

# Waikato Conservation Board Te Papa Atawhai O Te Rohe O Tainui

## Annual Report 2017 – 2018



**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 Waikato 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 Hamilton phone (07) 858 1000 or email: [hamilton@doc.govt.nz](mailto:hamilton@doc.govt.nz)**

# Waikato Conservation Board Annual Report 2017-2018

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

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**Photographs**

**Front Cover:** Waikato Conservation Board Field Trip. From left, standing: Mike Paviour, Brad Totorewa, Joyce Birdsall, Gemma White, Adrienne Corfe, Pearson Tukua, Alan Cockle, Ray Scrimgeour, Pauline Hickey, Kevin Robinson, Mick Clout. Sitting: Chris Annandale, Cara Hansen, Aroha Hughes, Danneka Frost, Karen Opie, Fiona Gower

**Title:** Waikato Conservation Board – 27 November 2017

**Photographer:** Des Williams

**Date:** 27 November 2017

**Location:** Waikato

**Description:** Waikato Conservation Board Field Trip - Waikato River 2017

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## 1. Chairperson's Report

It has been an interesting year for the Waikato Conservation Board highlighted by two great field trips.

The first being a trip in a boat on the Waikato River to view white bait stands and an old whitebait cannery that was operational up to 1959. Then on to Port Waikato to view the work of a coastal care group led by a local Karen Opie.

The second a trip to Repanga (Cuvier) Island, on the eastern seaboard of the Coromandel Peninsula, to participate in the return and release of Tuatara back to the now predator free Island

Witnessing the benefit of a predator free environment was truly amazing and gave Board Members a better understanding of the predator free values for the future.

The Waikato Conservation Board continues to focus on whitebait protection with support from other Conservation Boards. Letters were sent to the Minister and the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) expressing our concerns.

We will continue to advocate for a better outcome for our native freshwater fish including whitebait.

With kauri dieback being confirmed in three areas of the Coromandel Peninsula the Board supports the DOC mitigation process to stop its spread. We understand that this is a difficult task and an evolving process going forward as new information and a better understanding of this disease is gained.

In February the Board resolved to submit to the select committee on the proposed Thames Coromandel District Council and Hauraki District Council Mangrove Management Bill put forward by Thames Coromandel and Hauraki District Councils.

There has been much frustration in the past with Mangrove management costing a lot of money for not a lot achieved. However, the Board agreed that while we understand the intent of an improved process for management of mangroves it should not be at the risk of environmental and conservation values.

It was a shock to hear of a fatal tree felling accident on 23 September last year claiming the life of Arthur Hinds, a previous Waikato Conservation Board member 2004 – 2015, serving as Chairperson from 2009 to 2015.

Arthur was a staunch conservationist and led conservation projects in and around his local community. His achievements are many and his conservation legacy will live on through the many Kiwi and Native birds that now enjoy predator free habitat.

Des Williams a long time DOC employee of 48 years who has worked for many Conservation Boards all over the country but more recently the Waikato Conservation Board retired from the Department in mid July 2018.

Des will be missed from his involvement with the Waikato Conservation Board. It was always a pleasure to have Des around with his friendly and witty nature. We wish him all the best for his retirement.

It is fantastic to see all the conservation groups that are active in the Board's rohe. These groups mostly operate on volunteer hours and are achieving great things for conservation in many areas. A strategic management plan developed for the future on how to support these groups would be very beneficial.

I would like to thank current Board Members for their support, the work they do on the Conservation Board and the work they do in their communities for conservation.

I would also like to thank Mick Clout the New Zealand Conservation Authority liaison person to our Board. Our Board Members appreciate his regular attendance and participation around the board table.



**Kevin Robinson**  
**Waikato Conservation Board Chair**

## 2. Introduction

This is the Waikato Conservation Board Annual Report 1 July 2017 – 30 June 2018 as required under Section 6 of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Waikato Conservation Board had nine members for the 2017-2018 year appointed by the Minister of Conservation under the terms of the Conservation Act 1987. There were two new appointments to the Board, one of these was a Kahui Ariki - Maori King appointee and the other a general member. There were also two re-appointments.

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

The Board has several statutory roles under various Acts including:

- The recommendation of Conservation Management Strategies (CMS) to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA) for approval
- Advising the Department of Conservation and the NZCA on how conservation management strategies and plans will be put into practice
- Monitoring on the implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy
- The approval of Conservation Management Plans
- Advising the Department of Conservation and NZCA on conservation matters, and proposed changes to status of land of national and international significance
- Liaising with Fish and Game Council on conservation matters

Carrying out other powers delegated by the Minister of Conservation, the Conservation Act or any other Act.

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

The Waikato 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.

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 Waikato Conservation Board submits this annual report.

### 3. Waikato Conservation Board Region

The Waikato Conservation Board's area of jurisdiction extends from the west coast of the North Island between Port Waikato and Mokau, across to the western edge of Lake Taupo and north to the Coromandel Peninsula. It is characterised by a variety of different landscapes, resulting from a history of uplifting, sea level change, volcanism and the influence of major river systems, such as the Waikato River. Stand-out features of the Waikato include the west coast harbours – Kawhia, Aotea and Raglan; spectacular coastal cliffs at Moeatoa and Te Toto Gorge, Waitomo karst system; volcanic cones such as Pirongia and Karioi, and the exposed volcanic plugs (remnants of older volcanoes) on the Coromandel range; the lakes and wetlands of the Waikato and Hauraki plains; and rugged coastline, including the many islands off the Coromandel Peninsula.

The range of landscapes, altitude and east-to-west contrast provides for a great diversity of ecosystems, including the southern limit for some species, such as kauri, and northern limit of others, such as subalpine vegetation found at its northern-most limit on Moehau. Historically rare ecosystems, such as Kopuatai Peat Dome and Waitomo karst, are internationally important. Some ecosystems are well represented, such as the tall podocarp-broadleaf forests of Pureora (including the largely intact forest at Waipapa), whereas other once widespread ecosystems, such as lowland kahikatea forest, are now threatened. These ecosystems in turn provide habitat for a wide diversity of native flora and fauna.

The area also extends out to the 12-nautical mile limit with respect to coastal and marine issues, and out to the 200-nautical mile limit, with respect to protected species.

The Board's area of responsibility is nearly 270,000 ha of Public Conservation land (12% of the total area 2,250,000 hectares). The land is described in more than 500 separate parcels for various purposes, including forests, wetlands, caves, marine reserves, offshore islands, historic sites, wildlife protection, and recreational areas.

**The large number of issues for the Board were:**

- some form of protection for the whitebait species
- restoration and protection of coastal dunes and harbours
- the state of wetlands, lakes and rivers
- predator free island sanctuaries off the Coromandel Peninsula
- retain the biodiversity of mainland forest remnants ranging from coastal to montane forests
- better protection for the Maui Dolphin including the review of the Maui Dolphin Threat Management Plan
- possible implementation of Sea Change – Tai Timu Tai Pari Hauraki Gulf Marine Spatial Management Plan
- proposed Mangrove Management Bill
- changing tourism demographics and pressures at new and existing sites such as Pureora, Waitomo, Cathedral Cove etc.

Conservation features of the Area include:

- **Three internationally significant wetlands (Ramsar Convention)**  
Whangamarino Wetland, Kopuatai Peat Dome and the Firth of Thames/Tikapa Moana
- **Coastline and estuarine areas**  
(Firth of Thames, Waikato River Delta, Raglan Harbour (Whaingaroa), Aotea and Kawhia Harbour)
- **Large tracts of virgin forest**  
(Manaia Kauri Sanctuary, Moehau, Waihaha and Waipapa)
- **Terrestrial forests associated with the Hakarimata and Hapuakohe Ranges**, the volcanic Cones of Maungatautari, Kakepuku, Pirongia and Karioi and the karst landforms of Te Kauri
- **Sites of significant regional and national tourism**  
Waitomo, Cathedral Cove and Pureoro Timber Trail



- **Rare and endangered species /ecosystems**  
(Kokako, Mahoenui Giant Weta, Whitebait, Maui's Dolphin, Kiwi and particularly the Coromandel Brown Kiwi and Archey's and Hocksetter Frog)
- **Reptile and seabird communities on offshore islands**  
Tūturiwhatu/New Zealand Dotterel and Ngūtuparore/Wrybill
- **Important Maori and European historic resources**
- **Significant Biosecurity Issues**
- **Kauri Die-back**

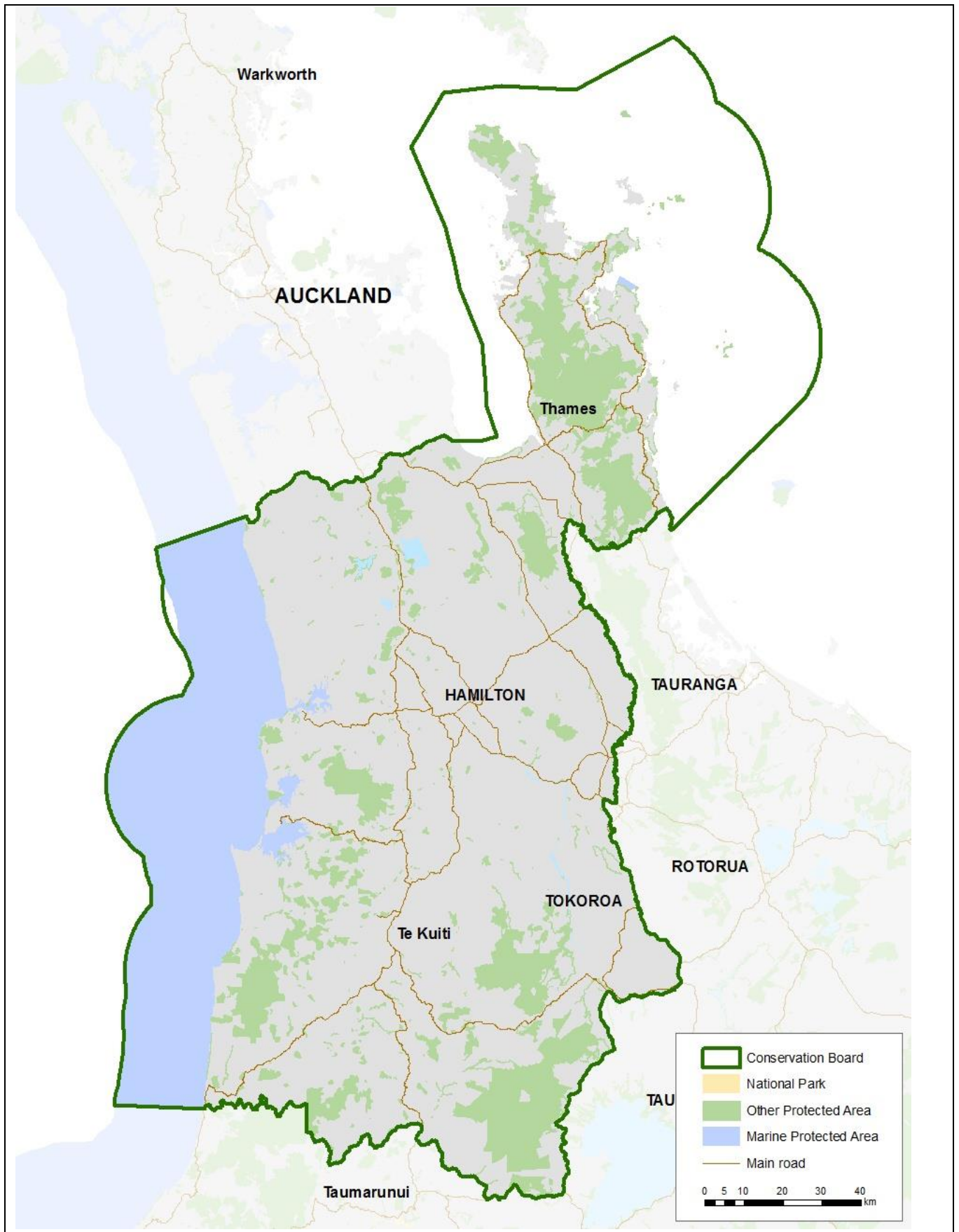


Figure 1 Map of Waikato Conservation Board Area

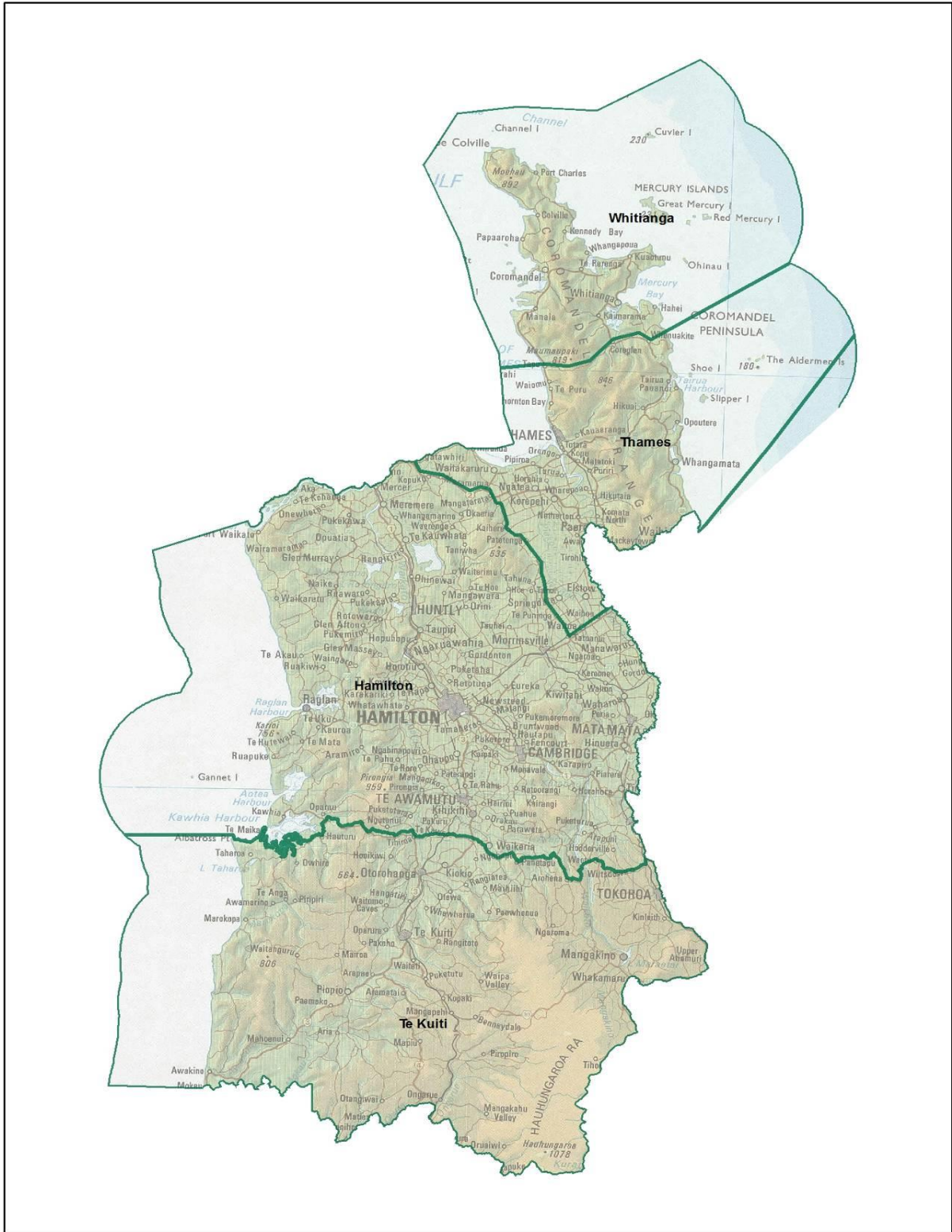


Figure 2 : Map of Waikato Conservation Board Area showing Department of Conservation Operations Districts

## 4. Board Functioning

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

The functions of the Board are:

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

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

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

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

Section 4: Consideration is given by the Waikato Conservation Board in deliberations to the relevant Treaty Principles and the makeup of the Board includes other appointed members who have iwi affiliations.

- Brad Totorewa, appointed on the 1 July 2017 is recognised as the Kahui Ariki (Maori King representative) on the Waikato Conservation Board.
- The appointment of Alan Cockle, of Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Kahungunu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi descent in July 2014, has provided a strong link with south Waikato iwi.
- The Subcommittee Terms of Reference provide for nine members, (four Ngati Hei representatives, two Community Representatives, one representative from the Mercury Bay Community Board, one representative from the Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Trust, and one ex-officio of the Waikato Conservation Board).

#### 4.4. Board Membership

There were nine Waikato Conservation Board Members for the reporting year appointed by the Minister of Conservation.

Kevin Robinson, was elected Chairperson and Fiona Gower was elected Deputy Chairperson.

Alan Cockle and Grant Cushman were reappointed for a further three-year term.

The following table lists the membership of the Waikato Conservation Board between 1 July 2017 and 30 June 2018.

Board member	Area	Term start	Term end	No. of yrs on Board
Kevin Robinson (Chairperson)	Thames	19/09/2011	30/06/2019	7
Fiona Gower	Tuakau	01/07/2014	30/06/2018	4
Alan Cockle	Hamilton	01/07/2014	30/06/2020	4
Prof. Grant Cushman	Raglan	01/07/2014	30/06/2020	4
Alexander (Graeme) Fleming	Hamilton	01/07/2016	30/06/2019	2
Joyce Birdsall	Tairua	01/12/2014	30/06/2018	4
Norman (Norm) Barker	Tirau	01/07/2015	30/06/2018	3
Pauline Hickey	Hamilton	01/07/2017	30/06/2020	1
Brad Totorewa	Huntly	01/07/2017	30/06/2019	1

## 4.5. Members Profiles

### 1) **Kevin Robinson, Thames, appointed 1 July 2011: present term expires 30 June 2019**

Kevin Robinson is a self-employed farmer who has extensive knowledge of the history and recreational activities on the Coromandel Peninsula and the wider Waikato region. Kevin has extensive governance experience in the region. Current President for the Hauraki-Coromandel Province of Federated Farmers. Current vice chair for the Waikato Regional Council Coromandel Sub Liaison Committee.

Current director of four companies. Two farming companies, one capital venture investment company and one subdivision and forestry company. Current committee member of two hunting and fishing clubs.

Previously a member of the Federated Farmers national dairy executive for seven years four as vice chair.

Kevin is well connected to farming, rural communities and recreational hunting/fishing groups. His outdoor recreation interests are hunting, fishing, cycling and tramping.

Kevin is a member of the Thames Coast Kiwi Care and is responsible for a 40-trap predator control line monthly.

### 2) **Fiona Gower, Tuakau, appointed 1 July 2015: present term expires 30 June 2018**

Fiona Gower lives and works on a sheep and beef property in coastal North Waikato. She is currently the National President of Rural Women New Zealand.

Fiona also serves as a Trustee on the NZ Landcare Trust Board, as well as the Rural Communities Trust. She has gained experience of public processes from serving on her local community board. Her outdoor recreation interests are whitebaiting, surfcasting, bush walking, camping, four-wheel driving and shooting, mainly with a camera.

Fiona is a member of the Port Waikato Beachcare Committee.

### 3) **Alan Cockle, Hamilton, appointed 1 July 2014: present term expires 30 June 2020**

Alan Cockle is a business owner providing Maori Land Research and Administration Services. He has a background in mediation, facilitation and financial and property management. Alan has governance experience as a trustee and board member, and extensive iwi affiliations. He has expertise in tribal histories and is an orator within Ngati Maniapoto. Alan is of Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Kahungunu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi iwi.

### 4) **Prof. Grant Cushman, Raglan, appointed 1 July 2014: present term expires 30 June 2020**

Grant Cushman is Emeritus Professor of Parks, Recreation and Tourism at Lincoln University and Honorary Professor of Sport and Leisure Studies at Waikato University. He has expertise in public policy development, including public processes and relevant legislation relating to conservation, recreation and tourism.

He has skills in park policy and provision; outdoor recreation behavior, and tourism planning and development. His outdoor recreation interests include waka ama, tramping, sight-seeing and running.

- 5) **Graeme Fleming, Hamilton, appointed 1 July 2016: present term expires 30 June 2019**  
Graeme Fleming is of Scottish descent and has lived in New Zealand since 1979. Graeme has been Waikato-based since his emigration, working for the Hamilton City Council and later the Lake Taupo Protection trust. Graeme is now semi-retired and consults to various territorial authorities.

Graeme specialises in Quality management and negotiation in environmental outcomes and holds a Diploma in Environmental Health and a Bachelor Social Sciences.

Graeme is married with two adult sons who are both living overseas.

- 6) **Joyce Birdsall, Tairua, appointed 1 December 2016: present term expires 30 June 2018**  
Joyce Birdsall lives in the small Tairua township on the Coromandel Peninsula and has extensive community connections through environmental and conservation related groups.

She holds a Certificate of Environmental Management and has a strong interest in environmental legislation at regional and government level. She is committed to the protection and enhancement of our natural resources, particularly estuarine environments and native forest.

Her outdoor interests are gardening, walking and golf.

- 7) **Norman (Norm) Barker of Tirau, appointed 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2018**  
Norm Barker is a self-employed dairy farmer based in Tirau. He has spent the past fifteen years representing Waikato authorities, nine of those years as a councillor at the South Waikato District Council and six years at the Waikato Regional Council working on many environmental committees in the region.

He is a strong advocate for collaborative processes including co-management with our Treaty partners where he has worked on understanding iwi cultural perspective. Norm's outdoor activities include swimming, fishing and he is a keen cyclist on the region's river and rail trails.

- 8) **Pauline Hickey, Hamilton, appointed 1 July 2017 to June 2020**  
Pauline has a background in finance within the agriculture sector. Her accounting career has mainly been situated in the Waikato region and covers a wide range from chartered accountants to rural retailers and manufacturers, service organisations and not for profits.

Pauline has two adult daughters; one a farmer and the other a fresh water ecologist. Pauline's recreational interests are mainly in the outdoors, and include netball, hot air ballooning, hockey and lacrosse.

- 9) **Brad Totorewa, Huntly, appointed 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2020**

Ko Rangiriri te whenua tupu

Ko Maurea te Marae

Ko Ngaati Naho te Hapuu

Ko Brad Totorewa taku ingoa

Brad's qualifications include a Master of Business Administration (MBA); Master's of Maori & Pacific Development (MMPD) with First Class Honours; Diploma of Teaching.

Brad has 20 years' experience in the education sector and has held numerous positions during this time, including teacher, principal, lecturer and regional manager. He is currently Strategic Advisor (Māori) at the Ministry of Education.

Brad is a strong advocate of the Kingitanga and has an intergenerational outlook on life. He is also a fluent speaker of Te Reo Māori and enjoys fishing, boating and telling the history of Rangiriri Pā.

#### 4.6. Board Meetings, Field Trips & Workshops

The Waikato Conservation Board held five meetings, two field trips and one workshop during the reporting period. Venues for the Board meetings varied to ensure a wide coverage and enable members of the public in the district to attend meetings and access the Board.

##### Waikato Meetings, Field Trips/Workshop Dates/Location

Board meeting and field trip dates	Meeting location and venue
26 July 2018 (Board Induction and Planning Workshop)	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
23 August 2017 (Board Meeting)	Department of Conservation, 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
27 November 2017 (Field Trip)	Waikato River/Port Waikato Field Trip
28 November 2017 (Board Meeting)	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
21 February 2018 (Special Meeting)	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton
5 March 2018 (Field Trip)	Repanga (Cuvier Island) Tuatara Release
6 March 2018 (Board Meeting)	Tangiaro Kiwi Retreat Coromandel
22 May 2018 (Board Meeting)	Department of Conservation 73 Rostrevor Street, Hamilton

#### 4.7. Attendance

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

Board Member	Board Meetings (Four per year)	Liaison Meetings
Kevin Robinson	5 / 5	
Fiona Gower	4 / 5	Auckland Conservation Board (19 May 2018)
Alan Cockle	4 / 5	
Prof. Grant Cushman	4 / 5	
Graeme Fleming	3 / 5	
Joyce Birdsall	5 / 5	
Norman (Norm) Barker	4 / 5	Bay of Plenty Conservation Board
Pauline Hickey	5 / 5	
Brad Totorewa	2 / 5	



## 4.8. Board Sub Committee

- **Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve & Hahei Coast Subcommittee**

The Subcommittee Terms of Reference provide for nine members, (four Ngati Hei Representatives, two community representatives, one representative from the Mercury Bay Community Board, one representative from the Friends of Te Whanganui-A-Hei Trust and one ex-officio of the Waikato Conservation Board (Joyce Birdsall).

### **Representation**

**The following Board Members formally represent the Board at these forums**

<b>Representation</b>	<b>Members</b>
Taranaki-Whanganui Conservation Board	Alan Cockle
Taupo/Tongariro Conservation Board	Kevin Robinson
Bay of Plenty Conservation Board	Norm Barker
Auckland Conservation Board	Fiona Gower
Te Whanganui-A-Hei Marine Reserve & Hahei Coast Sub-committee	Joyce Birdsall
Farm Environment Trust	Norm Barker

## 4.9 Training for Members

The full Board undertook an induction workshop on the 26 July, which provided background information on the region, the role of conservation boards, and local issues.

The Board has focused on cultural capability building and has allocated a portion of each meeting to do this.

## 4.10 Community and DOC involvement in Board Meetings

**At each Board meeting standing agenda items include briefings and review on:**

- Annual Workplan Quarterly Monitoring
- Budget (Financial Tracking)
- Developing the Board's Cultural Capability
- Operation Director's Report
- Waikato Conservation Management Strategy Milestone Report
- RMA & Management Planning Report
- Concessions Reports
- Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve and Hahei Coast Committee Update
- Conservation Board E-Newsletter – Board Contributions
- Members Environmental Scan

Throughout the year the Board received discussion papers from the Department on:

- Predator Free 2050
- Waikato-Tainui Cultural Materials Plan
- Local Authorities Long Term Plans (2018-2018),
- E-Bikes, on Public Conservation Land (including National Parks)
- Freedom Camping Act Review
- Conservation Board – Communications – Raising the Board’s Profile
- Kopuatai Duck Huts and other structures
- Kauri Dieback proposed track closures
- Territorial Authorities Long Term Plans 2018-2028
- Drones – Operational Policy
- Treaty Settlement Updates
- Resource Legislation Amendment Act 2017 (RLAA) Changes to the Conservation Act 1987
- Maui and Hector’s Dolphin Threat Management Plan
- Wild Animal Recovery Operations (WARO) National Permit Process 2015-2018
- Proposed Revocation of Coromandel Peninsula Conservation Land Management Plan 2002
- Proposed Revocation of Hauraki Gulf Maritime Park Conservation Land Management Plan 1982

#### 4.11 Presentations from external organisations:

- New Zealand Walking Access Commission
- Queen Elizabeth II Trust
- Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust
- Nga Whenua Rahui
- Kiwis for Kiwi
- Moehau Environment Group (MEG)
- Kauaeranga Tramping Club

## 4.12 Field Trips

Two field trips were held during the year.

### **Waikato River and Port Waikato - 27 November 2017**

Members of the Waikato Conservation Board inspected the Port Waikato area and Waikato River habitat on 27 November 2018, prior to their Board Meeting of 28 November 2017.

The Board has taken a keen interest in whitebait issues and the fishery for some years and enjoyed this opportunity to get out on the water with DOC staff and see first-hand the river environment.



Waikato Conservation Board Members – Waikato River

A visit to the old whitebait cannery on the Waikato River bank provided a pleasant bonus as well as helping draw the contrast between present and past volumes of fish being caught. The cannery operated from c1910 to 1959 and the building is being restored by whitebait enthusiast, Ralph Dwen. The building is in reasonable condition and has some remnants from the canning process on display.



Whitebait Cannery – Waikato River – November 2017

The Board then visited sites of community-led conservation work at Port Waikato and met with Karen Opie who has been leading dotterel protection work during nesting seasons for several years. Other projects 'on the go' include restoration of an area burnt by fire two years ago and other dune enhancement work.



Waikato Conservation Members Field trip to Port Waikato - November 2017

## **Repanga (Cuvier) Island Tuatara Release - 5 March 2018**

This fieldtrip's focus was to understand the role our pest free islands play in Conservation - the day was focused around the release of Tuatara's back to Repanga (Cuvier) Island.

On 5 March 2018, Waikato Conservation Board members travelled to Tangiari Kiwi Retreat and following biosecurity procedures and helicopter safety briefings were transported to Repanga (Cuvier) Island.



Repanga Island – March 2018

When everyone was assembled a whakatau took place with speakers from the Waikato Conservation Board, DOC and Ngati Hei and once this concluded there was an exchange of traditional greetings. Also present were representatives from Ngati Huarere ki Whangapoua. Karakia were then recited to bless those in attendance and send the tuatara on their journey.

Board members were humbled to witness the return of tuatara (three young and seven adults) to Repanga (Cuvier) Island.

This was a very special day for DOC staff/volunteers and the Auckland Zoo team, having cared for this very special family for many years with the goal of eventually returning them home.



DOC staff Rob Chappell (left) and Waikato Conservation Board member Alan Cockle – March 2018

## 4.13 Special Events

Waikato Conservation Board members in board member capacity attended the following special events:

Date	Special Event
22 August 2017	<b>Predator Free 2050 Event</b> Minister of Conservation Visit (Waikato University) Waikato District DOC

	Four members of the Board attended this evening which focused on building PF2050 support and understanding.
15 June 2018	<b>Kauaeranga Valley Road Opening</b> hosted by DOC Hauraki

## 5. Statutory Activity

On Wednesday 21 February 2018 the Waikato Conservation Board held an Extraordinary Meeting to discuss the proposed Thames-Coromandel District Council and Hauraki District Council Mangrove Management Bill. The Waikato Conservation Board subsequently submitted in opposition to the proposed Bill.

Board members Kevin Robinson and Joyce Birdsall presented the Board's view at the Governance and Administration Select Committee Hearing held in Thames on 16 March 2018.

At the time of finalising this Annual Report, the Select Committee have not finalised their report to Parliament.

### 5.1. Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) and Management Plans

The Board receive quarterly updates tracking the progress towards milestones identified in the Waikato Conservation Management Strategy.

## 6. Advice and Advocacy

The Board have provided advice to the Department and other agencies on a number of matters ranging from Drones/Operational Policy, the Maui and Hector's Dolphin Threat Management Plan, the Freedom Camping Act Review 2018 through to DOC Community Fund applications.

Board members in their respective roles have been proactive in liaising with other groups and individuals in the community when opportunities arise.

### 6.1. New Zealand Conservation Authority Liaison

Agenda's, meeting minutes and the bi-monthly letter from the New Zealand Conservation Authority are forwarded to members electronically as they arrive.

It is a privilege to have Professor Mick Clout as the NZ Conservation Authority liaison with the Waikato Conservation Board. The Board acknowledges the importance of this link between the NZCA and the Board and appreciates the knowledge and experience Mick brings, particularly in conservation ecology

Mick regularly brings the Board up to speed with activities and issues the NZCA was engaged in and most importantly take back to the NZCA issues and concerns facing the Waikato Conservation Board.

The Board wrote to the New Zealand Conservation Authority and Hon. Eugenie Sage, Minister of Conservation in March 2018 regarding whitebait and request for review of the whitebait fishery.

## 6.2. Community advocacy and involvement

The Board believes that working with conservation organisations and members of the public is very important. Each agenda has time allocated for a public forum where individuals or organisations can express concerns, raise issues, and talk with the Board.

Board meetings are advertised throughout the Board's rohe and on the Waikato Conservation Board webpage.

## 6.3 The Board maintains a presence on the Department's website

Throughout the reporting period Board members have liaised with a number of individuals, groups and organisations, attended many community activities and Department of Conservation special events. This liaison is considered a very important way of providing an interface with the Community.

The Board contribute on a regular basis to their e-newsletter and some members actively promote activities via social media.

## 6.4 District and Regional Councils advocacy and advice

The Board continues to have a good working relationship with councils. Councillors have a standing invitation to attend Board Meetings, and local issues often appear on the Board's agenda.

## 6.5 Iwi liaison and advocacy

Brad Totorewa, succeeded Kate Cherrington as the Kahui Ariki (Maori King representative) on the Waikato Conservation Board. This role is a condition of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement Act 1995. Brad was appointed and his term commenced on the 1 July 2017.

The appointment of Alan Cockle, of Ngati Maniapoto, Ngati Raukawa, Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Kahungunu, Te Ati Awa and Ati Haunui A Paparangi descent in July 2014, has provided a strong link with South Waikato iwi.

## 6.6 DOC Community Fund

This is a fund set up by the Department to help fund community groups to do conservation work. Joyce Birdsall was the Waikato representative on the committee set up to select suitable recipients.

