

Te Tapatoru ā Toi
(Joint Management Committee)
Annual Report of the Committee
to the Minister of Conservation and
Te Rūnanga ō Ngāti Awa



Tieke (Saddleback) – Moutohorā

PHOTO: Neil Robert Hutton

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1. KUPU WHAKATAKI

Chairperson's Report – John Hohapata-Oke

Kei te pō te kiwi, kei te pō te rūrū, tangi mai, tangi mai

Te atapō, te ata hāpara, te awatea

E koekoe te tūi, e ketekete te kākā, e kūkū te kererū

Te ara kura a Tane, te māra a Tane, te toko a Tane, tihei mauri ora!

In the night the kiwi and the rūrū call

The darkness before the dawn, the river of light

The tūi, the kākā, the kererū call

The glowing sunrise, the forest song, the day has risen, it is life!

Ki ngā nohoanga tīpuna e tiakina mai nei e tātou, e Te Tapatoru-ā-Toi, e Te Papa Atawhai, me te hāpori whanui o te rohe nei, ka mihi, ka mihi.

Ki a koutou, ngā whanaunga kua haere ki tua o Te Arai, ki te pō mōai rokiroki, haere atu rā, haere atu rā.

Ki a tātou, ngā uri a Rangi rāua ko Papa, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa

We acknowledge our ancestors and the lands that gave you life, that give us life, and that we, Te Tapatoru-ā-Toi, the Department of Conservation and the communities of Whakatāne are guardians of for this brief time.

To those that have heard the call of our ancestress, the guardian of the night, follow her welcome to that place of serenity reserved for you, the source of this world, to you we bid farewell.

To all who now share this world of beauty, children of the earth and the sky, welcome, welcome, welcome.

MIHI RANGATIRA – Acknowledgements

On behalf of the committee we offer a sincere thanks to the former Minister of Conservation, the Honourable Nick Smith, who held this office from 22nd January 2013 to the 8th October 2014, for his support of conservation and the initiatives he led. To the new Minister of Conservation, the Honourable Maggie Barry, who has held this office since the 8th October 2014, we the committee look forward to continuing the partnerships between the committee and the Department, under your stewardship. To the Department of Conservation staff of the Eastern Bay of Plenty District, a mihi is extended to you for your tremendous work in support of the committee, the ideals embodied in the Ngāti Awa Treaty Settlement, and the ideals of kaitiakitanga and conservation.

During the year a number of significant events occurred across the three reserves, including the translocation of Toutouwai (North Island Robin) from Te Motu Tapu a Tinirau (Mokoia

Island) to Ōhope Scenic Reserve, Kuia (Grey Faced Petrel) were translocated to Cape Kidnappers, and the yacht Checkmate was grounded on rocks off Moutohorā. These events required the committee, the Department, and various partners to work in collaboration. The committee therefore acknowledges all of the parties involved, and particularly those who coordinated our collective efforts.

It would be remiss of me not mention the committee's disappointment in the second stage of the Tauwhare Pā development not proceeding. The development of Tauwhare Pā was always considered a two stage project, with the first stage addressing issues at the entrance to the Pā (i.e. building of a waharoa and carpark) and the second stage seeing improved interpretation facilities installed to bring the story of Tauwhare Pā 'to life'. Despite our disappointment at our application for the Stage II development not being approved, the committee is committed to seeing this work happen and will continue to explore options for bringing the stories of the tīpuna embodied in the waharoa to life.

In 2014-15 we bid farewell to our friend and colleague Derek Gosling as his time on the committee has come to an end. The committee members, and I'm sure Department staff would like to thank you Derek for all that you brought to the committee, your deep knowledge of the environments of Whakatāne, your compassion for our communities, and positive and gentle nature have made our time together as members of Te Tapatoru-ā-Toi a pleasure. The committee together offers you a great thanks. E te rangatira, he mihi mahana ki a koe, kia pai ai tō haerenga i tēnei Ao. Kāore e kore, ka tūtaki ano tāua i a tāua, ki taua wā, noho ora mai.

With the departure of Derek, the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board's new member to the committee has been Rob Franklin. A warm welcome is offered to you Rob, we look forward to working together over the years to come, and learning from your experiences hosting manuhiri across many of the iconic places of Aotearoa. Nau mai whakatau mai.

On a more personal note, during this year I moved to Western Australia. I have stayed on the committee, but stepped down from the Chairman's role. To my fellow committee members, thank you for being such wonderful comrades in arms as we've undertaken to care and protect these whenua tīpuna of Ngāti Awa, and places precious to the Whakatāne community.

Looking to the future, the committee's 2010-2015 term is completed on the 31st October this year. I therefore offer a sincere thanks to all of the committee members through this last 5 years, it has been a honour to work with you all. To the committee for the upcoming 2015-2020 term, all the best, undoubtedly you will build on the work of your predecessors and carve your own niche in the history of our lands and communities. Mauri Ora!



Deputy Chair – Te Kei Wilson Merito

On behalf of the Chairperson (John Hohapata-Oke)

Commissioner's Report – Steve Brightwell

Ma te tini ma te mano, ka rapa te whai.

Through unity of many our work is accomplished.

It is my pleasure to be reporting on the work undertaken by the Department of Conservation to deliver the outcomes sought by Te Tapatoru a Toi in the 2014/15 year.

In doing so, I acknowledge Mike Jones, in whose role as Conservation Partnership Manager for the Department's Eastern Bay of Plenty District I have been sitting for the second half of the year.

I commend Mike for handing over a well-oiled team and a strong relationship with the Committee, chaired initially by John Hohapata-Oke but latterly by Te Kei Merito with whom I have enjoyed working once again.

In many ways it has been a year of business as usual within the reserves, with relatively few "incidents" of note.

Among them, however, the two potential biosecurity incursions on Moutohora need to be noted as particularly significant.

One arose with the sinking of a vessel very near the shoreline of the island; the other through a dead rat being found on the nearby Rurima group islands.

Rapid and thorough responses were initiated on both occasions at considerable cost, but fortunately no breaches of the island's predator pest free status were detected.

The other event worth noting was the discovery of an old anchor on the tide line on Moutohora and its subsequent removal from the island.

Although the timeline of events and people involved was able to be determined, the anchor was "returned to the sea" before its provenance or possible significance as part of the island's historic fabric could be established.

Though quite different in nature, these two types of events serve to remind us that preserving, understanding and appreciating the values of all three reserves is a challenge posed not only by nature but also by the people who visit them and take benefit from so doing.

These are challenges departmental staff, guided by the Committee, take pride in confronting day to day, month to month and into the future.

As of 2016, that future will look a little different with another change to the Department's structure resulting in the Commissioner's role transferring to the Whirinaki Whakatane Opotiki Operations Manager.

At the time of writing John Sutton is the Operations Manager designate, and as it was for me – and for Mike Jones before me – it will be a re-connection of sorts with John having been the Commissioner when Te Tapatoru-a-Toi was formed.

While wishing my successor good luck would be normal protocol, I know it is not needed and pass the mantle of Commissioner over happy and confident that the sound stewardship of the reserves will continue with John at the helm and Te Tapatoru a Toi navigating the course ahead.

Ngā mihinui

Steve Brightwell

Commissioner

Eastern Bay of Plenty Conservation Partnership Manager

2. VISION AND OBJECTIVES

Vision

The vision of Te Tapatoru ā Toi is that the communities and agencies represented by Te Tapatoru ā Toi cherish the taonga entrusted to them and that they work together for the preservation and protection of the natural and cultural values that make those taonga significant, and promote them to all New Zealanders.

Objectives

- ▶ To fulfill the statutory functions and powers assigned under the Ngāti Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005 in an open and transparent manner;
- ▶ To provide sound leadership, vision and strategic direction for the future cooperative conservation management of the jointly managed reserve areas;
- ▶ To recognise and respect the various interests and values that each member represents; and
- ▶ To support and encourage the development of relationships and appropriate management of the jointly managed reserve areas having regard to the regional and national ecological and cultural significance.



Moutohorā (Whale) Island from Whakatāne

PHOTO: Neil Robert Hutton

3. POWERS OF THE COMMITTEE

The authority and powers of Te Tapatoru ā Toi arise from Section 5 of the Ngāti Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005 and from specific delegations of authority from the Minister of Conservation under various sections of the Reserves Act 1977 (See Appendices for a full list of powers). The Committee may exercise its powers under these delegations or it may refer particular issues back to the Minister for consideration and/or decision when the nature of the issue has:

- ▶ Political implications
- ▶ Social implications
- ▶ Economic implications

Similarly the Committee may obtain legal advice involving such conservation, political, social and economic implications. It may also seek legal advice when proposing revocation, suspension or amendment of a permit, license, concession, consent, authorisation or other similar document that has not been requested or agreed to by an affected party.

The Committee is also empowered to act as the Conservation Board for the three jointly managed sites – Moutohorā Wildlife Management Reserve, Ōhope Scenic Reserve, and Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve. This means they provide advice to the Minister of Conservation, the Director-General, the New Zealand Conservation Authority and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board in relation to the conservation of the jointly managed sites. The Director-General must consult with and have regard to the Committee's advice in relation to the three sites.

The Committee comprises three representatives of Ngāti Awa and three appointed by the Crown. Te Tapatoru ā Toi must be chaired by one of the Ngāti Awa members and comprised the following people during the 2014–2015 financial year:

John Hohapata-Oke	Ngāti Awa – Chairman
Te Kei Merito	Ngāti Awa
Rapata Kopae	Ngāti Awa
Ronald Russell	(appointed by the Crown)
Lynda Walter	(appointed by the Crown)
Derek Gosling	(Conservation Board Representative till September 2014)
Rob Franklin	(Conservation Board Representative from April 2015)

4. THE THREE JOINTLY MANAGED RESERVES



5. COMMITTEE MEMBER PROFILES

John Hohapata-Oke



Ngāti Awa - Chairman

John holds a Bachelor of Environmental Studies Degree from Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiarangi. John was Chairman and Deputy Chairman of Te Kōmiti Taiao o Ngāti Awa on which he served for more than seventeen years.

He also served as a member of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board where he made significant contributions to the development of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy, the Moutohorā (Whale Island) Conservation Management Plan, and he continues to play an important role in the Whakatane Kiwi Project.

John served as the Ngāti Awa Representative to the Māori Regional Representation Committee and Māori Standing Committee at Environment Bay of Plenty for a period of more than seven years. John also chaired the Māori Working Party on Organochlorins for the Ministry for the Environment and the Māori Working Party on Contaminated Sites with the Environmental Risk Authority.

Te Kei Merito



Ngāti Awa

Former Deputy Chairman, and current Chairman of Te Runanga o Ngāti Awa, Hapu Delegate Rangataua Hapū of Ngāti Awa, former Chairman of Te Kōmiti Taiao o Ngāti Awa, Kaihautu Kaupapa Atawhai, Kahui Kura Taiao, Department of Conservation.

Te Kei Merito is a highly respected Kaumatua of Ngāti Rangataua and is widely acknowledged as a Pukenga (Cultural Expert) of Ngāti Awa. Mr Merito served as Chairman of Te Kōmiti Taiao o Ngāti Awa for more than sixteen years.

Over that time he made significant contributions to the development of kaitiakitanga processes observed by Ngāti Awa hapū. Mr Merito continues to make contributions to kaitiakitanga within the takiwā of Ngāti Awa and throughout the Bay of Plenty.

Rapata Kopae



Ngāti Awa

Ngāti Rangataua/Ngāti Pūkeko, former member of Te Kōmiti Taiao o Ngāti Awa.

Rapata Kopae has contributed significantly to kaitiakitanga of the Ngāti Awa takiwa, particularly within the Whakatane River and environs. He has been a member of Te Komiti Taiao o Ngāti Awa for more than eight years.

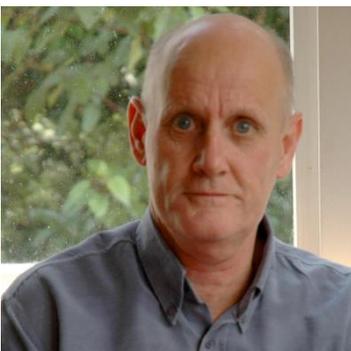
Rapata is a respected member of Ngāti Pukeko and is Chairman for the Rangataua Marae. He continues to invest his time and energy into the exercise of kaitiakitanga within the takiwa of Ngāti Awa.

Ronald Russell**(appointed by the Crown)**

Ron holds a number of qualifications from his long career as a manager in the Dairy Industry. Ron retired from the industry in 2001 but remains personally active and interested in conservation and management issues. Ron began his career in the dairy industry in 1957, showing an aptitude for management. He was also instrumental in designing technical improvements for plant. His expertise in these fields saw him spend periods of time on technical and research teams as well as leading a number of international scholarship and study tours for the Dairy Board. Ron has also spent many years at executive level of the Dairy Industry and was instigator of several cadet schemes and travel scholarships. In June 1997 he received the Dairy Association of New Zealand Distinguished Service Award for 40 years of service and contribution to the dairy industry. Ron continues to design leading edge technology and runs his own company to this day. In his spare time he is an active trustee on the Whakatane Kiwi Trust and has been running predator trap lines both as volunteer and contractor for over 5 years in the local reserves. Ron served as a Justice of the Peace for 21 years in Whakatane.

Lynda Walter**(appointed by the Crown)**

Lynda is a qualified and experienced Archaeologist, holding a Master of Arts (Hons) in Anthropology from the University of Auckland. Lynda has worked within the heritage sector in New Zealand for 25 years. She is currently one of two directors of Insitu Heritage Ltd. Lynda has extensive and varied archaeological field experience providing archaeological advice and project management services to a wide variety of clients. She has particular expertise in the preparation of conservation plans for archaeological sites, preparing these for many well-known historic places administered by the Department of Conservation, including Otatara Pa Historic Reserve, Heipipi Historic Reserve, Kororipo Pa Historic Reserve and Denniston. In 2006 Lynda was appointed to the Historic Heritage Advisory Group to assist DOC with the management of the tentative list process for World Heritage. Lynda is a member of the NZ Archaeological Association Council, currently holding the position of Secretary. She is also a member and Treasurer of the Whakatane and District Historical Society Committee. Lynda lives at Awakeri in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Derek Gosling
September 2014)**(Conservation Board Representative, member till**

Derek trained as a NZ Forest Service Woodsman and worked for several years on an ecological survey of the North Island's high country forests, including the Raukumara, Te Urewera, Ruahine, Tararua and Haurangi Ranges. He has over 50 years' experience in all aspects of environmental land management. After employment with the NZ Forest Service, Fletcher Forests and DOC he joined Wildland Consultants Ltd, an ecological consulting company and worked as an ecologist based in Whakatane. He carried out field work for Protected Natural Areas (PNA) of three ecological districts

(Taneatua, Te Teko and Otanewainuku) and co-wrote two of the PNA reports. He and his wife also established a native plant nursery on their Wainui Property during this time. In 2002 he began working with the Tūhoe Pūtaiao Trust as an ecological consultant but later took on a full time position as the Trust's Environmental Manager. He continues to work for the Trust, but also carries out some private consultancy contracts and continues to operate his plant nursery.

Rob Franklin



(Conservation Board Representative, member from April 2015)

Rob is self-employed and an owner/director of Walking Legends. Rob has a strong conservation ethic, developed over a lifetime in the bush and while working as a guide in Fordland and Mt Aspiring. Rob returned to Whakatāne and started Walking Legends, where his passion for outdoor recreation, including food gathering, and sharing the beauty of Aotearoa with kiwi and visitors from abroad is expressed. Rob brings to the committee great insight into the relationship between conservation and commercial activities, particularly through guiding, and through his work gives a unique insight into a broad spectrum of visitors to the parks, reserves and special

places of New Zealand.

6. MEETINGS DURING THE YEAR

The committee met formally four times during the financial year: 3rd September 2014, 3rd December 2014, 12th March 2015, and 3rd June 2015. There were also a number of field inspections and informal meetings held at other times including a Committee visit to Moutohorā on 3rd December 2014.

In 2008, the committee produced its own Kawa me ngā Tikanga (protocols and procedures) which requires it to meet at least twice a year.

The Department of Conservation provides support for Te Tapatoru ā Toi including but not limited to: administrative services, operational delivery, report writing, logistical services for meetings, and field trips. Committee meetings are organized by DOC staff in conjunction with the Chairman.

7. KEY ISSUES MANAGED BY THE COMMITTEE

Throughout the past financial year, Te Tapatoru ā Toi has dealt with a wide range of topics with various degrees of complexities. A key function of the Committee has been general oversight of activities within the three reserves. Some more notable examples of projects/issues that Te Tapatoru ā Toi provided management oversight for in the past financial year are briefly detailed below.

Toutouwai (North Island Robin) Translocation

The Committee played an important role in the successful transfer of Toutouwai from Mokoia Island to the Ōhope Scenic Reserve 5th-9th August 2014. While the translocation was undertaken by the Whakatane Kiwi Trust, TTaT played a significant part in the cultural oversight. Committee member Rapata Kopae provided feedback on the cultural benefits of accompanying birds to site of translocation i.e.

whakawhanaungatanga between iwi, applying Tikanga Māori in new settings, sharing mātauranga and ensuring mātauranga is correct. Committee member



North Island Robin / Toutouwai

PHOTO: Neil Robert Hutton

John Hohapata-Oke welcomed the Mokoia Island Trustees to Ōhope on the day of the release. Whakatane Mayor Tony Bonne, WKT trustee Clive Tozer, DOC Partnerships team manager Mike Jones, and Bay of Plenty Regional Council member Simon Stokes all spoke at the release. Interaction with the Mokoia Trustees was very positive and all parties viewed the tāngata whenua involvement through the full process as positive and a model to be used in the future. The Toutouwai have settled into their new home and surveys have shown that they are successfully breeding; a key to their continued presence in the Ōhope Scenic Reserve.

Kuia (Grey faced petrel) Translocation

2014 marked the final year of a five year kuia translocation program with Cape Kidnappers. Overall, the Cape Kidnappers kuia translocation program has been a great success. The translocated birds have settled well in their new home and positive relationships between groups have been formed. For example, Tamsyn Ward-Smith from Cape Kidnappers has offered to provide expert information to the Ngāti Awa kuia harvest team. DOC Ranger and Ngāti Awa member Joe Harawira was also involved with the translocation process, providing valuable cultural guidance, and accompanying the birds to their new home. Building off of the success of the Cape Kidnappers program, TTaT is in the process of working with Longbush Ecosanctuary to consider a five year kuia translocation application to their site near Gisborne.

Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa (TRoNA) Trip to Moutohorā

On the 23rd of April 2015, and at the invitation of the Committee, members of TRoNA made a trip to Moutohorā Island. The purpose of the trip was to help Ngāti Awa tāngata reconnect with a place of ancestral significance, to experience the mauri of the island, and to share the work that Te Tapatoru ā Toi and DOC have done in recent years. In this respect, the trip was a continuation of the work which occurred as part of Ngā Tapuwae Tātai Hikohiko project, and part of more recent work by TTaT to encourage and facilitate Ngāti Awa people's experience of the three reserves the Committee manages.

A great day was had by all, with fine weather and the White Island Tours boat being met by dolphins on the way out. Approximately 20 Ngāti Awa members attended, including rūnanga members, Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Awa staff, and Te Tohu o te Ora o Ngāti Awa staff. DOC staff were on hand to provide expertise re biodiversity and services work on the island.



TRoNA Trip to Moutohorā

PHOTO: Rob Whitbourne

For many participants, it was their first time setting foot on Moutohorā and represented a life-long ambition to walk on this whenua tīpuna.

8. OPERATIONAL REPORTS

The Department of Conservation is responsible for carrying out all operational work tasks in the three reserves jointly managed by Te Tapatoru ā Toi. The following is a summary of the more notable operational activities throughout the 2014-2015 financial year.

Moutohorā Wildlife Management Reserve



Moutohorā Island

PHOTO: Neil Robert Hutton

Moutohorā has a rich and interesting history both culturally and ecologically and is seen locally as a “jewel in the crown” by Te Tapatoru ā Toi, Ngāti Awa and the Department of Conservation.

Moutohorā Visitor Facilities

General track maintenance on the island took place throughout the year. Special attention was paid to the saddle to pā track. Although the track is closed to the public, it is still a vital access point to Raetihi Pā for cultural visits and DOC operational work. Te Tapatoru ā Toi was particularly interested in safeguarding Raetihi pā through vegetation management. Different management options are still being explored but the Committee emphasized that the pā site is of cultural and archaeological significance and action should be taken to reduce site damage through natural processes.

The DOC Services team installed a new colour steel roof over the shower block and two new gas burning stoves were placed in the hut to meet DOC standards.

Cyclone Pam hit the island with large swells and left a significant amount of debris well above the usual high water mark in most of the bays. Debris was especially noticeable on the beach in Sulphur Bay.

Biodiversity

TTaT approved a proposal by DOC Ranger Mithuna Sothieson to reintroduce Duvaucel's geckos (*Hoplodactylus duvaucelii*) to Moutohorā. Duvaucel's geckos are the largest living species of geckos found in New Zealand and were once widespread throughout the North Island, including the Bay of Plenty. They are now extinct on the mainland. The main objective of the translocation is to reintroduce Duvaucel's geckos to their former range. Successful establishment of Duvaucel's geckos on the island will increase lizard taxons present as well as increase pollen dispersal across the island leading to further regeneration of native bush. A stable population of Duvaucel's geckos on Moutohorā will safeguard the vulnerable species against extinction.

Moutohorā (Whale Island) Tīeke Survey 2014

In July 2014, the tīeke (North Island saddleback; *Philesturnus rufuster*) on Moutohorā was surveyed by three DOC biodiversity staff in order to estimate the density and relative abundance of the population found on the island.



The tīeke population was introduced to Moutohorā from Repanga (Cuvier Island) in 1999, and closely monitored by Auckland University researchers that year. In 2005, PhD candidate Kevin Parker conducted a strip transect survey using 5 transects and estimated a population size of c.1000 birds on Moutohorā. Using Parker's survey design as a pilot, the number of transects surveyed on the island was increased to 12, and repeated over three consecutive days with all birds seen and heard 10m either side of a transect recorded.

The results of the 2014 survey indicate a density of 14.3 tīeke per hectare, which extrapolated over the island estimates an abundance of c.2000 birds present on Moutohorā, though it has to be noted that not all 143 hectares of Moutohorā is suitable tīeke habitat. This density is believed to be the second highest known for tīeke from 11 other north island populations surveyed, second only to the founder population on Repanga, which holds a density of 15.5 birds per hectare (K. Parker, pers. com.).

These results further indicate that the population is unlikely to be impacted if birds were removed for translocation, however being a second order population, it should be supplemented by tīeke from other locations in order to establish a genetically-robust population at any new pest-free sites. Full report available upon request.

Kiwi on Moutohorā

The Whakatāne Kiwi Trust monitors a small population of kiwi on Moutohorā. Even with the predator free status of the island, the Moutohorā kiwi have difficulty successfully breeding.



The Trust is currently in the process of putting together a formal research proposal to investigate kiwi breeding issues on the island. TTaT concessionaires Jenny and Peter Tait (White Island Tours) have been incredibly supportive of the Kiwi Project and have assisted with transport to the island and also monitoring of kiwi chicks on the island using radio equipment loaned to them by the Kiwi Trust. Maintaining successful kiwi breeding

populations in two of the three reserves under TTaT management will help ensure the continued survival of the North Island brown kiwi.

Pest control and Quarantine Procedures

Moutohorā currently maintains a ‘pest-free’ status. However, there was a significant event in 2014 which threatened this status. On August 22, 2014 yacht “Checkmate” grounded on rocks around Moutohorā. This incident served as an excellent test of emergency procedures on Moutohorā.



An incursion response was launched as soon as DOC learned that the yacht had washed up on the island. Additional bait stations and tracking cards were laid out in the vicinity of the yacht and were checked daily for two days and then weekly thereafter for 1 month. DOC also employed a rodent dog to sweep Moutohorā and make sure no rodents had made it onto the island.

Throughout the course of the response, Te Tapatoru ā Toi provided valuable cultural guidance to DOC. The Committee stressed that the mauri of the island is the highest priority. Much was learned during the yacht grounding and, as a result, the emergency response procedures have been updated.

In addition to the special procedures, monthly rodent contingency checks took place throughout the year. There was no sign of rodent incursion to the island during the 2014-2015 financial year.

Fire Control

Fire is one of the most significant threats to the unique biodiversity and cultural values present on Moutohorā. The nature of the vegetation and climate on Moutohorā can result in extreme fire danger levels and for this reason DOC maintains a high level of readiness for fire on the island. Fire equipment was run/checked as per the schedule. New fire extinguishers were installed in the hut.

Ōhope Scenic Reserve



Ōhope Scenic Reserve

PHOTO: Neil Robert Hutton

The Ōhope Scenic Reserve is the largest of the three managed by Te Tapatoru ā Toi and the closest to residential housing. The reserve is an important landscape feature behind Ōhope and is increasingly used by regular and seasonal residents for recreation. It is also important for watershed protection and it has been a significant site for kiwi management since North Island brown kiwi were re-discovered there in 2000.

Visitor Facilities

On September 20th 2014, the Kiwi Tracker Education Whare was officially opened in the Ōhope Scenic Reserve. Approximately 40 people attended the opening including members of the Whakatane West Rotary, Ōhope Lions, Whakatane Kiwi Trust, Whakatane District Council, DOC, and special guests from the Department of Corrections.

New seats were installed on the Fairbrother loop and regular trail maintenance took place throughout the year. The Fairbrother Loop Track continues to be one of the most popular hiking trails in the Whakatane District and recorded high usage numbers throughout the summer period. Planning has begun for a second track upgrade on the track from the Fairbrother Loop intersection to the Burma Road carpark. The track upgrade is set to take place in the 2015-16 financial year.

Bird Management

The 2014-2015 breeding season for kiwi in the Ōhope Scenic Reserve was relatively disappointing. Of the 13 monitored chicks, 7 stoat predations occurred. The Whakatane Kiwi Trust launched an intense trapping response in order to try and target the problem stoat/stoats. Around 80 'live' traps were set up in the core of the Ōhope Scenic Reserve and a

stoat dog was brought in to help find target areas. It is noted that other kiwi projects nationwide have faced similar challenges with mustelids and even with the stoat predations, the kiwi chick survival rate was still significantly higher than kiwi chick survival in unmanaged areas.



PHOTO: Neil Robert Hutton

Pest Animal Management

The Whakatāne Kiwi Trust manages nearly 400 stoat and rat traps in and around the 489 ha reserve. The traps are serviced by a bimonthly team of volunteers. Annual possum and rat control is managed by the Whakatane Kiwi Trust on behalf of the partners to the Ohope Sites Biodiversity Plan, and is carried out by contractor Rapaera Black Ltd. An index of rodent abundance is made regularly with monitors returning a tracking rate of 1% (1 out of 100 tunnels had rat prints). This is an excellent result and continues the high levels of success for rat control in the reserve. The Whakatāne Kiwi Trust handles the budget, contracts, notifications, and monitoring of the rat and possum control operation.

Small Bird Monitoring

Small bird monitoring was carried out by First Words in Fauna. Counts were conducted on 32 transects in the Ōhope Scenic Reserve between 19th October and 23rd November 2014. This was the sixth consecutive year of small bird monitoring in the Reserve. The objective of this work was to demonstrate the effectiveness of predator control since small birds are known to exhibit rapid population growth in response to predator reduction and thus are a good indicator of operation success.

Ongoing animal pest control in the Ōhope Scenic Reserve has noticeably enhanced the health of the small bird community since monitoring began, with observations of indigenous species increasing 254% between 2009 and 2014. Predator control is clearly having a positive effect on the abundance and diversity of indigenous birds in Reserve and should be continued.

Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve



Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve

PHOTO: Neil Robert Hutton

The Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve is a place rich in history for Ngāti Awa and was established by the ancient tribe Te Hapuoneone. The vegetation of Tauwhare has been substantially modified through natural processes and human intervention but the historical character is strong. Over the last 20 years, work in the reserve has concentrated on weed control, grass-mowing on the pā site and basic access to the reserve from the Ōhope to Ohiwa road.

Visitor Facilities

Visitor information signage was installed in the waharoa at the entrance of the Reserve as part of the Stage 1 Development Project. Further interpretation panels were planned to help highlight the historical and cultural significance of the pā. However, the funding application to DOC for Stage II development of the Reserve was declined on grounds of low visitor numbers to the Reserve. TTAAT is now exploring other possible funding opportunities to help develop Tauwhare pā.

Pest Plant Control

Work was carried out on the removal of the vegetation growing up on the terraced slope south of the large pā site. The large trees and scrub were cut down and removed to prevent further degradation to the archaeological features of the reserve. Problem pest plants continue to be wattle, woolly nightshade, wild ginger, and jasmine. Like the other two reserves under Te Tapatoru ā Toi's management, controlling and containing pest plants / weed species will be an ongoing effort.

9. RESEARCH

The research projects active in the reserves in the 2014–2015 financial year:

- I. Department of Conservation Tieke (Saddleback) research: Moutohorā (Whale Island) Tieke survey. Mithuna Sothieson (Biodiversity Ranger)
- II. Abby Stokes, year 7 intermediate student, lizard research in OSR and Moutohorā
- III. Auckland University – kuia monitoring (December minutes, pg.20)
- IV. GNS microbiology research

10. CONCESSIONS

Moutohorā Wildlife Management Reserve

- ▶ Diveworks Charters and White Island Tours concessions. Both concessions expire 1 December 2015. Renewal of those permits are currently being processed.
- ▶ Te Rūnanga ō Ngāti Awa: Cultural guided walks. Expires 2022. This concession has not been actively utilized in recent years.
- ▶ Whakatane Radio Telephone Users Association: Transmission mast and equipment for radio/telephone communications. The term of this concession expires 2017.
- ▶ Institute of Geological Sciences Limited. Water and steam sampling at Onepū (Sulphur Bay). Expires 31st May 2023.
- ▶ Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS Science): Construction of an earthquake recording facility adjacent to the Radio Users Group building on Moutohorā for the purpose of monitoring earthquakes in the Bay of Plenty. Equipment includes seismic monitoring equipment and associated power and telemetry systems. Expires 2031.

Ōhope Scenic Reserve

- ▶ Te Rūnanga ō Ngāti Awa: Cultural guided walks. Expires 2022.
- ▶ Whakatane Athletics and Harrier Club, permit to conduct Toi's Challenge race annually in November. Expires 30th September 2014.
- ▶ Learning Journeys Ltd: Guided walks. Expires 19th August 2014.
- ▶ Walking Legends (Hilary Sheaff and Robert Franklin): Guided walks. Expires Nov. 2023

Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve

- ▶ Te Rūnanga ō Ngāti Awa: Cultural guided walks. Expires 2022.

11. BUSINESS PLAN FOR 2014-2015

The purpose of the annual business plan is to enable the Committee and the Department to progress the milestones defined within the Te Tāpui Tokotoru – Conservation Management Plan 2008–2018 document. These milestones were developed by Te Tapatoru ā Toi and define the key deliverables for the three reserves within the 10 year timeframe.

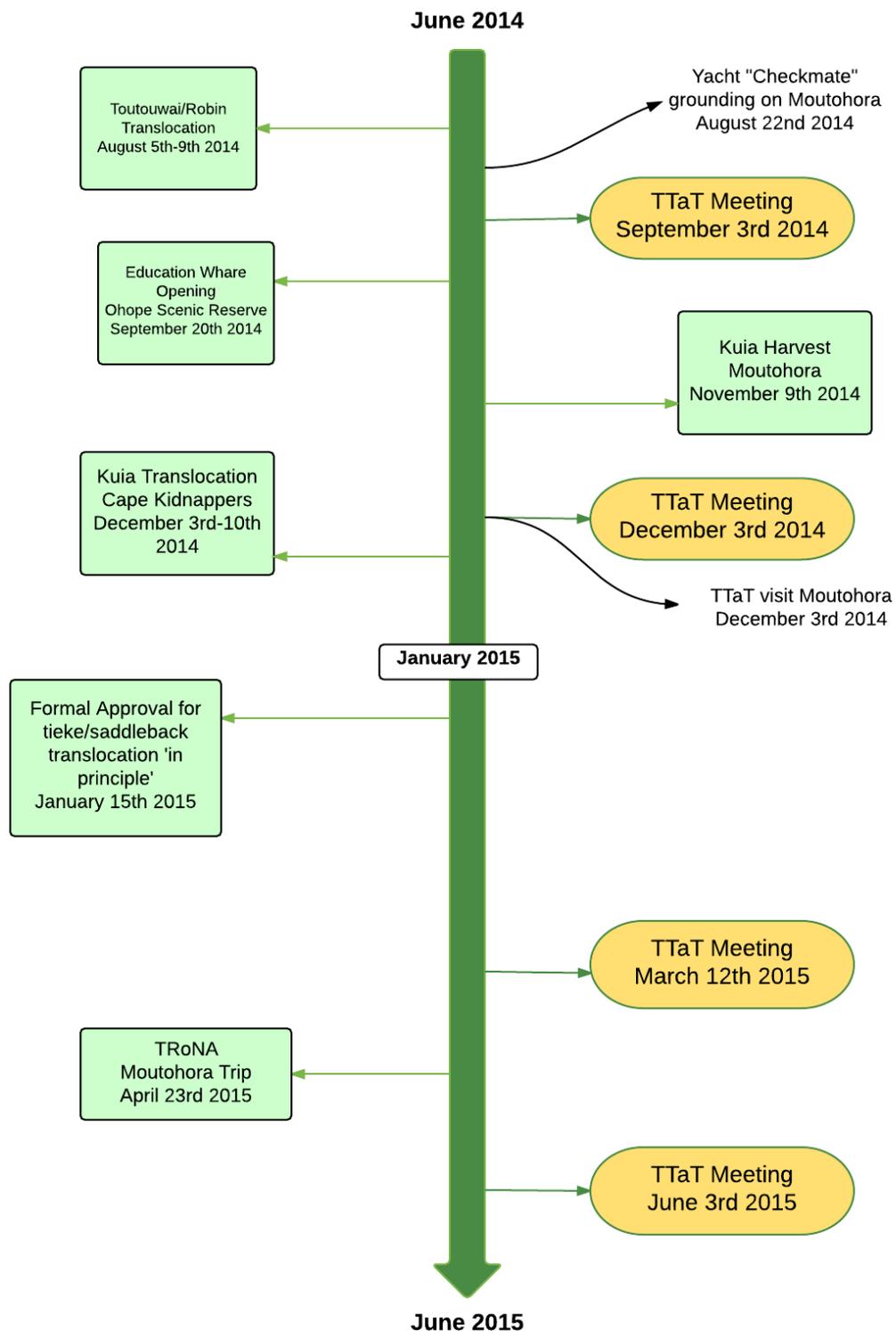
The business plan is developed by collaboration between the Department and Te Tapatoru ā Toi. The meeting minutes would be a source document for business planning where it would capture those relevant discussions pertaining to milestones and the actions required to achieve them. That information would form the basis of any work plans and bids for funding projects before approval is sought in April/May of each year.

12. CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN MILESTONES

The Conservation Management Plan (CMP) 2008–2018 is a document which provides direction for Te Tapatoru ā Toi and the prioritization of work on the three reserves. For a detailed evaluation of CMP Milestones please see Appendix I.

13. TIMELINE 2014-2015 FINANCIAL YEAR

The following graphic is a timeline of significant events in the 2014-2015 financial year for Te Tapatoru ā Toi.



14. OUTLOOK FOR THE FUTURE

The Committee works closely with a variety of conservation and community groups to explore opportunities for future growth and improvement of the beautiful reserves under their management.

Tieke Relocation in principle



DOC Partnerships Ranger Bridget Palmer has launched a new conservation project called Halo Whakatāne. The focus of Halo Whakatāne is protecting and enhancing the environment in and around Whakatāne town. The vision of Halo is: “To create an environment where Tieke (saddleback), live and thrive in the heart of Whakatāne.” In order for Halo’s vision to be realized, some tieke will need to be translocated from their current home on Moutohorā into the Ōhope Scenic Reserve. If any such translocation were to take place in the future, its approval and success would be reliant on TTaT. The Committee agreed ‘in principle’ to a request from the Whakatāne Kiwi Trust for the future translocation of tieke from Moutohorā to the Ōhope Scenic Reserve. There is still much work to do before any translocation could take place, but it is an exciting prospect for future conservation work and would serve to further connect the three reserves TTaT manage.



*Tieke /
Saddleback
on
Moutohorā
PHOTO:
Neil Robert
Hutton*

APPENDIX I

MILESTONES of Conservation Management Plan 2008-2018

Moutohorā Wildlife Management Reserve

1. **Island restoration/recovery plan and operational programme completed.**
 - a. Subcommittee 2013/2014
 - b. MILESTONE NOT YET ACHIEVED
2. **Biosecurity plan in place and operational.**
 - a. 2009/2010
 - b. 2010/2011 quarantine signage installed
3. **Historic and cultural heritage assessment completed.**
 - a. Nga Tauwae Tatai Hiko Hiko 2009/2010
 - b. Historic Heritage Protection Procedures 2010
4. **Fire protection measures in place and operational.**
 - a. 'Moutohorā Fire Response Plan' 2010/2011
5. **Assessment of telecommunications needs and alternative technologies and sites completed with user representatives.**
 - a. 'Moutohorā Telecommunications Facilities and Services Review Project' 2010
6. **Ngāti Awa cultural visit protocol completed and operational.**
 - a. 'Moutohorā Visitor Assessment' 2012/2013
 - b. MILESTONE NOT YET ACHIEVED
7. **Interpretation and educational plan and programme developed and implemented, including standards for concessionaires.**
 - a. MILESTONE NOT YET ACHIEVED
8. **Research strategy completed.**
 - a. 'Moutohorā Research Strategy' 2011/2012
9. **Visitor monitoring programme developed.**
 - a. In lieu of a specific Moutohorā visitor monitoring programme, DOC standard operating procedures for island reserve visitation have been utilized.
10. **Visitor carrying capacity assessed.**
 - a. 'Moutohorā Visitor Assessment' 2012/2013
11. **Reserve boundary changed to Mean Low Water Springs.**
 - a. 2009/2010

Ōhope Scenic Reserve

1. **Operational plan for pest plant and animal programmes completed.**
 - a. 'Biodiversity Management Plan' July 2011
2. **Interpretation and visitor information package developed and implemented.**

- a. No single package has been developed.
 - b. Whakatane Kiwi Trust has developed 'Kiwi Tracker' educational programme.
- 3. Improved visitor facilities completed.**
 - a. Waharoa 2009/2010
 - b. Interpretation panels 2012/2013
 - 4. Fairbrother Loop Track redevelopment completed.**
 - a. Interpretation panels 2013/2014
 - 5. Research strategy developed and implemented.**
 - a. 10 year milestone
 - 6. Neighbour and boundary management protocol developed and agreed.**
 - a. MILESTONE NOT YET ACHIEVED
 - 7. Historical and cultural assessment completed.**
 - a. 10 year milestone
 - 8. Conservation plan for culturally significant sites completed.**
 - a. 10 year milestone

Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve

- 1. Restoration plan and culturally significant sites identified, including vegetation management.**
 - a. No single plan has been developed.
 - b. Yearly DOC business plan details vegetation management.
- 2. Visitor information developed and implemented.**
 - a. Waharoa 2013
- 3. Neighbour and boundary protocol developed.**
 - a. MILESTONE NOT YET ACHIEVED
- 4. Natural character and landscape setting understood by the community.**
 - a. 10 year milestone
- 5. Historic and cultural heritage assessment completed.**
 - a. 'Tauwhare Pā Conservation Plan' 2000
 - b. MILESTONE NOT YET ACHIEVED
- 6. Conservation plan for culturally significant sites completed.**
 - a. No single plan has been developed.
 - b. MILESTONE NOT YET ACHIEVED

APPENDIX II

TE TAPATORU Ā TOI FUNCTIONS UNDER SUBPART 5 (SECTIONS 71-77) OF THE NGĀTI AWA CLAIMS SETTLEMENT ACT 2005 "NACSA").

71 Interpretation

- In this subpart, unless the context otherwise requires,—
Bay of Plenty Conservation Board means the Conservation Board established under [section 6L](#) of the Conservation Act 1987
Commissioner has the same meaning as in [section 2\(1\)](#) of the Reserves Act 1977
joint management committee means the committee appointed in accordance with this subpart
jointly managed sites means—
 - (a) Moutohorā (Whale Island) Wildlife Management Reserve; and
 - (b) Ōhope Scenic Reserve; and
 - (c) Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve**Minister** means the Minister of Conservation
Moutohorā (Whale Island) Wildlife Management Reserve means the island described by that name in attachment 5.2 of the Ngāti Awa deed of settlement
Ōhope Scenic Reserve means the land described by that name in attachment 5.2 of the Ngāti Awa deed of settlement
Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve means the land described by that name in attachment 5.2 of the Ngāti Awa deed of settlement.

Membership of joint management committee

72 Appointment of members of joint management committee

- (1) The Minister must appoint the members of the joint management committee in accordance with [section 73](#).
(2) Every member of the committee is appointed by notice published in the *Gazette*.
(3) A member takes office for a term of 5 years from the date specified in the notice of appointment, and may be reappointed.
(4) The Minister may, from time to time, appoint additional members and remove members (including individuals nominated by other claimants).

73 Constitution of joint management committee

- (1) The joint management committee must consist of:
 - (a) 2 members nominated by the Director-General to the Minister:
 - (b) 3 members nominated by the Ngāti Awa governance entity to the Director-General:
 - (c) 1 member nominated by the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board to the Director-General.
- (2) Unless all members of the committee agree otherwise, members must appoint a chairperson.

74 Powers and functions delegated to joint management committee

- (1) The Minister must delegate to the joint management committee the Minister's powers and functions under the [Reserves Act 1977](#) as set out in attachment 5.3 of the Ngāti Awa deed of settlement.
(2) The Minister and the Commissioner must delegate to the committee their powers and functions under [section 22\(5\)](#) of the Reserves Act 1977 in respect of the Moutohorā (Whale Island) Wildlife Management Reserve.
(3) The powers and functions delegated under subsection (2) include the power to grant a permit to members of Ngāti Awa to enter the Moutohorā (Whale Island) Wildlife Management Reserve for the purpose of collecting relevant hangi stones in accordance with [section 86](#).
(4) The delegations under subsections (1) and (2)—

- (a) must be in writing; and
- (b) may be revoked by the Minister in accordance with [section 84](#).

(5) The delegations by the Minister under this section do not prevent the Minister from exercising the powers and functions concerned.

75 Functions of joint management committee

- The functions of the joint management committee are to—
 - (a) exercise the delegations referred to in [section 74\(1\) and \(2\)](#); and
 - (b) advise the Minister, the Director-General, the New Zealand Conservation Authority, and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board in relation to the conservation of the jointly managed sites.

76 Advice on conservation matters

- The Minister, the Director-General, the New Zealand Conservation Authority, and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board must consult with, and have regard to the advice of, the joint management committee in relation to the conservation of the jointly managed sites and, in particular, concerning the following:
 - (a) the development of conservation policy;
 - (b) conservation management;
 - (c) annual business planning.

77 Committee to be Conservation Board for jointly managed sites

- (1) The joint management committee has, for the purposes of [section 40B](#) of the Reserves Act 1977, all the powers and functions of a Conservation Board established under [section 6L](#) of the Conservation Act 1987 in relation to the jointly managed sites.
- (2) To avoid doubt, the relevant Conservation Board must not exercise any of the powers and functions referred in subsection (1) in relation to the jointly managed sites.

APPENDIX III

DELEGATED POWERS AS IN KAWA ME NGA TIKANGA DOCUMENT

Schedule (Attachment 5.3 of Ngāti Awa Deed of Settlement dated 27 March 2003)

Powers and functions delegated in respect of the Ōhope Scenic Reserve and Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve

Sections of the Reserves Act 1977	Summary of Powers	Limitation of Powers
S42(1)	<p>Give or decline to give express written consent to the cutting or destruction of trees and bush on the Reserve.</p> <p>Determine terms and conditions subject to which consent is given.</p>	The delegation applies only to exotic trees and bush.
S45	<p>Give or decline to give prior approval; to the Commissioner to erect, or authorise any voluntary organisation or educational institution to erect shelters, huts, cabins, lodges and similar resting or sleeping accommodation on the reserve.</p> <p>Determine terms and conditions as to location, structure, custody, use or otherwise as the Joint Management Committee approves.</p>	The delegation applies only where the use is provided for or contemplated in an approved management plan for the Reserve.
S46(2)	Grant or decline to grant, by notice in the Gazette, the right to bury or inter the remains of deceased Māori in a place in the Reserve to be specified.	

S50(1)	<p>Authorise or decline to authorise any person to take and kill any specified kind of fauna that may be found in the Reserve.</p> <p>Impose conditions on giving the authorisation.</p> <p>Authorise or decline to authorise the use of firearms, traps, nets, or other like objects within the Reserve for the foregoing purposes.</p>	The delegation is for non-protected exotic fauna only.
S51(1)	<p>Authorise or decline to authorise in writing the Commissioner to introduce indigenous flora or fauna into the Reserve.</p> <p>Impose conditions on giving the authorisation.</p>	Authorisations can only be given if provided for or contemplated in an approved management plan for the Reserve.
S51(1)(a)	Grant or decline to grant prior approval to the Commissioner to any planting of trees or shrubs on the Reserve.	Only exercisable where the planting is provided for or contemplated in an approved management plan for the Reserve.
S55(2)	Give or decline to give prior consent to the Commissioner to carry out any of the matters specified in sections 55(2) (a), (d), (e), (f) and (g) of the Reserves Act 1977.	Only exercisable where the matter is provided for or contemplated in an approved management plan for the Reserve.
S74(1)(b)(ii)	Consent or decline to consent to the Commissioner granting a license in respect of the Reserve.	Only exercisable where the activity is provided for or contemplated in an approved management plan for the Reserve or the activity is an existing use and the effects of the use will be the same in similar character, intensity and scale.

Powers and functions in respect of Moutohorā (Whale Island) Wildlife Management Reserve, Ōhope Scenic Reserve, and Tauwhare Pā Scenic Reserve

Sections of the Reserves Act 1977	Summary of Powers	Limitation of Powers
S49	<p>Grant or decline to grant in writing the right to any qualified person to take specified specimens of flora or fauna or rock mineral or soil from the Reserves.</p> <p>Form an opinion as to whether a qualified person has the necessary credentials.</p> <p>Impose conditions on the grant in writing.</p>	
S59A(1)	In accordance with Part IIIB of the Conservation Act 1987, grant or refuse a concession in respect of the Reserves.	Only exercisable where the activity is provided for or contemplated in an approved management plan for the reserve or the activity is existing use and will be the same or similar in character, intensity and scale.

General Powers

Sections of the Reserves Act 1977	Summary of Powers	Limitation of Powers
S121	Where, under any delegation provided for in parts A and B of this <i>Attachment 5.3</i> , the consent or approval of the Joint Management Committee is required, the Joint Management Committee may give its consent or approval subject to such conditions as it thinks fit.	