



Te Rūnanga Papa Atawhai o Waitaha me Aoraki

Annual Report

1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018



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

**Serviced by the Department of Conservation
Ōtautahi/Christchurch Office**

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Annual Report 2017-2018

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Akaroa Harbour, Banks Peninsula
(Photo: M-L Grandiek, 2018)

Published by
Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board
c/- Department of Conservation
Otautahi/Christchurch Office
Private Bag 4715
Christchurch Mail Centre
CHRISTCHURCH, 8011

ISSN 1179-2469 (print)
DOC-5551066

Front Cover: Aoraki Mount Cook
(Photo: M-L Grandiek, 2017)

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1 CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Kia Ora

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation has worked over the past year to further conservation outcomes through its work with the Department of Conservation, and also the board's advocacy role.



Activities in the past year include:

1. **Reinstating Annual Reporting to the board on the implementation of current Aoraki Mount Cook and Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plans**, as part of the board strengthening its statutory role "to consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks". Looking ahead, increasing both the depth of reporting, and involvement of the public in commenting on these reports will strengthen the board's capacity to undertake its role of determining priorities.
2. **Continuing work to review the stewardship land status of St James and Poplars Conservation Areas.** The board considers that the current status of these conservation areas as stewardship land to be inappropriate, with more substantive status required. At approximately 80,000ha these lands represent 1% of all public conservation lands.
3. **Progressing the review of the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan.** We anticipate release of the draft in August this year. The Department, working in partnership with Ngāi Tahu, has been very active in seeking the board's advice for the soon to be released draft. On release it is imperative that the public are actively encouraged to submit on the draft and how they wish their park to be managed, so that changing needs in the coming 10 years are considered, but never to the detriment of the protection of the region's enduring values.
4. **Braided rivers in the region are of international significance yet poorly protected.** The board continues to work with relevant parties to ensure the region's braided rivers are given robust protection. It is a matter of urgency that management of the upper Tasman and Godley river beds shift from LINZ (and their current status is as unallocated crown land) to the Department of Conservation.
5. **Crown Grazing Leases on High Country River Beds.** The board notes the process of tenure review continues to produce a range of outcomes. It has been heartening to observe changes in assessment with ecological and recreational connectivity across adjoining properties and at regional scales beginning to be considered.
6. **Grazing Licenses in high country river beds.** The extensive designation of pastoral lease land into conservation land in high country valleys is welcomed. Over the last year the board has sought greater clarity in terms of the nature and duration of grazing leases (including stocking levels) provided for grazing these riverbeds.

- 7. The Orange Fronted Parakeet is in a perilous state.** In the last year the Department has brought further focus into saving this bird with creating a dedicated ranger role to deliver a recovery program an excellent outcome. The board, however, is concerned that \$400,000 per year a very low level of investment, in terms of ensuring we are doing all to stop this bird becoming extinct.
- 8. The Board remains concerned about the status of whitebait *Inanga* in New Zealand.** During the year the Board wrote to the Ministers of Conservation, Environment, and Primary Industries to outline concerns regarding the status of inanga and called for an interdepartmental review reagrding inanga.
- 9. Closure of water races.** The accelerating closure of water races across the Canterbury Plains is of deep concern and the board has been active in bringing awareness of this issue to relevant agencies.
- 10. Tourism pressures in conservation areas continue to grow.** International visitor numbers continue to increase rapidly with estimates suggesting a doubling in numbers every 10 or so years. During the year board has advocated for greater planning so local recreation values are not negatively impacted by this.

Thank you to everyone engaged in conservation in our community - including our younger people active in schools and organisations, our kaitiaki rūnaka who have guided the board in having a clearer understanding of the strength and values mana whenua provide, those active in trusts, those doing their own personal part, and those organisations and businesses who are making conservation a key part of what they do.

The Board acknowledges the Department of Conservation and its dedicated team for their outstanding efforts to progress conservation outcomes and values in our region.

Also, as I now step down from the board, I'd like to thank my fellow board members for their excellent commitment and efforts to deliver the board's role on behalf of the Canterbury Waitaha community we serve. In particular I'd like to acknowledge the service of retiring board members Teoti Jardine and Sue McKenzie.

It has been incredibly rewarding to learn just how important and widespread conservation is to so many of us.

Ngā mihi

Mick Abbott
Chairperson
Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board

2 INTRODUCTION

This is the 20th Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Annual Report as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board (the Board), had 12 members for the 2017-2018 year appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the terms of Section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987. This year there were 2 new appointments to the Board – Sophie Smith and Yvette Couch-Lewis, and 3 re-appointments – Dr Robert Wynn-Williams, Helen Ivey and Te Awhina Arahanga. Dr Mick Abbott was elected as Chairperson and Dr Robert Wynn-Williams as Deputy Chairperson.

Conservation Boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. The Board works within a partnership between the Department of Conservation, the Minister of Conservation, and the public. As the public voice for community input into conservation, the Board is an independent trusted advisor to the Department and the New Zealand Conservation Authority, within the area of jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board helps to achieve conservation outcomes for New Zealand and particularly the Canterbury Aoraki region by:

- Contributing a strategic perspective to conservation planning, policy development and decision-making as a well-informed voice of the community;
- Exercising powers of recommendation and approval for statutory management planning documents;
- Advising on the implementation of statutory planning documents; and
- Advocating for conservation outcomes, including in public forums and through statutory planning processes.

Board functions are outlined in section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the Board to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act.

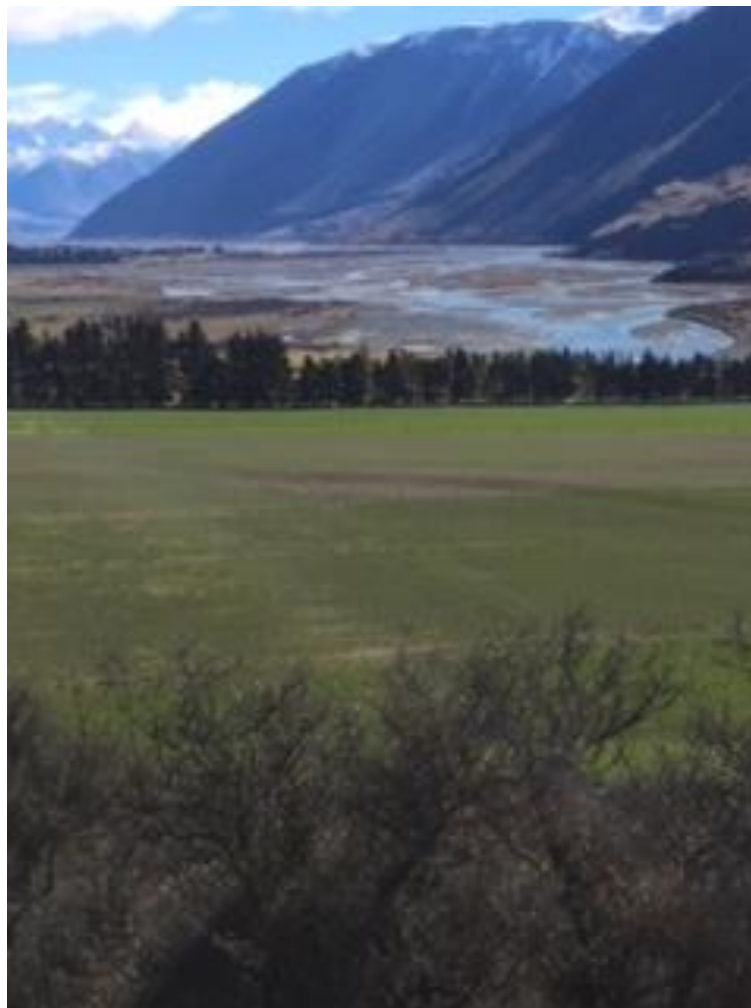
The Conservation Act specifies that the Board's role is to:

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

The Board has a number of 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 New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA).

The Board is serviced by the Department of Conservation.

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



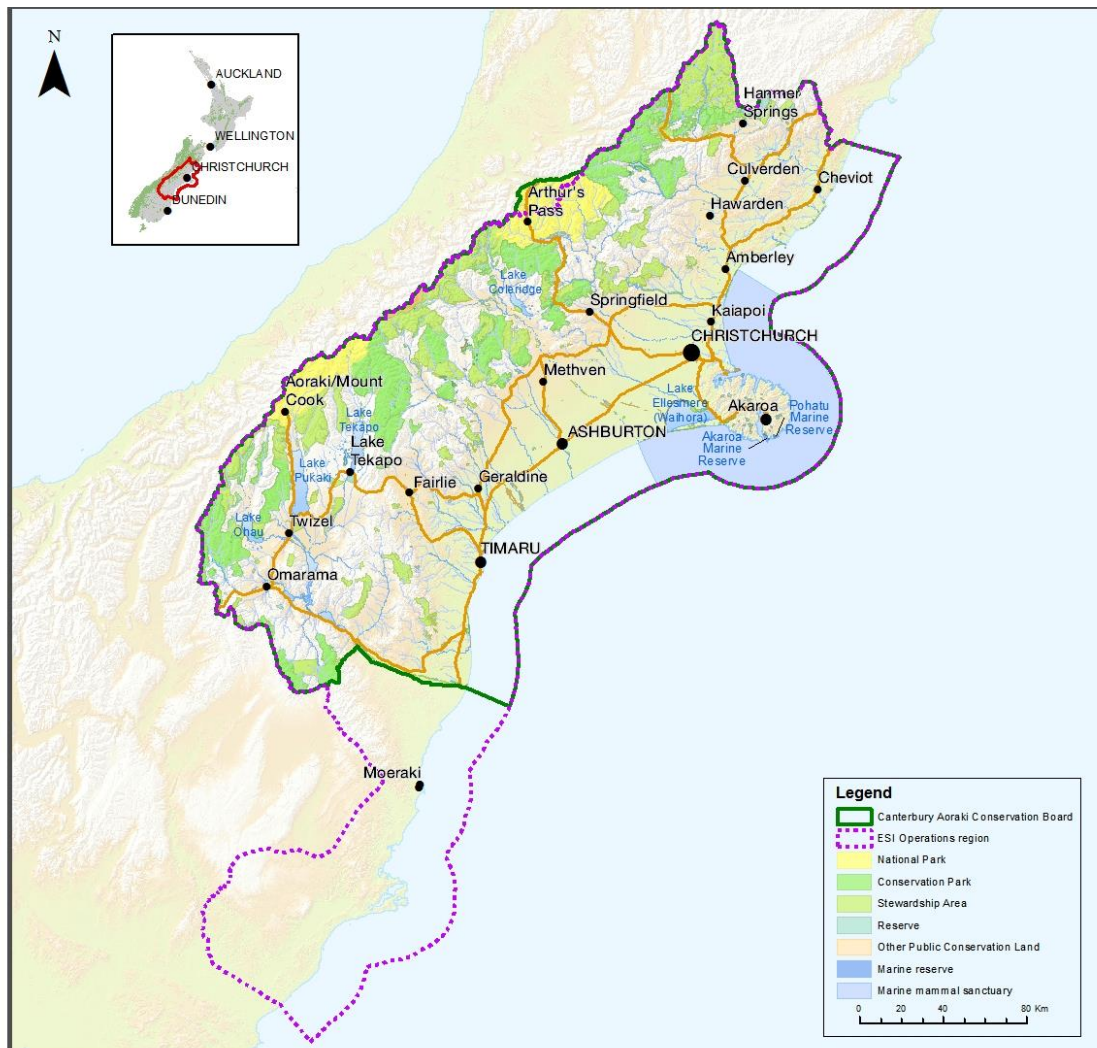
Rangitata River
(Photo: Marie-Louise Grandiek)

3 CANTERBURY AORAKI CONSERVATION BOARD REGION

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 Arthur’s Pass and Aoraki Mount Cook National Parks.

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.



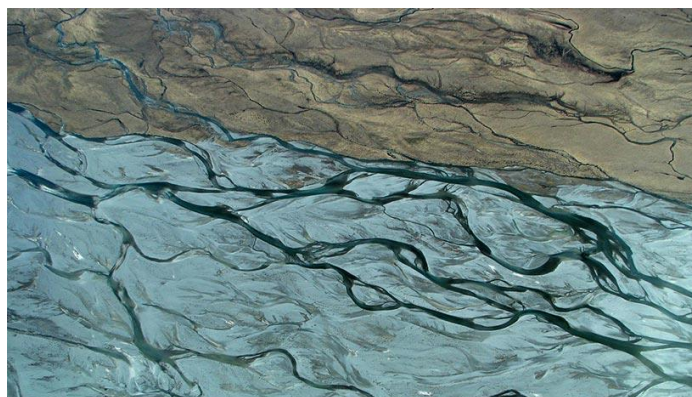
The main features of Public Conservation Land and Water within the Board's boundaries are:

- Two national parks – Aoraki Mount Cook and Arthur's Pass.
- Part of a national reserve – Lewis Pass Scenic Reserve
- Eight conservation parks – Craigieburn, Lake Sumner, Hanmer, Ahuriri, Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands, Ruataniwha, Hakatere and Te Kahui Kaupeka.
The conservation board boundary also includes part of Hāwea and Oteake Conservation Parks.
- Hurunui, Hawdon and Poulter predator-controlled areas (formerly part of Operation Ark).
Currently under extensive predator control using 1080 operations and ground trapping primarily to protect the Orange-Fronted Parakeet populations in this area.
- Two marine reserves – Pōhatu and Akaroa
- One marine mammal sanctuary – Banks Peninsula
- A large number of scenic, historic, scientific, nature and other reserves and conservation areas, including 438 stewardship areas.
- The DOC managed portion of Te Waihora/Lake Ellesmere

The Canterbury region directly administers 1,125,032 hectares of Public Conservation Area. This consists of:

- Public Conservation Land: 1,123,898 hectares
- Banks Peninsula Marine Mammal Sanctuary: 407 hectares
- Pōhatu and Akaroa Marine Reserves: 727 hectares

The above Public Conservation Areas occupy 21.6% of the Canterbury Conservancy boundary (conservancy area is 5,201,723 hectares).



Godley River

(Image: John Abel, Creative Commons)

4 BOARD FUNCTIONS

➤ BOARD MEMBERSHIP

There were twelve Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

Helen Ivey, Te Awhina Arahanga and Dr Robert Wynn-Williams whose terms of office expired on 30 June 2017, were reappointed for a further 3-year term. New appointments to the Board were Yvette Couch-Lewis appointed for a 2-year term and Sophie Smith appointed for a 3-year term.

Chair and Deputy Chair:

Dr Mick Abbott was elected Chairperson and Dr Robert Wynn-Williams was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018 and their term of office.

Table A: Board Membership

Board member	Term Started	Term Ending	From
Dr Mick Abbott	01/05/2014	30/06/2018	Little River
Te Awhina Arahanga*	07/04/2016	30/06/2020	Christchurch
Yvette Couch-Lewis*	01/07/2017	30/06/2019	Lyttelton
Joseph Hullen*	01/09/2007	30/06/2019	Kaiapoi
Helen Ivey	01/07/2014	30/06/2020	Aoraki Mount Cook
Teoti Jardine*	01/07/2012	30/06/2018	Christchurch
Sue McKenzie	01/07/2015	30/06/2018	Charing Cross
Sam Newton	01/05/2014	30/06/2019	Christchurch
Joy Paterson	01/07/2016	30/06/2019	Twizel
Paula Smith	01/05/2014	30/06/2019	Banks Peninsula
Sophie Smith	01/07/2017	30/06/2020	Christchurch
Dr Robert Wynn-Williams	01/07/2014	30/06/2020	Christchurch

* *Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu appointee*

➤ BOARD MEETINGS

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board held six meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the Board meetings are varied each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Table B: Board meeting dates and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
16 August 2017	Arthur's Pass National Park
11 October 2017	Christchurch
13 December 2017	Christchurch
14 February 2018	Mahaanui
11 April 2018	Rangiora (transferred from Twizel)
12 June 2018	Arowhenua

➤ ATTENDANCE

The table below summarises the number of Board meetings, field trips and workshops attended by members out of the total number of activities held during the year. Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles.

Table C: Attendance *Non-attendance due to conflict of interest

Board Member	6 x Board Meetings	2 x Field Trips	4 x Workshops
Dr Mick Abbott	6	2	4
Te Awhina Arahanga	2	1	0
Yvette Couch-Lewis	4	0	2
Joseph Hullen	3	0	1
Helen Ivey	4	2	N/A*
Teoti Jardine	6	2	4
Sue McKenzie	5	2	2
Sam Newton	5	1	3
Joy Paterson	4	1	3
Paula Smith	6	2	4
Sophie Smith	5	1	3
Robert Wynn-Williams	4	2	3

➤ **BOARD COMMITTEES**

Membership of Board committees is reviewed each year.

Table D: Subcommittees

Subcommittee	Members
Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review	Dr Robert Wynn-Williams (Chair) Te Awhina Arahanga Teoti Jardine Sam Newton Joy Paterson Paula Smith
Communications and Awards	Sophie Smith (Chair) Teoti Jardine Sue McKenzie Sam Newton
Concessions	Dr Robert Wynn-Williams (Chair) Yvette Couch-Lewis Helen Ivey Joy Paterson
Iwi	Yvette Couch-Lewis (Chair) Te Awhina Arahanga Joseph Hullen Teoti Jardine
Land and Water	Paula Smith (Chair) Joseph Hullen Sue McKenzie Sam Newton Sophie Smith
St James Reclassification	Sam Newton (Chair) Joseph Hullen Paula Smith
Tenure Review	Helen Ivey (Chair) Joy Paterson Paula Smith Dr Robert Wynn-Williams
<i>*Note that Dr Mick Abbott as Board Chair is an ex-officio member of each committee</i>	

➤ **COMMUNITY AND DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION INVOLVEMENT IN MEETINGS**

Public forums are offered at each Board meeting for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board.

In August 2017, the Board held a public forum at the Arthur's Pass National Park Visitor Centre which was attended by a large representation from the local community as well as representatives from the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board. The forum received a presentation from the Department of Conservation on the Arthur's Pass National Park Annual Report based on the National Park's Management Plan.

In November 2017 the Board held a public forum in Christchurch which was attended by a number of conservation and recreational groups. The purpose of the forum was to discuss important conservation issues that mattered to them and to identify the key challenges for conservation in the Canterbury region. The Board is cognisant of its role to ensure everyone is represented in determining how our public conservation lands and waterways are managed including species, biodiversity, and waterways protection, as well as how our communities are engaged with conservation.

The Department of Conservation provided representatives at all Board meetings during the year including Operations Managers at site, Planning Team members, Tenure Review Team members and Biodiversity and Community Rangers.



Mesopotamia
(Photo: Marie-Louise Grandiek)

➤ FIELD TRIPS

Three field trips were organised for the year. However, due to severe weather watches and warnings issued by the MetService, the field trip to the Mackenzie Basin on 10 April 2018 was cancelled.

Arthur's Pass National Park – 15 August 2017

Arthur's Pass National Park is in the heart of the Southern Alps/Kā Tiritiri o te Moana. Its high mountains with large scree slopes, steep gorges and wide braided rivers straddle the main divide and are the 'back bone' of the South Island.

The field trip included:

- Greyney's Shelter. Entrance point to the Mingha and Edward Valleys and exit point for Coast to Coast runners training across Goat Pass
- Deception River entrance. Exit point for Te Araroa walkers coming out of the Taramakau and entering Goat Pass
- Temple Basin Car Park. Recent track development linking Arthur's Pass Village via the Arthur's Pass Walking Track
- Kea Kiosk funded by the Arthur's Pass Kea group, allied with the Kea Conservation Trust and the Arthur's Pass Wildlife Trust
- Shared lunch with representatives of the YMCA with brief presentation on their new role with the Arthur's Pass Outdoor Education Centre to provide accommodation and outdoor education for school children in the conservation of natural resources.



Morrisons Footbridge (SH 73) Aickens Corner
(Photo: Marie-Louise Grandiek)

Briefed by DOC staff throughout the day, we gained an understanding and appreciation of:

- The topical and sensitive issues that surround Arthur's Pass National Park;
- The challenges in administering the Arthur's Pass National Park such as public use, access and weed control;
- The Board through the above, is able to be more informed and to act more effectively in relation to matters involving the Arthur's Pass National Park, particularly in relation to its role in providing interaction between the public (community interests) and the Department of Conservation.



Arthur's Pass National Park
(Photo: Marie-Louise Grandiek)

Banks Peninsula – 13 February 2018

Banks Peninsula was formed over six million years ago, following the violent eruptions of two volcanoes. Craters now form the harbours of Lyttelton and Akaroa with many smaller bays indenting the coastline. A marine mammal sanctuary protects the rare Hector's dolphin/upokohue, while nearby Pōhatu Bay is the site of a marine reserve, protecting marine life.

The field trip included:

- Department of Conservation Motukara Native Plant Nursery.
- Aatahua – a new conservation area.
- Catons Bay, Lake Forsyth (Te Roto o Wairewa).
- Montgomery Park Scenic Reserve.
- A briefing on the Rod Donald Banks Peninsula Trust.
- Hinewai Reserve
- Marine Reserve monitoring



Lake Forsyth (Te Roto o Wairewa)
(Photo: Marie-Louise Grandiek)



Little River Railtrail
(Photo: Marie-Louise Grandiek)

➤ WORKSHOPS

The Board held 4 workshops throughout the year to discuss progress on the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review. The Department of Conservation Planning Team provided updates on topic papers and provided responses to the Board's requests at each workshop.

The Board and the Department's Planning Team worked through:

- Topic Papers
- Key Outcomes identified for the Plan
- Spatial Plan

The Board received a presentation from Courtney Bennett with additional comment from Kirsty Huxford, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. The presentation outlined the Te Ao Māori integration for the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review. The review of the Plan has given Kāi Tahu an opportunity to embed their stories into the document to both share them with the wider community and to affirm their unique mana whenua status in the area.

Board members also attended a number of hui with kaitiaki runaka and Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

The draft Management Plan is expected to be publicly notified in late August / early September 2018 and the public will be invited to make formal submissions.



Aoraki Mount Cook
(Photo: Marie-Louise Grandiek)

➤ SPECIAL EVENTS

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Awards – November 2017

The Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Awards are held annually and recognise the efforts of local groups and individuals in supporting conservation within the wider Canterbury region.

Entries were judged on 6 key areas which included:

- Collaboration, community involvement, partnerships - sponsorship, commercial. DOC, councils, and local and/or national groups
- Strength and structure of organisation/group
- Longevity of group, funding, and future plans
- Long term sustainability and actual outcomes of project- timeframes, objectives, and milestones etc
- Transformation of environment, habitats, species survival, changes in use/environment, has it made a difference / will it make a difference
- Value of the award to their future efforts

This year's recipient of the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Award and \$2,000 towards their project, was the Canterbury Waterway Rehabilitation Experiment (CAREX) for their solutions-focused research programme aimed at improving freshwater biodiversity and ecosystem health in agricultural waterways.



Recipient of the 2017 Award and Trophy – Canterbury Waterway Rehabilitation Experiment (CAREX)
(Photo: Kaitlyn Stringer)

A \$1,000 finalist award was given to the Waimakariri Ecological & Landscape Restoration Alliance Inc. (WELRA) for their Wilding Conifer Eradication Project. The removal of wilding conifers from the Upper Waimakariri catchment is not only restoring the iconic values of that high-country region but will also allow the natural water-flows to continue.

A \$500 finalist award was given to EOS Ecology which has engaged over 2,000 young people in Christchurch in learning about their local river, with a particular focus on inanga through a Whitebait Connection programme called Environment Investigators.

Special thanks must go to The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust who sponsored the Awards.

➤ **COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES SUPPORTED BY THE BOARD**

Throughout the 2017/18 year, the Board welcomed presentations at its meetings from a variety of different organisations and individuals.

- Dave Goldsworthy – Executive Manager, YMCA
- David Hodder – North Canterbury Deerstalkers Association
- Lyndon Slater – Department of Conservation
- Rachael Moore – Tourism Industry Aotearoa advocate



Akaroa Foreshore, Banks Peninsula
(Photo: M-L Grandiek, 2018)

➤ ANNUAL WORK PROGRAMME

The Board formulated their Annual Work Programme by adopting key issues as their focus for the year. These were:

- Braided rivers
- Tenure review
- Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review
- St James Reclassification Project
- Protecting Canterbury's kakariki – the orange-fronted parakeet
- Protecting kea in our rohe
- Advocating for more funding for conservation work
- Landscape change in the Mackenzie Basin

Summary

Please refer to **Appendix I** for a full report on the Board's Annual Work Programme.

5 STATUTORY ACTIVITY

➤ CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY (CMS)

To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of Conservation Management Strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies under the relevant enactments

The Canterbury (Waitaha) Management Strategy (CMS) was signed off by the New Zealand Conservation Authority in June 2016, was publicly released and became operative on 1 September 2016. The new CMS approach aims to provide a consistent format, a consistent policy approach, and reflect national priorities and outcomes at places.

➤ CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS

To approve Conservation Management Plans, and the review and amendment of such Plans, under the relevant enactments

The Board agreed to the withdrawal of the Wilberforce Crown Land Management Area Management Plan 1982. The Board also noted that public notification to revoke eleven (11) Reserves Acts CMP's in Canterbury will be undertaken and is available to engage in this process if required.

➤ 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

Kura Tāwhiti / Castle Hill Reserve

The Board received a report from the Department on the Kura Tāwhiti / Castle Hill Reserve Conservation Management Strategy – Implementation and Milestones at its of 16 August 2017. The Board acknowledged that Kura Tāwhiti has Tōpuni status and has special significance to Ngāi Tahu. Interpretation at site is currently being reviewed. The Board strongly supports Kura Tāwhiti, Kura Tāwhiti carpark and Cave Stream carpark being areas where freedom camping is prohibited.



Kura Tāwhiti / Castle Hill Reserve
(Image: doc.govt.nz)

➤ **NATIONAL PARKS**

There are two National Parks within the Board's area of jurisdiction. Each National Park has a management plan which is reviewed at 10-year intervals.

Arthur's Pass National Park

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

The Department presented an annual report to the Board on the Arthur's Pass National Park Management Plan at its meeting of 16 August 2017. The Board resolved to write to the Minister of Conservation and relative agencies expressing its concerns regarding weed and pest control issues along the transport corridors within the National Park.

Aoraki Mount Cook National Park

The Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan is currently under review.

The Department presented an annual report to the Board on the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan at its meeting of 13 December 2017. The Board resolved to receive the annual report and noted:

- The Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan is currently under review
- The Department is redrafting the plan in conjunction with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu and the kaitiaki rūnanga, and in consultation with the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board
- It is expected to publicly notify the draft Plan in late August / early September 2018 and the public will be invited to make a formal submission
- The Board will provide support on the submissions and hearings
- The revised draft plan will be sent to the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board for its consideration
- Upon any further revisions from the Board, the revised draft Plan will be presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority for their approval
- Once the Authority has approved the Plan, it will be published and become operative.

➤ **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 significance

Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands Park

The Board resolved at its meeting of 11 October 2017 to support the proposal from the Department of Conservation to add approximately 3281.8830 hectares of land to the Korowai/Torlesse Tussocklands (Conservation) Park. These lands contain high natural values through the unique dry mountain range flora and fauna, and important landscape, geological and research values in keeping with the values of the Conservation Park.

St James Conservation Area

The St James Conservation area is currently classified as stewardship land and is the focus of a review. The classification status of the following other public conservation areas is also being reviewed:

- Hanmer Forest Park
- Lake Sumner Forest Park
- Woodbank Conservation Area
- The Poplars Conservation Area

The Board received updates at each of its meetings during 2017/18 from the Department of Conservation on the St James Reclassification Project. A sub-committee has been established to enable the Board to discuss particular issues in relation to the Reclassification Project between regular meetings of the Board.



Cycling, St James Walkway

(Photo: ©Bevan Triebels)

➤ **TENURE REVIEW**

Including advice to the Department; advocacy to LINZ and submissions on Tenure Review properties when required. This included:

- Simons Pass – Pastoral Lease
- Ferintosh Station – Pastoral Lease

➤ **CONCESSIONS**

With the review of the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan, the Board requested that information on ALL concessions applied for within the National Park be referred to the Concessions Committee. Comments were made on:

- Ngāi Tahu Tourism, Aoraki Mount Cook National Park
- Grand Properties Extension, Aoraki Mount Cook National Park
- Wildlife Permit Application, Kea Conservation Trust
- University of Canterbury, Kaitorete Scientific Reserve
- Southern Alpine Guiding Limited, Aoraki Mount Cook National Park
- Christchurch City Council, Hagley Park Lakes
- Awakino Alpine Trust Board, Awakino Ski Field

➤ **ENVIRONMENT CANTERBURY (ECan)**

Submissions were made on the following:

- Lyttelton Port Company Limited Resource Consent Application
- New Zealand Threatened Species Strategy 2017 (Draft)

➤ **OTHER**

The Board provided comment on:

- Recommendations on Freedom Camping Site Restrictions and Prohibitions in Canterbury
- Selwyn District Council and Selwyn Waihora Water Management Zone Committee regarding water race closures

6 ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

➤ LIAISON

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 X: Liaison persons

Liaison person	Group, agency or organisation
Robert Wynn-Williams	Neighbouring Conservation Boards
Sam Newton	Fish & Game, North Canterbury & Central South Island
Helen Ivey	Tahr Interest Group
Helen Ivey	Himalayan Tahr Control Plan Implementation Group
Joy Paterson	Mackenzie District Council
Helen Ivey	Wilding Conifer Management Trust
Helen Ivey	Mackenzie Country Trust
Paula Smith	Banks Peninsula Water Zone Committee
Robert Wynn-Williams	Deerstarkers Groups
Robert Wynn-Williams	Game Animal Council
Paula Smith	Ecan and Territorial Authorities
Joy Paterson	
Teoti Jardine	Avon-Otakaro Network
Sam Newton	Recreation Groups
Robert Wynn-Williams	Christchurch/West Melton Water Zone Committee

➤ OTHER CONSERVATION BOARDS

The Board's immediate neighbours are the Otago, West Coast/Tai Poutini, and Nelson Marlborough Conservation Boards.

Robert Wynn-Williams as liaison, monitors the minutes of the adjoining Boards (and the New Zealand Conservation Authority) for issues of common interest and reports back at each meeting.

Representatives of the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board participated in the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board meeting at Arthur's Pass National Park in August 2017.

➤ NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY (NZCA) LIAISON

Mark Christensen is the NZCA appointed liaison to the Board.

➤ 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 Canterbury Aoraki region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

Members of the public attended the Public Forum at two 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.

Public forum issues raised were:

- Making sure the orange fronted parakeet doesn't become extinct. This bird is only found in Canterbury and less than 200 remain.
- Halting the deteriorating numbers of other species like kea in our region
- Ensuring effective monitoring of biodiversity and species at risk including inanga/whitebait
- Increasing protection for Canterbury's braided rivers
- Supporting Ngāi Tahu and DOC's Te Ara Hononga/Partnership Engagement Framework
- Supporting Predator Free 2050, Battle for our Birds and Wilding Conifer Eradication initiatives
- Maintaining the current level of huts, tracks, and other recreation facilities
- Managing the impacts of tourism, and identifying ways to harness additional benefits to conservation in the process
- Reviewing the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan
- Reviewing the stewardship land status of the St James and Poplars areas
- Ensuring more resources for conservation in Canterbury



Orange Fronted Parakeet
Image: © S Bernert

The Board is interested in what is happening in conservation in communities. A public forum held in November 2017 saw the Board invite representatives from community organisations to attend. Speakers at the forum represented:

- Waimakariri Ecological and Landscape Restoration Alliance (WELRA)
- Te Ara Kākāriki Greenway Canterbury Trust (TAK)
- Federated Mountain Clubs (FMC)
- Waihora Ellesmere Trust (WET)
- Environment Canterbury (Ecan)
- North Canterbury Branch, New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA)
- Working Waters Trust
- Banks Peninsula Conservation Trust (BPCT)
- Pohatu Penguins
- Christchurch/West Melton Water Zone Committee
- Canterbury University Tramping Club Incorporated (CUTC)
- Landcare Research – Manaaki Whenua

These are predominantly voluntary groups carrying out huge amounts of conservation work within the community. The Board recognises and appreciates volunteers and thanks them for the work done in this area.

➤ **COMMUNITY VISIBILITY**

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website. Information on the Board has also been made available through the Board's new Facebook page.

<https://www.facebook.com/Canterbury-Aoraki-Conservation-Board-1641629615923060>



APPENDIX I

Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Work Programme

1 July 2017- 30 June 2018

Work Programme Overview

This Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board work programme is structured in three parts, namely:

- Part A: Planned Board activities aimed at meeting the regional Work Programme contained in the letter:
 - Review/development/monitoring of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS);
 - Advice relating to stewardship land;
 - Other statutory functions for the Board;
 - Advocacy; and

- Part B: Planned Board activities aimed at general expectations contained in the letter:
 - working with the Department;
 - taking account of the Ministerial priorities for the Department as contained in the Department's Four-year Plan;
 - working with adjoining Boards and the NZCA;
 - understanding the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - general engagement with the community, including raising the profile of the Board; and

- Part C: risks/ issues from the Board's perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.

PART A: REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME

1 Review / development of statutory management plans including Conservation Management Strategies (CMS)

1.1 Board Objective:

The Board will actively work with Ngāi Tahu, DOC and submitters to ensure the effective and timely review of the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	Board members and its nominated subcommittee actively contribute to the process through participation in hui and public meetings
	<p>Progress: The Board and its nominated subcommittee members have contributed through participation in Kaitiaki rūnaka hui.</p>
B	The Board works closely with relevant DOC directors, Ngāi Tahu managers, and the NZCA to identify and support the resolution of issues that may have a diversity of views and conflicting outcomes
	<p>Progress: The Board has been active within this process and have held several workshops over the past 12 months to support the resolution of issues that have a diversity of view. As the AMCNP MPR draft nears publication, the Board's focus will move towards assisting in the submissions process.</p>
C	The Board leads consideration of CMS policies related to the National Park Management Plan review including options to extend the boundary of the Park
	<p>Progress: Contribution to this process remains ongoing. The Board looks forward to the Draft Management Plan for Aoraki Mount Cook National Park (AMCNP) being made available by August 2018 for comment and consultation.</p>

1.2 Board Objective:

In conjunction with the Department, the Board will determine priorities for implementation of the approved Canterbury CMS

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	The Board will continue to bring focus to its list of CMS priorities where they can assist the Department of implement the Canterbury CMS once approved (Addendum A)
	<p>Progress: The Board continues to prioritise the implementation of a robust monitoring approach to the biodiversity assessment.</p>
B	The Board will work to ensure the Department implements a traffic light system of reporting back to the Board on progress on CMS delivery
	<p>Progress: The Board will receive an updated report on the progress on CMS delivery at its August 2018 meeting.</p>

1.3 Board Objective:

In conjunction with the Department, the Board will seek to develop a Tenure Review strategy that works at a regional scale to effectively support the policies of the Canterbury CMS

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	The Board will undertake a field trip that looks in detail at Tenure Review opportunities and challenges at both the farm and regional scale
	<p>Progress: Due to adverse weather conditions, the scheduled field trip was deferred. It is hoped to undertake this field trip in late 2018.</p>

2 Stewardship Land

2.1 Board Objective:

The Board will continue to provide the Minister and Department with advice on priorities for reclassification of stewardship areas that require increased protection because of their significant conservation values

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	Respond to papers from the Department on reclassification of lands
Progress:	The Board has received regular updates from the Department and will continue to do, particularly in relation to the St James Reclassification Project.
B	Work with the Department and Ngāi Tahu to commence the land status review for all public conservation lands and waters within the Northern High-Country Place, in support of the relevant Year 3 CMS milestone
Progress:	This has commenced and continues to develop in the context of current reviews of the St James and Poplars Conservation Areas.
C	Ensure the Department and all stakeholders are aware of the high priority the Board has for reclassification of the St James Conservation Area from stewardship land to conservation park status
Progress:	The Board has formed a subcommittee of members for the St James Reclassification Project. This committee will liaise directly with the Department and other stakeholders to discuss particular issues that arise between regular meetings and report back to the Board.
D	Incorporate into field trips an overview of stewardship lands that would benefit from having their land status changed
Progress:	Due to adverse weather conditions, the scheduled field trip was deferred. It is hoped to undertake this field trip in late 2018.

E

Champion the values of the CMS to stakeholders to support the Mackenzie Trust's consideration of a Drylands Park

Progress:

The Board has presented at the Government agencies' workshops and is very supportive of the new initiatives undertaken to engage with the Department, the Mackenzie District Council, LINZ, and ECan through policy development and assessment work in the region.

3 Other statutory functions

3.1 Board Objective:

The Board will advise on proposed changes of status for nationally and internationally important areas, when sought by the Department

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A

Work with the Department to achieve the CMS Milestone for Braided Rivers Place – a World Heritage Area of Wetland of International Importance achieved for at least one Canterbury braided river by Year 10

Progress:

This is of ongoing high importance to the Board. Some progress has been achieved with more substantive outcomes expected. Firm groundwork has been laid for this to raise the profile of braided rivers. Alignment between Ngāi Tahu Kaitiaka Rūnaka and other agencies re outcomes for braided rivers is an ongoing conversation.

B

Respond to requests and papers from the Department with advice on any proposed changes of status for nationally and internationally important areas

Progress:

The Board responded to and is working with the Department on the St James Reclassification Project.

3.2

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	Appoint a liaison person to actively engage with the local Fish and Game Councils in the region
	<p>Progress: Sam Newton is the Board's appointed liaison with Fish & Game.</p>
B	Report back to the Board on any issues of mutual interest that need to be explored
	<p>Progress: Ongoing. No issues are currently noted.</p>

4 Advocacy

4.1 Board Objective

The Board will pursue all reasonable opportunities to advocate at public forums and in any statutory planning processes

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	The Board's Land and Water committee will actively work towards ensuring government agencies and planning processes receive relevant submissions from the Board. Representatives from this committee will advocate at public forums if required
	<p>Progress: The Land and Water Committee, led by Paula Smith, has ensured timely and effective submissions including tenure review proposals, marine animal protection in Lyttelton Harbour and the future of water race network in the Selwyn District.</p>
B	Work with the Department in developing submissions, so that they are aligned
	<p>Progress: The Land and Water Committee worked closely with the Department and Professor Stephen Dawson, Head of Marine Science, University of Otago) in their submission on the Lyttelton Port Company Ltd application to reclaim land and construct a wharf in Te Awaparahi Bay, Lyttelton Harbour.</p>

C

Work with the Department to receive a Planning report for each Board meeting, so that the committees can be informed on departmental submissions and work in the statutory planning process

Progress:

The Department's Planning team has provided excellent updates at each Board meeting. These have provided clear briefings to the Board and the public who access these records.

PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

5 Working with the Department

Board Objective:

Board members will maintain good working relationships and open dialogue with Directors, Managers and Board Support Officers in order to engage strategically in conservation for the region

Planned Board Activities

A

Board Chair will meet periodically with the Director Operations to ensure all are engaged to support conservation in the region

Progress:

Regular phone calls and meetings between formal meetings have been held with the Director Operations and Statutory Manager. This has enabled effective lines of communication with the Department and their staff.

B

Board field trips will be aligned with the Annual Work Plan and any conservation topics that the Department considers the Board should be further briefed on

Progress:

The planning and organisational support provided by the Board Support Officer is highly effective in ensuring an ongoing strong alignment.

C

The Board will work with the Department to ensure Board members are briefed on any areas where they require a better understanding of the departments work. This will involve briefings at Board meetings

Progress:

The Department has provided effective briefings when requested by the Board. Attendance by Operations Managers at site have also enabled current updates to be presented.

D	Board Chair and Board Support Officers to attend relevant Conservation Board Regional meetings where planned
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Progress:

The Board Chair attended a Hui in Wanaka to discuss the development of an overarching management plan spanning the four National Parks in the Te Wāhipounamu South Westland World Heritage area. The Board Support Officer attended the BSO annual Hui in Wellington.

E	Board Chair to attend where possible relevant NZCA and Conservation Board conferences and workshops
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Progress:

The Board Chair attended the Annual Board's Chair meeting with the New Zealand Conservation Authority. NZCA member, Mark Christensen, has been the Board's liaison for 2017/18.

6 Taking account of Ministerial priorities for the Department

Board Objective:

The Board will identify opportunities to support the relevant areas of work in the Canterbury rohe, as identified in the Ministers Letter of Expectation. These are:

- ***Streamlining tenure review process***
- ***Wilding Conifers***
- ***Engaging new groups and individuals with conservation values***
- ***Battle for the Birds***
- ***War on Weeds***
- ***Nature Watch***
- ***Heritage Landmarks and Icons***

Planned Board Activities

A	Board to work with the Department in receiving updates on the above areas of work and key current operational issues including those that relate to biodiversity, recreational and management
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Progress:

The Board has focused its work on the areas previously identified by the former Minister of Conservation and this work is ongoing. NB: Nature Watch and Heritage Landmarks and Icons have not been priorities in the Canterbury Aoraki region by the Board.

B

Board to undertake a field trip to Banks Peninsula to familiarise themselves with conservation values, marine protected areas, and stakeholders' concerns in and around the region

Progress:

The Board accompanied by Departmental staff, visited Banks Peninsula in February 2018. The field trip included visits to Aatahua (a new conservation area), Catons Bay – Lake Forsyth (Te Roto o Wairewa), Montgomery Park Scenic Reserve, Hinewai Reserve and the Akaroa foreshore. The Board gained an understanding and appreciation of the challenges involved in the ecological, restoration and protection work being undertaken on Banks Peninsula.

C

Board to advocate where they can with interest groups on any of the above topics

Progress:

The Board continues to advocate where they can with interest groups.

7 Working with adjoining Boards and the NZCA

Board Objective:

Board members will liaise with neighbouring conservation boards in order to progress cross boundary CMS issues and other matters of mutual interest

Planned Board Activities

A

The Board's liaison member for neighbouring Conservation Boards will continue to actively follow minutes and any identified common issues

Progress:

The Board's Deputy Chair, Robert Wynn-Williams actively follows the minutes for neighbouring Conservation Boards and reports back to each meeting on any shared issues.

B

Board Chair to attend relevant regional meetings of Board Chairs so cross boundary CMS and other issues can be progressed

Progress:

The Board Chair attended a Hui in Wanaka (including attendance by Chairs from adjoining Conservation Boards), to discuss the development of an overarching management plan spanning the four National Parks in the Te Wāhīpounamu South Westland World Heritage area.

C Board to undertake a field trip to Arthur's Pass National Park (inviting representatives of the West Coast/Tai Poutini Conservation Board) and community members to familiarise themselves with cross-boundary issues

Progress:

The Board, accompanied by Departmental staff, visited Arthur's Pass National Park in August 2017. The Board gained an understanding and appreciation of the challenges in administering APNP such as public use, access and weed control, and the topical and sensitive issues that surround the Park. Highlights of the field trip included a public forum with members of the public from the local community, sharing of information with representatives of the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board and the Department's Annual Report on the Park.

8 Understanding the Board's contribution to giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

Board Objective:

The Board will understand and support the Board's and Department's obligations under Treaty settlements as well as principles under Section 4 of the Conservation Act

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A The Board will actively support Ngāi Tahu involvement in all facets of the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan Review and the reclassification of stewardship land including St James-Poplars

Progress:

Board members regularly attend workshops in conjunction with the Department's Operations staff, Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu (TRoNT), and the kaitiaki runaka to discuss the AMCNP MPR. Work is progressing slowly with the reclassification of stewardship land in the St James-Poplars. The Governance Group (which includes the Board Chair) have also met regularly in terms of reporting.

B Iwi committee members to ensure TRoNT and rūnaka are briefed and consulted on matters that the Board deem appropriate

Progress:

Iwi members meet regularly with TRoNT.

C	Iwi committee members to report back at each Board meeting on liaison and any issues that the Board should be aware of
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Progress:

Iwi members report back to Board meetings on liaison and any issues that arise.

D	The Board will seek to have at least one hui each year at a marae
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Progress:

The Board's June 2018 meeting was held at Arowhenua Marae, Temuka. A pōwhiri welcoming the Board to the marae was led by iwi member, Teoti Jardine. Arowhenua is Teoti's tangata whenua.

9 Engaging with the community, including raising the profile of the Board

9.1 Board Objective

Board members will liaise regularly with other conservation entities, such as district and regional councils, NGOs and community groups, in order to enhance the profile of the Board and pursue good working relationships on issues of mutual interest and concern

Planned Board Activities, Success Measures and Key Milestones

A	Board members actively engage with district and regional councils, NGOs and community groups on matters that relate to the successful implementation of the CMS policies and also the review of the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan
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Progress:

This process is ongoing as Board members continue to engage with other groups as per their liaison role. Board members have been particularly active in response to water management issues and liaison with the Mackenzie District Council.

A number of conservation and recreational groups attended a public forum hosted by the Board in November 2017. The purpose of the forum was to discuss important conservation issues and to identify the key challenges for conservation in the Canterbury regional.

The Board continues to be cognisant of its role to ensure everyone is represented in determining how our public lands and waterways are managed including species, biodiversity, and waterways protection, as well as how our communities are engaged with conservation.

9.2 Board Objective:

Board members will take the initiative to meet with community groups and the general public to gauge community reaction to conservation initiatives planned or implemented by DOC

Planned Board Activities

A	The Board will continue to host an annual Conservation Awards event to acknowledge and celebrate efforts by conservation, recreation, school, and industry groups to further conservation values and outcomes in the Canterbury Aoraki rohe
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Progress:

The Board's annual Conservation Awards were held in November 2017 and were sponsored by The Isaac Conservation and Wildlife Trust.

B	Board members will participate in public consultation and public submission processes related to the review of the Aoraki Mount Cook National Park Management Plan
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Progress:

No action to date. The Board looks forward to the Draft Management Plan for Aoraki Mount Cook National Park (AMCNP) being made available by August 2018 for comment and consultation and directing its focus towards assisting in the submissions process.

PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

10 Risks from the Board's perspective

A	That the public in general does not yet have sufficient knowledge of what the role and activities of Conservation Boards are, and what they stand for
B	That the Board and/or the department does not effectively prioritise its activities, outcomes, and resources

11 Opportunities for conservation growth

A	The Board closely monitors the impacts of tourism and projected growth as they are occurring, so that conservation values are not negatively impacted.
	<p>Progress: Ongoing. The Board received a presentation at their June 2018 meeting from Tourism Industry Aotearoa (TIA). Members learnt of TIA's vision of a \$41 billion visitor economy by 2025 and the advocacy role TIA undertake to support tourism as a contributor to New Zealand's economy.</p>
B	Board members pro-actively identify current and future tourism hotspots and report back to the Board meetings on any arising issues
	<p>Progress: Board members continue to engage with their communities on any issues arising regarding tourism hotspots.</p>

ADDENDUM A:**CANTERBURY AORAKI CONSERVATION BOARD 2017 FOCUS MILESTONES**

1	1.4 Treaty partnership with Ngāi Tahu ❖ Agreed systems and processes to monitor and measure Treaty engagement and satisfaction of Ngāi Tahu with Department activities. (By Year 3)
2	1.5.1 Natural Heritage ❖ A baseline report assessing the condition of priority ecosystem units. (By Year 3)
3	1.5.1 Natural Heritage ❖ Sustained control of wilding trees within the high country in accordance with the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015-2030. (By Year 5)
4	1.5.2 Historic and Cultural Heritage ❖ A baseline report assessing the condition of actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 10 that are stable and not deteriorating, and including the identification of relevant community partnerships. (By Year 3)
5	1.5.3 Recreation ❖ A baseline report assessing the number and condition of huts, tracks and other visitor facility structures, the numbers and the satisfaction of people using them, and the opportunities for recreational groups to assist in their management and retention. (By Year 3)
6	1.5.3 Recreation ❖ An increase in the number of huts and tracks that have recreational groups assisting in their management and retention. (By Year 5)
7	2.1 National Parks Place ❖ Completion of review of Aoraki/Mount Cook National Park Management Plan. (By Year 3)
8	2.3 Northern High-Country Place ❖ Land status review for all public conservation lands and waters within the Place, including the St James Conservation Area. (By Year 3)
9	2.3 Northern High-Country Place ❖ Resolution of the boundaries and statutory provisions for an area where recreational hunting will be given priority for wild animal control. (By Year 3)
10	2.4 High-Country Basins Place ❖ Monitoring results of visitor use and impacts on natural, historic and Ngāi Tahu cultural values at Kura Tāwhiti Scenic Reserve. (By Year 5)
11	2.6 Braided Rivers / Ki Uta Ki Tai Place ❖ World Heritage Area or Wetland of International Importance achieved Canterbury braided river. (By Year 10)



Ruataniwha Conservation Park
Image: doc.govt.nz

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings.

If you would like more information on the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board please see the website <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-boards/> or contact the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation in Christchurch on Phone: +64 27 541 6663 or Email: canterburyaorakiboard@doc.govt.nz