

# Te Korowai Meeting Report

7 December 2020

## Chair's Report



Kia Ora Koutou,

Te Korowai has been busy on a number of fronts since the last meeting.

Thank you to all Te Korowai members for the efforts made during this challenging year.

We are here in a non-personal capacity and without motives, trying to achieve good environmental outcomes.

I would like to thank everyone for their input, and hope we will achieve favourable outcomes in 2021.

Nga Mihi and Meri Kirihimete



## Priority Actions For 2021

- National Policy Statement For Freshwater Management.
- Freshwater Mātaitai.
- Regional Coastal Environment Plan for the Canterbury region (ECan).
- Long-Term Plan consultation begins in March, consider sense of direction, sustainability and planning matters.
- Shellfish and seaweed fisheries reopening.
- Marine biosecurity.
- Global warming induced marine heatwaves, increasing sea surface temperatures.
- Predator control to safeguard declining shore- and seabird populations and ensure breeding success.
- Kaikōura wharf and harbour developments - KDC set up board chaired by Danny Smith, with Chris Sturgeon appointed as project manager for Wakatu Quay and South Bay Harbour. Sabrina noted that both developments require seabird friendly lighting plans, due to nearby seabird roosting and nesting areas on rock platforms.
- Te Korowai to allocate more time to engage the community and connect with residents. Increased outreach and awareness.



## Sector & Agency Updates

### a) Kaikōura District Council (Matt Hoggard)

- Residents Satisfaction Survey closes on 18 December 2020 re community feedback.
- Shut down period for most aspects of Council from 20 December 2020 to 10 January 2021 re statutory time clock stop on consent applications. Council offices close 24 December and will reopen after statutory days.
- Next KDC meeting to be held on 16 December 2020, with a limited agenda and no standard reports from departments. There will be some papers of interest to Te Korowai re the Dark Sky Reserve and waste management.
- District Plan Review - Clause 3 Schedule 1 consultation for natural hazards. Seeking feedback on review by 29 January 2021. This can be viewed on the KDC website via the council agenda. Public notification process not planned until February 2021. Currently resolving issues before moving into the formal consultation process. Informal comments from the Te Korowai committee are welcomed prior to the public notification process.
- KDC CEO Angela Oosthuizen will depart her role on 30 January 2021 and is to be replaced by newly appointed CEO Will Doughty.
- The Long-Term Plan review is coming up, with community consultation to begin in March to assess key outcomes for the district.



### **b) Department of Conservation (Nicola Haisman)**

- Whale and dolphin data logging equipment is to be installed on 15 December 2020 for marine mammal tours with Whale Watch and Dolphin Encounter. The equipment was developed by technical advisors.
- DOC announced that the Dusky Dolphin Moratorium is to be extended for a five year period.
- The new Community Ranger will begin her role in Kaikōura in late January, with Jemima to attend the next Te Korowai meeting on 9 February 2021.

### **c) Paua3 (David Rae)**

- No change at present and much is the same. Jason Ruawai, Mark Geytenbeek and David Rae attended the TAG meeting several weeks ago.
- The pāua hatchery recently had two spawning events at the Kaikōura Wharf facility. One spawning was successful, the other was not in regards to settling. This resulted in a release of pāua juveniles at several sites, including Oaro, Jimmy Armers Beach, and the northern coast. Currently limited funding for the project to progress next year. The funding will also no longer allow for Jason to deliver educational projects to schools, hence will be bi-annually, though there is a customary component for workshops in relation to kaitiaki around pāua.

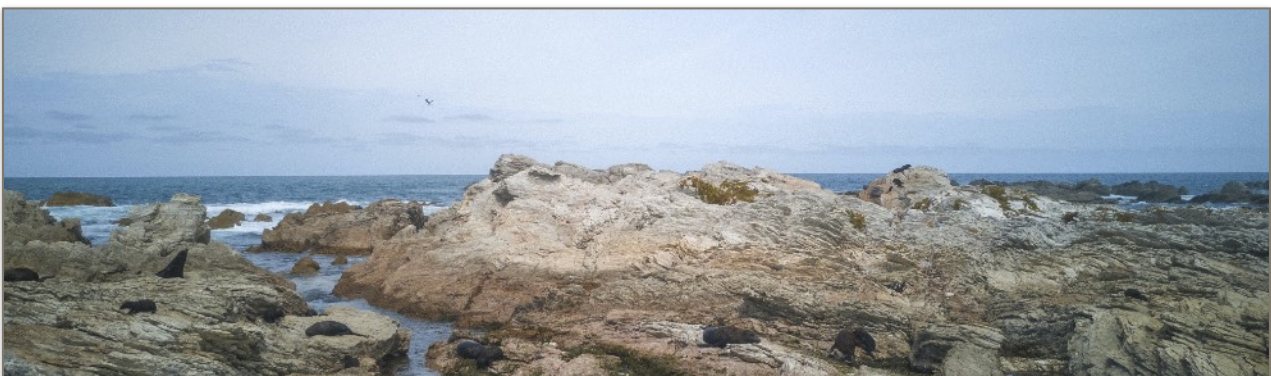
### **d) CRAMAC5 (Larncce Wichman)**

- We should soon be receiving CRAMAC5 consultation outcomes, which go to the Minister on 11 December 2020 for approval, and to the general public on 15 December 2020.
- New electronic data managed by stock scientists, erred on the side of conservation, re total biomass. At the moment the lobster biomass is healthy and still above the soft limit. The soft limit has also been increased re bringing in conservative figures.



### e) Kaikōura Marine Guardians (Larnce Wichman)

- The retirement of Barry Dunnett and departure of Doug Hitchen resulted in the appointment of replacements. Te Korowai undertook the correct procedure in the appointment election process, though it has since been with the Minister, as the Kaikōura Marine Guardians terms of reference are presently being reviewed. An amendment has been proposed to the terms of reference re KMG structure - consisting of Te Korowai, ministerial, Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu, Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura, and open appointments. This would result in a significant reduction from 8 to 2 Te Korowai members. KMG have requested the rationale for this, and have in return been asked to consider solutions.
- KMG requests that Te Korowai members have the majority representation, or a 50/50 split in appointments. At present KMG consists of 11 members, while under the new structure the board would consist of only 8 members. One of the rationales behind the review is that advisory groups are being re-assessed nationwide, including Conservation Board Members. However, in comparison the Fiordland Marine Guardians have not been advised to restructure.
- What does this mean for KMG, Te Korowai, and the Kaikōura community? The review suggests that Te Korowai is biased against Kaikōura interests, which is incorrect. KMG members support the following appointments: 6 x Te Korowai, 2 x Ministerial, 1 x Te Rūnanga o Ngai Tahu, 1 x Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura representatives. Anything less than 6 Te Korowai members would undermine our kaitiaki. While there is always room for improvement and change, KMG is concerned about the weakening of Te Korowai. Considerations are underway for a fair dispute resolution process, with a request to meet the Ministers to discuss the restructure proposal. KMG are currently awaiting a response from the Ministers of Conservation and Primary Industries.
- KMG are seeking to include a Disputes Resolution Process in the ToR review. KMG has no process to address issues if required, and are not seeking a DRP on the current negotiations with the agencies on the ToR.
- Shellfish and seaweed fisheries reopening considerations are underway at present.
- The rāhui roll over at Kaikōura Wharf requires Te Rūnanga o Kaikōura engagement re customary regulations and closure.
- To find out more about the role of KMG, see: <https://www.doc.govt.nz/about-us/statutory-and-advisory-bodies/kaikoura-marine-guardians/>





### f) Forest & Bird (Sabrina Luecht)

- Preliminary results from the banded dotterel/pohowera breeding season highlight the loss of breeding pairs over the years, as well as ongoing reproductive failure each season, due to cat predation.
- Just two years ago in 2018, 25 banded dotterel pairs bred from the Pohowera site to the Coastguard in South Bay. In 2020 the same area has seen a reduction of 40% in breeding birds, supporting only 15 pairs. Of the 43 nests at South Bay, only 3 managed to get hatched chicks out of the nest, 7 chicks which were immediately predated by cats, 9 chicks were killed in the nest at hatching, plus the loss of 2 adult birds. 38 of 43 nests have failed, and there are currently just 5 adults incubating eggs. To date complete nesting failure has been recorded at South Bay, with no chicks fledging.
- Because there is an ongoing false narrative in the community that promotes that banded dotterels are doing well at Kaikōura sites, the coast from Gooches Beach to north of New World was assessed with a thermal imaging scope. 3 dotterel chicks and 1 fledgling were recorded in this extensive area, which is a very low number considering the number of pairs over this considerable stretch of beach - though a marginally better result than South Bay.
- The study has proven with extensive camera footage and nest predation prints, that the primary predator to this species continues to be domestic and feral cats, resulting in high mortality and low to nil breeding output. These findings are irrefutable and it is expected that these results are similar in other at-risk coastal species that are not being monitored (e.g. white-fronted tern, oystercatchers, red-billed gulls etc).
- It is also worth noting that seabirds such as penguins, shags and gulls are again facing challenging conditions this breeding season, with increasing sea surface temperatures (marine heatwaves) impeding foraging success and resulting in starvation, by suppressing krill and small shoaling fish to deeper cooler depths, out of reach of seabirds.



### g) Community (Ted Howard)

- There are currently 38 tītī pairs at the Te Rae o Atiu colony on the Kaikōura Peninsula, with 21 eggs being incubated at present.
- A feral cat was sighted in the Hutton's shearwater/tītī colony at the Kowhai River, plus stoats. Feral cats have been sighted at the Shearwater Stream colony also. Previously pigs (burrow trampling), and some stoat presence posed the predominant threats. Things are changing, with cats and more stoats present at higher altitude re warming climate. Few eggs at the colonies due to overall predation. Excessive stoat predation has resulted in large tracts of non-viable burrows (2/3 of the Kowhai River colony). A tough breeding season for wildlife in general, with many concerns.

### h) Recreational Fishers (Kevin Duncan and Richard Craig)

- Richard Craig discussed his intention to retire from the Te Korowai role as a Kaikōura Recreational Boating & Fishing Club rep. He feels he can no longer represent Te Korowai in regards to resource sustainability, as his feedback does not resonate with boating club members. There are issues around the boating club alignment and its general direction, which focuses solely on access to recreational fisheries (in line with game/trophy fishing and the NZ Sport Fishing Council). Only 12% of boating club members attend meetings, the direction of the club may therefore be the views of a few in regards to fisheries management processes. The club engages with MPI and the NZ Sport Fishing Council, but does not appear to value Te Korowai input. Most individuals are also only members for access to slipways. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month, and it would be beneficial to have the draft Te Korowai meeting minutes available as soon as possible re de-briefing.
- In regards to the reopening of the shellfish and seaweed fisheries, Te Korowai needs to front foot the consultation process and create a comms package for local input re outcomes (based on science advising a precautionary approach). Residents need to know that community feedback was outside of the statutory process, and that they need to submit again for the final part of the consultation process.
- Richard also wanted to note that the Fiordland Marine Guardians appear to be respected in their role. FMG seem to function well as an entity and voice, and the community respects regulations.

## General Business

The Treasurer noted that Te Korowai needs to consider further income generation, by applying for grants. Funding needs to be discussed in more detail at the next meeting.

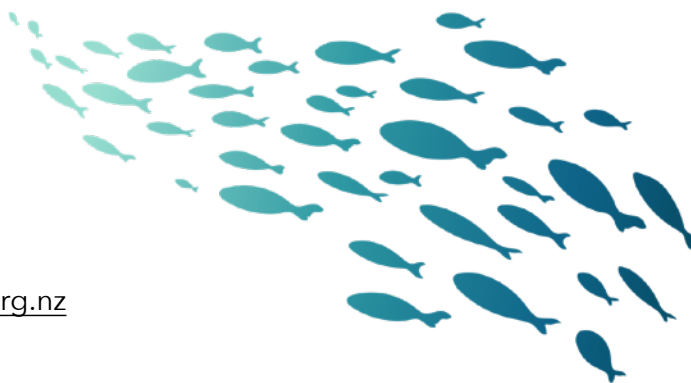
## Next Meeting

The first meeting in the new year is scheduled for Tuesday 9 February 2021.

## Contact Us

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## OUR TE KOROWAI O TE TAI O MAROKURA VISION

By perpetuating the mauri and wairua of Te Tai o Marokura our community as kaitiaki of Tangaroa's taonga are sustaining a flourishing rich and healthy environment where opportunities abound to sustain the needs of present and future generations.

Ka ora te mauri me te wairua o "Te Tai o Marokura" i a tātou ngā kaitiaki nō te hapori tonu, ka ora hoki ko ngā wai, ko ngā uri, ko ngā taonga a Tangaroa, hei painga mō tātou, ā, mō ngā uri ā muri ake nei.

