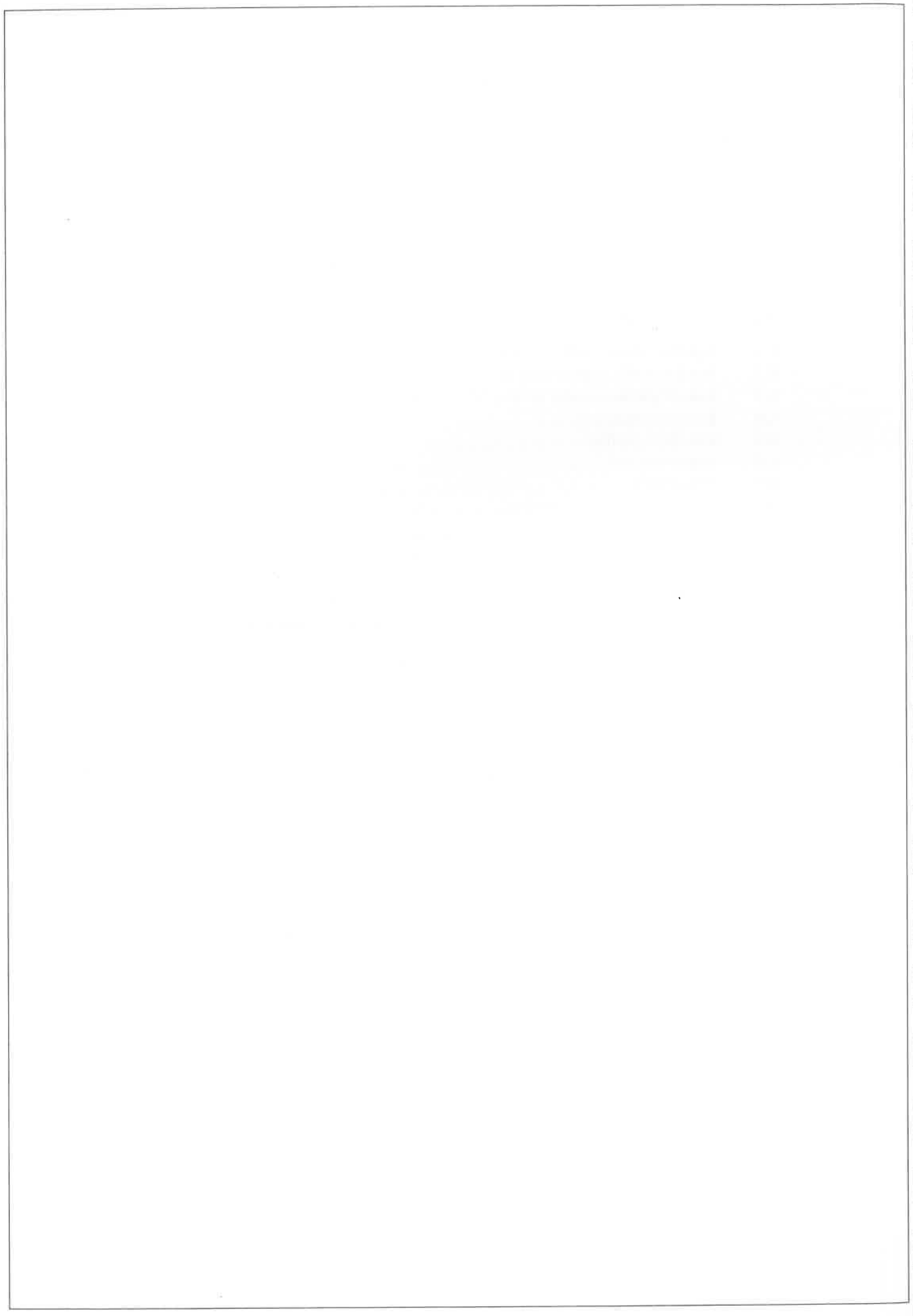
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Front Cover: Common Southern Bean Cowry (*Ellatrivia merces*) – a warm water northern New Zealand mollusc confirmed for the first time from the Chatham Islands at Kaingaroa, Rēkohu / Wharekauri / Chatham Islands during February 2021 (image: P.J. de Lange). Hangatere / Chatham Aster (*Macrolearia semidentata*), an endemic shrub of restiad bog on Rēkohu / Wharekauri / Chatham Island. Previously treated as *Olearia* hangatere, keketeruhe and other southern New Zealand allied species have now been placed in a new endemic genus *Macrolearia*. (image: P.J. de Lange)



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1. Chairperson's report

Kioranga / Kia ora / Goedendag

Welcome to the Chatham Islands Conservation Boards Annual Report for the year 2021/2022.

The ongoing SARS-CoV2 (COVID-19) pandemic continued to impact throughout Aotearoa / New Zealand, and by default the Chatham Islands during the 2021 / 2022 year. Consequently, Board Meetings were often reduced to electronic Teams or ZOOM meetings where members met in virtual space and times, or cancelled as COVID-19 finally reached the Chatham Islands. Irrespective of these challenges the board undertook its role with its customary zeal on Rekohu / Wharekauri / Chatham Island and Rangihau / Rangiauria / Pitt Island.

I took over the role of chair from Judy Kamo who resigned from the position in June 2021. Our new board had its first meeting at Kopinga Marae during August 2021, where the board welcomed new members Levi Lanauze and Alfred Johansen. Thereafter be it by ZOOM, Teams or physically meeting the board has worked its way through a fascinating array of issues, and heard from a range of organisations, researchers and people about their environmental work. The board is positioned so as to represent the Chatham Islands community, listen to and where necessary hold the Department of Conservation to account, but more critically to support the Department in its work, and where necessary report to the Minister of Conservation on critical issues raised through the board.

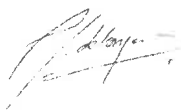
We take our role seriously. It is our job to work for the Chatham Islands community, impartially, with respect and honour to ensure good outcomes for the environment. As such our focus has been to collaborate with other environmental agencies, researchers, the Chatham Council, Environment Canterbury, imi, iwi and Chatham Islanders – within scope of COVID-19 restrictions we have achieved this. At times it has not been easy.

Here I wish to acknowledge the mana – with no pun intended of Mana Cracknell who passed away in mid-January 2022, while an active board member. Mana was a rare man of good humour and deep knowledge; his skill set was unique and it is missed. Di Gregory-Hunt, 'Aunty Di' to most of the board did wonders representing the views of the Pitt Island community, in June 2022 her final term on the board ended – we wish her well in ongoing conservation endeavours on her beloved island. Trescia Lawson finished her first term in June 2022 and did not seek re-election as she decided to concentrate her energies on working more with people in the community. Again, the board will miss her for her insight and willingness to offer perceptive assessments of complex situations. At the time of writing (August 2022) we welcome Denis Prendeville and Francesca Bonventre to the board – we look forward to their growing into the shoes left by the departures of others.

Finally, as a New Zealander, I first became acquainted with the Chatham Islands in 1996 after which I have undertaken frequent visits to the islands ever since. I have a deep love for the islands, the people there and firmly believe that the Chathams, where most of the land is in private, often complex ownership, serves as a shining example of how conservation must proceed – through effective communication and understanding of how people view their environment.

Thank you, Di and Judy, for helping me appreciate that fact.

Nga mihi / Me rongo / Doei



Peter J. de Lange
Chairperson
Chatham Island Conservation Board

2. Introduction

This is the 32nd Chatham Islands Conservation Board Annual Report. 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 30th June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Chatham Islands 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 Chatham Islands 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. Conservation board region

The Chatham Islands Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area in the map below (Figure 1). 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 Chatham Islands lie 860 km east of Christchurch, at 44° south in the path of the Roaring Forties and consist of eight islands of appreciable size. The total land area is 97,000 hectares of which main Chatham Island (90,000 ha) and Pitt Island (6,190 ha) are the largest. The Chatham's local time is 45 minutes ahead of the rest of New Zealand.

The Chatham Islands are an amazing collection of islands consisting of contrasts and extremes: beautiful still sunny days with magical blue skies through to raging 45 knot storms that in their own way are awe-inspiring. For much of the year the climate is temperate – temperatures in

the low twenties in midsummer but can drop close to 0 degrees in the winter with scattered hail and sleet and occasional snow.

Generally main Chatham Island is low-lying and comprises flat to rolling topography. The highest point on the island is only 299m. There are many swampy valley floors and extensive peatlands. The catchments are generally small and shallow but there are a few incised streams in the south. Here the land is at a higher altitude forming a tableland of deep peat covering basalt with a fertile coastal clay region which ends abruptly at impressive basalt bluffs. In the north there are scattered volcanic peaks and long stretches of sandy beach, while the island has a large central lagoon of 20,000 ha and there are many moderate sized lakes.

As a result of extensive land clearance and the depredations of introduced pest animals the Chathams landscape is highly modified and indigenous vegetation is now reduced to remnants. Approximately 10% of the forest cover remains – most in the south of the main island.

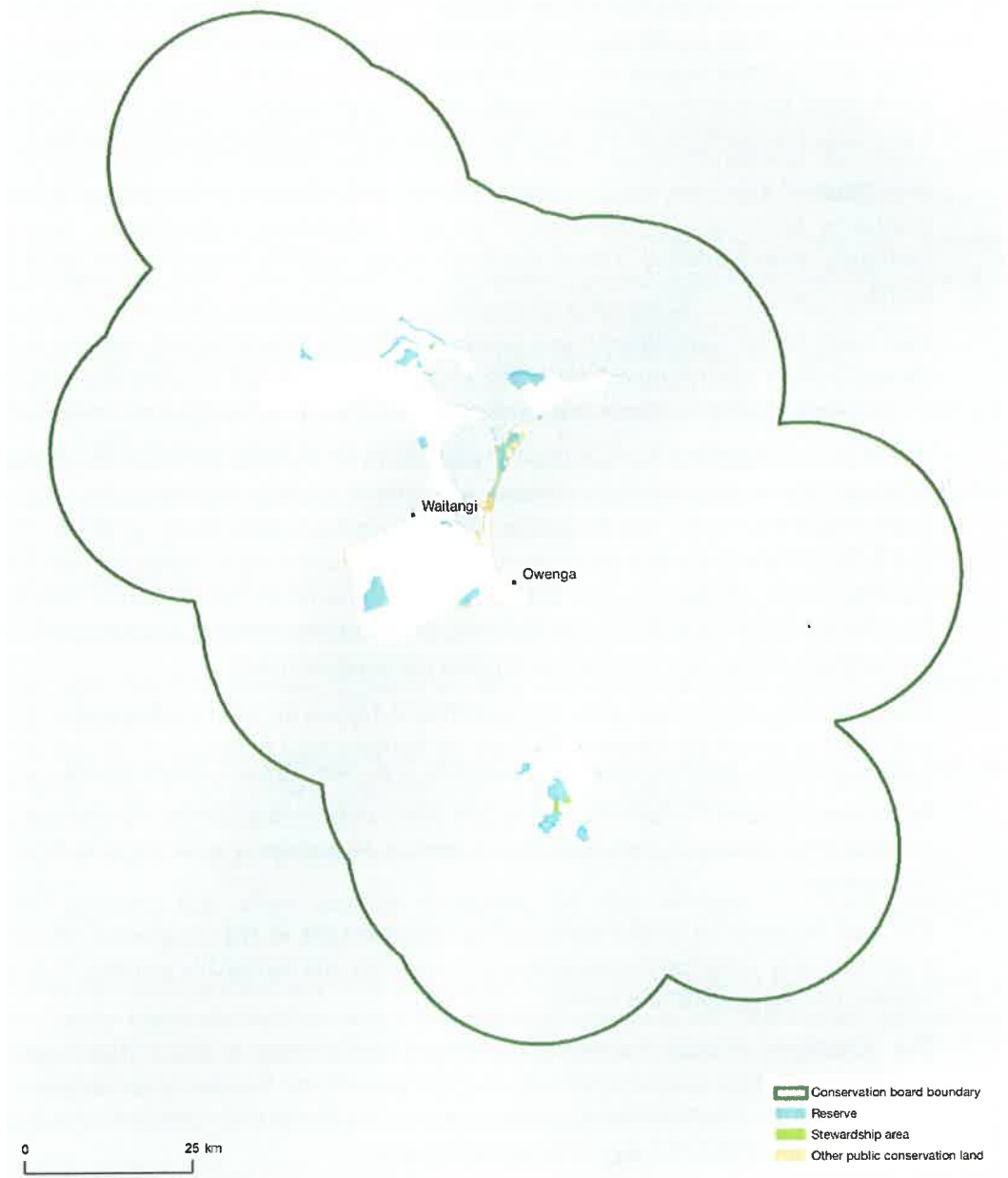
Five main forest associations are present featuring broad-leaved species and tarahinau (*Dracophyllum arboreum*). Much of the area has converted to bracken and shrubland and to a lesser extent pasture. There are extensive areas of restiad, sedge and heath wetlands.

The Chathams have the highest level of endemism of any New Zealand biogeographic region. At least fifty of the Chatham Islands 465 native plants, one moss, at least two as yet undescribed liverworts, two lichens (one of these as yet undescribed), 18 of the 73 native birds and 8.5% of New Zealand's threatened freshwater fish are found nowhere else. About 20% of the 800 insect species and one reptile are also endemic to these islands. The New Zealand Geo-Preservation Inventory lists 31 sites of nationally important geological interest. 700 archaeological sites are recorded and many more unrecorded.

The Department of Conservation has an office at Te One on main Chatham with 13 permanent staff, two of which are based seasonally on Rangihau / Rangiora / Pitt Island. Volunteers, staff and researchers are present on Hokoreoro/Rangatira/South East Island and Maung' Re/Mangere Island, for periods during the year, undertaking species monitoring work during the breeding season of endangered bird species, and continuing with the habitat restoration programme.

The vast expanse of ocean surrounding these islands is rich in marine life and supports internationally significant populations of sea birds and nationally significant populations of whales, dolphins, seals and sharks.

The Chatham Islands Conservation Board represents a total island population of approximately 600 people (Chatham and Pitt Island) and has particularly close contact with the community. Chatham Islanders have very strong ties to their land and resources, reflected by their livelihoods of fishing, farming, and tourism.



**Chatham Islands Conservation Board
Public Conservation Areas 2022**


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Figure 1. Chatham Islands Conservation Board Jurisdiction

For simplicity and consistency this report will use the English names and/or official Nature Reserve names. Some of these names have changed through Moriori Settlement legislation. The DOC District Office has adopted the practice of using English, Moriori and Māori names for the islands out of respect for the two island Treaty partners and as a way of helping our community understand the importance of placenames. These include: Rēkohu/Wharekauri/Chatham Island and Pitt Island/Rangihau/Rangiauria. Most of the smaller islands and reefs also have dual names confirmed or recognised through relationship redress in the Settlement legislation.

Table 1: Chatham Islands Conservation feature names

Official name - post Moriori Deed of Settlement	Unofficial original Moriori name	Other names
Waikokopu (Canister Cove) Scenic Reserve		
JM Barker (Hapūpū) Historic Reserve		
Manauea (Ocean Mail) Scenic Reserve		
Waipāua Scenic Reserve		
Waimihi/Point Alison		
Tamarau Point		Napper Point
Whenuahau Point		Red Bluff
Tapuika		Taupeka
Pana (Blind Jim's Creek)		
Mangere Island	Maung' Rē	
South East Island (Rangatira)	Hokoreoreoro	
Little Mangere (Tapuaenuku)		The Fort
Rangiwheoa (The Castle)		
Star Keys	Motchu Hopo	Motuhope
The Sisters (Rangitatahi)	Rakitchu	
Motuhara	Motchu hara	The Forty Fours or Bertier Rock
The Pyramid (Tarakoikoia)	Tcharako or Tcharok'	Terekoekoe
Waitangi	Waiteki	
Cape Pattison	Tapuaki-o-Hiti	

The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- Island Biosecurity – ensuring that the islands complement of invasive / pathogenic biota is not further enhanced through accidental or deliberate introductions from Aotearoa / New Zealand or further afield.
- Threatened Species Viability – that depleted populations of threatened biota are successfully managed to retain and/or increase their genetic diversity and long-term viability
- Landscape Restoration – supporting initiatives that seek to enhance and/or restore indigenous ecosystems

- Landscape Regeneration – supporting initiatives that seek to restore indigenous landscapes
- Biodiversity Protection – maintain, enhance and prevent the loss of indigenous biodiversity (and also maintain those introduced biota that are of cultural significance to the islands)
- Freshwater and Coastal Lagoon Ecology – support research into the freshwater and marine hydrological regimes of the islands
- Biodiversity Research – support and seek research on aspects of the islands biodiversity above and beyond that which is undertaken for threatened taxa

3.1 Conservation features of the area

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

Table 2: Chatham Islands Conservation features

Frequency	Section	Recorded Area (Hectares)
2	Administration Purpose - s.60 Conservation Act 1987	3
24	Conservation Covenant - s.77 Reserves Act 1977	2182
3	Conservation Covenants entered into under both the Conservation and Reserves Act	80
15	Fixed Marginal Strip - s.24(3) Conservation Act 1987	206
1	Government Purpose Reserve - s.22 Reserves Act 1977	1
3	Historic Reserve - s.18 Reserves Act 1977	1303
1	National Reserve - s.13 Reserves Act 1977	30
3	Nature Reserve - s.20 Reserves Act 1977	1579
15	Scenic Reserve - s.19(1)(a) Reserves Act 1977	3581
9	Stewardship Area - s.25 Conservation Act 1987	2053
11	Nga Whenua Rahui kawenata	691

4. Board functioning

4.1 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 and 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

- 5) On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
- 6) On any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 7) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 8) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

4.2 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.

4.3 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.

4.4 Board membership

There were six Board members beginning the reporting year, appointed by the Minister of Conservation. In mid-January 2022 Board member, Mana Cracknell passed away while in November 2021, Susan Thorpe whose term expired on 30 June 2021 was reinstated, and Lois Croon was appointed by the Minister to bring the Board membership back to seven. In the August meeting Peter de Lange was elected Chairperson and Trescia Lawson was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022 and their term of office.

Table 3: Board membership

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Term served
Mana Cracknell	Chatham Island	01 July 2014	30 June 2023*	8 years
Peter de Lange	Auckland	01 July 2018	30 June 2024	4 years
Di Gregory-Hunt	Pitt Island	01 May 2014	30 June 2022	8 years
Alfred Johanson	Chatham Island	01 July 2021	30 June 2024	1 year
Levi Lanauze	Chatham Island	01 July 2021	30 June 2024	1 year
Trescia Lawson	Chatham Island	01 July 2019	30 June 2022	3 years
Lois Croon	Chatham Island	23 November 2021	30 June 2024	0.5 years
Susan Thorpe	Chatham Island	01 May 2014	30 June 2023	6.5 years

*Deceased (January 2022)

4.5 Members profiles

Peter J. de Lange (Chairperson) of Owairaka (Mt Albert), Tamaki Makarau (Auckland)

Peter is an Associate Professor in the School of Environmental & Animal Sciences, Unitec Institute of Technology - teaching biosystematics, ecology, environmental sciences, and learning from his students daily. Peter first visited the Chatham Islands in 1996 and has continued to do so regularly ever since. Peter has written many papers on the Chatham Islands Flora. Born at Kirikiriroa (Hamilton) in 1966 Peter is of Dutch descent (his whanau hail from the province of Zeeland, Netherlands) with his parents emigrating to Aotearoa / New Zealand in 1960.

Mana Cracknell, of Chatham Islands

Mr Cracknell was a retired university academic, who had experience at all levels of education, and had been assisting with the knowledge and development of beekeeping on the Chathams. In his prior work for the Hawke's Bay Regional Council he worked on the redefinition and redevelopment of Hawkes Bay through training, work, and industry. He had also been a Kaitiaki Moriori for the Ministry of Fisheries and had held several trusteeships and company directorships. He also had several research posts notably co-authoring a paper on the usage of te reo and ta re in taxonomy (published in 2019). Mana passed away in mid-January 2021. Kua hinga he totara I te wao nui a Tane.

Lois Croon, of Chatham Islands

Lois is of Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri descent and a successful and innovative tourist accommodation provider and resident on the Island for 36 years. She is the current Chairperson of the Chatham Heritage and Restoration Trust and continues to contribute to Chatham's art and conservation projects.

Dianne (Di) Gregory-Hunt, of Pitt Island

Di is involved in farming. She has been a member of the Pitt Island Reserves Committee and the Pitt Island Reserves and Conservation Purposes Trust. Di has been active in many of the conservation projects on Pitt, including monitoring of nesting albatross and Chatham Island snipe. Di and her family have land protected under conservation covenants and are active in habitat restoration projects. She would like to continue to participate in conservation areas and projects.

Alfred (Alfie) Johanson, of Chatham Islands

Alfie is a landowner and resident on the Chatham Islands. He is passionate about conservation, birds, the bush, and the wellbeing of the environment.

Levi Lanauze, of Kaingaroa, Chatham Islands

Levi is of Moriori, Ngāti Mutunga, and Ngāi Tahu descent and a Farm Manager for Hokotehi Moriori Trust, and Director at Caroline Fishing Company. He was born on Pitt Island and offers intricate knowledge of the environmental and conservation issues in the boards rohe.

Trescia Lawson (Deputy Chairperson) , of Chatham Islands

Trescia is of Ngati Mutunga and Nga Puhī descent and is an active member of the Ngati Mutunga Konahere Roopu. She is interested in the restoration and conservation of our environment and has been committed to planting at least two hundred trees every year since 2019.

Susan Thorpe, of Owenga, Chatham Islands

Susan is a director of a heritage consultancy company. She has research experience in archaeology, cultural heritage, and the environment, and enjoys being involved in ecological restoration projects. Her outdoor recreation interests are water sports, sailing, fishing, tree planting and gardening.



Mana Cracknell

7.09.1948-16.01.2022

Kua hinga he totara I te wao nui a Tane

4.6 Board meetings

The Board held five meetings during the reporting period. 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.

Table 4: Board meeting dates and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
August 6 th , 2021	Kopinga Marae
November 5 th , 2021	DOC Office, Te One
December 13 th , 2021	DOC Office, Te One
February 15 th , 2022	Pitt Island School, Pitt Island
May 9 th , 2022	River Onion Gallery

4.7 Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended both in person and via Teams/phone by members, out of the total number of meetings during their term. Due to weather and COVID-19 travel restrictions, some members joined meetings by telephone/Teams where possible or were unable to make meetings at all.

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including representative roles.

Table 5: Board meeting attendance

Board member	Board meetings
Peter de Lange (Chair)	4/5
Mana Cracknell	2/3
Lois Croon	3/3
Di Gregory-Hunt	4/5
Alfred Johanson	5/5
Levi Lanauze	5/5
Trescia Lawson	3/5
Susan Thorpe	3/3

4.8 Field trips and site inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region.

Table 6: Field trips and site inspections

Field trip date	Field trip destination and purpose
December 13 th , 2021	Following the meeting, some board members walked to the Te One dunes
February 15 th , 2022	Pitt Island

May 9th, 2022

Te Ara Manu Project, Waitangi. To see the plantings completed by the Te Ara Manu project. Following this, the Board went on an inspection of the plantings completed along the pā / urupā that stretches along the beach north of Ōrea/Mangatukurewa / Nairn River. The initial plantings had been organised by board member Lois Croon in about 2000. Lois explained the successes and failures experienced and Bridget outlined future planting options.

4.9 Board committees

During the reporting period the Board had one formalised subcommittee. The purpose of this subcommittee was to receive scientific papers, calls for submissions and provide the Board with advice on further action required. The subcommittee was composed of Susan Thorpe.

4.10 Training for members

Board members had the opportunity to be involved in the Karure/kakarua/Black Robin structured decision-making workshop held in August 2021. Di Gregory-Hunt attended 3 days of the workshop on behalf of the Board.

4.11 Department involvement in Board meetings

Department staff also attended Board meetings throughout the year. Tryphena Cracknell (Operations Manager), attended and delivered the Departmental report until she left the district in January 2022. Following her departure, Angus Hulme-Moir and Brent Swanson attended meetings in their capacities as interim Operations Managers.

Following invitations from the Board, local office staff attended including Tom Hitchon (Ranger Biodiversity/Heritage and Visitors) who addressed the Board in the August meeting on the range of threatened plant and weed work he had been conducting.

Eric Edwards (Science advisor ecology) attended and discussed his research trip to the Chatham Islands which focussed on moths/snails.

In the February Field trip on Pitt Island, Malcolm Lock (interim Pitt Island Ranger) joined the group to tour down to Glory and talked about the work that had been completed as well as the future aspirations for the site. Tom Burlinson (Ranger) met with the Board in Ellen Elizabeth Preece covenant and demonstrated his weekly Chatham Island Storm Petrel chick checks with the Board getting to see a freshly hatched chick.

4.12 Special events

On the 7th August 2021, a function was held at the Waitangi Hotel for outgoing board members Susan Thorpe and Amanda Seymour (Judy Kamo was off island) and Director General Lou Sanson.

In February 2022, two board members, Levi and Trescia participated in a meeting with Minister of Conservation Kiritapu Allan, who was visiting the islands. During their meeting the Chatham Islands Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) was discussed, the Board

highlighting their concern with the lack of planning support available from the Department of Conservation to enable the CMS to be completed. This is an ongoing matter raised with the Department for at least the last ten years.

4.13 Annual Work Plan

Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

5. Statutory activity

The Boards' activities have been summarised on the Chatham Island website www.chathams.co.nz – with accounts given there of meetings and special events.

In addition to these reports board member Peter de Lange has provided a series of articles on that website about Chatham Island biota. Peter is actively working with Department of Conservation staff to showcase their mahi on the islands, in particular encouraging them to write up their work for the website.

5.1 Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The Board has now completed two reviews of the current CMS and undertaken consultation with Department of Conservation staff on the content, recommending updates and revisions as appropriate. The board recognised that the current CMS was too prescribed and that a more generic CMS is needed to better address the daily activities of the Department on the island. At the time of writing, the Board is still waiting for planning assistance from the Department, an issue that needed urgent address – alternatively the board is considering whether it can fund a planner to do what is necessary to complete the CMS process.

6. Advice and advocacy

The Chatham islands Conservation Board have a strong focus on advocacy.

In the past year the Board have published several articles about their meetings and Chatham Islands Conservation features in local publications as well as on the website www.chathams.co.nz

All Board members have a responsibility and take the opportunity to liaise with other groups, organisations and community members when opportunities arise. Some members have specific roles in liaison, the below members were appointed to liaise on behalf of the Board.

Table 7: Board liaisons and representatives

Board member	Group/agency/organisation
Di Gregory-Hunt	Karure/kakaruia/Black Robin structured decision-making workshop
Levi Lanauze	Tourism Chatham Islands
Levi Lanauze	Chatham Islands Landscape Restoration Group
Peter de Lange	Rakau Momori management advisory group

6.1 Other conservation boards liaison

Jordan Tibble of Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahungunu, and Te Aitanga a Māhaki descent approached the board as the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board Liaison. During 2021 Jordan has received information and advice on a range of Chatham biota including Tuturuatu (*Thinornis novaeseelandiae*).

6.2 New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison

The Chatham Islands Conservation Board regularly receive the NZCA Chairpersons letter as well as NZCA meeting agendas and minutes. Chair Peter de Lange kept in contact with NZ Conservation Authority Chair and Chatham Islands liaison member Edward Ellison throughout the reporting period.

6.3 Department advice

The Board provided advice to the Department on the following issues:

- Karure/kakaruia/black robin (*Petroica traversi*) – approval was sought to translocate a number of birds from Hokoreoro / Rangatira / South East Island to Maung' Re / Mangere to bolster the ailing population there. The board canvassed local opinion and supported the translocation proposal.
- Advice on permits dealing with plant and Chironomid midges collection on the islands was given, as well as a range of permit applications dealing with concessions.
- Board members advised on appropriate measures to be undertaken with respect to the discovery of rakau momori at Nikau Bush Conservation Area.
- Advice has also been solicited on threatened plant management and diseases such as myrtle rust (*Austropuccinia psidii*), mataira / matipo (*Myrsine chathamica*) die back (see below), and issues pertaining to kahu (*Circus approximans*) predation of torea tai (*Haematopus chathamensis*) chicks at Wharekauri / Maunganui.

6.3 Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Despite the COVID-19 travel restrictions, three meetings were held at the Department of Conservation office buildings, one at Kopinga marae, one at Rangihaute / Rangiauria / Pitt Island. All meetings are well advertised in advance providing opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings.

The Board aim to hold one meeting a year on Pitt Island which was able to be held in February this year.

Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings.

Public forum issues raised were:

- Pitt island residents raised issues including die back of Mataira / Matipo in Ellen Elizabeth Preece covenant, and communications/connections between islanders and island visitors, notably researchers.
- Kopi (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) die back was also raised and the Board has supported a small pilot study to try and determine what pathogen(s) are responsible for the leaf spots and death being noted across the islands.
- At the behest of Dr Philip Simpson and Hokotehi the Board participated in a successful survey of Nikau Bush Conservation Area for rakau momori, the finds of which when reported to Hokotehi resulted in a more comprehensive survey.

The Board has a practice of inviting representatives from community organisations to present at each meeting. Speakers this year have represented:

- Hamish Chisholm – Predator Free 2050. Hamish routinely reports on progress with Predator Free 2050 on the islands.
- Kerri Moir – ECAN (November meeting). Kerri provided an outline of ECAN biosecurity issues on the islands including animal and weed control.
- Mike Bell (December meeting) – Te Ara Manu project. Mike outlined the concept behind Te Ara Manu, their milestones and issues. Some robust discussion followed. Mike's introduction was then followed up by a presentation and small field trip by Bridget Gibb at the May Board meeting (see below).
- (May meeting) The Fire and Emergency New Zealand (FENZ) Local Advisory Committee (LAC) (Deena Whitiri, Tracy Page (FENZ LAC), Bruce Stubbs, Nick Pyatt and Craig Cottrill (FENZ)) then had a virtual meeting with the board to explain their role and see what the board's views were over a series of questions. Levi Lanauze from the Board, and Brent Swanson (DOC) are also members of LAC. The board offered several comments concerning water usage for fires, and questioned when fires needed to be extinguished (as some fires can be beneficial to the management of some of the Chatham Islands ecosystems, e.g. restiad bog). Discussion about training local people to fight fires, and setting up water storage tanks with the correct gauge pipe outlets to ensure fire hoses can be rapidly attached was also discussed. The board agreed to have six monthly meetings with LAC, and if matters are more urgent as and when required.
- Bridget Gibb (May meeting) from Te Ara Manu who explained the extensive tree planting programme, which aims to link the Tuku Coastline with Waiteki / Waitangi. Many thousands of hakaipiri / akeake (*Olearia traversiorum*) have now been planted, and an extensive network of predator control stations set up in local kawenata / covenants.
- Luzie Schmid (May meeting) outlined her research on *Muehlenbeckia aff. australis*, a potentially new species of plant endemic to the islands which is also a very common weedy vine. As such Luzie pointed out this vine is often maligned as a New Zealand import that needs control on the islands.

6.4 Community visibility

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

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the Board was unable to support community activities as these were minimised due to the pandemic. However, some Board members have provided advice to the community on such matters as management of the Norman Kirk Memorial Garden, and providing assistance with the Science House / Whareweka visitors.

The board also provides media accounts of their activities, and at times discoveries on the Chatham Islands website (<https://chathams.co.nz/>)

Board Reports

<https://chathams.co.nz/ci-conservation-board-meeting-river-onion-9-may-2022/>

<https://chathams.co.nz/ci-conservation-board-meeting-6th-august-2021-farewell-to-retiring-board-members-and-doc-director-general-lou-sanson/>

Board Member Article

<https://chathams.co.nz/poor-knights-spleenwort-on-the-chatham-islands/>

6.5 District and regional council advocacy and advice

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the local Council and its contractors as there are several regional issues in which it is interested.

During the year, the Board met with representatives from ECAN, Chatham Island Council and the Chatham Island representative for Predator Free 2050.

6.6 Iwi liaison and advocacy

Board members who represent iwi and imi report board activities, and raise issues on the behalf of these peoples as relevant to the Board. For example, through Susan Thorpe the Hokotehi Trust who administers on behalf of Moriori raised concerns over rakau momori management at Nikau Bush Conservation Area. Resolution of Taia, of prime concern to both iwi and imi has also been discussed through the Board with the Department.

7. Acknowledgements

The Board are grateful for the support, board meeting organisation and good humour of Jilleen Chandler who undertook the Department of Conservation Board support officer role from November 2016 – June 2022. We also wish to acknowledge the interest and participation as required of Michele Andersen, the late Mana Cracknell's partner who generally attended all board meetings to provide support for Mana. We also thank Edward Ellison, Chair of the New Zealand Conservation Authority for sage advice and wise counsel.

Appendix I –Annual Work Plan

Chatham Island Conservation Board Work Programme 1 July 2021 – 30 June 2022

Work Programme overview



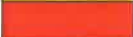
This Work Programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation. It is structured in three parts, namely:

- Part A: Planned Board activities aimed at meeting the regional Work Programme contained in the letter:
 - review/development/monitoring of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)
 - advice relating to stewardship land
 - other statutory functions for the Board
 - advocacy.

- Part B: Planned Board activities aimed at general expectations contained in the letter:
 - working with the Department of Conservation (the Department)
 - taking account of the Ministerial priorities for the Department as contained in the Department's Four-year Plan
 - working with adjoining conservation boards and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority)
 - understanding the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
 - general engagement with the community, including raising the profile of the Board.

- Part C: Risks/issues from the Board's perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.

Status indicator

Colour	Indicates
	Completed
	Started and is ongoing
	Not started yet

PART A: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

1 Review / development of statutory management plans including conservation management strategies (CMS)

1.1 Board objective:

The Board will continue to review the revised Chatham Islands CMS draft and will recommend the approval of the draft by the Authority with or without amendments. The Board will make a start on a new Plan outline in preparation for planning assistance and CMS completion from DOC staff

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Review CMS and relevant species management documents	Ongoing	CMS workshop was planned to follow May meeting, unable to hold due to unforeseen circumstances. Reviews are complete. Have asked for help from DOC planners
B	Updated draft to be circulated	Ongoing	
C	Continue to update content	Ongoing	

1.2 Board objective:

In conjunction with the Department, the Board will determine priorities for implementation of the approved Chatham Islands CMS

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
A	Work with Dept on a system to implement CMS commitments via business planning	Ongoing	
B	Seek a report from the Joint Planning Committee of Te Whanga	Not yet started	This committee does not yet exist, but we should still advocate for an update
C	Monitor delivery of CMS commitments through Dept reports	Completed	Departmental reports delivered and received at each meeting
D	Request annual conservation priorities from Operations Manager		

2 Other Statutory Functions

2.1 Board objective:

The Board will advise on national strategies and recovery plans

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Board to respond to papers and requests from DOC	Completed	All papers and requests from DOC were responded to as relevant

2.2 Board objective:

The Board will pursue all reasonable opportunities to advocate for conservation

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board will strengthen public awareness of current conservation matters	Ongoing	
B	The Board will advocate for integrity of PCL and ensure conservation outcomes are provided for	Ongoing	
C	Board members present at relevant large-scale conservation project initiatives	Ongoing	

3 Advocacy

3.1 Board objective

The Board will maintain good working relationships with staff, managers and Board support in order to engage strategically in conservation for the region

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress Commentary
A	In order to better understand the roles of the Department the board invites staff to participate in meetings and speak on their work areas	Ongoing	Departmental staff were invited to, and attended many meetings
B	Board liaises with the Operations Manager for all meetings	Completed	Operations Managers/Interim Operations Managers attended all meetings

PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

4 Working with the Department

4.1 Board objective:

The Board will support Ministerial and local priorities

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board will support local initiatives for Predator Free 2050 and 1BT initiatives	Ongoing	The Board have a good relationship with the PF2050 coordinator with him attending most meetings. The Board also hold a position on the Chatham Islands Landscape Restoration Group
B	In terms of freshwater conservation the Board considers that the ecology of Te Whanga needs to be better understood and that more work is needed for riparian protection and management of black swan populations	Ongoing	
C	The Board will enhance relationships with Treaty partners	Ongoing	
D	The marine environment is the life-blood of the island and its conservation is a high priority for the Board	Ongoing	
E	The Board will adhere to the guidelines for Boards and provide advice at a governance level	Completed	
F	The Board recognises that actions to mitigate climate change is a priority	Completed	Yes
G	Understand the Boards role in supporting the implementation of the Biodiversity strategy once released.	Completed	Yes, Board have read the draft Biodiversity strategy

4.2 Board objective:

The Board will help identify opportunities and support research initiatives to better understand the Chatham Islands environment and conservation priorities

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board will seek opportunities for research and further information on conservation matters. Changes in dune systems and concerns regarding beach erosion are priorities	Ongoing	
B	Ensure the Board receives feedback from researchers along with easily digestible reports on outcomes	Ongoing	Have reached out to researchers requesting feedback

5 Taking account of Ministerial priorities for the Department¹

5.1 Board objective:

The Board will develop a relationship with the Conservation Authority and maintain an awareness of Authority matters

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Chair will liaise with the NZCA	Completed	Board Chair regularly liaises with NZCA Chair Edward Ellison
B	The Board will engage with the NZCA liaison member	Completed	Board Chair liaised with East Coast Hawkes Bay member Jordan Tibble
C	The Board will be responsive to opportunities to connect with other Boards in mainland NZ as budgets permit	Ongoing	

6 Understanding the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

6.1 Board objective:

The Board will support the Department's engagement with and obligations to tchakat henu and tangata whenua and work actively to promote strong Treaty of Waitangi partnerships

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board will support the training and upskilling of our island people in conservation work in keeping with the Treaty principles to grow our people	Ongoing	
B	To have all members attend a Pukenga Atawhai course	Ongoing	No Pukenga courses were attended by members this reporting period
C	To continue meeting at the two marae	Ongoing	Whakamaharatanga marae has been shut for renovations
D	As conservation tchieki/kaitiaki we need to ensure that we are well informed and upskilled in terms of keeping current knowledge up to date	Ongoing	
E	The Board will support the effective implementation of Treaty settlement redress	Ongoing	

7 Engaging with our community, including raising the profile of the Board

7.1 Board objective:

The work will maintain and foster effective working relationships with our Council, with ECAN, and other organisations such as the CRIs

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	The Board recognises that there is a strong conservation overlap with the work of the Department and other government agencies and our CRIs and attempts to strengthen information flow and reporting framework	Ongoing	
B	The Board holds public forums in all meetings and invites members of ECAN, Council and the Tāiko Trust to attend meetings when possible	Completed	Members from these groups have been invited to every meeting, due to COVID some invites have been for them to join virtually

PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

8 Risks from the Board's perspective

A	The Board has noted that opportunities for field trips and engagement with private land-owners carrying out conservation work has lessened. We feel this is vital for us to remain well-informed
B	The Board has noted that meetings with DOC staff and hearing reports (eg island rangers) have lessened. These are vital for us to be able to keep on top of conservation work programmes and potential conservation problems or risks
C	The Board meetings are well advertised but not well attended by the public despite meeting in different areas in the community. Finding ways to encourage community participation ought to be explored.
D	Changes in DOC staffing and budgets can result in risks if the Board is not well informed about these areas
E	The age of the CMS and delays in getting the planning assistance for a review are of concern
F	The Board is conscious that there are risks in attracting suitable staff to a remote location. Increased training and upskilling for locals could be a risk-management method
G	The potential risk of a COVID-19 re-emergence

9 Opportunities for conservation growth

A	We need to have more community events, eg planting days, school programmes
B	Encourage connectivity with private landowners with kawenata to help with access to funding etc
C	Improve awareness of the various funds for 1BT and Predator-Free 2050 initiatives. We are a small community so effective community should not be difficult
D	The Board will look at inductions and governance refreshers for new members

Back Cover: Limestone lichen *Lithothelium australe*, described in 1991 from specimens collected in 1985 from Big Bush, Rēkohu / Wharekauri / Chatham Islands, has not been seen again on the islands until May 2022 when it was discovered at Whareama on the property of John and Judy Kamo. This lichen is otherwise known from a single collection made from North Westland, Te Waipounamu / South Island, Aotearoa / New Zealand. Images show lichen on a limestone outcrop, a close up of the fruiting bodies, and spores taken from these (images: P.J. de Lange)

