

**Waikato Conservation Board
Te Papa Atawhai O Te Rohe O Tainui**

Annual Report 2016 - 2017



This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings. If you would like more information on the Waikato Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation in Hamilton phone (07) 858 1000 or email: hamilton@doc.govt.nz

Waikato Conservation Board Annual Report 2016-2017

**Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
pursuant to Section 6 (O) of the Conservation Act 1987**

Published by
Waikato Conservation Board
c/- Department of Conservation
73 Rostrevor Street, Private Bag 3072
Hamilton 3240

ISSN 1172 9023 (print)

ISSN 1175 186X (online)

Photographs

Front Cover: Title: Hauraki Plains

Photographer: Jones, Kevin L.

Date: 2004

Location: Waikato Conservancy

Description: Aerial view looking north over Hauraki Plains from Hinuera vicinity, Waikato, July 2004

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1. Chairperson's Report

The Waikato Conservation Board have had an interesting year. The key focus for the Board continues to be the Whitebait Fishery. The Board's meetings and agendas were full of a range of topics.

Fieldtrips provided the Board the opportunity for Board Members to gain a better understanding of the conservation challenges at Pukorokoro-Miranda, a site that is part of the East Australian Flyway Partnership, and Lake Waikare.

Key highlights for the year including the vesting of Rangiriri, a site of historical and cultural significance to Waikato-Tainui, hosting the newly elected Waikato Regional Councillors as part of their induction programme and participating in the celebration of DOC's 30-year anniversary.

As I've moved on to join the New Zealand Conservation Authority, I will continue to support the work of the Waikato Conservation Board.

I'd like to thank my fellow Board Members, for their work and support and particularly their individual contribution to conservation, in their respective communities. I'd also like to thank the Department's staff for their support and work, across the Board's role.



Mark Brough
Chairperson, Waikato Conservation Board

2. Introduction

This is the Waikato Conservation Board Annual Report 1st July 2016 – 30th June 2017 as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Waikato Conservation Board had ten members for the 2016-2017 year appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987. There were two new appointments to the Board – Joyce Birdsall and Graeme Fleming. Mark Brough was elected as Chairperson and Gordon Bailey as Deputy Chairperson.

Conservation Boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. The Waikato Conservation Board represents the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation, within the area of jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- The recommendation of Conservation Management Strategies (CMS) 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 on the implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy
- The approval of Conservation Management Plans
- Advising the Department of Conservation and NZCA on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- Liaising with Fish and Game Council on conservation matters

Carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the NZCA with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement, the Waikato Conservation Board submits this annual report.

The Waikato Conservation Board is appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987. Board functions are outlined in section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the Board to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act.

The Conservation Act specifies that the Board's role is to:

- recommend the approval of conservation management strategies;
- approve conservation management plans;
- advise on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice;
- advise on proposed changes to the status of land areas of national and international significance;
- liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters; and
- carry out other powers delegated to them by the Conservation Minister, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987 requires conservation boards to provide the NZCA with an annual report as soon as practicable after the 30th June each year. In recognition of this requirement, the Waikato Conservation Board submits this annual report.

3. Conservation Board Region

The Waikato Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction extends from the west coast of the North Island between Port Waikato and Mokau, across to the western edge of Lake Taupo and north to the Coromandel Peninsula. It is characterised by a variety of different landscapes, resulting from a history of uplifting, sea level change, volcanism and the influence of major river systems, such as the Waikato River. Stand-out features of the Waikato include the west coast harbours – Kawhia, Aotea and Raglan; spectacular coastal cliffs at Moeatoa and Te Toto Gorge, Waitomo karst system; volcanic cones such as Pirongia and Karioi, and the exposed volcanic plugs (remnants of older volcanoes) on the Coromandel range; the lakes and wetlands of the Waikato and Hauraki plains; and rugged coastline, including the many islands off the Coromandel Peninsula.

The range of landscapes, altitude and east-to-west contrast provides for a great diversity of ecosystems, including the southern limit for some species, such as kauri, and northern limit of others, such as subalpine vegetation found at its northern-most limit on Moehau. Historically rare ecosystems, such as Kopuatai Peat Dome and Waitomo karst, are internationally important. Some ecosystems are well represented, such as the tall podocarp-broadleaf forests of Pureora (including the largely intact forest at Waipapa), whereas other once widespread ecosystems, such as lowland kahikatea forest, are now threatened. These ecosystems in turn provide habitat for a wide diversity of native flora and fauna.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit, with respect to protected species.

The Board's area of responsibility is nearly 270,000 ha 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.

The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- wetlands, lakes and rivers
- island sanctuaries off the Coromandel Peninsula
- coastal dunes and harbours
- mainland forest remnants ranging from coastal to montane forests
- karst ecosystems
- Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve
- West Coast North Island Marine Mammal Sanctuary

Conservation features of the Area include:

- **Three internationally significant wetlands (Ramsar Convention)**
Whangamarino Wetland, Kopuatai Peat Dome and the Firth of Thames/Tikapa Moana
- **Coastline and estuarine areas**
(Firth of Thames, Waikato River Delta, Whaingaroa, Aotea and Kawhia Harbour)
- **Large tracts of virgin forest**
(Moehau, Waihaha and Waipapa)
- **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
- **Site of significant regional and national tourism**
Waitomo, Cathedral Cove and Purero Timber Trail
- **Rare and endangered species /ecosystems**
(Kokako, Mahoenui Giant Weta, Whitebait, Maui's Dolphin, Kiwi and particularly the Coromandel Brown Kiwi and Archey's and Hocksetter Frog)
- **Reptile and seabird communities on offshore islands**
Tūturiwhatu/New Zealand Dotterel and Ngutuparore/Wrybill
- **Important Maori and European historic resources**
- **Significant Biosecurity Issues**
- **Kauri Die-back**

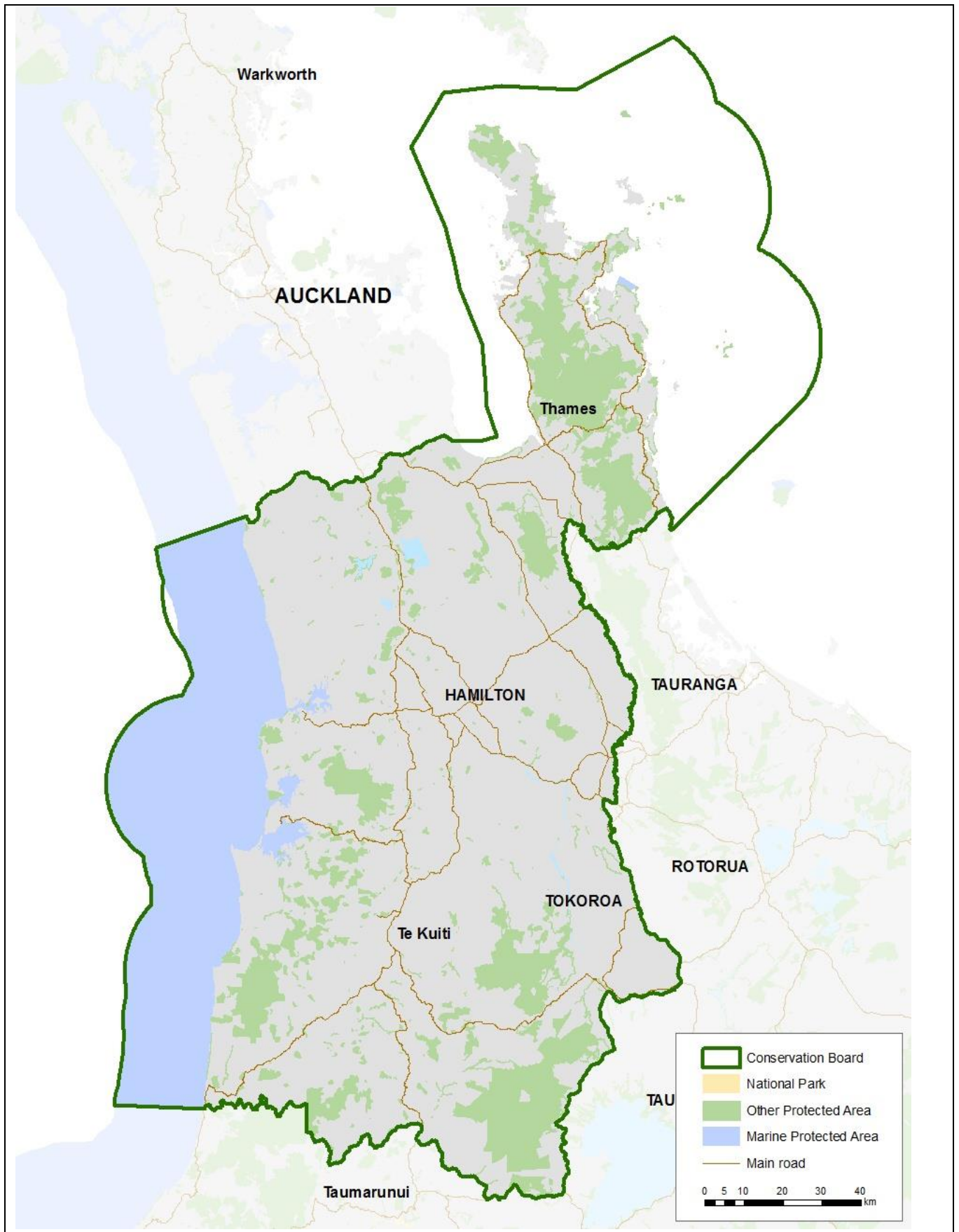


Figure 1 Map of Waikato Conservation Board Area

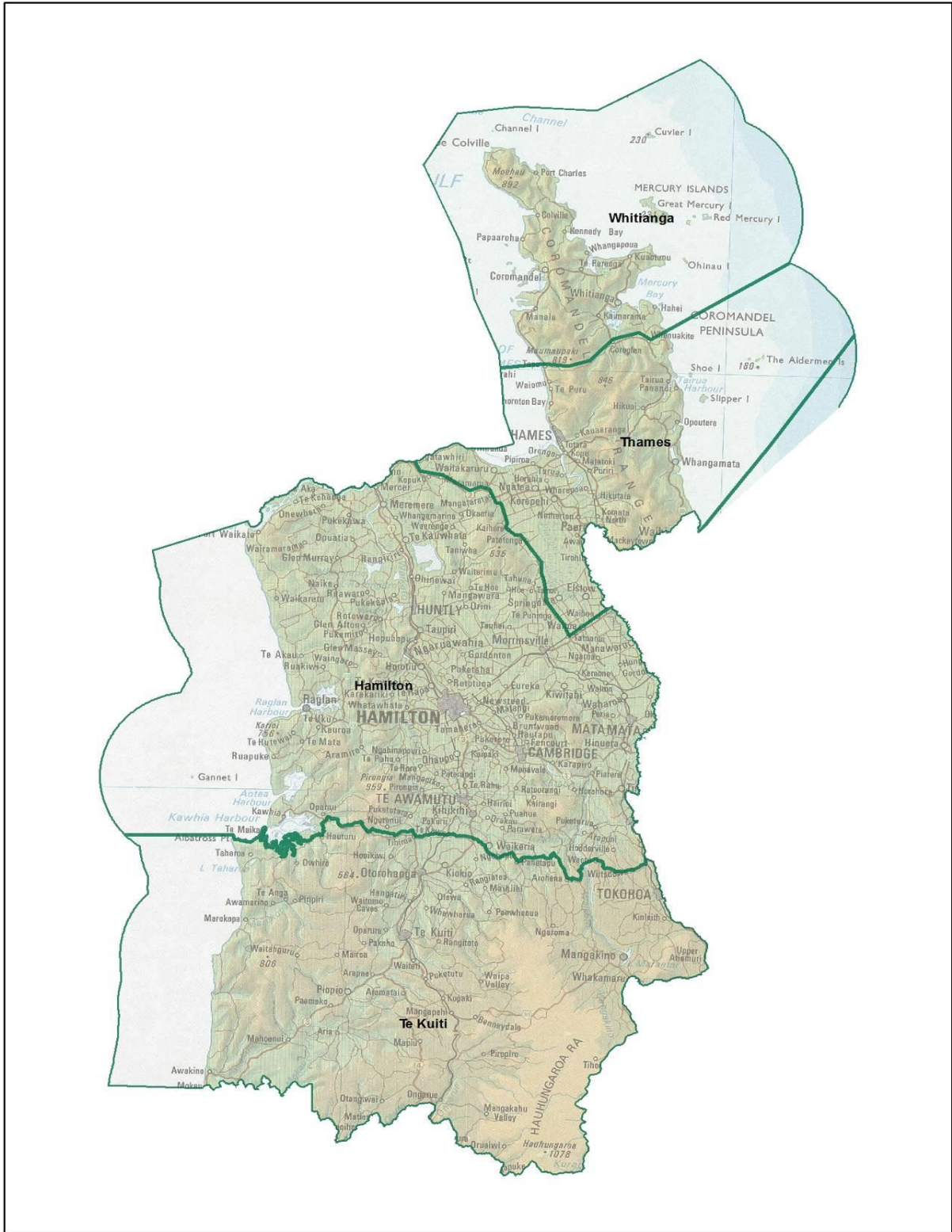


Figure 2 : Map of Waikato Conservation Board Area

4. Board Functioning

4.1. Board Functions Under Section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments
- 2) To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
- 3) To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- 4) To advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General:
 - a) On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
 - b) On any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 5) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on any matters within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 6) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act

4.2. Powers of the Board under Section 6n of the Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every Board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each Board may –
 - a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - b) Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.

4.3. Responsibilities under other Sections of the Conservation Act 1987

Section 4: Consideration is given by the Waikato Conservation Board in deliberations to the relevant Treaty Principles and the makeup of the Board includes other appointed members who have iwi affiliations.

- Kate Cherrington, appointed on the 1 May 2017 is recognised as the Kahui Ariki (Maori King representative) on the Waikato Conservation Board.
- The appointment of Alan Cockle, of Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Kahungunu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi descent in July 2014, has provided a strong link with south Waikato iwi.
- The Subcommittee Terms of Reference provide for nine members, (four Ngati Hei representatives, two Community Representatives, one representative from the Mercury Bay Community Board, one representative from the Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Trust, and one ex-officio of the Waikato Conservation Board).

4.4. Board Membership

There were ten Waikato Conservation Board Members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

Mark Brough, was elected Chairperson and Gordon Bailey was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of the Waikato Conservation Board between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017.

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	No. of yrs on Board
Mark Brough (Chairperson)	Aria	01/01/2011	Resigned 30/06/2017	6.5
Deli Connell	Whitianga	01/07/2016	30/06/2019	1
Kevin Robinson	Thames	19/09/2011	30/06/2017	6
Kate Cherrington	Papamoa	01/05/2014	30/06/2019 Resigned 07/04/2017	3
Norman Barker	Tirau	01/07/2015	30/06/2018	2
Alan Cockle	Hamilton	01/07/2014	30/06/2017	3
Alexander (Graeme) Fleming	Hamilton	01/07/2016	30/06/2019	1
Fiona Gower	Tuakau	01/07/2014	30/06/2018	3
Prof. Grant Cushman	Raglan	01/07/2014	30/06/2017	3
Gordon Bailey	Hamilton	01/07/2015	30/06/2018 Resigned 26/09/2016	1
Joyce Birdsall	Tairua	01/12/2016	30/06/2018	1

4.5. Members Profiles

1. **Mark Brough, appointed January 2011; present term expires 30 June 2019.**

Mark Brough was raised on a King Country farm at Aria and has been farming in his own right for the past 20 years. A keen outdoors person, Mark has a strong interest in Conservation and native bush protection and has been involved in various Conservation projects over the years, including Clean Streams and Green Plan forestry. He is a member of Environment Waikato's Central King Country steering group for pest control, has been a member of the Waitomo Search and Rescue organisation for many years, and enjoys hunting, tramping, and kayaking in his "spare time."

2. **Kevin Robinson, Thames, appointed 1 July 2011: present term expires 30 June 2017**

Kevin Robinson is a self-employed farmer who has extensive knowledge of the history and recreational activities on the Coromandel Peninsula and the wider Waikato region. Kevin has extensive governance experience in the region. Current President for the Hauraki-Coromandel Province of Federated Farmers. Current vice chair for the Waikato Regional Council Coromandel Sub Liaison Committee.

Current director of four companies. Two farming companies, one capital venture investment company and one subdivision and forestry company. Current committee member of two hunting and fishing clubs.

Previously a member of the Federated Farmers national dairy executive for seven years four as vice chair.

Kevin is well connected to farming, rural communities and recreational hunting/fishing groups. His outdoor recreation interests are hunting, fishing, cycling and tramping.

3. **Kate Cherrington, Papamoa, appointed 1 May 2014; present term expires 30 June 2019.**

Kate Cherrington is a nominee of the Head of Kahui Ariki. She is the director of Puata Hou Ltd, an education and community consultancy. She has skills in strategic planning, conflict resolution, consensus building and management, and has previous board experience. Kate's outdoor recreation interests are gardening and organics. She is of Ngati Hine, Nga Puhi and Ngati Raukawa iwi.

4. **Alan Cockle, Hamilton, appointed 1 July 2014: present term expires 30 June 2017**

Alan Cockle is a business owner providing Maori Land Research and Administration Services. He has a background in mediation, facilitation and financial and property management. Alan has governance experience as a trustee and board member, and extensive iwi affiliations. He has expertise in tribal histories and is an orator within Ngati Maniapoto. Alan is of Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Kahungunu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi iwi.

5. **Grant Cushman, Raglan, appointed 1 July 2014: present term expires 30 June 2017**

Grant Cushman is Emeritus Professor of Parks, Recreation and Tourism at Lincoln University and Honorary Professor of Sport and Leisure Studies at Waikato University. He has expertise in public policy development, including public processes and relevant legislation relating to conservation, recreation and tourism.

He has skills in park policy and provision; outdoor recreation behavior, and tourism planning and development. His outdoor recreation interests include waka ama, tramping, sight-seeing and running.

6. **Fiona Gower, Tuakau, appointed 1 July 2015: present term expires 30 June 2018**

Fiona Gower lives and works on a sheep and beef property in coastal North Waikato. She is currently the National President of Rural Women New Zealand.

Fiona also serves as a Trustee on the NZ Landcare Trust Board, as well as the Rural Communities Trust. She has gained experience of public processes from serving on her local community board. Her outdoor recreation interests are whitebaiting, surfcasting, bush walking, camping, four-wheel driving and shooting, mainly with a camera.

7. **Deli Connell, Whitianga, appointed 1 July 2016: present term expires 30 June 2019**

Deli Connell has lived on the East Coast of the Coromandel for more than 30 years. She has extensive experience in humanitarian and environmental education having worked with EnviroSchools. The National Commission for UNESCO and more recently, the Jane Goodall Institute. She has prior broad experience with schools and the Thames Coromandel District Council.

Deli has an interest in understanding and balancing the tensions between people and the environment for the betterment of both.

She loves the bush and beach, hiking, swimming and snorkelling when time permits and isn't averse to a gentle ski on one of the central north island's beautiful mountains.

8. **Graeme Fleming, Hamilton appointed 1 July 2016: present term expires 30 June 2019**

Graeme Fleming is of English descent and has lived in New Zealand since 1979. Graeme has been Waikato-based since his emigration, working for the Hamilton City Council and later the Lake Taupo Protection trust. Graeme is now semi-retired and consults to various territorial authorities.

Graeme specialises in Quality management and negotiation in environmental outcomes and holds a Diploma in Environmental Health and a Bachelor Social Sciences.

Graeme is married with two adult sons who are both living overseas.

9. Gordon Bailey, Hamilton appointed 1 July 2015: present term expires 30th June 2018.

Resigned 30th September 2016

Gordon Bailey, although new to the Waikato, has extensive knowledge and experience of land and environmental management matters, relevant legislation and Acts and public policy processes. He has spent the past thirty years working in the local government parks and recreation area and achieving joint conservation outcomes. He is a past member and Chairman of the Otago Conservation Board. Gordon's outdoor interests include biking, tramping, gardening and being involved in forest ecosystems.

10. Joyce Birdsall, Tairua, appointed 1 December 2016: present term expires 30 June 2018.

Joyce Birdsall has extensive community connections through environmental and conservation-related groups. She has knowledge of public processes from her roles on various committees in the area and is the current chair of Tairua/Pauanui St John's Association, and is a member of Tairua Environment Society, Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group and Guardians of Paku Bay Association. Her outdoor recreation interests are walking and golf.

11. Norm Barker of Tirau, appointed 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018

Norm Barker is a self-employed dairy farmer based in Tirau. He has spent the past fifteen years representing Waikato authorities, nine of those years as a councillor at the South Waikato District Council and six years at the Waikato Regional Council working on many environmental committees in the region.

He is a strong advocate for collaborative processes including co-management with our Treaty partners where he has worked on understanding iwi cultural perspective. Norm's outdoor activities include swimming, fishing and he is a keen cyclist on the region's river and rail trails.

4.6. Board Meetings, Field Trips & Workshops

The Waikato Conservation Board held four meetings, two field trips and one workshop during the reporting period. Venues for the Board meetings varied to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Waikato Meeting, Field Trips/Workshop Dates/Location

Board meeting and field trip dates	Meeting location and venue
14 July 2016 (Special Board Meeting & Conference Call)	Department of Conservation, 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
16 August 2016 (Board Meeting)	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
16 th August 2016 (Field Trip)	Fieldtrip to Lake Waikare
17 November 2016 (Board Workshop)	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
30 th November 2016 (Board Meeting)	Raglan Sunset Motel 7 Bankart St, Raglan

28 February 2017 (Field Trip)	Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre 283 E Coast Rd, Pokeno 2473
1 March 2017 (Board Meeting)	Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre 283 E Coast Rd, Pokeno 2473
24 May 2017 (Board Meeting)	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton

4.7. Attendance

The table below summaries the number of Board meetings attended by members out of the total number of Board Meetings held during the year.

Board Member	Board Meetings (Four per year)	Liaison Meetings
Mark Brough	4	
Kevin Robinson	4	
Alan Cockle	4	Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board (10 November 2016)
Prof. Grant Cushman	4	
Fiona Gower	4	Auckland Conservation Board (16 November 2016)
Delwyn Connell	3	
Norman (Norm) Barker	3	Bay of Plenty Conservation Board (February 2017)
Gordon Bailey	2 (Resigned - 30/06/2016)	
Joyce Birdsall	2 (Appointed 01/12/16)	
Graeme Fleming	2	
Kate Cherrington	2	

4.8. Board Sub Committee

- **Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve & Hahei Coast Subcommittee**

The Subcommittee Terms of Reference provide for nine members, (four Ngati Hei Representatives, two community representatives, one representative from the Mercury Bay Community Board, one representative from the Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Trust and one ex-officio of the Waikato Conservation Board (Deli Connell)).

Representation

The following Board Members formally represent the Board at these forums

Representation	Members
Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board	Alan Cockle

Taupo/Tongariro Conservation Board	Mark Brough
Bay of Plenty Conservation Board	Norm Barker
Auckland Conservation Board	Fiona Gower
Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve & Hahei Coast Sub-committee	Deli Connell

4.9. Development and Education for Members

Board meetings and field trips were completed as follows:

Board meetings	Meeting location and venue
14 July 2016 (Special Board Meeting)	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
16 August 2016 (Board Meeting)	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
30 November 2016 (Board Meeting)	Raglan Sunset Motel, 7 Bankart St, Raglan 3225
1 March 2017 (Board Meeting)	Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre 283 E Coast Rd, Pokeno 2473
24 May 2017 (Board Meeting)	Department of Conservation, 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
Field Trips	
16 August 2016 (Field Trip)	Lake Waikare, Waikato.
28 February 2017 (Field Trip)	Pukorokoro Miranda Shorebird Centre 283 E Coast Rd, Pokeno 2473
Workshops	
17 November 2016 (Board Induction) (Hosting Waikato Regional Councillors)	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton

4.10. DOC Presentations throughout the year included:

Presenter	Topic	Meeting
Barry Ashbridge, Senior Statutory Land Management Advisor, (Department of Conservation)	Conservation Land Status (DOC) Stewardship Land Reclassification Project	16 August 2016
Shannon Peterson Planning and Land Manager (Acting) (DOC)	Conservation Land Status (DOC) Stewardship Land Reclassification Project	16 August 2016
Tahi Rangiawha	Pou Tairangahau DOC Cultural Capabilities Course	16 August 2016
Nicki Douglas, Partnerships Director, (Department of Conservation).	Partnerships Update	16 August 2016
Kristina Hillock, Technical Advisor, Marine Species and Threats (Department of Conservation).	Maui Dolphin	16 August 2016
John Rich, Ranger Partnerships, Department of Conservation	Predator Free 2050	30 November 2016
Sean Cooper, DOC Marine Ecosystems Manager	Marine Ecosystems	28 February 2017
Dion Patterson, Pukorokoro-Miranda 'Living Water' Project Manager, DOC	'Living Water Project'	28 February 2017
Victoria Tumai, Solicitor, Legal Services, Department of Conservation)	RMA & Management Planning Report & Waikato Regional Council Proposed Plan Change 1 (Healthy Rivers -Wai Ora)	1 March 2017
Avi Holzapfel (Operations Manager) Hauraki	Storm Damage- (Hauraki/Coromandel) Kopuatai Duck Huts	24 May 2017

4.11. The Board received presentations from external groups as follows:

Presenter	Topic	Meeting
Alan Livingstone, Chair, Waikato Regional Council	WRC Snapshot	30 November 2016
Kristel Vanhoute, Karioi Maunga Ki te Moana	Karioi Mauanga Ki te Moana Presentation (Mountain to the Sea Project)	30 November 2016
Beth Pearsall, Whaingaroa Environment Centre	Strategies to Protect the Maui Dolphin	30 November 2016
Brett Bailey, Waikato Regional Council (Natural Heritage Team)	Predator Free 2050	30 November 2016
Keith Woodley, Pukorokoro- Miranda Naturalists Trust and Pukorokoro-Miranda Shorebird Centre Manager	Pukorokoro-Miranda – Marine Conservation in the Hauraki Gulf.	28 February 2017
Scott Simpson, MP for Coromandel and Parliamentary Private Secretary for Minister of Conservation and Minister for the Environment	Pukorokoro-Miranda – Marine Conservation in the Hauraki Gulf.	28 February 2017
Tim Brandenburg, North Island Project Manager 'Living Water', Fonterra Co- operative Group Limited	Pukorokoro-Miranda – Marine Conservation in the Hauraki Gulf.	28 February 2017
Barbara Ritchie, Chair of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve & Hahei Coast Subcommittee	Support Services available to Sub Committee	1 March 2017
Tim Manukau, Environment Manager, Waikato Raupatu River Trust (WRRT)	'Waikato-Tainui Waikato District Council Co- Governance Committee' re Whitebait Fishery.	24 May 2017

4.12. Field Trips

Lake Waikare	To look at and understand the complexities of the Lower Waikato Flood Control Scheme for which there is a review of the Consent held by Waikato Regional Council.
Pukorokoro-Miranda Shorebird Centre 283 E Coast Rd, Pokeno 2473	The fieldtrip was broadly focused on marine conservation in the Hauraki Gulf (SeaChange – Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan) and the conservation work in the Pukorokoro – Miranda catchment, specifically the work of the Pukorokoro-Miranda Naturalists Trust and the ‘Living Water’ programme, a partnership between DOC and Fonterra.

4.13 Special Events

Waikato Conservation Board members in board member capacity attended the following special events:

Date	Special Event
19 August 2016	In August, the Board were invited by Waikato-Tainui to attend an historic event where they witnessed the Minister of Conservation Hon. Maggie Barry officially present King Tuheitia Paki with the deed to two reserves, Rangiriri Pa Historic Reserve and Te Wheoro’s Redoubt Historic Reserve
17 November 2016	Waikato Regional Councillors Meet and Greet
2 December 2017	Launch of the ‘Waikato Story’
7 December 2017	Launch of Sea Change – Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Plan
21 April 2017	DOC’s 30 th Anniversary Celebrations
	Waikato Regional Roadshow (Thames)
8 March 2017	Maui Dolphin Day, Raglan
14-17 June 2017	NZ Agricultural Field Days
25 th June 2017	Whitebait Spawning Workshop (Thames)

5. Statutory activity

The Board submitted on a concession application (Waitaia Forest Ltd.) - 2 September 2016.

The Board has been briefed by the Department and has also provided advice to the Department throughout the year on many activities including:

- Proposal to vest Crown owned reserves of Rangiriri Pa and Te Wheoro's Redoubt Historic Reserves ("the Historic Reserves") in the Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust (WRLT))
- Conservation Land Status Presentation
- Stewardship Land Reclassification Project
- Interpreting and Application of Statutory Documents
- New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Beehives Allocation Process Update
- Maui Dolphin Briefing
- Predator Free 2050 'Stocktake'
- RMA and Management Planning Report & Waikato Regional Council Proposed Plan (Change 1) (Healthy Rivers – Wai Ora)
- Hauraki Collective Treaty Redress
- Permissions Improvement Project (Concessions) update
- Powerco Concession application in the Coromandel
- Overseas Investment Office applications
- DOC camping areas – resources/facilities
- Coromandel Pest Control Operations
- Coromandel Storm Damage Update
- Kopuatai Duck Huts – update on the approach DOC taking regarding authorisation of existing structures
- E-Bikes in Pureora Timber Trail
- Community concerns about the unregulated sale of whitebait and the threat to at risk native fish.
- The difficulty experienced by community groups dealing with the complex requirements of DOC after receipt of funds from the Community Grant fund.

5.1. Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and Management Plans

The Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) 2014-2024 became operative in September 2014. The Board have received regular reports from the Department regarding implementation of this Strategy.

The Board were briefed in early 2017 regarding the pending Hauraki Collective Treaty Settlement which has provision for a partial review of the Waikato Conservation Management Strategy and the creation of a Conservation Management Plan (CMP) covering the following three areas

- Motu of Tikapa Moana – Te Tai Tamahine / Te Tai Tamawahine
- Te Tara o to Ika a Maui (Coromandel Peninsula)
- Kopuatai, Torehape and Pukorokoro (Miranda) wetlands

6. Advice and Advocacy

6.1. New Zealand Conservation Authority Liaison

Agenda's, meeting minutes and the bi-monthly letter from the New Zealand Conservation Authority are forwarded to members electronically as they arrive.

The Board is honoured to have Professor Mick Clout as the NZ Conservation Authority liaison with the Waikato Conservation Board. The Board acknowledges the importance of this link between the NZCA and the Board and appreciates the knowledge and experience Mick brings, particularly in conservation ecology

Mick could bring the Board up to speed with activities and issues the NZCA was engaged in and most importantly take back to the NZCA issues and concerns facing the Waikato Conservation Board.

6.2. Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Waikato region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised throughout the year in the Waikato Times and on the Waikato Conservation Board webpage.

Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings.

Public forum issues raised were:

- Climate Change, Weed Control, privet and agapanthus in the Thames-Coromandel District, and car parking challenges in Hahei and surrounds (Grand Road Carpark).

6.3. Community Visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website.

Throughout the reporting period Board members have liaised with a number of individuals, groups and organisations, attended various community activities and Department of Conservation special events. This liaison is considered a very important way of providing an interface with the Community.

6.4 District and Regional Councils advocacy and advice

The Waikato Conservation Board have hosted Waikato Regional Councillors and Council staff as part of the Councillor induction in November 2016.

6.5 Iwi liaison and advocacy

Kate Cherrington, Ngati Hine, Nga Puhi and Ngati Raukawa, succeeded Gaylene Roberts as the Kahui Ariki (Maori King representative) on the Waikato Conservation Board. This role is a condition of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement Act 1995. Kate was appointed and commenced on the 1 May 2015.

The appointment of Alan Cockle, of Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Kahungunu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi descent in July 2014, has provided a strong link with south Waikato iwi.

Waikato Conservation Board Members had a significant part to play when they met on the 14 July 2016 to discuss a proposal by the Department to vest two historic reserves in the Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust (WRLT) (Rangiriri Pa and Te Wheoro's Redoubt Historic Reserves, to mark the 10th anniversary of the coronation of King Tuheitia.

7.0 Acknowledgments

In conclusion I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the many amazing contributors to Conservation that I have met during my time with the Conservation Board. The dedication and commitment of volunteers and Department staff members is admirable and appreciated.

Sincere gratitude also to my fellow Board members for their support and contributions to Conservation over the past year.