



Northland Conservation Board
Te Runanga Papa Atawhai O Te Taitokerau

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau Northland Conservation Board

Annual Report 2020-2021



Annual Report of Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau Northland Conservation Board

For the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O Aotearoa pursuant to section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987.

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Title: Fairy Tern nesting on a Northland beach.

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LETTER FROM THE CHAIR

Edward Ellison
Chairperson, New Zealand Conservation Authority
PO Box 10420
Wellington 6143

Tēnā koe Edward

I submit, in terms of section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987, the annual report of the Northland Conservation Board (the board) for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021. The Conservation Act requires that the board report each year to the New Zealand Conservation Authority on its operations.

Manawa ora o te taiao – hope for our natural world. These kupu pretty well sum up the approach, commitment and passion of the 2020/21 Board. With four new members joining in 2020 and working within the Covid 19 environment, I'm really proud of what the board has achieved over this year, including a sense of comradeship, mutual respect and commitment to our kaupapa.

Some of the highlights of the year include visiting the Whangaroa ki te Koiwhairoa project with Director-General Lou Sanson and presenting to Minister Kiritapu Allen over the Waitangi weekend celebrations. The 2021 Northland Regional Councils Whakamānawa ā Taiao - Environmental Awards is always a highlight – celebrating our many committed volunteers.

Another key activity was a two-day experience in the Hokianga, which included our formal meeting, along with visiting the majestic Tane Mahuta and meeting with local Iwi, Te Roroa. We were also honoured to hear from local community groups who shared their korero around their hopes and concerns. Of particular note is the serious concern for the Hokianga Harbour, which is a significant 'landmark' – the birthplace of Aotearoa. The board thus adopted, as a key priority, advocating for a formal commitment to improve the health and thus, honour the wairua of this important waterway.

It is important to acknowledge our neighbours, Te Hiku Conservation Board and the Auckland Conservation Board, along with the Northland Regional Council, who we look forward to strengthening our ties and working collectively, where appropriate, to ensure we not only maintain but improve our back yard – with a focus on native flora and fauna.

Lastly, special recognition to our Northland Iwi, Hapu and communities that are at the 'coal-face' of much of this mahi. We, as advocates, will continue to strengthen our relationships, grow our understanding and look to awahi the many amazing projects being undertaken.

We live in uncertain times, which, while challenging, provides the opportunity to think and do differently. It is my personal belief that Aotearoa – New Zealand is well-positioned to lead how we look after our people and our place. It all starts with each of us – being brave and respectful while challenging the status quo. I believe that our board is making steps in this direction as we continue to rethink and revise our approach.

Nō reira

E noho ora mai

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Tania McInnes', written in a cursive style.

Tania McInnes

Chairperson

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board

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1. INTRODUCTION

This is the 30th Northland Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (**Authority**) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement, the Northland Conservation Board (**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 (**Department**) within their area of Jurisdiction.

Conservation board members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987 (**Act**). Board functions are outlined in section 6(M), and the powers, which enable the conservation boards to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act. The board has several statutory roles under various Acts, including:

- the recommendation of the Northland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- the recommendation of national park management plans to the Authority for approval
- advising the Department and Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to the status of the land of national and international significance
- liaising with the regional Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

Conservation boards also have several functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980. These functions include recommending the review or amendment of national park management plans and recommending approval of these plans by the Authority.

2. ROHE

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board's area of Jurisdiction covers 3,009,950.76 hectares. It takes in the top of the North Island and is located north of a line from the Kaipara Harbour mouth in the west across to the Mangawhai Harbour in the east. It includes groups of offshore islands, Taranga, Marotiri and Tūturu / The Hen and Chickens and Tawhitirahi and Aorangi / Poor Knights. Although the Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board sits above it, Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau/Northland Conservation Board still manages the coastal area around Te Hiku's rohe. 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 1 - Conservation Board Jurisdiction

2.1 Conservation features of the area

The main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the board's boundaries are:

- 1 Ecological Area - 33.54 ha
- 176 Scenic Reserves - 18,643.84 ha
- 18 Historic Reserves - 195.18 ha
- 43 Recreation Reserves - 1,674.76 ha
- 179 Stewardship Areas - 18,877.55 ha
- 324 Marginal Strips - 2,013.6 ha
- 1 Specially Protected Area - 547.6 ha
- 2 Marine Reserves - 2,161.8 ha
- 1 Sanctuary to protect Marine Mammals - 255,977.23 ha

Features of note include:

- The 16 harbours, numerous bays, inlets, and islands on the 3000km long coastline are a primary attraction for residents and visitors to the region.
- The largest area of relatively unmodified sandhills, dune lands and wetlands (Pouto Peninsula).
- The largest Manawa/Mangrove "Avicennia Marina" Forest (Rangaunu Harbour).
- One of the most biologically rich harbours (Parengarenga Harbour) in Aotearoa.
- 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 (12,291.69 ha).
- 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 Aotearoa's vascular plant species. Of the 804 species that are only found in Aotearoa, 152 species only occur in Northland.
- Predator free islands.
- Diverse and unique freshwater and marine habitats.
- Te Hokianga-nui-a-Kupe - The place of Kupenuku's great return and the birthplace of Aotearoa.
- Waitangi - Where Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) was signed in 1840.

2.2 Conservation issues in the area

Approximately 2.79% of all public conservation land in Aotearoa lies within Te Runanga Papa Atawhai O Te Tai Tokerau's Area of Jurisdiction. The large number of issues that are of interest to the board include:

- **Marine Mammal Sanctuary**
- **Kauri Ora / Kauri Dieback Disease**
- **Myrtle Rust Disease**
- **Niagara Sunken Vessel**
- **Hokianga Harbour Wellbeing**
- **Tara iti (Fairy Tern) Conservation**
- **CMS review process**
- **Permissions & Statutory Land Management Processes**
- **Purpose and implementation of Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 and Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

3. FUNCTIONS

3.1 Board functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments.
- 2) To approve conservation management plans and the review and amendment of such plans under the relevant enactments.
- 3) To advise the Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the board.
- 4) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance.
- 5) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area with the Jurisdiction of the Board.
- 6) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the board.
- 7) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

3.2 Board power under section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every conservation board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each conservation board may -
 - i. Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - ii. 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 Aotearoa and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the board's functions.

3.3 Board functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980

There are currently no National Parks within Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai O Te Tai Tokerau's area of Jurisdiction.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The Minister of Conservation appoints Board members under section 6P of the Conservation Act 1987. The appointment process ensures that a range of perspectives, life experiences, and knowledge contribute to the advice provided and decisions made by the board.

Board members are appointed for 3-year terms and may be re-appointed unless they are appointed in replacement of a prior member's term.

There were 7 Board members for the reporting year. Tania McInnes was elected Chairperson (12 June 2020), and Lydia Draper was elected Deputy Chairperson (11 September 2020).


New Board Member appointments within the 2020/2021 year:


- Kayla Raines – 1 Year Term
- Julie Riggir – 1 Year Term
- Robert (Blue) Newport – 3 Year Term
- Edward Ashby – 3 Year Term


The following table lists the membership of the board between 1 July 2020 and 30 June 2021:


| Board Member | Area | Term start date | Term end date |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Tania McInnes (Chair) | Bay of Islands | 01 July 2017 | 30 June 2019 |
| | | 01 July 2019 | 30 June 2022 |
| Lydia Draper (Deputy Chair) | Waipū | 01 July 2018 | 30 June 2021 |
| | | 01 July 2021 | 30 June 2024 |
| Georgina Garon | Mangawhai / Waitakere | 01 July 2019 | 30 June 2022 |
| Kayla Raines | Matapouri / Taemaro Bay | 01 July 2020 | 30 June 2021 |
| | | 01 July 2021 | 30 June 2024 |
| Robert (Blue) Newport | Okaihau | 01 July 2020 | 30 June 2023 |
| Edward Ashby | Wellsford | 01 July 2020 | 30 June 2023 |
| Julie Riggir | Whangārei | 01 July 2020 | 30 June 2021 |


4.1 Member profiles


| | |
|---|---|
| Tania McInnes | Chair – Appointed 12 June 2020 |
|  | <p>Although born in the Waikato, Tania has resided in the Far North for the vast majority of her life. She has a passion for our people, our place. She has proven skills in visioning, leadership and strategy. She is also gifted in ‘bringing people together’, community facilitation and project management. From 2013 to 2019, she was Deputy Mayor of the Far North District.</p> <p>One of her favourite quotes is, ‘We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors - we borrow it from our children.’</p> <p>Tania currently works for the Ministry of Social Development.</p> |


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| Lydia Draper | Deputy Chair – Appointed 11 September 2020 |
| <p>Lydia is the Chairperson for the Waipū River Walk community-led project (funded by the Whangārei District Council), supporter of the Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust and founding member of a water quality group focused on the Waipū catchment area. Prior to this, she worked for three years as communications officer for the Marine Megafauna Foundation (until 2021), a conservation charity with headquarters in Mozambique, Africa.</p> <p>Lydia is actively concerned with the state of Aotearoa’s waterways, and the impact their degradation is having on our moana (and, therefore, all life on earth). Of Pākehā lineage, Lydia writes poetry to be (and become) a conscious citizen of Aotearoa.</p> |  |

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| Georgina Garon | Board Member |
|  | <p>Ko Ngātokimatawhaorua te Waka Ko Ngāpuhi te Iwi Ko Te Mahurehure te Hapu Ko Otātara te Marae Ko Whakatere te Maunga Ko Moehau te Awa No Waima ahau Ko Georgina Garon taku ingoa</p> <p>Born in Kawakawa and raised in the Hokianga, I am proud to be a born and bred Northlander. I am a wife, mother of two and a passionate Kaitiaki on a mission to protect our environment for our children and mokopuna yet to come. It is my hope that someday our mokopuna will be able to see kauri trees standing healthy and strong, swim in clean waterways that are free of pollutants, be deafened by the sound of birdsong as they walk through the ngahere and be able to gather kai from an abundant Taiao where resources are plentiful.</p> <p>Georgina (of Ngāpuhi and Te Mahurehure) holds a Bachelor of Māori Development, a Post Graduate Diploma in Public Health and is currently working towards a Master of Public Health. She is self-employed as the Director of medical consultancy Global MD Ltd.</p> <p>Georgina is committed to wearing a Te Ao Māori lens whilst working in the field of science.</p> |

| | |
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| Kayla Raines | Board Member |
| <p>Kayla is a native nursery production worker. She has previous experience as a floriculturist within the horticultural sector. She has her qualification in Bachelor of Applied Science, Majoring in Biodiversity Management. She is involved in a number of community conservation and landcare projects involving species monitoring and restoration planting.</p>  | |

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| Robert (Blue) Newport | Board Member |
|  <p>Blue is a sheep and beef farmer from Okaihau.</p> <p>He is currently Chair of the Pou Herenga Tai Twin Coast Cycle Trail Trust (Opua to Horeke) and has chaired the Okaihau Community Association for the last 30 years.</p> <p>Recently retired from a 40 + year teaching career in tourism and social sciences, he is involved in the Okaihau community in various beautification and environmental maintenance projects.</p> <p>He is a Queen Elizabeth II National Trust covenant owner.</p> | |

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|---|--------------|
| Edward Ashby | Board Member |
| <p>Edward (of Ngāpuhi and Ngāti Whatua) is senior Kaitiaki at Te Uri o Hau Settlement Trust. He is involved in various conservation initiatives, including; pest management and control, kauri dieback monitoring, water quality, and beach stranding aid. Through his multiple commitments, he has built relationships with a number of government agencies and professionals.</p>  | |

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| Julie Riggir | Board Member |
|  <p>Julie was appointed to the board from 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021 for a one year tenure. She is very passionate about te Taiao and is immersing herself in Te Ao Maori. Julie is studying te reo māori and aspires to be a fluent speaker. She has a great interest, knowledge and understanding of Matariki. As an active Board member, Julie participates in engaging and supporting tangata whenua and communities within Te Tai Tokerau.</p> <p>Her enthusiasm and commitment will be missed.</p> | |

5. MEETINGS AND FIELDTRIPS

The board held 11 meetings during the reporting period (4 Formal Public Meetings, 4 Working Meetings, and 4 Field Trips). Venues for the meetings vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the board.

| Meeting date | Location/Venue |
|-------------------|---|
| 13 August 2020 | Working Meeting/New Member Induction – MS Teams |
| 10 September 2020 | Working Meeting - Waitangi Treaty Grounds |
| 11 September 2020 | Formal Meeting - Waitangi Treaty Grounds |
| 22 October 2020 | Field Trip/Working Meeting – Ruakaka |
| 2 December 2020 | Field Trip – Ruapekapeka Pa |
| 3 December 2020 | Formal Meeting – Bay of Islands DOC Office |
| 11 February 2021 | Working Meeting – The Orchard Business & Event Hub |
| 15 April 2021 | Community Meeting/Field Trip – Hokianga |
| 16 April 2021 | Formal Meeting – The Heads, Hokianga |
| 15 June 2021 | Field Trip – Project Island Song Floating Classroom - Ipipiri |
| 16 June 2021 | Formal Meeting – Waitangi Treaty Grounds |

5.1 Agendas

The board hosted and heard from numerous speakers at its meetings, including:

- **11 September 2020** – Marty Robinson – (NRC Councillor – Coastal North Constituency) – Report – Relationship Improvement; Kauri Dieback (Report from Jack Craw); Deer Eradication; Aquatic Weeds Eradication; Pest Free Funding; Boardwalk Funding.
- **11 September 2020** – Nicole Anderson – (New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) - Representative for Northland) – Report – Quarterly Update.
- **3 December 2020** – Marty Robinson – (NRC Councillor – Coastal North Constituency) – Report – Working with DOC at Cape Brett Vehicles on Beaches – Action; Kauri Dieback; Sika Deer in Russell Forest.
- **3 December 2020** – Sharon Greig and Jo Baguley – (Atlas Legal – Representing Lucklaw Farms Limited) – Puwheke Beach – Vehicle Access to the Beach.
- **16 April 2021** – Willie Wright (Programme Manager – Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group (IKHMG)) – Kaipara Moana Remediation Project Presentation – The Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group was formed in 1996 and formalised in 2005. The Kaipara Harbour is the seconded biggest Harbour on the planet. The biggest issue is sediment – 700,000 tonnes per year. Willie showed a PowerPoint presentation of the history and current progress.
- **16 June 2021** – Nicole Anderson – (Aotearoa Conservation Authority (AOTEAROACA) - Representative for Northland) – Report – Quarterly Update.

Department staff also attended throughout the year.

- **11 September 2020** – Bronwyn Bauer-Hunt (Operations Manager – BOI) – Operations Report – BOI Marine Mammal Sanctuary; Wilding Pine Removal; Sika Deer Cull; Russell State Forest – Kauri Die-back; Wetapunga release on Urupukapuka Island; Assessment for Hihi (Stitchbird) release in BOI; Puketi Forest Trust – Kokako breeding numbers – Working with Iwi to eradicate pests.
- **3 December 2020** – Bronwyn Bauer-Hunt (Operations Manager – BOI) – Operations Report – Visit from Director General and Deputy Direct General – Busy but successful; Positive meeting regarding Pēwhairangi; Numerous Site Visits (Deep Water Cove, Cape Brett, Whangaumumu, Elliots Farm, Totara North, Lane Cove, St Pauls and Puketi Forest); Project Island Song Wetapunga Release; Campsites fully booked for the summer; Chief Crown Negotiator and DOC Treaty Team meeting with local hapū; Future site visit for the board to visit an Island of early Māori civilisation.
- **3 December 2020** – Cat Peters (Senior Ranger Biodiversity – BOI) – Marine Mammal Sanctuary Update – Video Presentation.
- **16 April 2021** – Sue Reed-Thomas (Director Operations – Northern North Island (NNI)) – Operations Report – Acknowledging upcoming 26th anniversary since Cave Creek disaster 28/04/1995. 14 people lost their lives (1 DOC Field Officer and 13 students); The government COVID-19 response; Jobs for Nature – Part of the economic recovery; Climate change; RMA Reform; Three Waters; Public Sector Reforms; Conservation Minister’s Top 5 Priorities – Jobs for Nature & Sustainable Climate, Review of Conservation Act and Wildlife Act 1953, Stewardship Land, Work with Iwi, Hapu and Community, Heritage – Stories & Connections.
- **16 April 2021** – Stephen Soole (Operations Manager – Kauri Coast) – Operations Report – Trails for the use of phosphite to combat Kauri Dieback will be commencing soon; Hikurangi Swamp Hui regarding Tuna death; Myrtle Rust – Found in Waima and the Hokianga; Koi Carp – Report of sighting in Lake Taharoa – Not confirmed; Hornwort – Aquatic weed found extensively covering a lake at Pouto Peninsula on DOC land. Eradication options are under investigation; Kaihu Rail Trail – DOC supporting Kaipara District Council on this project. The trail goes through Trounson Kauri Park; Pātāua Occupation.
- **16 June 2021** – Sarah Hucker (Senior National RMA Advisor – National) – Clean Hull Plan – Presentation via MS Teams.
- **16 June 2021** – Sue Reed-Thomas (Director Operations – Northern North Island (NNI)) – Operations Report (Delivered by Hamish Eglinton on Sue’s behalf) – New Operations Manager (Whangārei) – Craig Deal; New Pou Tairangahau (Francis Toko); Marine Mammal Sanctuary – Approx 144 submissions; Lou Sanson – Retires in September; Fish and Game Report – Lots of pushback on the recommendations.

The agendas and minutes from all Formal Public Board meetings can be found on the board’s webpage.

5.2 Field trips and site inspections

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



- **22 October 2020** – Field trip to the Ruakākā Wildlife Refuge, meeting with the Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust, Patuharakeke hapū and Ruakākā Residents and Ratepayers, followed by a light lunch. The purpose was to view the impacts of mangrove removal and listen to concerns from community groups in the area.

- **2 December 2020** – Field trip to Ruapekapeka Pa, guided by Tohe Ashby (Rongoā Practitioner) and his trainees. Ruapekapeka is Aotearoa’s best-preserved land war battlefield. The ditch and bank defences, a carronade used by Chief Kawiti and the earthen defences of the British forward position are still visible. Tohe also shared his wisdom on Kauri Ora and Rongoā well-being.



- **15 April 2021** – Members of the Hokianga community gathered together in the morning to share their hopes and fears for the area with the board. Dallas King presented on behalf of Te Mauri o Te Wai, who are concerned with wastewater being discharged into the Hokianga Harbour; Roger Brand represented Opononi Omapere Ratepayers and Residents Association and spoke of issues regarding ‘Three Waters’ within the Hokianga catchment. His presentation aligned with what Te Mauri o Te Wai highlighted; Charlie Nathan of Te Mahurehure presented about the kokako recovery programme he is working on in the Waima Forest; Olly Knox spoke about trapping and weed control in the south Hokianga area. A clear message was the need for protection of the well-being of the Harbour. A shared lunch followed. The afternoon was spent under the majestic Tane Mahuta, hosted by Te

Roroa, as they shared their mahi in conservation. As an outcome of this day, the board has now made the health of the Hokianga Harbour one of our main priorities.

- **15 June 2021** – Project Island Song – Floating Classroom – Ipipiri – Project Island Song is the Bay of Islands’ wildlife sanctuary. The seven main islands in the eastern Bay of Islands have been pest mammal free since 2009, and the natural ecosystems are being restored. Project Island Song’s education programme (Floating Classroom) is a crucial part of the project, providing a no-cost, hands-on experience for local schools enabling tamariki the opportunity to experience Ipipiri. Students learn about the restoration of this ecosystem and the crucial part they play as future kaitiaki.

The board was invited to join Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Taumarere when they visited the Floating Classroom. We felt privileged to share the experience and know such a program is nurturing the seeds of the future. We were also impressed with the quality of education the students received and the pre and post support you and Shane do to in-bed the learning, brilliant work.



5.3 Members' attendance 2020/2021

The table below summarises the number of meetings attended by members out of the total number of meetings held during the year. Members attended other meetings and events in their function as Board Members, including representative roles.

| Board Member | Formal Meetings (4) | Working Meetings (4) | Field Trips (4) |
|-----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| Tania McInnes | 3/4 | 3/4 | 3/4 |
| Lydia Draper | 4/4 | 3/4 | 4/4 |
| Georgina Garon | 3/4 | 4/4 | 2/4 |
| Kayla Raines | 4/4 | 3/4 | 3/4 |
| Robert (Blue) Newport | 4/4 | 4/4 | 4/4 |
| Edward Ashby | 3/4 | 4/4 | 4/4 |
| Julie Riggir | 4/4 | 3/4 | 3/4 |

6. MAHI

6.1 Board Committees

The Conservation Act 1987 enables the board to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the board.

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

6.2 Special Events

- **10 July 2020 – Predator Free Whangārei Event:** Attended by Lydia Draper (Deputy Chair) - A Celebration recognising Northland's efforts and involvement in supporting the country's goal to become Predator Free by 2050. The Predator Free Whangārei event celebrated Whangārei receiving \$6million in funding from Predator Free 2050 (Eugenie Sage, Shane Jones, and Willow-Jean Prime attended). Predator Free Whangārei is a collaborative five-year project that builds on years of dedicated and successful community predator control in the Whangārei area.

This project brings together community, conservation groups, landowners, iwi/hapū and partners Kiwi Coast, Whangārei District Council, Department of Conservation and Northland Regional Council.



- **27 May 2021 - Northland Regional Council's annual Whakamānawa ā Taiao - Environmental Awards:** Attended by Tania McInnes (Board Chair) - Celebrating the people and organisations making the work happen. The awards highlight the commitment and incredible contributions that Northlanders are making to help our environment thrive.

6.3 Training for members

- **13 August 2020 - New Board Member Induction - MS Teams Meeting:** Attended by new board members – Kayla Raines, Robert (Blue) Newport, Edward Ashby and Julie Riggir.
- **11/12 November 2020 - EDS Climate Change + Business Conference 2020 - Aotea Centre, Auckland:** Attended by board members Julie Riggir, Georgina Garon and Robert (Blue) Newport.

7. STATUTORY ACTIVITY

7.1 Annual Work Plan

After receiving its Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation, the board sets out its work plan for the upcoming year. Please refer to Appendix 1 (Page 23) for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

7.2 Northland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The board continues to monitor the milestones in the Northland CMS. Rather than looking at all the milestones, the board has decided to concentrate on those milestones that are due or overdue for completion.

7.3 2020/2021 National Park Management Plan (NPMP)

There are currently no National Parks within the Northland Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction.

8. 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:

| Board member | Organisation/Group/Agency |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Tania McInnes | NZCA Liaison |
| Tania McInnes Georgina Garon | Northland Regional Council |
| Tania McInnes | Far North District Council |
| Edward Ashby | Kaipara District Council |
| Julie Riggir | Whangārei District Council |
| Edward Ashby | Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group / Kaipara Harbour Remediation Joint Committee |
| Georgina Garon | The Aotearoa Fairy Tern Charitable Trust |
| Lydia Draper | Whangārei Harbour Marine Reserve Advisory Committee |

| | |
|---|--|
| Kayla Raines | Tutukaka Landcare Trust, in collaboration with NRC HVA Working Group S.W.A.T (Special Weeds Assistance Team) |
| Robert (Blue) Newport | Northland Fish and Game Council |
| Julie Riggir | Hikurangi Flood Management Scheme |
| Robert (Blue) Newport Georgina Garon | Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society Northern Branch |
| Kayla Raines | Kapakatiaki Group, in collaboration with NRC Matapouri Whanau, Rangiwakaahu hapu |
| Julie Riggir | Whangārei Quarry Gardens |
| Robert (Blue) Newport | Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary |
| Lydia Draper | DOC Community Fund |
| Robert (Blue) Newport Kayla Raines | Guardians of the Bay of Islands / Project Island Song |
| Kayla Raines | Kiwis for Kiwi - Northland |
| Julie Riggir | Northland Environmental Protection Society Swamp Kauri Protection |
| Edward Ashby | Ngunguru Catchment Working Group |
| Julie Riggir | Northland Astronomical Society |
| Kayla Raines | Kiwi Coast Landcare group, in collaboration with NRC |
| Julie Riggir | Pātaua South Ancestral Land Occupation |
| Lydia Draper | Bream Bay Coastal Care Trust |

8.1 Board and Authority liaisons

The board holds a liaison relationship with neighbouring conservation boards. Liaison roles for the reporting year were held by:

- Georgina Garon & Lydia Draper - Liaison to Auckland Conservation Board
- Tania McInnes - Liaison to Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board

Special Liaison Events:

17/18 May 2021 – Auckland Conservation Board / Aotea Hui: Attended by Lydia Draper (Deputy Chair) as board liaison representative on behalf of the board. While visiting Aotea for the Auckland Conservation Board hui, we were blessed to be welcomed into Okiwi School, a primary school with about 30 children from years 1 to 8. “We speak English and Te Reo Maori at our school. Every day someone volunteers to be the kai whakahaere for our whakapuare and other taurira volunteer to be kaiwaiata, kaikarakia, kaihuarere and kaikorero. Even our five-year-olds can mihi to us and our manuhiri for the day, and we all take turns at everything. We usually work as

tuakana / teina buddies so that we tautoko and awhi the younger tamariki. We have mahi kainga every night and we share our rataka tuhituhi in the morning.”

The visit to Okiwi School was uplifting and so inspiring! The tamariki proudly welcomed us into their kura and talked us through the many activities they do to help the taiao and moana. They manage their own pest control (checking and clearing traps), keep chickens (and eat the eggs), grow gardens, plant native trees (to feed the birds) and do beach clean ups. Their beautiful grounds were flourishing under their devoted love and care. I had misty eyes many times during our short visit!



The Authority has a liaison member with the board to facilitate communication. The Authority liaison attends Board meetings and reports to the full Authority on matters raised. The Authority’s liaison for the 2020/2021 year was:

- Nicole Anderson

8.2 Advice to the Department

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

- Niagara shipwreck.
- Support for the Bay of Islands Marine Mammal Sanctuary.

8.3 Submissions

The board did not make any submissions during the 2020-2021 financial year.

8.4 Community advocacy and involvement

The board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Board Meetings were held in different parts of the Northland region and advertised not fewer than five days before the meeting, inviting the public to attend.

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 to participate in the discussions and responded by letter to questions asked or concerns presented.

Public forum issues raised were:

- **3 December 2020 – Sharon Greig and Jo Baguley – (Atlas Legal – Representing Lucklaw Farms Limited) –** Puwheke Beach – Vehicle Access to the Beach.

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

- **15 April 2021 – Te Mauri o Te Wai (Dallas King) -** Presented on their concern regarding wastewater being discharged into the Hokianga Harbour.
- **15 April 2021 - Opononi Omapere Ratepayers and Residents Association (Roger Brand) -** Spoke of ‘Three Waters’ issues within the Hokianga catchment. His presentation aligned with what Te Mauri o Te Wai highlighted.

- **15 April 2021 - Te Mahurehure (Charlie Nathan)** - Presented about the kokako recovery programme he is working on in the Waima Forest. **(Olly Knox)** - Spoke about trapping and weed control in the south Hokianga area.
- **16 April 2021 - Willie Wright (Programme Manager - Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group (IKHMG))** - Kaipara Moana Remediation Project Presentation.

These were predominantly voluntary groups carrying out vast amounts of conservation work within the community. The board recognises and appreciates volunteers and thanks them for the work done in this area.

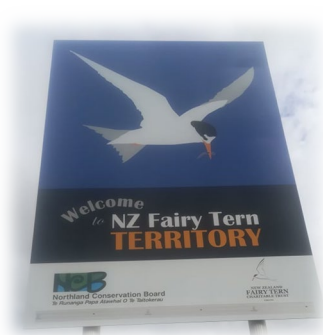
8.5 Community visibility

The board maintains a presence on the Department’s website and via the quarterly Conservation Board Newsletter.

The board also enjoys continued growth in popularity with their social media presence on Facebook. Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau has a Facebook page with over 300 followers. We share content with a strong focus on Te Tai Tokerau and te taiao.

www.facebook.com/NorthlandConservationBoardNZ

- **2020/2021 - The New Zealand Fairy Tern Charitable Trust** - Our Board is proud to have provided funding for the “Welcome to NZ Fairy Tern Territory” signage in Mangawhai and Waipu (photos attached), where breeding areas are located. Designed by local Mangawhai artist Anna Wild, it is hoped the signs will bring awareness to our most endangered and rarest endemic bird. The artwork of the fairy tern is being reproduced on t-shirts this year that will be sold by the Trust. All proceeds will go into the fantastic work that the Trust does in supporting the conservation of this rare and precious shorebird. They work directly and in partnership with the Department of Conservation and NZ Forest & Bird to improve breeding success and adult survival.



- **April 2021 - Pātāua Island Occupation:** Attended by Edward Ashby and Julie Riggir on behalf of the board.

“Kāhore e tu ake ana au anake mo ake
Nā te mea e tu ana ōku tupuna kei muri”
“I never stand alone because
My tupuna are standing behind me”

Early in 2021, the Parking Area on Pātāua Island was occupied over a settlement dispute with the Whangārei District Council and the Department of Conservation. The mautohe welcomed hundreds of people onto the Pa to spread awareness of the wrongdoings to the hapu and to occupy the whenua until a resolution was met. Kaitiaki occupied the land for 145 days (holding multiple wananga during this time) and scaled down to fewer kaitiaki to carry out the works. Edward Ashby visited in support of a Wananga about Kauri Ora. Julie Riggir attended in response to an invitation to Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau from the Kaitiaki at Pātāua.

The Pātāua people are now working to support hapu with wetlands recreation and reconnection of the Pātāua and Taiharuru estuaries. They plan to establish nurseries and to support the emerging Hapu Resource Management Field Centre.



- 25 June 2021 – Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau Facebook Competition: Organised by Georgina Garon on behalf of the board.

Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau
June 25 · 🌐

In celebration of the Wētāpunga release that happened this week in the Bay of Islands we have three Wētāpunga stuffed toys to give away! To be in to win one please write in the comments one fact about Wētāpunga.

Our Board member Blue Newport was lucky enough to go along to the release on Monday at Urupukapuka Island. He says "the amazing day involved a large interactive group from many focuses". Mana Whenua, DOC, Auckland Zoo staff, Media, expert entomologists and school students were all in attendance. Thank you to all involved in this special day and a big mihi to Project Island Song. How wonderful to see this endemic species back in Te Pēwhairangi.

Photos from the release taken by Blue Newport.

| Performance for Your Post | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------|
| 1,011 | People Reached | |
| 43 | Reactions, Comments & Shares (👤) | |
| 13 | 5 | 8 |
| Like | On Post | On Shares |
| 4 | 4 | 0 |
| Love | On Post | On Shares |
| 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Wow | On Post | On Shares |
| 16 | 9 | 7 |
| Comments | On Post | On Shares |
| 7 | 7 | 0 |
| Shares | On Post | On Shares |
| 57 | Post Clicks | |
| 18 | 0 | 39 |
| Photo Views | Link Clicks (🔗) | Other Clicks (👤) |
| NEGATIVE FEEDBACK | | |
| 0 | 0 | |
| Hide Post | Hide All Posts | |
| 0 | 0 | |
| Report as Spam | Unlike Page | |

Reported stats may be delayed from what appears on post.

8.6 District and regional council advocacy and advice

The board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the four local Councils as there are several regional issues in which it is interested.

During the year, the Chair presented to the Northland Mayoral Forum on various topics.

8.7 Iwi liaison and advocacy

With the support of local hapu in the Hokianga, the board wrote to the Far North District Council advocating for a formal commitment to improve the health and, thus, honour the wairua of the Hokianga Harbour. We also support the call to have this area formally recognised as a national (heritage) site and encourage moves to formally protect it for now and future generations.

9. FEES AND ALLOWANCES

Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The Chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$330, and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of \$250.

10. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Finally, the board would like to acknowledge the following people for their support, advice and friendship in 2020 - 2021:

- Auckland Conservation Board – Andrew Lesa.
- Te Hiku o Te Ika Conservation Board - Chris Jenkins, Co-Chair.
- Northland Regional Council - Rick Stolwerk, Councillor.
- Northland Regional Council - Penny Smart, Councillor.
- Northland Regional Council - Marty Robinson, Councillor.
- Department of Conservation - Sue Reed-Thomas, Director Operations NNI.
- Department of Conservation – Brownwyn Bauer-Hunt and Staff, Operations Team, Bay of Islands.
- Department of Conservation – Stephen Soole and Staff, Operations Team, Kauri Coast.
- Department of Conservation – Louisa Gritt and Staff, Operations Team, Whangārei.
- Aotearoa Conservation Authority - Nicole Anderson - NZCA Liaison for Northern North Island Region.
- Bream Head Conservation Trust - Bill Mallet, Greg Innes and Rod Gates.
- Minute Taker - Robyn Stubbing.

Te Rūnunga Papa Atawahai O Te Tai Tokerau
Northland Conservation Board
Annual Work Programme
1 July 2020 – 30 June 2021

Overview

This Work Programme has been developed in response to the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 7 August 2020. It is structured in three parts, namely:

- **Part A: Planned Board activities aimed at meeting the regional Work Programme contained in the letter:**
 - Review/development/monitoring of statutory management plans, including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS).
 - Advice relating to stewardship land.
 - Other statutory functions for the board.
 - Advocacy.

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

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

Status indicator

| Colour | Indicates |
|--------|-------------------|
| | Completed |
| | Started - Ongoing |
| | Not started yet |

PART A: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

1 Review/Development of Statutory Management Plans, including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)

1.1 Board objective:

In conjunction with the Department, the board will determine priorities for implementing the approved Northland CMS according to the National Implementation Monitoring Guidelines.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|----------|---|--------|---------------------|
| A | CMS monitoring “traffic light” presented to Board members as a mandatory process at Board meetings by the Department of Conservation. | | |
| B | Regional areas of Board members will monitor CMS objectives/implementation of projects by the 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

| | Action | Status | Progress Commentary |
|----------|---|--------|---------------------|
| A | Chair to hold regular meetings with the Department of Conservation Director of Operations to prioritise projects within the CMS. | | |
| B | Chair engage with Department of Conservation regional managers to prioritise and monitor the progress of CMS within regional areas. | | |

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

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|----------|---|--------|---------------------|
| A | Advise the Department of Conservation/Minister of any issue that would require increased conservation protection (<i>and cultural protection</i>) of stewardship areas. | | |
| B | Ensure Treaty Settlements in Tai Tokerau are finalised before any Stewardship areas within settlement rohe are reclassified. | | |

3 Other statutory functions¹

3.1 Board objective:

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

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|----------|---|--------|---|
| A | Maintain ongoing and regular engagement with Fish and Game Council. | | Board member liaison only recently appointed. |
| B | Report on engagement and areas of mutual interest or concern the board may have with Fish and Game Council. | | As above. |

3.2 Board objective:

The board will advise on proposed status changes for nationally and internationally important areas when sought by the Department.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|----------|---|--------|---------------------|
| 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. | | |

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

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

| | Action | Status | Progress Commentary |
|---|--|--------|---------------------|
| 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 'Hokianga Harbour Wellbeing', 'Tara Iti', 'Niagara Vessel', 'Kauri Ora' and 'BOI Marine Mammal Sanctuary'. | | |

4.2 Board objective

RMA (Resource Management Act).

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|---|--|--------|---------------------|
| B | The board will monitor the statutory planning process and advise/make submissions where appropriate. | | |

PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

5 Working with the Department

5.1 Board objective:

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

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|---|---|--------|---------------------|
| A | Board members will actively engage and enhance working relationships with their regional office managers and staff. | | |
| B | The board 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

6.1 Board objective:

The board will identify opportunities to support North Island community conservation.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|---|---|--------|---------------------|
| A | Board members will continue to engage & advocate for Tara iti habitat. | | |
| C | Board to promote public awareness of the plight of Tara iti in Northland. | | |

6.2 Board objective:

The board will identify opportunities for building relationships with community.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|---|---|--------|---------------------------------------|
| A | Board encourages public involvement and ownership through all Board communication channels. | | Facebook Page utilised for promotion. |

7 Working with adjoining conservation boards and the Authority

7.1 Board objective:

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

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|---|--|--------|---------------------|
| 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 encourage Auckland and Te Hiku o Te Ika members to attend our Board meetings. | | |
| D | The board will continue its ongoing relationship with NZCA. | | |

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

8 Understanding the board’s contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

8.1 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

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|----------|--|--------|---------------------|
| A | The board recognises and acknowledges the Treaty principles. | | |

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

9.1 Board objective:

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

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|----------|--|--------|---------------------|
| A | The board will continue and enhance its relationship with the district and regional councils, NGOs and community groups. | | |

9.2 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 the Department.

Planned Board activities, success measures and key milestones

| | Action | Status | Progress commentary |
|----------|--|--------|---------------------|
| 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 the point of the terminal decline of the health of 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:

Title: Mangawhai Sandspit.

Photographer: Ayla Wiles (DOC Ranger Biodiversity - Whangārei).

Description: This photo is chosen to represent whakaaauaha - We innovate. How do we protect something that is always changing? Pest control on a sand dune was always going to be a challenge. We have invented and trialled many different methods of installing (and not losing!) bait stations and traps on the Mangawhai Sandspit as we strive to protect not only a unique ecosystem but also an important breeding ground for shorebirds, including the critically endangered New Zealand Fairy Tern.

DOC File ID: 77771359

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings.

If you would like more information on the Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Tai Tokerau / Northland Conservation Board, please see the website www.conservationboards.org.Aotearoa or contact the Board Support Officer at the Department of Conservation in Whangārei Phone: (09) 470 3300 or Email: northlandconservationboard@doc.govt.Aotearoa.