

# AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

A Meeting of Council will be held at the  
NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Drive, Hamilton,  
on Saturday 17 August 2019 commencing at 11a.m.

## AGENDA

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**M. Young**  
**Chairman**

01/08/2019

## AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council  
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,  
on Saturday 15 June 2019 commencing at 11.00am.

### PRESENT:

**Chairman:** M. Young

**Councillors:** G. Annan, G. Avery, D. Cocks, W. Howard, N. Juby, P. Shaw,  
C. Sherrard, S. Smith, E. Williamson.

**Staff:** B. Wilson, J. Dyer, D. Klee

**Visitors:** P. Hardy (DoC).

### 1. APOLOGIES

B. Moore, A. Daniel.

It was moved;

*that the apologies be accepted.*

*Annan/Sherrard CARRIED*

### 2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

The Chairman noted that he had a conflict of interest arising from the letter in correspondence.

### 3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 6 APRIL 2019:

It was moved;

*that the minutes of the previous meeting of 6 April 2019 be accepted as a true and correct record.*

*Smith/Kerr CARRIED*

It was moved;

*that all the motions approved at the meeting of 6 April 2019 be ratified.*

*Annan/Sherrard CARRIED*

### 4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

Nil

## 5 CORRESPONDENCE:

Councillor Young left the meeting and Councillor Annan assumed the Chair.

A letter was tabled from Mr Doug Emmett recommending to Council that the Evans Rd Wetland be named after the incumbent Auckland/Waikato Chairman, Murray Young, in recognition of all the time, effort and personal expense Mr Young has generously donated over such a long period of time.

It was moved;

**that the wetland at Evans Road be named the Murray Young Wetland.**

**Cocks/Williamson CARRIED Acclamation**

Councillor Young returned to the meeting and assumed the Chair.

## 6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S BI-MONTHLY REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

In reply to a question regarding the sterile trout project, Mr Klee replied that it would be about 6 weeks before we knew whether the project worked or not.

Mr Klee and Mr Wilson provided an update of their recent meeting with the Auckland Airport Authority over the recent swan cull in Manukau Harbour. The Authority would soon be carrying out a tracking survey involving some 40 satellite tags to monitor the movements of swan from Manukau Harbour to elsewhere. The Authority was made aware of our concerns, and there was full agreement to work closely with Fish & Game on the swan issue.

Mr Klee and Councillor Juby informed the meeting of the issues with the discharge from Lake Otamangakau into the Whanganui River headwaters.

Concern was expressed over Hauraki Rail Trail locking the gate that provides access for duck hunters to the lower Piako River. Mr Klee stated that he was working through the issues with the regional council and Hauraki Rail Trail. He had negotiated an agreement where the affected hunters would be issued with keys to the gate.

Councillor Sherrard stated that the Te Kauwhata Fish & Game Club used to service the boat ramp at Te Kauwhata, but the club was currently in abeyance.

It was moved;

**that the CE Bimonthly report and Financial Statements be accepted.**

**Smith/Cocks CARRIED**

**7. CONSERVATION INFRINGEMENT SYSTEM POLICY:**

The proposed Conservation Infringement System was discussed by Councillors. It was agreed that clarification should be sought over whether infringement notices could be issued for offence notices issued by honorary rangers.

It was moved;

*that the proposed Conservation Infringement System Policy be approved*  
*Cocks/Sherrard CARRIED*

**8. NATIONAL POLICY ON PROSECUTIONS:**

The proposed National Policy on Prosecution was discussed by Councillors.

It was moved;

*that the proposed National Policy on Prosecutions be approved.*  
*Juby/Annan CARRIED*

**9. 2019/2020 LICENCE FEE RECOMMENDATION:**

It was moved;

*that a 2019/2020 adult whole season sports fish licence fee of \$133 and an adult whole season game licence fee of \$98 inclusive of GST be approved.*  
*Annan/Smith CARRIED*

**10. 2019/2020 BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN:**

Mr Wilson introduced the 2019/2020 Budget and Operational Work Plan, noting that due to the increasing cost of office maintenance he was looking at the option of moving the office to a building that would require lower maintenance.

After discussion it was moved;

*that the proposed budget of \$826,188 and Operational Work Plan be approved.*  
*Williamson/Smith CARRIED*

**11. 2019/2020 DISTRICT ANGLERS NOTICE:**

The report and recommendations by Dr Daniel were discussed.

A) *Increase the number of rods that can be used by coarse anglers*

It was agreed that the one rod rule be maintained.

*B) Opening up the lower Kaniwhaniwha Stream to spin fishing.*

It was agreed that the lower Kaniwhaniwha Stream below Smith Road be open to spin fishing.

*C) That the catch limit for all small rivers and Lake Moana-nui be lowered to two trout.*

Councillor Annan informed the meeting that he had discussed this recommendation with the Te Awamutu Fish & Game Club, and they considered that more consultation was required with licence holders. Mr Wilson agreed to produce an article on this issue for the pre-season newsletter. It was agreed that more consultation on this recommendation was required with licence holders.

*D) Move or remove the no trolling sign in the upper reaches of Lake Karapiro.*

*It was agreed that this decision is delayed until after further consultation with licence holders.*

It was moved:

***that the lower Kaniwhaniwha Stream below Smith Road is open to spin fishing.***  
***Annan/Smith CARRIED***

**12. WARD RANCH UPDATE:**

Mr Wilson updated Councillors on the legal proceedings involving Ward Ranch's action against DoC and Fish & Game.

**13. KAKAHI PROPERTY UPDATE:**

Mr Wilson update Councillors on the recent purchase of a property at Kakahi. Councillors agreed that at present access across the property should be limited to licence holders.

**14. OSH REPORT:**

It was moved;

***that the OSH report be received.***

***Annan/Smith CARRIED***

**15. NZF&GC MEETING 5-6 APRIL 2019:**

The minutes of the April NZFGC meeting was presented by Councillor Juby.

Also tabled were papers on:

- Terms of Reference for the Strategic Financial Review Sub Committee
- Terms of Reference for the National Licensing Sub Committee
- Term of Reference for the National Remuneration Policy Sub Committee

After extensive discussion it was moved;

*that the Terms of Reference be agreed to in principle.*

*Juby/Sherrard CARRIED*

Councillor Williamson raised the issue of the legality of pheasant preserves and informed Councillors of his recent correspondence to the Minister of Conservation on this issue. Councillors agreed that the legality of preserves and whether prosecutions were initiated was an issue for the respective regional councils.

#### **16. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

Councillor Smith enquired whether the recent pond ballots were successful. Mr Wilson replied that there was considerable interest in the ballots and that the balloting process had gone well.

Councillor Annan reported on a recent Hamilton F&G meeting where members had requested an article on the powers of rangers in the next pre-season game magazine. It was agreed that articles could also be prepared on claiming maimai and what vegetation should be used for maimai cover.

Councillor Avery asked whether there had been any further news on potential changes to the firearms legislation. Mr Wilson replied that he had no information that wasn't publicly available. Mr Dyer expressed his concerns that the police would consider any F&G prosecution when vetting for firearms licences.

Councillor Avery updated the meeting on Department of Conservation's proposed charges for duck huts in the Flax Block. Councillors expressed their shock at size of the fees which could be over \$3,000 per year despite the seasonal use of the huts. It was agreed that hunters were being targeted by DoC and that the fees were excessive. Mr Klee noted that he had raised the issue of DoC huts fees at a national level.

The Vice Chairman, Grant Annan, presented Murray Young with an Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Merit Certificate in recognition of his outstanding service and contributions made to the Council, wildlife and conservation.

The Chairman, Murray Young, presented Grant Annan with an Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Merit Certificate in recognition of his outstanding service and contributions made to the Council, wildlife and conservation.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 3pm.

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Murray Young  
Chairperson  
Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council  
156 Brymer Road, RD 9  
HAMILTON 3289

Dear Murray

### **FISH AND GAME CHAIRS' WORKSHOP – Saturday 23 November 2019**

Following an enjoyable and successful meeting of Fish and Game chairs and the New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) in February 2019, I would like to invite you to a further one-day workshop in November 2019.

A meeting of joint Fish and Game Council chairs and the NZ Council provides an opportunity for Fish & Game's leadership to discuss the issues of the day and what as an organisation Fish and Game's position might be on them and what is needed to manage, maintain and enhance the organisation's future prosperity.

#### **THE NEXT TEN YEARS**

A meeting of Chairs with NZ Council in November 2019 would allow a continued focus on the new approach to budgeting, changes in direction to managing, maintaining and enhancing the organisation, a review of our governance practices following the three Fish and Game Council external audits, what a new licensing administration system will provide and an update on issues such as upland game preserves and the guides licence.

As for the February forum, the gathering would-be made-up of NZ Councillors, regional Chairs, the NZ Council Chief Executive and invited speakers, and overseen by an experienced facilitator.

Council	Chairperson	NZ Council Appointee
Northland	Phil Durham	Noel Birchall
Auckland/Waikato	Murray Young	Nigel Juby
Eastern	Murray Ferris	Lindsay Lyons
Hawke's Bay	Bruce Bates	Kevin Williams
Taranaki	Paul Blewman	Alan Flynn
Wellington	Strato Cotsilinis	Paul Shortis
Nelson/Marlborough	Owen Baigent	Bill O'Leary
West Coast	Andy Harris	Andy Harris
North Canterbury	Alan Strong	Roy Knight
Central South Island	vacant	Dan Isbister
Otago	Monty Wright	Colin Weatherall
Southland	Graeme Watson	Chris Owen

## ACCOMMODATION AND TRAVEL

It is anticipated that regional chairpersons will arrive on the afternoon of Friday 22nd, in time for a happy hour and evening meal with the NZ Council (who will be meeting on the Friday and Sunday) and depart at the conclusion of the workshop on Saturday afternoon.

Please arrange either, through your regional office, or direct with Jordyn at the NZ Council office for your attendance. Jordyn (contactable on 04 499 4767 or [jmclean@fishandgame.org.nz](mailto:jmclean@fishandgame.org.nz)) will organise your flights and pre-booked accommodation.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like to discuss any aspects of the proposed workshop.

Kind regards



Lindsay Lyons  
**Chairperson**  
New Zealand Fish and Game Council  
Ph: 07 357 4087 / 0272765454  
[flylyonz@gmail.com](mailto:flylyonz@gmail.com)





12 June 2019

Murray Young  
Chairperson  
Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Council  
156 Brymer Road, RD 9  
HAMILTON 3289

Dear Murray

### **DATES TO SET LICENCE FEES IN 2020**

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council (NZ Council) considered feedback from consultation over the setting of the 2019 licence fees and has asked that I share with you the preference for confirming dates to set licence fees in 2020 and beyond.

Several Fish and Game Councils following the 2019 consultation made the comment that the timing of the NZ Council deadline for responses meant councils were unable to consider the NZ Council recommendations during the normal regional council meeting cycle and hence had to achieve this consultation by email or telephone conference.

The setting of the NZ Council deadline for feedback is dictated by two significant dates – the start of our own organisation's financial year (1 September) and Cabinet's 28-day rule. It is a requirement of Cabinet that regulations must not come into force until at least 28 calendar days after they have been notified in the *New Zealand Gazette* (2-3 days). The 28-day rule reflects the principle that the law should be publicly available and capable of being ascertained before it comes into force.

In addition, time must be provided to allow both officials and the Minister (in that order) to consider the submission with a buffer built-in should further information be sought. This is generally accepted to be 8-working days for each, i.e. 16 working days in total.

Meaning, our internal processes need to be completed by the beginning of July each year.

Working to this deadline, the NZ Council needs to have its initial recommendations to you in April or May and then be able to reflect on your feedback before confirming those recommendations in late June.

To allow your council and the NZ Council to complete this cycle through public meetings and meet this timeframe, it would require regional Fish and Game Councils to fix its June meeting in the middle two weeks of that month and have responses back to us in the third week of June. Is this something your Council would be willing to accommodate?

The NZ Council could then meet in the final week of June and formally adopt the new licence fee recommendations and start the submission process with officials and the Minister.

If you are happy with this timing, the NZ Council will look to confirm its 2020 meeting dates during its 22-23 November 2019 meeting.

Kind regards



Lindsay Lyons

**Chairperson**

New Zealand Fish and Game Council

Ph: 07 357 4087 / 0272765454

[flylyonz@gmail.com](mailto:flylyonz@gmail.com)



23 July 2019

Kurt Bayer  
Senior Reporter  
New Zealand Herald  
15 Midas Place  
Christchurch 8024  
kurt.bayer@nzme.co.nz

### **Official information request**

Thank you for your request made under the Official Information Act, addressed to Fish & Game New Zealand and received on 1 July 2019, asking:

- *In light of the Fed Farmers campaign to get farmers elected to Fish & Game councils in the October 2018 elections, I request all reports, letters, emails and other correspondence between @Fishandgame.org.nz email addresses and @Fedfarm.org.nz email addresses since November 1, 2018.*
- *All advice prepared for Fish & Game councils on Fed Farmers since the October 2018 election.*
- *Any correspondence, emails, and letters relating to concerns about Fed Farmers members being on Fish & Game councils.*

The New Zealand Fish and Game Council likely has some information relating to your request. However, I believe that such information may likely also be held by the regional Fish and Game Councils. Accordingly, I have decided under section 14 of the Official Information Act to transfer your request to the 12 regional Fish and Game Councils.

This decision has been made following consultation to determine whether all or part of the request should be transferred. This consultation meant that a decision on your request could not be made within the original time limit for a transfer. That timeframe is therefore extended under section 15A of the Official Information Act by seven working days. You have the right, under section 28(3) of the Act, to make a complaint to an Ombudsman about this extension.

You will hear further from us concerning the part of your request that is in scope of the New Zealand Fish and Game Council. You will also hear further from the 12 regional

Fish and Game Councils. The regional Fish and Game Councils will have 20 working days from receipt of this transfer to make a decision on your request.

Please contact me if you have any queries. My details are  
BAnderton@fishandgame.org.nz or 04 499 4767.

Yours sincerely



Brian Anderton  
**New Zealand Fish and Game Council**

CC: Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council  
Central South Island Fish and Game Council  
Eastern Fish and Game Council  
Hawke's Bay Fish and Game Council  
Nelson/Marlborough Fish and Game Council  
North Canterbury Fish and Game Council  
Northland Fish and Game Council  
Otago Fish and Game Council  
Southland Fish and Game Council  
Taranaki Fish and Game Council  
Wellington Fish and Game Council  
West Coast Fish and Game Council

**Bi Monthly Managers Report****Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Meeting August 2019**

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**OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT****Project 1122 Hunter Surveys**

The hunter surveys have now been completed and David will crunch the numbers in order to provide council with up to date harvest and population information to use in its decision-making process for upcoming regulations at the November meeting.

**Project 1117 Gamebird Research**

**Mallard duckling survival report:** David and Matt McDougall have reviewed the draft report prepared by Jenn and have sent it back for edits. A final report is due to be completed by the end of August.

**Swan and goose dietary study:** David assisted university master's student Michal Ferris in obtaining swan and goose samples for her project looking at dietary composition of those two species living in west coast harbours.

**Fish and Game Research Strategy meeting in Turangi:** David met with Matt McDougall, Andy Garrick, Phil Teal and Adam Canning in order to further refine priority research areas. Research topics have been ranked into high, medium and low priority with those classified as high priority more likely to receive future funding. The rankings are based on several criteria including risk to the species/organisation and ability to achieve management outcomes based on the research.

**Project 1181 Gamebird Control, Auckland Airport:**

David and I met with representatives from the Airport Authority to discuss the issues they are experiencing with game birds, mainly swan and the ongoing requirement to conduct culls.

The authority sees swan as a significant and ongoing hazard and new runway extension is likely to exacerbate the issue. Swan are attracted by sea grass which is proliferating in areas around the harbour leading to an influx of swan in that area.

Key issues and questions that were raised during the meeting include;

- **What is the status of the Swan Population?** In general swan numbers in the region are much lower than historical levels due to the collapse of important freshwater habitats such as large shallow lakes. We sent the airport previous data sets, but we have no info on swan in Manukau Harbour other than that collected by the Authority. F&G would like to have good information on swan numbers in the Auckland harbours given that the birds are likely to be part of the same population and are seeking assistance from the authority to obtain this information.
- **What are the movements of swan between Manukau Harbour and elsewhere?** Research is to be undertaken/sponsored by the Airport Authority, perhaps with AUT, on

swan movement using 40 satellite/GPS trackers. F&G can give advice and help where expedient.

- **Where are swans moving after the cull, and is there a potential for hunters to harvest swan outside of the Manukau Harbour or in areas of the harbour when they leave from around the airport?**
- **The potential to control swan numbers by poisoning eggs.**
- **Is there a potential to modify habitat and reduce sea grass around airport to discourage swan from using the area?** The authority is looking at a potential application to conduct habitat modification in order to discourage swan from using the sites around the airport.
- **Is there a potential to create swan habitat in other areas to help mitigate the impact of ongoing culls?**

### **Project 1162 Pheasant Releases:**

John Dyer investigated an individual reported by the SPCA to us as having 8 pheasants confined in a 1m square cage. This happens to adjoin a pheasant release site. The individual has since been spoken to and just 3 pheasants were present. He is actively seeking a DoC holding permit and also planning to build a larger cage.

### **Project 1181 Fish Releases:**

**Trout releases:** In May trout releases were carried out at Lakes Moana-nui, Whaithua and Parkinson.

**Sterile fish project:** Adam Daniel and Eastern region staff successfully spawned and treated Fish & Game's first batch of sterile trout. The pressure chamber used was borrowed from Paul Decker. The equipment was then fitted with a new pressure gauge and tested to hold a pressure of 10,000psi. The cost of getting the pressure gauge replaced and the unit pressure tested was just over \$500. No additional costs associated with the test are anticipated aside from the tags that will be used to evaluate growth once the fish are released.

## **OUTPUT 2 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT**

### **Project 1235 Trees**

**Plant Distribution 2019:** This year's annual order was received and distributed to clubs and individual wetland or stream projects, see Table 1. Plants were also ordered for other community projects not directly related to wetlands or streams such as Te Uku school native forest restoration project. These have been paid for by those organisations and individuals. By increasing quantities, we get our plants at cheaper rates and this saving is also passed on to others sourcing plants through us. It will hopefully also help promote F&G in local rural communities.

John collected one pound of water oak, (*Quercus nigra*), seeds for growing-on from the only mature tree of this species in NZ. It is noticeable that many months after English oak acorns have fallen, numbers of both ducks and pheasants are still seeking them out in the leaf-litter.

Table 1: 2019 tree distribution to clubs and projects.

Plant Distribution List 2019	Dean Block	Franklin Club	David Saxton(WCEETJ)	Huntly Club	Andrew Sands	Morrinsville club	Andrew Ewen	Robert Johnston Wetlands and Stream	Te Aroha Club	Te Awamutu Club	Mike Simpson	Craig Carey Wetland and Stream	Brad Marsh Wetland	Dave Stack pond	Fish and Game Trial Plants	Doug Mc Caulley Wetlands	Dennis Johnston, Waipua River	Jeff Tucker Wetland	SUB TOTAL
Cabbage Tree	50	50	50	100	25	75	20	20	50	50	100		20			50	20	50	730
Cherry		30		50		10			50										140
English Oak	30	30		50		10	10	10	20	30									190
Kahikatea				130	25	25		20	50	25							20	40	335
NZ Flax		75	75	300	50	150	40	20	40		150	50	20				30	70	1070
Pin Oak		25	10	100	25	25	20	20	25	50		50				20			370
Swamp Cypress		25		25		15		10	40			10				75			200
Turkey Oak	50	25	20	30	30	50	20	20	25			20	20				10		320
Kowhai			10		5		10	5					20				10	10	70
Manuka			20				20	20	50	50		50	20			25	20	50	325
Carex Secta	100	100	50		25	25	100	20	25	50		50	120	300			10	100	1075
Hickory												10			10				20
Pecan												10			10				20
Linden												10			10				20
Bay Tree												10			10				20
Weeping willow							10					50							60

### Project 1211 R.M.A.

**Healthy Rivers Plan Change 1 update:** Block 1 (Outcomes) and Hearing Block 2 (policies and rules) are now complete. Block 3 (Farm environment planning and other miscellaneous matters) will begin at the start of August. The Commissioners have indicated there will also be a date set down for closing submissions (legal).

A further hearing date was scheduled in mid-July for the experts who contributed to a Joint Witness Statement (JWS) on the outcomes, limits and targets the plan change should be seeking. Adam Daniel and Adam Canning both attended the Expert Conferencing which led to the JWS. Both expressed disappointment that the process was ineffective and did not result in a JWS that was of much use. Adam Canning attended the JWS hearing and had a positive reception from the commissioners, including a lot of questions on ecosystem health in the tributaries. Overall though the JWS process was disappointing, there was a good opportunity at the hearing for Fish and Game's point of view to be put forward and heard.

As part of a follow-up on questions raised by the Commissioners in Block 2, Fish and Game has costed the increased setbacks sought (this was an analysis by Dr. Rebecca Eivers, who the question had been put to).

Evidence has now been prepared and filed for Block 3. This was planning evidence from Helen Marr relating to Farm Environment Plans, policies to protect wetlands, forestry activities, and Policy 7 which relates to implementing an effective land-based allocation system. Legal submissions are being prepared for Block 3. Anna is assisting in refining the issues to be covered by these.

The Government's new freshwater policy statement for freshwater is expected to be released in mid-August. This will have a bearing on the hearing, holding a degree of weight; weight will of course be subject to the fact that it is a pre-consultation proposal. The policy statement is expected to expand on and detail instream limits to be required for freshwater, and to set requirements for Councils to comply with these. The Government's package is also expected to provide some guidance on allocation. We will respond to this as it arises.

Our appearance for block 3 is set down for 14 August.

Adam acted as an expert witness on a water quality parameters panel for PC1. Two extensive meetings were held that took significant preparation. The goal of the meetings was to define parameters in the upcoming Plan Change 1. In addition, Adam prepared and presented evidence at the second round of the PC1 hearings.

**Waikato District Plan:** Further submissions have been filed on the proposed Waikato District Plan. The latest indication from the Council is that the hearing for this is expected to commence around the end of September, however the Council has not released any firm guidance. There has been some media comment about the submission by Sleepyhead requesting that rural land between Lake Rotokawau and Lake Ohinewai is rezoned to industrial and residential, which we have opposed. Sleepyhead's submission is all of 14 pages long, and doesn't consider any environmental impacts despite proposing walkways thru adjacent wetlands and the close proximity to the lakes that are hunted by our licence holders. And it's not an application but a submission on a district plan review so it didn't go thru the usual public notification process.

My understanding is that Sleepyhead have asked the commissioners to speed up the consideration of their submission by having it heard in May next year. Hopefully by then we will have had some consultation with the applicants and have received a full application including an environmental impact assessment.

So our "objection" is best considered to be a statement that we want to take part in the consultation process for this application given the high Fish and Game values of the adjacent lakes and wetlands.

**Open Country Dairy:** Open Country Dairy have not made good on their MOU whereby they had agreed that their future upgrades and associated consents would embark on a reduction in discharge to the Waitoa River. Their new application includes a new summer discharge, and because of a lack of data as to their current discharge and a lack of summer monitoring data, scant assessment of effects of such. As a result, it is not clear to us whether we can expect an increase or a decrease in the level of contaminants entering the Waitoa over the term of the consent. However, one certainty is that the new summer discharge will introduce a new range of heightened effects associated with the season. We have drafted a submission for filing at the end of July.

**Fonterra Te Rapa Plant:** Adam and I had several meetings with Fonterra to discuss the renewal of their consents for the Te Rapa factory. We withdraw our objection after acknowledging that Fonterra had addressed our main concern that the proposed compliance limits were higher than the current performance. I also consider that the proposed mitigation package is generous of \$100,000 and we look forward to working with Fonterra on potential projects in the catchment.

### **Project 1221 Council Land**

**Murray Young Wetland:** David met with contractors to discuss the completion and handover of the project. The wetland is currently sitting at minimum winter levels and the water control structure is yet to be fitted. This is the last major piece of work required. Once the emergent plants in the lower areas have become established, we will begin to increase winter water levels. Some further tracking, infill planting was just being conducted at the time of the visit. The contractors are required to manage and maintain the planting for a further 5 years post practical completion.





**Photo 1:** The Murray Young Wetland

**Impact of proposed Waikato District Plan on F&G's wetlands:** Under the proposed Waikato District Plan, most of our wetlands are zoned as significant natural areas and thus earthworks are limited to the following:

- (a) Earthworks for the maintenance of existing tracks, fences or drains within an identified Significant Natural Area must not:
- (i) Exceed a volume of 50m<sup>3</sup> in a single consecutive 12 month period;
  - (ii) Exceed an area of 250m<sup>2</sup> in a single consecutive 12 month period;
  - (iii) Import any fill material.

I've asked John Dyer to prepare a consent application to cover the routine maintenance work in our wetlands. We are also seeking changes to the proposed district plan via our submission as previously noted.

I'll be contacting pondholders later in the year informing them that all proposed work on the F&G wetlands must be checked by John first to make sure that they are fully compliant with the Proposed Plan before we give written approval for the work to proceed.

**Wetlands:** John has audited projects carried out on council wetlands last summer to satisfy our auditor that what we have paid for is what we have received; for instance, the amount of metal delivered, the length of drains dug and so on.

John is also compiling an asset register of Council land; assessing fence condition, noting all buildings, bridges, tank-stands and other fixed assets to assist with forward planning.

**North & Central Shepherd:** A slumped stopbank is allowing silt-polluted water to enter this wetland during floods – estimated to be 9 tonnes of silt left behind in the last flood event.

Ironically the new Waikato District Plan severely limits what we can do to repair this in a Significant Natural Area.

**Cocks Wetland:** Staff in late July were auditing this wetland, which required walking about the “Back Road”, to the northernmost tip and back down along the riverbank, a lengthy round trip. Hard to judge exactly, but there might have been 600 mallards, 250 teal and perhaps a dozen or so shoveler and at least 2 dozen black swan present. Also a tabby cat accompanied by 3 full grown kittens. There are normally at this time of year about 200 shoveler at the adjacent DoC Reao Arm. That was confirmed by a hunter who happened to be in that same area that same day. All in all an impressive number of birds now that the water is back.

**Dean Wetland:** Mexican water lily continues to regrow from sunken tubers in this wetland. John sprayed it on July 24. If this plant establishes inside the willows out of sight and out of reach for spraying, it could potentially become a very serious pest. However, we seem to be on top of it. Gorse bushes on the most practical landing site for a rescue-helicopter, should one ever be needed on the Dean Wetland, have been sprayed to clear a potential landing zone.

**Aka Aka Wetland:** Works were completed in May by the regional council on re-cresting the flood-scheme stopbank, 500m which happens to also be inside our Aka Aka title. On May 25 we advised 12 of our pond-holders there by email of the new works and the new grass and the need to keep off this. Two No. 8 wire-strops with bunting were erected and held up by waratahs to block access to the stopbank. Subsequently the first of these was pushed down and the bank driven over by a motorbike, a quad, perhaps a couple of different vehicles and a herd of cattle, all of which damaged this work. It is after rain that it is most prone to damage.

The stopbank was originally formed by digging a canal and throwing the mud up as a flood barrier which has served for many years. However it gets very soft in wet weather, compounded by being in the shade of nearby trees and so not drying out. Lightly metalling the track might not be sufficient to overcome these problems. Duck-hunters have got the blame for this damage, but this easily accessible area is regularly used by dog walkers, possum hunters, clandestine lovers and goodness knows who else, year-round day and night. Only 3 maimais are down this stopbank and we can be fairly sure, having spoken to each of their owners, that it isn't them that caused the damage. Some form of permanent fence with a locked gate and limited key access would seem to be the answer.

### Project 1311 Assessment and Monitoring

**Lake Otamangakau:** Adam has continued to follow up on the Lake Otamangakau discharge and water samples. Plans are being prepared to gain access to the discharge location when the lake valve is opened in December.

### **OUTPUT 3 PARTICIPATION**

### Project 1311 Access Negotiation

**North Waikato:** A new report by the Walking Access Commission on *Connecting Franklin-North Waikato* has just been released. The report notes that the Whangamarino Wetland is an underutilised local recreation amenity with the potential for a boardwalk through the wetland. The Commission has engaged Shades of Green Limited to identify some key projects in the region that can turn the vision of increased public access into reality.

**Lake Waikare:** John Dyer has been in discussion with Waikato District Council about access. The access points are:

- **Te Onetea Stream.** This is on DoC land and was funded by DoC and privately by hunters.
- **Roto Street, Te Kauwhata.** This is on WDC land, (the old now closed dump site), but the ramp and canal to the lake were funded by hunters who also built the small wharf and car park. TKF&G club sold hunters access keys to pay for the upkeep.
- **Ruahine Road.** This is on WDC land but was funded by Transit in mitigation. It is currently being eroded away.
- **The Yacht Club** is a Recreation Reserve administer by WDC but their sole contribution seems to have been to demolish the old club buildings. The remaining works were funded by the yachting community before their club disbanded.
- **Waikare Domain** is a recreation reserve administered by WDC. However they have allowed the local landowner to fence off access to the boat ramp there and also to padlock the reserve gate. Under the Summary Offences Act 1981 there is a \$1,000 fine for obstructing; “every road, street, path or other way which the public has a right to pass”.
- **Matahuru Stream** access to the lake is via a small ramp on private land.
- **Gill Road** access is a paper road that is unformed. Hunters have built the small ramp there.

What is apparent is that while WDC administer most of these reserves and also boat ramps, they seem to have little intention to do anything to maintain any of them for public access to Lake Waikare. This despite a projected 4-fold increase in Te Kauwhata residents. WDC were unaware, for instance, that some of these ramps even exist. Roto Street ramp, for instance, has a blocked canal. The local TK F&G Club has offered \$1,500 funds to clear this canal using a local long-reach digger. But it seems that the local council wants at least \$3,000 just for a consent and are also talking about other costs, such as landscaping and parking, (both of which are already present). These extra costs have so-far killed the project off.

**Boundary signs:** John continued the project to check and where necessary replace the boundary signs on the State Highways on our borders.

#### Project 1331 Magazine/Supplement

The pre-season fish magazine supplement was written and submitted.

#### Project 1341 Other Publications

Four issues of Both Barrels for this region, (April, May, June and July), have since been sent to online subscribers.

#### **OUTPUT 4: COMMUNITY ADVOCACY/LIASION**

#### Project 1431 Liaison/Advocacy

**Te Kopuka Strategy:** Glen Maclean has attended 3 hui now over the Te Kopuka Strategy (Wanganui River governance) but mainly about the process and getting to know each another. He will be attending an overnight wananga shortly where there should be more substantive discussion. At this point the process has a good feel about it and very inclusive and constructive.

**Club meetings:** Adam gave presentations on conservation in freshwater lakes and streams to both Whatawhata and Te Uku primary schools in May. Adam also spoke at the Tauranga Anglers Club in May.

**Conference in USA:** Adam gave a talk at the American Fisheries Society East Coast Trout conference, and interviewed Peter Kutzer from Orvis Fishing Education. The conference focused on habitat restoration and invasive species. Although lots of useful information on restoration techniques were presented the newest technology focused on eradication of rainbow trout to restore native fish habitats through sex reversal. This technique has become common in the US and is something that could be used in NZ. Fortunately, the technique can also be used on other species like perch.

The Orvis Fishing Education program was extremely interesting and is based on Orvis dealers giving free intro classes on fly fishing. The program has introduced over 200,000 anglers to fly fishing in the US and could be replicated in NZ. Further discussion on both topics will be included in Adam's staff report on the trip due by the end of the year.

**RiverCare AGM:** David attended the AGM and was reconfirmed as vice chair of Waikato RiverCare.

**B. Wilson**  
**Chief Executive.**