

# Tongariro / Taupo Conservation Board

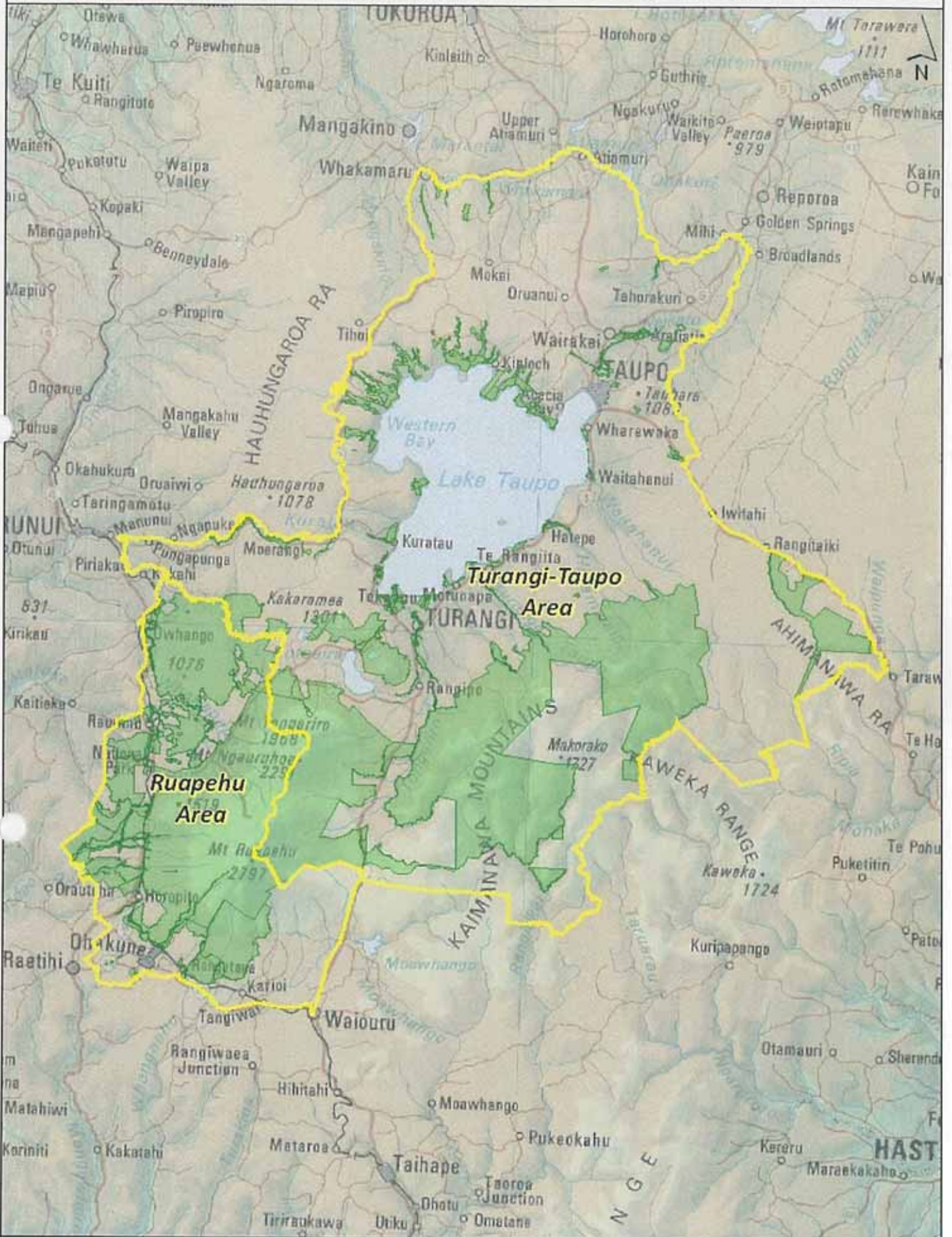
Te Poari Papa Atawhai  
o Tongariro/Taupo

Annual Report July 2008 - June 2009





# Tongariro Taupo Conservancy Boundaries and Conservation Land



# Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board

## *Te Poari Papa Atawhai o Tongariro/Taupo*

Annual Report  
1 July 2008 - 30 June 2009

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

Serviced by  
Department of Conservation  
Private Bag  
Turangi  
New Zealand

Tongariro / Tāngaroa  
Conservation Board

Te Pouti Papa Awhiwhi  
o Tongariro / Tāngaroa

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Christchurch  
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**Cover Photo:** Board members at Whakaipo Bay  
**Photo:** Jo Hood

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# INTRODUCTION

## Functions

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board is an independent advisory body, appointed by the Minister of Conservation. The Board has a number of statutory roles, which include:

- the development of the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and the recommendation of this to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval
- advising the Department of Conservation and the NZCA on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- monitoring the implementation of the CMS
- the approval of Conservation Management Plans
- the recommendation of National Park Management Plans to the NZCA for approval
- advising the Department of Conservation and NZCA on conservation matters, proposed changes to the status of land with national and international significance, and new walkways,
- liaising with the Fish and Game Council, and
- carrying out other powers delegated to them by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

## Area of Responsibility

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy covers 780,000 hectares, of which approximately 217,000 hectares is administered by the Department of Conservation. It is also the area of responsibility for the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board (refer to the Map). The conservancy is unique in that it has no ocean 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 many rare, uncommon, vulnerable or threatened native plants, birds, communities and ecosystems. Managing these in light of weeds, predators, fires and other threats remains an ongoing challenge.

Lake Taupo and its tributaries provide opportunities for world-class fishing and numerous other forms of water recreation. Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy manages the sport fishery in partnership with Ngati Tuwharetoa, as prescribed by the Maori Land Amendment and Maori Land Claims Adjustment Act 1926.

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 national park 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 in particular.

A large number of issues occur on these lands which are of interest to the Board. These include:

- management of plant and animal species such as the blue duck (whio), kiwi (western North Island Brown), and 2-3 species of mistletoe.
- management of recreational facilities such as huts and tracks
- management of historic sites
- concession activities, including those relating to recreation and tourism, grazing, research, and leases.

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board has a responsibility to the people of the Tongariro/Taupo district, and the wider New Zealand population, to ensure these lands and the biodiversity which they contain are protected and enhanced.



Board Members and Doc Staff checking out Lake Taupo while on field trip at Whakaipo Bay.  
Photo Sarah Gibb



## Membership

The names, locations of the members of the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board, and attendance at meetings from 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009 were as follows:

Don Cameron#	Ohakune	3
Sue Carson	Rotorua	5
Ngaire George *	Rotorua	0
Sarah Gibb#	Taupo	5
Maree Gurney	Marton	4
Rob Lester	Turangi	5
Betsan Martin*	Wellington/Te Rangiita	1
Pete Masters#	Taupo	4
Les Molloy*	Wellington	1
Garth Oakden#	Turangi	3
Judy Reid	Wellington	5
Brian Robinson	Taupo	5
Tumu te Heuheu	Taumarunui	1
Alex Wilson	Rotorua	3
Che Wilson	Whanganui	2

\*Members whose terms expired at 31 August 2008

#Members who were newly appointed 1 September 2008



**From Left:** Sir Tumu te Heuheu, Jim Maniapoto (Pou Koura Taio), Maree Gurney, Che Wilson, Brian Robinson, Paul Green (Conservator) Sarah Gibb (Chairperson), Rob Lester, Sue Carson, Judy Reid, Pete Masters and Don Cameron  
**Absent:** Garth Oakden and Alex Wilson

## Conservation Board Meetings

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board held five formal meetings, including two field inspections, during the reporting period.

### 15 August 2008

This meeting was held in Turangi. The Board had a presentation from Les Molloy on the World Heritage Tentative List. They also had two CMS monitoring report presentations. They were on Taupo Basin and Natural Hazards (including Fire) and Earth Resources Protection.

### 16 October 2008

This field trip day was based in Taupo and started with a 'meet the Board' morning tea. Several local community groups were invited to have morning tea with the Board to meet the Board and learn the Boards role within the Department. The rest of the morning and early afternoon the Board members went on a field trip out to look at the W2K track out at Whakaipo Bay. In the afternoon we had a presentation/discussion lead by Che Wilson on Treaty Claims.



Board member Garth Oakden inspecting one of the new signs for the Bike Taupo Track. Photo: Sarah Gibb



### **17 October 2008**

This meeting was held at the Copthorne Hotel, in Taupo. The Board received two CMS monitoring presentations. The first was on Recreation Use and Visitor Facilities and the second was on Protected Species – Fauna and Flora. The Board reviewed the subcommittees at this meeting as well as deciding who would be on each subcommittee.

### **5 December 2008**

This was a regular meeting held in Turangi. Many Board members had attended the Conservation Awards the night before. The Board received a presentation from Tukino Skifield with regard to an activity they wish to undertake. The Board also received two CMS monitoring report presentations on Kaupapa Maori and Enhancing Public Access to the Outdoors. The election for Board Chair was also on the agenda and Sarah Gibb was voted in as Chair.

### **19 March 2009**

The Board had a joint workshop with department staff on recreation issues. In the afternoon the Board had a field trip out to the Karioi Rahui. This field trip was led by Che Wilson who spoke about what this area means to iwi. Ruapehu Area staff members also spoke about the joint department/iwi work being undertaken at this area.



Board Member Che Wilson and Tongariro/Taupo Conservator Paul Green looking out over Lake Rotokura while on field trip. Photo: Don Cameron



## **20 March 2009**

This was a regular meeting held at the Peaks Motor Inn, Conference Room in Ohakune. The Board had a CMS monitoring report/presentation on Statutory Planning. The Board also had a presentation from OPC, on a proposed Sir Edmund Hillary Memorial.

## **5 June 2009**

The Board met in Turangi, no official minutes were recorded due to lack of a quorum.

# **STATUTORY FUNCTIONS – CONSERVATION ACT**

## **Conservation Management Strategy**

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

### **CMS Monitoring Subcommittee Facilitators Report**

Early in 2008 the T/T Conservation Board finished its first 3-year round of monitoring all the topics in the CMS. The Board felt that at this important juncture the timing was right to initiate a review of the effectiveness of CMS monitoring. The suitability of the procedures used for CMS monitoring was discussed at a Strategic Planning meeting in October 2007, and the CMS monitoring committee met with DOC staff in May 2008 for the purpose of developing improved procedures for CMS monitoring. Terms of reference for the subcommittee were written, including guidelines for enhanced CMS monitoring. The new guidelines have been trialed and found to result in more effective CMS monitoring.

### ***The Board's Role***

During the latter part of 2007 and in the 2008/9 year the Board spent some time considering its proper role under the legislation and its other defining documents, the Conservation Management Strategy and the Tongariro National Park Management Plan and the Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan. The result was an agreed Strategy Document for 2007-2010, which defined that role in the following way:

The main responsibility of the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board is to oversee and advise on the development and implementation of the conservation policies and objectives within the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy. The key means by which it discharges this responsibility is through monitoring the implementation of the approved conservation management strategy (CMS) for the conservancy and certain other management plans (including the plans for Tongariro National Park and Kaimanawa Forest Park).

### ***The Monitoring Process***

It is clear from the legislation that the Board's responsibility to advise the Conservation Authority and the Director General on the implementation of both Conservation Management Strategy and Management Plans in its area is a key one. In 2008/9 the Board took a critical look at the way it had carried out this monitoring process, and agreed on some changes:



1. A tighter format for discussing and reporting on the various monitoring topics, which gives more opportunity for the Board to make consistent and informed judgements to be made about the Department's performance. During the year both staff and Board members have used this new format with good results.
2. An opportunity each year for the Board to comment on the Department's performance against its business plan for the previous year, and on priorities for the coming year's plan. This is consistent with the requirements of the CMS and the Management Plans, and does not presuppose Board involvement in operational detail. The first business plan discussion is set down for the June 2009 Board meeting.
3. A review of the Board's current list of 20 monitoring topics. This will happen in 2010, when the Department has done more work on a place-based analysis for the next CMS, and will be followed by a Board review of its subcommittees, so that they can be aligned with the new topics and in due course the new CMS.
4. The inclusion of the National Park Management Plans in the monitoring process (something which has not happened in the past), where they will as far as possible be treated as places.
5. More explicit reports each year to the Conservation Authority and the Director General on implementation, as part of the Board's Annual Report. This will be based on both performance against business plan and the Board reports on monitoring topics in the previous year. Given the current list of 20 topics the Board's report will not cover all the Department's activities, but hopefully the place-based approach will generate a shorter list.

### ***Implementation in 2008/9***

After presentations from and discussions with the relevant staff members, the Board reported on six CMS monitoring topics during the year: Lake Taupo Basin, Animal Pest Control, Natural Hazard and Earth Resource Protection, Threatened Species, Kaimanawa-Moawhango Place and Recreation Management (split into Recreation Use and Visitor Access).

The new format for monitoring is still in the process of settling in, and an improved version will hopefully allow for more precision in the Board's Annual Report. A shorter list of monitoring topics will also facilitate more frequent reviews for each, a more comprehensive measure of the Department's performance, and priority rankings across a wider range of its activities. There is also a need to more fully integrate the Management Plans in the monitoring process. However some common themes do clearly emerge from the six Board reports for 2008/9.

#### **1. Community involvement**

While the CMS and the Management Plans emphasise the importance of engaging with the community, and the six reports note that the Department is doing this well, all of them stress that more could be done. This is the case for instance in partnerships with *hapu* and *iwi*, collaboration with local mountain-biking, hunting and natural history groups and interaction with developers, planners and the owners of local enterprises. A need to gain public support for key activities through education was also identified, for instance about the lahar risk and the way it is managed. The unpopularity of 1080 drops was noted, and the use of deer repellent encouraged as a way of gaining more support for this method of pest control. Good relations with private landowners were also seen as a way of securing necessary access through private land. While biodiversity gains had been made, public

awareness might help to stop its overall decrease in the conservancy. All forms of "integrated management" were endorsed and the Board view overall was that more resources should be devoted to their further development.

## 2. Pest eradication

The Board's concern in this context was that results were uneven. In "showcase" operations such as kiwi or whio, excellent results were achieved in some areas, with a great deal of public awareness and involvement. However, in more difficult areas, in particular the Kaimanawas, success was much less obvious. A need for "pest-led" control was noted, as was the necessity to work with recreational hunters in the back-country. Monitoring, for instance on the effect of deer browse in the Kaimanawas, also seemed to be low on the list of priorities, and thus under-resourced.

## 3. Recreation and biodiversity

Concerns were expressed in the Board's monitoring reports about the balance between recreation and biodiversity: in particular recreation seemed to be adequately resourced, whereas biodiversity, which is under threat, was not. Both have equal importance, and should not be competing for funding.

In summary, the Board's conclusion on the six monitoring topics considered in 2008/9 was that though the Department had mostly delivered on CMS expectations, sometimes extremely well, there were some areas where it had not, as a result of the impossibility of the objective (eg pest eradication) or a lack of resources (eg monitoring, access on private land).

### *Comments on the CMS*

The Board noted in the context of some of its monitoring reports that the CMS was not an appropriate document to report against, since it lacked specific targets and appropriate timeframes. Hopefully the new CMS format will help with this, as will a consideration of the Department's annual business plan.

### **Change of status or classification**

There has been no progress on the addition of Rangataua Forest to the Tongariro National Park or the gazettal of Tongariro Forest as a conservation park. These areas are currently subject to a Treaty of Waitangi claim.

The gazettal of the proposed scenic reserve at Huka Falls is currently on hold due to outstanding Treaty issues.

### **Advice on Other Conservation Matters**

The Board was consulted by or gave advice to the Department and NZCA on the following:

#### **Concessions**

The Board continued to give advice to the Department on a number of concession applications that were forwarded to the Board provided approval criteria mechanisms were met. The department continued to provide a summary of concessions currently being processed at Board meetings.



The concessions considered by the Board during this report period include the following:

#### IGNS

This application was for a 20 year licence to locate a recording box with telemetry antenna for recording temperature, level and other parameters of Ruapehu Crater Lake. The Board had no issues with this application.

#### IGNS

This application was for a 20 year licence to install monitoring equipment for the purpose of monitoring earthquakes and ground movement associated with volcanic activity at Lake Taupo. The Board had no issue with this application.

#### Active New Zealand Ltd

This application was for a 5 year guiding permit for the Tongariro Alpine Crossing. The Board responded that they had no concerns with this application as long as it followed the same rules and guidelines of other concession holders doing the same activity.

### **Liaison with Fish and Game Council**

An Eastern Fish and Game Council representative continues to be informed of the Board's work through agenda papers and minutes, he also attended our December meeting.

### **Powers of Boards**

#### **Conservation Advocacy**

When appropriate the Board has become involved in advocating for conservation mainly through submissions on resource consents, or through regional and district plans.

The Boards Statutory Planning subcommittee identifies those consents with likely significant impacts on conservation values and then makes a decision on whether or not to include a submission.

The Department kept the Board regularly informed about planning issues through regular reports at Board meetings.

In order to formalise and clarify our involvement in this area under the Conservation Act the subcommittee created formal terms of reference that were adopted by the Board. It is clear that Boards have an advocacy function and, being less constrained by boundaries and management functions may communicate more widely and advocate for conservation more holistically.

Our submissions relate to conservation values on both public and private land such as the protection of: indigenous flora and fauna; landscape, cultural and historic values; water quality and environmental degradation. The sub-committee must, in consultation with the Conservator, identify the conservation outcomes being sought and whether they are of strategic importance for conservation goals within the area. Where there are financial implications in the advocacy process such as travel and time costs and liability from court cases the subcommittee must have full approval from the Board and the Conservator to determine if cost can be met before proceeding.

Current DOC policy on Board liability is not sufficiently developed to give a clear direction. This situation and budget constraints currently exclude the board from the Environment (and other) Court proceedings and supporting parties at such hearings beyond initial submissions.



The board has supported the proposed variation to the Taupo District Plan: Landscape and Natural Values. In our submission to this plan we believe it can be improved by adopting higher levels of preservation and protection for landscape and natural values particularly significant areas which are not already protected by DOC. It needs more recognition of the international importance of the area and a vision as to what the area should look like in 20 years time. The national and international importance of the area is borne out by the dual heritage status of the Tongariro National Park. In addition, the Taupo volcano is one of the world's super volcanoes. Consequently we feel that the overall standing of the area has not been taken into account and an assessment of the natural and cultural values has to be made in a regional, national and international context.

We support the concept of greater control for indigenous vegetation in Significant Natural Areas, financial assistance for landowners to undertake protection and enhancement work, awards for environmental excellence and assistance when undertaking protection work, education, and applying for funding.

For the landscape assessment, a more holistic approach would allow the collective integration of all related landscape features such as valleys and ridges without discriminating that valleys, for example, are unimportant. There is clearly a focus on using only the ranking of individual component landscapes and not their inter-relationship. An analysis of the contribution of the different components to the overall integrity of the significant areas is required. Furthermore, we believe that, in general, there should be greater protection for the rural components which contribute to the areas outstanding landscapes.



Board Members at a field inspection at Whakaipo Bay. Photo: Jo Hood



### **Appointment of Committees**

The following Board subcommittees functioned from 1 July 2008. After the appointment of new Board members in October 2008, membership of the committees was revised and approved at the October 2008 meeting. Members whose term expired at 31 August 2008 are marked with an \*. Members who were newly appointed 1 September 2008 are marked with an #.

#### **Concessions**

Pete Masters# (facilitator), Maree Gurney, Ngaire George\*, Garth Oakden#, Che Wilson.

#### **Volcanic Hazards**

Rob Lester (facilitator), Betsan Martin\*, Sue Carson, Che Wilson, Alex Wilson, Pete Masters#.

#### **Management Planning and Policy**

Garth Oakden# (facilitator), Les Molloy\*, Maree Gurney, Betsan Martin\*, Pete Masters#.

#### **Statutory Planning**

Brian Robinson (facilitator), Betsan Martin\*, Ngaire George\*, Don Cameron#.

#### **CMS Monitoring**

Sue Carson (facilitator), Les Molloy\*, Judy Reid.

#### **Recreation and Historic**

Maree Gurney (facilitator), Les Molloy\*, Rob Lester, Judy Reid, Pete Masters#, Garth Oakden#.

#### **Tangata Whenua**

Che Wilson (facilitator), Ngaire George\*, Betsan Martin\*, Rob Lester, Sue Carson, Alex Wilson, Judy Reid.

## **OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CONSERVATION ACT**

### **Co-opting Members of the Board**

No members were co-opted on to the Board this year.

## **BOARD FUNCTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT**

The Tongariro National Park Management Plan was signed off on 12 October 2006 and has a life of 10 years.

## **BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER OTHER ACTS**

### **Walkways Act 1990**

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

### **Reserves Act 1977**

The Board responded to all concession applications, where they involved reserves, in terms of the Reserves Act 1977.



Turangi/Taupo Area Manager Dave Lumley and Board Member Pete Masters at Start of W2K Track.  
Photo Sarah Gibb

## 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 Brian Stephenson.

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 Rangi Trust; NZ Forest Managers; Ohakune 2000;	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society; Ruapehu Alpine Lifts; Ruapehu District Council; Ruapehu Mountain Clubs Association; Taupo District Council; Taupo-nui-a-Tia 2020; Taupo-nui-a-Tia Management Board; 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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## The Board's 2008/2009 Financial Year

### Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board 2008/2009 Expenditure

<b>Resource</b>	<b><i>Expenditure</i></b>
Board Member Fees	8,868
Postage/Freight & Courier	178
Phones/toll/faxes	1,203
Domestic Travel – Other Cost	6,402
Office Supplies	2,722
Professional Fees	0
Printing and Publishing	1,167
Catering & Entertainment	4,871
Ex-Gratia / Koha	0
Computer Internet and Network Costs	226
Education Costs	1,206
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,843</b>

### Conservation Board and DOC Agreed Roles in Business Planning

1. Focus, on strategic priorities using guidance from the monitoring reports of the CMS, KFP and TNP Management Plans. It would be helpful if the Board recommended priorities it considers appropriate based on the report and presentation it receives from DOC. This can be identified in the summary section of the monitoring report from the Board.
2. The Board and DOC compile a summary of priorities for discussion at the big picture level in line with the business planning cycle.
3. In principle the Board and DOC can discuss competing priorities at any stage throughout the year, however the focus will be consistent with the key decision making period through the business planning cycle (March-May).
4. The department will report to the Board what is in the plan.
5. DOC will report to the Board on an annual basis about what it achieved and didn't against what was planned, at the end of each financial year.
6. It was agreed that the Board does not need to see detailed operational expenditure.

7. If the Board considers there is not enough resource to achieve an important objective or outcome in any of the plans they can make the appropriate person and/or authority aware of this (e.g. the Minister).

8. The Board reports to the authority about what was achieved in the year and what wasn't (with regard to financial).

## **Board 2008 Work Programme**

In its annual strategic plan for 2008, the board set out the following tasks for 2008. All of the tasks were accomplished. Specifically:

**Task 1:** Develop a process for monitoring the Department's implementation of the CMS derived from the Department's "auditable trail" proscribed in para 1.1.3 of the CMS, and apply this process to the 2007/08 year.

*Progress:* The board developed with DOC guidelines for the CMS monitoring process, which include suggestions for board member and DOC staff interaction before the monitoring report is written and presented, guidelines for DOC and board reports, and structured feedback forms to facilitate feedback from board members.

The Board trialed the process during the year and found it to be a definite improvement. Following the process has encouraged more comprehensive and focused input from the board.

**Task 2:** Adopt a process for interaction with the Conservation Authority, both on CMS monitoring and on other matters.

*Progress:* Since main form of feedback from the board to the Conservation Authority is through its Annual Report, the board has decided to take the lead in writing it. This report is the result.

**Task 3:** Develop an induction process which will help new board members to make a meaningful contribution to the Board's work in their first year.

*Progress:* The induction process was improved and implemented in 2008.

**Task 4:** Establish a year timetable for Board meetings to include the following:

- a. a Board only planning meeting,
- b. an opportunity to discuss the Board's annual report and budget,
- c. a monitoring and business plan meeting in the second quarter of the financial year as required by CMS,
- d. a meeting attended by an Authority representative, a public forum, 2 or more field trips.

*Progress:* A board calendar which included all of these items has been developed (include calendar in annual report). The calendar is being followed in 2009. A board only planning meeting was held late in 2007 where the board work programme for 2008 was developed. It was decided later in the year that these meetings are only required every three years when the board develops its three year strategic plan. A monitoring and business plan meeting was held in June. The board took the lead in writing this annual report and the budget was reviewed. A representative from the Conservation Authority, Brian Stephenson, attended



the December 2008 board meeting. The public and targeted stake holder groups were invited to have morning tea with the board at the August 2008 meeting. The board went on 2 field trips. In addition, another important item, Development of the annual board Work Programme, was added to the calendar.

**Task 5:** Make formal delegation to its subcommittees, based on subcommittee recommendations and including policy direction for their work so that each subcommittee can then develop an operational plan.

*Progress:* Terms of reference, including specific delegations, were developed for all subcommittees.

**Task 6:** Formalize and adopt a process for setting meeting agendas which includes all board members.

*Progress:* The agenda is now derived from the board Calendar. In addition, board members are invited by the board secretary to contribute agenda items before each meeting.

## **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

Board members would like to acknowledge the Conservancy staff who continued to provide the Board with a high standard of timely and professional advice. Special thanks are due to Jo Hood (Board Support Officer), Paul Green (Conservator), Nic Etheridge (Conservation Support Manager), Jim Maniapoto (Pou Koura Taio), Pauline Jenkins (Planner) and the Tongariro/Taupo Area, Ruapehu Area and Conservation Support Team for their input and guidance during the year.

I would like to thank the Board members for the contribution they have made to ongoing conservation issues which the Board has dealt with. The Board has continued to contribute positively to Tongariro/Taupo communities through quality advocacy. This has resulted from the use of the skills and knowledge of members, their willingness to engage when necessary, in robust debate and their appreciation of the value of our special landscapes and ecosystems.

It has been a busy year as the Board has managed its responsibilities and priorities. A number of issues have been worked through in the last year and the Board looks forward to the challenges of the coming year.

Sarah Gibb  
Chairperson

## **Adoption of Report**

### ***Moved:***

*That the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board adopt the annual report for 2008/2009 and forward it to the New Zealand Conservation Authority by 31 August 2009, as required under section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987.*

***Sue Carson/Judy Reid/Carried***  
*August 2009*