

Southland Conservation Board Te Roopu Atawhai o Murihiku



Annual Report

To the New Zealand Conservation Authority

1 July 2009 - 30 June 2010

Southland Conservation Board

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

Serviced by the Department of Conservation
Southland Conservancy
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Invercargill 9840

FRONT COVER: Southland Conservation Board's field trip to Waituna Lagoon (left to right)
Robin McNeill, Paul Duffy, Gail Thompson, Stewart Bull, Helen McPhail, Viv Shaw, Ian Buick
(Photo by Viv Shaw)

ISBN 1172-9198 (*hard copy*)
ISBN 1179-4224 (*on line*)

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1. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The highlight of the past year has been the presentation of the Stewart Island Conservation Management Strategy and the Rakiura National Park Management Plan for approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA). This was the first time that two quite different plans had been put together simultaneously and in a single document. Work on the plans started in 2005. Since then the Board's Rakiura subcommittee has played a very active role working with the Department of Conservation to develop the plans, attending all the pre-hearings and hearings and revising the document following an extensive consultation process. As Board Chair, I would like to thank all members of the Rakiura subcommittee for their hard work. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the significant contribution made by Robin McNeill. As Chair of the Rakiura subcommittee he has made a huge commitment to the planning process. Robin's professionalism and dedication has resulted in two planning documents that, as Board Chair, I was proud to present to the NZCA for approval.

Another highlight was hosting members of the NZCA's Rakiura subcommittee on Stewart Island/Rakiura. Having the opportunity to discuss face-to-face the key issues and to show members of the NZCA subcommittee some of the special places on the island, enabled them to gain a better appreciation of the challenges involved in managing the island for conservation benefits.

The Rakiura planning process highlighted the good relationship that the Board has developed over the last few years with Department of Conservation planning staff and the Area Manager for Southern Islands. I would particularly like to acknowledge Anke Habgood, Rebecca Heenan and Andy Roberts for making the job of the Board's Rakiura subcommittee easier by producing good quality planning documents.

During the past year, the Board has also focussed its attention on the implementation of the Fiordland National Park Management Plan. The plan has been operational since June 2007 and a number of implementation issues have been brought to the Board's attention by the Department of Conservation. Air access to Milford Sound is an ongoing concern to the Board, and one which the Board is keen to see resolved. The Minister of Conservation sought additional input on the issue and the Board took the opportunity to inform the Minister of its views. Members of the Board attended stakeholder meetings organised by the Minister in Queenstown and Dunedin and, in December 2009, I had the opportunity to personally meet with the Minister. The Board put in considerable effort to consult with interested parties on the issue of air access to Milford and the provisions in the plan, including numbers, were agreed with the key stakeholders. The Board, therefore, wants to maintain the integrity of the plan, and does not want to see the number of aircraft landings at Milford increased outside the provisions of the current plan.

A number of other implementation issues have been brought to the Board and we are providing on-going advice on these issues.

Over the last year the Board has become concerned at some of the changes taking place within the Department of Conservation and their impact on one of the Board's key functions - the preparation of Conservation Management Strategies (CMS). The Director-General put a stop on the development of all CMSs throughout the country, with the exception of the Stewart Island Rakiura CMS. There is a desire in the Department to create a higher degree of consistency between individual CMSs, a move which the Board supports. However, the Board has a number of serious concerns about the approach that the Department is proposing to adopt. The Board has written to the Department and the NZCA expressing its concerns. The Board is unable to start reviewing the Mainland Southland and Subantarctics CMSs until the Departmental review of CMSs is complete.

The Board has made a number of submissions on discussion documents that could have serious impacts on conservation lands and their values within Southland. Of particular concern to the Board were the government's plans to allow access for mining on Schedule 4 lands, joint ministerial access for mining on public conservation land and the establishment of a New Zealand Game Animal Council.

In 2009, the Department reduced the number of members of the Southland Conservation Board from 12 to 10, with no consultation. Being the largest conservancy in New Zealand, the Southland Conservation Board has a particularly heavy workload and a request was made to increase the numbers. From the next round of appointments in September 2010, the Board will have eleven members.

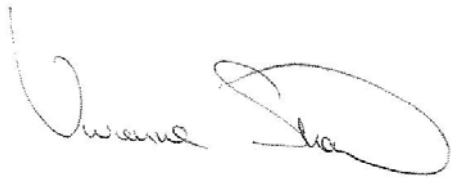
During the year, Brian Hore and Nigel Lamb retired from the Board and Muriel Johnstone resigned due to ill-health. I would like to thank Brian, Nigel and Muriel for their valuable contribution to the Board and to conservation in Southland. We welcomed Stewart Bull to the Board as a Ngai Tahu representative replacing long-standing Board member George Ryan who sadly passed away in November 2008. We also welcomed back to the Board, as a co-opted member for a six month period, Roger McNaughton a previous Board member.

Seven full day meetings were held in 2009/10 to cover the heavy workload of the Board. Five of those meetings were held in Invercargill, with one in Te Anau and another at the Takutai o te Titi Marae, at the invitation of the Aparima Runaka. The meeting at the marae was combined with a field trip to Rarotoka, an island in Foveaux Strait administered by Ngai Tahu. The meeting and visit to Rarotoka was a special occasion for the Board, and I would like to thank Stewart Bull and the members of the Takutai o te Titi Marae for a warm welcome and the opportunity to share your conservation successes on Rarotoka.

I was honoured to be elected to Chair the Southland Conservation Board in August 2009. I want to express my thanks to my predecessor Russell Ibbotson who chaired the Board for the previous two years. Russell was an excellent Chair, with a wealth of knowledge and experience that is invaluable to the Board. Russell has been a tough act to follow and I have certainly appreciated his support in my short time as Chair, and have only been too ready to listen to his advice.

I would like to thank all Board members for their commitment over the last very busy year. Members of the Board continue to work hard for conservation in Southland, not only through attendance at Board meetings, but also through their work on a number of subcommittees, and in many cases by being involved in other community-based, conservation-related organisations.

Finally I would like to thank staff at the Department of Conservation for their input to and support of the Board, especially the planning team for their efforts throughout the Rakiura planning process. Special thanks go to Gloria Harris our Board Support Officer for her great organisational skills and her uncanny ability to arrange the perfect weather for field trips.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Viv Shaw', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Viv Shaw
Chair
Southland Conservation Board

2. INTRODUCTION

The Southland Conservation Board is one of the thirteen statutory bodies appointed by the Minister of Conservation under Section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987.

The functions and powers of the Board as outlined in Sections 6M and 6N of the Act are as follows:

- To review, amend and recommend the approval of Conservation Management Strategies
- To review and approve Conservation Management Plans
- To provide advice on the implementation of Conservation Management Strategies and Plans
- To advise on proposed changes to the status of land areas of national or international significance
- To advise on proposals for new walkways
- To liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters
- To carry out other powers and functions as delegated to the Board by the Minister of Conservation under the Conservation Act or any other Act
- To advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process and to be heard on matters relating to the Board's functions.

Under the National Parks Act 1996, the Board also has a number of functions as follows:

- To review, amend and recommend National Park Management Plans
- To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of Management Plans for national parks
- To make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers
- To review and report on the effective administration of the general policies for national parks
- To give advice on the interpretation of any National Park Management Plan, on the addition of land to a national park or the establishment of a new national park
- To give advice on any other matter relating to any national park within the Board's jurisdiction.

These functions and powers, where exercised, are noted within this annual report. The report covers the period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010.

3. THE BOARD'S AREA

The Southland Conservation Board has the largest area of jurisdiction of all Conservation Boards in New Zealand. Over half of the land within the province of Southland is managed on behalf of all New Zealanders by the Department of Conservation. The Southland Conservancy is vast, encompassing a total of 1.9 million hectares of land that is administered by the Department and 574,286 hectares of marine reserve (of which the Auckland Islands Marine Reserve makes up 562,812 hectares).

Two significant areas of land within the Board's jurisdiction have World Heritage status - the Subantarctic Islands and Fiordland National Park. Another area is an internationally recognised Ramsar wetlands site - Awarua Wetlands.



World Heritage Areas

Isolated, windswept, beautiful and fragile, New Zealand's Subantarctic islands are unique and irreplaceable. Described by the United Nations Environment Program as "the most diverse and extensive of all Subantarctic archipelagos", all five island groups: the Bounty Islands, the Antipodes Islands, the Snares Islands,

the Auckland Islands and Campbell Island were honoured with World Heritage status in 1998. They are also National Nature Reserves under New Zealand's Reserves Act 1977. New Zealand's Subantarctic Islands are located in the Southern Ocean south to south-east of New Zealand. Spanning six degrees of latitude, from 47 to 52 degrees south, the five island groups occupy the stormy latitudes of the Roaring Forties and Furious Fifties, known also as the Albatross Latitudes. The islands contain a high degree of endemism and are home to a number of rare species of birds, plants, marine mammals and invertebrates. The New Zealand Subantarctic region supports the most diverse community of breeding seabirds in the southern ocean. Their isolation presents a number of challenges, and a separate Conservation Management Strategy outlines the way in which the islands should be managed.



Campbell Island (*photo Viv Shaw*)

The Fiordland National Park, established in 1952, is the largest national park in New Zealand (1,260,200 hectares). At the heart of Te Wāhipounamu/South West New Zealand World Heritage Area, Fiordland National Park includes some of New Zealand's most iconic and special places such as Milford Sound/Piopiotahi. It has high cultural, historical and biodiversity significance and offers a wide range of visitor opportunities, from scenic viewing points to true wilderness experiences. The Fiordland National Park Management Plan sets out how the Park should be managed.



Doubtful Sound, (*photo - DOC*)

Ramsar Sites

Southland was the first place in New Zealand to have a wetland officially recognised under the Ramsar Convention (Convention on Wetlands of International Importance) when 3500 ha of the Waituna Wetland Scientific Reserve was registered in 1976. A further 15,400 ha was added in 2008 which included the three major estuaries; Toi Toi, Awarua Bay and the New River. These three estuaries are a unique feature of Southland and are still relatively unspoiled compared to similar waterways in other parts of the country.

National Parks

There are two National Parks within the Board's jurisdiction - Fiordland National Park and Rakiura National Park. Opened in 2002, Rakiura is New Zealand's newest National Park. It encompasses 139,000 hectares of land, and comprises 85% of New Zealand's third main island - Stewart Island/Rakiura. The Park extends from the northwest of the island to South Cape, and includes many offshore islands in Port Pegasus/Pikihatiti and Paterson Inlet/Whaka a Te Wera. The first Rakiura National Park Management Plan has been prepared and is awaiting approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority.



Entrance to Rakiura National Park (*photo Greg Lind*)

Other Conservation Land in Southland

In addition to the National Parks, World Heritage Areas and Ramsar wetlands, the Board's area of jurisdiction includes large forested, mountainous areas on the mainland such as the Takitimu, Eyre, and Blue Mountains; diverse coastlines, important estuaries and wetlands areas such as Curio Bay. On Stewart Island/Rakiura, the Board's area of jurisdiction covers conservation lands outside of the Rakiura National Park. This includes Codfish Island/Whenua Hou, home to the critically endangered Kākapo, which is managed as a Nature Reserve and for which the Board provides management advice through membership of the Whenua Hou Committee.

The Southland Conservation Board has a responsibility to the people of Southland and the wider New Zealand population to ensure that conservation lands within its jurisdiction and the biodiversity they contain are protected and enhanced.

4. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

In 2009 the number of Board members was reduced from 12 to 10 with no consultation. The following table lists the membership of the Southland Conservation Board between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010 and their term of office.

Name	Area	Date first appointed	Term ends/ended	Years served
Ian Buick	Te Anau	01/09/2005	31/08/2010	5
Stewart Bull*	Riverton/Aparima	04/06/2009	31/08/2010	1
Paul Duffy	Seaward Downs	01/09/2007	31/08/2010	3
Brian Hore	Lumsden	13/10/2002	31/08/2009	7
Russell Ibbotson	Queenstown	13/10/2002	31/08/2010	8
Muriel Johnstone	Riverton/Aparima	01/09/2005	14/12/2009	4
Nigel Lamb	Manapouri	16/10/2006	31/08/2009	3
Robin McNeill	Invercargill	01/09/2003	30/06/2012	7
Helen McPhail	Gore	31/08/2008	31/08/2011	2
Viv Shaw	Te Anau	01/09/2007	31/08/2010	3
Gail Thompson*	Bluff/ Awarua	16/10/2006	30/06/2012	4
Ian Wilson	Stewart Island/ Rakiura	01/09/2005	31/08/2011	5
Roger McNaughton	Invercargill	15/04/2010	31/08/2010	Co-opted

(*Ngai Tahu Representative)

Brian Hore and Nigel Lamb retired from the Board in August 2009, and Muriel Johnstone resigned from the Board in December 2009 due to ill health. Stewart Bull was appointed as a Ngai Tahu representative in August 2009, replacing George Ryan, who sadly passed away in November 2008. Robin McNeill was reappointed for a second three year term in September 2009. Roger McNaughton was co-opted to the Board to replace Muriel for the period 15 April 2010 to 31 August 2010. Russell Ibbotson chaired the Board from October 2007 until August 2009. Viv Shaw was elected to chair the Board in August 2009.

5. BOARD MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

During the 2009/10 financial year the Board held seven full day meetings. For each formal meeting Board members receive \$140 per day, and the Chair receives \$190 per day. Individual Board members participation in Board meetings and field trips is noted in Appendix 1.

5.1 BOARD MEETINGS

Meeting dates and locations

Date	Location
13 August 2009	Invercargill
7 and 8 October 2009	Invercargill
17 December 2009	Invercargill
16 February 2010	Takutai O Te Titi Marae, Colac Bay
15 April 2010	Invercargill
16 June 2010	Te Anau

The Board was invited to hold its 16 February 2010 meeting at Takutai o te Titi Marae at Colac Bay, where the warm hospitality of the Oraka/Aparima Runanga was very much enjoyed.

5.2 FIELD TRIPS

During the past year the Board undertook three field trips. Field trips provide the Board with the opportunity for members to become more familiar with conservation issues, to discuss management and implementation issues with the appropriate staff from the Department of Conservation, and to identify issues of relevance to future Conservation Management Strategies and National Park Management Plans. The field trips are also an excellent opportunity for the Board to develop good relationships between individual members and key staff from the Department.

AWARUA WETLANDS – 8 October 2009

In October 2009, the Board visited the internationally recognised Ramsar site at Awarua Wetlands, which is one of the largest wetlands left in New Zealand. Sally Chesterfield (Department of Conservation) and Katrina Robertson (jointly funded by the Department and Environment Southland) gave the Board an overview of what makes the wetlands so special and the work being undertaken to maintain their integrity. The Board was shown the new shelter, complete with interpretation panels. Specific issues addressed included fire hazards within the wetlands and their management; historic, cultural and biodiversity interpretation being provided at the site; direct threats from weeds, stock and clearances on adjacent land; indirect threats from effluent management, intensification

of land use, fertiliser use; recreational use of wetland areas and the naming of a new track.

RAROTOKA/CENTRE ISLAND, COLAC BAY – 16/17 February 2010

Stewart Bull, Board member and Kaumātua of the Oraka/Aparima Runaka, invited the Board to visit Rarotoka/Centre Island in Colac Bay. The island is being restored and maintained by the Runaka as a pest-free sanctuary for threatened species.

Following the meeting at Takutai o Titi Marae, Board members flew the short distance to Rarotoka. Jane Davis (Oraka/Aparima kuia and former Board member), Dave Taylor (Murihiku Area Manager) and George Ledgard (Technical Services Officer, Inventory and Flora Monitoring) accompanied the Board to the island. That evening Board members went for a night walk down to the beach where penguins and a kiwi were seen. The next day, guided by Stewart, Board members were taken on a hikoi around the island and shown points of interest/history and native wildlife, before flying back to Colac Bay. Board members felt privileged to have had the opportunity to visit this very special island.



Ian Buick, Helen McPhail, Paul Duffy, Gloria Harris, Stewart Bull, Viv Shaw, Robin McNeill (photo G Harris)

MILFORD ROAD, FIORDLAND – 17 June 2010

The Board's June meeting was held in Te Anau followed the next day by a field trip along the Milford Road, accompanied by Ken Bradley (Visitor Assets) and Jessie Haanen (Milford Manager), both from the Department of Conservation's Te Anau office. Ken gave the Board a very interesting and informative commentary on the history of the Milford Road en route to Milford Sound.

Members also visited a number of sites associated with the Department's planned Cleddau flood protection scheme. These included the 'borrow' site from which gravel and rocks would be extracted, the areas along the Cleddau River where flood protection needs to be enhanced and the village, which is under threat of flooding. Jessie, who is overseeing the project, updated the Board on the planned works and the timescale the

Department is working to for the lodging of its resource consent applications.

Finally, the Board visited the Hollyford Valley to view the area which would potentially be impacted by the proposed Milford/Dart tunnel. Sites of particular interest included the location of the tunnel portal, the site for processing spoil from the tunnel and the airfield, which would be raised using the spoil from the tunnel. Members of the Board present were concerned at the impact noise from these sites could have on the natural values of this part of the Fiordland National Park; increased traffic along the narrow, unsealed Hollyford Road and the closure of the airfield for a significant period of time.

5.3 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN BOARD MEETINGS

Over the last year the Board has engaged significantly with the local and wider community with regard to the development of the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and Rakiura NPMP (see Section 6).

During 2009/10 the Board welcomed presentations at its meetings from a number of organisations including Southern Rural Fire, Landcare Trust, the Fiordland Trails Trust, Venture Southland, the Fiordland Conservation Trust and Fish and Game. Members of the public attended meetings held in Invercargill, Colac Bay and Te Anau. Members of the Board also bring to the Board concerns that have been raised with them by members of the community.

The Board's agenda and minutes (once confirmed) are sent to groups and individuals on request, and are posted on the Department of Conservation's website:

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/nz-conservation-authority-and-boards/conservation-boards-by-region/southland/>

Currently 17 people or groups receive the Board's confirmed minutes.

6. STEWART ISLAND/RAKIURA CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY AND RAKIURA NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

Throughout 2009/10 the Board has focussed a lot of its effort on the review of the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and the development of the first management plan for the Rakiura National Park. The planning process for both documents has been run side by side, with the result that the community was consulted once for both documents. This is the first time within New Zealand that a joint Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and National Park Management Plan (NPMP) process has been run simultaneously.

The Southland Conservation Board's Rakiura subcommittee worked closely with Department of Conservation staff, especially during the submissions phase of the planning process. The Chair of the subcommittee, Robin McNeill, together with one other subcommittee member, attended all seven hearings, obtaining valuable input into the plan from a wide range of submitters. Based on feedback from the hearings and the 316 submissions received, the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and the Rakiura NPMP were revised prior to being presented to the full Board. At every meeting, the full Board received a report on the progress of the plans and had the opportunity to provide input to the subcommittee and the Department. During the hearings process, a number of issues emerged which were of particular interest to the Board. These included the definition of places, white-tailed deer, hunters huts, helicopter landing sites, wildlife viewing, mining and wilderness areas.

During the hearings, the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association made a formal request to the NZCA for a determination for white-tailed deer in Rakiura National Park. The NZCA sought the advice of the Southland Conservation Board on this matter. The Board's view was that, as the request was received well into the Rakiura NPMP process, it would be procedurally unfair to include a determination in the plan. The subcommittee was of the view that the outcomes being sought by the deerstalkers were already being met.

At its February meeting the Board unanimously recommended that the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and the Rakiura NPMP be sent to the NZCA for approval. This was a significant milestone for the Board, and the hard work put into the development of the plan by both the Board's Rakiura subcommittee and the Department's staff was acknowledged.

In April 2010, Viv Shaw, Andy Roberts (Area Manager, Southern Islands) and Rebecca Heenan (planner) formally presented the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and the Rakiura NPMP to the NZCA in Wellington. Positive feedback was received from the NZCA on the quality of the plans and the presentation. The NZCA formed its own Rakiura subcommittee and the Department, together with the Board, hosted members of the NZCA subcommittee on Stewart Island/Rakiura in May/June to discuss in-depth the CMS and the NPMP and any issues of concern. The NZCA subcommittee has been given the authority from the NZCA to approve both the CMS and the NPMP.

As part of the planning process, the Board has extended an invitation to the Minister of Conservation to visit Stewart Island/Rakiura.



(left to right) John Nankervis, Mike Browne, Andy Roberts, Rebecca Heenan, Bob McDowell, Viv Shaw, Robin McNeill, Hally Toia *(photo Viv Shaw)*

7. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIORDLAND NATIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT PLAN

During the past year the Board has also focussed its attention on the implementation of the Fiordland National Park Management Plan. The plan has been operational since June 2007 and a number of implementation issues have been brought to the Board's attention by the Department of Conservation. Air access to Milford Sound is an ongoing concern to the Board and one which the Board is keen to see resolved. The Minister of Conservation sought additional input on the issue, and the Board took the opportunity to inform the Minister of its views. Members of the Board attended stakeholder meetings organised by the Minister in Queenstown and Dunedin, and in December 2009 the Board Chair met personally with the Minister. The Board put in considerable effort, when drawing up the plan, to consult with interested parties on the issue of air access to Milford and the provisions in the plan, including numbers, were agreed with the key stakeholders. The Board, therefore, wants to maintain the integrity of the plan and does not want to see the number of aircraft landings at Milford increased.

A number of other implementation issues have been brought to the Board including commercial use of the Meridian Hostel at West Arm, commercial boating opportunities on Lake Poteriteri, commercial boat drop-offs/picks-ups on Lake Manapouri, opportunities for mountain bike trails in Fiordland National Park, commercial jet boating on the Wairaurahiri River, irregular one-off landings in the park, filming, servicing of Hollyford Guided Walks huts, public use of the Wisely Hut in the Murchison Mountains and visitor settings for the Helena Falls and Sinbad Valley. The Board is providing on-going advice on these issues.

8. CONSERVATION ADVOCACY

Under Section 6N of the Conservation Act, the Southland Conservation Board may advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process. During the 2009/10 year the Southland Conservation Board has made the following submissions on resource consent applications:

- Department of Conservation application for resource consent to discharge 1080 into Fiordland National Park and the south coast between the Wairaurahiri and Waitutu Rivers for the purposes of possum control. The Board supported the application.
- University of Otago Coastal Permit Application for 12 temporary moorings in Doubtful Sound. The Board submitted initially in opposition, but withdrew its objection once additional information was provided.
- Department of Conservation application for resource consent to discharge brodifacoum into Fiordland National Park on Indian Island for the purposes of rodent eradication. The Board supported the application.
- Trips 'n' Tramps application for a variation to an existing coastal permit for the use of a vessel to support kayaking operations in Doubtful Sound. The Board submitted in opposition.

In addition the Board has made submissions on a number of plans/discussion documents:

- Implementation of the Marine Protected Areas Policy in the Territorial Seas of the Subantarctic Biogeographic Region of New Zealand. The Board submitted in favour of the highest level of protection for the near shore marine environment around the Antipodes, Bounty and Campbell Islands.
- Improving Electricity Market Performance: A preliminary report to the Ministerial Review of Electricity Market Performance by the Electricity Technical Advisory Group. The Board submitted in opposition to recommendations relating to security of supply, the Resource Management Act and the restructuring of State Owned Enterprises.
- Options for the establishment of a New Zealand Game Animal Council. The Board submitted in opposition to the establishment of a New Zealand Game Animal Council.
- Environment Southland Draft Annual Plan.
- Discussion Paper: Maximising our Mineral Potential; Stocktake of Schedule 4 of the Crown Mineral Act and Beyond. The Board submitted in opposition to the removal of any areas from Schedule 4 in Southland, but in favour of adding areas to Schedule 4 and extending the boundaries of the Fiordland National Park. The Board opposed any opportunity for mining in Rakiura National Park and opposed the notion of joint ministerial decision-making regarding access to conservation land for mining.

The Board also wrote letters to Ministers on the following conservation issues:

- Adverse impacts of the Emissions Trading Scheme on the Mid Dome Wilding Tree Programme (Minister for the Environment)
- Milford Sound Aircraft Landings (Minister of Conservation)
- Mining on Public Conservation Land (Minister for Economic Development)
- The cut in funding to the Department of Conservation's programme in Southland of 'Learning Experiences Outside the Classroom' (Minister of Education).

8.1 SUBCOMMITTEES

Throughout the year the Board has formed a number of subcommittees. These have ranged from subcommittees to assist the Department with the development of the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and the Rakiura NPMP (see Section 6), to ad hoc subcommittees responsible for making submissions on specific issues. For a full list of subcommittees and their membership see Appendix 2.

RAKIURA SUBCOMMITTEE

The Rakiura Subcommittee has been very active over the past year, working with the Department to develop the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and the Rakiura NPMP. Members of the subcommittee attended all submission hearings for these plans. Robin McNeill, Chair of the subcommittee, attended all of the hearings with the support of at least one other subcommittee member. Hearings were held on Rakiura and in Invercargill, Dunedin and Hamilton (see Appendix 3). Following the hearings, the subcommittee was heavily involved in revising the two planning documents. An update of progress on the plans was provided to the whole Board at every Board meeting during the year.

MAINLAND SOUTHLAND/WEST OTAGO CMS SUBCOMMITTEE

The Board established a subcommittee to kick-start the CMS process for Mainland Southland/West Otago. However, as the Director-General put a stop on the development of all CMSs throughout the country, this subcommittee did not meet.

SUBANTARCTIC SUBCOMMITTEE

The Board established a subcommittee to kick-start the CMS process for the Subantarctic Islands. However, as the Director-General put a stop on the development of all CMSs throughout the country no progress was made on this plan. The subcommittee, however, was approached by the Department to provide input into a Regional Coastal Plan for the Subantarctics. The Chair of the subcommittee, Viv Shaw, attended presentations given by Sarah Hucker from the Department's Head Office to the Board and Kaitiaki Roopu. In addition, the subcommittee provided written feedback on a draft Regional Coastal Plan for the Subantarctics.

Viv Shaw represented the Board on the Subantarctic Marine Protection forum, attending regular meetings in Wellington. The Subantarctic Subcommittee also prepared a submission on behalf of the Board on marine protection in the Subantarctic Islands, advocating for the

maximum level of marine protection possible for the islands in recognition of their special conservation values.

MILFORD AIR ACCESS SUBCOMMITTEE

A Milford Air Access committee was formed to respond to a review by the Minister of Conservation of the allocation of concessions for aircraft landings at Milford Sound. Members of the subcommittee attended stakeholder meetings organised by the Minister in Queenstown and Dunedin, and Viv Shaw met with the Minister in Wellington. The Board commended the Minister for seeking a resolution that balances the needs of aircraft operator, whilst not compromising the values of Milford Sound. The Board made it clear to the Minister that it favours an outcome which maintains the integrity of the Fiordland National Park Plan and the consultation processes undertaken to inform the plan. Having entered into consultation with all affected parties in good faith, the Board took the view that the best possible outcome for Milford Sound would be achieved through the existing provisions within the Fiordland National Park Management Plan.

CMS SUBCOMMITTEES

During the year the Board formed two subcommittees to provide advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the Director General on CMSs in general, and specific advice on a proposed new look strategic CMS.

The Southland Conservation Board has responsibility for more CMSs and NPMPs than any other Conservation Board. Together with the on-going development of the Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS, it has extensive experience with planning documents so was well placed to provide considered feedback to the NZCA and Director-General. The Board expressed serious reservations at the notion that the Department's annual Statement of Intent (SOI) should feed into CMSs which are ten year plans. CMSs are subject to extensive public consultation whereas the SOI is purely an internal management document. Whilst the Board understands the desire to have a national approach for the development of CMSs, it does not support a one-size-fits-all model. The Board supports a place-based approach to planning, but is concerned that national priorities might override local priorities in the development of CMSs.

CONCESSIONS SUBCOMMITTEE

At the June 2010 meeting, the Department informed the Board of changes to its approach to considering concessions applications. With tighter timeframes for the processing of concessions, the Board agreed to set up a subcommittee to provide timely advice to the Department on concession applications. The Board also agreed a set of triggers giving clear direction to the Department as to which concession applications they should seek advice on from the Board.

CLEDDAU FLOOD PROTECTION SUBCOMMITTEE

In June 2010 the Board formed a subcommittee to consider the Department's Cleddau flood bank protection work. The Department is lodging resource consent applications with Environment Southland and the Southland District Council to undertake works to help protect areas

in and around the Milford Village from flooding. The applications cover flood bank work as well as consents to remove boulders and gravel from a site within the Fiordland National Park. Members of the subcommittee visited the sites of interest to the applications during a field trip. It is anticipated that the subcommittee will make submissions on the applications once they are open to public consultation later in the year.

WHENUA HOU COMMITTEE

The Whenua Hou Committee is a subcommittee of the Southland Conservation Board, established under the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 as part of a joint approach to manage the island. It consists of one representative from each of the four Murihiku Papatipu Rūnaka and four members of the Southland Conservation Board. 2009/10 was a busy year for the Whenua Hou Committee with four meetings including a joint hui with Kaitiaki Roopu. This meeting consisted of presentations of historical research and the results of archaeological excavations, which took place on the island in 2007.

9. LIAISON

9.1 NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

The Board received minutes and agendas from NZCA meetings. The Board Chair has communicated regularly with the Board's NZCA liaison person, Kay Booth, and is grateful for the support she provides.

The Board has had the opportunity to liaise regularly with members of the NZCA during the 2009/10. In October 2009, Viv Shaw met Mike Browne from the NZCA at a stakeholder meeting with the Minister of Conservation on Milford air access. The Board is particularly grateful to the NZCA for the support it has received on this issue.

In April, Board Chair, Viv Shaw, together with Department staff presented the Stewart Island Rakiura CMS and Rakiura NPMP to the NZCA for approval. At the end of May and the beginning of June, the Board's Rakiura subcommittee hosted the NZCA's Rakiura subcommittee for a field visit to Stewart Island/Rakiura.

Viv Shaw, also attend the Board Chairs' conference in Wellington organised by the NZCA in May 2010. This was a valuable opportunity to meet members of the NZCA and to share views on a range of issues.

9.2 OTHER CONSERVATION BOARDS

The Board Chairs' conference in Wellington in May 2010 provided an excellent forum for Viv Shaw to meet with all of the other Board Chairs from around New Zealand. Board Chairs had the opportunity to meet with the Minister of Conservation and the Director-General. In addition, it was a useful forum to share experiences and to get new ideas on monitoring the implementation of CMSs and NPMPs. The conference provided an the opportunity to discuss the proposed new look strategic CMS.

Some Boards have been particularly active in sharing their views on key conservation matters over the past year. Copies of other Board's submissions on issues such as mining in National Parks, helihunting, Game Animal Council have been received.

Links are also maintained with the neighbouring Otago Conservation Board. Helen McPhail was appointed by the Board as the liaison representative with Otago, and the Boards share agendas and minutes. Board Support Officers are in regular contact.

9.3 IWI LIAISON

The Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 require a number of decision makers, including Conservation Boards within the Ngāi Tahu takiwā to consult with and to have particular regard to the views of Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu. Iwi Board members continue to provide valuable

information and input from the wider iwi community on all conservation related issues.

Gail Thompson and Stewart Bull are Ngai Tahu's representatives on the Board (appointed on the nomination of Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu as established by Section 6 of Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu Act 1996), and are also members of Kaitiaki Roopu. This group of six iwi representatives from the four rūnaka in Southland was established by the Department of Conservation to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act. The Department consults with this group on a regular basis. The Board has good links with Kaitiaki Roopu. On two occasions during the year the Chair of the Subantarctics subcommittee has attended Kaitiaki Roopu meetings for presentations on a Regional Coastal Plan for the Subantarctic Islands. The Board also maintains a relationship with Kaitiaki Roopu through the Whenua Hou Committee. This group of six iwi representatives from the four rūnaka in Southland was established by the Department of Conservation to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act. The Department consults with this group on a regular basis. The Board has good links with Kaitiaki Roopu. On two occasions during the year the Chair of the Subantarctics subcommittee has attended Kaitiaki Roopu meetings for presentations on a Regional Coastal Plan for the Subantarctic Islands. The Board also maintains a relationship with Kaitiaki Roopu through the Whenua Hou Committee.

There is a standing invitation for Board members to take the opportunity to participate in Te Pukenga Atawhai training. This is an in-depth training programme to improve understanding of Maori perspective.

9.4 FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

The Southland Conservation Board continues to liaise with the Southland Fish and Game Council on an informal and formal basis. Bill Jarvie attended the Board's June meeting in Te Anau to seek the Board's view into a Fish and Game proposal to open up access for anglers to the Ettrick Burn in the Takahe Special Area.

9.5 LIAISON WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS

Russell Ibbotson continued to represent the Board on the Waiau Working Party and kept the Board up-to-date with progress on the resource consent application by Meridian Energy for the Manapouri Tailrace Amended Discharge (to Doubtful Sound).

Ian Buick continued to represent the Board as a Trustee on both the Leslie Hutchins Conservation Foundation and the Te Anau Landcare Trust.

In addition, members of the Board have strong links with a number of community groups in Southland and are active participants in a range of conservation activities. For a full list of Board members conservation activities in the community see Appendix 4.

9.6 MEDIA

Reporters from the Southland Times regularly attended Southland Conservation Board meetings throughout the year and a number of items

appeared in newspapers following the meetings. Reporters from the Southland Express and the Fiordland Advocate have also attended Board meetings.

10. APPENDIX

Appendix 1: Attendance at Board Meetings and Field Trips

Name	Home Town	Meetings Attended	Field Trips Attended
Viv Shaw (Chair)	Te Anau	7 out of 7	3 out of 3
Russell Ibbotson	Queenstown	5 out of 7	1 out of 3
Robin McNeill	Invercargill	6 out of 7	3 out of 3
Ian Buick	Te Anau	6 out of 7	2 out of 3
Helen McPhail	Gore	7 out of 7	3 out of 3
Muriel Johnstone	Riverton/Aparima	1 out of 3	0 out of 1
Ian Wilson	Stewart Island/Rakiura	3 out of 7	1 out of 3
Gail Thompson	Bluff	5 out of 7	0 out of 3
Paul Duffy	Seaward Downs	5 out of 7	3 out of 3
Stewart Bull	Riverton/Aparima	5 out of 7	2 out of 3
Nigel Lamb	Manapouri	0 out of 1	0 out of 0
Brian Hore	Lumsden	1 out of 1	0 out of 0
Co-opted member Roger McNaughton	Invercargill	2 out of 2	0 out of 1

Appendix 2: Subcommittees of the Southland Conservation Board

Rakiura Subcommittee

Robin McNeill (Chair)
Gail Thompson
Ian Wilson
Stewart Bull
Helen McPhail
Viv Shaw (ex-officio)

Subantarctics Subcommittee

Viv Shaw (Chair)
Gail Thompson
Ian Buick
Stewart Bull

CMSs in General

Viv Shaw
Russell Ibbotson
Robin McNeill

Strategic approach to CMS

Viv Shaw
Robin McNeill
Helen McPhail
Paul Duffy

Mainland Southland/West Otago CMS

Gail Thompson (Chair)
Russell Ibbotson
Paul Duffy
Helen McPhail
Robin McNeill
Viv Shaw (ex-officio)

Milford Air Access

Viv Shaw (Chair)
Russell Ibbotson
Robin McNeill
Ian Buick

Concessions

Stewart Bull
Helen McPhail
Ian Wilson
Viv Shaw (ex officio)

Cleddau Flood Protection

Paul Duffy
Robin McNeill
Helen McPhail
Viv Shaw

The Whenua Hou Committee

Name:

Tane Davis (Chairman)
Rodney (Hom) Ryan
Cyril Gilroy
Suzanne Spencer
Ian Wilson
Ian Buick
Russell Ibbotson (until 3/08/2009)
Stewart Bull (from 01/05/2009)
Helen McPhail (from 01/05/2009)

Representing:

Te Runanga o Oraka-Aparima
Hokonui Rununga
Waihopai Runaka
Te Runanga o Awarua
Southland Conservation Board
Southland Conservation Board
Southland Conservation Board
Southland Conservation Board
Southland Conservation Board

**Appendix 3:
Hearings attended by the Rakiura Subcommittee**

Date	Location	Board Members attending
13 July 2009	Invercargill	Robin McNeill Ian Wilson Gail Thompson
17 July 2009	Invercargill	Robin McNeill Gail Thompson* Helen McPhail * <i>*half day each</i>
20 July 2009	Dunedin	Robin McNeill Gail Thompson
27 July 2009	Invercargill	Robin McNeill Gail Thompson
10 August 2009	Hamilton	Robin McNeill Ian Wilson
17 August 2009	Invercargill	Robin McNeill Ian Wilson
24 August 2009	Stewart Island/Rakiura	Robin McNeill Ian Wilson
5 November 2009	Invercargill	Robin McNeill Ian Wilson

**Appendix 4:
Board Members Conservation Activities in the Community**

Organisation/Activity	Board Member
Forest Hill Foundation	Russell Ibbotson
Te Anau Landcare Trust	Ian Buick
South West Endangered Species Charitable Trust	Ian Buick Stewart Bull
Leslie Hutchins Conservation Foundation	Ian Buick
Fiordland Conservation Trust	Viv Shaw
Pomona Island Charitable Trust	Viv Shaw Stewart Bull
Te Araroa Southland Trust	Robin McNeill
Stewart Island Rakiura Community Trust	Ian Wilson
South Catlins Development and Environmental Trust	Paul Duffy
Walking Access Commission Mapping Advisory Group	Robin McNeill
Department of Conservation Awards Event	Viv Shaw Robin McNeill
Island Invasives Conference	Viv Shaw
Southland Ecological Restoration Network Conference	Viv Shaw Ian Wilson