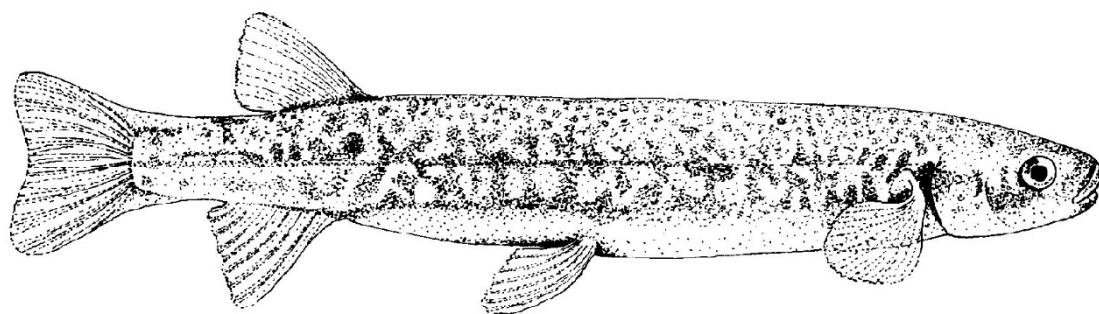
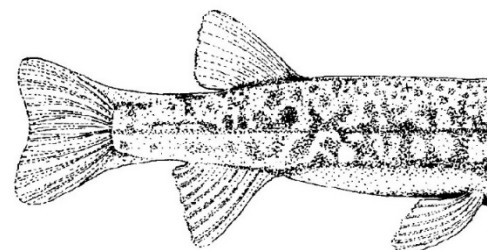
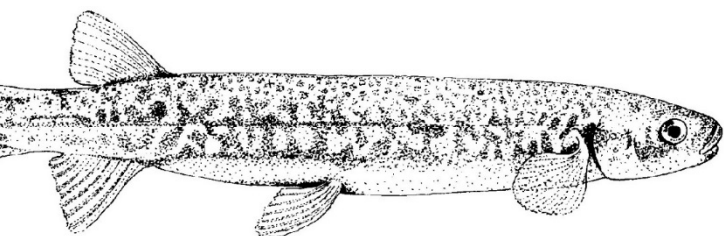




Otago Conservation Board
Pōari Papa Atawhai – ā-rohe ki Ōtago



Annual Report
1 July 2018 - 30 June 2019

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act & distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings. If you would like more information on the Otago Conservation Board please see the website www.conservationboards.org.nz or contact the Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation in Queenstown phone 0275 830 567 or e-mail otagoconservationboard@doc.govt.nz

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Contents

Chairman's Annual Report	3
Introduction	6
Otago Conservation Board Region	8
Features of the Area	9
The Work Programme:	11
Statutory Roles	11
Conservation Management Strategy	12
Board Liaison	12
Informing the Board	13
Community Involvement in Board Meetings	13
Advocacy	14
Governance	14
Board Membership	15
Meetings	17
Field Trips	19
Board Committees	21
Appendices:	22
Appendix 1: Otago Conservation Board Work Plan 1 July 2018-30 June 2019	23
Appendix 2: CMS Milestone Allocations	35
Appendix 3: Biodiversity Forum Report 27 September 2018	39

Chairman's Annual Report 2018 – 2019 Otago Conservation Board

While the role of Conservation Boards is largely advisory, there is huge potential for them to make a significant and lasting impact on the maintenance and enhancement of natural values; but, it does require considerable commitment and a great deal of effort. Fortunately, making a difference is the expectation of members who put their hand up to serve on a Conservation Board and as I look back over the past year, the Otago Conservation Board has certainly put in a great deal of effort!

Detail around the specific activities is listed elsewhere in the Annual Report, particularly in the Workplan listed in Appendix 1. In this, my last Annual Report for the OCB, I would like to touch on some of the highlights over the past year.

The year began with an expectation that much of the energy and focus for the Board would be consumed by the Review of the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan. For a number of reasons however, the formal review process has not yet been publicly notified which allowed the Board to do some ground work in exploring two issues which will emerge as pressure points once the Review does get under way.

Monitoring of aircraft activity under concession in the Mt Aspiring National Park.

To address this complex issue, the Board sought a presentation from the Department's Planning Permissions and Land Team, to discuss three specific areas:

- Progress in finding technology solutions to monitor aircraft activity,
- The use of Soundscape to establish tranquillity zones
- The Department's overarching strategy on aircraft activity across Te Wāhi Pounamu. (Te Wāhi Pounamu or the South West NZ World Heritage Area encompasses the four National Parks:- Fiordland, Mt Aspiring, Aoraki Mt Cook and Westland Tai Poutini.)

Much of this is still work in progress but the Board is committed to assist the Department where appropriate in contributing to the strategic discussion.

The Whakatipu Whitetail Deer Herd

The maintenance of the Wakatipu whitetail deer herd is a controversial issue, given the special attraction to a keen hunting lobby on the one hand and on the other, the expectation within the National Parks Act that 'introduced animals shall as far as is possible be exterminated'. The Board held a forum in Glenorchy in November 2018 to discuss the issue and invited Forest and Bird, NZ Deerstalkers Assn., NZ Game Council, local farmers and the Department to attend and present. While no actions were taken, the Board believes that bringing the main stakeholders together around a table to express conflicting views on a significant topic will be a valuable approach to address controversial issues arising from the National Park Review



The Status of Biodiversity in Otago

More widely, the Board was also able to address a number of other priorities it identified at the beginning of the year. Significant among these was advocacy around conservation on private land with particular reference to biodiversity.

The steady and measurable decline in biodiversity across many of Otago's ecosystems is an ongoing concern. Within the conservation estate, threats to biodiversity mainly revolve around predator and pest impacts. However on private land an additional threat comes from habitat change. Complicating the problem is the variety of bodies with oversight or responsibility for biodiversity, addressed through their own independent and separate strategy.

Biodiversity Forum

To address these issues, the Board convened a biodiversity forum in September 2018. Representatives from the broad range of land management decision makers, including Ngāi Tahu, the five local government authorities, the Otago Regional Council, Beef and Lamb NZ and the Department were invited to attend and consider the current lack of a coherent approach across all the various parties. It was resolved to form a representative strategic group which has since put in place a regular meeting schedule. The Board's ongoing role from here will be to monitor the process and seek regular updates from both the Otago Regional Council and the Department. A report summarising the Forum is included as Appendix 2 in the OCB Annual Report.



Teviot Flathead Galaxia

Photographer: Rod Morris

Governance Workshop

An in-house Governance Workshop was held on 27 June 2019 to take an in-depth look at the role of a Conservation Board. Its purpose was to optimise the output of the Board and to assist newly appointed members to better understand the role of a Board through an immersive induction experience. Unfortunately, the new members were not announced by the time the Workshop took place.

The Board engaged a professional Institute of Directors facilitator, Giselle McLachlan to lead the Workshop. Three topics were covered:

1. The role of Conservation Boards with a particular emphasis on a Board's necessary strategic focus
2. Governance issues such as conflicts, confidentiality, and the relationship with the Dept.
3. A critical review on how the Board is currently operating - where could we do better?

It proved to be a very intense but productive five hours, giving members the opportunity to reflect

on how the Board operates, and to look at how it could do things differently. It also provided a great team building and personal development experience.

Relationships

If a Board is to be successful, maintaining strong relationships across the wide network of people and organisations involved in conservation, is critical. This ranges across communities, land users, Local Authorities, the Regional Council, Research bodies, Fish and Game, NGO's the NZCA - right through to the Minister. But there are two particular bodies which stand apart.

Department of Conservation

The relationship with the Department is vital to the effective contribution that Boards can make. It works best when there is a mutual respect, a sense of trust and an acceptance that well considered constructive criticism from an independent Board, can add value to the strategic direction of the Department. The Otago Board is very fortunate to enjoy excellent support from across the various levels in the Department from the DG Lou Sanson, to our Board Support Officer, Teresa Murphy.

Ngāi Tahu

Engagement with the Treaty Partner particularly through the three Otago rūnanga, Ōtākou, Puketeraki and Moeraki to develop a strong and valued relationship, continues to be a strong focus for the Board. Once the Review of the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan gets under way, working together will be fundamental to good process.

The Board includes a regular Matauranga Māori Wānanga agenda item at each meeting and held its February 2019 meeting at the Ōtākou marae. The opportunity was taken while on the marae to meet with representatives from neighbouring Ngāi Tahu rūnaka to discuss options around appropriate engagement during the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan Review.

Administration and Support

Teresa Murphy as Board Support Officer along with John Roberts, the Statutory Manager responsible for the Board have both provided excellent support to the Board. It has been a particularly full programme requiring a great deal of planning and organisation and the Board is thankful for the ready assistance and encouragement from Teresa and "JR".

The annual resourcing initially allocated was not sufficient to cover the programme undertaken and the Board is grateful to the Department for considering new proposals favourably. Making a difference can be a demanding goal both in terms of energy and resourcing!

The Board

Board member for the last five years, Anna Carr, has chosen not to seek re-appointment as her research work has taken her increasingly offshore. Anna has provided special insight into the tourism sector and has been a great contributor to Board discussion. The Board is delighted that Robyn Shanks has been re-appointed and welcomes the new appointment, Donald Lousley from Wanaka.

I have chosen to stand down after my five years as Chair of the Board. It has been a most rewarding and privileged role with a marvellous team both on the Board, and within the Department. I am both humble and grateful for the opportunity - thank you all for a wonderful experience!

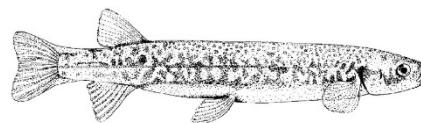


Pat Garden
Chair

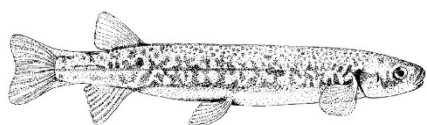
Introduction

The Otago Conservation Board is an independent body established under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987. The eleven members of the Board are appointed by the Minister of Conservation to provide advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) and to the Department of Conservation on behalf of the public.

The Board helps to achieve conservation outcomes by:

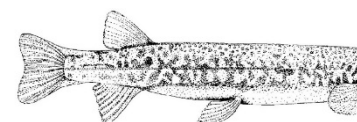


- Contributing a strategic perspective to conservation planning, policy development and decision-making as a well-informed voice of the community.
- Exercising powers of recommendation and approval for statutory management documents.
- Advising on the implementation of statutory management planning documents – in particular, the Otago Conservation Management Strategy and the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan.
- Advocating for conservation outcomes, including in public fora and through statutory planning processes.



The statutory roles and functions of Conservation Boards are set out under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987:

- To recommend the approval by the New Zealand Conservation Authority of conservation management strategies and the review and amendment of such strategies under the relevant enactments;
- To approve conservation management plans, and the review and amendment of such plans, under the relevant enactments;
- To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plans for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- To advise the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director-General on any proposed change of status or classification of any area of national or international importance;
- To advise the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- To exercise such powers and functions as may be delegated to it by the Minister under this Act or any other Act.



In addition to the roles and functions of Conservation Boards as set out in the Conservation Act 1987, the National Parks Act 1980 includes the following roles for Conservation Boards:

- To recommend management plans, and the review or amendment of such plans, for parks within the jurisdiction of the Board;
- To consider and determine priorities for the implementation of management plans for national parks;
- To review and report to the Director-General or the Authority, as appropriate, on the effectiveness of the administration of the general policies for national parks within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- To give advice to the Director-General or the Authority on the interpretation of any management plan for a park; on any proposal for the addition of land to any national park or the establishment of a new national park; and on any other matter relating to any national park within the jurisdiction of the Board.
- The Conservation Act requires Conservation Boards to provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Otago Conservation Board submits this nineteenth annual report.



Otago Conservation Board Region

The Otago Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers 2,793,630.24* hectares of Public Conservation Land and includes several areas of significance such as: Mount Aspiring National Park, Catlins Coastal Rainforest Park, Te Papanui Conservation Park, Hāwea Conservation Park, Oteake Conservation Park, Kopuwai Conservation Area, Otago Central Rail Trail, Coronet Peak, The Remarkables and Treble Cone.

The Otago Conservation Board also recognises the special significance of Te Wāhipounamu – the South West New Zealand World Heritage Area, a part of which lies within the Board's jurisdiction.

The region runs from the eastern coastline, across dry inland valleys, and over the Southern Alps to the west. It contains a multiplicity of different landforms, with a huge rainfall gradient
- 10,000mm on the western side of the Southern Alps and just 100kms due east, the driest area of New Zealand, Alexandra with 400mm annually.



This provides a wide range of ecosystems with a range of species which are found only on private land. The area also offers many attractive opportunities for recreation and sightseeing, and this appeal is creating a huge increase in visitors to the region. The public interest in recreation and conservation issues provides the basis for the Board's intervention and advice whether through its oversight of commercial activities on conservation lands, the management of visitor activity, the control of weeds and pests, the enhancement of biodiversity or the provision of its statutory advice.



Features of the Area:

Hawea Conservation Park
105,261ha

Oteake Conservation Park
64,273 ha

Kopuwait Conservation Area
20,000 ha

Te Papanui Conservation
Park 20,590 ha

Catlins Conservation Park
53,040 ha

132 Scenic Reserves total
33,513 ha

52 Historic Reserves total
1694 ha

459 Recreation Reserves
total 19,030 ha

5 Ecological Areas total
16512.31ha

646 Stewardship Areas total
67,0640ha

Olivine Wilderness Area
83000 ha

The total area of the Otago
Region is 4,093,064 ha. Of
this total approximately
68% (*2,793,630ha) is
Public Conservation Land.

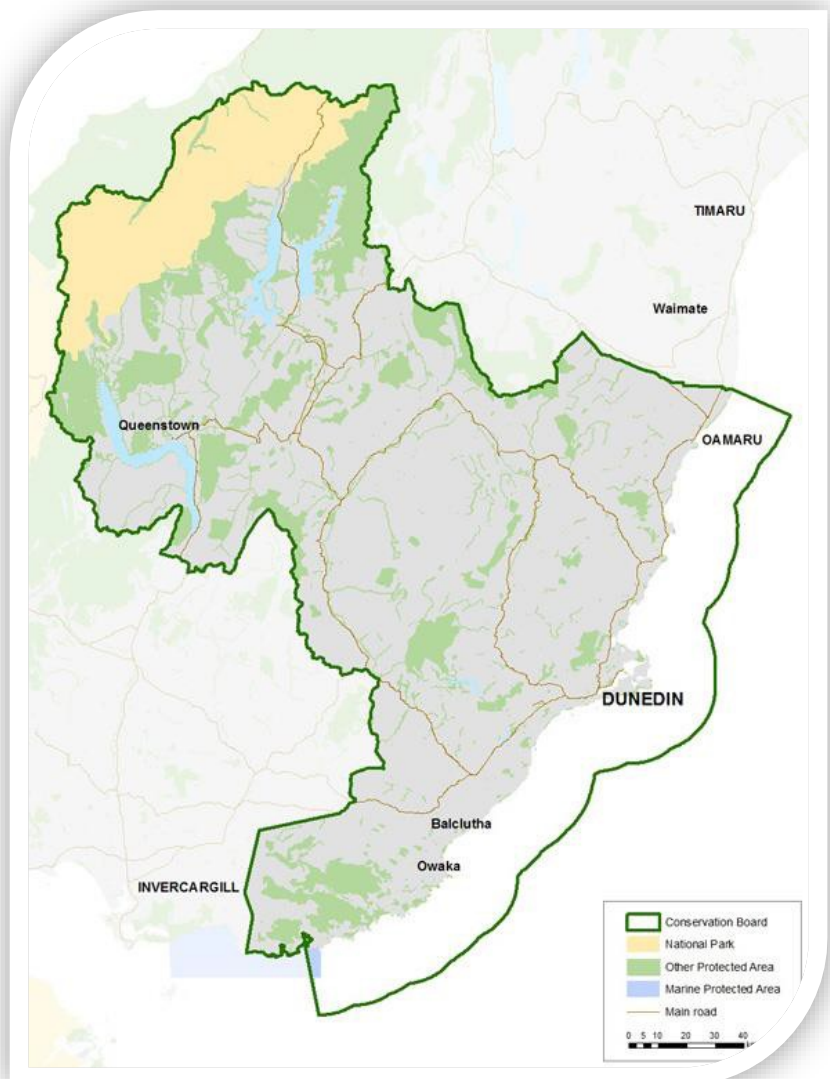


Figure 1. Otago Conservation Board Jurisdiction. There are several areas of significant importance within the Board's jurisdiction, these include; Mount Aspiring National Park, Catlins Coastal Rainforest Park, Te Papanui Conservation Park, Hāwea Conservation Park, Oteake Conservation Park, Kopuwait Conservation Area, Otago Central Rail Trail, Coronet Peak / Remarkables / Treble Cone.

Mount Aspiring National Park

This park comprises 355,531 hectares, consisting of 192,855 hectares in the Otago district and 162,676 hectares in the West Coast Tai Poutini district.



Catlins Coastal Rainforest Park

This is a collective name for the Catlins Conservation Park of 50,693 hectares, consisting of 32,933 hectares in the Otago district, 17,760 hectares in the Southland district, and numerous reserves and conservation areas located along or near the Catlins coastline.

Te Papanui Conservation Park

This park comprises 20,591 hectares of tussock grassland, wetlands, shrublands and silver beech forest remnants on the Lammermoor and Lammerlaw Ranges and is located in the north-west of Lake Mahinerangi near Lawrence.

Hāwea Conservation Park

The Hāwea Conservation Park covers about 105,000 hectares of public conservation land around Lake Hāwea and the Hunter River, as well as areas on the McKerrow Range near Makarora. Large areas in the park are covered with native beech forest and shrublands.

Oteake Conservation Park

About 65,000 hectares of public conservation land on the St Bathans, Hawkdun, Ida, Ewe and St Mary's Ranges and parts of the upper Manuherikia Basin. The vegetation is dominated by tussock grasslands.

Kopuwai Conservation Area

The Kopuwai Conservation Area is around 20,000ha and stretches along the Old Man Range due west of Alexandra. It contains the upper catchments of the Pomahaka and Fraser Rivers and features distinctive rock tors bisected with fields of alpine herbs along the exposed summit.

Otago Central Rail Trail

This very popular recreational facility for cyclists, walkers, mountain bikers and horse riders follow the route of the former Otago Central Branch railway line for 150 kilometres between Clyde and Middlemarch. It is now one of the official New Zealand Cycle Trails.

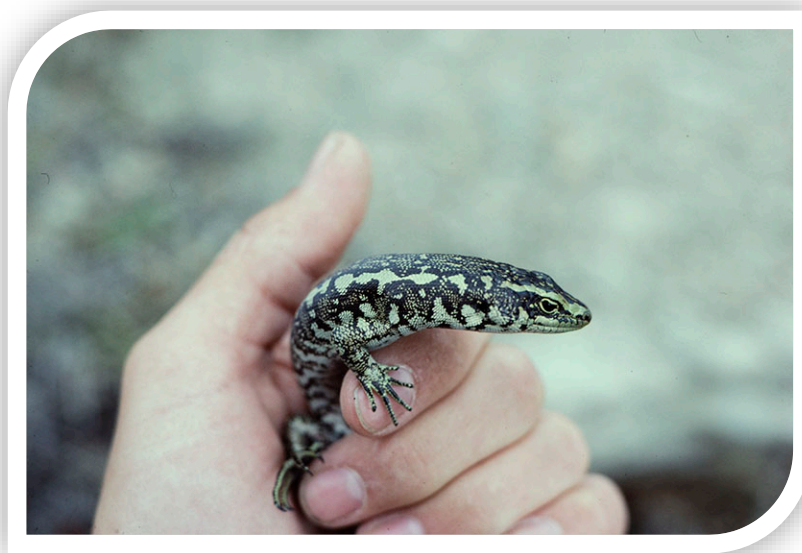


Remarkables / Coronet Peak/Treble Cone

Parts of the public conservation land at these sites are occupied by commercial ski fields that are well-known for winter recreational activities but are also popular summer destinations.

There are many significant and well-known indigenous species that can be found within the Board's area of jurisdiction. Some of these include:

Otago Skink
Grand Skink
Mokomoko
Jewelled Gecko/Moko
Yellow-eyed
Penguin/Hōiho
Otago Shag/Kōua
New Zealand Sea
Lion/Rāpoka
Hectors
Dolphin/Upokohue
New Zealand Fur
Seal/Kekeno
Southern Right
Whale/Toho
NZ Parakeet/Kākāriki
Long-tailed bats/
Pekapeka
Galaxiids/ Inanga
Long finned eels/Tuna
Haast Kiwi/Tokoeka
NZ Falcon /Karearea
Buff Weka
Yellow Head/Mōhua
South Island Robin/Kakaruai
Royal Albatross/Taro



Otago Skink Photo: Graeme Loh

The Work Programme

At the beginning of each year, a work plan is prepared which lists the statutory responsibilities, the expectations of the Minister of Conservation and the priorities the Board itself wishes to address. It is a detailed, live document which is updated prior to each meeting. See Appendix 1. A summary of the main work streams is listed below.

Statutory roles

'Contributing a strategic perspective to conservation planning, policy development and decision making.'

The Board provided advice to the Department on a number of concession applications and land status exchanges, including:

- Dan Kelly Hut Lease variation
- Marine Mammal viewing
- NZ Ski – Chairlift extension
- Cardrona Marginal Strip exchange
- Taieri Mouth land exchange

The Board also submitted on a number of wider policy statements and position papers, including:

- The cessation of Tenure Review
- The Otago Regional Council's Biodiversity Action Plan
- Marine Protected Areas. A letter was written to the Minister urging a decision which maximised the extent of no-take areas
- The Department's Heritage and Visitor Strategy

Conservation Management Strategy

'Advising on the implementation of statutory planning documents'

The Department is asked to report annually on progress towards achieving the various Milestones listed in the CMS. To ensure a close connection between the Board and the Department staff responsible for managing the varied Milestones, each Board member is allocated a specific Milestone to oversee. The allocation list linking members to the DOC managers responsible, is in

Appendix 2

This year completed the first three years since the notification of the current Strategy and a comprehensive report was presented to the Board at the final meeting for the year in June 2019. The Board is comfortable that in general, progress is on target.

Two difficult issues stand out. The first is around establishing monitoring and evaluation systems that can illustrate the effectiveness of conservation management strategies. The second is the monitoring of aircraft activity under concession in the Mt Aspiring National Park. As noted in the Chair's Report, the Board sought a presentation from the Dept, to discuss three specific areas:

- Progress in finding technology solutions to monitor aircraft activity,
- The use of Soundscape to establish tranquillity zones.
- The overarching strategy on aircraft activity across Te Wāhi Pounamu, the South West NZ World Heritage Area encompassing the four National Parks, Fiordland, Mt Aspiring, Aoraki Mt Cook and Westland Tai Poutini

Much of this is still work in progress but the Board is committed to assist the Department where appropriate in contributing to the strategic discussion.

Detailed commentary on the Milestone Report from the Department is included in Appendix 2.

Board Liaison

NZCA. Representatives from the Board were delighted to spend two days with the NZCA during their October 2018 meeting in Frankton and share in the discussion on both local and national conservation issues with NZCA members, and the Director General, Lou Sanson. Tony Lepper, the local NZCA member regularly updates the Board on activities and issues being considered by the Authority.

Conservation Boards. The annual Conservation Board Chairs' Conference provides an excellent forum for Chairs across New Zealand to learn from each other and is highly valued. Relationships with the local neighbouring Conservation Boards are excellent with regular communication between the four Boards – Otago, Southland, Canterbury Aoraki and West Coast Tai Poutini with regular reciprocal attendance at meetings, particularly with Southland.

Fish and Game. The Board has been represented at a number of Fish and Game Council meetings. Ian Hadland, CEO Otago Fish and Game was also in attendance at the June 2018 OCB meeting.

Local Government Authorities. The Biodiversity Forum convened by the Board in September 2018 provided an excellent opportunity for liaison between the parties, with both elected and executive

representatives from Queenstown Lakes, Central Otago, Clutha and Waitaki District Councils, the Dunedin City Council and the Otago Regional Council in attendance.

Informing the Board

Status reports from the Operations Managers are presented at each Board meeting with a particular emphasis on the strategic issues arising in each of the areas. This is in better alignment with the role of a Conservation Board.

Further presentations were given by:

- Dr Marc Schallenberg Dept. of Zoology, University of Otago
Invasive Organisms in Freshwater Systems
- Dr Candida Savage; Dept. of Marine Sciences, University of Otago
Estuarine Ecosystems
- Dr Susan Walker Landcare Research
Otago Dryland Ecosystems
- Dr Elaine Wright - DOC Planning and Reporting Manager
Ungulate abundance and impacts on Public Conservation Lands
- Colin Bishop, DOC National Operations Lead, Tiakina Ngā Manu
Battle for our Birds control programme
- David Rhodes, Tim Whittaker, Dave Wilkins, DOC Tenure Review Team
Cessation of Tenure Review
- Karl Beckhert, DOC National Project Stewardship Land Reclassification.
Stewardship Land Reclassification progress

Community Involvement in Board Meetings

A Public Forum session at each Board meeting is made available for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board. In 2018-2019, presentations made by members of the public at Board meetings included:

- Janet Ledingham and Bradley Curnow, Aramoana Conservation Trust
Vehicle disturbance to wildlife on Shelly Beach.
- Bronwyn Bain Nuggets Mataitai
Cutting of kelp by paua divers.
- Brenda Reading, NZ Horse Network
Use of Otekaieke Bridle trail for horse riding.
- James Veint, Glenorchy
Impacts of Battle For Our Birds predator control operations.
- Greg Napp, Otago Peninsular
Future of jewelled gecko population on Peninsular Library Trust Reserve

Members representing the Board attended a number of public events, including: Royal Society Workshop on Gene Editing; Wakatipu/Wanaka Catchment Predator Free Initiative; Conservation Week events across Otago. The Chair addressed three community groups on the role of Conservation Boards.

Advocacy

Biodiversity Forum 27 September 2018 - Dunedin

- The Board organised and hosted a Biodiversity Forum. This regional level initiative brought together the main agencies responsible for developing plans and strategies aimed at protecting indigenous biodiversity across Otago.
- The purpose of the Forum was to explore how agencies could work together to effect significant change in the status of indigenous biodiversity.
- The intended outcome of the forum was to strengthen collaboration between the stakeholders and develop better connections between science and management.
- The full Report on the Forum is included in Appendix 3



Governance

27 June 2019 Governance Workshop

A successful in-house Governance Workshop was held in Dunedin on 27 June 2019. It was led by a professional facilitator, Giselle McLachlan. Its purpose was to optimise the performance of the Board by clarifying the statutory role and emphasising the importance of good governance and sound process. It proved to be a stimulating and valuable exercise.

Relationship with the Department of Conservation

The Board enjoys a strong relationship with the Department, with the Director Operations, SSI, Aaron Fleming, Statutory Manager John Roberts, three Operations Managers - Coastal Otago, Annie Wallace; Central Otago, Mike Tubbs; and Queenstown, Geoff Owen all attending Board meetings.

Concessions and Submissions

Where an application for a concession is believed to have a particular public interest, it is not adequately covered within a Plan or Strategy, or it is to be publicly notified, the Department will seek advice from the Board.

Board Membership

There were eleven Board members for the reporting year, two of whom are appointees of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, in accordance with section 273 of the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998.

The year began with the fare-welling of long serving member, Jim Williams. Jim was one of the two Ngai Tahu representatives on the Board both of whom were the only members re-appointed to the Board in 2014. His experience and knowledge was of great assistance to a very new Board at that time. Vance Boyd from Queenstown was also fare-welled. Vance's business knowledge of tourism and the aircraft industry was a very valued and specialised contribution.

There were four new appointments to the Board – Kimberley Collins, Phillipa Agnew, Rosemary Clucas and Tara Druce. The board re-elected Pat Garden as Chairperson and Bruce Jefferies as Deputy Chairperson.



Board Members

Pat Garden – Chairperson

Pat is a high-country farmer. He is past President of the New Zealand Grassland Association and has held extensive government board memberships and chair roles in the areas of science and agriculture. He became a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to science and agriculture in 2006. Pat's outdoor recreation interests are fishing and living and working in the high country.

Dr Philippa Agnew

Dr Agnew is a research scientist with Tourism Waitaki at the Oamaru Blue Penguin Colony. She has a PhD in marine science, specialising in seabirds, and has extensive experience in environmental management, including maintenance, population management, spatial planning and conservation. She has detailed knowledge around protected species and Marine Protected Areas, and was a member of the South East Marine Protection Forum.

Kimberley Collins

Collins is a science communicator and conservationist who specialises in using digital media to engage people with conservation and the environment. She runs her own business and works part time for the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition. Having previously worked with Forest & Bird, Zealandia Ecosanctuary, and other conservation organisations, she has a strong understanding of conservation at a local and national level.

Rosemary Clucas

Dr Clucas is a nominee of Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. She is a qualified scientist, self-employed as a consultant ecologist. Her background includes environmental management advocacy and cultural awareness, and her consultancy deals with climate change, biodiversity, in-stream flow surveys, and cultural values.

Tara Druce

Mrs Druce has a background in tourism public policy and research, having been a Senior Research Advisor in the Ministry of Tourism. Now living in Alexandra, she is a self-employed planning consultant, working on tourism, community development, recreation and heritage projects at local, regional and national levels. She is seen as holding highly productive and pro-active relationships in the community.

Anna Carr

Anna is a senior lecturer and co-Director of the Centre for Recreation Research at the University of Otago. She is a well-respected and connected academic/practitioner in protected area policy, planning, management of landscapes and their cultural values, and community-based approaches to nature tourism. Her outdoor recreation interests are sea kayaking, walking, photography, climbing, tramping, mountain biking, bird watching, and downhill and cross-country skiing. Anna is of Ngapuhi (Mahurehure) and Ngati Ruanui iwi.

Bruce Jefferies

Bruce was previously in a Samoa-based role as Biodiversity and Ecosystems Management Advisor for the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme. He is an experienced international consultant and practitioner in protected area management and planning. He is a former Conservator (Tai Rawhiti) and conservation board member (Tongariro), and a current Member of Forest & Bird. Bruce's outdoor recreation interests are skiing, fishing, and using the backcountry.

Andrea Ludemann

Andrea is an Administration/Health and Safety Manager for Banarach Farm Limited, and Administrator for the Otago Rural Support Trust. She completed the Governance Development Programme from the Institute of Directors in 2013 and continues with development in governance. She has considerable links into the Waitaki community and likes to assist the public to understand public processes and resolve concerns and complaints. Andrea's outdoor recreation interests are cycling, skiing, tramping and gardening.

Robyn Shanks

Robyn is a sheep and beef farmer in The Catlins and manages the Cathedral Caves tourist attraction for the Maori landowners. She is chairperson for Catlins Coast Inc. - a community charitable organisation set up to help manage tourism increase in The Catlins. Robyn's outdoor recreation interests are walking, gardening and sea-shore activities such as wildlife and bird watching.

Ranui Ellison-Collins - Ngāi Tahu Representative

Ranui is the Ngāi Tahu Representative on the Otago Conservation Board. She grew up in South Dunedin and attended Queen's High School where she was part of the Young Enterprise Scheme leading a combined team with King's High School. Ranui's team won the National Te Puni Kokiri Excellence in Maori Business Award and the National Enterprising Music Award. Ranui is in her final year of a BA/BCom majoring in Economics and Indigenous Development and has more recently added a Dip Lang in Chinese Language after spending a year in Shanghai, China.

Dave Vass

Dave has been an enthusiastic adventurer for over 30 years, especially as a mountaineer/climber mainly throughout the southern mountain areas of Fiordland and Otago. He is the co-founder of New Zealand's first canyoning company based in Wanaka and believes that smaller-scale tourism ventures can interact with nature in a meaningful and sustainable way. Dave also enjoys fly fishing, canyoning, free diving, mountain biking, sea kayaking, skiing and ski touring.

Meetings

Board Meetings

The Otago Conservation Board held six meetings during the reporting period, along with a Biodiversity Forum and a Governance Workshop for members. Venues for the Board meetings are varied each year to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

Date	Area
16 July 2018	Dunedin
3* & 4 September 2018	Oamaru
27 September 2018 - Biodiversity Forum	Dunedin
19 & 20* November 2018	Glenorchy
19* & 20 February 2019	Dunedin
4 April 2019	Queenstown
27* June 2019 - Governance Workshop	Dunedin
28 June 2019	Dunedin
*Indicates Field Trip/Workshop	

Attendance

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

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles. The workplan covers the other meetings and events attended in more detail.

Board Member	Base	Attended
Pat Garden	Millers Flat	6/6
Kimberley Collins	Timaru/Dunedin	4/6
Dr Philippa Agnew	Oamaru	5/6
Dr Anna Carr	Dunedin	4/6
Bruce Jefferies	Wanaka	4/6
Andrea Ludemann	Oamaru	5/6
Robyn Shanks	Owaka	6/6
Dave Vass	Wanaka	5/6
Ranui Collins-Ellison	Wellington	5/6
Tara Druce	Alexandra	5/6
Rosemary Clucas	Dunedin	4/6
Vance Boyd – final meeting	Queenstown	1/1



Field Trips

Oamaru 3 September 2018 – Field Trip to Oamaru Penguin Colony

- The Board welcomed new members Rosemary Clucas, Dr Philippa Agnew, Tara Druce and Kimberley Collins, and provided an induction on conservation board functions and responsibilities.
- Dr Philippa Agnew gave an interesting presentation to the Board about the habits and challenges for Blue penguin conservation in the Oamaru waters, and showed the Board around the Blue Penguin Colony. The Board was thrilled to see nesting penguins and enjoyed the sea views and seals laying on the rocks in front of the colony.



OCB members & DOC staff enjoying the Penguin Colony in Oamaru

Glenorchy 20 November 2018 – Field Trip to Routeburn Shelter & Lake Sylvan Road End

- Board members and Dept Operations Managers travelled to the start of the Routeburn Track. Discussions ranged across the capacity of the Routeburn Track to take visitors without significantly impairing visitor experience, monitoring visitor satisfaction, the economics of a great walk such as the Routeburn, pricing differentiation, and the congestion occurring with casual visitors doing a day walk. The field trip gave members an excellent on-site appreciation of the issues around visitor management to be addressed in the MANPMP review.



OCB members & DOC staff at Lake Sylvan road end

19 February 2019 Field Trip to Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau Sinclair Wetlands

The name, Te Nohoaka o Tukiauau acknowledges the dwelling place of Tukiauau an early Ngāti Mamoe Chief. It is a 315ha wetland complex situated near Lakes Waihola and Waipori with a wide variety of waterbirds and wetland plants now owned by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. It provides a source of mahinga kai, a place for education with an excellent information centre and a research site. The Board spent a most informative morning walking around this extensive wetland area site, hearing about the current research programme focused on long-finned eels and the opportunities for sharing the importance of wetlands with the wider public

20 February 2019 Meeting Ōtākou Marae, Otago Peninsula

The Board was welcomed on to the marae on the evening of the 19th February and stayed over-night before holding its Board meeting on the 20th February.



OCB Members at Sinclair Wetlands

Board Committees

Subcommittees;

Subcommittee	Members
<p>Land & Water Working Group: The purpose and function of this working group is to draft submissions on Tenure Review and take part in statutory consultation on Land and Water matters for Board sign-off.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bruce Jefferies • Andrea Ludemann • Dave Vass
<p>Governance Workshop Working Group The purpose of this working group was to define the scope, appoint a facilitator for the workshop.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat Garden • Tara Druce • Bruce Jefferies

Liaison

Making connection with neighbouring Conservation Boards and relevant organisations is important in both a collaborative and collegial sense.

Neighbouring Conservation Boards;

OCB Liaison	Conservation Organisation
Robyn Shanks	Southland Conservation Board
Anna Carr	Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board
Dave Vass	West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board

District and Regional Councils

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

Liaison persons;

OCB Liaison person	District/Regional Council
Dave Vass	Queenstown Lakes District Council
Robyn Shanks	Clutha District Council
Pat Garden	Central Otago District Council
Andrea Ludemann	Waitaki District Council
Pat Garden	Otago Regional Council
Rosemary Clucas	Dunedin City Council
Bruce Jefferies	Fish & Game Council

Iwi

Ngāi Tahu nominates two members of the Board. They are individually selected by their papatipu Rūnanga, and their status as representative of local hapū is endorsed by Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu. Otago Conservation Board's representatives during this annual report period were Rosemary Clucas and Ranui Ellison-Collins.

Appendices

Appendix 1. The Otago Conservation Board Workplan

Appendix 2.

2.1 Allocation of Milestones to Board Members

2.2 Summary of issues arising from Departments Report on achieving Year 3 CMS Milestones.

Appendix 3. Report on Biodiversity Forum held on 27 September 2018

Appendix 1.

Otago Conservation Board Work Programme 1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

Colour	Indicates
Green	Completed
Yellow	Started and is ongoing
Red	Not yet started

Work Programme Overview

This Otago Conservation Board (OCB) work programme is structured in three parts, namely:

- Part A: Statutory functions and responsibilities.
 - Review/development/monitoring of statutory management plans including Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan (MANPMP) and the Otago Conservation Management Strategy (CMS);
 - Advice relating to stewardship land;
 - Other statutory functions for the OCB;
 - Advocacy
 - Board Governance and Review
- Part B: Planned OCB activities aimed at relationships:
 - Giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi;
 - Working with the Department
 - Taking account of the Ministerial priorities for the Department as contained in the Statement of Intent;
 - Relationships
 - General engagement with the community, including raising the profile of the OCB;
- Part C: risks/ issues from the OCB's perspective, and opportunities for conservation growth that are not covered above.

PART A: Statutory Functions and Responsibilities

1 Review of the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan (MANPMP)

- 1.1. Outcome: MANPMP review under way – subject to it commencing in this reporting year.**

A **Objective:**
Fulfil Board's responsibilities in terms of MANPMP Review process

Activities

- Prepare for Review by considering topic papers
- Identify the Board's priority areas within the Plan
- Develop relationship with Ngāi Tahu Rūnanga and with TRoNT by regular engagement
- Liaise closely with DOC Planning team
- Facilitate and support collaborative initiatives with stakeholders
- Liaise regularly with neighbouring Boards to consider boundary issues and to ensure appropriate consistency across the four neighbouring National Park Plans
- Make recommendations to the Department on an on-going basis as appropriate

Milestones

- The OCB invited deer stalkers, local farmers and Forest and Bird representatives to a forum in Glenorchy to share their various perspectives on the value of the Whakatipu White tail deer herd and the threat their browsing poses to natural values.

B **Objective:**
The development of an integrated management plan for the four National Parks within Te Wāhi Pounamu (South West New Zealand World Heritage Area)

Activity

- Within the Mt Aspiring National Park review process, ensure that the wider scope of Te Wāhi Pounamu is considered
- Department's Planning, Permissions and Land Director Marie Long and her team invited to address the Board on the over-arching strategy for managing aircraft activity across Te Wāhi Pounamu

2 Implementation of the Otago Conservation Management Strategy

2.1 Outcome: 3-year Milestones in the Otago CMS, progressed.

Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

A **Objective:**
The monitoring and reporting process informs the Board and enables considered advice to be offered to the Department

Activities

- Maintain the regular agenda item for consideration of the CMS
- Allocate a priority Milestone to each OCB Member who is to be responsible for liaising with the Department to identify where / how the OCB will assist with facilitation.
- Board receives report on progress towards achieving 3yr milestones from the Department at the June 2019 meeting

Success Measure

- Strong liaison established with the Department around the specific work programmes focused on CMS milestones.
- DOC's reporting system showing positive progress towards achieving the 3-year milestones

Milestone

- Advise NZCA and the Department on the implementation of the CMS

3 Stewardship Land

3.1 **Outcome: Areas of stewardship land in Otago are re-categorised to a status that reflects their conservation values.**

Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

A **Objective:**
The stewardship land priority areas previously identified, achieve a more secure status

Activities

- Annually review priorities and progress of re-classification.
- Invite Dept. to present on progress on reclassification of areas identified by the Board as high priority

B **Objective:**
To identify further opportunities

Activity

- Actively engage on a regular basis to advise, consider and respond to any stewardship land reclassification proposal from the DOC
- Consider tenure review proposals as a way of complementing neighbouring areas of stewardship land to enable the eventual formation of tussock parks

4 Other Statutory Functions

The Board will advise on proposed changes of status for nationally and internationally important areas, and on conservation matters including concessions and other statutory consultation.

4.1 **Outcome: The NZCA and the Department, receive professional, timely and consistent advice from the Board.**

Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

A **Objective:**
Provide recommendations to the Department on proposed changes of status for nationally and internationally important areas

Activity:

- Receive, consider and respond in a timely manner
- Solicit information from the Department or elsewhere on proposed legislation relevant to the environment, conservation or recreation values within the Otago Conservation Board jurisdiction and submit
- A submission was made on the Department's Visitor and Heritage Strategy

B **Objective:**
Advise the NZCA and the Department on conservation matters relating to any area within the Otago Conservation Board's jurisdiction, including through concessions and other statutory consultation processes

Activity

- Receive a report on all applications for new concessions at each meeting
- Where applications for new concessions or for significant amendment to a current concession trigger consultation, the Board will consider and provide a timely response to the Department

The Department has sought advice from the Board on the following concession applications

- Variation to Dan Kelly's Hut Lease – Whakaari Conservation Area
- Variation on application to erect a Microcell tower within the Mt Aspiring National Park
- Taieri Mouth Land Exchange
- Marine mammal viewing Permits
- NZSki. Construction of a replacement chairlift Rastus Burn Conservation Area
- Marginal Strip exchange on Cardrona River

A **Objective:**
Provide advice on Tenure Review proposals to achieve good conservation and recreational outcomes.

Activity

Request notification of all preliminary proposals for tenure review in Otago. Where possible, Land and Water working group inspect the property and provide draft submission to Board
Submit recommendations to the Department.
Submitted to LINZ/Department on the cessation of tenure review and the draft proposals for the on-going management of the remaining pastoral lease lands

5 Liaise with Fish and Game

5.1 Outcome: A strong relationship with the Otago Fish and Game Council is maintained

Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

A **Objective**
Strengthen relationship with Fish and Game around shared values and facilitate communication and mutual understanding of issues of interest and concern

Activity

- Appoint a liaison person to attend Fish and Game Council meetings.
- Invite the Fish and Game Council to attend an OCB meeting

Milestones

- Bruce Jefferies appointed as Liaison

6 Advocacy

- 6.1 **The OCB will pursue all reasonable opportunities to advocate at public forums, in the media and in any statutory planning processes in accordance with Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987**

Outcome: Conservation and recreational values are enhanced across Otago.

B

Objective:

Use various media platforms to raise awareness about both conservation and the OCB

Activity

- The Otago Conservation Board page on the DOC website be used to inform the public of Board activities, such as:
 - The Workplan
 - Notice of meetings, agendas and confirmed public minutes.
 - Regularly updated profiles of Board members.
 - Field trips and events attended by Board members
- File media reports on significant issues

C

Objective:

Attend Public Forums representing the OCB

Activity

- Chair attended Royal Society Workshop on Gene Editing.
- Bruce Jefferies represented the Board at the Upper Clutha Water Group Integrated Catchment Management Plan Workshop in Wanaka on 15th March 2019

- 6.2 **Encouraging community groups to contribute towards conservation.**

Outcome: Gains to conservation by greater community involvement.

A

Objective:

Support community groups.

Activity

- Invite local community groups to present at Board meetings when meeting agendas allow.
- Encourage groups by recognising their achievements at award ceremonies
- Promote the Community Conservation Partnership Fund (CCPF) to groups
- Contribute to the CCPF allocation process where required

Achievements – Presentations were given to the Board on behalf of:

- Otekaieke Bridle Trail Group seeking re-opening of trail
- NZ Deerstalkers, Wakatipu Whitetail deer Group
- Forest and Bird
- Aramoana Conservation Trust

7 Governance and Review

Outcome: An efficient, effective Board that makes a difference

Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

A Objective:
To optimise the output from the Board

Activity

- Sub-committee set up to plan an in-house Governance Workshop.
- Three topics identified:
 - The Role of Conservation Boards
 - Governance principles necessary for good process
 - Review performance and culture of Board
- Engage an external facilitator to run the Workshop

Success Measures

- Workshop held on 27th June 2019. Strategic role of Board emphasised. Focus on priorities. Time management of members clarified.
- Personal growth and stimulation reported by members
- Concept taken up by other Conservation Boards

PART B: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

8 Working with the Department of Conservation

Outcome: Good working relationships and open dialogue are maintained with Directors, Managers and Board Support Officers to engage strategically in conservation for the region.

Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

A Objective:
Support the continuation of at least two regional strategy meetings held annually with other southern Conservation Board Chairs and the Directors of Operations, to discuss strategy and conservation at a regional level

Activity

- No Regional Strategy meetings held

B **Objective:**
Continue to include senior DOC managers and other staff as required in OCB Meetings to better inform discussions and decision-making

Activity

- Invite DOC Staff to each meeting to present to the OCB on various topics
- Support the Department at conservation events, community award ceremonies, and where appropriate in discussions with stakeholders.

C **Objective:**
Provide constructive feedback at a strategic level commensurate with the OCB's statutory role and functions

Activity

- Contribute at the regional strategy meetings and at the Chairpersons' Conference convened by the NZCA.

9. Giving effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

9.1 **Outcome: Board members and processes demonstrate a working knowledge of all relevant obligations.**

Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

A **Objectives:**
To develop an understanding of Te Ao Māori principles relevant to the Board's activities and acknowledge the manawhenua position of Ngāi Tahu Whānui within the Otago region to give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi under section 4 of the Conservation Act.

Activity

- To have regular sessions for Board members to build their knowledge of the Ngāi Tahu history within the region.
- Incorporate a Te Reo session at each meeting.
- To provide the opportunity for board members to attend training to explore Te Ao Māori principles, cultural practices and Te Reo Māori.

9.2 Outcome: The relationship between the Board and local rūnaka is developed into a strong sense of partnership.

B Objectives:
Strengthen the relationship with rūnaka by engagement.

Activity

- Schedule a Board meeting on a marae
- Continue engagement particularly with the three Otago rūnaka but also engage appropriately with the four southern rūnanga and Makaawhio during the MANPMP review process.

Milestones

- The February 2019 Board meeting held on the Ōtākou marae
- Discussions held with rūnanga representatives from the Ōtākou and Puketeraki rūnanga

10 Taking account of Ministerial priorities for the Department of Conservation, including the Stretch Goals where applicable.

10.1 Conservation on Private Land

Outcome: Conservation on Private Land enhanced

Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

A Objective:
To promote collaboration between the Department, the Otago Regional Council and the five territorial authorities with a particular focus on developing a coherent biodiversity strategy across the various land use plans

Activity

- The OCG convened a Biodiversity Forum attended by Dept of Conservation Managers, representatives from local rūnaka, the Otago Regional Council, the four District Councils, the Dunedin City Council and land users
- Science presentations at the Biodiversity Forum were presented on three themes:
 - Dryland ecosystems in Otago
 - Invasive organisms in Otago freshwater systems
 - The health of Otago Estuarine systems
- Facilitate a round table discussion between all parties attending.

Success measures

- A commitment by the stakeholders present to collaborate on developing a common strategy to address the declining status of indigenous biodiversity in Otago
- Interagency Biodiversity Meeting subsequently convened by ORC included representatives from ORC, District Councils, Dept of Conservation and OCB.
- Further meeting scheduled for Sept. 2019 to identify shared goals.

B

Objective:

To support and encourage the enhancement of conservation values on private land by working with Regional and District territorial authorities, private landholders and the Department. (In addition to Biodiversity Forum initiative)

Activity

- Within our resources, connect with local communities and land users to promote awareness of the status of endangered indigenous fish
- Support and encourage land user initiatives to protect freshwater biodiversity.
- Assisted with the facilitation of a survey of galaxiids in the Teviot River tributaries

C

Objective:

Actively support the Department in promoting conservation events and projects (as budget and time permit)

Activity

- Board members attended Conservation Week events in Dunedin, Queenstown, Wanaka and Alexandra

10.2 War on Weeds - Wilding Conifers

Outcomes: Spread of Wilding conifers is contained.

A

Objective:

Achieve greater ownership by the community

Activity

- Raise awareness and advocate by submission to District and Regional Council Plans
- Support control Groups. (Central Otago Wilding Control Group. Wakatipu Wilding Control Group.

11 Marine Protection

Outcomes: Robust marine and coastal ecosystems

A

Objective:

Contribute towards improved protection of coastal and marine systems

Activity

- Advocate for adequate areas to be categorised as no-take
- Letter to Minister urging endorsement of SEMP Forum Network 1 option.

Milestones

- A network of protected areas which are of sufficient scale to promote the rebuilding of marine ecosystems, is established

12 Relationships

12.1 Working with adjoining Boards

Liaise with neighbouring Conservation Boards and the NZCA about conservation issues, with special emphasis on progressing cross-boundary CMS issues, supporting each other on common issues (e.g. tenure review, planning), and contributing to strategy and conservation from a regional perspective.

Outcome: All potential cross-boundary issues identified, and a plan in place to address them.

Shared initiatives identified and undertaken

- A Objective:**
OCB liaison representatives have regular contact with neighbouring Conservation Boards

Activity (Members appointed)

- Southland Conservation Board – Robyn Shanks
- Canterbury Aoraki Conservation Board – Kimberley Collins
- West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board– Dave Vass

- B Objective:**
Each liaison Board member to attend at least one meeting of their neighbouring Boards

Activity

- BSO to ensure relevant minutes and agendas are circulated to Liaison members
- Task liaison members to report back to OCB.
- Pat Garden attended the Southland Conservation Board meeting 11 April 2019

- C Objective:**
OCB Chair to continue to liaise with neighbouring Board Chairs through regional meetings and NZCA Conference for Board Chairpersons, to develop a constructive working relationship with adjoining Board Chairs

Activity

- Conservation Board Chairs' Conference in Wellington, hosted by the NZCA.
- Representatives of the OCB joined the NZCA at their meeting in Frankton on 12th, 13th September 2018
- Otago, Southland, Canterbury Aoraki and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board Chairs to meet in Dunedin along with the Directors of Operations from each region

- D Objective:**
Partner with a neighbouring Board in at least one shared meeting or event.

Activity

- No shared meetings took place this year

12.2 Liaise with Regional and District councils.

Outcome: Opportunities pursued for better working relationships on issues of mutual interest and concern in the Otago conservation area.

Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

Objective:

- A** Board Members are actively liaising with the six councils within the OCB's area.

Activity (Members appointed)

- Otago Regional Council – Pat Garden
- Central Otago District Council – Tara Druce
- Queenstown Lakes District Council – Dave Vass
- Waitaki District Council – Andrea Ludemann
- Clutha District Council – Robyn Shanks
- Dunedin City Council – Rose Clucas
- Report back to the OCB at each meeting on any significant issues

Objectives:

- B** Networking and consultation with local government representatives to be undertaken as appropriate and in consultation with the OCB Chair

Activity

- Invite Mayor or counsellors to OCB meetings
- Submissions made:
- Otago Regional Council Biodiversity Action Plan

13. Engaging with the community, including raising the profile of the OCB

Outcome: Maintain a large network of conservation and research entities, including community groups and NGO's, which connect with the OCB.

Planned OCB Activities, Success Measures & Milestones

Objectives:

- A** To raise the profile of the OCB by:
- explaining the role of the OCB to groups and organisations;
 - involving them in its processes;
 - being involved in their activities where possible.

Activity:

- Invite the local Mayors, NGO representatives, and community groups to OCB meetings
- Presentations made by Chair to three local community groups

Objectives:

- B** Consult with the wider scientific community to ensure the Board is well informed

**Activity:**

- Liaise with the Scientific Advisory Group.
- Invite presentations when appropriate (See Biodiversity Forum.)

PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Main priorities for the year

- Statutory responsibilities
- Engage with the Mt Aspiring National Park Management Plan review when notified
- Relationship with rūnaka
- Biodiversity Forum
- Optimise the Board's output.

Further opportunities providing resources, time and energy permit.

- Addressing Stretch Goals and Ministerial Priorities
- Enhancing relationships with stakeholders involved on both conservation and private land.
- Encouraging collaboration between institutions with overlapping management responsibilities.
- Submissions on Regional and Territorial Authority Plans, and on Legislative change

Risks from the OCB's perspective

- Workload impacting on enthusiasm and commitment of Members.
- Recognition for members' contribution needs to include the right balance of support and encouragement, alongside the personal and monetary reward.

APPENDIX 2

CMS MILESTONE ALLOCATIONS

Board Member – Ranui Ellison–Collins, Rose Clucas

1.4 Treaty partnerships with Ngāi Tahu Milestones

Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- An agreed 'partnership framework' has been developed with Ngāi Tahu to implement and monitor the Treaty partnership with respect to the management of conservation lands in Otago
- A process has been established between the Department and Ngāi Tahu to prioritise, review, develop and implement protocols and guidance documents addressing Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act 1998, Conservation Protocols and section 4 Conservation Act 1987 matters.
- Measures to encourage respect for and provide for active involvement of Ngāi Tahu in the management of sites and species of significance to Ngāi Tahu have been formally put in place.
- Guidelines on the use of taonga species and sites of significance to Ngāi Tahu within advertising and promotional material have been mutually formalised and implemented.
- A process has been mutually agreed to, and implemented, that will enable the Department to identify and support conservation related projects of strategic priority to Ngāi Tahu

Board Member – Pat Garden, Bruce Jefferies

1.5.1 Natural Heritage Milestones

Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- A baseline report on the condition of the priority ecosystem units in Otago as listed in Appendix 4
- Scheduled outputs identified in approved work programmes for priority ecosystem units in Otago.
- Scheduled outputs identified for threatened species outside priority ecosystem units for which a work programme is underway.
- Collaborative partnerships for ecosystems and species restoration, protection and management are established.
- Control of wilding conifers in accordance with the New Zealand Wilding Conifer Management Strategy 2015-2030.

Board Member – Anna Carr

1.5.2 History and Cultural Heritage Milestones

Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- A baseline report of the number and condition of actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 10 that are stable and not deteriorating.
- Progress heritage assessments for all actively conserved historic places listed in Appendix 10 including clarification of Ngāi Tahu values.
- Identification of new sites for inclusion in Appendix 10 including sites important to Ngāi Tahu.

Board Member – Andrea Ludemann
1.5.3 Recreation Milestones

Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- A baseline report of the number and condition of huts, tracks and other visitor facility structures in Otago, and on the numbers and satisfaction of people using these facilities.
- Partnerships established to maintain and develop Local Treasure and Backcountry facilities in Otago

Board Member – Kimberley Collins
1.5.4 Community engagement

Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- Evaluate the extent of, and outcomes from programmes aimed at increasing the amount of conservation achieved with community partners in Otago

Board Member – Tara Druce

1.5.5 Conservation gains from more business partnerships

Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- Evaluate the extent of, and outcomes aimed at increasing the amount of conservation achieved with business partners in Otago.

Board Member – Dave Vass
2.2 Te Papanui, Oteake and Hāwea Conservation Parks Place

Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- Progress actively conserved historic site status and Ngāi Tahu historic interpretation for Manuhaea Conservation Area.

Board Member – Dave Vass
2.3 Western Lakes and Mountains/Ngā Puna Wai Karikari a Rākaihautū Place

Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- Control and containment of feral goats and tahr.
- An evaluation of the level of recreation opportunities at the Skippers township.
- A programme established to manage wilding tree control within Macetown Historic Reserve while considering historic and amenity values.

Board Member – Robyn Shanks
2.8 Catlins/Te Akau Tai Toka Place

Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- Collaborative initiatives are established for conservation management or advocacy of the threats to the fragile dunes, nesting birds, marine mammals and threatened species.
- Identification, in conjunction with Ngāi Tahu, relevant agencies and the community, of improvements to visitor facilities.

Board Member – Philippa Agnew 2.9 Marine/Te Tai o Arai te Uru Place

Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- Collaborative initiatives are established to improve integrated management or advocacy for the marine environment in Otago.
- Assessment of the effectiveness of statutory advocacy and the implementation of the New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement (2010) in Otago

Board Member – Rose Clucas 2.10 Freshwater/Wai Maori Place

Achieved by the end of Year 3 after CMS approval (2019)

- Assessment of the effectiveness of statutory advocacy and the implementation of the Otago Regional Council's 'Water for Otago' (the Water Plan) on river conservation values.
- Collaborative initiatives are established for management or advocacy of freshwater ecosystems in Otago.
- Investigations undertaken to determine the best way of protecting priority indigenous ecosystems off public conservation lands and waters in Otago, such as Lakes Waihola and Waipori, the Taieri River scroll plain and the wetland complex situated on Nokomai Station

Department of Conservation report on progress in achieving Conservation Management Strategy milestones

Year Three of the first Three years of reporting.

The Department provided a comprehensive report on progress towards the three-year CMS milestones. Ensuing discussions focused on milestones where work was behind schedule or where the expectations contained within a Milestone were proving difficult to deliver.

The Board asked the Department for further detail in a number of reporting areas and this was provided. In some areas there are challenges in monitoring milestones, as the wording of some milestones is vague. We have agreed to work with the department to add some agreed detail around these areas.

The Board found however that in the main, the Department has made good progress toward achieving the Year 3 milestones. We have ongoing concerns however regarding the operational budget of the Department being adequate to continue to deliver across all

milestone areas, especially as we face unprecedented biodiversity loss and climate change impacts.

Board commentary on specific CMS Milestone reporting 28 June 2019

1.4 Treaty Partnership

Te Ara Hononga completed and reported on. Kahui Governance Group meets every 4 months

1.5.1 Natural Heritage

38 Ecosystem Management Units “we do not yet have a means to summarise the effectiveness of conservation activities” (quote from DOC report.)

Good progress with collaborative partnerships.

Control of wildings. Is the resourcing going forward adequate?

1.5.2 Historic and Cultural Heritage

No heritage assessment made in 2017/2018 or in 2018/2019.

Is the milestone too demanding?

1.5.5 Conservation gains from more business partners.

Still evaluating a method to evaluate the extent and outcomes from increasing conservation through business partnerships (6 formal partnerships.)

Places

2.1 Mt Aspiring

2.1.4 Work to include parts of both Lower Dart & Shotover Conservation Areas in the National Park. Is this work underway in readiness for the Plan Review?

2.3 Western Lakes and Mountains

Thar seem to be under control and contained within the exclusion zone. Goats contained(?) Wildings around Macetown – programme complex.

2.5 Old Man Range Kopuwai

2.5.7 and 2.5.8 Over-snow vehicles. Vehicle access and traditional oversnow activity encouraged allocation of a significant area to be set aside for oversnow vehicle use. Ongoing conflicts with cross country skiers need further consultation.

The expectation of the establishment of tussock parks have been made more problematic with the cessation of tenure review.

2.10 Freshwater

What is the current status of endangered Longfin eels and galaxiids?

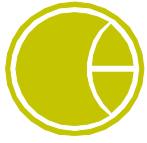
2.10.9 Wetlands. Are there any further initiatives to designate the Taieri Scroll Plain area as a Wetland of International Importance?

Part 3 Specific Policy Requirements

3.6.1(f) Monitoring aircraft activity. Significant work still needs to be done by the Dept. in this area.

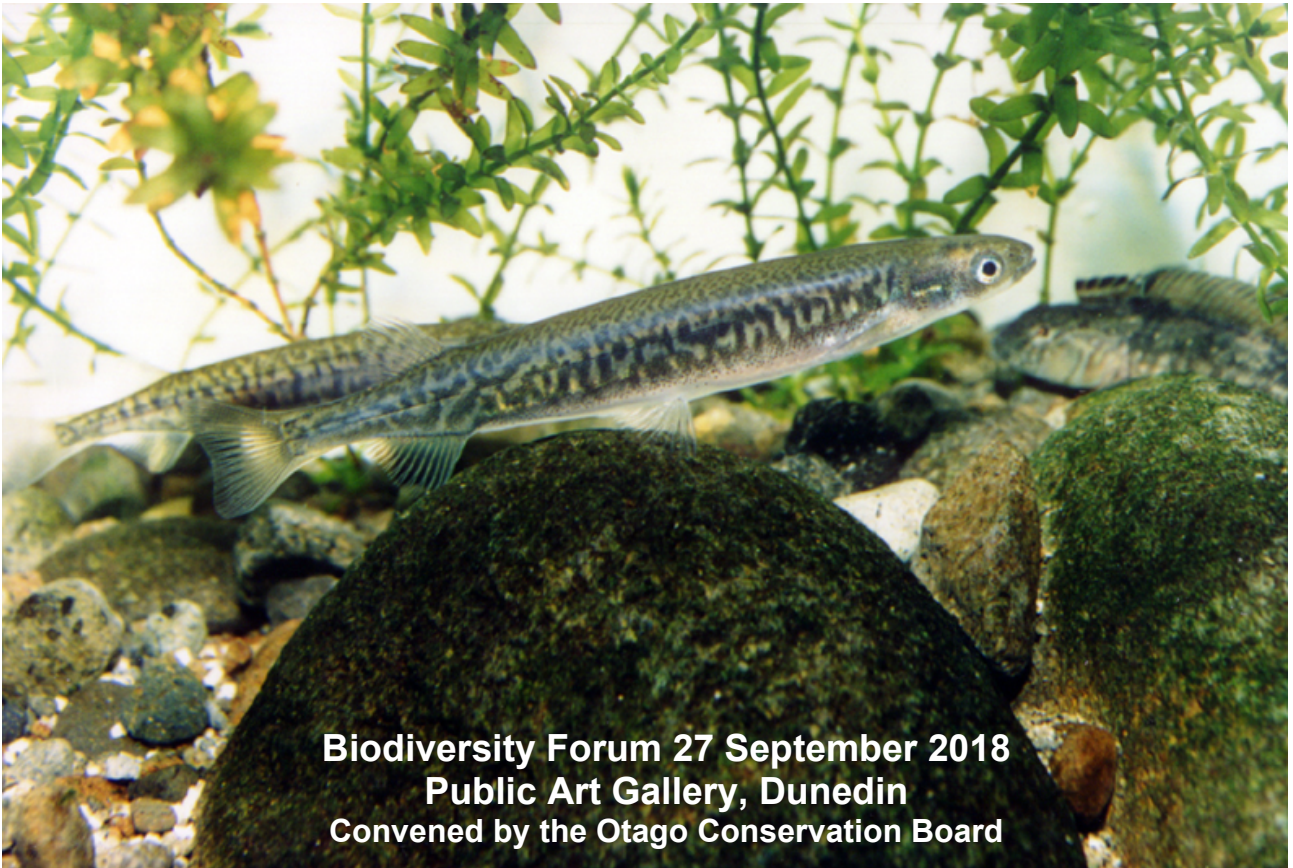
3.11.1 Aramoana Conservation Area – Spit Houses. Has there been a resolution around the Vessels house?

Appendix 3



OTAGO CONSERVATION BOARD

PO Box 811, Queenstown 9348 Phone: (03) 442 7933 Email: tmurphy@doc.govt.nz



Biodiversity Forum 27 September 2018
Public Art Gallery, Dunedin
Convened by the Otago Conservation Board

Introduction

The steady and measurable decline in the biodiversity status within some Otago ecosystems is a significant cause for concern.

On public conservation lands and waters, much of the immediate threat to biodiversity is from pests and predators, though long term, climate change and biosecurity invasions will become increasing challenges. On land outside the conservation estate, managing and maintaining indigenous biodiversity is an even more complex issue.

There are multiple agencies, a diversity of plans, strategies and regulations and on the ground a host of private individuals making daily decisions for their enterprises where consideration of viability and productivity comes well before the protection of biodiversity. Considerable attention at a national level is being focused on the issue, with a National Policy Statement on Biodiversity in preparation and the recent release of a significant report commissioned by Regional Councils – the Willis Report (2017), highlighting the complexity of the problem.

As part of its advocacy role, the Otago Conservation Board decided to take action at a regional level by convening a Biodiversity Forum and bringing together the main agencies responsible for developing plans and strategies aimed at protecting indigenous biodiversity across Otago.

The purpose of the Forum was to explore how the various agencies could better work together to effect significant change in the status of indigenous biodiversity.

Representatives from Kāi Tahu, the Department of Conservation and the following agencies were invited to join with Conservation Board members;

- ❖ Otago Regional Council
- ❖ Waitaki District Council
- ❖ Clutha District Council
- ❖ Central Otago District Council
- ❖ Queenstown Lakes District Council
- ❖ Dunedin City Council
- ❖ Beef and Lamb NZ

The Forum

Chair, Pat Garden Chair Otago Conservation Board

Opening Karakia, Rosemary Clucas, Otago Conservation Board

To set the scene, three science presentations were delivered, focusing on particular ecosystems within Otago:

Invasive organisms in Freshwater systems: Dr Marc Schallenberg, Department of Zoology Otago University

- ❖ Invaders can occupy different trophic levels, altering ecosystem functioning in various ways
- ❖ Microscopic microbial and zooplankton invaders have had major impacts on Otago freshwaters
- ❖ Exotic fish are a major problem, mostly elsewhere, but are threatening to disperse into Otago
- ❖ Invasion by freshwater species is a complex problem with complex outcomes
- ❖ It is useful to manage this with a 3-prong approach;
 - Prediction of invasion/invaders and implementation of safeguards (border biosecurity)
 - Mitigation and intervention
 - Adaptation



Estuarine ecosystems: Dr Candida Savage, Department of Marine Science, Otago University

- ❖ Otago estuaries are globally connected by providing feeding grounds for migrating wading birds
- ❖ A variety of threats are present in Otago estuaries including infill, drainage and heavy metal pollution.
- ❖ Sediment and nutrient inflows from upper catchments are the critical threats to estuarine health
- ❖ Land use practices are significant causes for those inflows
- ❖ A variety of biotic indices are available to assess estuarine health
- ❖ Small cumulative stressors can create big changes or tipping points



Otago's Dryland ecosystems: Presented by Dr Susan Walker, Landcare Research with contributions from Dr Bill Lee, Landcare Research

- ❖ With its particular climate and lack of mammals, the Otago Dryland area evolved into a globally distinctive ecosystem. A land where ground nesting birds, lizards and galaxiids once ruled
- ❖ High endemism a striking feature
- ❖ Temperature extremes and drought periods meant grasslands developed through a slow ecological system with much of the biomass energy above ground. The ecology was thus very vulnerable to rapid change
- ❖ A dramatic loss of biodiversity has occurred on these dry terrestrial ecosystems through vegetation clearance from land use intensification
- ❖ Wetland areas, vascular plant species, freshwater fish, lizards, are all showing declining trends, with more species steadily tipping into nationally threatened status
- ❖ Ineffectual voluntary measures, weak planning rules, the internalisation of development gains and the externalisation of environmental costs have combined to steadily erode the status of biodiversity in these ecosystems
- ❖ Explicit regulation will be required to maintain what is left
- ❖ A positive initiative would be to develop much wider riparian strips



The Regional Council is the lead organisation overseeing biodiversity on private land. What are the strategic actions going forward?

Effecting Change to Protect Biodiversity: Rachael Brown, Otago Regional Council

- ❖ Indigenous species and ecosystems are declining, at risk, or threatened
- ❖ Addressing the problem is conflicted by a multitude of players with overlapping roles and responsibilities and a raft of regulatory Acts, Plans, Strategies and Policy Statements
- ❖ Significant Memorandum of Understanding between ORC and DOC with an objective of improving biodiversity outcomes by aligning priorities and strategies

ORC Biodiversity Strategy

Vision: "Otago is the proud home of thriving ecosystems and rich biodiversity"

Purpose: "To identify how ORC will add value and strategic leadership to the biodiversity initiatives of communities and other organisations in Otago"

Willis Report (2017) "Addressing NZ's Biodiversity Challenge", commissioned by Regional Councils.

Solutions challenging because it requires changes in behaviours and attitudes across a range of agencies, communities and individuals.

Five key shifts required:

1. Stronger leadership with clarity of roles and responsibilities
2. Agreement at a national, regional and local level on where we should focus our efforts
3. The importance of a common plan delivering joined-up actions across all players
4. The need to understand what success looks like and how to measure it
5. The need for modern, fit-for-purpose frameworks including legislation to help achieve our goals

ORC Biodiversity Action Plan (Draft)

Four priority actions over the next five years:

1. Prioritise areas for active biodiversity management
2. Establish mechanisms for regional coordination
3. Administer funding for community biodiversity projects
4. Develop and implement biodiversity monitoring

Edward Ellison, Ōtākou rūnaka, emphasised the significance of biodiversity and freshwater values to iwi and the deep concern held for these by manawhenua expressed through kaitiakitanga. The development of the Iwi Freshwater Management Strategy and the Otago Rūnaka Resource Management Strategy has articulated the ongoing commitment Rūnaka have towards kaitiakitanga and the agency relationships required in maintaining rangatiratanga

Jeffrey Cornwell, Biodiversity Group DOC outlined the status of the current National Biodiversity Strategy 2000-2020.

Andrew Morrison, Chair, Beef and Lamb NZ, noted the extent of native vegetation on sheep and beef farms throughout NZ, particularly under QE2 covenant. Beef and Lamb NZ's recently developed Environment Strategy reflects a strong commitment to Biodiversity, identified as one of the four fundamental pillars.

The Round Table Discussion

Facilitated by Aaron Fleming, Director Operations, Southern South Island, DOC;

“The continuing decline shows we are not doing well, we need to look outside the square, be bold and enter new territory together.”

Participants were split into small groups and asked a series of questions:

What are the key factors needed to drive change?

Responses included:

Monitoring, Incentives, Mitigation, Communication of values, Social enterprise, Political will, Community leadership, District Plans, Regulatory system with compliance, Private initiatives to protect, Common strategy, Primary Industry leadership, Iwi leadership.

The Priorities:

- Communications around values
- Community leadership
- A Common strategy
- A regulatory system with compliance enforced

What are the barriers to change?

Responses included:

Lack of resources; need to change not apparent; other priorities more important; data gap; conflicting interests with biodiversity traded off against other objectives; compartmentalisation of biodiversity; lack of clarity around roles and responsibilities.

The most significant barriers?

- The data gap
- The compartmentalisation of biodiversity

What are the catalysts for change?

Responses included:

Enforcement of rules around biodiversity; lobbying of Govt by Regional Councils; carbon sequestration from native vegetation; alignment of messaging to engage people; develop capability and knowledge of those making change; provide clarity around roles and responsibilities; one common strategy; engage community with education and storytelling.

The two preferred courses of action:

- That a common biodiversity strategy for Otago be developed through a collaborative process led by an executive group comprising representatives from iwi, the Department, Regional and Local Government and wider stakeholders. Objectives: To identify priority actions for halting the decline in biodiversity over the next 1-3 years and to clarify roles and responsibilities.
- That communities be engaged through involvement, education and storytelling, as they are at the heart of influencing change. On farm, respect for the environment and the care of biodiversity must become part of everyday, standard operating practice

Closing karakia, Geoff Owen, Manager Operations, Whakatipu-wai-Māori, Queenstown

Forum Follow Up

The follow-up action to be taken by the Otago Conservation Board is to write to the Department of Conservation, iwi, the Otago Regional Council, city and district councils to urge them to bring together a representative executive group to deliver on the agreed outcomes of the workshop.

Finally, the Otago Conservation Board would like to record a special thanks to Aaron Fleming, and the presenters Dr Candida Savage, Dr Marc Schallenberg, Dr Susan Walker, Rachael Brown and to all those who attended. We hope your combined contributions can be a call to action for the on-going benefit of our unique biodiversity in Otago.

Pat Garden
Chair, Otago Conservation Board

Attendees:

Presenters

Marc Schallenberg, Department of Zoology, University of Otago
Candida Savage, Department of Marine Science, University of Otago
Susan Walker, Landcare Research
Bill Lee, Landcare Research
Rachael Brown, ORC

Department of Conservation

Aaron Fleming, Director Operations Southern South Island
Geoff Owen, Manager Operations Whakatipu-wai-Maori
Mike Tubbs, Manager Operations, Central Otago
Annie Wallace, Manager Operations, Coastal Otago.
Jeffrey Cornwell, Biodiversity Group Wellington
John Roberts, Statutory Manager, Queenstown
John Barcla, Coastal Otago
Marcus Simons, Coastal Otago
Teresa Murphy, Otago Conservation Board, Support Officer.

Kāi Tahu

Edward Ellison Ōtākou
Hoani Langsbury Ōtākou

Otago Regional Council

Cr. Gretchen Robertson, Vice-Chairperson
Rachael Brown, Senior Policy Analyst.
Pete Ravenscroft Environmental Resource Scientist

Central Otago District Council

Cr Stephen Jeffery
Cr Barrie Wills
Cr Victoria Bonham
Louise van der Voort, Manager Planning, Environment.

Clutha District Council

Cr Bruce Vollweiler
David Campbell, Group Manager Regulatory Services

Dunedin City Council

Cr Aaron Hawkins
Aalbert Rebergen, Biodiversity Officer
Jessica Henry, Partnership and Programme Coordinator

Queenstown Lakes District Council

Cr Alexa Forbes
Jeannie Galavazi, Parks Planning Manager (Acting)
Briana Pringle, Senior Parks Forestry Officer

Waitaki District Council

Mayor Gary Kircher
Lichelle Guyan Heritage, Environment and Regulatory Manager.

Beef and Lamb NZ

Andrew Morrison Chairman
Paul Corboy Southern B&LNZ Farmers Council

NZ Conservation Authority

Tony Lepper

Southland Conservation Board

John Whitehead, Chairman

Otago Conservation Board

Pat Garden, Chair
Bruce Jefferies, Vice Chair
Andrea Ludemann
Anna Carr
Dave Vass
Kimberley Collins
Philippa Agnew
Ranui Ellison-Collins (Apology)
Robyn Shanks
Rosemary Clucas
Tara Druce (Apology)

