

Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board (Te Poari Papa Atawhai o Tongariro/Taupo)

Annual Report 2010-2011



Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board

Te Poari Papa Atawhai
o Tongariro/Taupo

Annual Report

1 July 2010 - 30 June 2011

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority
pursuant to Section 60 of the Conservation Act 1987

Serviced by the Department of Conservation

Turanga Place
Private Bag
Turangi

ISSN 1176-6735 (Print)
ISSN 1179-2442 (Online)

DOC DM 740137

Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board Members



From left to right (back row): Sir Tumu Te Heuheu, Cam Speedy, Colin Paton, Dave Lumley (Taupo-nui-a-tia Area Manager), Kevin Cannell (Ruapehu Area Manager), Alex Wilson, Pete Masters (Chair), Paul Green (Conservator), Don Cameron

Seated: Barbara Morris, Neville Young

Absent: Rob Lester

INTRODUCTION

Conservancy Amalgamation

In December 2010, the Department formally amalgamated the Tongariro/Taupo and Whanganui Conservancies to become the Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki Conservancy.

Both the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board and Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board remain unaffected in this reporting year and will continue to exist as separate bodies. The Minister of Conservation has however approved changes to their respective areas of jurisdiction to mirror boundary changes made in the conservancy amalgamation and these become effective 1 July 2011.

Introduction to the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board is an independent statutory body, appointed by the Minister of Conservation. It was established by section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Board has the responsibility for overseeing the implementation of the conservation management strategy (CMS) and conservation management plans (CMPs) for its region. As well as providing for interaction between the public and the Department of Conservation at the conservancy level, the Board also acts as an advocate for the protection of conservation values. Its prime role is to advise the Department and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA).

The functions of the Board are set out in Sections 6M of the Conservation Act 1987, and in the National Parks Act 1980 and the Reserves Act 1977.

Area of Responsibility

The Board's current area of responsibility covers the Department's pre-amalgamation boundaries for the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy (refer to the map). The area in question encompasses 780,000 hectares, of which approximately 217,000 hectares is administered by the Department of Conservation. The Board's district is unique in that it has no ocean coastline and includes the Lake Taupo sport fishery.

The Board's district is dominated by the volcanic landscape of Tongariro National Park, the beech forest and tussock ranges of Kaimanawa Forest Park and by New Zealand's largest lake, Lake Taupo. Tongariro, Erua and Rangataua Conservation Areas to the east and south of the national park offer a diverse range of ecological features and recreational opportunities.

Tangata whenua have long had a special relationship and history with the mountains, lakes, waterways and geothermal features of this area. Tongariro, New Zealand's first national park, grew from the Ngati Tuwharetoa gift of its mountains to the nation in 1887. The park received World Heritage status in 1988 for natural landscape values and in 1993 for its cultural landscape values, recognising the special significance of the mountains to Ngati Tuwharetoa and Whanganui iwi.

The district contains many rare, uncommon, vulnerable or threatened native plants, birds, communities and ecosystems. Managing these in light of weeds, predators, fires and other threats remains an ongoing challenge.

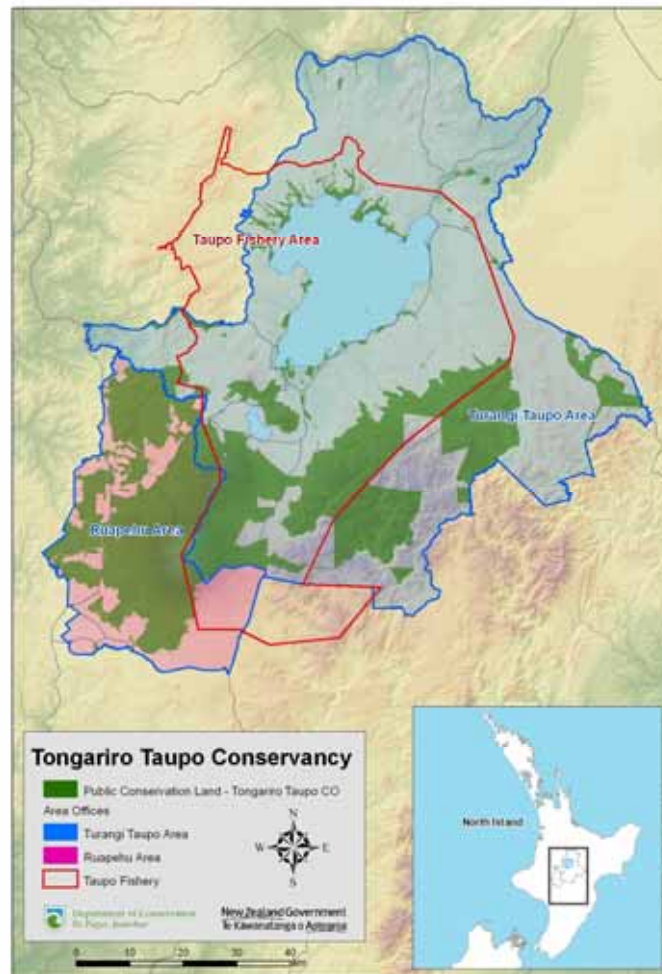
Lake Taupo and its tributaries provide opportunities for world-class fishing and numerous other forms of water recreation. The sports fishery is managed by the Department although the lake and river beds are owned by Ngati Tuwharetoa.

The landscape of the area is unique in New Zealand and large numbers of national and international visitors come here for sightseeing and recreation. Tongariro National Park is the most visited national park in New Zealand and numbers are expected to rise further. In contrast, the surrounding mountain ranges retain a feeling of remoteness and isolation which is increasingly sought by recreationists – New Zealanders in particular.

A large number of issues occur on these lands which are of interest to the Board. These include:

- management of plant and animal species such as the blue duck (whio), kiwi (western North Island Brown), and 3 species of mistletoe.
- management of recreational facilities such as huts and tracks
- management of historic sites
- concession activities, including those relating to recreation and tourism, grazing, research, and leases.

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board has a responsibility to the people of the Tongariro/Taupo district, and the wider New Zealand population, to ensure these lands and the biodiversity which they contain are protected and enhanced.



Map of Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board Area

Membership of the Board

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board consists of ten members who are appointed for up to a three year term by the Minister of Conservation. Included on the board is the mandated appointment for the paramount chief of Ngati Tuwharetoa. The remaining nine public appointments are made having regard to their experience, expertise and links with the local community including tangata whenua. Members may have knowledge of nature conservation, natural earth and marine sciences, cultural heritage, recreation, tourism, and Māori perspectives. This process ensures a diversity of experience and background and a spread across the main geographical and ecological zones within the board's area.

The names, locations of the members of the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board, and attendance record at meetings from 1 July 2010 to 30 June 2011 were as follows:

Appointed Member	Year Appointed	Home Location	Meetings Attended (5 held)
Don Cameron	2008	Ohakune	5
Sarah Gibb ³	2005	Turangi	1
Maree Gurney ³	2004	Marton	2
Rob Lester ¹	2006	Turangi	3
Peter Masters	2008	Taupo	5
Barbara Morris ²	2011	Taupo	2
Garth Oakden	2008	Turangi	4
Colin Paton ²	2011	Taupo	2
Cam Speedy ²	2011	Turangi	2
Tumu te Heuheu	1998	Taupo	2
Alex Wilson	2001	Rotorua	3
Neville Young ²	2011	Wellington	2

¹ Members who resigned during the reporting year

² Members who were newly appointed 1 January 2011

³ Members whose terms expired at 31 December 2010

At its December 2010 meeting, Pete Masters was re-elected as Chairperson for a further twelve months.

Conservation Board Meetings

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board held five meetings during the report period. A combined workshop and field inspection with Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board was scheduled to coincide with one of the meetings. The meetings were as follows:

Date of Meeting	Meeting Venue	Location
20 August 2010	The Park Traveller's Lodge	National Park Village
15 October 2010	Turangi Conservancy Office	Turangi
3 December 2010	Turangi Conservancy Office	Turangi
25 February 2011	Knoll Ridge Café	Whakapapa
27 May 2011	Tongariro National Trout Centre	Turangi

Friday, 3 December 2010: Accompanied by NZDF staff as well as Conservancy and Area staff, members from both the Taranaki/Whanganui and Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Boards met at Waiouru Military Camp before being provided with a visit into the Waiouru Army Training area. This



*Chief of Staff Major Pat Hibbs indicates the proposed Hihitahi Wind Farm site
Photo: DOC*

site visit was especially pertinent given that Board jurisdiction for this area was transferred from the Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board to the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board effective 1 July 2011. The inspection included an overview of the site, and access roading proposals for Hihitahi Wind Farm and their likely impact. Members were also provided with an overview of the different landscapes and values including Waiu Pa, forest remnants, shrubland advance, heather and contorta control and were briefed on stakeholder engagement with the NZ Army with regard to biodiversity monitoring and Kaimanawa Horse management.

Friday, 25 February 2011: Prior to commencing its meeting at the newly built Knoll Ridge Café, Whakapapa Ski Field, the board was provided with a brief overview by staff from Ruapehu Alpine Lifts (RAL). RAL is the Department's largest concessionaire and operate two of the largest skifields in the North Island, both of which are situated in Tongariro National Park. The Board members were encouraged by the progress made toward reducing the infrastructure on the mountain.



Finishing touches to the newly constructed Knoll Ridge Café Photo: DOC

Budget, Fees and Allowances

The Board's budget for 2010/11 was \$16,500. Fees and allowances are paid in accordance with the Fees and Allowances Act 1951. The chairperson receives a daily meeting fee of \$190 and other Board members receive a daily meeting fee of \$140. Members may be reimbursed for actual and reasonable expenses incurred while engaged on Board business.

STATUTORY FUNCTIONS – CONSERVATION ACT 1987

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987

Section 4 of the Conservation Act 1987 states “This Act shall so be interpreted and administered as to give effect to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi”. As a body established under the Conservation Act 1987, section 4 applies to the Board in the discharge of its functions.

Functions of the Board

(a) Recommend the Conservation Management Strategy for approval

A conservation management strategy (CMS) is a 10-year statutory document that implements General Policy and establishes objectives for the management and protection of the natural and historic features and wildlife of the region, and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes. Conservation Boards are actively involved in the preparation, review and amendment and approval of CMSs.

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) was approved in May 2002 and has a lifetime of ten years. Following the recent merge of the Tongariro Taupo Conservancy with Whanganui Conservancy it will however, be replaced by one CMS for Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki Conservancy that will manage the Ruapehu, Whanganui, Taranaki and Taupō-nui-ā-Tia Areas. This project is due to be initiated in October 2011.

(b) Approve Conservation Management Plans

The Board did not approve any conservation management plans, or their review and amendment, in this reporting period.

(c) Advise on the implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy and Conservation Management Plans

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board implements a system of monitoring categories and places within the CMS on a three yearly reporting cycle. The Board was briefed on nine of the 20 sections of the CMS. The sections covered were:

Kaimanawa-Moawhango

Whilst cognisant of its size and diverse nature of terrain and ecosystems, the Board noted that the Kaimanawa-Moawhango place provides for a great variety of recreation opportunities which are

managed to a high standard by the Department. In addition, the Department is seeking to advance other recreation opportunities as set out in the Kaimanawa Forest Park Management Plan (KFPMP).

The Board commended the Department on its work to enhance access to public conservation land. It also praised the Department on its work to improve relationships with recreational hunters through the implementation of a M.O.U., regular meetings, and an increasingly popular annual sika show held in Taupo.

Concern was raised by the Board that due to the current national system for prioritising funding for threatened species work, the Kaimanawa-Moawhango location receives very little funding to achieve the objectives for the management of threatened species as outlined in the CMS and the KFPMP. It is notable therefore that through sustained possum control work in this area there has been a slow recovery of the *Powelliphanta marchanti* (native land snail). There is no control/monitoring of any other native species. Aside from this targeted possum control over 250 hectares, and contrary to the CMS, the Department has not undertaken any control operations against introduced fauna.

Overall the Board commented that many of the management objectives in the CMS and KFPMP are not being met due simply to a lack of available budget. The Board advised that when next reviewing the CMS the Department must approach this problem honestly and provide the community with a clear picture of the future of the Kaimanawa-Moawhango if current resourcing is not increased.

Control of Animal Pests

The Board agrees that the Department has made significant progress in maintaining indigenous biodiversity through appropriate management of animal pest species.

Having recently completed a review of the Conservancy's animal pest programmes the Department had identified that animal pest management was required for the needs of nine species identified in the national species optimisation process. Five of these were already current operations within the Conservancy.

The Conservancy is currently dependent upon several Animal Health Board (AHB) operations to meet animal pest management needs over 39,000 hectares however the Board raised concern should AHB funding be withdrawn.

As well as engaging with local regional councils and community groups to gain efficiencies in animal pest management, the Department also facilitates recreational and commercial hunting on public conservation land. The Board agreed that the Department may be faced with increasing pressure to review restrictions on commercial hunting which may in turn lead to tensions with recreational hunter interest groups.

Taupo Basin

The Board agreed that not only is the Department meeting the CMS objectives for the Taupo Basin but it has also achieved improved outcomes over the last three years since it was last reported on.

The Taupo Basin provides a great variety of recreation opportunities including fishing, water sports, walking, biking as well as the popular scenic attractions of Huka Falls and Craters of the Moon. The Board acknowledged that increasing pressure from visitor numbers at all sites in the Taupo area will stretch the Department's capacity.

The Board stressed the importance of the Department's continued management of, and liaison with, volunteer groups noting several successful 'conservation with community' programmes throughout the Taupo area. The Board commended these successes especially given the Department's constraints with funding or prioritisation in some critical areas (e.g. boundary fencing, wilding pine control).

As well as working with community groups, the Department has also focussed on establishing or strengthening their relationships with key stakeholders including iwi. This has been particularly

valuable in its involvement in protecting the water quality of Lake Taupo, the development of the South Taupo wetland, and various animal pest control programmes.



Cycling the W2K track overlooking Whakaipo Bay Photo: G. Hazelton

Natural Hazards (Including Fire) & Earth Resources Protection

Overall the Board agreed that the Department has made considerable progress in implementing the CMS objectives, particularly those identified as priorities in the 2008 report to the Board.

Natural Hazards: The Department plays a major role in the Central Plateau Volcanic Advisory Group, formed to maintain eruption risk management following the 1996-2007 period of activity on Mt Ruapehu. As urged by the Board in 2008, major work on volcanic risk management has been achieved in co-operation with Geological & Nuclear Sciences (GNS) and RAL with the main infrastructure of the Eruption Detection System (EDS) being recently upgraded. Improvements to monitoring and warning systems have been made due to close co-operation with a number of agencies. The Board maintains that individual users should continue to be encouraged to take more responsibility for their own safety on the mountains.

Fire: The Department is meeting all its objectives in the CMS regarding fire. The Board requested that a full and open review of changes to general policy regarding fire suppression (that would allow some naturally occurring fires to burn to maintain specific vegetation types or associations) be undertaken.

Earth Resources protection: In implementing this objective, the Department continues to see the most progress with geothermal geodiversity. Due to its heavy involvement in advocating for the mitigation of geothermal development, the Department will see the establishment of trust funds dedicated to the variety and conservation of geothermal features and ecosystems in the bulk of the Taupo Volcanic Zone. The Board was informed that the Department was taking a regional approach to geothermal conservation with the neighbouring East Coast Bay of Plenty Conservancy.



*Whangapoa Springs, Atiamuri Geothermal System
Photo: Dave Marshall*

Protected Species (a) Fauna

As reported by the Department, greater national direction is being provided through the Species Optimisation Project (part of the Department's Natural Heritage Management System (NHMS)) as to which populations of species are crucial for the long term security from extinction. Local strategies

have been written for the Tongariro/Taupo area of the conservancy that provide specific places, species and actions for implementation of CMS objectives.

Gaining information and a new understanding of some lesser known priority species has been a key achievement over the last two years.

The Board was informed that there are only three species of fauna under active management in the Tongariro Taupo region that are considered 'secured, or in recovery'. These are *Powelliphanta marchanti*, kiwi and whio. Five yearly monitoring of *P. marchanti* snails at the Rangitikei snail block has shown a positive increase in numbers with effective possum control being attributed for this trend. Tongariro Forest is the 1080 research site for the national kiwi sanctuary network. Monitoring of kiwi and whio has produced mixed results with kiwi numbers in the Tongariro Forest suffering significant losses from ferret attacks. Ongoing trapping and community-led initiatives has resulted in the continued protection of whio on the Tongariro River. The Board supported the Department's continued use of 1080 and recommended extended trapping to secure kiwi and whio numbers.

The Board raised concern that funding for the management of protected species such as kiwi and whio is currently largely derived from funding outside of core operational funding streams and is uncertain after 2013. The Department did however, note that the implications of funding from the Species and Optimisation projects are not clear and will present both opportunities and challenges to the way business is currently run.

The Board recommended that the Department strengthen their relationships with private landowners and local communities to ensure continued access to private land, and volunteer input.

Recreational Use Management (excluding skiing) and Visitor Facilities

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy has continued to invest in key visitor locations with consolidation and improvement of existing facilities, and the development of new facilities.

The Board noted that Tongariro is unique in that it can offer an accessible experience for overseas tourists with very little tramping knowledge. The Department was commended in its building of Waihohonu Hut (the most popular overnight destination on the Northern Circuit) as a way forward for other huts in high use areas particularly in meeting its objective to enhance visitor experience and minimise visitor impact on public conservation land.



Opening of the Waihohonu Hut Photo: K Turia

Overall the Board felt that the Department is meeting its current CMS objectives. The Board was further advised that over the next three years the Destination Management Framework project will support the Department in achieving its outcome statements with the identification of, and focus on, priority destinations that either underpin tourism, or foster recreation for New Zealanders. The Board questioned whether backcountry recreation will suffer as a result.

The Board stressed the importance of promoting community involvement and supporting local community initiatives.

Additions to, and Classification of, Conservation Land

The Board felt that the Department is generally meeting CMS objectives but recognises that major land status change proposals cannot be pursued until the outcome of Treaty of Waitangi claims are resolved.

Protected Species (Flora)

The Board was informed that since 2004 the number of acutely threatened flora species within Tongariro-Taupo (those critical, endangered or vulnerable) has increased from 12 to 21 and those species at risk has decreased from 55 to 51. This local trend is consistent with NZ flora trends in general. Further, the Department acknowledged that flora management is successfully protecting just four (19%) acutely threatened species and eight (15%) at risk species in the conservancy. In light of these results the Board raised concern that many of the current implementation actions are not being undertaken but noted that this was largely due to increased knowledge and identification of more threatened species.

The Board raised concern that management of threatened flora was focused on species that are more visible or iconic and that overall weed management programmes at Erua – the conservancy’s threatened flora “hot-spot” - has declined in recent years. Also of concern was the reliance upon Animal Health Board funded possum control programmes to manage threatened species in the conservancy rather than the Department’s own funding and control.

Statutory Planning/Management Planning

Following the approval by the Director-General to commence the second generation CMS process nationally the Board was provided with an overview at its May meeting. It is expected that the second generation CMSs will be more streamlined and consistent across the country.

With regard to statutory planning, the Department advised that the general policy provides for a good high level direction for statutory advocacy engagement and this would remain its priority at the RMA policy and planning level. The Board fully support the Department’s efforts at building effective relationships for working with regional and district authorities and suggested that it focus on key issues (such as freshwater and biodiversity) when dealing with local authority planners.

As an identified ‘affected party’ the Department is notified whenever resource consent applications impact on any natural or historic resource, waterway or public conservation land in the conservancy. Emphasis on pre-submission and pre-hearing liaison has resulted in a high rate of resolution of concerns in accordance with the CMS.

The Department advised that the current CMS provides appropriate guidance on management planning work. The Board was informed that priority will be placed on completing the current management plan reviews to ensure that the CMS process can commence without complications.

(d) (i) Advise on any proposed change of status or classification

There has been no progress on the addition of Rangataua Forest to the Tongariro National Park or the gazettal of Tongariro Forest as a conservation park. These areas are currently subject to a Treaty of Waitangi claim. The gazettal of the proposed scenic reserve at Huka Falls is currently on hold due to outstanding Treaty issues.

(ii) Advise on any other conservation matters

The Board is provided with a summary of concession applications at each meeting and is consulted when the application meets the Board's concession trigger criteria including:

- a proposed activity that is the first of its kind in the conservancy
- a proposed activity that is not provided for or envisaged in the relevant CMS/CMP, or it is unclear
- a proposed activity that is considered high impact or requires public notification

(e) Advise on walkways

The Board formerly had the function of advising the Conservation Authority and the Director-General on proposals for new walkways. This function was repealed by section 82 of the Walking Access Act 2008.

(f) Liaison with Fish and Game Council

An Eastern Fish and Game Council representative continues to be informed of the Board's work through agenda papers and minutes. There were no matters arising from the liaison which required direct Board input.

(g) Ministerial Delegations

The Minister did not delegate any ministerial powers or functions to the Board during the reporting period.

Powers of Boards

(a) Advocacy

When appropriate the Board may advocate on issues relating to conservation values on both public and private land such as the protection of indigenous flora and fauna, landscape, cultural and historic values, water quality, and environmental degradation. Advocacy is generally performed by way of providing comment on discussion documents from other Government organisations and statutory plans developed by regional and district councils.

The Board did not advocate on any issues during this reporting year.

(b) Establishment of Committees

The Conservation Act enables the Board to establish committees and delegate to them functions and powers. The committees active during the reporting period were:

Recreation, Historic and Concessions	Pete Masters; Rob Lester; Garth Oakden; Barbara Morris; Neville Young
Volcanic Hazards	Rob Lester; Alex Wilson; Pete Masters
Management Planning and Policy	Garth Oakden; Pete Masters; Cam Speedy
Statutory Planning	Pete Masters; Don Cameron; Neville Young
CMS Review	Pete Masters; Don Cameron; Tumu Te Heuheu (ex-officio); Cam Speedy; Alex Wilson; Neville Young
Tangata Whenua	Rob Lester; Cam Speedy; Alex Wilson
World Heritage	Don Cameron; Tumu Te Heuheu; Cam Speedy

FUNCTIONS UNDER THE NATIONAL PARKS ACT 1980

(a) Recommend National Park Management Plans, Reviews or Amendments

During the reporting year the Board considered five discrete matters that arose as the result of changed circumstances or increased knowledge since the Tongariro National Park Management Plan came into effect in October 2006. Those matters were:



- (a) removing the limited opportunity for Tongariro Alpine Crossing (TAC) Transport Concessions
- (b) removing the reference to 2004/2005 Financial Returns to set TAC limit
- (c) allowing vehicles to transport passengers within Ski Areas
- (d) removing restrictions around mountain bike guiding and events on the Old Coach Road and Desert Road to Pillars of Hercules Tracks and
- (e) removing the reference to Sole Transport Operator on the Bruce Road.

The Partial Review attracted 48 submissions (including 2 late submissions), primarily from mountain ski club members, ski field and transport concessionaires and recreational interest groups.

The Board resolved that its Management Planning committee liaise with the Department in the development of the partial review. Three Board members together with three Departmental representatives comprised the hearing panel which heard 20 submitters on 12th and 18th February 2011. All submissions were considered by the hearing panel and recommendations requesting further minor wording amendments were forwarded to the Department.

The Board approved these recommendations and requested further minor wording amendments at its meeting on 25 February 2011. Final endorsement of the Department's recommended changes to the Tongariro National Park Management Plan policies affected by the partial review was made at the Board's 27 May 2011 meeting and the Board resolved that it be forwarded to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval. Representatives from the Board and the Department presented the Draft Tongariro National Park Management Plan Partial Review at the NZCA meeting on 23 June 2011.

RESERVES ACT 1977

There were no matters raised under the Reserves Act 1977 that required consultation with the Board during the reporting year.

LIAISON

All Board members receive the minutes of NZCA meetings and liaison is maintained through NZCA member Brian Stephenson. The Board is very grateful to Catherine Tudhope, Manager of the Statutory Bodies Unit, Elena Sedouch and Katrina Edwards, Statutory Bodies Officers, for keeping regular contact with the Board.

The Board has continued liaison with adjoining Conservation Boards through an exchange of minutes and shared correspondence on matters of national importance. As a result of the recent amalgamation and a need to discuss whole of conservancy outcomes, the Board Chairs from both the Tongariro/Taupo and Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Boards have a reciprocal agreement to attend meetings.

Board minutes are distributed to a number of individuals, groups and organisations and Board members also liaise with their own communities of interest during the reporting year. This liaison is seen as a very important way of providing an interface with the community.

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

In the past year we witnessed the end of an era. With the formation of the new Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki (TWT) Conservancy as of 1 December 2010, the old Tongariro Taupo Conservancy became history.

We are now part of a large new region joining with Whanganui and Taranaki Areas. Is this a good move? Only time will tell as the old conservancy was renowned for local input into conservation projects. Some large community conservation programmes take place in the Tongariro/Taupo district and many of these have come about from the local staff being on the ground and lending their great support.

In the future the board will be required more than ever to step up and help the Department in working with the local communities, and making sure that their opinions and ideas get back to the Department. It will also mean that the board will be working alongside the neighbouring Taranaki/Whanganui Conservation Board on the wider conservancy-based issues including a joint Conservation Management Strategy.

The Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board has continued on its CMS monitoring programme which is proving to be a very good reporting tool and has also enabled the board to give constructive feedback to the Department. In consultation with the board, the Department undertook a change to the Tongariro National Park Management Plan which involved public consultation with both written submissions and hearings. Currently, the proposed changes are being considered by the New Zealand Conservation Authority.

The board was also asked to assist with reporting on the management of the Tongariro National ParkWorld Heritage Area. This periodic report is required every 7 years and is submitted along with others in the Asia-Pacific region to the World Heritage Committee.

Acknowledgements

I had the pleasure of working with recently retired Conservator, Paul Green, for a number of years. Paul was a great supporter of the board's role and always had an open door to board members. We wish him well in his retirement.

During the year we welcomed both Damian Coutts as Conservator, and Mark Davies as Conservation Support Manager, for the newly amalgamated Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki Conservancy. We look forward to working with them both into the future.

I would like to thank all of my board members who have worked both around the board table and also in the community. My special thanks must go to our retiring members who over the years, have put a great deal into their role as a statutory board member.

My thanks also to all Department staff who have contributed to supporting the board and providing reports and presentations. The board appreciates the open relationship that they are able to have with the Departmental staff and value their input.



Pete Masters
Chairperson
August 2011

Adoption of Report

Moved: That the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board adopt the Annual Report for 2010/2011 be forwarded to the New Zealand Conservation Authority as required under section 6(0) of the Conservation Act 1987

Carried 7 October 2011