

MAJOR SPONSORS AND FUNDERS

Department of Conservation

Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust – has been the major supporter of the Waimarino Wetland restoration project since 2005 and Project Tongariro was successful in securing funding (\$40,000) for five years.

Pharazyn Charitable Trust – has supported our pest control programme at Lake Rotopounamu for the past four years. They are a family trust with a strong affinity to Tongariro and especially Rotopounamu.

Huckleberry's Sports & Charitable Society - is a charitable society, which distributes funds from gaming machines to community groups in the Turangi region. Their funds were used to fund pest control for our Rotopounamu programme.

Craters of the Moon Charitable Trust – a charitable trust who offer a fantastic service to the Taupo community regularly investing money back into the local area and support local education programmes. The Trust supported our internship programme by providing funds.

Pacific Development and Conservation Trust – support the enhancement, protection and conservation of the physical environment of the South Pacific and of its natural and historic resources. They supported our Rotopounamu programme once more.

FINANCIAL REPORT YEAR ENDING 30 JUNE 2011

Accounts for Project Tongariro were received from the auditors last week and are attached for your information. This year has seen some significant changes within the organisation including:

1. Major sponsor Landrover withdrawal from their partnership with us
2. Resignation of Project Coordinator Sarah Gibb
3. Review by the executive committee to reduce hours of the Project Coordinator, resulting in employment of Nina Manning at 50%.
4. Strategic direction is now focussed on delivering the key goals/areas identified by Project Tongariro according to committed funding arrangements. Essentially if we are not able to get a source of funding prior to the strategic planning round, then the project will not happen.

Nevertheless, this year a small profit of \$24,025 was made compared with \$17,365 last year.

Balance Sheet	2011	2010	Comment
Current Assets	99,771	137,866	Reflects higher cash balances at year end. Less debtors in 2011 at year end
Current Liabilities	3,138	7,508	GST and Creditors at year end
Net Current Assets	96,633	130,358	
Non Current Assets	9,147	10,262	Change for depreciation only
Investments	128,212	67,347	Reinvest cash to fixed term investment in 2011
Net Assets	\$233,992	\$207,967	
Trust Capital			
Reserves	77,414	71,518	Memorial Fund
Retained Earnings	156,577	136,449	
Total Trust Capital	\$233,992	\$207,967	

Project Tongariro is undertaking a number of new activities to generate extra funding and will continue to seek sponsorship for major projects.

CONTACT DETAILS

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ANNUAL REPORT

July 2010 – June 2011
Tongariro Natural History Society



PRESIDENT'S REPORT TO THE 27TH AGM

It is my pleasure to outline the progress of Project Tongariro during the 2010-2011 year. This was the first year of operating using the Project Tongariro brand. The rebranding is intended to assist people to better understand who we are and what do and to raise our profile in the communities where we work.

It was the end of an era in another way too. After more than seven years with the Society, Sarah Gibb, our director since July 2002, moved on to a new job in Hamilton. Sarah's achievements are too numerous to list here but suffice to say she brought numerous conservation projects to life, won hundreds of thousands of dollars in funding, fostered a fabulous group of volunteers who completed an ambitious programme of activities each year. Sarah enjoyed the confidence and support of the executive and members. Nina Manning was appointed as Project Tongariro's Coordinator in January 2011, to work 20 hours week, taking over some, but not all aspects of Sarah's role. Her focus is to facilitate our annual business and work plan including seeking ongoing funding assistance, organising conservation work at our key sites Rotopounamu and the South Lake Taupo wetlands, coordinating volunteer input, organising members' field trips and running the day to day business of Project Tongariro.

Over the summer, Nina and DOC ranger Jo Nash worked together with our four conservation interns. This work was generously supported by funds from Craters of the Moon and Waikato University. Other funders who assisted us in our work for the year ending June 2011 were the Pacific Conservation and Development Trust, The Pharazyn Trust, Huckleberry's Sports & Charitable Society, DOC, Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET) and The Park Travelers' Lodge. In October 2010 Project Tongariro signed a memorandum of understanding with Ruapehu Alpine Lifts. We now have a presence on the company's very popular website and earlier this year RAL sold an old chairlift at auction donating the proceeds to Project Tongariro.

The Executive has also engaged Kim Manunui to manage the content on our website and send out electronic newsletters via email every two months. Kim is also assisting Project Tongariro with a number of key marketing initiatives and is working closely with Nina Manning. Two projects you will hear more about soon are the 'Adopt a Hectare' campaign at Rotopounamu and an exciting new downloadable phone application which will provide information, video and stories about The Tongariro Alpine Crossing.

Finally, thanks to all our wonderful volunteers and loyal members. We are very grateful and value your ongoing support!!

Karen Williams – October 2011



CONSERVATOR'S COLUMN



The retirement of Conservator Paul Green QSM earlier this year marks a watershed for our Department of Conservation partners in the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy (now Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki Conservancy). Paul was Chief Ranger of Tongariro National Park from the early 1980s up to 1987. With the creation of the Department, he then led the Tongariro/Taupo Conservancy from 1987 until 2011. Paul has been connected with the Tongariro Natural History Society from the start and served as the Department's honorary member on the Executive since 1987. His outstanding contribution to Project Tongariro was acknowledged at the 2010 AGM when he was made a life member. Mark Davies, Conservation Support Manager for the Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki Conservancy and member of the Executive is Paul's replacement as the official Department representative. Damion Coutts is the new Conservator for Tongariro Whanganui Taranaki Conservancy.

MEMORIAL AWARDS

For nearly 20 years, the Society has awarded annual grants to young scientists undertaking research in Tongariro National Park. Two Massey University students received our 2010-11 memorial awards. They are Emma Phillips for her work on forecasting the probability and consequences of the failure of the eastern rim of Mt Ruapehu's Crater Lake and Monique Nelson-Tunely for her work on central North Island populations of the Small-scaled Skink.

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME

During the period of July 2010 to June 2011, Project Tongariro's members and volunteers contributed 694 volunteer days to the Tongariro National Park and surrounding areas through various activities. The volunteer days are given a value of \$150 to include their time and the materials, petrol and resources they supply. The work is predominantly done between October and March. For this period, Project Tongariro volunteers gave a contribution of \$104,100 in time.

Rotopounamu Restoration	136
Wetland Restoration	48
Plant nursery	19
Planting	11
DOC Assistance	48
Bird counts	6
Kiwi Egg Transport	6
Historic Site Surveys	120
Events	56
DOC Summer Programme	60
Recreation	48
General (education, admin)	136

MEMBERSHIP

	10/11	09/10
Individual	150	132
Family	88	87
Club/school	8	9
Honorary Members	8	10
Sponsors	12	10
Complimentary	21	23
Total	287	272
Supporters	514	384

MEMBERS' FIELD TRIPS



As usual, members enjoyed a range of field trips on offer during the year: An old slab hut near Raurimu (Oct 2010), Chatham Islands (Nov 2010), Ohakune Mountain Track to the site of the old Blyth Hut (December 2010), Tiri and Motuihe Islands (April 2011) and Rotokawa (June 2011).

BIODIVERSITY INTERNS

This summer saw the introduction of four Waikato University students (Stacey Bryan, Gina Heron, Kaitlin Morrison and Kris Taipeti) who joined Project Tongariro's internship programme. The interns are all undertaking biology related degrees at Waikato University and have completed two of the four years required, except Kaitlin who has completed three. This proved to be a good opportunity for the interns to test their knowledge and gain practical skills for future use in the laboratory and in the field. The interns met and worked with numerous people, DOC staff, Project Tongariro members and other community-based people who took them under their wings and taught them helpful skills. Some activities the interns participated in include: pest control and monitoring at Lake Rotopounamu, marshaling The Goat race, working with the Whakapapa kiwi team, painting the Hapuawhenua viaduct rafting for Blue duck monitoring and



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KEY PLAYERS

Sir Tumu te Heuheu DCNZM	Patron
Karen Williams	President
Dave Bamford	Past President
Kaye Rabarts	Frank Katavich
Roy Dench	Shirley Potter
Mark Davies	Peter McNaughton
Maureen Smith	Paul Green

Staff

Nina Manning – Project Coordinator
Kim Manunui – Marketing Coordinator
Sharon Rowe – Finances

MAJOR RESTORATION PROJECTS

Mt Pihanga – Rotopounamu

By Jo Nash Biodiversity Ranger, DOC, Turangi Taupo Area Office

In the 2010-2011 season we welcomed Nina Manning to the team this year as the new Coordinator of Project Tongariro. Four great intern students from the University of Waikato also joined us for the period from November to February who helped out during our busiest period.

This year was the first full year that contractors were involved in rodent control at Rotopounamu. There was also operational support from Department of Conservation (DOC) and Project Tongariro (PT) staff to complete the operation. The bait was changed this year to Pest Off 50D which is a diphacinone based cereal pellet. The bait proved a good choice because it was cost effective, kept in good condition in the bush, and controlled the rodents to numbers lower than ever recorded before with rat numbers dropping to 1% and mice numbers down to 0%. Project Tongariro interns and members were involved with pre-bagging the bait for the contractors, running the tracking tunnels, checking the traps, and monitoring weta, bats and white mistletoe. It is encouraging to see volunteers being involved in operational work. PT interns and DOC staff undertook five-minute bird counts and distance sampling. 476 counts were completed. Kereru, Kakariki and Grey Warbler were the indicator species used for distance sampling. Nine bird species have significantly increased in numbers this year, which is likely to be due to the control of rats and possums to low numbers.

Overall the 2010/11 season was very successful and it was encouraging to see Society volunteers becoming more actively involved in the work at Rotopounamu.



Waimarino Wetland Recreation Reserve

By Jo Nash Biodiversity Ranger, DOC, Turangi Taupo Area Office

Project Tongariro and DOC are also working together to restore Te Matapuna wetland. This zone covers Public Conservation Land from Oruatua to the Waiotaka River. This has been made possible by the grant funding given to the project from the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust (WCEET). In the past this funding has been used to restore the Waimarino Wetland only, however this year marked the first season Project Tongariro and DOC have worked together on the new Te Matapuna restoration plan. Zone One is the first zone to be restored within the wetland and will be worked on between 2010 and 2015.



Two wetland contracts were awarded for works between January and June 2011. 17 hectares of drill and poison willow control was completed in the Waimarino River Recreational Reserve and 3.2 hectares of drill and poison willow control was completed in the Waiotaka Scenic Reserve. Boat spraying was carried out in the Waimarino Reserve in blocks that were too wet to reach by foot. 12.2 hectares of willow were controlled from the boat in the Waimarino Reserve. Altogether 32.5 hectares of wetland underwent willow control this season. Other target species controlled this season included Japanese Honeysuckle and Taiwan Cherry. Result monitoring was completed in November 2010. Blocks that were treated in 2009/2010 season were either walked or kayaked. Transects lines of 100 willow trees were recorded giving an overall kill rate for each treatment block. Most blocks had excellent kill rates between 90-100% however the blocks that were treated by boat last season had differing results. It was found that willow trees that were very tall and dense all had re-growth by November 2010; conversely smaller and thinner trees had excellent kill rates. From these results it was concluded that boat control still did an excellent job in lagoon areas that were inaccessible by foot and where the willow trees are relatively young and short. Trees over 3m tall and very dense trees were left for aerial control to manage them another season. DOC, PT and Conservation Core planted 1000 more native trees within the two restoration sites this year. Maintenance of the planting sites including releasing the plants, spraying encroaching weeds, and general tidying up the site using a scrub bar was completed by contractors in March 2011. Overall this season has been very successful, a lot of willow control was completed and the planting sites are growing and are beginning to be noticed from the roadside.