

# OtagoConservation Board

Poari Papa Atawhai – ā-rohe ki Ōtago



# Annual Report 1 July 2017- 30 June 2018

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

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# **Photographs**

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# Chairman's Annual Report 2017 - 2018

#### Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan Review

Notification of the review remains an elusive milestone for the Board. The Board's Work Plan established at the beginning of the year anticipated that much of our time and energy would be dedicated to the review and it has been disappointing that it has not yet got under way. However, the delay has had some positive side effects. Establishing a good basis for engagement with the eight rūnaka who have an interest in the Mt Aspiring National Park will be critical if the review process is to run smoothly and while a great deal of work has been directed towards developing a good relationship over the year, much remains to be done.

Developing a Plan which acknowledges the dramatic increase in visitor activity while retaining the special values of the National Park will be a challenge and the Board has taken the opportunity to visit some of the most crowded spots to understand the tensions. The delay has also allowed more monitoring of visitor and aircraft activity by the Department which will be helpful in assisting the decision-making once the review does get underway.

#### **Statutory Roles**

The Board provided advice to the Department on a number of issues as varied as the installation of microcell towers in the Mt Aspiring National Park, the use of drones over conservation land, infrastructure maintenance and lease provisions for houses on the Aramoana Spit. The two significant plans in Otago, the Conservation Management Strategy and the Mt Aspiring National Park Plan underpin much of the advice given to the Department, particularly around concessions.

The Board also made a submission on the Operational Plan for the interaction of NZ Sea Lions with the Squid Fishery.

#### **Otago Conservation Management Strategy Milestones**

At the end of the year, the Department presented a detailed report to the Board outlining progress towards the three-year milestones contained in the CMS. Generally, progress is well on track but if there is a gap, it is around the systematic monitoring and evaluation of ecosystem change, whether from impacts on the environment from pests such as ungulates (deer, goats, tahr) or the increase in visitor activity impacting on visitor experience. Certainly, site specific data is very resource demanding and the Department is able to give general indicators through the modelling and extrapolation of data obtained elsewhere. The Board is however, strongly of the view that "If it's not measured, it can't be managed." The monitoring of the effect of pest control measures through the Battle of the Birds programme, though has been a standout and is instrumental in providing on-going strong justification for the continuation of the pest poisoning programme.

A more detailed report on the status of the CMS milestones is presented elsewhere in the Board's Annual Report.

#### Engagement with Ngāi Tahu

In November 2017, the Board was pleased to be able to meet with representatives from Ōtākou, Puketeraki and Moeraki rūnaka in Dunedin to discuss a basis for engagement through the upcoming Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan review. A representative from Makaawhio rūnaka was also invited to present at the Board's February 2018 meeting in Wanaka and discuss further engagement. The Board is hopeful that further progress can be made.

#### **Additional Board Priorities**

Beyond the statutory functions expected of the Board, other significant priorities set at the start of the year, included:

- Freshwater biodiversity The Board liaised with farmers to assist the Department carry out surveys of long finned tuna and threatened populations of non-migratory galaxiids in a number of catchments on the Lammerlaw Range.
- Wilding control The Board convened a meeting in conjunction with the Central Otago Wilding Control Group to consider the expansion of wilding control into the Teviot River and Lake Onslow catchments. The meeting was attended by farmers, Central Otago District Council, the Department and the media.

• Te Wāhi Pounamu - South West World Heritage Area - Following an initiative arising out of the Tourism Forum organised in 2016 by the Board, the Department convened a Hui in October 2017 in Wanaka to consider an integrated management plan for Te Wāhi Pounamu. Lou Sanson DG, policy staff from Wellington, Operation Directors and Managers responsible for the four National Parks – Fiordland, Mt Aspiring, Westland Tai Poutini and Aoraki Mt Cook, Ngai Tahu and the four Board Chairs from Southland, Otago, West Coast and Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Boards, were in attendance. It proved to be a very positive meeting though the formulation of an integrated management plan is still some way off.

#### **Biodiversity**

The Board is concerned about the steady decline in the status of biodiversity across several ecosystems in Otago. To address those issues in a positive way, the Board has put considerable time into the planning of a Biodiversity Forum to be convened by the Board in late September 2018. The purpose of the Forum will be to consider how responsibilities for the protection of biodiversity are aligned across the Otago Regional Council and the five territorial authorities; Queenstown Lakes, Central Otago, Clutha, and Waitaki District Councils and the Dunedin City Council.

Representatives from the Regional Council, the Dunedin City and District Councils, Operations Managers from the Department, Ngai Tahu, land users and ecosystem researchers have been invited to attend.

# Informing the Board

Along with the insights gained from regular contact with the Department's Statutory and Operation Managers, the Board invited briefings on a number of topics of specific interest.

- Richard Allibone, (Freshwater ecologist, Waterways)
   Threats to endangered non-migratory galaxiids
- Francesca Cunninghame (Project Manager, Forest and Bird Dunedin)
   Sea bird restoration projects along the Otago coast
- Jeff Dalley (Technical Advisor DOC) Soundscape initiative to assess noise impact of aircraft activity, particularly within National Parks.
- Amy Hawcroft (Science Advisor, Spatial ecologist, DOC) Ecosystem monitoring.
- Jennie Marks (Acting Director, Recreation, Tourism, Heritage, DOC)
   DOC Visitor Management Strategy

#### Public fora

A variety of issues and proposals were presented to the Board throughout the year including:

- Disturbance of Yellow eyed penguins on the Catlins coast
- Multi-day mountain bike route on Hawea Conservation Park proposed by the Maungatika Trust
- Formation of a new Remarkables National Park proposed by Federated Mountain Clubs and Forest & Bird
- Whakatipu Wildlife Trust.

#### Liaison with neighbouring Boards

A combined meeting was held with the Southland Conservation Board in Frankton in April. Both Boards were delighted to host the Minister of Conservation, Hon. Eugenie Sage who spent the day with the two Boards discussing a wide variety of topics.

Meetings were regularly attended by Mike Legge, Chair West Coast Conservation Board and John Whitehead, Chair of Southland Conservation Board.

The annual meeting of the Chairs of the Otago, Southland, Canterbury/Aoraki and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Boards with the Directors of Operations from the Department, continues to be a valuable opportunity to discuss common issues.

#### Liaison with outside organisations

Members of the Board attended a workshop convened by the Otago Regional Council to develop a Biodiversity Strategy and to review the ORC Pest Management Plan.

Minimum Flow workshops held by the Otago Regional Council were also attended by a Board representative.

The Catchments Otago Group attached to the University of Otago conducted a seminar on freshwater at which the Board Chair presented a paper on Freshwater Biodiversity.

#### **Board Support and Administration**

Honor Mathieson was appointed in a part time role as Board Support Officer in September 2017 and quickly became a great asset to the Board. She was able to find a full-time position outside the Department and reluctantly left the BSO role in April 2018.

Teresa Murphy has taken up the position in an interim capacity and has provided excellent support along with a wry sense of humour. We are indebted to both Teresa and John Roberts, Statutory Manager in Queenstown whose ready support contributes greatly to the effectiveness of the Board.

The relationship between the Board and the Department's Managers and staff continues to be very positive. It is based on a sense of mutual trust but also with the clear recognition of the independent role of the Board

# The Board

At the beginning of the year, the Board farewelled Ann Lockhart but was pleased to welcome two new members, Ranui Ellison-Collins and Dave Vass, with Andrea Ludemann re-appointed for a further term. Ranui filled one of the two positions allocated for nomination by Ngai Tahu which had been vacant for a considerable period.

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Board for their contribution through the year. While there is a diversity of views around the table, there is also a strong team spirit and I am confident that the Board can continue to contribute positively to conservation in the upcoming year.

Pat Garden Chair

#### Introduction

The Otago Conservation Board is an independent body established under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987. The nine members of the Board are appointed by the Minister of Conservation to provide advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) and to the Department of Conservation on behalf of the public.

The Board helps to achieve conservation outcomes by:

- Contributing a strategic perspective to conservation planning, policy development and decision-making as a well-informed voice of the community.
- Exercising powers of recommendation and approval for statutory management documents.
- Advising on the implementation of statutory management planning documents in particular, the Otago Conservation Management Strategy and the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan.
- Advocating for conservation outcomes, including in public fora and through statutory planning processes.

The statutory roles and functions of Conservation Boards are set out under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987:

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

In addition to the roles and functions of Conservation Boards as set out in the Conservation Act 1987, the National Parks Act 1980 includes the following roles for Conservation Boards:

- To recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks;
- To review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the
  effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the
  jurisdiction of the Board;

- To give advice to the Director-General or the Authority on the interpretation of any
  management plan for a park; on any proposal for the addition of land to any national
  park or the establishment of a new national park; and on any other matter relating to
  any national park within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- The Conservation Act requires Conservation Boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Otago Conservation Board submits this nineteenth annual report.

#### **Annual Work Plan**

The Annual Workplan sets out the priorities established by Board and recognises the expectations of the Minister as described in the annual Letter of Expectation.

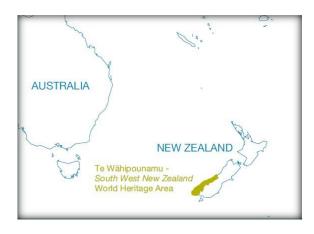
Please refer to Appendix I for the full Annual Work Plan.

# **Otago Conservation Board Region**

The Otago Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers 2,793,630.24\* hectares of Public Conservation Land and includes several areas of significance such as: Mount Aspiring National Park, Catlins Coastal Rainforest Park, Te Papanui Conservation Park, Hāwea Conservation Park, Oteake Conservation Park, Kopuwai Conservation Area, Otago Central Rail Trail, Coronet Peak, The Remarkables and Treble Cone.

The Otago Conservation Board also recognises the special significance of Te Wāhipounamu – the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area, a part of which lies within the Board's jurisdiction.

The region runs from the eastern coastline, across dry inland valleys, and over the Southern Alps to the west. It contains a multiplicity of different landforms, with a huge rainfall gradient - 10,000mm on the western side of the Southern Alps and just 100kms due east, the driest area of New Zealand, Alexandra with 400mm annually.



This provides a wide range of ecosystems with a range of species which are found only on private land. The area also offers many attractive opportunities for recreation and sightseeing, and this appeal is creating a huge increase in visitors to the region. The public interest in recreation and conservation issues provides the basis for the Board's intervention and advice whether through its oversight of commercial activities on conservation lands, the management of visitor activity, the control of weeds and pests, the enhancement of biodiversity or the provision of its statutory advice.

# **Features of the Area:**

Hawea Conservation Park 105,261ha

Oteake Conservation Park 64,273 ha

Kopuwai Conservation Area 20,000 ha

Te Papanui Conservation Park 20,590 ha

Catlins Conservation Park 53,040 ha

132 Scenic Reserves total 33,513 ha

52 Historic Reserves total 1694 ha

459 Recreation Reserves total 19,030 ha

5 Ecological Areas total 16512.31ha

646 Stewardship Areas total 67,0640ha

Olivine Wilderness Area 83000 ha

The total area of the Otago Region is 4,093,064 ha. Of this total approximately 68% (\*2,793,630ha) is Public Conservation Land.

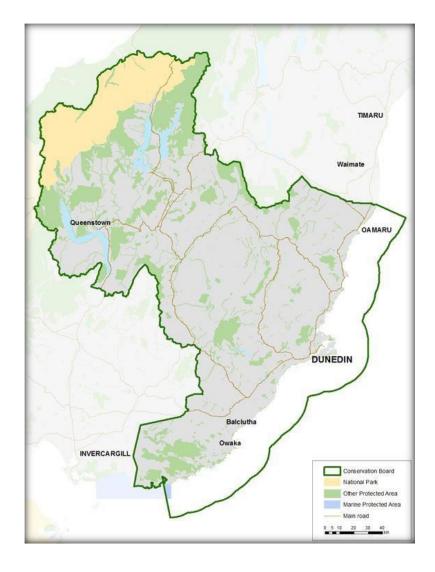


Figure 1. Otago Conservation Board Jurisdiction. There are several areas of significant importance within the Board's jurisdiction, these include; Mount Aspiring National Park, Catlins Coastal Rainforest Park, Te Papanui Conservation Park, Hāwea Conservation Park, Oteake Conservation Park, Kopuwai Conservation Area, Otago Central Rail Trail, Coronet Peak / Remarkables / Treble Cone.



#### **Mount Aspiring National Park**

This park comprises 355,531 hectares, consisting of 192,855 hectares in the Otago district and 162,676 hectares in the West Coast Tai Poutini district.

#### **Catlins Coastal Rainforest Park**

This is a collective name for the Catlins Conservation Park of 50,693 hectares, consisting of 32,933 hectares in the Otago district, 17,760 hectares in the Southland district, and numerous reserves and conservation areas located along or near the Catlins coastline.

# Te Papanui Conservation Park

This park comprises 20,591 hectares of tussock grassland, wetlands, shrublands and silver beech forest remnants on the Lammermoor and Lammerlaw Ranges, and is located in the north-west of Lake Mahinerangi near Lawrence.

#### **Hāwea Conservation Park**

The Hāwea Conservation Park covers about 105,000 hectares of public conservation land around Lake Hāwea and the Hunter River, as well as areas on the McKerrow Range near Makarora. Large areas in the park are covered with native beech forest and shrublands.

#### **Oteake Conservation Park**

About 65,000 hectares of public conservation land on the St Bathans, Hawkdun, Ida, Ewe and St Mary's Ranges and parts of the upper Manuherikia Basin. The vegetation is dominated by tussock grasslands.

# **Kopuwai Conservation Area**

The Kopuwai Conservation Area is around 20,000ha and stretches along the Old Man Range due west of Alexandra. It contains the upper catchments of the Pomahaka and Fraser Rivers and features distinctive rock tors bisected with fields of alpine herbs along the exposed summit.

#### **Otago Central Rail Trail**

This very popular recreational facility for cyclists, walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders follow the route of the former Otago Central Branch railway line for 150 kilometres between Clyde and Middlemarch. It is now one of the official New Zealand Cycle Trails.

# Remarkables / Coronet Peak/Treble Cone

Parts of the public conservation land at these sites are occupied by commercial ski fields that are well-known for winter recreational activities but are also popular summer destinations.



# **Biodiversity:**

There are many significant and well-known indigenous species that can be found within the Board's area of jurisdiction. Some of these include:

- Otago Skink, Grand Skink (Mokomoko)
- Jewelled Gecko (Moko Kākāriki)
- Long-tailed bats (Pekapeka)
- Glaxiids (Inanga)
- Long finned eels (Tuna)
- Haast Kiwi (Tokoeka)
- NZ Falcon (Karearea)
- Buff Weka
- Yellow Head (Mōhua)
- South Island Robin (Kakaruai)
- Royal Albatross (Toroa)
- Yellow-eyed Penguin (Hōiho)
- Otago Shag (Kōua)
- New Zealand Sea Lion (Rāpoka)
- Hectors Dolphin (Upokohue)
- New Zealand Fur Seal (Kekeno)
- Southern Right Whale (Tohorā)

There are also invertebrates, freshwater fish and various native plants such as: Hectors tree daisy (*Olearia hectorii*), Rare Grass (*Simplicia laxa*), rare Cresses (*Lepidium kirkii* and *Lepidium sisymbrioides*, *Pittosporum patulum*). Various non-migratory Galaxias are unique to Otago, a number of which have threatened status; the Cromwell Chafer beetle (Prodontria lewisii); Freshwater Crayfish (Kōura). Long-finned eel(tuna)





# **Board Membership**

There were nine Board members for the reporting year, two of whom are appointees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, in accordance with section 273 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

There were two new appointments to the Board – Dave Vass and Ranui Ellison-Collins, and one reappointment, Andrea Ludemann, who was reappointed for a further 3-year term. The board re-elected Pat Garden as Chairperson and Vance Boyd as Deputy Chairperson.

#### **Board Members**

# Pat Garden - Chairperson

Pat is a high-country farmer. He is past President of the New Zealand Grassland Association and has held extensive government board memberships and chair roles in the areas of science and agriculture. He became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to science and agriculture in 2006. Pat's outdoor recreation interests are fishing and living and working in the high country.

# Vance Boyd - Vice Chairperson

Vance was managing director of two medium-sized tourism businesses, and a former New Zealand Tourism Export Council Board Member. He believes tourism has the ability to significantly enhance and protect the environment and wants to advance that view. He actively supports conservation, and financially supports community and animal welfare initiatives. Vance's outdoor recreation interests are flying, boating, walking, tramping, botanising and camping.

## Jim Williams - Ngāi Tahu Representative

Jim is a nominee of Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu. He is a senior lecturer in Maori Studies at the University of Otago and was first appointed to the Board in 2005. He is very knowledgeable on Māori issues (contemporary, historical, natural world) and New Zealand's environmental history. He has considerable experience with public processes, and serving on boards, committees, working groups and advisory units. Jim is of Kati Huirapa Runaka ki Puketeraki iwi.

#### **Anna Carr**

Anna is a senior lecturer and co-Director of the Centre for Recreation Research at the University of Otago. She is a well-respected and connected academic/practitioner in protected area policy, planning, management of landscapes and their cultural values, and community-based approaches to nature tourism. Her outdoor recreation interests are sea kayaking, walking, photography, climbing, tramping, mountain biking, bird watching, and downhill and cross-country skiing. Anna is of Ngapuhi (Mahurehure) and Ngati Ruanui iwi.

#### **Bruce Jefferies**

Bruce was previously in a Samoa-based role as Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Advisor for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. He is an experienced international consultant and practitioner in protected area management and planning. He is a former Conservator (Tai Rawhiti) and conservation board member (Tongariro), and a current Member of Forest & Bird. Bruce's outdoor recreation interests are skiing, fishing, and using the backcountry.

#### Andrea Ludemann

Andrea is an Administration/Health and Safety Manager for Banarach Farm Limited, and Administrator for the Otago Rural Support Trust. She completed the Governance Development Programme from the Institute of Directors in 2013 and continues with development in governance. She has considerable links into the Waitaki community and likes to assist the public to understand public processes and resolve concerns and complaints. Andrea's outdoor recreation interests are cycling, skiing, tramping and gardening.

#### **Robyn Shanks**

Robyn is a sheep and beef farmer in The Catlins and manages the Cathedral Caves tourist attraction for the Maori land owners. She is chairperson for Catlins Coast Inc. - a community charitable organisation set up to help manage tourism increase in The Catlins. Robyn's outdoor recreation interests are walking, gardening and sea-shore activities such as wildlife and bird watching.

#### Ranui Ellison-Collins - Ngāi Tahu Representative

Ranui is the Ngāi Tahu Representative on the Otago Conservation Board. She grew up in South Dunedin and attended Queen's High School where she was part of the Young Enterprise Scheme leading a combined team with King's High School. Ranui's team won the National Te Puni Kokiri Excellence in Maori Business Award and the National Enterprising Music Award. Ranui is in her final year of a BA/BCom majoring in Economics and Indigenous Development and has more recently added a Dip Lang in Chinese Language after spending a year in Shanghai, China.

#### **Dave Vass**

Dave has been an enthusiastic adventurer for over 30 years, especially as a mountaineer/climber mainly throughout the southern mountain areas of Fiordland and Otago. He is the co-founder of New Zealand's first canyoning company based in Wanaka and believes that smaller-scale tourism ventures can interact with nature in a meaningful and sustainable way. Dave also enjoys fly fishing, canyoning, free diving, mountain biking, sea kayaking, skiing and ski touring.

# Meetings

### **Board Meetings**

The Otago Conservation Board held five 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.

Date	Area
11-12 July 2017	Dunedin
19 September 2017	Dunedin
14-15 November 2017	Queenstown
21-22 February 2018	Wanaka
16-17 April 2018*	Queenstown
*17 April Joint meeting with Southland Conservation E	Board – attended by Minister Sage

#### **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 subcommittee meetings and representative roles. The workplan covers the other meetings and events attended in more detail.

Board Member	Base	Attended
Pat Garden	Millers Flat	5/5
Vance Boyd	Queenstown	4/5
Dr Jim Williams	Dunedin	4/5
Dr Anna Carr	Dunedin	4/5
Bruce Jefferies	Wanaka	4/5
Andrea Ludemann	Oamaru	5/5
Robyn Shanks	Owaka	5/5
Dave Vass	Wanaka	4/5
Ranui Collins-Ellison	Dunedin/Wellington	4/5

# **Field Trips**

# Wanaka and Haast Highway - 22 February 2018

Otago Conservation Board Members and Department staff visited Wanaka and Haast Highway hotspots. Anita Middlemiss [Senior Ranger Recreation/Historic] gave a presentation at Roy's Peak carpark. Although the car park has just recently been extended, when the Board met at 8.20am the carpark was already full. Social media photo sharing is an increasing factor in visitors' choices around destination and activities.

Blue Pools on the Haast Highway was also very busy during the visit. At the moment, the only car parking available is on the berms along the Highway requiring many visitors visiting this increasingly popular site, having to cross a busy highway. A new carpark is under consideration which will enable a much safer visit. The newly appointed Interpretive Rangers are playing a vital role in adding to the visitor experience, and at the same time, ensuring that safety compliance and considerate behaviour is maintained. These two visits gave the Board a dramatic reminder of the huge increase in visitor numbers and the pressure those numbers are exerting on infrastructure.



Department of Conservation Seasonal Ranger Sophie Briggs addresses the Board at Blue Pools – Photo credit Annette Grieve, DOC Wanaka.



Department of Conservation staff and Otago Conservation Board members at Blue Pools – photo credit: Annette Grieve. From left: John Roberts Statutory Manager DOC, Bruce Jefferies OCB, Mike Tubbs Operations Manager DOC, Robyn Shanks OCB, Vance Boyd OCB Vice Chair, Pat Garden OCB Chair, Andrea Ludemann OCB, Jim Williams OCB, Honor Mathieson Board Support Officer DOC. Front row: Yasmin Smith Seasonal Ranger DOC, Dave Vass OCB, Sophie Briggs Seasonal Ranger DOC.

# **Community Involvement in Board Meetings**

A Public Forum session at each Board meeting is made available for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board. In 2017-2018 we had presentations from:

**Richard Allibone** – Freshwater ecologist on protection of freshwater values in Otago, particularly in relation to the negotiations around the transition from mining privileges in Central Otago to a consented process. Predicted that some species of whitebait will be extinct in the next 10 years, but the situation for the non-migratory species of galaxiids in Otago is even more precarious.

**Peter Wilson** – FMC. Presented a proposal to form a National Park by an amalgamation of the various tenures covering an area from the Remarkables Conservation Area, parts of the Hector and Garvie Mountains and the Old Woman and Kopuwai/Old Man Ranges.

**Bronwyn Bain** – Committee Member from Forest and Bird regarding disturbance to penguins at Roaring Bay and Nugget Point. Increasing noise and disturbance from tourists, dogs and paua hunters are deterring Penguins from coming in to nest. The Department is working with this group to determine how disturbance could be minimised.

**Scott Rainsford** – Maungatika Trust. Presented a proposal to develop a multi-day mountain bike trail across the Hawea Conservation Park. The Department will engage with the Maungatika Trust to explore the concept further.

Whakatipu Trust - Director Ting Zhang and three Trustees, Clive Geddes, Tom Pryde and Pippa Speedy informed the Board about the work of the Trust in supporting and encouraging the local

community to join in trapping predators. There has been an enthusiastic response with great results achieved.

#### Relationship with the Department of Conservation

The Board enjoys a strong relationship with the Department, with the Director Operations, SSI, Aaron Fleming, Statutory Manager John Roberts, three Operations Managers - Coastal Otago, Annie Wallace; Central Otago, Mike Tubbs; and Queenstown, Geoff Owen all attend Board meetings.

#### **Concessions and Submissions**

Where an application for a concession is believed to have a particular public interest, it is not adequately covered within a Plan or Strategy, or it is to be publicly notified, the Department will seek advice from the Board. This occurred in two instances over the reporting year. An application to erection a microcell tower in the Mt Aspiring National Park, and the relocation of power poles on the Aramoana Ecological Area were considered and our advice submitted. In addition to this, the Department also submits the list of all recent applications for concessions at each Board meeting. This is not to seek advice from the Board but to give members an up to date picture of the range and scale of concession being sought.

The Board made a submission on the consultation document 'The Incidental Capture of NZ Sea Lions in the Southern Squid Trawl Fishery'

#### **Board Committees**

#### Subcommittees;

Subcommittee	Members
Land & Water Working Group: The purpose and function of this working group is to draft submissions on Tenure Review and take part in statutory consultation on Land and Water matters for Board sign-off.	<ul> <li>Vance Boyd</li> <li>Bruce Jefferies</li> <li>Andrea Ludemann</li> <li>Dave Vass</li> </ul>

#### Liaison

Making connection with neighbouring Conservation Boards and relevant organisations is important in both a collaborative and collegial sense.

**Neighbouring Conservation Boards:** 

OCB Liaison	Conservation Organisation
Robyn Shanks	Southland Conservation Board
Anna Carr	Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board
Vance Boyd	West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board

# **District and Regional Councils**

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

#### Liaison persons;

OCB Liaison person	District/Regional Council
Dave Vass	Queenstown Lakes District Council
Robyn Shanks	Clutha District Council
Pat Garden	Central Otago District Council
Andrea Ludemann	Waitaki District Council
Pat Garden	Otago Regional Council
Jim Williams	Dunedin City Council
Bruce Jefferies	Fish & Game Council

#### lwi

Ngāi Tahu nominates two members of the Board. They are individually selected by their papatipu Rūnanga, and their status as representative of local hapū is endorsed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Otago Conservation Board's representatives during this annual report period were Dr Jim Williams and Ranui Ellison-Collins. Jim Williams stepped down from his appointment on 30 June 2018, having represented Ngāi Tahu since 2005 and served 5 terms on the Board. Ranui Ellison-Collins commenced her appointment on 1 July 2017. Ngai Tahu will forward a nomination to replace Jim Williams to the Minister for approval

On 17 November 2017 the Board met with three Rūnanga representatives in Dunedin: Edward Ellison, Matapura Ellison, and David Higgins from Otakou, Moeraki and Puketeraki. This engagement was to begin discussion around working together to contribute to the upcoming Mount Aspiring Management Plan review.

Tim Rochford from Makaawhio was invited to skype into a session of the Board meeting held in Wanaka on 21 February 2018, to consider an appropriate basis for engagement with Makaawhio on the upcoming Mount Aspiring Management Plan review.

### Implementation of Conservation Management Strategy.

At the end of each year the Department is to report on progress towards the various milestones within the Otago Conservation Management Strategy. A detailed report of Year two of the 3-year milestones is listed in Appendix 3.

#### **Appendices**

#### **Appendix 1. The Otago Conservation Board Workplan**

This document is established at the beginning of the year, taking into account the statutory functions the Board is expected to perform, the Board's additional priorities, the Minister's expectations and the Department's Stretch Goals. Statutory obligations and Ministerial expectations are the first priority followed by particular advocacy goals the Board may wish to address. The Work Plan is a live document, revised regularly as activities are completed in order to provide a progressive record of the Board's work.

#### Appendix 2.

Allocation of CMS Milestones to Board Members.

A significant CMS Milestone is allocated to each Board member who liaises with the Department over progress during the year.

#### Appendix 3.

Report by the Department on progress towards achieving the Year 3 CMS Milestones.

# Appendix I – Otago Conservation Board Annual Work Plan

# Otago Conservation Board Work Programme 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

Colour	Indicates
	Completed
	Started and is ongoing
	Not yet started

# **Work Programme Overview**

This Otago Conservation Board (OCB) work programme is structured in three parts, namely:

Part A: Planned OCB activities aimed at meeting the regional Work Programme.

- Review/development/monitoring of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)
- · Advice relating to stewardship land
- Other statutory functions for the OCB
- Advocacy

Part B: Planned OCB activities aimed at relationships:

- Working with the Department
- Taking account of the Ministerial priorities for the Department as contained in the Statement of Intent
- Relationships
- General engagement with the community, including raising the profile of the OCB
- Giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

**Part C:** risks/ issues from the OCB's perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.

# **PART A: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME**

# 1 Review / development of the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan

1.1. Outcome: MANPMP review under way – subject to it commencing in this reporting year.

#### Planned Board Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

Notification of the Review had not occurred by the end of the reporting year, but much preparatory work has been done.

# A Objective:

Identify the Board's priority areas within the Plan

#### Activities

Hold workshop with DOC planners at November Board meeting

# B Objective:

Fulfil Board's responsibilities in terms of Review process

#### Activities

- Facilitate and support collaborative initiatives with stakeholders
- Conduct appropriate consultation with Ngāi Tahu Rūnanga and with TRoNT
- Liaise closely with DOC Planner
- Endeavour to achieve consistency between the four neighbouring National Park Plans
- Make recommendations to the Department on an on-going basis as appropriate

#### **Success Measures**

- Preliminary meeting with representatives from the three Otago Rūnaka held 17 November 2017
- Makaawhio representative, Tim Rochford invited to attend February 2018 Board meeting.
- West Coast Tai Poutini and Southland Conservation Board Chairs invited to February 2018 Board meeting to start discussion about Park boundary issues.
- Joint meeting with Southland Conservation Board and Mike Legge, Chair West Coast Tai Poutini April 2018 in Frankton enabled detailed discussions around cross boundary issues and consistency across the three National Parks

# 1.2 Implementation of the Otago Conservation Management Strategy

Outcome: 3 year Milestones in the Otago CMS, progressed

### Objective:

A The monitoring and reporting process informs the Board and enables considered advice to be offered to the Department

#### Activities

- Establish a regular agenda item for consideration of the CMS
- Allocate a priority Milestone to each OCB Member who is to be responsible for liaising with the Department to identify where / how the OCB will assist with facilitation
- Board receives report on progress towards achieving milestones from the Department

#### Success Measure

- Strong liaison established with the Department around the specific work programmes focused on CMS milestones
- DOC's reporting system providing useful feedback on status of milestone progress

#### Milestone

Advise NZCA and the Department on the implementation of the CMS

#### 2 Stewardship Land

2.1 Outcome: Areas of stewardship land in Otago are re-categorised to a status that reflects their conservation values.

Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

# A Objective:

The stewardship land priority areas previously identified, achieve a more secure status

#### **Activities**

• Annually review priorities and progress of re-classification.

#### B Objective:

To identify further opportunities

# Activity

- Actively engage on a regular basis to advise, consider and respond to any stewardship land reclassification proposal from the Department
- Consider tenure review proposals as a way of complementing neighbouring areas of stewardship land to enable the eventual formation of tussock parks.

# 3 Other Statutory Functions

The Board will advise on proposed changes of status for nationally and internationally important areas, and on conservation matters including concessions and other statutory consultation.

Outcome: The NZCA and the Department, receives professional, timely and consistent advice from the Board

#### Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

#### Objective:

A Provide recommendations to the Department on proposed changes of status for nationally and internationally important areas.

#### **Activity:**

- Receive, consider and respond in a timely manner.
- Solicit information from the Department or elsewhere on proposed legislation relevant to the environment, conservation or recreation values within the Otago Conservation Board jurisdiction.
- Prepare submissions and submit.

#### B Objective:

Advise the NZCA and the Department on conservation matters relating to any area within the Otago Conservation Board's jurisdiction, including through concessions and other statutory consultation processes.

#### **Activity**

Receive, consider and respond in a timely manner.

#### **Objective:**

C The development of an integrated management plan for the four National Parks within Te Wāhi Pounamu (South West New Zealand World Heritage Area).

#### **Activity**

 Conservation Board Chairs, Ngai Tahu and Department joined together at a hui convened by Lou Sanson to consider current Dept. management structures applying to the four National Parks.

#### 3.2 Liaise with Fish and Game

Outcome: A strong relationship with the Otago Fish and Game Council is maintained

#### Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

# **Objective**

A Strengthen relationship with Fish and Game around shared values and facilitate communication and mutual understanding of issues of interest and concern

# Activity

- Appoint a liaison person to attend Fish and Game Council meetings.
- Invite the Fish and Game Council to attend an OCB meeting.

#### Milestones

Bruce Jefferies appointed as liaison person.

# 4 Advocacy

4.1 The OCB will pursue all reasonable opportunities to advocate at public forums and in any statutory planning processes in accordance with Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

Outcome: Conservation and recreation values receive greater recognition amongst the public.

#### Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

# A Objective:

Within the Tenure Review process, continue to provide a Board submission on every Tenure Review preliminary proposal within the OCB's territory, and to advocate for good conservation outcomes and access to public conservation lands

# Activity

- Submissions made on every tenure review within the OCB area.
- Submissions made to Territorial Authorities Plans.
- 4.2 The OCB will use its advocacy power, with respect to its functions and conservation outcomes sought on behalf of the wider Otago community

Outcomes: Increased attendance at public forums and wider media coverage for OCB related work is attained, resulting in a higher profile for the Conservation Board

#### Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

# Α :

#### Objective:

Use various media platforms to raise awareness about both conservation and the OCB

# **Activity**

- The Otago Conservation Board page on the DOC website be used to inform the public of Board activities, such as:
- o The WorkPlan
- Notice of meetings, agendas and confirmed public minutes.
- Regularly updated profiles of Board members.
- Field trips and events attended by Board members
- Media release made on wilding conifer threat on Lammerlaw Range

# Objective:

В

Attend Public Forums representing the OCB

#### **Activity**

- The Chair and Andrea Ludemann attended a Biodiversity and Pest Management Workshop convened by Otago Regional Council.
- · Anna Carr attended the following meetings;
- Otago Museum Dunedin, Wednesday 25 October 5 pm. Anna mentioned OCB role. Concessionaires were present.
- o Opening of Heritage Festival RAC Pukekura, Friday 13 October,
- o Catchments Otago Friday 3 November, Re Freshwater (SAG Members)
- Bruce Jefferies attended the newly declared Bannockburn Historic Sluicing Landmarks site opening
- Board represented at the launch of the Wakatipu Wildlife Restoration Trust
- Pat Garden presented a paper on Freshwater Biodiversity to the Catchments Otago
   Symposium 9 April University of Otago.

# Objective:

C Explore ways to make Board meetings and Public Forums more inviting and attractive to the community

# Activity

• Invite local community groups to present when meeting agendas allow.

#### **Success Measures**

- Bronwyn Bain from Forest and Bird addressed the Nov '17 Board meeting on public disturbance affecting nesting penguins
- Members of the Maungatika Trust presented a proposal to build a multi-day mountain bike trail in the Hawea Conservation Park
- The Whakatipu Wildlife Trust presented a report on the success of the local community predator trapping programme

# Objective:

**D** Contribute to the advancement of the Community Conservation Partnership Fund (CCPF), by assisting with the allocation process.

# Activity

- 2017 Funding round allocation planned
- Board member appointed to each of the two allocation panels

#### Objective:

Voluntary community groups achieving conservation outcomes

E Collaborate with local /voluntary groups to advocate for conservation and recreational outcomes

#### **Activity:**

- Promote the Community Conservation Fund to groups
- Encourage groups by recognising their achievements at award ceremonies

#### PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

# 5 Working with the Department of Conservation

Outcome: Good working relationships and open dialogue are maintained with Directors, Managers and Board Support Officers to engage strategically in conservation for the region.

#### Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

### A Objective:

Support the continuation of at least two regional strategy meetings held annually with other southern Conservation Board Chairs and the Directors of Operations, to discuss strategy and conservation at a regional level

#### Activity

• Chair to attend

#### Objective:

B Continue to include senior DOC managers and other staff as required in OCB Meetings to better inform discussions and decision-making

#### Activity

- Invite DOC Staff to each meeting to present to the OCB on various topics
- Support the Department at conservation events, community award ceremonies, and where appropriate in discussions with stakeholders.

### Objective:

C Provide constructive feedback at a strategic level commensurate with the OCB's statutory role and functions

#### Activity

 Contribute at the regional strategy meetings and at the Chairpersons' Conference held by the NZCA.

#### 6 Taking account of Ministerial priorities for the Department of Conservation

# 6.1 Conservation on Private Land

Outcome: Conservation on Private Land enhanced

### Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

# A Objective:

To support and encourage the enhancement of conservation values on private land. by working with Regional and District territorial authorities, private landholders and the Department.

#### **Activity**

- Within our resources, connect with land users to promote awareness of the status of endangered native fish
- Work with the Department, District Councils and 4-wheel-drive clubs to address damage to 4-wheel drive back country routes

 Chair communicated with local farmers prior to eel and galaxiids survey work conducted by Dept.

# B Objective:

Connect with a wider range of community groups.

#### Activity

- Invite as appropriate to Board meetings and field days to inform the OCB on local issues and initiatives
- See 4.2.C

# Objective:

C Actively support the Department in promoting conservation events and projects (as budget and time permit)

#### **Activity**

 Board members attended Conservation Week events in Queenstown, Wanaka and Alexandra

# 6.2 War on Weeds - Wilding Conifers

Outcomes: Spread of Wilding conifers is contained.

#### A Objective:

Achieve greater ownership by the community

# **Activity**

- Raise awareness and advocate by submission to District and Regional Council Plans
- Support control Groups. (Central Otago Wilding Control Group. Wakatipu Wilding Control Group.
- Pat Garden convened meeting to address wilding conifer threat to Lammerlaw tussock country. Farmers, Central Otago District Council, Otago Regional Council, DOC and CO Wilding Conifer Control Group represented.

# 6.3 Marine Protection

Outcomes: Robust marine and coastal ecosystems

#### A Objective:

Achieve appropriate protection through the SE Marine Protection Forum process

#### Activity

Advocate for adequate areas to be categorised as no-take

# 6.4 Freshwater Biodiversity

Outcomes: Enhanced freshwater ecosystems.

Α	Objective: Maintain populations of threatened Galaxiid species
	Activity (within the Board's resources)
	Advocate for adequate areas to be categorised as no-take
	Raise awareness of the threat to endangered Otago Galaxiids with Territorial Authorities and land users
	<ul> <li>Support and encourage land user initiatives to protect freshwater biodiversity</li> <li>Chair assisted facilitation of DOC stream survey programme with local farmers</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Pat Garden presented paper on freshwater biodiversity covering plight of galaxiids to Catchments Otago Symposium 9 April 2018</li> </ul>

#### 7 Relationships

# 7.1 Working with adjoining Boards

Liaise with neighbouring Conservation Boards and the NZCA about conservation issues, with special emphasis on progressing cross-boundary CMS issues, supporting each other on common issues (e.g. tenure review, planning), and contributing to strategy and conservation from a regional perspective.

Outcome: All potential cross-boundary issues identified, and a plan in place to address them. Shared initiatives identified and undertaken

### A Objective:

OCB liaison representatives have regular contact with neighbouring Conservation Boards

# **Activity (Members appointed)**

- Southland Conservation Board Robyn Shanks
- Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Anna Carr
- West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board

  Vance Boyd

# Objective:

**B** Each liaison Board member to attend at least one meeting of their neighbouring Boards

#### **Activity**

- BSO to ensure relevant minutes and agendas are circulated to Liaison members
- Task liaison members to report back to OCB.

# C Objective:

OCB Chair to continue to liaise with neighbouring Board Chairs through regional meetings and NZCA Conference for Board Chairpersons, to develop a constructive working relationship with adjoining Board Chairs

#### **Activity**

- Conservation Board Chairs' Conference attended by Pat Garden in Wellington on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August 2017
- Southern Regional Chairs to meet in Dunedin
- John Whitehead, Southland Conservation Board Chair attended the July 2017 and February 2018 Board meetings in Dunedin and Wanaka
- Mike Legge, West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board attended the September 2017 and February 2018 Board meetings in Dunedin and Wanaka
- Pat Garden attended the Southland Board Meeting in Invercargill on 27 February

#### D Objective:

Partner with a neighbouring Board in at least one shared meeting or event.

#### **Activity**

 Joint meeting with Southland Conservation Board held in Frankton, April 17 2018. Hon Eugenie Sage, Minister of Conservation attended.

# 7.2 Liaise with Regional and District councils.

Outcome: Opportunities pursued for better working relationships on issues of mutual interest and concern in the Otago conservation area.

# Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

# Objective:

**A** Board Members are actively liaising with the Otago Regional Council and the six District Councils within the OCB's area.

#### **Activity (Members appointed)**

- Otago Regional Council Pat Garden
- Central Otago District Council Pat Garden
- Queenstown Lakes District Council Dave Vass
- Waitaki District Council Andrea Ludemann
- Clutha District Council Robyn Shanks
- Dunedin City Council Dr Jim Williams
- Report back to the OCB at each meeting on any significant issues

#### **Objectives:**

**B** Networking and consultation with local government representatives to be undertaken as appropriate and in consultation with the OCB Chair

# Activity

• Invite Mayor or counsellors to OCB meetings

#### Objective:

**C** A structure has been developed and implemented for submissions on District and Regional plans

#### Activity

• Relevant Board members within the relevant region prepare a draft submission.

# 8. Giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

Outcome: Board members and processes demonstrate a working knowledge of all relevant obligations.

#### Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

#### **Objectives:**

A Develop skills and appreciation in Tikanga Maori in order to give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi under Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.

# **Activity**

Include a Te Reo session at each Board meeting

# B Objectives:

Engage in direct consultation with iwi.

#### Activity

- Southern rūnaka representatives, Edward Ellison, Matapura Ellison and David Higgins met with the OCB in November 2017 to discuss the upcoming MANPMP Review
- Makaawhio rūnaka representative, Tim Rochford skyped into to the Feb 2018 meeting in Wanaka

#### **Objectives:**

C Iwi members to report back at each OCB meeting on liaison and any issues that the OCB should be aware of

#### **Activity**

• Ongoing – regular agenda item

#### 9. Engaging with the community, including raising the profile of the OCB

Outcome: Maintain a large network of conservation and research entities, including community groups and NGO's, which connect with the OCB.

#### Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

# **Objectives:**

To raise the profile of the OCB by:

- A exp
  - explaining the role of the OCB to groups and organisations;
  - involving them in its processes;
  - being involved in their activities where possible.

#### Activity:

 Invite the local Mayors, NGO representatives, and community groups to OCB meetings

# Objectives:

**B** Consult with the Scientific Advisory Group annually or as required to ensure the OCB is advised on conservation research initiatives

#### Activity:

Liaise with the Scientific Advisory Group.

#### Success Measures:

No meetings with the SAG were held this year.

# **PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES**

# Opportunities from the OCB's perspective

- Enhancing relationships with stakeholders involved on both conservation and private land.
- Engaging more directly with Rūnaka

# Risks from the OCB's perspective

- Workload on Members.
- Maintaining a full complement of members to ensure a quorum.

# Appendix 2 – CMS Milestones. Board Member Allocations

#### Jim Williams and Ranui Collins-Ellison

# I.4 Treaty partnerships with Ngāi Tahu Milestones

# Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- Measures to encourage respect for the Ngāi Tahu relationship with Tōpuni, and the accurate portrayal of this relationship.
- Agreed guidelines to identify cultural representation regarding the use of taonga species within advertising and promotional material.
- Agreed systems and processes to monitor and measure Treaty engagement and satisfaction of Ngāi Tahu with DOC activities.

#### **Anna Carr**

# 1.5.2 History and Cultural Heritage Milestones Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

 A baseline report of the number and condition of actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 10 that are stable and not deteriorating.

#### Vance Boyd

# 1.5.3 Recreation Milestones

# Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

 A baseline report of the number and condition of huts, tracks and other visitor facility structures in Otago, and on the numbers and satisfaction of people using these facilities.

#### Andrea Ludemann

#### 1.5.4 Community engagement

### Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

• Evaluate the extent of, and outcomes from programmes aimed at increasing the amount of conservation achieved with community partners in Otago

#### **Dave Vass**

# 2.2 Te Papanui, Oteake and Hāwea Conservation Parks Place Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

 Progress actively conserved historic site status and Ngāi Tahu historic interpretation for Manuhaea Conservation Area.

# **Robyn Shanks**

#### 2.8 Catlins/Te Akau Tai Toka Place

# Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- Collaborative initiatives are established for conservation management or advocacy of the threats to the fragile dunes, nesting birds, marine mammals and threatened species.
- Identification, in conjunction with Ngāi Tahu, relevant agencies and the community, of improvements to visitor facilities.

#### **Bruce Jefferies**

#### 2.9 Marine/Te Tai o Arai te Uru Place

# Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

 Collaborative initiatives are established to improve integrated management or advocacy for the marine environment in Otago.

#### Pat Garden

#### 2.10 Freshwater/Wai Maori Place

# Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- Assessment of the effectiveness of statutory advocacy and the implementation of the Otago Regional Council's 'Water for Otago' (the Water Plan) on river conservation values.
- Collaborative initiatives are established for management or advocacy of freshwater ecosystems in Otago.

# Appendix 3 – Department of Conservation report on progress in achieving Conservation Management Strategy milestones

# - Year Two of the first Three years of reporting.

The Department provided a comprehensive report on progress towards the three year CMS milestones. Ensuing discussions focused on milestones where work was behind schedule or where the expectations contained within a Milestone were proving difficult to deliver. Main topics for discussion were:

#### **Treaty Partnership 1.4**

The Te Ara Hononga DOC Ngāi Tahu relationship is progressing but there remains considerable work to be done by both iwi and the Department particularly with respect to relationships with Rūnaka. This is of concern to the Board as an agreed basis for engagement is critical for the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan review process.

#### Monitoring and reporting:

#### Vegetation: 1.5.1

Insufficient data available on a specific site by site basis to enable an accurate picture of biophysical condition.

#### Hut and track condition reporting: 1.5.2

Very detailed information provided

#### Visitor satisfaction: 1.5.3

More resources being applied to get a deeper understanding of visitor experience. •

#### Community engagement 1.5.4

A wider analysis of the contribution of community engagement towards conservation goals is underway. Specific stakeholder groups working with the Department were reported from Coastal Otago, though not from elsewhere.

#### Places:

#### Mt Aspiring National Park:

Reclassification of Lower Dart, Shotover Conservation Area and Snowy Creek to enable inclusion into the Park, yet to occur.

#### Western Lakes:

Pests. Thar numbers within the southern exclusion zone remain within the threshold but increasing thar numbers outside the Board's boundary pose an ongoing threat

#### Central Otago Uplands and Old Man Range/Kopuwai.

Formation of Tussock grassland Parks. Completion of tenure reviews in both Places will need to be further progressed before this milestone can be reached.

# Freshwater:

Statutory advocacy by the Department continuing, particularly around minimum flows and the transition from deemed mining permits to RMA consents for water takes. The Board's particular interest is how the outcomes from these processes will affect indigenous galaxiid species.

#### Aircraft activity. Part 3

Flight data records contain flight path information but analysis will not be able to be completed within the 3yr time frame. Some soundscape data is being obtained but it remains unclear when accurate flight data information will be available.

