

# WAIKATO CONSERVATION BOARD TE PAPA ATAWHAI O TE ROHE O TAINUI

Annual report  
For year ended 30 June 2007



FOR PRESENTATION TO THE  
NEW ZEALAND CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

*Cover photo: Board members at the entrance to Ruakuri Cave. From left: Gary Barker, Arthur Hinds, Kewana Duncan, Philip Hart, Joe Harawira, Alison Henry, Tipa Mahuta, Dale Lethbridge, Wyne Johns, Ron McGough, Basil Morrison (NZCA). Des Williams/DOC photo)*

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HAMILTON



## **CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

The main highlight for the Waikato Conservation Board during the past year has been developing the Conservation Management Strategy, work on which had earlier been stalled whilst a national template was devised. The Board approves of having such a template, and intends that the new CMS will be a genuinely useful document both for the Conservancy and for the conservation community. With 'buy-in' from the latter, which we hope to achieve through consultations and hearings, improved outcomes that can be effectively monitored are anticipated.

Another highlight was the recent Conserv-Vision Conference, held at the University of Waikato to celebrate 20 years of the Department of Conservation. This attracted a large attendance from throughout New Zealand and beyond, with some excellent international keynote speakers. So many papers were presented that participants had to choose between five simultaneous sessions. Those attending were unanimous in praising the conference and its organization, and a constant refrain was that such a conference should have been held years ago and that future ones should be held at intervals of only a few years.

Two national developments were applauded. Government financial assistance will mean a heightened level of active management for wetlands. And ERMA's support for the continued use of 1080 was very welcome, as this is a vital tool until there is an alternative method of protecting indigenous vegetation from animal pests.

Several issues emerged during the year. The rush to convert pine forests into dairy farms, at and beyond the southern boundaries of the Conservancy, has significant implications for water quality. Tied in with the water quality issue is the agreement in principle between Tainui and the Crown to settle the Waikato River claim. The fine details are yet to be determined, and it is very important to ensure that these are appropriate, for this Treaty settlement will set a precedent for similar ones elsewhere.

Also precedent-setting for the rest of New Zealand is Maungatautari, which during the past year had its fence erected and most of the pests eradicated. This important project is 'learning by doing', and the trustees and their advisers are discovering some unanticipated problems. Judging by their past achievements, they will overcome these, and the lessons learnt will be invaluable for the many similar projects that are springing up throughout the country.

Another issue that is coming to a head is the proposal for a Marine Mammal Sanctuary to save Maui's Dolphin; with only 25 breeding females, an effective sanctuary will be required to ensure this critically endangered species does not become extinct.

Several wind farm applications have been received recently, and applications for even larger farms are anticipated. National guidelines plus continued support from officials in Wellington would greatly assist the already over-burdened Conservancy planners who have to respond to these applications on top of other urgent matters (notably devising the new CMS) that they are required to deal with.

Despite additional and generous Government funding provided for such important developments as the Peninsula Project in the Coromandel, Whangamarino wetland and the cost of the Maungatautari fence, the Board is concerned that the Department's resourcing needs to match the challenge of halting the decline in biodiversity. Many staff in this Conservancy work well beyond the number of hours that they are paid for, which reflects highly on their motivation, but unpaid work beyond the call of duty creates the danger of burn-out and the loss of valued staff.

The Board looks forward with enthusiasm to a final draft of its CMS being completed within the next few months, and to obtaining community responses that will enable the Conservancy to work in a more focused way and with heightened public support.

Philip Hart  
Chairperson



*Board members inspect the Ruakuri Cave track realignment at Waitomo. From left: Ron McGough, Basil Morrison (NZCA), Philip Hart, Gary Barker, Wyne Johns, Arthur Hinds, Alison Henry, Greg Martin (Waikato Conservator), Dale Lethbridge, Pip Wallace (obscured at back), Kewana Duncan, Tipa Mahuta. (Joe Harawira/DOC photo)*

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Waikato Conservation Board is an independent advisory body established in October 1990 by the Minister of Conservation under Section 6L of the Conservation Act 1987 (as amended by the Conservation Amendment Act 1990, the National Parks Act 1980 and the Walkways Act 1990).

The Board is responsible, under this Act, for shaping conservation management through the development of a conservation management strategy (CMS) and conservation management plans (CMPs) for land administered by the Department of Conservation in the Waikato Conservancy. The Board provides advice on policy to the Department, acts as a liaison body between the Crown and the public, and advocates for conservation values on land not administered by the Department.

The Minister of Conservation appoints members to the Board for terms not exceeding three years. Members can be appointed for a second term of three years.

Under Section 6 (O) of the Conservation Act 1987 this Annual Report is submitted to the New Zealand Conservation Authority (NZCA), the national parent body for conservation boards.

## 2.0 BOARD MEMBERSHIP 2006/2007

The Minister of Conservation, by various notices in the New Zealand Gazette, has appointed members to the Waikato Conservation Board as follows:

### **KEWANA (KEVIN) DUNCAN, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2008)**

Kewana Duncan is of Ngati Tara Tokanui (Hauraki) Iwi affiliation and is a Te Reo Maori speaker. He is a strong advocate of Kaitiakitanga and Rangatiratanga. Kewana currently works in the media industry and on Kaupapa Maori projects.

### **RACHEL GARDEN, Thames (appointment expires 31 August 2008)**

Rachel is a freelance writer, specialising in technical and science writing, with a PhD in Philosophy of Science. She was founding chair of the Pacific Development and Conservation Trust 1989-1991. Rachel also has a strong business background, has a life-time interest in conservation and the environment and is experienced in governance and strategic planning.

### **PHILIP HART, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2009).**

Philip Hart is chairman of the Waikato F&B and a member of the national executive and was formerly (1969-2002) a senior lecturer in history at University of Waikato, where Philip is now a Research Associate. He has extensive leadership experience and has been actively involved in a number of Hamilton based community organisations. Philip was elected Board chair in October 2004.

### **ALISON HENRY, Whitianga, (appointment expires 31 August 2009)**

Alison is a member of the Miranda Naturalist Trust, RFBPS, Project Kiwi (Kuaotunu) and the Friends of Tiritiri-Matangi and Little Barrier organisations. A former DOC staff member (Auckland Conservancy) Alison has a good knowledge of department structure and processes and has a special interest in building public consensus on important issues. Alison is presently chair of Kauri 2000.

### **ARTHUR HINDS JP, Whitianga (appointment expires 31 August 2010)**

Arthur Hinds is a dairy farmer at Whitianga, with some 15 years experience as a director on dairy company boards, including the New Zealand Dairy Group 1991-2000. He is an Environment

Waikato councillor and, as chairperson of the Whenuakite Kiwi Care Group, a strong supporter of community conservation initiatives.

**DELL HOOD, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2009)**

Dell Hood is Medical Officer of Health for the Waikato District Health Board, with long-time interests in tramping and voluntary conservation work, including membership (and past chairperson) of the Friends of Tiritiri-Matangi. Dell is a QEII covenantor (Coromandel property) and is involved in restoration work at local reserves such as Kakepuku and Whewell's Bush.

**WYNE JOHNS, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2008)**

Wyne is a former (retired) lecturer in Amenity and Environmental Horticulture and has recently completed her Masters degree in Environmental Management through Lincoln University. Wyne has been a member of the Auckland Botanical Society for many years and is involved with several community conservation groups, including Tamahere Gully Care and Keep Hamilton Beautiful.

**TIPA MAHUTA, HUNTLY (appointment expires 31 August 2007)**

Tipa Mahuta, of Huntly, is a member of the Tainui executive and secretary for the Waikato Raupatu Lands Trust. Tipa represents Kahui Ariki (the Maori Sovereign on the Board in terms of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement Act 1995, and is a strong advocate for mana whenua issues.

**RON MCGOUGH, Mangakino (appointment expires 31 August 2008).**

Ron is manager of Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Te Hiringa at Mangakino with a long interest in fostering a clean green environment. A Raukawa Maori Trust Board trustee, Ron also holds executive positions on several iwi committees and is vice chair of Mangakino Community Agency. Originally co-opted in 1999, Ron was appointed a board member in 2002.

**SALLY MILLAR, Hamilton (appointment expires 31 August 2010)**

Sally Millar is an environmental consultant, with biodiversity protection on private land being a key area of her work. Sally has strong links to the farming community, including family involvement in a QEII Trust covenant, and was environmental and resource manager for Federated Farmers. She also has a background in law and environmental and resource management policy development.

**PETER TAIRI, JP, Cambridge (appointment expires 31 August 2009)**

Peter is a building industry sales consultant/sub-contractor with an extensive history in community projects and initiatives, from sporting, cultural and educational aspects. He is chairperson of the Maungatautari Marae Komiti and a trustee on the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust. Peter has a special interest in the impacts of legislation and local body policies on tikanga Maori.

**PHILIPPA (PIP) WALLACE, Cambridge (appointment expires 31 August 2010)**

Pip is a qualified lawyer, who presently teaches resource management at the University of Waikato. Pip has a permanent part time position with the Department of Geography, Tourism and Environmental Planning and also contract lectures for the School of Law. Pip is a member of several environmental groups and is involved with "hands-on" monitoring at Maungatautari



### 3.0 INTRODUCTION TO BOARD DISTRICT

Waikato Conservancy extends from a point at the Waikato River mouth north-east to Miranda, takes in the whole of the Coromandel Peninsula (including the Mercury and Aldermen groups and Cuvier Island) south to Waihi Beach, west to Paeroa then generally south following the Waihou River to Tirau.

The boundary then follows Highway One south to Atiamuri, the Waikato River west to Whakamaru, Western Bays Highway 32 to Kuratau, Highway 41 west to Ohura via Taumarunui; then north to Panirau before generally following the Mokau River west to the coast, and thence north to the Waikato River mouth. Waikato Conservancy also manages water-related issues for that part of the Waikato River catchment north of the Waikato/Auckland Conservancy boundary.

The total land area of the Conservancy is 2,250,000 hectares, of which nearly 250,000 hectares in 500 separate parcels is managed by the Department of Conservation for conservation purposes. The Conservancy has within its bounds an extraordinary diversity of landscape, seascape, habitat, flora, fauna, human activity, and culture. The larger mainland conservation areas include the Coromandel, Pureora and Pirongia Forest Parks; lower Waikato wetlands including Whangamarino and Kopuatai; and large forest tracts between Kawhia and Awakino.

The forests, wetlands, karst and other landscapes of the Conservancy are bounded by 1200km of vastly differing coastlines - the Coromandel, with its islands and diverse recreational attractions; and the dynamic, rugged and remote West Coast.

### 4.0 CONSERVATION BOARD MEETINGS

The Board generally plans its meeting venues in order to cover as much of the Conservancy as possible. During this year, however, three one-day meetings were held in Hamilton and one in Thames. The other meeting was of two days duration at Waitomo Caves. A further two-day meeting (August) planned for Raglan was postponed because of the death of the Maori Queen, Te Arikinui Dame Te Atai Rangikaahu. A replacement meeting planned for 8 September in Hamilton failed to proceed for want of a quorum, with those members present instead discussing items of major importance on the agenda. The June meeting was the 100<sup>th</sup> since the inaugural meeting. The Board includes “public forum” opportunities at all meetings.

Date	Place	Field Inspection
18 August 2006	Hamilton	postponed
12/13 October 2006	Waitomo	Ruakuri Caves and District
8 December 2006	Hamilton	no
15 February 2007	Thames	no
201 April 2007	Hamilton	no
29 June 2007	Hamilton	no

#### 4.1 Meeting Summary and Field Inspections

##### 4.1.1 - Meeting 18 August 2006:

As noted above, the August meeting was postponed until 8 September, on which date members present failed to make a quorum. Those present discussed several of the meeting agenda items, including the Thames-Coromandel “Blue Print project” (Alison Henry reported) and some preliminary planning for the forthcoming joint meeting with the New Zealand Conservation Authority. Members

were brought up-to-date with the vehement opposition by Coromandel Peninsula residents to a “pest proof fence” across the northern Coromandel, being proposed by the Moehau Environment Group. Much of the anti-fence sentiment was being directed at the Department. Farewells to retiring members Gary Barker and Dale Lethbridge proved to be premature as their terms of appointment would continue until October, by which time replacement members had been gazetted.

#### 4.1.2 - Meeting 13/14 October 2006:

The Board travelled to Waitomo Caves for its October meeting at the Waitomo Caves Hotel. NZCA liaison member Basil Morrison attended part of the meeting and inspection. The “Moehau fence” again generated some discussion, particularly the fact that a \$12,000 grant from Environment Waikato to the Moehau Environment Group had suddenly grown through the media to \$1.2 million.

Environment Waikato councillor David Peart and staff member Kevin Collins gave members a presentation on the Regional Pest Management Strategy which was then up for review. Council was concerned that the region’s near “TB-free status” would result in greatly reduced Animal Health Board-funded pest control, and that Council would be looking for increased contributions from other Crown agencies.

Tainui representatives Taipu Paki and Richard Cocks then gave the Board a presentation outlining Iwi’s claims (under the Treaty of Waitangi) to the Waikato River. The original claim (1987) had also included the river, but the 1995 Treaty Settlement had laid that claim aside.

Resulting from the Tainui presentation, members also discussed the large-scale forestry and land clearance taking place in parts of the Region, and the impact that, together with rapid expansion of dairy units carrying large stock numbers, was having on the river. This issue would remain on the agenda for future meetings.

In the Public Forum, members heard from Arthur and Pat Cowan, who spoke about their work with the Native Forest Restoration Trust and recent land purchases in the area. Former Board member John Ash then spoke of the work undertaken by the Waitomo Catchment Trust, which had been established in 1991 to help protect waters of the catchment flowing through Waitomo Caves. Members also visited Ruakuri Cave via the “new entrance”, and later met with Maraeroa C Incorporation Chief Executive Glen Katu, and kaumatua Philip Crown, who outlined the Incorporation’s plans for establishing new visitor facilities at Pureora.

#### 4.1.3 - Meeting 8 December 2006:

The Board received a report from DOC’s Maniapoto Area Manager about the Pureora Forest Park “link proposal” for North and South Blocks. An original concept by Stephen King to plant up several hundred hectares between the two blocks was no longer viable because of changed land ownership, but some linking by “corridors” or other means might still be feasible. The report suggested several avenues for further exploration by the Board and these remain as the basis for an on-going “Board project”:

- Restoration back to native vegetation of the (DOC managed) former and current exotic forest areas surrounding the Pikiariki Ecological Area and within the Forest Park to improve the shape and manageability of this block and provide the keystone to creating other linkages in the future.

- Seek a commitment for the restoration back into native vegetation of the remaining Crown Forest land linking firstly Pureora mountain to the Pureora Forest village block and secondly the Gully Road/Waitaramoa Road area in the north block linking Waipapa Ecological Area with privately owned bush to the west.
- Seek protection of existing remnants of native forest and scrubland between the north and south blocks. This would create a series of islands rather than a corridor but could potentially over time be extended and joined to create better linkages.
- Progressively fence off a mixture of publicly-owned marginal strips and privately-owned stream banks and restore them back into native vegetation. The marginal strips may be easiest to start work with due to the land tenure but the privately owned stream banks provide the most direct and shortest links between north and south blocks and contain the best native vegetation remnants in the open farm land.
- Recognise the conservation and environmental benefits of commercial forests and encourage the retention of these forest as opposed to conversion for farming. Mature forests provide both wildlife habitat and corridors. This may be only a periodic benefit but is still of value.

These actions would attempt to build on the existing pattern of land use, including covenants, public conservation land and Crown Forests.

The meeting concluded with some “induction” for new members, Dell Hood and Wyne Johns.

#### 4.1.4 – Meeting 15 February 2007:

The Board met at Thames in February, with further discussion on the Pureora restoration proposal giving impetus to the Board’s desire to adopt the issue as an on-going project. The provision of “corridors” along stream banks on Ernslaw forests on the Coromandel had also been an issue of concern to members and the department. The department was able to report that significant progress had been made with the company in securing adequate margins in future milling operations.

The Waikato Conservator informed members that the General Manager (Operations) had made a decision to transfer administration and management of the Karangahake Gorge area from Hauraki Area to Bay of Plenty Conservancy’s Tauranga Area. The Area has always officially been part of Bay of Plenty Conservancy.

The meeting coincided with the New Zealand Conservation Authority’s meeting in Thames, with part of the afternoon devoted to “joint meeting” and staff presentations on a range of issues. These included the Peninsula Project, Tourism and Development Pressures on the Coromandel Peninsula, Ernslaw Forestry corridors and the Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust.

Authority members were given a summary of issues concerning the board, including preparation of the CMS and public involvement therein.

The Board and Authority then hosted a public forum, receiving presentations from several conservation groups/organisations. Bill Brownell spoke of his work on the Firth of Thames (Muddy Feet project and follow-up) in conjunction with regional and district councils.

Peter Wishart (Thames-Coromandel District Council) gave a presentation on the “Blue print Project”, which involves a number of agencies working together to manage growth and planning for use, development and protection of resources (land and sea) on the Coromandel Peninsula.

Liane Ngamane gave members a summary of the structure of the Hauraki Maori Trust Board and its functions. As a former member of both Waikato and Auckland Conservation Boards she was familiar with the roles and functions of the boards. Liane commented on several issues, including rahui on Thames coast pipi beds, titi monitoring (Alderman Islands), Whangamata mangroves, pest control and Hauraki Treaty claims, which were a ‘slow grind’ towards finality. Liane also referred to Landcorp land for sale on the Peninsula as an example of Government selling land assets – “a matter of some concern to us”.

Chris Ison and Joyce Birdsall (“Friends of Paku Bay”) spoke about the proposed marina at Tairua, and the on-going battle by local residents to oppose the development.

Cliff Heraud explained how Kauri 2000 had been established to plant 2000 kauri trees on the Peninsula as a millennium project, but the concept had gained impetus and grown each year, thanks to community support and some 20,000 trees have been planted, all on public land.

Hamish Kendal then outlined the work of the Queen Elizabeth II Trust on the Peninsula. Hamish said the Waikato area has more covenants than any other part of New Zealand. Landowners retain ownership rights to covenanted land and can control access, though the covenant is registered in perpetuity on the land title. There are some 2458 covenants nationally, involving about 85,000 hectares, 84 of which are on the Coromandel.



*Philippa Barriball, Arthur Hinds and Peter Johnson at Whenuakite Kiwi Zone. Des Williams/DOC photo)*

Of major concern to Hamish (and others) is the Thames-Coromandel District Council policy of not allowing rate relief on covenanted land unless they are publicly accessible. Hamish said he has discussed the issue with TCDC several times – “public access opens a whole can of worms for a landowner, and is a significant reason for people NOT to covenant ...” TCDC is understood to be one of just a few District Councils in New Zealand that impose an access requirement on covenantors before they give rates remission.

Members also attended the “opening” of the Whenuakite Kiwi Care Zone information panels, with chairperson Philip Hart “doing the honours” after several other guests, including Ngati Hei kaumatua, Peter Johnson, and Thames-Coromandel District mayor, Philippa Barriball, had addressed the gathered throng.

#### 4.1.5 – Meeting 20 April 2007:

The April meeting included a joint discussion with councillors and staff from Environment Waikato, and presentation of the Stella Frances Memorial Scholarship to Sonja Gruebmeier, who will be undertaking a study of “environmental values in policy decisions”.

Discussion centred on the on-going financial commitment to the Maungatautari restoration project, and to the forestry clearance issue. Former Board member Gary Barker gave a brief presentation about his 30-year interest in and study of New Zealand's land snails. Waikato is globally significant for the number [and variety] of land snails found here.

#### 4.1.6 – Meeting 29 June 2007:

The final meeting for the 2006/07 year (100<sup>th</sup> since the original board was appointed in 1990) was a one-day gathering at Hamilton. Waikato's management strategy for Didymo, CMS review, Ernslaw corridors and the Blueprint Project were all on the agenda and discussed. So too a proposal by the Auckland Conservation Board for a joint inspection of the Firth of Thames.

#### 4.2 Other Board Activity

National Wetland Trust: Wyne Johns provides the Board with regular updates on progress being made by the National Wetland Trust in establishing a national wetland visitor centre at Rangiriri. The Trust has concept plans for the visitor centre prepared and ready to go (when finance becomes available) on land bought for the purpose at Rangiriri.

Maungatautari Ecological Island Trust: Ron McGough is the Board's representative on the Trust, which has been running for five years, involving many of the public as Trustees, members and volunteers. Regional and local councils and corporates also support the Trust. DOC (Waikato Conservancy) is involved directly through the presence on the Trust of a Conservation Board member, and a staff member (presently Waikato Area Manager, Rachel Kelleher). DOC staff expertise has been essential in achieving successful translocations, and guiding then Trust in a range of scientific and other matters.

The year under review (2006/2007) marked completion of the fence around the mountain, completion of pest eradication (except mice) and the translocation of several species.

Farm Environment Award Trust: Sally Millar is the Board's representative on the Farm Environment Award Trust. Principal national sponsor of the Trust is Ballance Agri-nutrients, with several other national and regional partners also sponsoring prizes.

#### 4.3 Members attendance record at meetings 2006-2007

Member	(total 5)
Gary Barker	( 1 ) (term expired in October 2006)
Kewana Duncan	( 3 )
Rachel Garden	( 3 )
Philip Hart	( 4 )
Alison Henry	( 5 )
Arthur Hinds	( 5 )
Dell Hood	( 3 ) (new member)
Wyne Johns	( 3 ) (new member)
Dale Lethbridge	( 1 ) (term expired in October 2006)
Tipa Mahuta	( 2 )
Ron McGough	( 5 )
Sally Millar	( 2 )
Peter Tairi	( 3 ) (new member)
Pip Wallace	( 3 )

## **5.0 BOARD FUNCTIONS UNDER SECTION 6M CONSERVATION ACT 1987**

Section 6M (1) (a) Approval of Conservation Management Strategy (CMS): The Waikato Conservation Management Strategy was approved by the New Zealand Conservation Authority on 24 September 1996. The Minister of Conservation has formally approved an extension of the present CMS to December 2008.

Section 6M (1) (b) Conservation Management Plan approval, review and amendments: No amendments or reviews were undertaken during the year.

Section 6M (1) (c) Advice on the implementation of CMS and CMP: Department reports to the Board during the year again (as last year) mainly on progress with implementation of the review progress, rather than achievements against the existing Strategy, which is acknowledged to be well out of date.

Section 6M (1) (d) (ii) Advice to the New Zealand Conservation Authority or the Director-General on any other conservation matters: The Board did not raise any issues with the NZCA during the year.

Statutory Land Management: No major statutory land management issues were brought before the Board during the year.

Resource Management Issues: The Board maintained an on-going interest in the windfarm developments at Taharoa and Te Uku, exotic forestry clearance and other issues, without becoming directly involved in the planning process for any of these issues.

Section 6M (1) (e) Advice on proposals for new walkways: The Board made no recommendations to the department regarding new walkway proposals.

Section 6M (1) (f) Liaise with Fish and Game Council on Board-related matters: The Board continues to send meeting agendas and minutes to the Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council, and receives copies of Council minutes in return. Further informal contact (and occasional attendance at Council meetings) is maintained by Board member Arthur Hinds.

## **6.0 POWERS OF BOARD UNDER SECTION 6N CONSERVATION ACT 1987**

6N(2)(a) Advocate interest at public forums and statutory planning processes: The Board was not directly involved in any public or statutory advocacy roles during the year, though, as noted above, encouraged and supported Department staff in its actions on several significant resource consent applications.

6N(2)(b) Appoint committees and delegate them functions and responsibilities: Te Whanganui-A-Hei (Cathedral Cove) Marine Reserve Committee functions as a sub-committee of the Waikato Conservation Board under section 6Nb of the Conservation Act 1987.

The committee includes four representatives of the Ngati Hei Trust - Patricia MacDonald of Auckland, Joe Davis of Whitianga, Peter Johnson of Whitianga and Barbara Francis of Whitianga - and four members representing the community: Philip Costello of Hahei, Sue Edens of Opito Bay (chairperson), Dirk Immenga of Waikato University, and Nathan Smith of Hahei. Arthur Hinds represents the Board on the committee.

## **7.0 BOARD RESPONSIBILITIES UNDER OTHER SECTIONS OF THE CONSERVATION ACT 1987**

6Q (1) Co-opting Members: The Board did not co-opt any additional members during the year (and does not now have the capacity to do so, with 12 Minister-appointed members).

17G Procedure for Preparation and Approval of Conservation Management Plans: The Board did not consider any Conservation Management Plans this year.

## **8.0 LIAISON**

With the Public: The Board discusses conservation issues with individuals and organisations as opportunity permits. Each agenda has time allocated for a public forum where people are able to express concerns, raise issues, and talk with the Board.

With Fish and Game: A report on Fish & Game Council meeting minutes is given by Board liaison member Arthur Hinds at Board meetings. A copy of the Waikato Conservation Board's agenda and minutes are sent to the executive officer of Auckland /Waikato Fish and Game Council.

With Other Boards / Organisations: The Waikato Conservation Board maintains contact with neighbouring Conservation Boards through the exchange of meeting agendas and minutes. A report on each neighbouring board's minutes is given at each Board meeting when time allows. 2006-2007 liaison members were: Bay of Plenty – Ron McGough; Taupo / Tongariro – Ron McGough; Auckland – Philip Hart; Taranaki / Wanganui - Sally Millar.

With the Waikato Farm Environment Awards – Sally Millar. With the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society – Philip Hart. With the National Wetland Trust – Wyne Johns. With the Thames Coast Protection Society – Rachel Garden; with Thames Coromandel District Council and QEII Trust – Alison Henry.

With the New Zealand Conservation Authority: The Board has appreciated receiving the NZCA Chair's prompt report of NZCA meetings. Minutes of the Conservation Authority meetings are circulated to members with the Waikato Conservation Board's meeting agenda papers and are commented on by the Board/NZCA liaison member at the meeting.

In 2006-2007 Philip Hart was the liaison member with the NZCA. Basil Morrison of Paeroa is the NZCA's Waikato liaison member and receives copies of Board agendas and meeting minutes. Basil attended the Board's October meeting.

With Iwi Authorities, Maori Trust Boards and Tangata Whenua: Maori members of the Board are each affiliated with at least one of the four major Maori Trust Boards in the Waikato Conservancy; Hauraki, Waikato, Raukawa and Maniapoto. Meeting minutes and agendas are circulated to the Maori Trust Boards. Kahui Ariki (The Maori King) is represented on the Waikato Conservation Board (presently by Tipa Mahuta) as a condition of the Waikato Raupatu Lands Settlement Act 1995.

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