

Chatham Islands Conservation Board

Te Pou Atawhai O Wharekauri Rekohu



Annual Report to the New Zealand Conservation Authority

1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007

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Serviced by the Department of Conservation
Chatham Island Area Office
PO Box 114, Waitangi, Chatham Islands
&
Wellington Conservancy
PO Box 5086, Wellington

Front Cover Photo

'Westy', the last Chatham Islands shore plover of a population on Western Reef, Chatham Islands. He was taken to Mount Bruce Wildlife Centre where his progeny now adds to the genetic diversity of his species, though Westy himself has since died.

Photographer:
John Dowding ©

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1 INTRODUCTION

Chairperson's Comments

I resigned as Chairperson from the Board in February 2007. The Board was very fortunate that Peter Johnson was willing to take up the role of Chairperson. Peter is the first non-residing Board member to become Chairperson of the Chatham Island Board. He brings a wealth of knowledge, and also has great leadership skills and is well respected by many. Peter, I thank you for the huge contribution you make to the Chatham Islands Conservation Board.

I would also like to thank my fellow Board members for their time and commitment on the Board in their role as advisors to the Department. It is imperative that those people who sit around the table remember that they are there to represent the community of Chatham and Pitt Islands entirely. Fortunately, our Board comprises of people who have lived on the Islands for many years and all have local knowledge and various interests regarding conservation on our islands.

Also, I would like to thank Alex our Board Secretary who does a wonderful job, she has certainly made my job easier, thank you to Ken Hunt the Area Manager for his contribution to the Board and his informative Area Reports. Finally I would like to thank my friends, employers and family again for the help and support they give me that allows me to be involved in such organisations. I have enjoyed the last seven years as a board member and I hope those who sit around the table will do their best to ensure conservation on the Chatham Islands is in the best interest of those who live here for now and the future. Good Luck.

Toni Gregory-Hunt

* * * * *

At the February meeting I was humbled to be elected as Chairperson, a role I was initially hesitant to accept being the only Board member not resident on the Chathams, though it was pointed out that I was only as far away as an email or phone call. The challenge now, for me, is to match the excellent chairing by Toni Day over the previous two years, and by Phil Seymour before her.

My late arrival, from Pitt Island, for my first chairing session, illustrates one of the challenges faced by the Board and its two Pitt members: will the weather and other factors allow for a plane on the morning of a Board meeting. Sometimes this can affect whether the Board meeting has a quorum, though in the past year this has always been the case.

I take my hat off to all those fellow Board members from both Chatham and Pitt, for the time they put into Board matters, despite all their other commitments.

Peter Johnson

2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD

In 2006 the Board resumed its complement of 10 members, compared with having had nine the previous year.

During this year, two Board members were reappointed, Deborah Goomes for a full term and Joe Tapara for a two year term. Eileen Cameron and Shirley King were new appointments for three year terms and Lois Croon was appointed to fill a resignation vacancy for one year.

Peter Johnson was appointed chair in February, replacing Toni Day who stood down after two years of holding the chairperson role.

The Board membership and meeting attendance during the report period was as follows.

Board Member	Meetings attended	Field Inspection
Antoinette (Toni) Day, Chatham Island (Chairperson)	4	
Peter Johnson, Dunedin (Chairperson/Deputy)	3	1
Shirley King (Deputy Chairperson)	3/3	1
Eileen Cameron, Chatham Island	3/3	
Lois Croon, Chatham Island	2/3	1
Deborah Goomes, Chatham Island	3	
Celine Gregory-Hunt, Pitt Island	3/3	1
Judith (Judy) Lanauze, Pitt Island	4	1
Joe Tapara, Chatham Island	1	
Joanne (Jo) Tuanui, Chatham Island	2	

Toni Day has been a member of the Board for seven years, and brings invaluable knowledge and experience to the Board. She is Operations Manager for the Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust and holds strong family connections with Pitt Island. Toni resigned as chairperson in February this year.

Peter Johnson remains our sole mainland Board member and has travelled from his home in Dunedin for the past eight years. He retains a solid core of ability in his field of botany and scientific experience and continues to contribute his extensive knowledge in this area. Peter was voted Chairperson in February this year and has chaired two meetings for the Board this reporting period.

Shirley King was appointed Deputy Chair in February this year after beginning her term on the Board in September 2006. She has a strong affiliation with Moriori and is a current member of the Hokotehi Moriori Trust. Shirley has a sound grounding for the social and indigenous culture of the Chatham Islands.

Eileen Cameron was appointed to the Board in 2006. She is a fifth generation Chatham Islander whose family have had a strong and successful liaison with DOC over many years. Eileen owns both farming and conservation land and therefore offers credibility to historical and conservation values.

Lois Croon was also appointed to the Board in 2006 and is a Chatham Island resident of 35 years. Lois brings extensive knowledge of the history of the Chathams and is passionate about the regeneration of the island habitat. She is a successful and innovative tourist accommodation provider and member of the Chatham Island Visitor Industry Group.

Deborah Goomes has served four years on the Board. She has a long family history with the Chatham Islands, works with local Government as finance manager for the Chatham Islands Council and conveys valuable resource management and planning skills to the Board.

Celine Gregory-Hunt is a newly appointed Board member, resident of Pitt Island. She is secretary for the Pitt Island Conservation Purposes Charitable Trust; a member of the Pitt Island Reserves Committee and offers a dedicated interest in the understanding of conservation tourism issues on Pitt Island.

Judy Lanauze is one of the Pitt Island representatives on the Board, appointed in 2005. Judy has lived on Pitt Island for 24 years and for most of that time was the district nurse for the community. Her family's long history in the conservation of Pitt Island is a contribution of huge merit.

Joe Tapara has been a member of the Board for seven years and brings knowledge and understanding of a wide range of cultural issues on the Island. Joe is a local farmer, has iwi affiliation to Taranaki and is a member of Ha O Te Ora O Wharekauri Trust.

Jo Tuanui was appointed to the Board in 2004. For many years Jo has been a strong advocate for conservation activities and programmes, owns both farm and conservation land and has been a resident of both Pitt and Chatham Islands.

3 THE BOARD'S DISTRICT

The Chatham Island area is one of the four areas that are part of the Wellington Conservancy. The Chatham Islands lie 860 km east of Christchurch, lie at 44° south in the path of the Roaring Forties and consist of eight islands of any appreciable size. The total land area is 97,000 hectares of which main Chatham Island (90,000 ha) and Pitt Island (6,190 ha) are the largest. The Chathams straddle the international dateline: local time is 45 minutes ahead of New Zealand time.

The Chatham Islands are an amazing collection of islands consisting of contrasts and extremes: Beautiful still sunny days with magical blue skies through to raging 45 knot storms that in their own way are awe-inspiring. For much of the year the climate is temperate – temperatures in the low twenties in midsummer which can drop close to 0 degrees in the winter, scattered hail and sleet with occasional rare snow.

Generally main Chatham Island is low-lying and comprises flat to rolling topography. The highest point on the island is 294m. There are many swamps, boggy valley floors and peat soils. The catchments are generally small and shallow though there are a few incised streams in the south. Here the land is at a higher altitude forming a tableland of deep peat covering basalt and a fertile coastal clay region ending abruptly at impressive basalt bluffs. In the north there are scattered low volcanic peaks and long stretches of sandy beach while the island has a large central lagoon of 20,000ha and there are many moderate sized lakes.

Both the natural vegetation and fauna are highly modified and are reduced to remnants as a result of human occupation. Low forest once covered most of the Islands. Approximately 10 % of the forest cover remains – most in the south of the main island. Five main forest types are present featuring broad-leaved species and tarahinau (*Dracophyllum arboreum*). Much of the area has been converted to bracken and shrubland and to a lesser extent pasture. There are extensive areas of restiad, sedge and heath wetlands.

The Chathams have the highest level of endemism of the New Zealand biogeographic region. Twenty nine of the Chatham Island's 320 native plants, 18 of the 73 native birds, 8.5% of New Zealand's threatened freshwater fish and about 20% of the 800 insect species are endemic to the Chathams. One reptile is also endemic to these islands. The New Zealand Geo-preservation Inventory lists 31 sites of nationally important geological interest, 700 archaeological sites are recorded and many more unrecorded.

The Department of Conservation has an Area Office at Te One on main Chatham with 17 staff and a permanent staff member on Pitt Island. Volunteers and staff are present on South East Island (Rangatira) and Mangere Island for short periods during the year, undertaking species protection work during the breeding season of endangered bird species.

There is a small amount of Crown Land in the Chathams - about 6% of Chatham, 40% of Pitt and all of three nature reserves - (Mangere (113ha) and South-East (208ha) Islands and Tuku NR (1238ha). A significant amount of further land has been protected through the covenanting of private land. A key focus of the Department's work in the Chathams is threatened flora and fauna programmes. The vast expanse of ocean surrounding these islands is rich in marine life and supports internationally significant populations of sea birds and nationally significant populations of whales, dolphins and seals.

The Chatham Islands Conservation Board represents a total island population of approximately 640 people and has particularly close contact with the community. Chatham Islanders have very strong ties to their land and resources, reflected by their livelihoods of fishing, farming, and tourism. The

Board enjoys good working relationships with these people. The Board also consults and works with iwi on the Chatham Islands along with the Chatham Islands Council, Enterprise Trust, Federated Farmers and the Chatham Islands Visitor Industry group.

4 BOARD MEETINGS AND INSPECTIONS

Four full day Board Meetings were held during the reporting period.

15 August 2006, Waitangi (Chatham Island)
7 November 2006, Waitangi (Chatham Island)
27 February 2007, Waitangi (Chatham Island)
29 May 2007, Waitangi (Chatham Island)

All Board meetings are normally attended by the Wellington Conservator. Allan Ross visited for his final meeting in August and Alan McKenzie, newly appointed Conservator, met the Chatham Board for the first time in February this year. At the Board meeting in November, Jeff Flavell (Wellington Community Relations Manager) came to the meeting representing Conservancy.

This year several other Conservancy staff have attended the Board meetings whilst on the Chathams for other work. The Board values the opportunity to be able to talk through issues with TSO staff. Dave Houston, TSO Chatham Islands, attended two meetings of the Board, and he was joined at the meeting in February by Colin Miskelly (TSM) and Anaru Luke, Pou Kura Taiao for Wellington Conservancy. Elaine Murphy (RD&I, Christchurch) was invited to the May meeting to talk to a research proposal.

Board meetings are also attended by the Chathams Area Manager, Alison Davis and then Ken Hunt who was seconded to the Chathams in January this year. On two occasions the Programme Manager for the threats programme came to meet Board members and speak to current biosecurity and pest issues.

Mindful of the value of community interchange the Board has arranged for invited guests to be present at various meetings; Bill Carter, Duncan MacMorran (CEO Connovation Ltd), Phil Seymour (Chairperson Ngati Mutunga O Wharekauri Iwi Trust), Patrick Smith (Chatham Islands Mayor) and Bronwyn Thompson.

Field Inspections

These enable Board members to familiarise themselves with the areas of their jurisdiction. They also enable Board members to look at work completed and in progress by Departmental staff.

The Board conducted one full day field trip in February this year.

28 February 2007 – TIORIORI

On 28 February, the day following our meeting, Board members and Department staff visited the north-west of Chatham Island on a field trip that had the various themes of marine mammals, wetlands, weeds, sand dunes, fencing, revegetation, and threatened plants.

At first we visited Port Hutt where a recently stranded Gray's beaked whale had already been discovered by the pecking bills of giant petrels, and where the whale's surviving partner was leaping clear from the water of the bay, a little offshore. The size of the beached whale gave us some idea of the amount of DOC freezer space taken up by the heads of two other such whales from earlier strandings, heads which are awaiting all the protocols and arrangements for transfer to the mainland for research purposes.

Secondly we had an overview of Green Swamp, a large basin swamp towards Wharekauri, now all fenced off and with all but the last few wild cattle and sheep now removed. In this area too the weedy

shrub Chilean guava (*Ugni molinae*) is spreading through both heathland and pasture land, and we saw examples of trial herbicide applications.

Thirdly we drove overland to the coast at the Tutuiri Creek mouth, looked at estuarine wetlands, then walked west along the Tioriori coast to see dunelands on the property of Terry and Donna Tuanui that had been fenced-off in 1999, and a site where thousands of plants have now been put in, a revegetation project that includes trees and shrubs like akeake, hokotaka, and hebe, plus many special and rare plants including pingao, Chatham lily, sowthistle, and sand spurge.

Our final stop was Admiral Farm, where Lois Croon showed off the garden, and where there was plenty discussion about garden plants that are potential environmental weeds, a subject of topical interest because of the current revision of the Chathams Pest Management Strategy.



Photo: DOC staff and Board members at the site of the Gray's beaked whale stranding.



Photo: Estuarine wetlands in the North West of the Chatham Islands.



Photo: Board members walking the Tioriori coast to the dune restoration site.



Photo: Evidence of successful revegetation at Tioriori.

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS UNDER THE CONSERVATION ACT

6M(1)(c) To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation of conservation management strategies and conservation management plants for areas within the jurisdiction of the Board

Conservation Management Strategies

The Chathams Islands Conservation Management Strategy is now in the eighth year of its ten year life. Each year the Board selects 12 implementation topics from this document for the Department to report on. Three monitoring items are addressed for each Board meeting, however the reporting for the February meeting was combined with the May CMS monitoring items.

The CMS implementations reported on by the Department for 2006 – 2007 were as follows with a brief summary of the Board's feedback.

August 2006

6.1.2 Treaty Relationships – The Board accepted the monitoring for this CMS item.

5.3.2 Pitt Island Habitat Protection - It was agreed that the Department need to follow up the research that Bill Lee, Landcare Research, undertook in the Waipaua Reserve in November 2003.

5.5.2 Ecosystem protection on islands – It was noted that it was valuable for the Board to work with the Department in maintaining good working relationships with landowners, especially in the situation where ownership has been unclear in out-lying islands.

November 2006

6.2.4 Freshwater habitat – The Board was pleased that Peter Johnson was continuing to seek funding assistance for the research and development of a booklet on the wetlands of the Chatham Islands, this would significantly improve the knowledge of the freshwater habitats on the Chatham Islands.

6.2.5 Marine mammal management – The Board encouraged further development in working with iwi to jointly manage marine mammal strandings.

5.2.10 Landscape – The Board was happy with this monitoring item.

February 2007 - May 2007

6.4.3 Customary Iwi use – It was understood that the Department were continuing to use '*Procedure for Community and Iwi Involvement in Managing Biota, Taonga and Cultural Materials - Chatham Islands*' as a guide to help manage island taonga.

6.5.3 Compliance and Law Enforcement – The Board accepted that there were minimal activities that require law enforcement on the Chatham Islands.

5.2.10 Titi Research – The Board continues to encourage the Department to undertake further research for the sustainable harvest of titi on the Island.

5.2.2 Landscape protection – The Board made no comment.

5.3.5 Pitt Island predator eradication – The Board was aware that the habitat assessment of Pitt Island had been undertaken by contract as requested by the Pitt Island Reserve and Conservation Purposes Charitable Trust, and looked forward to seeing the report when it was made available.

6.2.7 Plant pest control - The Board was very happy with the Department's follow-up to the recent plant pest discoveries.

The Board is aware how the Department is moving towards integrating the Conservation Management Strategies. They considered using a different approach to their CMS monitoring time at future meetings, mindful that a review of the Chatham Island CMS document is due to commence in two years' time.

6M (1) (d) (ii) To advise the Department on any other conservation matter relating to any area within the jurisdiction of the Board

Board were consulted or gave advice to the Department on the following species translocations and research proposals:

Species translocation proposals

Shore plover translocation

The Department sought the Board's support to transfer juvenile Chatham Island shore plover from Mount Bruce to Mana Island. The Board supported the transfer but requested that investigation was continued to find other suitable potential sites on the Chatham Islands for future releases.

Taiko translocation

The Board was consulted on the Department's proposal to transfer taiko chicks from the Tuku Nature Reserve to the Sweetwater Conservation Covenant, where a predator-free enclosure had recently been established.

The Board had concerns about the risks that may be associated with translocating a critically endangered species, but resolved to support the proposal providing that the Department seeks the Board's support following each transfer, for the subsequent three years that translocations were proposed.

Buff weka translocation

In August the Board considered an application from Russell Langdon to translocate six pair of Buff weka from the Chatham Islands to Lagmor, a fenced wetland habitat on the mainland. The Board did not support the transfer due to the lack of documentation as to the accomplishment of Mr Langdon's previous translocations.

In view of this, Conservancy sought further information from Mr Langdon in regards to this matter and with subsequent details provided on these previous transfers, the Board, in February acknowledged the submission and supported the contract in full.

Research Proposals

Two internal and one external research proposals were considered by the Board during this reporting period.

In all cases where the Board has considered proposals, iwi and community perspectives have been carefully considered and reference made to the document '*Procedure for Community and Iwi Involvement in Managing Biota, Taonga & Cultural Materials*'. On all occasions the Board has requested reports on research findings.

Following is a brief account on the Board's consideration and decision on the proposals.

Chatham Islands mudfish monitoring survey

The Board had supported two previous proposals to survey mudfish and requested that reports were provided on the research findings. In response to the current proposal to follow up the research the Board noted they were unhappy with the lack of information being reported back by the Department. At the following meeting of the Board, the Department provided a comprehensive report of the research undertaken and the Board then resolved to support the ongoing monitoring.

Application to collect blue penguin tissue

The Chatham Islands had been excluded from the consultation process for carrying out research on blue penguins throughout the whole of New Zealand. A separate permit was sought to collect blue penguin tissue samples from the Chatham Islands so to complete studies and determine whether there are distinct variations through out the blue penguins range in New Zealand.

The Board supported the proposal.

PAAP-Cat toxin trials on weka

Elaine Murphy from RD&I and Duncan MacMorran the CEO from Connovation Ltd travelled to the Chathams to speak to the Board about the proposal to undertake toxin trials on 20 Buff weka on the Island. Local iwi were also given the opportunity to meet with Elaine and discuss the research proposal.

The Board understood that the development of a toxin that could safely and effectively be used for

cats and remain harmless to weka, would be of great assistance to pest control operations especially locally, and supported the trials to be carried out on the Chatham Islands

Shore plover Recovery Programme

The Board was advised in May that 'Westy', the last remaining shore plover rescued from Western Reef, Chatham Islands, had sadly died at the Mount Bruce Wildlife Centre.

The Department recommended that Westy's remains be retained at Te Papa as a study skin.

Previously the Board had reason to challenge some questionable decisions initiated by Te Papa and considered that it be more conducive to have the specimen mounted and returned to the Chathams. 'Westy' would provide the opportunity to profile a very successful conservation story of a rescued endemic species on the Chatham Islands.

POWERS OF CONSERVATION BOARDS

6N (2)(a) The Board may advocate its interest at any public forum or in any statutory planning process.

Review of level of protection for NZ Wildlife

In November the Board submitted comment on several species identified in the review document that were applicable to the Chatham Islands.

Following are the Board's recommended changes to species that have been introduced to the Chathams.

- The blag shag was the only species the Board recommended to be removed from the schedule in order to give full protection in the future, as they are not known to be a threat to any native species or habitat.
- The spur winged plover is a relatively recent arrival on the Chathams and it is unknown what effect this bird may have on endemic bird populations, thus the Board recommended that it be added to schedule 2 for partial protection.
- The Board sought that feral chickens and the Southern bell frog be added to schedule 5 to become totally unprotected to help protect the ecology and biodiversity of the Chathams.
- The Board included in their submission that it agrees with the rationale to support the inclusion of both invertebrates and marine species to be classed as animals.

Chatham Islands Regional Pest Management Strategy Review

The Board submitted written comment to the review document in March this year. At the time of writing this report there has been no further developments on the Strategy.

The Board has always considered the issues surrounding pests and biosecurity threats to the Chathams, of utmost importance.

Their submission to the draft PMS raised the following main concerns:

- Clarification sought for definitions of 'surveillance' and 'containment'.
- Inclusion of 19 plant pest species that are not recorded in the document but are known to be present on the Island.
- Suggestion to add an Appendix with reference to the National Pest Plant Accord.
- Twelve plant pests that have been or are still thought to be present on the island that should be listed in the 'Plants to be declared as pests'.
- Surveillance monitoring of all mustelids, whistling frogs and snails.
- Include inspection and monitoring for freshwater pests.
- More clearly defined areas and measures for the Council's responsibilities in gorse control and suggestion of possible input from public funding to achieve long-term objectives.
- Further education, possibly by means of a variety of more frequent 'pest workshops' open to the community.

- Whilst goats were generally considered by the Board to be a potential major threat to conservation, the Board was aware that there were locals who valued goats in a domestic situation and suggested that further community discussion on possible management methods be sought.
- The Board was concerned that there was no mention of marine pests within the strategy and thought that the preservation and protection of the marine environment was a vital component that should be included in the PMS.

LIAISON

A Department

Outdoor Recreation Summit

The Board considered that with the increasing interest in the development of visitor recreation on the Chatham Islands, environmental impacts will inevitably increase in the future.

The Board supported the opportunity to send a Board member to the conference in order to gain an understanding of the wide range of issues in recreational management, including those beyond the Department's management responsibilities.

Board member Jo Tuanui travelled to the mainland to represent the Chatham Board. She reported back that although not all topics discussed were applicable to the Chatham Islands, many outcomes from the discussions were relevant to the future development of recreation opportunities on the Islands.

One of the key outcomes from the summit that was particular to the Chatham Islands was to seek a wide input from stakeholders for an integrated Island approach. Improving access to conservation land, creating and promoting pathways to encourage participation in outdoor activities would help lead to the effective management of the vast range of undeveloped local recreation opportunities.

Department staff interviews

Board members are usually invited to be a part of the interview process for new appointments of staff in the Chatham Area. This participation is valuable from a community perspective, as often appointments involve postings from the mainland of up to three years. Interviews for the Pitt Island Ranger and two Ranger Biodiversity Asset positions have included a Board member during this reporting period.

Bird Recovery Group Meetings

The annual threatened bird recovery group meetings were attended by some Board members at various times in May this year.

The Board has always been encouraged to attend these meetings as they provide an opportunity to observe the process involved in endangered species management and implementation of recovery programmes. The Board's local perspective towards decision making is welcomed by the recovery group members.

B Community

Protection at Blind Jims lagoon

The Board made considerable progress with the community in furthering the protection of an 8km strip of Unoccupied Crown Land (UCL) along the western margin of Te Whanga Lagoon, known as Blind Jim's. The conservation, recreation and wahi tapu values have come under increasing threat in recent years.

An assessment report on the habitat of the area was prepared by Board member, Peter Johnson. The report and an invitation to an informal meeting was sent to all interested parties: landowners, Chatham iwi, Council, Enterprise Trust and the Visitor Industry group, with the aim of having a community discussion on the future management of the area. At this meeting there was overall agreement that preservation of the values of the area was essential and that it would require co-operation from all parties in order to achieve this. It was also noted that the land is either the subject of a Treaty claim or consideration of a claim by Chatham Iwi, and the likelihood of the claims being successful was felt to be strong. An onsite meeting was organised and most groups who were represented at the original meeting attended. Discussion focused on ways of financing the fencing and ancillary work.

The Department indicated a willingness to support the ongoing discussions and process and wrote to Nga Whenua Rahui on behalf of the community seeking funding for protection.

There has been no further development at the time of publishing this report but we do hope that this matter will be reported on in 07/08, noting further progress.

Chatham Islands Biosecurity strategy

An issue of prime concern to the Board is that of biosecurity on the Chatham Islands and the possible implications to the island with the establishment of unwanted pests.

The Board had the opportunity to comment on an implementation report provided by Chatham Islands Council on the biosecurity strategy for the Chatham Islands, for year ending 2006. The Board had previously submitted comment on a discussion document for the development of a strategy in August 2005.

The Board agreed with the recommendations made for progress in 2006-2007 and strongly advised that an education programme be listed as a priority in the communications strategy, supporting their views that awareness of biosecurity issues is paramount in the prevention of unwanted pests establishing on main Chatham and Pitt Island.

Conservation Board newsletter

The Board continues to provide newsletters in the local monthly paper, the 'Chatham Islander'; these summarise the current discussion points that would be of interest to the community. The Board has initiated the idea of a local 'conservation news' email database, but this has yet to generate wider interest in the community.

Chatham Islands' Conservation Award

The Board initiated and funded an Annual Conservation Award in 2004 to recognise the voluntary efforts of anyone in the community who has demonstrated commitment to conservation on the Chatham Islands.

Eric Dix was the most deserving recipient of the 2006 award, as Eric had voluntarily trapped possums in several regions of bush around the Chatham Islands over the past five years.

As with every year, the crafted trophy is presented at the prize giving for the annual pig hunting competition, an opportunity where a very large portion of the community gathers for the event.

C Pitt Island

The Pitt Island Reserves Committee (PIRC) meet four times a year prior to the Conservation Board meeting. The Conservation Board has a standard agenda item where the minutes from the PIRC are tabled and the Board has the opportunity to raise and discuss issues with the Conservation Board members from Pitt Island. Board member Celine Gregory-Hunt was appointed to the PIRC in May this year.

D General

Board minutes and agendas have continued to be distributed to key organisations on the Chatham Islands. This is an important way of communicating with people and organisations that have a shared interest in conservation values.

This year the Board took up the suggestion from the Conservator to set dates in advance for all the year's Board meetings. This has been a helpful exercise for planning meeting attendances.

FINANCIAL YEAR 2006/2007

The Chatham Board functioned adequately with a total budget of \$18K. Various reasons prevented some Board members attending occasional meetings and therefore considerable savings were able to be made.