

WAIKATO CONSERVATION BOARD
TE PAPA ATAWHAI O TE ROHE O TAINUI

Annual Report
For year ended 30 June 2008



FOR PRESENTATION TO THE
NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

Cover photo: Rock Peak, south of Kawhia Harbour, site of the nationally vulnerable Hebe scopularum which is restricted in range to half a dozen limestone rock outcrops, such as that pictured. (DOC photo)

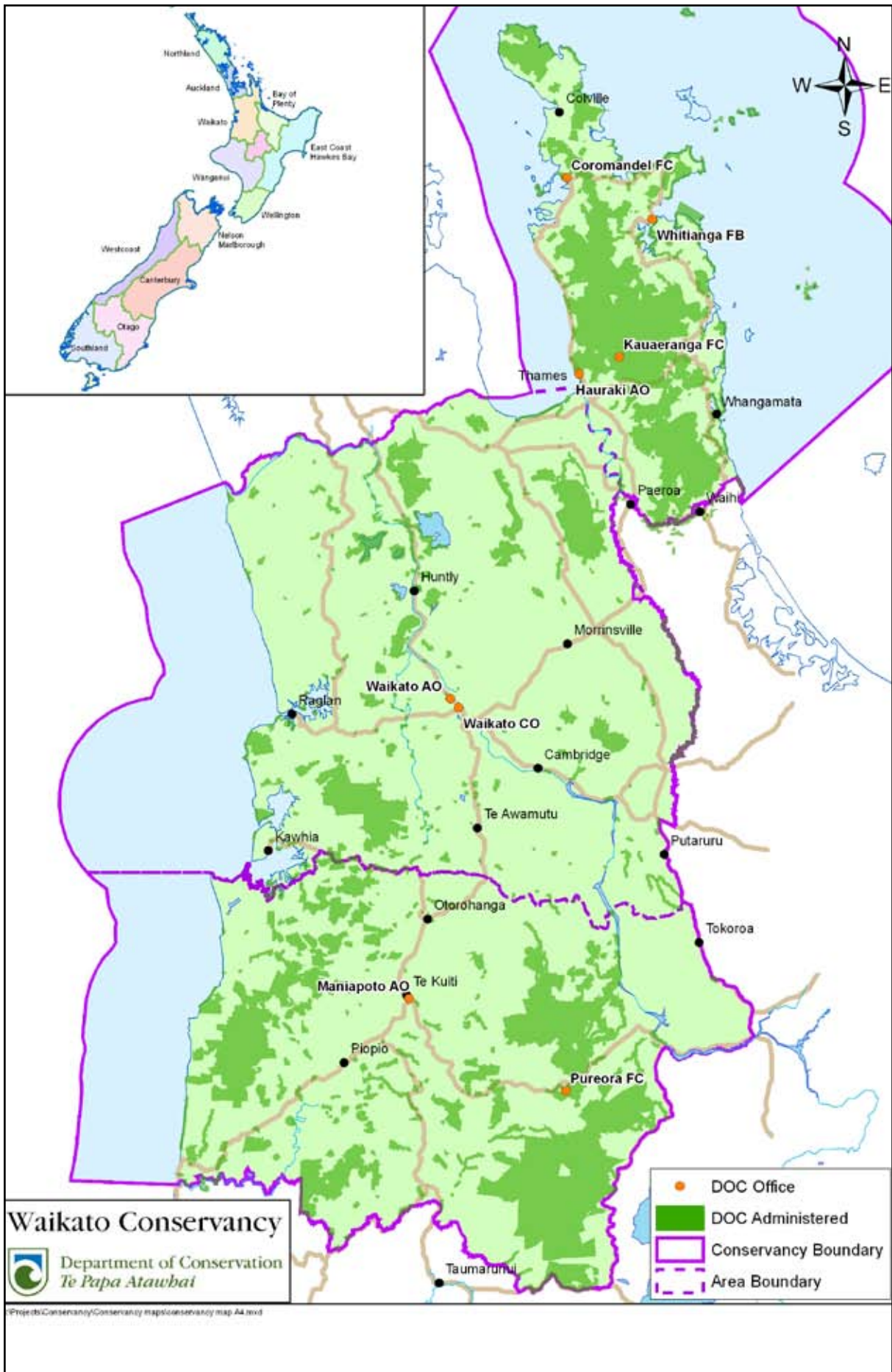
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 Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

As the body of this report provides details of the year's activities, these will not be repeated here. The main concern for Board members has been the production of a Conservation Management Strategy (CMS), as the existing document is so outdated that it has been ignored for some years. There have been delays and handicaps in producing this document, in particular caused by the loss of the department's planner (to Environment Waikato) and of the community relations manager in the latest restructuring. The Board appreciates the development of national guidelines, but regrets the time that this process has taken. It is confident that the new CMS promises big gains for nature conservation and outdoor recreation and looks forward to discussing the draft with the community in the near future.

As indicated in my earlier annual reports, Board members have been concerned that staff in the Conservancy are over-stretched in attempting to cope with the myriad and increasing number of issues that have to be dealt with. Board members applaud such initiatives as the Peninsula Project, and are pleased with its early successes. Similarly with the latest major development, the settling of the Waikato River claim and the consequent prospects for cleaning up the river. We are very aware, however, that these desirable developments mean additional work for a diminishing number of staff. The new concept of co-management of the Waikato River, for instance, will inevitably be time-consuming, as it should be, for cleaning up the river will be a massive project.

A particular feature of this Conservancy is the 160 (approximately) community groups established to protect and enhance the whole range of natural areas, which is most encouraging for the future of conservation. All these groups need professional guidance and advice to ensure that the enthusiasm of the amateurs is not misdirected and that their projects are successful. Servicing these groups is an additional burden on staff, and the Board is unanimous in its concern that this may prove to be not sustainable under the reduced staffing imposed by the latest restructuring.

The Minister of Conservation, when visiting the Conservancy recently, spoke to staff and some Board members about her vision for the Department. She described its staff as being the experts who should provide technical and scientific advice to the regional council, the district councils, and community groups. This is an entirely laudable concept, but requires adequate staff levels to be implemented. The Board is concerned at the loss of experts at both Head Office and Conservancy levels. While it accepts that it is not the role of the Minister or the Board to decide staffing matters, these being a managerial function, it wishes to record its concern that the latest restructuring appears to be very detrimental to this Conservancy. One great advantage of having a meaningful CMS will be that the Board will be able to monitor the implementation of the strategic plans, which will reveal whether or not its concern is valid.

To end on a positive note, the Board continues to be impressed, as always, with the work being done in the Conservancy, sometimes under trying circumstances (did someone mention 1080?).

Philip Hart
Chairperson
18 September 2008

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

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 2007/2008

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

KEWANA (KEVIN) DUNCAN, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2008)

Kewana Duncan is of Ngati Tara Tokanui (Hauraki) Iwi affiliation and is a Te Reo Maori speaker. He is a strong advocate of Kaitiakitanga and Rangatiratanga. Kewana currently works in the media industry and on Kaupapa Maori projects.

RACHEL GARDEN, Thames (appointment expires 31 August 2008)

Rachel is a freelance writer, specialising in technical and science writing, with a PhD in Philosophy of Science. She was founding chair of the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust 1989-1991. Rachel also has a strong business background, has a life-time interest in conservation and the environment and is experienced in governance and strategic planning.

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

Philip Hart is chairman of the Waikato F&B and a member of the national executive and was formerly (1969-2002) a senior lecturer in history at University of Waikato, Philip is now a Research Associate. He has extensive leadership experience and 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 department 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 now lives in Cooks Beach and is the current chair of the Kauri 2000 Trust and is the DoC representative for the Coromandel Blueprint project.”



Ron McGough leans over the rail at Te Toto Gorge, looking at the many car wrecks (since removed!) far below. Alison Henry, meantime, is content to accept Ron's word about what's down there.

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 2008)

Wyne is a former (retired) lecturer in Amenity and Environmental Horticulture and has recently completed her 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.

RON MCGOUGH, Rotorua (appointment expires 31 August 2008).

Ron is a former manager of Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Te Hiringa at Mangakino with a long interest in fostering a clean green environment. A Raukawa Maori Trust Board trustee, Ron is now resident in Rotorua, and holds executive positions on several iwi committees. Originally co-opted in 1999, Ron was appointed a board member in 2002.

SALLY MILLAR, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2010)

Sally Millar is an environmental consultant, with biodiversity protection on private land being a key area of her work. Sally has strong links to the farming community, including family involvement in a QEII Trust covenant, and was environmental and resource manager for Federated Farmers. More recently she has worked with dairy industry including leading the implementation of the Dairy Industry Strategy for Sustainable Environmental Management. She also has a background in law and environmental and resource management policy development.

GAYLENE ROBERTS, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2010)

Gaylene represents the 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.

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 qualified lawyer, who presently teaches resource management at the University of Waikato. Pip has a permanent part time position with the Department of Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning and also contract lectures for the School of Law. Pip is a member of several environmental groups and is involved with “hands-on” monitoring at Maungatautari.

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, takes in the whole of the Coromandel Peninsula (including the Mercury and Aldermen 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, parehauraki tribal lands and the Tainui, Maniapoto and Raukawa Trust Boards.

The Conservancy is divided into three management Areas – Hauraki (Thames), Maniapoto (Te Kuiti) and Waikato (Te Rapa). Hauraki also contains Field Bases at Coromandel, Kauaeranga Valley, Waikawau and Whitianga, while Maniapoto has a Field Base at Pureora. The Conservancy employs 104 staff, of who 36 are located in Conservancy Office, 18 at Waikato Area, 29 at Hauraki/Peninsula Field Bases, and 21 at Te Kuiti/Pureora.

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 350,000 people. Industrial development, intensive use of land for agriculture and increasing demands for outdoor and recreational opportunities and experiences from growing populations, poses challenges for the retention of indigenous character and bio-diversity within the Waikato landscape.

Hauraki: 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



Wyne Johns, Ron McGough, Joe Harawira, Alison Henry, Philip Hart, Dell Hood, Al Craig and Bruce Postill enjoy the whistling winds and stunning views at Te Toto Gorge. (Des Williams photo.)

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.

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 SH32 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, long and short-tailed bats, kaka, kokako, Archey's frogs, and tainui
- Ruakuri Scenic Reserve site, Waitomo Caves and other nationally unique karst sites

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, four one-day meetings were held in Hamilton, and two-day meetings were held at Raglan and Whakamaru. The Board includes "public forum" opportunities on all meeting agendas.

Date	Place	Field Inspection
16/17 August 2007	Raglan	Whaingaroa, Te Toto Gorge and Bridal Veil Falls
19 October 2007	Hamilton	No
6/7 December 2007	Whakamaru	Pureora sites of interest
22 February 2008	Hamilton	No
3 April 2008	Hamilton	No
13 June 2008	Hamilton	No

4.1 Meeting Summary and Field Inspections

4.1.1 - Meeting 16/17 August 2007: The Board met at Raglan for the first time in several years. Matthew Vare presented an early outline of the draft CMS; the Board noted the release of the ERMA report on 1080 and its recommendation that the poison be retained for pest control use subject to more stringent conditions, while Sarah Wilson's report on the role and effectiveness of conservation boards was also discussed.

The public forum featured a presentation from Stephen Frew of Kiwis Against Seabed Mining (KASM). Stephen outlined the formation and history of KASM and said the organisation was lobbying government for the Crown Minerals Act to be more closely aligned to the Resource



View from Te Toto Gorge viewing platform. (Des Williams photo.)

Management Act. “Don’t mess with the ocean until you’ve got an ocean’s policy!” he said. The Board also inspected sites of interest around Raglan, including Te Toto Gorge and Bridal Veil Falls, and met with Fred Litchwark and Fiona Edwards of Whaingaroa Harbourcare.

4.1.2 - Meeting 19 October 2007: The October meeting at Hamilton was the first for the Maori King’s newly-appointed representative, Gaylene Roberts, while Arthur, Sally and Pip were re-appointed for further terms. Business included a further update on progress with the CMS, and a report that the Board-initiated report by Nigel Pinkerton on conservation funding (“green tax”) was in progress. The ERMA summary report on 1080 had been circulated for information and the Hector’s and Maui’s Dolphins Threat Management Plan (draft) was available for public submissions. The public forum included representations by Keith Williamson of the Kuaotunu Peninsula Tramping Club.

4.1.3 - Meeting 6/7 December 2007: What was planned to be a meeting at Pureora turned out to be a meeting at Whakamaru, due to lack of available accommodation at Pureora. Carbon sequestration entered the vocabulary, with DOC’s identification of suitable sites to establish and enhance forest carbon sinks. The Department had also been identified as one of the six government agencies to be “carbon neutral” by 2012.

Dell Hood reported on her “excursion” on the Hauraki Gulf with the Auckland Conservation Board, who are concerned about the proposed expansion of aquaculture in the Gulf.

The Board met with a deputation from Tiroa E Incorporation, promoters of an “Airwalk” proposal in bush adjacent to Pureora Village. The proposal was being based on a similar, existing facility in Tasmania.

The Board held a public forum at the Tokoroa Club but, apart from local Forest and Bird members, Anne and Jack Groos, failed to draw an audience. Expectations were that the Tokoroa Pig-hunting Club might turn up in force to debate 1080 and other topical issues, but no such luck. Members met with DOC staff at the Pureora Field Centre, did a quick recce of the Totara Track and a more leisurely stroll into the forest at Select Loop Road before returning to Hamilton.

4.1.4 – Meeting 22 February 2008: The Pinkerton Report was received and discussed at the February meeting. Though some of the report’s “discussion” was not reflected in the eventual recommendations, members saw it as an economic evaluation, with conservation mentioned only in passing, but still provided an excellent base for wider discussion. The report was circulated to other Boards in the hope that it would generate further discussion at the Chairpersons’ conference to be held in Wellington the following week.

A hui held by the Bay of Plenty Board was attended by some Board members. It provided a forum for discussion among representatives from neighbouring boards, including East Coast/Hawkes Bay and Tongariro/Taupo. The hui agreed that such a forum should be held on an annual basis, a proposal supported by the Waikato Board.

4.1.5 – Meeting 3 April 2008: The April meeting in Hamilton was in substitution for a planned two-day meeting at Coromandel that had to be cancelled because of member unavailability. CMS discussion again centred on milestones and monitoring (or rather, the lack of same in draft document). Members were also given an update on the department’s “strategic and budget alignment review” and an indication that the review would be completed by June.

The Board received an update on the Peninsula Project from Erana Stevens and Fin Buchanan. A joint initiative between the department, Environment Waikato, Thames-Coromandel District Council and Hauraki Maori Trust Board, the Project is based on a future vision of the Peninsula that will have stable, healthy rivers and catchments, reduction of sediment loading in waterways, improved water quality, absence of feral goats and possums, increased plant and animal diversity, safer communities and maybe even a pest-free Peninsula.

The key work areas are in animal pest control, river and catchment management and flood protection, with DOC and EW focusing on animal pest control. Proposals for the 2008/09 year include possum and goat control in the area from Kauaeranga Valley to Te Puru area (17,900 ha approx), plus ongoing monitoring of previously treated sites.

4.1.6 – Meeting 13 June 2008: Members received a further update from Conservator, Greg Martin, on department restructuring. The major change for the conservancy would come with the replacement of community relations and technical support managers’ roles by a new “conservation support manager”, while six (presently) vacant positions would also be removed from the new structure.

DOC archaeologist Neville Ritchie gave the Board a presentation on a proposed Central North Island Rail Trail between Ongarue and Pureora Village. The trail would be some 65k long, featuring several viaduct crossings (to be reconstructed over time) and the Ongarue Spiral. Neville described the proposal as a big job that would require big machinery in its construction and would complement many other central North Island attractions and recreational opportunities when completed.

Sean Cooper of the Department's Marine Protection Unit (accompanied by Conservancy technical officer marine, Kristina Hillock) provided a powerpoint summary of recent Government decisions to create four new marine mammal sanctuaries, at Te Waewae Bay, Fortrose, Clifford and Cloudy Bays, and the West Coast of the North Island.

The proposals were to be published in the New Zealand Gazette, to be followed by a 28-day submission period, after which the Minister of Fisheries would decide on whether to proceed or abolish the proposals. Sean said the WCNI proposal covered known Maui's dolphin territory from Manganui Bluff (Northland) to Oakura Beach, south of New Plymouth and included a variety of coastal and marine habitats from sandy beaches to enclosed harbours.

DOC planner Vicki Carruthers attended the meeting to provide members with an update on aquaculture proposals on the Firth of Thames. She said Environment Waikato was progressing a plan change that would facilitate fish farming at Wilsons Bay. A widely-represented working party had been established, including Forest and Bird, ACRE, Ngati Maru / Hauraki Maori Trust Board, NZ Aquaculture, King Salmon, Sandfords and DOC.

4.2 Other Board Activity

National Wetland Trust (Wyne Johns): Members received regular updates on the activities of the National Wetland Trust and the proposal for the establishment of a national wetland centre at Rangiriri. Wyne noted the "end of an era" with Gordon Stephenson's retirement as chairperson of the Trust, though he remained involved as a trustee. The Trust, meantime, had employed its first staff member (Karen Denyer) who would be involved in progressing the building project. The Trust also played a prominent role in promoting World Wetlands Day activities.

Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust (Ron McGough): The Trust is now in its second year of operation after encircling the mountain with the pest free fence. Current monitoring indicates only small pockets of mice remain to be exterminated and the Trust is agreed that progress toward having a pest free mountain is further ahead than expected. Kiwi and kaka introductions have taken place. These are in addition to earlier introductions of kiwi and takahe, and our first kiwi chick has been born on the mountain. Ongoing work continues toward further introductions of other bird species and Tuatara.

Community support remains strong with memberships producing significant income, a four hundred-strong volunteer force completing much essential work and a team working to encourage schools to take advantage of the educational opportunities now becoming available on the mountain. While the establishment of the fence has achieved the results expected, ongoing pest free status is reliant on a dependable annual income to maintain ongoing monitoring and maintenance of the fence into the future. A team, including personnel from Environment Waikato, Department of Conservation and the Waipa District Council, is working to develop a plan to achieve this.

Ballance Farm Environment Award Trust (Sally Miller): Sally represents the Board as a trustee on the FEA Trust. This year the Trust had its lowest number of entries for the Farm Environment Awards for many years, with only 15 entries. However the standard was high. Over 150 people attended the Awards function, with the DVD's of all the finalists being a highlight of the evening.

About 120 people attended the subsequent field day held at the Klootens, the Supreme Winners.

All of the finalists had a high awareness for the need for biodiversity and habitat protection, with Pam and Barry Wise taking the two main awards in this area. The Trust has some concerns that numbers may be low this year also with many farmers still recovering from the summer drought along with a very wet winter and are asking all supporting agencies to encourage farmers to enter.

4.3 Members attendance record at meetings 2007-2008

Member	(total 6)
Kewana Duncan	(2)
Rachel Garden	(1)
Philip Hart	(6)
Alison Henry	(5)
Arthur Hinds	(5)
Dell Hood	(6)
Wyne Johns	(6)
Tipa Mahuta	(-) (term expired September 2007)
Ron McGough	(5)
Sally Millar	(3)
Gaylene Roberts	(5) (appointed September 2007)
Peter Tairi	(3)
Pip Wallace	(3)

5.0 - BOARD FUNCTIONS UNDER SECTION 6M CONSERVATION ACT 1987

Section 6M (1) (a) Approval of Conservation Management Strategy (CMS): The first Waikato Conservation Management Strategy was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on 24 September 1996. The Minister of Conservation has formally approved an extension of the present CMS to December 2008. The Board has an appointed sub-committee liaising with the department on a regular basis as the revised strategy is being progressed toward public notification prior to Christmas 2008.

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 progress, 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 sent a copy of Nigel Pinkerton's report on conservation funding to the Authority and all conservation board chairs.

Statutory Land Management: No major statutory land management issues were brought before the Board during the year.

Resource Management Issues: The Board maintained an on-going interest in the windfarm developments at Taharoa and Te Uku, Shore Futures and Blueprint projects, Mokau River hydro scheme and Tairua marina without becoming directly involved in the planning processes.

Section 6M (1) (e) Advice on proposals for new walkways: The Board made no recommendations to the department regarding new walkway proposals.

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 UNDER SECTION 6N CONSERVATION ACT 1987

6N(2)(a) Advocate interest at public forums and statutory planning processes: The Board was not directly involved in any public or statutory advocacy roles during the year, though, as noted above, encouraged and supported Department staff in its actions on several significant resource consent applications.

6N(2)(b) Appoint committees and delegate them functions and responsibilities: Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Committee 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 - and four members representing the community: Philip Costello of Hahei, Sue Edens of Opito Bay (chairperson), Dirk Immenga of Waikato University, and Nathan Smith of Hahei (resigned during the year and yet to be replaced). Arthur Hinds represents the Board on the committee.

7.0 - BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES OTHER SECTIONS OF CONSERVATION ACT 1987

6Q (1) Co-opting Members: The Board did not co-opt any additional members during the year (and does not now have the capacity to do so, with 12 Minister-appointed members).

17G 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 has, in the past, included public forum time in its Hamilton meeting agendas also but these are rarely used by the public.

With Fish and Game: A report on Fish & Game Council meeting minutes 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.

With Other Boards / Organisations: The Waikato Conservation 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 when time allows. 2007-2008 liaison members were: Bay of Plenty – Ron McGough; Taupo / Tongariro – Ron McGough; Auckland – Philip Hart; Taranaki / Wanganui - Sally Millar.



2008 Stella Frances Memorial Scholarship winner, Paul Mudge (middle), pictured with (from left) Judith Mudge, Environment Waikato's Tony Petch, EW councillor Jane Hennebry, Waikato Conservator Greg Martin, science award winner Louise Fisk and Waikato Conservation Board chairperson, Philip Hart (right). (Environment Waikato photo).

With the 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 Thames Coast Protection Society: Rachel Garden; with Thames Coromandel District Council and QEII Trust: Alison Henry.

With the New Zealand Conservation Authority: The Board has appreciated receiving the NZCA Chair's prompt report of NZCA meetings. Minutes of the Conservation Authority meetings are circulated to members with the Waikato Conservation Board's meeting agenda papers and are commented on by the Board/NZCA liaison member at the meeting.

In 2007-2008 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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