

# Chatham Islands Conservation Board

*Te Pou Atawhai O Wharekauri Rekohu*



## Annual Report

to the New Zealand Conservation Authority

1 July 2008 - 30 June 2009

**Chatham Islands Conservation Board**  
*Te Pou Atawhai O Wharekauri Rekohu*

**Annual Report**  
**1 July 2008 - 30 June 2009**

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority  
Pursuant to section 6(0) of the Conservation Act 1987

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**

Black robin *Petroica traversi*  
Taken on Rangatira Nature Reserve (South East Island)

**Photographer:** Eileen Cameron

**ISSN: 1176-3906**

# **1 INTRODUCTION**

## **Chairperson's Comments**

Tena koutou katoa

Welcome to the Chatham Islands Conservation Board's Annual Report for the year ending 30 June 2009.

The Board has been actively involved in a number of conservation matters over the past year. One of the highlights for the Board was a proposal from Chatham Islands Taiko Trust for the translocation of the tui from Rangatira to Southern Chatham. The Board supported the transfer of 16 juveniles and commend the Taiko Trust for their ongoing contributions towards conservation.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend the Pitt Island community, in particular, Board members Celine Gregory-Hunt and Judy Lanauze for their commitment to conservation and keeping a watchful eye on matters that may effect the populations of birdlife on Rangatira. Many thanks Celine and Judy for bringing a sense of pride and protection for your environment to the Board table.

Unfortunately, the Board was not able to undertake a field trip this year, however, Board members Eileen Cameron and Lois Croon, on their own accord, participated in the Rangatira community open day in January of this year. Eileen and Lois also participated in the 'Pukenga Atawhai Wananga' in September this year. Such wananga are valuable in facilitating the building and maintaining of good relationships within the cultural environment of the Chatham Islands. Eileen shares her wonderful experience of Rangatira on page 4 of the report. I would like to thank Eileen for sharing your passion for conservation with us all.

The Board has been instrumental in the development of what is the first Community Conservation Trust on the Chatham Islands. Made up of five Trustees, Conservation Board member Lois Croon has been appointed as Chair for the Trust. Lois brings her passion for the regeneration of Island habitats in which she is actively involved in. Lois's contribution to conservation is valuable in terms of leadership not only as a Board member but also her commitment to the Chatham Islands Heritage and Restoration Conservation Trust. Thank you for leading the way for others Lois.

Board member Shirley King has been actively involved in the issue relating to the 'Domestic Trade in Whale Bone from stranding in New Zealand'. Shirley represented the Board at a hui held in October and provided the Board with a very passionate and articulate account of the outcomes from the hui. Shirley brings her 'Morierness' to the table and a sense of passion for the Islands. Her contribution to conservation is seen through her willingness to share with others her appreciation and knowledge of cultural issues pertaining to 'Tchakat Henu' and 'Tangata Whenua'. Thank you for your strength in being who you are Shirley.

Deputy Chair Jo Tuanui has been actively involved in a number of conservation matters over the past year. Jo has been pivotal in her role on the Board, especially, as acting chair in my absence. I would like to acknowledge and commend Jo for her commitment not only to conservation but also to her fellow Board members. Jo and I have had many 'korero' on matters relating to conservation, and appreciate her values and views that effect the overall welling of our community. Thank you for being Jo.

Board member Chuck Landis is the Board's only New Zealand member. Chuck brings a wealth of knowledge relating to geology and biology to the Board table. Chuck's contribution to conservation is long standing and his presence is very much appreciated. Many thanks for your contribution to conservation on the Chatham Islands Chuck.

A special thanks to Alex McKillop whose responsibility is to provide administration support to the Board and brings her 'gentleness' to our table when times have been challenging. Alex is also a key person in 'bridging' the relationship between the Board, Department of Conservation and the Chatham Islands community. An incredible task to be responsible for. Your hard work has not gone unnoticed, many thanks from all of us Alex.

It has been a pleasure to be part of the Conservation Board over the past six years, in particular as Chair. It has been a privilege to have worked alongside my fellow Board members and key people within the Department of Conservation. Many thanks to Ken Hunt, I have really enjoyed working with you.

Over the years I have been mainly interested in the Chatham Islands Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and other strategic documents that involve our community in terms of environmental well being. In 2011 the CMS is due for revision in which the Board will be consulted. This document will set the future direction of conservation management for the Chatham Islands. It is envisaged that the wider community will be consulted and I look forward, as member of our community, to making a contribution.

Finally, taking ownership of our environment is not only a responsibility of the Conservation Board, as the community's representatives, but also the community itself. By nature we are a community that is conscious of the importance of our environment in terms of revitalisation and sustainability. The preservation and protection of our unique environment is an interest that I hold close to my heart not only now but for the generations yet to come.

As I stand down from the Board my thoughts and aspirations are with you all who continue to strive for the overall betterment of our unique environment and our people.

Arohanui koutou

Deborah Goomes  
Chairperson

## **2 MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD**

In 2008 the Board were reduced to a membership of 8 members, compared with having had 9 the previous year.

Charles Landis was newly appointed and Judith Lanauze was reappointed for a second term on the Board.

Peter Johnson and Joe Tapara both retired from the Board after giving 3 terms of service each.

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

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Meetings attended</b>
Deborah Goomes, (Chairperson)	2
Eileen Cameron, Chatham Island	3
Lois Croon, Chatham Island	4
Celine Gregory-Hunt, Pitt Island	3
Shirley King,	3
Judith (Judy) Lanauze, Pitt Island	2
Charles (Chuck) Landis, Dunedin	2 / 3
Joanne (Jo) Tuanui, Chatham Island (Deputy Chairperson)	4

Deborah Goomes has served six years on the Board. She held the role of chairperson since November 2008. She has a long family history with the Chatham Islands, works with local Government as

finance manager for the Chatham Islands Council and brings valuable resource management and planning skills to the Board.

Eileen Cameron was appointed to the Board in 2006. She is a fifth generation Chatham Islander whose family have had a strong and positive 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 37 years. Lois brings extensive knowledge of the history of the Chathams and is passionate about the regeneration of the island habitats. Lois is a Trustee and Chairperson for the Chatham Island Heritage and Restoration Trust.

Celine Gregory-Hunt is one of the two Pitt Island Board members. She is secretary for the Pitt Island Reserve 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.

Shirley King began her term of the Board in September 2006. She has a strong affiliation with Moriori and is current Chairperson of the Hokotehi Moriori Trust. Shirley has a sound grounding for the social and indigenous culture of the Chatham Islands.

Judy Lanauze is also one of the Pitt Island representatives on the Board, appointed in 2005. Judy has lived on Pitt Island for 25 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.

Charles Landis is our only mainland member appointed in 2008. Charles (Chuck) is a retired professor of geology also interested in island biology, who has a long standing interest in conservation matters. Chuck brings extensive scientific experience to the board table.

Jo Tuanui was appointed to the Board in 2004. For many years Jo has been a strong advocate for conservation activities and programmes, an interest in historical issues and owns both farm and conservation land. Jo has held the position of deputy chairperson since November 2008.



Photo: Board members at the Whakamaharatanga Marae, 12 August 2009  
(left to right; Eileen Cameron, Jo Tuanui, Alex Mckillop (Board Support Officer), Celine Gregory-Hunt, Judy Lanauze and Chuck Landis)

### **3 THE BOARD'S DISTRICT**

The Chatham Island area is one of the five areas that are part of the Wellington Hawke's Bay Conservancy.

The Chatham Islands lie 860 km east of Christchurch, at 44° south in the path of the Roaring Forties and consist of eight islands of 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 the rest of New Zealand.

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 but can drop close to 0 degrees in the winter with 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 only 294m. There are many swampy valley floors and extensive peatlands. 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 with and a fertile coastal clay region which ends abruptly at impressive basalt bluffs. In the north there are scattered volcanic peaks and long stretches of sandy beach while the island has a large central lagoon of 20,000 ha 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 any New Zealand biogeographic region. Twenty nine of the Chatham Island's 392 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 14 staff as well as a permanent staff member on Pitt Island. Volunteers and staff are present on Rangatira (South East Island) and Mangere Island for short periods during the year, undertaking species protection work during the breeding season of endangered bird species and an extensive revegetation programme.

There is a small amount of Crown Land in the Chathams - about 6% of Chatham, 30% of Pitt and three nature reserves - (Mangere (113ha) and South-East (208ha) Islands and Tuku NR (1238ha). A significant number of important habitats have been protected and 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, seals and sharks.

The Chatham Islands Conservation Board represents a total island population of approximately 600 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 the iwi/imi on the Chatham Islands along with the Chatham Islands Council, Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust, Federated Farmers and the Chatham Islands Visitor Industry group.

## **4 BOARD MEETINGS AND INSPECTIONS**

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

12 August 2008, Whakamaharatanga Marae

5 November 2008, Whakamaharatanga Marae

24 February 2009, Whakamaharatanga Marae

12 May 2009, Norman Kirk Memorial Reserve Lounge

Three Board meetings were attended by the Wellington Conservator, Alan McKenzie. Auckland based Technical Support Officer for the Chatham Islands, Dave Houston was able to attend the August and November meeting last year. Tania Wrightson Concessions Officer was the only other staff from Conservancy to attend a Board meeting this reporting period.

Board meetings are always attended by the Chathams Area Manager, Ken Hunt and Conservation Board Support Officer, Alex McKillop. Other Departmental staff are encouraged to attend to talk to any issues if needed. Jim Clarkson Programme Manager Fauna, was invited to attend the meeting in February to help with discussion regarding a species translocation proposal.

Other guests welcomed to meetings were Dianne Gregory-Hunt, Pitt Island resident as well as a member of the Pitt Island Reserves Committee and the Pitt Island Reserve and Conservation Purposes Charitable Trust. Bill Carter a local part-time resident and former member of Wellington Conservation Board and Susan Waugh, a representative from Birdlife International came to the Board meeting in May.

### **Field Inspections**

The Board were unfortunate to not be able to have a field trip this year.

As noted in annual reports over past years the Board have had hopes of a field trip to Rangatira Nature Reserve (South East Island), but all attempts have been stymied by logistics, costs or unfavourable weather and this year was no exception.

However two Board members, Eileen Cameron and Lois Croon were able to participate in the Rangatira Community Open Days in January and although not an official field inspection, following is a brief account of Eileen Cameron's experience.

### **Rangatira (South East) Island**

The trip to South East on the open day began with a rough and slightly sickening boat trip. The ill ease was worth it when we finally landed on the island, adults and children alike were elated to explore. After lunch the Area Manager, Ken Hunt and ranger Antje Leseberg guided us around the stunning island. Black robin hopped around us as well as tomtit, tui, Forbe's parakeet, shore plover and snipe were just some of the birds seen by many of us for the first time. Afternoon tea was had in the presence of the humongous Rangatira spiders and endemic skinks. It was an unforgettable experience had with children and grandchildren.



Photo: Department signage seen on arrival  
Photographer: Eileen Cameron



Photo: Eileen Cameron and Lois Croon with friends and family on the rock platforms.



Photo: Bow landing for the visitors to Rangatira  
Photographer: Ken Hunt

## **STATUTORY FUNCTIONS UNDER THE CONSERVATION ACT**

***6M(1)(c) To advise the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on the implementation 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 at the end of its ten year life. With the pending review of the CMS, the Department has this year provided the Board with information on the process for the revision and revised structure of the document. In November the Minister approved the extension for the revision of the current CMS to 2011. The Board were advised at their meeting in May that the Department needed to look closely at the efficiency of its expenditure and the suggestion to postpone the review of the Chatham Islands CMS for 09/10 in order to help achieve some savings, was supported by the Board.

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

### **Concessions**

At the Board's request, Tania Wrightson, lead processor of Concessions in Wellington Conservancy returned to the Chatham Islands in May 2008 to further discuss concessions and the Board's role in the process. Due to the high ratio of Board members with potential conflicts of interest in concessional activity, only information on the type of activity and visitor numbers applied for was provided according to the sites visited, without reference to applicants.

Due to the legal requirements to process applications within a certain timeframe, the Department sought the Board's support to progress a recreation concession application that had been received from a mainland applicant in 2007. One Board member abstained from supporting progression of the application.

Happy with the knowledge that an assessment of habitat had been undertaken, the Board supported the progress with the non-recreation concession application received from the Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust to flood a section of the marginal strip of the Te Awainanga stream.

The Board thought it important for members of the community who may have an interest in concessions to meet with Tania, and an evening meeting was successfully held with DOC staff, key landowners and others involved in the tourist industry.



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

### **Research Proposals**

Three 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.

#### **Continuing black robin research on Rangatira Island**

The Board was provided some background to initial research that had been carried out in 2007.

The Department had added several conditions on the permit to visit Rangatira to reduce the possibility of adverse effects from the research. The Board agreed with the conditions proposed and gave their support for the application.

#### **Proposed research on Chatham petrels on Rangatira Island**

The Board had given their support for a low-impact research proposal from University of Auckland in August 2008 and were notified in November that the application had since been withdrawn due to lack of funding.

A portion of the work identified in the original application had already been funded and the Board was advised that Department staff would continuing with some of the research.

#### **Mangere Research Proposal – GNS Science**

The Board was consulted on a request from GNS Science for follow up on study already undertaken by Chatham Islands Emergent Ark Research Survey (CHEARS) in 2004-2007. The Board had fully supported the ongoing geological research the previous year and looked forward to receiving reports on any further research undertaken.

It was noted with interest that newly appointed Board member, Chuck Landis was part of the original group of scientists involved in the CHEARS project

#### **Blood sampling for Psittacine Beak and Feather Disease**

The Board was happy for blood samples to be obtained from 13 of the endemic Forbe's parakeet and one red crowned parakeet. They were satisfied with the knowledge that if the samples taken from either of the parakeets looked unfavourable, further testing would be carried out on more red crowned parakeets from Chatham and Pitt Island to ensure the disease was not found within other island populations.

### **Species translocation proposals**

#### **Tui Translocation proposal**

In February 2009 the Board were consulted on a proposal from the Chatham Islands Taiko Trust to transfer Chatham Island Tui from Rangatira (South East Island) to the Awatotara Manuel and Evelyn Tuanui Family Conservation Covenant in Southern Chatham. Liz Tuanui, the chairperson of the Taiko Trust, was invited up to the table to speak to the Board to discuss the proposal. There were varied opinions expressed from Board members and considerable discussion surrounding the proposal was fervent.

One of the key concerns was the considerable lack of research undertaken in the last 10 years on the population trends of tui on Rangatira, as well as the trends of tui migrating between Rangatira and Pitt Island and the unknown effect that a translocation could have on the only two islands with a known population of breeding tui.

The Board supported a transfer of 16 juveniles provided that (as stated in the 2001 recovery plan for Chatham Island tui) a count was undertaken on Rangatira and Pitt Island prior to the transfer and that at least a total of 250 tui were found on Rangatira and Pitt Island combined. The Board also endorsed the recommendation to undertake post monitoring of the Rangatira and Pitt Island tui population to determine any impacts of the translocation.

Department staff and contactors for the Taiko Trust undertook bird counts on both Rangatira and Pitt Island and on the 7<sup>th</sup> March 2008, 14 juvenile Chatham Island tui were transferred back to main Chatham. Reports received three months after the translocation indicated all birds present.



Photo: Tui seen in the aviary after being transferred from Rangatira Nature Reserve to the Awatotara Manuel and Evelyn Tuanui Family Conservation Covenant  
Photographer: Taiko Trust

## **POWERS OF CONSERVATION BOARDS**

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

### **Domestic Trade in Whale Bone from Whales Stranded in New Zealand and a Framework for the Role of Maori in the Management of Whale Strandings**

In March 2008, the Board submitted comment to the review of the 'Domestic Trade in Whale Bone from Whales Stranded in NZ'.

The Chatham Islands endure a significant number of whale strandings in relation to those on the mainland and because of the Board's close interaction with the Department and iwi/imi with regards to strandings, were pleased to receive an invitation to further discuss the development of a more workable regime to manage whale bone, at a hui held in Wellington in October 2008.

Board member, Shirley King was very happy to represent the Chatham Board and on her return to the Chatham Islands provided a very passionate and articulate account of the outcomes from the hui. There are still issues surrounding the management of domestic trade of whale bone that have yet to find resolve and the Board look forward to being part of that process.

### **Managing protected 'common' species held in private dwellings**

The Board was provided the opportunity to submit comment on the discussion document for managing protected 'common' species held in private dwellings.

The Board was aware that none of the species identified in the document occur on the Chathams, however the risks under the new system proposed could be that new species could legally be bought to the Chathams without DOC involvement, this in turn could pose serious problems such as the spread of disease, biosecurity threats and interbreeding with native birds.

The Board submitted that the private holding of protected 'common' species is not permitted on the Chathams and that 'status quo' is retained for the protection of native birds of the Chatham Islands.

## **Chatham Islands Long Term Council Community Plan (LTCCP) (2009/2019)**

In May this year the Board took the opportunity to make a submission on the draft LTCCP 09/10. Following is a brief outline on the areas where the Board submitted comment. Deborah Goomes, Conservation Board chairperson, spoke on the behalf of the Board at the hearings.

### ➤ 'Sustainable Relationships'

The Board clarified that they were a statutory Board with powers as such, and asked that in all matters concerning conservation and the environment of the Chatham Islands, that the Council include and effectively consult with the Conservation Board.

### ➤ Sustaining the Environment for the Future

The preservation and protection of the Chatham Islands has always been of paramount concern to the Conservation Board and biosecurity is pivotal to reducing the risk of 'pests' entering our island environment. The Board requested that Council undertake effective communication with regards to bio-security matters and in particular any new findings.

The Board referred back to their submission made to the Chatham Islands Council RPMS 2008/2018 and urged the council to meet the following two objectives a) be proactive and initiate control of all plant pests that were listed as total control and b) over the duration of the strategy eradicate feral goats from the Chatham Islands.

### ➤ Policy on Maori, Moriori and the Chatham Islands Council

The Board acknowledged the importance of the Council's policy on recognising the differences that may arise in values, beliefs and traditions between tikanga Maori and tikanae Moriori.

## **LIAISON**

### **A Department**

#### **Chatham Island Bird and Plant Recovery Group Meetings**

Each year the annual threatened bird and plant meetings are held on the Chatham Islands and Board members are encouraged to attend these meetings.

This year the bird recovery group meetings coincided with the day of the Conservation Board meeting and the opportunity was taken for the full constituent of Board members to adjourn to the bird recovery group for the afternoon discussions. This provided a valuable opportunity for the Board to discuss with visiting DOC experts and invited ornithologists, the tui transfer that was held in March 2009, a topic which Board members held strong and varied feelings about.

#### **Participation in Department staff Interviews**

Two Board members have participated in the interview process for three new staff appointments this financial year.

This involvement is valuable from a community perspective as often applicants are from the mainland and it is important, as much for the applicant as it is for the Department, to be confident that they are suitable for isolated island living.

### **B Community**

#### **Chatham Heritage and Restoration Conservation Trust (CHART)**

The Board have been instrumental in the development of what is the first Community Conservation Trust on the Chatham Islands. Following a successful public meeting facilitated by the Board in August 2008, five trustees were appointed; four locals including Conservation Board member Lois Croon and one mainland trustee, former Chatham Island Conservation Board member of nine years,

Peter Johnson. Lois Croon was then elected Chairperson of the Trust and proceeded to further the development of the Trust with advice and assistance from the Department.

An extremely successful opening for CHART was held in December 2008 with the Trustees, Conservation Board members, local dignitaries and landowners who have an interest in the preservation of the Chatham Islands. His Excellency the Governor General of NZ, Hon Anand Satyanand was invited to be patron of the Trust and whilst visiting the Chatham Islands in December 2008, he and his wife Mrs Susan Satyanand officially launched CHART.

CHART welcomes new members and annual subscription is \$20, payable to CHART, PO Box 17 Chatham Islands 8942. To learn more about CHART email: [info@chathamheritage.org.nz](mailto:info@chathamheritage.org.nz) or visit the website [www.chathamheritage.org.nz](http://www.chathamheritage.org.nz)

### **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.

Ray Murphy was the fifth recipient of the Award in 2008. Ray's dedication to fencing and planting has been inspirational to other landowners and many years of sustained effort and the 'hard yards' working towards habitat restoration on his private land has made a huge contribution to the ongoing regeneration of a significant part of the north coast of the Chathams.



Photo: Ray Murphy, recipient of the 2008 Conservation Award

## **C Pitt Island**

The Pitt Island Reserves Committee (PIRC) endeavour to meet prior to each Conservation Board meeting. Unfortunately only two meetings have been held due to weather constraints.

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.

## **D General**

### **Pukenga Atawhai Wananga**

This is the second consecutive year that two Conservation Board members have been given the opportunity to participate in a Pukenga Atawhai Wananga on the mainland. Eileen Cameron and Lois Croon were the elected Board members to travel to Taumaruanui for three days in September 2008. The Board are very grateful for the opportunity and support from the Department, and participants have found the wanangas very valuable in helping to build and maintain good relationships within the cultural environment of the Chatham Islands.

### **Board Minutes and Agendas**

Board minutes and agendas continue 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.

### **FINANCIAL YEAR 2007/2008**

The Chatham Board functioned adequately with a total budget of \$17K.

Due to the need for the Department to cut back on expenditure, the cost of running the Board's meetings was evaluated to see if any savings could be made. It was agreed that the \$17K allocated this year was sufficient for the Board to carry out their business and that any reduction in budget could impede the work of the Board.