



East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board

Annual Report

1 July 2006 - 31 June 2007



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

Cover: Lake Waikaremoana. *Photo: William Bevil*

Erosion on the East Coast. *DOC Images*

Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve. *Photo: Kerry Fox*

Boundary Stream Anniversary. *Photo: Jill Hudson*

Old Man's Beard on the edge of Te Urewera National Park. *Photo: Mary Campbell*

Aniwaniwa Visitors' Centre. *Photo: William Bevil*

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CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

This year has seen the Board continue to express its concerns on the major issues of indigenous vegetation clearance and the re-establishment of effective erosion control on the significant areas of erosion prone lands within the Conservancy. The Board made submissions to Gisborne District Council's proposed change to the Regional Land and District Plan which seeks to see landowners undertaking the re-establishment of a greater degree of effective erosion control. This will inevitably be a long term process. However, the Board believes that the wider terrestrial and marine biodiversity benefits will be significant.

This approach is consistent with concerns raised by Board Members in relation to land use impacts on the marine environment and, in particular, effects from catchments adjacent to the two marine reserves in the conservancy. An ongoing programme is being developed to consider the efficacy of current research and land management practices in these areas and how the Board may assist in better targeting those efforts, focussing initially on the Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve.

The development of the new Conservation Management Strategy for the Conservancy has been further delayed this year. The Board has clearly stated its concerns at the on-going delay to the Minister and the National Authority.

The Board met over two days for its April meeting at the Te Urewera National Park visitors' centre at Aniwaniwa. The opportunity was taken by Members to better familiarise themselves with a number of the current issues and projects in that area. The apparent impact of Old Man's Beard on the Park boundaries is a matter of concern which the Board has expressed to both local and regional authorities. If there is not further effective control of this particularly invasive weed there is concern that it may spread to an extent that could threaten large areas of the southern margins of the Park.

The opportunity to stay overnight with fellow Board members was one that members relished as it gave them an opportunity to meet without formality of a meeting and to be able to express and exchange ideas and concerns. It is hoped that the Board can meet again in such an informal manner when the appropriate opportunity arises.

Regretfully, this year sees the departure of two of the Board's longer serving members. Hone Taumaunu has been a member since 2000 and has been a driving force behind the establishment of the Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve at Whangara. Hone's contribution over that time has been greatly appreciated and his considered comments and insight in to matters of particular concern to Tangata Whenua have provided the Board with sound guidance. Also leaving is the long serving former Chairman of the Board Lloyd Beech. Lloyd has been a tireless advocate for conservation action and biodiversity concerns within both the Conservation Estate and throughout the area of the Conservancy. He joined the Board in 1998 and has seen a number of major initiatives developed over that period, one of the more significant of which was the Te Urewera National Park Management Plan, finally approved in 2003. Lloyd's depth of knowledge and commitment to the Board will be sorely missed. I wish them both the very best for the years ahead and expect that the Board will still refer to them for advice in the future.

The coming year will hopefully see the Conservation Strategy process progress further; this will be a challenging time that will make a greater call on members' time and energy but it is a challenge that I know the members are eager to pursue.

While the past year has had its frustrations and challenges for the Board I would like to thank the Conservator and the Conservancy staff for their assistance during the year, in particular the professional and efficient manner in which the Boards' administrative assistance has been carried out.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bevan Turnpenny', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Bevan Turnpenny
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: Bevan Turnpenny, Gisborne

Deputy Chairperson: Vicki Thorpe, Gisborne

Board Members: Lloyd Beech, Taradale
Mary Campbell, Wairoa
Selby Fisher, Opotiki
Beverley Fullerton-Smith, Hastings
Christopher Marsh, Whangara
Ronald Nepe, Gisborne
Steve Scragg, Gisborne
Hone Taumaunu, Whangara
Richard Tumarae, Ruatahuna
Robert Whaitiri, Whakatu



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

Back row: (L-R) Robert Whaitiri, Ronald Nepe, Christopher Marsh, Lloyd Beech, Richard Tumarae, Bevan Turnpenny (Board Chairperson), Peter Williamson (DOC)

Front row: Mary Campbell, Hone Taumaunu, Beverley Fullerton-Smith

Absent: Steve Scragg, Vicki Thorpe and Selby Fisher.

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 Waiohahi 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, Wairoa, 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 6 formal meetings during the report period. These were:

2006

August	Wairoa
October	Gisborne
December	Napier

2007

February	Wairoa
April	Aniwaniwa
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. In April 2007, the board visited Lake Waikaremoana with department staff to inspect the new wastewater project and learn more about current issues in Te Urewera National Park.

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

Name	Number of Meetings attended (6 held)	Number of Inspections attended (1 held)
Lloyd Beech	6	1
Mary Campbell	4*	1
Selby Fisher	5	1
Beverley Fullerton-Smith	6	1
Christopher Marsh	6	1
Ronald Nepe	3	1
Steve Scragg	2	
Hone Taumaunu	5	
Vicki Thorpe	5	1
Richard Tumarae	6	1
Bevan Turnpenny	5	1
Robert Whitiri	6	

* New member, only able to attend a maximum of 4 meetings

5. BOARD SUB-COMMITTEES

CMS Review

A sub-committee was established by the board in June 2005 to address the East Coast and Hawke's Bay Conservation Management Strategies Review. The CMS sub-committee is comprised of 5 members: Lloyd Beech, Selby Fisher, Beverley Fullerton-Smith, Vicki Thorpe and Bevan Turnpenny.

In December 2006, members agreed that, given the significant role of the Board in the CMS review, the process required the full involvement of all members at this stage.

As a result of further delays in the preparation of nationally consistent guidelines for the CMS, no direct activities have been undertaken by the CMS sub-committee this year, although members have:

- responded to the first draft of the Conservancy CMS Discussion Document;
- discussed timelines;
- discussed the draft 'Places' proposed for the Conservancy.

Indigenous Vegetation Clearance

A sub-committee was established by the board in December 2005 to lead on the issue of indigenous vegetation clearance. The sub-committee is comprised of 6 members: Lloyd Beech, Christopher Marsh, Bevan Turnpenny, Vicki Thorpe, Selby Fisher and Ronald Nepe. All members continue to take an active interest in Indigenous Vegetation Clearance issues.

The Board met with Randolph Hambling, of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry, to learn more about erosion in the region and Gisborne District Council's proposed Sustainable Hill Country Project.

The Board's major concerns on erosion and land clearance were found to align in part with proposed Rule 176 being introduced by Gisborne District Council to limit clearance. The Board has submitted on this Rule and continues to engage with the community on our concerns with erosion.

The Board sought information from NIWA and Massey University on the impact of sedimentation in estuaries and the coastal environment. The Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve is affected by sediments and this may be a suitable area for further studies.

Dr Michael Marden, from Landcare Research, gave a presentation to members on erosion processes in the East Coast Hawke's Bay region.

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

An extension to the Hawke's Bay CMS review period and the combining of the East Coast and Hawke's Bay CMS's together was approved by the Minister of Conservation last year. The business case for the CMS Review was also approved by the board at that time.

The CMS review has been put on hold while nationally consistent guidelines for preparing CMS's were devised.

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 has two CMS's until the review is complete, it has adopted a 4 monthly reporting on an output class basis. This approach is 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.

6.4 ADVICE TO THE NZ CONSERVATION AUTHORITY AND DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF CONSERVATION (SECTION 6M(1)(D)(I)(II))

The Board responded to a request for advice from the NZCA on:

- Choosing a Marine Reserve Advisory Committee

The Board responded to a request for advice from the Director-General of Conservation on:

- Review of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement.

6.5 WALKWAYS (SECTION 6M(1)(E))

No new walkways have been identified this year. The Board noted with interest the findings of the report, Walking Access NZ.

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

Liaison has been maintained with the local Fish and Game Councils (Eastern and Hawke's Bay Regions) through an exchange of agenda and minutes of meetings. Lloyd Beech has continued to attend Hawke's Bay meetings; Steve Scragg attends Eastern Region meetings at Rotorua. With Didymo as a major ongoing focus for the Council, members welcomed a report on the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy's strategy for minimising the risk posed by the algae.

6.7 POWER OF BOARDS - (SECTION 6N)

The board has been involved in a number of statutory processes providing input and advice to matters of the public conservation estate that relate to conservation.

The board lodged submissions on:

- Hawke's Bay Regional Council Proposed Regional Coastal Environment Plan and Proposed Plan Change 1 to Regional Resource Management
- Proposed Variation 176 to the Gisborne District Part Operative Combined Regional Land and District Plan

Presentations on the following have kept members abreast of different and developing aspects of the Department's work:

- DOC's role in Biosecurity
- The Visitor Monitoring Strategy
- The Draft Framework for dogs on Land Administered by the Department
- Operations in Wairoa
- Te Urewera National Park
- Mountain biking proposal for the Conservancy
- Threatened species
- The Concession applications process
- Research into potential Marine Reserves

The Board continued to explore other means of encouraging and promoting conservation within the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy and, in particular, recognised the value of promoting public awareness and community conservation initiatives. Congratulations were sent to Isabel Morgan on being awarded membership of the New Zealand Order of Merit for her work for conservation in Hawke's Bay. The Board nominated The Lake Waikaremoana Hapu Restoration Trust for the Ministry for the Environment's Green Ribbon Awards, in recognition of the Trust's work to reverse kiwi and ngutukaka decline, control pests and raise awareness.

Board members continued to use their contacts with other organisations involved with environmental management, in particular local councils, to identify areas where co-operation could be achieved between the board, DOC and councils. The Board continues to invite leaders of local councils, runanga and interest groups to its meetings and this practice has led to an increased understanding of matters of mutual concern and common interest and has widened board members networks.

Board members are required to attend various conferences or meetings from time to time.. These opportunities are valuable for networking, inspiration and the discussion of common issues. Bevan Turnpenny represented the Board and its interests at the National Recreation Summit and reported back to members on its conclusions.

Members supported the Department in person, with 3 members attending the Boundary Stream Mainland Island 10th Anniversary Celebration. Mary Campbell also assisted Department staff and local community members at the annual kiwi call count on Puketukutuku Peninsula, Lake Waikaremoana.

In August 2006, members agreed to timetable a Public Forum for every meeting. Members of public spoke at 3 meetings during the year; the Board welcomes the opportunity to hear of and respond to issues of interest to the public.

6.8 APPOINTING COMMITTEES AND DELEGATING THEM FUNCTIONS AND POWERS

No committees were appointed by the board in this financial year.

6.9 MARINE RESERVE COMMITTEES

The East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board is fortunate to have two marine reserves within the conservancy. An active interest is maintained in both and regular updates on progress or management issues are received through the board member appointed on each committee.

The initiative to set up a Friends of Te Angiangi Charitable Trust by the Te Angiangi Marine Reserve Committee is still progressing. This year, the Board has given some thought to the potential for setting up a similar Trust for the Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve. It is considered that such a trust would be of value in initiating, and attracting funding for, a range of research and education projects. The Board will continue to support the Te Tapuwae o Rongokako Marine Reserve Committee as this proposal progresses.

6.10 OTHER BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER THE CONSERVATION ACT

It has not been necessary for the board to co-opt any other members onto the board, provide advice for leases or licences in the absence of a Conservation Management Strategy or Conservation Management Plan, nor to give advice on the exchange of stewardship areas. No management plans for fresh water fisheries were developed.

6.11 FUNCTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT

The Board has not been called upon to function under this act.

7.0 ADOPTION OF REPORT

The 2006/2007 Annual Report was tabled and adopted by the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board during its meeting on Tuesday 7th August 2007.

Resolved:

That the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board adopt the Annual Report for 2006/2007, with amendments, and forward it to the New Zealand Conservation Authority, as required under section 6(o) of the Conservation Act 1987.

*Moved: Selby Fisher
Seconded: Richard Tumarae
Carried.*

APPENDIX I – EAST COAST HAWKE’S BAY CONSERVANCY



APPENDIX II: EAST COAST HAWKE'S BAY CONSERVATION BOARD – STRATEGIC PLAN

BOARDS MISSION STATEMENT

To advise and advocate for the conservation of natural and historic resources in the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS

<u>Strategic Objective</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Planned Activity (Including Responsibility)</u>	<u>Target for Completion</u>	<u>Comments</u>
1) Timely implementation of the approved Conservation Management Strategies.	To monitor the regions conservation objectives as set out in the two CMS.	Discuss the procedures by which implementation may take place with the Department's Conservancy Office in Gisborne and ensure reporting method developed with targets.	Progress reports Dec, April and August monthly on output class basis.	
2) To provide considered input into the approval process of conservation management strategies and national park plans. Recommend CMS and NP plans, and the review and amendments of such plans.	Utilise key board members with relevant skills. Ensure full input from DOC.	Establish expected timings for CMS plans/reviews requiring approval and other plans. Initial preparation of new CMS. Identify suited board members for specific plans and provide with information.	Review combined CMS timing for completion 2007	Project delayed. Revised timings suggest completion early 2009.
3) To ensure the conservation estate within the Board's area is accorded appropriate classification.	Maintain an awareness of the whole region and requirements for National or International Status.	Board members to be briefed on the various classifications e.g. land stewardship. Review at least half yearly of any changes which may impact on current classifications. Advocate for further marine protection (Board members)	Ongoing monitoring. Ongoing	

<u>Strategic Objective</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Planned Activity (Including Responsibility)</u>	<u>Target for Completion</u>	<u>Comments</u>
4) To have a network of walkways to meet public need.	A requirement to provide a range of opportunities for the public to recreate may require new walkways. Establish recreation requirement identifying if Walkway Act can achieve objective.	Provide input to Visitor Facilities plans as outputs of recreation review are implemented. Identify future walkways and prioritise. Advise NZCA and Director General of these. Also review access to conservation estate for horse trackers, 4WD users and other recreation. Monitor any developments on Walking Access NZ and respond accordingly. (Board members)	As required As required Ongoing	
5) Liaise with the Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the board.	To become conversant with the Fish and Game Council activities and matters of concern.	Local board members to attend meetings if possible.	Ongoing	
6) To meet requirements of the Biodiversity Strategy	Identify critical issues with the region that need addressing to halt the decline in NZ's biodiversity	DOC to advise the Board on critical issues and action plans for consideration. On receipt of information, Board makes appropriate recommendations.	Annual reviewed in conjunction with business planning cycle	
7) The Board may advocate its interest in any public forum or in any statutory planning or resource consent process. The Board should ensure that conservation matters are appropriately dealt with at the statutory planning level.	Focus on statutory planning matters.	Maintain a schedule when statutory planning issues are expected to be dealt with. Make submissions on behalf of the Board on regional and district plans and resource consent applications at appropriate time. (Board members)	Ongoing Within required timings.	
8) Establish a working relationship with iwi and hapu in the region and particularly over such issues as: the Treaty of Waitangi, cultural material harvesting, taonga, waahi tapu and sites of special significance.	Relationships developed as required, focussing on <i>skill, knowledge, understanding</i> .	Appropriate Board members to liase with iwi hapu, as required.	As required/ongoing	
9) To contribute to the Department's management planning process.	Raise awareness of Board's capabilities so input is valued.	Work in conjunction with department during the business planning cycle.	Determined by planning cycle.	

<u>Strategic Objective</u>	<u>Strategy</u>	<u>Planned Activity (Including Responsibility)</u>	<u>Target for Completion</u>	<u>Comments</u>
10) The Board to actively promote an interest in conservation matters	Identify appropriate two way communication channels i.e. DOC to Board and Board to DOC and focus on building links with key communities.	Publicise what we do. Implement Board's media strategy. Be visible to the key communities. Maintain updated web page. Prepare programme key meetings/activities we should attend or be involved in. Board members advise DOC Community Officer of opportunities. (Board)	Ongoing 2 Q 2006	
11) Concessions are only granted which do not impact on sound conservation values.	Ensuring processes in place to judge applications that need to be referred to the Board.	Report to each Board meeting on all applications and approved applications. This should include applications to be forwarded to the Board. (Conservator with Board agreement).	Ongoing	

1 August 2006