

# WAIKATO CONSERVATION BOARD

## TE PAPA ATAWHAI O TE ROHE O TAINUI

Annual Report  
For year ended 30 June 2009



FOR PRESENTATION TO THE  
NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*Cover photo: Pip Wallace, Rachel Kelleher (Conservation Support Manager), Wyne Johns, Dell Hood, Alison Henry, Philip Hart, Liz Wedderburn and Arthur Hinds inspecting the Whangamarino wetland weir, November 2008. (Des Williams/DOC photo)*

# WAIKATO CONSERVATION BOARD

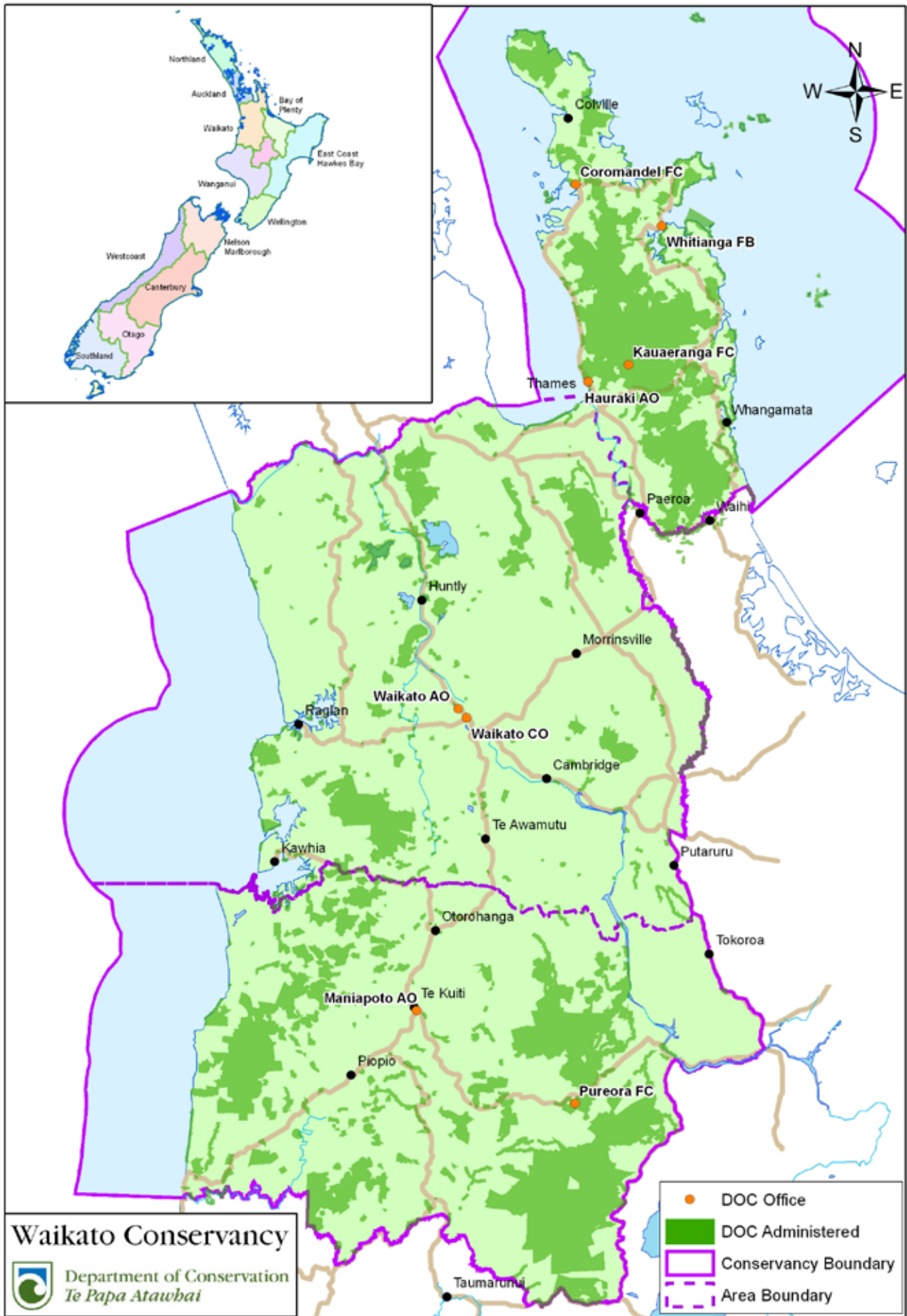
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## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

As my term on the Conservation Board will shortly expire, I would like to thank all the members I've worked with over the past six years and all the Conservancy staff with whom we've been in contact. There continues to be debate about how worthwhile conservation boards are, but it is clear from the comments of members that they have valued their time on the board.

Members have learnt a great deal about the work of the Department, and have made helpful suggestions on several issues. They have assisted the Department by being a conduit between it and the community, and have provided information and guidance as appropriate. As members belong to a wide range of organisations and live in different parts of the Conservancy, they can and do provide useful feedback to Departmental staff.

From next year onwards, Board members will have a focus that has been lacking for several years: the implementation of the conservation management strategy (CMS). There has been some frustration about how long it has taken to revise this, but work is now progressing steadily in integrating advice provided by Departmental staff, Board members, public submissions, and Head Office. It is anticipated that the Board will be able to approve the CMS and send it on to the New Zealand Conservation Authority before the end of this year.

Public submissions and subsequent hearings have indicated that there is general community support for the over-all thrust of what is proposed in the CMS, and even those critical of some aspects have put forward useful suggestions that in most cases will be incorporated in the final document.

Each year, this report has lamented that the Conservancy is underfunded and its relatively small number of staff are overburdened. Nothing has resulted from these laments, and it is not anticipated that yet another lament will lead to any immediate improvements. The present economic and political climate is not conducive to increasing funding for the environment, but, with concerns over such issues as global warming increasing, the point is worth repeating and needs to be addressed in the near future.

There are increasing community expectations that the Conservancy will play a larger role in a variety of areas, such as the clean up of the Waikato River, and these expectations can only be met by adequate funding.

Philip Hart  
Chairperson  
13 August 2009



Dr Philip Hart, Waikato  
Conservation Board  
chairperson 2008/09.  
(DOC photo)

## **1.0 - INTRODUCTION**

The Waikato Conservation Board is an independent advisory body established in October 1990 by the Minister of Conservation under Section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987 (as amended by the Conservation Amendment Act 1990, the National Parks Act 1980 and the Walkways Act 1990).

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 the Waikato Conservancy. The Board provides advice to the Department on policy, acts as a liaison body between the Crown and the public, and advocates for conservation values on land not administered by the Department.

The Minister of Conservation appoints members to the Board for terms not exceeding three years. Members can be appointed for a second term of three years.

This Annual Report is submitted to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA), the national parent body for conservation boards, under Section 6 (O) of the Conservation Act 1987.

## **2.0 - BOARD MEMBERSHIP 2008/2009**

The Minister of Conservation, by various notices in the New Zealand Gazette, appointed members to the Waikato Conservation Board as follows:

**PHILIP HART**, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2009).

Philip is chairman of the Waikato F&B and was for nine years (until 2008) a member of the national executive. A senior lecturer in history at University of Waikato until 2002, he is now a Research Associate in that department, of which he was chairperson for many years. He has been actively involved in a number of Hamilton-based community organisations. Philip was elected Board chair in October 2004.

**ALISON HENRY**, Whitianga, (appointment expires 31 August 2009)

A former DOC staff member (Auckland Conservancy) Alison has a good knowledge of the Department's structure and processes and has a special interest in building public consensus on important issues. Her conservation interests have included trusteeships with Project Crimson, Te Araroa (the Long Pathway) and Motutapu Restoration Trusts. Alison lives at Cooks Beach and is the current chair of the Kauri 2000 Trust and is DOC's representative for the Coromandel Blueprint project.

**ARTHUR HINDS, JP**, Whitianga (appointment expires 31 August 2010)

Arthur Hinds is a dairy farmer at Whitianga, with some 15 years experience as a director on dairy company boards, including the New Zealand Dairy Group 1991-2000. He is a former Environment Waikato councillor and, as chairperson of the Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group, a strong supporter of community conservation initiatives.

**DELL HOOD**, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2009)

Dell Hood is Medical Officer of Health for the Waikato District Health Board, with long-time interests in tramping and voluntary conservation work, including membership (and past chairperson) of the Friends of Tiritiri-Matangi. Dell is a QEII covenantor (Coromandel property) and is involved in restoration work at local reserves such as Kakepuku and Whewell's Bush.

**WYNE JOHNS**, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2011)

Wyne is a former (retired) lecturer in Amenity and Environmental Horticulture and has a Masters degree in Environmental Management through Lincoln University. Wyne has been a member of the Auckland Botanical Society for many years and is involved with several community conservation groups, including Tamahere Gully Care and Keep Hamilton Beautiful.

**LOIS LIVINGSTON**, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2011):

Lois is a Hamilton-based advocate and mediator and already has a lengthy association with the Department of Conservation, established during her 15 years as a Waikato Regional Councillor and chair of Council's environment and policy committees. A former teacher and broadcaster, Lois is a trustee of the New Zealand Heritage Trails Foundation and a member of Waikato University's Cultural Committee.

**SALLY MILLAR**, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2010)

Sally Millar is a programme manager for the Animal Health Board, with strong links to the farming community, including family involvement in a QEII Trust covenant, and was environmental and resource manager for Federated Farmers. Previously she was an environmental consultant with biodiversity protection on private land being a key area of her work. Sally has a background in law and environmental and resource management policy development.

**GAYLENE ROBERTS**, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2010)

Gaylene represents Maori Sovereign King Tuheitia, on the Board. Of Ngati Raukawa and Ngati Mahunga affiliations, Gaylene is currently a member of Te Kauhanganui o Waikato, Iwi Maori Council of the Waikato District Health Board, a member of the Waipa District Council Regulatory Committee, Waikato District Health Board Kaumatua Kaunihere chairperson, and Maungatautari Ecological Island Trustee. Gaylene is programme coordinator for environmental management studies at Te Wananga o Aotearoa.

**DAVID TAIPARI**, Ngatea (appointment expires 31 August 2011):

David is General Manager of the Ngati Maru Runanga and also has affiliations with Ngati Whanaunga, Ngati Tamatera, Ngati Paoa, Tumutumu, Ngati Awa and Te Patuwai. He is Ngati Maru representative on the Hauraki Maori Trust Board, and chairperson of Matai Whetu Marae. He is also a technical officer for the Hauraki Gulf Forum and was a researcher for Hauraki's Waitangi Tribunal claims.

**PETER TAIRI, JP**, Cambridge (appointment expires 31 August 2009)

Peter is a building industry sales consultant/sub-contractor with an extensive history in community projects and initiatives, from sporting, cultural and educational aspects. He is chairperson of the Maungatautari Marae Komiti and a Maungatautari Ecological Island Trustee. Peter has a special interest in the impacts of legislation and local body policies on tikanga Maori.

**PHILIPPA (PIP) WALLACE**, Cambridge (appointment expires 31 August 2010)

Pip is a lecturer in environmental planning and resource management law at the University of Waikato, Department of Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning. She is a member of several environmental groups and is involved with "hands-on" monitoring for the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust and the Maungatautari Mountain restoration project.

**LIZ WEDDERBURN**, Raglan (appointment expires 31 August 2011): A senior scientist with Agresearch, Liz has 11 years science management and strategy development experience related to water, biodiversity, climate change and soil within farm and catchment settings. She was a member of the Strategic Advisory Group for Biodiversity in 2003 and, more recently, an advisor to the Dairy Insight Sustainable Environmental Management Strategy. Liz completed her PhD at Glasgow University in 1980 before coming to work in New Zealand.

### **3.0 - INTRODUCTION TO BOARD DISTRICT**

The Waikato Conservancy Office is situated in Hamilton, with overall responsibility for the administration of nearly 270,000ha of public conservation land (12% of the total area 2,250,000 hectares). The land is described in more than 500 separate parcels for various purposes, including forests, wetlands, caves, marine reserves, offshore islands, historic sites, wildlife protection and recreational areas.

Conservancy boundaries extend from a point at the Waikato River mouth, north-east to Miranda, taking in the whole of the Coromandel Peninsula (including the Mercury and Aldermen Island groups and Cuvier Island), south to Waihi Beach, west to Paeroa then generally south following the Waihou River to Tirau.

The boundary then follows Highway One south to Atiamuri, the Waikato River west to Whakamaru, Western Bays Highway 32 to Kuratau, Highway 41 west to Ohura via Taumarunui; then north to Panirau before generally following the Mokau River west to the coast, and thence north to the Waikato River mouth. Waikato Conservancy also manages water-related issues for that part of the Waikato River catchment north of the Waikato/Auckland Conservancy boundary.

Culturally, the Conservancy falls mainly within the rohe of Tainui waka and the Hauraki, Tainui, Maniapoto and Raukawa Iwi/hapu.

The Conservancy is divided into three management Areas – Hauraki (office at Thames), Maniapoto (office at Te Kuiti) and Waikato (office at Te Rapa). Hauraki also contains Field Bases at Coromandel, Kauaeranga Valley and Whitianga, while Maniapoto has a Field Base at Pureora. The Conservancy employs 109 staff [2009 figures], of whom 38 are located in Conservancy Office, 20 at Waikato Area, 31 at Hauraki/Peninsula Field Bases, and 20 at Te Kuiti/Pureora. (Figures subject to slight variations.)

#### **BRIEF SUMMARY BY AREA**

Waikato: The Waikato Area encompasses the geographical area from Port Waikato to Kawhia on the West Coast, east to Tokoroa and generally northwards following the Waihou River to Thames. Dominant features of the Area are:

- three internationally significant wetlands (Firth of Thames, Kopuatai Peat Dome and the Whangamarino Wetland) and an extensive network of wetland reserves within the Lower Waikato and Hauraki Plains;
- terrestrial forests associated with the Hakarimata and Hapuakohe ranges, the volcanic cones of Maungatautari, Kakepuku, Pirongia and Karioi and the karst landforms of Te Kauri;
- coastline and estuarine areas of the Firth of Thames, Waikato River delta, Whaingaroa, Aotea and Kawhia harbours on the Western Waikato coast.



There are large rural and urban centres (Hamilton, Te Awamutu, Morrinsville, Cambridge, Matamata, Raglan, Ngatea) within the Area supporting a regional population in excess of 380,000 people. Industrial development, intensive use of land for agriculture and increasing demands for outdoor and recreational opportunities and experiences from growing populations, pose challenges for the retention of indigenous character and biodiversity within the Waikato landscape.



Mount Karioi, iconic west coast landmark under Waikato Area management. (Des Williams photo)

Hauraki: The Hauraki Area covers the scenic and wonderfully diverse Coromandel Peninsula. The Peninsula is traditionally known as Te Tara o Te Whai (the jagged barb of the stingray), and is the figurative ama (outrigger) that has Mt Te Aroha as its prow and Mt Moehau as its stern. The area is known for its kauri-cloaked volcanic ranges, rocky coastal headlands, sandy beaches, bays and estuaries. The coastline is dotted with islands and nationally significant sites for many of our threatened species.



Hauraki Area landscape: Stony Bay, northern Coromandel Peninsula, with Moehau Range in backdrop. (Greg Martin photo)

The area has a rich history dating back to early Maori settlement 800 years ago, followed by European settlement and with it the kauri logging and gold mining industries. The Peninsula is a playground for much of New Zealand's population, especially for the weekend exodus of people escaping Auckland to enjoy the natural and historic heritage that is "the Coromandel".

Important features of the Area include:

- Coromandel Forest Park;
- Northern Coromandel Farm Parks;
- Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve;
- Predator-free off-shore islands.

Maniapoto: The Maniapoto Area encompasses the geographical area from Kawhia Harbour to Tokoroa and generally south following State Highway 32 to Kuratau and across to the Mokau River mouth. Important features of the Area are:

- nationally significant ecosystem restoration project within Waipapa ecological area;
- nationally important kokako management project at Mapara Wildlife Reserve;
- locally endemic Mahoenui giant weta and *Awaroa hebe* populations, and nationally important populations of *Dactylanthus taylorii*, long and short-tailed bats, kaka, kokako, Archey's frogs, and tainui;
- Ruakuri Scenic Reserve site, Waitomo Caves and other nationally unique karst sites.



Marokopa township, coastal settlement in the north-west corner of Maniapoto Area. (DOC photo)

#### 4.0 - CONSERVATION BOARD MEETINGS

The Board generally plans its meeting venues in order to cover as much of the Conservancy as possible. During this year, however, three one-day, and one two-day meetings (the latter incorporating an inspection of the Hauauru wind farm site and Whangamarino wetlands) were held in Hamilton.

Two-day meetings that were planned for Hamilton (February) and Coromandel (April) did not eventuate because an insufficient number of members was able to attend on the second day. Holding more meetings in Hamilton has assisted members to concentrate on revisions to the conservation management strategy.

During the year the Board adopted the policy that two-day meetings incorporating an inspection on the second day will proceed only if a quorum of members is present on both days. Failing a two-day quorum, those meetings will revert to one-day meetings at Hamilton. The Board includes “public forum” opportunities in all agendas.

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Place</b>	<b>Field Inspection</b>
18 September 2008	Hamilton	No
13 November 2008	Hamilton	Hauauru wind farm / Whangamarino
12 February 2009	Hamilton	No
16 April 2009	Hamilton	No
25 June 2009	Hamilton	No

#### **4.1 Meeting Summary**

##### **4.1.1 - Meeting 18 September 2008:**

The chairperson welcomed new members, David Taipari, Liz Wedderburn and Lois Livingston to the meeting and gave a brief outline of the Board’s advisory role and functions in relation to the work of the Department of Conservation. A vote of thanks to retiring members, Ron McGough, Rachel Garden and Kewana Duncan was also recorded.

Members discussed the draft conservation management strategy (CMS), which had undergone intensive re-drafting since the previous meeting. The Board resolved to approve the draft for public notification subject to amendments discussed at this meeting being incorporated into the document.

The Board received what it considered to be an unsatisfactory response from the Minister of Conservation in reply to the Board’s letter of concerns about the latest Department restructuring.

##### **4.1.2 - Meeting 13 November 2008:**

The department reported on the consultation meetings that had been held to discuss the draft CMS. Though attendances had been generally low (probably reflecting the level of consultation that had been undertaken prior to release of the draft) the feedback received had been of high quality. The document was also available on the DOC website, including the 160-page inventory of conservation land administered by Waikato Conservancy.

Members discussed the difficulties associated with finding the time for attendance at two-day meetings. The Board’s annual programme generally includes provision for three such meetings, one in each of the Hauraki, Maniapoto and Waikato Areas. While a quorum of members was generally available for the first day meetings, there were sometimes six or less members available for inspections, which took considerable time and effort to organise and commitment of Area staff to explain issues.

The Board wrote letters of appreciation to outgoing Minister of Conservation, Hon Steve Chadwick, Hon Mark Burton (Minister of Tourism) and Martin Gallagher MP for Hamilton West. The Board also wrote to the new Minister of Tourism (Rt. Hon John Key) on the long-standing issue of responsibility for maintaining ‘tourist roads’ such as the Stony Bay road (northern Coromandel Peninsula) which the Thames-Coromandel District Council will not maintain because the road doesn’t service any ratepayers.



The Waikato Conservation Board inspected the site of the proposed Hauarau windfarm (Waikato west coast, north of Raglan) in November. Inset photo, from left: Rachel Kelleher, Wynne Johns, Philip Hart, Arthur Hinds, Alison Henry, Pip Wallace, Liz Wedderburn and Dell Hood. (Des Williams photos)

On the Friday, members enjoyed their only ‘field trip’ of the year - journeying along the west coast north of Raglan to gain an appreciation of the proposed Hauaaru wind farm, before cutting across country to the proposed National Wetland Centre at Rangiriri and an inspection of the Whangamarino wetland.

#### 4.1.3 - Meeting 12 February 2009:

The department received 89 submissions in response to the draft CMS, 40 of which were ‘pro-forma’ from the Tokoroa Pig Hunting Club. Rachel Kelleher reported to the Board that all submissions had been acknowledged and would be analysed and summarised for the Board by an independent person.

The Waikato Conservation Board and Environment Waikato alternate responsibility for making the annual presentation of the Stella Frances Memorial Scholarship, won this year by Andrew Wood, who plans to analyse existing data on Coromandel beach profiles to identify some indicator beaches that will help to predict accretion, erosion and other geomorphologic changes over time. Andrew is pictured with Board chair Philip Hart and Environment Waikato chair, Peter Buckley. (Des Williams photo)



The Board hosted Environment Waikato representatives Peter Buckley, Jane Hennebry and Tony Petch for the occasion of presenting the Stella Frances Memorial Scholarship to Andrew Wood, whose project will involve analysing existing data on Coromandel beach profiles to identify indicator beaches for predicting change through accretion, erosion and other geomorphologic changes over time.

#### **4.1.4 – Meeting 16 April 2009:**

The Board noted that the New Zealand Conservation Authority had been discussing the format of CMS documents and was having second thoughts about the suitability of the Bay of Plenty document as a prototype.

The Board received a presentation from Lettecia Williams of the Moehau Environment Group (MEG) during the public forum and noted with appreciation the Group's achievements since its inception in 2000 as a non-profit organisation dedicated to the protection and enhancement of the natural environment of Mount Moehau and the northern Coromandel Peninsula.

The Board discussed papers relating to Environment Waikato's Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) and agreed to make a submission in support of DOC's submission, and to submit on its own account about the premature ending of the Clean Streams programme, and to seek a Council 're-think' on issues such as pest control and protection of waterways and wetlands.

#### **4.1.5 – Meeting 25 June 2009:**

The Board received presentations from Graham Silver (Environment Waikato) on present and future proposals for aquaculture in the Firth of Thames; Alan Fleming from Forest and Bird (campaigns proposed for the present year) and Ruth Buckingham (Thames-Coromandel District Council) on the draft plan for the Blueprint Project. Ruth was assisted by Matthew Vare and Ursula Lehr (EW).

The Department also reported on the Huarau wind farm proposal (hearings adjourned for one year) and provided members with an update on progress with revising of the draft conservation management strategy.

## **4.2 Other Board Activity**

### **4.2.1 National Wetland Trust (Wyne Johns):**

Wyne Johns provides updates at each meeting on progress being made by the National Wetland Trust to establish a national wetland centre bordering the Whangamarino wetland (Ramsar site) at Rangiriri Village.

### **4.2.2 Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust (Arthur Hinds):**

Arthur Hinds took over from Ron McGough as Board representative on the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust and provides regular updates on this internationally significant project. Like many other organisations, the Board anxiously awaits some satisfactory resolution to the problem of the Trust's long-term financial viability.

### **4.2.3 Ballance Farm Environment Award Trust (Sally Miller):**

The Board continues to take a keen interest in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards – an initiative that was first introduced by the Waikato Conservation Board (in conjunction with Environment Waikato) in 1993.

#### **4.3 Members attendance record at meetings 2008-2009**

Member	(total 5)
Philip Hart	( 5 )
Alison Henry	( 4 )
Arthur Hinds	( 5 )
Dell Hood	( 5 )
Wyne Johns	( 3 )
Lois Livingston	( 5 )
Sally Millar	( 3 )
Gaylene Roberts	( 4 )
Peter Tairi	( - ) (changed occupation precludes attendance)
David Taipari	( 5 )
Pip Wallace	( 3 )
Liz Wedderburn	( 3 )

#### **5.0 - BOARD FUNCTIONS SECTION 6M CONSERVATION ACT 1987**

Section 6M (1) (a) Approval of conservation management strategy (CMS): The Board approved the second draft CMS for public notification in September 2008 and has progressed the document through the public hearings process (April/May 2009) with a view to having an approved draft ready for submission to the NZCA and Minister of Conservation by late 2009.

Section 6M (1) (b) Conservation management plan approval, review and amendments: No amendments or reviews were undertaken during the year.

Section 6M (1) (c) Advice on the implementation of CMS and CMP: The Department's reports to the Board during the year have been focused on progress with implementation of the review document, rather than achievements against the existing strategy, which is acknowledged to be well out of date.

Section 6M (1) (d) (ii) Advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matters: The Board did not raise any issues with the NZCA but made a submission (July 2008) on the proposed marine mammals sanctuary, recognising the perilous state of the Maui's dolphin population located solely off the west coast of the North Island.

Statutory Land Management: The Board was asked to provide the department with advice on a proposed exchange of land at Otama. In the Board's view the proposal would not have sufficiently enhanced the overall conservation values of land managed by the department, and resolved to advise the department accordingly.

Resource Management Issues: The Board maintained an on-going interest in the wind farm developments at Taharoa and Huarau, as well as the Shore Futures (Waikato District Council) and Blueprint (Thames-Coromandel District Council) projects, the long-running Tairua marina proposal and the Waikato water allocation plan.

Section 6M (1) (e) Advice on proposals for new walkways: The Board made no recommendations to the department regarding new walkway proposals, though it supports the Department's proposal for the establishment of a rail trail utilising the old Ongarue tramway and spiral.

Section 6M (1) (f) Liaise with Fish and Game Council on Board-related matters: The Board continues to send meeting agendas and minutes to the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council, and receives copies of Council minutes in return. Further informal contact (and occasional attendance at Council meetings) is maintained by Board member Arthur Hinds.

#### **6.0 - POWERS OF BOARD SECTION 6N CONSERVATION ACT 1987**

6N(2)(a) Advocate interest at public forums and statutory planning processes: The Board made a submission to Environment Waikato on the draft Long Term Community Council Plan.

6N(2)(b) Appoint committees and delegate them functions and responsibilities: The Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Committee was established in 1993 and functions as a sub-committee of the Waikato Conservation Board under section 6Nb of the Conservation Act 1987.

The committee includes four representatives of the Ngati Hei Trust - Patricia MacDonald of Auckland, Joe Davis of Whitianga, Peter Johnston of Whitianga and Barbara Francis of Whitianga - one member of the Waikato Conservation Board (presently Arthur Hinds) and three members representing the local community: Philip Costello of Hahei, Sue Edens of Opito Bay (chairperson) and with one vacancy. Dirk Immenga of Waikato University is a co-opted member providing scientific expertise.



Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Committee, from left: Phil Costello, Barbara Francis, Arthur Hinds (WCB), Alison Henry (WCB), Sue Edens (chairperson), Peter Johnston, Dirk Immenga (University of Waikato). Absent: Joe Davis and Patricia MacDonald. (Des Williams photo)

Committee members are appointed for a three-year term. The Committee generally meets at least twice a year and is administered by the Department's Hauraki Area Office. The Committee is presently investigating the establishment of a Charitable Trust (Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei) whose role will be to promote the reserve and gain access to private sector funding for reserve projects.

#### **7.0 - OTHER BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Section 6Q (1) Conservation Act 1987: Co-opting Members:** The Board does not now have the capacity to adopt any additional members as it already has twelve Minister-appointed members).

Section 17G Conservation Act 1987: Procedure for preparation and approval of conservation management plans: The Board did not consider any conservation management plans this year.

## **8.0 - LIAISON**

**With the Public:** The Board discusses conservation issues with individuals and organisations as opportunity permits. Meetings held away from Hamilton include provision for a public forum where people are able to express concerns, raise issues, and talk with the Board. The Board includes public forum time in its Hamilton meeting agendas also but these opportunities are not always utilised.

**With Fish and Game:** A report on Fish & Game Council meetings is given by Board liaison member Arthur Hinds at Board meetings. The Waikato Conservation Board's agenda and minutes are sent to the executive officer of Auckland /Waikato Fish and Game Council, who similarly provide the Board with agendas and minutes.

**With other Boards / organisations:** The Board maintains contact with neighbouring Conservation Boards through the exchange of meeting agendas and minutes. A report on each neighbouring board's minutes is given at each Board meeting. Liaison members during the year under review were: Bay of Plenty – Wyne Johns; Taupo / Tongariro – Dell Hood; Auckland – Lois Livingston; Taranaki / Whanganui - Sally Millar.

**With the Ballance Waikato Farm Environment Awards:** Sally Millar. **With the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society:** Philip Hart. **With the National Wetland Trust:** Wyne Johns. **With the Hauraki Gulf Forum and Thames Coast Protection Society:** David Taipari; **with Thames Coromandel District Council/Blueprint Project and QEII Trust:** Alison Henry; **With the Waikato District Council Shore Futures Project:** Pip Wallace and Wyne Johns; **with the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust:** Arthur Hinds.

**With the New Zealand Conservation Authority:** Minutes of the New Zealand Conservation Authority meetings are circulated to members with the Board's own meeting agenda papers and are commented on by the Board/NZCA liaison member at the meeting. In 2008-2009 Philip Hart was the liaison member with the NZCA. Basil Morrison of Paeroa is the NZCA's Waikato liaison member and receives copies of Board agendas and meeting minutes.

**With Iwi Authorities, Maori Trust Boards and Tangata Whenua:** Meeting minutes and agendas are circulated to the Maori Trust Boards. Kahui Ariki (The Maori King) is represented on the Waikato Conservation Board (presently by Gaylene Roberts) as a condition of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement Act 1995.

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## NOTES