

Preface

The management plan for Nelson Lakes National Park has been reviewed in accordance with the procedure set out in section 47 of the National Parks Act 1980. The previous management plan was approved in 1988. This management plan is a statutory document and provides for the management of Nelson Lakes National Park in accordance with the Act and General Policy and implements the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Management Strategy (CMS) 1996.

This management plan contains detailed objectives and policies for the effective management of the park but does not override the provisions of primary legislation, the Conservation Management Strategy or General Policy. The purpose of this plan is to express the Department's overall management intentions for Nelson Lakes National Park for the next 7 years. Achievement will be determined by the availability of resources, strategic and business planning and level of community support.

The initial request for input to the review of the management plan was given in December 1994. At the same time a discussion document was released which summarised the changes within the area since the last plan was approved and identified a range of issues to be addressed by the plan. Public suggestions and responses to the discussion document were taken into account in the preparation the draft plan.

The draft plan was available for public comment from the 16 December 1995 until 31 March 1996. One-hundred-and-twenty-one submissions were received. Hearings were held during April 1996. After giving due consideration to the submissions and other public opinion, the Department revised the draft and presented it to the Nelson/Marlborough Conservation Board for consideration in April 2000. The Conservation Board forwarded the plan to the New Zealand Conservation Authority for approval in August 2001.

The New Zealand Conservation Authority approved this plan on 10 October 2002. The plan has a proposed term of seven years from this date.

This management plan is a statutory document and replaces the previous plan

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kerry Marshall', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Kerry Marshall

Chairperson

New Zealand Conservation Authority

In the dark mists of time
When giants dwelt in this land
Tradition relates how Rākaihautū
Arrived on the canoe Uruao
And rested at Whakatū

He had a desire to seek out the source of the pure waters
That flowed to the sea at Motueka.
So he set out on a journey up the Motueka River.

When he reached the source of the Motueka in the swamps of the Wairau Saddle
He had still not found the source of the pure water
So he began with his digging ko to probe the depths of mother earth.

And as he dug he created the mountains of the St Arnaud and Travers Ranges
And still he did not find the source of the pure water.
He tried again and up rose the mountains of the Ella and Māhanga Ranges
And still he was not content.
Thus he passed onward down Te Waipounamu
Stopping and seeking the pure water in many places
Until he arrived at Manapōuri.

When he had gone the pure water came out from hiding in mother earth
And formed the two great lakes known today as Rotoiti and Rotoroa.
And so it was that mana Māori was established in this land.

Since that time travellers have paused on the shores of the lakes
To seek peace and rest and to replenish their supplies
As they passed back and forth on their journeys across the land.

(Based on Māori legend)