

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

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ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014



York Road Track, Egmont National Park

Presented to the NZ Conservation Authority
pursuant to
Section 60 of the
Conservation Act 1987

Serviced by the Department of Conservation
PO Box 462
NEW PLYMOUTH 4340
Telephone: (06) 759 0350

ISSN: 1173-2849 (Print)
ISSN: 1174-1813 (Online)

**Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation
Board Members
2013/2014**

Outgoing Members:



Rex Hendry
Chair
1/11/07 – 30/8/08
1/9/08 – 30/4/14



Dr Christine Cheyne
1/9/04 – 30/4/14



Dave Digby
1/9/99 – 31/6/02
16/10/06 – 30/4/14



Rachel Steele
1/9/05 – 30/4/14

Iwi Representatives



Dr Tiwha Puketapu
Whanganui River
Maori Trust Board
6/12/13 -



Alison Hemara-Wahanui
Taranaki Maori
Trust Board
6/12/13 -

Ongoing/new Members:



Anne-Marie Broughton
Chair
1/9/11 -



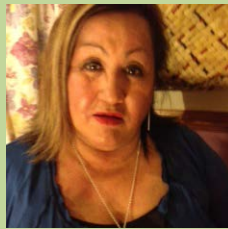
Blue Cumberworth
1/5/14 -



Vicky Dombroski
1/5/14 -



Steve Fouhy
1/5/14 -



Novena McGuckin
1/5/14 -



Daisy Noble
1/5/14 -



Sam Tamarapa
1/5/14 -

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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE TARANAKI/WHANGANUI CONSERVATION BOARD

The Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board is an independent statutory body appointed by the Minister of Conservation. It was established by section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987. Although the Department formally amalgamated the Tongariro/Taupo and Whanganui Conservancies to become the Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki (TWT) Conservancy in December 2010, both the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board and Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board continue to exist as separate bodies. The latest restructuring of the Department of Conservation has also brought the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board to within the wider Central North Island Region.

The Board has the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the conservation management strategy (CMS) and conservation management plans (CMPs) for its region. As well as providing for interaction between the public and the Department of Conservation at the conservancy level, the Board also acts as an advocate for the protection of conservation values. Its prime role is to advise the Department and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA).

The functions of the Board are set out in Sections 6M of the Conservation Act 1987, and in the National Parks Act 1980 and the Reserves Act 1977.

2. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

Members of the Board are appointed by the Minister of Conservation for up to a three year term having regard to their experience, expertise and links with the local community including tangata whenua. Members may have knowledge of nature conservation, natural earth and marine sciences, cultural heritage, recreation, tourism, and Māori perspectives. This process ensures a diversity of experience and background and a spread across the main geographical and ecological zones within the board's area.

The Minister conducted an appointment round at the end of the 2013 calendar year and appointed six new members. Further to this, representatives from both the Taranaki Maori Trust Board and the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board were re-appointed in December 2013. Four of the existing board members retired at the end of April, with the new appointees taking up their role at the start of May 2014.

Membership of the Board started at five at the beginning of the 2013/14 reporting year. The two Iwi appointments are statutory appointments selected in consultation with the Minister of Māori Affairs on the recommendations of the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board and the Taranaki Maori Trust Board. This bolstered the Board numbers to seven through to April 2014. The remaining members were appointed on 01 July and the new Board has its first meeting scheduled for 15 August.

Anne-Marie Broughton was elected Chair in April 2014 following the completion of the term of outgoing Chair, Rex Hendry. She was appointed by the Minister of Conservation as Chair of the new board from 01 July 2014.

Appointed Members	Year Appointed	Home Location	Meetings/Workshop Attended (5 held)
Anne-Marie Broughton	2011	Whanganui	5
Dr Christine Cheyne	2004	Hawkes Bay	5
Dave Digby	2006	Stratford	5
Rex Hendry (Outgoing Chair)	2008	New Plymouth	4
Rachel Steele	2005	Taumarunui	4
Dr Tiwha Puketapu ¹	2013	Featherston	2/3
Alison Hemara-Wahanui ²	2013	New Plymouth	3/3

¹ = Whanganui River Maori Trust Board Representative

² = Taranaki Maori Trust Board Representative

Appointed Members (New)	Year Appointed	Home Location
Blue Cumberworth	2014	Ohura
Vicky Dombroski	2014	Waitara
Steve Fouhy	2014	Turakina
Novena McGuckin	2014	Whanganui
Daisy Noble	2014	Hawera
Sam Tamarapa	2014	Waitara

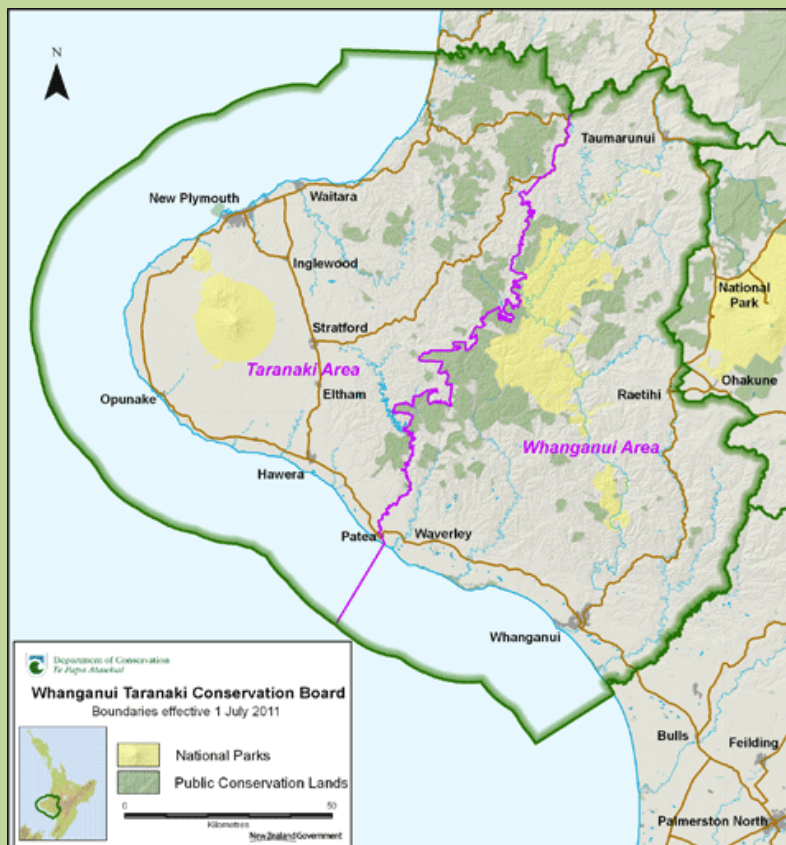
3. BOARD DISTRICT

3.1 The Board's area of responsibility covers the Department's boundaries for the Whanganui and Taranaki Areas within the greater Central North Island Region. It encompasses some 15,000 square km of land extending from the Mokau River in the north to the Turakina River in the south and inland to Ohura and Taumarunui (refer to the map). Approximately 298,000 hectares of public conservation land is administered by the Department which represents almost 20% of the total area of the Board's district.

In addition to a number of scenic, historic and recreational reserves, the district includes both the Egmont National Park and its associated array of recreation opportunities, and the Whanganui National Park with its unique history and strong cultural connections.

The coastal boundary that extends along the Board's district includes the Tapuae and Paraninihi Marine Reserves as well as the long established Nga Motu/Sugar Loaf Islands Protected Area.

Volcanoes, wild and scenic rivers, huge tracts of forest, rugged mountain ranges and a dynamic coastline provide for a great diversity of landscapes, habitats, plants and animals.



Map of Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board Area

4. BUDGET, FEES AND ALLOWANCES

The Board's budget for 2013/14 was \$18,000. Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. Board members are paid a daily meeting fee of \$140 and the chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$190. Members may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred while engaged on Board business.

5. BOARD MEETINGS AND INSPECTIONS

As in previous years the Board has continued to alternate Board meetings between Whanganui 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.

Wherever possible, the Board implemented its policy of focusing meetings, and any associated field inspections, around a strategic theme related to key conservation issues agreed by the Board for its reporting year. Guest speakers were invited to provide the Board members with a range of views on the conservation issue.

The Board scheduled four formal meetings and one workshop for the report period. A combined workshop and field inspection with Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board was scheduled to coincide with one of the meetings. The meetings were as follows:

Date of Meeting	Meeting Venue	Location
2 August 2013	Stratford Mountain House	Stratford
4 October 2013	Whanganui Area Office	Whanganui
6 December 2013	Devon Hotel	New Plymouth
14 February 2014	Whanganui Area Office	Whanganui
12 April 2014	Whenuakura Marae	Patea

Field Inspections

The Board regards inspections as an important part of exercising its functions as they provide opportunities to discuss management issues on site and share ideas with Department staff. Wherever possible, field inspections are arranged to coincide with topical conservation issues so that the Board can be provided with relevant background information.

2 August 2013: Members of the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board were given an introduction to operating an accommodation concession by the managers of the Stratford Mountain House, Rod and Lynn Pulford. They outlined the upgrade undertaken by the owners of the concession, Ngati Ruanui, and described some of the issues and challenges of running the facility within Egmont National park, particularly around co-ordinating activities and ongoing development with DOC and other tourism operators.

6 December 2013: The joint field inspection, along with Taupo-Tongariro Conservation Board, of Nga Motu Sugar Loaf Islands was cancelled on the day due to rough weather.

14 February 2014: The board visited Lake Kohata, south of Whanganui, and viewed wetlands management and some of the issues around peri-urban and 'cross-boundary' management were described by Amy Hawcroft.

6. FUNCTIONS UNDER THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987

6.1 Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 states “This Act shall be so interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi”. As a board established under the Conservation Act 1987, section 4 applies to the Board in the discharge of its functions.

6.2 Functions of the Board

(a) Recommend the Conservation Management Strategy for approval

A conservation management strategy (CMS) is a 10-year statutory document that implements General Policy and establishes objectives for the management and protection of the natural and historic features and wildlife of the region, and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes. Conservation Boards are actively involved in the preparation, review and amendment and approval of CMSs.

The current Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) for the Whanganui Conservancy was approved in April 1997. Although work had been undertaken by the Board to prepare a new draft CMS for public notification, this was put on hold in 2009 pending the development of a national framework for CMSs. A new template was formally approved in late 2010.

Following the merge of the Tongariro Taupo Conservancy with Whanganui Conservancy in 2010, the Department proposed that one CMS was produced for the Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki (TWT) Conservancy that would manage the Taupō-nui-ā-Tia, Ruapehu, Whanganui and Taranaki Areas.

In March 2012, the Board formally endorsed the deferral of the Taranaki-Whanganui CMS Review until progress had been made with a section incorporated in the Tongariro/Taupo CMS, as it was thought at the time the two CMSs would become one.

At its September 2012 meeting, the Department outlined the TWT Conservancy Strategic Direction including the development and proposed implementation of 12 key projects for TWT. It is intended that these 12 key projects will provide a better understanding of community and place needs and will provide the foundation for work on the proposed Generation 2 TWT CMS. The Board was provided with progress updates on the strategic projects in subsequent meetings throughout the year.

With the ‘regionalisation’ of the boards and the outcome of the review of Conservation Boards it is possible there will be either some rationalisation of the CMSs across the country or each Board will proceed with their individual CMS as previously. In April 2014 the Board Chair wrote to the Director-General to seek clarification on the low priority that the Taranaki-Whanganui CMS is receiving in the overall planning environment.

(b) Approve Conservation Management Plans

The Board did not approve any conservation management plans, or their review and amendment, in this reporting period.

(c) Advise on the implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy and Conservation Management Plans

The Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board implements a system of monitoring categories and places within the CMS and the Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) on a three yearly reporting cycle. The board was briefed as follows:

- *Section 24 Historic Place Management*
Section 35 Recreation Concessions
Section 46 Liaison with Fish and Game Council

The Board noted that greater liaison is required between DOC and key stakeholders, particularly Fish and Game and Iwi, and in a more prioritised and structured manner. The recent Angus report on Tourism and Recreation indicates a pro-active approach towards these issues.

The Board also noted that ongoing sustainable partnerships will be critical for the management of historic places.

- *Section 3 Kaupapa*
Section 4 Tangata Whenua
Section 5 European Conservation Ethic
Part C Treaty of Waitangi

The Board noted that this progress is hindered to a degree by out-of-date objectives within the CMS and the Treaty settlement process which has not yet been completed.

The Board commented that the Department appears to have a plan and priorities for moving some of the kaupapa projects forward this year through its work on a number of key strategic projects and would like to be engaged with this work when appropriate. Along with this, a more specific or clearer measurement/method of progress is required.

- *Section 19 – 20 Introduction to the Management of Natural Resources and Land Management*

The Department has diminishing resources for the active management of Protected Natural Resources and engagement with the planning processes of other partners like regional councils. The board acknowledges that it will need to ensure that they, themselves, are maintaining engagement in these processes and advocating to issues of high conservation value.

- *Section 21 Marine Conservation*
Section 22 Conservation of Native Plants and Animals

The Board noted the good and objective quality of this CMS report which gave clear outcomes of DOCs work in this area. The objectives in the CMS are still hard to report to sometimes. Concerns were expressed about progress towards implementing the Tapuae and Parininihi Marine Reserves committees, which both need to be re-instated and functioning. The native fish strategy needs to be prepared and implemented.

In addition to the monitoring reports, the Board is provided with a Regional Director's report that gives a brief overview of work being performed and improvements/changes made and

completed throughout the region. The Board is also provided with a presentation from the relevant Partnership or Conservation Services Manager at its meetings.

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 2013

- TWT Strategic Projects
- Taranaki Destination Plan
- Egmont National Park Visitor Trend Report
- Review of the Conservation Boards

October 2013

- TWT Strategic Projects
- DOC Delivery Review

December 2013

- TWT Strategic Projects
- Trans-Tasman Resources Ltd Sand Mining Proposal (*Guest Speaker*)
- TWT Engagement Growth Strategy
- DOC Delivery Review

February 2014

- Site visit on wetland management

April 2014

- Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board Strategic Plan Workshop (Appendix)
- Draft Destination Management Plan for Taranaki Mounga

The Board is grateful for the time and effort staff and guest speakers put into preparing and delivering these very informative presentations.

(d) (i) Advise on any proposed change of status or classification

There were no proposed changes of status or classification of any area of national or international importance within the reporting year.

(ii) Advise on any other conservation matters

The Ministerial Review of the Conservation Boards

The Board submitted to the Ministerial Review into the role of Conservation Board across the country. This submission highlighted the role the boards have as a statutory partner of the Department and the connections to communities of interest. The Board also felt that iwi representation could be increased, that boards could have a greater role in conservation funding decisions and that boards need to be adequately resourced to operate effectively, particularly if the board rohe would be extended to the new DOC regional boundaries. This submission was followed up by a Board Chairs meeting in Wellington to present and discuss common and unique issues.

The final report of the Ministerial Review Panel found and presented;

- The original intent of the legislation remains valid
- The board can reinforce DOC's role and partner with DOC to achieve greater conservation outcomes
- The systems that support the boards need to be refreshed and funded adequately

- Successful collaboration is essential
- The reporting framework, accountability and a code of practice need overhauling
- Board relationships with iwi are critical
- Boards act as a 'point of connection' to their community(ies)
- Integrated planning is a key function of the Boards
- DOC's new operating (regional) boundaries are too large for Boards
- The status quo with Board boundaries, with some minor adjustment, should remain
- Membership of Boards needs to be fine-tuned to tidy up representation
- There will be more of a focus on recreation, as a pathway to conservation
- The allocation of contestable funds will remain with DOC, however Boards may have a greater role in decisions around the Biodiversity Fund
- The profile of Boards needs to increase

A range of recommendations were developed to support these changes.

Trans-Tasman Resource application for Sandmining off South Taranaki Coast

This was the largest advocacy issue in the year, following on from the Conservation Boards Review.

The Board submitted against the resource consent application, and the main points were (1) defaunation of benthic species and damage to benthic ecosystem (2) impacts on marine mammals and (3) potential impacts on coastal erosion, with the over-riding perspective that there just wasn't enough robust research on these impacts to support this mining activity. The Board presented to the review panel in May 2014, along with many other submitters, and the resource consent application was subsequently declined.

(e) Advice on walkways

The Board formerly had the function of advising the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on proposals for new walkways. This function was repealed by section 82 of the Walking Access Act 2008.

(f) Liaison with Fish and Game Council

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.

(g) Ministerial delegations

The Minister did not delegate any ministerial powers or functions to the Board during the reporting period.

7. Powers of Boards

(a) Advocacy

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

The Board has a statutory requirement to include members who can represent Taranaki and Whanganui iwi. In addition, there are other Board members filling the public vacancies that have iwi affiliations. These connections play a vital role in improving the Boards understanding of iwi perspectives.

Treaty settlement has been completed for Ngati Tama, Ngati Mutunga, Ngati Ruanui, Nga Rauru, and Ngati Apa.

Progress in Treaty settlement negotiations continues with an Agreement having been signed for the Whanganui River. Agreements in principle have been signed for Te Atiawa Iwi Authority and Nga Ruahine, with Taranaki Iwi having signed a letter of agreement.

Tapuae Marine Reserve Advisory Committee

In February 2010 the Minister of Conservation approved the establishment of an advisory committee for Tapuae Marine Reserve under section 56 of the Conservation Act 1987. A submission to the Minister seeking approval of nominations selected from local iwi, fishing groups, the Taranaki Regional Council, and the Board has been undertaken during the reporting year. This committee is currently in abeyance.

Submissions

The Board did not provide comment on discussion documents from other Government organisations and statutory plans developed by territorial authorities and regional councils during the report period.

(b) Establishment of Committees

The Conservation Act enables the Board to establish committees and delegate to them functions and powers. The Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board subcommittees were suspended during the year, awaiting the outcome of the Ministerial Review and the (re) appointment of sufficient members to enable a critical mass to service a subcommittee structure. Reinstatement of the following subcommittees will be considered during the forthcoming year;

- | | |
|--|---|
| • <i>Marine</i> | • <i>Egmont National Park Plan Review</i> |
| • <i>CMS (whole of Board)</i> | • <i>Historic and Recreation</i> |
| • <i>Whanganui National Park Management Plan</i> | • <i>Concessions</i> |
| • <i>Statutory Planning and Policy</i> | • <i>Tangata Whenua and Cultural</i> |
| • <i>Biodiversity</i> | • <i>Conservation Awards</i> |

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.

Following the gazettal of Parininihi Marine Reserve in September 2006, the JAC was delegated the Board's 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.

This committee has met sporadically since 2007, and is currently also in abeyance.

8. FUNCTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1980

(a) Recommend National Park Management Plans, Reviews or Amendments

The review process for the Whanganui National Park Management Plan (the Plan) formally commenced on 28 July 2003. Following considerable consultation between the Department and Whanganui iwi in the ensuing years, and collaboration on text in its latter stages, the Board endorsed all recommended changes to the Plan at its extraordinary meeting held in November 2011.

(b) Have special regard in respect to Whanganui National Park

During 2013, the Department outlined the engagement framework incorporating Rōpū Mana Whenua and Rōpū Rautaki, supported by Rōpū Mahi that provides for the Department's strategic and operational engagement across the Whanganui iwi confederation, as well as with specific rohe.

It was through the Rōpū Mahi forum that Whanganui iwi and the Department have agreed on a set of four priorities for the first 1-2 years of implementation of the WNPMP, in particular exploring the concept of a Whanganui Māori National Park. The Board will be kept updated on implementation progress.

In keeping with its shared aspirations as discussed with tangata whenua at Pipiriki in April 2009, the Board sent a letter to Te Rōpū Mana Whenua pledging its continued support for the concept of a Māori National Park. The Conservation Board has initiated further dialogue with the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board on a tri-partite approach to the National Park Plan implementation.

9. RESERVES ACT 1977

There were no matters raised under the Reserves Act 1977 that required consultation with the Board during the reporting year.

10. LIAISON

All Board members receive the minutes of NZCA meetings. Ian Buchanan was appointed as liaison member until his resignation and has been replaced by Jo Breese. The Board is very grateful to Catherine Tudhope and Katrina Edwards, Statutory Bodies Officers, for keeping regular contact with the Board.

The Board has continued liaison with adjoining Conservation Boards through an exchange of minutes and shared correspondence on matters of national importance. As a result of the amalgamation and a need to discuss whole of conservancy outcomes, the Board Chairs from both the Tongariro/Taupo and Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board have a reciprocal agreement to attend meetings.

Board members liaised with a number of individuals, groups and organisations throughout the reporting period. This liaison is 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:

Anne-Marie Broughton	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maori Agribusiness Network • Agri-Women's Development Trust • Nga Rauru Kiihahi & Whenuakura Marae • Maori Law Review
Christine Cheyne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environment Network Manawatu • Manawatu Forest and Bird • Palmerston North Tramping and Mountaineering Club
Dave Digby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • South Taranaki Forest & Bird • Stratford Tramping Club • Mountain Safety – Taranaki • Taranaki Tree Trust
Alison Hemara-Wahanui	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parininihi ki Waitotara Incorporation • Taranaki Māori Trust Board
Rex Hendry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Zealand Alpine Club & Advocacy Committee • Taranaki Regional Transport Committee • Taranaki Land Search & Rescue (Search Manager) • Western Institute of Technology (WITT) Board • LandSAR NZ (National Director)
Tiwaha Puketapu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whanganui River Maori Trust Board • Atihau Whanganui Land Incorporation • Ranana Marae Reservation Trust • Te Roopu Rautaki - Whanganui Iwi • Kahui Maunga – Iwi Collectives
Rachel Steele	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kaimanawa Wild Horse Advisory Committee • Taupo Forest & Bird

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. None were raised during the reporting period.

11. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENT

Tena koe

He mihi teenei i runga i ngaa aahuatanga maha o te waa.

This year has been a watershed year, in many regards, for all Conservation Boards around the country and probably more so for the Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board.

Firstly, the latest major restructuring for the Department of Conservation started. Several staff positions have been vacant, particularly in the Partnership section, and many new staff arrived. The effect of this, for the Board, has been the ongoing need to maintain traction in a very fluid environment. During these changes we have farewelled Connie Norgate, Partnerships Manager for Whanganui, who departed to the Chatham Islands, and welcomed back Darryn Ratana, past Chairman of the Board, in his new role as Partnerships Manager for Taranaki.

Secondly, the Ministerial Review of Conservation Boards has reinforced and clearly consolidated their role in conservation. The finer detail of how this will operate in practice is yet to unfold, however we now have the confidence to fully engage with this critical work, after a period of uncertainty.

Thirdly, we have had a substantial change of people around the board table, with Chairman Rex Hendry, Dr Christine Cheyne, Rachel Steele and Dave Digby departing. Collectively they

represented around 37 years of conservation board experience and I gratefully acknowledge and thank them for their contributions. Tiwha Puketapu was confirmed in the middle of 2013 as the Whanganui River Maori Trust Board representative and Alison Hemara-Wahanui confirmed as the Taranaki Maori Trust Board representative. I was re-appointed after my initial term of three years.

New Board members welcomed at the end of the financial year were Blue Cumberworth of Ohura, Vicky Dombroski of Waitara, Steve Fouhy of Turakina, Novena McGuckin of Whanganui, Daisy Noble of Hawera, and Sam Tamarapa of Waitara. We look forward to a fresh and captivating future with the new board.

Throughout the latter part of this year, the Board, ably led by Rex, work-shopped a draft strategic plan for the Board itself. It addresses how the Board will engage with DOC, Iwi, key stakeholders; address key issues within its rohe; promote and advocate for the environment (the Conservation Economy); and operate as a strong voice for conservation in the region. This draft strategic plan is a wonderful legacy for the new board.

Key issues for the Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board during 2013/14 included the proposal for sea-bed mining off the South Taranaki Coast, the implementation of the Whanganui National Park Management Plan, the development of the Taranaki Destination Management Plan, pushing and promoting a review of the Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Management Strategy, monitoring the existing CMS with a comprehensive process, keeping a watching brief on the changes to fishing regulations around Maui Dolphin, and a raft of other issues.

We presented a strong submission to the review panel for the resource consent for sea-bed mining in May 2014 and were pleased to hear the resource consent was declined. Our point of view is that there is just not enough robust research around the effects of this activity on this very fragile coastline and marine environment. A similar situation may well be occurring soon at the head of the Mokau River with coal mining. We will watch and monitor with interest.

So, after a fairly unsettled year, we now have greater stability both within the Department and more representation around the board table. The role of the board has been clarified and there is a well-defined direction it should be heading. I look forward to the coming year as we undertake this vital work.

Noho ora mai, na
Anne-Marie Broughton,
Chairperson,
July, 2014.

The Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board adopted this report on _____

APPENDIX

Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board

Te Tai Hau-ā-Uru

DRAFT Strategy 2014-19

(how do we do what we need to do to get where we need to go)



Mission:

The Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board will provide robust and relevant governance that supports and sustains a conservation economy. A conservation economy is one that focusses on holistic ecosystem health at place, promotes intrinsic environmental and conservation values, and recognises natural processes. A strong conservation economy supports social and economic growth in the long term.

Goal for 2020:

The Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board is a relevant independent entity fully engaged with monitoring and reviewing conservation activities within its rohe, has a strong regional voice for conservation, and healthy relationships with stakeholders.

To achieve the goal and fulfil its mission and statutory obligations the Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board has two priority areas:

- Conservation Governance, and
- The Conservation Economy.

Conservation Governance:

Modus Operandi:

Through a range of contributing factors the Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation has lost momentum and recognition over the past 2 or 3 years. To meet its goal the Board needs to stabilise its own operation.

1. From July 2014 the Board will meet at least 6 times per annum to ensure continuity of effort and currency with conservation issues.
2. The board drives its own agendas, in consultation with the Department of Conservation.
3. A further joint annual meeting will be held with Tongariro-Taupo Conservation Board to maintain consistency across the region, where consistency is applicable.
4. The board membership remains at a minimum of 8 members and the board requests of the Minister of Conservation that the Board Chair and/or Deputy are actively engaged in the (re)appointment of new members from January 2015.
5. The Board will use a 'quality-team' approach with its subcommittees to be flexible, adaptable and timely in its response to conservation issues.
(Quality teams are made up of individuals who are selected for their knowledge and ability to contribute. It is an open operating format where the members collate their knowledge for the common good, self-supervise and take responsibility for their participation and actions.)
6. The quality of the monitoring used for the Conservation Management Strategy, Conservation Plans and National Park Management Plans continues to improve, supported by robust research and information.
7. From 1st July 2015, the Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board has an ongoing source of funds available for independent research, to be applied to key conservation issues within the rohe. These funds could be obtained from:
 - The Department of Conservation (e.g. annual vote and allocation)
 - A project-specific sponsor
 - Collaboration with a key partner or partners (e.g. Iwi)
 - A third-party funding source (e.g. Marsden Fund)
8. In December 2014 the board initiates a formal review of its own performance. This review is conducted annually at the end of the calendar year, thereafter.

Partnership Development:

The Board recognises that it is currently an isolated voice with very limited resources operating across a large section of our community, focussing on an undervalued fundamental element of life with high intrinsic values and global importance, and engaging with a nation-wide government department with its own direction and resources.

1. The board will use available media to transmit key messages about conservation and engage with media regularly on conservation issues. Regularly is defined as, at a minimum, following each Conservation Board meeting.
2. Joint venture approaches will be the primary focus of relationships with key partners, where these add value to both relationships. Many of these relationships will be with Iwi, plus will include NZCA, TLAs, educational institutions, conservation NGOs
3. Relationship management plans will be developed for all of the Board's key partners.
4. A 'network map' of Board members' associations is developed in August 2014 and updated annually, to identify the range of relationships across existing board members.
5. A method of assessing the Board's effectiveness in relationships will be implemented by July 2015, and will contain measures of trust, confidence, relevance, and visibility.

The Board acknowledges that there are several key relationships that need to be improved. These are:

- The Minister of Conservation
- The NZ Conservation Authority
- Senior DOC Staff – the Director General, DDG Partnerships, DDG Policy, and DDG Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai
- The Taranaki Iwi Chairs Forum, and any subcommittee related to conservation
- Constituent Members of Parliament
- Regional Council Chairs – TRC, Horizons
- District Council Mayors
- Tertiary Education Institutes – WITT, Te Wananga o Aotearoa, Massey University
- Primary and Secondary Schools, potentially via Enviroschools
- Fish and Game.

The Board also acknowledges, given the restructuring of DOC, that the relationship with DOC operational staff, as distinct from DOC partnership staff, does not need to be as strong as it has been in the past. The Board will maintain a 'watching brief' on other Conservation Boards throughout NZ.

The Conservation Economy

Wikipedia defines a Conservation Economy as:

“A **conservation economy** is an ideal, imagined economy in which economic wealth is harvested from a bioregion's local natural resources in a way that meets local communities' needs yet restores rather than depletes natural and social capital.

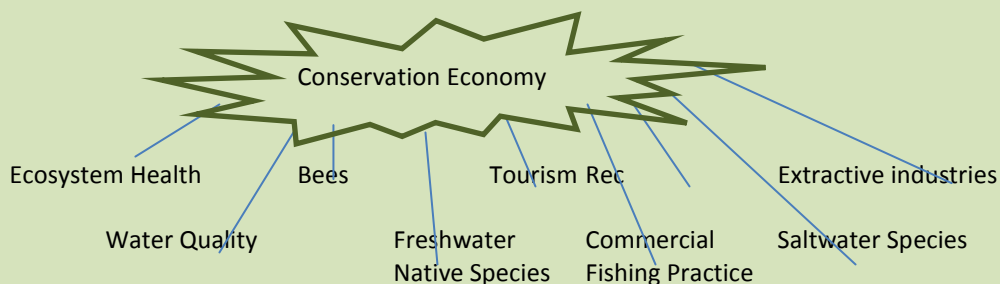
"In a conservation economy, economic arrangements of all kinds are gradually redesigned so that they restore, rather than deplete, natural capital and social capital. Even in a globalizing economy, diverse bioregional economies that are more self-sufficient in meeting their own needs will be more competitive and less vulnerable.

“The primary agents expected to ultimately transform local economies and move bioregions towards locally resilient and enduring 'conservation economies' are small plus medium sized business owners ('conservation entrepreneurs') who embrace a conservation ethic and take a rational self-interest in maintaining and restoring local ecosystems.

"Individuals and organizations that see its potential and acquire the skills to build [a conservation economy] will create ongoing and enduring economic opportunities. Individuals and organizations that continue to depend on the depletion of social and natural capital will face increasingly unpredictable global commodity markets, tightening laws and regulations, new taxes, public outrage, loss of motivation, and many other symptoms of economic transformation."

The Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board has an adapted definition that brings this concept within the context of its operation – “A conservation economy is one that focusses on holistic ecosystem health at place, promotes intrinsic environmental and conservation values, and recognises natural processes. A strong conservation economy supports social and economic growth in the long term.”

Ranging off the concept of a Conservation Economy is an array of issues within the Taranaki-Whanganui region. These include:



Critical underlying themes are the quality of freshwater, coastal, sea and terrestrial ecosystems. It is the point of conflict between the health of these ecosystems and a potpourri of human-induced impacts that the Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board, along with key partners, will focus its attention on.

1. Over the next five years the Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board will increase its knowledge on the following commercial and consumptive activities:

- Bees
- Tourism
- Recreation
- Commercial fishing
- Extractive industries

2. Given the role of the board in kaitiakitanga/guardianship of the natural resources of the region, the seriousness with which the board takes this role, along with its advocacy powers, it will ensure that research and dissemination of information of the following key conservation issues:

- Marine mammals
- Shellfish and coastal processes
- Freshwater species – tuna/eels/piharau, whitebait, kakahi/freshwater molluscs
- Climate change (and its effect on conservation/species/ecosystems)
- Water quality and Water Conservation Orders (WCOs)

(Each of these activities in 1 and 2 above could become ‘themes for the year’
– i.e. one of each per year for the next five years)

3. Once informed, the Board will prepare position statements and media releases on key topics relating to each of these activities noted in 1 and 2 above.

