



Northland Conservation Board
Te Runanga Papa Atawhai O Te Taitokerau

**Annual Report 1 July 2016- 30 June
2017**

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



Photographs

Front Cover: Willie Wright (Chair) & Luana Pirihi (Deputy) at Waitangi National Trust Grounds, 12 August 2016. Photographer: Hamish Eglinton

Back cover: Whitehead Robin/Popokotea, Photographer Alan Martin

ISSN-1172-904X [print]

ISSN-1175-1797 [online]

Published by
Northland Conservation Board
c/- Department of Conservation
PO Box 147
Whangarei 0140

CONTENTS

1.	Chairperson’s report	4
2.	Introduction	5
3.	Conservation Board Region	7
	Conservation features of the Area	8
4.	Board Functioning.....	9
4.1.	Board Functions Under Section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987.....	9
4.2.	Powers of the Board under Section 6n of the Conservation Act 1987	9
4.3.	Responsibilities under other Sections of the Conservation Act 1987	9
4.4.	Board Functions under the National Parks Act 1980	10
4.5.	Board Membership.....	10
4.6.	Members Profiles	11
4.7.	Board Meetings	13
4.8.	Attendance	14
4.9.	Board Committees and Representation.....	14
4.10.	Training for members.....	15
4.11.	Community and DOC Involvement in Board Meetings	15
4.12.	Field Trips and site inspections	15
4.13.	Special Events.....	18
4.14.	Community Activities supported by the Board	19
4.15.	Annual Work Plan.....	19
4.16.	Financial Report.....	20
4.17.	Health and Safety	20
5.	Statutory activity.....	21
5.1.	Conservation Management Strategy (CMS).....	21
5.2.	Management plans.....	21
6.	Advice and Advocacy	223
6.1.	Other Conservation Boards liaison.....	232
6.2.	New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison.....	232
6.3.	Department of Conservation advice	24
6.4.	Community advocacy and involvement	24
6.5.	Community visibility	25
6.6.	District and Regional Councils advocacy and advice	25
6.7.	Iwi liaison and advocacy	25
7.	Acknowledgements	25
8.	Appendix I –Annual Work Plan	26

1. Chairperson's report



For the Northland Conservation Board, 2016/17 has been another good year. I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board Members for their support and their commitment to raising the profile of the Board and demonstrating by action, the Board's role in enhancing conservation values and engagement with our communities.

At the beginning of the 2016/17 year, all Conservation Boards received a *Letter of Expectation* from the Honourable Nicky Wagner, Associate Minister of Conservation. The Northland Conservation Board accepted the letter and I am happy to report that we achieved what was expected of us [as outlined in the Report and attached Performance Report document].

The Board bid farewell to the Chair, Mita Harris, Tracey Andrews-Smith and Darren Edwards in 2016/17. These members played a crucial part in the work of the Board during their tenure. Their knowledge, drive and camaraderie will be missed. The Board wishes them well in their future endeavours. On the flip side, the Board welcomes Nicole Anderson as its new member. Nicole's passion and drive will be a great asset to the Board.

The number of International visitors to Northland continues to increase. A lot are here to tramp our trails, visit our sights and sample our hospitality. It's so pleasing to come across them on Trails in the middle of nowhere and extremely pleasing to see them using Kauri Dieback cleaning stations.

In April 2015, the Board launched its "Save the Kukupa Campaign" and produced a poster for distribution to schools and other groups. We were pleased to add a Te Reo version of this poster this year and continue distribution.



Tourists walking, Busby track, Mt Manaia taking a couple of minutes at a cleaning station.

Kauri Die Back continues to be a challenging issue for Northland. The Board has been working with the steering group and taking part in Education and Events. The Board fully understands the threat this Pathogen has and will continue to make it a high priority in the years to come.

We were extremely saddened in May to be informed that the potential devastating fungal disease Myrtle Rust had reached our shores. It was a double blow to learn that the first confirmed sites were found in Northland. Myrtle rust is a serious fungal disease that affects plants in the myrtle family such as our iconic pohutukawa, manuka and rata amongst others. This will be an extremely difficult disease to control as the spores are spread in multiple ways. The Board will do all it can to assist in the response and recognises the quick response from both MPI and the Bay of Islands DOC office.

It is my pleasure to present and endorse this report. I also encourage all Northlanders to enjoy and appreciate their wonderful open spaces, and then to get involved in protecting and enhancing the natural beauty of their local places.

Nga Mihi - Arohanui

WILLIE WRIGHT – Chair Northland Conservation Board

2. Introduction

This is the 27th Northland Conservation Board Annual Report as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Northland Conservation Board had 7 members for the 2016-2017 year appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987. There were two new appointments to the Board – Darren Edwards and Nicole Anderson. Willie Wright was elected as Chairperson and Luana Pirihi as Deputy Chairperson.

Conservation Boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. The Northland Conservation Board represents the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation, within the area of jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- The recommendation of a West Coast Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval
- Advising the Department of Conservation and the NZCA 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 NZCA for approval
- Advising the Department of Conservation and NZCA on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- Liaising with Fish and Game Council on conservation matters

Carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the NZCA with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Northland Conservation Board submits this annual report.

The Northland Conservation Board is 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;
- 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 these plans by the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA).

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987 requires conservation boards to provide the NZCA with an annual report as soon as practicable after the 30th June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Northland Conservation Board submits this annual report.

3. Conservation Board Region

The Northland Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers all public conservation lands, waters and resources in Northland. 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.

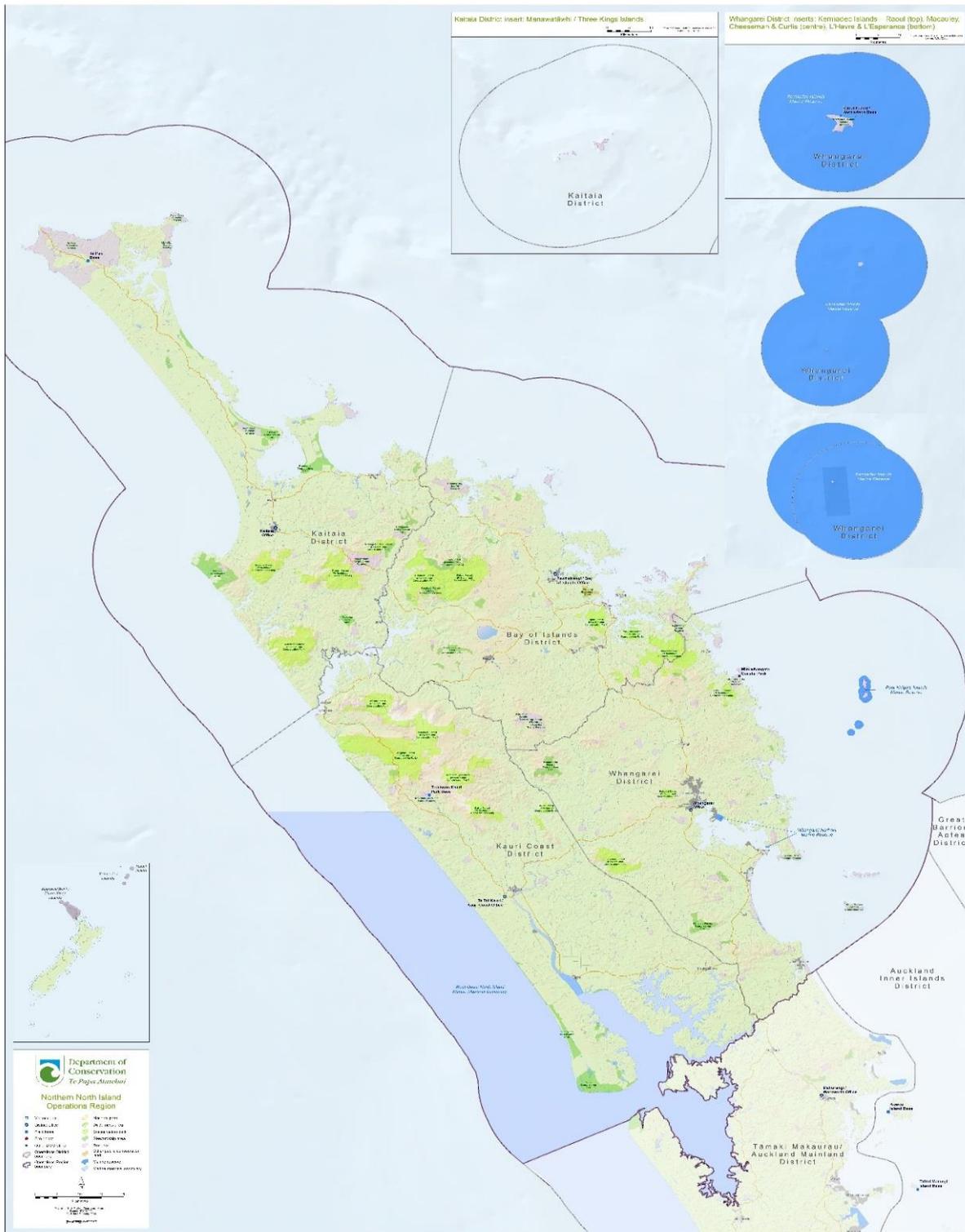


Figure I. Northland Conservation Board Jurisdiction

Northland's terrestrial area covers approximately 1 254 826 ha, with around 13.4% of this area (167 918 ha) designated as public conservation land. The Northland Protected Natural Area Programme (PNAP) has identified around 21.7% (272 176 ha) of important natural areas on the mainland, with 47% (129 057 ha) of these areas occurring on public conservation land. The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include: e.g.

- Ecosystem management and management of plant and animal species,
- Management of recreational facilities
- Management of historic sites
- Concession activities, including those relating to recreation and tourism activities, grazing, industrial use, filming and gravel extraction
- Mining and access arrangements
- Marine protection
- Biosecurity issues

Conservation features of the Area

Main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the Board's boundaries are:

- The 16 harbours, numerous bays, inlets and islands on the 3000 km long coastline are a primary attraction for residents and visitors to the region.
- Northland contains the largest area of relatively unmodified sand hills and dunelands (Pouto Peninsula), the largest mānawa/mangrove (*Avicennia marina*) forest (Rangaunu Harbour) and one of the most biologically rich harbours (Parengarenga Harbour) in New Zealand.
- Kaipara Harbour is a dominant and unifying feature, as its catchment drains almost the entire southern half of the region as well as linking with the adjacent Auckland region
- Waipoua Forest
- Dunelands and wetlands on Pouto Peninsula
- A high number of threatened and at-risk endemic invertebrates, including land snails and insects, often with locally restricted distributions
- Home to over half of New Zealand's vascular plant species. Of the 804 species that are only found in New Zealand, 152 species only occur in Northland.
- Predator free islands
- Diverse and unique freshwater and marine habitats
- Birthplace of the nation.

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 Conservation 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 Conservation 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 Conservation 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 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 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. Responsibilities under other Sections of the Conservation Act 1987

Nil

4.4. Board Functions under the National Parks Act 1980

There are no national parks within the Board's region.

4.5. Board Membership

There were 7 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

Mita Harris, Richard Robbins and Tracey Andrews-Smith terms of office expired on 30 June 2016. Nicole Anderson and Darren Edwards were appointed for a 3-year term.

Darren Edwards resigned from the Board one year into his 3-year term.

Chair and Deputy Chair – Willie Wright was elected Chairperson and Luana Pirihi was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of Northland Conservation Board between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017 and their term of office.

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Term served
Willie Wright	Kaipara	1 July 2014	30 June 2017	2
Luana Pirihi	Whangarei	1 July 2014	30 June 2017	2
Alan Martin	Whangarei	1 July 2015	30 June 2018	2
Bronwyn Hunt	Kaitia	1 July 2015	30 June 2018	1
Nicole Anderson	Kerikeri	01 July 2016	31 June 2019	1
Adrienne Tari	Russell	1 July 2015	30 June 2018	1
Darren Edwards	Kerikeri	01 July 2016	31 June 2017	.33

Table I: Board Membership

4.6. Members Profiles

<p>Willie Wright Chairperson</p>	<p>Mr Wright is the Programme Manager for the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group, a board member on the Co-Governance committee – Pou Tu Te Rangi/Harding Park, Dargaville, a member on the Ngunguru catchment committee, a negotiator for the Treaty settlement of the Kaipara Moana for Te Iwi O Ngati Whatua.</p> <p>He has vast knowledge and experience in the Treaty of Waitangi process and Treaty settlements. He has extensive iwi and cultural awareness skills, as well as governance and directorship skills having been a board member on many trusts and local community groups. He has a passion for ecosystem and co-management-based approach with a strong focus on community and Mana Whenua led initiatives.</p> <p>His interests include fishing/movies and family - not necessary in that order.</p> <p>He is of Ngati Whatua/Ngati Porou and Scottish descent.</p>	
<p>Luana Pirihi Deputy Chair</p>	<p>Involved with many community environmental protection groups and trusts. Strong connections to local iwi. Iwi affiliations: Patuharakeke, Ngati Whatua, Ngāpuhi, Ngatiwai</p>	

<p>Alan Martin</p>	<p>Retired Chartered Accountant and keen conservationist. Foundation Chair and former Trustee of the Pukenui Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust and current Trustee and Treasurer Whangarei Quarry Gardens Trust. Past President and Life Member Northland Chamber of Commerce. Past Chair NZ Automobile Assn Northland District Council. Trustee of Te Hau Awhiowhio o Otangarei Trust and Chairman of Directors of Otangarei Papakainga Limited. President Whangarei Club Inc and Master of Parahaki Masonic Lodge.</p>	
<p>Adrienne Tari</p>	<p>Ms Tari is involved with a number of community groups in the Mid Northland area. She also has strong connections to local hapu. Her hapu connections include Ngāti Rangī, Te Uri Taniwha and Ngāti Hineira, and Ngāpuhi iwi. Her outdoor interests include mountain biking and spending time with whanau.</p>	
<p>Bronwyn Bauer-Hunt</p>	<p>Skills and background in policy and planning, strategy and advice which include advocacy and knowledge of the Resource Management Act. Iwi affiliations: Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi, Te Roroa, and Ngati Whatua</p>	
<p>Nicole Anderson</p>	<p>Nicole Anderson (DipAcc, DipBus, DipMgt, PGDPH) is based in the Mid North with a background in accountancy, health, community and business development. Descending from the hapū of Te Hikutu in the south Hokianga, she has worked primarily with organisations advancing Māori and Iwi, and with various public sector and private organisations, focusing on policy and commercial development.</p>	

	<p>A chartered member of the Institute of Directors (CMIInstD), Nicole has been a member of various public and private sector governance bodies, including a member of the AUT University Council and Chair of the Council's Maori Education Working Group, a Trustee of Hauora Hokianga Enterprise Trust, which governs the Rawene Hospital and associated health services, the Auckland Human Health & Disability Ethics Committee (Chair) and the NRC Environment Committee.</p> <p>Nicole currently sits on the Northland Conservation Board, is a Trustee of Matai Aranui Marae and a Director of PHARMAC (Pharmaceutical Management Agency).</p> <p>Apart from her involvement in various whānau, hapū, Iwi and Māori organisations, she was the previous interim Project Manager for Tūhoronuku Independent Mandated Authority, the Ngāpuhi settlement entity.</p> <p>Nicole and her husband Mark are business owner's in Kaikohe and Auckland and farm in the mid-north area.</p> <p>Ko Ngāpuhi tōna iwi, nō Hokianga ia. Ka noho ia ki Kerikeri ki te taha o tōna whānau.</p>	
Darren Edwards	Strategic and business planning, leadership, business development, project management, public relations and budget management skills in central and local Government. Iwi affiliations: Ngati Whatua / Ngāpuhi / TeRoroa	

4.7. Board Meetings

The Northland Conservation Board held four formal meetings and four working meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the Board meetings are varied each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
8 July 2016	Aroha Island, Kerikeri (induction)

12 August 2016	Waitangi National Trust Grounds, Paihia
16 September 2016	(Working Meeting)
4 November 2016	Department of Conservation office, Whangarei
16 December 2016	(Working Meeting)
10 February 2017	Council Chambers, Kaikohe
17 March 2017	(Working Meeting)
5 May 2017	Dargaville Museum, Harding Park, Dargaville

Table II Board meeting dates and location

4.8. Attendance

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the year.

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

Board Member	Formal meetings	Working meetings
Willie Wright	4/4	4/4
Luana Pirihi	4/4	4/4
Bronwyn Bauer-Hunt	1/4	2/4
Alan Martin	4/4	4/4
Nicole Anderson	3/4	3/4
Darren Edwards (resigned)	0/4	1/4
Adrienne Tari	4/4	1/4

Table III: Member attendance.



Board and guests at 5 May 2017 meeting at Harding park, Dargaville. Moving around the table from right to left: Rex Nathan, Te Uri O Hau; Nicole Anderson, Member; Luana Pirihi, Deputy Chair; Alan Martin, Member; Willie Wright, Chair; Adrienne Tari, Member; Robyn Stubbing, Minute Taker, Chris Jenkins, Te Hiku CB Member; Penny Smart, NRC Councillor

4.9. Board Committees and Representation

Membership of Board committees was reviewed in July, at the beginning of the Board year. No subcommittees were appointed.

4.10. Training for members

The Board undertook an induction workshop in July 2016 which provided background information on the region, the role of conservation boards, and local issues.

Adrienne Tari and Alan Martin attended the EDS conference

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 updates. Topics covered this year were:

- Permissions and statutory land management processes
- Kauri Dieback updates
- The first discovery of Myrtle Rust on mainland New Zealand.
- Purpose and implementation of Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, and the Treaty of Waitangi
- Access arrangements for prospecting, exploration and mining
- CMS review process
- Pilot programme updates
- Marine protection and management
- Battle for our Birds update and outcomes

The Department also provided an update on conservation activities within the local area at each meeting location.

4.11. Community and DOC Involvement in Board Meetings

Public forums are offered at each Board meeting for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board.

Public attendee	Date	Issue
GE Free Northland Martin Robinson	12 August	Requested the Board not to vote in favour of s360D of the Resource Legislation Amendment bill
Landmarks & Kerikeri Cadet Force Mita Harris	12 August	Mita asked for Board support for his presentation to NRC Environmental Committee
Margaret Hicks	10 February	Discussed various issues relating to removal of mangroves at Ruakaka
Sofia Rika of Uri o Ururoa	5 May	Various issues of concern to local iwi
Karen Verdurmen	5 May	Presentation of Kauri Dieback report

4.12. Field Trips and site inspections

The Board aims to have at least two site visits each financial year. Site visits serve multiple goals including public exposure, and support for community groups that are doing work related to the CMS milestones.

Bream Head 3 November 2016



On 3 November 2016 the Board was hosted by Bream Head Conservation Trust (BHCT) at Bream Head Reserve. A fantastic and informative day was had by all. Members of the Trust briefed the Board on their highly successful pest control programme, replanting programmes and translocations.

The Board heard that the reserve does not have predator fencing but still manages to maintain predators at an extremely low density. The success of the pest programme allows bird life to flourish and increases the odds of successful translocations.



The effort put in by the members of the Trust and the surrounding community shows in the results being achieved. The Board heard that the success of the Trust has not come easily and the pressure to secure funding to continue the work is ongoing.



Photo: Left to right- Bill Mallett BHCT; Adam Willetts BHCT; Luana Pirihi, NCB Dep Chair; Willie Wright, NCB Chair; Adrienne Tari, NCB Member, Greg Inness BHCT.

That evening the Board hosted members of the Bream Head Conservation Trust at a dinner where. Many more issues were discussed including the upcoming resource application by Refining NZ to dredge Whangarei harbour.

Pouto Peninsular site visit



Photos: Board Members Nicole Anderson and Adrienne Tari listen to Andrew Knock describe the ecological values of Lake Rototuna

All members agreed that the site visit to the Pouto Lakes was very informative. All were impressed with the passion of Colin French and Sheree Thompson (Te Uri o Hau) who hosted the Board. Technical expertise on the Dune lakes from Andrew Knock (DOC Kauri Coast) was also well received and appreciated. The Board also thanks Rev Rex Nathan for supporting us during our visit. Discussion points:

- Concern at lack of scientific data on water flows
- Effects of forestry on the area
- Effects of horses on the Conservation Reserve.
- Lack of fencing to protect waterways and conservation areas.



Photo: Lake Humuhumu, Pouto Peninsular.

4.13. Special Events

- The following are some of the special events attended by members.

Event	Purpose
Informal dinner with the members of the new Te Hiku Conservation Board	Introduction and whanaungatanga
Site visit to Mania Ranges, Whangarei Heads	Briefing on kauri Dieback from Dr Karen Verdurmen
Kiwi release, Tanekaha region, Hikurangi	Release of 12 Brown Kiwi onto pest-controlled farmland. Five of the released birds were hatched from eggs gathered from the area during <i>Operation Nest Egg</i> .
Auckland Conservation Board meetings	Strengthening the ties between Auckland and Northland conservation Boards.

4.14. Community Activities supported by the Board

- Board members attend various community groups and organisations to show their support for a variety of activities.

Event	Purpose
Guardians of the Bay of Islands AGM - Project Island Song	To support Project Island Song
Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve Committee	Attended by Luana Pirihi as the Boards representative on the committee
DOC Community Fund	Alan Martin represented and made recommendations on behalf of the Board
Ngungururu Catchment	Report on water quality, sedimentation, biodiversity at site.
Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management	Support for Kaipara Harbour ecosystem catchment-based work.
Fish & Game Council	Alan Martin represented the Board at every meeting of the Council.
Whitehead Robin release	Translocation at Bream Head Conservation Reserve attended by Luana Pirihi and Alan Martin.

4.15. Annual Work Plan

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

4.16. Financial Report

Northland Conservation Board Costs 2016-17			
Expense	Jun-17 YTD Costs	Jun-17 Variance	Jun-17 Full Year Budget
Board fees	16,646	7354	24,000
Office Costs	1,316	(316)	1,000
Travel	2,547	453	3,000
Printing	1,870	(870)	1,000
Hospitality	2,244	756	3,000
Total	24,623	7,377	32,000

4.17. Health & Safety

No health and safety incidents were reported by the Board in this financial year. A review of the Boards driving policy will be undertaken in the next financial year.

5. Statutory activity

The Board either made submissions or supported the following Statutory activities:

- GE Free- supporting a cautionary approach
- Puhi Puhi mining – supporting

5.1. Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The Board continued to monitor the milestones in the Northland CMS. This year rather than looking at all of the milestones the board decided to concentrate on those that are due for completion in 2017.

5.2. Management plans

No CMP's reviewed by the Board in this financial year.



Photo: Dr Karen Verdurmen points out weeping Kauri dieback at the base of the trunk.

6. Advice and Advocacy

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison.

The Board appointed various members to liaise with other groups and agencies.

Table IV: Liaison persons

Liaison person	Group, agency or organisation
Alan Martin	Fish & Game Council
	Quarry Gardens, Whangarei
	Pukenui Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust
	Friends of Matakoke Limestone Island
	Whangarei native Forest and Bird Protection Society
	Chamber of commerce
Willie Wright	Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group
	Northland Regional Council
	Auckland Conservation Board
Luana Pirihi	Auckland Conservation Board
	Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust
	Ruakaka Ratepayers Association
	Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserve Advisory Committee
Nicole Anderson	Nga Ngaru o Hokianga Takiwa
	Kaikohe Business Association
	Kaikohe Economic Development Working Group
	Matai Aranui Marae
	Pou Herenga Tai Cycletrail Trust
Bronwyn Bauer-Hunt	Te Hiku Conservation Board

Table IV: Liaison persons

6.1. Other Conservation Boards liaison

- The Board has continued to strengthen its relationship with the Auckland Conservation board and is looking to work together on certain aspects of conservation.
- The Board was pleased to host the members of the new Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board at a dinner in Kerikeri. The Board looks forward to the development of a working relationship with Te Hiku.

6.2. New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison

- NZCA Liaison, Mike Simm kept the Board updated on many issues including but not limited to:

- Predator Free 2050
- Potential border tax
- NZCA issues of interest
- The Northland Conservation Board thanks Mr Simm for his reports and advise and looks forward to his continued presence at meetings.



- Photo: Board members Nicole Anderson, Bronwyn Bauer-Hunt Luana Pirihi, Willie Wright and Alan Martin with NZCA Liaison Mike Simm (centre).

6.3. Department of Conservation advice

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

- Ruakaka mangrove removal
- DOC Community fund applicants
- Chair, Willie Wright visited each DOC office in NNI and met with the Operations Manager to discuss priority work streams within the areas jurisdiction. Also met and liaised with DOC staff.

6.4. 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 Northland region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

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

Public forum issues raised were:

- See 4.11 above



- Photo: Whitehead robin release at Bream Head (attended by Luana Pirihi & Alan Martin)

6.5. Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website. Information on being on a Conservation Board was also developed and advertised/displayed at <http://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-boards/northland/>

6.6. District and Regional Councils advocacy and advice

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the four local Councils.

During the year, the Board heard from:

- Northland Regional Council Members Rick Stolwerk & Penny Smart
- Far North District Council

6.7. Iwi liaison and advocacy

The Board received iwi advice from a multitude of sources on a consistent basis.

7. Acknowledgements

The Northland Conservation Board members have put in an enormous amount of time and effort to raise the profile of the Board and key conservation concerns in 2016/17.

Individual members in their respective locations have proactively sought out opportunities to engage with as wide a section of the community as possible and engage with as wide a section of the community as possible and engage in meaningful discussion at all levels.

Each Board member can be proud of the work they have undertaken this year over and above what is expected of them and as outlined in the Board's response to the *Letter of expectation*.

A key factor in the success of the board has been the inspirational and tireless leadership of the Chair, Willie Wright. The Board pays special acknowledgement to Willie and recognises the commitment made whilst juggling many other commitments.

The role model that the Chair has provided has energised the individual Board Members and, as a result, the Board has been seen throughout Taitokerau/Northland as a key player in conservation and environmental issues. There is still a lot of work to do to ensure that the Board's very existence is known and understood but with the development of new forms of communication such as social media the Board looks forward to a growing public profile.

The success of the Board can also be attributed to the fellowship and camaraderie that continues to develop in the current membership. This has a significant impact on the ability of Members to work together effectively throughout the region. The obvious friendship between the Board Members has been instrumental in drawing attention to the Board and, in turn, to the issues the Board is advocating for.

Finally, the Board would like to acknowledge the following people for their support, advice and friendship in 2016/17:

- Robyn Stubbing, Minute taker
- Mike Simm, NZCA
- Glen Wilcox and Alec Hawke, Auckland Conservation Board
- Louise Wilson, Policy Planner, FNDC
- Rick Stolwerk, NRC Councillor
- Penny Smart, NRC Councillor
- Chris Jenkins, Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board
- Department of Conservation Operations Managers and Staff
- Nicky Douglas
- Bream Head Conservation Trust Bill Mallett, Greg Inness Rod Gates

8. Appendix I –Annual Work Plan

Northland Conservation Board Work Programme 1 July 2016 – 30 June 2017

Work Programme Overview

This Northland Conservation Board work programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Associate Minister of Conservation dated 17 August 2016. 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;
 - taking account of the Ministerial priorities for the Department as contained in the Department's Stretch Goals;
 - working with adjoining Boards and the NZCA;
 - 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.

PART A: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

1 Review / development of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)

1.1 Board Objective:

In conjunction with the Department the Board will determine priorities for implementation of the approved Northland CMS in accordance with the National Implementation Monitoring Guidelines.

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	CMS monitoring “traffic light” presented to Board members as mandatory process at Board meetings by Department of Conservation
B	Regional areas of Board members will monitor CMS objectives/implementation of projects by Department of Conservation

1.2 Board Objective:

In conjunction with the Department the Board will determine priorities for implementation of the approved Northland CMS.

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	Chair/Dep. Chair to hold regular meetings with Department of Conservation Director of Operations to prioritise projects within the CMS
B	Chair / Dep. Chair engage with Department of Conservation regional managers to prioritise and monitor progress of CMS within regional areas
C	Report on engagement with Department of Conservation Director of Operations/regional managers on a regular basis

2 Stewardship Land

2.1 Board Objective:

The Board will provide the Minister and Department with advice on priorities for reclassification of stewardship areas that require increased protection because of their significant conservation values

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	Monitor the Department of Conservation engagement and consultation with Treaty Settlement’s Post Governance entities
B	Advise the Department of Conservation/Minister of any issue that would require increased conservation protection (<i>and cultural protection</i>) of stewardship areas
C	Ensure Treaty Settlements in Tai Tokerau are finalised before any Stewardship areas within settlement rohe is reclassified

3 Other statutory functions¹

3.1 Board Objective:

The Board will nurture ongoing working relationships with Fish and Game Council regarding issues of mutual interest within the region

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	Maintain ongoing and regular engagement with Fish and Game Council
B	Report on engagement and areas of mutual interest or concern the Board may have with Fish and Game Council

3.2 Board Objective:

The Board will advise on proposed changes of status for nationally and internationally important areas, when sought by the Department

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	Advise on any change of status for nationally and internationally important areas and give advice to the Department as and when required
B	The Board will advise the Department of any concern or interest when establishing <i>Change of Status</i> with Iwi/hapu or communities

4 Advocacy

4.1 Board Objective

The Board will pursue all reasonable opportunities to advocate at public forums and in any statutory planning processes.

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	The Board will continue to advocate its interest at any public forum or in any statutory planning processes
B	The Board will proactively promote and advocate its position on 'war on weeds', save the 'kukupā' campaign, pest management and 'Healthy forests' in Northland

4.2 Board Objective

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	The Board will continue to support Regional/District Councils precautionary approach to GMO
B	The Board will monitor statutory planning process and advice/make submissions where appropriate

¹ This section should include Board functions relating to statutory functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act

PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

5 Working with the Department

Board Objective:

Board members will maintain good working relationships and open dialogue with Directors, Managers and Board Support Officers in order to engage strategically in conservation for the region.

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	Board members will actively engage and enhance working relationships with their regional office managers and staff
B	Chair /Dep. Chair will continue to enhance relationships with Department Operations Director, Area managers, statutory managers and staff

6 Taking account of Ministerial priorities for the Department²

Board Objective:

The Board will identify opportunities to support North Island community conservation targeting kiwi.

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	Board members will continue to engage & advocate for Kiwi habitat & translocation
B	Board will promote healthy forests and advocate for increased resourcing to ensure the survival of our forests
C	Promotion of all Kiwi coast programmes in Northland

Board Objective:

The Board will identify opportunities for building relationships to support the Healthy Parks / Healthy People programme.

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	Board promotes forests and open spaces to all community and encourages public involvement and ownership through all Board communication channels
B	Board will promote & educate the community regards the disposal of waste in our environments

7 Working with adjoining Boards and the NZCA

Board Objective:

Board members will liaise with neighbouring conservation boards in order to progress cross boundary CMS issues and other matters of mutual interest.

² This section could include where Boards are consulted on pest control operations

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	The Board will continue to liaise and participate with Auckland Conservation Board
B	The Board will establish a relationship with Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board
C	The Board will continue to encourage Auckland and Te Hiku o Te Ika members to attend our Board meetings
D	The Board will continue its ongoing relationship with NZCA

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

Board Objective:

The Board will understand and support the Board's and Department's obligations under Treaty settlements as well as principles under section 4 of the Conservation Act.

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	The Board recognises and acknowledges the Treaty principles
----------	---

9 Engaging with the community, including raising the profile of the Board

Board Objective

Board members will liaise regularly with other conservation entities, such as district and regional councils, NGOs and community groups, in order to enhance the profile of the Board and pursue good working relationships on issues of mutual interest and concern.

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	The Board will continue and enhance its relationship with district and regional councils, NGOs and community groups
----------	---

Board Objective:

Board members will take the initiative to meet with community groups and the general public to gauge community reaction to conservation initiatives planned or implemented by DOC.

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	The Board will continue to support & promote community events
----------	---

PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

10 Risks from the Board's perspective

A	Lack of resourcing to fulfil aspirations and objectives
B	Deterioration to a point of terminal decline of the health forests and ecosystems
C	No ongoing funding of pest management and co-managed areas.

11 Opportunities for conservation growth

A	Opportunity for conservation growth from enhanced resourcing and collaboration with communities/Hapu/Iwi
B	Opportunity to build and strengthen relationships E.G. reconnecting Northland & Northland Regional Council ("NRC") including Hapu/Iwi.



Photo: Whitehead Robin/Popokotea, by Alan Martin.

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 Northland Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation in Whangarei phone (09) 470 3300 or e-mail whangarei@doc.govt.nz.