

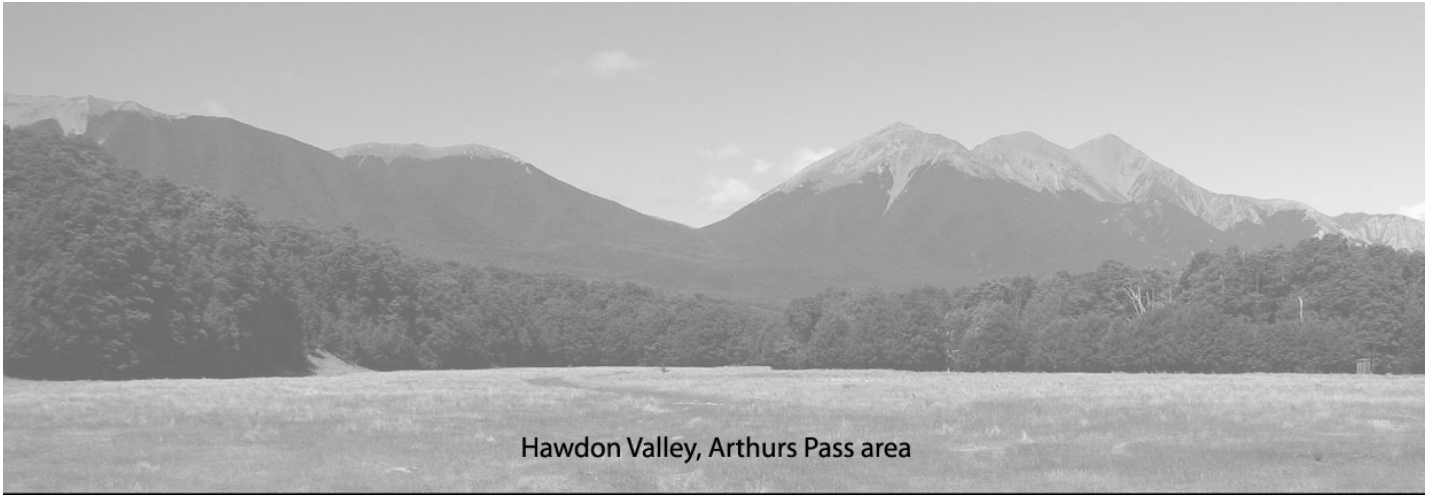


# CANTERBURY AORAKI CONSERVATION BOARD



ANNUAL REPORT July 2012 - June 2013





Hawdon Valley, Arthurs Pass area



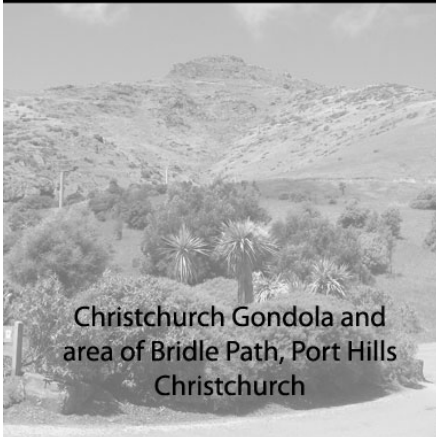
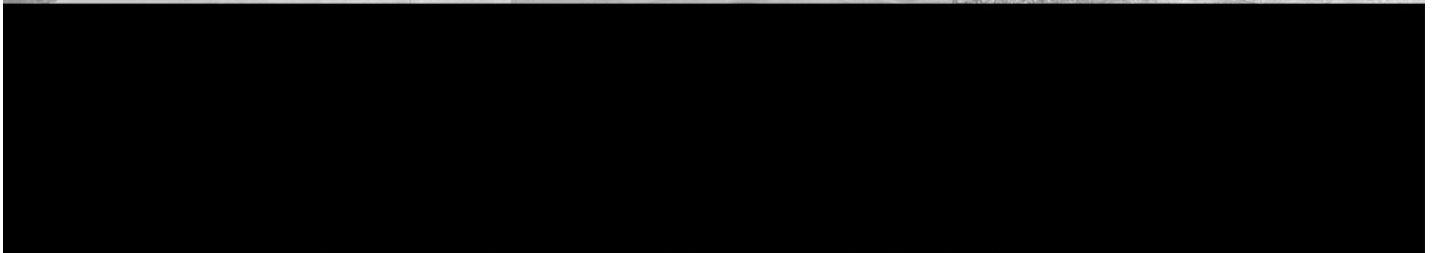
CACB visit to Godley Head Historic Reserve



Earthquake damage, Evans Pass, Lyttleton



The CACB surveys earthquake damage to the Christchurch Gondola



Christchurch Gondola and area of Bridle Path, Port Hills Christchurch



Department of Conservation staff with Hon. Nick Smith, Minister of Conservation, at opening of Godley Head walkway



# **Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board**

**Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2013**

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

ISSN: 1179-2469 (Online)  
Serviced by:  
Department of Conservation  
Private Bag 4715  
Christchurch Mail Centre  
Christchurch 8140

DOCDM-1199029



## Chairperson's Report

The Canterbury Conservancy, as it is for a short while longer, before becoming part of a larger eastern South Island region, remains in a heightened state, with yet-ongoing institutional reform, as well as earthquake-related rebuilding, normalising what would usually be exceptional circumstances. Impacts of the loss of expertise, dedication, and experiential depth will be felt in the office and in the field, and will play out immediately and slowly, apparently and subtly. Happily, the new Moorhouse Avenue home of the Conservancy office is close to completion.

Megan Hieatt remains with us in the Board Liaison role, and Leonie Fechny has stepped into Graeme Ayres' Community Support position; in what feels a persistently unpredictable Departmental landscape, and in what were flagged as 'temporary' posts, they have provided continuity for the Board, with unfailing adaptability, dedication, and good humour.

The broad Departmental scenario is deeply uncertain, with top-level managerial positions disestablished in the institutional review. Doubt hovers over the new Departmental framework's ability to strongly connect policy and technical support with operations, and the fundamental matter of the reduction of staff numbers gives us cause to ponder how core conservation work will be done. As I write this, there is no sense of how the land may lie for Conservation Boards. The Board has advised the Conservation Minister that, given the strengthened focus on Departmental collaboration with the community, more than ever, Conservation Boards' value would well be recognised and sustained.

Conservation Management Strategy planning has continued to move on in line with the national roll-out. Poma Palmer's, and Janine Sidery's, institutional knowledge, lateral thinking, and excellent writing skills are serving the process, the Board, and the Conservancy very well. The Board is pleased with the draft Places, confident that they are apt to the 'places' they describe and aligned with conservation values as expressed in the Acts and policies directing conservation. Purportedly non-negotiable statements at the strategic level of planning have given us cause for concern, as they derive from the present Statement of Intent rather than statute and will influence interpretation of Places. We have had robust discussion at Conservancy and national levels on the subject, to this point, in our view, to no avail. Draft notification and the public submissions process are the next stages for the Board to engage in.

Environment Canterbury's Commissioners' terms have been extended until local elections in 2016 and so their oversight of the Canterbury Water Management Strategy remains. Board members continue to comment on Canterbury Water publications and attend Commissioners' meetings and zone committee meetings. An emerging impression is that well-embedded planning and consents processes are not properly connecting with or providing for the special character of the Water Management Strategy and so are failing to allow it to meet its environmental, social, and cultural first priorities and principles. Whether non-commercial stakeholder groups will choose to stay engaged in the process remains to be seen.

The collaborative process that resulted in the Canterbury Water Management Strategy is a significant factor in the proposed reform of the Resource Management Act, and is, to a large extent, on trial in Canterbury as the Water Management Strategy plays out. The Board submitted on the Ministry for the Environment's discussion paper on the resource management changes, and on the separate document on the reform of freshwater management. Our position, in a nutshell, is that general environmental decline is the main resource management issue with which to grapple, and that these papers' suggested

mechanisms for reworking the management of natural resources are, in general, not intended, or able, to address such a matter.

On the positive side of the planning ledger, proposals for the dual naming of geographic features have been supported by the Board, as has a draft plan for apparently conservative, mindful management of Molesworth Station. We took the opportunity in commenting on this draft to advocate for scrutiny and updating of the notion of 'good husbandry', found in much land management guidance.

Crown pastoral tenure review remains in the Board's direct gaze. In October, a letter was sent to the Commissioner of Crown Lands, raising the matter of what we see as the misalignment of many preliminary proposals with the Act that allows them, in their frequent failure to prioritise environmental factors as they should. Our concerns have not been answered, so dialogue goes on. In February, a letter was sent to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment to outline Board concern about what we see as paucity of environmental data in the tenure review process and how this relates to conservation outcomes. The PCE will attend our June 2013 meeting to discuss tenure review and other matters. Preliminary proposals for two significant Canterbury properties have been produced in this reporting year. Neither appeared to us to be in keeping with the spirit and intent of the Crown Pastoral Land Act. As ever, the Land Committee have been dedicated, thoughtful, and open-minded in their approach to one of the most prominent issues facing the Board.

Iwi liaison continues to be busy, with Ngāi Tahu members maintaining links with many groups. Concern at the Department's move to establish direct relationships with business, thereby inadvertently creating tension between Departmental activity and Section 4, was conveyed to the Minister recently.

Numbers of concession applications coming to our notice remain low, in part, we are told, because of earthquake-related refocusing of local business aims, growing applicant cognisance of how to expedite the process, and Area-level approval of applications. The Board took the chance when a rare application was triggered for our attention recently, to advocate for increased returns for conservation values, a theme existing in our draft Places and the Statement of Intent, and the subject of Board interest for some time.

After a lengthy time of robust negotiation and deliberation, the Mackenzie Sustainable Futures Trust recently launched their Mackenzie Agreement, with the final buy-in of most participants. Aside from the obvious good of the mutuality of the Agreement, the dialogue that gave rise to it has, beneficially, increased general understanding of values and perspectives in the area. Sceptics among us note the ongoing tussles over Waitaki water and the need for the Agreement's vigour to be properly tested so that people can have real faith in it.

Te Waka o Aoraki, our annually-awarded Canterbury-Aoraki Conservation Board Award for the recognition and encouragement of conservation initiatives in Canterbury, was celebrated in November, with the Minister present to honour recipients. The institutional restructuring that caused its date to be moved from Conservation Week in September will affect the 2013 celebration also, and, again, we plan a November ceremony.

With the future of Conservation Boards unclear, succession planning is speculative and difficult. We believe we have farewelled, certainly with great sadness, John Keoghan, our scrupulous, extraordinarily knowledgeable, and valuable Deputy Chair and Chair of the Land Committee. Jimmy Wallace, who has chaired the Planning Committee with insight and wit, and brought penetrating views to the Board table, is also, regrettably, due to finish his term. We await advice from Wellington on our way ahead.



Board members' commitment to conservation deserves full acknowledgement. Through their networks and skills, in their great variety of pursuits from grassroots to governance levels, members contribute regularly and meaningfully to conservation. Thank you to all.



Jan Finlayson.  
20 May 2013.

# Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2013

**To: The Chairperson, New Zealand Conservation Authority,  
Wellington**

This is the fourteenth annual report from the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board, as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

## **1 Introduction**

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board is a twelve-member citizen body appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987, Part IIA and Section 6. It is a policy-making and advisory body for a range of activities on public conservation land and all other functions of the Department of Conservation.

The roles of the conservation board are set out in the Conservation Act 1987 as follows:

- To recommend the approval of conservation management strategies (in particular the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy)
- To approve conservation management plans
- To advise on how conservation management strategies and management plans will be put into practice
- To advise on proposed changes to the status of land areas of national and international significance
- To advise on proposals for new walkways
- To liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters
- To carry out other powers delegated to it by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act 1987 or any other act of parliament

The board is serviced by the Department of Conservation.

## **2 Membership**

The Board comprises 8 general members and 4 appointees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu\*, in accordance with section 273 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

<b>Board member</b>	<b>Attendance at meetings (max 5)</b>	<b>From</b>
Jan Finlayson (Chairperson)	5	Geraldine
Dr. John Keoghan	3	Rolleston
Jimmy Wallace	5	Geraldine
Mal Clarbrough	5	Christchurch
David Round	5	Banks Peninsula
Alan Grey	4	Christchurch
Neil Hamilton	2	Loburn
David Matheson	5	Christchurch
Joseph Hullen*	2	Tuahuriri (Kaiapoi)
Te Awhina Arahanga*	4	Taumutu (Auckland/Christchurch)
Mandy Waaka-Home*	2	Arowhenua (Christchurch)
Teoti Jardine*	5	Arowhenua (Oxford)

### **3 Board budget**

The board was overspent on its budget by the amount of \$692 for the 2012/13 financial year, compared to an overspend of \$892 for the 2011/12 financial year.

Some of the one day meetings involved a CMS planning meeting the day before, adding some additional costs for an overnight stay. Five meetings were held during the financial year, with two field trips, both departing from the greater Christchurch/Rangiora area, minimising the requirements for overnight accommodation and meal expenses for the majority of members. Costs were kept to a minimum with all but one meeting held in Department meeting rooms, saving on meeting room hire costs.

The April 2013 meeting was held in an external meeting room due to the second Conservancy building containing the board room still being under construction, and the timing of the meeting on the final day for staff comment on the Delivery Review proposals making the use of meeting rooms at Area Offices inappropriate.

Because of its large geographical area, a large component of the board's budget is spent on travel costs incurred in bringing members together for meetings. Travel costs are managed by holding many of the meetings in Christchurch, which is closest to most Board members.

Because of the size and complexity of Canterbury Conservancy, additional work is often given to the board to undertake and no additional resourcing is provided. Requests for additional work come from the Department of Conservation and the Minister of Conservation for work associated with national park management plans and conservation management strategies.

This year, the majority of the Board members came from the northern part of the conservancy, with only two members from Geraldine and one from Banks Peninsula requiring overnight accommodation for meetings (on occasion). All other members were able to remain at their home and travel to the meeting venue on the day, saving considerable costs.

Given that no 'away' trips were held requiring accommodation and meals for the full Board, and that four of the five meetings were held in Department meeting facilities with no cost for their use, the Board wonders how it could better manage the budget given that expenses this year would have to be at a minimum compared to what they potentially could be with a



wider geographic spread of members and more meetings requiring accommodation of more members.

The board acknowledges its budget is considerable in comparison with other boards. However, Canterbury is one of the largest conservancies in the country and the cost of providing good advice, coupled with on-the-ground inspections, is high. Board members are selected from throughout Canterbury to provide a conservancy-wide perspective and have to travel long distances to meetings.

#### **4 Board district**

The board's area of jurisdiction extends from the Conway and Clarence rivers in the north, and west to the main divide, including all of the Arthur's Pass National Park. The southern boundary is the catchment of the Waitaki River at Kurow, along the river to the east coast. The coastal boundary is the twelve-mile limit for marine reserves and the Exclusive Economic Zone for marine mammals.

The main features of public conservation land within the board's boundaries are:

- Two national parks (Aoraki/Mount Cook and Arthur's Pass)
- Part of one national reserve (Lewis Pass)
- Eight conservation parks (Craigieburn, Lake Sumner, Hanmer, Ahuriri, Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park, Ruataniwha, Hakatere and Te Kahui Kaupeka, part of Hawea and part of Oteake.
- Hurunui and Hawdon predator-controlled areas (formerly part of Operation Ark)
- One marine reserve (Pōhatu) and one marine mammal sanctuary (Banks Peninsula)
- One gazetted walkway and 23 un-gazetted walkways
- A large number of recreation, scenic and historic reserves and stewardship areas
- Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere joint management with Ngāi Tahu

The Canterbury Conservancy directly administers 1,029,325 hectares including the 215 hectare Pōhatu Marine Reserve. This is 24 per cent of the Canterbury region.

#### **5 Conservation board meetings**

The board conducted five meetings during the year as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
September 2012	Mahaanui Area Office, Christchurch
23 November 2012	Mahaanui Area Office, Christchurch
15 February 2013	Waimakariri Area Office, Rangiora
April 2013	Atrium on the Park, Hagley Park, Christchurch
June 2013	Pavilions Hotel, Christchurch

## **6 Field inspections**

Two field inspections were conducted during the year as follows:

### **6.1 November 2012**

The Board spent a half day with Mahaanui staff around the greater Christchurch area looking particularly at issues that the Department is managing arising from the 2010-2012 earthquakes. Areas visited included the Christchurch Gondola base area to view the rock protection work and talk about general rock protection and post-earthquake issues in the Port Hills, at Evans Pass, and Godley Head.

### **6.2 February 2013**

The Board visited Arthurs Pass and various sites along the way. Areas that were visited and discussed included:

- Fish passage in Coach Stream
- Viewed from State Highway 73:
  - Crystal Basin: Associated with Porters and the recent land exchange
  - Flock Hill: Wilding Pines
  - Lake Pearson: proposed fundraising raft race
  - Grasmere Station: proposed irrigation project.
- Kura Tawhiti
- Castle Hill community track (from Mount Cheeseman ski area road)
- Cora Lynn Tenure review: Difficulty in fencing in some required areas – might not be feasible.
- Highway 73 and Arthurs Pass Experience Development Plan (EDP)
- Dobson Nature Walk
- Cave Stream

### **6.3 April 2013**

The planned field trip to Twizel in April 2013 was cancelled at the request of the Area Office, due to the timing of the visit with the close of staff comment on the Department's Delivery Review. The Board hopes to visit the southern part of the conservancy during the 2013-14 year.

## 7 Subcommittees:

### CANTERBURY CONSERVATION BOARD COMMITTEE STRUCTURE – JUNE 2013

NAME	FUNCTION	MEMBERSHIP
<b>LAND</b>	Tenure review, weeds and pests, wild animals	<b>JOHN KEOGHAN</b> Mal Clarbrough David Round Alan Grey David Matheson Te Awhina Arahanga Jan Finlayson*
<b>WATER</b>	Marine reserves, taiapure, marine mammals, coastal pollution, marine farms, wetlands, Canterbury Water Management Strategy	<b>JOSEPH HULLEN</b> Mandy Waaka-Home Alan Grey David Matheson Neil Hamilton Teoti Jardine Jan Finlayson*
<b>IWI</b>	Oversight and liaison	Mandy Waaka-Home Te Awhina Arahanga Teoti Jardine Jan Finlayson*
<b>PLANNING</b>	Conservation Management Strategy, Management Plans, District Plans, Resource Consents, Advocacy, Business Planning	<b>JIMMY WALLACE</b> Mal Clarbrough Dr John Keoghan David Round Neil Hamilton Jan Finlayson*
<b>CONCESSIONS</b>	Visitor management and development	<b>MAL CLARBROUGH</b> John Keoghan Alan Grey Te Awhina Arahanga Teoti Jardine Jan Finlayson*
<b>CMS PRIORITY SETTING COMMITTEE,</b>	Board to work with DOC staff in setting priorities for providing annual reports on outputs to the Conservation Board.	<b>Board:</b> Full Board <b>DOC Staff:</b> Poma Palmer Janine Sidery

\* Please note that the Board Chair, Jan Finalyson is an ex-officio member of each sub committee

## CANTERBURY CONSERVATION BOARD COMMITTEE STRUCTURE – JUNE 2013

NAME	FUNCTION	MEMBERSHIP
<b>PŌHATU MARINE RESERVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>	JOINT ADVISORY COMMITTEE	<b>(Chair Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board)</b> George Tikao (Onuku Marae) Rei Simon (Wairewa Runanga) Nigel Scott (TRONT) Shireen Helps (Land owner Flea Bay) Bob Meikle (Akaroa Harbour Recreational Fishers) Kath Reid (Akaroa Harbour Marine Protection Society) Alan Reid (Commercial Fishers) Peter Ramsden (Koukourarata Runanga) Eric Ryder (Christchurch City Council) Peter Langlands (Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society)

In addition to the above, one ministerial-appointed advisory committee was in operation during the year, the Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee, which is ongoing. The Chairperson of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board is the board's representative on this committee. This committee did not meet during the year.

### **8 Board functions under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987**

The work carried out during the year under Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 was as follows:

#### **8.1 Conservation management strategies**

"To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of Conservation Management Strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies under the relevant enactment." – 6M(1)(a)

The 2012/2013 year has seen further preparatory work on a review of the operative Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy. Ongoing Departmental business interruption caused by the 4 September 2010 and the 22 February 2011 Canterbury earthquakes has continued to have an effect upon the review of the Canterbury CMS but this work is now continuing with the Board providing comment to the Department on draft Place chapters of the CMS as required by the Conservancy Planner.

The Board has worked with Department Management Planners Poma Palmer and Janine Sidery throughout the year on developing and reviewing the Place chapters of the draft Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy. The Board has also worked on what it sees to be issues around the strategic vision, writing to Department managers with its concerns.

Reporting against the current Canterbury CMS has been done through Area operational reports which have caused some tensions between the Board and the Department management, partly due to the focus of Area Managers being drawn away with the ongoing Delivery Project.

## **8.2 Conservation management plans**

"To approve Conservation Management Plans, and the review and amendment of such Plans, under the relevant enactments." – 6M(1)(b).

No management plans were reviewed, amended or approved during the 2012/13 period.

### **Implementation**

"To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director General on the implementation of Conservation Management Strategy and Conservation Management Plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the board." – 6M(1)(c).

## **8.3 Management plans**

The implementation of reserve management plans has been generally superseded by the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy.

## **8.4 Change of status**

"To advise the Conservation Authority or the Director General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance". 6M(1)(d)(i)"

No areas of national or international importance have changed status or classification during the 2012/13 year.

## **8.5 Conservation advice**

"Any other conservation matter relating to any areas within the jurisdiction of the Board". 6M(i)(d)(ii).

The board has voiced concern throughout the year about tenure review and the recommendations that are being made through preliminary proposal documents. This concern has resulted in several letters being written to the Commissioner for Crown Lands and his staff, and to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment, who came and spoke to the Board

Other conservation matters the board has given advice on to the department or NZCA are:

- Tenure Review, including advice to the department; advocacy to LINZ, and advice to the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment
- Concessions, including support to other Boards on major applications.
- Draft Canterbury Conservation Management plan place chapters
- Feedback to national DOC planning team around vision and outcomes for CMS.
- Resource management issues and compliance – edge effects, scientific reserves, Grasmere Station irrigation proposal.
- Himalayan Tahr control and research
- Advice to Ministry for the Environment on resource management and freshwater reform.
- Draft Canterbury Water Management Strategy
- Business development
- Advice to the New Zealand Geographic Board on place names.
- Support for other Boards on matters of national importance.
- Advice to the Minister on matters of national importance.
- Local body planning
- Land and Water Regional Plan

- Canterbury Water Management Strategy draft Zone Implementation Programmes.
- Nomination for Loder Cup for Nicholas Head

## **8.6 Walkways**

“To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on proposals for new walkways in any area within the jurisdiction of the Board”. (Section 6M(1)(e) Conservation Act 1987).

“A board may recommend that a walkway be declared over public or private land, after it has consulted with the owner/administrator and the occupier of the land”. (Section 6(1) and 8(1) New Zealand Walkways Act 1990).

The passage of the Walking Access Act 2008 led to the establishment of the Walking Access Commission and repealed the board’s walkways function. A memorandum of understanding was entered into on Wednesday 24 June 2009 between the department and the Walking Access Commission. Extracts from the memorandum of understanding explain the new situation as follows:

### **Background**

“A specific function of the Commission is the administration of walkways, which were formerly the responsibility of the Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawhai (DOC) under the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990. DOC remains responsible for informal walkways that were never formalised. Warranted officers under the Conservation Act are also deemed to be enforcement officers for the purposes of the Act.”

### **Preliminary**

“Responsibility for walkways has been transferred to the New Zealand Walkways Access Commission. This was achieved by incorporating provisions of the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990 into the Walking Access Act 2008.”

3.2 “The roles of the Director General of Conservation, Conservation Boards and the new Zealand Conservation Authority, other than that of controlling authority for specific walkways, have passed to the Commission. The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry is the monitoring department for the Commission, but will have no operational responsibilities under the legislation.”

### **Actions**

7.2 “The Commission acknowledges that it will not have any responsibility for tracks described as walkways that have not been gazetted under the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990 or its predecessor. These may continue to be described as walkways and use the walkways logo, subject to any review that DOC or the Commission may undertake. DOC will advise the Commission of any intention to discontinue the use of the term walkway. The administrator of these un-gazetted walkways will continue to be the responsibility of DOC.”

Canterbury has one gazetted walkway, the Waihao River Walkway, which has passed to the Commission. Operational management of that walkway remains with the Waimate District Council.

## **8.7 Liaison with Fish and Game Councils**

"To liaise with Fish and Game Councils on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board" – (Section 6M(1)(f) Conservation Act 1987).

Communication with the North Canterbury and Central South Island Fish and Game Councils has continued with the exchange of agenda and minutes. David Matheson was appointed to liaise with the both game councils and keep the board informed on issues. The main issues of common interest have been the Canterbury Water Management Strategy, Water Conservation Orders, and the Land and Water Forum.

## **8.8 Delegated functions**

"To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act". (Section 6M(1)(g) Conservation Act 1987)

The Minister has not delegated powers or functions under this sub-section.

## **8.9 Other functions**

"Every board shall have such other functions as are conferred on it by or under this Act or any other Act". – 6M(2)

The board ensures that its decisions and recommendations are consistent with the requirements of section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.

## **9 Powers of the board under Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987**

**Section 6.1 "Every Board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions". 6N(1).**

The board has focused its efforts during the year on:

- Tenure review
- Local and regional policy and planning
- Access issues in the Hurunui valley
- Preparation of the Canterbury Conservation Management Strategy for review
- Canterbury Water Management Strategy and draft Zone Implementation Plans
- Resource Management Act interface with the Conservation Act
- Management of Himalayan Tahr

The department and board have worked together throughout the year and tried to address each of the aforementioned issues, as dictated by available resourcing.

The board has tried to focus on policy issues and became involved in management issues only when comments or advice were requested by the department.



**Section 6.2 “Without limiting the generality of sub-section (1) of this section each board may” 6N(2).**

**6.2.1 “Advocate its interest at any public forum or in any statutory planning process”. 6N(2)(a).**

There are 10 district plans within the board’s area of jurisdiction.

The relevant committees monitor legislative changes, District Plan Reviews and resource consent applications and take appropriate action where conservation values are threatened. The Board made a submission regarding proposed changes to the Resource Management Act.

**6.2.2 “Appoint committees from members and other suitable persons and delegate to them functions and powers”.**

Each committee of the board has the power to act on behalf of the board in accordance with its delegation, and any decisions made are ratified at the following board meeting.

One advisory committee has been appointed by the Minister of Conservation to operate under the agency of the board. This is the Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee, which is a joint Section 6N(2)(b) and 56(2) Conservation Act committee. That committee is chaired by the Chairperson of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board, Jan Finlayson.

**9.1 Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee**

The Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee holds the status of a committee of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board and has delegated to it the following functions and powers of the board in relation to the Pōhatu Marine Reserve.

- Section 6M(1)(b) of the Conservation Act 1987, subject to the committee liaising with the full board regarding the content of any proposed Conservation Plan for Pōhatu Marine Reserve, before exercise of that function. (For avoidance of doubt, this is to be taken to also include the other options specified in subsection 17G(2)(b) and (c) of the Act, and subsection 17G(3)(a) and (c) shall also apply to the committee in the exercise of this section);
- Section 6M(1)(c) of the Act;
- Section 6M(1)(d)(ii) of the Act;
- Section 6N(2)(a) of the Act, except for participation in statutory planning processes;
- Section 17G(1) in relation to the procedure for the preparation of the Pōhatu Marine Reserve Conservation Management Plan.

## Committee Members

Jan Finlayson (Chairperson)	Chair of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board.
George Tikao	Ōnuku Marae
Nigel Scott	Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
Graeme Grennell	Koukourārata Rūnanga
Kath Reid	Akaroa Harbour Marine Protection Society
Shireen Helps	Landowner in Flea Bay, adjacent to the Pōhatu Marine Reserve.
Peter Langlands	Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society's representative
Bob Meikle	Akaroa Harbour Recreational Fishers Club. The club, supported by the local Māori community and commercial fishers, was the applicant for this marine reserve.
Alan Reid	Commercial fisher
Ray Voller	Ministry of Fisheries
Rei Simon	Wairewa Rūnanga
Eric Ryder	Banks Peninsula Community Board

## Rohe/Iwi links

Pōhatu Pā or Flea Bay was the traditional home to Tūtakāhikura and his people in pre-European times. The rich flora and fauna was a good source for mahinga kai – food gathering. Māori people gathered fish, seabirds, shellfish and freshwater fish.

Today's descendants of Tūtakāhikura are Kāi Tahu, Te Rūnaka o Koukourārata (Port Levy). They actively support Pōhatu as a marine reserve adjoining Banks Peninsula (Horomaka)

Pōhatu acts as a nest (kōhanga) for replenishing fish stocks, providing a key element in the integrated sustainable management of fish resources on Banks Peninsula.

## Committee meetings

The Pōhatu Marine Reserve Committee was discussed by the Board at its September 2012 meeting in response to a letter from the Secretary of the Akaroa Marine Protection Society, and Committee Member Kath Reid, asking what was happening with the committee. At this meeting it was decided that as there were no issues requiring the committee to meet and the ongoing wait for a decision by the Minister on the application for a marine reserve in the Akaroa Harbour, that there was no requirement for the committee to meet.

In April 2013, the Minister of Conservation granted the application for a marine reserve in the Akaroa Harbour but at the time of writing the decision had not yet been gazetted. The Marine Reserves Act 1971 then requires the Minister to seek the concurrence of the Minister for Primary Industries and the Minister of Transport before making a recommendation to the Governor-General that the marine reserve be established by Order in Council. The granting of the Akaroa Marine Reserve may have some future implications for the management of the Pōhatu Marine Reserve and the current advisory committee.

Both the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board and the Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee await developments with the approval of the new marine reserve with interest.

## Management of the reserve

Pōhatu Marine Reserve is situated on the south-eastern side of Banks Peninsula at Flea Bay. Pōhatu Marine Reserve was established in May 1999. It comprises 215 hectares and stretches from Redcliffe Point to Ounu-hau Point (south of Duke Head). Hector's dolphin/upokohue, yellow-eyed penguin/hoiho, white-flippered penguin/kororā and New Zealand fur seal/kekeno either live within the reserve or visit the reserve and so have been included in this report.

Flea Bay is approximately 30 metres deep at the heads and 5-6 metres deep further in. The bottom of the bay is filled with one metre of silt. The bay is exposed to southerlies, and the water is often murky.

The reserve is surrounded by a Marine Mammal Sanctuary (MMS), which extends from Waipara River to the Rakaia River, and out to a distance of twelve nautical miles. The MMS was altered in November 2008 and the area contained within the reserve increased over four fold. New Zealand's first marine mammal sanctuary, it was created around Banks Peninsula in 1988, to protect Hector's dolphins/upokohue (*Cephalorhynchus hectori*) from bycatch in set nets.

Current restrictions inside the marine mammal sanctuary relate to seismic surveying, which will reduce the impact from any prospecting and provide for improved protection. Fisheries regulations are also in place along the east coast of the South Island (see the section below, under threat management plan, for more information).

The set-net ban also helps reduce the risk of entanglement of other marine species, such as the endangered yellow-eyed penguin, white-flippered penguin and New Zealand fur seal.

## Pōhatu Marine Reserve Biological Monitoring Plan

No information has been received from the Mahaanui Area regarding biological monitoring of the Pōhatu Marine Reserve during the 2012/13 financial year.

## Threatened species

### (a) Hector's dolphin

Hector's dolphin/upokohue is the smallest marine dolphin in the world (maximum length 145 cm) and is found only in New Zealand's inshore waters. It is naturally inquisitive and people-friendly and loves to bow ride and play in the wake of boats.

## Threat management plan

The Department of Conservation (DOC) and the Ministry of Fisheries (MFish) jointly developed a non-statutory Hector's and Maui's Dolphin Threat Management Plan (TMP) to address the national decline in these dolphins. Certain fishing activities were identified as the most significant threat to Hector's dolphins; thus measures were taken to minimise these risks. The plan came into force on 1 October 2008 and considerably restricts both recreational and commercial set-netting activities along the east coast of the South Island.

For the South Island east coast (Cape Jackson in the Marlborough Sounds to Slope Point in the Catlins), commercial and amateur set netting is now banned out to four nautical miles offshore, with the following exceptions:

- commercial and recreational set netting allowed to one nautical mile offshore around the Kaikoura Canyon;
- set netting for flounder permitted between 1 April and 30 September in existing defined flounder areas around Banks Peninsula and Queen Charlotte Sound, using defined nets.

Trawling is also banned to two nautical miles offshore. (Flatfish nets with defined low-headline heights are still permitted).

New boundaries for the Banks Peninsula Marine Mammal Sanctuary also came into effect on 4 November 2008. The new area of the Marine Mammal Sanctuary now encompasses approximately 413,000 hectares and covers 389.31 km of coastline and includes restrictions on seismic surveying.

### **Moratorium on Hector's dolphin permits**

Because of the current lack of information about the effects of tourism on Hector's dolphins and the need to adequately protect dolphins, a moratorium on granting any further Hector's dolphin permits for the Lyttelton and Akaroa Harbour Operational Areas was put in place in January 2008. The original moratorium period lapsed in 2012 but has been extended by the Canterbury Conservator.

After delays arising from legal proceedings in another conservancy, new permits for the existing operators have been drafted and are in the process of being issued for the existing Canterbury marine mammal permit holders based on a renewal process.

### **(b) Yellow-eyed penguin/hoiho and white-flipped penguin/kororā**

Pōhatu (Flea) Bay is a natural breeding site for both penguin species. The remoteness and steep bluffs provide some protection from disturbance and predators.

White-flipped penguin/kororā are a strong sub-species of *Eudyptula minor* (little blue penguin) that is endemic to the Canterbury coast. They are in decline on Banks Peninsula and are under threat from ferrets, cats and stoats.

It is estimated that there are 893 pair in Pōhatu Pa – Flea Bay – (2004 census, Cashman). In a 2000-02 survey undertaken by Challies and Burleigh, the total Banks Peninsula population was estimated at 2112 pairs.

Pōhatu and neighbouring Stony Bay are the only sites on Banks Peninsula where kororā nest on hillsides, up to 200 metres in altitude. The remainder are confined to debris slopes and caves at the foot of cliffs or on shorelines.

Hoiho are less common, mostly breeding further south on the Otago Peninsula and in the Catlins. There are only a few breeding pairs on Banks Peninsula and most are in the Pōhatu Marine Reserve. Being small (they stand around 50 cm tall) and flightless they are at risk from predators, such as cats, stoats and ferrets.

### **Other marine life**

- Massive crayfish/kōura – up to five kilograms (ten pounds) take sanctuary in the deep volcanic rocks;

- Blue moki – some up to six kilograms;
- Forty species of reef fish – such as wrasse, trumpeter, blue cod/rāwaru, and leather jackets/kōkiri;
- Groper/hāpuku;
- Butterfish/mararī (a vegetarian seaweed eater) and large banded wrasse swim amongst the kelp forests
- Pāua and rockfish

The Pōhatu Marine Reserve continues its important role in preserving the marine biodiversity of the region. The focus of the committee has been to implement sound management practices for the reserve. Public awareness of the seaward boundary continues to create the biggest problem for the Department of Conservation.

Increased surveillance, a multi-agency response to compliance issues, increased public awareness and education on the positive effects of the reserve on biodiversity, and increased fish stocks in the surrounding waters, are all important outcomes for the committee.

### **Comment from the Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee**

This was the fourteenth year of the Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee's existence. Due to there being no issues requiring a meeting to be held pending a decision on the Akaroa Marine Reserve, the Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee has not met this year.

### **9.2 Draft general policies**

"The Conservation Authority may consult any conservation board about the draft of a general policy after receiving submissions on it" (Section 17b(3)(1)(ii) Conservation Act 1987).

The General Policy for National Parks and the Conservation General Policy were adopted in May 2005.

### **9.3 Freshwater fisheries management plans**

Draft freshwater fisheries management plans are to be prepared by the department "in consultation with the Conservation Boards affected by them" (Section 17K(1)(a) Conservation Act 1987).

No such plans affecting the board's district are in preparation at this time.

### **9.4 Reduction of width of, or exemption from, marginal strips**

"The Minister of Conservation shall consult the relevant Conservation Board about any proposal made by a Crown Land disposal agency to reduce the width of, or provide an exemption from, a marginal strip, and on being satisfied that it is reasonable in the circumstances to do so, the relevant conservation board...may request the Minister to publicly notify the proposal". (Section 24BA Conservation Act 1987).

No applications were considered.

## **10 Responsibilities under other sections of the Conservation Act 1987**

### **10.1 "Co-opting members of the Board" 6Q(1)**

No one was co-opted onto the board during this financial year.

### **10.2 "Advice on granting lease or licence in the absence of a CMS or CMP"**

No advice was given during the year.

## **11 Board functions under the National Parks Act 1980**

"The board is responsible, in conjunction with the Department, for preparing draft reviews of management plans, for hearing and deciding on public submissions on any draft review and for recommending any review to the New Zealand Conservation Authority for approval". Sections 30(a) and 45-47.

There are two national parks in the board's area of jurisdiction. Each national park has a management plan which is reviewed at 10-year intervals.

The Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan has been reviewed and was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on 13 December 2007.

The Aoraki Mt Cook National Park Management Plan was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on 14 April 2004.

### **11.1 Advise on any other matter relating to National Parks [Section 30(f)(iii)].**

#### **11.1.1 Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park**

The board continues to advise the department on the issuing of guiding, tramping, heli-skiing, hunting and other concessions in the park.

No amendments were made to the Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan in the 2012/13 year.

#### **11.1.2 Arthur's Pass National Park**

The board has an ongoing interest in the Arthur's Pass National Park and the activities and facilities there, especially the visitor services, recreational facilities and opportunities. It also receives regular reports from West Coast Tai Poutini Conservancy on the portion of the park that it manages and is often alerted to any negative impacts on conservation values within the park by the Arthur's Pass Association, which acts as a public 'watchdog' for the park.

No amendments were made to the Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan in the 2012/13 year.

## 12 Liaison

The board has appointed various members to liaise with outside agencies and the department's Canterbury Conservancy Area offices as follows:

### 12.1 Liaison Persons

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Liaison Person</b>
Otago Conservation Board	David Round
West Coast Conservation Board	Dr John Keoghan
Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board	Joseph Hullen
Fish and Game (1) North Canterbury	David Matheson
Fish and Game (2) Central South Island	David Matheson
Mount Cook Museum Trust	Te Awhina Arahanga
Ngāi Tahu	Te Awhina Arahanga
Environment Canterbury	Jan Finlayson (Chairperson)
New Zealand Conservation Authority	Jan Finlayson (Chairperson)
Pōhatu Marine Reserve Advisory Committee	Jan Finlayson (Chairperson)
Aoraki and Twizel Areas	Mandy Waaka-Home
Raukapuka Area	Jan Finlayson
Mahaanui Area	Joseph Hullen
Waimakariri Area	Joseph Hullen
Himalayan Tahr Control Plan Implementation Group	Dr. John Keoghan

### 12.2 Other conservation boards

The conservancy's immediate neighbours are the Otago, West Coast Tai Poutini and Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Boards. The chairperson and liaison members monitor minutes of the various boards for issues of common interest.

### 12.3 Community

The board has continued to involve the community in its work. It holds meetings around the Canterbury area and the public is encouraged to participate in public forums at these meetings. This is seen as successful, with a number of people from local communities taking the opportunity to bring their concerns to the board. The board seeks to represent the public interest and continues to strive to learn the views of the public. It would like to encourage more people to take advantage of the opportunity to address the board during the public forum at its meetings.

During the 2012/2013 year, one Associates Meeting was held in Timaru on the 11th September 2012. A good number of people from conservation and recreation organisations attended this meeting.

During field inspections the board takes the opportunity to meet members of local communities in their own environments and to observe and discuss issues. This is seen as an essential part of the board's work to forge good-neighbour relationships with the community, board and department.



## 12.4 Conservation Board Awards

The annual Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Awards were held in Christchurch in November 2013. There were three finalists for the annual award Te Waka o Aoraki, which was presented by the then Minister of Conservation, Hon. Kate Wilkinson, to the Department of Conservation Aoraki Mount Cook Local Body team for their outstanding work in building an innovative waste management system for Aoraki/Mount Cook Village.

The other finalists were also commended for their outstanding work and contributions to conservation in Canterbury – the Hakatere Heritage Buildings Committee for working to restore and preserve historic buildings at Hakatere in the Ashburton basin, and the Hurunui College Nina Valley Restoration Group for working to conserve great spotted kiwi and restore the conservation values of the Nina valley. Both of the runners-up were strongly encouraged by both the Minister and the Board to put themselves forward again for nomination for the award in 2013.



*Andrew Powazynski, Programme Manager Local Body Aoraki Mount Cook, receives the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Award 'Te Waka o Aoraki' from Minister of Conservation Hon. Kate Wilkinson, supported by Joseph Hullen and Jan Finlayson from the CACB.*

Photograph: Mal Clarbrough



*Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board members Joseph Hullen, Mandy Waaka-Home, Jan Finlayson, Alan Grey, and Teoti Jardine close the board awards ceremonies with a waiata.*

Photograph: Mal Clarbrough

## **12.5 District and regional councils**

The board has continued to develop a good relationship with councils. Councillors and district mayors are invited to attend meetings and local issues often appear on the board's agenda.

## **12.6 Iwi**

Ngāi Tahu nominates four members of the board. They are individually selected by their Papatipu Rūnanga, and their status as representatives of local hapū is endorsed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Board minutes are circulated and conservation issues of concern feature regularly on meeting agenda of both organisations. The Ngāi Tahu-nominated members of the board ensure a Ngāi Tahu perspective is considered before any final conclusions are reached.

## **12.7 Non-governmental organisations**

The board has continued to foster regular meetings with non-governmental organisations, when appropriate.