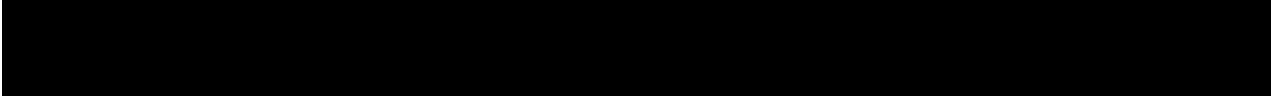


**Southland Conservation
Board
Te Roopu Atawhai o
Murihiku**



Annual Report



To the New Zealand Conservation
Authority

1 July 2008 - 30 June 2009

Southland Conservation Board

Annual Report

1 July 2008 - 30 June 2009

Presented to the New Zealand
Conservation Authority Pursuant
to Section 6(0) of the
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Southland Conservation Board
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1. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

With the Minister's approval of the Fiordland National Park Management Plan, the Board has turned its attention to the review of the Rakiura (Stewart Island) Conservation Management Strategy and development of the Rakiura National Park Management Plan. Board members have attended a number of public forums, both on Stewart Island and the mainland, and following public notification, attended the hearings into the submissions. The development of both documents continues without controversy thanks to the contribution of the Department's planning team under the leadership of Anke Habgood, bringing together and engaging with stakeholders and an array of groups with varied interests, all sharing views in a friendly, constructive and cooperative way. The process, including ongoing public hearings, the first on Stewart Island, have been incredibly rewarding and fundamental to the successful integration and sustainable management of the Island. All hearings will be attended by Board member Robin McNeill, with support from Ian Wilson, Helen McPhail and Gail Thompson.

During the year, the Board farewelled Angela Halliday, who left New Zealand to travel overseas, then welcomed as a new member Helen McPhail of Benio near Gore. We also welcomed Kay Booth to the April meeting, representing the New Zealand Conservation Authority, as liaison person with the NZCA. Kay heard the Board's concerns following the Minister's decision to reduce Board membership from 12 to 10, and reported the consequences for the Southland Conservation Board to both the NZCA and the Director General of Conservation.

The Sub-Antarctic Islands, without human inhabitants, and protected by their stormy situation and isolation, are one of the least modified island group environments in the world. Planning for the extension of protection to these islands and the surrounding marine environment, remains an issue for the Board, which is represented on the Sub-Antarctic Marine Protection Forum.

The Board continues to be represented on the Whenua Hou (Codfish Island) Management Committee by four members. Whenua Hou is both nationally and internationally significant because of its outstanding natural values, and for its historic human settlement; with New Zealand's

first integrated Maori and European settlement, and so a significant place to Ngai Tahu, Kati Māmoē and Waitaha. As a place of international significance in wildlife conservation, and with internationally outstanding features, it continues as a predator-free island sanctuary, and home for a large variety of rare and endangered species, scientific research, education and of course centre of the Kakapo Recovery Programme.

This year because of increased scientific knowledge and the efforts of the National Kakapo Team (NKT) headed by Deidre Vercoe, and the coming together of an array of critical natural elements, including a phenomenal Rimu masting, 27 female Kakapo nested producing 71 eggs and finally 33 chicks; 26 of which were hand reared. This year was a massive year for Kakapo (from 86 to 124) the NKT team (which relocated from Wellington to Invercargill under the umbrella of the Southland Conservancy), and the many volunteers needed and who travelled to Whenua Hou to provide assistance and support to the NKT team. Both the Board and the Whenua Hou Management Committee congratulate the NKT team for their management of a very successful and internationally significant breeding season.

The Board continued its commitment to share issues of common interest with the Fiordland Marine Guardians including marine reserves, threats to the Fiordland marine area from marine pests, particularly undaria, and during the year confirmed the appointment of the Guardians as the Marine Advisory Committee for the Fiordland Marine Reserves. The Board continues to respect the valuable work and commitment of the Guardians, and remains supportive in respect of conservation issues of common interest.

On many occasions the Board discussed protection of the resident dolphin pod in Doubtful Sound, and remains very concerned that there are diverse views as to the extent of the threats these dolphins face and the management options for their increased protection. Identification of protected areas, and other measures including public education and protocols for both commercial operators and recreational boaties have been of significant benefit; however the Board will continue to monitor the effectiveness of the management options and the level of protection achieved, to ensure the preservation of the dolphins of the Doubtful Sound complex.

During the past year, three meetings were held in Invercargill, one in Gore in August (to focus on mainland

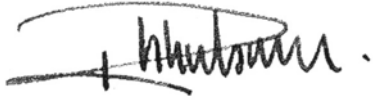
Southland issues), and two meetings were combined with field trips, the first to Doubtful Sound in February (to focus on Fiordland issues), and the second to Stewart Island in June (to focus on Rakiura issues). These were valuable and topical in terms of the Board's functions and powers. The Board was hosted for its October meeting on the Te Rau Aroha Marae at Bluff. It was an incredibly moving and rewarding visit, and on behalf of the Board I thank Gail Thompson and the members of the Te Rau Aroha Marae Committee for making the experience both possible and culturally rewarding. It was an ideal opportunity for the Board to discuss with Michael Skerrett *Te Tangi a Tauira : The Cry of the People*, and to understand the historic and cultural significance of the natural resource and environmental iwi management plan.

During the year, the Board was saddened by the unexpected passing away of George Ryan who died on 3 November 2008. George had joined the Board to represent Ngai Tahu in 1996, and had been a very valued and knowledgeable Board member since his appointment. I doubt in all of his years of faithful service, George ever missed either a meeting or a field trip. His understanding of local history and passionate interest in historic heritage and in the protection of the physical environment was unequalled. Go in peace George and thank you for your unselfish and valued contribution.

The Southland community has been well represented during the year by members of the Board. The Board has continued to prepare submissions on a diverse range of national and regional issues that relate to the environment, and has submitted on an array of resource consent applications - for example the Meridian Energy Limited application to store, take and use additional water from Lake Manapouri for the Manapouri tailrace amended discharge (to Doubtful Sound), which will affect the sound, Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau and the Mararoa and upper and lower Waiau Rivers. The Board continues to advocate in the interests of the wider community and for the protection, maintenance and enhancement of the terrestrial and marine environment.

Finally, this is an opportunity for me to sincerely thank the members of the Board and committees for their commitment and contribution to the role of the Board and the outcomes achieved during the year. It is also an opportunity to acknowledge and thank the staff of the Department, who have supported without question, Board members and assisted the Board to make sound decisions; especially to congratulate Gloria Harris on her recent

appointment as Community Relations Officer (Statutory Bodies) and for her dedicated assistance to and support of the Board during the year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'RH Ibbotson', with a horizontal line underneath.

RH Ibbotson
Chairman
Southland Conservation Board

2. INTRODUCTION

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

The functions and powers of the Board are outlined in Section 6M and 6N respectively.

The role of the Board as laid out in the Act is as follows:

- To recommend the approval of Conservation Management Strategies;
- To approve Conservation Management Plans;
- To advise on how Conservation Management Strategies and Plans are being put into practice;
- To advise on proposed changes to the status of land areas of national and international significance;
- To advise on proposals for new walkways;
- To liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters;
- To carry out the other powers delegated to the Board by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act;
- To advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process.

These functions and powers, where exercised, are reported on separately within this report.

The report covers the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009.

3. BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Name	From
Ian Buick	Te Anau
Paul Duffy	Seaward Downs
Brian Hore	Nokomai Station, Lumsden
Russell Ibbotson	Queenstown - Board Chair
Muriel Johnstone	Riverton/Aparima
Robin McNeill	Invercargill
Gail Thompson	Bluff, Awarua
Nigel Lamb	Manapouri
Viv Shaw	Te Anau
Ian Wilson	Stewart Island/Rakiura
Helen McPhail	Gore
George Ryan	Bluff, Awarua (<i>passed away 3 November 2008</i>)
Stewart Bull	Riverton/Aparima (<i>replaced George Ryan as of 8 June 2009</i>)

During October 2008 the Minister of Conservation appointed the following to the Southland Conservation Board for a three year term:

Name	From	Term
Helen McPhail	Gore	Three years

In addition the Minister reappointed:

Name	From	Term
Russell Ibbotson	Queenstown	Two years
Ian Wilson	Stewart Island/Rakiura	Two years
Ian Buick	Te Anau	Two years
Muriel Johnstone	Riverton/Aparima	Two years

Retiring members of the Board were:

Name	From
Brian Hore	Nokomai Station,

Sadly, Ngai Tahu representative George Ryan passed away on 3 November 2008.

4. THE BOARD'S AREA

The Board's area of jurisdiction is vast with approximately half (51%) of the Southland region comprising land administered by the Department of Conservation - 40% of which is Fiordland National Park (1,260,200 hectares) and Stewart Island/Rakiura National Park (158,343 hectares).

The Board's area of jurisdiction includes large forested mountainous areas such as Waitutu, Takitimu, Eyre and Blue Mountains and the Longwoods; diverse coastlines, large open vistas and important estuaries; and scattered forest, wetland and grassland remnants - areas such as Curio Bay and the Waituna Wetlands included.

To the far south, the Board's area of jurisdiction also extends to New Zealand's five subantarctic island groups - the Auckland, Campbell, Antipodes, Snares and Bounty Islands. These islands are important habitats for marine mammals, penguins and countless numbers of other seabirds as well as some very special terrestrial birds and plants.



5. BOARD ACTIVITIES

The Board's meetings have continued to have been influenced by the development of the Rakiura Planning documents, the CMS and National Park Management Plan.

5.1 BOARD MEETINGS

Meeting dates and locations

Date	Location
20 August 2008	Gore
2 October 2008	Invercargill (<i>special meeting to discuss Stewart Island/Rakiura CMS and Rakiura National Park Plan</i>)
16 October 2008	Te Rau Aroha Marae, Bluff
4 December 2008	Invercargill
14 February 2009	Deep Cove, Doubtful Sound, Fiordland
30 April 2009	Invercargill
11 June 2009	Stewart Island/Rakiura

Field Trips

Date	Location
14 February 2009	Doubtful Sound, Fiordland
12 June 2009	Rakiura/Stewart Island

Attendance List: (*six scheduled meetings, plus one special meeting*)

Name	Home Town	Attended
Brian Hore	Nokomai Station, Lumsden	6 out of 7
Russell Ibbotson	Queenstown	6 out of 7
Robin McNeill	Invercargill	7 out of 7
George Ryan	Bluff/Awarua (<i>passed away 3 November 2008</i>)	3 out of 3
Ian Buick	Te Anau	6 out of 7
Helen McPhail	Gore	4 out of 6
Muriel Johnstone	Riverton/Aparima	5 out of 7
Ian Wilson	Stewart Island/Rakiura	5 out of 7
Nigel Lamb	Manapouri	7 out of 7
Gail Thompson	Bluff	4 out of 7
Viv Shaw	Te Anau	6 out of 7
Paul Duffy	Seaward Downs	4 out of 7

5.2 FIELD TRIPS

The Board undertook two field trips, the first to Deep Cove (Doubtful Sound, Fiordland) in February this year, and the second to Rakiura/Stewart Island in June, the latter largely triggered by the Board's involvement with the Rakiura/Stewart Island CMS and National Park Management Plans.

DEEP COVE

Members of the Board assembled at Manapouri and were ferried across the lake to West Arm. Nigel Lamb had arranged a guided tour of the West Arm power station which included visiting all levels of the complex - a truly amazing experience. From there, Nigel drove Board members over the Wilmot Pass and though to Deep Cove, stopping to discuss conservation related concerns along the way. It was good to hear the birdlife coming back in the Wilmot Pass area, thanks

to the pest eradication trapping regime set up by Nigel and his company.

The Board meeting was held the next day as scheduled, after which Nigel took Board members and DOC staff for a cruise to the mouth of Doubtful Sound. Nigel, Barry Hanson (Southland Conservator), and Reg Kemper (Te Anau Area Manager) pointed out and discussed conservation issues with the Board on the trip. Nigel pulled in to Deas Cove so members could walk up to view the huge landslide caused by the 7.2 earthquake in August 2003 that necessitated Deas Cove hut to be shifted. He also stopped at Secretary Island where the Board were updated on the success story there. A large colony of seals were viewed near the mouth of Doubtful Sound, and Nigel continued out to sea for the Board to look back and see Doubtful Sound as Captain Cook would have seen it on his arrival. It was a formidable sight, and no surprise he called it 'Doubtful Sound'.

The following day, the Board held a morning meeting before packing up and returning home. The Deep Cove trip was instigated and arranged by Nigel, in picture perfect weather, at very little cost to the Board due to his generosity with the use of his boat, and supplying food for the trip.



Wilmot Pass (from left) Helen McPhail, Paul Duffy (obscured), Robin McNeill, Barry Hanson, Brian Hore, Reg Kemper, Ian Buick, Nigel Lamb

RAKIURA/STEWART ISLAND

Once again, the Board was blessed with good weather for its field trip. With the Rakiura/Stewart Island

Conservation Management Strategy and the Rakiura National Park Plan occupying so much of the Board's time, it was appropriate to visit Rakiura/Stewart Island, and frugality of the Board during the year ensured there were enough funds for this trip. The meeting was held on 11 June, with one member of the public (a concessionaire) making a presentation during the public forum session.

The next day the Board was taken to Ulva Island for an inspection and given a detailed tour by Andy Roberts (Southern Islands Area Manager), Sharon Pasco (Field Centre Supervisor/Programme Manager, Community Relations) and Ian Wilson. The Board was delighted with the birdsong, as well as seeing saddlebacks flying around. They were taken to the pen used to display Sirocco when the Ulva Island Trust hosts him for the kakapo encounter opportunity for the public for one month of the year.

After lunch the Board were taken by bus to Lee Bay for the opportunity to see the upgrade there, view Dancing Star's predator proof fence, and the Community Nursery. On arriving back at Oban, the Board were dropped off at the DOC Visitor Centre to see the recent upgrade before flying back to Invercargill.



Ulva Island (from left): Ian Buick, Robin McNeill, Helen McPhail, Viv Shaw, Ian Wilson, Gloria Harris, Russell Ibbotson

OTHER VENUES

One scheduled Board meeting was held in Gore in August 2008, and another was hosted in Bluff by the Te Rau Aroha Marae. The latter meeting had special significance to a number of Board members, being their first time on a marae. Prior to the meeting, Bubba Thompson gave the Board a very interesting korero on the tupuna and whakapapa contained in the carvings and panels of the wharenui where the meeting was held.

5.3 OTHER MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES ATTENDED BY THE BOARD

Southland Conservation Board Members have attended the following meetings and activities this year:

- Forest Hill Foundation meetings,
- Te Anau Landcare Group meetings,
- South West Endangered Species Trust,
- Subantarctics Marine Protection Forum.
- New Zealand Aluminium Smelter (NZAS) Interdepartmental Committee
- Several public planning workshops and hui for the development of the Rakiura Planning documents which were held on Stewart Island/Rakiura and Invercargill
- Hearings into submissions on Rakiura/Stewart Island Conservation Management Strategy and National Park Management Plan
- Environment Southland water and landuse forum
- Les Hutchins Conservation Foundation
- Presentation of *The Cry of the People - Te Tangi a Tauira* natural resources and Environmental iwi Management Plan.
- Department of Conservation Annual Conservation Awards function
- Environment Southland Annual Environment Awards function
- Fiordland Conservation Trust
- Pomona Island Charitable Trust
- Fiordland Marine Guardians

6. BOARDS FUNCTIONS UNDER SECTION 6M OF THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

6.1 PLANNING DOCUMENTS

As was the case last year, the Board and in particular the Rakiura CMS/NPMP subcommittee (Robin McNeill, Gail Thompson, Ian Wilson, Helen McPhail) have continued to work closely with the Department of Conservation on the development of the Stewart Island/Rakiura National Park Management Plan. At each meeting the Board has received a report on the progress of the development of these documents with input from the Board.

Topics on which the Board has been briefed, or advised include:

- The development and implementation of the Doubtful Sound dolphin avoidance protocol
- Concessions
- Access to conservation areas
- Species Transfers
- Water and land use issues
- Visitor assets management
- Pest eradication programmes

6.2 FISH AND GAME COUNCIL LIAISON

The Southland Conservation Board continues to liaise with the Southland Fish and Game Council on an informal and formal basis. Meeting agendas and minutes are exchanged.

7. POWERS OF BOARDS UNDER SECTION 6N OF THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

7.1 ADVOCACY

During the reporting period the Southland Conservation Board has lodged submissions on the following issues and documents:

- Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan
- Environment Southland's Draft Long Term Community Plan
- Southland District Council's Draft Long Term Community Year Plan
- Invercargill City Council's Draft Long Term Council Community Plan
- Meridian Energy Ltd - Resource consent application MTAD
- Several applications for commercial charter boat operations in Coastal Fiordland

7.2 SUBCOMMITTEES

RAKIURA CMS AND NPMP

The Rakiura CMS and NPMP Subcommittee have been very active this year with the two documents being progressed at the same time. The submission hearings for these plans began on Stewart Island on 22 June 2009, with eight more hearings to follow. Robin McNeill will attend all with the support of other members of the subcommittee where possible.

The subcommittee members are:

Name	From
George Ryan (<i>passed away 3-11-08</i>)	Bluff

Gail Thompson	Bluff
Ian Wilson	Rakiura
Robin McNeill	Invercargill
Russell Ibbotson	(ex- Queenstown officio)

MAINLAND SOUTHLAND/WEST OTAGO CMS

This document is to be revised by December 2012.

The subcommittee members are:

Name	From
Paul Duffy	Seaward Downs
Brian Hore	Lumsden
George Ryan (<i>passed away 3-11-08</i>)	Bluff
Robin McNeill	Invercargill
Russell Ibbotson (ex-officio)	Queenstown

SUBANTARCTIC ISLANDS CMS

The Subantarctic Islands CMS subcommittee is to review this document, which is to be revised by July 2012.

The subcommittee members are:

Name	From
Viv Shaw	Te Anau
Gail Thompson	Bluff
Ian Buick	Te Anau
Muriel Johnstone	Riverton
Nigel Lamb	Manapouri
Russell Ibbotson (ex-officio)	Queenstown

WHENUA HOU SUBCOMMITTEE

The Whenua Hou Committee is a subcommittee of the Southland Conservation Board, established under the Ngai Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 as part of a

joint mechanism to manage the island. It is consists of the one representative from each of the four Murihiku Papatipu Rūnanga and four members of the Southland Conservation Board.

The Whenua Hou Subcommittee members are:

Name	Representing
Tane Davis (Chairman)	Te Runanga o Oraka- Aparima
Duane Rautahi	Hokonui Runaka
Detta Russell	Waihopai Runaka
Gail Thompson	Te Runanga o Awarua
Ian Wilson	Southland Conservation Board
Ian Buick	Southland Conservation Board
George Ryan (<i>passed away 3- 11-08</i>)	Southland Conservation Board
Russell Ibbotson	Southland Conservation Board

Meetings held:

Date	Location
31 March 2009	Invercargill
4 June 2009	Invercargill

MARINE RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Section 14 of the Fiordland (Te Moana o Atawhenua) Marine Management Act 2005 states that the Fiordland Marine Guardians may be appointed as a Marine Advisory Committee for the Fiordland Marine Reserves pursuant to section 6(N) of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Southland Conservation Board has confirmed the Fiordland Marine Guardians as the Marine Reserves Advisory Committee for Fiordland's marine reserves.

8. LIAISON

8.1 NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Southland Conservation Board's liaison representative from the NZCA, Kay Booth, attended the Board's meeting in April.

The Board also received regular updates from the NZCA Chairman (Don Ross), along with minutes and agendas from NZCA meetings.

8.2 OTHER CONSERVATION BOARDS

Close links are also maintained with the neighbouring Otago Conservation Board. Board Chairs and Board Support Officers are in regular contact and minutes and other information of mutual interest exchanged as a matter of course. Robin McNeill was appointed by the Board as the liaison representative with Otago.

8.3 KAITIAKI ROOPU

The Board has links with Kaitiaki Roopu with iwi representatives Gail Thompson and George Ryan (*passed away 3 November 2008*) as members of this group.

The Board also maintains a relationship with Kaitiaki Roopu through the Whenua Hou committee who have close links with them.

8.4 IWI LIAISON

The Deed of Settlement between the Crown and Te Runanga o Ngäi Tahu and the Ngäi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998 require a number of decision makers, including Conservation Boards within the Ngäi Tahu takiwä to consult with and to have

particular regard to the views of Te Runanga o Ngäi Tahu.

Iwi Board members continue to provide valuable information and input from the wider iwi community on all conservation related issues.

Board members Gail Thompson and George Ryan are also members of Kaitiaki Roopu. This group of six iwi representatives from the four rünanga in Southland was established by the Department of Conservation to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the Ngäi Tahu Claims Settlement Act. The Department consults with this group on a regular basis.

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.

8.5 MEDIA

Reporters from the Southland Times regularly attended Southland Conservation Board meetings throughout the year, which generally resulted in good publicity.