# WEST COAST *TAI POUTINI* CONSERVATION BOARD

Annual Report 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011









# Cover photo

Top right, top left – Hokitika Gorge Bottom left – moonrise over Paparoa Range Bottom right – pingao at Gillespies Beach

All photos supplied by the Department of Conservation

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# **ANNUAL REPORT** 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011

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# INTRODUCTION

# **Functions**

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board is an independent advisory body for public conservation land while the Department of Conservation is the day-to-day manager. The Board has a number of statutory roles under various Acts including:

- the recommendation of a West Coast Conservation Management Strategy(CMS) to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval,
- 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 the status of land of national and international significance,
- liaising with the Fish and Game Council on conservation matters, and
- carrying out other powers delegated to it by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

# Area of Responsibility

The area of responsibility for the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board is the West Coast from north of Karamea south to Big Bay (refer to the map at the end of the report). This area corresponds to that of the West Coast Conservancy, South Island, except for Kahurangi National Park (which is the responsibility of the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board), Arthur's Pass National Park (Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board) and Mt Aspiring National Park (Otago Conservation Board). The area also extends out to the twelve-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200 nautical mile limit with respect to marine mammal issues.

Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park and Paparoa National Park lie completely within the Board's jurisdiction. The overlap of the Nelson/Marlborough, Canterbury Aoraki and Otago Conservation Boards with the West Coast Conservancy necessitates close co-operation with those Boards and at times the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board advocates for cross-boundary issues. The Board's area also shares common boundaries with the Southland Conservation Board.

Approximately twenty-five percent of all public conservation land in New Zealand lies within the West Coast Conservancy. A large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- ecosystem management and management of plant and animal species such as mistletoe, Westland petrel/taiko, white heron/kotuku, blue duck/whio, rowi (formerly Okarito brown kiwi), Haast tokoeka, great spotted kiwi/roa, mohua and Powelliphanta species;
- management of recreational facilities;

- management of historic sites;
- concession activities, including those relating to recreation and tourism activities, grazing, industrial use, baches, filming, gravel extraction, and;
- mining and access arrangements and
- marine protection.

The West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board has a responsibility to the people of the West Coast, and the wider New Zealand population, to ensure these lands and waters, and the biodiversity which they contain, are protected and enhanced.

The total area of the West Coast Conservancy comprises 1,913,000 ha. Of this total approximately 83% (1,595,000 ha) is contained within the boundary of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction.

#### **Features of the Area**

Paparoa National Park	39026 ha
Westland Tai Poutini National Park	131329 ha
Victoria Conservation Park	198384 ha
Scenic Reserve – 113	79351 ha
Historic Reserves – 10	16 ha
Ecological Areas – 46	152328 ha
Amenity Areas – 17	9428 ha
Stewardship	849560 ha
Recreation Reserve – 17	118 ha
Wilderness Areas – 3	111629 ha

N.B. These are the areas the Department administers. For example, most Historic Reserves and Recreation Reserves are either controlled and managed by or vested with local authorities or an incorporated society.

# **Membership**

The names, locations of the members of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board and attendance at meetings from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 are shown below. The Board was pleased to welcome new member Jane Jones (Buller-*Kawatiri*) and welcome back Clare Backes (Hokitika), Stewart Robertson (Greymouth-*Mawheranui*) and Terry Scott (Oxford), at its February 2010 meeting.

Clare Backes*#	Hokitika		4
Doug Baker	Greymouth		4
Kori Hutana	Hokitika		4
Warren Inwood	Inangahua		4
Jane Jones#	Westport		1
Hamish Macbeth	Karamea	4	
Richard Nichol	Westport		4
Stewart Robertson*#	Greymouth		5
Terry Scott*#	Oxford		5
Kim Thomas	Westport		5
Les Wright*	Punakaiki		1

<sup>\*</sup> Members whose term expired at 31 August 2010.

<sup>#</sup> Members newly appointed or reappointed 1 September 2010.

At times some members were not always able to attend the planned field inspections but overall attendance by members has been high.

# **Conservation Board Meetings**

During the reporting period the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board held five formal meetings, and two field inspections. Members have used email extensively to consider and discuss advice, submissions and other issues in between Board meetings.

#### 30 July 2010

This meeting was held in Hokitika. The Board discussed Heli-hunting concessions. A presentation was given to the Board regarding pest control. The Mayor and CEO of Westland District Council talked to the Board about freedom camping and the Haast-Hollyford Road project.

# **24 September 2010**

The Board met at Hokitika. The first monitoring report for the CMS was presented by the Department. Four members of the public attended the meeting. Three raised issues regarding 1080 and the other was Michael Orchard, husband of Janet Orchard. He updated the Board of what he had been doing since Janet's death and thanked the Board for a copy of the final CMS which he asked the members to sign.

#### 18-19 November 2010

The November meeting was a two day meeting held in Reefton and included a field trip to Waiuta visiting Prohibition (Oceana drilling site), looked at issues and discussed restoration at Prohibition, Blackwater and Snowy Battery. The Board received a briefing on the Goldfields Journey concept then went on a tour of the Globe Mine. The Board also enjoyed meeting Jo Gould (CRM Nelson-Marlborough) who attended both days.

At the following day's meeting, there were a number of members of the public in attendance regarding Fraser Hut in the Maruia Valley. Members of the family associated with the hut expressed concern at the possibility of the hut being removed. There were also representatives from a 4WD hunting tour business and the local Search and Rescue fraternity.

The New Zealand Deerstalkers Association (NZDA) had a representative at the public forum speaking on heli-hunting. NZDA commended the Board on its letters and papers on heli-hunting and offered assistance to the Board if needed. They then spoke of different issues about heli-hunting.

# 4 February 2011

This meeting was held in Hokitika. The Board observed a minutes silence for Alex Miller, former Chair and member of the Board and the miners from the Pike River incident. The Board advised Jane Jones (Buller-*Kawatir*i) has been appointed to the Board, although due to flight cancellations, could not attend the meeting. The Board also welcomed back Clare Backes, Terry Scott and Stewart Robertson. The election of officers was held, Clare Backes was elected Chairperson, Stewart Robertson was elected Deputy Chairperson. Clare and the Board thanked Warren Inwood, the outgoing Chairperson for his steady hand, hard work and keeping the Board focused. Mike Browne, NZCA was also in attendance.

The Board received an update on the heli-hunting concession applications. Mike Browne also gave an update from the NZCA perspective.

The Board also received the second of the CMS monitoring reports.

# 14-15 April 2011

The Board met in South Westland-*Weheka*. The Board welcomed Jane Jones to the meeting and Terry Scott welcomed everyone to Fox Glacier, takiwa of Te Runanga o Makaawhio. Lara Kelsen introduced Mary-Anne Thorpe who is the newly appointed Board Support Officer.

There was one member of the public who attended the public forum. This was James Scott who is a helicopter operator in the Fox Glacier area who spoke about heli-hunting.

The previous day the Board visited Lake Matheson and received a briefing from Tom Hopkins and the owner of the Lake Matheson Café about the development around the site. The Board then travelled to the Fox Glacier Valley and had a short walk along the Te Weheka walkway/cycleway. The Board also looked at the Glacier View Road on the south side and viewed the upgraded River Walk.

# STATUTORY FUNCTIONS - CONSERVATION ACT

# **Conservation Management Strategies**

On the 25 September, the Board received the first of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) monitoring report. This paper reported on *Monitoring the protection and use of public conservation land and the provision of recreation opportunities*. The Board noted that the reporting gave good background, but baselines were needed for monitoring so that the degradation or improvements for outcomes were transparent. Two Board members met with Department staff to go over the format and context of the reports.

At the February meeting, the Board received the second on the CMS monitoring reports. This report was on *Tracking progress in our Knowledge and Management of Natural, Historical and Cultural Heritage Values*.

The third monitoring report was received by the Board at the April 2011 meeting. This was on *Relationships with tangata whenua and other people and organisations*.

The Board were encouraged to review these reports at a workshop to refine the CMS monitoring report template to include the most important conservation outcomes and key performance measures the Board wish to monitor during the CMS term.

This workshop was held on 27 May 2011. It was decided that the Department should report annually and the Board will set the outcomes on which it wants reporting. It was also suggested that the Conservators Report for Board meetings be formatted in line with the CMS reporting on places and outcomes.

# **Section 4**

The Board continued to receive reports from the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservancy's Pou Kura Taiao for most meetings. These reports informed the Board about activities and issues pertinent to the West Coast. Reports provided by the Department include details of Section 4 issues involved in both conservation and resource activities, based on the NZCA template.

# Change of status or classification

The Board continued to receive proposals for the exchange or disposal of public conservation land throughout the year and provided advice to changes of land status of national park and reserve classifications. It often recommended that land exchanges proceed, especially if there was an obvious conservation gain. It provided comment on disposals of public conservation land using a set of guidelines for assessing the information on these applications developed by the Board. Some of the applications considered by the Board during the year include:

### Denniston Historic Reserve

The reclassification of the conservation land and reserves to historic reserve reflected the current and future use of the land currently managed by the Department, and is in line with the Denniston Conservation Plan 2010. The Board supported this application.

#### Millerton

This application was for the disposal of 0.8ha of land at Millerton. The land itself is the Millerton Bowling Green which has been held as an occupation concession. The Board supported this disposal for the reason that the Board sees a measure of public good arising from this disposal.

# **Kakapotahi**

This application was for the disposal of 8.5ha of conservation land located on the south side of Kakapotahi River. The land is currently held on a grazing concession. The Board did not support this application as it felt that this land represents a habitat and ecosystem underrepresented in public conservation lands and has the potential to be restored

# Waitahu

This application was for the disposal of 7.4ha of conservation land located on the true left side of the Waitahu River 900m downstream of Gannons Bridge. The land is also held on a grazing concession. The Board advised the Department that based on the information supplied; it supported this disposal subject to a fenced marginal strip being created.

# Greenstone, Kumara

This application was for the disposal of 13.5ha of land near Kumara. This land is also held as a grazing concession. The Board advised the Department it did not support this disposal application. A large proportion of the block is Kanuka which is likely to provide an environment for regenerating forest species and the block could be indistinguishable from the surrounding stewardship land.

#### **Advice on Other Conservation Matters**

The Board was consulted by or gave advice to the Department and NZCA on the following:

# Smithys Creek Road Realignment

This was a dangerous black spot which had numerous accidents occurring. The road was realigned to improving the safety and efficiency of State Highway 6. This meant taking land from, and adding land to Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park.

# Waiho Block, Franz Josef

A block of land in Franz Josef was recently purchased by the Nature Heritage Fund for inclusion in the Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park. The Board supported the NZCA in encouraging the Department to complete the change in land classification, but this has not yet been completed.

# Concessions

The Board provided advice to the Department on the concession applications that met the concession trigger mechanisms. The Department continued to provide fortnightly summaries of concessions received. This summary allowed the Board to be aware of concession applications that would be sent to the Board in the future and also allowed it to signal to the Department any application that it would like to see. Since the Concessions Review, timeframes have been very

tight and getting the draft determination report was not always feasible. The Department and the Board are working on a process to benefit both parties.

The Board has provided advice on a range of concessions. Some of the more topical ones are included below:

# Wanganui River - Baches

This was an application to relocate three baches on the Wanganui River due to erosion and flood events. The Board felt that the Department should follow the CMS in a transparent manner that will set the appropriate precedent for the future. The Board was disappointed that the Department allowed the re-siting of baches a distance from the original footprint in this instance. The Board has suggested that in future every bach concession application would meet its 'trigger mechanism' and therefore be sent to the Board for its advice.

# Stelvio Ltd - Denniston

This was an application for a private company to operate the "Denniston Experience" (including guided walking tours, Banbury Tourist Mine Railway, placement and use of temporary buildings) at Denniston. The Board was pleased that a company had applied to run this tourist activity at Denniston. It felt that as the Department had developed the activity, any potential problems would have been dealt with in the design and conditions outlined in the report. The Board recommended monitoring of the operation to ensure there are no adverse effects in the future.

# Perivale Farms - easement

This application was for an easement. The easement is for a small hydro electricity generating power scheme that would service one farmer. The Board felt this directly contravenes the Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park Management Plan, whereby utilities can be located in the Westland *Tai Poutini* National Park if their purposes are for the public good. Therefore the Board advised it did not support granting this easement.

#### **Access Arrangements**

The Board also provides advice on access arrangements applied for under the Crown Minerals Act 1991. As these concern access to public conservation land the applications needed to be considered under the Conservation Act 1987 and therefore the Board is consulted. The applications on which the Board provided advice included:

# Oceana Gold – Big River

This access arrangement application was to drill nine exploration fill holes at the historic site of Big River. The Board advised that it agreed with the granting of an access arrangement for 4 years for this exploration. However, the Board noted that this was an extremely important old quartz mining site and the only important historical site in an ecological area. Any further significant disturbance of the land and historic sites could impinge on both the valuable historic area as well as the values of the ecological area.

# Solid Energy New Zealand Ltd – Number Two South Cutback

This was an application for an access arrangement to construct and operate four highwalls in the vicinity of the Stockton Open Cast Mine on the Stockton Plateau. The Board advised that if the access arrangement for this is granted then there should be some stricter provisions to allow for eventual better environmental outcomes.

#### **Visitor Assets**

The development of visitor assets continued to interest the Board. It received a regular report on progress with capital projects at its two monthly meetings and was invited to provide comment to the Department on the capital visitor asset planning programme.

The Board was impressed with the Pororari River Bridge construction. Congratulations were passed to the Department for the completion of the Franz and Fox Glacier Valleys pedestrian cycle path. The Board had a keen interest in the developments at Denniston. Now the project is finished and 'The Denniston Experience' is open to the public.

# **Species and Other Issues**

The Board received regular species updates in the Conservator's Report which is presented at every meeting, including information on Powelliphanta snails, freshwater fish and inanga, bats, kiwi species, marine mammals, mohua, kea, whio protection, some plant species and predator control.

#### Liaison with Fish and Game Councils

Two members of the Board shared attendance at Fish and Game Council meetings. The two organisations exchanged copies of minutes and agendas and issues of interest were noted at Board meetings.

# **Powers of Boards**

The Board used its powers to advocate for conservation both on and off public conservation land and for both local and national conservation issues. It also maintained two committees and a series of topic leaders.

# **Conservation Advocacy**

The Board is on the mailing list of all West Coast local authorities and received copies of some notified resource consent applications, proposed changes to or reviews of district plans, Long Term Community Council Plans and reports on other regional issues or programmes. It used its resource consent trigger mechanisms to identify those matters likely to have significant impacts on conservation values and to decide whether or not to make a submission.

This year fewer resource consents were received. The Board received 5 resource consent applications, four for land use and one for sub-division. The Board took the opportunity to comment on the proposed interface between the Resource Management Act 1991 and the Conservation Act 1987 and the West Coast Regional Council Pest Plant Strategy.

The Department kept the Board informed about planning issues through regular reports at Board meetings.

Some of the more significant resource consents and planning matters in which the Board was involved are listed below:

#### R and M Mining at Ross

The Board submitted in support of this application.

#### West Coast Regional Council Proposed Pest Plant Strategy

The Board made a submission and spoke to it at the hearing.

#### West Coast Regional Council Proposed Combined Land and Water Plan

The Board made a detailed submission on this plan, emphasising the need to be consistent with the plans being amalgamated and the WCRC Regional Policy Statement.

# Buller Coal Ltd - Escarpment Mine

This application was for an open cast mine and coal preparation site on the Denniston Plateau.

The Board submitted in opposition considering that the proposed open-cast mining will destroy an area of unique landscape and ecological value as well as have other adverse effects for which insufficient information is given on effective mitigation. A member of the Board presented the Board's submission at the public hearing.

# Buller District Council – Review of Buller District Plan

Notification was received from Buller District Council regarding the district plan review. The proposed changes 122-123 relates to rules applying to residential activities in the Residential, Scenically Sensitive Residential and Commercial Zones. The Board neither supported nor opposed the proposed plan changes in their entirety but took the opportunity to add emphasis to proposed changes which recognised the effects on, and value of, the surrounding landscape.

#### **Other Conservation Issues**

### The CMS and Heli-hunting

The Board has discussed this topic at nearly every meeting. There was an outstanding issue with the CMS before approval regarding the text relating to heli-hunting.

The Board has been frustrated, along with many sectors of the public, about the lack of open opportunities for meaningful consultation. The Board is also extremely concerned that agreements have been reached for access into national parks and wilderness areas on a short term basis, which might set a precedent for the future.

# **Appointment of Committees**

The following committees were elected 4 February 2011.

Committee	<u>Membership</u>	
Concessions	Kim Thomas (Chairperson), Doug Baker, Warren	
	Inwood, Jane Jones and Clare Backes (ex officio)	
Planning	Stewart Robertson (Chairperson), Jane Jones, Terry	
	Scott, Hamish Macbeth, Kim Thomas and Clare	
	Backes (ex officio)	

**Special Interest Topics** 

Historic Heritage and Appreciation Jane Jones and Kim Thomas

Science and Biodiversity Warren Inwood

Tangata Whenua Liaison Terry Scott

# OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER CONSERVATION ACT

# **Co-opting Members of the Board**

No members were co-opted on to the Board this year.

# BOARD FUNCTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT

# **Implementation of National Park Plans**

The Board submitted in support of the intention to establish a Kauri National Park in Northland. The Board recognised that its members don't have an intimate knowledge of the area under investigation, but they did have an appreciation of the giant trees, and the need for their protection. Therefore the submission was of a general nature. It was hoped that National Park status would also provide increased opportunities in business and employment generally.

# **LIAISON**

#### **General Comment on Liaison**

The Board considers that contact by members of the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation Board with the community is very important and the webpage has been used to good advantage with contact details for members, confirmed minutes, the Conservator's report from each meeting and access to annual reports being provided.

Board members also have contact with a broad range of people, community groups and organisations. Several Board members maintain contact with conservation groups, recreation groups, the tourist industry, and agricultural organisations. Board members either attend meetings or receive minutes and agendas and report back to Board meetings about any concerns of interest to the Board.

There has been a representative from the Board at the Stockton Environmental Consultative Group meetings, and one Board member has regular contact with the executive of the local Federated Farmers, which keeps the Board informed of relevant issues.

Public forums continue to be offered at each Board meeting with half an hour being set aside for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board. Public forums were used by the public this year with members of the public present at three meetings. Issues raised by the members of the public included management of huts, 1080 and heli-hunting.

The media on the West Coast were sent copies of the Board's agendas and were invited to attend all Board meetings. A press release from the Board was prepared after most meetings but these were not always published in full.

#### Other Boards & the NZCA

Liaison with neighbouring Boards was maintained principally through the exchange of minutes and agendas.

The Board welcome a visit from Jo Gould, CRM Nelson/Marlborough Conservancy to the November meeting in Reefton.

Terry Scott attended a Canterbury Aoraki meeting in Christchurch and observed that there were differences how the Boards worked and the relationships between the Boards and the Conservancies are quite different.

Mike Browne, the NZCA liaison person for the West Coast *Tai Poutini* Conservation attended one meeting. The Board is pleased to see a local West Coast resident appointed to the NZCA and to have him as a liaison person.

# **Community**

The West Coast is a region of small communities. Board members are often well known in their local communities and have regular contact with members of the public. Where possible the Board tries to meet with local community groups while on field inspections.

Board members are invited to join in activities organised by the Department to celebrate national events. This gives members a chance to interact with other groups and to learn more about the Department's work.

# **Local Government**

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of the four local Councils as there are a number of regional issues in which it is interested. The Board has had regular contact with all territorial authorities through its concerns about outstanding natural features and landscapes, significant natural areas, proposed reviews of district plans and getting involved in consultation over the councils' Long Term Council Community Plans

#### Iwi

The Board is working to further develop its relationship with the Papatipu Runanga on the West Coast and Te Runanga o Ngāi Tahu. Two members of the Board are nominated by Ngāi Tahu, as required under the Ngāi Tahu Settlement Act 1998. They provide input on iwi issues and a Maori perspective to other issues. A regular report from the Pou Kura Taio is provided for each meeting. Two Board members attended a Pukenga Atawhai course in August 2010 at Bruce Bay and five other members names have been put forward to attend in the future.

### CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

This was the first full year of the CMS being implemented. Both the Department and the Board have been working towards this point for a long time. The Board received three reports from the Department during the year, covering the monitoring of all aspects of the CMS. This has led to a refinement of the monitoring process, a process that both the Board and the Department will continue improving over the life of the CMS.

However the Board now consider the CMS as their bible, and refers to it for all aspects of their advice to the Department and the NZCA. We also refer to it when submitting to both the district and regional councils on RMA issues, as the CMS defines the desired conservation outcomes for public conservation land on the West Coast by 2020.

The public debate on whether mining should be allowed on Schedule 4 land, which would have seen land removed from the Paparoa National Park to allow it to be mined, showed that there was a real need to balance the direct economic benefits of activities such as mining with the more intangible economic benefits of historic and natural heritage on public conservation land. The Board uses the CMS and the various management plans for the West Coast Conservancy to give advice to the Department on the appropriate use of public conservation land.

There have been a couple of specific issues where the Board has disagreed with the Department's interpretation of the CMS. The issue of baches on public conservation land on the West Coast has been extensively discussed in the past. The CMS policies relating to baches indicate an intention to encourage bach owners to allow public use of the facilities. The Board does not feel that the Department has sufficiently defined the idea of public use in their recent concession conditions for baches. The CMS policies also require baches to remain within their current footprint and because of this, the Board felt it was inappropriate when three

baches on the Wanganui River were allowed to move from their original footprint. The ongoing issue of heli-hunting has also been of great concern to the Board It feels that the situation has been managed in favour of the clients and operators of the aerial trophy hunting operations, to the detriment of other users of public conservation land, including recreational hunters and trampers. The Board hopes that there will be a full public submission process on heli-hunting before any decisions are made by the Department as to its continuation in the long term.

Last year Les Wright, a veritable fountain of knowledge on historic issues and Punakaiki, finished his term on the Board after six years. The Board will miss his invaluable knowledge and his dedicated enthusiasm to protect our historic heritage. However the Board was very pleased to welcome Jane Jones from Westport, who has already joined both the sub-committees and made a good contribution to the work of the Board. I would particularly like to thank Warren Inwood, our out-going Chair, who is still on the Board and provides timely advice and wisdom on all Board matters.

The past year has been very eventful in New Zealand. The Christchurch earthquake and continuing quakes as well as the Pike River mine disaster affected the local Department and many members of the Board. It has resulted in departmental staff being out of position, and the Board has been impressed by the flexibility of the staff in the West Coast Conservancy to cope with ever-changing roles and responsibilities. It has also meant that the Board has been exposed to other conservancy staff - this has been a positive experience. The Board has also been very impressed by the area staff they have met with on the field trips, all of whom have an in-depth knowledge of their subject.

The Board is very aware that the current review of the whole Department of Conservation is stressful for many staff members. We feel that it is essential that the work of the local conservancy is not compromised. The technical support officers and community relations staff provide expertise in science, planning, concessions, mining arrangements and other support areas. The West Coast has specific issues relating to the management of public conservation land, which is used by many people for different purposes: mining, commercial tourism operations, recreation, grazing and other activities. The West Coast also has outstanding flora and fauna values. The Board feels that the knowledge of many of the local staff is crucial to ensure the best outcome for conservation. In addition their commitment to the community and their particular scientific expertise relating to the unique areas of public conservation land on the West Coast are invaluable.

Thanks are due particularly to the Conservator Mike Slater, the CRM Chris Hickford, and his regular stand-in Kelly Stevens for their support of the Board in the last year. We have had a constructive and productive relationship. And lastly I would like to thank Lara Kelsen, our Board Support Officer, who took up the job at very short notice, and has ably served the Board for the last year, but who has now finished in this position.

Clare Backes Chairperson

