

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

A Meeting of Council will be held at the
NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Drive, Hamilton,
on Saturday 16 June 2018 commencing at 11a.m.

AGENDA

	<u>Page</u>
1. Apologies	
2. Possible conflicts of interest arising from meeting agenda	
3. Minutes of previous meetings held on 7 th April 2018 *	1
4. Matters arising from previous minutes	
5. Council correspondence	
6. Chief Executive's bi-monthly report & financial statements	
6.1 Bi-monthly Chief Executives Report *	6
6.2 Financial Statements *	15
7. Fish & Game Marketing Analysis*	43
8. 2018/19 Licence Fee Recommendation *	54
9. 2017 National Staff Conference *	59
10. Piggott Wetland Report *	72
11. OSH Report *	74
12. NZF&GC meeting 27 – 28 April 2018 *	75
13. General Business	
* Denotes attachments	

M. Young
Chairman

03/06/2018

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

Minutes of a Meeting of Council
held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton,
on Saturday 7th April 2018 commencing at 11.00am.

PRESENT:

Chairman: D. Cocks

Councillors: G. Annan, C. Carey, W. Howard, N. Juby, P. Shaw, C. Sherrard, S. Smith,
E. Williamson.

Staff: B. Wilson

Visitors: P. Hardy (DoC), M. Taylor (CE, NZF&GC), R. Murray.

1. APOLOGIES

A. Kerr, M. Young, B. Smith, D. Klee, A. Daniel, M. Davis, A. Sintenie, J. Dyer.

It was moved;

that the apologies be accepted.

S. Smith/Annan CARRIED

2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:

None declared.

3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF 10 FEBRUARY 2018:

It was moved;

that the minutes of the previous meeting of 10 February 2018 be accepted as a true and correct record.

Howard/Annan CARRIED

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:

The Chairman expressed his disappointment that when purchasing a licence online a hunter/angler had to opt in to enrol as an elector rather than this being the default position. Councillors discussed this issue and especially the issue of agency online where licence purchasers were not always asked whether they wanted to enrol as an elector.

It was moved;

that it should be stated on hunting and fishing licences whether the licence holder was enrolled as an elector.

S. Smith/Juby CARRIED

Councillor Howard updated the meeting regarding the bait stations obtained by the Franklin Acclimatisation Society. Bait stations have been allocated to the Piggott Wetland (40), Aka Aka Wetland (30), and 80 were given out to members at the AGM.

5 CORRESPONDENCE:

Correspondence was tabled from:

- A sympathy card on behalf of Council and staff has been sent to the Goodin family offering condolences on the recent passing of Ross Goodin, past president and life member of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society. Councillor Sherrard spoke on the contributions made by Ross Goodin to fish and game management both in the local district and regionally.
- An email was received from Tony Dickens, Project Director – Huntly Section, Fulton Hogan, regarding the Fisher Wetland compensation package noting that the “terms of our agreement for us to pay Fish & Game \$250,000 compensation is on the proviso that the entire contribution plus any interest accrued from such will be used for the purpose of wetland restoration, enhancement or creation activities over one or multiple wetlands in the Waikato Tainui rohe (region/area)”.
- Tony Roxburgh, Chairman National Wetland Trust of NZ, thanking Fish & Game for our support at the recent World Wetlands Day.

It was moved;

that all correspondence be accepted.

S. Smith/Carey CARRIED

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

Discussion ensued on a wide range of topics including:

- Te Kauwhata Waste Water Treatment Plant, with concerns expressed by Councillors over the lack of progress by the district council in providing an alternative treatment system.
- The F&G website and especially the lack of information regarding fishing access.
- Disappointment at the non-availability of brook trout from the Eastern F&G hatchery.

- Concern over the delay in obtaining approval for the production and release of triploid rainbow trout.
- Mischa Davis joint responsibilities with Northland F&G.
- That the reporting of a mallard duck banded in Opuatia turning up 16 days later in New Caledonia had been a good opportunity for a publicity release.

It was moved;

that the CE Bimonthly report be accepted.

S. Smith/Juby CARRIED

The Financial Report was discussed with Mr Wilson noting that \$32,000 had recently been paid out for earthworks on the WCEET funded wetland restoration projects.

In reply to a question, Mr Wilson stated that AOG referred to “All of Government” contracts, of which Council participated in to obtain discounts for vehicles, fuel and mobile phones.

It was moved;

that the Financial Report be accepted.

Annan/S. Smith CARRIED

7. APPOINTMENT OF F&G NOMINEE TO TE KŌPUKA

Councillors discussed the appointment of a F&G nominee to the Te Kopuka, an advisory strategy group established as part of the Te Awa Tupua settlement for the Whanganui River.

It was moved;

that Glen Maclean be nominated for the position of Fish & Game representative on the Te Kopuka.

Juby/Annan CARRIED

8. DEVELOPMENT OF THE 2018/19 BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN

The draft Operational Work Plan for 2018/19 was extensively discussed by councillors with concern expressed over the potential for a huge increase in prosecution costs due to reparation no longer being a viable alternative.

Concerns were also expressed over the high cost of fish from the Eastern hatchery, and whether there were adequate staff resources to deal with the botulism outbreaks.

It was moved;

that the draft 2018/19 budget and Operational Work Plan be accepted.

Juby/Annan CARRIED

Council rose for lunch at 12.45pm and resumed at 1.15pm.

9. OSH REPORT

The OSH report for April 2018 was tabled.

Councillors discussed the foot bridge in the Aka Aka wetland and the need for replacement of the timber planks.

It was moved;

that the OSH report be accepted.

S. Smith/Annan CARRIED

10. NZF&GC MEETING 16 – 18 MARCH 2018

Councillor Sherrard summarised the main points arising from the recent meeting of NZF&GC. Both Councillor Sherrard and Mr Taylor answered questions on a range of issues including:

- Why much of the meeting was held in “Public excluded session”
- An update on the Guide Licence, with the application recently sent to the Minister of Conservation
- Concerns over the long-term viability of the legal fund given the large number of applications by regions.

It was moved;

that the report be accepted.

Annan/Williamson CARRIED

11. GENERAL BUSINESS

Councillor Sherrard spoke about a recent farming innovation – “spikey”, a tractor drawn urine detector and nitrification inhibitor which is in use on five dairy farms and could potentially cut nitrate leaching by 50%.

Rex Murray spoke on capture reared mallards and expressed his disappointment with Councillors and staff over their lack of consultation with hunters who had an interest in releasing capture reared mallards. Mr Murray acknowledged that habitat was crucial, but he believed that the local mallard population needed a kick start. Mr Murray also believed that banding capture reared mallard wasn't necessary. Councillors acknowledged that they were concerned over the potential commercialisation of mallard hunting based on capture reared mallards.

Councillor Juby raised the issue of the low tag return rate from the Whanganui River trout tagging programme. He reported that a local fish tackle distributor has offered to sponsor the programme by providing products as reward for tag returns.

It was moved;

that the offer to provide sponsorship of the Whanganui River trout tagging programme be accepted in principle.

Juby/Howard CARRIED

The Chairman thanked Mr Taylor for attending the meeting. He also wished Councillors all the best for the game season.

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

Bi Monthly Managers Report

Auckland/Waikato Fish & Game Meeting June 2018

OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT**Project 1111 Drift Diving:**

Three attempts were made to drift dive the Whakapapa River, but weather and water clarity did not allow for the dive so it was postponed until next year.

Project 1112 Banding

John Dyer assisted Auckland Museum, DoC and other interested parties with the banding of a frigate bird that was brought to Bird Rescue in Auckland. Only 20 of these birds have been reported in NZ in the last century. It normally breeds in Queensland and the tropical Pacific.

John also assisted Rex Murray band 200 hand-raised mallards for release. This is the last year of this programme as Rex considers the number of wild birds has increased sufficiently that it is no longer required. The birds banded were healthy, happy and entirely true to type.

Project 1113 Aerial Transects

David Klee and Matt McDougall conducted the Auckland/Waikato dabbling duck trend counts. The report will be written up and presented to council later in the year.

Project 1117 Gamebird Research

Jenn and David have put together a proposal to the game bird research committee which focuses on what habitat types are required to promote duckling and brood survival. Jenn's PhD found that duckling survival is the most influential factor affecting population growth of mallards in New Zealand. Duckling survival is very low in New Zealand and this has important implications on population growth. Population models derived from data collected during 2014-2015 indicate a decreasing population ($\lambda = 0.84$; 95% CI = 0.69–1.03) but suggest that a 14% increase in current duckling survival rates would lead to a stable population (Sheppard 2017). Low duckling survival may result from unproductive brood-rearing habitat, inadequate food sources, or high predation rates and management of these factors may help promote duckling survival and ultimately result in population growth.

During the "Mallard telemetry project" information on brood habitat use was collected but linking habitat-specific characteristics (i.e., width of drainage ditches, size of pond/lake, width of riparian margin) to duckling survival was outside the main scope of the PhD (Sheppard 2017) and MSc (Garrick 2017) portions of the project. Given the importance of duckling survival to population growth and the fact that this information has already been collected, a logical next step of the Mallard Research Program would be to fully assess the adaptive basis of brood-habitat use and selection.

Heavy metals Project: Katie has finished her final thesis edits and her thesis has been sent to the binders. An electronic version is available, and a bound copy will be at the office if anyone wants to borrow it. Katie is going overseas again for a short stint but plans to work on her publications and we will have a debrief meeting with the supervisory team once she is back.

Project 1121 Fish Harvest Survey:

Adam compared long-term harvest data with water quality data from the Waikato River and found that trout condition was directly related to declining water clarity.

Project 1122 Gamebird Harvest Survey

Many hunters reported that this has been the best season for decades if not ever. Some areas remain a concern with many reports from the lower Waikato River indicating continued poor numbers, although the feedback staff are getting about this area has been mixed, with other parties ecstatic with their opening weekend harvest. It appears to be very much a case of the haves and have nots depending where on the river you were shooting. Similarly, reports from Hamilton south and in the King Country have been patchy. The swamps appear to be shooting spectacularly especially in the 3rd week of the season with rising water and weather. Plenty of 3, 4 and even 5 man limits were shot over a 3-4 day period. Again it appears to be a matter of right place right time.

Project 1161 Trout Releases:

Adam released fish at the annual Lake Pupuke fish release. The event was well attended and sponsored by Pure Fishing NZ. Fish were also released at Lake Moananui.

Project 1162 Pheasant Releases:

John Dyer have recently inspected one site of a proposed new Game Area with Special Conditions (subsequently the application has been withdrawn). Two other applications are expected, both non-commercial.

Project 1181 Gamebird Control

Since January 2018 we have issued 60 permits to cull/disturb. The majority being pukeko, 30, with paradise shelduck next at 18. The rest being mostly mallards with the odd swan.

OUTPUT 2 HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT

Project 1211 R.M.A.

Beef and Lamb NZ: I participated in a teleconference with Beef & Lamb NZ to discuss their draft environmental strategy.

Fonterra Tirau: We were visited by the new manager of the Fonterra Tirau Dairy Factory and given an update of their proposed new effluent treatment system. He indicated that there will be further delays to the plant upgrades which are intended to be made to meet consented limits. We have provided a framework for an agreement whereby they contribute to a mitigation/restoration fund for every year of their delay.

Healthy Rivers (PC 1)

Variation 1

We made a submission on the withdrawn portion of PC 1 (now re-notified as 'Variation 1'). The focus of this submission was to ensure that the Whangamarino Wetland is appropriately managed. As drafted, PC 1 does not give any special priority to the Whangamarino, despite

outlining specific objectives, policies and methods intended to recognise its significance and the need to halt the decline of the bog ecosystem. In relation to Whangamarino Wetland, our submission seeks:

- Whangamarino wetland be given its own status as a Freshwater Management Unit (FMU); this would mean improvements would need to occur within that FMU.
- Values include the values of wetlands and wetland ecosystems (particularly in Whangamarino) for waterfowl habitat, gamebird hunting, and wilderness amenity.
- Policies and methods link to limits and targets for the FMU, which are set to ensure protection and improvement to the Whangamarino.
- All catchments flowing into the Whangamarino are given the same priority status, meaning actions on land occur coherently.

Other elements of the submission included pushing back against proposed extensions of timeframes which have been introduced as a result of the variation and refinements to the targets for the state of monitoring sites.

Consent applications:

There has been a consent application to 'lock in' Nitrogen discharges until 2030 in the upper catchment of the Waikato River for a substantial portion of the Upper Waikato FMU (by Wairakei Estate Limited). This application has been made pursuant PC 1 provisions and has been requested to be non-notified, which would mean we cannot submit on it. If granted, the application would frustrate the ability to achieve many of the changes PC 1 sought by Fish and Game and other submitters, for example:

- It would be processed pursuant to a policy which enables consents to be 'generally granted' if they can show no further increase in contaminant loading. We argue the actual (including cumulative) effects should be taken into account.
- It would limit the ability to amend limits and targets in the Waikato Mainstem as it would be granted on the basis of proposed limits and targets.
- It would limit the ability for a more equitable allocation regime to be introduced by utilising significant allocation capacity before the plan change has been finalised.

We have provided a letter to the Council, with advice from Sarah Ongley, requesting that this application be processed with public notification, and setting out the reasons this is necessary.

Te Kauwhata Proposed Private Plan Change 20: The Commissioners' decision has been released, incorporating the changes to infrastructure requirements and activity statuses for comprehensive consents that had been reached pre-hearing. We made no real gains from the position that had been reached pre-hearing, with Commissioners rejecting our request that existing gamebird hunting activities adjacent to the development are protected by provisions in the Plan Change, or to manage the effects on avian biodiversity. While this was disappointing, it was not entirely unexpected because:

- the change from rural to residential land use had strong policy drivers, while the adjacent game bird hunting is an inherently rural activity.
- There is a rural buffer between the residential area and the lake.
- There is limited precedent for managing effects on birdlife in a district plan change which enables intensification of residential development.

Waipa District Council Te Awamutu Wastewater consent applications: We were pleased that the applicants responded to almost all points in our submission, the only remaining issue

being that the Nitrogen load proposed does not include reductions sufficient to justify a 35 year term. We await to see whether the applicants decide to reduce the term of the consent in order to forgo a hearing, or whether the Regional Council raises additional issues.

We have had a further two meetings with the applicants. Based on submissions received they agreed to substantially reduce TP mass loads by over 50% over the term of consent and have also agreed to a reduction in term to 25 years from the 35 years applied for. Whilst we would have liked to have seen a further reduction in TN load in the future, we understand that this would have been more difficult to achieve and therefore view the current proposal as a good compromise which alleviates the need to go to a hearing.

Fonterra Consent applications: These include Te Awamutu, Te Rapa, and Hautapu all of which are at different, early, stages of their application process. We have submitted on the Te Awamutu application, the Te Rapa application is soon to be lodged and the Hautapu application (for a discharge to land and water) is in consultation state.

Crusader meats/JF Ramsey discharge to land consent: We expect that the applicant will make amended proposals after consultation with another submitter. The Horizons Regional Council has indicated that the applicant will ensure biological monitoring conditions are included in the proposed consent, as we requested in our submission.

Meremere clearfill site: We have explained to the applicant that we would not want to see any loss of water from Shepherd wetland. The applicant has provided an engineering assessment, which does not suggest there will be adverse effect to the wetland (project will be utilising the existing flood management system of SH1).

Whangamarino Weir Section 128 Review: David has attended further meetings to discuss the scope of the review and the basis for some of the technical information provided by ICM which appears to have been used to action the review by Resource User Group. Good progress is being made and we hope to get further clarification from RUG in the near future regarding points of agreement. Initial hydrological information analysed by both DOC and RUG technical staff appears to confirm that the Weir is performing well within consented limits.

Waikare/Whangamarino Section 128 Review. D-day is fast approaching with a meeting scheduled for mid-June. We have received further technical information which indicates that the two options being evaluated can meet the reduction targets in the consent. We have questioned why certain aspects of these options were ruled out without costing them and providing an overall feasibility analysis. We are concerned that by artificially constraining certain aspects based on individual opinions we may not get the best possible outcome. A key outstanding issue remains the inclusion of hard limits in the consent which ICM want changed to targets. We have indicated that we may be amenable to this change, but only if conditions were inserted that sets a clear implementation pathway for identified options.

Waikare/Whangamarino Catchment Management Plan: David attended the meetings aimed at setting the objectives of the CMP. A large number of parties attended including different sectors of the farming community, led by Jim Cotman. An alternative set of objectives were presented by this group and we went through each trying to find a mutually agreeable position. It became clear that there is a hangover from Healthy Rivers PC1 which has led to an element of mistrust and some confusion in regard to the purpose of this non-statutory plan. Notwithstanding the important nature of the receiving environment to F&G, it is questionable whether or not the large time commitment required to put into this process will

result in tangible outcomes. It is also apparent that most landowners view us as antagonists and are unaware of the amount of work we do with farmers to help secure funding, improve habitat values and reduce their environmental footprint. It may be worthwhile to put out some publicity in regards to such to show the other side of what F&G does.

Long term Plans: We presented at the Waikato Regional Council long term plan hearing on several issues (pest management, increasing funding for catchment restoration works, Tauhei flood control scheme, consent fees for small dams). Of the most direct impact is the consenting fees increase for small dams, the proposed changes almost doubling these. We explained the importance of these structures in wetland restoration projects and that any fee increase would be a further impediment.

Proposed Regional Plan for Northland: Mischa is working with the Northland Fish and Game Council to case manager the review of the Northland Regional Plan. Mischa made a written submission on the 15th of November and further submission on the 26th of March. The hearing is set to take place in August. We are currently in the process of organising expert witnesses to present evidence on our behalf at the hearing. We aim to have an expert planner, wetland's ecologist and freshwater ecologist.

Northland Regional Council Long Term Plan: We made a submission for Northland Fish and Game on the Northland Regional Council's Long Term Plan. We supported further investment in water-related programmes including to reduce sedimentation in waterways, increase grant funding for fencing and planting waterways, and to look after lakes and wetlands including more action on the ground to protect Northland's dune lakes, and doubling the number of wetlands NRC monitor. We also supported increased funding for pest management and new flood schemes. However, we sought a stronger focus on wetland creation as a tool to manage flooding, but also on protecting wetlands from both the risks of flooding and any controls and measures used to control flooding. We also took the opportunity to remind NRC Councillors and relevant planning staff of the current legal status of trout within the Northland region.

Waikato District Plan review: The Waikato District Plan is currently in the process of being reviewed. Mischa gave feedback on the draft version of the plan in January. The proposed version of the plan will be notified on the 18th July with the submission period running from then until the 9th October. This will be followed by a hearing where independent commissioners will hear the submissions. We are currently in the process of reviewing our feedback on the draft plan and preparing for making a formal submission when the proposed plan is notified.

Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill: We made a submission on the Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill supporting the amendments the Bill makes to the Local Government Act 2002. The Bill aims to put the promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities back at the heart of what guides councils' decisions, considerations that were removed from the purpose of the Act by the National led government in 2012. The Bill also restores territorial authorities' power to collect development contributions for any public amenities needed as a consequence of development, which includes land and reserves own by territorial authorities.

Turua wastewater treatment plant: The Hauraki District Council owns and operates the Turua Waste Water Treatment Plan (WWTP) which discharges treated effluent into the Waihou River. Their discharge consents are expiring and need to be renewed. The application is on hold pending completion of consultation. We met with the council's consultants in April

and discussed the proposed consent conditions. Of concern is the proposal to discharge three times the previous consented discharge volume with no limit on total nitrogen and phosphorous loads for at least 10 years while they await an upgrade to the plant. The applicant acknowledges that nutrient discharges are likely to increase at least 150% and even more for nitrogen over that time. The outcomes of the consultation will be reported to the Waikato Regional Council with necessary amendments to the consent conditions being made. They are unsure whether the consent will be notified for public consultation but if so we plan to make a submission on the application.

Project 1221 Council Land

Ward Ranch action: The first issue, whether the case is time-barred by the Limitation Act, should be resolved at a High Court Hearing on the 28th October.

North & Central Shepherd: The farmer grazing the North Shepherd wetland, Stan, forgot he had dual-wheels fitted to his tractor and so damaged the locked gate, which he has since fixed. The large amount of machine work he has done in this wetland means that areas that were rank weeds for several decades have since been opened up to become willow weed and open water once again with huge amounts of willow weed seed floating on it at present. Interestingly enough, this is exactly what was envisioned by Swampland Committee chairman Graham Webb when we first purchased this wetland back in 1975.

Yellow flag is spreading around the North Shepherd Wetland, perhaps aided by last years flood spreading seed. Despite giving the pond holders plant-ID and control information about this weed, staff note it is growing in some cases right beside their maimai doors and also on main internal tracks. Alligator weed has also made a bridgehead in this wetland with one large and previously unnoticed patch just discovered. DoC have special authority to use Escort over water and have been made aware of these plants and offered our help besides.

Aka Aka Wetland: The hunters in this area banded together with F&G funding support to repair the wooden bridges there to make them safe for both limited quad and more particularly human access. This was to replace untreated wood that had rotted out since last year's repairs.

Project 1231 Non Council Land

Evans Road Wetland: The earthworks for Evans Road wetland are coming to completion. This has certainly been a Rolls-Royce version of wetland construction and we are glad that we are not paying the bill! We would have certainly done things slightly differently, however understand that other agencies are constrained by contracts and consent conditions that allow for little flexibility. David has had a number of onsite meetings to discuss progress, planting plans. One of the final areas to sort out is the establishment of maintenance access tracks. After this, some 57,000 plants will be put in the ground.

Flax Block Water levels: We had a concerned hunter turn up at the office prior to the season commencing commenting that the flax block water levels were on par with the lowest he has ever seen them at this time of year since DOC and F&G conducted the project to restore the hydrology of the area. Whilst the recent rain will mean good water for the rest of the shooting season it will be interesting to see what happens during spring and particularly if we get a dry summer. It would be ironic if this area, being touted as one of the last Bittern strongholds in the Waikato were to dry out.

WCEET projects: We managed to complete the earthworks for all the WCEET projects we had funding for, apart from those requiring Resource Consent. David has been out and taken some drone footage of some of them and will put together a quick presentation for the meeting. Unfortunately, one of the wetlands which was acting as a refuge and holding around 400 ducks was poached the weekend before we got the drone.

Project 1231 Assessment & Monitoring:

Whanganui River: Adam collected samples in March and April at 15 sites on the upper Whanganui River. Suspended solids, temperature and conductivity were samples processed by the University of Waikato. Adam was accompanied by journalist from the US.

Adam inspected Trib C on Lake Arapuni, the main spawning stream for this fishery.

OUTPUT 3 PARTICIPATION

Project 1311 Access Negotiation

Adam initiated a request to reopen access at the Black Fern Lodge based on exiting access as the adjacent property was sold under the OIA.

Adam followed up on an inquiry into a paper road on the Whanganui River that is no longer public land and it turned out to be a dead end.

Project 1331 Magazine/Supplement

We've started planning for the pre-season fishing newsletter,

Project 1341 Other Publications

John Dyer prepared an article for DoC's bird-banders Ezine summarising rare but persistent instances of mallard ducks flying from NZ to various Pacific Islands, and some coming back the other way. Also published in NZ Guns and Hunting Magazine was an article explaining how-to plug magazines.

OUTPUT 4 PUBLIC INTERFACE

Project 1431 Liaison Advocacy

Gene editing workshop: Mischa and I attended a presentation by the NZ Royal Society on the potential for gene editing for pest control. Some of the matters raised were:

- The new gene editing techniques are quick, cheap and comparatively easy to use. It is now taught at secondary schools in several countries (i.e students learn to modify the genes of bacteria). Gene editing kits are available online for under \$300.
- Once given the go ahead, it would take about 10 years for gene editing to be an effective method for pest control.
- The main issue is that a release somewhere is a release everywhere; i.e. you could probably wipe out every possum in NZ but there is also a reasonable chance that it get to Australia and take out the marsupials.

- Gene modification is more accepted by the public in the USA and there are few restrictions over gene editing within a species such as maize.

Waikato and Waipa River Restoration Strategy: I attended the launching of the new Restoration Strategy by the Waikato Regional Council in association with Dairy NZ and the Waikato River Authority.

Waikato RiverCare: David attended a meeting of the Mangapiko Stream Care Group and discussed potential options to conduct a large long-term restoration effort along the margins of the stream. There was a good turnout of local landowners at the meeting and some really committed individuals who are keen to see their vision realised.

Adam accompanied a group of students from Tokoroa and Te Uku Schools to the Mangatutu and Kaniwhaniwha streams on separate educational trips.

Project 1442 Public Awareness

Ducks Nights: John Dyer attended and spoke at the well-attended North Shore and Warkworth Hunting and Fishing nights and also the Franklin AGM before the gamebird season opened.

Hamilton F&G Association David Klee gave a presentation to the meeting which focussed on the research we have been doing.

Hamilton Hunting and Fishing duck night: David Klee attended and gave a talk.

Adam gave talks to the Auckland Anglers Club and Te Awamutu Fish and Game Club.

OUTPUT 5 LAW ENFORCEMENT

Project 1511 Ranging:

Ranger Course: A refresher training night was held in both Auckland and Hamilton with Manager Ben Wilson and John Dyer. Reviewed were such things as firearms handling in the field with different action types and also recent legislative changes and their implications. Also discussed were 3-shot shotgun magazine plugs which have, incidentally, been required by law in the US and Canada for all migratory bird hunting since 1935, (signed in law by F.D. Roosevelt). In NZ the 2-shot restriction was first established in 1922.

Maimai Disputes: Staff have assisted hunters with maimai disputes. There are a few things that contribute to these, such as hunters who mark-up but don't actually shoot their locations opening weekend. Some other hunters take this as an invitation to mark it up themselves believing this gives them the right to. Also people who build maimais on private land adjoining public land do not need to mark up, (but they do need a licence to shoot out of it). The lack of a tag encourages others to mark it up. Staff act as adjudicators in these instances, contacting the various parties to hear both sides of the story. A careful reading of the law often sorts things out eventually.

Opening Weekend: Adam and David targeted private ponds that have never been checked by rangers before and as expected the level of compliance was poor. Their first clients were just walking off a road onto a farm race holding a Hen and Cock Pheasant and unfortunately that

was a precursor of things to come. Every private pond they went to had some form of compliance issue, mainly unplugged guns and lead shot. In total they seized 5 guns and plenty of lead shot. The results on public land were much better with a high level of compliance. In general hunters in wetlands and swamps were stoked with the number of birds around and some of the tallies were impressive, despite the calm conditions

Adam has been ranging on his water sampling trips and checking coarse fishing lakes.

OUTPUT 7: COUNCIL/CLUB SERVICING

Ross Goodin: As acknowledged at the last Council Meeting, Ross Goodin who was a past-president and life-member of the Auckland Acclimatisation Society recently died. Ross became a foundation member of Te Kauwhata Sub-Society in 1961, became their delegate from that time and he played a key role in acquiring the Waikare Wetland. Reading through Bill Sullivan's book suggests Ross was elected to Council in 1974, became President of Auckland Society for 6 years starting 1978, this being in the midst of the break-away movement. He faced the Commission of Inquiry in 1981 into Auckland's running which vindicated our policies. He also played a key role in partridge importation. His last year as president was 1984. He stepped down as president (to Dean Blythen), due to pressing personal commitments. He remained a councillor until 1988 and he was subsequently made a life-member that year. It was a private family funeral.

OUTPUT 8: PLANNING REPORTING

Project 1841 National Liaison

Adam has been answering queries about triploid trout in response to the request to release triploids into Lake Arapuni.

B. Wilson
Chief Executive.