

# TARANAKI -WHANGANUI CONSERVATION BOARD

## TE TAI HAU-Ā-URU

Annual Report 2016-2017



*Native North Island Robin (Toutouwai)*



# Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board Te Tai Hau-Ā-Uru

## Annual Report 2016-2017

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

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# 1. Chairperson's report

This report begins with an acknowledgement of the previous Chair, Anne-Marie Broughton. While her resignation was expected, though not without unanimous support for her efforts, there was a sense of loss with her departure. In her time as the Board Chair, she encouraged Board's attention to local issues and questions affecting the conservation management of land, waterways, flora and fauna. In this regard, Anne-Marie's guidance of the Board's submission to the Environmental Protection Authority against Trans-Tasman Resources Ltd (TTRL) application to conduct seabed mining was typical of her patience, diligence and persistence. Anne-Marie has been gone for some months now alongside others who have since moved on as well. The Board wishes them all the best with their future endeavours and we look forward to their ongoing support and wise counsel.

Notwithstanding the organisational changes that DOC staff have navigated in recent years, the Board has been kept informed about current issues and challenges at both national and regional levels. Although, there have been numerous items shared with the Board, some issues were raised on more than one occasion. These included 1080, concessions policy and decisions, and commercial activities that may impact on national parks, conservation estates and stewardship lands.

During 2017, Board Members sought to improve their knowledge and understanding of the Board's statutory obligations and responsibilities while mindful of the tension between the voices calling for care and protection and the voices pursuing access, use and development. The Board is aware that this dilemma waxes and wanes as the pendulum swings from left to right in response to cultural, social, economic and other interests.

The Board sought to acknowledge these tensions within its Annual Plan by recognising that human activity exploits natural resources on the one hand and, focuses on care for the natural environment and eco-systems on the other hand. For this reason, the notion of a conservation economy was adopted with the view that a healthy environment provides for a healthy economy. Consequently, the Board has challenged itself with critical questions about balancing 'our need' to look after the health and well-being of the natural environment and 'our desire' to support the economy of local communities.

The Board remains supportive of the Taranaki Mounga Project because it represents a 'whole of community' approach to an ecological restoration initiative between the NEXT Foundation, DOC, Ngā Iwi o Taranaki and other communities of interest throughout Taranaki. The Board acknowledges the aim of the project, which seeks to establish the first ungulate free National Park in New Zealand and to re-introduce native species. This is no small undertaking. The project is an example of regional community leaders – mana whenua, government agencies, private sector organisations and philanthropy, demonstrating leadership with common purpose, shared principles and collective action.

In 2017, challenges and criticisms were raised with the Board and the Department of Conservation for supporting the use of 1080. For its part, the Board reiterated its view that 1080 is not a preferred method of pest control and continues to approve its use on a case by case basis. The Board also requested DOC to keep the Board abreast of research and development projects that may offer future possibilities and alternative methods for pest control of possums and other exotic predators. The intention is to share information about these initiatives with the communities of Taranaki and Whanganui.

The Taranaki–Whanganui Conservation Board has accessed data information from the Department of Conservation, and others, on the pressures and impacts of agricultural and resource extraction industries on land, air and water. In recent years, diverse communities of interests, ranging from Iwi organisation engaged in Treaty Settlement processes to national bodies such as Forest and Bird, have raised concerns about the ecological sustainability of commercial activities such as beekeeping and

eco-tourism. The underlying questions for the Board have been to what extent should concessionaires contribute to environmental restoration and enhancement, but more importantly, how much of these activities can be sustained before they are unduly detrimental to the health and well-being of place, people, flora and fauna? In this regard, the Board has moved toward understanding the value proposition for these activities in relation to the Board's statutory obligations and responsibilities for conservation management.

The Board's 2016 submission to the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) opposed the new application from Trans-Tasman Resources Ltd (TTRL) to conduct seabed mining along the West Coast of the North Island with this company's proposed initial foray along the Taranaki coastline. The Board's first submission in opposition to TTRL's first application was in 2013. In August 2017, the Board considered the EPA decision in favour of TTRL. In so doing, the Board was aware that DOC did not make a submission to the EPA in response to TTRL's 2016 application.

It is worth noting that the Board's deliberations of this matter, whilst outside of the 2016/7 year and outside of this report, have resulted in the Board appealing to the High Court on a number of points of law. This appeal is to be heard in April 2018.

There have been ongoing tensions between those who demand access, use, development and exact resources and others who seek to limit and perhaps, on a case by case basis, to stop such activities. This is likely to continue in 2017/2018 with a variety of issues and challenges as they become more visible to local communities and the wider public. In this regard, the Board is committed to fulfilling its statutory obligations and responsibilities for conservation management. Moreover, the Board will continue to monitor and encourage activities that uphold and support conservation management.



Dr Brendon Te Tiwha Puketapu  
Chair, Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board

## 2. Introduction

This is the Taranaki- Whanganui Conservation Board Annual Report as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board had ten members for the 2016-2017 year appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987. There was one new appointment to the Board, Dr. Robert Shaw, and four re-appointments – Vicky Dombroski, Steve Fouhy, Liana Poutu, Dr. Brendon (Te Tiwha) Puketapu. Blue Cumberworth was re-appointed to the Board for a period of four months (February – June 2017). Anne-Marie Broughton was elected as Chairperson and Dr. Brendon (Te Tiwha) Puketapu as Deputy Chairperson.

Conservation Boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. The Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board represents the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation, within the area of jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- Advising the Department of Conservation and the NZCA on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- Reporting on the implementation of the CMS

- The approval of Conservation Management Plans
- The recommendation of National Park Management Plans to the NZCA for approval
- Advising the Department of Conservation and NZCA on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- Liaising with Fish and Game Council on conservation matters

Carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation Boards to provide the NZCA with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board submits this annual report.

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

**The Conservation Act specifies that the Board's role is to:**

- recommend the approval of conservation management strategies;
- approve conservation management plans;
- advise on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice;
- advise on proposed changes to the status of land areas of national and international significance;
- liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters; and
- carry out other powers delegated to them by the Conservation Minister, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

The Board has a number of 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 New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA).

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987 requires conservation Boards to provide the NZCA with an annual report as soon as practicable after the 30th June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Taranaki/ Whanganui Conservation Board submits this annual report.

### 3. Conservation Board Region

The Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction encompasses some 15,000 sq. km of land extending from the Mokau River in the north to the Turakina River in the south and inland to Ohura and Taumarunui. Approximately 298,000 ha of public conservation land is administered by DOC which represents almost 20% of the total area of the Board's district.

In addition to a number of scenic, historic and recreational reserves, the district includes both the Egmont National Park and its associated array of recreation opportunities, and the Whanganui National Park with its unique history and strong cultural connections.

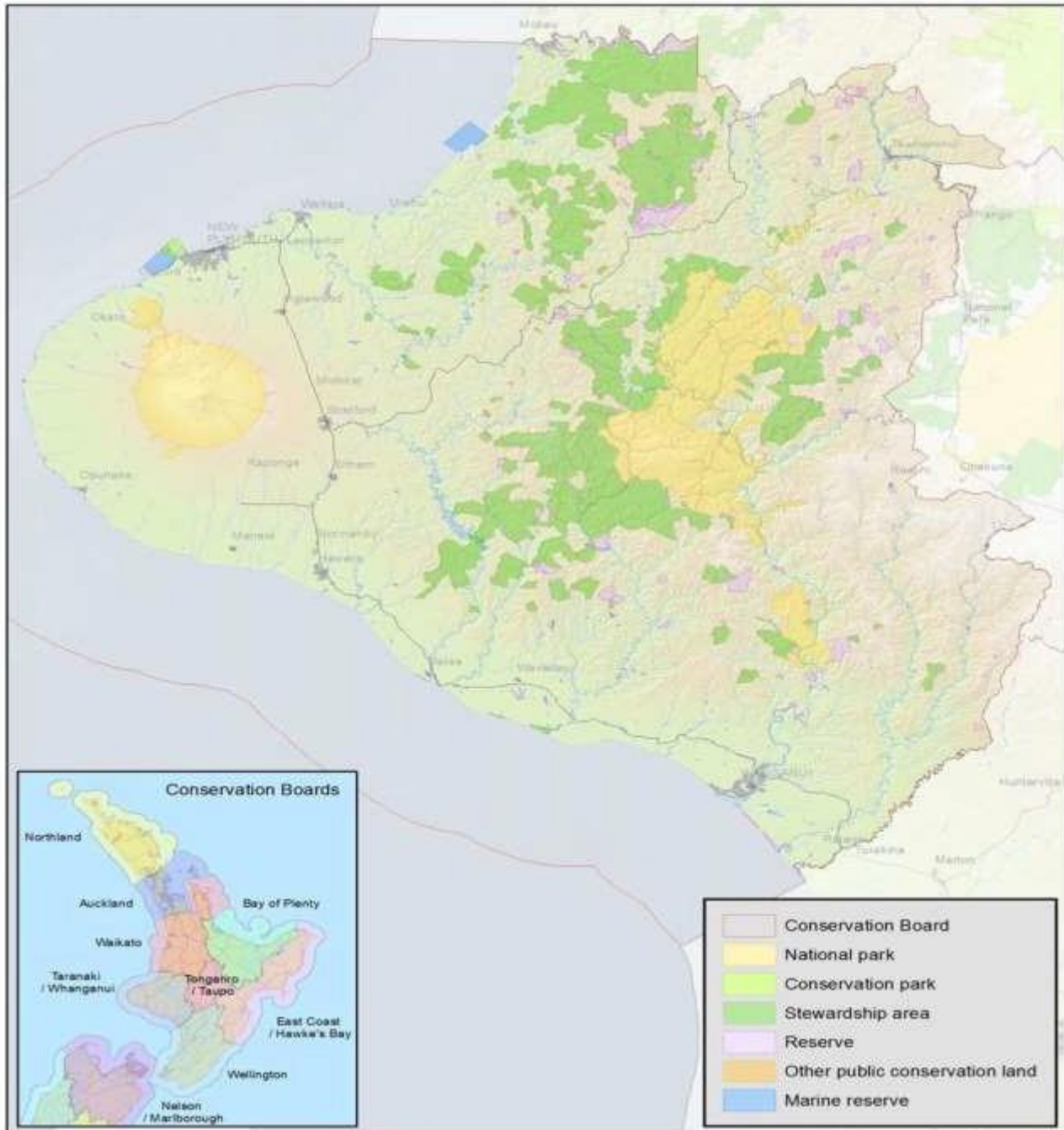
The coastal boundary that extends along the Board's district includes the Tapuae and Paraninihi marine reserves as well as the long-established Nga Motu/Sugar Loaf Islands Protected Area.

Volcanoes, wild and scenic rivers, huge tracts of forest, rugged mountain ranges and a dynamic coastline provide for a great diversity of landscapes, habitats, plants and animals.

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.



## TARANAKI/WHANGANUI CONSERVATION BOARD AREA



## Taranaki / Whanganui Conservation Board

New Zealand Government  
 te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

0 25 50 Kilometres

Department of Conservation  
 Te Kaitiaki Take Kōwhiri

Document Path: C:\GIS\Projects\_2016\Projections\A\Projections\_Central\_NZ\Board\_Images\F0001\_Taranaki\_Whanganui\_Board\_Map.mxd

## **Conservation features of the Area**

### **Main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the Board's boundaries are:**

- Wetlands, lakes and rivers  
Waverley Lake network
- Island sanctuaries off the coast of New Plymouth  
Sugar loaf Islands Conservation Sanctuaries
- North Island West Coast dunes and estuaries  
Whitiau Scientific and Scenic Reserves, Tapuarau Conservation Area, Patea harbour
- Vast area of intact lowland forest  
Whanganui National Park, Waitotara Conservation Area, Tangarakau Conservation and Scenic Reserves and North Taranaki Conservation Areas
- Marine reserves  
Paraninihi and Tapuae Marine Reserve
- Marine mammal  
West Coast North Island Marine Mammal Sanctuary, Maui Dolphin, Proposed Blue Whale Sanctuary and New Zealand Fur Seals
- Whanganui River  
Te Awa Tupua Settlement

### **The Whanganui National Park**

The extensive forest of the Park is at the heart of a vast area of intact native forest, the second largest on the North Island. It holds the largest remaining Kiwi population in the North Island. Covering a total area of 74'231 hectares.

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

- Wetlands, lakes and rivers
- Island sanctuaries off the coast of New Plymouth
- North Island West Coast dunes and estuaries
- Vast area of intact lowland forest
- Marine reserves
- Marine mammal
- Whanganui River
- Large scale pest control
- Intensive management of endangered species
- Consents
- Recreational Activities and Tourism
- Bio-security

## 4. Board Functioning

### 4.1. Board Functions Under Section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987

The functions of the Board are:

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

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

- 1) Every 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 Board may –
  - a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
  - b) Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.

### 4.3. Responsibilities under other Sections of the Conservation Act 1987

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 states “This Act shall be so interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi”. As a Board established under the Conservation Act 1987, section 4 applies to the Board in the discharge of its functions. During the year, the significant movement within the Treaty Settlement space has engaged the Board’s attention. With two statutory member appointments and other members with Iwi roles, the Board is well abreast of the treaty landscape and advises the Department of key tangata whenua issues when relevant.

### 4.4. Board Functions under the National Parks Act 1980

There are two national parks within the Board’s region: Mt Egmont National Park and Whanganui National Park. Both National Parks will be subject to Treaty Settlement Negotiations in the coming years.

### 4.5 Board Membership

There were ten Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Anne-Marie Broughton was elected Chairperson and Dr. Brendon Puketapu was elected Deputy Chairperson. The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017 and their term of office.

#### Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board: Membership

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Term served
Anne-Marie Broughton	Whanganui	19/09/2011	30/06/2017	6
Vicky Dombroski	Waitara	01/05/2014	30/06/2019	3
Stephen (Steve) Fouhy	Whanganui	01/05/2014	30/06/2019	3
Novena McGuckin	Whanganui	01/05/2014	30/06/2018	3
Liana Poutu	New Plymouth	01/07/2015	30/06/2019	2
Dr. Brendon (Te Tiwha) Puketapu	Whanganui	21/11/2013	30/06/2019	4
Donald (Don) Robinson	Whanganui	01/07/2015	30/06/2017	2
Dr. Robert Shaw	Stratford	01/07/2016	30/06/2019	1
Samuel (Sam) Tamarapa	Waitara	01/05/2014	30/06/2018	3
Blue Cumberworth	Ohura	01/07/2014	30/07/2017	1

## 4.6. Members Profiles

### 1) **Anne-Marie Broughton of Whanganui (Chairperson)**

***Appointment term: 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017***

Ms Anne-Marie Broughton is the Kaiwhakahaere (General Manager) of Te Kaahui o Rauru (Ngaa Rauru iwi) and has more than 10 years experience in land management and development in the Taranaki/Whanganui region. She has worked extensively with Maori land owners, farmers and councils. A dairy farming joint venture she initiated in 2009 was the 2014 winner of the Ahu Whenua Dairy Awards. Anne-Marie has experience and qualifications in business management, business development and the design and delivery of adult education. Her outdoor recreation interests are skiing, tramping, walking, gardening and camping. She is of Ngaa Rauru, Te Atihaunui a Paparangi, Ngati Ruanui, Nga Ruahine, Ngati Rangī and Nga Puhi descent.

### 2) **Dr. Brendon Puketapu**

***Appointment term: 21 November 2013 to 30 June 2019***

Dr. Brendon (Tiwha) Puketapu is involved with hapū and iwi matters relating to conversation lands and national park areas in the Whanganui region. He has experience in management and governance roles with not-for-profit, private sector and public sector organisations. He has a working background in public policy, Treaty claim negotiations, organisational change, governance and management. He is currently a member of the Board for Te Atihau Whanganui Incorporation and he is the chair for Te Atihau Charitable Trust. He is of Whanganui Te Atihaunui a Paparangi, Ngāti Rangī, Ngā Rauru, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngā Ruahinerangi, Taranaki nui tonu, Te Atiawa descent.

### 3) **Vicky Dombroski of Waitara**

***Appointment term: 1 May 2014 to 30 June 2019***

Ms Vicky Dombroski has over 20 years' experience in management and leadership. She has an extensive background working with Boards, Councils and Committees in the local community. Her career in economic, community, tourism and environmental development along with her extensive networks and passion for Taranaki and its people, give her an ideal background for a role on the Taranaki/Whanganui conservation Board. Her outdoor recreation interests are monitoring the health of the sea and local reefs, kayak fishing, horse riding, and tramping. She is of mixed indigenous South American, English, Cornish and German roots.

### 4) **Novena McGuckin of Whanganui**

***Appointment term: 1 May 2014 to 30 June 2018***

Ms Novena McGuckin has over 15 years of Governance and Management experience and works for Te Tumu Paeroa, who administer over 2000 Land Blocks. Novena travels extensively, meeting with owners supporting them to achieve their aspirations for their land.

Novena is a Trustee on the Whanganui Lands Settlement Trust and is a member of other various land trusts in the Whanganui Region.

She actively supports Conservation and is an advocate of protecting indigenous ecosystems on Maori land and encouraging private land owners in New Zealand to protect special natural and cultural features on their land with open space covenants particularly with Nga Whenua Rahui.

Novena enjoys outdoor recreation and walking. Annually canoeing all the Whanganui River, researching and visiting historical sites.

She is of Te Āti Haunui-a-Pāpārangi, Ngati Patutokotoko, Ngāti Tūwharetoa and Ngāti Maniapoto Iwi.

**5) Steve Fouhy of Whanganui**  
***Appointment term: 1 May 2014 to 30 June 2019***

Mr Steve Fouhy is a top-dressing pilot, environmentally conscious farmer and contractor. He has knowledge of government processes and Boards having been a Rangitikei District Councillor and current chairman of the Turakina Community Committee. His outdoor recreation interests are farming, fishing and planting.

**6) Liana Poutu**  
***Appointment term: 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2019***

Ms Liana Poutu has a legal background with a strong focus on Treaty of Waitangi, Treaty Settlement negotiations, Māori land and Māori governance issues. She has represented iwi groups before the Māori Land Court and Waitangi Tribunal, specifically in the Wai 262 Flora and Fauna, Aquaculture, Foreshore & Seabed, Management of Petroleum, and National Park inquiries. She is currently the Chair of Te Kotahitanga o Te Atiawa Trust (the post settlement governance entity responsible for managing Te Atiawa's Treaty Settlement). Ms Poutu also holds a number of other governance roles including National Science Challenge Sustainable Seas Kāhui Advisory Group Chair. She is of Te Atiawa, Taranaki, Whanganui and Maniapoto descent.

**7) Don Robinson**  
***Appointment term: 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2017***

Mr Don Robinson is a director on the Atihau Whanganui Incorporation, chair of the Pipiriki Incorporation and Ngā Poro Waimarino Forest Trust. Don has sound experience in governance, leadership, environmental management and has an understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi relating to conservation outcomes. He has a personal passion for the conservation and preservation of flora and fauna on both conservation and private lands; including involvement with Ngā Whenua Rahui, DOC, regional and district councils to ensure positive outcomes in these areas. He is of Ngati Uenuku, Ngati Kurawhatia, Ngati Rangī o te Manganui o te Ao, Atihaunui a Paparangi, Nga Rauru descent.

**8) Dr. Robert Shaw of Stratford**  
***Appointment term: 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2019***

Dr. Robert Shaw is an experienced member of city and regional councils. He was as civil servant for 18 years in Wellington in several ministries, including the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Research, Science and Technology. He is a professor in the School of Business at Guangdong University of Foreign Studies and occasionally teaches at the Western Institute of Technology Taranaki. His current research draws upon continental philosophy and relates to social and environmental issues. He is active in conservation issues in South Taranaki and is a member of the Ornithological Society of New Zealand and the Royal Society of New Zealand.

**9) Sam Tamarapa of Waitara**  
***Appointment term: 1 May 2014 to 30 June 2018***

Mr Sam Tamarapa is an iwi communications officer for the Taranaki Regional Council. He has a broad knowledge of public policy, legislation, the Treaty of Waitangi, and Board governance. He has experience in environmental management and has a strong personal interest in native freshwater species protection. His outdoor recreation interests are fishing, diving, hunting and sport. He is of Ngati Ruanui, Nga Rauru, Te Ati Haunui-a-Paparangi, Ngati Maru, Te Atiawa, Taranaki Iwi and Te Arawa iwi.

**10. Mr Blue Cumberworth of Ohura**  
**Appointment term: 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2017**

Mr Blue Cumberworth is involved in farming, forestry and fishing. He has knowledge of the resource consent process and has been a member or chairman of various local community associations and Boards including the Ohura Valley Presidents Association and Ohura Community Board. His outdoor recreation interests are hunting and fishing.

**4.7. Board Meetings, Field Trips & Workshops**

The Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board held five meetings, two field trips, and one workshop during the reporting period. Venues for the Board meetings are varied each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

**Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board: Board meeting dates and location**

<b>Board meeting date</b>	<b>Meeting location and venue</b>
July 1 2016 (Board Meeting)	Department of Conservation 34-36 Taupo Quay Whanganui
September 9 2016 (Board Meeting)	Taranaki Regional Council Offices 47 Cloten Street, Stratford
October 3 2016 (Field Trip)	New Zealand Conservation Authority - Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board visit to Pukirangiora Paa Site in Taranaki (Waitara) 3 October
November 10 2016 (Board Meeting)	Department of Conservation 34-36 Taupo Quay Whanganui
November 11 2016 (Field Trip)	Whanganui River Field Trip
March 2 2017 (Board Meeting)	Quality Hotel, Plymouth International Corner Courtney and Leach Streets New Plymouth 4312
June 22 2017 (Marine Workshop)	New Plymouth Sports Fishing and Underwater Club Ocean View Parade, New Plymouth
June 23 2017 (Board Meeting)	Quality Hotel Plymouth International Corner Courtenay and Leach Streets New Plymouth 4312

**4.8. Attendance**

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

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles.

### Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board: Attendance at Board Meetings

Board Member	Board meetings	Apologies
Anne-Marie Broughton	4	9 September 2016
Don Robinson	4	10 November 2016
Dr. Brendon (Te Tiwaha) Puketapu	3	9 September 2016, 23 June 2017
Novena McGuckin	4	9 <sup>th</sup> September 2016
Dr. Robert Shaw	5	
Sam Tamarapa	4	23 June 2017
Steve Fouhy	5	
Vicky Dombroski	5	
Liana Poutu	1	1 July 2016 10 November 2016 2 March 2017 23 June 2017
Blue Cumberworth	1	

## 4.9. Board Committees and Representation

### Iwi subcommittee

The purpose of this subcommittee is to work together with iwi. Board member Don Robinson represented the Board for the 2016/17 reporting period.

Taranaki-Whanganui

Subcommittee	Date established	Members
Te Roopu Mana Whenua	2016-2017	Don Robinson
Kia Whārite	2016-2017	Don Robinson
Horizons Regional Council	2016-2017	Don Robinson
Tupuae Marine Reserve Committee	2016-2017	Don Robinson

### Representation

The following Board Members formally represent the Board at these forums

Member	Representation
Steve Fouhy	Federated Farmers
Robert Shaw	South Taranaki District Council
Sam Tamarapa	Tupuae Marine Reserve Committee
Vicky Dombroski	New Plymouth District Council, Venture Taranaki and Wild for Taranaki



### Joint Advisory Sub Committee

At the Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board meeting 1 July 2016 the Board resolved that Samuel Tamarapa be appointed to the JAC established under Subpart 3 of the Ngati Tama Claims Settlement Act 2003.

Ngati Tama Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)	2003	Sam Tamarapa
-------------------------------------------	------	--------------

#### 4.10 Training for members

The full Board undertook an Induction Workshop September 2016 which provided background information on the region, the role of conservation Boards, and local issues as well as one day's attendance at the Department's Te Pukenga Atawhai Training at Owae Marae, November 2017.

#### 4.11. The Board received presentations from external groups as follows:

The Board is interested in what is happening in conservation in communities and so has a practice of inviting representatives from community organisations to present at each meeting. Speakers this year have represented:

Presenter	Topic	Meeting
Leigh Honor	Wild for Taranaki	9 September 2016
Karen Pratt	South Taranaki Reef Life Project	9 September 2016 22 June 2017
Tanea Tangaroa	Te Ripo Kokohuia	23 June 2017
Josh Richardson Marine Workshop/Field Trip	Curious Minds Participatory Science Programme (PSP) Fund	22 June 2017
Pat Swanson Marine Workshop/Field Trip	Experiencing Marine Reserves	22 June 2017
Elise Smith/Anne Scott Marine Workshop/Field Trip	Nga Motu Marine Reserve	22 June 2017
Alan Standsill (Fish and Game)	Water Allocation, Water Quality, Fish Passage, Wetlands	23 June 2017
Te Maunga Project	Update	23 June 2017

These were predominantly voluntary groups carrying out huge amounts of conservation work within the community. The Board recognises and appreciates volunteers and thanks them for the work done in this area.

## 5. Statutory Activity

In addition to the regular updates on the Department's activities provided in the status report which is considered at each meeting, the Board received additional briefings and updates.

### Topics included a range of matters such as:

- Trans-Tasman Resources Limited (Sand Mining Application)
- Interpreting and Application of Statutory Documents
- Permissions and statutory land management processes
- The science behind the Battle for our Birds
- Purpose and implementation of Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, and the Treaty of Waitangi
- Access arrangements for prospecting, exploration and mining
- CMS review process
- Pilot programme updates
- Marine protection and management
- Predator Free 2050 Strategy
- Battle for our Birds update and outcomes
- Tenure review process and update on local properties
- Consent Requirements 1080
- Western Brown Kiwi Strategy
- Permissions Improvement Project – Concessions
- Stewardship Land
- TTRL and TTRL Review

### Ngati Tama Joint Advisory Committee (JAC)

In accordance with the Ngati Tama Claim Settlement Act 2003, the Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) was established under the Act to advise on the management of Whitecliffs and other nearby conservation areas, including Parininihi Marine Reserve. JAC committee members include representatives from Ngati Tama, the Department of Conservation and the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board.

Following the gazettal of Parininihi Marine Reserve in September 2006, the JAC was delegated the Board's power to approve, review or amend any conservation management plans for the reserve, in accordance with section 6N (2) (b) of the Conservation Act 1987. In its August 2007 meeting, the Board resolved that the JAC be the governing body for the Parininihi Marine Reserve (a preferred choice of Ngati Tama), rather than establishing a separate marine reserve committee.

At the Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board meeting 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 the Board resolved that Samuel Tamarapa be appointed to the Ngati Tama Joint Advisory Committee (JAC) established under Subpart 3 of the Ngati Tama Claims Settlement Act 2003 1 July 2016 Meeting.

### 14<sup>th</sup> October 2016

Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board completed the Environmental Protection Authority on-line submission opposing the Trans-Tasman Resources Limited application to mine iron-sand from the sea bed offshore from South Taranaki.

### March 15 2017

Anne-Marie Broughton, Dr. Robert Shaw and Vicky Dombroski attended the Environmental Protection Authority hearing to speak on behalf of the Board's application opposing mining iron-sand off the South Taranaki coast.

### 5.1. **Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)**

Conservation Boards have a critical role in the operational Management Strategies and with preparation, review, amendment and approval of statutory planning documents (Conservation Management Strategies (CMS's) and Conservation Management Plans (CMP's) and National Park Management Plans (NPMP's).

The functions of Boards are set out in Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987 and in the National Parks and Reserves Acts.

The operative Whanganui Conservation Management Strategy, 1997, is currently due to review.

### 5.2 **Management Plans**

The operative Management Plans, within the jurisdiction of the Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board are the Whanganui National Park Management Plan, 2012, and the Egmont National Park Management Plan, 2002.

## 6. **Advice and Advocacy**

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise and some members have specific roles in liaison.

The Board appointed various members to liaise with other groups and agencies.

#### **Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board: Liaison persons**

Liaison person	Group, agency or organisation
Steve Fouhy	Federated Farmers
Dr. Robert Shaw	South Taranaki District Council (Waterways & Marine environment)
Sam Tamarapa	Taranaki Regional Council
Sam Tamarapa	Tupuae Marine Reserve Committee
Dr. Brendon (Tiwha) Puketapu	Whanganui River Maori Trust Board
Don Robinson	Tupuae Marine Reserve Committee

#### 6.1. **Other Conservation Boards liaison**

Liaison person	Group, agency or organisation
Novena Mc Guckin	Tongaririo Taupo Conservation Board
Vicky Dombroski	Waikato Conservation Board
Steve Fouhy	Wellington Conservation Board

#### 6.2 **New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison**

The Board welcomes the NZ Conservation Authority (NZCA) to their region in October. The Board and NZCA visited sites of conservation, environmental and cultural significance in the Taranaki/Whanganui

area, which included the Pukerangiora Pa, a quick trip to Tapuae Marine Reserve, and the North Egmont Visitor Centre to learn more about Project Taranaki Mounga.

An informal joint Board meeting, a first of its kind, was held in the morning covering agenda topics of high interest to the Board's region. Key agenda items included:

- ☐ conservation economy
- ☐ concessions, including beehive concessions
- ☐ conservation management strategies
- ☐ Treaty settlements in the region
- ☐ the Te Awa Tupua bill

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

The Board is honoured to have Ms Jo Breese as the NZ Conservation Authority liaison with the Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board. The Board acknowledges the importance of this link between the NZCA and the Board and appreciates the knowledge and experience Jo brings.

Jo was able to bring the Board up to speed with activities and issues the NZCA was engaged in and most importantly take back to the NZCA issues and concerns facing the Taranaki Whanganui Conservation Board.

### 6.3 Department of Conservation advice

**The Board provided advice to the Department on the following issues:**

- ☐ Te Awa Tupua (Whanganui River Claims Settlement) Bill
- ☐ Concessions policy, process and allocations
- ☐ Long term view of conservation economy weighted allocations
- ☐ National Park Plans in the future
  - Taranaki – Mounga Project
- ☐ Treaty Settlements and impact on Public Conservation Land
- ☐ Whitebait/Habitat protection-restoration
- ☐ CMS AND CMP revisions and processes
- ☐ DOC Community Funding
- ☐ Waverley Windfarm Application
- ☐ Predator Free 2050
- ☐ Whanganui National Park Management Plan
- ☐ Conservation Board Member Fees/Expenses
- ☐ Trans-Tasman Resource Limited Application/Submission
- ☐ Whanganui Journey/Infrastructure/Tourism
- ☐ Compliance issues with concessionaires and beehives
- ☐ International applications to collect flora and fauna, monitoring processes, query over economic and scientific discoveries? How does it come back to NZ, people at place and Iwi?
- ☐ Visitor sites in Mt Egmont National Park
- ☐ Reclassification of Conservation Land

## 6.4. Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Taranaki-Whanganui region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings.

### **Public forum issues raised were:**

- Predator Control and the use of 1080
- Seismic Activity – death of marine life
- Water Quality/Water allocation
- Empowerment of people on the ground
- Attention to the issuing of permits/permissions for activities that impact on the marine environment

## 6.5. Community visibility

**The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website.**

Throughout the reporting period Board members have liaised with a number of individuals, groups and organisations, attended various community activities and Department of Conservation special events. This liaison is considered a very important way of providing an interface with the Community.

## 6.6. Iwi liaison and advocacy

The Board has a statutory requirement to include members who can represent Taranaki and Whanganui iwi. In addition, there are other Board members filling the public vacancies that have iwi affiliations. These connections play a vital role in improving the Boards understanding of iwi perspectives.

## 7. Acknowledgements

In conclusion I would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of the many amazing contributors to Conservation that I have met during my time with the Conservation Board. The dedication and commitment of volunteers and Department staff members is admirable and appreciated.

This year the Board has had the opportunity to engage with the following groups and we acknowledge and thank them for their work in our communities:

- Nga Tangata Tiaki – Gerrard Albert & Sheena Maru
- Project Mouna – Jan Hania
- NEXT Foundation – Jan Hania
- South Taranaki Reef Life Project – Karen Pratt

- Wild for Taranaki – Leigh Honor
- Te Ripo Kokohuia - Tanea Tangaroa
- Waitara Curious Minds Project -Josh Richardson
- Fish and Game – Alan Stancliff
- Nga Motu Marine Reserve -Elise Smith & Anne Scott

Sincere gratitude also to my fellow Board members for their support and contributions to Conservation over the past year.