

Te Rūnanga Whakauka o Kahurangi ki Kaikōura Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board



Annual Report 2019-20

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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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Front Cover: Board members, staff and manawhenua, Onetahua Marae, Golden Bay, September 2019.
Photo: Jacqui Irwin, DOC

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1. Korero from the Chair, Gina Solomon

E nga mana, e nga reo, e nga maunga, e nga awa
Nga waka ki tenei rohe: Kurahaupo, Tokomaru, Tainui, Takitimu, tena koutou
Nga whānau, hapu, iwi, mo nga kaitiaki, tena tatou katoa

*All authorities, all voices, all mountains, all the rivers
To the many waka within the region: Kurahaupo, Tokomaru, Tainui, Takitimu, greetings
To the kaitiaki, greetings to you all*

We are here again - it is an honour to present my third report as Chair of Te Rūnanga Whakauka o Kahurangi ki Kaikōura, the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board.

E nga Whānau, auē!

What strange and unsettling times we are living in at present. Covid-19 blew in and smothered the world, caught us all off guard and unprepared – it was like some bad unrealistic B grade movie – but sadly it was very real, and we were in it.

Suddenly we were all stuck at home, scared, worried we were going to get sick, wondering who might have Covid and how can we keep away from people; worried about whanau who were not with us, would they get sick, when would we see them? How will we survive this?

Well we did, whanau, and all in all we have done pretty well so far compared to many other countries. Still, a lot of struggles and uncertainties linger and who knows what is to come.

What got us through, I think, was leadership and kindness.

Leadership was shown at all levels. From the government, within communities and individuals, whether it be those who were in charge of managing Covid to those working in our hospitals, supermarkets and services. Leadership was shown by each and every one of us listening to the advice given, following instructions, each of us doing what we needed to do to manage Covid, leading and showing by example.

Kindness is such an easy thing to do and is incredibly powerful and empowering, yet it isn't always a natural occurring process. We have got to a time where we have to be reminded to be kind.

That takes me to reflections on our Conservation Board whanau and the way we have worked together throughout the year. I feel we have been respectful and kind to one another. We actively work at that, it doesn't just 'happen'. The respect and kindness around the Board table has flowed into our mahi throughout the year and helped us achieve some good things as a Board. You can read about what we've achieved in this annual report.

So the message is this: we must continue to be truly kind to each other and to our planet. We must care for each other. We must care for our place, for our land and all that it holds. We must work smarter together to find solutions. We must come together whānau, truly come together to save our whenua, to save our awa, to save our moana, to save our place, to save our Aotearoa, to save our whānau, to save ourselves, to make a better place for our children's children.

I love whakatauki. They connect me to who I am and to my whanau. They make me smile. Whakatauki are not specific to just Māori; they are for all of us and I hope they give you strength and a hopeful future like they do for me:

He aha te mea nui ki tēnei ao? Māku e ki atu. He tangata, he tangata, he tangata.
What is the most important thing in the world? I would reply that it is people, people, people.

Kāhore taku toa i te toa takitahi, he toa takitini
We cannot succeed without the support of those around us.

Mauria te pono
Believe in yourself.

Kia Kaha Whanau

Ngā mihi



Gina Solomon, Chair
27 August 2020



Isolated Flat, Molesworth. Photo: J Irwin

2. Introduction

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

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, or DOC), within their area of jurisdiction.

3. Conservation Board functions and powers

The Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board is appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6 (P) of the Conservation Act 1987. Board functions and powers, which enable the Board to carry out those functions, are specified in the Act.

3.1. Board functions under the Conservation Act 1987

The Conservation Act, section 6 (M), specifies that the Board's functions are to:

- recommend the approval of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies;
- approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans;
- advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice;
- advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on any proposed changes to the status or classification of any area of national or international significance;
- advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board;
- liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters; and
- carry out other powers delegated to it by the Conservation Minister, under the Conservation Act or any other Act.

3.2. Board powers under the Conservation Act 1987

Section 6(N) subsection (1) of the Conservation Act specifies that "Every Board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions".

Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each 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.

The power conferred by subsection (a) above 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.

3.3. Board functions under the National Parks Act 1980

There are three national parks within the Board's region: Kahurangi National Park, Nelson Lakes National Park and Abel Tasman National Park. The Board sets up committees when the management plans for these are being reviewed. The Board liaises with the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board around cross-boundary issues relating to Kahurangi National Park, particularly for the Ōpārara Basin.

The Board's functions under this Act are:

- a) 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:
- b) to consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks:
- c) to make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers under section 40:
- d) 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:
- e) 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. Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board Region

The Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers all of the DOC Northern South Island region, with the additional oversight of the whole of Kahurangi National Park – some of which lies within DOC's Western South Island region.

The Board's area also includes Abel Tasman and Nelson Lakes National Parks, Mt Richmond Forest Park, Ka Whata Tu o Rakihouia Conservation Park, Molesworth Recreation Reserve, and important nature reserves such as Takapourewa Stephens Island and Farewell Spit. 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.

There are five Marine Reserves in Nelson Marlborough: Long Island Kokomohua, Westhaven Te Tai Tapu, Tonga Island, Horoirangi and Hikurangi.

During the year, the Board liaised with the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board to confirm our board taking the lead role in the management plan review for Molesworth Recreation Reserve, although a small part of Molesworth falls within the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board area.

There are about 750 heritage and cultural sites, both Māori and European, including archaeological sites, historic backcountry huts, a whaling station and cob cottages.

Species protection programmes in the area cover Hector's dolphin, tuatara, endemic frogs, *Powelliphanta* snails, great spotted kiwi, takahē, Hutton's shearwater, tītī/Huttons shearwater, weka, kākā, black fronted tern and whio (blue duck) and include a 'mainland island' at Nelson Lakes, the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project.

The Board's area of jurisdiction also covers some of New Zealand's best-known and most-loved visitor sites, including the Kaikōura Peninsula, Abel Tasman Coast Track, the Heaphy Track, Waikoropupū Springs, Wharariki Beach and the Queen Charlotte Track. There are over 300 other walks and tracks totalling more than 1,950 kilometres.

The large number of issues of interest to the Board includes:

- Protecting biodiversity
- Climate change and sustainability
- The future of tourism
- Ecosystem management and management of plant and animal species
- Marine protection
- Management of recreational facilities
- Management of heritage and cultural sites
- Permissions activities, including those relating to recreation and tourism activities, grazing, baches, filming, and other commercial uses of public conservation land.

The Board area includes the rohe of the eight iwi of Te Tau Ihu - Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, and Ngāti Tama - and Ngāti Kurī and Ngāti Waewae Rūnganga of Ngāi Tahu. There are 11 Marae within the Board area.

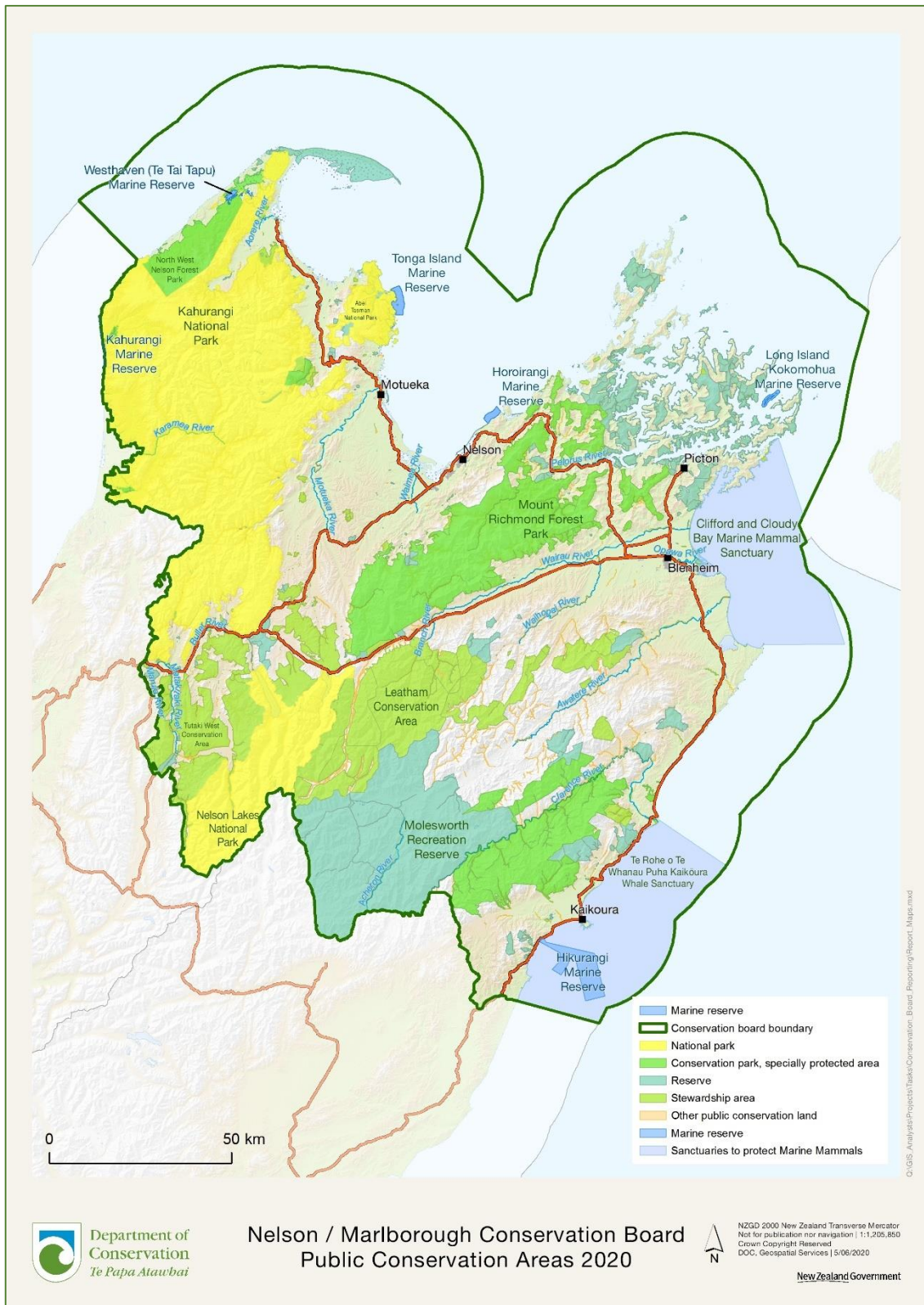


Figure 1: The Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board area of jurisdiction mostly aligns with the DOC Northern South Island region, above, with the addition of policy and planning responsibility for all of Kahurangi National Park.

5. Board Membership

There were 11 Board members for the reporting year ended June 2020, with Murray Poulter appointed for a second term, and Lorraine Hawke appointed for her first term beginning in July 2019.

Gina Solomon was re-elected as Chairperson and Bev Doole was re-elected Deputy Chairperson in November 2019.

Under Section 6P of the Conservation Act, a Board whose area of jurisdiction is partly within the Ngāi Tahu claim area must consist of no more than 12 persons, with at least one person appointed on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. The Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board currently has two members who were appointed on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

The following table lists the membership of the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020, their terms of office and years of service as at June 2020.

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Term served (years)
Gina Solomon (Chair) (Ngāi Tahu nominee)	Kaikōura	16/10/2006	30/06/2021	14
Bev Doole (Deputy)	Blenheim	01/07/2014	30/06/2020	6
Ian Alach	Takaka	01/07/2018	30/06/2021	2
Andrea Goodman	Motueka	01/07/2017	30/06/2020	3
Lorraine Hawke (Ngāi Tahu nominee)	Kaikōura	01/07/2019	30/06/2022	1
Katie McNabb	Picton	01/07/2014	30/06/2020	6
Rima Piggott	Motueka	01/07/2017	30/06/2020	3
Murray Poulter	Motueka	01/07/2016	30/06/2019	4
Harvey Ruru	Nelson	01/07/2018	30/06/2021	2
Barbara Stuart	Nelson	01/07/2017	30/06/2020	3
Aneika Young	Nelson	01/07/2018	30/06/2021	2

5.1. Board members profiles



Gina Solomon (Chairperson) of Kaikōura connects through whakapapa to Ngāi Tahu, Kurahaupō, Ngāti Koata, Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Toa. Gina inherited a passion and a love, from her parents, grandparents and ancestors for our beautiful whenua and moana. Growing up in Oaro, a small coastal rural area near Kaikōura, hunting and gathering was an everyday way of life that went with respecting and valuing all forms of life in our environment. Gina has been able to successfully transition these concepts into today's world. She was appointed to the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board in 2006 on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and is on numerous groups and projects on a paid or volunteer basis. Some of these groups are stakeholders in conflict who need to work collaboratively to find pragmatic strategies and solutions to integrate cultural, environmental and economic interests.

Gina brings Te Tiriti o Waitangi and Tikanga Māori to these forums and moves with ease and comfort with whānau, iwi, government and other authorities and the wider community. She is passionate about her mahi, advocating for and promoting iwi and conservation values. The groups she is involved in include: Forestry Ministerial Advisory Group; Forestry Reference Group (Treasury); Kaikōura Marine Guardians; Kaikōura Zone Committee; Nature Heritage Fund Committee; Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura; Titi/Hutton's Shearwater Charitable Trust. Gina has provided facilitation workshops to Irrigation NZ and the Ministry for Primary Industries, is a certified RMA Making Good Decisions Commissioner and member of NZ Institute of Directors.



Bev Doole (Deputy Chair) of Rarangi near Blenheim was appointed to the Board in July 2014. Bev is a former journalist now working in communications and project management, specialising in the environmental sector. She is experienced in writing for resource management plans, policy documents and State of the Environment reporting. She is highly knowledgeable about conservation issues in the region. Bev is co-ordinator for the Marlborough Environment Awards and is a member of the Cawthron Institute Trust Board. Her outdoor recreation interests are walking, gardening and boating in the Sounds.



Ian Alach from Golden Bay was appointed in July 2018. He lives in the Takaka Valley and is a self-employed small farmer and conservation consultant. He has extensive experience supervising projects on conservation land. Ian has carried out wilding conifer control as a volunteer on Molesworth for many years, as well as on Beeby's Knob in Mt Richmond Forest Park. He is a member of the Golden Bay Alpine Tramping Club and secretary of the Takaka Dog Trial Club.



Andrea Goodman of Ngatimoti, near Motueka, was appointed to the Board in July 2017. Andrea works in community engagement and human-wildlife conflict for the Kea Conservation Trust. She has a strong scientific approach with a BSc in Zoology, MSc in Ecology and Post-Graduate Diploma in Wildlife Management. Her interests include tramping, gardening and Enviroschools.



Lorraine Hawke of Kaikōura was appointed in July 2019 after being nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. She has iwi affiliations with Ngāi Tahu o Ngāti Kūri me Ngāi Tuahuriri, Ngāti Waewae, Ngāti Irakehu, Ngāti Mamoe me Waitaha, Rangitāne. Lorraine has a background in governance, policy, and whānau development with a strong cultural awareness of the principles of rangatiratanga, manawhenua and mana moana. Lorraine chairs te Ahi Wairua o Kaikoura Charitable Trust and is the key liaison and chair of Te Rūnganga o Kaikoura Molesworth working committee.



Katie McNabb of Picton was appointed to the Board in July 2014. Katie is a boating education tutor and member of the Coastguard Boating Education Services Board. She has experience in Board membership, policy and planning. She was involved in the restoration of Perano whaling station. Her outdoor recreation interests include sailing, skiing, biking and river boating.



Rima Piggott of Motueka was appointed to the Board in July 2017. Rima is affiliated to Ngāti Rārua, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa Rangitira, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāiterangi and Ngāti Tūwharetoa. Rima is a home health support worker and has a certificate in Horticultural Management. Rima has broad community involvement and is a Trustee for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua and a member of the Manawhenua ki Mohua Trust. She enjoys tramping, fishing, hunting, diving, gardening and gathering kai moana.



Murray Poulter of Tasman, near Motueka, was appointed to the Board in July 2016. Murray has extensive experience in scientific research and management, and most recently was the Chief Scientist Atmosphere, Climate and Hazards for NIWA. He enjoys walking, hiking, cycling, canoeing and fishing. He is the Board representative on the Tasman Environmental Trust and is part-owner of a QEII covenanted area of native bush.



Archdeacon Emeritus TeHawe (Harvey) Ruru QSM of Nelson was appointed in July 2018. His iwi affiliations are Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Maru, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Kati Mamoe and Moriori. Harvey is Chair of Te Ātiawa o te Waka a Māui Turst and has had a long involvement as a claims negotiator in the Waitangi Tribunal Claims settlement process. In 2016 he retired after 14 years as NZ Police Iwi Liaison Officer and Coordinator. Earlier in his career Harvey was a Registered Comprehensive Nurse specialising in Mental Health nursing. Harvey is also an Anglican priest. He has wide ranging governance experience.



Barbara Stuart QSM of Cable Bay, near Nelson, was appointed to the Board in July 2017 and is a Justice of the Peace. Barbara brings a strong connection to farming and engagement with rural communities. She has a professional background in facilitating and fostering sustainable land management and conservation outcomes on private land. She has also played a key role in promoting walking access across the region and is owner operator of a family farm and holiday park. Barbara enjoys walking, history, native plants and writing. Barbara was awarded a QSM for services to Conservation in June 2020.



Aneika Young of Nelson was appointed to the Board in July 2018. She has iwi affiliations with Ngāti Rārua ki Motueka, Te Ātiawa ki Te Tau Ihu, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāti Koroki Kahukura, and Waikato Tainui. Aneika is Kaiāwhina Māori and a Māori Business Development environmental scientist and researcher for Cawthron Institute in Nelson. She has a background as a consultant in Māori Resource Management and wide interests in outdoor recreation, including as a walk and kayak guide in Abel Tasman National Park. Aneika is an iwi representative on the Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve Board, the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust, is a Trustee of Te Āwhina Marae and an alternate Director for Ngāti Rārua Te Ātiawa Trust on Tiakina te Taiao.

5.2. Board Committees and Representation

Membership of Board committees was reviewed during the year. The Board also formed working groups as needed. Generally, working groups were dis-established once the short-term task is complete.

The full list of Committees and working groups, as at June 2020, was:

- Stewardship Land Reclassification Committee – Harvey Ruru, Andrea Goodman, Aneika Young, Ian Alach, Gina Solomon.
- Permissions Committee - Katie McNabb (convenor), Murray Poulter, Ian Alach.
- Iwi Komiti - Gina Solomon, Rima Piggott, Andrea Goodman, Harvey Ruru, Aneika Young, Lorraine Hawke.

- Molesworth Recreation Reserve Management Plan Review Committee – Katie McNabb, Ian Alach, Aneika Young, Gina Solomon, Lorraine Hawke.
- Health and Safety Committee – Katie McNabb, Gina Solomon and Murray Poulter.
- Opārara Working Group – Bev Doole, Ian Alach, Murray Poulter, Barbara Stuart, Andrea Goodman – WCTPCB Liaison: Coraleen White, Neil Silverwood.
- Hector’s and Maui Dolphins Threat Management Plan submission working group – Katie McNabb, Harvey Ruru, Lorraine Hawke.
- Board Work Programme development – Gina Solomon, Murray Poulter, Katie McNabb, Harvey Ruru.
- NZ Biodiversity Strategy (DOC) and NPS for Indigenous Biodiversity (MfE) submissions – Murray Poulter, Andrea Goodman, Harvey Ruru, Aneika Young.

Representation

The members listed below represented the Board on a range of related organisations.

Representation	Member
Molesworth Steering Committee	Steve Knight (former Board member)
Tasman Environmental Trust	Murray Poulter
Abel Tasman Foreshore Advisory Forum	Aneika Young
Long Island Kokomohua Marine Reserve Committee	Katie McNabb
Horoirangi Marine Reserve Committee	Barbara Stuart, Harvey Ruru, Aneika Young
DOC Community Fund assessment panel 2020	Murray Poulter, Andrea Goodman, Aneika Young

Board representatives reported on the activities of these organisations at Board meetings.

Although Steve Knight retired from the Conservation Board 30 June 2018, he was appointed by the Minister onto the Molesworth Steering Committee until 30 June 2020. In February 2020 the Board nominated Ian Alach for appointment to the Molesworth Steering Committee from July 2020.

Neither the Marine Reserve Committees nor the Abel Tasman Foreshore Advisory Forum met during the 2019-20 year.

Liaison Roles

Liaison with	Member
West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board	Barbara Stuart
Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board	Lorraine Hawke

6. Board Meetings

The Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board held six meetings during the reporting period. Board meetings are held across the region to enable members of the public to attend, as well as for Board members to understand issues across the region. With the Covid-19 restrictions in place at the time, the April 2020 meeting was held via video call and the planned field trip with the NZ Conservation Authority in Marlborough was cancelled.

Meeting date	Location
25 July 2019	Ukaipo, Spring Creek, near Blenheim
19 September 2019	Takaka, Golden Bay
28 November 2019	Murchison
27 February 2020	Nelson
17 April 2020	Via video conference
25 June 2020	Nelson

6.1. Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the year. Attendances confirm that there is a high level of engagement by Board members, with apologies only for unavoidable absences.

Board Member	Board meetings
Gina Solomon (Chair)	5/6
Bev Doole (Deputy)	6/6
Ian Alach	6/6
Andrea Goodman	5/6
Lorraine Hawke	5/6
Katie McNabb	6/6
Rima Piggott	6/6
Murray Poulter	6/6
Harvey Ruru	5/6
Barbara Stuart	5/6
Aneika Young	6/6

Field Trips and site inspections

Two short field trips provided an excellent opportunity for Board members to increase their knowledge of conservation issues across the region. Unfortunately, the April field trip to Te Hora marae and Te Hoirere Pelorus catchment with the NZ Conservation Authority had to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 restrictions.

- The day before the July 2019 meeting several board members took the opportunity to join an informal field trip to visit Te Pokohiwi (Wairau Bar) as the management plan for this area is in preparation.

- On 20 September 2019, following the meeting in Takaka, the Board held a morning workshop on strategic planning and then visited Port Taranaki and the Abel Tasman monument in Ligar Bay.

6.2. Other Events

Official unveiling of the pou whenua to mark the Mokihiui addition to Kahurangi National Park – attended by Ian Alach on behalf of the Board, July 2019.

Board Chairs Conference – Gina Solomon and Bev Doole as Deputy Chair attended the August 2019 Conference in Wellington.

Conservation Week volunteers' celebration – board members attended the event in Nelson.

Cawthron Marlborough Environment Awards – board members attended the award ceremony in Blenheim.



Unveiling the pou whenua in the Mokihiui Valley, Kahurangi National Park, July 2019.

Attended by Board member Ian Alach.

Photo: I Alach.

7. Statutory activity

The Board received a planning report from the Department at each meeting summarising statutory work in the region under the Resource Management Act and management planning under the National Parks Act and Reserves Act.

The Board received implementation monitoring reports on all management plans and the Conservation Management Strategy throughout the year.

The Board did not undertake any formal advocacy under the Resource Management Act this year. In July, however, the Board wrote to the Marlborough District Council advocating for the protection of the coastline south of Marfells Beach through a bylaw in support of a community group that presented its concerns to the Board.

7.1. Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The Board continued to express disappointment and frustration to the Department numerous times over the year that the anticipated CMS review continued to be delayed. The CMS is considered to be critical to strategically guiding the work of the Department in the region and the current CMS is very over-due for review as it was approved in 1996. At the Board's June 2020 meeting we heard that a review was not anticipated for another two years. In the interim we advised the Department on an approach to initial engagement with iwi.

7.2. Implications of Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Supreme Court decision

The Board has been briefed on the Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki Supreme Court decision and is very keen to better understand the implications of the decision on how we work with iwi in our region. We sense this will have far-reaching impact, particularly for our CMS review.

7.3. Management plans

Te Pokohiwi and the Boulder Bank Historic Reserves

The Department continued its work jointly with Rangitāne o Wairau on developing a draft management plan for Te Pokohiwi and the Boulder Bank historic reserves. This plan will be jointly approved by the Conservation Board and Rangitāne. Updates on this process were provided to the Board at meetings. Board members were invited to an informal field trip in July 2019 so they could understand Rangitāne values and aspirations for this culturally significant place and continues to liaise with Rangitāne.

Molesworth Recreation Reserve

Anticipating the review of the Molesworth Management Plan, the Board established a committee to work with the Department. A hui was held in December 2019 with DOC, Ngāti Kurī and the Molesworth Steering Committee.

The Board has been kept well informed about the work DOC is doing to review the future of Molesworth Recreation Reserve and was advised that the grazing lease held by Landcorp Farming (Pamu) was extended to June 2023 to enable the management plan review to be completed.

7.4. Other Conservation Boards liaison

All agendas and minutes were exchanged with the West Coast Tai Poutini, Canterbury Aoraki, and Southland Conservation Boards.

Liaison with	Member
West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board	Barbara Stuart
Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board	Lorraine Hawke

At its November 2019 meeting the Board asked for guidelines to assist the liaison role. These were confirmed in June 2020 and were subsequently shared with other boards.

The West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board appointed two liaison people - Coraleen White and Neil Silverwood - to work with the Board's Ōpārara Basin working group. The area is on the West Coast and within Kahurangi National Park. The Board closely monitored development proposals in the Ōpārara Basin for work that received Provincial Growth Funding. The Board's role is to provide advice to the Department of Conservation on the implementation of the management plan for Kahurangi National Park.

7.5. New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison

Robyn Jebson continued in her role as NZCA liaison person and attended the Board's November 2019 meeting in Murchison, as did the West Coast Board liaison Coraleen White.

Copies of all agendas and minutes are exchanged between the Board and NZCA.

8. Community advocacy and involvement

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise. Some members are specifically appointed to represent the Board on other groups or organisations (see section 5, above).

The Board considers that forming connections with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Nelson Marlborough region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings are advertised.

Members of the public attended the Public Forum at most of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings and responded by letter with a response to questions asked or concerns raised.

Issues raised through the Public Forums included:

- Concern at the impact of 4WD vehicles on fragile beach ecosystems north of Cape Campbell, Marlborough, following earthquake uplift (East Coast Protection Group)
- Project De-vine and the removal of pest plants in the region
- Blue penguin threats, protection and dog control signs in Golden Bay

- Views for and against the proposed Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance recognition for three areas on the Western side of Golden Bay, including the Mangarakau wetland.
- Concern at the use of 1080 on public conservation estate
- An overview of Forest and Bird projects including trapping, planting, wilding conifer removal and other volunteer activities
- National level issues in which Forest and Bird is involved, including the Crown Minerals Act review, the NZ Biodiversity Strategy, and the National Policy Statement for Indigenous Biodiversity.
- A presentation on the Nelson Biodiversity Forum, Friends of Nelson Haven, the Cawthron Science Fair and marine reserves.

Fewer issues were able to be raised with the Board through the public forum this year due to the COVID-19 restrictions reducing access to Board meetings. This affected both the April and June 2020 meetings.

8.1. Community awareness and visibility

The Board is interested in what is happening in conservation across the region and invites representatives from community organisations to present at each meeting. Due to the impact of Covid-19 restrictions there were no public presentations at the April or June 2020 meetings.

Speakers at Board meetings this year have represented:

- Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance.
- The South Marlborough Landscape Restoration Trust and their concerns on wilding conifers, tabled at November meeting and conveyed by the Board Deputy Chair.
- The Farewell Wharariki HealthPost Nature Trust on the values of Puponga Farm Park adjacent to the Farewell Spit Nature Reserve through.

The Board recognises and appreciates volunteers and thanks them for the huge amount of conservation work done in the region.

Murray Poulter, Aneika Young and Andrea Goodman represented the Board on the regional assessment panel for applications to the DOC Community Fund 2020.

The Board webpage on the Department's website continues to be a helpful way for members of the public to access information and meeting minutes. Members also attended conservation-related events, both those organised by the Department and the community.

8.2. Training for members

Two members were booked for the June 2020 Pukenga Atawhai course at Takahanga Marae, but unfortunately this was cancelled due to Covid-19.

In addition to the regular updates on the Department's activities provided in the status report which is considered at each meeting, the Board received additional briefings and weekly email updates on a wide range of conservation-related work.

Giving effect to Treaty principles

DOC Solicitor Victoria Tumai presented to the Board's February 2020 meeting on Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 and Treaty Partner obligations.

The Board continued its commitment to learn te reo and tikanga, practising waiata and karakia at each meeting. Board members are committed to learning the correct pronunciation of common te reo kupu (words) and place-names from across the region that might arise during each meeting.

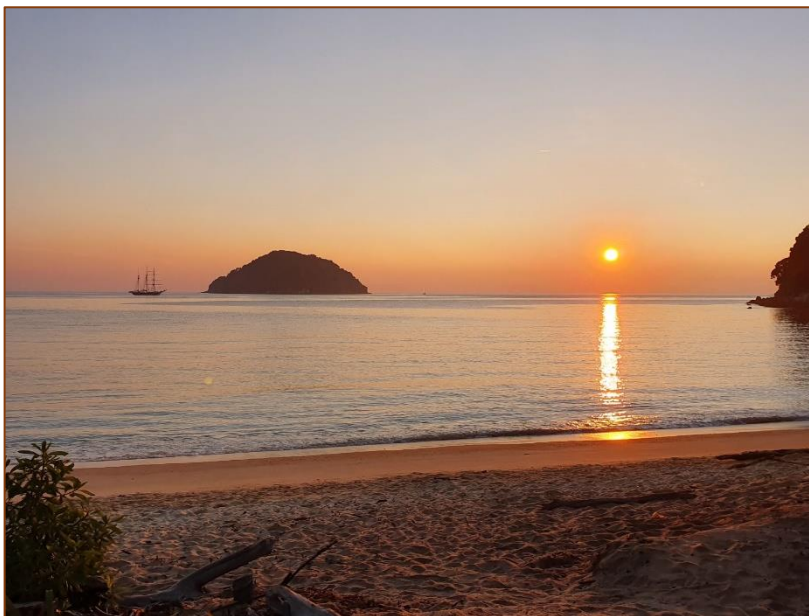
The Board stayed overnight at Onetahua Marae in Pohara, Golden Bay in September 2019, which included dinner and an informal session with whanau of the marae.

9. Strategic plan and report-back on actions




In September and November 2019, the Board revised and confirmed its guiding principles and work programme for 2019-20.

The Board refers to its Strategic Plan regularly in meetings to check on progress against agreed actions. It reviews and reports on actions from the Work Programme at every meeting. The progress report on work programme actions and milestones is appended to this annual report.

[Appendix One](#) provides a report on the Board's actions and achievements to June 2020.









Sunset, Tonga Island, Abel Tasman National Park.
Photo: J Irwin.







Key:	Means...
	Action under way and on track, ongoing or completed.
	Potential for concern, early flag.
	Risks identified, delay or concern.

10. Appendix One: Achievements - Board Work Programme 2019-20

Part A. Key Priorities and Core Functions

1. Develop strong Treaty Partner relationships			
1.1	Nurture relationships with Treaty Partners, actively look for opportunities to engage		<p>Board committee engaged with Ngāti Kurī on preparatory work for proposed Rangitahi Molesworth Management Plan review in December 2019.</p> <p>The Board is planning to meet at Te Awhina Marae in August 2020.</p>
1.2	Enhance iwi role as kaitiaki, to elevate mana - whakamana		<p>Board receives regular updates on Te Pokohiwi management plan process. The plan will be jointly approved by Rangitāne and the Board.</p> <p>Board supported co-design process and proposed co-approval of the Molesworth Management Plan with Ngāti Kuri.</p> <p>Board members learn about te reo, including placenames, at each meeting to enhance understanding of Te Ao Māori.</p> <p>Board member Aneika Young attended the release of eight whio on 24 March to ensure tikanga was included on behalf of local iwi and to represent the Board.</p>
1.3	Contribute to co-design, co-approval and implementation processes with Treaty Partners		As in 1.2.
1.4	Actively support DOC cultural advisors and resources		<p>Board iwi komiti meets informally when needed to awhi and share knowledge and solutions.</p> <p>Te iwi komiti provided advice on translations for Board's strategic plan and iwi involvement in DOC Community Funding decisions.</p>
1.5	Annual presentation updating s4 and related obligations		A session was held at Board meeting February 2020 with DOC legal adviser Victoria Tumai.
1.6	Te Ao Māori woven through Board meetings		Meetings and board activities continue to include te reo, ngā kupu mahi, whakapapa, tikanga, kawa, karakia and waiata.
Performance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engagement hui attended by Board members – achieved: Te Hora, Molesworth, Te Pokohiwi. Number/proportion of processes that the Board is involved in that include co-design with Treaty Partners – achieved: Molesworth, Te Pokohiwi. 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board member attendance at Te Pukenga Atawhai courses – not achieved in 19/20 due to cancellation of booked course.
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board received presentation and discusses s4 Conservation Act 1987 and Treaty principles obligations and how these apply to the Board's work - achieved. Board clearly articulates its contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi – achieved in Strategic Plan and work programme.
2. Ensure there is improving biodiversity protection in a changing climate	
2.1	<p>Engage with communities, strengthen connection and understanding of biodiversity protection on land, rivers and in the sea.</p> <p>☺</p> <p>Board members are connected to their communities and involved in a range of biodiversity projects e.g. wilding conifer removal.</p> <p>Biodiversity is included on each meeting agenda.</p> <p>Board members regularly attend local Biodiversity forums in Nelson, Marlborough and Tasman.</p>
2.2	<p>Board input to management plans includes a biodiversity focus</p> <p>☺</p> <p>Biodiversity presentation to Board's Molesworth Management Plan committee on the values of Molesworth.</p>
2.3	<p>Ensure importance of tikanga and mātauranga is reflected in DOC strategies and plans</p> <p>☺</p> <p>The Board advocates for inclusion of tikanga and mātauranga when providing feedback and submissions, for example on the Hectors/Maui Threat Management Plan.</p>
2.4	<p>Strive for sustainability – the board seeks to continue to reduce our emissions and impacts</p> <p>☺</p> <p>Board car-pools when traveling, increasing use of virtual meetings for committee work, shift towards electronic document sharing. April 2020 meeting was held online.</p> <p>Board sought investigation of tree-planting to off-set vehicle use for Board activities.</p> <p>Board prefers re-usable items when possible e.g. cutlery and plates at Board meetings to reduce the use of single use items.</p>
Performance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of times Board provides formal comment or advocacy on biodiversity protection that improves outcomes – achieved: Board submissions, letter to MDC advocating for protection of area south of Marfell's Beach. Board member attendance at community biodiversity forums and other community biodiversity initiatives – achieved: Biodiversity Forums attended. Biodiversity featured on Board agendas – achieved: regularly on agendas and weekly email updates.
Milestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Te Pokohiwi management plan – joint approval with Rāngitane (including mātauranga Māori on Biodiversity values) – with consultants, not yet completed.

3. Review, develop and monitor statutory management plans including conservation management strategies (CMS)			
3.1	Recognise Treaty partners and co-design in all processes		Proposed Rangitahi / Molesworth management plan review and Te Pokohiwi management plan process are both based on co-design and plan co-approval. Board sought update on Treaty Partner Permissions pilot; discussed November 2019.
3.2	Begin work on CMS review for NSI region		Board discussed CMS approach at February 2020 meeting and resolved that discussions with Treaty Partner come first.
3.3	Board contributes to Molesworth Management Plan review		Board committee has continued to work with Ngāti Kurī and Molesworth Steering Committee on proposed review. Committee members attended a hui at Takahanga marae in December 2019.
3.4	Board contributes to Kahurangi Management Plan Review	-	<i>Process yet to begin.</i>
3.5	Management plan implementation monitoring reports reviewed		Implementation monitoring reports received and feedback provided on CMS in September 2019 and Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan in November 2019. Next implementation report on CMS due at August 2020 meeting.
3.6	Board contributes to Te Pokohiwi management plan with Rāngitane		Board received regular updates on the draft management plan process and preparation, including at its February 2020 meeting.
Performance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of Board committee meetings providing input into statutory management planning processes, including CMS – not yet initiated, awaiting update on prioritisation from Statutory Management Unit. Management Plan implementation monitoring reports received – achieved: presented at two board meetings. 		
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Timeline for CMS and Kahurangi National Park Management Plan reviews received by Board – carried over until DOC schedules reviews. Te Pokohiwi management plan – joint approval with Rāngitane – with consultants, not yet completed. Molesworth MP review – formal initiation of process – achieved: co-creation process with Ngāti Kurī. 		
4. Advice on stewardship land and classification			
4.1	Committee meetings held with DOC staff - progress towards increased protection of stewardship land		Board stewardship land reclassification committee was appointed in 2019. That committee met with staff August 2019, reviewed progress, contributed to the process and provided advice on a co-design approach with Treaty Partners.
Performance measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee meetings providing input into stewardship land reclassification – achieved, meeting held in August 2019. 		
Milestones	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Co-design process for stewardship land reclassification agreed with Treaty Partners – in future. Process and timeline for reclassification presented to Board by DOC – in future. 		



5. Other statutory functions			
5.1	Advice on any other conservation matter relating to any area in the Board's jurisdiction	☺	Matters presented to Board at every meeting for advice - since July 2019 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Draft Heritage and Visitor Strategy • Impact of wilding conifers • Ōparara Basin development • Hectors and Maui Dolphins • Draft NZ Biodiversity Strategy • Freshwater Proposals • Responsible Camping. • Permissions processes • Marfells Beach access bylaw • Wharariki Beach / Farewell Spit protection options.
5.2	Provide advice on proposed changes of status of nationally or internationally important areas	☺	Proposed land swap at St Arnaud was discussed at the Murchison meeting on 28 November 2019.
5.3	Liaison with Fish and Game	-	A Fish and Game presentation to the Board is next programmed for later in 2020.
Performance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members attendance at relevant public forums. • Planning update provided to Board at each meeting. 		
Milestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments provided on policy or strategic consultations where they align with the Board's conservation priorities. 		
6. Advocacy			
6.1	DOC advised of Board's concerns	☺	Regular constructive and frank conversations between staff, Board Chair and Board leadership team, and with board members at meetings and field trip.
6.2	Support community input on biodiversity – iwi and all values, see also 2.1A	☺	Board members attend Biodiversity Forums in Nelson, Marlborough and Tasman and promote conservation.
6.3	Board regularly updated on DOC's RMA advocacy	☺	A DOC statutory/RMA planning update is presented at every Board meeting to keep members informed on progress.
Performance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board members attendance at relevant public forums – achieved. • Planning update provided to Board at each meeting – achieved. 		

Milestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments provided on policy or strategic consultations where they align with the Board's conservation priorities – achieved, submissions sent including on the NZ Biodiversity Strategy consultation, NPS on Indigenous Biodiversity.
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Part B: Minister's priorities 2019-20

<p>7. Enhance relationships with Treaty Partners, see Part A – Addressed in Part A, 1</p> <p>8. Address the crisis of declining indigenous biodiversity, and improve the protection of freshwater habitats and the marine environment – Addressed in Part A, 2</p> <p>9. Improve protection of land with conservation value – Addressed in Part A, 2-6</p>

Part C: General expectations of Boards

10. Aligning with DOC priorities		
10.1	Provide advice to DOC on its priorities	 Board and staff take a no surprises approach, keeping each other fully informed. Board members are briefed informally by DOC staff during meetings and field trips. Director Operations briefed Board on regional funding priorities and sought Board advice. A briefing on post-Covid priorities was provided at the June 2020 meeting.
Performance measure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feedback from Director Operations on how advice received from the Board has been implemented – achieved: presentation at November 2019 meeting. 	
Milestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board providing advice on DOC regional priorities for 2020-21 financial year – discussed at November 2019 meeting. 	
11. Community engagement		
11.1	Board members attend relevant community and DOC events – See also 2.1	 Regular attendance by board members at events is recorded for the annual report. Board members were involved in community groups and projects in their areas. Board members attended the release of captive reared kākā into Abel Tasman National Park, and Climate Change Forum in February 2020. Board member attended release of whio in Kahurangi National Park in March 2020.

11.2	Support community biodiversity forums	😊	Board members attended Nelson, Tasman and Marlborough Biodiversity forums.
11.3	Invite presentations from community groups to the Board	😊	There are presentations by community groups at most Board meetings.
11.4	Programme regular Board field trips and meetings across its area of jurisdiction	😊	Average 2-3 field trips each year – in Golden Bay and Te Pokohiwi Wairau Bar area. The planned Pelorus/Marlborough field trip for the April 2020 meeting with NZCA was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.
11.5	Organise meetings with community groups as part of field trips	-	Not programmed in this year, limited opportunity due to Covid-19 restrictions.
11.6	Connect better with youth on conservation issues	-	Board meeting planned to be held at a high school or similar later in 2020.
Performance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board members attendance at DOC and community events – achieved. Location of field trips and Board meetings across NSI region – achieved: Golden Bay and Wairau Bar. Numbers of Board members attending local biodiversity forums – achieved in Tasman, Nelson and Marlborough Number of community groups presenting at Board meetings – achieved. 		
Milestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board meeting at a high school, engaging with youth (was scheduled June 2020) – to be rescheduled. 		
12. Working with DOC			
12.1	Maintain regular contact with key staff and discuss mutual concerns	😊	<p>Chair and Deputy provided feedback at annual Chairs' conference 2019 and suggested topics for 2020 Chairs' conference.</p> <p>Director Operations maintains regular contact with Chair and attend Board meetings.</p> <p>Board and staff take a 'no surprises' and reciprocal approach.</p> <p>Field trips for the whole Board are organised to visit sites of DOC operational interest e.g. Molesworth, Ligar Bay Abel Tasman memorial.</p> <p>Locally, board members connect regularly with their DOC district operations managers.</p> <p>The Board leadership team maintains regular contact with BSO and Statutory Manager to prepare for meetings.</p> <p>Board committee members maintain regular contact with relevant staff on work related to their portfolio e.g. Permissions staff and Permissions Committee members.</p>

12.2	Board members attend local events and opportunities with staff	☺	Murray Poulter was invited to observe a 1080 operation in Abel Tasman National Park and found the experience useful in understanding operational complexities. Ian Alach attended Takaka Office staff briefing on organisational funding priorities. Aneika Young attended who release in Kahurangi National Park on 24 March 2020. Bev Doole was a member of DOC interview panel for recruitment of the South Marlborough senior community ranger.
12.3	Provide advice on regional expenditure priorities	☺	Discussed at November 2019 meeting and a further update was provided at the February 2020 meeting.
12.4	Consider alignment with DOC priorities when providing advice and feedback	☺	Working groups engage with relevant staff to understand the DOC approach before sending in submissions, e.g. Hector and Maui Dolphin management and Whitebait Management submissions.
Performance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from Chair, Deputy and staff on the quality of the relationship – achieved. • DOC providing timely opportunity for Board to comment on regional expenditure priorities – achieved. 		
Milestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board advice and priorities on regional expenditure considered by DOC for financial year 2020-21 and feedback provided to Board on how advice was implemented – was discussed at November 2019 and February 2020 meetings. 		
13. Working with adjoining conservation boards and the NZCA			
13.1	Liaison roles identified and in regular contact	☺	Roles identified for both neighbouring boards and guidelines on the liaison role were requested at the Board's November 2019 meeting to clarify expectations. Guidelines were confirmed at June 2020 meeting and shared with other conservation boards.
13.2	Chair and deputy attend annual NZCA and Chair's hui	☺	Both Chair and Deputy attended August 2019 Board chairs' and NZCA hui.
13.3	Invite NZCA representative to Board meetings	☺	NZCA liaison Robyn Jebson attended Murchison meeting, November 2019.
Performance measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feedback from Chair, Deputy, NZCA and staff on the quality of the relationship – achieved. • Clear liaison role definitions and goals – achieved. • Phone conference with NZCA liaison and Chair/Deputy at least twice per year and as required - achieved. 		
Milestone	NZCA liaison attendance at Board meeting in current year, November 2019.		

14. Understanding the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi – Refer Part A, 1

15. Monitoring and self-review

15.1	Annual review of strategic plan and priorities	😊	Strategic plan and priorities were reviewed in September 2019, next review due before end of June 2020. Progress is updated and reviewed at each meeting.
15.2	Governance workshop for Board	-	Yet to be programmed. Reflection and improvements session has been added at the end of each Board meeting.
15.3	Review Board's Health, Safety and Wellbeing Policy at least annually	😊	Adopted in November 2019 following review.
Milestone	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approved Strategic Plan and Work Programme sent to NZCA and Minister following September 2019 meeting. 		

