



## »≈ ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED  
31 DECEMBER | 2019



ADVOCATES  
FOR THE  
TONGARIRO  
RIVER

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## COMMITTEE 2019

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Gary Brown »	PRESIDENT
Warren Butterworth »	CO VICE-PRESIDENT
Tim Castle	
Virginia Church	
Sam Coxhead	
Stuart Crosbie »	IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT
Peter Deakin	
Mike Forret	
Richard Kemp »	CO VICE-PRESIDENT
Alasdair Keucke	
Julian Proctor	
John Toogood »	TREASURER
Eric Wilson »	SECRETARY

## LIFE MEMBERS

.....

Dr Mark Cosgrove  
Heather McDonald  
Bob McDonnell  
Sylvia Smith  
Eric Wilson

### COVER



The return of the Lonely Pool. The pool disappeared in the flood of 1993 when the river flowed directly to the cliff face from the Judges pool. By 2013 it was a great fishing pool and is making its way back as a great pool.

Registered Office:  
Advocates for the Tongariro  
River Incorporated  
117 Taupahi Road  
Turangi 3334

Contact can be made through our website  
[www.tongariroriver.org.nz](http://www.tongariroriver.org.nz)

≈ **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Eighteenth Annual General Meeting of the Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc. to be held at Parklands, Conference Room, on Sunday 26th April 2020 10.00am. All welcome.

**AGM CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE DUE TO COVID-19**

≈ **AGENDA**

The business of the Annual General Meeting will be to:

- record those present and note apologies
- receive the minutes of the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting
- receive the President's report
- approve the financial statements
- consider motions of which due notice has been provided. The full rules of the Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc. are printed in the 2004 Annual Report and are also available on the Advocates website [www.tongariroriver.org.nz](http://www.tongariroriver.org.nz)
- appoint an executive committee comprising a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and 10 committee members
- consider any other matters.

## ≈ MINUTES

Minutes of the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Advocates for the Tongariro River, Saturday 27 April 2018, 10.00am at National Trout Center, Schoolroom.

*A minute's silence in memory of Neville Young.*

### Present

Gary Brown, (Chairperson), Warren Butterworth, Tim Castle, Sam Coxhead, Richard Kemp, Alasdair Keucke, John Toogood, Eric Wilson.

### Apologies

Mike Forret, Julian Proctor, Stuart Crosbie, Renny Cunnack, Alasdair McNab, Paul Brennan, Virginia Church, Peter Deakin.

*Moved Alasdair, Seconded Tim, "That apologies be accepted." Carried.*

### Minutes of the 16th Annual Meeting

*Moved Warren Butterworth, Seconded Richard Kemp, "That the minutes of the 16th Annual meeting held 27 May 2017 be accepted." Carried.*

### President's Report

The President's Report was published in the 2018 Annual Report. The Report was taken as read.

*Moved Richard, Seconded John, "That the President's Report be received." Carried.*

Matters arising:

1. Simon Stewart will be capped in May this year. Works at the Cawthron Institute.
2. Presentation to the Select Committee. Very good.
3. Member get member.

### Financial Report

*Moved John Toogood, Seconded Sam Coxhead "That the Finance Report be accepted." Carried.*

Charities Commission requirement of performance Report to be filed with Annual Report.

### Election of Officers

The following committee was elected.

Warren Butterworth took the chair for the election of President and Gary Brown was re-elected.

That the committee for 2020 be:

President	Gary Brown
Co Vice President	Warren Butterworth
Co Vice President	Richard Kemp
Secretary	Eric Wilson
Treasurer	John Toogood
Committee (up to 9)	Tim Castle
	Virginia Church
	Sam Coxhead
	Stuart Crosbie
	Peter Deakin
	Mike Forret
	Alisdair Keucke
	Julian Proctor

*Moved Gary Brown, Seconded Richard Kemp, Carried.*

### Other Business

There was no other business to consider. The meeting closed at 10.32am.

## ≈ PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2019

*President Gary Brown reports*

### **Nga mihi nui kia koutou katoa**

*Warm greetings to our advocate members*

*It is my pleasure to report on our Committee's activities for the 2019 year.*

During the year meetings were held in February, April, July, September and November and our thanks are once again due to Eric for his excellent meeting preparation and minute taking .

Once again our Committee have been involved with a number of issues during the year, and these are outlined in the various appendices attached to this report.

### **The Tongariro River catchment is iconic**

The Tongariro River catchment is formed by the river and is treasured. Our purpose is clearly stated in Appendix 1. It comprises a majestic voyage from Mount Ruapehu and its tributaries from the Kaimanawas to Lake Taupo. (Appendix 2) Within the catchment are remnants of the natural vegetation, native birds and a magnificent fishery.

### **Dr Simon Stewart**

Simon graduated PhD in May 2019 (Appendix 3) and maintains contact with our group. He and his family are now resident in Nelson where he is working at the Cawthron Institute as a Freshwater Scientist.

Simon has advised that with the increasing problem of algal bloom in freshwater lakes he is helping coordinate a meeting of international scientists in Taupo. The scheduled April public meeting to update on this issue has been deferred because of the COVID 19 virus but will be held at a later date to be advised.

### **Dr Mark Cosgrove**

We are still working to provide a commemorative seat along the river in recognition of Past President Mark Cosgrove's life and his contribution to the Advocates and the Tongariro environment. Peter Deakin has plans for the seat which we propose to go in an area looking out at the head of the Island pool.

### **River access**

With the improvement in fish quantity and quality over the past two seasons, the river is coming under increasing angler pressure (both nymphing and wet line fishing).

Maintenance of the existing access tracks for fishing, walking and cycling continues to be of vital importance, and we are indebted to DOC for the work they do to maintain the existing track systems.

### **River etiquette signage**

Further to my report last year advising members that we provided funding for signage, it is pleasing to note that DOC have now further increased the number of fishing etiquette signs.

### **Taupo/Tongariro Fishery**

The number and quality of fish taken in the river and delta has further improved this year. DOC have advised us that there was an increased run through the fish traps this year and this appears to have helped anglers' catches. With the catch limit currently set at 6 fish per day DOC are recommending anglers take their catch rather than releasing.

### **River Bank Stabilisation**

During the year we have held discussions with the Waikato Regional Council re riverbank stabilisation – (appendix 4) particularly with regard to the lower river, viz below the main road bridge.

The area of major concern is in the vicinity of the Bain Pool and downstream to the Reed Pool.

WRC have started work on the removal of vegetation on river islands and some bank areas between the Hydro and Bain pools, and we are hopeful that they will extend the work to include removal of vegetation further downstream towards the Reed pool. Consideration is being given to river bank stabilisation planting with sterile trees such as Salix Matsudana willow.

### **Membership**

Our current financial membership is 124. As I mentioned last year it is important that we maintain a strong membership base and once again I urge all members to make an effort to introduce at least one new member to the Advocates this year.

### Committee

Our committee stands at 13 members, two of whom (Stuart Crosbie and Peter Deakin) are standing down this year. I would like, on behalf of our whole membership to pay particular tribute to Stuart Crosbie who, as a Past President, made a huge contribution to our group. Stuart was particularly instrumental in initiating the River Trail project, our Statement of Purpose and the proposed Integrated Catchment Management Plan for the Tongariro River (his proposal is currently under consideration with Ngati Turangitukua).

### Genesis Meeting

On behalf of the Advocates I attended this year's public meeting during which Genesis outlined various issues related to the Lake Taupo/ Tongariro area. (Appendix 5). Issues discussed were:

- Dry conditions resulting from lower than average rainfall and consequent reduced generation of hydroelectricity
- River ecology affected by periphyton weed which was abundant earlier in 2019 (causing weed hookups when fly fishing) – periphyton requires flood conditions to wash it downstream
- Problems associated with maintenance of eel (tuna) access to the breeding ground at the headwaters in the Whanganui river (appendix 6) system-these problems are largely being overcome by some excellent work carried out by Ngati Hikairo led by John and Lena Morgan.
- Monitoring of annual thermocline mixing of Taupo Lake water and of the incidence of chlorophyll in the lake which has a significant influence on the lake food web and on fish quality, (this was one of the significant points outlined in Dr Simon Stewart's PhD thesis)
- Catch and release recommendations- DOC scientist, Michel Dedual, stated that great care is necessary if fish are released in Lake Otamangakau due to the recent increase in water temperature in this lake causing over stressing and death of many released fish.



### **Financial**

Our finances continue in good order under the watchful eye of treasurer John Toogood (see financial report).

### **Conservation: Indigenous Fresh Water Amendment Bill**

This bill has now been passed by Parliament and our major concerns regarding the Taupo trout fishery have been alleviated. We are particularly indebted to Committee member Julian Proctor who made an excellent submission to the Parliamentary Select Committee on our behalf.


### **Wilding Pines**

Our Committee continues with efforts to eradicate wilding pines from the river environs. John Toogood liaises with DOC and WRC to implement an eradication and control programme (Appendix 7) particularly on the river flats where growth is becoming prolific. Our committee hopes to make constructive progress this year which will involve cooperating with DOC, WRC and the various river bed owners. As members will be aware, wilding pine are now a major problem in NZ, and we are doing our best to control the situation in the Tongariro river environs.

### **Conclusion**

As members will note from this report our activities during the 2019 year have been primarily acting as a watchdog group, and to keep members informed of local fishing and environmental issues with the excellent blogs prepared by our secretary Eric Wilson. Our meetings during the year have been held at Eric and Lorraine Wilson's home and on behalf of our Committee special thanks are due to both Eric and Lorraine for organising the meetings and for their generous hospitality in providing a great venue, including coffee and cookies

I wish all members well for the 2020 year and I'm sure we all hope the improvement in the fishery we experienced in 2019 continues this year.



**Gary Brown** *President. March 2020*

## ≈ FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the 12-month period ended 31 December 2019

### Income and Expenditure

		2019	2018
		\$	\$
<b>Receipts</b>			
<i>Income</i>	Subscriptions	2,045	
	Donations	1,845	
		<b>3,890</b>	<b>4,020</b>
	Recovery Taylors Cabin Costs	1,130	
	Miscellaneous	60	
	Interest	433	
		<b>5,513</b>	<b>4,442</b>
<i>Projects/Grants</i>	Pharazyn Trust	2,000	
		<b>7,513</b>	<b>7,442</b>
<b>Outgoings</b>			
<i>Operating expenses</i>	Admin/general expenses	352	
	Promotion	595	
	AGM, report, etc	845	
	Miscellaneous/subscriptions	60	
		<b>1,852</b>	<b>2,111</b>
<i>Projects</i>	Projects	-	
		<b>1,852</b>	<b>11,121</b>
<b>Excess outgoings/receipts</b>		<b>5,661</b>	<b>(3,679)</b>

## Statement of financial position

As at 31 December 2019

		2019	2018
		\$	\$
<b>Current assets</b>			
<i>Bank accounts</i>	Current account	770	
	Online call account	34,122	
<b>Total assets</b>		<b>34,891</b>	
<b>Nett assets</b>	Opening balance 1 January 2019	29,230	
	Excess expenditure/receipts	5,661	
<b>Nett Funds before commitments as noted below</b>		<b>34,891</b>	

## Notes to Accounts

<b>Funds committed for projects</b>	15,489
<b>Net retained unassigned funds</b>	<b>19,402</b>
	<b>34,891    29,230</b>

## Subscriptions and donations

There was a nett financial decrease over last year of \$130 to \$3,890 but an increase in numbers of 8 to 130.

## ≈ NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*For the period ended 31 December 2019*

### Statement of accounting policies

- The Advocates For The Tongariro River Society Inc. is incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.
- The financial Statements have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.
- The financial records are compiled on a cash in versus cash out basis. Funds/ grants for project work are recorded as 'Funds Committed'.
- The accounting principles record historical cost.
- Subscriptions are recorded on a cash received basis.
- There have been no overall changes in accounting policies. All policies have been applied on bases consistent with those used in the previous year.

### Preparation of accounts

The accounts have been produced on information available to the Treasurer and have been reviewed by Rebecca Butler, Practicing Accountant, Nelson.



**Gary Brown**

*President*

*24th January 2020*

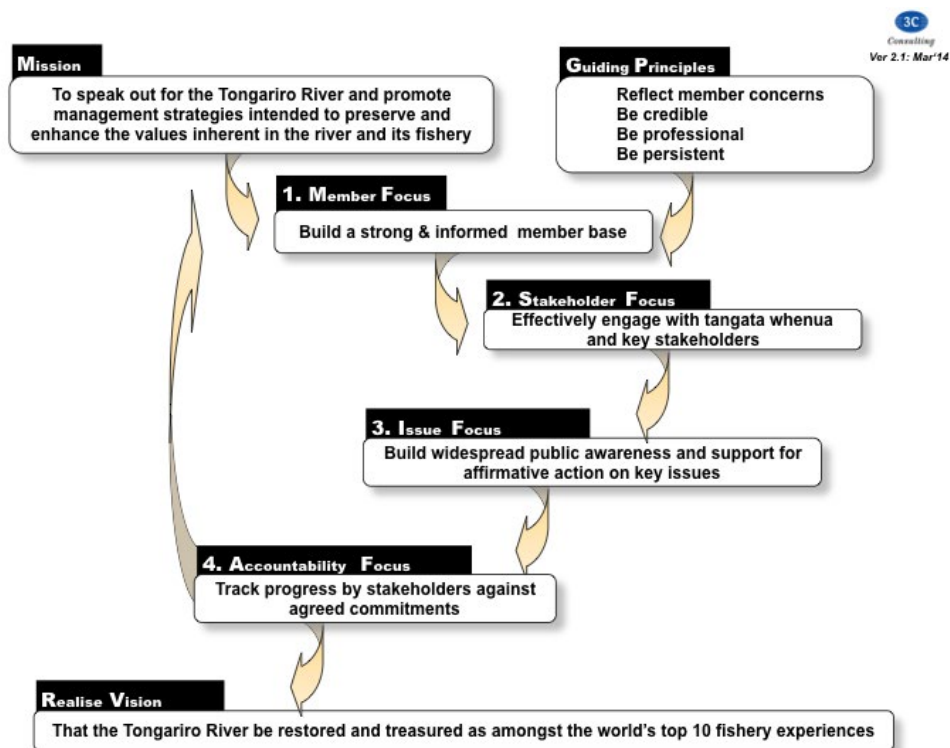


**John Toogood**

*Treasurer*

*24th January 2020*

## ≈ APPENDIX 1 » STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES



≈ APPENDIX 2 » DR SIMON STEWART



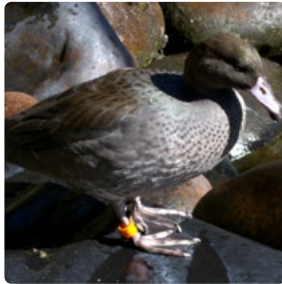
Graduation Day. Simon with wife Anna Sintenie, daughter Freyja and Son Athol.

≈ **APPENDIX 3 » MOUNT RUAPEHU TO LAKE TAUPO**

A brief view of the Tongariro River Catchment. The river begins on Mt Ruapehu. It is home to many native birds. Here are just three.



*Tomtit. Miromiro.*



*Whio. Blue Duck. At the National Trout Centre.*



*Wax Eye, Silver Eye.*

Much untouched native bush in its headwaters and the river margin through the town to the Highway bridge. Some larger species are the Podocarps and Beech trees. The Podocarp forest was cut but remnants remain. There is regrowth emerging particularly where wilding pines have been removed and the light has allowed the dormant seedlings to develop.



*A magnificent Beech tree at the eastern end of the Red Hut suspension (swing) bridge.*



*Kahikatea (White Pine).*



*Matai (Black Pine).*



Many great and picturesque pools.



*Above: Aerial photo of the Lonely Pool, 2016    Below: The Kamahi Pool*



Home to the best Rainbow Trout fishery in NZ and is recognised world wide.



The river flows into Lake Taupo and is the major source of water in the Lake. In other times the Tongariro River was called the Upper Waikato. The name remains with the Waikato Falls above the Poutu Intake.





≈ APPENDIX 4 » ANNUAL GENESIS COMMUNITY MEETING



**TPS Maintenance & Management Activities**

- Mangatepopo slip –continued works
- Whanganui Pipe –bridge repaint
- Large Outage Programme Rangipo/Tokaanu Completed safely
- Increased use of drones (underwater and in tunnels) to reduce H&S risk
- Poutu Intake/Tunnel Inspection



≈ **APPENDIX 5 » NGĀTI HIKAIRO KI TONGARIRO EEL/TUNE RESTORATION PROJECT**

DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION — 18/04/2019

Say the word ‘eel’ and you might get a range of responses, from “Yuck!”, to “Cool!”, and the surprisingly common “Are they electric?”. If we change the name, maybe we change the frame – tuna, Te Reo Māori for ‘eel’, are a taonga, a charismatic aquatic creature familiar to many across the Aotearoa.

Here we’ll focus on the longfin eel, found only in New Zealand. They are long lived – that tuna living in your local creek could be old enough to be your koro. They have a fascinating life cycle that includes epic journeys across oceans – the adults travel to near Tonga to spawn, then die there leaving their offspring to make it back to New Zealand with some help from ocean currents. They are awesome, but they are in decline.



*Longfin eel are only found in New Zealand and are in decline.*

*Image: Philippe Gerbeaux*

Threats to tuna include habitat loss, overfishing, and barriers to their migration. This story isn't supposed to be a downer though, so let's give you some context, and see how people are helping.

Ngāti Hikairo ki Tongariro (Central North Island) have long had a connection with this taonga through their tuna fishing and kai culture. Over time, this culture has eroded as the construction and continued operation of the Tongariro Power Scheme prevented recruitment of new tuna. It was difficult to notice at first, because tuna live for so long, but eventually it became clear that something was wrong. John and Lena Morgan of Ngāti Hikairo raised the issue with the Genesis Energy environmental team.



*Baby longfinned eels. Image: Andy Hicks*

We told you this has a happy ending, and here's where it starts. Genesis Energy, once becoming aware of the problem, were keen to be a part of the solution. Ultimately, Genesis Energy provided funding for John, Lena, their whanau and wider Hapu to restore mobility for the tuna. The mahi involves physically moving elvers (baby eels) upstream of the barriers, and tuna-heke (migratory eels) downstream. It has also provided unique opportunities for local rangatahi and wider communities to learn about tuna.



*John speaking at the launch of tuna movie. Image: Krysia Nowak*

A mini-documentary has been developed to celebrate seven years of collaboration and success, and now we are pleased and privileged to be able to share it with you. We hope it will inspire some new responses to the word ‘eel’, or ‘tuna.’

**CLICK** **HERE** [[HTTPS://YOUTU.BE/QHIZEC2OKFU](https://youtu.be/QHIZEC2OKFU)]

Thanks to support from Genesis Energy, Taupō for Tomorrow, DOC Taupō Fishery Management Team, and Ngāti Hikairo.

**READ THE BLOG** **HERE** [[HTTPS://BLOG.DOC.GOV.T.NZ/2019/04/18/NGATI-HIKAIRO-KI-TONGARIRO-TUNA-RESTORATION-PROJECT/](https://blog.doc.govt.nz/2019/04/18/ngati-hikairo-ki-tongariro-tuna-restoration-project/)]

## ≈ APPENDIX 6 » RIVER BANK STABILISATION

Salix Matsudana was planted on the Waitahanui Stream to stabilise bends in the river. Recommendation 6 in Waikato Regional Council Tongariro River Flood control plan of work for 2019.

It is recommended that the channel stability be restored through a gravel management and vegetation management programme. These should include opening a wide channel within the gravel Islands taking the shape of the current meander of the islands. Removal and control of vegetation growth on the island and planting the river banks with appropriate plant species.

### Why plants? - riparian functions

- Filtering of contaminants – bugs, sed., nutr.
- Bank stabilization
- Nutrient uptake by plants
- Denitrification
- Shading for temperature
- Shading for instream plant control
- Input of wood & leaf litter
- Enhancing fish habitat
- Controlling downstream flooding
- Recreation
- Aesthetics



### What do we want from our plants?

- Root depth - anchor plant
- Root spread – overlap with adjacent plants
- Strong surface root mat – hydraulic protection
- High root biomass – more the better
- Root occupancy – biggest volume
- Root strength – stronger roots more resistant to external forces



FOR FULL DOCUMENT CLICK [HERE](https://icm.landcareresearch.co.nz/knowledgebase/publications/public/lm_aug_05_phillips_veg.pdf) [HTTPS://ICM.LANDCARERESEARCH.CO.  
NZ/KNOWLEDGEBASE/PUBLICATIONS/PUBLIC/LM\_AUG\_05\_PHILLIPS\_VEG.PDF]



## IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

### NGĀ WHAKAARO MATUA

#### AVOID PLANTING PEST POPLAR OR WILLOW

Some species of willow and poplar such as crack willow, pussy willow and silver poplar are easily spread and are capable of becoming a pest plant. Crack willow is brittle and grows from small fragments, pussy willow seeds prolifically and silver poplar puts out suckers from its roots. Care should be taken only to plant varieties of poplar and willow especially developed for soil conservation purposes. For example, *Salix matsudana* x *alba* hybrid tree willow (see varieties below).

Purchasing poplar or willow poles, or rooted cuttings from a nursery is recommended to ensure you are purchasing non-invasive varieties that have been specially bred for soil conservation.

If planting willows near water, always use male varieties such as Moutere, Adair, Hiwinui, Wairakei, or Hathaway.

#### INTER-PLANTING WITH NATIVE PLANTS

Consider inter-planting poplar and willow with native plant species. Depending on the variety of willow or poplar, life spans range from 15 to 35 years (unless rejuvenated by coppicing), after which time they can become brittle and less effective for soil conservation purposes. On the other hand, most native plants will survive for hundreds of years with very little long-term maintenance requirements.

Poplar poles interplanted with native flax.



Pest willow growing within the stream channel.



Willow and poplar are usually chosen over native plants – they are faster growing and therefore provide land and stream bank stability more immediately, while tolerating a range of soil and environmental conditions.

If stock are excluded from the planting site it can be beneficial to interplant poplar and/or willow with natives to offer long-term soil stabilisation. Once native plants are established (approximately 10 years) willow/poplar trees can be poisoned or cut down, leaving the native species to perform the soil conservation function.

## ≈ APPENDIX 7 » WILDING PINES ADVOCACY INFORMATION

This Information Pack provides ideas, facts, and messages to use for media stories and to influence Ministers and key players in Central government. The Pack is in four sections: Frequently Asked Questions and Answers; Quick Facts and Messages; Storytelling; and Template Letter to Ministers. The economic costs and benefits of controlling wilding pines are from the Cost Benefit Analysis released by MPI.

This report can be found on the wilding conifers website [HERE](https://www.wildingconifers.org.nz/publications/)

[[HTTPS://WWW.WILDINGCONIFERS.ORG.NZ/PUBLICATIONS/](https://www.wildingconifers.org.nz/publications/)]

*\*Note that we use wilding pines instead of wilding conifers in this Pack. We do so because wilding pines have been shown to be a more familiar term to New Zealanders than wilding conifers.*

### Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

This section is for community groups, regional council communications, and other lobby groups to use when talking to the media or general public. These FAQs contain useful and clear messages about wilding pines (what are they and why they are a problem) and the need for funding.

#### *What are wilding pines?*

Wilding pines are trees which have self-seeded and are growing where they are not supposed to be – they are the wrong tree in the wrong place. In fact, wilding pines are the pest plant that poses the biggest threat to New Zealand's unique environment.

We estimate that wilding pines affect at least 1.8 million hectares (almost 6%) of New Zealand's land area. Wilding pines spread fast – within 30 years they will cover more than a quarter of New Zealand. They not only threaten our natural environment but also overwhelm farmland, recreational land and areas of cultural importance. Unmanaged, they present a \$4.6 billion threat to our economy.

We must act now, before the problem becomes too big to bring under control. We urgently need more funding for wilding pine control from Central Government.

### *Why are wilding pines a problem?*

Wilding pines overwhelm our native and productive landscapes; they are the wrong tree in the wrong place. Wilding pines take the sunshine, water and nutrients other plants need to grow and then quickly become the dominant species. Land that is adversely affected by wilding pines includes farmland, recreational land, sites of cultural and historical importance, as well as New Zealand's unique natural environment. Wilding pines can irreversibly change some of our threatened and rare ecosystems, meaning that once an area is invaded by wilding pines, it can be difficult to return it to its original state.

Wilding pines are also a significant threat to our waterways. They reduce the water available within the environment for other species and for other uses. Wilding pines can decrease the amount of water that flows into rivers by 30% to 40%. They use so much water they are a significant threat to irrigation and hydro-electricity generation.

We must act now and remove wilding pines to protect New Zealand's unique natural environments and regional economy. Without management, wilding pines will cover more than a quarter of New Zealand within three decades. Every year we wait, the cost of removing the wilding pines rises by 30%.

### *What is the difference between a wilding pine and a wilding conifer?*

Conifers are any trees which produces cones containing the tree's seeds. Pines are a type of conifer, so wilding pines are a subgroup of wilding conifers. We use the term wilding pine to refer to all wilding conifer species as this is the term most widely understood within New Zealand.

### *Why are wilding pines more readily controlled than many other invasive woody plants – such as gorse and broom?*

DOC research has shown that expenditure on wilding pine control is very cost effective. This is because of the following reasons: a) wilding pines do not produce cones until they are very visible, allowing detection and removal before further spread is initiated, and b) wilding pine seed does not last more than a few years in the soil, so there is no long-lasting seed bank which can germinate and cause

reinvasion many years after control is undertaken. These two points mean that extermination of wilding pines is readily attainable, and there are many sites in New Zealand which are evidence of this.

*What are we doing about wilding pines?*

The New Zealand Wilding Conifer Group is an advocacy and advisory group working with communities to raise funds for wilding conifer control and facilitate information sharing about latest research and good practice. We help mobilise and support community action at the local levels, and we aim to represent all those involved in wilding pine control and research.

Additionally, there is a nation-wide programme called the National Wilding Conifer Control Programme which coordinates the control of these pest plants. The Programme is led by Biosecurity New Zealand, working with the Department of Conservation (DOC) and Land Information New Zealand (LINZ). Other key players include the Defence Force, regional and local councils, local communities, researchers, industry and private landowners. Since 2016, in its first three years (Phase 1), the programme spent \$16 million on work to control wilding pines in 1.5 million hectares of New Zealand's most vulnerable iconic landscapes. If this control is not followed up to remove the remaining wildings before they mature to seed production age (Phase 2), then the Phase 1 expenditure could well be wasted – and the opportunity for wilding extermination missed.

The programme has shown that with the right approach we can control wilding pines to a point that they can be either exterminated or cost-effectively managed at a local level. However, this Programme is severely under-funded and urgently needs commitment of funding from Central Government.

*Given the need to tackle climate change, shouldn't we be encouraging all trees to grow, even wilding pines?*

Like any plant, wilding pines remove carbon from the atmosphere. However, we need to weigh up all the environmental impacts of these trees. Wilding pines are an invasive species which overwhelm our native species and decrease biodiversity. They

are as much of a threat to our environment as rats, stoats and possums. They takeover valuable conservation land – forcing out native plant and animal species.

Wilding pines could offer some benefit in terms of carbon removal, but their invasive properties mean it is better for the environment as a whole, to remove them to protect New Zealand's unique biodiversity. New Zealand has other and better methods of boosting carbon removal from the atmosphere by trees.

### Quick Facts

This section contains 'pick up and go' facts and messages from the Cost-Benefit Analysis written by the Sapere Group (you can download and read the full report

**HERE** [[HTTPS://WWW.WILDINGCONIFERS.ORG.NZ/PUBLICATIONS/](https://www.wildingconifers.org.nz/publications/)].

These messages can be inserted into media releases, social media posts, letters to Ministers and MPs, and conversations with government officials.

- Unmanaged, wilding pines present a \$4.6 billion threat to our economy.
- Without national intervention and funding, wilding pines will spread to 7.5 million hectares of vulnerable land, or over 25% of New Zealand's land area. This could take as little as 15 to 30 years.
- Doing Nothing will result in \$4.6 billion cost to the economy:
  - \$739 million from losses in productive land
  - \$1.95 billion from losses in irrigation potential
  - \$955 million from losses in hydroelectricity potential
  - \$331 million from losses in biodiversity/ conservation values
  - \$654 million from fire prevention costs
- Increasing funding for wilding conifer control to \$118 million over 4 years will result in a net benefit of \$6.1 billion. The ratio of benefit to cost for this level of investment is 38:1.
- Wilding pines harm the wellbeing of New Zealanders and NZ's environment. Many Living Standard Framework domains will benefit from wilding pine removal; these domains underpin New Zealand's Natural Capital, Financial/Physical Capital, and Social Capital.

- The unique spread ecology of wilding pines means that they lend themselves to more ready extermination than many other common woody weeds.

Wilding pines and carbon sequestration:

Because wilding pines are categorised as a weed tree, there is a complex relationship between clearing them and the financial obligations that arise under the ETS. Wilding forests are ineligible to be registered as post-1989 forests in the ETS, so new wilding forests have no carbon value.

Additionally, wilding pine species are often the wrong species for carbon capture. The presence of wilding pines will prevent other, more productive uses of the land from occurring, including the planting of exotic or indigenous forests, which can be entered into the ETS.

## PROFILE OF ADVOCATES FOR THE TONGARIRO RIVER COMMITTEE FOR 2019

### 2019 Office Holders



**Gary Brown** – *President, Committee member since 2011*

Gary's family has an association that has lasted over a half century with the Lake Taupo fishery and he has had a life-long interest in hunting and fishing. Gary's prime focus as a committee member is therefore the state of the fishery and monitoring the effectiveness of the Department of Conservation's Taupo Sports Fishery Plan.

Gary lives in New Plymouth and is a retired architect by profession.



**Warren Butterworth** – *Committee member since 2014  
Vice President from 2015*

Warren is a lawyer and part time farmer. He has fished the Tongariro and surrounding streams for more than 40 years and been a member of TALTAC for most of that time.

Warren resides in Auckland and is a board member of two substantial charitable trusts and of many private companies.



**Tim Castle** – *Committee member 2016*

Tim, a Wellington Barrister was elected to the committee in 2016. His home is in Wellington but he has a keen interest in the area and a holiday home for some years in Waitetoko.

Tim has studied Te Reo Maori and culture since the 1990's and has worked closely with iwi through his legal work.

He does not profess to being more than a keen learner angler.



**Virginia Church** – *Committee member since 2011*  
*Acting Secretary from October-December 2013*

Virginia's 2001 Petition to Parliament on the plight of the Tongariro, was supported by 602 signatures. This, and the Submission based on that Petition that was presented in 2002 to the Parliamentary Select Committee for Local Government and the Environment, was the catalyst for formation of the Advocates as an incorporated society.

After living in Australia, Virginia and her family have returned to Turangi where they have very close hapu associations with local iwi.



**Sam Coxhead** – *Committee member since 2014*

Sam has been coming to Turangi for the last 20 odd years. He is a keen angler, who relishes any time he can spend on the river.

Sam and his large young family now have a home in Turangi. It has become more important for him to help with the responsibilities of looking after the river.

Sam wants to help ensure that the fishery, and river environment as a whole, is looked after so the future generations are able to enjoy all it has to offer.



**Stuart Crosbie** – *Immediate Past President*  
*President 2009-2012; Committee member for seven years*

Stuart is the driving force behind the Advocate's Integrated Catchment Management Plan framework and the Advocate's statistical analyses of lake levels and river flow rate data spanning the past century. He was an Advocate's appointed founding director of the Tongariro River Trail (TRT) Ltd and in that role maintained a policy overview of the trail's development.

Stuart now lives in Taupo and is a director of a number of charitable and not-for-profit entities. Is retiring from the committee at the AGM.





**Peter Deakin** – *Co-opted member 2017*

Early life in British Merchant Navy. His interest in rivers and the environment saw him join an angling club as a youngster. Spent 9 years in the British Merchant Marine. Then spent the next 33 years as a commercial fisherman. He started the Wellington Trawlerman's Association.

Has retired to Turangi as owner of the Creel Lodge. Is now able to indulge two passions; Fly fishing particularly Brown Trout and looking after the River environment

“When people pull together it is amazing what they can achieve.”

Is retiring from the committee at the AGM.



**Mike Forret** – *Co-opted member 2017*

Mike Forret has been a keen angler for more than twenty years. He enjoys coming to the Tongariro and Turangi whenever he can and is very supportive of the Advocates aims.

Mike retired from the University of Waikato in 2016 where he worked in science and technology education for over twenty years. His main involvement with the Advocates has been provision, maintenance and support of the Advocates' website and membership database through his web services company iConcept Enterprises Ltd.



**Richard Kemp** – *Committee member since 2002*

A Wellingtonian, Richard has been coming to Turangi to fish all his life – as has his father before him and his son after him. He has a passion for the fishery and a particular interest in its sustainability.

Richard served as Vice-President from 2006-2010 and has been the Advocate's legal advisor throughout. He is the current Advocate's representative on the Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee.

As a lawyer, Richard's networks have been invaluable in helping to profile the Advocates and successfully source funds from philanthropic sources.



**Alisdair Keucke** – *Committee member since 2018*

Alisdair Keucke retired to Turangi from Auckland in 2015 after a career in manufacturing and electrical engineering. The third generation of an old Raetihi family he recalls holidaying as a child in one of the only two bachs in Kuratau in the 1950's. His father was a keen fly fisherman. Alisdair describes himself as a mere beginner.

Alisdair always had a keen interest in the environment and is primarily interested in the conservation of the Tongariro River and its environs. He had 10 years' experience co-chairing Auckland's Little Shoal Bay Action Committee, which resulted in North Shore City Council buying back reserve land sold to developers, to preserve it as a reserve and protected wetland.



**Julian Proctor** – *Committee member since 2018*

My father fished the Taupo area in the late 1940's after returning to NZ and started me fishing there in 1954 and built a house in Turangi in 1960. I have fished all of the rivers in the Taupo area and most of the stream mouths but my love has always been the Tongariro river.

I have been a member of TALTAC since I started fishing in Turangi and am now a committee member of the Advocates..

I love all types of fishing and still do a lot of shooting.

I retired in 2016 and now spend as much time as possible in Turangi.



**John Toogood** – *Committee member since 2005, Treasurer*

John and his family have been coming to the area and enjoying the Tongariro for over five decades. A keen environmentalist at heart, John has led the Advocates' campaign to 'bring back the bush' and rid the river environs of wilding pines and other weeds. His work, supported by Eric Wilson and former Committee member Marja ter Haar, was recognised in 2010 when the Advocates received Environment Waikato's Weedbusters' Award.

John runs his own business in Wellington and his commercial skills are of benefit to the Advocates also, especially with regards to marketing.



**Eric Wilson** – *Secretary since 2005*

Eric was a community appointee to Waikato Regional Council's Lake Taupo Liaison Zone Committee until it ceased as a committee late 2019, and a key local liaison person within the Turangi community.

Eric has been a local Turangi resident for the past 45 years and is a former Principal of Tongariro High School.

Enjoys the outdoor environment of the wider Tongariro Catchment.

≈ LIST OF MEMBERS

Andrews	Charles J	Godkin	Wayne	Ross	Grace
Avery	Bill	Godkin	Wendy	Ross	Jonathon
Bartle	Murray	Grant	David	Ross	Miles
Beasley	Antony	Hamilton	Ian R	Sherbourne	Mary
Blackbeard	Rob	Hancox	Rod	Shieff	Jenny
Brace	Robert	Hancox	Margaret	Shieff	June Sarah
Brennan	Paul	Hayes	Carter	Short	Murray
Brown	Gary	Hazelwood	Robert	Short	Niwa
Brown	Marie	Hocking	Lesly	Smith	Barry
Buckley	Rob	Hodder	Marie	Smith	Catherine
Butterworth	Warren	Hodder	Selwyn	Smith	Peter
Calder	Alex	Horton	Warwick	Stevenson	Anna
Castle	Tim	Hughes	Mike	Stevenson	Dan
Chapman	Barry	Hughes	Gail	Stevenson	Prue
Church	Liam	Jamieson	Murray	Stevenson	Sally
Church	Jock	Jamieson	N.P.S	Stevenson	Sam
Church	Virginia	Kemp	Richard	Sutton	Annabel
Cosgrove	Alison	Kemp	Honor	Sutton	Terry
Coxhead	Sam	Keucke	Alisdair	terHaar	Marja
Crosbie	Stuart	Kyle	Kim	Toogood	John
Crosbie	Jacquie	Kyle	Stephen	Toogood	Susie
Cunnack	Renny	Lean	Peter	Toogood	Georgina
Dandy	Valerie	Macdonald	Heather	Toy	Max
Deakin	Peter	McCallum	John	Whyte	Elizabeth
Dickson	Steve	McCallum	Elizabeth	Whyte	Malcolm
Duff	Graeme	McHattie	Ali	Williams	Paul
Duff	Marion	McHattie	David	Williams	Gwynne
Elliot	Helen	McNab	Alasdair	Wilson	Alex
Fair	Bill	Mills	Jim	Wilson	Eric
Forret	Joan	Nahkies	Graeme	Wilson	Godfrey
Forret	Mike	Nahkies	Natasha	Wilson	Lorraine
Frank	Tricia	Parlane	Maurice	Wilson	Peter
Fransham	Benjamin	Pritt	Christine	Wilson	Sam
Fransham	Helen	Proctor	Julian	Wilson	Vergne
Fransham	Jessica	Ramsay	Nettie	Wilson	Buster
Fransham	Mike	Rickards	Adrian	Young	
Gibbons	Cher	Rickards	Renee		
Gibbons	Scott	Ross	Carol		

*12 un-named*

≈ COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

One form per nominee

\_\_\_/\_\_\_/2020

I nominate:

Signed by nominee:

Nominator (signed):

Secondar (signed):

(Tick position nominated)

- ☐ President  
☐ Vice-President  
☐ Committee member

Either

- ☐ Secretary  
☐ Treasurer

Or

- ☐ Secretary/Treasurer

President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and up to 11 committee members + Immediate Past-President (15) or  
 President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 10 committee members + Immediate Past-President (15).

One form per nominee

\_\_\_/\_\_\_/2020

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Signed by nominee:

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Secondar (signed):

(Tick position nominated)

- ☐ President  
☐ Vice-President  
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Either

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☐ Treasurer

Or

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President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and up to 11 committee members + Immediate Past-President (15) or  
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- ☐ President  
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☐ Committee member

Either

- ☐ Secretary  
☐ Treasurer

Or

- ☐ Secretary/Treasurer

President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and up to 11 committee members + Immediate Past-President (15) or  
 President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 10 committee members + Immediate Past-President (15).

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