



Northland Conservation Board

Te Runanga Papa Atawhai O Te Taitokerau

Annual Report

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

Presented to the New Zealand Conservation Authority pursuant to Section 6(0) of the Conservation Act 198



Cover photograph:

Back row: Rolien Elliot, Conservation Services Manager, Bay of Islands, Mita Harris [Chair], Mike Finlayson

Second row: Willie Wright, Alan Martin, Nicky Wagner, Associate Minister of Conservation, Richard Robbins, Doug Klever

Kneeling: Adrian Walker, Senior Ranger Biodiversity, Bay of Islands

Photographer: Jeannie Hogarth, Board Support Officer

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Foreword from the Chair

2014/2015 has been an interesting and rewarding period for the Northland Conservation Board and the people of Northland.

The Conservation Management Strategy for Northland [CMS] became operational in September 2013 and the Northland Conservation Board is now commencing the implementation monitoring process. This is a crucial component of the Board's work and I would like to acknowledge the support and assistance provided by staff of the Department of Conservation in the development of a CMS Monitoring template.

I would also like to acknowledge the ongoing support provided by Piet Nieuwland ["Mr CMS"] in the post CMS operative phase. Piet's background and experience with CMS, particularly relating to Northland, has been invaluable.

Jeannie Hogarth has been the Board's Support Officer since its inception in 1990. After many years' service, she has retired from this role. Jeannie is continuing in her present role supporting the Services Director Northern. I want to thank Jeannie for her contribution over this time on behalf of present and former members. Her professionalism and service will be extremely hard to replace. As present member, I hope that we will sustain the high level of standards and procedures accumulated. We all wish you well, Jeannie.

The Board bade farewell to two Members [Ian McGill and Richard Robbins] in 2014/15. Both Members had played a crucial part in the work of the Board during their tenure, particularly in relation to the review of the CMS.

I want to thank Ian, in particular, for his support in his role as Deputy Chair. He was a rock to lean on and his support to me was greatly appreciated.

Richard's representation of the Board at meetings of Fish & Game Northland is also of note. It has provided a key link with one of our major associates.



As the Board enters the 2015/16 year, we welcome two new members to the team - Adrienne Tari and Bronwyn Hunt. Both new members have a lot of experience to offer Northland in their new role.

At the beginning of the 2014/15 year, all Conservation Boards received a *Letter of Expectation* from the Honourable Nicky Wagner, Associate Minister of Conservation. The Northland Conservation Board Members accepted the letter and I am happy to report that we achieved what was expected of us [as outlined in the Report and attached Performance Report document].

The Board was delighted to host the Honourable Nicky Wagner in Kerikeri in May 2015 and provide first hand evidence that the Board took the *Letter of Expectation* very seriously indeed and was able to demonstrate the actions taken by the Board to give effect to the *Expectations* – kauri dieback being a top priority for the Board. A visit in the Puketi Forest [as outlined in the Report] gives testimony to this. It was also a privilege to have quality time with the Associate Minister to speak freely and frankly on a wide range of issues.

Another interesting project was the introduction of a new “Code of Conduct” for Boards. This document will come in handy for our board meetings and future inductions; it’s a good start point and will continue to evolve.

In April 2015, the Board launched its “Save the Kūkupa Campaign” as we have done in the past. This year we developed posters that were given to schools and other groups. We also launched a media statement that was supported in the general public.

Unfortunately, the Board’s position was put under pressure in June 2015 with an incident of alleged illegal hunting of kūkupa/kererū by a prominent NgaPuhi leader. This issue received nationwide media attention and reached all homes in New Zealand. It has been a hot topic at Marae, the workplace, and just general conversations. Blogs have been another place that has given people an opportunity to express themselves.

The fallout will continue and its impact will be far more reaching than just an effect on our natural areas or a single person. NgaPuhi itself will be tested.

On a positive note, the issue has highlighted the plight of the kūkupa/kererū [albeit in a negative manner] and it is to be hoped that like all things in life that good can come from bad and lessons learnt that will prevent a repeat of this type of illegal hunting of our precious taonga.

For the Northland Conservation Board, 2014/15 has been a very good year. I take this opportunity to thank my fellow Board Members for their support to me and their unstinting personal commitment to raising the profile of the Board and demonstrating by action the Board's role in enhancing conservation values and engagement with our communities.

So it is my pleasure to present and endorse this report and encourage all Northlanders to first enjoy the open spaces to then appreciate them, and then to get involved in your local places.

Nga Mihi – Arohanui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mita Harris', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mita Harris
Chairperson
Northland Conservation Board

1. Introduction

The Northland Conservation Board is one of fourteen [14] bodies appointed nationwide by the Minister of Conservation under s.6P of the Conservation Act 1987.

The Northland Conservation Board/Te Runanga Papa Atawhai O Te Taitokerau serves a conservation advisory role, along with offering community perspective on conservation management issues for the Northland region.

A major responsibility of the Board is overseeing the implementation of the Northland Conservation Management Strategy (CMS). The CMS implements general policies and establishes objectives for the integrated management of natural and historic resources, including any species managed by the Department, and for recreation, tourism and other conservation purposes.

The functions of the Board are outlined in s.6M and the powers that enable the Board to carry out those functions are under s.6N of the Act.

The role of the Conservation Boards as laid out in the Conservation Act 1987 is as follows:

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

Section 6O of the Conservation Act requires that every Conservation Board provide the New Zealand Conservation Authority with an annual report as soon as practicable after 30 June each year. In recognition of this requirement, the Northland Conservation Board submits its Annual Report for consideration.

2. The Board's current area

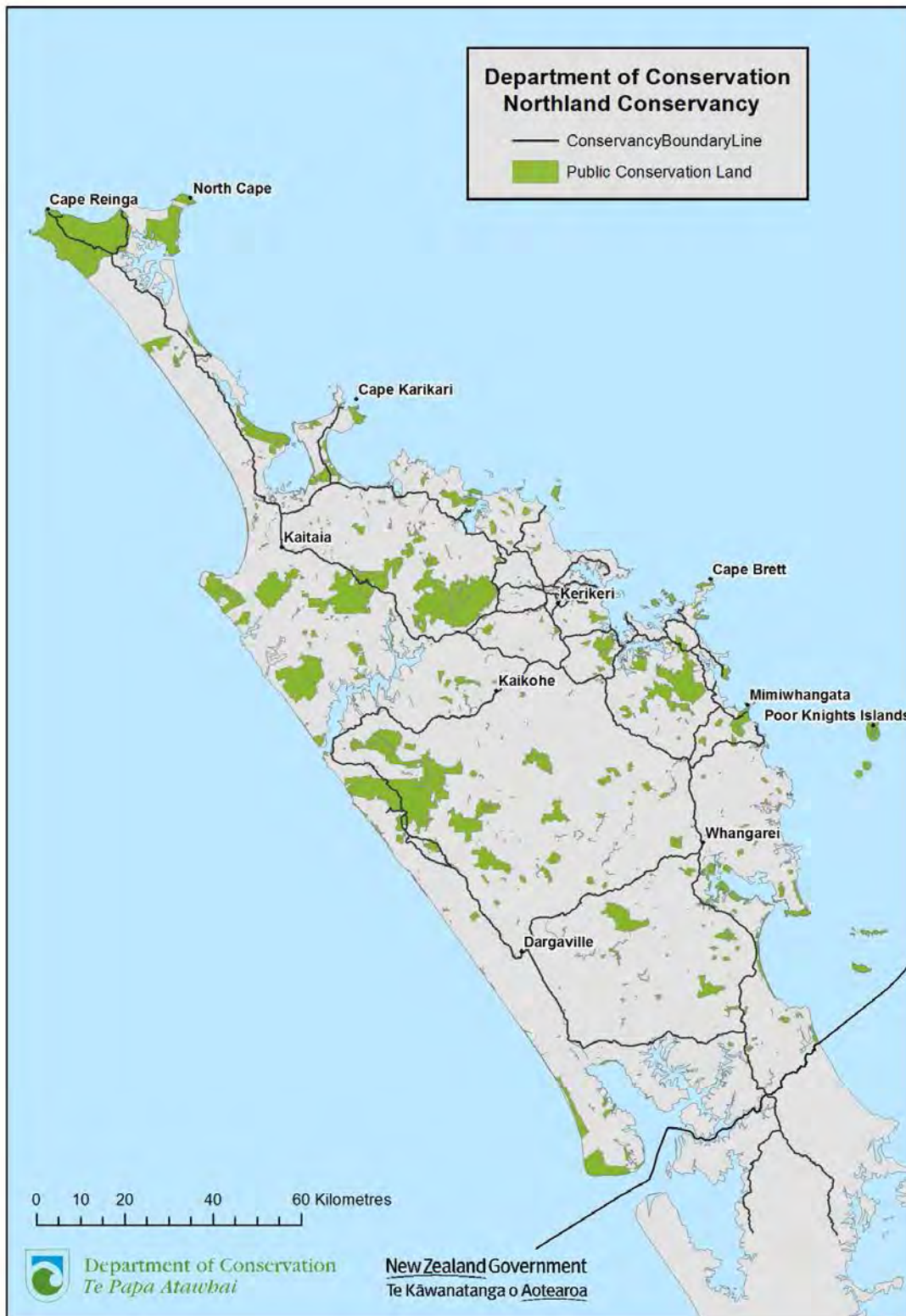


Figure 1: Map of current Northland Conservation Board area

The boundaries of the Northland Conservation Board's area of responsibility differ from the restructured Department of Conservation boundaries. Following the Ministerial review of Conservation Boards post the implementation of the new Department of Conservation structure, it was decided that trying to align Conservation Board boundaries with the new Department of Conservation boundaries, was impractical. The Minister made the decision to retain the current post Departmental restructure Board boundaries for the present.

Northland is a long narrow peninsula; the features that set it apart from the rest of the country are its subtropical climate and 1,700 km of indented and very scenic coastline. The region covers a land area of 1.25 million hectares, supporting a population of just over 150,000.

2.1. Economy

Northland's economy is based on pastoral farming, forestry, and horticulture, with well over half the region's land area devoted to beef and sheep farming. Northland is a popular holiday destination, making tourism a significant industry.

2.2. Ecology

Northland is notable as home to two high profile species - the kauri and the kiwi. One of the most magnificent trees in the world, the kauri, was prolific in the north but much of the region's kauri forest is now gone. A number of relatively large kauri-dominated tracts do remain, principally the Waipoua/Mataraua/Waima ecosystem and the Puketi/Omahuta/Maungataniwha complex but other individual forests as well.



Kauri in Puketi Forest

Kiwi too are an important ingredient that makes Northland special, but the North Island brown kiwi is under threat and special effort is required to maintain several large viable populations in the region.

Notable are the harbours, headlands, islands, and reserves of Northland's eastern seaboard, the islands that provide offshore sanctuary to the very best of New Zealand's natural treasures and the wild and rugged yet beautiful west coast.

However, Northland also has the dubious distinction of being the region with more native plants and animals at risk than anywhere else in the country. The arrival of new pests, which is not an uncommon occurrence, poses great risk to our native biota. The threat to Northland's kauri forest from the spread of *Phytophthora taxon Agathis* [PTA] is cause for concern at present.

2.3. History and culture

Northland was the cradle of both the Māori and European settlement of New Zealand. For both cultures, the North has a long, fascinating, and sometimes turbulent past and the region's historic sites and buildings still reflect this history.

The majority of historic places are of Māori origin, with many holding a deep spiritual significance amongst the region's Iwi. On Crown administered land alone almost 3,000 historic places have been recorded. The sites include fortified pa, traces of ancient gardens, coastal midden, and sculptured, terraced hillsides. Around Kerikeri and Waitangi there are a number of significant historic buildings relating to early European settlement in the area.

3. Membership

The Board was saddened to farewell the following Board Members who completed their current term on the Board in 2015.

- **Ian McGill [01 October 2009 to 30 June 2015]**

During his time on the Board, Ian has been an active participant in all aspects of the Board's work. He has been Deputy Chair since September 2011 and has represented the Board on the Whangarei Harbour Marine Reserves Advisory Committee and the Community Conservation Partnership Fund Application Analysis Panel [2014 and 2015].

Ian was an eloquent speaker; always one prepared to speak his mind and he never faltered in asking the "hard questions" to ensure that each issue being addressed was looked at from all points of view.

He brought with him a scientific engineering background, an astute analytical mind, and a dedication to meticulous presentation.

Ian suffered some major health setbacks in 2014/15 but this did not deter him from attending meetings of the Board ably assisted in this by his wife Kirsty, who acted as Ian's "chauffeur". This commitment was part of what made Ian such an outstanding Board Member. We wish him and Kirsty all the very best in the future.



Associate Minister of Conservation
Nicky Wagner and Ian McGill

- **Richard Robbins [01 November 2011 to 30 June 2015]**

Richard brought youth and vitality to the Board Membership. Like Ian, he was never one to shirk from asking the "hard questions" and to let up until he was satisfied with the answers provided. He has a passion for biodiversity and he was heavily involved in the Bay of Islands Project Island Song.









Richard Robbins (second from left) at a release of tieke/North Island saddleback to the islands of Ipipiri (photo courtesy of Project Island Song)

Richard represented the Board on the Northland Fish & Game Council and the Northland Kiwi Forum. He was an excellent advocate for conservation on both these committees and gained respect and recognition from Fish & Game Northland in particular, who appreciated his commitment to attend meetings and genuinely contribute to discussions in a forum that was, at the outset, unfamiliar to him. He has set a high standard for future Board representation on both these committees.

Richard was the type of person every Board should have on its team and he will be greatly missed. The Board wishes Richard well for the future.

2015 Board appointments

The Board was delighted to note that the Minister had reappointed Alan Martin for a further three-year term on the Board and looks forward to welcoming newly appointed Members Bronwyn Hunt and Adrienne Tari when they commence their term with the Board on 01 July 2015.

2014/15 Board Members		Term
	Mita Harris, Bay of Islands appointed as Chair	19 September 11 – 30 June 16
	Tracey Andrews-Smith, Whangarei	19 September 11 – 30 June 16
	Mike Finlayson, Kaitaia	01 July 14 – 30 June 17
	Doug Klever, Kaitaia	01 May 14 – 30 June 16
	Ian McGill, Bay of Islands	01 October 09 – 30 June 15
	Alan Martin, Whangarei	01 May 14 – 30 June 18
	Luana Pirihi, Ruakaka	01 July 14 – 30 June 17
	Richard Robbins, Kaitaia	01 January 11 – 30 June 15
	Willie Wright, Whangarei	01 July 14 – 30 June 17

4. Conservation Board meetings

The Northland Conservation Board held four [4] formal Board meetings during 2014/15. The venue for Board meetings is chosen to ensure as wide a coverage as possible is made of the region and to enable members of the public throughout Northland to have access to the Board.

Date	Location
22 August 2014	DOC Kauri Coast Office, Dargaville
07 November 2014	Gateway Motel, Kaiwaka
13 February 2015	DOC Whangarei Office, Whangarei
15 May 2015	DOC Bay of Islands Office, Kerikeri

The Board acknowledges and appreciates the hospitality accorded to it by staff of the Department of Conservation in hosting the Board at its Northland Offices during the year. By taking advantage of the Department of Conservation Offices to hold meetings, the Board not only saves money but also, more importantly, has the opportunity to mix and mingle with the Department's staff at each location. This is invaluable in raising the profile of the Board and Board Members in each location, and offers important opportunities to engage with staff and look at opportunities for the Board to support programmes and projects within each location.

4.1. Working meetings

Four [4] Working Meetings were held in 2014/15

Date	Location
25 July 2014	Kerikeri
19 September 2014	Kerikeri
28 November 2014	Kerikeri
20 March 2015	Kerikeri

Holding working meetings between formal Board meetings is proving invaluable to the Board. Not only do these meetings provide continuity of programmes and projects, it also offers Board Members a format to network with one another and to discuss in a full and frank manner issues of concern to the Board and highlight any "housekeeping" issues outside of the public arena.

The value of providing an opportunity for Board Members to meet in an informal setting was evident in the speed in which the new Board Members were able to be

assimilated into the Board and the firm friendships and collegiate approach adopted through these regular get-togethers.

5. Site visits

The Board undertook four [4] site visits within Northland in 2014/15

Date	Location
21 August 2014	Kauri Coast
06 November 2014	Oruawharo Marae, Kaiwaka
12 February 2015	<i>After Five Walk</i> , Whangarei
14 May 2015	Kerikeri Basin and Puketi Forest, Kerikeri

5.1. Kauri Coast

In August 2015 Luke Archbold, Conservation Services Manager and his team hosted the Board for a visit to Waipoua and organised a meeting with representatives from Te Roroa Manuawhenua Trust.

It provided an opportunity to view the work being undertaken on priority projects for the area including the Rakau Rangatira [Big Trees] project and to discuss the establishment of a Kauri National Park in Waipoua.

The Board was delighted to meet with representatives of Te Roroa. This was seen as an important step in enhancing the relationship between Te Roroa and the Board and it was good to be able to korero face to face and receive an understanding of the projects and programmes the Trust was currently involved in at Waipoua.

A presentation was given on kauri dieback by Ian Mitchell, Kauri Dieback Programme Relationships Manager, Ministry for Primary Industries and Lynnell Greer, Technical Advisor, Recreation and Planning, Department of Conservation. Following the presentation the Board visited Trounson Kauri Park to observe the cleaning stations in place at the entrance to the Park to contain the spread of kauri dieback.



From left: Richard Robbins, Willie Wright, Sue Reed-Thomas (DOC), Luke Archbold (DOC), Luana Pirihi, Matthew Calder (DOC), Tracey Andrews-Smith, Mita Harris, Alan Martin, Doug Klever, Mike Finlayson

Kneeling : Ian Mitchell, Ministry for Primary Industries

The Board appreciated the information provided through the presentations and the site visit. Kauri dieback will continue to be a high priority for the Board and the more information and hands on experience of this issue Board Members can obtain the more empowered each Member will be to take the message out to the widest possible communities in Northland.

The Board greatly appreciated the work undertaken by Luke Archbold and his team in hosting and organising the site visit. As Board Member Tracey Andrews-Smith commented

“It never ceases to amaze how much DOC staff does with so little resource – the fiscal contribution is miniscule. The passion and commitment of staff never ceases to amaze. These staff are doing the work because they believe in it.”

These sentiments were unanimously endorsed by the Board.

5.2. Oruawharo Marae

In November 2015, Board Member, Willie Wright, organised a visit by the Board to the Oruawharo Marae to meet with representatives of Te Uri o Hau.

The Board was warmly welcomed onto the Marae and appreciated the hospitality accorded to Board Members and Department of Conservation staff, including Sue Reed-Thomas, Conservation Partnerships Manager, Northland.

Te Uri o Hau expressed their appreciation of the Board taking time to visit. The opportunity for the Board and the Department of Conservation to participate in korero with Te Uri o Hau in a full, frank, and meaningful way was invaluable. Having three parties together to discuss a wide range of issues affecting them all and, most importantly, to be able to provide on the spot answers to questions raised was a significant step forward.

All participants took on board the mutual issues and concerns raised and agreed to follow these up as well as undertake a follow up visit to the Marae in the future.

The value of these face-to-face meetings cannot be over stated. The Board noted how significant a step forward in building relationships with Te Uri o Hau the visit had been and looked forward to planning a return visit.

Following the Marae visit, Willie Wright led a site visit around the Kaipara Harbour.

5.3. *After Five Walk, Whangarei*

Board Member Alan Martin organised an *After Five Walk* in the Pukenui/Western Hills Forest and Whangarei Quarry Gardens in February 2015.



This was an opportunity to meet with members of the Pukenui/Western Hills Charitable Trust [Alan is also a member of this Trust], Whangarei Quarry Gardens, Whangarei District Council [including the Mayor of Whangarei, Sheryl Mai] and Trevor Peacock, Perpetual Guardian Trust.

The event was extremely challenging and provided an excellent opportunity for all participants to view the pest control work that had been undertaken in the Forest [mostly by volunteers] and visit the Whangarei Quarry Gardens – one of Whangarei’s “hidden treasures”.



The Board appreciated the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues with all participants and noted the great collaboration between the Trust and the Gardens.

As a result of the visit, the Board looks to working with both the Trust and the Gardens members to form a collaborative force for conservation - sharing concerns, issues, ideas and working together to achieve positive outcomes.

The Board appreciated the presence of Trevor Peacock at the event and for Perpetual Guardian Trust providing refreshments at the after walk meeting.

The Board looks forward to building on the relationship now forged with the Pukenui/Western Hills Forest Charitable Trust and the Whangarei Quarry Gardens. The Board is also investigating other opportunities to link into the business community throughout Northland. This event was a great stepping-stone for future business relationship building.

5.4. Kerikeri Basin and Puketi Forest, Kerikeri



View of the Kerikeri Basin

In May 2015, the Board and Department of Conservation were privileged to host a visit to Kerikeri by the Hon Nicky Wagner, Associate Minister of Conservation.

The visit focused on the Kerikeri Basin and environs, including Rewa's Village, Kemp House, Kororipo Pa, and the Kerikeri Stone Store. Representatives from Ngati Rehia and Heritage New Zealand joined the group.

The Associate Minister and the Board also visited the Manginangina Boardwalk in the Puketi Forest to discuss kauri dieback and the need to increase public awareness through education and example regarding the need to contain the spread of this deadly disease.

Following the site visit the Board held an informal session with the Associate Minister covering a wide range of issues. The Board greatly appreciated having the Associate Minister taking the time to spend the day with the Board, which had been a real bonus.



Associate Minister of Conservation Nicky Wagner at a boot cleaning station in Puketi Forest to prevent the spread of kauri dieback disease

The Board appreciated the organisation of the visit by Rolien Elliot, Conservation Services Manager, Bay of Islands and her team and their contribution to the discussions at each site visited.

The passion and the commitment of the staff involved was obvious and the Associate Minister and the Board Members had gained a great deal from the visit.

6. New Zealand Conservation Authority [NZCA]

The Board was privileged to welcome Mike Simm as the NZ Conservation Authority liaison with the Northland Conservation Board.

The Board acknowledges the importance of this link between the NZCA and the Board and appreciates the local background knowledge and experience Mike brings, together with his business acumen and links with the Waitangi National Trust.

Mike was able to bring the Board up to speed with activities and issues the NZCA was engaged in and [most importantly for the Northland Conservation Board] his ability to take back to the NZCA issues and concerns facing the Board.

The Board greatly appreciated Mike's informative presentations at each Board meeting and his willingness to work with the Board and provide guidance, support, and wise counsel.

The Board thanks the NZCA for making Mike Simm available to attend meetings and site visits.

7. Associate Minister of Conservation's 2014/15 Letter of Expectation

2014/15 was very much the year of kauri dieback, relationship building and the Associate Minister of Conservation's Letter of Expectation.

The Letter of Expectation was a result of the 2012/13 review of Conservation Boards. It provided each Board with a clear direction as to what the Associate Minister expected Boards to take for the future.

Much of what was laid out in the Letter of Expectation was already being undertaken by the Northland Conservation Board so adapting its current programme for 2014/15 did not pose too much of a problem. However, the additional expectations of the Board for 2014/15 did have an impact on the already programmed 2014/15 budget.

In its response to the Letter of Expectation the Board drew attention to the cost of implementing the response and provided a budget based on the new programmes

that would need to be funded over and above the programmes already in train for 2014/15.

The issue of adequate funding for all Conservation Boards was highlighted through discussions with the Chairs of other Conservation Boards and with the Director Conservation Partnerships, Northern North Island Region.

The Northland Conservation Board has been fortunate to have an excellent relationship with the Department of Conservation from the inception of Boards in 1990. Each Conservator [from 1990-2013] was extremely supportive of the Board and, given the Board's prudent attitude towards its budget and it being mindful to always add value to conservation outcomes each year, a commitment was given to provide the Board with the necessary funds to enable it to perform to its best potential. The Department also took this approach during the review of the Conservation Management Strategy.

The Northland Conservation Board appreciated this approach and, until the impact of the Letter of Expectation, including the review of the Conservation Management Strategy for Northland, the Board managed to keep within its budget each financial year.

The Northland Conservation Board appreciated the ongoing commitment from Nicola Douglas, Director Conservation Partnerships, Northern North Island Region, to ensure that the Board was able to meet its obligations under the Letter of Expectation. The Board recognised the fact that the Department had not received additional funding to meet the costs of the Letter of Expectation outcomes and it was committed to ensure that it acted in a prudent and responsible manner in terms of the budget implications.

The Board took the opportunity during discussions with the Hon. Nicky Wagner, Associate Minister of Conservation, in Kerikeri in May 2014, to discuss the implications of the implementation of the Letter of Expectation. The Board was pleased to note the Associate Minister's acknowledgment of the financial situation and willingness to consider how this should be addressed for all Boards in the future.

The 2014/15 year was devoted to meeting the Board's response to the Letter of Expectation, with thirdly reports on progress being provided to the Associate Minister of Conservation and the Department of Conservation [through the Deputy Director-General Partnerships and Director Conservation Partnerships, Northern North Island Region].

The 2014/15 Annual Report is based on the Northland Conservation Board response to the 2014/15 Letter of Expectation.

A copy of the Final Third Performance Report is appended to the Annual Report as **Appendix A**.

7.1. Working with the Department of Conservation

The Board acknowledges and appreciates the liaison established with Nicola Douglas, Director Conservation Partnerships, Northern North Island Region. Nicola has attended all the meetings of the Board in 2014/15 and her support and assistance to the Board has been significant. Of particular note is her attendance at all meetings of the Board and her acknowledgement of the financial restraints facing the Board in implementing its response to the *Letter of Expectation*.

Sue Reed-Thomas, Conservation Partnerships Manager, Northland attended a Working Meeting of the Board to provide information on the Department's business planning process and, in particular, the priority given to milestones within the Conservation Management Strategy for Northland.

The Board greatly appreciated the support and assistance provided by Conservation Services Managers in the locations where Board meetings were held during the year. This included organising specific site visits and accompanying the Board during these visits.

Particular mention is made of **Luke Archbold, Conservation Services Manager, Kauri Coast** supporting the Board during its visit to Kauri Coast and meeting with Te Roroa and **Rolien Elliot, Conservation Services Manager, Bay of Islands**, for organising and supporting the visit of the Associate Minister of Conservation the Hon Nicky Wagner.

The Board's relationship with all Department of Conservation staff at all levels is high and an "open door" policy for Board Members is extended at all Northland Department of Conservation offices.

7.1.1. Chris Jenkins, Director Conservation Services, Northern North Island Region



In the foreground of the photo: Chris Jenkins at a field trip to a local wetland in 2014

On 5 February 2015 Chris Jenkins, Director Conservation Services, Northern North Island Region, retired from the Department of Conservation after 37 years of public service. Chris had been with the Department of Conservation since its inception in 1987. He was appointed Conservator Northland in November 2003.

During his time in Northland, Chris proved to be a significant influence on the Northland Conservation Board with his “open door” policy, attendance at site visits and Board Meetings and generally engaging fully with the Board. He recognised the value of the Board and the Department working together to address concerns of mutual interest to both organisations and achieving significant gains for conservation in Northland.

Chris Jenkins was a true “friend of Conservation Boards” and saw the merit in working with Boards and to use the Board as a conduit between the Department and the communities represented by Members of the Board.

In recognition of his service to the Board, a presentation of a bone carving was made to Chris, from the Board [paid for from personal donations from Board Members] at his retirement function in Whangarei on 05 February 2015.



The loss of a public servant like Chris Jenkins is significant and his are big shoes to fill. The Board looks forward to continuing the relationship established by Chris, with his yet to be appointed successor.

7.2. Implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy

The Conservation Management Strategy for Northland [CMS] became operative on 29 September 2013.

In 2014/15, the Board actively pursued the development of a national “CMS template” for all CMS throughout the country.

The Board was invited to review and prioritise the milestones set out in the CMS for the 10-year life of the document. This was greatly appreciated by the Board - it provided an opportunity for Board Members to effectively review the milestones within their particular area and discuss these with individuals, groups, organisations, Iwi/Hapu.

The Board was mindful of the concerns raised by members of the community and Iwi/Hapu regarding those species/habitats that had not been included in the

Department's Natural Heritage Management System [NHMS] priorities list. The question raised by concerned communities was what would happen to these species and sites as a result of not being included in the priorities list?

The Board has given a commitment to the communities and Iwi/Hapu of Northland to review these particular species and sites and ensure that they are not lost sight of.

The Board would proactively look at ways to address this anomaly in 2015/16.

The Board will continue to closely monitor and review the prioritisation of the CMS milestones as these are implemented through the Department of Conservation's Annual Business Planning process.

The Board proactively pursued the development of a national "CMS Implementation Monitoring Template" for use by all Conservation Boards to provide consistency in reporting.

The Board was pleased to receive the draft template at its meeting on 15 May 2015 in Kerikeri. The template was reviewed at that meeting and suggestions made by the Board to improve it were tabled and acknowledged.

The Board looks forward to commencing the formal implementation monitoring process in early 2016.

The Board acknowledges the support and advice provided by Piet Nieuwland, Statutory Planning Consultant, during the review of the CMS, the setting of milestones, and the drafting of a CMS implementation monitoring template. Piet has been associated with the Northland Conservation Board and the CMS since 1990 and has proved an extremely valuable component of the Board's understanding of the CMS and its review over this long period of time. Without Piet's background knowledge, experience and engagement with the Board, the review of the CMS and the subsequent monitoring of the implementation, would have been a much more difficult task.

The Board expresses its sincere thanks to Piet Nieuwland for his engagement with the Board and the excellent relationship link he provided with the Department of Conservation during the period of the CMS Review.

7.3. Te Hiku Settlement

From the outset, the Northland Conservation Board has been mindful of the need to respect the sensitivity of the Te Hiku Settlement and to await an invitation from Te Hiku to engage with the Board.

The Board has expressed its willingness to meet with Te Hiku and provide whatever support and assistance it can to assist in the post settlement phase.

The establishment of the Te Hiku Conservation Board is a major interest for the Northland Conservation Board. Again, the Board appreciates the need for Te Hiku to make the first move to engage with the Northland Conservation Board and looks forward to this taking place in 2015/16.

The impact of the establishment of the Te Hiku Conservation Board on the Northland Conservation Board will be the subject of much discussion once this has been confirmed.

The Northland Conservation Board looks forward to engaging with Te Hiku in 2015/16 and developing a meaningful relationship for both Boards to work together on conservation and environment issues of mutual concern and interest in the Far North of Taitokerau.

7.4. Stewardship Land

The Northland Conservation Board has taken the stand that no further reclassification of stewardship land in Northland should be undertaken until ALL Treaty Claims in Taitokerau have been settled.

There were no issues/applications relating to the reclassification of stewardship land in Northland in 2014/15.

7.5. Other Functions

7.5.1. Kauri National Park

In 2014/15, the Board continued to explore the issue of the establishment of a Kauri National Park based on the forest of Waipoua.

The Northland Conservation Board extended its offer to provide support, advice, and assistance, as and when required to progress the issue.

The need for the Minister of Conservation and Te Roroa to meet was the key to moving the issue forward. Unfortunately, timing and internal issues associated with Te Roroa, made the setting of this meeting extremely difficult. However, it is pleasing to note that a meeting has been organised and agreed to by all parties, which will take place in Waipoua in early July 2015.

The Board looks forward to noting progress with the issue and, in particular, the main negotiating point of “co-governance”.

7.5.2. Marine National Park for Northland

The Northland Conservation Board noted with pleasure that the Minister of Conservation and the Department of Conservation had raised marine protection to a high priority level.

The suggestion of establishing a marine national park for Northland was one promoted by the Northland Conservation Board over 10 years ago and it is still a concept that the Board would like explored.

Since its initial tabling, the concept has moved more to a marine recreational park rather than a “national” park, although this is still on the table and is included in the Conservation Management Strategy for Northland 2013-2023.

The Board looks forward to pursuing this option further through forums with community groups and discussions with all interested parties, including the Department of Conservation.

7.6. Fish & Game Council

The ongoing representation of the Board at meetings of Fish & Game Council Northland has been hailed as a success by both the Board and Council. Board Member Richard Robbins continued to provide this link at meetings and Rudi Hoetjes, Manager, Fish & Game Northland attended meetings of the Board when his timetable permitted.

In early December 2014, Fish & Game Northland hosted Members of the Northland Conservation Board and Department of Conservation representatives to a day visiting key wetlands in the Whangarei area. This visit was a great success and provided both organisations the opportunity to network together and, for the Northland Conservation Board Members in particular, an opportunity to obtain a better understanding of what Fish & Game Councils did and see first-hand the excellent work being undertaken to preserve and enhance the wetlands in Northland. It has to be said that if it weren't for the efforts of the Fish & Game Council, the number of remaining wetlands in Northland would be very small indeed.



The Board appreciated the opportunity to see Fish & Game Council activities in a different light i.e. seeing them as committed to conservation and the enhancement of habitat for species rather than the misconception that Fish & Game Councils were primarily for hunters and fishers.

The Board will be extending an invitation to Fish & Game Northland to undertake a site visit, organised by the Board, in 2015/16.

7.7. Advocacy

7.7.1. Kauri dieback

Kauri dieback is caused by a microscopic, fungus-like organism called *Phytophthora taxon Agathis* [PTA]. It infects kauri roots and damages the tissues that carry nutrients and water within the tree, effectively starving it to death. It has the ability to kill kauri of all ages and nearly all infected trees die. At the moment, there is no known cure.



Luana Pirihi admiring magnificent kauri at the Manginangina Boardwalk in the Puketi Forest

The Board proactively advocated on kauri dieback and engaged in a comprehensive public awareness campaign to draw attention to the issue and, most importantly, to educate the public of Northland about measures that each individual is required to take when visiting our unique forests to contain the spread of kauri dieback.

Numerous press releases were provided to the news media and, significantly, all were printed by the various media outlets in Northland including local publications and The Northern Advocate.

Individual Board Members took every opportunity to include reference to kauri dieback when meeting with members of the community, community groups and, in particular those groups e.g. recreational users, pig hunters, who regularly use the forests of Northland for their recreation pursuits. The message was made clear to all users of the implications of NOT complying with hygiene regulations, using cleaning stations etc., and while most were receptive to the message there is still a great deal of work to be done to ensure that all users comply



Mike Finlayson at the A&P Show Kaitiaia 2015

Board Member Mike Finlayson is following up the production of an Engagement with Communities Strategy with the Kauri Dieback Control Group. The Board sees this as an essential component of the fight against kauri dieback. The Board hopes to see the strategy released in early 2016.

The Board will continue to make kauri dieback its first priority in 2015/16 together with the other requirements that will be outlined in the 2015/16 Minister's Letter of Expectation.

Kauri dieback presentations

During 2014/15, the Board was fortunate to receive presentations on kauri dieback and *Phytophthora taxon Agathis* [PTA] from key representatives from the National Kauri Dieback Programme.

Ian Mitchell, Kauri Dieback Programme Relationships Manager, Ministry for Primary Industries and Lynnell Greer, Technical Advisor, Recreation Planning, Department of Conservation provided the Board with a graphic presentation on kauri dieback and PTA during the site visit in the Waipoua Forest in August 2014. For many of the Board Members present it was the first time they had viewed graphic photographs of the impact of kauri dieback and the extent to which it was already present in our forests.

Ian Mitchell accompanied the Board on its visit to Trounson Kauri Park and was able to provide first-hand information on the Kauri Dieback Programme and the work being done to contain this insidious disease.

Shana Harding, Kauri Dieback Recreation Project Manager, and Lynnell Greer provided the Board with an update on the specific projects being developed by the multi-agency Kauri Dieback Leadership Group at a meeting of the Board in Whangarei in February 2015 including the presentation of the Kauri Dieback Strategy.

The Board looks forward to receiving further updates on the programme during 2015/16.

7.7.2. Increased engagement with communities and stakeholders

Collectively and individually Board Members worked on developing and enhancing engagement with communities and stakeholders in 2015/16 including –

Pukenui/Western Hills Charitable Trust

Board Member Alan Martin facilitated a meeting with members of the Pukenui/Western Hills Charitable Trust and others, including the Mayor of Whangarei, Sheryl Mai, by way of an *After Five Walk* in the Pukenui/Western Hills Forest in February 2015.

As is the nature of this type of networking opportunity, a great deal was discussed during the walk and the after walk meeting that will provide for further meaningful engagement in 2015/16.

Board Member Alan Martin continues to represent the Board at meetings of the Pukenui/Western Hills Charitable Trust.

Whangarei Quarry Gardens

David McDermott, Manager, Whangarei Quarry Gardens, joined the Board and others for the *After Five Walk*, which included the Gardens. Again, this was an excellent opportunity to meet new contacts and to establish where all participants could work together on conservation issues of mutual interest and concern.

Building on the relationship established during the walk, the Board welcomed David McDermott at its meeting in Kerikeri on 15 May 2015.

Bream Head Conservation Trust

The Board welcome Greg Innes, Chair and Rod Gates, member of the Bream Head Conservation Trust, when they met with the Board at its meeting in February 2015.

The Board has a long relationship with the Bream Head Conservation Trust with two previous members being part of the Trust [Robyn Lieffering and David Monro].

This group is a model for others to follow having achieved huge conservation gains at Bream Head. This has come about by sheer determination, passion and working together as a community.

The Board appreciates the opportunity to learn from a group such as this and pass on the “Best Practice” established by the group to other individuals, groups and stakeholders to empower them to achieve equal success in their particular areas.

Ngunguru Sandspit Protection Society

The Board continues to support the Ngunguru Sandspit Protection Society and has offered assistance through Board Member Alan Martin to share “Best Practice” and guide the group in seeking appropriate administrative support in its fund raising efforts.

Board Chair, Mita Harris, attended an event organised by the Ngunguru Sandspit Protection Society in April 2015 and provided support and advice to the tangata whenua including the offer of ongoing support and assistance from the Board through Alan Martin.

Bream Bay/Ruakaka/Waipu

For many years, issues at Ruakaka and Waipu have been presented by various groups/individuals, to successive Boards during the Public Forum section of each Board Meeting, particularly when meetings have been held in Whangarei.

In 2014/15 Board Member Luana Piripi worked as the Board’s liaison between all the groups associated within the Ruakaka and Waipu Region. This link has proved valuable in terms of raising the Board’s profile and drawing attention to having a Board Member within the locality who could provide a conduit between the Board and the community and report back, first hand, on concerns and issues.

NZ Refining Co & NIWA

Board Member Luana Piripi has arranged for the Board to meet with representatives from the NZ Refining Co and NIWA for a site visit of both organisations [situated within the Ruakaka/Waipu area] by the Board in November 2015. This visit has been

confirmed and is, again, a great opportunity for the Board to raise its profile and extend its knowledge and understanding of different organisations and agencies and look at ways of working with these groups in the future.

Puketi Forest Trust

The Board acknowledged the work being undertaken by the Puketi Forest Trust and, in particular, the successful translocation of kōkako from Mataraua Forest to Puketi. The success of the translocation has been significant and everyone visiting the Forest can now enjoy the unforgettable song of the kōkako.

This is very different from a visit to Puketi Forest in the early 1990's when, at that time, one lone male kōkako was left in the Forest. Adrian Walker, Department of Conservation, Kerikeri, at that time used an {ancient by today's standard] tape-recorder with a recorded kōkako call, to coax the lone kōkako to appear for the Board. Like magic, and to the absolute amazement of the Board Members present, the call was answered and the Board was able to view the lone kōkako and hear his lament.

The work undertaken by the Puketi Forest Trust and the Department of Conservation since that time, in terms of intensive predator control and forest management is testament to what can be achieved when all parties work together. It is as relevant now as it was back then that the Department cannot do everything on its own and it is only by working with the communities and dedicated organisations and groups such as the Puketi Forest Trust that success stories such as the translocation of the kōkako can be achieved.

Puketi Forest Trust Fundraising Walk

In January 2015, Mita Harris, Tracey Andrews-Smith and Alan Martin participated in a Puketi Forest Fundraising Walk organised by the Puketi Forest Trust. The Walk was an excellent opportunity for Board Members to network with other participants and to discuss a wide range of issues as they traversed the sometimes extremely challenging terrain.



Alan Martin in Puket Forest

Heritage New Zealand

The Board was delighted to meet with representatives from Heritage New Zealand who assisted the Board in hosting the Hon Nicky Wagner, Associate Minister of Conservation, in a site visit within the Kerikeri Basin in May 2015.

Cultural and historical heritage is a key element that the Board intends exploring further in 2015/16 and the foundation set through the visit in May 2015 will provide the springboard for the Board to programme in further historic and cultural heritage based site visits and liaison.

Business community

The Board proactively sought engagement with the Northland business community in 2014/15.

Board Member, Alan Martin vigorously engaged with the Northland Chamber of Commerce, Perpetual Guardians and other Whangarei business groups to lay the foundation for the Board to commence meaningful and measurable relationships for conservation within this key element of the community.

7.7.3. Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group

Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group [IKHMG] is identified within the Northland Conservation Management Strategy and the Department of Conservation is represented on the Steering Committee of the IKHMG.

The Chair and Board Members attended the 'Kaipara Moana Looking back.....Thinking forward Symposium' organised by IKHMG in November 2014. Board Member Willie Wright is Chair of IKHMG and was the driving force behind the Symposium. Opportunity was taken to raise the profile of the Northland Conservation Board at the event as well as to discuss key issues e.g. kauri dieback with a wide range of stakeholders, interest groups, agencies and individuals.

The IKHMG is a very powerful organisation for conservation and the environment not only associated with the Kaipara Harbour. The Board is extremely fortunate to have Willie Wright as a Member of the Board and as the key link between the Board and IKHMG.

The Northland Conservation Board is proactively engaging with the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group [IKHMG] and attended quarterly hui during the year.

Luana Pirihi and Alan Martin represented the Board at the IKHMG hui in Whangarei in June 2015. Board Member Willie Wright chaired the hui in his capacity as Chair of the IKHMG.

Board Member Willie Wright continued to enhance ongoing relationships with the Director Conservation Partnership, NNI, Nicki Douglas, and the Director Conservation Partnerships, Auckland, Meg Poutasi, to ensure cross boundary issues are appropriately considered and supported where necessary. Northland Conservation Partnerships Manager, Sue Reed-Thomas and Warkworth

Conservation Partnerships Manager, Vanessa Whiu, are also included in these discussions where possible.

7.7.4. Engagement with tangata whenua

The Northland Conservation Board is extremely fortunate to have Maori Board Members who are passionate about conservation and equally committed to tangata whenua issues and concerns.

The Northland Conservation Board is well placed, through the Maori Board Members, to increase engagement with all tangata whenua groups, Iwi/Hapu at all levels. This is a very fortuitous position to be in and augers well for the future, particularly as Treaty Settlements are finalised within Taitokerau.

Te Uri o Hau

The Board was privileged to be welcomed by Te Uri o Hau on the Oruawharo Marae in November 2014 and to witness the special relationship the Department of Conservation has developed with Te Uri o Hau and vice versa. Common goals and interest between both parties relating to conservation programmes and outcomes is a specific role the Board has in monitoring the Department in terms of the implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy.

The Northland Conservation Board was represented by Willie Wright at the Annual Post Treaty Protocol hui in March 2015 at the Oruawharo Marae. This hui is an annual report back between the Hapu and the Department of Conservation. Kauri dieback, judicial boundaries, recreational 4WD vehicles in wetlands and in places of high significance to the Hapu, were highlighted as an ongoing concern.

Te Iwi o Te Roroa

The Board continued to offer support to Te Roroa in relation to the proposal to establish a Kauri National Park in Northland.

The Board acknowledged the sensitive nature of the negotiations with Government regarding this proposal, in particular the issue of “co-governance”.

Te Roroa is a key Iwi/Hapu within Northland and the Board has a long history of engagement with Te Roroa since 1990.

The manner in which the Board respects and honours Te Roroa and the need for the Iwi to move at its own pace and within its own framework is important.

Patuharakeke

The Board is to meet with Patuharakeke in November 2015. Board Member Luana Pirihi is organising a visit to her home Marae of Takahiwai.

7.7.5. Increased engagement with the Auckland Conservation Board

The Board continues to be represented at meetings of the Auckland Conservation Board in 2014/15. Board Members Luana Pirihi and Willie Wright represented the Northland Conservation Board at the meeting held at Umupuia Marae, Maraetai in May 2015.

A reciprocal arrangement has been developed and the Northland Conservation Board is pleased to welcome Auckland Board Member Alex Hawke at its meetings.

The liaison now developed between both Boards is working well and will be further built on in 2015/16 and invitations will be extended to join the Northland Conservation Board on site visits as well as attend Board meetings.



Visit to the Atiu Creek Regional Park, Auckland

The Northland Conservation Board acknowledges the good relationship between the Director Conservation Partnerships Auckland [Meg Poutasi] and the Conservation Services Manager, Northland [Sue Reed-Thomas]. This is greatly enhancing the opportunity for the Northland and Auckland Boards to engage in meaningful liaison with the support from the Department of Conservation.

The Board will continue to offer support and assistance at all levels and on all issues of mutual importance to both organisations.

7.7.6. “Save the Kūkupa” campaign

The Northland Conservation Board has developed and approved a “Save the Kūkupa” campaign strategy that has set in place the programme for future campaigns to draw public awareness to the plight of the kūkupa [kererū] particularly in the vulnerable period January to May each year. The issue of illegal hunting of kūkupa needs to be seriously addressed and the Board believes it now has the tools and community support to really make an impact on behalf of kūkupa.

A “Save the Kūkupa” poster has been produced and widely distributed. The release of the poster was made through a press release that received wide circulation throughout Northland. The interest in obtaining a poster and further information about kūkupa was such that the first run of posters quickly ran out. Interest in obtaining posters came from a wide diversity of individuals and communities from logging contractors to Doctors’ surgeries wishing to display the posters in their waiting rooms. Schools also were keen to obtain posters with school groups electing to have the kūkupa as a project within their schools.

The Board will continue to implement the “Save the Kūkupa” strategy in 2015/16. The success of this programme will be a good model for the Board to use for other species and habitats that require more advocacy and education programmes/workshops that the Board could consider leading in the future.



“Save the Kūkupa” poster.
Find an A4 size version of the poster in Appendix B or [download a printable version](#)

8. Conclusion

2014/15 was very much the year of the Board’s response to the Associate Minister of Conservation’s Letter of Expectation.

However, the Board was able to rise to the occasion as the Associate Minister’s Expectations mirrored the Board’s own expectations and forward planning. It was significant to note that the Board was “on the right track”.

2014/15 was also the year when the Board collectively and individually raised the bar on raising the Board's profile and becoming a proactive and dynamic force in the community.

Individual Board Members excelled in their regions in engaging with individuals, groups, and stakeholders with particular emphasis on "looking outside the square and not preaching to the converted". This was seen as a major challenge to extend the Board's efforts to issues too often contained in the "too hard" basket.

This was particularly evident with the ascendance of kauri dieback in the Board's priorities, where Board Members went outside their comfort zones to speak with interest groups and individuals to draw attention to the need to observe all the necessary regulations to contain the spread of this disease.

One of the highlights of 2014/15 was the way in which the "new" Board Members came on board and in a very, very short space of time, developed strong personal relationships within the Board framework that enabled greater gains for conservation to be achieved. The 2014/15 Board developed into a passionate, enthusiastic, and committed group where the individual skills, background, contacts were shared freely and selflessly.

The good work undertaken in 2014/15 has set the standard for 2015/16 and beyond together with the development of a great working relationship between all Members and across all sections of the Board's jurisdiction.

The Board would like to acknowledge the efforts of Angelika Cawte, Media Liaison Consultant, for her professional advice and support in developing press releases and other key communiqué on behalf of the Board during 2014/15. Angelika attended Board meetings and it is thanks to her contacts and the stance she is held in her profession that every press release the Board circulated was picked up by the local news media. This is a difficult task to achieve and one that Angelika vigorously pursued on behalf of the Board. Thanks very much, Angie.

The Board now looks forward to receiving the Associate Minister of Conservation's 2015/16 Letter of Expectation and can be confident that it is in the best place possible to pick up and run with whatever the expectations may be.

"Ma te mahi tahi ka – Kitea e tatou nga hua"

"It is only as we work together that good can come from our endeavours."

Jeannie Hogarth
Board Support Officer
Northland Conservation Board
30 June 2015

9. Appendices

Appendix A – Northland Conservation Board Work Programme Thirdly Performance Reporting

FINAL THIRD REPORT – 01 MARCH 2015 to 30 JUNE 2015

Performance Measure	YEAR TO DATE EXPECTED RESULT	YEAR END OUTCOME	COMMENT
1. Working with the Department			
1.01 Implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy[CMS]	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nationally consistent Implementation Plan has been sought from National Office to ensure that the Board meets the need for a consistent approach for all CMS. Presentation on the implementation of the CMS is expected to be given by Shared Services Planning Staff at the 07 November 2014 Board meeting. 	<p>A draft national CMS implementation monitoring template was presented to the Northland Conservation Board for review at its meeting held in Kerikeri on 15 May 2015.</p> <p>The Board provided feedback to be incorporated into the final template.</p> <p>The Board greatly appreciated the time and effort that had gone into producing the template and looked forward to receiving the final template in early 2016.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board is mindful of its mandate to “monitor the implementation of the CMS”. The Board appreciates that it has taken time to develop a nationally acceptable and relevant template. The Board will develop a strategy for the implementation monitoring process in line with the final template. The Board looks forward to engaging with the Department in monitoring the implementation of the CMS.
1.02 Regular meetings with Department of Conservation staff	Individual Member’s Liaison Plans established and key DOC contacts identified for ongoing meaningful	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board acknowledges and appreciates the liaison established with Nicola Douglas, Director Conservation Partnerships, Northern North Island Region. Nicola has attended all the meetings of 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board will continue to work with Department of Conservation Staff at all levels in 2015/16.

<p>including Director Partnerships NNI</p>	<p>liaison and engagement.</p>	<p>the Board in 2014/15 and her support and assistance to the Board has been significant.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sue Reed-Thomas, Conservation Partnerships Manager, Northland attended a Working Meeting of the Board to provide information on the Department’s business planning process and, in particular, the priority given to milestones within the Conservation Management Strategy for Northland. • The Board greatly appreciated the support and assistance provided by Conservation Services Managers in the locations where Board meetings were held during the year. This included organising specific site visits and accompanying the Board during these visits. • Particular mention is made of Luke Archbold, Conservation Services Manager, Kauri Coast supporting the Board during its visit to Kauri Coast and meeting with Te Roroa and Rolien Elliot, Conservation Services Manager, Bay of Islands, for organising and supporting the visit of the Associate Minister of Conservation the Hon Nicky Wagner. • The Board’s relationship with all Department of Conservation staff at all levels is high and an “open door” policy for Board Members is extended at all Northland Department of Conservation offices. • Board Members developed individual liaison plans for 2014/15 and in the majority of cases not only met their commitments but exceeded them, as well as adding new groups and individuals to their Plan as the year progressed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2015/16 will be a significant year for the Board as it commences the monitoring of the implementation of the CMS. This good relationship with the Department of Conservation is paramount to the success of this process. • The Board is very pleased with the progress made in raising its profile in 2014/15 and now has a proactive and positive communications strategy in place to carry forward into 2015/16 and beyond.
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The individual liaison plans complemented the Board’s overall liaison strategy which enabled the Board to meet and exceed its expected outcome. • The result of this effort has seen an increase in the profile of the Board throughout Northland which has been evidenced by an increase in interest in the Board across a wide spectrum of Northland e.g. Retiring Deputy Chair Ian McGill, has been invited to make a presentation to the U3A [University of the Third Age] in Kerikeri on “What is a Conservation Board and What does it do?”. 	
<p>1.03 Developing Programme for the Monitoring of the Implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy for Northland in accordance with the nationally developed template.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nationally developed Monitoring Template has been requested to maintain consistency throughout the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board has reviewed the nationally developed draft CMS implementation monitoring template and looks forward to receiving the final version for operation in early 2016. 	<p>The Board expressed its appreciation to all involved in developing the national template. It had been a long time in the making, but the final document will, the Northland Board believes, serve all Conservation Board well.</p>

Performance Measure	YEAR TO DATE EXPECTED RESULT	YEAR END OUTCOME	COMMENT
<p>2. Te Hiku Settlement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial face to face meeting between the Northland Conservation Board Chair and the designated spokesperson for Te Hiku [Haami Piripi]. • Far North based Board Members to make contact with Conservation Partnerships Manager, Far North District to initiate ongoing liaison and engagement with progress relating to the Te Hiku Settlement and establishment of the Te Hiku Conservation Board. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2014/15 the Board watched the progress of the Te Hiku Settlement. • The Board deliberately kept a low profile to show respect for Te Hiku; allow it to establish and develop but, at the same time offered support and assistance if and when required. • The Board awaits advice on the establishment of the Te Hiku Conservation Board and looks forward to working with the Te Hiku Conservation Board to enhance the conservation, environmental, cultural and historical values both Board share. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At the first [and appropriate] opportunity in 2015/16, the Northland Conservation Board will engage with the Te Hiku Conservation Board [once established]. • The relevant protocols will be observed and the initial engagement will only be at the invitation of the Te Hiku Conservation Board. • The Board sees the establishment of the Te Hiku Conservation Board as complementing the Northland Conservation Board and seeks great merit in both Boards working together to achieve mutual goals for consideration in Northland.

<p>3. Stewardship Land</p>	<p>The Board supports that no further reclassification of stewardship land in Northland should be undertaken until such time as all Treaty Claims in Tai Tokerau have been settled.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board was not approached to make any comment on the reclassification of stewardship land in Northland in 2014/15. 	<p>The Northland Conservation Board reiterates its view that no further reclassification of stewardship land in Northland should be undertaken until such time as all Treaty Claims have been settled.</p>
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Performance Measure	YEAR TO DATE EXPECTED RESULT	YEAR END OUTCOME	COMMENT
4. Other Functions			
4.1 Kauri National Park	Liaison with Te Roroa Manuwhenua Trust to offer support and advice, as requested, regarding the issue of “co-governance” for any establishment of a Kauri National Park in Northland.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northland Conservation Board extended its support to the Minister of Conservation to assist in liaising with Te Roroa Manuwhenua Trust to progress the proposal to establish a Kauri National Park in Northland. • The Northland Conservation Board accepted the restraints that were preventing progress being made, including the need for Te Roroa to sort out its own house before engaging on the issue. • The Northland Conservation Board noted the commitment of the Minister of Conservation to meet with Te Roroa and discuss all issues associated with the establishment of a Kauri National Park in Northland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board notes that this issue is at the stage where it is between the Minister of Conservation and Te Roroa to move forward. • The Board reaffirms its commitment to provide support and advice to both the Minister and Te Roroa, if requested to do so. • The Board appreciates the sensitivity of discussions and the need for Te Roroa and the Minister to establish a way forward before engaging further. • The Board will continue to follow progress of this proposal in 2015/16 and extend its offer of support and advice.

<p>4.2 Marine National Park for Northland</p>	<p>No specific action will be taken on this proposal at this time. However, during 2014/15 the Board will continue to advocate for the best type of marine protection in Northland through individual members liaison and Board input into relevant proposals, plans etc as these may become available.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Marine protection is a key issue for the Northland Conservation Board. • The Board regrets that it has not been able to move forward in terms of holding forums and workshops on marine protection in 2014/15. However, individual Board Members have engaged with local communities including Iwi/Hapu to establish contact and build a relationship to enable the Board to develop a proactive strategy regarding marine protection proposals in 2015/16. • The Board is committed to raising the priority of marine protection in 2015/16 and expects that the 2015/16 <i>Letter of Expectation</i> will include this as a priority, given the Minister's commitment to increasing and enhancing marine protection throughout the country. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board will make a conscious effort in 2015/16 to develop a Marine Protection Strategy that will include engaging with communities and Iwi/Hapu, particularly those groups that have already established Rahui, maitaitai and similar marine protection programmes within Northland. • The Board will lend its support to these groups to progress these proposals and encourage other groups to learn from the best practice already being engaged in throughout Northland.
<p>4.3 Fish & Game Council</p>	<p>Attendance at regular meetings of Fish & Game Council Northland.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Board Member, Richard Robbins, continued to represent the Board at meetings of Fish and Game Council Northland. Feedback from Fish and Game Council Northland indicates that this representation, by Richard Robbins is greatly valued and enhances the discussion at meetings. • The Board and Fish and Game Council Northland met in November 2014 and undertook a comprehensive site visit of the wetlands within the Whangarei area established by Fish and Game Council Northland. • The Board acknowledged the immense work undertaken by Fish and Game Council Northland and noted that if it hadn't been for Council, 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board has a very good relationship with Rudi Hoetjes, Manager, Fish and Game Northland and this is greatly enhanced by having Richard Robbins representing the Board at meetings of Fish and Game Council Northland. • Although liaising with Fish and Game Councils is laid out in legislation, the Northland Conservation Boards sees this liaison as beyond a legislative requirement and Fish and Game

		<p>Northland would have lost the majority of its wetlands.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board is committed to build on this relationship with Fish and Game Council Northland and develop a programme of joint site visits of mutual interest to both organisations in 2015/16. 	<p>Council Northland as one of its key contacts in terms of enhancing and protecting our significant wetlands and habitats in Northland.</p>
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Performance Measure	YEAR TO DATE EXPECTED RESULT	YEAR END OUTCOME	COMMENT
5. Advocacy			
5.1 Kauri Dieback and PTA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual Board Members will actively promote the education of the public in Northland through working with the Department and other agencies to educate appropriate hygiene measures to be taken and to engage and support containment programmes within Northland. • The Northland Conservation Board will use every opportunity to promote the containment message through news media and other appropriate outlets. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board proactively advocated on Kauri dieback and engaged in a comprehensive public awareness campaign to draw attention to the issue and, most importantly, to educate the public of Northland and measures that each individual is required to take when visiting our unique forests to contain the spread of Kauri dieback. • Numerous press releases were provided to the news media and, significantly, all were printed by the various media outlets in Northland including local publications and The Northern Advocate. • Individual Board Members took every opportunity to include reference to Kauri dieback when meeting with members of the community, community groups and, in particular those groups e.g. recreational users, pig hunters, who regularly use the forests of Northland for their recreation pursuits. The message was made clear to all users of the implications of NOT complying with hygiene regulations, using cleaning stations etc, and while most were receptive to the message there is still a great deal of work to be done to ensure that all users comply. • Board Member Mike Finlayson is following up the production of an Engagement with Communities Strategy with the Kauri dieback Control Group. The Board sees this as an essential component of the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board will continue to make Kauri dieback its first priority in 2014/15 together with the other requirements that will be outlined in the 2015/16 Minister's Letter of Expectation.

		<p>fight against Kauri dieback. The Board hopes to see the Strategy released in early 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work and communication on Kauri dieback undertaken in 2014/15 has set the scene to be built on in 2015/16. 	
<p>5.2 Increased engagement with Communities and Stakeholders</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commencement of an intensive relationship building campaign throughout the region with particular emphasis by individual Board Members to raise the profile of the Board and identify opportunities to engage and support stakeholders achieve significant conservation outcomes. Actively engage and liaise with recreation and tourism groups throughout Northland. Commence active engagement with pig hunting, 4WD, recreational fishers and similar less conservation minded stakeholders. Actively support and advocate the Department's Kiwi Dog Aversion training programme. Commence meaningful liaison to act as a conduit between the Department and stakeholders in Northland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collectively and individually Board Members worked on developing and enhancing engagement with communities and stakeholders in 2015/16 including – Pukenui/Western Hills Charitable Trust Board Member Alan Martin facilitated a meeting with Members of the Pukenui/Western Hills Charitable Trust and others, including the Mayor of Whangarei, Sheryl Mai, by way of an <i>After Five</i> walk in the Pukenui/Western Hills Forest in February 2015. As is the nature of this type of networking opportunity, a great deal was discussed during the walk and the after walk meeting that will provide for further meaningful engagement in 2015/16. Board Member Alan Martin continues to represent the Board at meetings of the Pukenui/Western Hills Charitable Trust. <p>Whangarei Quarry Gardens</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> David McDermott, Manager, Whangarei Quarry 	<p>The Board intends to build and enhance on all the relationships it established in 2015/16 and sees great benefits accruing for conservation and the environment from these new groups, communities and stakeholders.</p> <p>The Board intends increasing its focus on cultural and historic heritage in 2015/16 that will include a visit to Ruapekapeka Pa in Whangarei in 2016.</p> <p>The Board [collectively and individually] has made great strides in 2014/15 to establish links and build relationships with a wide variety of individuals, organisations, businesses and agencies</p>

		<p>Gardens, joined the Board and others for the <i>After Five Walk</i> which included the Gardens. Again, this was an excellent opportunity to meet new contacts and to establish where all participants could work together on conservation issues of mutual interest and concern.</p> <p>The Board welcomed David McDermott at its meeting in Kerikeri on 15 May 2015.</p> <p>Bream Head Conservation Trust</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board welcome Greg Innes, Chair and Rod Gates, Member of the Bream Head Conservation Trust, when they met with the Board at its meeting in February 2015. • The Board has a long relationship with the Bream Head Conservation Trust with two previous Members being part of the Trust [Robyn Lieffering and David Monro]. • This Group is a model for others to follow having achieved huge conservation gains at Bream Head. This has come about by sheer determination, passion and working together as a community. • The Board appreciates the opportunity to learn from a Group such as this and pass on the “Best 	<p>The work undertaken in 2014/15 has laid solid foundations and built bridges between conservation groups and those groups and businesses where the profile of conservation may not be so evident.</p> <p>The Board will continue to build on all its relationships and, at the same time, extend its reach beyond “preaching to the converted”.</p>
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		<p>Practice” established by the Group to other individuals, groups and stakeholders to empower them to achieve equal success in their particular areas.</p> <p>Ngunguru Sandspit Protection Society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board continues to support the Ngunguru Sandspit Protection Society and has offered assistance through Board Member Alan Martin to share “Best Practice” and guide the group in seeking appropriate administrative support in its fund raising efforts. • Board Chair, Mita Harris, attended an event organised by the Ngunguru Sandspit Protection Society in April 2015 and provided support and advice to the tangata whenua including the offer of ongoing support and assistance from the Board through Alan Martin. <p>Bream Bay/Ruakaka/Waipu</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For many years issues at Ruakaka and Waipu have been presented by various Groups/Individuals, to successive Boards during the Public Forum section of each Board Meeting, particularly when meetings 	
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		<p>have been held in Whangarei.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 2014/15 Board Member Luana Piripi worked as the Board's liaison between all the groups associated within the Ruakaka and Waipu Region. This link has proved valuable in terms of raising the Board's profile and drawing attention to having a Board Member within the locality who could, first hand, report back to the Board. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NZ Refining Co & NIWA <p>Board Member Luana Piripi has arranged for the Board to meet with representatives from the NZ Refining Co and NIWA for a site visit of both organisations [situated within the Ruakaka/Waipu area] by the Board in November 2015. This visit has been confirmed and is, again, a great opportunity for the Board to raise its profile and extend its knowledge and understanding of different organisations and agencies and look at ways of working with these groups in the future.</p> <p>Heritage New Zealand</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board was delighted to meet with 	
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		<p>representatives from Heritage New Zealand who assisted the Board in hosting the Hon Nicky Wagner, Associate Minister of Conservation, in a site visit within the Kerikeri Basin in May 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural and Historical Heritage is a key element that the Board intends exploring further in 2015/16 and the foundation set through the visit in May 2015 will provide the spring board for the Board to programme in further historic and cultural heritage based site visits and liaison. • Business Community <p>The Board proactively sought engagement with the Northland Business Community in 2014/15.</p> <p>Board Member, Alan Martin vigorously engaged with the Northland Chamber of Commerce, Perpetual Guardians and other Whangarei business groups to lay the foundation for the Board to commence meaningful and measurable relationships for conservation within this key element of the community.</p>	
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<p>5.3 Increased engagement with tangata whenua</p>	<p>Commence engagement at Hapu level to build on existing relationships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Through the leadership and liaison of our Maori Board Members in particular, the Northland Conservation Board made good progress in developing and enhancing relationships with tangata whenua including - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Uri o Hau – the Board met with Te Uri o Hau on its Marae at Oruawharo in November 2014. This meeting was a milestone and has set the scene for a repeat visit in 2015/16. <p>The Board was represented by Willie Wright at Te Uri o Hau Post Treaty Settlement Annual Protocol hui between the Department and Uri o Hau in March 2015.</p> • Te Roroa – ongoing engagement with Te Roroa continues with the Board offering support and assistance at all levels. • Patuharakeke – the Board is to meet with Patuharakeke in November 2015. Board Member Luana Pirihi is organising a visit to the home Marae. • Te Rarawa - the Board looks forward to enhancing its relationship with Te Rarawa when it meets in Kaitaia in August 2015. • Ngati Rehia – Kip Munro of Ngati Rehia supported the Board on a site visit within the Kerikeri Basin hosting the Hon Nicky Wagner, 	<p>The Northland Conservation Board is extremely fortunate to have Maori Board Members who are passionate about conservation and equally committed to tangata whenua issues and concerns.</p> <p>The Northland Conservation Board is well placed, through the Maori Board Members, to increase engagement with all tangata whenua groups, Iwi/Hapu at all levels. This is a very fortuitous position to be in and augers well for the future, particularly as Treaty Settlements are finalised within Taitokerau.</p>
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		<p>Associate Minister of Conservation. This was an excellent opportunity to renew relationship with Ngati Rehia and to explore opportunities for future engagement.</p> <p>Individual Board Members had undertaken considerable liaison with tangata whenu in 2014/15 including :</p>	
5.3.1 Ngati Manuhiri	Commence liaison on cross boundary issues, in particular associated with the Kaipara Harbour.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northland Conservation Board continued to work with the Auckland Conservation Board on issues of mutual interest relating to the Kaipara Harbour. • The issue of reviewing the current Board boundaries was discussed but it was deemed prudent to not pursue this at this time until all Treaty Settlements had been finalised and a more appropriate time present itself. 	The Northland Conservation Board will continue to work with the Auckland Conservation Board and all other individuals, groups and stakeholders in relation to issues associated with the Kaipara Harbour.

<p>5.3.2 Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise and support the work of the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group through representation at meetings of the Group and providing support to advocate programmes developed by the Group. • Liaise with the Auckland Conservation Board in terms of cross boundary issues relating to the Kaipara Harbour. • Register for the “Kaipara Moana – <i>Looking Back.....Thinking Forward</i>” Symposium to be held on 15/17 November 2014. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northland Conservation Board is proactively engaging with the Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group [IKHMG] and attended its quarterly hui. • Luana Pirhi represented the Board at the IKHMG hui at the Reweti Marae, South Kaipara in March 2015. • Luana Pirihi and Alan Martin represented the Board at the IKHMG hui in Whangarei in June 2015. Board Member Willie Wright Chaired the hui in his capacity as Chair of the IKHMG. • Board Member Willie Wright continued to enhance ongoing relationships with the Director Conservation Partnership, NNI, Nicki Douglas and the Director Conservation Partnerships, Auckland, Meg Poutasi, to ensure cross boundary issues are appropriately considered and supported where necessary. Northland Conservation Partnerships Manager, Sue Reed-Thomas and Warkworth Conservation Partnerships Manager, Vanessa Whiu, are also included in these discussions where possible. 	<p>Integrated Kaipara Harbour Management Group [IKHMG] is identified within the Northland Conservation Management Strategy and the Department of Conservation is represented on the Steering Committee of the IKHMG.</p> <p>It is envisaged that Members from the Northland Conservation Board and Auckland Conservation Board will present both Conservation Management Strategies specific to Kaipara Harbour environs, to the IKHMG later in 2015.</p>
<p>5.3.3 Te Uri o Hau</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish regular liaison with Te Uri o Hau through representation at meetings and establishing contact at Hapu level to identify opportunities to provide support for mutually beneficial conservation programmes. • Invite Uri o Hau to attend the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northland Conservation Board was represented by Willie Wright at the Annual Post Treaty Protocol hui in March 2015 at the Oruawharo Marae. This hui is an annual report back between the Hapu and the Department of Conservation. • Kauri dieback, judicial boundaries, recreational 4WD vehicles in wetlands and in places of high significance to the Hapu, were highlighted as an ongoing concern. • The Department was well represented in personnel from both Auckland and Northland offices. 	<p>The Board was privileged to witness the special relationship the Department of Conservation has developed with Te Uri o Hau and vice versa. Common goals and interest between both parties relating to conservation programmes and outcomes is a specific role the Board has in</p>

	Oruwharo Marae and site visit on 06 November 2014.		monitoring the Department in terms of the implementation of the Conservation Management Strategy.
5.3.4 Te Iwi o Te Roroa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish regular liaison with Te Roroa particularly in providing support in relation to the proposal to establish a Kauri National Park in Waipoua. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board continued to offer support to Te Roroa in relation to the proposal to establish a Kauri National Park in Northland. The Board acknowledged the sensitive nature of the negotiations with Government regarding this proposal, in particular the issue of “co-governance”. Te Roroa is a key Iwi/Hapu within Northland and the Board has a long history of engagement with Te Roroa since 1990. The manner in which the Board respects and honours Te Roroa and the need for the Iwi to move at its own pace and within its own framework is important. 	The Board will continue to offer support and assistance at all levels and on all issues of mutual importance to both organisations.
5.4 Increased engagement with the Auckland Conservation Board	<p>Build on the established relationship with the Auckland Conservation Board through</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meetings between the Chair of the Auckland and Northland Boards. Representation at meetings of the Auckland Conservation Board. Inviting representation from the Auckland Conservation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board continues to be represented at meetings of the Auckland Conservation Board in 2014/15. Board Members Luana Pirihi and Willie Wright represented the Northland Conservation Board at the meeting held at Umupuia Marae, Maraetai in May 2015. A reciprocal arrangement has been developed and the Northland Conservation Board is pleased to welcome Auckland Board Member Alex Hawke at its meetings. The liaison now developed between both Boards is working well and will be further built on in 2015/16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The work undertaken in 2014/15 will be built on in 2015/16 with emphasis on working with the Auckland Conservation Board on issues of mutual concern e.g. Kauri dieback and the Kaipara Harbour.

	<p>Board to all meetings and site visits of the Northland Conservation Board.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish cross boundary engagement in relation to the implementation of the Northland and Auckland Conservation Management Strategies and in particular relating to the Kaipara Harbour. 	<p>and invitations will be extended to join the Northland Conservation Board on site visits as well as attend Board Meetings.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northland Conservation Board acknowledges the good relationship between the Director Conservation Partnerships Auckland [Meg Poutasi] and the Conservation Services Manager, Northland [Sue Reed-Thomas]. This is greatly enhancing the opportunity for the Northland and Auckland Boards to engage in meaningful liaison with the support from the Department of Conservation. 	
<p>5.5 “Save the Kukupa” Campaign</p>	<p>Commence preparation for an aggressive campaign to discourage the poaching of Kukupa during the key January/March period each year including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a strategy that can be followed on an annual basis. • Prepare key media releases and other effective means of communicating and educating the public on the plight of the Kukupa in Northland. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Northland Conservation Board has developed and approved a “Save the Kukupa” Campaign Strategy that has set in place the programme for future campaigns to draw public awareness to the plight of the Kukupa[Kereru] particularly in the vulnerable period January to May each year. The issue of illegal hunting of Kukupa needs to be seriously addressed and the Board believes it now has the tools and community support to really make an impact on behalf of Kukupa. • A “Save the Kukupa” poster has been produced and widely distributed. The release of the poster was made through a press release that received wide circulation throughout Northland. The interest in obtaining a poster and further information about Kukupa was such that the first run of posters quickly ran out. Interest in obtaining posters came from a wide diversity of individuals and communities from logging contractors to Doctors’ surgeries wishing to display the posters in their waiting rooms. Schools also were keen to obtain posters with school groups electing to have the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board will continue to implement the “Save the Kukupa” Strategy in 2015/16. • The success of this programme will be a good model for the Board to use for other species and habitats that require more advocacy and education programmes/workshops that the Board could consider leading in the future.

		Kukupu as a project within their schools.	
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Jeannie Hogarth
Board Support Officer
Northland Conservation Board

30 June 2015

Appendix B - "Save the Kūkupa" poster



Northland Conservation Board
Te Runanga Papa Atawhai O Te Taitokerau



SAVE THE KŪKUPA



Photo: Donald Lamb

Kūkupa, our taonga (treasure), are under threat and need our help. Their disappearance would be a disaster for our native forests as only kūkupa can swallow and disperse large fruit such as karaka, tawa and taraire.

Threats to kūkupa

- Predators – rats, possums, stoats, and cats eat kūkupa eggs and young
- Illegal hunting – hunting of kūkupa is prohibited and has a high impact on this slow breeding species
- Competition – possums and rats eat fruit and leaves that kūkupa eat
- Grazing – stock and feral goats prevent regeneration of food trees for kūkupa
- Habitat loss

Kūkupa:

- Are large birds – up to 51 cm long and weighing up to 650 g
- Are long-lived birds – they can live up to 20 years
- 'Build' native forests by dispersing seeds
- Are slow breeders – usually one egg per year
- Eat mostly fruit
- Chicks feed on 'pigeon milk' and fruit pulp
- There are two species: New Zealand pigeon (*Hemiphaga novaeseelandiae*) known as kūkupa, kŭkŭ or kererŭ, and Chatham Islands pigeon (*Hemiphaga chathamensis*) known as parea.

Food/kai:



Taraire berries Photo: DOC



Nikau berries photo: jbrock, Flickr (CC BY-SA 2.0)



Miro berries photo: DOC



Photo: Herb Christophers

You can help kūkupa

- Control predators in your bush by trapping or poisoning
 - It is illegal to hunt kūkupa
- Plant native trees (miro, tŭtoki, tawa, tree fuchsia/kŭtukutuku, kŭwhai, five-finger, patē, pigeonwood, taraire, pŭriri, nikau, wineberry/makomako) to support native animals including kūkupa.

Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai
New Zealand Government