

*Te Runanga Papa Atawhai o
Tāmaki Makaurau*

Auckland Conservation Board

ANNUAL REPORT

1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority pursuant to Section 6(0) of the Conservation Act 1987





COVER PHOTO: Auckland Conservation Board members from left to right Michael Fitchett, Ross Aitken, Emma Eichbaum, Glenn Wilcox, Nathan Kennedy, Laurie Beamish, Jane Jones, Lyn Mayes, Alec Hawke, Meg Poutasi (Department of Conservation) and Innes Logan

*Tāmaki Makaurau
Herenga waka
Herenga Tangata
He wake eke noa
Naku te rourou nau te rourou
ka ora te iwi
Whāia te iti kahurangi kite
tuohu koe me he maunga
teitei.*

*Tāmaki of many lovers
Destination of waka
Destination of people
We share this journey
By sharing our resources
(foodbaskets) all the people
are sustained
Aspire to and reach for the
stars and lofty heights will be
achieved.*

Photos supplied by Board members

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I

Foreword to Annual Report, Auckland Conservation Board, 2015 – 2016

Tena koutou e nga rangitira e nga whaea

In my first report as Chair of the Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Conservation Board, I would like to thank Ross Aitken and Laurie Beamish for dedicating six years to this Board, as members and as Chair and Deputy Chair respectively. I have been privileged to work with the retiring Chair and Deputy Chair and benefit from their leadership and wisdom and I am honoured to be entrusted with the role of Chair by my fellow Board members. Our strength as a Board is that we are individuals from different parts of the Auckland community with varying experience, knowledge and perspectives to work together to protect conservation land.

This report looks back over the year to end June 2016 and is therefore a legacy to Ross and Laurie. The Board is aware of the challenges of bringing a strong community voice to the Auckland region and its 1.4 million residents. We work closely with the Northland Board to have a unified approach to the co-governance of the Kaipara Harbour and reach out to other Boards to maximise our collective resources.

At the heart of our work is the ten-year Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) which came into effect in 2014. The objectives set out in the CMS are reviewed at each Board meeting with priorities identified by Department staff.

As key objectives with the CMS, the Board has worked in partnership with Ngati Manuhiri and the Department to develop a draft Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island which is now proceeding through the notification process. The Board is also in the pre-planning stage of the Tāmaki Makaurau Motu CMP for the inner motu islands of Rangitoto, Motutapu, Motuihe and Motokorea in consultation with the Tupuna Taonga o Tamaki Makaurau Trust Ltd and with Auckland Council with regard to Motukorea / Browns Island Recreation Reserve.

The Board submitted its response to the Marine Protected Areas Bill and the conservation status of marine environments continues to be a major interest for the Board; from the critically endangered Maui’s dolphin on the West Coast to Bryde’s whale in the Hauraki Gulf – Tikapa Moana. We are also committed to supporting the government’s battle for the birds and war on weeds. We remain concerned about the impact which Kauri dieback has in our rohe.

I appreciate the support given by Board members past and present and the Department of Conservation staff who support and administer the Board. In particular I pay tribute to Raewyn Bennett who administered the Auckland Conservation Board over many years and sadly lost her battle with cancer in November 2015. Raewyn provided for so

long the institutional knowledge for Board members and we miss her as a friend and as a colleague. Raewyn prepared the annual reports for the Board and I hope that this report would meet with her approval.

I look forward to the coming year when we have more significant work to undertake in cooperation with our treaty settlement partners Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau and preparing the Conservation Management Plan for the Tāmaki Makaurau inner motu.

Nga mihi maioha

Lyn Mayes
Chairperson



Report on Meetings and Activity 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

1 INTRODUCTION

The Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Conservation Board is an independent statutory body appointed by the Minister of Conservation. It was established by Section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987. The Board has the responsibility for overseeing the development and implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and Conservation Management Plans (CMPs) for its region. As well as providing for interaction between the public and the Department of Conservation at the regional level, the Board also acts as an advocate for the protection of conservation values. Its prime role is to advise the Department, and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA).

The functions of the Board are set out in Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987. Under Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987 conservation boards are required to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) with an annual report.

2 MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Conservation Board as at 30 June 2016 was:

Ross Aitken, Mahurangi
Chairperson (retiring)

Lawrence Beamish, Umupuia
CEO Te Waka Totara Trust, Deputy Chair (retiring)

Alec Te Aroha Hawke, Orakei
Event Director

Carolyn (Lyn) Mayes, Albany
Company Director

Emma Eichbaum, Ponsonby
Group Client Director

Jane Jones, Auckland
Consultant

Michael Fitchett, Auckland
Retired accountant

Nathan Kennedy
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau – Marutūāhu rōpū nominee

Glenn Wilcox
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau – Ngāti Whātua rōpū nominee

Rodney Ngawaka, Te Motu Aotea
Kaumatua, Treaty negotiator, Trustee

Innes Logan, Huapai
Company Director

It is to be noted that James Brown nominee for Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau – Waiohua Tamaki Rōpū resigned from the Board in August 2015.

From 1 July 2016 the board membership will comprise:

Lyn Mayes, Albany
Company Director, Chair
30/06/2017

Michael Fitchett, Auckland
Retired accountant, Deputy Chair
30/06/2017

Jane Jones, Auckland
Consultant, Deputy Chair
30/06/2018

Alec Te Aroha Hawke, Orakei
Event Director 30/06/2019

Innes Logan, Huapai
Company Director 30/06/2018

Nathan Kennedy, Waihi
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau 30/06/2017

Glenn Wilcox, Pukekohe
Ngā Mana Whenua o Tāmaki Makaurau 30/06/2017

Rodney Ngawaka, Te Motu Aotea
Kaumatua, Treaty negotiator, Trustee 30/06/2017

Zahra Champion, Kumeu
Scientist 30/06/2019

Andrew Jeffs, Auckland
Scientist 30/06/2019

Board Meeting at Kawa
Marae Aotea February 2016



CAROLYN (LYN) MAYES, ALBANY:

is a company director and founder of Mad World Ltd in 2001 which is an environmental consultancy dedicated to building networks and collaboration to improve NZ's environmental performance through best practise best cost outcomes. She is a strong advocate for wider industry engagement in conservation programmes, her recreational interests include Olympic weightlifting. Lyn is a New Zealand Masters Olympic weightlifter holding national records in the sport.

JANE JONES (DEPUTY CHAIR):

Originally a scientist, Jane is an independent management, risk and policy consultant. She was a member of the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board 2011-2014, has been a decision-maker for the Environmental Protection Authority with respect to the EEZ, and has worked in many parts of government. Her interests are in marine environment protection, earth sciences, biodiversity and

archaeology; and she enjoys bush & beach walking and sailing whenever she can.

MICHAEL FITCHETT (DEPUTY CHAIR):

Michael is a retired chartered accountant with experience in the tourism and maritime industries and close working relationships with local authorities, DOC and volunteer conservation groups. His outdoor recreation interests are skiing, tramping, yacht racing, touring and photography.

ALEC HAWKE: Alec is an event director and organises Māori cultural involvement for many events in Auckland. He is of Ngāti Whātua Ōrakei, Ngāti Whātua Runanga, Tainui and Ngāti Whātua Kaipara iwi.

RODNEY NGAWAKA: Rodney is a treaty negotiator for Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai Ki Aotea and kaumatua / kaitiakitanga environmental advisor for the Ngātiwai Trust. He has represented iwi in many conservation programmes and is

committed to iwi development. He is of Ngāti Rehua Ngātiwai iwi.

GLENN WILCOX. Glenn is the Ngāti Whātua appointee to the Board, an outcome of the Tāmaki Makaurau Collective Settlement. He was part of the Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara Treaty Negotiation team, a trustee of the Nga Rima Charitable Trust and the EPU kaitiaki in Kaipara. Glenn is the Deputy Chair of the Independent Māori Statutory Board of Auckland, a trustee on the Runanga of Ngāti Whātua and a member of the Committee of Management for the Otakanini Topu Farm.

NATHAN KENNEDY: Nathan is of Ngāti Whanaunga and Marutūāhu descent, and was appointed to the Board as a representative for Marutūāhu. He has been the environment officer for Ngāti Whanaunga for the last 15 years, and is a passionate advocate for iwi participation in environmental management. An historic geographer by background, Nathan has been heavily involved in the

development and application of Māori cultural and environmental indicators. He is also a geo-spatial analyst, and has worked for the Crown Forestry Rental Trust over the last six years providing GIS support and sites of significance mapping for the Hauraki and Te Rarawa Treaty of Waitangi claims, and for Auckland Council mapping tribal rohe.

EMMA EICHBAUM: Emma is group client director, at TNS New Zealand, one of the world's largest market research agencies. She is an experienced researcher who works closely with clients in the tourism sector to help them understand how to maximise New Zealand's appeal in overseas markets. Her interests include travel and photography.

INNES LOGAN: Innes is the publisher of SPASIFIK an award-winning magazine with

a Pacific and Māori focus. Prior to that he was a reporter, editor, publisher, director, photographer in mainstream media. His company Oceania Media provides communications for Pacific organisations. Innes aims to promote greater conservation awareness among Pacific people living in Aotearoa. He is a keen kayaker.

DR ANDREW JEFFS: Andrew is a marine scientist with the University of Auckland with a strong interest in the sustainable management of the marine and coastal environment. He has an extensive knowledge of the New Zealand marine environment, especially in the Auckland region, through his scientific research, recreational activities and previously working for the Department of Conservation on coastal protection more than 25 years ago.

DR ZAHRA CHAMPION: Zahra is a scientist with experience in the government sector and has a strong focus on research, innovation, commercialisation, policy and planning. She is passionate about science, innovation and business growth, with experience in presenting new ideas and gaining buy-in to these and setting up rigorous frameworks to support their success.

3 ATTENDANCE

Individual Board members' attendance at Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Conservation Board activities during 2015-16 is displayed in the table right.

The sub-committee appointed to co-govern the development of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island comprised Ross Aitken (Chair), Glenn Wilcox and Lyn Mayes. The sub-committee met with Department staff and Ngāti Manuhiri throughout the year.

MEETINGS, TRIPS & WORKSHOPS 2015 - 2016

- A 12 Aug 2015 meeting Auckland
- B 29 Oct 2015 Motu CMP workshop
- C 11 Nov 2015 meeting Maungauika
- D 17 Feb 2016 meeting Aotea 18 Feb site visit Aotea
- E 17 May 2016 meeting Ōrākei Marae
- F 15 June 2016 meeting
- G Total Board attendance
- H Total Board field inspections

	Aitken	Beamish	Mayes	Eichbaum	Fitchett	Hawke	Jones	Logan	Wilcox	Ngawaka	Kennedy
A	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
B	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
C	■		■	■	■	■	■		■	■	■
D	■	■	■	■	■			■	■	■	■
E	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■	■	
F	■		■	■	■	■	■	■	■		■
G	6	4	6	6	6	5	5	4	6	5	5
H	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	1	1



Field trip at Aotea, February 2016

4 BOARD DISTRICT

The Department of Conservation has a long term vision:

New Zealand is the greatest living space on Earth

The Auckland Conservation Board aims to promote this through the delivery of the Auckland Conservation Management Strategy.

The Auckland Conservation Board's area of responsibility extends from the west coast to the east coast in the narrowest part of New Zealand. The entrance to the Kaipara Harbour marks the north western corner of the region and Mangawhai Heads the north eastern point. In the south west the boundary follows the north bank of the Waikato River and the south eastern boundary is on the Firth of Thames at Miranda. Public conservation lands also include many Hauraki Gulf Islands. The largest of these is Te Motu Aotea – Great Barrier Island, where about 60% of the land area is administered by the Department of Conservation, and the furthest offshore are the Kermadec Islands.

The Board's district is a unique one in that it comprises the highly urbanised environment of the Auckland metropolitan area with one third of New Zealand's population, as well as extensive rural areas and remote offshore islands. How the people of Auckland feel about conservation is an important consideration for the Board and also of relevance to the rest of the country.

The Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland region also encompasses areas of very significant European historical importance as well as areas of ecological, natural, and amenity

value such as the Firth of Thames, Kaipara Harbour, Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island, Tiritiri Matangi and Motuora, the inner Gulf Islands, Mansion House and the coastal defence installations at North Head, Fort Takapuna and Stony Batter.

The marine environment is an important part of the Board's district and areas of interest. The Board's policy jurisdiction includes the Cape Rodney to Okakari Point Marine Reserve (New Zealand's first marine reserve), Motu Manawa / Pollen Island Marine Reserve in the Waitematā Harbour, Long Bay-Okura Marine Reserve and Te Matuku Marine Reserve on Waiheke Island. Tawharanui, on the eastern coast of the Rodney district was gazetted in August 2011.

In September 2015 the Board celebrated the introduction of a Bill to Parliament to establish one of the world's largest and most significant fully protected ocean areas in New Zealand's Exclusive Economic Zone. The Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary covers one of the most pristine and unique environments on Earth. All forms of fishing and mining are to be prohibited in the 620,000 square kilometre area of the EEZ from Raoul Island in the north to L'Esperance Rock in the south.

UPDATE ON OUR ROHE

WAKATŪWHENUA – LEIGH RESERVES COMPLEX

Cape Rodney – Okakari Point Marine Reserve was New Zealand's first marine reserve and contains a variety of habitats that are representative of the Outer Hauraki Gulf / Tikapa Moana coastal environment. The CMS objectives for this place are on track.

TE HAUTURU-O-TOI / LITTLE BARRIER ISLAND

The CMP has been drafted and is under public notification as this report is written. The Board has worked via sub-committee and co-governance with Ngāti Manuhiri.

RANGITAHUA – KERMADEC ISLANDS

Rangitahua – the Kermadecs are the most remote islands managed from Auckland. They present special management issues because of their distance off shore and ongoing volcanic activity.

In September 2015 Minister for the Environment Nick Smith and Associate Minister for Conservation Nicky Wagner launched the new Sanctuary status for the Kermadec Islands. Members of the Auckland Conservation Board joined guests from Forest & Bird, WWF and Pew as well as NZ airforce and navy to celebrate this hallmark decision in the very apt setting at Kelly Tarlton's.



Board members celebrate the new Kermadec Islands Sanctuary with Associate Minister for Conservation Hon Nicky Wagner and Minister for the Environment Hon Nick Smith in September 2015.

The Kermadec Ocean Sanctuary will be one of the world's largest and most significant fully-protected areas, preserving important habitats for seabirds, whales and dolphins, endangered marine turtles and thousands of species of fish and other marine life.

MOTUTAPU & RANGITOTO ISLANDS

In August 2015, the Board mourned the loss of four endangered takahe which were killed during an organised cull of pukeko on Motutapu Island. The tragic event prompted the resignation of Board member James Brown. In December 2015 the investigation into the shooting was published. Since the killing of the takahe, the Department has also instigated improved communications to ensure that Board members are consulted and informed of issues impacting the Auckland region.

In April 2016, Board members celebrated as two female kiwi and



one male – who was renamed Ropata in honour of renowned conservationist Rob Fenwick – were brought to Motutapu from Rotorua Island in double-hulled and masted waka hourua.

MOTUIHE ISLAND / TE MOTU-A-IHENGA

Investigations continue into the condition of the Motuihe wharf and identification of options for its future management. Repairs to the existing wharf have been made to make it safe for vessels to use at all tides. The loss of a regular ferry service has impacted visitor numbers.



Board members at Kawa Marae

AOTEA / GREAT BARRIER ISLAND

Te Motu Aotea / Great Barrier Island contains the largest area of indigenous forest in New Zealand that remains possum free. The Board held its February meeting at Kawa Marae on Great Barrier / Aotea Island to progress its 2016 work programme and discuss conservation issues with the Chair of the Local Board. At the Marae board members learnt about the genealogies that connect the various tribes; the histories and legends of Aotea and across the wider territory of Ngātiwai.

Two years after being washed away by a ferocious storm, the final piece of track on the iconic Aotea Track, was opened to the public. The storm caused extensive damage to the island's infrastructure, landslides and slips destroyed bridges and wiped out whole sections of the track. Most of the damage was repaired within six months, but the Kaiaraara section of the Aotea Track needed extensive repair. Five bridges and 13 sections of this track had to be rebuilt before it could be reopened.



The Mansion House, Kawau Island

KAWAU ISLAND

The wider reserve around Mansion House was closed in June 2016 following storm damage to trees. Kiwi monitoring has been undertaken with the Kawau Island Historic Reserve to determine the presence and approximate location of birds prior to logging of pines within the reserve.

MOTUORA ISLAND

The Motuora Restoration Society and the Department continue to work closely together on the management of the island. A key objective of the CMS is to conduct work with iwi about interpretation for the island. Some early work has been done however treaty settlement outcomes for the island are still being worked through.

TIRITIRI MATANGI ISLAND

The Department has established a monitoring programme to assess the impacts of visitors on the natural values of the island and the quality of the visitor experience. Work is underway with the supporters of the island to engage with Treaty Partners regarding a number of proposals on the island such as an accommodation block and museum.



Helping prevent Kauri Dieback, Cascade Walk, Waitakere Ranges

KAURI DIEBACK

The Board is very concerned about the ongoing spread of kauri die-back disease, which is a serious threat to our northern forests and our iconic trees. During the year the Board heard about efforts to improve public compliance at footwear cleaning stations, which the Board strongly supports. We also support the closure of forests where this is necessary to either prevent spread from a diseased site, or to protect unaffected trees. The Board was very pleased to learn of the Government's decision in 2014 to grant \$21m over three years to upgrade walking tracks to prevent kauri-die-back spread. We look forward to this work commencing in the Auckland region.

For your info see the maps of the tracks to be upgraded on our website: www.doc.govt.nz/our-work/kauri-dieback-recreation-project/

5 BOARD COMMITTEES

Active sub-committees at 30 June 2016 were as follows:

Hauturu sub-committee

Ross Aitken (Chair), Glenn Wilcox, Lyn Mayes

Concessions sub-committee

Emma Eichbaum, Michael Fitchett, Jane Jones

6 BOARD FUNCTIONS: SECTION 6M OF THE CONSERVATION ACT

SECTION 6M(1)(B) CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL

Te Hauturu-o-Toi Plan

The preparation of a conservation management plan for Te Hauturu-o-Toi / Little Barrier Island (Hauturu Plan) is a requirement of the Ngāti Manuhiri Claims Settlement Act 2012 (refer sections 84-97 of that Act). The Department is responsible for preparing the Hauturu Plan in consultation with Ngāti Manuhiri (the Trustees) and the Conservation Board. The Board and Trustees have a pivotal role in the process as the decision-makers who approve the final plan. The Board appointed a sub-committee to deliver the work programme for the Board.

Meetings were held throughout the financial year between the Department, the sub-committee and the Trustees resulting in the

publication of the CMP on 30 June 2016 at a hui-a-iwi at Leigh Marae. Notification is planned for 10 August with submissions on the CMP to be received by 15 October.

Tāmaki Makaurau Motu CMP

The CMP process is in the pre-planning phase.

SECTION 6M(1)(C) CMS IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING

The Board reviews at each meeting progress of the CMS which is summarised on a traffic lights report prepared by the Department. The Board will focus primarily on those objectives which are deemed as underway but at risk of not meeting 2017 target date and those which have been identified as not meeting the target date.

It has been noted that the milestone to increase New Zealand fairy tern numbers by 100 by 2021 in the Kaipara Harbour is unlikely to meet target and that there is a review underway of science and policy to increase protection at key coastal sites.

SECTION 6M(1)(F) FISH AND GAME COUNCIL LIAISON

Minutes and agenda are provided to the Auckland / Waikato Fish and Game Council.

Michael Fitchett is nominated by the Board as the lead point of liaison.

SECTION 6M(1)(G) DELEGATION OF POWERS BY THE MINISTER

The Minister has not delegated any powers or functions to the Board.

7 POWERS OF BOARDS: SECTION 6N OF THE CONSERVATION ACT

These powers provide the Board with the authority to run its affairs as it wishes and to advocate its interest through statutory processes. The Board submitted in March 2016 to the Consultation Process on A New Marine Protected Areas Act.

8 BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES: OTHER SECTIONS OF CONSERVATION ACT

The Board ensures that the perspectives of whanau, hapu and iwi are understood before making decisions, and is working with iwi to progress Treaty settlements such as the Hauturu and Inner Motu Conservation Management Plans.

No members were co-opted in the 2015-16 year.

The Board meets with members of Ngāti Whatua o Ōrakei at Ōrakei Marae in May 2016



9 STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Board is very aware of the challenges of bringing a strong community voice to the Auckland region and its 1.4 million residents. The Board has developed a Communications Strategy around the following:

- Auckland has a ten year Conservation Strategy which is based on treasuring our regional treasure of the Hauraki Gulf by

treasuring the rich cultural and biodiversity of the Auckland region;

- Our ecological heritage provides real economic benefits for our region;
- We want people to get out and enjoy our islands, parks and volcanoes;
- And to do this in a way that protects what we have for the future; and

- We acknowledge there is much work to be done to build specific plans in support of Treaty Settlements

The Board has established a Facebook page www.facebook.com/auckconservationboard/ to more directly engage with the community.

Minutes and agenda are exchanged with Northland and Waikato Conservation Boards.

III

Appendices

APPENDIX 1 AUCKLAND CONSERVATION BOARD FINANCIAL REPORT

The table below outlines the Auckland Conservation Board budgeted and actual spending for 2015-16.

ITEM	ACTUAL \$	BUDGET \$
Board Member fees	\$12,762	\$10,732
Other costs	\$11,544	\$16,098
Total	\$24,306	\$26,830

IV

Map of the Auckland Region

