

WAIKATO CONSERVATION BOARD  
TE PAPA ATAWHAI O TE ROHE O TAINUI

Annual Report  
For year ended 30 June 2010



FOR PRESENTATION TO THE  
NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*Cover photo: Heartland King Country, through which the Central North Island Rail Trail will be constructed, following the line of the old Ellis & Burnand bush tramway between Pureora and Ongarue. Hikurangi in the mid-distance. (Des Williams/DOC photo)*

# WAIKATO CONSERVATION BOARD

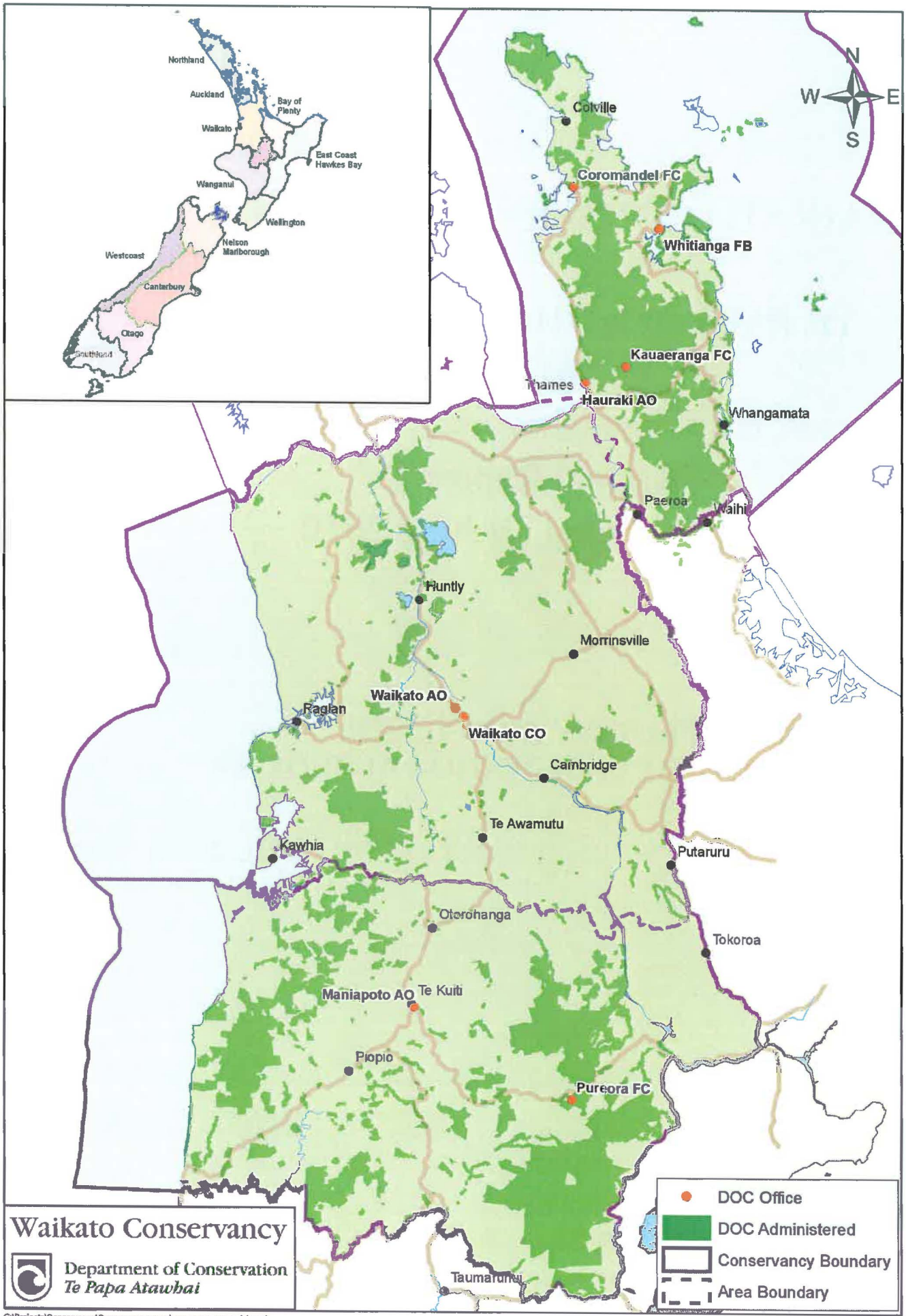
## TE PAPA ATAWHAI O TE ROHE O TAINUI

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NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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**Waikato Conservancy**  
 Department of Conservation  
*Te Papa Atawhai*

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## CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

It is my privilege to report on the 2009/2010 year on behalf of the Waikato Conservation Board and to acknowledge with appreciation the support and input of our Board members. I would also like to acknowledge with gratitude the input of the Waikato Conservancy staff who work at times in an increasingly challenging work place to protect our natural heritage for both present and future generations.

Our role as Conservation Board members is an important one in providing another link between the Conservancy and the wider community. The work of community conservation groups is essential to ensure the protection of our unique native species and they are to be commended for their work.

As Board members we gain a lot of valuable information about the work the Department does with very limited funding relative to the size of the public estate managed on behalf of all New Zealanders. The level of funding is, and has been, an issue of major concern to this Board for many years.

As a Board we continue to be frustrated by the lack of progress on the implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy review. This is a view held by all conservancies and will hopefully be rectified in the coming [2010-2011] year.

On a more positive note, the Conservation Board chair's conference is an excellent forum and it was a privilege for me to be part of the event held in this year. The link between conservancies is essential and, as Dr Mark Seabrook-Davison has recently highlighted in his thesis on the management of threatened species, is something that can and must be done better.

As our report year draws to a close a large number of issues face the Department, the mining issue being one of them. How this is handled will have major implications for community relations and the work place for Conservancy staff.

In conclusion, we as a Board look forward to our advisory role with the Conservancy and assisting where we can to work through the coming challenges.

Arthur Hinds  
Chairperson  
3 August 2010



Arthur Hinds, Waikato  
Conservation Board  
chairperson 2009/2010

## **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 more than one term.

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, has appointed members to the Waikato Conservation Board as follows:

**ALISON HENRY**, Whitianga, (appointment expires 31 August 2011: 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 (Chairperson) (appointment expires 31 August 2010): Arthur 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. Arthur was elected Board chair at the August 2009 meeting.

**DELL HOOD**, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2011): Dell 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 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 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. She is environmental management studies co-ordinator 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.

**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.

**BRIAN WHITTINGTON**, Hamilton, (appointment expires 30 June 2011): Brian is a member of Environment Waikato's North Zone Regional Pest Management Advisory Sub-committee and a past-president of the Hamilton Acclimatisation Society with a special interest in wetland restoration and management. He was an honorary wildlife ranger for 30 years. He spent much of his working career in the dairy industry and in later years operated his own health and safety consultancy.

### 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.



Waikato Area landscape – part of the new visitor facilities and viewing area built at Waireinga/ Bridal Veil Falls. (Des Williams photo)

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 130 staff [2010 figures], of whom 40 are located in Conservancy Office, 25 at Waikato Area, 41 at Hauraki/Peninsula Field Bases, and 24 at Te Kuiti/Pureora. (Figures subject to slight variations.)



## BRIEF SUMMARY BY AREA

### Waikato:

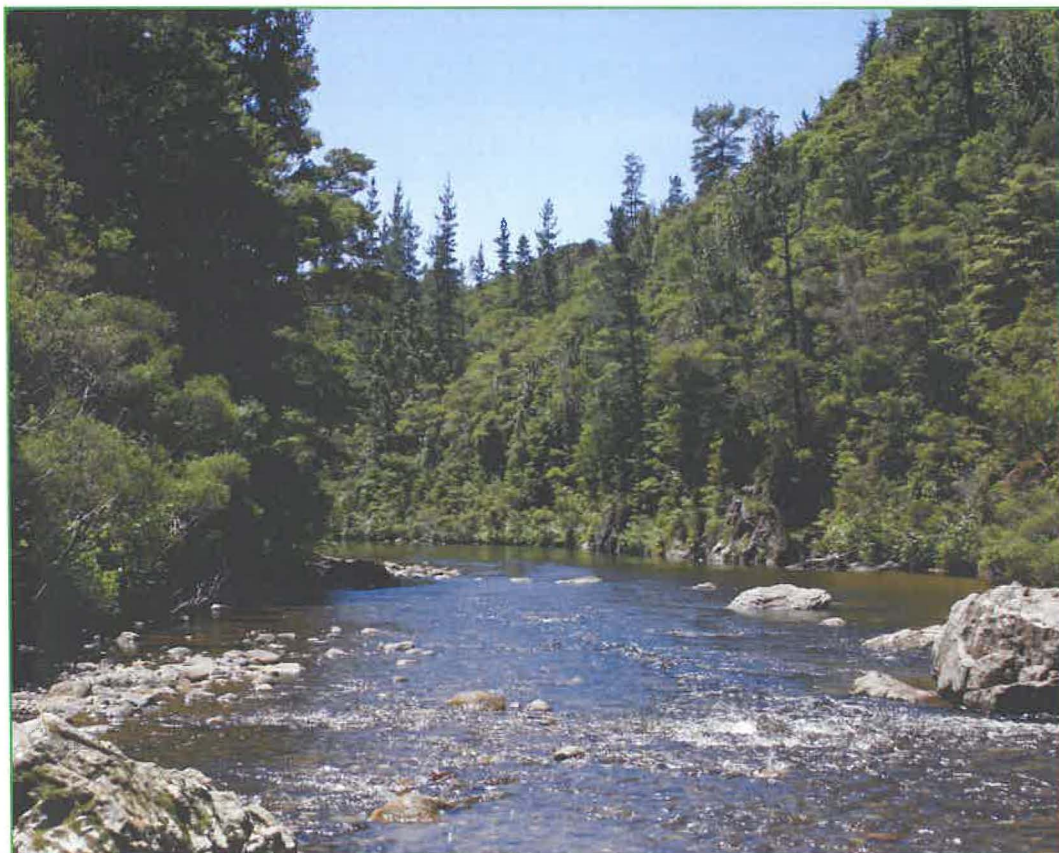
The Waikato Area encompasses the geographical area from Port Waikato to Kawhia on the West Coast, east to Tokoroa and generally northwards following the Waihou River to Thames. Dominant features of the Waikato Area are:

- 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.

### 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 – Broken  
Hills campground. (Des  
Williams 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 popular weekend destination, especially for the exodus of people escaping Auckland to enjoy the natural and historic heritage that is “the Coromandel”.

Important features of the Hauraki 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 Maniapoto 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.



Maniapoto landscape  
– the road to Pureora  
Forest Park. (Des  
Williams 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 meetings were held at Hamilton and one at the Department of Conservation’s new Visitor Centre in the Kauaeranga Valley. The Board now has a policy that two-day meetings involving an inspection on the second day will only go ahead if a quorum of members is available for the inspection. The meeting programme and venues for the 2009/2010 year, plus member attendance is summarised thus:

<b>Meeting Date</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Field Inspection</b>
13 August 2009	Hamilton	None
29 October 2009	Kauaeranga	None
25 February 2010	Hamilton	None
27 May 2010	Hamilton	None

Member attendance at the four meetings during the year was as follows: Alison Henry (3); Arthur Hinds (4); Dell Hood (4); Wyne Johns (3); Lois Livingston (3); Sally Millar (2); Gaylene Roberts (3); David Taipari (4); Pip Wallace (1); Liz Wedderburn (3) and Brian Whittington (appointed after the August meeting) (3).

#### **4.1 Meeting Summary**

##### **4.1.1 - Meeting 13 August 2009:**

This meeting featured a major discussion on the Coromandel Blueprint Project, following an in-depth presentation to the Board by Thames-Coromandel District Council's Ruth Buckingham on 25 June 2009. While the Board supported release of the draft document for consultation purposes, it also made representations to Council, strongly encouraging the Coromandel Blueprint Political Steering Group to invite further iwi representation on behalf of Ngati Maru, Ngati Tamatera, Ngati Whanaunga and Ngati Paoa for the remaining process until the project is completed.

Arthur Hinds and Alison Henry reported on their recent meeting with the [then] Associate Minister of Conservation, Hon Kate Wilkinson, who was visiting areas of interest on the Coromandel, accompanied by local Member of Parliament, Sandra Goudie. Both Arthur and Alison described the occasion as a "positive experience and profitable meeting".

DOC's archaeologist, Dr Neville Ritchie attended the meeting and gave a comprehensive presentation on Conservancy's plans to establish a "rail trail" on the old Ellis and Burnand bush tramway between Pureora and Ongarue. Neville said the project had been "on the books" for a number of years and would open up some 65km of old line to mountain bikers and walkers. Several old bridges and a large viaduct would need to be rebuilt to recreate the integrity of the original trail.

DOC planner Julia Baker reported to the Board with her latest revisions of the draft conservation management strategy, requesting that members study the material over the next couple of weeks and provide comments that the CMS committee could then sign off for presentation to the New Zealand Conservation Authority.

This meeting marked the end of a six-year term for Board chair, Dr Philip Hart. Members expressed their thanks to Philip for his huge contribution to the Board over the years, and for his role in providing liaison with the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society. Arthur Hinds was elected Board chair for the following year.

##### **4.1.2 - Meeting 29 October 2009:**

The October meeting was held at the recently-opened visitor centre at the Kauaeranga Visitor Centre, built to replace the building that had been lost to fire several years earlier. The Board received a response from Thames-Coromandel District Council regarding its representations about iwi representation on the Coromandel Blueprint Project Political Steering Group. Council elected to retain the Group "as is" while acknowledging the importance of iwi to the future stages of the plan. The Board

then resolved to seek a meeting with TCDC's mayor to discuss the issue further. (The invitation was subsequently declined).

Arthur Hinds and Alison Henry attended (part of) a meeting of the Auckland Conservation Board at Miranda - this was in lieu of several earlier attempts to arrange joint meetings of the full Boards. Several matters of mutual interest were discussed, including pest control, kauri dieback, long-fin eels and progress (lack of) with reviews of conservation management strategies.

The Hauraki Area manager (John Gaukrodger) gave members an update on happenings on the Coromandel Peninsula. A kiwi-monitoring programme at Moechau (then still in progress) had identified 260 kiwis (174 males and 86 females) compared with the 131 kiwi (92 males and 39 females) monitored in 2000 at the start of the Moechau kiwi zone intensive management regime. These figures did not include kiwi sub-adults because they do not call.

Arthur Hinds and Wyne Johns both attended the "Whirinaki 25th Anniversary" celebrations organised by the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board.

The Board received a copy of the discussion paper *Options for Establishment of the New Zealand Game Animal Council*. Members generally supported the document "as long as existing conservation values and funding are not compromised." It was also seen, however, as an organisation that might have the ability to place great pressure on the Minister of Conservation.

#### **4.1.3 - Meeting 25 February 2010:**

The Board made appointments and reappointments to Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Committee (see Section 6 of this report) and noted that the Te Whanganui-A-Hei Charitable Trust had also been established, after much work behind the scenes by Alan Henry. The Trust's main function will be to allocate funds received from proceeds of infringements in the marine reserve.

The Department reported to the Board up-coming changes to DOC's concession management systems. Specific activities will be known as 'conforming' within certain areas as stated in the conservation management strategy and the processing of such applications for guided walks, hunting etc., will take a matter of days.

Meantime, Conservancy work on the draft CMS remained "on hold" pending further discussions between the Department's National office and the NZCA. The delays in the process, especially since this Board had advertised its draft for public comment and held public hearings, were becoming an embarrassment for members who had been involved with the hearings.

#### **4.1.4 – Meeting 27 May 2010:**

The review of Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act was the subject of much discussion at the May meeting. Although the Board itself did not make a submission, several other Boards did so, circulating copies to other Boards around the country. Basil Morrison explained that the NZCA did not make a formal submission but instead, wrote a letter to the Minister of Conservation. It took that approach because the Authority will have an opportunity to provide direct input to the Minister later in the review process.

The Board received a document from West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board, containing draft guidelines for dealing with land exchange proposals. Aside from noting that the draft did not contain any provision for the Treaty settlement process, members agreed to suggest that the department provide a national guideline rather than have each conservancy or Board area prepare its own guidelines.

Waikato University Masters thesis student, Darren Le Roux (Stella Frances Memorial Scholarship winner 2009) presented a highly informative and entertaining report on his studies into the native long-tailed bats populations in and around Hamilton. He said Hamilton is one of just a few cities known to have a resident bat population.



Darren Le Roux (centre), Stella Frances Memorial Scholarship winner 2010, pictured with Jane Henneby (Environment Waikato) and Arthur Hinds (Waikato Conservation Board). Darren is studying long-tailed bat populations in and around Hamilton, for his Masters thesis. (Des Williams photo)

Arthur Hinds gave a comprehensive report on his attendance at the Conservation Board chairs' conference, held in Wellington the previous week. The Schedule 4 Mining Act review, use of aerial 1080 in pest control operations and conservation management strategies were all high on the list of items discussed with vigour.

In discussing the present range of concession applications presently being processed by Conservancy, the Board resolved to express its concerns at the level of monitoring being undertaken at busy sites such as Cathedral Cove and Waireinga/Bridal Veil Falls. The general feeling was that the monitoring is not sufficiently accurate to allow sound decision-making at these high visitor use areas.

The Board noted that some 16 dairy properties owned by the Crafar family company (in receivership) were to be offered for sale by way of tender. One of the properties links the north and south blocks at Pureora, and had been earmarked in the past as an option for establishing the dreamed-of wildlife corridor between the two blocks. The Board chairman agreed to discuss the issue with the Conservator to see if there were any options available for implementing a long-term 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. During the year under review the preferred location has shifted from at Rangiriri Village (the local council placed a sewage utility on the site) to Lake Serpentine, south of Ohaupo Village.

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

Arthur Hinds served as Board representative on the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust and provided regular updates on this internationally significant project. Near years-end the Trust was proposing changes to its governance structure, while continuing to seek long-term answers to the on-going requirements for funding the massive project.

#### 4.2.3 Ballance Farm Environment Award Trust (Sally Millar):

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.

The sheep and beef property of Ken and Sue Ballantyne at Aria was winner of the Horizons Region Ballance Farm Environment Awards for 2009 (all four categories). The "open day" in May attracted more than 120 people to inspect the showpiece farm. The original farm environment awards were introduced in 1993 by the Waikato Conservation Board, in conjunction with Waikato Regional Council. (Des Williams photo)



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

Section 6M (1) (a) Approval of conservation management strategy (CMS): The Board impatiently awaits resumption of the CMS review process. The original document (1996-2006) was out of date long before its official expiry.

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: No action.

Section 6M (1) (d) (ii) Advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matters: The Board made its concerns about delays in the CMS process known to the NZCA.

Statutory Land Management: The Board was not required to provide the Department with advice on any land exchange proposals during the year. One parcel of land (Kerepehi Plunket Rooms) declared surplus to the Department's requirements had been handed to the Office of Treaty Settlements for land-bank purposes - typifying the Waikato Conservancy's approach to such matters in recent years.

Resource Management Issues: The Board maintained an on-going interest in windfarm developments at Taharoa and Huarau, as well as the Shore Futures (Waikato District

Council) and Blueprint Projects (Thames-Coromandel District Council), the Tairua marina proposal and dairy factory discharges into the Piako and Waihou Rivers.

Section 6M (1) (e) Advice on proposals for new walkways: The Board made no recommendations to the Department regarding new walkway proposals, though it notes the progress being made on the Central North Island Rail Trail proposal (Ongarue-Pureora). The Board received a comprehensive report on the proposal at the August meeting. The proposal had subsequently received a funding boost from Government as part of the Nga Haerenga (National Cycleway) developments.

The Board also noted progress with the establishment of Te Araroa – The Long Pathway – with the Prime Minister, Rt Hon John Key, opening a section of the trail through Pirongia Forest Park (in December). Waikato is the Department’s “lead conservancy” in providing liaison with Te Araroa Trust.



Prime Minister John Key arrives at Pirongia Forest Park with Te Araroa Trust's Geoff Chapple and local Iwi support, to open a section of Te Araroa - The Long Pathway that will eventually stretch from North Cape to Bluff. (Des Williams photo)

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 no formal submissions during the year.

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 Board completed a three-yearly review of Committee membership during the year. The Mercury Bay Community Board appointed Sheree Webster of Purangi to replace Sue Edens, who had served nine years on the committee including six years as chairperson. From public nominations received, the Board appointed Phil Costello

(Hahei), Shane Harnett (Hahei) and Dirk Immenga (Hamilton) to join with the four Ngati Hei-appointed members (Peter Johnston of Whitianga, Patricia MacDonald of Auckland, Joe Davis of Whitianga and Barbara Francis of Whitianga). 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.

A Charitable Trust (Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei) was also established during the year, with the role of promoting the reserve and gaining access to private sector funding (e.g., proceeds from court convictions against reserve offenders) for reserve enhancement projects.

## **7.0 OTHER BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES**

**Section 6Q (1) Conservation Act 1987: Co-opting Members:** The Board does not presently include any co-opted 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 also includes public forum time in its Hamilton meeting agendas also but these opportunities are rarely 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 meeting. Liaison members during the year were: Bay of Plenty – Wyne Johns; Taupo / Tongariro – Dell Hood; Auckland – Lois Livingston; Taranaki / Whanganui - Sally Millar. Arthur and Alison attended part of the Auckland Board's meeting at Miranda during the year and Dell attended a meeting of the Tongariro-Taupo Board in May 2010.

**With the Ballance Waikato Farm Environment Awards:** Sally Millar. **With the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society:** Brian Whittington. **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 2009/2010 Arthur Hinds 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. Basil attended the Board's May meeting

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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