

**Chatham Islands Conservation
Board
Annual Report 2020-2021**



Chatham Islands Conservation Board Annual Report 2020-2021

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

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings. If you would like more information on the Chatham Islands Conservation Board, please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the board support officer at the Department of Conservation in the Chatham Islands, phone (03) 305 0098 or email: chathamislandsconservationboard@doc.govt.nz

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Photographs

Front Cover: Chatham Island Admiral Butterfly (*Vanessa gonerilla ida*) on Chatham Island koromiko (*Hebe (Veronica) dieffenbachia*) – Photo credit: Peter de Lange

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1. Chairperson's report

Kiaora Koutou

Welcome to the Chatham Islands Conservation Boards Annual Report for the year 2020/2021.

Even with the dreaded Coronavirus Pandemic throwing challenges of limited participation our way, the Board, with DOC staff, have been privileged to complete the Te Pukenga Atawhai Programme, “a cultural awareness and capability wananga initiative developed to enable the department to build and nurture strong relationships with whānau, hapū and iwi”, held on Te Whakamaharatanga and Kopinga Marae. Through the year The Board has worked diligently to ensure open communication with Chatham Island Council and ECAN, Tourism Chatham Islands, Taiko Trust, Predator Free 2050, FENZ, and the people of Chatham and Pitt Islands through these challenging times. Highlights for me have been the ‘Meet the Ranger’ segment of our board meetings where we have gained a personal insight into the roles and responsibilities of some DOC staff, and our field trips to so many interesting parts of Chathams, including a tour and overnight stay with hosts Bernie and Brent Mallinson at Flowerpot Lodge, Pitt Island.

I resigned from the Chatham Island's Conservation Board in June. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges that come with honestly promoting our people's ideas and beliefs for conservation across the Chatham Islands as a board member since 2015 and Chairperson for the last 3 years. My time on the board has made me more aware of the effort, time and commitment that each board member puts into their role through hui, travel and lots of communicating despite all their other commitments and I thank each of them for the teamwork and support they have given me as Chair. Thank you to Susan and Amanda, our outgoing board members, for your dedication and effort to conservation, I know your efforts will not stop here. Peter de Lange was appointed by the Board to carry on as Chairperson. We are privileged to have Peter on our board, he brings such knowledge, professionalism and a genuine love for the Chathams.

Last and by no means least I thank our Board Support Officer, Jilleen, for her invaluable support and excellent preparation for travel and hui for the Board.

Thank you

Nga mihi



Judy Kamo
Chairperson
Chatham Island Conservation Board

2. Introduction

This is the 31st 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 30 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, one lichen, 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 Pitt Island. Volunteers, staff and researchers are present on Rangatira (South East Island) and 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 and Pitt Islands

Table 5
Date: 11/08/2009

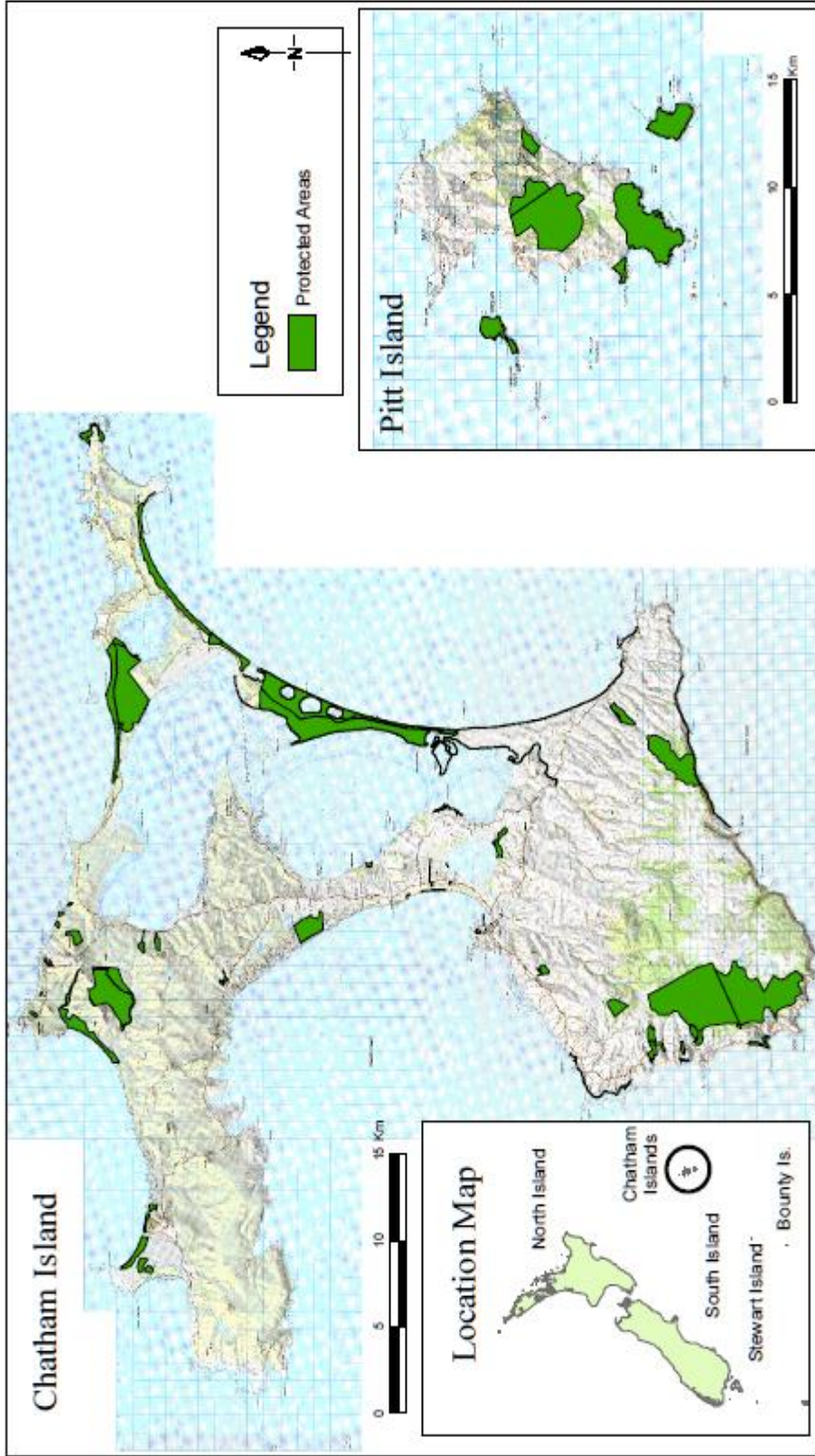


Figure 1. Chatham Islands Conservation Board Jurisdiction

For simplicity and for consistency this report will use the English names and/or official Nature Reserve names. Some of these names will change 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 place-names. These include: Rēkohu/Wharekauri/Chatham Island and Pitt Island/Rangihau/Rangiauria. Most of the smaller islands and reefs will 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		
Manaua (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)	Hokoreoreo	
Little Mangere (Tapuaenuku)		The Fort
Rangiwehoa (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
- Threatened Species Viability
- Landscape Restoration
- Landscape Regeneration
- Biodiversity Protection
- Freshwater and Coastal Lagoon Ecology

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
9	Scenic Reserve - s.19(1)(a) Reserves Act 1977	2926
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 7 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Judy Kamo was re-elected Chairperson and Amanda Seymour remaining as Deputy Chairperson. Judy Kamo and Mana Cracknell were reappointed for a further term with the ministerial appointments.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021 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	7 years
Peter de Lange	Auckland	01 July 2018	30 June 2021	3 years

Di Gregory-Hunt	Pitt Island	01 May 2014	30 June 2022	7 years
Judy Kamo	Chatham Island	01 July 2015	30 June 2023	6 years
Trescia Lawson	Chatham Island	01 July 2019	30 June 2022	2 years
Amanda Seymour	Chatham Island	01 April 2015	30 June 2021	6 years
Susan Thorpe	Chatham Island	01 May 2014	30 June 2021	7 years

4.5 Members profiles

Judy Kamo (Chair February 2019 - June 2021), of Chatham Islands

Judy of Ngati Mutunga and Ngai Tahu descent, is a member of the Hokotehi Moriori Trust and a Pitt Islander descendent raised on Rangiauria (Pitt Island). Judy and her husband farm sheep and cattle on their Wharekauri properties. She is actively involved in conservation projects and enjoys collecting and propagating seeds to help with the restoration of the Island's ngahere. Whanau, rongoa, farming and gardening are important in her life.

Mana Cracknell, of Kaingaroa, Chatham Islands

Mana is a retired university academic with a background in teaching and learning, culture and language, matauranga maori, leadership and management, business development, strategic planning and project management. He has been involved in environmental research projects on Mainland NZ and in the Chatham Islands looking at biodiversity. His outdoor recreation interests are gardening, fishing, beekeeping and native tree propagation and planting. Mana is of Rongomaiwahine, Ngati Kahungunu, Rangitane and Rongomaiwhenua-Moriiori descent.

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.

Peter J. de Lange (Chair (Interim) June 2021-), 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.

Trescia Lawson, of Chatham Islands

Trescia is of Ngati Mutunga and Nga Puhi 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.

Amanda Seymour, of Chatham Islands

Amanda is a Chatham Island born farmer raising her young family on the Chathams. She has been active in many conservation projects, including the covenanting of forest areas on her farm, tree planting on Mangere Island, plant nursery work and supporting the local school tree planting projects in local reserves.

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.

4.6 Board meetings

The Board held 6 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. Meetings were more frequent in the summer months to take advantage of the weather making sites more accessible.

Table 4: Board meeting dates and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
August 27 th , 2020	Kaingaroa Playgroup
September 29 th , 2020	Te One School
November 11 th , 2020	Kopinga Marae
February 10 th , 2021	Flowerpot Lodge, Pitt Island
April 21 st , 2021	Kaingaroa Playgroup
June 25 th , 2021	DOC A-Frame, Te One

4.7 Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the year. Due to weather and COVID-19 travel restrictions, some members joined meetings by telephone (if possible) or were unable to make meetings.

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

Table 5: Board meeting attendance

Board member	Board meetings
Judy Kamo (Chair)	6/6
Mana Cracknell	4/6
Peter de Lange	4/6
Di Gregory - Hunt	6/6
Trescia Lawson	3/6
Amanda Seymour	3/6
Susan Thorpe	5/6

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
29 th August	Kaingaroa Point, <i>Lepidium rekohuense</i> site. To gain an understanding of the challenges faced in protecting and monitoring the critically endangered endemic <i>Lepidium rekohuense</i> . Field inspection hosted by Hokotehi Moriori Trust and Department of Conservation.
29 th August	Nikau bush - to observe the ongoing management, restoration plantings and special plants of the reserve. Field inspection hosted by Department of Conservation.
6 th October	Thomas Mohi Tuuta (Rangaika) Scenic Reserve - to observe the results of possum control initiated after a board inspection in January 2019. Field inspection hosted by Department of Conservation.
10 th February	Pitt Island, Caravan Bush, was visited to see first-hand the management of the translocated Chatham Island petrel (<i>Pterodroma axillaris</i>), and other important fauna and flora. Field inspection hosted by Department of Conservation.
21 st April	Taia Historic Reserve was visited by the board to gain a better understanding of the complex issues faced in the management of rakau momori, and the fauna and flora of the peninsula. Taia is an important refuge for a range of threatened endemic plants including taramea karupuru (<i>Aciphylla traversii</i>). Field inspection hosted by Department of Conservation and Hokotehi Moriori Trust.

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

DOC staff and Board members attended the long-awaited Pukenga Atawhai course on the island in late March. The team spent two days at Whakamaharatanga and 2 days at Kōpinga Marae. Tutors Te Rangi Maniapoto and Carl Baker assisted staff develop confidence with tikane and tikanga and as well as the DOC culture. The benefits of spending time together and learning more about each other are immeasurable, especially in our small community. We hope there will be opportunities for more Pukenga refresher before too long.

4.11 Department involvement in Board meetings

Department staff also attended throughout the year. Tryphena Cracknell (Operations Manager) attended most meetings and delivered the departmental report. Brent Swanson stood in for Tryphena as Acting Operations Manager for the November meeting at Kōpinga.

Jack Mace (Director, Operations) attended the field trip to Rangaika to meet and engage with the Board.

Following invitations from the Board, local office staff attended including, Tim Foley (Ranger) who provided a trapping demo at the November meeting for the Board, demonstrating the traps DOC is currently using on the Chatham Islands and the advantages and disadvantages of each type. Bridget Gibb (Ranger) joined the field trip in Kaingaroa to the last remaining natural site of *Lepidium rekohuense* on main Chathams and talked about DOC's monitoring and management of the site. Following this Bridget travelled with the Board to Nikau Bush.

Matthew Russell – from the Treaty Negotiations Unit of the Department of Conservation presented to the Board on the Moriori Deed of Settlement during the June meeting. Matthew's presentation was informative and well received by the board.

4.12 Special events

During early December 2020 members of the board met with Director General Lou Sanson for a generic discussion about the board's perspectives on island conservation issues. Following the meeting some board members accompanied Lou on visits to local sites of conservation concern. Visits to the historic whare built by Te Kooti, the Hokotehi managed Rotorua rakau momori kopi (*Corynocarpus laevigatus*) grove, Manauea (Ocean Mail) Scenic Reserve and Manukau were undertaken.

4.13 Annual Work Plan

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

5. Statutory activity

The board activities have been summarised on the Chatham Island website www.chathams.co.nz – with accounts given there of the September, November, December (informal meeting with Lou Sanson), February, April and June meetings.

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 Chatham Islands Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

For the last seven years the board has requested assistance from the Department of Conservation with preparing an updated CMS. Assistance has been promised but as yet not received. Therefore, board member Susan Thorpe has taken on the role of working with the board on the reviewing the 1999 Chatham Islands CMS. During November 2020, Susan ran a workshop with board members revisiting sections past boards had worked with Department staff on to review, checking those for consistency, accuracy and updates. The board has now completed their review and are working with Chatham Islands Department of Conservation staff to complete further necessary revisions. The Board looks forward to receiving planning advice from the National Office of the Department of Conservation, to ensure the CMS update can be completed.

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
Judy Kamo	Chatham Islands Visitor Industry Group
Amanda Seymour	Chatham Islands Landscape Restoration Group
Mana Cracknell	Options Development Group
Peter de Lange	Board Science liaison with Department of Conservation and other research agencies

6.1 New Zealand Conservation Authority Liaison

The Chatham Islands Conservation Board regularly receive the NZCA Chairpersons letter as well as NZCA meeting agendas and minutes.

6.2 Department advice

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

- the Conservation Boards Governance Manual draft
- Peter de Lange has provided regular advice to the Department of Conservation about the Chatham Islands flora and mycobiota. He has participated in field work with Chatham Islands Department of Conservation staff, advising on the management of *Lepidium* species endemic to the islands, weed issues and lichenized mycobiota.

6.3 Community advocacy and involvement

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

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

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

- FENZ Local Advisory Committee
- ECAN
- Hokotehi Moriori Trust, Duane and Cassidy attended a field trip to highlight the conservation work that has been undertaken, as well as future predator control work at Taia Historic Reserve
- Predator Free 2050

The board presented the annual Conservation Award along with a cash prize at the Chatham Islands Festival to Marion-Moana Dix. The Conservation Award recognises the voluntary efforts of any individual or group, who demonstrate commitment to a project of conservation value. Marion-Moana was nominated for the work she does over and above her nursery business including the advice and support she provides to community members around collecting and propagating seed as well as planting natives.



Marnie Dix receiving the Conservation Award from Board Chair Judy Kamo. Photo credit: Tarsha Hosking

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 in the quarterly Conservation Boards newsletter.

Each board meeting was summarised and the next board meeting announced via the Chatham Island website: www.chathams.co.nz.

6.5 District and regional council advocacy and advice

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

During the year, the Board met with representatives from ECAN and provided feedback on the recently developed draft of the Regional Pest Management Strategy. The board also liaises with the Chatham Island Council and the Chatham Island representative for Predator Free 2050.

6.6 Imi / iwi liaison and advocacy

As many Chatham Islands Conservation Board members have affiliations to both imi and iwi, they liaise/advocate when occasions arise.

7. Acknowledgements/Conclusion

The Chatham Island Conservation Board is only able to function because of the excellent support it received from Jilleen Chandler, Department of Conservation who administers the board. The 2020 / 2021 year was a difficult one for the board, as it was for everyone, due to the global pandemic, Jilleen's cheerfulness, timely organisation and planning for meetings, providing board members with necessary documents and organising travel is greatly appreciated.

The Chatham Islands presents its own unique challenges through its remoteness from Aotearoa / New Zealand, and the myriad threats its indigenous biota faces. Over the last three years the board has grown in strength and increased its visibility across the island. Much of this is due to Jilleen's unseen work but also that of the outgoing chair, who has run meetings with good humour and decisive decision making when needed.

The near extinction of *Lepidium rekohuense* has been turned around because of excellent liaison between Department of Conservation staff, the board and a team of committed experts. The board is both responsive, and questioning, but critically also respectful of the people they represent and the organisations they work with.

Appendix I –Annual Work Plan

Chatham Island Conservation Board Work Programme 1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

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
Green	Completed
Yellow	Started and is ongoing
Red	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 review the revised Chatham Islands CMS draft and will recommend the approval of the draft by the Authority with or without amendments

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

	Action	Status	Progress commentary
A	Review CMS and relevant species management documents	Completed	Reports all reviewed
B	Updated draft to be circulated	Ongoing	½ day workshop to be conducted to focus on pre-planning
C	Continue to update content	Ongoing	Concern continued to be expressed over delays as Board sees CMS review as a priority. However, timing fortuitous with Treaty settlement negotiations – as results will be incorporated into CMS review

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	Board advised to wait until Treaty settlements completed but we are of a view that this should not be the reason for a delay in securing planning assistance. The Moriori settlement is complete and Ngāti Mutunga is in progress. There are important conservation priorities affected by the settlement negotiations eg shared management of Te Whanga – there is a risk these will fall into limbo in the interim
B	Seek a report from the Joint Planning Committee of Te Whanga	Not yet started	Planning committee is not yet formed
C	Monitor delivery of CMS commitments through Dept reports	Ongoing	Department reports provided for each meeting.

D	Request annual conservation priorities from Operations Manager	Completed	Chatham Island District Business Plan profile received by Board members in January 2021
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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	Ongoing	Board reviewed the draft Conservation Board Governance manual sent by the Governance Unit

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	Regular features and articles on the Chatham Islands website
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	The Board hold a position on the Chatham Islands Landscape Restoration Group and provide input where required

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	Ranger attended the November meeting to demonstrate the traps used by the Department. Ranger attended April field trip to share about the management and monitoring of <i>Lepidium rekohuense</i> site.

B	Board liaises with the Operations Manager for all meetings	Ongoing	Operations manager attends all meetings and provides Departmental report for every meeting.
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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 liaison member attend all Chatham Islands Landscape Restoration Group meetings. Hamish Chisholm (PF2050 coordinator) attended the June meeting to meet with the Board
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	The Chathams Council has delegated freshwater monitoring to ECAN. Only surface water testing is carried out. More work is needed to bring about a more comprehensive understanding of our whole systems. Hokotehi has produced a freshwater management plan which has a statutory function.
C	The Board will enhance relationships with Treaty partners	Ongoing	Available Board members attended Te Pukenga Atawhai
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	Ongoing	The Board reviewed the draft Conservation Board Governance manual
F	The Board recognises that actions to mitigate climate change is a priority	Ongoing	
G	Understand the Boards role in supporting the implementation of the Biodiversity strategy once released.	Ongoing	Provided feedback on 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	The Board supports good science and research initiatives as well as engagement in collaborative conservation research and is responsive to high level permit applications.
B	Ensure the Board receive feedback from researchers along with easily digestible reports on outcomes	Ongoing	The board have received a few emails detailing progress on Chrissy Paintings research on Rangatira spider – the final report is still in preparation.

5 Taking account of Ministerial priorities for the Department

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	Ongoing	The Board is kept up to date with regular Authority correspondence, agendas and reports
B	The Board will engage with the NZCA liaison member	Ongoing	
C	The Board will be responsive to opportunities to connect with other Boards in mainland NZ as budgets permit	Ongoing	The Board is open to visits with NZ Boards and to sharing our island conservation work

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 tangata whenua and work actively to promote a strong Treaty of Waitangi partnership

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	Available members attended the recent Te Pukenga Atawhai course held on the Chathams
C	To continue meeting at the two marae	Ongoing	The November meeting was held at Kopinga Marae.
D	As conservation kaitiaki we need to ensure that we are well informed and upskilled in terms of keeping current knowledge up to date	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	The Board met with Steve Palmer, Chris Keeling and Graham Sullivan to discuss and comment on the RPMS and Biosecurity Strategy draft documents.

B	The Board holds public forums in all meetings and invites members of ECAN, Council and the Tāiko Trust to attend meetings when possible	Ongoing	Members from FENZ Local Advisory Group, ECAN, Predator Free 2050 and Hokotehi Moriori Trust have attended and spoken at Board meetings.
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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