



Taranaki / Whanganui Conservation Board
(Te Tai Hau-ā-uru)

**ANNUAL
REPORT
2008/09**

Board meeting at Tieke. Top photo - Tieke Kāinga. Bottom photo - Drop scene, Whanganui River.

TARANAKI / WHANGANUI CONSERVATION BOARD
TE TAI HAU-Ā-URU

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1. Functions and Powers of the Board

The Board has the responsibility for shaping conservation management by advising the Department on the development of the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for the Wanganui Conservancy and Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) for public conservation lands. The Board also acts as an advocate for the protection of conservation values and it can appear at any public forum, such as planning hearings in this role.

The functions and powers of the Board are formally laid out in Sections 6M & 6N of the Conservation Act 1987 and reported on in detail further in this report. The Board's current strategic plan for 2005-2010 may be found at Appendix A.

2. Board District

2.1 The Board's district covers the Department's Wanganui Conservancy. It encompasses some 20,000 square km of land extending from the Mokau River in the north to the Manawatu River in the south and extending inland to include the western Ruahine Ranges, north to the edge of the Kaimanawa Forest Park, across SH49 to Raetihi and northwest to Taumarunui.



Map of Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board Boundary

2.2	Within the Board's district are:	
	National Parks (Egmont & Whanganui)	108,401 ha
	Conservation Parks – Ruahine Forest Park (western side) and Sugar Loaf Islands Conservation Park	54,936 ha
	Sanctuaries	2,357 ha
	Conservation Areas	162,159 ha
	Marginal Strips	932 ha
	Scenic Reserves	22,873 ha
	Historic Reserves	39 ha
	Recreation Reserves	149 ha
	Local Purpose Reserves	260 ha
	Other Reserves	880 ha
	Wildlife Reserves	181 ha
	Wildlife Refuges	254 ha
	Marine Reserves	3,248 ha
	Total Area (hectares)	356,670 (approx.)

2.3 The total area under the Board's jurisdiction is approx 356,670 hectares (plus 3 Walkways gazetted under the NZ Walkways Act)

2.4 The protected lands (as detailed above) within the Board district represent approximately 18% of the total area of the district.

3. Introduction to Board Members

The following members were appointed by the Minister of Conservation to the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board.

Appointed Members	Year Appointed	Home Location	Meetings Attended
Darryn Ratana (Chair)	2005	Wanganui	5
Ann Abernethy (Deputy Chair)	2003	Taihape	4
Ian Bell	2005	Wanganui	4
Christine Cheyne	2004	Palmerston North	4
Dave Digby	2006	Stratford	3
Barney Haami	1998	Wanganui	4
Rex Hendry	2007	New Plymouth	5
Donald McIntyre	2008	Inglewood	3
Jonathan Procter	2003	Palmerston North	4
Richard Steedman	2008	Taihape	3
Rachel Steele	2005	Taumarunui	3
Huirangi Waikerepuru	2005	New Plymouth	1
Karen Schumacher ¹	2002	Inglewood	1
Liz Tennet ¹	2006	Wanganui	1

¹ Retiring member who did not seek reappointment – could only attend one meeting within the reporting period



***Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board 2008/2009
at Paraweka Marae, Pipiriki***

*Back Row from left: Jonathan Procter; Christine Cheyne; Donald McIntyre; Rex Hendry; Ann Abernethy;
Peter Morton (CSM Wanganui Conservancy)*

*Front Row from left: John Nankervis(NZCA Liaison); Darryn Ratana; Richard Steedman; Rachel Steele;
Ian Bell*

Absent: Dave Digby; Barney Haami; Huirangi Waikerepuru

Photo: DOC

4. Board Meetings and Inspections

4.1 As in previous years the Board has continued to alternate Board meetings between Wanganui and other locations throughout the Board district to give local people the opportunity to attend meetings and raise any issues. There is time set aside at the start of each Board meeting for a public forum that allows Board members to become familiar with local conservation issues. The relevant DOC Area Manager provides Board members with a briefing on work undertaken as well as any current issues in the area where the Board meeting is held. This enables the Board to gain a greater understanding of the Department's work in the field and an opportunity to meet field staff.

The Board also adopted a policy of structuring meetings, and any associated field inspections, around a strategic theme related to key conservation issues agreed by the Board for 2009. Wherever possible, guest speakers were invited to provide the Board members with a range of views on the conservation issue.

4.2 The Board scheduled six meetings for the report period, however the June meeting was cancelled at short notice. Field inspections were scheduled with two of the meetings - the meetings were as follows:

Date of Meeting	Meeting Venue	Location
15 August 2008	Hawera Community Centre	Hawera
17 October 2008	Wanganui Conservancy Office	Wanganui
5 December 2008	Palmerston North City Council Office	Palmerston North
13 February 2009	Wanganui Conservancy Office	Wanganui
4 April 2009	Paraweka Marae	Pipiriki

- 4.3 The Board regards inspections as an important part of exercising its functions because they provide opportunities to discuss management issues on site and share ideas with Department staff. In keeping with the Board's strategic themes, both field inspections were also arranged to coincide with topical conservation issues so that they could be provided with relevant background information.

Saturday, 6 December 2008: The Board visited the proposed site for the Turitea Wind Farm. Members were briefed on the wind farm site by representatives of Mighty River Power and provided with a broad outline of the proposal. The Board was accompanied by Palmerston North Area Manager, Jason Roxburgh, local iwi, as well as Wanganui Conservancy staff.



Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board; members of Mighty River Power; local iwi, and DOC staff on a field trip to the proposed Turitea Wind Farm site. Photo: DOC

Friday, 3 April 2009: Prior to discussing the draft Whanganui National Park Management Plan with local iwi at the Board meeting in Pipiriki the following day, the Board members were honoured with a haka pōwhiri when they were formally welcomed on to Paraweka Marae. The members then travelled up the Whanganui River by jetboat and were provided with an historical and cultural overview of the surrounding area before being formally welcomed on to Tīeke Kainga and meeting with Te Whānau o Tīeke. The Board was accompanied by NZCA liaison, John Nankervis; Whanganui Area Manager, Nic Peet; and staff from the Pipiriki Field Centre and Wanganui Conservancy.



Whanganui River Photo: DOC

5. Board Functions Under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

5.1 *6M(1)(a) To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies under the relevant enactments.*

The current Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for the Wanganui Conservancy was approved in April 1997 with an extension granted until April 2009.

In accordance with *Te Hikoī Whakamua* (the process to develop the new Strategic Direction), the Department set up three Hikoī/focus groups (natural heritage, recreation and historic) and identified 7 draft “places” for the new CMS. This document was tabled at the Board’s August 2008 meeting and described each place, with its outcomes, objectives and policies that had been developed. The Board discussed and endorsed the “place-based” approach in its October 2008 meeting.

All Board members participated in a one-day workshop in November 2008 with each of the 7 “Places and Outcomes” being fully discussed, feedback provided, and any modifications made accordingly. The Board members expressed general support for the draft CMS material that had been developed to date.

In its February 2009 meeting, the Board was advised that informal consultation with tangata whenua and key stakeholders had been undertaken throughout the Conservancy over the past 8-9 months. The Board was advised that once the draft CMS was publicly notified in mid-late 2009, the formal public consultation phase would commence. The Board was also advised that following the establishment of a regional forum with Taranaki iwi, it was evident that iwi wished to be involved at the highest level of engagement with regard to the CMS and it was expected that Whanganui iwi would have similar views.

In addition to the provision of specific CMS updates at each meeting, the Board was also provided with a presentation by the Department in the February 2009 meeting of the draft *Te Hikoī Whakamua* functional strategies that had been developed for both the recreational and historic/cultural management programmes, and which would, as a supporting document, guide the implementation of the CMS.

Given that the current extension of the CMS review period would expire in April 2009, the Board supported a request by Wanganui Conservancy to seek a further 24 month extension.

At its April 2009 meeting, the Board was advised that the timeline of the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservancy CMS review had been aligned with that of the East Coast Hawke’s Bay (EC/HB) Conservancy CMS so that they could be publicly notified together, as both conservancies share a boundary within Ruahine Forest Park and it is desirable to avoid separate sets of public hearings for the same place. Following the subsequent dissolution of the EC/HB Conservancy and consequential delay of their CMS notification, the Department advised the Board that the notification of the Taranaki/Whanganui CMS would now be delayed until 2010 so that public hearings could be synchronized with the new Wellington Hawke’s Bay conservancy.

5.2 ***6M(1)(b) To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments.***

The Whanganui National Park Management Plan is the only conservation management plan currently under review. This is addressed later in the report under Section 8.

5.3 ***6M(1)(c) 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.***

In November 2004, the Board, in conjunction with the Department, developed a new template for monitoring implementation of the CMS. This required the Department to prepare a report focusing on one or two different ecological districts covered by the CMS for each board meeting. The template outlines the relevant performance indicator, the monitoring method, a report on progress and the updated information over time.

The report covers the following key issues for each ecological district: land management, Kaupapa Atawhai, native species protection, threats (possums, goats, deer, domestic stock, weeds), historic places, recreation, commercial use and freshwater.

During the report period, the Board considered the following monitoring reports.

- August 2008 – Matemateaonga, North Taranaki and Egmont Ecological Districts
- October 2008 – Egmont Ecological District
- December 2008 – Taumarunui Ecological District
- February 2009 – Manawatu Plains/Western Ruahine Ecological District
- April 2009 – Foxton Ecological District

The Board received the above reports and discussion took place at the meetings on items of interest. In its February 2009 meeting the Board was advised that the revised CMS would have more measurable milestones (3, 5 and 10 year) and objectives that could be reported against and which would provide valuable information to interested persons/groups and the Department.

In addition to the monitoring reports, the Area Manager covering the area where the meeting is being held is invited to attend the meeting and provide the Board with a presentation on any item/s of interest.

The Board is also provided bi-monthly with a Conservator's report which gives a brief overview of work being performed, and improvements/changes made and completed within natural heritage, historic, appreciation, conservation with communities and any other items of interest across the Conservancy.

Other Departmental staff and guest speakers are invited to give presentations to the Board. The Board received the following presentations for this reporting period:

August 2008

- Status of NZ shortfin and longfin eel management
- “Weather bomb” activity & impact on Egmont National Park

October 2008

- Visitor Assets & Historic Heritage in the Whanganui Area
- Kia Wharite Joint Biodiversity Project

November 2008

- CMS Draft Places & Outcomes

December 2008

- Te Hikoi Whakamua
- Structure of stakeholder relationships within the Conservancy
- Horizons Regional Council perspective on issues for the region over the next five years (*Guest speaker*)
- Wind farm developments (*Guest speakers*)

February 2009

- Recreation & Historic Key Strategic Issues
- Whanganui National Park Management Plan

April 2009

- Whanganui National Park Management Plan

The Board is grateful to the relevant staff and guest speakers for their time and effort in preparing and delivering these very informative presentations.

- 5.4 ***6M(1)(d) To advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General:***
- (i) On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and***
 - (ii) On any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the board.***

6M(1)(d)(i)

6M(1)(d)(ii)

In its December 2008 meeting the Board agreed that the conservation estate both nationally, and within the Wanganui Conservancy, will face increasing pressure from renewable energy initiatives in the future. It was agreed that the Board support renewable energy initiatives but not unconditionally and decided to adopt a statement on an agreed stance to guide their submissions as follows:

“that the government policy goal of generating 90% of New Zealand’s electricity from renewable sources by 2025 is achieved without further threats to New Zealand’s indigenous biodiversity and nationally and regionally significant landscapes, and with adequate regard for the views of local communities”.

Wind Farms

The Board made two submissions on proposed wind farms during the reporting period. In August 2008 the Board made a submission to Horizons Regional Council to oppose the proposed construction of *Project Central Wind Farm* by Meridian Energy Limited. In its submission, the Board cited the negative impact it will have on the environment; in particular the potential impact that the wind farm construction and operation may have on the neighbouring Hihitahi Reserve; and the need to protect a geologically unique landform.



Photo: DOC

In February 2009 the Board made a submission to the Ministry for the Environment regarding the proposed *Turitea Wind Farm* by Mighty River Power. Although the Board provided their support for renewable energy initiatives, they expressed concern regarding the prospect of degradation of indigenous vegetation and associated ecosystems; and echoed community concerns about impacts on landscapes that are regionally significant. The Board also noted concern regarding the recent use of call-in processes whereby conservation concerns become submerged and overlooked in whole-of-government submissions on major projects.

National Environmental Standards & Policy Statements

In line with its decision to focus on broad, key strategic issues, the Board agreed to submit on a number of national policy proposals. In August 2008 the Board made a submission to the Ministry for the Environment on the *Proposed National Environmental Standard on Ecological Flows & Water Levels*. Overall the Board considers a national directive to set environmental flows is the best tool for achieving long term sustainable water management.

In October 2008 the Board made a submission to the Department of Conservation on the *Proposed National Policy Statement (NPS) on Renewable Electricity Generation*. The Board considers that the NPS is urgently needed to provide guidelines for planning and decision-making bodies about the need to give appropriate regard for the long-term protection of the natural environment and conservation values. In its submission the Board recommended that the NPS give more recognition to the economic and other benefits of preservation of undeveloped landscapes; and to include a policy that prioritises the need for adoption of energy efficiency and conservation measures rather than streamlining the creation of new energy generation initiatives.

The Board also made a submission to the Ministry for the Environment in January 2009 on the *Proposed National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management*. In providing their support for the nine objectives, the Board highlighted the need for a coordinated management approach by land management agencies to advocate for, and assist with, the protection of forested areas and waterways on private land. The Board also stated their wish to see stronger guidance as to the allocation of freshwater

resources, recognition of the impact of cumulative effects, and better acknowledgement of tangata whenua perspectives and values.

Status of Eel Stocks & Whitebait



Shortfin eels Photo: DOC

Following a presentation to the Board in its August 2008 meeting, a letter of concern was written to the Ministry of Fisheries urging an immediate moratorium on all commercial fishing of eels until such time as the numbers show a significant increase. Further, and with regard to the growing commercial activity of whitebait, the Board requested that the Ministry of Fisheries extend their jurisdiction to include whitebait so that Total Allowable Catches may be imposed on commercial catches.

5.5 *6M(1)(e) To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on proposals for new walkways in any area within the jurisdiction of the board*

There were no proposals for new walkways, nor extensions to existing walkways, within the reporting period.

5.6 *6M(1)(f) To liaise with any fish and game council on matters within the jurisdiction of the board.*

Liaison has been maintained with the local Fish and Game Council through an exchange of agendas and minutes of meetings. There were no matters arising from the liaison which required direct Board input.

5.7 *6M(1)(g) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.*

In accordance with the Ngati Tama Claim Settlement Act 2003 the Board agreed that outgoing Board member Karen Schumacher remain as its representative for the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) established under the Act to advise on the management of Whitecliffs and other nearby conservation areas (see Section 6N(2)(b) for more information on meetings held by the JAC).

5.8 *6M(1)(h) Every board shall have such other functions as are conferred on it by or under this Act or any other Act.*

No other functions were conferred on the Board under this provision.

6. Powers of Boards Under Section 6N of the Conservation Act

6N(1) Every board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.

6N(2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1) of this section, each board may:

- (a) Advocate its interest at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and***

- (b) *Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers;*
- (c) *The power conferred by subsection 2(a) of this section shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the board's functions.*

6.1 **6N(2)(a)**

The Board considers it has an important role to play in:

- Information sharing with iwi authorities
- Promoting public understanding of and fostering support for the protection of the natural and historic heritage of New Zealand.
- Raising public awareness of conservation boards and their roles, through meeting members of the public and representatives from other agencies and groups.
- Making submissions on issues relevant to the Board

Treaty/Iwi Relationships



Tīeke Kaianga Photo: DOC

Board agendas and minutes are sent to iwi regularly and they are advised of meeting dates and venues in their area. In April 2009 the Board was warmly welcomed onto both Tīeke Kaianga, Whanganui River and Paraweka Marae, Pipiriki with the latter hosting the Board overnight and for their meeting. The Board thanks iwi and marae committee members for their generous hospitality over the two days.

The Board appointments that are made to represent Taranaki and Whanganui iwi, as provided by legislation, play a vital role in improving the Board's understanding of iwi perspectives.

Five deeds of settlement have been signed within the area covered by the Board with four having had settlement legislation enacted. The Board was advised in June 2009 that the Department had presented their evidence and faced cross-examination at the Treaty of Waitangi Tribunal hearings held in Wanganui during June with evidence including the Whanganui National Park Management Plan. The Conservator noted that both the Department and the Board obtained strong endorsement from the Tribunal on the work that they had been doing.

Board Advocacy

The Board has been involved in providing comments on discussion documents from other Government organisations and statutory plans developed by territorial authorities and regional councils. During the report period, the board made submissions/comments on the following documents:

Horizons Regional Council 'One Plan'

Progress of the Proposed One Plan (the new combined Regional Policy Statement, Regional Plan and Regional Coastal Plan for the Manawatu-Wanganui Region) has been followed by the Board since July 2005. The Board submitted on the Proposed One Plan in September 2007 and members of the

Statutory Process sub-committee presented to the hearing panels on the Overall Plan (July 2008) and Coast (September 2008).

Effectiveness & Efficiency of the Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki - Taranaki Regional Council

The Board submitted on the Effectiveness & Efficiency of the Fresh Water Plan for Taranaki in July 2008.

Outdoor Recreation Review – Sport & Recreation New Zealand

The Board provided comment on the Outdoor Recreation Review in August 2008 stating that the review was important in helping to define, co-ordinate, and manage outdoor recreation activities.

Taranaki Regional Land Transport Programme 2009/2019 – Taranaki Regional Council

The Board commented on the Taranaki Regional Land Transport Programme in March 2009 and was heard at a meeting held in May 2009. In its submission the Board advocated for an increase in funding for public transport and walking/cycling facilities as well as the implementation of a roadside planting programme to minimize greenhouse gases at source.

Draft 2009-2019 Long-Term Council Community Plan – Taranaki Regional Council

The Board commented on the Draft 2009-2019 LTCCP for Taranaki Regional Council in April 2009 stressing the importance of biodiversity protection; improvement of freshwater quality and increasing public transport; as well as commending the Council on their riparian planting and animal pest control programmes. The Board presented at a meeting held in May 2009.

Draft Land Transport Programme 2009-2012 – Horizons Regional Council

The Board submitted on the Draft Regional Land Transport Programme 2009-2012 advocating for greater environmental sustainability in the land transport system.

6.2 **6N(2)(b)**

Board sub-committees

- Marine
Darryn Ratana, Jon Proctor, Huirangi Waikerepuru and Rex Hendry
- Recreation/Walkways
Christine Cheyne, Rachel Steele, Dave Digby and Rex Hendry
- CMS
All Board members
- Whanganui National Park Management Plan Review
Darryn Ratana, Ian Bell, Rachel Steele and Jon Procter
- Statutory Planning
Christine Cheyne, Ian Bell and Jon Procter
- Biodiversity
Ian Bell, Darryn Ratana, Rachel Steele, Ann Abernethy, Richard Steedman and Donald McIntyre
- Section 4
Huirangi Waikerepuru, Jon Procter, Barney Haami and Richard Steedman

These sub-committees were active in the co-ordination and drafting of submissions.

Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)

In accordance with the Ngati Tama Claim Settlement Act 2003, the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) was established under the Act to advise on the management of Whitecliffs and other nearby conservation areas, including Parininihi Marine Reserve. JAC committee members include representatives from Ngati Tama, the Department of Conservation and the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board. At its August 2008 meeting, the Board agreed that outgoing-Chair, Karen Schumacher, continue to be the Board's representative until her term expires in November 2009. The committee is required to hold two formal meetings per year.

Following the gazettal of Parininihi Marine Reserve in September 2006, the JAC was delegated power to approve, review or amend any conservation management plans for the reserve, in accordance with section 6N(2)(b) of the Conservation Act 1987. In its August 2007 meeting, the Board resolved that the JAC be the governing body for the Parininihi Marine Reserve (a preferred choice of Ngati Tama), rather than establishing a separate marine reserve committee.

The JAC met formally twice during the reporting period however the confirmed minutes from their March 2009 meeting were not made available during this reporting period. Matters discussed included the history, structure and purpose of Nga Whenua Rahui; 1080 in the Whitecliffs Conservation Area; marine reserve permits and discussion of the Draft Conservation Management Plan for the Parininihi Marine Reserve.

7. Board Functions Under the National Parks Act 1980

30(1) In addition to the functions specified elsewhere in this Act of in any other Act, the functions of each Board shall be-

- (a) To recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board in accordance with sections 45-47 of this Act.*
- (b) To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks*

30(2) The Board having jurisdiction in respect of the Whanganui National Park shall, in carrying out its functions,-

- (a) Have regard to the spiritual, historical, and cultural significance of the Whanganui River to the Whanganui iwi; and*
- (b) Seek and have regard to the advice of the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board on any matter that involves the spiritual, historical, and cultural significance of the park to the Whanganui iwi.*

7.1 30(1)(a) and (b)

The review process for the Whanganui National Park Management Plan formally commenced on 28 July 2003 and the original draft was notified in 2006. A sub-committee of the Board was established to report on the review and was part of the hearing panel in late 2006 with subsequent meetings being held with the Department to resolve major issues. The sub-committee met with the Department again in September 2008 and was advised that public feedback on

the plan had been incorporated into the draft management plan; and that the Department were working with the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board to address Section 4 obligations. By late 2008 all but 3 submissions had been addressed through amendments to the draft that the Board had already seen and commented on. More time was needed to address the 3 submissions to ensure the Board met the requirements of Section 30(2).



7.2 **30(2)(a) and (b)**

In its October 2008 meeting, the Board was invited to select a representative to sit alongside the Whanganui National Park Management Plan writing group (comprised of representatives mandated by key members of Whanganui iwi, and Departmental staff) to ensure that the Board's consultation with iwi, in accordance with Section 4 requirements, could be streamlined.

*Whanganui National Park
Photo: DOC*

Final changes made to Sections 1 & 2 of the draft plan addressed the issues raised by the 3 outstanding iwi submissions seeking better recognition of the park's cultural values, with included specific wording regarding co-operative management mechanisms with tangata whenua.

The Board was presented with an overview of the progress of the draft plan to date in its meeting of April 2009. Subsequently a resolution was passed that they were satisfied with the direction that the Department was taking in addressing iwi submissions. The first two sections of the draft plan will then be presented to members of Whanganui iwi for their endorsement prior to the final draft plan being re-presented to the Board for their recommendation to the NZCA.

8. Board Responsibilities Under the Walkways Act

This section has been addressed earlier in the report under Section 5.5.

9. Board Advocacy and Liaison

The Board has welcomed the attendance of its NZCA liaison, John Nankervis, to its meetings and appreciates receiving the NZCA Chairperson's memo and minutes which are circulated to members.

The Board is very grateful to Catherine Tudhope, the Manager of the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for keeping regular contact with the Board.

Following the joint Kia Wharite Biodiversity Project that was signed in July 2008 between the Department and Horizons District Council, the Board was invited to select 1-2 representatives to form part of an advisory group who will oversee the project. Both Rachel Steel and Darryn Ratana represent the Board.

The Board has continued liaison with adjoining Conservation Boards through an exchange of minutes.

Board members throughout the report period liaised with a number of individuals, groups and organisations. This liaison was seen as a very important way of providing an interface with the community. Board members were given the opportunity to report back at each board meeting.

Liaison included:

Ann Abernethy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaimanawa Wild Horse Advisory Group • Rangitikei Forest and Bird • Rangitikei Environmental Group • Friends of Mt Stewart
Ian Bell	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wanganui Museum Botanical Group • Wanganui Branch Ornithological Society – Birding Wanganui • Whanganui Summer Programme Trust • Wanganui Forest & Bird • Friends of Gordon Park
Christine Cheyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Network Manawatu • Manawatu Forest and Bird • Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club • Manawatu Te Araroa Trust
Dave Digby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Taranaki Forest & Bird • Stratford Tramping Club • Mountain Safety – Taranaki
Barney Haami	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tamaupoko Link (Chairperson) • Tupoho Whanau Trust • Tamahaki Inc. • Ngati Rangi Trust • Hinengakau Development Trust • Whanganui River Maori Trust Board • Whanganui Maori Regional Tourism Organisation • Maori Sector of Regional Partnership Programme (Whanganui, Rangitikei, Ruapehu District Councils)
Rex Hendry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand Alpine Club & Advocacy Committee • New Zealand Outdoor Instructor's Association • New Zealand Recreation Association • Taranaki Regional Transport Committee • Taranaki Land Search & Rescue
Jonathan Procter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rangitaane Iwi Authority • Egmont Volcanic Advisory Group
Darryn Ratana	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nga Rauru Iwi Authority
Richard Steedman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otaihape Maori Komiti Inc (Chairperson) • Te Runanga O Ngati Whitikaupeka (Convenor, Iwi Council) • Aorangi Experiences Ltd (Director) • Te Roopu Ahi Kaa (Chairman, Rangitikei District Council Iwi Liaison Committee) • Joint Council of Whanganui Regional Museum Trust (Chairman) • National Maori Land Owners Consultation Forum Focus Group • Environmental Working Party of Ngati Whitikaupeka & Ngati Tamakopiri

Members of the public were provided with an opportunity to raise issues with the Board via letters, and/or public forums at each Board meeting however none were raised during the reporting period.

10. Chairperson's Comment

A number of changes took place around the board table during the reporting year. We farewelled Karen Schumacher and Liz Tennet, and welcomed in Donald McIntyre and Richard Steedman, with Rex Hendry (having been co-opted since 2007) being formally appointed to the board as well. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank Karen and Liz for the commitment they made to conservation during their tenure on the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board and wish them both well for the future.

Having taken on the role of Board Chair during the reporting year, I have been gratified in the way in which the board members have taken up the request to focus on, and have more input into, strategic issues that we would be facing in 2009 so that we could ultimately add value to conservation.

As a Board we agreed to centralise our energies into several key strategic issues and wherever possible, have endeavoured to theme our meetings around these. At times we invited guest speakers that would provide board members with different perspectives so that we may become a little more informed and ultimately continue to fulfil our advocacy role of being a community voice for conservation issues.

It was also understood that on occasion, the board could add value to conservation by adopting a stance that might represent a different perspective from that of the Department of Conservation and indeed, this has occurred.

It was agreed that the conservation estate would be facing increasing pressure from renewable energy initiatives in the future. In reality, this has already resulted in the board submitting on two proposed wind farm sites this year; and adopting a statement on an agreed stance for future renewable energy submissions as follows:

“That the government policy goal of generating 90% of New Zealand’s electricity from renewable sources by 2025 is achieved without further threats to New Zealand’s indigenous biodiversity and nationally and internationally significant landscapes, and with adequate regard for the views of local communities”

The board also considered that submissions were an important, and useful, method of influencing policy and communicating the views of the board. As a consequence we provided comment on a flurry of Proposed National Policy Statements being developed during 2008/09, as well as submitting on various draft regional council plans and the Outdoor Recreation Review.

I am pleased to report that progress has also been made during 08/09 with regard to the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for our Conservancy. The board attended a CMS workshop in November 2008 to discuss the draft “Places & Outcomes” and there was general support for the draft CMS material that had been developed so far. Although the CMS process was moving along the intended timeline smoothly it has since hit a speed wobble and will be delayed due to the impact of the review of our neighbouring East Coast/Hawkes Bay Conservancy.

The most satisfying progress for 08/09 would be the development of the draft Whanganui National Park Management Plan (WNPMP). Advancement of this plan has been slow to date with the focus of the Department being centred on strengthening the relationships with iwi. It was therefore, the highlight of the reporting year to host a

meeting in April 2009 at Paraweka Marae in Pipiriki – a venue that is a gateway to the Whanganui National Park – that enabled board members to be provided with both an overview of the progress of the WNPMP to date, and to gain an appreciation from iwi as to the cultural, historical and spiritual significance that the area has for them. The board look forward to considering the draft plan for recommendation to the NZCA later in the year.

It is of note that a recurrent topic in 08/09 particularly in regard to both the CMS and both National Parks within the board's jurisdiction, and one that will be faced by the board in the future, pertains to management. It is evident that Taranaki iwi wish to be involved at the highest level of engagement with regard to the CMS and it is expected that Whanganui iwi will have similar views. Collaboration with other stakeholder groups is to be actively sought for managing conservation values in other areas within the Conservancy – these are moves that are welcomed by the board particularly given the financial constraints that are being faced by the Department.

Moving with the collaborative theme, I must also congratulate both DOC and Horizons Regional Council staff for their success in their joint Kia Wharite biodiversity project with landowners and iwi within the Whanganui National Park. This is a prime example of how these partnerships can protect our precious flora and fauna.

Acknowledgements

I must firstly commend and thank my board members on their continued drive and support. Their commitment of time and energy in attending meetings, hearings, and preparing submissions is most appreciated and certainly contribute toward a well-functioning and valuable board.

My thanks also to the NZCA members, in particular John Nankervis, our NZCA liaison who has managed to join us on two occasions and provided valuable input into our sessions; and Catherine Tudhope (as well as her team) that have assisted with the servicing of the board and provision of readily available advice.

I must also thank our guest speakers that have participated in various meetings during the year – their perspectives provide the board with valuable insight into many issues and assist us to make the decisions and recommendations that we do. I give particular thanks to whānau of both Tīeke Kainga and Paraweka Marae for their generous hospitality in hosting us at our April meeting.



It is with great regret that I acknowledge the sad passing of Charles Mareikura, Pou Kura Taiao, in June of this year. Charles' input and wisdom, and in particular, his very important role in developing strong iwi relationships across the Conservancy, was of great value to the Department and the Board. He will be sadly missed and we extend our heartfelt condolences to his whānau and work colleagues. Our sympathies are also extended to a previous Board (and NZCA) member, Barbara Arnold, who lost her husband Greg to illness, earlier this year.

Finally my thanks to staff of the Department of Conservation who have helped organise, participate in, and present at, the numerous field trips and meetings held throughout the year. To the Conservator and all of his staff within the Conservancy – thank you for your support and guidance.

I look forward to another busy year ahead...



Darryn Ratana
Chairperson
August 2009

Footnote: Please note that the opinions expressed under the Chairperson's Comment in this report are those of the Chairperson and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of other Board members.

The Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board adopted this report in October 2009

CONSERVATION BOARD FUNCTIONS

Section 6M Conservation Act 1987

- a) To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies and amendment of such strategies under the relevant enactment.
 - b) To approve conservation management plans and the review and amendment of such plans under the relevant enactment.
 - c) To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans within the jurisdiction of the Board.
 - d) To advise the Conservation Authority or the Director General on (i) any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance and: (ii) any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board.
 - e) To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director General on proposals for new walkways in any area within the Jurisdiction of the Board.
 - f) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board.
 - g) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.
2. Every Board shall have such functions as are conferred on it by or under this Act or any other Act.

CONSERVATION BOARD POWERS

Section 6N Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every Board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1) of this section each Board may:-
 - a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and,
 - b) Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- 3) The power conferred by sub-section (2) (a) of this section shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.