Waikato Conservation Board Annual Report 2018-2019



Front Cover Photo: Pureora Forest, December 2018 Photographer: Gemma White, DOC

Waikato Conservation Board Annual Report 2018-2019

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

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act 1987 and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings.

If you would like more information on the Waikato Conservation Board please see the website <u>https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-Boards/</u> or contact the Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation in Hamilton, Ph: 07 8581000.

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1. Chairperson's report

E nga mana e nga reo e nga karanga maha tena koutou katoa

In the Annual Letter of Expectation to the Board 2018/19 year Minister Sage set out her fundamental priorities as:

- 1. Address the predator crisis and New Zealand's declining indigenous biodiversity, particularly through landscape scale predator control
- 2. Improve the enhancement and restoration of freshwater habitats and the protection of indigenous freshwater fish.
- 3. How to enhance and regenerate marine habitats and ecosystems and reduce the bycatch of protected species
- 4. Enhance relationships with Treaty Partners

These expectations were reflected in the Board's business year which in brief comprised of;

- Receiving updates covering a broad range of areas from Stewardship Land Reclassification – Treaty of Waitangi Settlements
- Provision of feedback and or Submission as to the; Biodiversity Strategy, The Kauri Dieback Management Programme and DOC Heritage and Visitor Strategy
- Oversight of Board movements Te Whanganui A Hei Marine Reserve Sub committee
- Utilising Iwi affiliated Board members and Pou Tairangahau, Department of Conservation Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai to assist the Board gaining better understanding of cultural awareness and giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987
- Field trips/Board meetings; Pureora to view predator control and Kauaeranga, Thames to view visitor facilities, discuss changing tourism demographic and resourcing to meet

demand. Attendance at the Kauri Dieback Management Programme road show, Matai Whetu, Marae, Kopu, Thames

- Presentation of the Dr Stella Frances Scholarship to Johlene Kelly
- Attendance by, and valuable input and insight by Board liaisons; Mick Clout (New Zealand Conservation Authority) and Nathan Kennedy (Auckland Conservation Board)

More detail follows in the body of this report.

To immediate past chairman and long term Board member Kevin Robinson and immediate past Board members; Graeme Fleming and Brad Totorewa thank you for your dedication and contribution.

Welcome new Board members; Gaylene Roberts and Flora Bartholomew we look forward to having you both part of the Board whanau.

To the Board and Department of Conservation personnel thank you for your continued collaboration to achieve the ultimate goal of positive outcomes for conservation in Aotearoa New Zealand.

It now gives me great pleasure to present to you the Waikato Conservation Board 2018/19 Annual Report.

naku noa

Malen

Alan Cockle Chair

2. Introduction

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

Conservation Boards are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987. Board functions are outlined in section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the Conservation Boards to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act.

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

Conservation Boards have several statutory roles under various Acts including:

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

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

3. Conservation Board Region

The Waikato Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction extends from the west coast of the North Island between Port Waikato and Mokau, across to the western edge of Lake Taupo and north to the Coromandel Peninsula. It is characterised by a variety of different landscapes, resulting from a history of uplifting, sea level change, volcanism and the influence of major river systems, such as the Waikato River.

Stand-out features of the Waikato include the west coast harbours – Kawhia, Aotea and Raglan; spectacular coastal cliffs at Moeatoa and Te Toto Gorge, Waitomo karst system; volcanic cones such as Pirongia and Karioi, and the exposed volcanic plugs (remnants of older volcanoes) on the Coromandel range; the lakes and wetlands of the Waikato and Hauraki plains; and rugged coastline, including the many islands off the Coromandel Peninsula.

The range of landscapes, altitude and east-to-west contrast provides for a great diversity of ecosystems, including the southern limit for some species, such as kauri, and northern limit of others, such as subalpine vegetation found at its northern-most limit on Moehau. Historically rare ecosystems, such as Kopuatai Peat Dome and Waitomo karst, are internationally important. Some ecosystems are well represented, such as the tall podocarp-broadleaf forests of Pureora (including the largely intact forest at Waipapa), whereas other once widespread ecosystems, such as lowland kahikatea forest, are now threatened. These ecosystems in turn provide habitat for a wide diversity of native flora and fauna.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit, with respect to protected species.

The Board's area of responsibility is nearly 270,000 ha of Public Conservation land (12% of the total area 2,250,000 hectares). The land is described in more than 500 separate parcels for various purposes, including forests, wetlands, caves, marine reserves, offshore islands, historic sites, wildlife protection, and recreational areas.

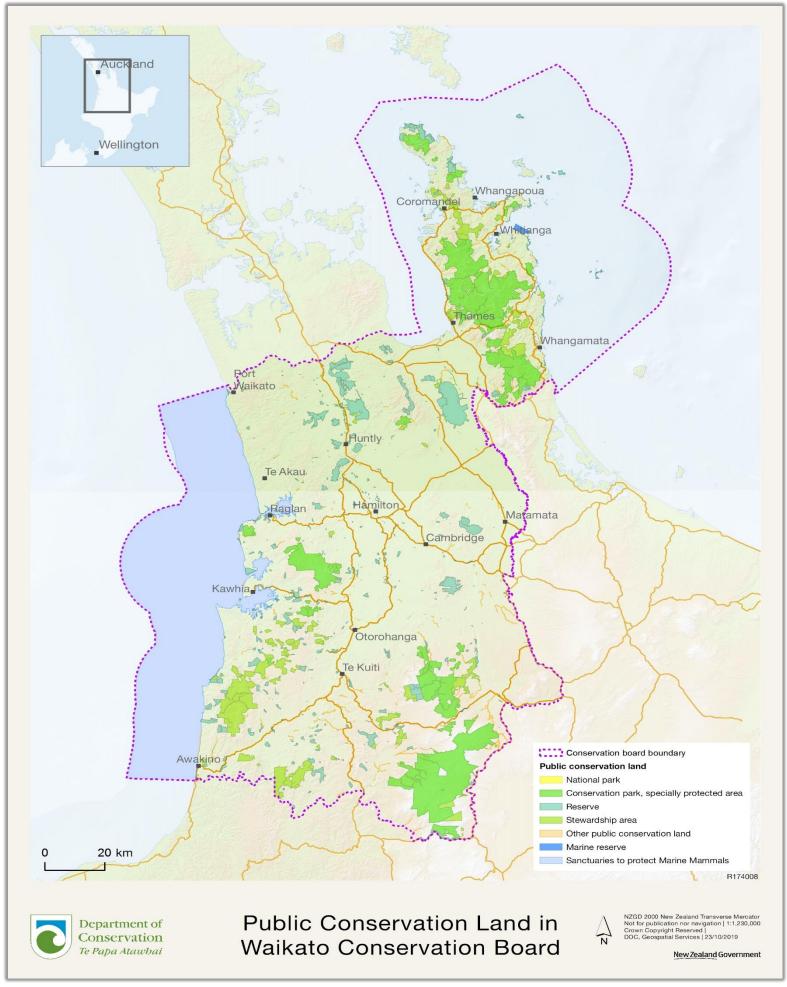


Figure 1: Waikato Conservation Board Jurisdiction

Public Conservation Land (hectares by legislative section)

- Recreation Reserve 6,328.76 ha
- Historic Reserve 275.66 ha
- Scenic Reserve (sec 19 1a) 27,286.03 ha
- Conservation Park 162,993.98 ha
- Nature Reserve 446.10 ha
- Ecological Area 42,407.85 ha
- Scientific Reserve 1,776.93 ha
- Government Purpose Reserve 21,746.03 ha
- Sanctuary Area 494.78 ha
- Local Purpose Reserve 5,822.42 ha
- Moveable Marginal Strip 83.35 ha
- Fixed Marginal Strip 2,725.91 ha
- Stewardship Area 62,670.67 ha
- Marine Reserve 878.93 ha
- Sanctuaries to protect Marine Mammals 407,153.86 ha

The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- some form of protection for freshwater species
- kauri dieback
- the state of wetlands, lakes and rivers
- retain the biodiversity of mainland forest remnants ranging from coastal to montane forests
- predator control
- better protection for the Maui Dolphin including the review of the Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan
- possible implementation of Sea Change Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Management Plan
- changing tourism demographics and pressures at new and existing sites such as Pureora, Waitomo, Cathedral Cove, Kauaeranga Valley
- Mining on/under Public Conservation Land
- Giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act

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

- Three internationally significant wetlands (Ramsar Convention) Whangamarino Wetland, Kopuatai Peat Dome and the Firth of Thames/Tikapa Moana
- Coastline and estuarine areas (Firth of Thames, Waikato River Delta, Raglan Harbour (Whaingaroa), Aotea and Kawhia Harbour)
- Large tracts of virgin forest (Manaia Kauri Sanctuary, Moehau, Waihaha and Waipapa)
- Terrestrial forests associated with the Hakarimata and Hapuakohe Ranges, the volcanic Cones of Maungatautari, Kakepuku, Pirongia and Karioi and the karst landforms of Te Kauri
- Sites of significant regional and national tourism Waitomo, Cathedral Cove and Pureor Timber Trail
- Rare and endangered species /ecosystems (Kokako, Mahoenui Giant Weta, Whitebait, Maui's Dolphin, Kiwi and particularly the Coromandel Brown Kiwi and Archey's and Hochstetter's Frog)
- Reptile and seabird communities on offshore islands Tūturiwhatu/New Zealand Dotterel and Ngutuparore/Wrybill
- Important Maori and European historic resources

4. Board functioning

4.1. Board functions under section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

- 1) To recommend the approval by the Authority of conservation management strategies, and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments
- 2) To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments
- 3) To advise the Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for the area within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- 4) To advise the Authority or the Director-General
 - a) On any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance; and
 - b) On any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 5) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 6) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

4.2. Powers of the Board under section 6n of the Conservation Act 1987

- 1) Every conservation Board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each conservation Board may
 - a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - b) Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.

4.3. Board membership

There were 12 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Kevin Robinson was elected Chairperson and Fiona Gower was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019 and their term of office.

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Term served
Kevin Robinson	Thames	19/09/2011	30/06/2019	8
(Chairperson)				
Alan Cockle	Tuakau	01/07/2014	30/06/2020	5
* Prof. Grant Cushman	Raglan	01/07/2014	14/08/2018	4
Alexander (Graeme) Fleming	Hamilton	01/07/2016	30/06/2019	3
Joyce Birdsall	Tairua	01/05/2014	30/06/2021	4.5
Pauline Hickey	Hamilton	01/0/2017	30/06/2020	2
Melissa King-Howell	Hamilton	01/07/2018	30/06/2019	1
Regan Robinson	Raglan	01/07/2018	30/06/2021	1
Clare St Pierre	Pirongia	01/11/2018	30/06/2021	0.5
Scott Summerfield	Thames	01/11/2019	30/06/2021	0.5
Brad Totorewa	Huntly	01/07/2017	30/06/2019	2
Fiona Gower	Port Waikato	07/07/2014	30/06/2020	4.5

Table 1: Board membership

Denotes: Resignation

4.4. Members profiles

Kevin Robinson, - Thames (Chairperson)

Appointment term: 1 July 2011- 30 June 2019

Kevin Robinson is a self-employed farmer who has extensive knowledge of the history and recreational activities on the Coromandel Peninsula and the wider Waikato region. Kevin has extensive governance experience in the region. Current President for the Hauraki-Coromandel Province of Federated Farmers. Current vice chair for the Waikato Regional Council Coromandel Sub Liaison Committee.

Current director of four companies. Two farming companies, one capital venture investment company and one subdivision and forestry company. Current committee member of two hunting and fishing clubs.

Previously a member of the Federated Farmers national dairy executive for seven years four as vice chair.

Kevin is well connected to farming, rural communities and recreational hunting/fishing groups. His outdoor recreation interests are hunting, fishing, cycling and tramping.

Kevin is a member of the Thames Coast Kiwi Care and is responsible for a 40-trap predator control line monthly.

Alan Cockle of Hamilton (Chairperson)

Appointment term: 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020

Alan is a business owner providing Maori Land Research, Administration Services and Governance Mentoring. He has a background in mediation, facilitation and financial and property management.

Alan has governance experience as a trustee and Board member, and extensive iwi affiliations. He has expertise in tribal histories and is an orator within Ngati Maniapoto. He is of Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Kahungungu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi iwi. Alan is also a Justice of the Peace.

Prof. Grant Cushman, Raglan Appointment term: 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2020

Grant Cushman is Emeritus Professor of Parks, Recreation and Tourism at Lincoln University and Honorary Professor of Sport and Leisure Studies at Waikato University. He has expertise in public policy development, including public processes and relevant legislation relating to conservation, recreation and tourism.

He has skills in park policy and provision; outdoor recreation behavior, and tourism planning and development. His outdoor recreation interests include waka ama, tramping, sight-seeing and running.

Joyce Birdsall of Tairua

Appointment term: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021

Joyce Birdsall lives in the small Tairua township on the Coromandel Peninsula and has extensive community connections through environmental and conservation related groups.

She holds a Certificate of Environmental Management and has a strong interest in environmental legislation at regional and government level. She is committed to the protection and enhancement of our natural resources, particularly estuarine environments and native forest.

Her outdoor interests are gardening, walking and golf.

Graeme Fleming, Hamilton

Appointment term: 1 July 2016 -30 June 2019

Graeme Fleming is of Scottish descent and has lived in New Zealand since 1979. Graeme has been Waikato-based since his emigration, working for the Hamilton City Council and later the Lake Taupo Protection trust. Graeme is now semi-retired and consults to various territorial authorities. Graeme specialises in Quality management and negotiation in environmental outcomes and holds a Diploma in Environmental Health and a Bachelor Social Sciences.

Graeme is married with two adult sons who are both living overseas.

Fiona Gower of Tuakau

Appointment term: 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2020

Fiona Gower combines her passion for conservation, environment and community into a number of roles, including her position on the Waikato Conservation Board. She is also chair of the NZ Landcare Trust, national president of Rural Women New Zealand, a member of the Port Waikato Beachcare Committee, scout leader for the Waikaretu Sea Scouts, and a lifeguard and instructor at Sunset Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.

In her spare time, Fiona enjoys getting out on the farm she lives and works on, fishing and whitebaiting, and spending the increasingly rare time at home or her beach house relaxing with friends and family, reading, baking and gardening.

Pauline Hickey of Hamilton

Appointment term: 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020

Pauline has a background in finance within the agriculture sector. Her accounting career has mainly been situated in the Waikato region and covers a wide range from chartered accountants to rural retailers and manufacturers. During the past 15 years Pauline has developed an in-depth knowledge of Not for Profits and Charitable Trusts.

Pauline has two adult daughters; one a farmer and the other a freshwater ecologist. Pauline's recreational interests are mainly outdoors including netball, hot air ballooning - and she is developing an interest in lacrosse.

Melissa King-Howell of Hamilton

Appointment term: 1 July 2019 - 30 June 2022

Mrs King-Howell, of Ngāti Māhanga and Ngāti Te Wehi, has extensive leadership experience in the area of performance management, skill capability, and capacity growth. She has a personal style preference and is an ardent advocate for servant leadership. She has a wide and varied background which includes iwi engagement, risk management, community development and small business mentoring. She has also held conservation roles as Area Manager Hauraki, Operations Manager Waikato, and lead the Māori Focused Unit for Waikato Regional Council. Melissa is the trustee chairperson for her Pā and also holds a trustee role within Aramiro Station where she is engaged with Ngā Whenua Rāhui on a joint project with Waikato Regional Council in riparian planting and fencing of the Station's waterways.

Regan Robinson of Hamilton

Appointment term: 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2021

Mr Robinson is a water resource engineer, with a detailed understanding of earth, water, and ecological interfaces. Through his employment, first with Waikato Regional Council and latterly with Tonkin and Taylor, he has experience in solving complex issues with rivers, streams and wetlands – involving both traditional and more innovative environmentally sensitive engineering approaches.

Clare St Pierre of Waikato

Appointment term: 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2021

Clare lives in Pirongia Village, close to where she grew up, and is an elected Councillor for Waipa District Council. She chairs their Audit & Risk Committee, is a Resource Management Hearings Commissioner and a member of Local Government New Zealand's National Climate Change Advisory Panel. She has a Bachelor of Business Studies (First Class Honours) majoring in management with post-graduate specialisation in Advanced Environmental Management and Sustainability.

She is the founding chairperson of Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society, which has won multiple awards including the 2018 Biosecurity Community Award, and the 2017 Green Ribbon Award for biodiversity protection for their kōkako work. She has over 20 years' experience leading successful community-based environmental action and enjoys good working relationship with Ngati Apakura and Ngati Rereahu.

Her interests include gardening, tree crops, cycling and creative pursuits.

Scott Summerfield of Thornton Bay

Appointment term: 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2021

Scott is a Coromandel based environmentalist with connections to groups undertaking conservation work both on public and private land. He is an advocate for protecting public conservation land from mining activity and increased public funding for enhancing indigenous biodiversity and active management across the DOC estate. Prior to moving to the Coromandel, Scott worked on the Hauraki Treaty settlement negotiations as part of the Office of Treaty Settlements in Wellington.

Scott works at the Thames-Coromandel District Council as the Policy and Planning Manager and is a qualified hearings commissioner. He lives in Te Whārau/Thornton Bay.

Scott is a former candidate for the Green Party in the Coromandel electorate and sits on the Green Party Executive, and as the Executive's representative on the Green Party Caucus.

Brad Totorewa, Huntly Appointment term: 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2019

Ko Rangiriri te whenua tupu Ko Maurea te Marae Ko Ngaati Naho te Hapuu Ko Brad Totorewa taku

Brad's qualifications include a Master of Business Administration (MBA); Masters of Maori & Pacific Development (MMPD) with First Class Honours; Diploma of Teaching.

Brad has 20 years' experience in the education sector and has held numerous positions during this time, including teacher, principal, lecturer and regional manager. He is currently Strategic Advisor (Māori) at the Ministry of Education.

Brad is a strong advocate of the Kingitanga and has an intergenerational outlook on life. He is also a fluent speaker of Te Reo Māori and enjoys fishing, boating and telling the history of Rangiriri Pā

4.5. Board meetings

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

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue	
4 September 2018	Department of Conservation	
	73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton	
4 December 2018	Department of Conservation	
	73 Rostrevor Street, Hailton	
8 March 2018	Kauaeranga Valley Visitors Centre	
	995 Kauaeranga Valley Road, Coromandel Forest	
	Park, 3577	
31 May 2019	Department of Conservation	
	73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton	

Table 2: Board meetings and location

4.6. Attendance

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

Table 32: Board Member attendance

Board member	Board meetings	Field Trips	Induction – Workshop
Kevin Robinson (Chairperson)	3/4	1	0
Alan Cockle	4/4	1	1
Prof. Grant Cushman	0	0	0
Alexander (Graeme) Fleming	3/4	2	0
Joyce Birdsall	4/4	2	1
Pauline Hickey	2/2	1	1
Melissa King-Howell	3/4	1	1
Regan Robinson	4/4	2	1
Clare St Pierre	2/4	1	0
Scott Summerfield	3/4	2	0
Brad Totorewa	1/4	0	1
Fiona Gower	2/4	1	0

4.7. Field trips and site inspections

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region.

Table 4: Field trips and site inspections

Field trip date	Field trip destination and purpose
03//12/2018	Pureora Forest – Te Kuiti
07/03/2019	Kauaeranga Valley Visitors Centre, Coromandel

The focus of the Board's field trips has been on three key areas:

- 1. The Minister of Conservation's priorities and Letter of Expectation
- 2. The Board's agreed Workplan 2018-9
- 3. The Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (Milestones Reporting).



<u>Monday</u> 3rd December 2018 Accompanied by staff from the DOC office in Te Kuiti, the Board spent the afternoon in the Pureora Forest Park where were briefed on the predator control operations being undertaken to address threatened and at-risk species at place.

Other matters discussed included ongoing resourcing, increasing visitor numbers to the region, and impact on biodiversity and infrastructure.



Left to Right: Pureora Forest – Waikato Conservation Board / DOC – December 2018

At the Board meeting held in Hamilton on 4 December 2018, the Board discussed the new New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy (NZBS) and Biodiversity Action Plan, resolving to complete a submission on 22nd February 2019.

Tuesday 4th March 2019

Members travelled to Kauraeranga Valley Visitors Centre, Coromandel and spent the afternoon with DOC staff reviewing river and road repairs after the area had suffered significant storm damage in 2017.

This field trip provided an opportunity to gain a better understanding of campground upgrades, including new toilets, plumbed water installation, and possible fire pits.

Members also got to see first-hand the Kauri Dieback back mitigation work completed on tracks including cleaning stations and to discuss Kauri track closures.

Members visited the Taraware bridge foundations and discussed flood damage and plans for the future; there was opportunity also to visit the new Wainora Bridge.

Later in the day members spent time at the Kauaeranga Visitors Centre with DOC staff where they discussed future plans and opportunities for this site.

Discussions also focused on the allocation of resourcing for ongoing predator control work and with increased visitor numbers, the impact on biodiversity and infrastructure car parking/rubbish collection etc.

At the Board meeting held at the Kauaeranga Valley Visitors Centre, held March 8th, 2019 members discussed the Kauri Dieback Pest Management Plan, agreeing to complete a submission on the proposals.

The DOC Operations Manager, Hauraki joined members for part of the meeting where discussions included mining/blasting on/or under Public Conservation Land, impact on biodiversity, the critically endangered Archey's frog, Predator Control 2050 and ongoing resourcing for predator control/infrastructure.



DOC staff/Waikato Conservation Board members at Hoffman's Paul, Jauaeranga Valley, Thames, March 2019. Photographer – Lynn Hansberry, DOC

4.8. Te Whanganui Hei Marine Reserve Committee

The Marine Reserve continues to function as a sub-committee of the Waikato Conservation Board.

The Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve and Hahei Coast Sub Committee's Terms of Reference provide for nine members:

Four representatives from the Ngati Hei Trust, two community representatives, one representative from the Mercury Bay Community Board, one representative from the Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Trust and one Waikato Conservation Board representative

During the reporting period two public vacancies were advertised to fill community vacancies on committee. The Waikato Conservation Board resolved at their meeting held 4th September 2018, to appoint Hayley Jones and to re-appoint Phil Costello onto the sub-committee for two years commencing 1 October 2018.

At the same meeting Joyce Birdsall was appointed as the Waikato Conservation Board's representative in an ex-offico capacity to the sub-committee.

The Waikato Conservation Board, at their 8th March 2019 meeting, received and accepted the resignation of Barbara Ritchie, Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve Trust member since 2010, and Chair 2015-2019.

In accepting Barbara's resignation, her nomination of Ron Egan onto the Sub-Committee as the Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve Trust was approved by the Board.

The Waikato Conservation Board wishes to thank Barbara Ritchie and retiring member Dirk Immenga for their significant contributions over an extended period of time.

4.9. Training for members

The Waikato Conservation Board held one workshop in August 2018 to complete an induction of new members and finalise their Annual Work Plan 2018-2019.

4.10. Department involvement in Board meetings

Department staff that attended throughout the year from the Hauraki, Waikato, Taranaki rohe were the Director Operations, Statutory Manager, Board Support Officer and Pou Tirangahua. From the Hauraki region the Operations Manager and Community Ranger and Senior/Policy Advisor- Strategic Policy Team, Wellington.

4.11 Special Events

Stella Frances Memorial Scholarship

The Board's March meeting included a joint presentation (with the Waikato Regional Council) of the Dr Stella Frances Memorial Scholarship for 2019, now in its thirteenth year. Dr Stella Frances had been the Waikato Conservator and had previously been an elected Waikato Regional Councillor. After her death in August 2003, The Department and Environment Waikato (now known as Waikato Regional Council) had come together and established the scholarship to encourage students for their final year of a Master's degree at the Waikato University of Waikato in researching Environmental issues within the Waikato region. The Scholarship's value is of \$5000 which is split between the Department of Conservation and Waikato Regional Council.

Ms Johlene Kelly is the recipient of the Dr Stella Frances Memorial Scholarship 2019. Johlene's Master Thesis is "Comparison of koura (Paranephrops planifrons) populations in pastoral Waikato streams with different ages of riparian planting and degrees of fencing".

The project is part of an MBIE project, being led by NIWS working in conjunction with Maori on cultural keystone species. This project seeks to develop research methods, tools, and products to help address issues affecting keystone species.

Johlene's research looks to test the effectiveness of the most commonly applied methods of riparian restoration, fencing and riparian planning, using 'koura' as the indicator.



Recipient of the 2019 Stella Frances Award-Johlene Kelly and Waikato Conservation Board Chairperson, Alan Cockle, 28 May 2019

4.12. Annual Work Plan

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

5. Statutory activity

The significant advocacy and statutory work undertaken by the Board over the last twelve months have included:-

Receiving briefings and providing feedback to the Department on:

- Section 16 (a) 2 of the Conservation Act The Board considered DOC's proposal to exchange an area of around 362m2 low ecological value public conservation land which is managed by DOC for an area of around 800m2 freehold land (Thames).
- Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan Review
- New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Review
- Proposed Kauri Dieback Track Closures/Closed
- The proposed National Pest Management Plan for Kauri Dieback
- DOC's Draft Heritage and Visitors Strategy (Draft)
- DOC's Community Fund

The Board has received briefings regarding:

- The Proposed Land Exchange Reclassification Project Update
- Seachange Ministerial Advisory Committee
- Predator Free 2050 Strategic Plan
- The Whitebait Management Review
- The Arthur Hinds Memorial Scholarship
- RMA Systems Designs Work
- Treaty Settlement Updates
- Proposed Thames-Coromandel District Council and Hauraki District Council Mangrove Management Bill

The Board completed submissions on:

- New Zealand Biodiversity Strategy Review
- The proposed National Pest Management Plan for Kauri Dieback Disease
- Application for lease of Knox cottage by Moehau Environment Group Limited

The Board has written to the Minister of Conservation regarding:

• 'Giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act' and enhancing relationships with Treaty Partners'.

The Board has written to the Minister of Conservation and Ministry of Energy and Resources with respect to:-

• Their strong opposition to mining on or under Public Conservation Land in the Coromandel and urging them to reject any application for mining on/under Public Conservation Land at Wharekirauponga in the Coromandel, including any application for underground mining.

5.1. Resource Management Issues

Quarterly RMA and Management Planning reports have been received by the Board. These reports provide the Board with an update on active Resource Management Act and Management Planning activity currently being led by the Shared Services Unit, DOC.

5.2. Concession Submissions

At the Board's meeting, 8 March 2019, the Board resolved to complete a submission in support of the application for lease of Knox Cottage by Moehau Environment Group Limited.

The Board have expressed a desire to see improvements in the process and timeframes for receipt of Concessions and RMA reporting from DOC and understands the Department's internal reporting systems are currently undergoing review.

5.3. Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The Waikato Conservation Board receive quarterly monitoring reports tracking the progress toward milestones identified in the Waikato Management Strategy.

To assist with the monitoring, the milestone report was recently amended to include the addition of key outcomes from 'places', to provide an opportunity for the Department to report on strategic work that may not be covered by the milestone reporting.

6. Liaison

6.1. 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 Waikato region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings, were advertised.

Board Members submit quarterly e-scans reports, these provide the opportunity for members to bring community concerns to the table, and to provide feedback to the community as and when required. Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings where several 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:

- September 4th 2018 Mr. Martin Toop from Hamilton attended to discuss Climate Change -with a request for the Waikato Conservation Board to encourage collaboration between DOC and Local Councils to increase greenspaces in the region, ultimately improving biodiversity, the mental and physical health of community and human mental and physical health.
- December 4th 2018 Linda Cholmonedely Smith, Chair, Preserve New Chum for Everyone Inc. (via skype) seeking the Board's support or recommendation to the Minister of Conservation for protection of 'Wainuiototo' due to its unique biodiversity, flora and fauna.

6.2. New Zealand Conservation Authority Liaison

Mick Clout is an Emeritus Professor of Conservation Ecology at the University of Auckland. He and his wife live at Whitford, but are frequently based at Tamahere, where their daughter and grandchildren live. Mick is a vertegrate ecologist with longstanding interests in the ecology and conservation of native birds and the behaviour and management of invasive mammals. He continues to be actively involved in science for conservation and chairs the Kakapo Recovery Group. Mick has been a member of the NZ Conservation Authority since 2011 and is the NZCA liaison person for the Waikato Conservation Board.

The Board appreciates Mick's attendance at meetings and values his reporting and feedback from the NZCA, his understanding of issues, which contributes to well balanced discussion around the Board table.

New Zealand Conservation Authority agenda's, meeting minutes and the bi-monthly letter from the Chair are also forwarded to members electronically as they arrive.

6.3. Conservation Board Liaisons

The Waikato Conservation Board maintains contact with neighbouring Conservation Boards through the exchange of agendas, meeting papers and the attendance of appointed liaisons to neighbouring Board meetings.

Throughout the reporting period, board members Joyce Birdsall and Fiona Gower have attended several Conservation Board meetings and field trips.

Joint meetings with neighbouring conservation Boards have been suggested for the 2019-2020 reporting year.

The Board wishes to acknowledge the attendance and valuable contribution of Auckland Conservation Board Liaison, Nathan Kennedy at meetings.

6.4. Fish and Game

A copy of the Waikato Conservation Board agenda is emailed to the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Office Manager, Hamilton.

6.4. Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website. Updates from the Board were provided throughout the year on activities undertaken and agenda's and confirmed minutes are available

On Thursday 7th March 2019, Waikato Conservation Board members travelled to Thames to attend the third and final round of consultation on the Kauri Dieback Pest Management Plan. The Ministry of Primary Industries ran this consultation with Matai Whitu Marae, Kopu hosting the event.

Members have welcomed the opportunity to support Department events when invited and these have included the opening of the new DOC Hauraki office on 17th October 2018, the opening of the Kauaeranga Valley Visitors Centre, and the Launch of Conservation Week, held 16th September 2018.

6.5. DOC Community Fund

This is a fund set up by the Department to help fund community groups to do conservation work. Scott Summerfield was part of the panel that reviewed and provided recommendations for successful recipients.

6.6. District and regional council advocacy and advice

Unfortunately, the Board have had limited time but intend to rectify this in the coming year.

6.7. Iwi liaison and advocacy

The makeup of the Board includes other appointed members who have iwi affiliations.

Brad Totorewa – appointed to the Board on 1 July 2017 is recognised as the Kahui Ariki (Maori King representative) on the Waikato Conservation Board.

The appointment of Alan Cockle, of Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Kahungunga, Te Ati Awa and Ati Hauni A Paparangi descent in July 2014. Alan has provided a strong link with the South Waikato iwi.

The Board has an increased awareness of the significance of Section 4 of the Conservation Act, and this is a standing agenda item. The Board is inviting better engagement with other Iwi, the building of reciprocal partnerships and collaboration for positive conservation outcomes.

In this regard, the Board wrote to the Minister of Conservation seeking guidance regarding 'giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act' and enhancing relationships with Treaty Partners'.

As a result of the Minister's response, the Board resolved, at their meeting on the 28th of May 2019 to write to the Hauraki Collective and invite a member of the Collective to be co-opted on to the Waikato Conservation Board under Section 6Q of the Conservation Act.

7. Acknowledgements

The Board wishes to thank the Department for their support, Department staff that have have attended meetings and provided updates, and staff throughout the rohe that have hosted the Board on field trips.

The Board would to thank Rick McGovern-Wilson, Statutory Bodies Advisor, DOC, Wellington. The Board has appreciated receiving New Zealand Conservation Authority Meeting Papers and minutes promptly following NZCA meetings.

APPENDIX: Waikato Conservation Board Workplan 2018 - 2019

Conservation of Natural Resources Annual Objective **Measured Outcomes Progress/Meeting** Goal **Conservation Management** The Board will receive, review CMS briefing is a standing agenda item and recorded 4 September 2018 Strategy Waikato 2014-2024 and monitor actions taken to implement in Board minutes. Auckland Conservation Board (ACB) Liaison spoke of priorities through the Department's the ACB CMS review. guarterly reports to the Board. 4 December 2018 CMS report discussed with the Board requesting: • That progress notes to accompany the milestones be highlighted in orange or red. • That progress and information to relate to outcomes rather than the milestone itself. To understand what is preventing the objective from being achieved or parked. 4 March 2019 The Board requested receipt of this report in a timely manner so that content can be reviewed before meetings. 28 May 2019 CMS Report received – An update requested from the Department on Milestone 9.2.39 'Review of mountain biking, horse riding and four-wheel driving opportunities on the Coromandel'. Discussion as to how the CMS is managed internally. Terrestrial and freshwater The Board will receive Briefings/presentations with any actions 28 May 2019 Chair, Alan Cockle presented 2019 winning recipient species, habitats and ecosystems briefings/presentations from the identified/taken recorded in Board Minutes. Johlene Kelly with the Dr Stella Frances Scholarship (Whitebait) Department / Stakeholders to be kept informed and updated. Award. Further discussion on her research in this The Board will provide advice/support/ field. community feedback to the Department regarding Terrestrial and freshwater species, habitats and ecosystems.

The WCB aims in 2018-2019 to advance the following objectives and work programme:

	The Decade III sector		
Sites of National/International importance including Ramsar (Wetlands)	The Board will receive briefings/presentations from the Department to be kept informed and updated.	Briefings/presentations with any action identified/ taken recorded in Board minutes.	
	The Board will provide advice /support/community feedback to the		
	Department on the restoration, protection of lakes/wetlands and threatened plants within the Board's rohe.		
Biosecurity Issues/Risks/ and management of in the Board's rohe	The Board will receive briefings/presentations from the Department to be kept informed and updated.	Briefings/presentations with any actions identified/taken recorded in Board minutes.	4 September 2018 HWT Op's Director, DOC provided an update re Myrtle Rust on Mt Karioi and potential track closures due to Kauri dieback.
	The Board will provide advice /support / community feedback to the Department on Biodiversity issues/risks.		4 December 2018 Biodiversity Strategy Review tabled for discussion with members requesting Biodiversity Team be invited to March 2019 meeting.
			Action: WCB complete a submission on the Biodiversity Strategy (22 Feb 2019).
			7 March 2019 WCB members attended Kauri Dieback Hui at Matai Whetu Marae, Kopu, Thames.
			8 March 2019 Kerry Charles, Senior Policy Advisor, Strategic Policy Team, DOC, skyped into the meeting and provided an update on the NZ Biodiversity Strategy Review taking place/feedback.
			8 March 2019 Kauri Dieback Disease Consultation briefing paper discussed. Board complete submission 'Kauri Dieback Pest Management Plan' submitted 20 March 2019)

	8 March 2019 HWT Op's Director, DOC updated members on DOC's Summer Visitor Campaign and spoke of the work within DOC to increase capacity in the recreational and tourism planning space.
	28 May 2019 Mining Permit at Wharekirauponga discussed with Board resolving to write to the Minister of Conservation and Minister of Energy and Resources. The Board resolved that if submissions are called for in any statutory process as it related to underground mining in the Coromandel, the Board will convene a Special Meeting to consider an appropriate submission.
Predator Free 2050	The WCB resolved that a Sub Committee consisting of Joyce Bridsall, Scott Summerfield and Regan Robinson to undertake an initial assessment of any consent applications for mining on the Coromandel.

Goal **Annual Objective** Measured Outcomes Progress Eradication of possums, rats, and Briefings/presentations and any actions The Board will receive 10 October 2018 briefings/presentations from the HWT Op's Director updated members (via stoats by 2050. identified/taken recorded in Board minutes. Department /other stakeholders re progress teleconference) re 1080 incidents within the Board's in reaching conservation outcomes. Board members will actively support and encourage rohe (Mapara/Makino 1080 Operations). predator-free initiatives in their communities and 4 December 2018 HWT Op's Director report included update re provide feedback to the department. independent review of Mapara operation (results due in the New Year). 4 December 2018 Discussed under Environmental Scan -Clare St Pierre and Joyce Birdsall to work collaboratively on Predator Free 2050 discussion guide and share/seek feedback from board members before ratification at the Board's next meeting. **Concession Reports**

Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
Monitor and review DOC Concession Reports	To review the Waikato Conservation Board Visual Data Report and work with the Department to ensure that Board participation in concessions decision is appropriately enabled.	Visual Data Reports will be emailed weekly to the Board Members for perusal. Updates from the Department at quarterly board meetings.	 Weekly Visual Data Reports emailed weekly to Board for perusal. 8 March 2019 DOC's Permission's Process/flow of information to WCB discussed. Board agreed to complete a submission in support of the Moehau Environment Group's lease of DOB building continuing. 28 May 2019 WCB complete a submission in support of the Moehau Environment Group's Lease (21 March 2019)
Treaty Settlements			
Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
Understanding of Treaty Settlements (legislated) and Treaty Settlements currently being negotiated.	The Board will receive briefings/presentations to monitor the implementation of existing Treaty Settlements. The Board will understand and prepare for future Treaty Settlements (currently in negotiation).		 4 September / 4 December 2018 HWT Op's Director provided an update on the signing of the Hauraki Treaty Settlement and resourcing of Pre/Post Settlement Rangers. 8 March 2019 MOC's LOE discussed specifically Section 4 of Conservation Act. WCB resolve that the Chair write to MOC outlining WCB concerns /suggestions. 28 May 2019 MOC's response (29 April 2019) discussed at meeting. (Further action noted under Te Whanganui A Hei section).

Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan Review	The Board will support and participate in the Department's review of the Hector's and Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan.	The Board will engage in this process via liaison with the Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board's representative to the TMP Stakeholders Forum.	4 September 2018 HWT Statutory Manager updated members on TWCB representative's attendance at TMP forum 5 June 2018. 8 March 2019 Kristina Hillock, Technical Advisor, Marine DOC, provided a briefing paper with update on the TMP review process.
Marine Protected Areas			
Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
The Diversity of our natural heritage is maintained and restored. (Marine).	The Board to be kept regularly informed through briefings /reporting/presentations via DOC and other key stakeholders on the implementation of SeaChange and the proposed new Marine Protected Area's Act. The Board will research and seek the opportunity to attend functions lobby/advocate for the advancement of opportunities for improved marine protection.	The Board will receive updates from DOC /other relevant stakeholders to be kept informed of progress. The Board will actively participate in activities supporting this goal and provide feedback at Board meetings.	 4 December 2018 (SeaChange) – briefing paper tabled at the meeting that provided an update re Minister of Conservation and Minister of Fisheries proposal to set up a Ministerial Advisory Committee. 8 March 2019 (Seachange) – briefing paper tabled with members agreeing on a suitable candidate for nomination to the proposed Ministerial Advisory Committee if nominee agreeable). 28 May 2019 (Seachange) Nathan Kennedy, ACB Liaison present at meeting with Ministerial Advisory Committee tabled for discussion. Action - Statutory Manager to progress WCB nomination of Nathan Kenney onto the proposed Ministerial Advisory Committee.
DOC Community Fund			
Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
To support the DOC Community Fund application process.	The Board will engage in the DOC Community Fund application process.	A representative from the WCB will be appointed to the DOC Community Fund decision-making committee.	 4 December 2018 Board updated on the process. 8 March 2019 DOCCF briefing paper tabled at March meeting. Scott Summerfield appointed WCB representative on the panel.

			28 May 2019 Scott Summerfield reported on his participation in the DOCCF process, with further updated received from Operations Director HWT.
Resource Management Act and Ex	clusive Economic Zone Applications		
Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
RMA & EEZ Act Applications	The Board will be informed and updated on RMA and EEZ applications happening with the rohe.	The Board will receive RMA Management Planning briefings/reports at quarterly Board Meetings with responses recorded in Board minutes.	4 September 2018 The Board was updated on DOC's Systems Design work/objectives.
			28 May 2019: The Coastal Resources Limited – Marine Consent Application for Marine dumping Aotea/Great Barrier Island discussed.
			DOC's RMA Consent application reporting to WCB discussed.
Thames Coromandel District Cour	ncil and Hauraki District Council Mangrove Mana	agement Bill submission	·
Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
Thames Coromandel District Council and Hauraki District Council Mangrove Management Bill submission completed.	Monitor the progress of this Bill	Report due 19 October 2018	4 September 2018 Select Committee: The select committee gathers information and prepares a report on the bill for the House, including recommending changes to the Bill.
			4 December 2018 James Gardner-Hopkins, Barrister's memorandum of 26 November 2018 summarising the key recommendations of the Committee, in its report of 5 November 2018, discussed.
Te Whanganui-A-Hel (Cathedral C	ove) Marine Reserve and Hahei Coast Committe	e	
Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
This is a sub-committee of the Waikato Conservation Board focussed on the Hahei and Cathedral Cove area.	Conservation Board representative to attend meetings. Conservation Board to set annual expectations via a 'Letter of Expectation'	Conservation Board representative to provide written report at quarterly Board Meetings.	4 September 2018 The Board supported the recommendation to appoint Hayley Jones and Phil Costello onto Te Whanganui A Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve for two years commencing 1 October 2018.

WCB Presence at DOC Functions/A	similar to that received from the Minister of Conservation. Conservation Board to receive Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve and Hahei Coast Committee Annual Report.	Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve and Hahei Coast Committee Annual Report received and included in Conservation Board's Annual Report.	 4 September 2018 Joyce Birdsall appointed as WCB representative to the Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve and Hahei Coast Committee. 4 December 2018 Difficulties associated with achieving a quorum were discussed. Members agreed that HWT Stat Mgr. Gemma White and Joyce Birdsall would attend Ngati Hei Trust Board's first meeting of 2019 to discuss broader issues/seek guidance/solution. 8 March 2019 The action of 4 December 2018 to be followed up. 8 March 2019 The Board resolved to accept the resignation of Barbara Ritchie, Chair, Te Whanganui A Hei and to approve Barbara Ritchie's nomination of Ron Egan on to Te Whanganui A Hei. 28 May 2019 Joyce Birdsall/Gemma White reported on outcome of their meeting with Joe Davis from Ngati Hei on 21 March at DOC Office, Whitianga where matters raised at 4 December 2018 were discussed. 28 May 2019 Following discussion and consideration of the MOC's letter received 29 April 2019 WCB resolve to write to the Hauraki Collective to invite a member of the Collected to be co-opted onto WCB. Chair emails Paul Majurey (13 April 2019) in this regard.
Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
The Board will participate in engagements / requests by DOC to attend activities that support conservation outcomes if appropriate.	To attend functions and meetings as invited.	Record participation through WCB members environmental scan, digital articles on the WCB webpage and completion of Conservation Board Newsletter quarterly.	Conservation Week Launch – 16 September 2018 NZCA Liaison Mick Clout, and Board members R. Robinson, M. King-Howell, and P. Hickey attended the DOC Conservation Week Stakeholders Launch held at the Ferry bank Lounge, Hamilton.

Conservation Board Networking			
Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
Strong networking / relationships with neighbouring Conservation Boards.	Reciprocal attendance at neighbouring Conservation Board meetings and or events/forums.	Meeting attendance and reports including liaison reports tabled at WCB Board meetings.	4 September 2018 Kevin Robinson appointed WCB Liaison to Tongariro/Taupo. Alan Cockle appointed WCB Liaison to Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board. Nathan Kennedy (ACB)
	Work collaboratively to be an efficient, dynamic and responsive collective, focused on meeting realistic conservation gains for the regions represented.	Information sharing, and channels of communication reinforced.	 Liaison attended meeting. Joyce Birdsall attended the Auckland Conservation Board Meeting held 14 November 2018. 4 December 2018 Nathan Kennedy Auckland Conservation Board Liaison in attendance.
		Issues of mutual relevance are actioned and recorded in Board minutes.	
Waikato Conservation Board Profi	le		

Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
To be proactive as a Board in elevating the public profile of the WCB.	To increase the public perception and raise awareness and knowledge of the Board's responsibilities under the Conservation Act 1987. Develop mechanisms in which to communicate with local communities as appropriate	Invitations / engagements with community groups and agencies will be reported to the Board quarterly and recorded in Board minutes. Board Member Reports – a standing agenda item for members to provide updates, both verbally and written to the board on any activities that they have undertaken since the last meeting to pursue conservation interests, or advocate for good conservation outcomes. E-Newsletter contributions completed for Conservation Board webpage	 4 September 2018 Public Forum – Mr Martin Toop, of Rototuna, Hamilton attended and spoke of encouraging DOC to rethink its tree planting. Can the Board assist through dialogue, to get tree planting in urban green spaces for our native plants and wildlife. 4 December 2018 Linda Cholmondeley -Smith (via Skype) spoke of Preserve New Chum for everyone. Board member report (written) received from received from J. Birdsall. 8 March 2019 Written board member reports received from Scott Summerfield, Pauline Hickey and Fiona Gower. Operation's Manager for Hauraki, Avi Holzapfel attended meeting and provided feedback to queries raised in member reports. WCB Webpage updated March 2019. 28 May 2019 Written reports received from Scott Summerfield, Pauline Hickey, Joyce Birsdall and Clare St Pierre.
Treaty of Waitangi	I		
Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
To contribute positively to its implementation.	To incorporate the Treaty and associated decision making and practice in all WCB deliberations and submissions.	Decision making will reflect the principles of the Treaty.	 4 September 2018 The Board's Cultural Capability segment of meeting was dedicated to Maori pronunciation. 8 March 2019 MOC's LOE discussed specifically Section 4 of Conservation Act. The Chair to write to MOC outlining WCB concerns /suggestions. (See also 28 May actions under Te Whanganui A Hei section).

			28 May 2019 Pou Tairangahau attended the meeting – discussion re expanding upon Cultural Capabilities learning at upcoming WCB Induction/Annual Planning workshop.
Board Budget 2018-2019			
Goal	Annual Objective	Measured Outcomes	Progress
Management of Board Budget and associated expenditure	To keep within the allocated budget for the reporting period.	The Department to provide Board Budget, Fees and Expenditure reports at quarterly meetings.	Board Budgets received at meetings held: 4 September 2018 4 December 2018 8 March 2019 28 May 2019
Field Trips			
Field Trips			 3 December 2018 G. Fleming, J.Birdsall, K. Robinson, R. Robinson, S. Summerfield, and M. King-Howell attended Pureora Field Trip (purpose Predator Control). 7 March 2019 Members attended the Kauri Dieback Disease Consultation (Round 3)at the Matai Whetu Marae, Kopu, Thames. 7 March 2019 Members convened at the Kauaeranga Valley Visitors Centre and spent the afternoon viewing and discussing road and river repairs from storms two years ago, viewed kauri mitigation work and proposed campground road end upgrades.
Land Exchanges			4 December 2018 Proposed Land Exchange – 5 Waiokaraka Road, Thames approved by WCB with a letter sent to DOC advising of decision.
Nature, Culture & Heritage		1	1

Nature, Culture & Heritage	28 May 2019
	DOC's Visitor & Heritage Strategy tabled for
	discussion.
	WCB resolve to write to Senior Policy Advisor,
	Tourism and Economic Development Policy) with
	feedback.
	28 May 2019
	Purchase of the Papa Aroha Block by the Natural
	Heritage Fund discussed as part of Board
	Environmental Scans.