

**Wellington Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Upoko o
te Ika Conservation Board**

Annual Report 2019-2020



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Front Cover: Koru, Kapiti Island, 7/09/2019, Sara Robinson (DOC)

Back cover: View from Kapiti Island, 7/09/2019 Sara Robinson (DOC)

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1. Chairperson's report

Introduction

The past twelve months seem to have passed quickly, and with the Covid-19 lockdown experience earlier this year, there has been a chance to review our lives, and appreciate what is important to us. This has changed my worldview in a reluctance to return to the inequitable "normal" of before.

In this conservation discussion, it is now clear that continued committed funding towards management of the DOC estates and the work programmes that are being carried out is critical. Pest management is vital if we are to slow down the shameful extinction rates of our indigenous plant and animal species. The need to have volunteers on the ground working in a more co-ordinated way with DOC operational programmes must continue to be strengthened. I firmly believe that the amount of work needed to be consistently done can only be achieved with that support. It is critical that future funding does reach the groundwork being done by the DOC frontline.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all those involved in this work, both volunteers and staff. And also the many community groups in the region who are gathering each week to attend to their local rohe, planting sand dunes, clearing weeds, re-establishing wetlands, making submissions to council annual plans, or filling out endless funding applications - your commitment is making a significant difference.

I wish to thank our supporting DOC managers and support staff, Reg Kemper, Jack Mace, Moana Smith-Dunlop, Kathy Houkamau, Chris Visser, and Sara Robinson.

Board meetings

Our Board meetings have been well attended again this year. We have a full membership complement, farewelling Christy Kimble and welcoming Dan Elderkamp and Nicole McCrossin.

We are now in a six-meetings a year calendar cycle, which is making the workload easier to manage and our relationships with each other stronger. Board members report on their activities and issues that concern them and their community contacts in the wider context of conservation.

We are committed to holding at least one meeting a year on a marae, but the Covid-9 intervention has meant this has not happened this year.

I wish to acknowledge recent departing members Jennie Smeaton and Bill Day for the contribution they each brought to the table. I sincerely thank them both for their patience and considered comments and wish them well. New appointments are pending.

The work of the Board does bring with it some frustration. The ability to manage within the processes and issues facing DOC is challenging. We are served by excellent managers, but the whole process of consultation and wider planning considerations does not make for quick action!

The Board support officer role has been enhanced, so the officer based in Palmerston North is now able to work in a full-time capacity for two boards. This should allow the Board to attend to matters more efficiently. This is a welcome change by the Department.

Site visits

Site visits are always important for our Board but due to the Covid-19 intervention, we have only visited Kapiti Island this year. The Board had another visit scheduled for March, but this had to be cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Treaty of Waitangi

We all acknowledge that there is a critical partnership for each Treaty partner, and the Ngai Tai Supreme Court decision has highlighted the need for our Board to be very aware of actions required to ensure that Tangata Whenua are aware of, and consulted on, matters relating to the conservation discussion.

The Ngai Tai decision is causing much discussion within DOC and a partial review of the Conservation General Policy is underway as part of this; a policy which has not been revised since 2006. The decision requires DOC to broaden its scope from not only looking at cultural and environmental matters but also economic issues relating to local Iwi.

For the Board, this matter really impacts inside the community funding applications, which this year was highlighted by the number of applicants that had not made contact with their local Iwi. This matter is complex, and I believe that DOC and the Board have a lot of educating to do relating to the Ngai Tai decision amongst the conservation groups in our region.

The Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS), implemented in January 2019, may also need to be reviewed in light of this decision.

New Zealand Conservation Authority / Conservation Board Chairs annual meeting

In August 2019, Barry Wards and I attended our third annual NZCA/CB Chairs meeting. These meetings provide a good opportunity to network with other Boards and the NZCA, as well as discuss initiatives and concerns towards better collaboration in exercising our statutory responsibilities. They also enable Boards to get first-hand updates from senior DOC staff and the Minister of Conservation around wider conservation matters, risks and opportunities to and this helps to strengthen and focus work programmes.

Much of the discussion at this meeting focused around improving the effective operation of Boards in meeting their statutory responsibilities, particularly at an operational and support level. Frank discussions with the Minister and Director-General Lou Sanson led to an agreement to initiate a program of work targeted at strengthening Board administration and support, Departmental engagement and commitment towards progressing CMS reviews.

At the time this report is being prepared, this program of work is well-advanced and a full briefing to the Board Chairs has been scheduled for their meeting on 22-23 August 2020.

David Barnes has represented NZCA on our Board for the past two years and we thank him for his support, especially through the CMS revision process.

DOC Community Fund – Pūtea Tautiaki Hapori

I joined with representatives of the East Coast Hawkes Bay (ECHB) Conservation Board to assist DOC in making decisions on applications to the DOC Community Fund. The Lower North Island region, covered by the ECHB, Wellington and Chatham Island Conservation Boards, received \$460,000 of the \$4.6M nationally available for disbursement.

Community presentations & representations

While community attendance at Board meetings is advertised and encouraged, there has not been an increase in attendance over the past year. The complication of Covid-19 has impacted this. However, the Board has actively sought presentation from areas of the community relevant to its work programme and milestones/objectives of the CMS, supported by individual member liaison with groups across the region.

A focus of the Board continues to be encouraging, strengthening and extending the breadth and depth of community liaison. It looks forward to attracting more individuals and conservation groups in seeking the Boards assistance, making it aware of issues and concerns, and identifying ways in which they may be addressed.

Board members have maintained an extensive liaison network with the community across the region, characterised by the strengths, knowledge and previous interactions developed prior, and subsequent, to joining the Board. There still needs to be more connection, especially with groups who receive community funding, including ways for the Board to be more connected to helping those groups achieve success in their funded projects.

Areas of Board activity in 2019/20

The Board has been involved with a wide range of activities and organisations connected with its work programme over the 2019/20 year. These are broadly identified below under relevant headings.

Board Administration/Support/Planning	Pest Control	Recreation/Historic/Access
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Document storage, access & IT solutions ▪ Work Programme development (incl. Ministers Letter of Expectation) ▪ Stakeholder Engagement Plan development ▪ Conservation Management Strategy implementation & reporting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Remutaka Conservation Trust (kiwi project) ▪ Clematis vitalba/Old Man's Beard control (Horizons Regional Council/Rangitikei Environment Group (REG)) ▪ 1080 education & communications advice ▪ Wilding pine control (Remutaka Forest Park) ▪ Capital kiwi and predator-free NZ ▪ Zealandia Perch Eradication/Reservoir Restoration 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ruahine Forest Park access over private land ▪ Public Access to Rewa Bush Conservation Area ▪ Te Araroa re-route ▪ Dominion Observatory management ▪ Manawatu Gorge NZTA loop upgrade ▪ Mātiu Somes Wharf works
Biodiversity/Water	Conservation Planning	Climate Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waikanae River priority restoration funding/Waikanae Ki Uta Ki Tai (River Project) ▪ Biodiversity and pollution impacts in Lake Horowhenua ▪ Action for Healthy Waterways ▪ Regenerative Farming ▪ National Policy Statement for Freshwater Management ▪ Wainuiwhenua project ▪ Our Land Our Water Symposium 2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Concessions monitoring ▪ Heritage and Visitors Strategy ▪ Forest and Bird policy consultation ▪ Ōrongorongo and Ocean Beach Private Huts management ▪ Manawatu Gorge NZTA loop upgrade ▪ Kaitiaki Ranger on Mana island 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DOC Climate Change programme development

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Waikanae Scenic Reserve By-laws ▪ Zealandia Perch Eradication/Reservoir Restoration ▪ Tuturuatu/Shore Plover translocation to Mana Island ▪ Wairarapa Moana Ramsar nomination 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ GWRC proposed Regional Natural Resources Plan ▪ Tourism impacts on DOC estates. 	
Liaison	Treaty of Waitangi	Monitoring/Awareness
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ NZCA ▪ Fish & Game NZ ▪ Forest & Bird ▪ Wellington Harbour Islands Kaitiaki Board ▪ Kapiti Island Reserves Strategic Advisory Committee (KISAC) ▪ Pūkaha Scenic Reserve celebrations with Governor General and PM ▪ Transpower Volunteer day 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wai 262 whole of Government approach ▪ Porirua Ki Manawatu enquiry ▪ Ngāi Tai ki Tāmaki supreme court decision impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Kapiti Marine Reserve ▪ Porirua Adventure Park ▪ Queen Elizabeth Park/ Raumatī wetlands ▪ Wainuiwhenua project ▪ Hōkio Landfill Project Management Group ▪ Marine Reserve Compliance

Submissions

No submissions were tabled by the Board this year.

Relationships with other Boards

The Board's relationships with other Boards have waned a little, but some members have been able to keep individual connections going.

The Boards that we have met with this year are East Coast Hawkes Bay, Nelson and Otago Boards.

Fish & Game Council

The Board has not attended any Fish and Game Council meetings this year, but reports are received from DOC managers regarding their activities with keen interest.

Climate Change

The impact of Climate Change events is now with us all, with widespread effects now evident.

The Board received a briefing from DOC officers relating to Climate Change policy development. Although the Board was pleased to see DOC formulating policy, it is concerned that the timelines are too far out, with concerns about the Department's ability to adequately sustain its future workload when these extreme events begin to happen more regularly. It appears that the DOC system simply won't cope, putting much of the excellent work that is being done on the ground at risk.

The Board encouraged the Climate Change policy sector to rethink its timelines, continuing to use the considerable science and evidence that is becoming more available.

The protection of our ecosystems and overall biodiversity environment are critical to our fundamental survival. The cleaning up and conservation of our lakes, rivers and small streams is now critical.

Conclusion

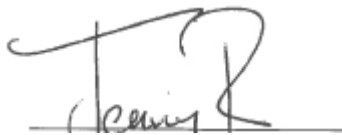
This is my last report as Chair of the Board. It has been a real pleasure to serve as the Chair of the Wellington Board for four years, and a privilege to work with the talented and committed members of the Board over that time.

We have achieved a lot but have continually confronted some very real questions about the role of the Boards, and how they can be better serviced and supported to meet their statutory responsibilities.

I am pleased there is a review of the Boards' roles now underway. The possibility of the Boards managing the Community Funding pūtea also has real potential.

Our Board is in good heart but needs to have a sense of real purpose for the future.

I sincerely wish the Board all the best in these challenging times.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenny Rowan', written over a horizontal line.

Jenny Rowan, QSO
WCB Chair

July 2020

2. Introduction

This is the sixth Wellington Conservation Board Annual Report. Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Wellington Conservation Board submits this annual report.

Conservation boards are 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 conservation boards to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act.

Conservation boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. They represent the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation (the Department), within their area of jurisdiction.

Conservation boards have several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- The recommendation of the Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the Authority for approval.
- Advising the Department and the Authority on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice.
- Reporting on the implementation of the CMS.
- The approval of conservation management plans (CMP).
- The recommendation of national park management plans to the Authority for approval.
- Advising the Department and Authority on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance.
- Liaising with the regional Fish and Game Council on conservation matters; and
- Carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

Conservation boards also have several functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980. These functions include recommending the review or amendment of national park management plans and recommending approval of these plans by the Authority.

3. Conservation Board region

The Wellington Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers an area of 2,974,763.62 hectares. This extends from the bottom of the North Island to the mouth of the Turakina River in the west, up the Turakina River and over the top of the Ruahine Forest Park, down the eastern boundary of the Forest Park and then out across to the east coast near Waimārama. It includes the three Wellington harbour islands, Matiu/Somes, Mokopuna and Makaro/Ward as well as Kapiti and Mana islands. 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.

Approximately 2.23% of New Zealand's public conservation land and area lie within Wellington's jurisdiction.

Public conservation land and areas make up 9.77% of all land in the Wellington Region. This consists of:

- 286,541.36 hectares of Public Conservation Land;
- 999.97 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals; and
- 3,021.11 hectares of Marine Reserves.

Conservation features of the area

The main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the Board's boundaries are:

• Tararua Forest Park	114,738.77 ha
• Ruahine Forest Park	94,823.66 ha
• Aorangi Forest Park	19,406.11 ha
• Remutaka Forest Park	19,775.62
• 98 Scenic Reserves	810,263.98 ha
• 1 Historic Reserve	5.95 ha
• 21 Recreation Reserves	841.58 ha
• 151 Stewardship Areas	21,626.19 ha
• 171 Marginal Strips	1067.63 ha
• 2 Specially Protected Areas	416.53 ha
• 2 Marine Reserves	3,021.11 ha

The range of conservation issues of interest to the Board relate to these areas, as well as specific features of regions within them:

Manawatu

- Ruahine Forest Park
- Manawatu Gorge Scenic Reserve
- Manawatu Estuary
- Manawatu/Horowhenua Coastal Dunes

Wairarapa

- Pūkaha National Wildlife Centre
- Tararua Forest Park
- Aorangi Forest Park
- Lake Wairarapa and Lake Onoke

Wellington

- Remutaka Forest Park
- Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve
- Waikanae Estuary
- Kapiti Marine Reserve
- Kapiti Island Nature Reserve
- Mana Island Scientific Reserve
- Matiu/Somes Island Scientific and Historic Reserves
- Taputeranga Marine Reserve

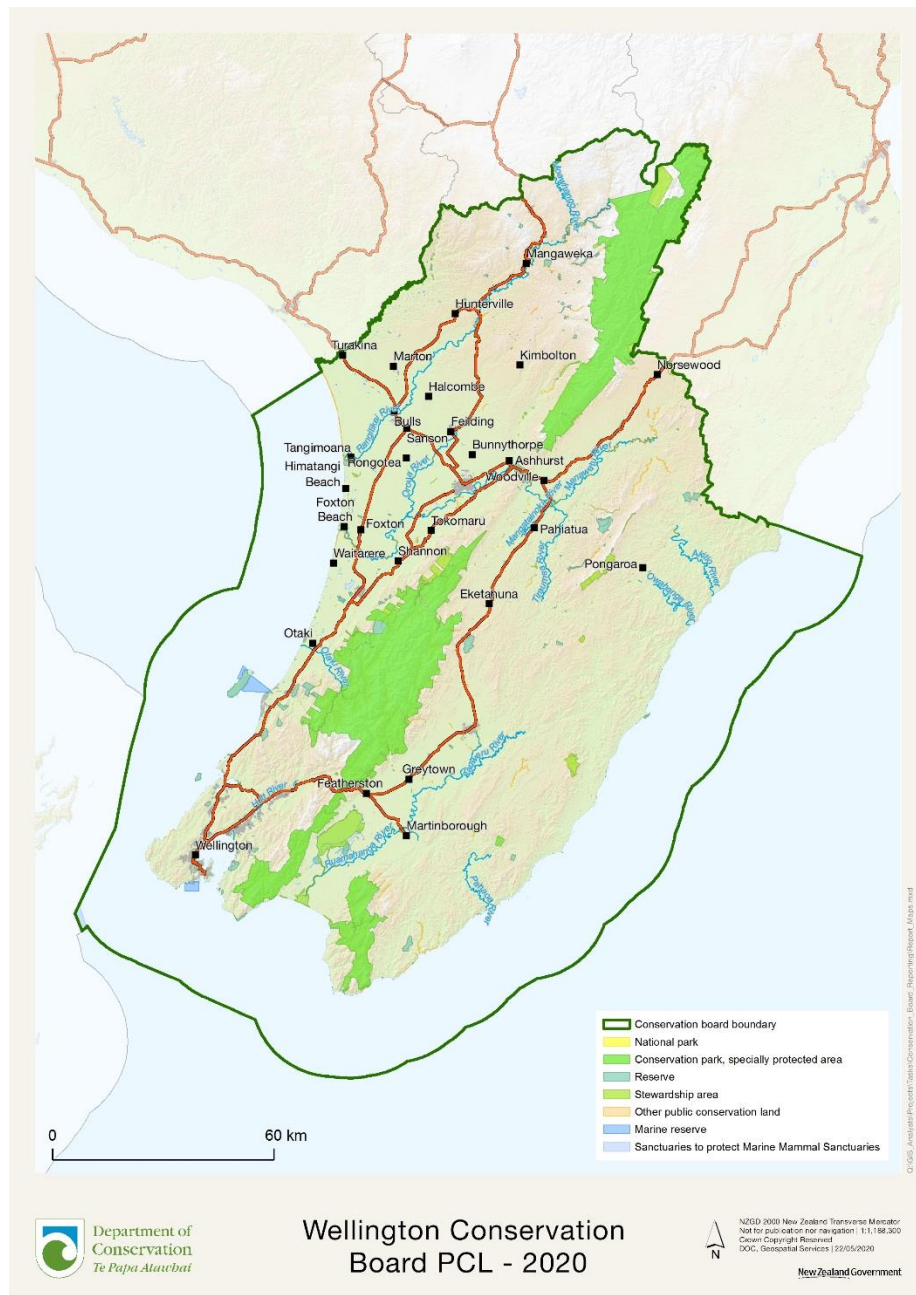


Figure 1: Wellington Conservation Board Jurisdiction

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 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 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 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 matter 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 conservation 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. Functions of the Board under section 30 the National Parks Act 1980

- 1) To recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board in accordance with sections 45 to 47.
- 2) To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks.
- 3) To make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers under section 40.
- 4) To review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- 5) To give advice to the Director-General or the Authority:
 - a) on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; and
 - b) on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and
 - c) on any other matter relating to any national park, —
within the jurisdiction of the Board.

4.4. Board membership

There were 9 Board members for the reporting year, appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Jenny Rowan was elected Chairperson and Barry Wards was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020 and their term of office.

Table 1: Board membership

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Term served
Jenny Rowan	Kapiti	17 Aug 2015	30 Jun 2021	2
Barry Wards	Upper Hutt	1 May 2014	30 Jun 2022	3
Esther Dijkstra	Wairarapa	1 Jul 2016	30 Jun 2022	2
Bill Day	Wellington	1 Sep 2016	30 Jun 2020	2
Raewyn Moss	Wellington	1 Jul 2016	30 Jun 2021	2
Jennie Smeaton	Porirua	1 Jul 2017	30 Jun 2020	1
Ann-Sophie Page	Palmerston North	1 Jul 2018	30 Jun 2021	1
Dan Elderkamp	Waipukurau	1 Jul 2019	30 Jun 2022	1
Nicole McCrossin	Wellington	1 Jul 2019	30 Jun 2022	1

4.5. Member profiles

Jenny Rowan of Kapiti (Chairperson)

Jenny Rowan has been involved in local government for 30 years, most recently as former Mayor of Kapiti Coast District Council, and as an Environment Court Commissioner for 16 years. She is widely experienced in matters relating to conservation estate issues, the Resource Management Act and related aspects of the Conservation Act, including extensive work with Iwi. Her current interests include restoration and enhancement of public reserves and DOC estates on the Kapiti Coast, including as a former trustee of Whareroa Farm and as a member of the governance body for the Kapiti Biodiversity Project.

Barry Wards of Upper Hutt (Deputy Chair)

Dr Wards is a Principal Advisor Biosecurity HSNO for the Ministry of Primary Industries. He has over 30 years' experience in environmental and conservation advocacy and activity. He has a strong knowledge of nature conservation, indigenous biodiversity, pest control and the potential impacts of conservation activities on cultural heritage, recreation, tourism and local economics. He has a working knowledge of legislation and government/local body processes.

Esther Dijkstra of Carterton

Dr Dijkstra is a business owner with a PhD in Environmental Science and a Master's in Physical Geography. She's connected to the wider Wairarapa community as an Enviroschools facilitator, and as a member of the Ruamahanga Whaitua committee.

Bill Day of Wellington

Bill worked for Westpac where he initiated their sponsorship of the Westpac Rescue Helicopters in Wellington, Auckland, Christchurch and Hamilton. He has owned a business, been a board director and was CEO of the NZ Community Trust. Bill

has been involved with charity work as a Trustee, Deputy Chair and Chair of the Life Flight Trust, Wellington Free Ambulance and several other Trusts.

He is the Founder and Chair of Wellington Hospitals Foundation. Bill has volunteered for DOC on the Perano Whaling station project, tree planting on D'Urville Island and as a hut Warden at Nydia Bay and Molesworth Station. Bill is a JP and received the MNZM for services to the community and health in 2015.

Raewyn Moss of Wellington

Raewyn has an environmental science background and works at Transpower as their General Manager External Affairs. She has worked in the energy sector for 20 years at both Meridian Energy and Transpower in environmental policy, natural resource management, property and stakeholder relations roles. She is experienced in the RMA, working with iwi and conservation estate issues. Raewyn is a former Trustee for Community Energy Action and the Te Waiiau Mahika Kai Trust. She is a keen trumper having tramped throughout NZ and the Wellington Region. She highly values a healthy environment and access for recreation.

Jennie Smeaton of Porirua

Jennie is a Senior Advisor in the Nationally Significant Proposals team with the EPA. Prior to joining the EPA, Jennie worked for Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira Inc., which is the mandated body for the iwi, Ngāti Toa Rangatira. Jennie has a background in Environmental Management, Treaty Settlements, and Fisheries Management. She currently sits on the Te Awarua o Porirua Whaitua Committee, established by Greater Wellington Regional Council, and is the Ngāti Toa representative on the iwi owned and operated radio station, Ātiawa Toa FM. Jennie is an active Ngāti Toa iwi member and participates in many functions undertaken by the iwi.

Ann-Sophie Page of Palmerston North

Miss Page is a student at Massey University studying veterinary science. She is the environmental advocacy coordinator for the Manawatu Branch of Forest and Bird, is an experienced wildlife guide, and a published environmental writer.

Dan Elderkamp of Waipukurau

Mr Elderkamp is previously been chair and member on several committees/boards. He is familiar with New Zealand conservation issues, both past and present, and practiced pest and weed control, and revegetation. He is currently employed as a bus driver, coach driver and a self-employed farmer.

Nicole McCrossin of Wellington

Ms McCrossin is a senior advisor in Māori Crown relations for Te Arawhiti. She has skills in relationship management, communication, and analysis and advice. She is a member of the Wellington City Council Environmental Reference Group.



From Left to Right: Bill Day; Raewyn Moss; Barry Wards (Deputy Chair); Ann-Sophie Page; Esther Dijkstra; Dan Elderkamp; Nicole McCrossin; Jenny Rowan (Chair) Photo: Sara Robinson – DOC

4.6. Board meetings

The Board held 5 meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the meetings vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Table 2: Board meeting dates and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
26 July 2019	DOC Office, Manners Street, Wellington
6 & 7 September 2019	Kapiti Coast District Council Offices, Paraparaumu
22 November 2019	DOC Office, Manners Street, Wellington
14 February 2020	DOC Office, Manners Street, Wellington
8 May 2020	Virtual Meeting held

4.7. Attendance

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

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles.


Table 3: Board meetings attended by members

Board member	Board meetings	Liaison meetings	Special events
Jenny Rowan	5/5	1	0
Barry Wards	5/5	0	1
Raewyn Moss	4/5	0	0
Bill Day	5/5	0	0
Esther Dijkstra	5/5	0	0
Jennie Smeaton	2/5	0	0
Anne-Sophie Page	3/5	0	0
Dan Elderkamp	4/5	0	0
Nicole McCrossin	4/5	0	0

4.8. Field trips and site inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region and to meet with community members undertaking conservation activities.

Table 4: Field trips and site inspections

Field trip date	Field trip destination and purpose
7 September	Field Trip to Kapiti Island to see the work that DOC does to keep the Island predator free.
	 <p>Wellington Conservation Board Members at Kapiti Island. Photo: Sara Robinson (DOC)</p>

4.9. Training for members

In addition to the regular updates on the Department's activities provided in the status report, which is considered at each meeting, the following was also covered this year.

- Relationship management in relation to 1080
- DOC Strategy on Climate Change issues

- Board Member attended Te Pukenga Atawhai

4.10. Department involvement in Board meetings

DOC Staff who regularly attending our meetings include:

- Reg Kemper, Regional Director, LNI and provided a Director updates.
- Chris Visser, Statutory Manager, LNI.
- Jack Mace, Operations Manager (Kapiti/Wellington); Kathy Houkamau, Operations Manager (Wairarapa); Moana Smith-Dunlop, Operations Manager (Manawatu).

Administrative Support was provided to the Board by the Board Support Officer (Sara Robinson)

In addition to the above the following DOC Staff also attended meetings:

- Peter Hardstaff on 26 July 2019 presented on relationship management in relation to 1080.
- Paul Phifer and Sarah Campin-Fordham on 26 July 2019 presented on DOC Strategy for Climate Change.
- Mervyn English on 22 November 2019 to speak about the Conservation Boards Improvement Project.
- Clare Lundo on 22 November 2019 to provide an update on 1080 Engagement.

4.11. Annual work plan

Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme and progress commentary.

5. Statutory activity

5.1. Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The CMS has now been live for 18 months.

Implementation monitoring

The Board reviews milestone reports which set out the Department's progress and work towards CMS objectives and milestones. In conjunction with the Department, the Board has continued to refine the reporting template.

While substantial progress has been made by the Department in reporting against the milestones and outcomes of the CMS, the reports received by the Board fall short in providing an informed position of progress, achievement and forecast. Some of this is due to difficulties in sourcing the right information from the Departments business plan systems in a way that does not necessitate extensive re-work. Achieving consistency and completeness of reporting across the region is also challenging.

Despite this, however, the reporting is improving, and Board remains confident that an improved reporting framework will result from workshop discussions and testing of template models.

5.2. Management plans

Apart from ongoing work with the development of the Kapiti Island Reserves conservation management plan, the Board has not undertaken any work involving management plans over the reporting period.

Kapiti Island Reserves conservation management plan

The Kapiti Island Reserves Strategic Advisory Committee (KISAC), set up under the Ngāti Toa Rangatira Claims Settlement Act 2014, is responsible for developing the Kapiti Island Reserves conservation management plan. The Board is kept informed on progress with the plan through Barry Wards, who is one of the two DOC-appointed members of KISAC.

KISAC is steadily progressing through preparing to start the draft plan and expects to formally start development in the forthcoming year.

6. Advice and advocacy

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise, and some members have specific roles in liaison. The Board appointed various members to liaise with other groups and agencies.

Table 5: Board liaisons and representatives

Board member	Group/agency/organisation
Jenny Rowan	Wainuiwhenua Project QE Park Friends Guardians of Whareroa Kapiti Biodiversity Group Board Representative on the Harbour Island Kaitiaki Board
Nicole McCrossin	Matiu/Somes Kaitiaki Board Island Bay Predator Free Berhampore, Mt Cook and Newtown Predator Free Friends of Houghton Bay
Raewyn Moss	Ngaio Predator Free Khandallah Predator Free
Barry Wards	Forest & Bird Bushy Park Trust Mauri Tūhono Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board Upper Hutt Climate Change Focus Group KISAC

6.1. Other Conservation Boards liaison

The Board allocates liaison roles with their immediate neighbouring Boards. During the 2019/2020 year a member of the East coast Hawkes Bay Conservation Board attended a meeting and a Wellington Conservation Board member also attended an East Coast Hawkes Bay meeting. We also met jointly on LNI conservation fund allocations and

subsequently with Department officials to understand where improvements might be possible within the community conservation funding process.

6.2. Authority liaison

David Barnes is the NZCA member liaison with the Board. David has attended some of the Board meetings during the year and updated the Board on the activities of the NZCA.

The Board received the agenda, papers and minutes of the NZCA meetings, and the Board Chair received regular communication from the NZCA.

6.3. Department advice

The Board provided advice to the Department on the following issues:

- Jenny Rowan represented the Board at the DOC Community Fund meeting to assist the department on selecting possible recipients for the Lower North Island region. 110 projects have been approved for \$4.6m of funding of which 18 are in the LNI region with 10 of those being in the region covered by the Wellington Conservation Board.
- CMS milestone reporting – the Board provides ongoing advice to the Department in the design of milestone reporting and relevant content in order to track progress against the Wellington Conservation Management Strategy.

6.4. 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 Wellington Conservation Board's region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

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 and responded by letter with a response to questions asked or concerns raised.

Notable public forum issues raised were:

- Public access to Rewa Bush.
- Use of deer repellent in 1080 drops.

6.5. Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website. Updates from the Board were provided throughout the year on activities undertaken.

6.6. District and regional council advocacy and advice

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the four local Councils as there are several regional issues of ongoing interest, including development of the Wellington Region Biodiversity Framework.

6.7. Iwi liaison and advocacy

The Board has an informal relationship with iwi roopu and through the district offices information relating to Board meetings are advised.

7. Appendix I –Annual Work Plan

Wellington Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Upoko o te Ika Conservation Board **Work Programme**

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

Purpose

To outline the work programme of the Wellington Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Te Upoko o te Ika Conservation Board (“the Board”) for the 2019-20 year (1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020). This work programme has been developed in consideration of the Letter of Expectation from the Minister of Conservation dated 5 September 2019.

Board functions

The functions of the Board, as outlined in Section 6M of the Conservation Act, are:

- a) to recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies (CMSs), and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments.
- b) to approve conservation management plans (CMPs), and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments.
- c) to advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- d) to advise the Conservation Authority or the Director-General:
 - (i) on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
 - (ii) on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- e) to liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board; and
- f) to exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

Work programme overview

Priority work areas

The priority areas of work activity over the past year have been:

- Implementation of the Wellington Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) (continuing);
- Further development and implementation and of the Communications Strategy; and
- Reorganisation of meetings to better focus on priorities, particularly the CMS (continuing).

Other activities that have been associated with these have included:

- Development of an effective reporting framework for the CMS.
- Increased engagement with conservation stakeholders; and
- Fostering a collaborative and productive relationship with the Department.

Work programme structure

The Board work programme for the 2019-20 year is structure around the following priorities:

- A. Implementation of the CMS, particularly reporting against milestones and outcomes.
- B. Implementation of the Communications Strategy
- C. Implementation of the Board Charter
- D. Advocacy and advice
- E. Engagement with the Department
- F. Management of risks and issues and exploring conservation growth opportunities and initiatives

Objectives and activities of the Board relating to each of the four priority areas are broken down in the work programme below. These objectives and activities align with the statutory functions of the Board, and the use of the powers available to it to deliver these effectively. In general, priorities, objectives and activities are not mutually exclusive, and some will necessarily overlap.

NOTE: Many of the objectives and activities previously described in the 2018-19 work programme are now captured in the Board Charter. The priority area “Implementation of the Board Charter” condenses these into more general objectives and activities, removing the need to list them individually.

Work programme

Status indicator

Colour	Indicates
	Completed
	Started and is ongoing
	Not started yet

Priority Area	
A.	Implementation of the CMS
Objective 1:	Determine priorities for implementation of the CMS, in conjunction with the Department

Activities:

1. Work with the Department to identify the priority areas that need to be considered to implement the CMS.
2. Work with the Department to progress the priority areas identified.

Priority Area

Status	Progress commentary
■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Priority areas identified largely as milestones. ▪ Ongoing work with the Department to communicate and share understanding of where the CMS fits within business operations.

Objective 2: Develop a CMS monitoring and reporting framework, in conjunction with the Department

Activities:

1. Identify and communicate the Board's expectations of monitoring and reporting against the CMS to the Department.
2. Work with the Department to develop an effective CMS monitoring and reporting system via business planning for 2019-20 and beyond.
3. Monitor delivery of CMS commitments via Departmental Reports to the Board.

Status	Progress commentary
■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ongoing work with the Department to communicate and share understanding of where the CMS fits within business operations. ▪ Number of reporting models proposed and discussed.

Objective 3: Explore initiatives to ensure the CMS becomes a dynamic resource for conservation stakeholders

Activities:

1. Identify initiatives to enable the CMS to become a more real-time online resource, including map-based story-telling and CMS reporting.
2. Identify priority initiatives and develop a plan to implement these, in conjunction with the Department.
3. Consult conservation stakeholders on their expectations of the use of the CMS.

Status	Progress commentary
■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deferred until the Board is satisfied that an adequate reporting framework is in place. ▪ Discussions held around what initiatives could be employed to communicate CMS reporting to stakeholders.

B. Implementation of the Communications Strategy

Objective 4: Determine priorities for implementation of the Communications Strategy

Activities:

1. Identify the immediate priority areas to effectively implement the Communications Strategy.
2. Develop and implement plans to progress the identified priority areas in the Communications Strategy.
3. In conjunction with the Department, maintain the conservation stakeholder database.

Status	Progress commentary
■	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Progress made in identifying priority areas but ability to implement has been difficult due to COVID and other resource focus of the Department. ▪ Database has been maintained.

Priority Area

Objective 5: Maintain good liaison with neighbouring conservation boards and the NZCA on matters of mutual interest

Activities:

1. Continue to have nominated Board representatives to be liaison points with neighbouring conservation boards.
2. Nominated Board representatives to attend at least one neighbouring board meeting annually and report back to the Board.
3. Ensure the Board NZCA representative is kept well informed of Board activities and invited to Board meetings and events.
4. Attend NZCA meetings, where possible.
5. Explore initiatives to foster more productive relationships with neighbouring conservation boards and the NZCA.

Status

Progress commentary

- Nominated Board representatives have maintained liaison with neighbouring Boards but the impact of COVID has limited this.
- NZCA kept informed of relevant Board activities – while attendance of NZCA representatives at Board meetings has been minimal, Chair has maintained contact.
- Board Chairs meeting identified a number of initiatives to foster more productive relationships with neighbouring Boards and the NZCA, some of which have already been implemented.

Objective 6: Nurture collaborative relationships with Fish and Game Councils in areas of mutual interest within the WCB area

Activities:

1. Identify areas of mutual interest between the Board and Fish and Game Councils.
2. Continue to have at least one Board representative liaison point with Fish and Game Councils in the WCB area.
3. Attend Fish and Game Council meetings in the WCB area.

Status

Progress commentary

- Liaison points identified.
- Contact made with local F&G Council and one meeting attended.
- Mutual initiatives established to increase engagement in the future.

Objective 7: Nurture collaborative relationships with local communities, especially conservation stakeholders, to enhance Board profile and further develop good working relationships

Activities:

1. Maintain relationships with local iwi and gain greater familiarity with issues important to local Maori.
2. Allocate Board representatives as liaison points to specific conservation stakeholder groups/organisations across the rohe/area, including Conservation Community Partnerships Funded projects.
3. Maintain relationships with local bodies and Councillors across the rohe/area on matters relevant to the Boards interest.

Priority Area

4. In conjunction with the Department, maintain relationships with deer management stakeholders to ensure timely progression is made towards achieving milestones and outcomes for deer management in the CMS.
5. Explore initiatives to further report to, and engage with, conservation stakeholders, especially those in our own communities of practice.
6. Visit areas where conservation stakeholders, including the Department, are undertaking conservation work.
7. Explore initiatives to encourage greater communication between the Board and conservation stakeholders, including increased attendance at advertised Board meetings.

Status	Progress commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintained engagement and participation with local iwi through Kapiti Island Strategic Reserves Advisory Committee (KISAC) and Matiu/Somes Kaitiaki Board. ▪ Department provided updates on iwi engagements and treaty settlement processes. ▪ Extensive relationships with local bodies (Regional, District and City Councils) maintained on a wide range of issues. ▪ Little progress made in progressing further Board engagement with deer stakeholders, mainly due to COVID. ▪ Wide range of community stakeholders engaged with on a regular basis through individual Board member interests and liaison points. ▪ Barry Wards representation on Mauri Tūhono for development of the Wellington Biodiversity Framework. ▪ Field trip to Kapiti Island but other field trips limited because of COVID.

C. Implementation of the Board Charter

Objective 8: Implement the activities in the Board Charter to ensure more effective Board operation and performance

Activities:

1. Identify priority areas in the Board Charter to progress and develop a plan to progress these.
2. Review and implement a new Board meeting agenda, focused around CMS monitoring and reporting.
3. Develop a Strategic Direction.
4. Develop a yearly plan of Board activities.
5. Identify priority procedures and policies to develop and progress these, including development of a Board performance and evaluation procedure.

Status	Progress commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Priority areas being worked include communication, calendar and yearly plan. ▪ Agenda re-ordered to focus more on CMS reporting.

Priority Area

D. Advocacy and advice

Objective 9: Pursue all reasonable opportunities to advocate at hui and community forums and in any statutory planning processes relevant to conservation

Activities:

1. Maintain awareness and responsiveness to opportunities to attend and advocate at appropriate hui and community forums.
2. Engage in statutory planning processes and use these as opportunities to advocate for the Board's priorities.
3. Maintain a watching brief on the development of the Kapiti Reserves Management Plan.
4. Continue to advocate for conservation initiatives in our communities, including conservation and Kaitiaki armies, supporting Department staff and spreading awareness of conservation programmes to inspire and empower local communities.
5. Give priority to advocacy on key conservation initiatives, including:
 - a) Initiatives and milestones in the CMS;
 - b) Collaborative landscape projects promoting local ecological networks and community collaboration;
 - c) Predator-free NZ 2050 projects; and
 - d) Regional and national work that promotes ecological integrity of freshwater, coastal and marine ecosystems

Status	Progress commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular reporting back from KISAC on progress with Kapiti Reserves Management Plan. ▪ Maintained awareness on potential issues related to Nga Tai Supreme Court ruling. ▪ Fully engaged in working with the Department to integrate CMS milestones and outcome reporting into Department business practices and processes. ▪ Members actively participate in community-based conservation activities.

Objective 10: Provide advice to the Department, the NZCA and/or the Minister on matters relevant to the Boards role and function

Activities:

1. Respond to requests for advice from the Department, the NZCA and/or the Minister, including those relating to concessions.
2. Consider and provide advice to the Department on proposed changes of status for national and internationally important areas.
3. Provide advice to the Department, the NZCA and/or the Minister on areas of local and national conservation interest, community engagement in conservation and delivery of conservation outcomes.
4. Continue to ensure that the provision of advice is focused at a governance/strategic level and not at an operational/management level, where appropriate.

Priority Area

Status	Progress commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Regular engagement with the department and the NZCA. ▪ Raised ongoing concerns about Old Man's Beard (<i>Clematis vitalba</i>) ▪ Provided comment on 1080 communication strategy and visitor heritage strategy. ▪ Continued to urge the department to be more proactive in response to climate change issues. ▪ Strong input into Board effectiveness, support, liaison and administration through participation in the Board Chairs forum.

E. Engagement with the Department

Objective 11: Maintain a collaborative and productive working relationship with the Department

Activities:

1. Maintain open dialog with Directors, Managers and Board Support Officers in order to ensure effective implementation of the Boards role and functions.
2. Engage constructively with Department staff, including attendance at DOC events and training/learning opportunities and calling-in to DOC offices around the country.
3. Explore initiatives to further develop mutually beneficial productive and collaborative relationships between the Board and the Department.

Status	Progress commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strong, proactive and productive collaborative engagement with the Department maintained across the region. ▪ Participated in a number of Department events eg, (Conservation Week, Bird release Mana Island).

Objective 12: Maintain understanding and awareness of the Board's and Department's obligations under Section 4 of the Conservation Act Treaty settlements

Activities:

1. Request and receive progress reports on the implementation of the Department's obligations under Treaty Settlements.
2. Have particular regard to Treaty Settlements and Section 4 obligations in the implementation of the CMS.

Status	Progress commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintained awareness on potential issues related to Nga Tai Supreme Court ruling.

F. Management of risks and issues and exploring conservation growth opportunities and initiatives

Objective 13: Effectively manage risks relating to the role and function of the Board

Activities:

1. Develop and maintain a Risk Register of risks relating to the role and function of the Board and strategies for the management of those risks.
2. Openly engage with the Department to explore measures to improve fulfilling its role and meeting its statutory obligations, including increased resourcing and/or prioritisation of mutual activities.

Priority Area

Status	Progress commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Little progress with maintaining a Risk Register but maintain a watching brief on risk issues and areas. ▪ Initiated discussions around improvements to the Conservation Community Fund administration and Board participation. ▪ Participated in further discussions at the Board Chairs forum to ensure Boards are more effective in their role and responsibilities.

Objective 14: Explore opportunities and initiatives for conservation growth

Activities:

1. Maintain an awareness and understanding of Government initiatives to advance conservation strategy and incorporate these, where appropriate, into the Board work programme.
2. Work more closely with whanau, hapū and iwi to fulfil to better fulfil the obligations of Section 4 of the Conservation Act.
3. Actively engage with, and listen to, the wider community to broaden understanding of community concerns, issues and aspirations for conservation and environmental protection.
4. Explore and encourage opportunities for greater collaboration and alignment between conservation stakeholders to achieve better conservation outcomes.
5. Give priority to advancing initiatives and opportunities relating to conservation education and awareness, particularly with youth and in urban areas.

Status	Progress commentary
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Maintained awareness of effects of COVID on Department and conservation issues nationally and locally. ▪ Maintained liaisons with community groups and participated in wide range of community conservation activities (limited by COVID). ▪ Placed focus on engaging with local iwi, particularly around location of Board meetings.



This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend conservation board meetings. If you would like more information on the Wellington Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationsboards.org.nz or contact the board support officer, at the Department of Conservation in Palmerston North (027) 611 2442 or e-mail Sarobinson@doc.govt.nz