

Wellington Conservation Board
Te Runanga Papa Atawhai
O Te Upoko O Te Ika A Maui

Annual Report to the
New Zealand Conservation Authority
1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009



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Cover Photo: Wayne Boness, Otaki Forks picnic area and new bridge, 2009

1. Introduction

The Wellington Conservation Board has prepared this Annual Report for the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by Section 6O of the Conservation Act 1987. The Board also intends to distribute copies to many other individuals and organisations that may have an interest in the Board's role and activities.

This is the final report of the Wellington Conservation Board. The Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservation Board was created in July 2009 following the disestablishment of the East Coast/Hawke's Bay Conservation Board.

1.1 Members of the Board

The Minister of Conservation appointed the members of the Wellington Conservation Board after a process that included public nominations.

Key changes to the Board's membership during 2008/09 were:

- Bev Abbott, the previous Board Chair, completed two three year terms in August 2008
- The Minister appointed two new members in 2008, Chris Turver for three years from August 2008; and Ra Pomare for three years from September 2008.
- Margaret Wassilieff resigned in September 2008 after 5 years on the Board. Chris Turver resigned in October 2008. Liana Poutu resigned in April 2009, Haami Te Whaiti resigned in June 2009.

The following table summarises the Board's membership at 1 July 2008. Members remaining at 30 June 2009 are asterisked. Vacancies were being carried at that stage pending the outcome of the review of the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy.

Name	Area	Date first appointed	Term ends/ended	Years of service
Bev Abbott	Wellington	01/09/2002	31/08/2008	6
Margaret Wassilieff	Wellington	01/09/2003	30/09/2008	5
Helen Algar, Chair *	Wellington	01/09/2004	31/08/2010	5
Geoff Doring*	Wairarapa	01/09/2004	31/08/2010	5
Andrew Foster*	Wellington	01/09/2004	31/08/2010	5
Haami Te Whaiti	Wairarapa	01/09/2005	30/06/2009	4
Nicky Nelson, Deputy Chair *	Wellington	16/10/2006	31/08/2009	3
Rob McColl*	Wellington	16/10/2006	31/08/2009	3
Liana Poutu	Wellington	01/09/2007	01/04/2009	2
John Hancock*	Wairarapa	01/09/2007	31/08/2010	2
Margaret Shields *	Kapiti	01/09/2007	31/08/2010	2
Chris Turver	Kapiti	01/08/2008	01/11/2008	0
Ra Pomare*	Kapiti	01/09/2008	31/08/2011	1



Photo: Wendy Newton, Board Members – From left: Margaret Shields, Helen Algar, Nicky Nelson, Rob McColl, Haami Te Whaiti, John Hancock, Margaret Wassilieff, Geoff Doring, Bev Abbott

2. Functions and powers

The functions and powers of the Board are set out formally in section 6M and 6N of the Conservation Act 1987. Key roles include:

- providing advice to the Department of Conservation (DOC) and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA)
- recommending that the NZCA approve the next Draft Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)
- Advocating for conservation in statutory processes and public forums.

Conservation management strategies are statutory documents which show how general policies will be implemented. They also establish objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes.

3. Coverage

3.1 *The Board's area*

The area covered by the Wellington Conservation Board (the Board) was similar to DOC's Wellington Conservancy but not including the Chatham Islands. It lay south of a line from the mouth of the Manawatu River, through the Manawatu Gorge south of Woodville and across to the east coast, south of Cape Turnagain.

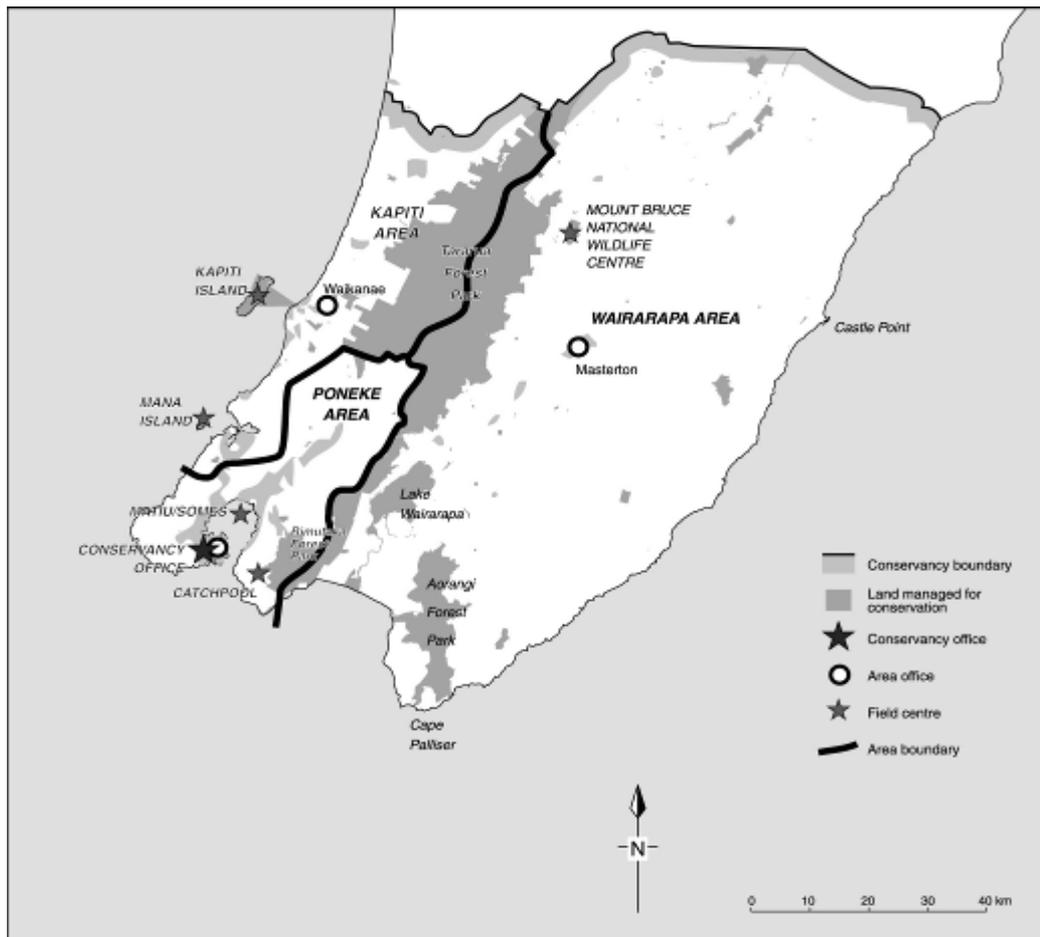


Figure 1: Map of the Wellington Conservation Board's area

3.2 Key places

Some of the key places managed by DOC in the Board's area are:

- | | |
|--|--------------------------------|
| Lake Wairarapa Wetlands | Government Buildings |
| Carter Scenic Reserve | Turnbull House |
| Castlepoint Scenic Reserve | Pukerua Bay Scientific Reserve |
| National Wildlife Centre (Mount Bruce) | Paraparaumu Scenic Reserve |
| Putangirua Pinnacles Scenic Reserve | Hemi Matenga Scenic Reserve |
| Cape Palliser | Waikanae Estuary |
| Rewa Bush Conservation Area | Papaitonga Scenic Reserve |
| Rocky Hills Sanctuary Area | Snail Reserves, Horowhenua |
| Tora Scenic Reserve | Tararua Forest Park |
| Colonial Knob | Aorangi (Haurangi) Forest Park |
| Makara Coast | Rimutaka Forest Park |
| Pauatahanui Inlet, Porirua Harbour | Kapiti Island Nature Reserve |
| Pencarrow Head | Kohunga Lakes |
| Turakirae Head Scientific Reserve | Mātū/Somes Island |
| Red Rocks Scientific Reserve | Kapiti Marine Reserve |
| Dominion Observatory | Kapiti Island North Reserve |
| Taputeranga Marine Reserve | Mana Island |

4. Meetings, visits and workshops

During the 2008/09 financial year, the Board's formal programme included meetings, visits and workshops.

4.1 Meetings

The Board scheduled six full-day meetings:

- 22 August 2008 in Wellington at the Conservancy Office
- 24 October 2008 in Wellington at the Conservancy Office
- 12 December 2008 in Wellington at the Conservancy Office
- 27 February 2009 meeting in Otaki cancelled
- 24 April 2009 in Wellington at the Old Government Buildings
- 26 June 2009 at Pukaha Mt Bruce, National Wildlife Centre, Masterton.

4.2 Visits

Visits to specific locations provide opportunities for the Board to:

- become more familiar with the conservation values of key places
- discuss management challenges and approaches with DOC staff and stakeholders
- monitor progress towards the objectives in the current CMS
- Identify issues that may need to be addressed during the review of the CMS.

4.2.1 Visit to The Wellington Zoo, Otari Wilton Bush and Zealandia

In January 2009 the Board visited three key conservation visitor assets in Wellington City - *the Wellington Zoo, Otari Wilton Bush and the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary (Zealandia)*. The purpose of the visits was to gain an understanding of the conservation programmes at the three locations, the involvement of DOC, the nature of the conservation experience available to visitors at each, and opportunities for integration between the programmes to improve the conservation visitor experience within the Conservancy.

4.2.2 Tararua Forest Park

The Board visited Tararua Forest Park in April 2009, focussing on the Otaki Gorge. Members visited several important historical sites situated on the drive in to the Forks, then walked a section of a new track in the forest adjacent to the picnic area and viewed the new bridge. The Board was briefed on pest management challenges and strategies for the Tararua Forest Park and on proposals for interpreting its history to the public.

4.3 Participation and fees

Individual Board members' participation in Board activities during 2008/09 is shown in Appendix 1.

For approved Board activities, Board members are paid \$140 per day and the Board Chair \$190 per day.

5. Public Involvement

The Board informs and interacts with the public through forums, correspondence, and its annual report and website. Its formal relationships with specific organisations are described in section 13.

5.1 Public Forum

During 2008/09, the Board welcomed a small number of individuals to the Public Forum which is scheduled at each meeting to enable people to speak to the Board about agenda items or other conservation issues. The Board regards the Forum as an important opportunity to hear from the community and hopes to see more people take up this opportunity in 2009/10.

Matters raised by speakers who participated in these forums focussed on progress with the development of a new CMS for the Wellington Conservancy.

5.2 Correspondence

The Board values receiving information from people who have specific interests and/or a long-term association with specific areas within the Conservancy.

5.3 Distribution of the Board's Annual Report

Although the NZCA is the primary audience for the Board's annual reports, the Board decided to circulate this Annual Report more widely to increase awareness of the Board's role in conservation in the Conservancy. The distribution list now includes public libraries, local members of Parliament, local media and a wide range of conservation and recreation groups.

5.4 The Board's website

The Board has enhanced its website during 2008/09. The Board posts on its pages of the Department of Conservation's website, the agendas and minutes of its meetings, its submissions, Strategic Plan and annual reports.

<http://www.doc.govt.nz/getting-involved/nz-conservation-authority-and-boards/conservation-boards-by-region/wellington-hawkes-bay/>

6. Advising on implementation of the CMS
(Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987)

Wellington's current CMS was approved in April 1996. Under the Conservation Act 1987, the Director-General is required to review each CMS as a whole not later than 10 years after the date of its approval. The Minister first approved an extension to June 2008, and more recently, a further extension to June 2010.

The Board is responsible for monitoring the performance of the Conservancy in managing the conservation estate in Wellington, including holding DOC accountable for achieving the objectives/milestones in the current (2005) Wellington CMS and for providing a mechanism for the public/community to input to, comment on, or 'enquire' about the performance of DOC in the Wellington Conservancy. The Board received regular reports from the Conservator, Area Managers and key technical staff on activities, priorities and challenges in implementing current strategies and plans.

The Board focussed for 2008/09 on the CMS vision statement, as the most relevant part of a document produced in 2005, and advocated its application in the development of the Conservation Action Plans.

7. Review of the CMS by the Director-General
(Section 7H (4) of the Conservation Act 1987)

The Board and the Conservancy started the CMS review process in April 2008. Board members Helen Algar and Rob McColl (alternate Nicky Nelson) represent the Board on the Steering Committee. Board members participated in various workshops with specialists and people from the Area offices to identify the places which require more specific management direction than other places in the Conservancy, and the conservation values at those sites. The Board worked with the Conservancy as various drafts were developed and in undertaking some initial consultation with key stakeholders, including iwi and local government.

The intention was that the statutory draft CMS would be released for public consultation in July 2009. Two matters made this timeline unachievable - firstly the need for the Conservancy to find savings for 2009/10; secondly the decision to combine the Hawke's Bay Area with the Wellington Conservancy to form the new Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy. Significant effort will be required to integrate the operations within the new Conservancy. The new Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservation Board and the Conservancy will need to consider how to integrate the two draft CMS documents and commence a new process.

The Conservator and the Board agreed that in the meantime they would regard the non-statutory draft Wellington CMS as the key strategy document to guide their interactions, given the considerable joint effort and agreement on the content. The draft will be made available on the website during 2009/10 and the Board expects that stakeholders will wish to engage with it in relation to the draft. The Board has strongly supported the development of Conservation Action Plans which will help the Area Managers to give effect to the CMS.

The Board and the Conservancy will resume the statutory process toward a new CMS during the 2010/11 year.

8. Advocating for conservation within the Conservancy (Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987)

Local authorities within the Board's area initiate many opportunities for individuals and organisations to influence councils' strategies, statutory plans, policy statements and action plans. The Board takes seriously its responsibility to participate in processes where the final decisions may have positive or negative implications for conservation values on or off public conservation lands and waters. At each meeting the Board considers the opportunities for statutory advocacy, the expertise and resources available for preparing submissions, and allocates responsibilities. Where DOC is planning to make a submission, the Board may decide not to make its own submission.

8.1 Regional Policy Statement

During the last three years, the Board has placed a high priority on engaging in the development of Greater Wellington Regional Council's Regional Policy Statement because the final policies and methods approved will be binding on regional, city and district councils for 10 years. The Board made four detailed submissions at stages of the process, most recently in June 2009. Many of the concerns and suggestions raised by the Board in the early stages of the process have now been addressed.

8.2 Long Term Council Community Plans 2009-19 (LTCCP)

The Board analysed the Draft Long Terms Council Community Plans of councils within the Conservancy to identify potential areas of focus for the Board's advocacy activities and matters for incorporation in the CMS process.

The Board made written submissions in relation to the Draft LTCCPs to the Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington), Wellington City Council, Hutt City Council, Porirua City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Masterton District Council, Kapiti District Council, Carterton District Council, Tararua District Council and Horowhenua District Council. The Board made supporting oral submissions to Greater Wellington, Wellington City Council and Carterton District Council. These appearances were made in association with DOC as many of the points were in common.

In all of these submissions, the Board encouraged the Councils to work with DOC to align their community consultation processes for the LTCCPs and the CMS wherever possible – both to reduce consultation demands on communities and to achieve better alignment of content. The Board also made specific comments relating to local conservation issues and interests in each plan.

8.3 Other Statutory Advocacy

The Board did not submit on the South Wairarapa District Council's notified resource consent application for constructing a number of boulder beaches along approximately 25km of coastline for coastal erosion protection purposes. Board member Geoff Doring attended a field trip with staff from DOC and Greater Wellington and was satisfied with the application.

The Board made a submission to Carterton District Council and Greater Wellington on a resource consent application in relation to Waingawa Swamp. The Board provided input to DOC's submission on a resource consent application for gravel extraction at Fitzroy Bay by Horokiwi Quarries.

9. Advocating for conservation at the national level
(Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987)

9.1 Consultative Draft Native Frog Recovery Plan

The Board reviewed the Consultative Draft Native Frog Recovery Plan produced by DOC in February 2009 and was supportive

9.2 Renewable Energy

The Board was invited by the Chair of the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board to take the same stance re renewable energy. The Board decided instead to consider each application on its merits.

9.3 Longfin Eel

The Board has had long interest in eel conservation, and has taken an active interest in a proposed longfin eel moratorium.

9.4 Draft National Standard on Ecological Flows and Water Levels

The Board prepared a detailed submission addressing the proposed Standard and also expressing its concern about systemic failures in the way in which water is managed in New Zealand. The Board is pleased to see that the Government has announced a new direction in freshwater management – *New Start for Freshwater*.

10. Advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
(Section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987)

The Board has a statutory obligation to advise the NZCA and the Director-General on proposals for new walkways in any area within the Board's jurisdiction. The Board received submissions from representatives of local branch of the Te Araroa Trust on the proposed route of a walkway through Tararua Forest Park. The Department is working with the Trust. No formal proposal had been received by 30 June 2009.

The Board expressed its concern to the NZCA over the effects on conservation values of cessation of bovine TB possum control when areas became TB free. The NZCA took this up with DOC which is working with MAF on the issue.

The NZCA assigned Waana Davis as its liaison person for the Board. Waana Davis attended the April 2009 Board meeting and maintained contact with the Board.

11. Advice to the Director-General of Conservation and the Regional Conservator, Wellington Conservancy

The Board advocated within appropriate processes for resources to address conservation issues within the Wellington Conservancy. During 2009 advice was given to the Review team and the Northern Regional Manager on the Review of the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy, which resulted in the establishment of the new Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy from 1 July 2009. The Board promoted the alignment of the Conservation Boards and CMSs with the new Conservancies.

11.1 Land exchanges in the Conservancy

DOC sought advice from the Board on a land transfer proposal at Kumenga Onoke. The three Wairarapa members of the Board investigated the proposal including the iwi perspective. Members were appreciative that conservation benefits and trade-offs and financial information were included in DOC's report to the Board. The Board advised the Conservator that it agreed with the proposed exchange.

11.2 Concessions in the Conservancy

The Board received reports at each meeting about concession applications and provided comments or advice on some of these. The majority were categorised as low impact, non-notified permits, but often included opportunities to impose conditions that would result in benefits to conservation. Of particular interest in 2008/09 were various Wild Animal Recovery Operation (WARO) concession permits due to expire in September 2009. The Board supports more removal of deer for better conservation outcomes, and suggested reconsideration and reduction of the number of exclusion sites.

11.3 Governance and Planning for Wairarapa Moana

The Board continues to give priority to the establishment of effective coordination and governance mechanisms for Wairarapa Moana, including the proposed Regional Wetland Park. During the year DOC, Greater Wellington, iwi and South Wairarapa District Council have set up the Wairarapa Moana Establishment Group. This group is supported by a management group of officials from each organisation and is seen as an interim governance arrangement for Wairarapa Moana pending any possible future changes through the Treaty settlements process.

11.4 Priorities and Directions

The Board continued to support the Conservator's Priorities and Directions project, which developed a process for prioritisation of conservation actions and projects. Board members engaged in working groups to advise on priorities for conservation work in the Conservation Action Plan for each Area Office, for the Conservancy Business Plan and for the new CMS.

The Conservator has provided a report on key achievements by the Conservancy during 2008/09, which is attached as Appendix 2.

11.5 Operation Kaka

The Board was briefed on, and provided input to a project to create a multi-species pest control zone within Tararua Forest Park to help form a wildlife corridor from Kapiti Island across Waikanae and Otaki Forks, to Holdsworth and Mount Bruce. This will create more habitat and opportunity to widen the genetic pool for endangered species such as kaka, kereru and kakariki. It will also benefit the lowland ecosystems and the currently protected fuchsia areas. Rob McColl represents the Board on the steering group for this project.

12. Conservation Week 2008

The Minister of Conservation, the Hon Steve Chadwick, presented the 2008 Wellington Conservation Awards at a lively ceremony in the Beehive, Parliament Buildings on 12 November 2008. The awards are a joint initiative of the Conservancy and the Board, and have been held annually for more than a decade.

The recipients in 2008 were:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • Habitat Restoration (Group) | Friends of the Waikanae River |
| • Recreation | Greytown Tree Advisory Committee |
| • Education and Advocacy | Wellington Zoo Trust |
| • Young Conservationists | Douglas Park School, Masterton |
| • Historic Heritage | Paekakariki Station Precinct Trust |
| • Kaitiakitanga | Tuki Takiwa |
| • Business in Conservation | Honda Cars Wellington/Wairarapa |

A Certificate of Merit was also awarded to:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| • Habitat Restoration (Group) | Waikanae Estuary Care Group |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|

The Board and the Conservancy reviewed the tradition of hosting the Wellington Conservation Awards at Parliament in Conservation Week. They agreed not to hold the Awards in 2009 and to work with Greater Wellington Regional Council with a view to integration with other conservation awards in 2010.

13. Liaison

13.1 Wellington Fish and Game Council

The Board has a statutory responsibility to liaise with the Wellington Fish and Game Council under Section 6M (1) (f). The Board and Council exchange agendas, papers and minutes. John Hancock was the Board's liaison person, attending activities and meetings and maintaining contact with the Council's staff. This included clarifying the Council's intentions for Simmon's Lagoon and promoting the conservation importance of managing water levels in the JK Donald Block.

13.2 Kapiti Marine Reserve Committee

In March, 2008, the Minister of Conservation announced the appointment of the Kapiti Marine Reserve Committee (KMRC) including Board member, Dr Nicola Nelson. The KMRC is an Advisory Committee under Section 56 (Reserves Act 1977) and is also a sub-committee of the Wellington Conservation Board. The Board has delegated specific functions to the KMRC, including responsibility for approving the (statutory) Management Plan. The Board received the KMRC June 08 Annual Report.

13.3 Lake Wairarapa Coordinating Committee (LWCC)

The LWCC provides an important forum for organisations and individuals to develop a better understanding of issues and options for the future management of the lakes and their associated wetlands. Geoff Doring represents the Board on LWCC. Two other Board members, Haami Te Whaiti and John Hancock, also participate in LWCC meetings. DOC's Wairarapa Area Office services the committee.

13.4 National Wildlife Centre Trust

Geoff Doring represents the Board on the National Wildlife Centre Trust which has passed ownership of the Visitor Centre to the Pukaha/Mt Bruce Board. The Trust now primarily focuses on the history of Pukaha/Mt Bruce. The Board will re-assess the rationale for representation on the Trust in 2010.

14. Chairperson's Comment

2008/09 was a year of pressure and uncertainty for the Conservancy with both the review of the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservancy and the need to plan for budget reductions in 2009/10. I would like to acknowledge the way in which Conservator Alan McKenzie consulted and involved the Board in those matters.

The Conservator provided the Board with updates on operational activities throughout the year. Members were pleased to see and be involved in the Conservator's initiative to develop a full set of Conservation Action Plans for the Area offices, including the introduction of the new priority-setting model which will enable consistency between the CMS, the CAPs and annual business planning for the Conservancy. During the year we have been pleased to see greater alignment between DOC's Strategic Direction, the evolving draft CMS and the Conservancy's operations.

2009/10 will be a challenging year in relation to the Board's responsibility within the review of the CMS, the need to enable community input whilst not moving ahead in the statutory process until 2010/11, and the need to ensure that current and new Board members come to understand the conservation issues across and at places within the expanded Conservancy.

The Board has valued the regular flow of information from the New Zealand Conservation Authority, particularly in relation to the evolving CMS process, and we look forward to opportunities to engage with the Authority during 2009/10.

Finally, I would like to thank all those Board members who have served during 2008/09, along with Conservator Alan McKenzie, Board Secretary Bronwyn Bell, and all the people in the Wellington Conservancy for their work on behalf of the Board and for conservation.

I look forward to our ongoing efforts and impacts as a Conservation Board, working with new responsibilities across the wider new Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Algar', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Helen Algar
Chair

This report was adopted by the Wellington Conservation Board on 4 September 2009.

Appendix 1: Board members' attendance at Board activities

Individual Board members attendance at Wellington Conservation Board activities during 2008/09 is displayed in the table below:

✓ full attendance

✗ apologies

Ⓟ partial attendance

Date	Algar	Nelson	Foster	Doring	McCull	Hancock	Shields	Te Whaiti	Pomare	Poutu	Turver	Wassilieff/ and Abbot
Meeting 22 August 2008	✓	✗	Ⓟ	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗		✗	✓	✓✓
Meeting 24 October 2008	✓	✓	Ⓟ	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Meeting 12 December 2008	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	Ⓟ		
Field Trip 30 January 2009 Zoo/ Otari/ Zealandia	✓	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗		
Meeting 27 February 2009	cancelled											
Meeting 24 April 2009	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗			
Field Trip 25 April 2009 – Taranaki Forest Park	✓	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗			
Meeting 6 June 2009	✓	✗	✓	✓	✓	✓	✗		✗			
Total Meetings (5)	5	3	4 (2 partial)	4	4	5	2	2	2	1.5	2	1
Total Field Trips (2)	2	2	1	1	1	2	0	0	0			

Appendix 2 : Conservancy achievements in 2008/09

<p>Department of Conservation Strategic Direction</p> <p><i>Conserving and managing New Zealand's natural, historic and cultural heritage provides increasing benefit to New Zealanders</i></p>	
Intermediate outcomes	Activities in 2008/09 which advance the department's strategic direction
<p>Intermediate Outcome 1: The ecological integrity of managed sites is maintained or restored</p>	<p>We continue to work with Friends of Waikanae Estuary Greater Wellington Regional Council (Greater Wellington) and the Kapiti Coast District Council on restoring Waikanae Estuary.</p> <p>Predator control has been undertaken on 2053 hectares of conservation land, including Pukaha/Mount Bruce and Hemi Matenga Scenic Reserve.</p> <p>We have also been taking action to try and prevent didymo entering our waterways, including cleaning bikes at cycle events and raising awareness among participants.</p> <p>We initiated a review of current pest management across the Conservancy's three Forest Parks.</p> <p>We began developing Conservation Action Plans to identify the conservation outcomes we want to achieve in a number of zones throughout the conservancy, and prioritise this work.</p> <p>To protect our waters from didymo, DOC and Greater Wellington staff, and volunteers washed the wheels of bikes before and after the recent Merida Karapoti Classic and RaboPlus Big Coast cycle events. They had their hands full with 1300 bikes to be cleaned before the 10am start of the Karapoti Classic, in Wellington's Akatarawa Ranges.</p>
<p>Intermediate Outcome 2: The security of threatened species unique to New Zealand, and most at risk of extinction, is improved</p>	<p>A new population of endangered shore plover (<i>Thinornis novaeseelandiae</i>) is being established on Mana Island. Five more young shore plovers fledged in 2009. The project has attracted a grant from the Friends of Mana/BirdLife International Community Conservation Fund and also the NZ Society in the UK to support aviary upgrades at Mt Bruce and the reintroduction programme on Mana.</p> <p>Takahē from Mana and Kapiti Islands are being reintroduced to the Murchison Mountains, contributing to the wild population in the area where they were originally rediscovered.</p> <p>Whio (blue duck) have become part of the captive breeding flock at Pukaha Mount Bruce as DOC staff fight to ensure their long-term survival.</p>

	<p>Information was gathered about estuaries in the Wellington region that will help to shape future policies about the region's estuarine environments. Over five months data has been collated to produce a document outlining the current state, conservation values, present and potential management strategies, and any associated issues for each of the region's estuaries.</p>
<p>Intermediate Outcome 3: Examples of the full range of New Zealand's ecosystems are conserved</p>	<p>The 854 hectare Taputeranga Marine Reserve was created in August 2008 to protect the Wellington south coast marine environment. It is located at the meeting point of three oceanic currents, bringing together warm, cold temperate, and sub-Antarctic waters, allowing a rich and unusual variety of sea life to thrive. The reserve is the culmination of many years of hard work by the applicants, the Wellington branch of Forest and Bird and the Wellington South Coast Marine Reserve Coalition.</p> <p>Mana Island, the focus of world-leading conservation initiatives, is among the top 25 ecological restoration sites in Australia and New Zealand. Mana Island is among eight New Zealand sites selected by a cross-Tasman panel of eminent ecologists in a competition run by the international Global Restoration Network. The contest was part of the preparation for a major ecological restoration conference being held in Perth in August. Mana Island was selected for the complexity and diversity of restoration activities, dating back to 1986, and the high level of community involvement.</p>
<p>Intermediate Outcome 4: A representative range of historic and cultural heritage is conserved and interpreted</p>	<p>Annual workshops continue to be held at Otaki Forks, based on restoring the Sheridan Creek logging hauler and tramway. The hauler is one of the most complete haulers left on its original site. Volunteers and DOC staff learn metal stabilisation skills while restoring the site.</p> <p>Nearly 300 Wellingtonians took up an offer to explore off-limits areas of the 132-year-old Government Buildings during an open day in December. It was an opportunity to raise the profile of Wellington's historic heritage.</p> <p>Historic buildings on Matiu/Somes Island are being renovated. The Maximum Security Animal Quarantine Station was given a two day clean-up by DOC staff and volunteers in March 2009, in anticipation of it eventually being opened up to visitors, and volunteers painted the barracks building on the island prior to it being restored by contractors.</p> <p>The history of Matiu/Somes is highlighted in interpretation panels installed on the island during the year.</p>

Intermediate Outcome 5: New Zealanders increasingly engage in conservation

We continue to work with stakeholders to develop and promote the Pukaha Mount Bruce National Wildlife Centre as an outstanding visitor destination. A \$1.4 million redevelopment of the centre this year has enhanced the visitor experience, through the use of digital technology and interactive displays. The redevelopment, which included a new entrance, foyer and meeting area, was led by the Pukaha Mount Bruce Board with funding from community trusts and philanthropic organisations.

Supported by DOC, the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust has made progress towards re-establishing a kiwi population in the forest park. Twenty five adult North Island brown kiwi were translocated from Little Barrier Island in the Hauraki Gulf in April to the kiwi protected area in the park, adding to the nine adult kiwi already living there.

We are supporting the Experiencing Marine Reserves programme for schools, hosted by the Wellington Marine Education Centre. We also invited school children to release 15 rare Wellington green geckos onto Matiu/Somes Island in November last year, the largest release to date. School children also adopted another kiwi released into the Pukaha Mount Bruce forest, which is being restored by DOC and the community.

The Conservancy, Greater Wellington and the NZ Ecological Restoration Society held another successful restoration day to increase the knowledge and skills of the many people involved in ecological restoration projects throughout the region. This year's event was held in Porirua in May with the theme of Mountains to the Sea, focusing on a whole of catchment approach to ecological restoration.

Poneke Area consulted with the community about the future management of Rimutaka Forest Park, especially Catchpool. A public meeting generated a number of new ideas, such as developing walking and cycling opportunities in the logged area, but there was also a strong affirmation that the current direction was appropriate. A video about the park and its surrounds, produced by Poneke Area with Wellington's Videoworks, is helping to raise awareness of its biodiversity, history, and geology.

The Conservancy worked with the DOC Treaty Settlements Unit on the settlement of historical Treaty claims. This involved developing agreements with iwi on the management of conservation sites proposed to be vested in Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, and providing conservation and property value information to Ngāti Toa Rangatira.

We continue to promote the benefits and value of conservation to through such avenues as our conservancy newsletter Footnotes, which we began producing more frequently during the year, and the DOC website.

	<p>We supported the seven Wellington region community conservation projects which will receive a share of the \$1 million invested in 46 native planting projects throughout the country in the first round of the Community Conservation Fund allocations. They are.-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Otaihanga Oxbow Restoration, Friends of the Waikanae River, \$40,325 • Catchpool Restoration Project, Rimutaka Forest Park Charitable Trust, \$40,000 • Dune Swamp Forest Restoration, Friends of Queen Elizabeth Regional Park (Kapiti) Trust, \$26,282 • Moehau Stream Riparian Restoration Project, Royal Forest & Bird Protection Society - Upper Hutt Branch, \$26,000 • Riversdale Dune Restoration Project, Riversdale Dune Management Group \$24,074 • Waikanae Estuary Scientific Reserve Restoration Project, Waikanae Estuary Care Group, \$16,600 • Otaki Estuary Restoration, Friends of the Otaki River, \$15,200
<p>Intermediate Outcome 6: New Zealanders have increased opportunities for recreation and outdoor activities</p>	<p>The Conservancy invested \$1.5 million in capital works to upgrade recreation facilities. This included enhancing conservation campsites at Bucks Road and Corner Creek in the Wairarapa; building a 12-bunk hut in the Atiwhakatu Valley in the eastern Tararua Forest Park; replacing bridges in Hemi Matenga Scenic Reserve, and upgrading tracks.</p> <p>A new walking track has been constructed through the Pukaha Mt Bruce forest - the largest remnant of the once magnificent 70 mile Wairarapa forest - into which native wildlife is being returned.</p> <p>Overnight camping was introduced for up to 12 people a night on Matiu/Somes Island, just a 20 minute ferry trip from the heart of Wellington City. It's a chance for people to appreciate the natural and historic values of the island, and enjoy 360 degree views of Wellington City and its surrounds.</p> <p>We engaged Tourism Resource Consultants to prepare a report on developing opportunities for visitation and improving customer focus at Rimutaka Forest Park and for Kapiti Island.</p>
<p>Intermediate Outcome 7: Business opportunities consistent with conservation outcomes are enabled</p>	<p>We identified the top 10 Wellington conservation hotspots suitable for a day trip, on a Google map (which has subsequently been linked to and promoted on the DOC website). It targets the Wellington tourism market, which research has shown is based around one or two night stayers (e.g. cruise ships and weekenders in hotels; people visiting friends and families; and conference goers). This initiative aims at giving them the best conservation "bang for their buck". The work was done by an international intern at no cost</p>

	<p>to the department. The next step is to promote it to conference organisers, accommodation owners, tourism operators (those with concessions already and those yet to use conservation land) within Wellington city and identify, on the DOC website, tourism operators who can take people to the hotspots.</p> <p>Wellington Conservancy marine mammal specialists will find it easier to record images of humpback whales after being awarded one of three 2008 Canon Environmental Grants. DOC received \$5000 worth of specialised Canon equipment for observation work and study of humpback whales, a project sponsored by OMV, and international oil exploration company, to determine the present status and level of recovery of the whales in NZ waters since commercial whaling ended in New Zealand in 1963.</p> <p>A BP Community Enterprise Project award of \$1000 has enabled a group of year 10 Wellington Girls College students to design and produce fun activity booklets, and a cellphone audio tour for families visiting Matiu/Somes Island. Fifty colour and 50 black and white booklets are being produced and will be trialled on the island from February 2010, along with the audio tour.</p>
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Working with iwi

The Conservancy continues to work closely with iwi as partners, especially as the Treaty settlement process is worked through. During the year significant changes were signalled.

The vesting of the Kapiti Island reserves to Ngāti Toa Rangatira, subject to the tribe gifting them back to the Crown, is part of an agreement between the Crown and Ngāti Toa Rangatira for the settlement of historical Treaty claims.

The Port Nicholson Block (Taranaki Whanui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika) Claims Settlement Act 2009 received Royal Assent on Tuesday 4 August 2009 and came into force on Wednesday 5 August 2009. A Kaitiaki board will be established for the oversight of management of Matui/Soames Island and other areas now owned by iwi.

The Conservancy and Greater Wellington and South Wairarapa District Council are working with iwi to set up the Wairarapa Moana Establishment Group for governance of the lakes.

Organisational Change

Post 1 July 2009 the Wellington Conservancy became the Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy.

It has been my pleasure to work constructively with the Conservation Board this year and to prepare this report on some of the activities that have occurred during 2008/09 to help fulfil the monitoring role. The work on the draft CMS will ultimately bear fruit, despite being placed on hold for a while. It will guide us informally as a Conservancy until a new CMS is completed in the future.

Alan McKenzie
 Conservator Wellington Hawke's Bay
 2 September 2009

