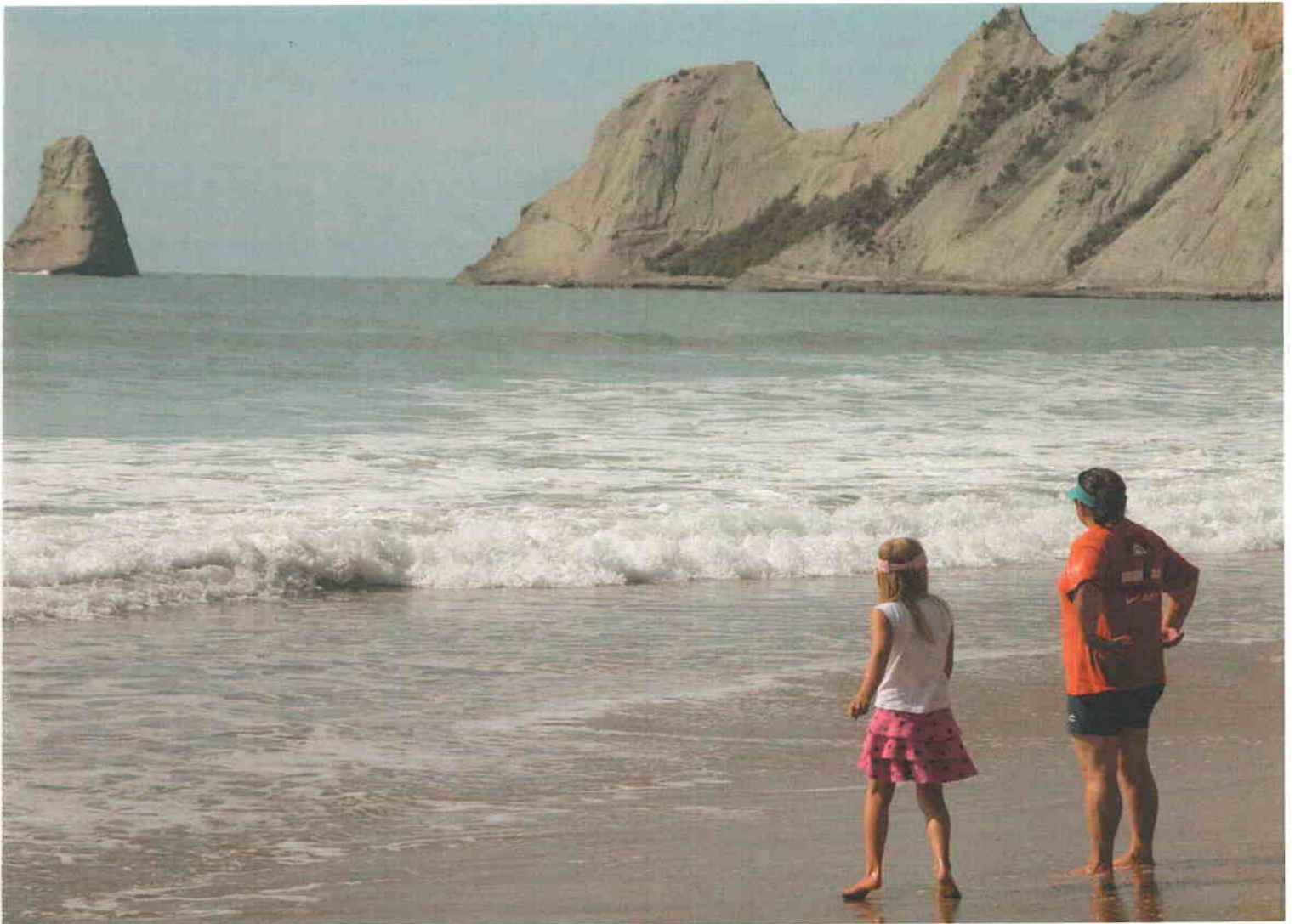




East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board

Annual Report

1 July 2008 - 30 June 2009



Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai



EAST COAST HAWKE'S BAY CONSERVATION BOARD

TE POARI ATAWHAI
O TE TAIRAWHITI
KI NGATI KAHUNGUNU

Annual Report

1 July 2008 – 30 June 2009

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

**Serviced by Department of Conservation
East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy
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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This year has been an extraordinary one for the Board. A review of the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy resulted in a decision by the Minister to disestablish. Thus not only is this an account of the Board's activities for the year it is also the last report of the Board as such.

Chronologically, in August 2008, our Chairperson Mary Campbell unexpectedly resigned. Mary's dedication to Conservation and contribution to the Board's activities has been sorely missed this year. As Deputy I carried on in an Acting capacity until the elections in Napier in December, where I was elected Chair and Christopher Marsh, Deputy Chair.

The Board welcomed June Graham (Napier), Tuiringa Mokokoko (Opotiki) and Pauline Tangiora (Mahia) as new Ministerial appointees to its October meeting.

We farewelled long-standing Conservator, Peter Williamson at our December meeting, with a presentation and dinner. Peter's experience and contribution to the Board's activities over the years has been most appreciated. Acting Conservators (Mark Davies and Nicola Etheridge) have assisted at Board meetings since.

Former Chair, Lloyd Beech, was honoured in the New Year's Honours List for services to Conservation, the environment and the community, Lloyd was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) - Lloyd joined the Board for luncheon in Napier for Peter's farewell and presentation.

Louise Savage (Te Karaka) also a former Board Member was appointed to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as the representative for the East Coast. Louise has attended Board meetings, contributed and clarified a number of issues.

The prime focus of the Board has been its statutory responsibility of progressing the drafting of the Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). For a CMS workshop, we experimented with telephone conferencing - this was quite successful. The "Public Forum" facility offered to the public at large as an agenda item has also been accepted and most meetings have seen members of which-ever community our meeting was held in at the time, taking part and offering information of interest to the Board.

Work on the Board "Logo" was eventually finalised to the satisfaction of the Board and grateful thanks at the time were extended to the version submitted by Mary Campbell, ably assisted by Richard Tumarae and Zack Makaore.

A very successful residential camp for rangatahi was held in January at Pourere Beach in Central Hawke's Bay - Zack Makaore, assisted by Department of Conservation staff, Police, Central Hawke's Bay District Council and other Government agencies made a substantial effort teaching conservation values to young people who would not normally have such an opportunity. The Board hopes such initiatives may be offered on a regular basis. Christopher Marsh has steadfastly endorsed education in conservation initiatives to the Board.

Board members continue to be involved on Marine Reserve Committees, Fish and Game representation and June Graham was appointed to the Boundary Stream Mainland Island

Strategic Advisory Group as the Board's representative. Essential to the Board's activities has been Board members' involvement in the Department's activities within the community - events such as "Seaweek", attending the installation and opening for inspection of interpretation panels at Robson's Lodge at Kuripaponga, the powhiri for Jan Hania, new Napier Area Office Manager, to mention just a few.

The Board has submitted and supported, "Proposed Changes to Building for Backcountry Huts", International Ballast Water Convention, NES on Freshwater Standards and the Consultative document on the Recovery Programme for Frogs.

Contributions by Department staff to our Board meetings have been much appreciated - we have discussed the DOC website, supported the introduction of endothall to control the spread of "hydrilla" in affected Hawke's Bay lakes, Mountain-biking issues for Te Urewera National Park, recreation within the Conservancy, heritage and Conservancy plans for Napier's Old Courthouse (Area Office). During the year the Board has participated in two Field trips - on a stellar Hawke's Bay day in December, 4 members visited the Cape Kidnappers Wildlife Restoration Project, the Ranger's hut at the Cape and the Australasian Gannet colony. After the February meeting in Gisborne we visited the Marine Reserve, Te Tapuwae o Rongokako where Kerry Hogan pointed out the perimeters and plans for development of facilities.

From last October it became apparent that change was in the air with a Review of the Opotiki/Rangataiki Area Offices - the board listened at length to concerns from Opotiki members Selby Fisher and Tuiringa Mokomoko - the advice from the Department was that the initiatives were of an "operational" nature. Eventually the review encompassed the whole Conservancy and that of the Bay of Plenty Conservancy as well.

As Chairperson I was interviewed by members of the Review Team and at a subsequent Board meeting in April at Opotiki the Board determined that "the Board make no submission on the draft East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy Review Report" and also that - "a submission be made to the Director-General/Minister of Conservation, that if the recommendation to disestablish the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy goes ahead that the Board also be disestablished, and that Board members be re-allocated to Wellington and Bay of Plenty Conservation Boards". The Minister shall decide. Our last scheduled Board meeting will be on June 9th in Gisborne.

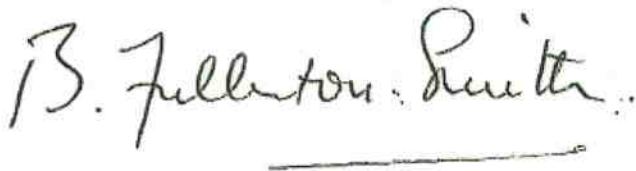
I feel it is appropriate in conclusion, to pay tribute to all those who have served on the Board during the years of its existence -1998-2009-in particular mention must be made of the Chairs - Aubrey Temara (1998-2002), Lloyd Beech(2002-2005), Bevan Turnpenny (2005-2007)and Mary Campbell(2007-8). Significant work for the Conservancy has been achieved during those years.

Thanks must go to Board Liaison staff during the period. My thanks to Sandra Groves in a particularly difficult year - for her patience, efficiency and communication skills on behalf of the Board. My thanks also go to Board members who have supported me in my role as Chair.

I am sure that present Board Members share with me, the hope that the new arrangements of the Ministry/Department will produce the gains envisaged for Conservation so actively sought by the community - pest and weed control and increased

access for New Zealanders to the Conservation estate - and enjoyment of the environment which we hold so dear.

As Board Members I am sure I speak for the majority who have spent many hours at the Board table, poring over agendas, management plans, CMS's, in this regard. We have been extremely privileged - field trips have enabled Board Members a more comprehensive and representative view of our Conservancy. We live in an amazing part of the World - hopefully Board Members, with continued responsibility, will contribute to the management and sustainability of our environment, the preservation of the "Dawn Chorus", endangered species and the Conservation work-force - benefitting future generations.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "B. Fullerton-Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Beverley Fullerton-Smith
CHAIRPERSON
EAST COAST HAWKE'S BAY CONSERVATION BOARD

1. MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

The following board members were appointed by the Minister of Conservation to the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board.

Chairperson: Beverley Fullerton-Smith, Hastings

Deputy Chairperson: Christopher Marsh, Whangara

Board Members: Selby Fisher, Opotiki
June Graham, Napier
Zack Makoare, Hastings
Tuiringa Mokomoko, Opotiki
Graeme Thomson, Gisborne
Pauline Tangiora, Mahia
Vicki Thorpe, Gisborne
Richard Tumarae, Ruatahuna
Bevan Turnpenny, Gisborne



Members of the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board:

Back row: (L-R) Vicki Thorpe, Selby Fisher, Richard Tumarae, June Graham, Zack Makoare, Beverley Fullerton-Smith; Front row (L-R) Christopher Marsh, Bevan Turnpenny, Tuiringa Mokomoko, Graeme Thomson, Pauline Tangiora (inserted above right)

2. FUNCTIONS AND POWERS OF THE BOARD

The board has the responsibility for shaping conservation management in the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy. This is achieved through the development of Conservation Management Strategies (CMS's) and Conservation Management Plans (CMP's) for public conservation lands administered by the Department of Conservation and by the Board acting as an advocate for conservation on lands not administered by the Department of Conservation. Conservation Boards have functions and powers provided by the Conservation Act 1987 as amended by the Conservation Amendment Act 1991, the National Parks Act 1980 and the Walkways Act 1990.

Refer to Appendix 2 for the Board's Strategic Plan.

3. INTRODUCTION TO THE BOARD DISTRICT

The East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy covers 2.7 million hectares of land, of which 589,519 hectares (21.8%) are managed by the Department of Conservation. Enormously varied in its topography, climate, vegetation and wildlife, the conservancy includes coastal areas from the Waiotahi River Mouth in the eastern Bay of Plenty, to Cape Turnagain in southern Hawke's Bay and the inland Ranges:- Raukumara, Urewera, Kaweka and Ruahine.

Significant land areas managed by the department in the conservancy include the Kaweka and Ruahine Forest Parks, which contain the only sizeable remnants of natural vegetation in the Hawke's Bay area. To the north is the Raukumara Forest Park which contains an important wilderness area that is managed and protected for its remote conservation value. To the west is Te Urewera National Park, which covers an area of 212,673 hectares and is the largest continuous tract of protected land in the conservancy.

The conservancy has two marine reserves, Te Tapuwae o Rongokako on the east coast north of Gisborne (established in 1999) and Te Angiangi in Hawke's Bay (established in 1997).

Numerous other small reserves and conservation areas managed by the Department, support a range of habitats and plant and animal species.

A number of special conservation projects are ongoing in the conservancy:

- Boundary Stream Reserve in the Mangaharuru Range, currently being managed to promote population increases in endangered native bird species such as North Island brown kiwi and kokako (Mainland Island project and the conservancy's showcase area)
- Kiwi and weka recovery project at Whinray Scenic Reserve
- Blue duck (whio) monitoring is being carried out in the Takaputahe catchment (tributary of the Motu river) and along the Waiti River as part of the Te Urewera Ecosystem Restoration Project
- Kaweka/Ruahine wilding pine removal project
- Kaweka mountain beech regeneration project
- A joint DOC/Iwi Kiwi Recovery Project based at Puketukutuku Peninsula, Lake Waikaremoana, focussing on the restoration of kiwi and rata populations
- In the Waimana Valley, the Northern Te Urewera Ecosystem Restoration Project focuses on kokako, kiwi and other animal and plant species
- Whangaokena (East Island) Restoration Project
- Tairawhiti National Heritage project
- Extensive species conservation management taking place, including work with New Zealand dotterel, tusked weta, dactylanthus and kowhai ngutukaka. Specific conservation projects include the North Island Weka Project and the Dactylanthus Project at Te Araroa
- Maori Methods and Implementation of Marine Protection Project

The Department manages a number of historic places, many in active partnership with tangata whenua. Accessible and important sites include the Otatara Pa Historic Reserve, managed by the department and the hapu of Waiohiki Marae, and the Cook Landing Site National Historic Reserve: the only mainland reserve of this kind in New Zealand.

The Aniwanuiwa Museum in the heart of Te Urewera National Park is the only museum in the country managed by the department and offers insights into local cultural and natural history. A number of significant historic structures, such as bridges in the Waioeka Gorge and huts in the Ruahine and Kaweka Ranges that can also be visited.

There are a wide range of recreational opportunities in the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy, ranging from half hour graded walks to week-long tramps through remote and untracked areas. Two Marine Reserves: Te Angiangi and Te Tapuwae o Rongokako enable the public to appreciate and enjoy a protected marine environment.

Refer to Appendix 1 for the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy boundaries.

4. BOARD MEETINGS AND INSPECTIONS

Meetings of the board have been spread throughout the conservancy in Gisborne, Napier and Opotiki. This allows the Board to more equitably share the travel requirements for each meeting and provides opportunity for members of the public from a wide geographical spread to attend meetings.

4.1 MEETINGS

The board held five formal meetings and one telephone conference workshop during the report period. These were:

2008

August	Telephone conference workshop
October	Gisborne
December	Napier

2009

February	Gisborne
April	Opotiki
June	Gisborne

4.2 INSPECTIONS

Inspections provide members with an opportunity to see the Department at work on the ground and discuss management and conservation issues with staff delivering the Department's caseload.

Two inspections were held in 2009 to:

- Cape Kidnappers, Hawke's Bay - December 2008
- Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve, Gisborne - February 2009

Board members attendances at these meetings and inspections are detailed in the table below.

Name	Number of Meetings attended (5 held)	Number of Inspections attended (2 held)
Selby Fisher	3	1
Beverley Fullerton-Smith (Chair)	5	2
June Graham	5	2
Zack Makoare	3	1
Christopher Marsh	5	1
Tuiringa Mokokoko	5	2
Pauline Tangiora	4	1
Graeme Thomson	5	1
Vicki Thorpe	4	1
Richard Tumarae	4	1
Bevan Turnpenny	4	1

5. BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES

The board did not appoint any sub-committees this financial year.

6. BOARD FUNCTIONS UNDER SECTION 6M OF THE CONSERVATION ACT

6.1 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES - CMS (SECTION 6M (1) (B))

East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy

In May 2008, the Minister provided a further extension to the timeline for review of the East Coast and Hawke's Bay CMS's to 14 January 2010.

The board held a telephone conference workshop to discuss a first draft of the CMS in August 2008. A revised draft was considered and comments provided by the board in December 2008; and at its February 2009 meeting the board approved the draft CMS to move into the consultation round.

The board was advised in April 2009 that the decision had been made to put the CMS on hold due to the review of the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy and the Bay of Plenty CMS awaiting approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority. The board were advised that the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy staff plan to produce the CMS in its current form as a resource for the Bay of Plenty and Wellington Conservancies.

6.2 CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLANS (SECTION 6M (1) (C))

No new or reviewed conservation management plans were implemented during the year. It is planned to review and incorporate existing conservation management plans into the new CMS through the review process.

6.3 IMPLEMENTATION OF CMS (SECTION 6M(1)(C))

As the board had two CMS's until the review is complete, it adopted a 4 monthly reporting on an output class basis. This approach was to minimise information collection and presentation of information. The board has not undertaken any additional formal review of the implementation of the CMS's.

The Board's priority is for pest and weed control to maintain, and if possible improve, the Conservancy's ecological condition. This is advised during preparation of the annual business plan.