

WAIKATO CONSERVATION BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023



**Waikato Conservation Board Annual
Report 2022 - 2023**

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

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 Waikato Conservation Board please see the website <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/conservation-Boards/> or contact the Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation in Hamilton, Ph: 07 8581000.

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Front cover - Waikato Conservation Board Members

(Front row -left to right -Shelley Langton-Myers, Clare St Pierre, Chair Alan Cockle, Fiona Gower, Charlotte Muggeridge, Rob Chappell

Back row, Left to right – Ritesh Chandra DOC HWT Statutory Manager , Flora Bartholomew, Ngawai Smith

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1. Chairperson's Report

E ngā mana e ngā a reo e ngā karanga maha tēnā koutou katoa

Welcome to the Waikato Conservation Board world 2022-2023 Annual Report – A Snapshot, more detail can be found in the body of the report.

With Te Papa Atawhai vision of “Papatuanuku Thrives” in the fore front of our thinking, the board carried out its role by aligning the Annual workplan with the Minister’s Letter of Expectations, maintaining focus not only on national but local. The year included:

- Field trip to the Waitomo District, visit to the Ruakuri Cave, and meet and hear from the Te Papa Atawhai Maniapoto Team
- Receiving presentations from the department ranging from – The Nationwide CMS partial review on biking, “Whaia kia tata” being a good treaty partner, and Climate Change to name a few
- Statutory - Receiving reporting as to the handing back of Te Paina, a very significant and culturally important site to Waikato Iwi
- Utilising
 - Statutory appointees i.e.: Kingitanga Representative – able to utilise this key relationship to be more aware of any concerns or issues that need to be brought to its attention.
 - Iwi affiliated Board members i.e.: Pou Tairangahau, Department of Conservation Kahui Kaupapa Atawhai to assist the Board gaining better understanding of cultural awareness and giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 through presentations, attendance in board meetings and in the provision of advice to enable the board to gain a balanced view in its decision making.
 - Attendance by, and valuable input and insight by Board liaisons and finding commonalities in issues and concerns that neighbouring boards may have. The relationship between the board and NZCA through our liaison has been an active and most effective one.
 - Strong, respectful, reciprocal relationship between the board and Te Papa Atawhai

Special mention to our hardworking and dedicated Deputy Chair Fiona (Fi) Gower who called time on nine awesome years - thank you Fi for all your support and contribution. To the Board and Te Papa Atawhai whanau, thank you for your dedication to your roles and your passion to make “Papatuanuku Thrive”.

naku noa

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Cockle', written in a cursive style.

Alan Cockle
Chair

30 June 2023

2. Introduction

Section 6(0) of the Conservation Act requires Conservation Boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority (the Authority) with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Waikato Conservation Board submits this annual report.

Conservation Boards are 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 Conservation Boards to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act.

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

Conservation Boards have several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- giving effect to the Treaty of Waitangi in all activities and decisions
- the recommendation of the Waikato 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 approval of conservation management plans
- 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.

3. Conservation Board Region

The Waikato Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction extends from the west coast of the North Island between Port Waikato and Mokau, across to the western edge of Lake Taupo and north to the Coromandel Peninsula. It is characterised by a variety of landscapes, resulting from a history of uplifting, sea level change, volcanism and the influence of major river systems, such as the Waikato River.

Stand-out features of the Waikato include the west coast harbours - Kawhia, Aotea and Raglan; spectacular coastal cliffs at Moeatoa and Te Toto Gorge, Waitomo karst system; volcanic cones such as Pirongia and Karioi, and the exposed volcanic plugs (remnants of older volcanoes) on the Coromandel range; the lakes and wetlands of the Waikato and Hauraki plains; and rugged coastline, including the many islands off the Coromandel Peninsula.

The range of landscapes, altitude and east-to-west contrast provides for a great diversity of ecosystems, including the southern limit for some species, such as kauri, and northern limit of others, such as subalpine vegetation found at its northern-most limit on Moehau. Historically rare ecosystems, such as Kopuatai Peat Dome and Waitomo karst, are internationally important. Some ecosystems are well represented, such as the tall podocarp-broadleaf forests of Pureora (including the largely intact forest at Waipapa), whereas other once widespread ecosystems, such as lowland kahikatea forest, are now threatened. These ecosystems in turn provide habitat for a wide diversity of native flora and fauna.

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.

The Board's area of responsibility is nearly 270,000 ha of Public Conservation land (12% of the total area 2,250,000 hectares). The land is described in more than 500 separate parcels for various purposes, including forests, wetlands, caves, marine reserves, offshore islands, historic sites, wildlife protection, and recreational areas.

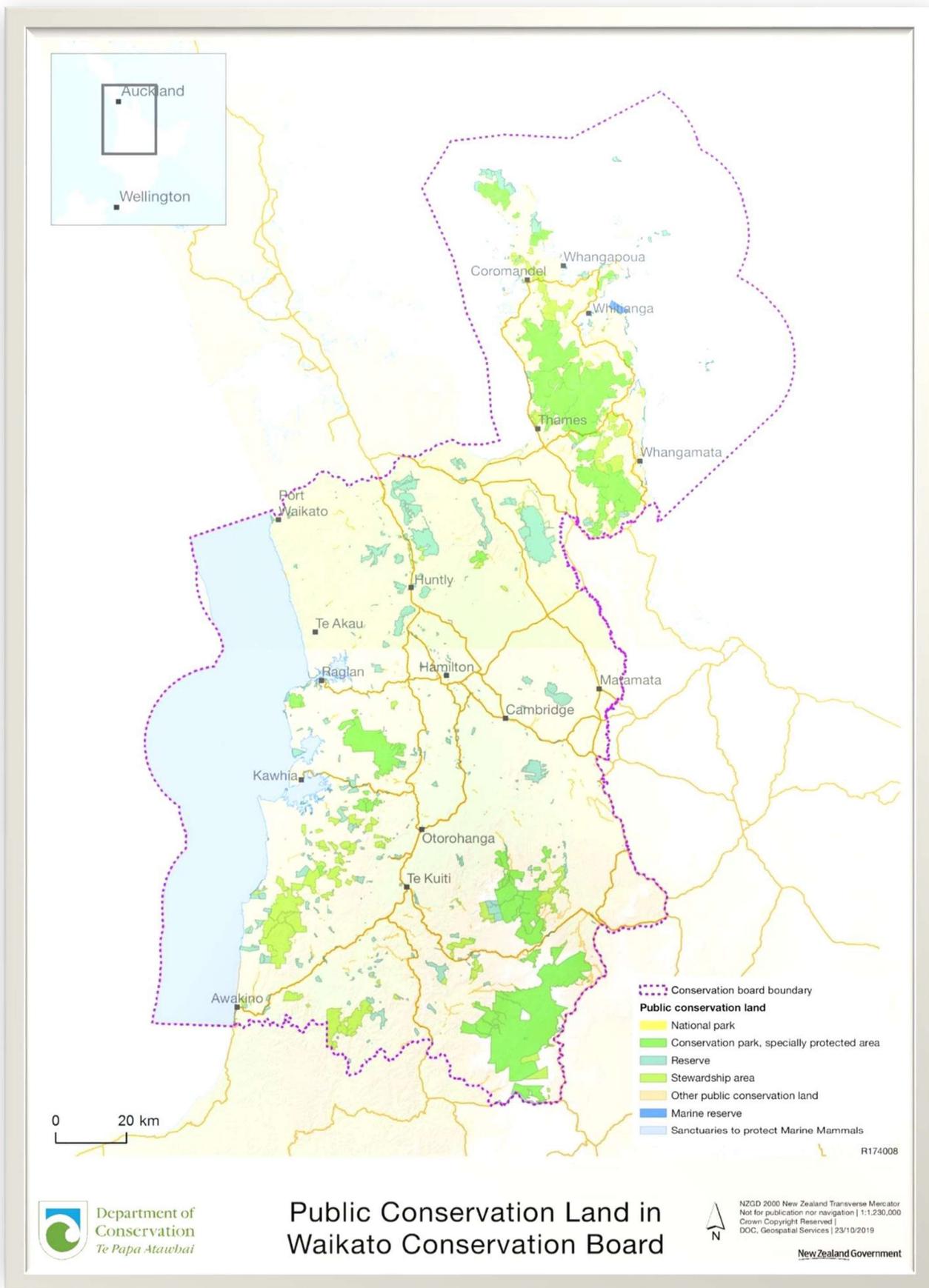


Figure 1: Waikato Conservation Board Jurisdiction

Public Conservation Land (hectares by legislative section)

- Recreation Reserve - 6,328.76 ha
- Historic Reserve - 275.66 ha
- Scenic Reserve (sec 19 1a) - 27,286.03 ha
- Conservation Park - 162,993.98 ha
- Nature Reserve - 446.10 ha
- Ecological Area - 42,407.85 ha
- Scientific Reserve - 1,776.93 ha
- Government Purpose Reserve - 21,746.03 ha
- Sanctuary Area - 494.78 ha
- Local Purpose Reserve - 5,822.42 ha
- Moveable Marginal Strip - 83.35 ha
- Fixed Marginal Strip - 2,725.91 ha
- Stewardship Area - 62,670.67 ha
- Marine Reserve - 878.93 ha
- Sanctuaries to protect Marine Mammals - 407,153.86 ha

Issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- some form of protection for freshwater species
- kauri dieback
- the state of wetlands, lakes and rivers
- retention of biodiversity of mainland forest remnants ranging from coastal to montane forests
- predator control
- better protection for the Māui dolphin including the implementation of the Māui Dolphin Threat Management Plan
- possible implementation of Sea Change - Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Management Plan
- changing tourism demographics and pressures at new and existing sites such as Pureora, Waitomo, Cathedral Cove, and Kauaeranga Valley
- mining on/under Public Conservation Land
- giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act
- Stewardship Land Reclassification
- climate change and the impact on biodiversity and conservation land

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

- **Important Maori and European historic resources**
- **Three internationally significant wetlands (Ramsar Convention)**
Whangamarino Wetland, Kopuatai Peat Dome and the Firth of Thames/Tikapa Moana



Image Courtesy of DOC - Whangamarino

- **Coastline and estuarine areas**
(Firth of Thames, Waikato River Delta, Raglan Harbour (Whaingaroa), Aotea Kawhia, Whitianga, Tairua and Whangamata Harbours)
- **Large tracts of virgin forest**
(Manaia Kauri Sanctuary, Moehau, Waihaha and Waipapa)

- **Terrestrial forests associated with the Hakarimata and Hapuakohe Ranges, the volcanic Cones of Maungatautari, Kakepuku, Pirongia and Karioi and the karst landforms of Te Kami**
- **Sites of significant regional and national tourism**
Waitomo, Cathedral Cove and Pureora Timber Trail



Image Courtesy of DOC – Pureora Forest park

- Rare and endangered species /ecosystems
(Kōkākā, Mahoenui Giant Wētā, Whitebait, Māui Dolphin, Kiwi and particularly the Coromandel Brown Kiwi and Archey's and Hochstetter's Frog)



Kokaka Mahoenui Giant Weta
Image courtesy of Department of Conservation

- Reptile and seabird communities on offshore islands
Tūturiwhatu/New Zealand Dotterel and Ngutuparore/Wrybill

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 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 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
 - 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 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
 - 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. **Board membership**

There were 10 Board members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Alan Cockle was elected Chairperson and Clare St Pierre was elected Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of the Board between 1 July 2022 and 30 June 2023 and their term of office.

Table 1: Board membership

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end
Alan Cockle	Hamilton	01/07/2014	30/06/2023
Gaylene Roberts	Putaruru	01/07/2019	30/06/2025
Fiona Gower	Port Waikato	07/07/2014	30/06/2023
Flora Bartholomew	Piopio	01/07/2019	30/06/2025
Clare St Pierre	Pirongia	01/11/2018	30/06/2024
Rob Chappell	Coromandel	07/07/2020	30/06/2023
Shelley Langton-Myers	Pokeno	01/07/2021	30/06/2025
Ngawai Smith	Hamilton	01/07/2021	30/06/2024
Charlotte Muggeridge	Hamilton	01/07/2021	30/06/2024
Wayne Jensen	Waitomo	01/07/2021	30/06/2024

4.4. **Members profiles**

Alan Cockle of Hamilton (Chairperson)

Appointment term: 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2023

Alan is a business owner providing Maori Land Research, Administration Services and Governance Mentoring. He has a background in mediation, facilitation, and financial and property management.

Alan has governance experience as a trustee and Board member, and extensive iwi affiliations. He has expertise in tribal histories and is an orator within Ngāti Maniapoto. He is of Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi iwi. Alan is also a Justice of the Peace.

Fiona Gower of Tuakau

Appointment term: 1 November 2020 to 30 June 2023

Fiona Gower combines her passion for conservation, environment, and community into several roles, including her position on the Waikato Conservation Board. She is also chair of the NZ Landcare Trust, former national president of Rural Women New Zealand, a member of the Port Waikato Beachcare Committee, scout leader for the Waikaretu Sea Scouts, and a lifeguard and instructor at Sunset Beach Surf Lifesaving Club.

In her spare time, Fiona enjoys getting out on the farm she lives and works on, fishing and whitebaiting, and spending the increasingly rare time at home or her beach house relaxing with friends and family, reading, baking and gardening.

Flora Bartholomew of Te Kuiti

Appointment Term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2025

Flora is a self-employed dairy farmer and holds a Certificate in Biology, a Bachelor in Horticultural Science, and a Diploma in Business Management. She has five QEII blocks on her property and is a member of Rural Women NZ, Federated Farmers and Dairy Women's Network. She has a Certificate in Sustainable Nutrient Management in NZ Agriculture from Massey University.

Clare St Pierre of Waikato

Appointment term: 1 November 2018 to 30 June 2024

Clare lives in Pirongia Village, close to where she grew up, and is an elected Councillor for Waipa District Council. She is a Resource Management Hearings Commissioner and a former chair of Waipa District Council's Audit & Risk Committee. She has a Bachelor of Business Studies (First Class Honours) majoring in management with post-graduate specialisation in Advanced Environmental Management and Sustainability.

She is the founding chairperson of Pirongia Te Aroaro o Kahu Restoration Society, which has won multiple awards including the 2018 Biosecurity Community Award, and the 2017 Green Ribbon Award for biodiversity protection for their kokako work. She has over 20 years' experience leading successful community-based environmental action and enjoys a good working relationship with Ngāti Apakura.

Her interests include gardening, tree crops, cycling and creative pursuits.

Rob Chappell of Coromandel

Appointment term: 7 July 2020 to 30 June 2023

Robin, now retired, has had a long career with the Department of Conservation offering expertise in island management, marine mammals and threatened species management.

Gaylene Roberts of Tokoroa

Appointment term: 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2025

Gaylene is of Ngāti Raukawa and Waikato Tainui descent and was nominated by the head of Kahui Ariki (the Maori Sovereign, King Tuheitia). She is on the Board in terms of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement Act 1995. She has strong governance experience and is currently a chairperson and member on several boards and trusts, such as the Raukawa Settlement Trust, Waipa District Council Iwi Consultative Committee and Waikato District Health Board Kaunihera Kaumatua. She has previously been on the Board from 2012-2013, also nominated by the head of Kahui Ariki.

Ngawai Smith of Hamilton

Appointment term: 2 July 2021 to 30 June 2024

Ngawai is of Te Roroa and Ngāti Hine descent. She is a Maori communications specialist and currently works at the Ministry of Education as a Senior Regional Engagement Advisor. She has experience developing, engaging, and maintaining relationships with Maori stakeholders, and personal academic networks in Mātauranga Māori.

Charlotte Muggeridge of Hamilton

Appointment term: 2 July 2021 to 30 June 2024

Charlotte is a resource management lawyer. She has extensive experience in property law and governance, having sat on a number of environmental and community boards at local, regional, and international levels. In 2019, she was awarded the Zonta's Women of Achievement Award.

Dr Shelley Langton-Myers of Pokeroa

Appointment term: 2 July 2021 to 30 June 2025

Shelley is an Ecologist, Entomologist, and Lecturer for the EcoQuest Education Foundation Te Raranga Rau Taiao. She brings a conservation science background to the Board, and is well versed in conservation issues, policy, and eco-tourism.

Wayne Jensen of Waitomo

Appointment term: 2 July 2021 to 30 June 2024

Wayne is of Maniapoto descent and is a farmer and Manager for Ngāti Maniapoto Marae Pact Trust. He holds a post-graduate Diploma in Maori and Business Management and was previously an RMA commissioner.

4.5. **Board meetings**

The Board held four meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the meeting vary each year to ensure a wide coverage and to enable members of the public in each rohe to attend meetings and access the Board.

Table 2: Board meetings and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
Thursday 15 th September 2022	DOC Visitor Centre, 995 Kauaeranga Valley Road, Thames
Friday 2 nd December 2022	DOC Hamilton Office, 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
Friday 17 March 2023	Waitomo Homestead, 584 State Highway 3, Waitomo
Friday 23 June 2023	Ibis Hotel, 18 Alma Street, Hamilton

4.6. **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.

Table 3: Board Member attendance

Board member	Board meetings	Field Trips
Alan Cockle	4 / 4	1/1
Fiona Gower	4 / 4	1/1
Flora Bartholomew	4 / 4	1/1
Rob Chappell	4 / 4	1/1
Wayne Jensen	3 / 4	1/1
Shelley Langton-Myers	3 / 4	1/1
Charlotte Muggeridge	4 / 4	1/1
Clare St Pierre	4 / 4	1/1
Gaylene Roberts	3 / 4	1/1
Ngāwai Smith	4 / 4	1/1

4.7. Field trips

Field trips are an excellent opportunity for Board members to become more aware of conservation issues within their region and to meet with community members undertaking conservation activities.

Table 4: Field trips and site inspections

Field Trip	Field trip destination
16 th March 2023	Waitomo Caves

Waikato Conservation Board Field Trip - Thursday 16th March 2023

For our March 2023 field trip the Waikato Conservation Board members visited Waitomo District, toured the Ruakuri Cave, and met and heard from the Te Papa Atawhai Maniapoto Team.



Image courtesy of Department of Conservation

According to legend the cave was discovered 4-500 years ago by a young hunter out to spear birds. He discovered the cave entrance but was attacked by wild dogs who lived there hence the name, *rua-* den and *kuri* – dog. The cave was open to visitors from 1904 to 1988, then reopened in 2005. The cave entrance was used as a burial ground, *wahi tapu*, and this sacred area is now protected.

Entry is by an impressive spiral walkway and our guide was excellent. We saw stunning stalactites, popcorn coral, shawls, flowstones, columns, and straws, and we learned all about the fascinating glow-worms, their life cycle and love life!



Above and left: Limestone formations inside Ruakura Cave.
Photo credit: Clare St Pierre.

It was wonderful to be together again in person as it had been about 5 months since we had met as a group, so it was good to catch up.

Report by Flora Bartholomew

4.8. Te Whanganui Hei Marine Reserve Committee

At the Waikato Conservation Board's meeting held on 15 November 2021, the ongoing relevance of the Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve and Hahei Coast Committee was discussed, with members resolving to disestablish the committee.

The Board agreed that the disestablishment will not derogate from the Board's interests in the area; these can be effectively maintained via operational reports from DOC's Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki Operations Director, District Operational Teams and Coromandel based board members.

4.9. Training for members

There was no training undertaken by members during the reporting period.

4.10 Special Events

There were no special events held during the reporting period.

4.10 Department involvement in Board Meetings

DOC staff who regularly attended meetings include:

Daniel Heinrich - Director Operations, HWT
Tinaka Mearns – Acting Director Operation,
Operations, HWT
Katie Holland – Acting Operations Manager, Waikato,
HWT, District Office
Avi Holzapfel- Operations Manager, Hauraki, HWT
Nick Kelly, Operations Manager, Whitianga, HWT
Alice Anderson, Pou Tairangahau, HWT
Michelle Lewis, Statutory Manager, HWT
Ritesh Chandra, Statutory Manager, HWT (From January 2023)
Nick Kelly, Operations Manager, Whitianga

4.12 Annual Work Plan

Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

5. Waikato Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)

The Board continues to monitor the milestones in the Waikato CMS with the Director of Operations (Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki) and Operation Managers attending meetings to provide updates on key operational matters that have occurred in the rohe throughout the reporting period.

5.1. Resource Management Issues

The Board wrote to the Minister of Conservation concerning carbon farming and the adverse effects large scale planting of pines could have on native biodiversity as well as local communities.

The Board also made submissions on Waikato Regional Council's Regional Coastal Plan review, advocating for more marine protected areas, and to Hamilton City's Plan Change 8 - Historic Heritage and Natural Environments supporting the proposed provisions on significant natural areas but seeking better funding support.

Consideration is being given to making a submission on the OceanaGold application to mine at Wharekirauponga.

6. Other Conservation Boards Liaison Roles

The Waikato Conservation Board maintains contact with neighbouring Conservation Boards through the exchange of agendas, meeting papers and the attendance of appointed liaisons to neighbouring Board meetings.

Board members have attended neighbouring Conservation Board meetings held in Taranaki and liaisons have attended Waikato Conservation Board meetings from the Auckland, Tongariro/Taupo and Bay of Plenty.

6.1. Advocacy

All board members have the opportunity for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise.

6.2. New Zealand Conservation Authority Liaison

Puke Timoti is the New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison to the Board.

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

6.3. Fish and Game

A copy of the Waikato Conservation Board agenda is emailed to the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Office Manager, Hamilton. Conservation Board had a meet and greet via teams.

6.4. Forest and Bird

Conservation Board had a meet and greet with Forest and Bird via Teams.

6.5. Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is important.

Board member reports are tabled at meetings and this agenda item allows members to provide updates on any activities they have undertaken to pursue conservation interests, or advocate for good conservation outcomes.

Members of the public also attended several of this year's meetings where a range of issues have been raised, these have included:

- Waikato Conservation Management Strategy- 2014- 2024- Karioi/Te Toto goals

Paul Newton-Jackson, joined virtually to raise concerns in respect to the

priority the CMS indicates for Karioi and Te Toto and how that does not seem to be reflected in current management. He asked how the Board monitor the CMS implementation.

6.6 Community Visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website with updates provided through the year on activities undertaken.

The Board's e-newsletter, agenda, confirmed minutes, and submissions are also available via the Waikato Conservation Board's webpage.

The Board contribute on a regular basis to their e-newsletter and some members actively promote activities via social media.

6.7. District and regional council advocacy / advice/submissions

The impact of COVID19 and meeting restrictions has meant that plans to host a meeting inviting District and Regional Council officials did not proceed.

6.8 Iwi liaison and advocacy

The makeup of the Board includes other appointed members who have iwi affiliations.

Gaylene Roberts was appointed to the Board on 1 July 2019 and is recognised as the Kahui Ariki (Maori King representative) on the Waikato Conservation Board.

Alan Cockle has served on the Board from July 2014. He is of Ngāti Maniapoto, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāti Tuwharetoa, Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi iwi. Alan has provided a strong link with the South Waikato iwi.

Wayne Jensen is Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Urunumia, Ngāti Putaitemuri, Ngāti Ngutu, Ngāti Apakura, and Ngāti Maniapoto. He is endorsed by Maniapoto Iwi Authorities environmental steering Committee (Te Mana Taiao) to be the Iwi liaison for the Waitomo District Plan's Review. Wayne is the sitting Chairman of Te Tokanganui-a-noho Regional Management Committee, and Motiti Marae Trustee's. He is also appointed to Waikato Conservancy Board through the Te Mana Taiao endorsement which is a Mana Whenua collective established by the Iwi of Maniapoto to focus on Environmental matters in the Maniapoto Rohe (King Country).

Ngawai Smith is of Te Roroa and Ngāti Hine descent

7. Acknowledgements

The Board wishes to thank the Department for their support, Department staff that have attended meetings and provided updates, and staff throughout the rohe that have hosted the Board on field trips.

The Board wish to acknowledge the attendance and reports tabled by the Operations Director, Hauraki-Waikato-Taranaki, DOC, at meetings held throughout the reporting period.

Waikato Conservation Board

Annual Work Plan 2022/2023

Ministers Priorities	Outcome / Impact	Measures	Milestone	Actions
Treaty Partners	-Enhanced relationships with treaty partners	-Strengthening relationship with Kingi Tūheitia. -Consult with Alice Anderson, Pou Tairangahau (HWT). -DOC to provide notification two weeks in advance of any significant iwi events.	-Formalising communication between Waikato Conservation board and Kingi Tūheitia. -Action points taken as per a consultation with Alice Anderson, Pou Tairangahau (HWT). -Waikato Conservation Board members are in attendance to significant iwi events. Calendar of significant Iwi events and an update at a national level on DOC/Iwi consultation/engagement requested from DOC. -The Pou to become a standing agenda item in the WCB meetings. -Cultural training and awareness (including the cultural landscape of our area). - Treaty of Waitangi training - Section 4 of the Conservation Act training (what it means for DOC and the WCB)	King Tuheitia's appointee to the Board has regular updates with the King and provides feedback to the Board. DOC Director of Operations/Operation Managers, (HWT) in attendance at meetings to provide updates on key focus areas, includes Whanau, Hapu and Iwi. Board members Clare St Pierre and Gaylene Roberts attended the Te Pūkenga Atawhai Wānanga at Te Ōhākī Marae Huntly in July 2022.
	-The WCB gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (section 4 of the Conservation Act)	-All WCB decision making includes an assessment of giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi	- All reports and board papers to include a section on section 4 of the Conservation Act and how it applies to the decision being made	DOC Operations Director (HWT) in attendance at meetings/submits reports to update members/receive feedback at meetings.
Declining Indigenous Biodiversity	-Waikato Conservation Board have a better understanding of the critically endangered species. - Waikato Conservation Board will advocate to	-Understanding the management programme for endangered species. -Boards oversight of CMS is to ensure the protection of key endangered species.	-Waikato Conservation Board receives a priority list of endangered species of flora and fauna. -To advocate on significant biodiversity issues especially in Fresh water and Marine.	DOC Director of Operations/Operation Managers, Statutory Manager (HWT) in attendance to provide updates on key focus areas and to receive feedback from the board includes Jobs for Nature/Biodiversity updates Waikato CMS includes a list of rare and threatened species.

	address biodiversity declining.	<p>-To highlight and promote the importance of habitat protection and biodiversity conservation with local bodies.</p> <p>-Board members are aware in emerging biodiversity issues (share)</p>	-Regular updates on Jobs for Nature.	
Improve protection of land with conservation values	Conservation Board is active in RMA and conservation processes to protect and enhance land with conservation values.	<p>-Advocating for private land with conservation value in the planning processes.</p> <p>-Understanding the process and progress of Stewardship land and classification.</p> <p>-Identifying priority areas.</p> <p>Understanding – wetlands – stewardship land -SNA</p> <p>-Understanding the Auckland to Hamilton corridor project, updates and consult. (Awakino/Mt Messenger)</p>	<p>-Agenda item on plan changes and notified consents.</p> <p>-Regular Board updates on Stewardship land (agenda item)</p> <p>-Keeping Board informed any updates (Field trip visit)</p>	<p>DOC provide quarterly updates on active Resource Management Act Planning activity currently being led by the Shared Services Unit.</p> <p>DOC Operations Manager, Hauraki and Tom Christie RMA Planner, HWT in attendance at meetings to provide updates and receive feedback on Wharekirauponga Mining/OceanaGold Limited application.</p>

<p>Climate change -Risk assessment -Adaption plan</p>	<p>Board is assured Department of Conservation is responding to the risk of climate change to the conservation estate.</p>	<p>-Identifying land and species at risk of climate change.</p>	<p>-Briefing on climate change. -Local government (Waikato Regional Council) to be invited to attend a Department of Conservation briefing.</p>	<p>DOC Director of Operations/Operation Managers, Statutory Manager (HWT) have attended throughout the year to present and receive feedback from members on national/operational strategic matters.</p> <p>June 2023: DOC Climate Change Manager Liane Gilbert presented on Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan (CCAAP) that outlines the actions DOC will take to reduce the risks posed by climate change to 2024/25</p>
	<p>The Board is working with other groups that are also acting in climate change space.</p>	<p>-Understanding local and central government risk assessment processes and adaptation plan.</p> <p>-Bringing awareness – conduit – advocating- Collaboration Hauraki Gulf Forum Sea Change Regional coastal plan</p> <p>MPCE Team Corridor Project (Bio) NZCCC Impact of adverse weather events.</p>	<p>Meeting with the CCC and the policy team</p>	<p>Board members Clare St Pierre and Gaylene Roberts have attended the Waikato Climathon</p>

<p>Conservation Boards and NZCA</p>	<p>Waikato Conservation Board is better connected to neighbouring Boards.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Board members are allocated to attend neighbouring Conservation Boards. -Conservation Boards communicate between each other. <p>Teams joint meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Shared meeting with a neighbouring board. -Waikato Conservation Board members attend neighbouring meetings. - Regularly updated by other boards and NZCA. -Attend the Annual NZCA Board Chair's Conference. 	<p>The Waikato Conservation Board maintains contact with neighbouring Conservation Boards through the exchange of agendas, meeting papers and the attendance of appointed liaisons to neighbouring Board meetings.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Waikato Conservation Board has a good working relationship with the Department of Conservation. -WCB is supported by the Department to undertake and deliver on the annual work plan. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Streamlining of communications. -Understanding the role of the Conservation Board, in terms of giving advice to the Department of Conservation. - Conservation Board knowing who Department of Conservation staff are and what support is available to them - WCB and DOC have agreed expectations of support and timeframes for the provision of information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekly roundup and regular weekly meetings. -Key staff attending meetings and field trips. -Conservation Board receives relevant information at induction in a timely manner. <p>The Department provides support to the WCB in the manner agreed to enable the WCB to deliver on this work plan.</p>	<p>WCB Chair/Vice Chair and Statutory Manager have met fortnightly throughout the reporting period via MS Teams.</p> <p>Weekly bulletins are circulated to members – these include correspondence, DOC media items, and provide feedback on matters arising/actions from previous meetings.</p> <p>DOC Director of Operations/Operations Managers /Statutory Manager (HWT)</p> <p>Attend meetings to provide updates/receive feedback on matters of specific key focus.</p>

<p>Tourism</p>	<p>-Board has assurance that the Visitor and Heritage Strategy is working and is informed where the International Visitor Levy (IVL) is allocated.</p> <p>Effects of COVID19</p>	<p>-Conservation Board is kept informed how visitor levy and other funding is being allocated within Department of Conservation to our Rohe.</p> <p>-The Board is informed on key tourist destinations i.e. visitor numbers and trends.</p> <p>-Understanding how the Department of Conservation is implementing the visitor and heritage strategy.</p> <p>Understanding – the effect that COVID has made on visitor numbers and dynamics</p>	<p>-Regular Board updates. -Briefing on Visitor and Heritage Strategy.</p>	<p>DOC Director of Operations/Operation Managers and Statutory Manager (HWT) have been in attendance to provide updates/receive feedback from the board.</p> <p>Weekly mail outs to members include DOC Covid policy/updates.</p>
<p>Public communications</p>	<p>Conservation Board communicates with the public and raises its profile to the wider community.</p>	<p>-Waikato Conservation Board contributes to E-newsletter.</p> <p>-Utilises Waikato Biodiversity Forum</p> <p>Re-connect with Fish and Game.</p>	<p>-Relationship formed with Waikato Biodiversity Forum.</p>	<p>WCB e-news and agendas uploaded onto webpage. WCB meetings advertised in all local papers.</p> <p>Public forums are held at each meeting and community members have attended to speak on concerns relating t:</p> <p>* The Waikato Conservation Management Strategy 2012 2024, specifically Karioi/Te Toto and goals.</p> <p>WCB contributes to E newsletter</p> <p>Agendas are sent to local Fish and Game office.</p> <p>March 2023: Member of the Advisory Committee for the Regional Environment Anna Casey-Cox gave a presentation to the Board on opportunities for advocacy, collaboration and events in Waikato's environmental space</p>

