

WEST COAST *TAI POUTINI* CONSERVATION BOARD

Annual Report 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010



Cover Photo

This photo is of seven of the current members of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board at the 30 July 2010 meeting. Back row: Les Wright, Stewart Robertson, Hamish Macbeth, Terry Scott and Richard Nichol. In front row: Kim Thomas and Warren Inwood (chair). Absent were Kori Hutana, Clare Backes and Doug Baker.

The insert is of the late Janet Orchard, Board Support Officer since 1996.

Photographer: Public Awareness, West Coast Conservancy

**WEST COAST TAI POUTINI
CONSERVATION BOARD**

ANNUAL REPORT
1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010

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

ISSN 1172-918X (Print)
ISSN 1179-2647 (Online)

**Serviced by Department of Conservation
Private Bag 701
HOKITIKA**

INTRODUCTION

Functions

The West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board is an independent advisory body for public conservation land while the Department of Conservation is the day-to-day manager. The Board has a number of statutory roles under various Acts including:

- the recommendation of a West Coast Conservation Management Strategy(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 the implementation of the CMS,
- the approval of Conservation Management Plans,
- the recommendation of National Park Management Plans to the NZCA for approval,
- advising the Department of Conservation and NZCA on conservation matters, and proposed changes to the status of land of national and international significance,
- liaising with the Fish and Game Council on conservation matters, and
- carrying out other powers delegated to it by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

Area of Responsibility

The area of responsibility for the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board is the West Coast from north of Karamea south to Big Bay (refer to the map at the end of the report). This area corresponds to that of the West Coast Conservancy, South Island, except for Kahurangi National Park (which is the responsibility of the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board), Arthur's Pass National Park (Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board) and Mt Aspiring National Park (Otago Conservation Board). The area also extends out to the twelve-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200 nautical mile limit with respect to marine mammal issues.

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park and Paparoa National Park lie completely within the Board's jurisdiction. The overlap of the Nelson/Marlborough, Canterbury Aoraki and Otago Conservation Boards with the West Coast Conservancy necessitates close co-operation with those Boards and at times the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board advocates for cross-boundary issues. The Board's area also shares common boundaries with the Southland Conservation Board.

Approximately twenty-five percent of all public conservation land in New Zealand lies within the West Coast Conservancy. A large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- ecosystem management and management of plant and animal species such as mistletoe, Westland petrel/*taiko*, white heron/*kotuku*, blue duck/*whio*, rowi (formerly Okarito brown kiwi), Haast *tokoeka*, great spotted kiwi/*roa*, mohua and Powelliphanta species;
- management of recreational facilities;
- management of historic sites;

- concession activities, including those relating to recreation and tourism activities, grazing, industrial use, baches, filming, gravel extraction, and;
- mining and access arrangements and
- marine protection.

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board has a responsibility to the people of the West Coast, and the wider New Zealand population, to ensure these lands and waters, and the biodiversity which they contain, are protected and enhanced.

The total area of the West Coast Conservancy comprises 1,913,000 ha. Of this total approximately 83% (1,595,000 ha) is contained within the boundary of the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction.

Features of the Area

Paparoa National Park	39000 ha
Westland <i>Tai Poutini</i> National Park	131300 ha
Victoria Conservation Park	198500 ha
Scenic Reserve – 113	79029 ha
Historic Reserves – 10	15 ha
Ecological Areas – 46	152545 ha
Amenity Areas – 17	9428 ha
Stewardship	850309 ha
Recreation Reserve – 17	118 ha
Wilderness Areas – 3	10448 ha

N.B. These are the areas the Department administers. For example, most Historic Reserves and Recreation Reserves are either controlled and managed by or vested with local authorities or an incorporated society.

Membership

The names, locations of the members of the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board and attendance at meetings from 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 are shown below. The Board was pleased to welcome new member Doug Baker (Greymouth-Mawheranui) and welcome back Warren Inwood (Inangahua) and Kori Hutana (Hokitika) at its November 6 2009 meeting.

Clare Backes	Hokitika	4
Doug Baker#	Greymouth	4
Jim Costello*	Hari Hari	1
Anne Hall*	Okarito	1
Kori Hutana#	Hokitika	4
Warren Inwood# (Chair)	Inangahua	5
Hamish Macbeth	Karamea	5
Richard Nichol	Westport	3
Stewart Robertson	Greymouth	4
Terry Scott	Oxford	4
Les Wright	Punakaiki	5
Kim Thomas	Westport	5

* Members whose term expired at 31 August 2009.

Members newly appointed or reappointed 1 September 2009.

At times some members were not always able to attend the planned field inspections but overall attendance by members has been high.

Denniston Brake head



Conservation Board Meetings

During the reporting period the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board held five formal meetings, and two field inspections. Members have used email extensively to consider and discuss advice, submissions and other issues in between Board meetings.

This year the Board finalised the draft CMS and presented it to the New Zealand Conservation Authority for approval.

21 August 2009

This meeting was held in Hokitika. The Board discussed the Wild Animal Recovery Operation review. Points of issue were; heli-hunting raised possible animal welfare issues, policing of the activity and potential costs on staff time and funding. A presentation was given to the Board regarding pest control. The Marine Protected Areas consultation was discussed with the Department and the Board agreed to forward a submission supporting the proposals. This was Anne Hall's last meeting and the Board thanked her for her outstanding work over a long period of time. This was also Jim Costello's last meeting. Although Jim was absent, the Board acknowledged his service and a letter of thanks was sent.

5/6 November 2009

The Board met at Punakaiki and included a field inspection the previous day covering Treaty of Waitangi issues, the proposed upgrade of the Paparoa National Park Visitor Centre and a visit to the Rio Tinto restoration site. The Board took the opportunity to welcome new member Doug Baker and to welcome back Warren Inwood and Kori Hutana. John Keoghan, Canterbury Aorangi Conservation Board, was also welcomed to the meeting. Presentations on the implementation of CMS and Business Plan Priorities were provided by the Department. Three members of the public attended the public forum and raised issues about karst management and the development of the Paparoa NP Visitor Centre, re-zoning of the rest area and proposals to augment the water supply at Punakaiki.

5 February 2009

The February meeting in Hokitika was started with the election of Officers. Warren Inwood was re-elected as Chair and Clare Backes was elected as deputy chairperson. A number of issues were discussed including the removal of text relating to heli-hunting in the draft CMS, the guidelines to exchanges and disposals advice, the review of the Board Strategy and dates for the next year's meetings. Karen Jury, Senior Planner, Grey District Council attended the afternoon session of the meeting and talked about the programme for monitoring landscapes.

8/9 April 2010

This was a two day meeting held in Buller Kawatiri and included a field inspection the previous day covering a visit to the Stockton Plateau, Friends of the Hill site at Denniston and the Omau car park. Mike Browne, the West Coast representative on the New Zealand Conservation Authority, Kevin Hague and Damien O'Connor, List MP's for the West Coast/Tasman electorate were welcomed to the meeting. Kevin Hague spoke about commercial eeling, Mokihinui Dam, Schedule 4 mining, NZ Cycle Trail concept and Water Conservation Orders being overruled, Damien O'Connor spoke of viability of projects, Old Ghost Road, signage on main highways, mining, freedom camping, Heaphy Track and the Mokihinui Dam. Two members of the public attended the Public Forum, Mary Traves spoke about karst management and Frida Inta spoke about her opposition to the proposed Old Ghost Road track.

Board members with DOC staff at Denniston



4 June 2010

The Board met in Hokitika. Warren Inwood acknowledged the death of Janet Orchard who was the Board Support Officer from June 1996. Janet's contribution, support and advice given was gratefully received by the Board and greatly appreciated by past and present members. Janet had become a loyal friend to many Board Members and will be sorely missed.

The Board had been given notice before this meeting that the West Coast *Tai Poutini* CMS had been approved by the NZCA. Warren Inwood spoke to the Board about the Chairpersons Conference recently held in Wellington. The topics of discussion started with heli-hunting, 1080 and Schedule 4 mining. The Board were complimented on the submission to MED on Schedule 4 mining and the relationships between the Board and the Department. Updates were given on the heli-hunting concession process, the Concession Processing Review and the issue of the Open Bay Island Weka from Department staff.

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS - CONSERVATION ACT

Conservation Management Strategies

This year was a momentous year for the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board with regards to the CMS. The CMS has been approved and now the Board are working on the monitoring programme. Other Boards have sent their monitoring programmes to assist in modelling the West Coast programme. The first reports are due in September 2010.

Section 4

The Board continued to receive reports from the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy's Pou Kura Taiao for most meetings. These reports informed the Board about activities and issues pertinent to the West Coast. Reports provided by the Department include details of Section 4 issues involved in both conservation and resource activities, based on the NZCA template.

Kim Thomas and Doug Baker were nominated for a five day Pukenga Atawhai course held at Te Tauraka Waka a Maui marae at Bruce Bay in August 2010.

Change of status or classification

The Board continued to receive proposals for the exchange or disposal of public conservation land throughout the year. It often recommended that land exchanges proceed, especially if there was an obvious conservation gain. However it continues to have difficulty with advising for the disposal of public conservation land and it has developed a set of guidelines for assessing the information on these applications provided to the Board by the Department. Some of the applications considered by the Board during the year include:

Inangahua

This application was for the exchange of 20ha of freehold land adjoining stewardship area, for approximately 4.6 of public conservation land which is held under a grazing concession. The Board recommended to the Department that this exchange proceed as it would result in a considerable conservation gain.

Camelback - Kowhitirangi

This application was for the exchange of 11.35ha of public conservation land which is held under a grazing concession for 7.96ha of freehold land adjoining Camelback Scenic Reserve. The Board recommended to the Department that this exchange proceed.

Palmers Road, Springs Junction

This disposal came from the current concessionaire wanting to freehold the grazing concession. The Board had reservations at first regarding access to a popular walking track adjacent to the area but this was resolved as the Department advised that the track was being re-routed off the privately owned land.

Wanganui Flat Road, Hari Hari

This disposal came from the current concessionaire wanting to freehold the grazing concession. The Board had no issues with this disposal subject to the creation of a marginal strip for access, and fencing to keep stock out of the wetland.

Meridian Energy – Mokihinui River

This application was for the exchange of 794 ha of freehold land in return for 225 ha (subject to survey) of public conservation land within the Mokihinui River catchment.

The Board recommended that this proposed land exchange be declined as such an exchange would not enhance the conservation values, was not consistent with Conservation General Policy 6a and was not consistent with the CMS.

Advice on Other Conservation Matters

The Board was consulted by or gave advice to the Department and NZCA on the following:

Concessions

The Board provided advice to the Department on the concession applications that met the concession trigger mechanisms. The Department continued to provide fortnightly summaries of concessions received. This summary allowed the Board to be aware of concession applications that would be sent to the Board in the future and also allowed it to signal to the

Department any application that it would like to see. The Board received draft determination reports for comment which provided more information on which to base considered advice. Regular reports on concessions continued to be provided by the Department for Board meetings.

The Board has provided advice on a range of concessions. Some of the more topical ones are included below:

SENZ – Hydro Scheme on Stockton Plateau

This was a concession application to allow the clearance of 92.4ha of vegetation and 13.6ha of permanent modification. This would result in the loss of terrestrial ecosystems and significant historic and freshwater conservation values. It recommended to the Department that the application be declined.

Heli-Hunting

The Board received 13 applications for heli-hunting concessions for a five year term. The Board applied for an extension of time to consider these applications and the extension was granted. As heli-hunting had not been considered in the CMS, the Board believes that all activities on public conservation land should be guided by the principles of the CMS, and gave its advice on that basis. The Board advised that the concessions should be granted on a year to year basis as a review of the CMS regarding heli-hunting could be complete before the five year term is up.

Skydive Franz Josef Ltd – Franz Josef

The Board considered an application for a concession for the use of Okarito Recreation Reserve for a parachute landing area for a skydive venture. The Board felt that the views of the local community should be taken into account and that a two year concession was suitable for assessing the effects and that the number of tandem parachute landings should be specified.

Access Arrangements

The Board also provides advice on access arrangements applied for under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. As these concern access to public conservation land the applications needed to be considered under the Conservation Act 1987 and therefore the Board is consulted. The applications on which the Board provided advice included:

L & M Petroleum – Aratika and Quinns Terrace

The Board advised that it supports the Department's decision that an access arrangement should be granted for the exploration by accelerated weight device (AWD) method, as there will not be significant effects on the conservation values of the public conservation land under consideration.

Tui Trust Mining Ltd – Callaghans

The Board advised that it supports the Department's decision that an access arrangement should be granted but included two other conditions: that natural regeneration is supplemented with appropriate plantings and that trial mudfish relocation be conducted.

Heaphy Mining Ltd – Berlins

The Board advised that it agreed with the Department's decision that an access arrangement should be granted but recommended that the area to be mined be restricted to the Main Pit only and the term be only five years to allow the applicant to prove that the company could abide by the conditions.

Westco Lagan Ltd - Ruatapu

The Board noted that as at the end of June 2010, the Department had not made a firm recommendation to the Minister. The Board agreed with the proposed conditions in the agreement and suggest five more conditions to be added such as: the land was to be rehabilitated to a higher standard than present, an advisory group be formed to allow the company and the local residents to work closely together and compensation for mining public conservation land be made.

Visitor Assets

The development of visitor assets continued to interest the Board. It received a regular report on progress with capital projects at its two monthly meetings and was invited to provide comment to the Department on the capital visitor asset planning programme.

The Board was impressed with the new easy access track and viewing platform at the Hokitika Gorge. Included in the development was a new car park and toilet facilities. The Franz Josef and Fox Glacier road in the Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park have been sealed, dramatically improving the experience for visitors, concessionaires and locals alike. Backcountry huts and tracks have also been upgraded. The Brunner Mine Site opening and the Westland Tai Poutini National Park 50th Anniversary celebrations were great successes.

Species and Other Issues

The Board received regular species updates in the Conservator's Report which is presented at every meeting, including information on Powelliphanta snails, freshwater fish and inanga, bats, kiwi species, marine mammals, mohua, kea, whio protection, some plant species and predator control.

Liaison with Fish and Game Councils

Two members of the Board shared attendance at Fish and Game Council meetings. The two organisations exchanged copies of minutes and agendas and issues of interest were noted at Board meetings.

Powers of Boards

The Board used its powers to advocate for conservation both on and off public conservation land and for both local and national conservation issues. It also maintained two committees and a series of topic leaders.

Conservation Advocacy

The Board is on the mailing list of all West Coast local authorities and received copies of some notified resource consent applications, proposed changes to or reviews of district plans, Long Term Community Council Plans and reports on other regional issues or programmes. It used its resource consent trigger mechanisms to identify those matters likely to have significant impacts on conservation values and to decide whether or not to make a submission.

This year fewer resource consents were received. The Board received 5 resource consent applications - 1 for subdivisions and 4 land use applications. The Board took the opportunity to comment on 3 Long Term Council Community Plans, a review of the Westland District Plan and a review of the Foreshore and Seabed Act 2004.

The Department kept the Board informed about planning issues through regular reports at Board meetings.

Some of the more significant resource consents and planning matters in which the Board was involved are listed below:

Subdivision – Lake Poerua

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board opposed this application. The reason for this relate to the adverse effects this proposal would have on the landscape. The affected landscape is visible from the highway and railway and encompasses the slopes of Mt Te Kinga, Lake Poerua and the eastern lake margins. The Board considered that the value of the landscape which is visible to visitors is sufficiently high enough to be considered as outstanding and required protection from inappropriate development and subdivision. This matter is ongoing.

Grey District Council – To discharge water containing contaminants

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board had opposed this resource consent application. In the Board's view an application of this nature should have included: comments from affected parties, appropriate mitigation measures, measurement of the discharge's contaminants and concentrations before, during and after storm overflows, an assessment of environmental effects, and active mitigation measures to minimise any adverse effects. Due to the absence of such information, the Board opposed the application and wished to speak at any related hearing. This matter is ongoing.

H Hassan – underground mine at Cronadun

The Board's interest in this application related to the fact of possible effects on tramping tracks in the area and Acid Mine Drainage (AMD) into neighbouring waterways. On the issue of AMD, the Board accepted that the applicant will arrange water treatment to adhere to West Coast Regional Council standards. However, if such water treatments could result in a reduction of the existing background AMD in that area, the Board asked that consideration be given to achieving that.

Mokihinui Hydro – electricity proposal

Two years ago the Board opposed a resource consent application from Meridian Energy for a hydro electric power scheme in the Mokihinui River valley, near Westport. The Board attended hearings and commented on new evidence and proposed conditions. The resource consent was approved but it is under appeal by the Environmental Court. This matter is ongoing.

Hydro Developments Ltd (HDL)

The Board received this application last year. It was for the consent of construction of a hydro-electric power station. The Board has submitted on the consent and the matter is ongoing.

Solid Energy New Zealand – Stockton Plateau

This application was also received last year. It was for the same as HDL, however the consent was declined. SENZ have appealed the decision and the matter is ongoing.

Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes

An exchange of letters on this issue began two years previous and the Board has continued to press the territorial authorities to address this issue in district and regional plans. The Board remains concerned that without the identification of outstanding natural features in each district these areas remain vulnerable to inappropriate development. This concern was reinforced in submissions to the Councils' Long Term Council Community Plans.

Westland District Council – Review of Westland District Plan

An invitation was extended to the Board to attend a meeting with the Planning and Development Committee to discuss the Board's concerns. Two members of the Board attended. The topics discussed were Outstanding Natural Features and Landscapes, aircraft noise, Significant Natural Areas, and submissions to the West Coast Regional Council's Land Transport programme. This matter is ongoing.

Other Conservation Issues

Guidelines for Exchanges and Disposals

The Board has developed guidelines for consulting on exchanges and disposals. The Board understands that the Department is legally required to consult over exchanges but that consultation over disposals of land is on a courtesy basis. The Board identified the criteria on which to base the recommendations.

The CMS and Heli-hunting

The Board has discussed this topic at nearly every meeting. There was an outstanding issue with the CMS before approval regarding the text relating to heli-hunting. A proposal to remove the text and approve the CMS was made. A separate consultation process would be run for the variation to the CMS. There is a wide range of concerns including the definitions of 'spot and drop' to herding animals from the helicopter, animal welfare issues and how to manage these issues. This is a national issue and Canterbury Conservancy is running a consultation process. It was hoped a national position could be established as a result of this consultation. This matter is ongoing.

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park

Members of the Board attended the 50 year anniversary of the Park which was held over the weekend of 26-28 March 2010. Celebrations included evenings of stories and memories, presentations, historic movies, local activities, and displays in both Fox Glacier and Franz Josef.

Appointment of Committees

The following committees functioned until June 2010.

Committee

Concessions

Planning

Membership

Clare Backes (Chairperson), Doug Baker, Kim Thomas and Warren Inwood (ex officio)

Stewart Robertson (Chairperson), Terry Scott, Les Wright and Hamish Macbeth, Kim Thomas and Warren Inwood (ex officio)

Special Interest Topics

Historic

Science and Biodiversity

Tangata Whenua Liaison

Recreation

Les Wright

Warren Inwood

Terry Scott

Richard Nichol

OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER CONSERVATION ACT

Co-opting Members of the Board

No members were co-opted on to the Board this year.

BOARD FUNCTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT

Implementation of National Park Plans

Partial Review of the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan

The Board submitted on the partial review. The Board supported the trial of mountain biking on the Heaphy Track, and the inclusion of a new Heaphy Track Corridor Place to assist in integrated conservation management, as expressed in the General Policy for National Parks 2005. It also strongly supported that heli-biking is inappropriate on the Heaphy Track due to the impact on natural quiet and disturbance to other users. The Board strongly supports not allowing private or commercial accommodation on the Heaphy Track. A Board Member attended the hearing in December 2009 and spoke to the Board's submission.

Mt Aspiring National Park Review

The Board submitted on the review. The Board supported the outlining of the key management issues relating to the management of increasing recreational use and tourism pressures in some parts of the park, while preserving as a priority the park's natural and wilderness values including natural quiet.

LIAISON

General Comment on Liaison

The Board considers that contact by members of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board with the community is very important and the webpage has been used to good advantage with contact details for members, confirmed minutes, the Conservator's report from each meeting and access to annual reports being provided.

Board members also have contact with a broad range of people, community groups and organisations. Several Board members maintain contact with conservation groups, recreation groups, the tourist industry, and agricultural organisations. Board members either attend meetings or receive minutes and agendas and report back to Board meetings about any concerns of interest to the Board.

A Board member who is a member of the Historic Places Trust, reports back to the Board on issues. There has been a representative from the Board at the Stockton Environmental Consultative Group meetings, and most local Federated Farmers meetings.

Public forums continue to be offered at each Board meeting with half an hour being set aside for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board. Public forums were used by the public this year with members of the public present at two meetings. Issues raised by the members of the public included the management of karst, opposition to a proposed activity on conservation land, issues at Punakaiki.

The media on the West Coast were sent copies of the Board's agendas and were invited to attend all Board meetings. Representatives of the media attended part of the August 2009, April 2010 and June 2010 meetings. A press release from the Board was prepared after most meetings but these were not always published in full.

Other Boards & the NZCA

Liaison with neighbouring Boards was maintained principally through the exchange of minutes and agendas. The Board made a submission on the Partial Review of the Kahurangi National Park Management Plan and the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan in June. The Board also acknowledged copies on other Board's CMS Monitoring Programmes. It also wrote to all South Island conservation boards on the Haast-Hollyford Highway proposal and national cycleway project.

The Board commended the Otago Conservation Board for its initiatives on freedom camping and gave its support to Districts Councils in their efforts to better manage this problem.

Mike Browne, the NZCA liaison person for the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation attended one meeting. The Board is pleased to see a local West Coast resident appointed to the NZCA and to have him as a liaison person.

Community

The West Coast is a region of small communities. Board members are often well known in their local communities and have regular contact with members of the public. Where possible the Board tries to meet with local community groups while on field inspections.

A member of the Board also attended the gifting of land to the Department at Punakaiki by Rio Tinto. The gift will create an ecological corridor spanning the mountains to the sea with Little Blue Penguin and remnant sand plain forests that bear mature nikau palms, and rata trees that are hundreds of years old.

Board members are invited to join in activities organised by the Department to celebrate national events. This gives members a chance to interact with other groups and to learn more about the Department's work.

Local Government

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the four local Councils as there are a number of regional issues in which it is interested. The Board has had regular contact with all territorial authorities through its concerns about outstanding natural features and landscapes, significant natural areas, proposed reviews of district plans and getting involved in consultation over the councils' Long Term Council Community Plans

Iwi

The Board is working to further develop its relationship with the Papatipu Runanga on the West Coast and Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu. Two members of the Board are nominated by Ngāi Tahu, as required under the Ngāi Tahu Settlement Act 1998. They provide input on iwi issues and a Maori perspective to other issues. The Board is kept informed at each meeting about issues raised at the Roopu meetings which are held regularly with the Department. A regular report from the Pou Kura Taio is provided for each meeting. Two Board members have been accepted to attend a Pukenga Atawhai course in August 2010.

CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

This has been another very busy year for the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board.

The highlight of the year was the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) is finally the Board's document after being signed off by the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) and the Minister of Conservation. All who had some input over many years into this CMS can reflect on a job well done. While the West Coast CMS is very different from the National Template for a CMS, the Board feels that as the West Coast is a very special place that a CMS has been written to reflect this.

After discussions were held with the NZCA to resolve a number of questions the Authority had with the CMS, all had a satisfactory outcome except the issue of Helihunting. Policy on this was removed from the CMS because this issue was not considered in the public submission process on the CMS. Considerations of this are still ongoing.

I would like to acknowledge the assistance the Board received from the NZCA over the CMS with special mention to Kay Boothe and Mike Browne.

During the year the Board lost the services of Jim Costello who finished his term on the Board. I acknowledge the very valuable input Jim made while on the Board. Doug Baker joined the Board at its November 2009 meeting and has quickly joined what is often robust debate.

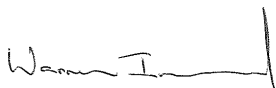
One of the memorable events of the year for me was the Conservation Boards Chairperson's Conference in Wellington with most of the Conservation Authority members. To meet with other Board Chairpersons from around New Zealand was an amazing experience and to be able to share problems that are common to all areas. One of the things I have come to realise is that the West Coast is a very special place where relationships between Departmental staff and the Board is at a level that does not always exist elsewhere in other conservancies.

A major part of the work of the Board is advising the Department on concessions, exchanges, disposals, access arrangements and visitor assets to name a few. The Board also has had input into some Resource Management Applications, Local Government District Plans and Land Transport plans. Most of this work is by email.

The new addition to the Board's time is getting to grips with monitoring the CMS, to discover where outcomes, objectives and usefulness of policies are achieving the aims of the CMS. This will be an area of major focus in future with the Board receiving regular reports from Departmental staff at each meeting. The results of these reports will hopefully enable the Board to engage in strategic planning with the conservancy in a way that the Board has struggled with in the past.

One of the sad occasions during the year was the sudden death of Janet Orchard, our Board Support Officer in April 2010. Janet's contribution to the smooth running of the Board is sorely missed, she had a huge knowledge of the Department and was always available to Board members. She was a friend to all who worked with her.

I would like to acknowledge the support of Conservancy staff during the year, it is a privilege to work with people who bring a passion to what they do. Special mention must be made of Mike Slater (Conservator). Chris Hickford (Community Relations Manager) and Lara Kelsen (Acting Board Support Officer), who took over from Janet Orchard at very short notice. Mention must also be made of members of the Board who give so much of their time to Conservation on the West Coast. It is a privilege to me to lead such a group of people. The coming year will no doubt throw up many challenges but I am confident the Board will be able to meet these.



Warren Inwood
Chairperson

Pancake Rocks at Punakaiki



