

ISSN 1176-7065



Te Rūnanga Whakauka o Kahurangi ki Kaikōura

NELSON/MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION BOARD



Herea kia Kōtahi - Working Together



Board members, DOC staff and Barbara Stuart surveying the Horoirangi Marine Reserve on the Stuarts' farm at Cable Bay

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2006 – 30 June 2007

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

Serviced by the Department of Conservation

1. INTRODUCTION

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board is one of fourteen 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 Board to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act.

The Conservation Act specifies that the Board's role is to:

- recommend the approval of conservation management strategies;
- approve conservation management plans;
- advise on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice;
- advise on proposed changes to the status of land areas of national and international significance;
- advise on proposals for new walkways;
- liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters; and
- carry out other powers delegated to them by the Conservation Minister, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

The Board has a number of 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 such plans by the New Zealand Conservation Authority.

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987 requires Conservation Boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority with an annual report as soon as practicable after the 30th June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board submits this, its 9th annual report.

The report is structured around the legislative functions of the Board under the Conservation Act 1987 and the National Parks Act 1980.

2. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board has a membership of twelve, appointed by the Minister for Conservation. Two of these are on the recommendation of Ngai Tahu. Two members retired from the Board this year. Harley McNabb, who represented the interests of the Karamea community in Kahurangi National Park, retired after 7 years on the Board. Darcia Solomon, who had represented Ngai Tahu's interests on the Board for 16 years, also retired.

Véronique Cornille, of Nelson, and Gina Solomon, of Kaikoura, joined the Board. Gina is a Ngai Tahu appointee on the Board. The Board thanks the Department's Conservancy and Area staff who have given valuable support throughout the year. In

particular, thanks go to Conservator, Neil Clifton; Community Relations Manager, Jo Gould; and Pou Kura Taiao, Barney Thomas for their support. The Board was sorry to lose support officer Louise Dowdell and welcomes Kay Switzer to that role.

Five Board meetings were held during the year:

- 31 August 2006 in Nelson
- 30 Nov-1 December 2006 in Picton (with a field trip to Queen Charlotte Sound)
- 22 February 2007 in St Arnaud (with a field trip to Molesworth Station on 20-21 February)
- 18-19 April 2007 in Nelson (with a strategic planning session and field trip to Horoirangi Marine Reserve and Cable Bay)
- 30 June 2007 at Murchison (with a visit to a waterway restoration project in Murchison).

Normally the Board has two 2-day meetings in a year. The 2-day field trip to Molesworth Station was an additional trip in the Board's calendar this year. It was organised in conjunction with the St Arnaud meeting as a number of Board members had expressed a keen desire to familiarise themselves with Molesworth Station, following its transfer to DOC administration as recreation reserve in July 2005.

Meeting attendance by Board members is shown below. In addition to this, Board members attended various sub-committee meetings throughout the year.

Board Member	Home Town	Meetings Attended
Ropata Taylor (Chairperson)	Motueka	4
Judy Hellstrom (Deputy)	Picton	4
Maurice Manawatu	Kaikoura	4
Tracey Osborne	Takaka	4
Philip Simpson	Takaka	4
Darcia Solomon (*)	Kaikoura	1
Gina Solomon (**)	Kaikoura	4
Glenice Paine	Picton	5
Bill Gilbertson	Nelson	4
Ian Mitchell	Blenheim	4
David Melville	Dovedale	4
Carl Elkington	Picton	4
Véronique Cornille (**)	Nelson	3

(*) Retired December 2006 (**) Joined Board November 2006

3. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Gina Solomon, Maurice Manawatu, Carl Elkington, Ropata Taylor and Glenice Paine all bring an iwi perspective to the Board. These members also bring a rich and wide range of community, business, tourism, resource management and education skills to the Board. Ian Mitchell brings knowledge of the high country and local and central

government experience. Bill Gilbertson contributes specialist skills in recreation and conservation planning. David Melville has extensive experience in nature conservation and natural resource management with specialist skills as an ornithologist. Judy Hellstrom is an active advocate for conservation in the Marlborough Sounds, both land and marine-based, and has experience in plant pest eradication and bush restoration. Tracey Osborne provides expertise in marine science and use of the marine environment and Philip Simpson is a botanist with special interest in New Zealand plants and ecology. Véronique Cornille is a photographer with a keen interest in conservation.

During the year, the Board reorganised its committee structure. Membership of sub-committees is as follows:

Marine conservation

Members: *Glenice Paine (convenor), Maurice Manawatu, Carl Elkington, Gina Solomon, Tracey Osborne*

Sub-committee interests include: Long Island-Kokomohua marine reserve; Horoirangi marine reserve; and SoundFish.

Management planning

Members: *Bill Gilbertson (convenor), Philip Simpson, Judy Hellstrom, David Melville, Glenice Paine, Ropata Taylor, Tracey Osborne and Véronique Cornille.*

Sub-committee interests include: Abel Tasman National Park management plan; Abel Tasman Foreshore Advisory Forum; Kahurangi Air Access; Puponga/Farewell Spit Reserves management plan; and Te Waikoropupu Springs management plan.

Marlborough

Members: *Ian Mitchell (convenor), Judy Hellstrom, Glenice Paine, Bill Gilbertson, Maurice Manawatu, Philip Simpson, Véronique Cornille, Gina Solomon.*

Sub-committee interests include: Queen Charlotte track and South Marlborough (including Molesworth).

Concessions

Members: *David Melville (convenor), Bill Gilbertson, Carl Elkington, Judy Hellstrom and Gina Solomon.*

Sub-committee interests include walkways.

West Coast liaison

Members: *Bill Gilbertson (convenor), Véronique Cornille, Tracey Osborne.*

Other

Individual Board members represented the Board's interests on external groups and committees as follows:

- Tracey Osborne (with Philip Simpson as back-up) was the Board's representative on the Tasman Environmental Trust. Ian Mitchell represented the Board on the Molesworth Steering Committee. Bill Gilbertson was the Board's representative on the Abel Tasman Foreshore Advisory Forum. Glenice Paine represented the Board on SoundFish.

- The two marine reserve committees (Horoirangi and Long Island-Kokomohua) were established as committees of the Board and include external representation as well as Board representation. Tracey Osborne represented the Board on the Horoirangi marine reserve committee and Glenice Paine represented the Board on the Long Island-Kokomohua marine reserve committee.

4. THE BOARD'S AREA

The Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the entire Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy, with oversight of the whole of Kahurangi National Park. This includes the western third of the park, which is managed by the West Coast Conservancy. This necessitates a working relationship between the Board and Department staff from that area.

5. FUNCTIONS UNDER SECTION 6M OF THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on Implementation of Conservation Management Strategies

Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) Implementation

The Board agreed to receive briefings from the department on the implementation of CMS 'strategic directions' on an annual basis. A comprehensive report on the implementation of the CMS to date was received in August 2006. Board members commented that the report provided a good illustration of the Conservancy's work. No significant advice to the Department on CMS implementation resulted from the report.

The Board is mindful of the fact that the Conservancy's current CMS is dated and looks forward to participating in the review of the CMS. The Board agreed to the Department seeking approval from the Minister for an extension for the timeframe for the review of the CMS to 2011, by which time it anticipates that the revised CMS will be approved. In agreeing to this request, the Board is mindful of the fact that the Department's national template for second-generation CMSs has not yet been approved. The Board welcomes the move towards greater national consistency for CMS development.

To approve Conservation Management Plans, and the review and amendment of such plans

Puoponga Recreation Reserve/Farewell Spit Nature Reserve Management Plan

As part of a discussion with the Department about management planning priorities at its June 2006 meeting, the Board advised the Department that it should not continue with a separate management plan for Puoponga Recreation Reserve (also known as 'Puoponga Farm Park'). The Board's preference was for the planning for Puoponga to be undertaken as part of the CMS review, with the farm park identified as a 'place' in the CMS. The Board also recognised that continued dialogue with the grazing lessee at

Puponga was useful to agree on the direction for the future management of the farming operation on the reserve. Discussions between the sub-committee and the Department continued on this matter.

The Board considered that the Department should proceed with the Farewell Spit Nature Reserve component of the management plan, given the importance of Farewell Spit as a wetland of international importance (and its recognition as a Ramsar site).

The Board is disappointed with the Department's subsequent review of its management planning priorities (in February 2007) and its recommendation that both Farewell Spit and Puponga be covered by the CMS, rather than a separate statutory management plan. The Board has advised the Department that it is still keen to see the development of a separate management plan for Farewell Spit Nature Reserve.

Te Waikoropupu Springs Management Plan

The Board is disappointed with the progress on the management plan for Te Waikoropupu Springs (Pupu Springs Scenic Reserve). The Board is aware of Manawhenua ki Mohua's interest in this plan, given the cultural significance of Te Waikoropupu Springs. The Department has assured the Board that the plan for Te Waikoropupu Springs remains a priority.

Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve

The Board was delighted to see the Abel Tasman foreshore gazetted as scenic reserve in January 2007, following a lengthy process. The Board was briefed on the governance model for the reserve which arose through dialogue with Tasman District Council and the Conservation Board and was subsequently agreed to by the Minister of Conservation. The reserve is jointly administered by the Department of Conservation and Tasman District Council. A sub-committee of the Board will be appointed to approve the management plan for the foreshore reserve. It will comprise the following members: the Conservation Board chairperson (or nominee); the CEO of Tasman District Council, the Department's Nelson/Marlborough Conservator, a representative of manawhenua iwi; and a Tasman District Councillor representative. The Board agreed to delegate its powers to approve the management plan for foreshore to the sub-committee. The Board noted that the Abel Tasman Advisory Forum will continue to provide advice to the Administration Committee on reserve management.

Advice on any other Conservation Matters

Marine Conservation

Marine conservation continued to be a major theme for the Board throughout the year. The Board received a comprehensive briefing from the Department on current and projected marine conservation initiatives, and noted the breadth and scale of work undertaken in the Conservancy on marine conservation from marine protected areas, protection of marine mammals, coastal advocacy and marine biosecurity. The Board's marine conservation sub-committee has been working on its own paper on marine conservation to provide direction to the Board's future work.

The sub-committee reported on the Hector's Dolphin Threat Management plan and, as a result, the Board raised issues with the Department on the need for further research and information campaigns to raise awareness among the public and the fishing community about the seriousness of the threat to Hector's and Maui dolphins.

The Board supports the ongoing work of Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura (Kaikoura Coastal Guardians) project at Kaikoura and acknowledges the role of Board member Maurice Manawatu as chairperson of this group. The Board looks forward to the roll-out of the Department's marine protected areas policy and implementation plan.

Marine Reserves

Glenice Paine has continued to represent the Board on both the Long Island-Kokomohua marine reserve committee and the Marlborough-based SoundFish group which is focused on marine conservation in the Marlborough Sounds. Tracey Osborne represents the Board on the Horoirangi marine reserve committee.

The Board acknowledges the work the Department is doing in relation to following up marine reserve infringements and supports the strong signal that prosecution sends.

Queen Charlotte Track

The Board continues to take an interest in management issues associated with the Queen Charlotte track and surrounding reserves.

Wildlife Act Review

The Board made a submission on the Wildlife Act review. It also commented on the need for controlling wild animals in order to protect native flora and fauna to the United Future party. This was in response to the party's proposal to establish a panel to look at managing pest species for recreational benefits to hunters.)

Concessions, leases and licences

The Board continues to provide advice to the Department on a range of concessions for recreational and commercial activities. The Board also provides advice on access arrangements for mining, under the Crown Minerals Act. The Board supports the Department's move towards more proactive management of concessions, particularly in identified 'hotspots'.

Significant concessions that have occupied the Concession sub-committee's time include a proposal to extend a café at Marahau on conservation land adjacent to the Abel Tasman National Park. A hearing was held for this application. Board member Judy Hellstrom represented the Board on the advisory panel which heard submissions on the application and had an advisory role to the Hearing Commissioner. The final decision on the application will be made by the Conservator.

Sub-committee members were briefed on the application by New Zealand Energy to construct a weir across Lake Matiri on conservation land in order to build a run-of-the-river hydro-electric power scheme. As part of this briefing, department staff took Board members up to Lake Matiri.

The sub-committee is working with the Department on an agreed approach to considering applications for sporting events on conservation land, including national parks.

6. POWERS UNDER SECTION 6N OF THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

Advocating Board Interest at any Public Forum

Recreation Summit

Bill Gilbertson attended the New Zealand Recreation Summit 2006 as a Board representative. Key areas of discussion were around involving the next generation; self-reliance and the risk adverse society we live in; and the role of organised events or activities. A series of recommendations was made to the Minister of Conservation as a result of the workshop.

7. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT

Additions to National Parks

The Board supported the Department's recommendation to the New Zealand Conservation Authority that a number of areas recently acquired for conservation purposes be added to Abel Tasman National Park and Nelson Lakes National Park. Land added to the Abel Tasman National Park included the large block of land behind Awaroa Estuary, previously owned by the Hadfield family, which was purchased by the Nature Heritage Fund.

National Park Management Plan Implementation reports

The Board agreed to receive annual reports on the implementation of National Park management plans. The first implementation report on the Kahurangi National Park management plan was presented at the Board's April 2007 meeting. A report on the implementation of the Nelson Lakes National Park management plan was presented at the June 2007 meeting. The Board appreciated receiving these comprehensive reports.

Abel Tasman National Park Management Plan Review

The draft Abel Tasman National Park management plan was publicly notified for submissions in January 2006. Hearings of submissions were held in August 2006 in Nelson, Motueka and Takaka before representatives of the Board and Department. Bill Gilbertson chaired the hearings and members of the management planning sub-committee attended. The sub-committee has been briefed by the Department about the recommended amendments to the draft plan as a result of submissions. The Board received the amended draft plan from the Department in June 2007 and will be considering whether to recommend the plan to the Authority for approval.

Partial Review of Kahurangi National Park Management Plan

The intention to review (in part) the Kahurangi National Park management plan will be publicly notified in July 2007. The partial review will focus on a number of issues including: mountain-biking; privately owned accommodation; horse riding; air access and hunting restrictions. The review of the plan in relation to mountain-biking follows the approval of the General Policy for National Parks by the Authority in 2005, which enabled the appropriateness of mountain biking in national parks to be considered through the planning process. The New Zealand Mountain Bike Association requested that this review be undertaken.

8. BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE WALKWAYS ACT

The Board received a briefing on its responsibilities under the Walkways Act. It was noted that some walkways do not have the legal status of "walkways" but are managed by the Department as part of the Conservancy's existing recreational infrastructure under management agreements with landowners.

Lake Otuhie Walkway

The Board agreed to request the Director-General of Conservation to enter an agreement on behalf of the Crown for an easement over private land at Sandhills Creek, south of Paturau in western Golden Bay, to enable the land to be used as a walkway under the Walkways Act 1990. The matter arose as part of the purchase of a farm at Sandhills Creek by an 'overseas person' and the insertion of conditions in the Overseas Investment Commission's consent to the purchase. The purchase conditions also required protection of the undeveloped margins of Lake Otuhie and improvement in the lake's riparian margin.

9. LIAISON

Ship Cove interpretation opening

Some Board members attended a moving powhiri to open the new interpretation panels and visitor facilities at Ship Cove in Queen Charlotte Sound. Unfortunately, heavy rain the night before precluded the ceremony being held on-site. The new interpretation panels highlight the importance of the site as the first place of sustained meeting between tangata whenua and Europeans through the visits of Captain James Cook.

Kaikoura Peninsula walkway

Board members were invited to attend the opening of the upgraded Kaikoura Peninsula walkway at South Bay in December. A moving dawn blessing was held followed by a celebration involving all the partners in the walkway project: Ngai Tahu, Whalewatch and Kaikoura District Council.

10. FIELD INSPECTIONS

Queen Charlotte Sound

On 30 November 2006 the Board went on a field trip by boat up Queen Charlotte Sound. Members inspected the new visitor facilities and interpretative panels at Ship Cove and received a briefing on Sounds Foreshore Reserve management and subdivision issues en route. On the way back, the Board stopped at Mistletoe Bay and viewed the developments the Mistletoe Bay Trust had undertaken. The Board stayed overnight at Lochmara Lodge and were informed about the conservation initiatives there.

Molesworth Station

On 20-21 February 2007 seven Board members travelled through Molesworth Station. On the first day they journeyed up the Rainbow River, through Rainbow Station and the St James Station through to Hanmer. They stopped at Lake Sedgemere to discuss the biodiversity work there, and at Lake Tennyson to consider recreational development issues. On the second day, Hamish Ensor, chair of the Molesworth Steering Committee, joined the Board. They travelled down the Acheron Road and visited the historic Acheron accommodation building. Jim Ward, the station manager, briefed the Board on farming operations over lunch at the Molesworth Station farm complex. From there, they drove through to the historic buildings at Tarndale which is still a key farm operations base. Jim pointed out the extensive wilding pine work taking place in this area. From Tarndale, the group travelled back along the Rainbow to St Arnaud.

Horoirangi Marine Reserve and Cable Bay

On 18 April 2007 Board members visited the Wakapuaka wetland to inspect progress on the restoration of the tidal area. From there they drove to Glenduan, the southern entrance to both the Horoirangi Marine Reserve and the Cable Bay Walkway. The Board learned about the beneficial effects of the marine reserve on fish stock, 18 months after its establishment. At Cable Bay, Board members met Ian and Barbara

Stuart whose farm includes much of the Cable Bay Walkway. Members were driven up the hillside to view the marine reserve. Staff from the Department's Motueka Area Office showed Board members how surveillance of the marine reserve is carried out. The Board also discussed issues associated with carrying out farming and conservation, and the pressures of increased recreational use on farm management.

11. COMMENTS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Mauri Tu, Mauri Ora, Mauri Noho, Mauri Mate

**When we stand up and strive, the desire to live is strong
When we give up or are inert we are prone to failure**

This proverb is about vitality and life force. It is in reference to the collective contribution of our board members, in a diverse and dynamic approach to conservation achievements within the area of Te Runanga Whakauka o Kahurangi ki Kaikoura – The Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board.

Since our last report, the board has been particularly active across the conservancy with all members involved in guiding the strategic direction of conservation at our local level. This resulted in restructuring our sub-committees and in a strategic planning session where we measured our statutory role against our board priorities, our limitations and the Department of Conservation's Statement of Intent. This work will continue going forward to ensure our contribution is as effective as possible and that we are proactive instead of reactive.

A personal highlight was viewing the development at Ship Cove Historic Reserve which is a tremendous example of the Department of Conservation engaging with a local community to produce a design-led innovation that pays tribute to the Maori and European history of the area. During the year, Board members also enjoyed the event to mark the opening of the southern entrance to the Kaikoura walkway.

Marine conservation issues with regard to the recently established management and monitoring of Horoirangi Marine Reserve and the plight of Hector's Dolphins are examples of the plethora of issues resulting in the development of a comprehensive positioning paper to lead board work in an integrated fashion as this area becomes increasingly and urgently important to our conservancy.

The board has begun preparation for the review of our Conservation Management Strategy. We recognise the essential role this tool will provide for the future and it is fair to say we have struggled to adequately deal with our workload given the number of management plans to be progressed. Given this, we are excited about embarking upon the review and ensuring the final product will be as relevant and user friendly as possible.

The concessions sub-committee has been busy with a wide range of issues that range from monitoring and restoration at Mt Burnett, protection of Tuatara on Takapourewa, through to the implementation of new concessions in the Abel Tasman National Park.

The Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve was gazetted and the board continues to advise the department as controls are implemented.

Finally, I congratulate our Conservator Neil Clifton and his team for the amicable relationship they have maintained with the board as we work to add value and debate to the department's initiatives and work programme.

Mauri Ora

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ropata Taylor', enclosed within a thin, hand-drawn oval border.

Ropata Taylor
(Chairman)

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings. If you would like more information on the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board please contact Community Relations Officer - Board Support, at the Department of Conservation in Nelson phone (03) 546 3143 or see www.conservationboards.org.nz.