



Te Rūnanga Whakauka o Kahurangi ki Kaikōura
NELSON MARLBOROUGH CONSERVATION BOARD



Herea kia Kōtahi - Working Together

Pūrongo-ā-tau
Annual Report

2024
2025

Annual Report of the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board Te Rūnanga Whakauka o Kahurangi ki Kaikōura

For the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025

*Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority / Te Pou Atawhai Taiao O
Aotearoa pursuant to section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987*

Cover photo: *Looking down the Acheron River, Molesworth Recreation Reserve*
PHOTO: J Gould

Published by

Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board
c/- Department of Conservation
Private Bag 5
Nelson

www.conservationboards.org.nz
nelsonmarlboroughboard@doc.govt.nz

ISSN 1176-7065 (print)

ISSN 1178-4113 (online)

November 2025

NMCB LETTER FROM THE CHAIRS

Edward Ellison
Chairperson, New Zealand Conservation Authority
PO Box 10420
Wellington 6143

14 January 2026

Tēnā rā koe Edward,

E te tutahi ngā mihi aroha ki ngā mate kua ngaro i te pō, moe mai rā ngā mareikura ngā kuia a Ranui Aroha Young, Judi Billens, Sue Taylor, Pirihiira Paul, Ngawhakaara Taylor, Josephine Ngatai me Angela Thomas hoki, haere atu rā kua wheturangitia o Pōhutakawa e. Kia koutou ngā hunga ora, ngā kaitiaki o te motu nei, me ngā rangatira o ngā poari o te motu nei, tēnei te mihi kia koutou kātoa, ngā mihi o te Tau Hou Pākehā. E te minita tēnei te mihi kia koe, me te me ngā kaimahi o Te Papa Atawhai tēnā rā koutou kātoa. Kei te mihi mātou o te kaupapa hirahira, e tiaki ana mātou ki ngā taonga tuku iho o ngā tūpuna mai Kaikōura ki Kahurangi. Nō reira kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui, e takahia ana te ara o ngā tūpuna, Toitū te Taiao e.

The board want to acknowledge the passing of Ranui Aroha Young, Judi Billens, Sue Taylor, Pirihiira Paul, Ngawhakaara Taylor Josephine Ngatai and Angela Thomas, significant kuia from across our rohe a significant loss for our iwi. The motu celebrated the Koroneihana of Kuīni Ngāwai Hono i te Pō, Potatau te Wherowhero te Tuawaru where Te Tauihu iwi supported the koha of Te Ara Maurei the Tohora Jaw, a gift for Ngawai, led by Barney, which was a significant occasion for our rohe. We also acknowledge the recent announcement from the Government of the Tenths Reserves led out by Te Here-ā-Nuku, an historic agreement honoured with significant lands returning to customary owners of Te Tauihu. This is momentous for the iwi and work continues with our local department on this kaupapa.

The board would like to mihi to our Pou Tairangahau Barney Thomas who retired in December for his service to the Department in NSI region. He is a pou for our iwi, communities and staff and will leave big boots to fill. We acknowledge his significant contribution to conservation and our board. The board also want to acknowledge our previous NZCA member Sally Gepp who has stepped down and we welcome our new representative Dean van Mierlo. Sally was instrumental in providing us support with the Fast Track and legal queries with respect to our role, the reforms, submissions and the additions to the Abel Tasman National Park. To Aroha Gilling our Treaty Settlements Ranger for her immense contribution to build Te Tiriti o Waitangi capability for the board and is on secondment this year, e mihi ana kia koe. We want to mihi to Marina Reihana our board support who left the department, for her mahi and welcome the recent appointment of Rachael Fox, a great addition. To Martin our NSI director and Jo Gould Statutory Manager for their leadership and guidance i ngā wā kātoa, tēnā rā koutou kātoa.

The Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board (NMCB) has continued to work with the newly adopted Tangata Tiriti Co-Chair model arrangement, with Aneika Young and Nick Eade fulfilling these roles. We acknowledge Clint McConchie, Scott Burnett and Rima Piggott who have recently finished with the board and have contributed significantly to conservation. The Board continues to work with regional partners, providing input from local authorities and other agencies as appropriate. Specific board topics have been handled by Board committees focused on: Te Ao Māori (Iwi Komiti); Permissions; and Health & Safety; Tasman Environmental Trust with a Board representative, Molesworth and the local Biodiversity Strategies for NCC and TDC. The Board also continues the support of the community and the projects on the ground through site visits and the public forum updates. The Board liaison roles continue to work with the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board (WCTPB) and Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board (CACB) which is a valuable connection. Brian is our WCTPB liaison and Nicky Wagner is our CACB liaison. The board had particular interest in the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) review and were eager to see the review of the Nelson Marlborough CMS kick off. We now await the process in the implementation of the proposed Area plans.

We continue to have serious concerns about the direction of the coalition government with regard to the recent reforms and changes such as Coastal Permits Bill, Fast Track Bill, Treaty Principles and Regulatory Standards Bills, Herds of Special Interest Bill and the Modernising Conservation Land Management. While the Board acknowledges changes need to occur, its view is that the wider conservation reforms should prioritise conservation over commercialisation options and ensure we engage with our iwi and communities. The Board lodged a submission in response to the National Conservation Policy Statement proposals following these concerns. The consultation process with the board, public and iwi is concerning and seemed to erode the democratic processes of robust iwi and public engagement. Iwi have expressed concerns around breaches to Te Tiriti o Waitangi through these proposed bills and the process of consultation. These changes have also seen DOC halt on planning until after the reforms have been implemented.

We continue to receive valuable knowledge and input from our Pou Tairangahau and Treaty Settlement Ranger at meetings, including presentations on issues such as (s)4 and settlements, coupled with knowledge of Te Tauihu iwi and the Department. The Board's Iwi Komiti continues to play a key role in the commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and lead the Board on iwi relevant issues and kaupapa, Te Ao Māori capability of iwi history, marae kawa, tikanga, engagement and iwi DOC related relations as well as supporting board tikanga and ngā uara. Meetings are held on marae or in iwi spaces with a focus on the region we meet in, and iwi are invited to present their kaupapa and/or to sit in our hui if they are interested. This year we held a hui at Te Āwhina Marae with Te Ātiawa and Ngāti Rārua, and we also held a hui at Onetāhua Marae with Manawhenua ki Mohua (Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Tama). The board values the iwi perspectives and continues to advocate for the remuneration for iwi involvement on the board, sub-committees and whānau, hapū and iwi members who are engaging with DOC on the ground who need to be appropriately resourced. The board acknowledges the role of iwi on these Boards, and we encourage further support and resourcing for iwi across all levels of the Department. The National DOC Pūkenga was also held in our rohe at Te Āwhina Marae this year. Some of our board members took part and manawhenua supported staff. Ngā mihi to Barney and Aroha on hosting and the national team of Pou Tairangahau who were running the Pūkenga. Nick Eade attended in July 2025.

Our board have a culture that has been built on the backs of those who have been before us and is guided by our 'Tikanga mō te Poari' document and values. We

acknowledge the support provided to the Board by our whānau, hapū and iwi, communities, NZCA, the Department, specifically by the Pou Tairangahau, Treaty Ranger, Operations Director, Statutory Manager and Board Support Officer. We will continue to be a voice and provide a kaitiaki role on behalf of our communities to enhance the mauri of our taiao and taonga in the spirit of Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

E kii ana te Whakatauki:

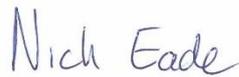
“Ngaro atu he tētēkura, whakaete mai he tētēkura”
When one chief disappears, another is ready to appear.

This whakatauki is relevant to our times, there has been significant change across our spaces with many passing, those retiring and stepping down, the reforms and the returning of whenua to our iwi. It demonstrates that a new seed is planted, ending a phase, and welcoming the succession of our new leaders in the hope that our taiao and people will endure and flourish through the many challenges that lay ahead.

Nō reira tēnā rā koutou kātoa



Aneika Young



Nick Eade

Chairperson and Deputy (Co-Chairs)
Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board

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1. INTRODUCTION

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (**Authority**) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board (**Board**) submits this annual report.

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

Conservation board members are appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987 (**Act**). 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. The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts, including:

- the recommendation of the Nelson Marlborough 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 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.

2. ROHE

The Nelson / Marlborough Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area of 3,964,158.66 hectares. This area covers all of Nelson and Marlborough, with oversight of the whole of Kahurangi National Park. This also includes Abel Tasman and Nelson Lakes National Parks, Mt Richmond Forest Park, Molesworth Recreation Reserve, and important nature reserves such as Takapourewa (Stephens Island) and Farewell Spit.

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.

Public conservation land and waters make up 45.5% of all the Board's total district. This consists of:

- 1,470,202.67 hectares of Public Conservation Land
- 321,492.73 hectares of Sanctuaries to Protect Marine Mammals
- 14,377.90 hectares of Marine Reserves

These areas constitute approximately 12.5% of all public conservation areas in New Zealand.

2.1. Tangata whenua

The Board area includes the rohe of the eight iwi of Te Taihupo - Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Koata, Ngāti Kuia, Rangitāne, Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, and Ngāti Tama - and Ngāti Kuri and Ngāti Waewae (Rūnanga of Ngāi Tahu). There are 11 Marae within the Board area.

2.2. Conservation features of the area

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

- Abel Tasman National Park - 23,502.06 ha
- Kahurangi National Park - 516,846.85 ha
- Nelson Lakes National Park - 101,188.86 ha
- Ka Whata Tu o Rākohiua Conservation Park - 87,877.84 ha
- Molesworth Recreation Reserve - 180,787 ha
- Mount Richmond Forest Park - 165,603.19 ha
- North West Nelson Forest Park - 32,604.54 ha
- 223 Scenic Reserves - 88,860.42 ha
- 11 Historic Reserves - 1,414.99 ha
- 66 Recreation Reserves - 180,067.48 ha
- 208 Stewardship Areas - 241,431.66 ha
- 234 Marginal Strips - 4,415.22 ha
- 18 Specially Protected Area - 6,156.79 ha
- 6 Marine Reserves - 14,377.90 ha
- 4 Sanctuaries to protect Marine Mammals - 321,492.73 ha.

There are about 750 heritage and cultural sites, both Māori and European, including archaeological sites, historic backcountry huts, a whaling station and cob cottages.

Species protection programmes in the area cover Hector's dolphin, tuatara, endemic frogs, Powelliphanta snails, great spotted kiwi, takahē, Hutton's shearwater, tītī/Hutton's shearwater, weka, kākā, black fronted tern and whio (blue duck) and include a 'mainland island' at Nelson Lakes, the Rotoiti Nature Recovery Project.

The Board's area also covers some of New Zealand's best-known and most-loved visitor sites, including Kaikōura Peninsula, Abel Tasman Coast Track, Heaphy Track, Wharariki Beach and Queen Charlotte Track. There are over 300 other walks and tracks totalling more than 1,950 kilometres.

2.3. Conservation issues in the area

The issues that are of key interest to the Board include:

- Ecosystem management and management of plant and animal species
- Management of recreational facilities
- Management of historic sites
- Concession activities including those relating to recreation and tourism activities, grazing, industrial use, baches, filming, gravel extraction.
- Marine protection

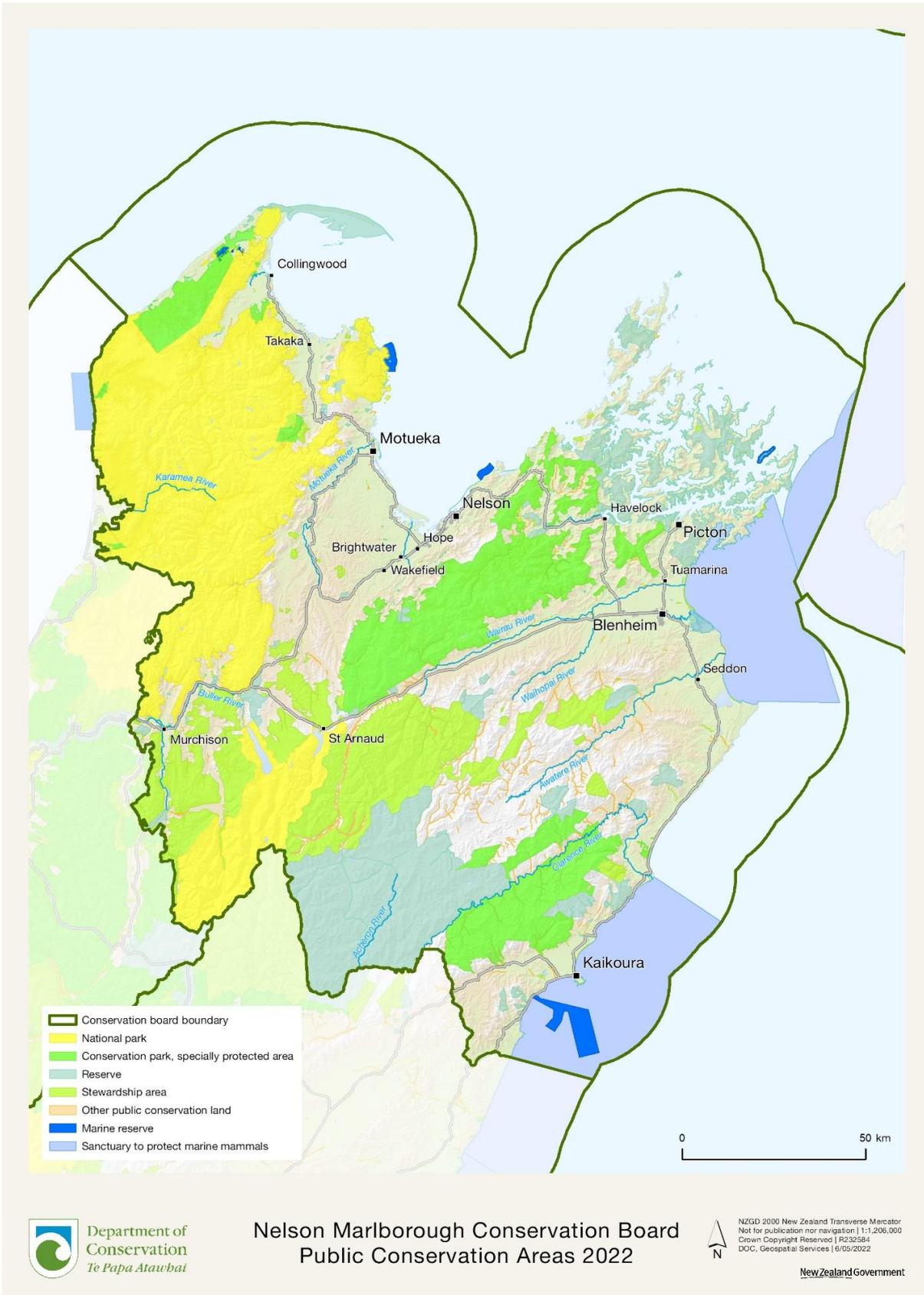


Figure 1: The Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board area of jurisdiction mostly aligns with the DOC Northern South Island region, above, with the addition of policy and planning responsibility for all Kahurangi National Park.

3. FUNCTIONS

3.1. 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 an 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 on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance
- 5) To advise the Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area with the jurisdiction of the Board
- 6) To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matter within the jurisdiction of the Board
- 7) To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.

3.2. Board powers 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 -
 - i. Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
 - ii. 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.

3.3. Board functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980

- 1) to recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board in accordance with sections 45 to 47:
- 2) to consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks:
- 3) to make recommendations to the Minister for the appointment of honorary rangers under section 40:
- 4) to review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board:
- 5) to give advice to the Director-General or the Authority—
 - i. on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; and

- ii. on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and
- iii. on any other matter relating to any national park, within the jurisdiction of the Board.

4. MEMBERSHIP

The Minister of Conservation appoints Board members under section 6P of the Conservation Act 1987. The process of appointment ensures that a range of perspectives, life experiences, and knowledge contribute to the advice provided and decisions made by the Board.

Under Section 6P of the Conservation Act, a Board whose area of jurisdiction is partly within the Ngāi Tahu claim area must consist of no more than 12 persons, with at least one person appointed on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. The Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board currently has two members who were appointed on the nomination of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Board members are appointed for three-year terms unless they are appointed in replacement of a prior member's term and may be re-appointed. There were eleven Board members for the reporting year. Aneika Young was re-elected Chairperson and Nick Eade was re-confirmed as Deputy Chairperson. Two new Board members were appointed: Nicky Wagner and Bill O'Leary were appointed for three-year terms ending 30 June 2027.

Board Member		Area	Term start	Term end
Aneika Young	Chair	Nelson	01/07/2018	30/06/2027
Bill O'Leary		Nelson	01/07/2024	30/06/2027
Brian McGurk		Nelson	01/07/2023	30/06/2028
Clint McConchie	<i>Ngāi Tahu nominee</i>	Kaikōura	01/07/2021	30/06/2027
Dr Jen Skilton		Nelson	01/07/2023	30/06/2026
Lorraine Hawke	<i>Ngāi Tahu nominee</i>	Kaikōura	01/07/2019	30/06/2026
Nick Eade	Co-Chair	Pelorus Sound	01/07/2020	30/06/2026
Nicky Wagner		Picton	01/07/2024	30/06/2027
Dr Serean Adams		Nelson	01/07/2023	30/06/2026

Members' profiles



Aneika Aranga Young has whakapapa to Ngāti Rārua and Te Ātiawa ki Motueka, Ngāti Ruanui and Ngāti Koroki Kahukura. She has an MSc in Environmental Studies and Māori Resource Management. Currently the Poutohutohu Ao Māori for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) NZ and Kotahitanga mō te Taiao Alliance Project. Her former roles included Māori Cultural Advisor and Environmental Scientist at the Cawthron Institute and Poutohutohu Taiao at Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua. Aneika, is now a Board member for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua, Director for Project Janszoon, Board member for the Kaiteretera Recreation Board, Iwi rep for NRSBU and a Trustee on the Te Āwhina Marae Board.



Bill O'Leary has extensive Governance experience. He was on the national Executive of New Zealand Deerstalkers Association and a strong promoter of hunter education and firearm safety. He was on the establishment committee for Game Animal Council and served as a councillor. He has many years of understanding the relationship between human Settlement, natural landscapes, and indigenous flora and fauna. Bill has been involved in developing policy for conservation, Fish and Game and NZ Police.



Brian McGurk has strong governance and planning experience after three terms as a Nelson City Councillor. He is a qualified RMA Commissioner. He holds strong community connections and was involved in the governance of a number of the Council's biodiversity projects.



Clint McConchie is of Ngāi Tahu and Ngāti Kurī decent and was nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. He is a Natural Resource Manager and has formerly had roles in farm management. He brings experience in, and knowledge of, RMA, land and environmental management, sustainable practices, and biodiversity to the board.



Dr Jennifer (Jen) Skilton (Te Ātiawa) has a PhD in ecology, with specific expertise in aquatic and restoration ecology. She works across the Nelson, Tasman, and Marlborough regions as Pou Taiao for Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō. Jen is driven by the desire to implement effective management strategies to sustain and protect New Zealand's natural assets for future generations.



Lorraine Hawke (of Ngāi Tahu o Ngāti Kurī me Ngāi Tuahuriri, Ngāti Waewae, Ngāti Irakehu, Ngāti Mamoe me Waitaha, Rangitāne) is nominated by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Lorraine is a former Māori Response Counsellor with a strong interest in Māori workforce development and Māori health. Lorraine has a background in governance, policy, and whānau development. Her interests are varied; however she is particularly drawn to kaupapa relating to cultural creative arts, rongoā, writing and composition.



Nick Eade of Marlborough Sounds currently combines guiding work in Taranui/Queen Charlotte Sound, with work on several conservation and restoration projects. She previously worked as an Environmental Scientist with a focus on biodiversity and land management. She has significant experience in consultation, advocacy, research and publication, and cultural awareness. She has a Masters in Resource Management.



Nicky Wagner is a Patron of the Papatuanuku Independency Trust. She was the Associate Minister of Conservation (2014-2017) and Associate Minister for Tourism (2016-2017). She has extensive governance, committee and board roles, and experience in the recreation and outdoor sector.



Rima Piggott of Motueka is affiliated to Ngāti Rārua, Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Toa Rangitira, Ngāti Ranginui, Ngāiterangi and Ngāti Tūwharetoa. Rima is a home health support worker and has a certificate in Horticultural Management. Rima has broad community involvement and is a Trustee for Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Rārua and a member of the Manawhenua ki Mohua Trust. She enjoys tramping, fishing, hunting, diving, gardening and gathering ai moana.



Scott Burnett of Nelson has a business and governance background related to volunteering and conservation. He has a Masters degree focused on the relationships of eco-sanctuaries with Māori. Scott remains active and committed to conservation efforts in the Marlborough Sounds.



Dr Serean Adams brings marine science and aquaculture experience, with a PhD in Marine Science and experience working with iwi on aquaculture matters. Dr Adams has led research programmes, strategy and business development for Cawthron Institute. She was previously involved with the DOC Kakapo Recovery Programme carrying out cryopreservation research.

5. MEETINGS AND FIELD TRIPS

The Board held six 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 region to attend meetings and access the Board.

In the latter months of 2024 and early 2025, the Board spent time negotiating resourcing for less frequent meeting times. Going forwards the Board agreed to meeting four times a year having one 1-day in person meeting per year, one 1-day online meeting per year, and two 2-day in person meetings per year.

Meeting date	Location & Venue	Field Trip
06/08/2024	Kaiteriteri , Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve Conference Room	Field trip to Kākā Point Historic Reserve
23-24/09/2024	Rotoiti , Alpine Lodge Conference Room – joint meeting with West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board	Field trip with West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board member to Lake Rotoiti in Nelson Lakes National Park.
28/11/2024	Renwick , Renwick Fire Station	-
05/03/2025	Mōtueka , Te Awhina Marae	-
09/05/2025	Online	-

5.1. Agendas

The Operations Director provides a strategic update at each meeting. District updates are provided by Operations Managers at most meetings.

The Board receives regular reports from the Department at each meeting, including on operational work in the region, statutory management planning and RMA advocacy work.

Te Ao Māori is a focus for the Board and meetings are held at marae when possible. Tangata whenua iwi are invited to meetings to talk to the Board.

The agendas and minutes from all Board meetings can be found on the Board's webpage:

<https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-boards/nelson-marlborough/>



Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board members at Lake Rotoiti. PHOTO: A Alspach

5.2. Field trips and site inspections

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

In August 2024 the Board met at Kaitereterere and visited Kākā Point Historic Reserve after the meeting. Kākā Point holds significant cultural value for iwi and is administered by the Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve Board.

In September 2024, the Board participated in a joint hui and field trip with the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board at Nelson Lakes National Park. The meeting included a workshop focused DOC's proposed future visitor network and a field trip was held to Lake Rotoiti in the national park. Board members reflected on the dramatic landscape of Rotoiti, its geological significance along the Alpine Fault, and the cultural importance of the area as a traditional gathering site for tuna and birds.

On 5th March 2025, the Board visited Te Āwhina Marae, farewelling Harvey Ruru and Ian Alach.

5.3. Members' attendance

Board Member	Meetings (total #)
Aneika Young	4
Bill O'Leary	3
Brian McGurk	4
Clint McConchie	4
Jen Skilton	4
Lorraine Hawke	3
Nick Eade	3
Nicky Wagner	3
Rima Piggott	5
Scott Burnett	4
Serean Adams	4



Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board members and DOC staff at Te Āwhina Marae, Mōtueka. PHOTO: A Young



Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board members and DOC staff at Kākā Point Historic Reserve (Kaitereterere). PHOTO: M Reihana

6. MAHI

6.1. Committees

The Conservation Act 1987 enables the Board to establish committees to carry out functions or tasks delegated by the Board. Committees that were active during the reporting period, and members involved in those committees included:

Permissions Committee – To advise the Department on policy matters associated with concessions and enable feedback on concession applications within the limited timeframes allowed for Board input. The committee is only formally involved in the concessions process when one of the agreed trigger points is activated, most often being a new type of activity.

- Members: Ian Alach, Clint McConchie, Brian McGurk

Iwi Komiti – To progress and advise on iwi matters and/or relationships

- Members: Rima Piggott, Harvey Ruru, Aneika Young, Lorraine Hawke, Clink McConchie, Jen Skilton

Stewardship Land Reclassification Committee – To advise the Department on matters relating to stewardship land reclassification

- Members: Harvey Ruru, Aneika Young, Ian Alach

Molesworth Management Plan Review Committee – To advise the Department on matters relating to the Molesworth Management plan review and provide input into the development of the draft plan.

- Members: Nick Eade, Ian Alach, Lorraine Hawke, Scott Burnett

Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee – To monitor and review health and safety matters including the Board's Health and Safety Policy

- Members: Harvey Ruru, Serean Adams

6.2. Representatives and Board appointees

The Board is represented on two entities in the region:

- Molesworth Steering Committee – Nick Eade (Ministerial appointment)
- Tasman Environmental Trust – Scott Burnett

6.3. Liaison roles

Sally Gepp is the NZCA liaison person for the Board. Copies of all agendas and minutes are exchanged between the Board and NZCA. Sally regularly attends Board meetings and updates the Board on the NZCA's work.

Board members were also appointed to liaise with adjoining conservation boards. The Board also exchanges copies of all agendas and minutes with these neighbouring boards.

- West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board liaison – Harvey Ruru/Brian McGurk
- Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board liaison – Scott Burnett

6.4. Other events and training

Board Chairs attended a national Chairs hui in August 2024, where they discussed delays in Board appointments, the formation of a Māori Chairs group, and the evolving structure of Board meetings to include more workshops focused on national initiatives.

Board members participated in several events and workshops throughout the year. In September, the Board held a joint hui and field trip with the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board at Nelson Lakes. The event included a workshop focused on the West Coast Conservation Management Strategy and discussions around iwi and hapū challenges in te taiao spaces.

In November, the Board held a workshop at Renwick Fire Station, which provided space for strategic discussion and reflection on the Board's role and priorities.

7. STATUTORY ACTIVITY

7.1. Annual Work Plan

The Board adopted its 2024-2025 work plan in September, continuing its focus on biodiversity, statutory planning, iwi engagement, and regional conservation priorities. A new action was added to strengthen the Board's connection with the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA). The work plan provided continuity with previous years and guided the Board's input into DOC's strategic initiatives, including the Integrated Regional Plan and Future Visitor Network.

7.2. Nelson Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

There has been no review of the Nelson Marlborough CMS which was approved in 1996. The Board remains concerned that the CMS is no longer fit for purpose and is overdue for review.

7.3. Management Plans

Rangitahi/Molesworth Recreation Reserve

The Board continued its involvement in the review of the Rangitahi/Molesworth Recreation Reserve Management Plan. Nick Eade represents the Board on the Molesworth Steering Committee which provided input into the draft plan. The draft plan was due to be publicly notified in February 2025 but this was paused and the Department is no longer progressing with the review of the Management Plan. The Board has emphasised the importance of iwi involvement, conservation values, and public access in any future management arrangements including any new farming lease.

8. ADVICE AND ADVOCACY

The Board provides advice and advocacy within the region and nationally.

8.1. Advice to the Department

The Board receives operational updates from the Department at Board meetings as well as a strategic overview of work in the region. There is good discussion at each meeting in response to these updates.

The Board has a Permissions Committee which receives weekly updates on permissions applications in the region. Advice is provided when the triggers for consultation with the Conservation Board triggers are met.

The Board offered feedback on the proposed Future Visitor Network, supporting the tiered approach to asset prioritisation but cautioning against divestment without iwi and community consultation. Members emphasised the importance of maintaining regionally significant assets and ensuring facilities are fit for purpose and financially sustainable.

In relation to the Rangitahi/Molesworth Recreation Reserve, the Board advised DOC to ensure future management arrangements reflect Treaty obligations and recreation values. The Board also recommended continued engagement with the Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board due to overlapping jurisdiction.

The Board expressed concern about the implementation of a national drone permit zoning system without prior consultation with Treaty Partners. It advised DOC to revise the process to incorporate iwi values from the outset and to strengthen regional engagement in national decision-making.

On the topic of wilding conifer control, the Board supported DOC's efforts and highlighted the urgency of addressing infestations in the Branch/Leatham area. Members recommended exploring alternative funding models and partnerships to meet the estimated \$170 million required over 20 years.

The Board also provided input on DOC's Integrated Regional Plan, encouraging the inclusion of Treaty Partner values, robust criteria for identifying "special places," and a nuanced approach to service levels. Members supported the use of workshops to engage with DOC on strategic planning and national initiatives.

In response to the Fast-Track Approvals Act, the Board established a committee to respond to applications and advised DOC to consult early and clearly on proposals. The Board also expressed interest in supporting iwi responses to fast-track projects.

Finally, the Board recommended that DOC continue to engage with community conservation groups and recreation stakeholders, particularly in relation to public access easements and forestry management in areas like Mt Richmond Forest Park.

8.2. Community advocacy and involvement

Meetings were held in different parts of the Nelson Marlborough region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

Individual Board members are involved in community groups and spoke to the Board about their work. Scott Burnett is the Board's representative on Tasman Environmental Trust and updates the Board at each meeting on the Trust's work.

Representatives of several community groups talked to the Board throughout the year.

In August, the Board heard from Rhys Barrier of Fish & Game, who presented on the health and distribution of native fish species. He highlighted collaborative work with iwi, including drift dives in the Rai River with Ngāti Kuia, and discussed the vulnerability of the New Zealand Grey Duck due to habitat loss and interbreeding with mallards.

Also in August, Sandy Toy from Friends of Flora shared the group's 23-year history of predator control in Kahurangi National Park. Their volunteer efforts support seven endemic species and 90 threatened or at-risk species. The group maintains strong volunteer engagement and succession planning.

In September, the Board welcomed Graham Pomeroy from Federated Mountain Council and representatives from Friends of Rotoiti. Graham expressed interest in building relationships with DOC and staying informed on hut and track management. Friends of Rotoiti shared their extensive trapping network and involvement in kiwi translocation and wasp control.

In November, the Board discussed the Pest-Free Onetahua project and predator control efforts at Farewell Spit. Due to funding constraints, the project is exploring alternative methods such as ground bait stations. The Board also received updates from the Tasman Environmental Trust, which is adapting its funding strategy and planning its 25th anniversary celebrations.

Throughout the year, the Board engaged with tramping and recreation groups, including the Nelson and Motueka Tramping Clubs, regarding concerns over Public Access Easements (PAEs) into Mt Richmond Forest Park. While the Board acknowledged the complexity of land ownership and access, it was unable to reach consensus on a formal position.

The Board also supported public presentations on the Motueka Sandspit, an internationally significant site for shorebirds, and discussed the importance of protecting roosting and breeding habitats in the face of coastal erosion.

The Board appreciates the efforts of the public and community groups to attend meetings and always responds by letter with a response to questions asked or concerns raised.

8.3. Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website and via the quarterly Conservation Board Newsletter.

Individual board members attended regional Biodiversity Forums and a range of events including bird translocations and are active in range of community trapping, weeding and planting activities.

8.4. Other advocacy and advice

In February 2025, the Board supported a joint Boards submission on Modernising Conservation Land Management.

In May 2025 Board members attended a hui at Onetahua Marae in Golden Bay with iwi and New Zealand Conservation Authority to discuss proposed additions to the Abel Tasman National Park.

8.5. Iwi liaison

The Iwi Komiti takes the lead on developing the cultural capability of Board members and upskilling Board members in Te Reo and tikanga. There are iwi representatives on all Board committees.

A focus on Te Ao Māori is integral to Board meetings and the Board's Tikanga mō te Poari. The Board considers iwi perspectives in its discussion and factors iwi views into its advice.

9. FEES AND ALLOWANCES

Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Travelling Allowances Act 1951. The chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$330, and other Authority members receive a daily meeting fee of \$250.

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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 Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz, or e-mail nelsonmarlboroughboard@doc.govt.nz