



**Bay of Plenty Conservation Board
Te Poari O Te Papa Atawhai O Te Rohe O Te Waiariki**

Annual Report

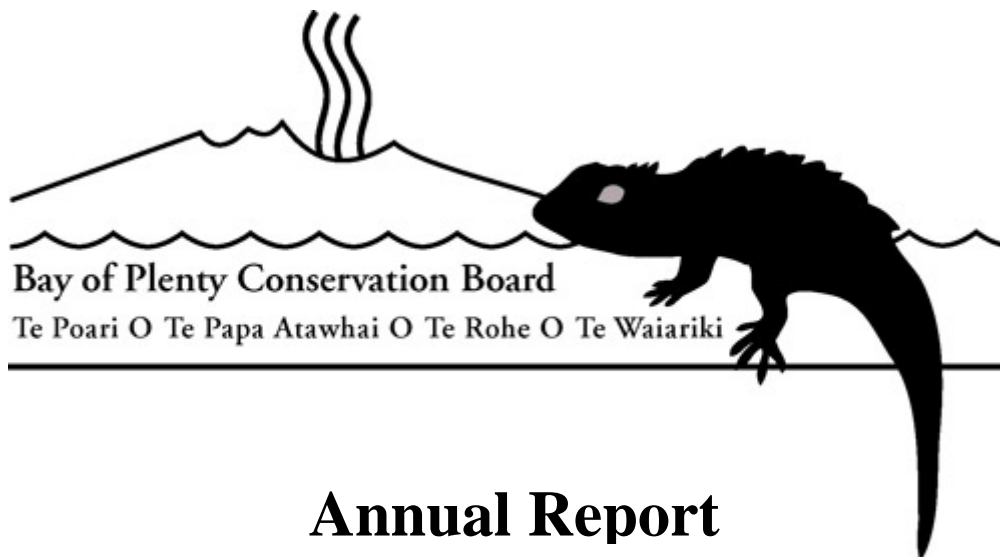


To the New Zealand Conservation Authority

1 July 2007 - 30 June 2008

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Annual Report

1 July 2007 - 30 June 2008

**Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
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Front cover: Bay of Plenty Conservation Board members and DOC staff at the Karangahake Gorge Walkway.

Photographs on pages 4, 8, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 22, 23 and the cover were taken by Bay of Plenty Conservation Board member, John Coster. Other photos were taken by DOC staff members.

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1.0 Chairperson's Report

Tena Koutou Katoa

It gives me great pleasure in my final term as Chairman and a member of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board to present the Boards Annual Report for 2007-2008.

The Board has had a productive year with many achievements and highlights.

Our role as advocates of conservation was certainly enhanced by the knowledge we gained during CMS monitoring throughout the year.

The Boards CMS field visits provided an invaluable insight into the great work that is being done throughout the Bay of Plenty Conservancy by the Department, Community Landcare Groups, Iwi and passionate individuals. They also highlighted the issues and future challenges the Board needs to help to overcome.



Board members and DOC staff at the Karangahake Gorge Walkway on 7 June 2008.

In my opinion the Board's input into the Draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy 2008-2018 was the single most significant and rewarding achievement of the year. I believe that this was due largely to the collaborative and positive way in which the Board and Conservancy staff worked together.

As the Board meets the challenges of the forthcoming year, I would like to acknowledge the cooperative and positive manner in which the Bay of Plenty Conservator, Henry Weston and his team of staff have supported the Board throughout the year. In particular, the Board would like to make special mention of Mark Davies and Leilani Fraser for their tireless efforts and commitment.

I would also like to acknowledge the NZCA and the support and guidance provided by Linda Conning.

In closing I would like to pay special tribute to my fellow Board members. It has been an absolute pleasure working with such a dedicated and professional group of people. I wish you the very best for the future and look forward to supporting the Board from a community perspective.

Noho ora mai



Laurence Tamati
Chairman
Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

2.0 Introduction

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board is one of the fourteen statutory bodies appointed by the Minister of Conservation under Section P of the Conservation Act 1987.

The functions and powers of the Board are outlined in Sections 6M and 6N respectively. The role of the Board as laid out in the Act is as follows:

- To recommend the approval of Conservation Management Strategies;
- To approve Conservation Management Plans;
- To advise on how Conservation Management Strategies and Plans are being put into practice;
- To advise on proposed changes to the status of land areas of national and international significance;
- To advise on proposals for new walkways;
- To liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters;
- To carry out the other powers delegated to the Board by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act;
- To advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process.

These functions and powers, where exercised, are reported on separately within this report.

3.0 Board Membership

Members of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board are appointed by the Minister of Conservation. Board members represent a wide variety of interests and geographic spread across the Bay of Plenty Conservancy.

Appointed Members of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board

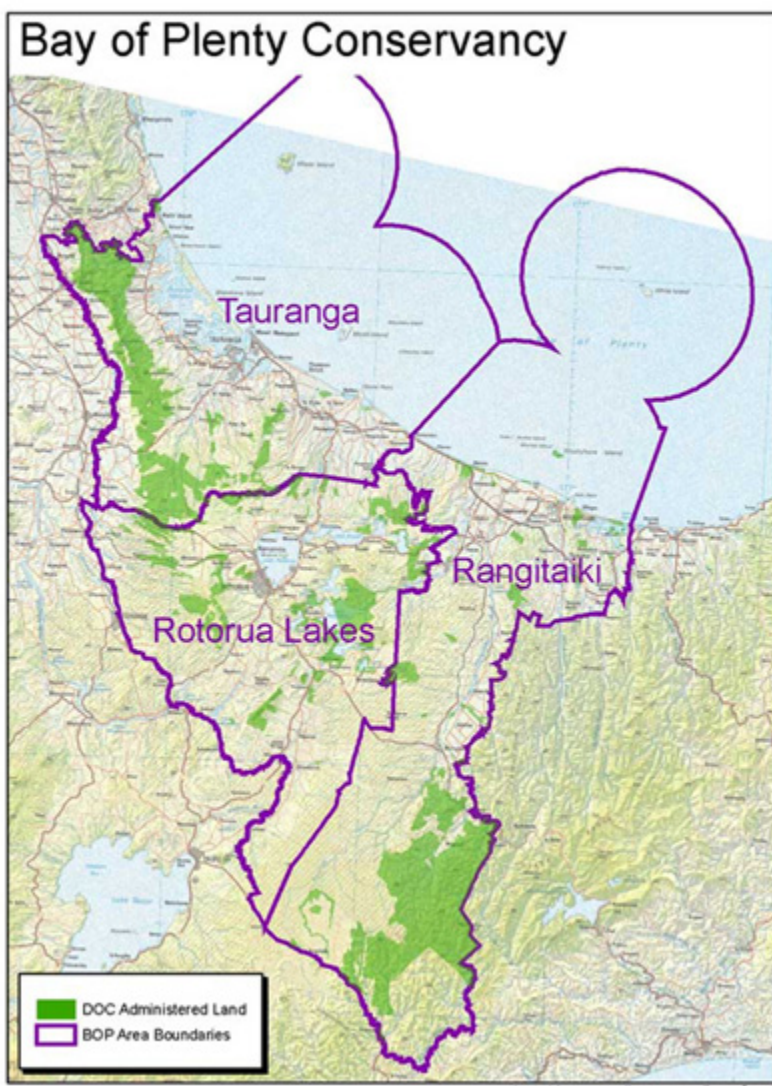
Board Members	Home Location	Meetings Attended
Laurence Tamati (Chairman)	Rotorua	6
Neil Clarke	Mount Maunganui	6
John Coster	Tauranga	6
Anthony Olsen	Matata	6
Stephen Parr	Tauranga	6
Margriet Theron	Rotorua	5
Suzanne Williams	Tauranga	5
+ Alf McCausland	Tauranga	0
# Ian Pirani	Katikati	5
# Hera Smith	Rotorua	5
# Joe Doherty	Murupara	4
# Michael Hayden	Waihi	4
* James Carlson	Murupara	1
* Rosemary Michie	Rotorua	1

Ian Pirani, Hera Smith, Joe Doherty and Michael Hayden were appointed to the Board in September 2007 and attended Board meetings since then.

* James Carlson's and Rosemary Michie's terms on the Board ended on 31 August 2007 and they attended their final meeting on 9 August 2007.

+ Alf McCausland resigned from the Board on 2 April 2008. The Board wished him well for the future.

4.0 *The Board's Area*



The Board's area of responsibility is the same as that of the Bay of Plenty Conservancy. The Department administers 178,000 hectares of public conservation land in the Bay of Plenty Conservancy which is split between three Area Offices: Rotorua Lakes, Rangitaiki and Tauranga.

The Rotorua Lakes Area includes 13 major lakes, scenic reserves and several geothermal areas of international and national importance. The Rangitaiki Area includes the Whirinaki Conservation Park and the Whakatane coastline from Otamarakau to Ohiwa and Te Paepae Aotea (Volkner Rocks) Marine Reserve. The Tauranga Area encompasses the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest Park and includes the long coastal strip running from Waihi to Otamarakau and Tuhua Marine Reserve.

The most dominant characteristic of the Bay of Plenty is its volcanic and geothermal history and landscapes including active

volcanism. There are 182 significant landform and geological sites within the region of which 35 are internationally important and an additional 66 are of national importance. The region also includes four internationally ranked geothermal fields: Rotorua, Waimangu, Waiotapu and Whakaari/White Island; 11 geothermal features of international importance and a further eight of national importance. Adjoining the coast line are large alluvial plains near Whakatane, Te Puke and Little Waihi with a narrow strip of dunes between.

The area is steeped in Maori history and tradition with many historic sites and waahi tapu. It was the landing site of three waka during the great migration from Hawaiki to Aotearoa. The Bay of Plenty hosts 36 iwi organisations and over 200 marae committees. Two large, natural harbours - Tauranga and Ohiwa - have important ecological values in the Bay of Plenty region.

5.0 *Activities of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board*

5.1 Board Meetings and Field Trips

Meetings of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board are usually held on the first Friday of every second month in February, April, June, August, October and December. Board meetings are advertised in Bay of Plenty newspapers and on the DOC website and the public are encouraged to attend. Six Board meetings were held during the course of the year.

Date of Meeting	Meeting Venue	Location
9 August 2007	Department of Conservation Bay of Plenty Conservancy Office	Rotorua
5 October 2007	Department of Conservation Whakatane Field Centre	Whakatane
7 December 2007	Alpin Motel and Conference Centre	Rotorua
1 February 2008	Department of Conservation Bay of Plenty Conservancy Office	Rotorua
4 April 2008	Department of Conservation Rangitaiki Area Office	Murupara
6 June 2008	Waihi Memorial Hall	Waihi

The Board had the following field trips during the course of the year:

Saturday 6 October 2007

Hosted by Rod Warne (Programme Manager Biodiversity), the Board attended a field trip to the Thornton wetland and Matata lagoon to discuss wetland management, the Matata lagoon restoration project, the camping review and coastal camping opportunities.

Friday 4 April 2008

Hosted by John Sutton (Area Manager Rangitaiki), the Board visited the Kaingaroa rock art site known as 'Te Ana a Maru' and were briefed on the conservation and management plans for the site.

Saturday 7 June 2008

Hosted by Andrew Baucke (Area Manager Tauranga), the Board visited the Karangahake Gorge, Waikino Railway Station and sites for the proposed Northern Kaimai Heritage Trail.

5.2 Board Sub-Committees

The Board's sub-committees are named after the specific 'place' sections of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and members within the sub-committees have a special interest in those places. The Board has other sub-committees which deal with issues such as concessions, mining and strategic planning.

Sub-Committee	Board Members
Islands	Neil Clarke, John Coster
Kaimai-Mamaku Forest	Stephen Parr, Suzanne Williams, Michael Hayden
Whirinaki Forest	Margriet Theron, Hera Smith, Joe Doherty, Stephen Parr
Marine Reserves	Neil Clarke, Anthony Olsen
Wetlands	Anthony Olsen, Laurence Tamati, Ian Pirani,

	Suzanne Williams
Volcanic and Geothermal Landforms, Lakes and Associated Forests	Anthony Olsen, Laurence Tamati, Margriet Theron, Hera Smith
National issues and NZCA Liaison	Laurence Tamati
Pest Management issues	Neil Clarke, Hera Smith, Ian Pirani
Strategic Planning	Margriet Theron, Anthony Olsen, Laurence Tamati, Michael Hayden
Statutory Planning	Suzanne Williams, Anthony Olsen, Michael Hayden
Fish and Game Liaison	Ian Pirani
Mining	John Coster, Stephen Parr, Neil Clarke

5.3 CMS Monitoring Reports

A major responsibility for the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board is overseeing the Conservation Management Strategy for the region. The Board assessed three CMS monitoring reports during the year.

CMS Monitoring Report on Islands Management Area (Sections 3.2.3, 3.2.4, 3.2.5)

Report by Jessica Larkin (Technical Support Officer Freshwater)

Report monitored by John Coster

The CMS monitoring report on the Islands Management Area was presented by Jessica Larkin at the Board's 5 October 2007 meeting.

The Board recommendations were:

- Maintain effective biosecurity, pest control, fire control and owner/iwi relationships;
- Monitor seabird populations and possible conflict with traditional harvest;
- Indigenous species monitoring programmes to be extended;
- Ascertain status of reports for 1998 archaeological excavations on Moutohora and research strategy and investigation plan for proposed excavations. Clarify purpose of archaeology of Moutohora;
- Review management strategies for the three administered islands as part of the new CMS;
- Moutohora CMP to be completed in tandem with CMS review.



DOC staff and Board members on a field trip to Matata on 6 October 2007.

The Board made the following considerations for the next CMS review:

- Seabird population monitoring has been inconsistent in the past and needs to be improved;
- Outstanding archaeological significance of Moutohora needs to be specifically recognised;
- Operational cooperation with iwi is functioning at a variety of levels.

The CMS monitoring outcome: The Board confirmed that implementation actions are consistently underway or completed and that appropriate management relationships have been established with owners and tangata whenua. The Board commends the Conservancy on its management of the islands.

CMS Monitoring Report on Kaimai-Mamaku Forest (Sections 3.4, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6)
Report by Katrina Knill (Programme Manager Community Relations, Tauranga Area Office)
Report monitored by Ian Pirani (with support from John Coster and Suzanne Williams)

The CMS monitoring report on the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest was presented by Katrina Knill at the Board's 7 December 2007 meeting.

Ian Pirani gave a verbal report to the Board and noted that the Department has done a good job in terms of implementing the CMS in the Kaimai-Mamaku area.

The following points were noted:

- Whio - it is unclear how well this species is doing in the Kaimai-Mamaku area;
- Pest and weed control - it is unclear how these programmes are achieving the CMS objectives;
- The Board is comfortable with the level of security in the area and with the effort being made;
- Education - this area is very good and the Kaimai area is strongly and regularly promoted in all local newspapers;
- Waste disposal is an ongoing issue;
- Some farming and fencing issues and encroachments onto public conservation land are ongoing concerns but are being dealt with appropriately.

Conservator Bay of Plenty, Henry Weston noted Ian's point about pest and weed control as an ongoing concern and mentioned that discussions are continuing with both Environment Waikato and Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Councils on how the Department can better work together to protect the many values present in the Kaimai-Mamaku Forest.

The CMS monitoring outcome: From the information provided, the Board agreed that the CMS is being implemented and appropriate progress on management priorities is being achieved.

CMS Monitoring Report on Whirinaki Management Area (Section 3.8.3)

Report by Craig Summers (Acting Technical Support Officer Recreation and Historic). Report monitored by the Board's Whirinaki Forest Sub-Committee (Margriet Theron, Hera Smith, Joe Doherty, Stephen Parr)

The CMS monitoring report on the Whirinaki Management Area was presented by Craig Summers at the Board's 4 April 2008 meeting. The Whirinaki Sub-committee asked for more information and Craig provided the Board with an addendum to add to his original report. The addendum was presented at the Board's 6 June meeting at Waihi.



Interpretation panel at the Whirinaki Recreation Camp.

The Board noted that the monitoring report presented details of specific progress made towards the implementation of management objectives and priorities. Further issues relating to these were

outlined. It was clear that a considerable level of activity has occurred and progress has been made. It is anticipated that this will continue within the new CMS framework.

The following points were noted:

- Section 4 Principles: These are being applied in the spirit of the CMS with the Department working in a consultative approach with both Ngati Whare and Ngati Manawa. Ngati Whare has appointed a liaison officer who meets regularly with the Department. Ngati Manawa is part of a project team managing the Kaingaroa Rock Art Restoration;
- It is clear that the Department is working in partnership with iwi and multiple external agencies to enhance the recreation and tourism potential for the area while retaining focus on protecting natural values of the area. This has required a wider holistic approach than is common in Department activities;
- The Board commends the Department for achieving very positive implementation outcomes for the Whirinaki Conservation Park in a forward looking and holistic approach that is resulting in a unique blend of high quality recreational opportunities consistent with the protection of conservation value, and in close consultation with iwi;
- The Whirinaki Conservation Park receives “Place” status in the draft CMS and it is therefore anticipated that management aims and priority activities updated by the new (draft) CMS have a high likelihood of being achieved.

Follow up Actions for the Board: Continue to maintain an awareness of this area by holding at least one Board meeting and field trip per year within the local area.

The CMS monitoring outcome: From the report and addendum, together with the information presented to the Board at its meetings, the Board members concluded that the CMS is being implemented with appropriate progress being made on management priorities within the Whirinaki Management Area.

5.4 Other Meetings and Activities attended by Board Members

Joint Management Committee - Te Tapatoru A Toi

As part of the Ngati Awa settlement, the Ngati Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005 required the Minister of Conservation to delegate certain reserve management powers in order to recognise Ngati Awa values and relationships with three places:

- Moutohora (Whale Island) Wildlife Management Reserve;
- Ohope Scenic Reserve;
- Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve.



Moutohora (Whale Island) from Kohi Point, Whakatane.

The Joint Management Committee was formed and is known as ‘Te Tapatoru A Toi’.

This committee has representatives nominated by Ngati Awa, the Department of Conservation and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. Anthony Olsen is the Conservation Board’s representative on the committee and provides an update on the work of the committee at each Board meeting.

During the course of the year, Anthony attended Te Tapatoru A Toi meetings and provided updates to the Board. Most of the discussions focused on:

- Involvement by members of Te Tapatoru A Toi in Conservation Week activities including guided walks around Tauwhare Pa, Moutohora (Whale Island) and Ohope Scenic Reserve;
- Input by Te Tapatoru A Toi into the CMS review process in terms of the 'Islands' place section of the draft CMS;
- Creation of a 'Kawa Me Nga Tikanga' (Protocols and Customs) document for Te Tapatoru A Toi;
- 'Te Tapui Tokotoru Draft Conservation Management Plan' and public notification.

The 'Te Tapui Tokotoru Draft Conservation Management Plan' was publicly notified on 21 May 2008. This plan, developed by Te Tapatoru A Toi, provides the management framework for Moutohora (Whale Island) Wildlife Management Reserve, Ohope Scenic Reserve and Tauwhare Pa Scenic Reserve, together known as Te Tapui Tokotoru.

This conservation management plan will help to achieve the purpose of the Ngati Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005 and meets the requirements for reserve management planning under the Conservation Act 1987.

The current Conservation Management Plan for Moutohora (Whale Island) Wildlife Management Reserve expires in 2009. Submissions for the Te Tapui Tokotoru Draft Conservation Management Plan closed on 18 July 2008.



DOC staff and Board members on a field visit to Matata on 6 October 2007.

The Board were briefed on the Te Tapui Tokotoru Draft Conservation Management Plan on 6 June 2008.

Whakamarama Community Incorporated Meeting - 28 June 2007

Suzanne Williams attended a meeting of the Whakamarama Community Inc on 28 June 2007. The meeting was also attended by Tauranga Area Office staff, Katrina Knill, Brad Angus, Andrew Baucke and Chris Clark.

Suzanne noted that the community group were well organised. The group had a number of issues relating mainly to access to the Kaimai Mamaku Forest Park, pest control and monitoring of flora and fauna. Suzanne drew the groups' attention to the Regional Council's Environment Enhancement Funding programme and discussed how they could apply to Environment Bay of Plenty for financial assistance to carry out particular community conservation initiatives.

Suzanne's role at the meeting was to get a strategic overview and she explained the Bay of Plenty CMS to the group, the proposed review of the document and how the document tied into the work of the community group. She encouraged the group to become involved in the review process and to make a submission when the document was publically notified.

Robyn Skelton, a former Bay of Plenty Conservation Board member, facilitated the meeting and the group was appreciative of Suzanne's attendance as a Conservation Board member.

Tauranga Environment Centre Visit - 12 July 2007

Neil Clarke was grateful to Suzanne Williams for introducing him to the Tauranga Environment Centre. Suzanne was on the steering committee which set up the centre. The Tauranga Environment Centre is an independent, non-profit organisation established and funded by a community based charitable trust.

The centre provides three core services to communities within the Tauranga and Western Bay of Plenty Districts:

- Facilities and resources for community use
- Environmental Education
- A Resource Management Advisory Service

As such it provides an independent service which complements the advice and information available from district and regional councils. Tauranga Environment Centre is operated and funded by the Tauranga Environment Centre Charitable Trust.

Family Day at Violet Bonnington Reserve, Mount Ngongotaha - 5 August 2007

A family day was held at the Violet Bonnington Reserve at Mount Ngongotaha on 5 August 2007 to celebrate Conservation Week. Forty children and their parents were present as well as a tour group of Japanese children. Despite the terrible weather, Rosemary Michie and Margriet Theron were surprised at the good turnout.

Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust Open Day - 17 February 2008

Margriet Theron, Stephen Parr and Suzanne Williams attended the open day at Otanewainuku Forest hosted by the Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust on 17 February 2008. The open day was held to inform the Board about the work of the Trust, achievements of the Trust to date and plans for the future. Guided walks and talks were also held during the day.



Otanewainuku forest near Tauranga.

The Otanewainuku Kiwi Trust was formed in 2002. The Trust's volunteers are considered guardians of 1200 hectares of ancient virgin forest largely unmodified by humans, an area which includes Otanewainuku Mountain. Volunteers are the life blood of the trust, with many thousands of kilometres travelled and hours given. Work includes clearing trapping lines, making traps, checking and baiting traps, co-ordinating volunteers, monitoring kiwi using radio tracking equipment, administration, newsletters and sausage sizzles.

In 2007, the Trust released four kiwi back into the forest, bringing the known number of kiwi in the forest to ten. The Trust is going into its sixth year of pest and predator control on the Otanewainuku Conservation Area managed by Department of Conservation, and as part of its agreement with DOC the Trust is keen to keep its neighbours and supporters involved and informed.

Presentation by Mark Davies (Conservation Support Manager, Bay of Plenty Conservancy) of the Tarawera Trail project to the Bright Economy Advisory Board

Margriet Theron organised a presentation by Mark Davies to the Bright Economy Advisory Board on the Tarawera Trail.

Tauranga Eastern Motorway Presentation - 26 February 2008

Margriet Theron attended the public consultation and presentation of the Tauranga Eastern Motorway project at the Paengaroa Community Hall. Margriet noted the excellent community consultation that occurred was impressed with what the motorway designers are doing to lessen the impacts of the road on the nearby Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve.

6.0 Board Functions under section 6M of the Conservation Act 1987

6.1 Section 6M 1(a): To recommend the approval by the Conservation Authority of Conservation Management Strategies and the review and amendment of such strategies, under the relevant enactments

During the course of the year, the Board and in particular the CMS Review committee (Anthony Olsen and Suzanne Williams) have been actively working with DOC staff on the review of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (CMS).

Good progress occurred with the informal (pre-notification) stage of consultation with iwi and briefings with territorial land authority executives around the Bay of Plenty Conservancy. This phase of the CMS review targeted tangata whenua, iwi authorities, district and regional council executives and was carried out by DOC staff.



Board members and DOC staff at the Karangahake Gorge Walkway on 7 June 2008.

On 4 September 2007 a one day workshop was held to update the Board on the CMS review process. The feedback from the Board at that workshop was worked through by DOC staff and a revised text developed for the draft CMS. This particular phase of the CMS review produced a significant amount of work for staff and consultant resources and took

longer than anticipated but the revised text was much better for the effort. The improved text better reflected the strategic approach, pitch and proposed management direction for the Bay of Plenty Conservancy. Improved reconciliation between Part 1, Part 2 and the six 'place' sections, was also achieved.

The revised draft CMS was given to the Board on 1 February 2008 for review and comment.

On 11 February 2008, a one day workshop was held for the Board to seek endorsement for the CMS to be publicly notified.

On 9 March 2008 the Draft Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy was publicly notified. This occurred in both national and regional newspapers and via the DOC website. During the period from public notification on 9 March to submissions closing on 9 May, a round of formal consultation presentations was completed. This was led by the three Area Managers, Pou Kura Taiao and Conservation Support Manager. In all, 21 presentations were given to a mix of iwi

authorities, regional councils, territorial authorities and community groups. Good feedback was received during this period that will be considered by the working group. This built on the informal consultation phase where 26 presentations were completed. In total, 47 presentations were made over a five month period.

One thousand copies of the draft CMS were circulated within the regional and national community. This was a mix of 200 x hard copies, 400 CDs and 400 down loaded from the DOC website.

The Bay of Plenty Conservancy Office received submissions up to May 2008 and these were logged and summarised as they were received. This allowed a reasonably quick turn around in preparation for the hearings process. Ninety eight submissions were received with 45 wanting to be heard.

The Department has analysed and summarised the submissions by issue and relevant section in the draft CMS document. A database tool has been used that will assist the Department with reporting and responding back to submitters at the end of the process on the approach taken with the final document.



Board members and DOC staff at the Karangahake Gorge Walkway on 7 June 2008.

Three days of hearings were completed on 27, 28 and 29 May. The hearing panel consisted of the Conservator Bay of Plenty, Henry Weston, and Bay of Plenty Conservation Board members Anthony Olsen and Suzanne Williams. The hearings were held at the Cedarwood Lodge in Rotorua. A summary of the hearings was completed on 30 May and a submission summary and analysis was completed on 10 June 2008.

A progress report to the Board was presented at the 6 June 2008 meeting to update the Board on progress with public submissions and hearings and to advise the proposed timeline and work plan between now and the Board's consideration and endorsement of the final CMS scheduled for 1 August 2008.

The themes, issues and recommendations for changes received in the submissions was considered by the working group on 9 and 10 June and the Board's CMS review sub-committee (Anthony Olsen and Suzanne Williams) considered these aspects on 20 June.

A summary of the themes, issues and recommended changes endorsed by the committee was circulated to the full Board on 21 June and a workshop held on 25 June with the Board.

Changes to the draft CMS document and checking by the sub-committee, post the Board's 25 June workshop, will be completed in early July and a final report for subcommittee review and proofing will be completed by 15 July 2008.

The final draft of the Bay of Plenty CMS will be sent out to the Board by 25 July for consideration at the 1st August Board meeting.

A final draft of the Bay of Plenty CMS will be sent to the NZCA by 1 September 2008.

6.2 Section 6M 1(d) (ii): To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on any other conservation matter

Te Puke Stone Enterprises Application for an Access Arrangement

On 5 October 2007, the Board's Mining sub-committee (John Coster and Suzanne Williams) gave its advice to the Department regarding the Te Puke Stone Enterprises application for an access arrangement. The Board advised that the proposed access arrangement was consistent with the current Bay of Plenty CMS.

Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008

On 6 May 2008, the Board made a submission, drafted by Suzanne Williams, on the Proposed New Zealand Coastal Policy Statement 2008 to support the policy statement.

Heritage Gold Application for an Access Arrangement

On 6 June 2008, the Board's Mining Committee (Stephen Parr, Neil Clarke and John Coster) gave its advice to the Department regarding the Heritage Gold application for an access arrangement. Mark Davies will pass on these points to Clint Savage (Community Relations Officer, Concessions) and will ensure the Board is kept informed with regard to the final conditions.



Board members and DOC staff on a field visit to Matata.

6.3 Section 6M 1(f): To liaise with any Fish and Game Council on matters within the jurisdiction of the Board

At the Board's 9 August 2008 meeting, Steve Smith (Manager of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council) made a presentation on didymo.

Steve's presentation focused on the securing of biosecurity funding for didymo monitoring and a regional response plan, consistency of approach and partnership between DOC and Fish and Game and the framework for dealing not only with didymo but other biosecurity breaches and ensuring public awareness campaigns reached the community.

During the course of the year, Suzanne Williams kept in touch with Steve Smith and at the Board's 7 December 2007 meeting Suzanne stepped down from her role as Fish and Game liaison. At this meeting it was decided by the Board that Ian Pirani would liaise with Fish and Game on behalf of the Board. Ian became involved with Fish and Game 40 years ago for a few years and has since returned and attends Fish and Game meetings.

Rob Pitkethley took over from Steve Smith as Manager of the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council early in 2008 and has regular contact with Ian Pirani.

Rob has advised the Board that, from a governance perspective, the NZ Fish and Game Council has come up with a couple of priority issues it wants to work on in 2007-2008 and one of these has particular reference to the Department. Rob believed it was worth bringing to the attention of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board. One of the key priorities for the NZ Fish and Game Council is:



Lower Kaituna Wildlife Management Reserve.

“To seek improved habitat protection performance by those agencies with statutory habitat protection responsibilities, namely Regional Councils and the Department of Conservation.”

This national priority filters down into the Regional Fish and Game Councils and as an initial step, they will be looking at regional examples where they might consider that the statutory authorities have not met their habitat responsibilities. As this process develops, the Eastern Region Fish and Game Council will be taking the NZ Council’s lead, and seeking a higher level of involvement from the Department in some of the key habitat protection areas within each Fish and Game region.

7.0 Powers of the Board under Section 6N of the Conservation Act 1987

7.1 Section 6N 2(a): Each Board may advocate its interest at any public forum or in any statutory planning process

Draft Plan Variation 7 to the Proposed Regional Water and Land Plan

On 12 July 2007, the Board wrote a letter to Ruth Feist at the Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council regarding the above matter.

In accordance with Clause 3(1) of the Resource Management Act 1991, the Board advised the Regional Council that it supports the reasons for the Variation and that the proposed amendments re-instate and clarify the intent of the rules and also provide consistency for plan users.

8.0 Liaison

8.1 New Zealand Conservation Authority

The Board welcomes its liaison with NZCA member Linda Conning and her attendance at meetings and email correspondence. This link with the NZCA has proven very useful in keeping up to date with national issues and informing the NZCA of issues important to the Board.

Regular correspondence from NZCA Chairperson, Kerry Marshall, is also greatly appreciated as a means of keeping the Board up to date on NZCA meetings and activities.

The minutes and meeting agendas of the NZCA are also received by the Board from Katrina Edwards, Senior Statutory Bodies Officer in Head Office.

Linda Conning attended the Board's 7 December 2007 meeting held in Rotorua. Linda provided comments to the Board on the work of the NZCA and the NZCA's perspective on the review of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy.

8.2 Other Conservation Boards

Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board

On 27 June 2007, the Board wrote to the Chairman of the Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board regarding land use change from forest to dairy farming.

The Board noted the concern expressed at meetings of both the Waikato and Tongariro Taupo Conservation Boards regarding the conversion of forest land to dairy farming and Landcorp dairy developments in particular.

Although the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board is not aware of any significant forest to dairy conversions within its boundary, it is conscious that this could occur and it shares the concerns raised by both Boards.



Board members and DOC staff at Karangahake Gorge Walkway on 7 June 2008.

There is a general concern that dairy conversions may be detrimental to the water quality of river ecosystems and the environment in general and may not be in the national interest.

The Board concluded its letter by advising that it expresses its support for raising the issue at a regional and national level.

East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board

The Board wrote to the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board regarding the decline of the whitebait fishery.

The Board discussed the letter at its 7 December 2007 meeting and agreed that the decline of the whitebait fishery is indeed a major concern.

The Board wrote to the East Coast Hawke's Bay Conservation Board advising its support to the Board for advocating the actions which will enhance whitebait spawning success, juvenile dispersal and survival of adult fish.

The Board hopes that awareness of this issue increases around the country to ensure the survival, recovery and conservation of the whitebait fishery.

Hui with Neighbouring Conservation Boards - Waikato, East Coast Hawke's Bay and Tongariro Taupo

At the Board's 9 August 2007 meeting, a resolution was set:

“That the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Chairperson will invite representatives from adjoining Conservation Boards who attended the Maori Leadership in Conservation Hui in 2006 to a meeting to progress the discussion at that hui.”

This resolution set in motion the process for organising the hui with neighbouring Conservation Boards. The date of 31 January 2008 was set for the hui and invitations were sent out to the Chairpersons of the neighbouring Boards in November 2007.

The purpose of the hui was to gain an insight and hear the views of neighbouring Conservation Boards on national matters affecting Conservation Boards as well as providing a valuable networking and liaison forum. The two specific focus points for the meeting were:

- Maori Conservation Leadership and Key Messages from the Hui held on 31 May to 1 June 2006; and
- Conservation Management Strategy Review Process and Approach to CMS ‘Places’.



Board members and DOC staff at Karangahake Gorge Walkway on 7 June 2008.

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board wished specifically to invite those Board members who attended the Maori Leadership in Conservation Hui held in 2006 and secondly to invite a few other Board members who wished to attend (three or four Board members in total from each Board).

On 31 January 2008, members from the neighbouring Conservation Boards attended the hui on behalf of their respective Boards:

- **Bay of Plenty Conservation Board:** Laurence Tamati, Anthony Olsen, Stephen Parr, Ian Pirani, Margriet Theron, Suzanne Williams, Hera Smith
- **East Coast Hawke’s Bay Conservation Board:** Richard Tumarae, Zack Makoare
- **Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board:** Sue Carson
- **Waikato Conservation Board:** Phillip Hart, Gaylene Roberts, Ron McGough

DOC staff in attendance were: Henry Weston (Conservator Bay of Plenty), Mark Davies (Conservation Support Manager), Tata Lawton (Tumuaki Kahui Kura Taiao), Te Kei Merito (Kaihautu Kaupapa Atawhai, Head Office) and Leilani Fraser (Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Support Officer).

The Maori Conservation Leadership Hui was held on 1 June 2006 and was attended by a number of Maori Conservation Board members from around the country. Anthony Olsen and Laurence Tamati attended the hui along with former Board members Alf McCausland, Alice Anderson and James Carlson.

Particular key messages were discussed in depth and a number of questions were raised:

- How do we formalise succession planning for Conservation Boards?
- How do we implement it and give meaning to it?
- How do we support and encourage Maori youth to become Board members?

- How targeted is the Board nomination and appointments process?

A number of key points were also raised:

Consultation as opposed to Co-Management

Some of the Board members felt that when the Department works with iwi, a consultative approach is taken rather than a co-management approach.

A good example of how co-management is working well is Te Tapa Toru a Toi (Joint Management Committee), a statutory committee formed out of the Ngati Awa treaty settlement. The committee includes representatives from Ngati Awa and the Department and is responsible for the management of Ohope Scenic Reserve, Tauwhare Pa and Moutohora (Whale Island).



Board members and DOC staff viewing interpretation panels at the Karangahake Gorge Walkway on 7 June 2008.

Mark noted that this joint management is a result of settlement and cannot just be picked up and applied across conservancies.

The Ngai Tahu model (which was presented at the Maori Conservation Leadership hui) does not reflect the rest of Maoridom. Ngai Tahu is the only tribe which has a seat set aside for it on the NZCA. Ngai Tahu represents Ngai Tahu and not Maoridom as a whole.

Conservation Board Succession Planning and Maori Recruitment

The Board needs to have conversations with their communities, including iwi about the Board and its role. Iwi authorities need to be advised about the appointments process and be ready to nominate. It is important for the community and iwi to know who their Maori Board members are. Maori Board members agreed that they do reflect their communities but it is not easily understood. They have a number of contacts and it is important to know how to get messages out to the Maori communities.

In the Bay of Plenty alone, there are 36 major iwi and 193 marae committees. It will be a big task to increase the awareness about DOC and Conservation Boards in the Bay of Plenty.

In 1990, Sir Robert Mahuta put in place succession planning for Tainui with regard to the Waikato Conservation Board. In recent times, the number of places has however dwindled from four to one.

Succession Planning Framework and CMS Monitoring and Review

A succession planning framework, based around the CMS, needs to be defined.

During non-CMS review periods, the Boards need to have members who have skills in monitoring the CMS. At CMS review time, technical, consultation and strategic skills are required. This could dictate who gets on the Board each year and prospective applicants need to understand this.

Board Appointments Process and CMS Places

The CMS 'places' were discussed. To make the process more robust in terms of getting strong nominations, it is necessary to get the message out to the iwi located at the CMS 'places'.

The process of appointing people to Conservation Boards requires a flow chart. A description of how the process works and how Board members can feed into the process needs to be better defined.

Kahui Kura Taiao and feedback up to the NZCA

Laurence commended the presentation given by the Kahui Kura Taiao staff at the Maori Conservation Leadership hui in 2006 and believes that succession planning could be helped by the Kahui Kura Taiao.

Tata explained the role of the Kāhui Kura Taiao which is to ensure that there is clear strategic focus to allow the Department to achieve its strategic direction and its responsibilities to Maori under Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Kāhui Kura Taiao's support role is about empowering the Department's staff to interact appropriately with Māori and tangata whenua in the course of their jobs.

Tata noted that there is more Maori staff moving up into Level II positions which is very positive. An example of this is the four new Maori Area Manager appointments. The Department's diversity targets for Maori in the Department have not yet been reached. Presently, 10% of DOC staff identify as Maori. The target is 13.5%.

Te Kei advised that the Board should be able to get contact information for iwi authorities from the Area Managers. The Department has an iwi contacts database.

Maori are represented strongly in operational roles in DOC, but management roles, NZCA and Board membership need greater representation and support.

Tata commended the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board for showing good initiative in holding this hui.

The second half of the hui focused on the Conservation Management Strategy Review Process and Approach to CMS 'Places'. Mark Davies showed the audio visual presentation for the Bay of Plenty CMS review process that has been shown to key stakeholders in the review.



DOC staff and Board members on a field trip to Matata on 6 October 2007.

A number of CMS review workshops, with DOC staff and Board members, was held around the Bay of Plenty Conservancy and these were invaluable for sorting out the values and objectives of places and getting to understand the places better. The Board CMS Review committee also worked well with the Department in getting the document to its present draft form.

Actions and outcomes from the hui:

- A letter (signed off the by the Chairpersons of the Bay of Plenty, Waikato, East Coast Hawke's Bay and Tongariro Taupo Conservation Boards) will be sent to other Conservation Boards, the Director-General and the NZCA regarding the hui discussions and recommending that the other Boards consider holding regional hui also.
- A flow chart on succession planning and the Board's appointments process will be distributed to those who attended the hui for comment. This will be worked on by Margriet Theron, Mark Davies and Leilani Fraser.
- It was agreed that a Neighbouring Conservation Board Hui (of the four Central North Island Boards only) will be held once a year. Outcomes from this hui will be followed up in 12 months. Successes, challenges and learnings will be shared at the next hui.
- Tata will meet with the new Maori members of the NZCA and will talk about the issues raised at this hui. Mark will follow up with Tata on any progress.

The hui discussion has been invaluable. Laurence hopes that those in attendance took something away from the hui to use in their role as Board members.

In closing, Laurence thanked all the Boards for ensuring they were represented at the hui. He looks forward to working with the other Boards in the future.

National Conservation Board Chairpersons Conference - 29 February to 1 March 2008

On 14 August 2007, Kerry Marshall wrote a letter to the Chairpersons of the Conservation Boards to advise that the New Zealand Conservation Authority proposed that there be a chairpersons' conference during the current financial year to be held in Wellington.

As has been recent practice, the Authority met the costs associated with the conference including travel costs, except for attendance fees.

At the Board's 5 October 2007 meeting, Laurence advised that the next Conservation Board Chairperson's Conference had been confirmed for 29 February 2008 to 1 March 2008.

At the Board's 7 December 2007 meeting, Laurence advised the Board that he would not be available to attend the conference as he would be arriving back from a holiday in Australia on 29 February 2008. Laurence asked that an Acting Chairperson be appointed to represent the Board at the conference.

Anthony nominated himself as Acting Chairperson to attend the conference. The Board agreed and a resolution was carried. Anthony attended the national conference on 29 February to 1 March.

At the Board's 4 April 2008 meeting, Anthony went through his report on the National Conservation Board Chairpersons' Conference and debriefed the Board on the discussion points.

The agenda focused on:

- The CMS framework
- Enhancing the efficiency of Conservation Boards
- Maori conservation leadership
- Concessions
- Induction of Board members



*The Diamond Geyser at Orakei Korako,
south of Rotorua.*

- Powers to advocate
- Chatham Islands
- Conflicts of interest
- Collaboration among Boards
- Funding for pest management
- Costs of Conservation Boards
- Keeping Boards informed of consultations
- Departmental restructurings



The Karangahake Walkway.

Maori conservation leadership was discussed in depth and it was agreed that the previous hui was not really about Maori leadership in conservation. The Chairs agreed that this forum should be ongoing and organisation for the next hui should be started. It would not be held until the 2009-2010 year and should be more about Maori in Conservation, outcomes of treaty settlements and the role of the Kahui Kura Taiao and Pou Kura Taiao.

8.3 Giving Effect to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi

The Board gives effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi by:

- Monitoring the way in which the Conservancy is giving effect to Section 4 of the Conservation Act;
- Actively engaging in discussions on Treaty of Waitangi issues through its representative on the Ngati Awa/Department of Conservation Joint Management Committee (Te Tapatoru a Toi) and other forums with tangata whenua;
- Holding meetings on marae and having field trips and inspections and engaging meaningfully with iwi representatives and local hapu;
- Ensuring that it has meaningful processes for tangata whenua input to its work;
- Supporting the conservancy with settlement implementation where it can.

Ngati Awa

The Joint Management Committee or Te Tapatoru a Toi was formally established in April 2006 and the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board has a standing item on its agenda regarding the JMC. Anthony Olsen is the Board's representative on the committee.

At each meeting of the Board, Anthony provides an update to the Board on the work of Te Tapatoru a Toi.

The Board is fortunate to have this important link with Te Tapatoru a Toi and Ngati Awa.

Te Arawa Lakes Trust

Hera Smith is employed by the Te Arawa Lakes Trust in Rotorua as an Executive Officer. Hera gives regular feedback to the Board on matters of mutual interest affecting the Board and the Trust.

The Board acknowledges those tangata whenua and iwi authorities participating in conservation management in particular the review of the CMS. The Department conducted over 40 CMS presentations to iwi and territorial authorities over a four month period and is grateful for the feedback received from these stakeholders.

8.4 Liaison With Other Organisations

Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council - 9 August 2007

Suzy O'Neill, Estuary Care Officer at Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Council, attended the Board's 9 August 2007 meeting to make a presentation on the council's estuary care programme. Suzy went through her presentation with the Board which covered:

- Outcomes our communities want
- Key partners
- Estuary care groups
- Estuary care resources
- Technical advisory groups
- Mangroves
- Mechanical removal trials of mangroves
- Sediment accumulation and dispersal rates



Lake Tarawera with Mount Tarawera in the background.

Forest and Bird Te Puke Branch - 5 October 2007

Carole Long (Chair of Te Puke Forest and Bird), Troy Makan (Central North Island Field Officer for Forest and Bird) and Basil Graeme (Chair of Tauranga Forest and Bird and former Bay of Plenty Conservation Board member) were invited to the Board's 5 October 2007 meeting.

The Forest and Bird representatives presented the Board with a power-point presentation on the Te Puke Stone Enterprises (TPSE) mining quarry site. Forest and Bird were concerned about the proposed access arrangement being negotiated between the Department and TPSE.

Carole explained the long association that Forest and Bird has had with the quarry site and went into detail about the history of debate between Forest and Bird and TPSE.

Hauraki District Council - 6 June 2008

Mayor of Hauraki District, Worship John Tregidga, attended the Board's 6 June 2008 meeting held at the Waihi Memorial Hall and welcomed the Board to Waihi and the Hauraki Area.

John acknowledged the work that the Bay of Plenty Conservancy is doing in the Karangahake Gorge area and took the opportunity to thank staff and the Conservator.

The Karangahake Gorge has a different dynamic from other walkways and the area has huge potential in attracting visitors to the area. To cope with this potential influx of visitors, the Hauraki District Council has been in talks with Transit NZ regarding infrastructure.

The challenge will be about finding out how much infrastructure will be needed to support the area to ensure that the Karangahake Gorge remains an iconic attraction in years to come.



Part of the Karangahake Walkway in the Hauraki district.