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Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board

Te Poari Papa Atawhai
o Tongariro/Taupo



Annual Report

1 July 2003 - 30 June 2004

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o Tongariro/Taupo

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Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
pursuant to Section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987

Serviced by the Department of Conservation

Turanga Place,
Private Bag,
Turangi

Front Cover: The Board has taken a special interest in the Lake Taupo water quality and increasing urban development in
Taupo.

Photo: Perry Francis

Chairperson's Report

2003/04 was a busy year, with the main focus of the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board's work being the progression of the Tongariro National Park Management Plan. The plan was handed over to the Board at its October meeting and several meetings and workshops have since been dedicated to the Board's consideration of the plan and the submissions made in 2003. Board members attended the final two hearings of submissions in November 2003 and May 2004. The management planning subcommittee has put a huge amount of work into reading and digesting the material. I am grateful for their input and hopeful of a quick resolution of the outstanding issues leading to the approval of the plan early in 2004/05.

With this plan being finalised, the Board has begun its role on the review of the Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan. Initial briefings and planning meetings have familiarised members with the area and some of the potential issues.

Monitoring of the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy was in its infancy this year. The Board developed a monitoring framework and has begun by examining three of the 18 sections of the plan. While the process continues to evolve, the content has so far been very informative and we are lucky to have many Board members from wide ranging backgrounds who can make valuable contributions to specialist topics.

Continuing its watch over the issue of a potential lahar from Mount Ruapehu's Crater Lake, the Board, through its Crater Lake subcommittee, has been keeping an eye on the lake levels and the risk management discussions. The Board stands firm in its view of not intervening at the lake itself and advocated this position at a hui in Taumarunui. A good gathering of Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Rangi, Ngati Maniapoto Whanganui attended the hui to hear the Department of Conservation's view on the Crater Lake and lahar monitoring system. Presentation by Dr Harry Keys and attended also by Tumut e Heuheu, Sean Goddard, Jim Maniapoto, Timi te Heuheu. The presentation was well received and supported Ngati Rangi and Ngati Tuwharetoas' stance of "no interference with the Crater Lake".

The Board has this year taken a special interest in the Lake Taupo water quality and increasing urban development in Taupo resulting in pressures on public conservation land. The Board has otherwise been involved in many other issues, particularly noteworthy the general policies for conservation and national parks, departmental Standard Operating Procedures for concessions and proposed geothermal policies in the draft Waikato Regional Plan.

The board visited the proposed restoration project at the 'Old Coach Road', between Ohakune and Horopito. It was opened in the early 1900s and was part of the main coach road through the central North Island before being superseded by the railways main trunk line. Board members walked along part of the old road and also visited the historic Hapuawhenua Viaduct.

Board members attended the opening of the new Riverwalk Building, opened by the Prime Minister, at the National Trout Centre in August 2003.

The Management Planning subcommittee met with Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board about the proposed Tongariro Crossing Trust. It was a really productive meeting and valuable in terms of relationship building. The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board was able to listen directly to Ngati Tuwharetoa concerns regarding the management of the peaks of Tongariro National Park.

In October, Tumu te Heuheu was elected as New Zealand's representative to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation's (UNESCO) World Heritage Committee. Tumu represents not only New Zealand but also the Pacific Region on this important organisation. It is especially appropriate given that in 1993 the Tongariro National Park was the first national park in the world to be given dual World Heritage Status for its natural and cultural values.

In December many board members attended the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy's Conservation Awards. A great event, well attended, some exciting community conservation work being carried out in this area.

I would like to thank the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy staff for their support, assistance and cooperation during the past year. Special thanks are due to Paul Green, Sean Goddard, Greg Carlyon, Dave Lumley, Mark Davies, Jodine Hood and Rowena Cudby.

Thank you also to John Nankervis, New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison person, who kept in touch with the Board during the year.

Without its enthusiastic and hard working members, this Board would not have been able to be involved with and respond to so many issues. I would like to thank everyone for their time and input this past year. Special mention must be made of two members who stepped down this year, Pete Masters and Trevor Hunt. Both served as Chair to the Board and I salute their efforts and time spent in that capacity. Pete Masters especially deserves a mention and recognition for his passion and drive to get things done.

Kia ora,



J. A. Wilson
Chair

1 Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board Members

The following people were appointed by the Minister of Conservation to the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board during 2003/2004:

Chair

James Wilson (Alex), Rotorua

Board Members

Lynette Brown, Taupo

Bettine Davies, Taupo

Trevor Hunt, Taupo¹

Bruce Jefferies, Taupo²

Pete Masters, Taupo³

Murray McKee, Wellington

Les Molloy, Wellington

Richard Pirere, Ohakune

Brian Robinson, Taupo⁴

Warwick Silvester, Hamilton

Ngarau Tarawa, Taumarunui

Tumu te Heuheu, Taumarunui

¹Term ended 15 August 2003

²Member since 17 October 2003

³Term ended 15 August 2003

⁴Member since 17 October 2003



(left to right) Les Molloy, Alex Wilson, Brian Robinson, Richard Pirere, Bettine Davies, Bruce Jefferies, Tumu te Heuheu, Murray McKee.
Absent: Lynette Brown, Ngarau Tarawa, Warwick Silvester

2 Functions and Powers of the Board

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board is an independent advisory body appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6P of the Conservation Act 1987. The Board is responsible, under this Act, for shaping conservation management through the development of a conservation management strategy (CMS) and conservation management plans (CMPs) for land administered by the Department of Conservation in Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy. The Board provides advice on policy to the Department, acts as a liaison body between the Crown and the public, and advocates for conservation values on land not administered by the Department.

3 Introduction to the Board District

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy covers 780,000 hectares, of which approximately 217,000 hectares are administered by the Department of Conservation. The conservancy is unique in that it has no sea coastline and includes the Lake Taupo sport fishery.

The Conservancy is dominated by the volcanic landscape of Tongariro National Park, the beech forest and tussock ranges of Kaimanawa Forest Park and by New Zealand's largest lake, Lake Taupo. Tongariro, Erua and Rangataua conservation areas to the east and south of the national park play a valuable part in terms of their ecological features and recreational opportunities.

Tangata whenua – Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Rangi and Ngati Tahu Iwi – have long had a special relationship and history with the mountains, lakes, waterways and geothermal features of this area. Tongariro, New Zealand's first national park, grew from the Ngati Tuwharetoa gift of its mountains to the nation in 1887. The park received World Heritage status in 1988 for natural landscape values and in 1993 for its cultural landscape values, recognising the special significance of the mountains to Tuwharetoa and Wanganui iwi.

The Conservancy contains several rare, uncommon, vulnerable or threatened native plants, birds, communities and ecosystems. Managing these in light of weeds, predators, fires and other threats remains a challenge.

The landscape of the area is unique in New Zealand and large numbers of national and international visitors come here for sightseeing and recreation. Tongariro National Park is the most visited in New Zealand and numbers are expected to rise further. In contrast, the surrounding mountain ranges retain a feeling of remoteness and isolation which is increasingly sought by recreationists - New Zealanders especially.



4 Meetings 2003/2004

Meetings (6)

15 August 2003	Department of Conservation, Turangi
17 October 2003	Tussock Grove Ski Lodge, Ohakune
05 December 2003	Department of Conservation, Turangi
13 February 2004	Department of Conservation, Turangi
16 April 2004	Department of Conservation, Turangi
18 June 2004	Waitetoko Marae, Waitetoko

Inspections / Workshops

17 October 2003	Proposed Old Coach Road Restoration Project
18 October 2003	Draft statements of general policy for conservation and national parks; Draft Tongariro National Park Management Plan
13 February 2004	Historic Tokaanu Wharf Restoration Project
14 February 2004	Draft Tongariro National Park Management Plan
15/16 April 2004	Draft Tongariro National Park Management Plan

Board members attendance at meetings was as follows:

Lynette Brown	4
Bettine Davies	6
Trevor Hunt	1 ¹
Bruce Jefferies	3 ²
Murray McKee	6
Pete Masters	1 ¹
Les Molloy	5
Richard Pirere	4
Brian Robinson	5 ²
Warwick Silvester	6
Ngarau Tarawa	5
Tumu te Heuheu	4
Alex Wilson	6



1 Board members' term ended 15 August 2003

2 Board members appointed 17 October 2003

5 Board Functions under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987¹

5.1 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES – SECTION 6M(1)(A)

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy was approved in May 2002 and has a lifetime of ten years.

5.2 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS – SECTION 6M(1)(B)

With the presentation of the draft Tongariro National Park Management Plan to the Board on 18 October 2003, members concentrated their efforts at meetings and workshops on considering the draft plan and the submissions made last year. In November 2003 and May 2004, the last two submissions were heard and the Board is in the final process of approving the draft plan.

The Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan review has been initiated with a familiarisation briefing and planning discussions. The Board looks forward to being involved from the early stages of the process by participating in the development of an Issues and Options paper.

5.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF CMS – SECTION 6M(1)(C)

The Board's priority in the first part of the year rested with the review of the Tongariro National Park Management Plan and a decision was made to refer any CMS monitoring until the February meeting.

A monitoring framework for the Tongariro/Taupo CMS was discussed and approved by the Board together with a reporting schedule for 2004-2006. The Board was then briefed on three of the 18 sections of the CMS. The way the Board responds to and liaises with the Department of Conservation continues to evolve as the Board becomes more familiar with the process.

5.4 ADVICE TO THE NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CONSERVATION ON CHANGES TO LAND STATUS – SECTION 6M(1)(D)

Proposals for the addition of Rangataua Forest to Tongariro National Park and the gazettals of Tongariro Forest as a conservation park and Huka Falls, Alum Lakes, Craters of the Moon as scenic reserves are still on hold due to unresolved Treaty of Waitangi claims???

¹ There was no action under sections 6M(1)(G) and 6M(2).

5.5 ADVICE TO THE NZ CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL ON PROPOSALS FOR NEW WALKWAYS – SECTION 6M(1)(E)

The Board continues to be interested in the possibility of a walking track around Lake Taupo. A proposal by Bike Taupo, a community group, was heard in June 2003 concerning the establishment of a multi-user track from Whakaipo Bay to Kinloch. If this initiative proceeds, it could form part of the Lake Taupo walking track.

In April 2004 the Board was presented a paper on the draft summary for the Recreation Opportunities Review that was undertaken by the Department in October 2003. The Board was asked for their feedback on the Departments proposals. The Board were very supportive of the draft summary report and the proposals.

5.6 LIAISON WITH FISH AND GAME COUNCILS – SECTION 6M(1)(F)

A Eastern Fish and Game Council representative attended part of the 15 August 2003 meeting and continues to be informed of the Board's work through agenda papers and minutes.

6 Board Powers under Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987²

6.1 REPRESENTATION AT PUBLIC FORUMS AND STATUTORY PLANNING PROCESSES – SECTION 6N(2)(A)

Board members attended public forums and advocated the Board's interest in statutory planning processes as follows:

- Written and verbal submissions on the geothermal policies of the draft Waikato Regional Policy Statement and draft Waikato Regional Plan;
- Waitangi tribunal judicial review, Tongariro National Park;
- Crater Lake Hui, Taumarunui;
- Lakes and Waterways Group, Lake Taupo and catchment areas water quality;



² There was no action under sections 6N(1) and 6N(2)(C).

6.2 APPOINTMENT OF BOARD COMMITTEES – 6N(2)(B)

The Board operated the following committees:

Concessions	Brian Robinson (facilitator), Richard Pirere, Ngarau Tarawa, Lynette Brown.
Crater Lake	Murray McKee (facilitator), Richard Pirere, Warwick Silvester.
Management Planning	Warwick Silvester (facilitator), Murray McKee, Tumu te Heuheu, Les Molloy, Bruce Jefferies.
Statutory Planning	Alex Wilson (facilitator), Bruce Jefferies, Ngarau Tarawa, Lynette Brown, Bettine Davies.
CMS Monitoring	Les Molloy (facilitator), Murray McKee, Bettine Davies, Brian Robinson.
Public Consultation on Recreation	Bruce Jefferies (facilitator), Les Molloy, Brian Robinson.

The Board resolved at its 5 December 2003 meeting to delegate its powers to the Management Planning subcommittee to make decisions on the resolution of the Tongariro National Park Management Plan process.

6.3 MATTERS AFFECTING OR RELATING TO THE BOARD'S FUNCTIONS – SECTION 6N(3)

The Board was informed on the following issues and topics of note:

Tongariro National Park:

- Mount Ruapehu Crater Lake levels and potential lahar risk management;
- Calcium Magnesium Acetate (CMA) trials on Bruce Road and Ohakune Mountain Road;
- Whakapapa and Iwikau village Sewage Scheme – opening on 08 August 2004;
- Increase in Turoa Ski Area car parking facilities;
- Grand Chateau extension, Tongariro National Park;
- Pihanga/Rotopounamu Ecological Restoration Project;
- Visitor numbers and study on use limits on Tongariro Crossing;
- Hut wardens, particularly involvement of volunteers;
- Proposal for relocation of Ketetahi car park;
- Heather beetle trials;

Kaimanawa Forest Park:

- 1080 trials with deer repellent in winter 2003;
- Nga Whenua Rahui covenant over Needles Block adjacent to Kaimanawa Forest Park;

Taupo:

- Urban development in and around Taupo resulting in increasing pressure on public conservation land, especially lakeshore reserves;
- Lake Taupo Development Company land use summit;
- Draft Taupo Long Term Council Community Plan;
- Draft Taupo District Plan;
- Lake Taupo water quality, in particular Environment Waikato's "Protecting Lake Taupo Water Quality: A Long Term Strategic Partnership";

Tongariro River:

- Flood damage to facilities on public conservation land adjacent to Tongariro River;
- Remedial flood protection works on Tongariro and Tauranga/Taupo rivers;
- Tongariro National Trout Centre, opening of the "River Walk" on 28 November 2003;

Historic:

- Tokaanu Wharf Restoration Project;
- Waihohonu Hut Centennial celebrations on 28 March 2004;
- Viaducts?;
- Recording of oral history in Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy;

General:

- Proposal to apply for World Heritage recognition of the geothermal areas in the Bay of Plenty;
- Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy Summer Nature Programme;
- Visit of the Director General of UNESCO on 01 December 2003;
- Roding projects within Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy;
- Concessions Review Project;
- Mangatepopo Stream and Retaruki River hydro scheme proposals;
- Recreation Opportunities Review consultation process;
- Resource consent updates;
- Conservation Week activities in August 2003;
- Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Awards on 05 December 2003;
- 2003/2004 Business Planning priorities;
- Department of Conservation's Strategic Directions 2003-2008;
- Statement of Intent; 2004-2007

... and provided input to/responded to/acted on the following:

- Draft general policies for conservation and national parks;
- Draft CMS monitoring SOP;
- Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy Conservation Awards 2003;
- Conservation Week 2003;
- Farm Environment Awards Trust;
- Management of Whakaipo Bay and 5 Mile Bay recreation reserves; and
- Lakes and Waterways Action Group and Lake Taupo Water Quality.

7 Board Responsibilities under Other Sections of the Conservation Act 1987³

7.1 ANNUAL REPORT – SECTION 60

The Board's 2002/2003 Annual Report was provided to the NZCA in August 2003.

7.2 STATUTORY MEMBERSHIP OF NGATI TUWHARETOA PARAMOUNT CHIEF – SECTION 6P(5)(B)

Tumu te Heuheu, ariki of Ngati Tuwharetoa since July 1997, is a statutory member of the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board.

7.3 CO-OPTION OF MEMBERS SECTION 6Q(1)

The Board did not co-opt any members during 2003/2004.

7.4 CONCESSIONS – PART IIIB

The Board's concessions committee continues to assess those applications forwarded to the Board by the Department - that is, all those applications that require advertising and all others as thought necessary by the Department or requested by the Board. A concessions schedule is presented at each Board meeting. At the first meeting of each financial year members receive a full annual summary. The Department provides feedback to the Board on all applications with which the Board's committee has been involved.

³ There was no action under sections 16A(2) and 17K.

During 2002/2003 the concessions committee considered applications from:

- | | |
|---|--|
| – Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences Ltd. | Establishment of continuous global positioning system equipment with Tongariro National Park (Geo-Net Project) |
|---|--|

8 Board Responsibilities Under Other Acts

No actions were taken by the Board under the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990.

The Board responded to all concessions applications, where these involved Tongariro National Park, in terms of the National Parks Act 1980.

9 Liaison

All Board members receive the minutes of the New Zealand Conservation Authority meetings. Through the year contact has been maintained with NZCA liaison member John Nankervis who attended the Board's December meeting. Kerry Marshall, the Chair of the NZCA, was present for part of the October meeting.

Agendas and minutes from neighbouring conservation boards are provided to individual liaison members who raise items of relevance and occasionally attend other boards' meetings.

The Board continues to liaise with numerous organisations including:

Bike Taupo; Eastern Regional Fish & Game Council; Environment Waikato; Farm Environment Award Trust; Federated Mountain Clubs; Genesis; Lakes and Waterways Action Group; Lake Taupo Development Co. Mighty River Power; Ngati Hikairo ki Tongariro Trust; Ngati Rangī Trust; NZ Forest Managers; Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society;	Ruapehu Alpine Lifts Ruapehu District Council; Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association; Taupo District Council; Taupo-nui-a-Tia Management Board; Taupo-nui-a-Tia 2020; The Grand Chateau; Tongariro National Trout Centre Trust; Tongariro Natural History Society; Tongariro River Advocates Inc.; and Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board.
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10 The Board's 2003/2004 Financial Year

Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board 2003/2004 Expenditure

Resource	Expenditure
Board Member Fees	13,760.00
Postage/Freight & Courier	0
Domestic Travel - Airfares	370.00
Domestic Travel - Other Cost	12,136.00
Office Supplies	158.00
Purchase Field Supplies	77.00
Printing and Publishing	972.00
Catering & Entertainment	2,732.00
Ex-Gratia / Koha	355.00
Total	30,560.00

11 Adoption of Report

Moved:

That the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board adopt the annual report for 2003/2004 and forward it to the New Zealand Conservation Authority by 31 August 2004, as required under section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987.

Les Molloy / Brian Jefferies
Carried
13 August 2004

