

# Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Annual Report 2017-2018



# **Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Annual Report 2017-2018**

**Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority  
pursuant to Section 6 (O) of the Conservation Act 1987**

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**Back cover:** Waipunga Falls – 16 November 2017 – Image compliments of Helen Neale

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# 1. Chairperson's report

Ki Te Pou Atawhai Taiao o Aotearoa

*Tena ra koutou i runga i nga tini ahuatanga o te wa. Ahakoa nga ngaru nunui i papaki mai nei, kei te kaha pupuri ki te ohaki a o tatou tupuna "kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui".*

*No reira, tangihia ratou ma kua haere ki tua o te aria. Kua waihongia mai e ratou he tohu hei arahi mai.*

*Kia tika te hoe a to tatou waka kit e pae tawhiti kit e tonuitanga.*

*Tihei mauri ora!*

It was a pleasure to meet with Minister Sage during her visit to our rohe and we are thankful for the privilege of being afforded the opportunity and time to hui, korero and kai with her at Waimangu Volcanic Valley, nga mihi. On behalf of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board, it is a pleasure to present the following report on the performance of the Board.

It is proper and appropriate to acknowledge and thank my fellow Board members for their contributions over the period. They deserve significant acknowledgement for their commitment to their roles and for the work they do. All members have other vocations and calls on their time, heoi, their commitment to the Board and to the conservation outcomes we collectively seek to achieve is a credit to them all.

We have been fortunate to have a continuity of members with a solid foundation of knowledge, experience and governance navigation, complimented with new expertise, capability, and a confidence of each other. Collectively, the broad experiences, expertise, knowledge and diversity at our table has well harnessed us to deal with some key challenges, both for the Board and the Department.

Engaging meaningfully with Iwi, Community organisations, volunteer groups and businesses is pivotal for the future conservation of Public Conservation Land (PCL). Forging positive relationships with Iwi, driven to some extent by various Treaty Settlements, but also a resounding desire by Iwi to be engaged in the kaitiakitanga and management of the lands has required a different way of thinking about managing PCLs. The opportunity is to harness the added knowledge, matauranga, manaaki and kaitiakitanga of Iwi, and of the Department's Treaty Partners. The overlaying, weaving expertise of matauranga a Iwi, and the experience, technical knowledge and resources of the Department is a mutual recognition of the many strands needed to weave a korowai of sustainable future practice.

We have well developed strong and strengthening relationships within Ngati Awa, Nga Tapatoru-a-Toi, Te Whakatohea, Ngati Manawa, Ngati Whare, Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tane, Ngati Rangitihi and Ruawahia 2B in Wilding Pine and Wattle management, Ngati Whakaue/Uenukukopako and Mokoia Island, and many other Land Trusts and Whanau/hapu.

An increasing pressure point within our rohe, is the cumulative demands of a growing population, increasing tourism numbers, and more and bigger events that are being placed upon the infrastructure, our car-parks, trails, toilet/waste management facilities, huts, waterways, mountains and forests. Sustainable environmental foot printing, has provided opportunity and managed growth in some areas, while in others it has outstripped infrastructure capacity.

We are at a critical strategic cusp of Healthy Nature, Healthy People values framework, where some cultural differences of Healthy Nature Healthy People may not always align with our environmental kaitiakitanga. Clearly, we have some tensions that need to be balanced within our Conservation Management Strategy (CMS).

Concession triggers, concession monitoring and the risks or opportunities cascading within this area has provided some challenging considerations. Some pressure points can arise out of the alignment or otherwise with Iwi aspirations and Treaty Settlements, grazing, educational, or other concessions on Public Conservation and Stewardship Lands. Concessions, concessionaires, and concession monitoring has required a review lens-over, with the long-term future strategic positioning very much in mind.

The board have undertaken several field-trips this year from Coastal Marine underwater reefs at Otauti/Astrolabe to some of the off-shore Islands around Motiti, Motunau, and inland to a combined field trip with our neighbouring Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board. These have proven to be very important in establishing a connection to the range of places that make up the Board rohe. With such a large and diverse region, and with members drawn from the full spread of the area, we consider it important that we continue to visit places within the region that are relevant to the issues we have oversight of and to this end we plan to undertake a similar number of field visits over the coming year.

Our Board continues to enjoy a positive constructive working relationship with the staff within our Department District Offices, from management, administration, field and community engagements to the rangers on the land.

I would like to convey my thanks to the staff of the Department. They have made themselves available, they have extended beyond ordinary realms, engaged with the board in a positive and constructive manner, and continued to provide the board with knowledgeable support.

Naku noa na



Ken Raureti Chairperson  
BOP Conservation Board

## 2. Introduction

This is the 2017-2018 Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Annual Report as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board is appointed by the Minister of Conservation under section 6(P) of the Conservation Act 1987. Board functions are outlined in section 6(M) and the powers, which enable the Board to carry out those functions, are under 6(N) of the Act.

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board had 10 members for the 2017-2018 year appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987. There were two new appointments to the Board – Thomas Malcolm and Dayle Hunia; three re-appointments – Dr Julian Lee, Steve Morris and Ken Raureti and one resignation – Mawera Karetai. Dr Philip Ross was co-opted to the Board at the start of the year. Ken Raureti was confirmed as Chairperson and Anne Mackersey as Deputy Chairperson.

Conservation Boards are independent advisory bodies, established by statute. The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board represents the community and offer interaction between communities and the Department of Conservation, within the area of jurisdiction of the Board.

The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- The recommendation of a Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval
- Advising the Department of Conservation and the NZCA on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- Reporting on the implementation of the CMS
- The approval of Conservation Management Plans
- The recommendation of National Park Management Plans to the NZCA for approval
- Advising the Department of Conservation and NZCA on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- Liaising with Fish and Game Council on conservation matters
- Carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act requires conservation boards to provide the NZCA with an annual report as soon as practical after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board submits this annual report.

### 3. Conservation Board Region

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board area is complex, diverse, extensive and rich in history. The richness and values of the PCL within this rohe is reflective of the first inhabitants of the Mataatua, Tainui and Te Arawa waka that through to this day, continue to reside, harvest and utilise the resources of the environment. The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers the area from Orokawa Bay in the west to Cape Runaway in the east and inland to the forests of Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tāne, Raukumara and Kaimai, Mamaku Conservation Parks. These ancient ranges are connected intimately with significant coastal forest and dune-lands that lie at the fringes of the Board's area and continue into the depths of the marine world through to various islands and beyond.

Two marine reserves are located within the Board's rohe being Tuhua and Te Paepae o Aotea Marine Reserves. The area extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit. with respect to protected species. Wetland features, associated vegetation and the geothermal wonders of the Rotorua Lakes and surrounding reserve network also provide unique features to an area that is as diverse in species as it is in people groups and communities.

From the many mountains, volcanoes, podocarp forests and hinterlands, from the fresh water tributaries, geothermal features, lakes and freshwater systems, through to the mangroves, estuaries and the great ocean of Toi, therein lies the diversity, complexities, and the richness of our BOP Conservation Board area.

Whilst the boundary lines drawn on the map show the BOP Conservation Board area is quite stencilled in takiwa, rohe boundaries for iwi is a bit more complex. So, through an iwi generic landscape viewfinder, the broader area is defined as Mai Nga Kuri a Whareī ki Tikirau, from the Waihi/Bowentown/Western Bay of Plenty, to Cape Runaway, tae atu ki a Tuwatawata, Whirinaki te Pua-a-Tane, through to Tuwatawata and the Whirinaki, mai Maketu ki Tongariro, from Maketu to parts of the Tuwharetoa, tae atu kit e Pare Hauraki, and stretching over to Tokoroa, Matamata, Waharoa and Paeroa generally.

This physical location represents our ongoing responsibility to iwi under the Treaty of Waitangi as the Board's area is homeland to the whanau, hapu and iwi of Pare Hauraki, Tauranga Moana, Te Arawa and Mataatua Waka.

Within the region Treaty Settlements are at varying stages of pre-treaty settlement to post-treaty settlement. The Departments staff and iwi have been initiating discussions around co-governance of a number of significant areas of Public Conservation Land in anticipation of these arrangements following settlements.

The Bay of Plenty region hosts a large range of water catchments and lake reservoirs that flow out to the coastal ecosystems and the Pacific Ocean. Lastly, a significant boundary is shared with the East Coast/Hawkes Bay Conservation Board along the Raukumara Ranges.







*Photo 1 – Opepe Historic Reserve – shared field trip with Tongariro Taupo Board*

The large number of issues which are of interest to the Board include:

- Ecosystem management and management of plant and animal species such as kiwi, kokako and whio
- Management of pest species including wildling pines, dama wallabies
- Management of recreational facilities in particular around high pressure sites
- Management of historic sites
- Marine protection

The total area of the Bay of Plenty Region comprises of **2,602,857** ha. Of this total, approximately **319,794** ha is contained within the boundary of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction.

Conservation features of the Area

The main features of Public Conservation Land and Waters within the Board's boundaries are:

- Kaimai Mamaku Conservation Park - 40,000 ha
- Whirinaki te Pua-a-Tane - 56,000 ha
- Whakarewarewa State Forest Park - 291 ha
- Raukumara Conservation Park - 59,312 ha

- Scenic Reserves – 47,381 ha
- Historic Reserves – 70 ha
- Recreation Reserves – 420 ha
- Ecological Areas - 312 ha
- Stewardship Areas – 108,413 ha
- Marine Reserves – 2,330 ha



*Photo 2 – Rangataiki Frost Flats*

## **4. Board Functioning**

### **4.1. Board Functions Under Section 6m of the Conservation Act 1987**

The functions of the Board are:

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

### **4.2. Powers of the Board under Section 6n of the Conservation Act 1987**

- 1) Every Board shall have all such powers as are reasonably necessary or expedient to enable it to carry out its functions.
- 2) Without limiting the generality of subsection (1), each Board may –
  - a) Advocate its interests at any public forum or in any statutory planning process; and
  - b) Appoint committees of members and other suitable persons, and delegate to them functions and powers.
- 3) The power conferred by subsection (2)(a) shall include the right to appear before courts and tribunals in New Zealand and be heard on matters affecting or relating to the Board's functions.



**Photo 3 – Rangitaiki Conservation Area Frost Flats**

#### **4.3. Responsibilities under other Sections of the Conservation Act 1987**

At the Board meeting in May 2017 the Board passed the following resolution:

“The Board agreed to co-opting Dr Phillip Ross to the Board for a term of one year from 1 July 2017 to provide marine science expertise previously provided by Kura Paul-Burke.”

#### **4.4. Board Functions under the National Parks Act 1980**

There are no national parks within the Board’s region.

#### **4.5. Board Membership**

There were 10 Board members for the reporting year 2017/18 appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

Three members terms of office expired on 30 June 2017 - Ken Raureti, Steve Morris and Julian Lee and they were reappointed for a further 3-year term. Thomas Malcolm and Dayle Hunia were new appointments.

Ken Raureti was confirmed as Chairperson and Anne Mackersey as Deputy Chairperson.

The following table lists the membership of Bay of Plenty Conservation Board between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018 and their term of office.

Table 1: Board Membership

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	Term served
Ken Raureti	Rotorua	1/7/11	30/6/2020	2
Steve Morris	Papamoa	1/7/14	30/6/2020	1
Julian Lee	Opotiki	1/7/14	30/6/2020	1
Heidi Litchwark	Maketu	1/5/14	30/6/2018	1
Bill Clark	Whakatane	1/5/14	30/6/2018	1
Anne Mackersey	Whakamarama	1/5/14	30/6/2019	1
Mark Copeland	Rotorua	1/7/16	30/6/2019	1
Thomas Malcolm	Rotorua	1/7/17	30/6/19	1
Mawera Karetai	Whakatane	1/7/16	30/6/19	Resigned 17/10/17
Dayle Hunia	Whakatane	15/08/17	30/6/2020	1
Phil Ross	Tauranga	1/7/17	30/6/2018	1

#### 4.6. Board Meetings

The Bay of Plenty Conservation Board held four meetings during the reporting period. Venues for the Board meetings are varied each year to ensure a wide coverage of communities and enable members of the public in the region to attend meetings and access the Board.

Table 2: Board meeting dates and location

Board meeting date	Meeting location and venue
16 August 2017	Tauranga DOC office
14 November 2017	Rotorua DOC office
27 February 2018	Tauranga DOC office
17 May 2018	Opotiki DOC office



**Photo 4 – Board members and Doc staff at Waipunga Falls**

4.7. Attendance

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

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles.

**Table 3: Board Attendance**

Board Member	Board meetings	Liaison meetings	Special events
Ken Raureti	4/4	2	1
Anne Mackersey	4/4	1	3
Mawera Karetai	1/4		
Bill Clark	4/4	1	
Heidi Lichtwark	4/4		
Julian Lee	4/4	1	
Steve Morris	3/4		
Phil Ross	3/4		
Thomas Malcolm	3/4		
Mark Copeland	3/4		



***Photo 5 – BOP Conservation Board visit Rangitaiki River conservation area frost flats***



***Photo 6 – Matea Road wetland/frost flat***



#### 4.8. Board Committees and Representation

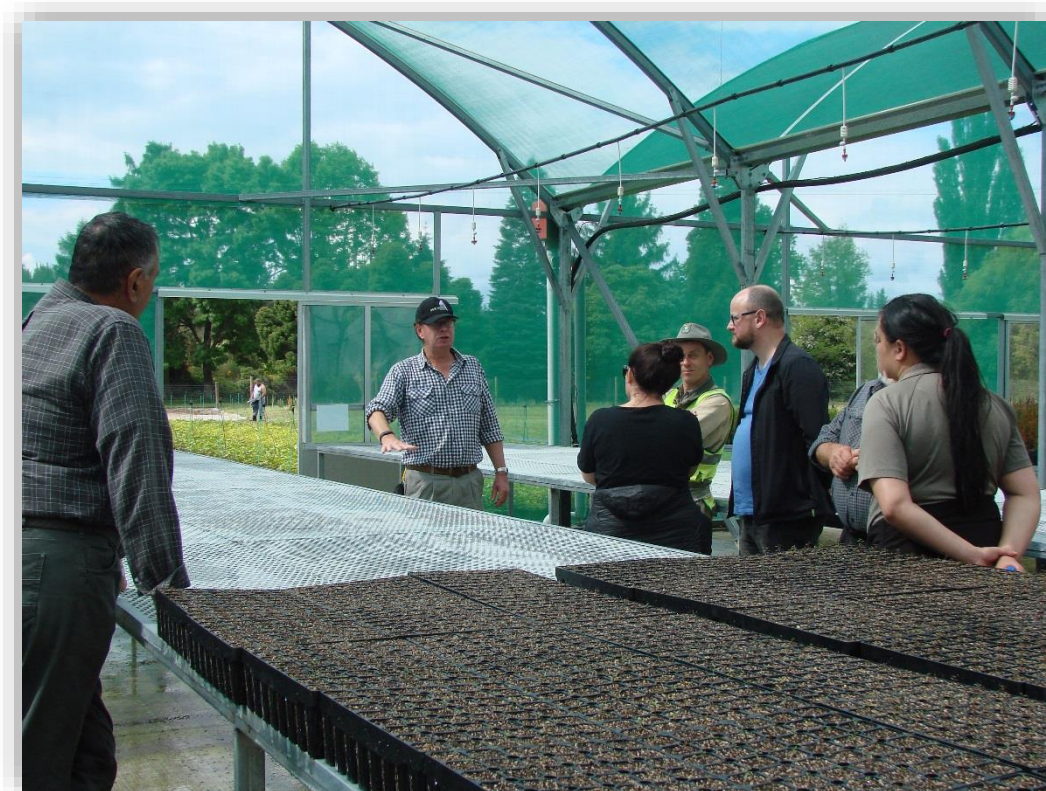
##### *Te Pua-a-Tane Whirinaki sub-committee*

The purpose of this subcommittee was to fulfil the statutory role of the Board in relation to the development of the Whirinaki Te Pua-a-Tane Conservation Management Plan which was a requirement of Ngati Whare's treaty settlement with the Crown. The sub-committee of Ken Raureti, Bill Clark & Julian Lee was established in the previous board year.

##### *BOP Conservation Management Strategy sub-committee*

The purpose of this subcommittee was to advise the Department on matters associated with development of the next Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). The membership of the sub-committee has varied over the year with the core membership being Julian Lee and Anne Mackersey supported by other Board members including Steve Morris, Heidi Litchwark, Phil Ross and Dayle Hunia.

Another role of the sub-committee has been to provide oversight and feedback on Stewardship Land, which constitutes a large proportion of public conservation land within the Bay of Plenty region, particularly the significance of this land category within the outcomes sought by the CMS for protection, restoration, and enhanced biodiversity. The Board continues to push for greater clarity on protecting conservation benefits of both small and large land areas categorised as Stewardship Land within the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board area. As noted in the 2016/17 annual report, the Board maintains a watching brief on the region's top 5 Stewardship Land areas that have progressed to the national list. As CMS development progresses the Board looks to the Department for regular updates and review of priority areas at Board meetings, and where appropriate inclusion of field visits to these sites (e.g. Frost Flat field trip which highlighted the threats from Wilding pines and neighbouring grazing pressures).



*Photo 7 – Ngati Whare Nursery - Minginui*

Table 4: Subcommittees

Subcommittee	Date established	Members
Whirinaki Te Pua-a Tane	2015	Ken Raureti, Bill Clark, Julian Lee
BOP Conservation Management Strategy	2015	Julian Lee, Anne Mackersey, Steve Morris, Heidi Litchwark, Phil Ross, Dayle Hunia.

### *Representation*

A Board representative attended the regional meeting of the team considering the DOC Community Fund applications in 2017. Successful applications in the Bay of Plenty part of the region included Ōhiwa Headland Sanctuary Trust, Mokaihaha Kōkako Trust (Mokaihaha Kokako Recovery Project), Manawahe Eco Trust (Northern protection of the Manawahe Ecological corridor), Kaharoa Kokako Trust (Kapukapu Reserve Protection), Ngati Tahu-Ngati Whaoa Runanga Trust (Restoration of Te Tihi o Maunga Kakaramea), Mokoia Community Association (Hannahs Bay Looking to the Future), Te Runanga o Ngati Kea Ngati Tuara Trust (Conservation of Horohoro Maunga) Te Mano Puha Charitable Trust (Upokorehe Kiwi Project), Nukuhou Saltmarsh Care group (Uretara Island Restoration & Conservation) Waioweka Marae Sports, Cultural & Heritage Incorporated on behalf of Opeke Marae (Waioweka pest control and restoration project) and Bay Conservation Alliance.

Bill Clark represented the Conservation Board on the Te Tapa Toru-ā-Toi Joint Management Committee which was established under the Ngati Awa Claims Settlement Act 2005. The role of this committee is to give effect to co-operative conservation management and planning with the Department for the three reserves of Ōhope Scenic Reserve, Tauwhare Pā and Moutohorā. The Board's work this year focussed on the initiation of a review of the Te Tapa Toru Conservation Management Plan.

Bill Clark was also proposed as a Board representative to the Bay of Connections visitor economy group as a way of engaging more with the wider community around tourism opportunities on public conservation land.

Bill Clark and Ken Raureti shared the Board liaison role with the Eastern Fish and Game Council based in Rotorua, attending some of the Eastern Fish and Game Council meetings and maintaining open communication with the Council members.

Table 5: Summary of the representation

Representation	Members
<b>DOC Community Fund</b>	Anne Mackersey
<b>Bay of Connections</b>	Bill Clark
<b>Eastern Fish and Game Council</b>	Ken Raureti/Bill Clark
<b>Te Tapa Toru-ā-Toi committee</b>	Bill Clark

## 4.9. Training for members

The annual Board workshop was held in July 2017 and included a presentation from Kirsti Luke. The Board appreciated, firstly the chance to comment on the draft Te Kawa o Te Urewera, and secondly the presentation by Kirsti Luke of Te Kawa o Te Urewera at the workshop. The Board was deeply impressed by the approach taken by this very strategic and thoughtful document setting out the Objectives and policies for Te Urewera. In

particular, the focus of Te Kawa ‘about the management of people for the benefit of the land’. The intent of this aspiration has not been lost on the Board in its own thinking about the current BOP Conservation Management Plan development. The Board looks forward to maintaining and developing its relationship with Te Urewera.



*Photo 8 – Kokomoka Frost Flats*

Information on stewardship land prioritisation and an overview of the key Bay of Plenty flora and fauna was also provided to the Board.

In addition to the regular updates on the Department’s activities provided in the Directors report which is considered at each meeting, the Board received additional briefings and updates. Topics covered this year were:

- Permissions improvement work and statutory land management processes
- Wallaby management
- Kauri dieback
- Threatened species strategy
- Predator Free 2050
- Purpose and implementation of Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, and the Treaty of Waitangi
- CMS review process
- Marine conservation and management including marine reserve monitoring

- Operational policy and Drones

The Department also provided an update on conservation activities within the local area at each meeting location.

Anne Mackersey attended the PA2050 Symposium: Implementing a 2050 vision. The workshop brought together key thinkers and speakers to investigate and propose a vision for Aotearoa/New Zealand's protected areas. Researchers, policy makers, mana whenua, government and non-government agencies, not-for profits, and other professionals were able to discuss their perspectives on future options for protected areas during the two-day workshop. Speakers included the Hon Eugenie Sage (Minister of Conservation and Land Information) and Director General, Lou Sanson.

#### 4.10. Community and DOC Involvement in Board Meetings

Public forums are offered at each Board meeting for members of the community to raise conservation issues with the Board.

- Hayden Henry presented to the board at their August 2017 meeting in Tauranga in relation to advocacy for kaitiakitanga for tangata whenua of Tauranga Moana.
- Maru Tapsell presented to the Board on the Waitaha Raupatu at the November 2017 meeting in Rotorua.
- At the May 2018 meeting in Opotiki local farmer, and avid conservationist, Ian Connor presented to the Board on the values of Huntress Creek (Hikutawatawa) Public Conservation Land area (some categorised as Stewardship land). The ecology of this salt marsh area has significant conservation and historic value but is severely threatened by siltation through flooding, and by a range of human activities, which are impacting on the area.
- Tim Senior, BOPRC Senior Land Management Officer presented on collaborative mahi with Nga Whenua Rahui and the Department and in particular the Ohiwa Harbour Implementation Forum (OHIF).

#### 4.11. Field Trips and site inspections

Table 6: Subcommittees

Field Trip date	Field Trip destination and purpose
15 November 2017	Combined Field trip with Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board to Rangitaiki River Conservation Area and Matea Rd Scenic Reserve frost flats and ephemeral wetland. Lunch at Waipunga Falls (Kokomoka Forest) after which the BOP Board continued on to Ngati Whares's Minginui nursery.
26 February 2018	Field trip to Astrolabe and Motiti Island/Motunau to view marine conservation issues and challenges within the Bay of Plenty. Island Management was also discussed.

### ***Frost Flat and Minginui Field trip November 2017***

A trip with Paul Cashmore leading the charge will be assured to take you into the forgotten or lesser known ecological worlds around the country. Our Board was fortunate to have one such trip on 15th November 2017. We joined forces with the Taupo Tongariro Conservation Board on a pathway of discovery to the Frost Flats categorised as 'Stewardship Land' that nestle in the far south and less accessible reaches of the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board's area. More easily accessed from the Napier-Taupo Road the Board convoyed along the highway, in anticipation of discovering these areas that used to be referred to as 'wastelands' in the 1970-80's.



*Photo 9 – Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Members at Kokomoka Frost Flats*

The first stop over was to the Rangitaiki River frost flat. It nestles adjacent to a pine plantation in the headwaters of the Rangitaiki River. To the untrained eye this area looks 'wasteland'. Wildling pines up to eight years old are starting to take hold and the brown mono landscape underneath the pines, of Turpentine shrub, makes for a somewhat unimaginative landscape. However, it was easy to get infected by the Department's staff enthusiasm and view this 'wasteland' under different lenses once the processes functioning within it and the uniqueness of this habitat could be understood.

Urgency was the clear message as this area is rapidly losing the battle against ongoing seeding of pines. The cost and logistics for the Whakatane district to channel valuable funds into this area has left it well down the priority list. Paul highlighted the fact if action is not taken now this area will be lost for good. There are times when boundary lines negatively impact and this is representation of one such example. The practical solution to rescuing this vulnerable area was through the co-operation with the Taupo office who could easily access this area and provide the

resources needed to deal to the wildling pines. For the Whakatane office staff it is logistically and financially a challenging exercise.

In stark contrast the next stopover took us into the headwaters of the Rangitaiki River, to the Tongariro Taupo Conservation Board site of the Rangitaiki Frost Flat area. A completely unseen, extensive basin of Frost Flats that nestles south of the highway and snuggles into the surrounds of Lochinvar Station was a sight to behold. This area has been a focus of a successful wildling pine programme. Threats to this area will continue be wildling pines, the contaminants from surrounding farm land, 4WD vehicle damage and fire but the site is easily accessed for local department staff and they are managing threats and risks well.

Our final 'dual' with the Boards was immediately adjacent to the highway, Matea Rd ephemeral wetland/frost flat surrounded by farmland before a kai stop at the scenic Waipunga Falls and parting of our ways. Returning on the back road Whirinaki provided an opportunity to view further Frost Flat ecology (Kokomoka Forest) before arriving at Minginui where Ngati Whare hosted the Board through their native nursery. This was an opportunity for the whole Board to meet with Ngati Whare, following the signing off of their Whirinaki CMP and gain a greater understanding of their future endeavours to establish production native forestry, propagated through the nursery.

### *Marine Field Trip to Otaiti and Motiti February 2018*

On 26 February 2018, the Conservation Board headed out into the coastal waters of the Bay of Plenty to get some first-hand experience of the region's marine life and learn about current conservation initiatives and the threats facing marine biodiversity in the Bay of Plenty and beyond. The trip was led by Phil Ross from the University of Waikato with additional local, cultural and scientific expertise provided by Hugh Sayers and Umuhuri Matehaere from the Motiti Rohe Moana Trust (MRMT), Rebecca Stirnemann from Forest and Bird and John Heaphy from DOC.

First stop was Otaiti (Astrolabe Reef) and the wreck of the MV Rena. The group discussed the cultural significance and history of Otaiti, the ecological changes that occurred while the reef was closed to fishing (during the Rena salvage), and the rapid decline in abundance of harvested species, particularly crayfish, following the lifting of the exclusion zone after five years of protection. Then it was time to get in the water for a snorkel around the shallow sections of the reef and the remains of the bow of the Rena. The Board was able to see a diverse array of algae and fish species, including blue maomao, two spotted demoiselles, butterfly perch, red moki, banded and spotted wrasse, kahawai and black angel fish. Everyone was surprised and impressed by the diversity and abundance of marine life which really emphasized the need to 'put one's head under the water's surface' to even start to get an understanding of the regions' marine biodiversity.

Next stop was Motunau (Plate Island), a 3.6 ha island wildlife sanctuary to the east of Motiti Island. John Heaphy was able to tell us about the Department's conservation activities on Motunau, its status as one of the few islands with intact native vegetation, and about the distinct populations of tuatara on the various sections of the island which are completely isolated from each other by water channels that tuatara cannot cross.

Our last stop before heading back to land was Motiti Island. Hugh and Umuhuri discussed with the Board, the MRMT's proposal for protection of marine biodiversity within the Motiti Natural Environment Area. The proposal is for a series of Wahi Tapu (no-take) areas, including Otaiti, Motunau and sections of Motiti Island, and a wider Wahi Taonga management area in which fishing activities would be managed to support the restoration of biodiversity as well as recreational and cultural experiences and harvest.

Where this initiative is novel is that it is proposed under the RMA rather than the Marine Reserves

Act. The proposal, although supported in Environment Court, is currently under appeal and passing through the NZ court system. Rebecca also discussed the threats facing seabirds and the potential for this initiative to provide protection against coastal birds being entrapped in fishing gear as well as increasing their access to food. The Board then entered the water one last time to take a look at a more sheltered coastal marine ecosystem. Small paua were found up in the shallows and we were able to see where sea urchins, high in abundance due to the removal of their predators (snapper and crayfish), were consuming kelp forests, thereby creating low biodiversity areas known as urchin barrens.

It was a fun and informative day out for all involved and has spurred the Board on in their desire to learn more about the marine environment and support marine conservation initiatives in the Bay of Plenty.



***Photo 10 – Dr Phil Ross addresses the BOP Conservation Board***

#### **4.12. Special Events**

- Te Pua-a-Tane Whirinaki CMP Launch Murupara 20 October 2017
- Bill Clark and Anne Mackersey attended this on the Board's behalf

#### **4.13. Community Activities supported by the Board**

##### **Kaimai Mamaku Catchment Forum**

The Board continues to support the re-establishment of the Kaimai Mamaku Catchment Forum, which brings agencies, multiple kaitiaki, stakeholders and communities from the

Western Bay of Plenty and Eastern Waikato, together with a shared vision and direction. An Operational Plan has been completed and adopted in October 2017 by the Forum, identifying priority projects for the Forum to focus on over the next 5 years. A Forum co-ordinator has been appointed, supported by the Department of Conservation, Bay of Plenty Regional Council and Waikato Regional Council. Cam Speedy was engaged and has completed a discussion document focussed on Pest Animal Management in the Kaimai Mamaku area. This discussion document is currently open for public consultation.

#### **4.14. Annual Work Plan**

Please refer to Appendix 1 for the full Board Annual Work Programme.

### **5. Statutory activity**

#### **5.1. Conservation Management Strategy (CMS)**

The sub-committee has been focussed on the development of the Places framework and the vision for the BOP looking forward 10 years.

The subcommittee initially identified key documents, Acts and information that would help inform and guide their response in working through the CMS process. The subcommittee continue to source and use information as it becomes available to keep up to date with iwi, community, environmental and conservation developments.

A project plan for the Departments Planning Team for the development of the Bay of Plenty CMS was endorsed by the Board. Building on the Sub-committee's pre-work on defining Places during 2106/17 regular meetings and two, one day workshops of the Board sub-committee with Department operational and management planning staff and have culminated in defining and detailing six draft Places (Kaimai Mamaku, Waiariki, Whirinaki, Eastern Catchments, Coastal and Marine and Te Mana o Te Wai). These Places will constitute Part II of the draft CMS and cover the Bay of Plenty Conservation Board area.

The two workshops especially were of tremendous value and good progress was made in garnering clarity and focus to the 6 draft Places best describing the essence of our region. The Boards emphasis is on ensuring sufficient stretch in the long-term goals, the desire to see change, and for each Place, focused Outcomes supported by well-articulated issues and opportunities. The Board also wished to see a stronger leadership role (built around strong advocacy) by the Department to achieve stated Outcomes, and 'a personification with the land' push. Given the CMS's 25-year vision, population expansion, emerging and future technologies, global drivers such as Climate Change will undoubtedly need to be factored in. Above all the CMS needs to challenge and excite people.

The Boards also wishes to see an enhanced and clearer emphasis on Marine, and on Freshwater. The latter poses an interesting challenge as to how water might be represented within the CMS Place-based approach. The sub-committee's and the Departments processes and progress on the draft CMS to date has been endorsed by the whole board. After further workshops during July and August of 2018 between the Sub-committee and the Department, the next step is to have a draft for pre-consultation with iwi and other stakeholders prior to public notification in February/March of 2019. The sub-committee thanks the work put in by the department on progress to date on the draft CMS.



## **Management plans**

The sub-committee continued their work in 17/18 to finalise the CMP and ensure it captured the “moemoea” (vision) of this place for both Ngati Whare and DOC. The culmination of this work was the launch of the final CMP at Murupara on 20 October 2017 where Bill Clark spoke on behalf of the Board and sung a beautiful waiata in acknowledgment of this significant milestone and the special relationship the Board has with Ngati Whare.

## **6. Advice and Advocacy**

Board members met with local MP's to advocate for marine protected areas in the Bay of Plenty and to discuss large scale pest control in the Kaimai Ranges and other significant areas. Regional Council were also part of this latter conversation.

The Board has continued its general advocacy for matters including Stewardship Land, impacts of population growth and pest management at various forums including NZCA.

### **6.1. Other Conservation Boards liaison**

Nominated Board liaison members have continued their contacts with the Boards of adjoining Conservation Board regions, namely East Coast-Hawkes Bay (ECHB), Tongariro-Taupo and Waikato, through reciprocal attendance of respective Boards, liaison representatives and interchange of meeting agendas and meeting minutes.

Information sharing and discussion across many common issues for both Boards continues to be of value, and their reports noted at respective Board meetings. Specifically; in the case of ECHB and Waikato the role and experiences of Board members in guiding the development of their respective CMS's, the processes defining Places, classification of Stewardship Land, Departmental reporting, methods of Board monitoring and cross-boundary co-ordination. The biosecurity threat of Kauri dieback is an ongoing concern for Waikato and Bay of Plenty with mitigation work and track closures in both regions fully supported by the Boards.

Staff and Board members from Bay of Plenty and Taupo Tongariro joined forces on a field trip to the Frost Flats along the Napier Taupo Road which defines a boundary between the two Board areas.

### **6.2. New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison**

Warren Parker has been the Boards NZCA liaison person for the year and his advice and input has provided a valuable insight into both the work of the Authority and national issues in general, offering a strategic view on these matters.

The NZCA met in Rotorua in October 2017 and this included a field trip to Waimangu, Te Kopia (stewardship area), Waikite valley and Wingspan. The Board valued having the Authority in the Boards area and the opportunity to discuss our local issues and challenges and showcase some of our unique and varied geothermal environments.

### **6.3. Department of Conservation advice**

The Board provided advice to the Department in relation to two concession application during the year.

## 1. Rotorua Golf Club lease

The Rotorua Golf Club request for a 60-year lease as spoken to by DOC staff. It was noted that DOC Pukeroa Oruawhata Trust (POT) who have an appointment to administer and control have indicated general support but have some specific requirements around the terms of a new lease. The Board indicated they would like to know the outcome of the pending meeting being held by POT before providing advice to the Department and expressed some concerns.

## 2. Wairua Hut

This application by Eastern Fish & Game for a licence for the Wairua Hut was addressed by Anthony van Dorp from the Eastern Fish & Game Council. The Board supported the application and waiver of associated fees.

## 6.4. Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Meetings were held in different parts of the Bay of Plenty region and opportunities for the public to attend Board meetings were advertised.

Members of the public attended the Public Forum at several of the year's meetings and a range of issues were raised. The Board appreciated their input and efforts made to attend the meetings and responded by letter with a response to questions asked or concerns raised.

Public forum issues raised were:

- kaitiakitanga for tangata whenua of Tauranga Moana
- Waitaha Raupatu
- Huntress Creek management
- collaborative mahi at Ohiwa harbour

The Board has an active interest in what is happening in conservation in communities and so has a practice of inviting representatives from regional and community organisations to present at each meeting. Speakers this year have represented:

- Bay of Connections - Cheryl Lewis
- Toi Ohomai - Keith Gregor
- Opotiki District Council - Mayor John Forbes and council CEO Aileen Laurie
- Opotiki District Council - John Forbes

## 6.5. Community visibility

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website. The Board also contributes to the Conservation Board newsletter and this has been a useful vehicle to share the Board's work and focus during the year.

## **6.6. District and Regional Councils advocacy and advice**

The Board appreciates the opportunities to meet with representatives of local Councils and this year met with Opotiki District Council as part of its meeting at this place. The Mayor, John Forbes spoke to the Board on the Opotiki Harbour Development project and this was further added to by the Chief Executive Aileen Lawrie. The Deputy Mayor – Lynn Riesterer spoke to the challenges facing the district and future economic development aspirations for the District.

## **6.7. Iwi liaison and advocacy**

A key focus of the May meeting of the Board in Opotiki was to meet with the Whakatohea Trust Board. This was seen as an initial meeting by the Board who are keen to develop this relationship further. The Chief Executive of the Trust Board, Dickie Farrar attended the meeting and spoke about services the Whakatohea Trust Board provides to the iwi and wider community and the future relationship they look forward to building with the Department and the Board.

## 7. Appendix I –Annual Work Plan

### Bay of Plenty Conservation Board Work Programme 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018

#### BAY of PLENTY CONSERVATION BOARD WORK PROGRAMME

##### PART A:

<b>1</b>	<b>CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
1.1	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVES:</b> To continue to provide advice and support towards the completion and monitoring of the Conservation Management Plan (CMP) for Whirinaki Te Pua-a -Tane.

##### PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	The CMP sub-committee will continue to work with the Department and Ngati Whare on relevant aspects of this process as per the settlement legislation
<b>C</b>	The sub-committee will report regularly to the Board on progress with the CMP and its implementation and seek their input and endorsement where required

1.2	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVES:</b> To review the current Bay of Plenty Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) In preparation for its Revision
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##### PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Confirm appointment of a Board CMS sub-committee to meet on a regular basis and engage with the Board at a strategic level to develop a 25 year vision for the BOP Conservation Board area
<b>B</b>	Work with the Department to identify 'Places' that will inform development of the CMS
<b>C</b>	Work with the Department on implementation of the review process, including community engagement and identification of significant community groups and strategic partners
<b>D</b>	Continue to liaise with neighbouring Boards on cross boundary matters relevant to the development of the Bay of Plenty CMS
<b>E</b>	Consider and receive updates on the progression of stewardship land parcels nominated for re-categorisation and review the positioning of stewardship land in the context of the CMS revision

<b>2</b>	<b><u>Coastal And Marine Areas</u></b>
2.1	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVE:</b> To continue to grow the Board's knowledge of the coastal and marine areas within the Bay of Plenty Board area

### PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Request and receive updates on these areas from relevant experts to increase the Board's awareness on coastal and marine ecosystems with a focus on issues and risks, including linkages to freshwater ecosystems.
<b>B</b>	Encourage greater awareness of endangered marine ecosystems, habitats and species, and advocate for community led marine protection in the Bay of Plenty region.

<b>3</b>	<b><u>OTHER STATUTORY FUNCTIONS</u></b>
	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVE:</b>
3.1	Continue to develop a positive working relationship with the Eastern Fish and Game Council regarding issues of mutual interest within the Boards area

### PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Confirm appointment of Board liaison to the Eastern Fish and Game Council for 17/18
<b>B</b>	Board liaison to attend Eastern Fish and Game Council meetings regularly and exchange information (minutes and newsletters) to facilitate communication and mutual understanding of issues of interest
<b>C</b>	Request attendance of Eastern Fish and Game Manager at Board meetings where matters of mutual interest are being considered

	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVE:</b>
3.2	To provide Board representation to the joint management committee Te Tapatoru a Toi as per the Ngati Awa Settlement Act 2005.

### PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Confirm appointment of a Board representative to the joint management committee Te Tapatoru a Toi
<b>B</b>	Board representative to attend committee meetings and exchange information to facilitate communication and mutual understanding of issues of interest and concern and present regular reports back to the Board
<b>C</b>	Receive copies of Te Tapatoru a Toi agenda and minutes, and other reports when appropriate

	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVE</b>
3.3	Build strong working relationships with other Statutory Board roles/liaisons within the region

### PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Continue to develop a positive working relationship with the Te Urewera Board.
<b>B</b>	Invite the Lake Rotoiti Scenic Reserve Board to attend BOP Conservation Board meetings (2017 -2018)
<b>C</b>	Invite the Lake Okataina Scenic Reserve Board to attend BOP Conservation Board meetings (2016 -2017)
<b>D</b>	Undertake further understanding of how these Boards and other key stakeholder identities will contribute to the CMS review process
<b>4</b>	<b><u>ADVOCACY</u></b>
	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVE</b>
4.1	

	The Board will advocate for and encourage positive conservation outcomes through public processes including under the Resource Management Act
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### Planned Board Activities

<b>A</b>	Utilise public forums and statutory processes to advocate for native fish species habitat protection within the Bay of Plenty
<b>B</b>	Advocate for increasing awareness, ongoing monitoring and mitigation of the threat posed by Kauri dieback within the Bay of Plenty with relevant agencies

## PART B:

### GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

<b>5</b>	<b><u>WORKING WITH THE DEPARTMENT</u></b>
5.1	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVE:</b> Develop a meaningful relationship with the Department and engage strategically in conservation within the Board's area to provide high-level advice and conservation leadership

### PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Continue to include senior Department Managers and other staff as required in Board meetings to better inform discussions and decision-making and provide feedback at a higher strategic level
<b>B</b>	Attend Departmental events when invited to help promote and support departmental initiatives to build strong community relationships
<b>C</b>	Utilise specialist knowledge and skills available within the Department for on-going strategic learning which will enable Board members to fulfil their role in an informed manner
<b>D</b>	Work with Department staff to gain a clear understanding of the conservation economy and the Boards function in relationship to concession processes

<b>6</b>	<b><u>TAKING ACCOUNT OF MINISTERIAL PRIORITIES FOR THE DEPARTMENT</u></b>
6.1	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVE</b> To identify opportunities to support the Healthy Parks / Healthy People programme

### PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Support Departmental community conservation events and projects
<b>B</b>	Build relationships with key partners and pilot programmes to raise the visibility of the connection between health and the environment; in particular the BOP programme 'Virtually on Track'
<b>C</b>	Include in Board agendas Departmental updates on a national level to understand the broader context of the programme

6.2	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVE</b> To identify opportunities to support War on Weeds programme
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## PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Support Departmental, partnership and community projects with the focus on wilding pines
<b>B</b>	Include in Board agendas Departmental updates on progress to eradicate wilding pines across the BOP Conservation Board area

<b>7</b>	<b><u>WORKING WITH ADJOINING BOARDS AND THE NZCA</u></b>
	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVE</b>
7.1	To liaise with neighbouring conservation boards and the NZCA about conservation issues of mutual interest with a particular focus on the development of the Conservation Management Strategies and Conservation Management Plans

## PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Appoint individual Board members to liaise with neighbouring Conservation Boards
<b>B</b>	Support liaison Board members to attend at least one meeting of neighbouring Boards per year
<b>C</b>	Communicate with neighbouring Boards and attend any meetings and/or workshops relevant to cross boundary issues and common 'Places'
<b>E</b>	Invite neighbouring Boards and NZCA liaison to attend meetings to share knowledge and experiences, common aspirations and cross-boundary matters

<b>8</b>	<b><u>UNDERSTANDING THE BOARD'S CONTRIBUTION TO GIVING EFFECT TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE TREATY OF WAITANGI</u></b>
	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVE</b>
8.1	To understand the regional Treaty settlement context and the Treaty principles under section 4 of the Conservation Act

## PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Seek regular updates on Treaty Settlement progress in the Board's region
<b>B</b>	Seek information and understanding in relation to Section 4 of the Conservation Act from the Department
<b>C</b>	Meet with local Iwi where suitable as part of the Board meetings and field trips

<b>9</b>	<b><u>ENGAGING WITH THE COMMUNITY</u></b>
	<b>BOARD OBJECTIVE</b>
9.1	Build relationships with district and regional councils, NGOs and community groups to develop good working relationships on conservation issues of mutual interest and concern

## PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Individual Board members will continue to build strategic relationships with local bodies and community entities to engage as appropriate on local conservation interests
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## PART C: RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES

<b>10</b>	<b><u>RISKS FROM THE BOARD'S PERSPECTIVE</u></b>
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## PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES

<b>A</b>	Further delays to the CMS review process could result in a reduced ability for the Department to respond to community aspirations and concerns
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<b>B</b>	The BOP Stewardship land reclassification recommendations could be overlooked if a national approach is taken that is not fully cognisant of regional priorities and/or is resource limited
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11	<b><u>OPPORTUNITIES FOR CONSERVATION GROWTH</u></b>
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**PLANNED BOARD ACTIVITIES**

<b>A</b>	Facilitating and collaborating more with other agencies, NGO's and community organisations
<b>B</b>	Building more understanding and relationships with Iwi and investigating the potential for Iwi based initiatives for improving conservation outcomes.
<b>C</b>	Investigate how the Board support and utilise technology to inform and create linking to community groups to promote and support conservation gains.



## Annual Calendar of common Conservation Board activities

1 July – 30 June

Timeframe	Event
1 July	New Board member appointments take effect
31 July	Annual report from previous year due with the NZCA
Second half of August	Minister's Letter of Expectation sent to Boards
Mid-late September	Board chairs – annual meeting in Wellington to discuss Minister's Letter of Expectation and prospective work programmes.
Mid November	Board chairs send work programme to Minister, via DDG Conservation Partnerships
Early – mid December	Public notices calling for nominations called for next year's appointments (closing date of 28 days from date of first notice)
By mid February	Departmental recommendations provided to SBU for collation and clearance with DG or delegate.
Early May	Minister's proposed Board appointments considered by Appointments and Honours Committee then Cabinet
Mid May	Board appointments made by Minister of Conservation
Late May	Press releases issued
Late June	Board pages updated on DOC website



*Waipunga Falls – Bay of Plenty Conservation Region*

This report is presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required by the Conservation Act and distributed to interested parties. Members of the public are welcome to attend Conservation Board meetings. If you would like more information on the Bay of Conservation Board please see the website [www.conservationboards.org.nz](http://www.conservationboards.org.nz) or contact the Board Support Officer, at the Department of Conservation in Taupo phone (07) 376 0072 or e-mail [bayofplentyconservationboard@doc.govt.nz](mailto:bayofplentyconservationboard@doc.govt.nz).