

*Nelson Marlborough  
Conservation Board  
Annual Report 2014/2015*





# **Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board Annual Report 2014-2015**

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### **Photographs**

**Front Cover:** Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board and Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marekura, Whale Watch, Kaikoura

**Back cover:** Sperm whale tail

*Photographs by Kath Inwood, November 2014*

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# **1. Message from the chair, Bob Dickinson**

This is my first report as Chair of the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board.

## **Board Changes**

We welcome 4 new members to our Board being Aat Vervoorn, Eric Hall, Katie McNabb and Bev Doole. An Induction Programme for these members was conducted at our August 2014 meeting.

We must also thank our 4 departing members Ross Hall, Maurice Manawatu, Lynda Neame, and Ian Mitchell who have provided excellent advice and service to our Board for a number of years.

## **Departmental Reorganisation**

Following the significant Departmental reorganisation in September 2013, there was a Post Implementation Review carried out in September/October 2014. This Review led to a special pilot study in the Nelson-Marlborough and West Coast regions using a revised management structure. At year end we were awaiting the outcome of this pilot study.

While this process has been time consuming and unsettling for staff, it must be said that our Board has continued to receive excellent support and advice from all staff. In particular we must thank Jan Hania, Martin Rodd and Kath Inwood.

## **Minister's Letter of Expectation**

The 2013 Conservation Board Review Panel recommended that each Board receive an Annual Letter outlining the Minister's Expectations for the coming year. This process has now been successfully adopted and provides clear guidance to each Board.

In our Region two key expectations were:

- (a) The CMS Review - while this process has started and some preliminary work has been completed, the process has been delayed by the non-availability of key planning staff. This process should get fully underway in the 2015/16 year.
- (b) Conservation Management Plan for Wairau Boulder Bank - Again this task will not get properly underway until the 2015/16 year.

## **Joint Conservation Board Meeting**

A highlight for us this year has been a 2 day joint meeting in Reefton with the Westland Conservation Board.

This was an excellent opportunity to meet and discuss common issues and the meeting also included a full tour of Oceana Gold's Globe mine near Reefton. Here we viewed a large open cast gold mine and were also able to see their extensive reinstatement/native replanting programme.

## Chairs' Briefings

During the year there were 2 briefings for Board Chairs in Wellington. These are an excellent opportunity for Chairs to meet and be briefed on national conservation issues. It is hoped that these briefings will continue in future years.



Bob Dickinson  
August 2015



*Joint meeting Nelson Marlborough and West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Boards, Reefton, April 2015*

## 2. Introduction

The Nelson Marlborough 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 Conservation Act specifies that the Board's role is to:

- recommend the approval of conservation management strategies;
- approve conservation management plans;
- advise on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice;
- advise on proposed changes to the status of land areas of national and international significance;
- liaise with Fish and Game Councils on conservation matters; and
- carry out other powers delegated to them by the Conservation Minister, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

The Board has a number of functions under section 30 of the National Parks Act 1980. These functions include recommending the review or amendment of national park management plans and recommending approval of these plans by the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA).

Section 6(O) of the Conservation Act 1987 requires conservation boards to provide the NZCA with an annual report as soon as practicable after the 30th June each year. In recognition of this requirement the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board submits this annual report.

## 3. Nelson Marlborough region

The Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction covers all of Nelson and Marlborough, with oversight of the whole of Kahurangi National Park. This also includes Abel Tasman and Nelson Lakes National Parks, Mt Richmond Forest Park, Molesworth Station and important nature reserves such as Takapourewa (Stephens Island) and Farewell Spit.

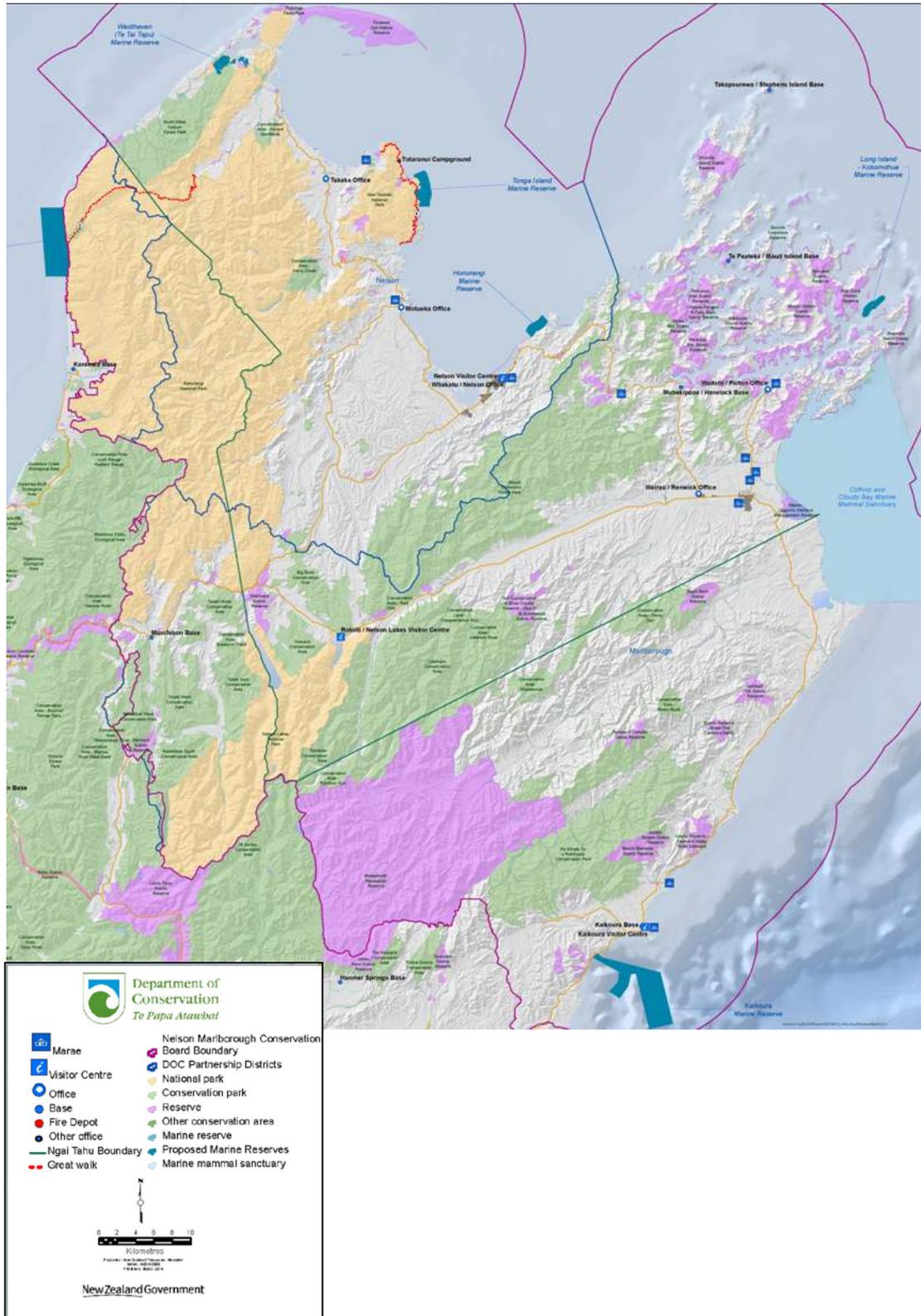
The area caters for a wide range of recreational activities in the Marlborough Sounds and Ka Whata Tu o Rākihōia, the Conservation Park in the Kaikōura Ranges. There are also five Marine Reserves in Nelson Marlborough - Long Island/Kokomohua, West Haven, Tonga Island, Horoirangi and Hikurangi.

There are about 750 historic places, both Māori and European, including archaeological sites, historic backcountry huts, a whaling station and cob cottages in South Marlborough.

Species protection programmes in the area cover tuatara, endemic frogs, Powelliphanta snails, great spotted kiwi, Hutton's shearwater, weka, kaka, black fronted tern and whio (blue duck) and include a "mainland island" at Nelson Lakes (the Rotoiti Nature Reserve Programme).

The Board's area of jurisdiction also covers some of New Zealand's best known visitor sites, including the Abel Tasman Coast Track, the Heaphy Track and the Queen Charlotte Track. There are over 300 other walks and tracks totalling more than 1950 kilometres.

The Board area includes the rohe of the eight iwi of Te Tau Ihu (Te Atiawa, Ngati Rarua, Ngati Koata, Ngati Kuia, Rangitane, Ngati Toa Rangitira, and Ngati Tama), and the Ngati Kuri and Ngati Waewae hapu of Ngai Tahu. There are 11 Marae within the Board area.



## **4. Strategies and plans**

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

The Board has been preparing this year for the commencement of the CMS review. This has been delayed awaiting the availability of planning staff on the completion of other CMSs, and is likely to get underway in October 2015.

The review process for the Nelson Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy was discussed at the July meeting, with further reports presented to the November and February meetings, along with a copy of the new CMS template.

A paper on managing CMS boundary issues between Nelson Marlborough and the West Coast was considered and resolved at the joint meeting of the Boards in April 2015.

A Conservation Board CMS Engagement Project paper outlining the proposed involvement of the Board in community engagement was considered and supported at the April meeting. This paper sees Board members playing an active role in the preparation of the draft CMS.

The Conservation Management Strategy Monitoring Implementation Report was received at the February 2015 meeting for discussion at the April meeting. Board members expressed amazement at the huge volume and range of work carried out by the Department. Comment was also made about the need for more clarity around the Department's obligations in respect of working with iwi.

### **4.2. Management plans**

#### **Wairau Boulder Bank/ Te Pokohiwi o Kupe**

The Board is happy to support the development of this management plan when the process gets underway.

#### **Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan**

A partial review of the Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve Management Plan is underway.

At the April 2015 meeting, the Board agreed to support progressing the partial review, delegated the plan approval function to the Management Plan Approval Committee, and confirmed committee representation. Board representatives were appointed to these groups at the June 2014 meeting.

#### **Implementation monitoring**

The Board considered implementation reports on the management plans for Abel Tasman Foreshore Scenic Reserve, and Abel Tasman National Park. Members were impressed overall with the progress made and the range and amount of work completed.

## **5. Advice and advocacy**

### **5.1. Advice to the Department**

The Board provided advice to the Department on the following issues in the 2014-15 year:

- Sale of land by the Opawa River at St Andrews was supported subject to consultation with iwi
- Nature Heritage Fund additions to Kahurangi National Park were supported subject to consultation with Manawhenua ki Mohua and Ngati Waewae
- Battle for our Birds implementation in Te Maruia area was supported
- Battle for our Birds implementation in the Nelson Lakes area was supported
- Feedback was provided on new guidelines for concessions
- Comments were provided to the review of a moratorium on seal watching for Abel Tasman and Kaikoura
- Feedback was provided to the new Conservation Board Code of Practice

### **5.2. Concession applications**

Concession applications for a bike hire operation at Kaiteriteri and a wifi service in Abel Tasman National Park were both supported.

A pre-application enquiry for an ultra marathon on Queen Charlotte Track was discussed and Board members agreed they would be happy to contribute to the feasibility report.

### **5.3. Community advocacy**

The Board researched and responded to correspondence on progress towards reclassification of the Mohikinui water catchment from the Buller Conservation Group and Mokihinui Etu Kahikatea Kaitiaki.

The Board also responded to concerns from the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand about an application for access to mine steatite in the Cobb Valley adjoining Kahurangi National Park.

### **5.4. Loder Cup**

The Board prepared and submitted a nomination for the 2015 Loder Cup.

## **6. Community engagement**

### **6.1. Community awareness**

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

- Marlborough Sounds Restoration Trust
- Friends of Rotoiti
- Te Korowai o te tai Marokura
- Brook Waimarama Sanctuary
- Matai Bay Hut Committee
- Marlborough Sounds Integrated Management Trust
- Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand

These were predominantly voluntary groups carrying out huge amounts of conservation work within the community. The Board recognises and appreciates volunteers and thanks them for the work done in this area.

### **6.2. Community 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 Nelson Marlborough 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:

- Resource based economies
- 1080 (five separate presenters)
- PhD research: stakeholder moralities in Abel Tasman National Park
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu partnerships with DOC
- Waitaha Water Gathering and water quality issues
- South Marlborough weed eradication
- Fish and Game New Zealand- water quality
- Molesworth Steering Committee update

### **6.3. Community visibility**

The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website. Information on being on a Conservation Board was also developed and displayed at Te Matatini Kapa Haka Festival in Christchurch.

## 7. Board membership

All 10 members were appointed by the Minister for Conservation including two members nominated by Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu.

Members' terms of office that were due to expire on 30 June 2013 were rolled over until 31 April 2014. Two members retired during the year, and two new members were appointed. A further two members retired at the end of the 2013-14 year.

Nominations for the Chair and Deputy Chair were considered by the Board in June 2015, with Bob Dickinson re-elected to the Chair position, and Gina Solomon re-elected as Deputy Chair from 1 July 2015.

### 7.1. Members' profiles



**Bob Dickinson (Chairperson)** has extensive experience in management and director positions and held the position of CEO of Tasman District Council for 17 years. He is a keen user of public conservation land as a trumper, skier, recreational boatie, climber and mountain biker, with a special interest in geology and history. He was appointed to the Board in December 2010 and lives in the Redwood Valley.



**Sue Brown** is a dairy farmer from Golden Bay. Sue is the Provincial President of Federated Farmers Golden Bay and has been awarded as a Landcare Ambassador by the NZ Landcare Trust for her involvement in the Aorere Catchment Group project. She was appointed to the Board in December 2010.



**Bev Doole** was appointed to the Board in July 2014. Bev is a freelance writer and editor. She has experience in writing resource management plans and policy documents. She is highly knowledgeable about conservation issues in the region. Her outdoor recreation interests are walking, kayaking and gardening.



**Eric Hall** was appointed to the Board in July 2014. Eric is Project Manager for Signature Homes. He has extensive experience in project and staff management. He was appointed an honorary ranger for the North West Nelson Recreational hunting area and has been a member of the New Zealand Deerstalkers Association for 40 years. His outdoor recreation interests are hunting and fishing.



**Steve Knight** was appointed to the Board in May 2014. Steve is a self-employed viticulturalist. He has extensive experience in management and strategic planning. He has been involved in the Young Farmers Contest as both a committee member and participant for many years. His outdoor recreation interests are hunting and tramping.



**Katie McNabb** was appointed to the Board in July 2014. Katie is a boating education tutor and member of the Coastguard Boating Education Services Board. She has experience in board membership, policy and planning. She is involved in the restoration of Perano whaling station. Her outdoor recreation interests are sailing, skiing, biking and boating.



**Mairangi Reiher** of Golden Bay is of Ngati Tama/Te Atiawa/Te Arawa iwi. Her interests are centred on the preservation of cultural sites, waahi tapu and the conservation of natural flora and fauna. She has extensive board member experience and serves on the Manawhenua Ki Mohua and Onetahua Marae committees. She joined the Board in December 2010.



**Joy Shorrock** was appointed to the Board in December 2010. She is a traditional Maori weaver and a teacher of this art form. Joy is an active member of Te Awhina Marae and is on the marae board. She is also a member of the Kaiteriteri Recreation Reserve Board, the Abel Tasman Birdsong Trust and the Motueka Museum Board. Her iwi affiliations are Te Atiawa, Ngati Rarua, Ngati Tama, Ngati Kuia and Ngati Koata ki te Tau Ihu. She lives in Motueka.



**Gina Solomon** of Kaikoura was appointed in 2006 on the recommendation of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu. She is affiliated to Ngati Kuri, Ngai Tahu, Kurahaupo, Ngati Koata, Te Atiawa and Ngati Toa. She is an active member of Te Runanga o Kaikoura and for the last 25 years has held various positions within the organisation. Gina represents her runanga on a number of committees promoting iwi and conservation values. Gina was elected Deputy Chair in October 2013. Gina is a Director on the Queen Elizabeth II National Trust and she is an RMA Commissioner.



**Amelia Taylor** was appointed in November 2013 on the recommendation of Te Runanga o Ngai Tahu, to replace Maurice Manawatu. She is a whale watch sea crew guide and works in the hospitality industry. She is involved in many local environmental groups with interests in beach and stream protection, species recovery and caring for birds. She is currently studying the use of New Zealand plants in medicine. She is affiliated to Ngati Kuri, Ngati Koata, Te Atiawa, and Ngati Toa.



**Dr Aat Vervoorn** was appointed to the Board in July 2014. Aat is a former University Associate Professor. He has worked with government agencies on policy development and understands public processes. He has an understanding of conservation issues in the region having previously worked as a mountain guide and ranger and been involved in mountain search and rescue. His outdoor recreation interests are tramping, mountaineering, skiing, kayaking and photography.

## 8. Meetings

### 8.1. Board meetings

Six meetings were held during the 2014/15 financial year. These were:

July	Picton (2 days)
September	St Arnaud
November	Kaikoura (2 days)
February	Nelson
April	Reefton (2 days)
June	Blenheim

### 8.2. Attendance

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

Member	Home	Attended
Bob Dickinson	Nelson	6/6
Bev Doole	Blenheim	6/6
Eric Hall	Nelson	6/6
Steve Knight	Blenheim	5/6
Katie McNabb	Picton	6/6
Mairangi Reiher	Takaka	5/6
Sue Brown	Collingwood	5/6
Joy Shorrock	Motueka	4/6
Gina Solomon	Kaikoura	6/6
Amelia Taylor	Kaikoura	5/6
Aat Vervoorn	Nelson	5/6

Members attended other meetings and events in their role as Board members, including subcommittee meetings and representative roles. A Board member also took part in the Community Conservation Partnerships Fund recommendation panel in March 2015

### 8.3. Field trips

In November 2014, the Board and members of Te Korowai o Te Tai o Marokura had the opportunity to take a Whale Watch trip and tour of the Kaikoura marine management areas. The Board also made a brief visit to Takahanga Marae.

In April 2015, the Board, together with the West Coast Tai Poutini Board visited the Oceana Gold open cast gold mine in Reefton, viewing both the rock crushing site and the restoration of the land and forest.

## **9. Board committees and representation**

Membership of Board committees was reviewed in July, at the beginning of the Board year.

### **9.1. Concessions subcommittee**

The purpose of this subcommittee was to advise the Department on policy matters associated with concession management and to provide advice on specific concession applications where appropriate. Members for the 2014-15 year were: Mairangi Reiher, Eric Hall, Sue Brown and Amelia Taylor.

The committee is only formally involved in the concessions process when one of the agreed trigger points is activated, most often being a new type of activity. The committee urged the Department to ensure that appropriate consultation with iwi and local hapu is carried out early in the assessment process.

### **9.2. Iwi subcommittee**

The purpose of this subcommittee is to work together with iwi. Members for 2014-15 were Joy Shorrock, Amelia Taylor, Gina Solomon, Bev Doole, Bob Dickinson and Mairangi Reiher.

### **9.3. Representation**

Katie McNabb represented the Board on the Long Island-Kokomohua Marine Reserve Committee and Joy Shorrock was the Board's representative on the Horoirangi Marine Reserve Committee.

Ian Mitchell, a former Board member, was the Board's representative on the Molesworth Recreation Reserve Steering Committee. The Department of Conservation manages Molesworth Station under a lease to Landcorp Farming.

Philip Simpson, a former Board member, was the Board's representative on the Tasman Environmental Trust, an independent organisation to assist in the protection and maintenance of Tasman and Nelson natural areas. The Trust also administers the Cobb Dam Mitigation Fund which funds community-based aquatic restoration projects in Golden Bay.

Joy Shorrock represented the Board on the Abel Tasman Foreshore Advisory Forum, a community forum set up to advise the Administration Committee on matters affecting the Abel Tasman Foreshore Reserve.

### **9.4. Liaison**

All Board members have responsibility for liaising with other groups when opportunities arise and some members have specific roles in liaison.

#### **Liaison with other conservation boards**

Agendas and minutes were exchanged with the West Coast Tai Poutini Conservation Board. Sue Brown attended the West Coast Tai Poutini Board meeting in September 2014, in her role as the nominated liaison person.

Amelia Taylor was nominated to liaise with the Canterbury/Aoraki Conservation Board. Agendas and minutes were exchanged.

A joint Board meeting, workshop and field trip with the West Coast Tai Poutini Board was held at Reefton in April 2015. A follow up survey indicated that the Board members felt this was a valuable experience.

### **New Zealand Conservation Authority**

In September 2014, members were pleased to welcome Judy Hellstrom, NZCA liaison person for the region, to the meeting. Judy was also present at the joint Boards workshop in Reefton, along with Gerry McSweeney, the NZCA liaison person for the West Coast Tai Poutini Board.

Conservation Board Chairpersons' meetings with the Ministers, NZCA and senior managers in Wellington were attended by Bob Dickinson in November 2014 and Gina Solomon in June 2015.

### **Other community groups**

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand representatives regularly attend Board meetings. Other organisations with occasional attendance include Fish and Game New Zealand, Federated Mountain Clubs of New Zealand, and Nelson Tramping Club.



*Nelson Marlborough Conservation Board, Reefton, April 2015*

## **10. Training for members**

### **10.1. Department briefings and updates**

The full Board undertook an induction workshop in July 2014 which provided background information on the region, the role of conservation boards, and local issues. A discussion of the post-review Board role was also held.

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

- Permissions and statutory land management processes
- The science behind the Battle for our Birds
- The role and value of volunteers
- Purpose and implementation of Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987, and the Treaty of Waitangi
- Access arrangements for prospecting, exploration and mining
- CMS review process
- Pilot programme updates
- Marine protection and management
- Battle for our Birds update and outcomes
- Tenure review process and update on local properties

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

Three Board members attended a Nelson office hapu and whanau training session in June 2015, which covered local iwi history, iwi organisations and Treaty settlement issues.

### **10.2. Issues of interest**

Other issues of particular interest to the Board this year were:

- Te Tau Ihu Settlement Bill
- Kaikoura (Te Tai-o-Marokura) Marine Management Bill
- Proposed steatite mining in the Cobb Valley
- Delay with progress of the Reserves and Other Lands Disposal Bill
- Tenure review process
- Battle for our Birds
- North West South Island pilot programme

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 Nelson Marlborough 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 Nelson phone (03) 546 3151 or e-mail [nelsonmarlboroughboard@doc.govt.nz](mailto:nelsonmarlboroughboard@doc.govt.nz).

