

# $\underset{\text{for the year ended}}{\approx} \text{ANNUAL REPORT} \\ \frac{2012}{31 \text{ december}}$



ADVOCATES FOR THE TONGARIRO RIVER

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#### **COMMITTEE 2012**

Gary Brown **Tony Charlton** 

Mark Cosgrove » IMMEDIATE

#### PAST-PRESIDENT

Stuart Crosbie » PRESIDENT

Eric Wilson » SECRETARY/TREASURER Neville Young » VICE-PRESIDENT

The Registered Office of Advocates for the Tongariro **River Incorporated** is c/o 117 Taupahi Road Turangi 3343

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#### $\approx$ notice of annual general meeting

The Eleventh Annual General Meeting of the Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc. will be held at the Tongariro Bridge Lodge on Saturday 30 March 2013 at 10.30am. All welcome. The meeting will be followed by morning tea.

#### pprox Agenda

The business of the Annual General Meeting will be to:

- record those present and note apologies
- receive the minutes of the Tenth Annual General Meeting
- receive the President's report
- approve the financial statements
- approve the strategic plan for the 2013/14 year
- 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)
- appoint an executive committee comprising a President, Vice-President, a Secretary, a Treasurer (or a Secretary/Treasurer) and committee members
- consider any other matters.

#### $\approx$ MINUTES

Minutes of the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc, held Saturday 7 April 2012 at 10.00am, Tongariro Bridge Fishing Lodge Conference Room, Turangi.

#### Present

Stuart Crosbie (Chair), Laurie Burdett, Mark Cosgrove, Richard Kemp, Heather Macdonald, Jock McNab, John Strang, Dick Truebridge, Gary Brown, Tony Charlton, Eric Wilson, Neville Young.

#### Apologies

John and Betty Wheeler, Virginia Church, Graeme Nahkies, Marja ter Haar, John Toogood, Jen Shieff, Michael and Anita Peake, Graeme Shirley, Adrian Rickards, Maryke and Les Wilson, Ian Hamilton.

#### Welcome

President welcomed all to the meeting and outlined the procedures for the meeting. This was a milestone in that we have been in operation for 10 years. It was very pleasing that both past Presidents were present.

#### Minutes

Moved that the minutes of the Ninth AGM Minutes of 23 April 2011 be accepted. Moved by Stuart Crosbie and seconded by Jock McNab. Carried.

#### Matters arising

Nil.

#### **President's report**

The President's report was published in the 2011 Annual Report. The President highlighted the fact that we are still here but there are challenges. These are:

 Membership: issues in increasing our membership. We are able to achieve things as a result of donations from our members. We acknowledge and appreciate this. We also have substantial sponsorship from the Pharazyn Trust which we acknowledge. We want an increasing membership as it gives us a mandate for the things we do. We are making communication more web-based but we will still need some print media as some members do not have internet connection.

- Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP): The President went through the key elements in his published report. The ICMP we propose knits together all the plans of stakeholders relating to the river and integrates them into one document. We expect an agreed view from all stakeholders. What we propose is a document of approximately 20 pages – a goodwill document, not a legal document. The proposed Waikato Regional Council (WRC) Tongariro River Catchment Plan of 2006 had good background information but lacked a structure.
- The Tongariro River Trail (TRT): The TRT would become a separate entity in its own right and The Advocates would be a partner in the Governance. The governance structure was highlighted and has a lot of flexibility built into it regarding partners. The TRT is seen as a significant asset for the Turangi community.
- Retiring committee members were thanked for their significant contributions. New committee members were introduced.

Moved that the President's report be received by Stuart Crosbie and seconded by Mark Cosgrove. Mark, in seconding the Report, congratulated the President for the high standard of the report.

Laurie Burdett thought the explanation of ICMP was first class and commented on other ICMP's in the WRC area. She said that the Kinloch plan was the best. Laurie spoke about weed control and asked us to speak with Kevin Collins on weed issues. Laurie congratulated the Advocates for the fine work being done. In addition she stated that the WRC Catchment Management Plan had been to Catchment Services and accepted but had not gone to full Council. Topia Rameka of the Tuwharetoa Maori Trust Board is leading the ICMP. The key is to get the ICMP into the WRC 10 year plan. She finished by informing us that this was her last term on the WRC.

Heather Macdonald thanked Laurie for her ongoing support of the Advocates. The report was received.

#### **Financial report**

Eric Wilson acknowledged a mistake in the accounts. This was rectified in the 2012 Annual Report.

Moved that The finance report be received.

Moved Eric Wilson and seconded by Stuart Crosbie. Carried

Our reviewer has resigned having done the task for the past 5 years. A vote of thanks was moved by Eric Wilson and seconded by Richard Kemp.

#### Approval of strategic plan 2012

The key for survival was an increase in new members and younger members, i.e. in the 40-60 year age bracket.

There is a need to improve the website and we are working on that.

The TRT was not what we were set up to do but arose out of concern for improved access.

The Strategic Plan was approved. Moved Stuart Crosbie, seconded Neville Young.

#### Appointment of committee

Richard Kemp assumed the chair for election of officers. The following appointments were made:

President	Stuart Crosbie
Vice-President	Neville Young
Immediate Past-President	Mark Cosgrove (ex officio)
Secretary/Treasurer	Eric Wilson
	Jeffrey Bennett
	Gary Brown
	Tony Charlton
	Virginia Church
	Richard Kemp
	John Toogood

The Committee was elected. Moved Richard Kemp, seconded John Strang. Stuart resumed the chair and advised that this would be his last term as President. He felt that the President needed to be based in Turangi or at least to have property in Turangi.

#### Other matters

- Jock McNab advised the meeting that Sunday 8th April is the first Annual meeting of The Guardians of Lake Taupo, to be held at Omori.
- Member- Get- Member draw. Laurie Burdett drew the winning ticket, won by Anthony and Sonia Gibb.

The meeting closed at 11.30am.

#### $\approx$ ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012

#### President Stuart Crosbie reports:

**Ngā mihi ki a koutou katoa e tiaki nei i to tātou taonga ko te awa o Tongariro** *Greetings to all of you who watch over our treasure that is the Tongariro River* 

This is the Eleventh Annual Report of the Advocates' and it is immensely pleasing to report on the notable achievements during 2012. The two outstanding ones are:

- Securing \$108,000 of funding to initiate a PhD study on the food-chain dynamics of the Taupo Fishery.
- Successfully funding and project managing the completion of a 14km loop trail around the Tongariro River in partnership with the Department of Conservation.

Other key events of note for the year include:

- The flood control work by WRC has provoked some controversy through loss of pools and development of new ones, but has opened up fishing below the Bain Pool through willow removal.
- The Ngati Turangitukua Charitable Committee agreement to lead the development of an Integrated Catchment Management Plan which has gained wider acceptance.
- Great fishing early in the season when Genesis Energy closed the Poutu canal for repair work.
- There is some evidence of an improvement in the fishery with bigger fish and of better quality than we have experienced over the last 5-6 years.
- Changes in the Department of Conservation precipitating a review process of the management of the fishery.

As has been the custom in recent years, all the above highlights are reported in more detail herein using the Advocates Strategic Planning framework (see Appendix 6). In particular, there are three areas of focus seen as essential for the Advocates to be a successful environmental action group.

- 1. We need to build a strong and informed member base Our Member Focus.
- We need to effectively engage with stakeholders and tangata whenua Our Stakeholder Focus.
- 3. We need to build widespread public awareness and support for affirmative action on key issues **Our Issue Focus**.

#### **Our Member & Funding Focus**

#### Declining membership levels

We remain acutely aware that our mandate to 'speak out for the river' is only derived from our member base. Table 1 provides a summary of membership levels over the years and shows that our membership is continuing to decline despite a 'Member get Member' initiative at the beginning of the year. The trend is further evidenced in Figure 1.

Year	Members	Paid	Unpaid	Single	Family	Club	Total Subs	Total Dons	Total
2012	204(305)	99(164)	105	45(48)	53(115)	1(1)	\$3,395.00	\$2,155.00	\$5,550.00
2011	188(278)	120(183)	68	62(66)	56(115)	2(2)	\$3,350.00	\$2,230.00	\$5,580.00
2010	189(278)	153(228)	36	88(93)	63(133)	2(2)	\$4,210.00	\$1,035.00	\$5,245.00
2009	176(257)	148(219)	26	89(99)	58(117)	1(1)	\$3,965.00	\$2,039.70	\$6,004.70
2008	171(250)	125(183)	46	84(104)	41(79)	0	\$3,330.00	\$1,100.00	\$4,430.00
2007	158(232)	134(200)	24	92(117)	42(83)	0	\$3,560.00	\$2,292.51	\$5,852.51
2006	146(208)	100(145)	46	68(82)	32(63)	0	\$2,840.00	\$1,144.81	\$3,984.81
2005	188(253)	134(187)	54	92(107)	42(80)	0	\$3,560.00	\$1,117.48	\$4,677.48
2004	201(266)	150(202)	51	109(128)	41(74)	0	\$3,205.00	\$1,190.00	\$4,395.00
2003	170(220)	110(133)	60	100(114)	10(19)	o	\$1,200.00	\$2,374.00	\$3,574.00
2002	60(89)	59(88)	1	46(62)	13(26)	0	\$720.00	\$150.00	\$870.00

Table 1: Summary of members since inception and their financial contribution by way of subscriptions and donations (figures in brackets show total numbers of individuals, many of whom come from family memberships which only count as '1' in the non-bracketed totals)

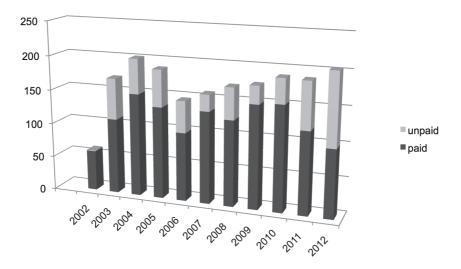


Figure 1: Trend in total membership, showing increasing proportion of unpaid memberships in past year.

As was noted last year, the primary purpose of having paid-up members is not to raise funds per se but to maintain our mandate. With the fishery in a perceived state of decline and licence numbers having dropped by over 20% in the past 5 years, it is imperative to regenerate our membership by broadening our appeal.

The Tongariro River basin is one of 51 iconic New Zealand landscapes classified as such by the Department of Conservation (DOC). It is arguably the most accessible of all the 51 so classified in terms of its proximity to SH1 and yet, until this year, it was difficult to access reasonable stretches of the river basin with ease. The completion and opening of the 14km Tongariro River Trail loop in October 2012 was the first stage toward improving access and thereby having a broader spectrum of people being aware of and valuing the iconic landscape of the area. It is hoped that many of these folk will want to get involved in the protection and enhancement of the Tongariro and so support the Advocates in being an effective environmental action group.

#### Engaging and communicating with members

Our Annual Report is the most formal form of member communication each year complemented by printed newsletters – the ADVOCATE – and a weekly electronic 'blog' by our Secretary/Treasurer Eric Wilson. Writing 'Thursday Updates' on our website is a major commitment and we are very appreciative of the tenacity and objectivity that Eric brings to these weekly reports.

#### Funding

The vast majority of our funding comes from grants and this year has been a record year in the history of the Advocates in securing funds to drive our top priorities, namely \$108,000+GST over the next three years for funding research into the Lake Taupo food web and some \$30,000+GST for completion of the first stage of the Tongariro River Trail (in addition to the \$50,000 + GST grant received last financial year).

#### **Stakeholder Focus**

Our primary stakeholders are the Waikato Regional Council, Taupo District Council, Department of Conservation and Ngati Turangitukua along with Ngati Tuwharetoa, the power companies (Genesis Energy and Mighty River Power), the National Trout Centre Trust, Ministry for the Environment, BiosecurityNZ, Department of Corrections, TALTAC and various entities that bring two or more stakeholders together for specific purposes. The Tongariro River Management Forum is an example as is the Taupo Fishing Advisory Committee.

We have engaged actively with nearly all of these stakeholders over the past year, and all interactions have been constructive and positive. Without compromising our position to 'speak out for the River', we are going through a phase of enjoying very strong working relationships with our stakeholders as we get on and get things done.

With restructuring in the Department of Conservation there is now surplus office space at their Turangi site; the Advocates were offered space free-of-charge by Area Manager Dave Lumley earlier in the year which was gratefully accepted. Our bi-monthly Committee Meetings are now also held at these DOC facilities.

#### Gravel extraction consent

In 2011 the Waikato Regional Council (WRC) applied to itself for Resource Consents to extract gravel from the river. While the Advocates support this activity for the purposes of enhanced channel management, etc., we nevertheless appeared before the hearing to register our disapproval against extracting gravel in piecemeal fashion rather than as part of an Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP). This was reported on in last year's Annual Report.

Your Committee has monitored closely the lower river channel management work being undertaken by WRC and we met on-site in July 2012 (see Figure 2). Our concern was to try and retain or recreate stretches of good fishing water with ease of angler access whilst achieving good river flows and an aesthetically pleasing flood-plain landscape. WRC was so accommodating that a digger was redeployed during our meeting to divert the river at a particular point... only to be largely undone a couple of days later when a significant flood came through!



Figure 2: Meeting on-site at the Crescent Reserve in Turangi

It was pleasing to have the Ngati Turangitukua Charitable Trust announce at the September 2012 meeting of the Tongariro River Forum that the Trust would take the lead role in developing an Integrated Catchment Management Plan. The Advocates have been liaising with the Trust to ensure cognisance is taken of our thinking on what would constitute an appropriate strategic framework for such a plan, as per our last Annual Report (2011, Appendix 2).

#### Current representation on local stakeholder groups

The following are statutory appointees to key local environmental stakeholder groups:

- 1. Neville Young to the Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board.
- 2. Richard Kemp to the Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee.
- 3. Eric Wilson to the Waikato Regional Council's Lake Taupo Liaison Sub-Committee.

We are grateful that Committee Members are prepared to commit to these appointments in addition to their Advocate roles; it ensures the Advocates have a broad appreciation of regional environmental issues as they emerge and meaningful working relationships with key stakeholder personnel whilst being mindful of managing any potential conflicts of interest that may arise.

#### **Issue Focus**

Our core issues span six areas:

- 1. **Didymo prevention** advocate for North Island to be didymo-free and maintain watching brief on other aquatic pests.
- River environs restoration facilitate restoration of the river margin and continue with planting programme and pest plant eradication in accordance with Tongariro River Environs Flora Management Plan.
- 3. Lake levels and river flow rates seek WRC and power company co-operation in aiding the river to flush itself.
- 4. **Urban development** maintain watching brief on the urban development strategy.
- 5. **Trout condition** ensure our world-class fishery is sustained through good science and effective management strategies.
- 6. **Access** gain improved access (for anglers and non-anglers alike) to a greater proportion of the Tongariro River.

Issues 5 and 6 have been our predominant focus over the past year and are therefore reported on in detail below. As for the others

- **Didymo Prevention:** Thankfully didymo has not reached the North Island but the threat nevertheless remains and we again pay tribute to Dave Cade (affectionately known as "Didymo Dave") for his sustained enthusiasm and tireless efforts to enhance and maintain angler awareness and vigilance.
- *River Environs Restoration:* With the eradication of the mature wilding pines on the DOC estate land on the Tongariro all but complete, the Advocates have altered their emphasis and are keen to see WRC, DOC and the Department of Corrections take collective accountability for 'holding the gains' and, in particular, keeping the river flats under control by stump cutting sapling and juvenile regeneration of radiata pine, douglas fir and willow.
- Lake Levels & River Flow Rates: The gravel extraction consents should result in better river flow rates especially when combined with the excellent willow clearance work WRC has undertaken below the SH1 bridge from the Bain Pool down to the Reed Pool. Ongoing dialogue is continuing with Genesis Energy and DOC to explore how best to intervene to assist the river in flushing itself of the huge volumes of volcanic ash still working its way through the river.
- **Urban Development:** The Mangamawhitiwhiti Block development is not progressing at this stage and we are not aware of any other proposed developments. There are Treaty settlements imminent however that may include prison land adjacent to the river and there is the development of the Tongariro River Trail underway (see below).

#### Trout Condition and the Fishery

Brokering the funding of a PhD student to research the food web dynamics of the Taupo Fishery has the potential to be the most important initiative that the Advocates have undertaken in our 11-year history as an environmental protection group.

The Taupo Fishery needs help. But exactly what interventions would help most is not known because of the lack of knowledge about the relative abundance of the species making up the food chain and the dynamics taking place, i.e. the interactions amongst nutrients, phytoplankton, zooplankton, smelt and trout. This research is aimed at closing our knowledge gap so the merits of likely interventions, such as

- special breeding programmes,
- addition of nutrients and/or
- removal of undesirable species can be assessed using proper scientific rigour.

For years now the Advocates have been keen to see such rigorous research undertaken but a suitable pathway has not presented itself until now. We believe a PhD research project supervised by Professor David Hamilton, one of the top four or five lakes scientists in the world and New Zealand's preeminent expert in lakes ecology, presents such a pathway. Professor Hamilton's particular strength is in applied research, and this fits neatly with our expectations for effective outcomes for this project.

Professor Hamilton's record shows an extensive list of freshwater ecology publications in peer-refereed journals; this is the acid test of a scientist's worth. This record attests to his integrity as a productive scientist who gets results. Many of these come from Professor Hamilton's 20 PhD students, 19 of whom completed their doctorates; only one other did not complete their PhD but opted out at the Master of Philosophy stage. That's an impressive track record as a supervisor! He is currently supervising 4 PhD students. We can therefore be extremely confident of Professor Hamilton's ability to:

- Discern carefully who he invests in as a PhD student.
- Pick research topics which offer real research potential and sufficient substance to warrant the conferring of a doctorate at the end of it.
- Generate research findings that withstand the scrutiny of international peer review for publication in the world's top ecological scientific journals.
- Produce a competent freshwater scientist who may well elect to stay on in New Zealand and thereby provide a significant boost to the pool of expertise we have in being able to look after the Taupo fishery in future as well as other rivers and lakes around New Zealand.

It is particularly comforting to note that Professor Hamilton's focus is in applied lake research. As was demonstrated with the successful outcomes of a doctoral study Hamilton supervised on Lake Rotoiti, there is every reason to have confidence that Lake Taupo's issue can be reversed through the focused research efforts of a PhD student under Professor Hamilton's supervision.

Moreover, the Advocates have a very good working relationship with DOC Fisheries and have secured their endorsement of and ongoing support for this research initiative. That bodes well for when the time comes to implement the recommended intervention strategies flowing from the research.

The Advocates are extremely grateful to the three organisations who have agreed to fund this work by contributing an equal 1/3 share (\$36,000+GST) over a 2 year period – these organisations are The Pharazyn Trust, DOC Fisheries and Taupo District Council (TDC) . A summary of the submission made to TDC to secure their support may be found in Appendix 1 and a more detailed account of the intended research programme, as drafted by Professor Hamilton, may be found in Appendix 2.

#### Improved Access – the Tongariro River Trail (TRT)

The Advocates have been dreaming about this trail for over a decade... and it's fantastic that our dreams were at least partly realised on Labour Weekend 2012 when stage 1 of the trail was declared open, a 14 km loop from Turangi to the Red Hut bridge on both sides of the river – see Appendix 3 for a copy of a brochure that has been produced for the trail.

This project has been my prime area of focus since taking over as President three years ago and inheriting what had been nurtured in earlier years by Past Presidents Mark Cosgrove & Heather McDonald. There are others also within the Advocates whose help is acknowledged in making this dream a reality, namely:

- 1. John Wheeler and Ross Baker for their early planning efforts.
- 2. Current Vice President Neville Young and his daughter Anna's efforts in helping with legal matters.
- 3. The whole Advocates' Committee for staying on track even when our reserves were depleted and we were uncertain about where the funding would be coming from.

But, above all others, Eric Wilson has been the glue holding things together and the day-to-day project manager of the development. It's been his life for the last year – almost to the point that he's had to give up fishing! And everyone in his family has helped out also.

Then there's Ben, Sierra & Neihana who we employed to build the trail; there's Richard Balm who we employed to assist with consents and high level planning of the work; there's the Advocates' sub-committee that was formed to retain close links to the Community along the way (valued contributors included John Ridd, Maryke Wilson, Rob Henderson and others already mentioned); there's Mike Elmes and Gabe Moana from Downers who facilitated us being able to partly shut down SH1 to drop gravel and pumice off between the boardwalks on the trail; and to the many, many others who have volunteered – thank you!

There have also been three key sponsors who have journeyed with us in building Stage 1 – and they have been absolutely critical in enabling us to succeed.

The most significant of these has been DOC; their practical support, generosity and commitment in partnering with us has been nothing short of stunning and it includes a commitment to upgrade all of the 14km loop to the same standard as the new sections just completed. So a special thanks to Dave Lumley (the Area Manager) and to Terry Slee (the local Assets Manager) in particular.

Taupo District Council has also been very supportive and really allowed us to get started with a seeding grant of \$50,000. But their support – as with DOC – has gone far beyond financial assistance. People like John Ridd, Maryke Wilson, Mayor Rick and the local Community Board, especially Chair Gary Keepa.

And our third significant financial sponsor is Genesis Energy who provided a grant of \$30,000.

Throughout the project we have been in constant dialogue with iwi and keen to have them involved at all stages. Jeffery Bennett , the Chair of the Ngati Turangitukua Marae Committee and Committee Member of the Advocates blessed the commencement of the Trail back in May and Ned Wikaira blessed the completion of Stage 1 as part of our official Opening Ceremony on Labour Weekend. We are also grateful to Mr Rangi Downs for his co-operation in having the trail go alongside the boundary of his property. A copy of the press release made at the time of opening the trail may be found in Appendix 4.

#### Where to from here?

This project is by far the biggest undertaking the Advocates have embarked upon. It has required a sustained level of effort by Eric Wilson and myself to get Stage 1 complete and have the appropriate structures in place – particularly the Tongariro River Trail Charitable Company governance structure – to allow for subsequent stages of development and the ongoing sustainable funding and maintenance of the trail as an eco-tourism attraction. As noted in last year's Annual Report, the guiding principles of this development include:

- That the trail be constructed and maintained to an all weather standard.
- That it can be managed on a sustainable basis economic and environmental.
- That protocols for shared usage (by anglers, hikers, cyclists) be developed and adhered to by all users.
- That the trail is constructed and managed so as to incur minimal impact on the environment (all services are provided off the trail itself; infrastructure on the trail – including toilets, shelters, information display boards, signage, etc – will be in keeping with the surroundings and well maintained, etc.).
- All funds from the trail will be reinvested in either (i) enhancing the standard of the trail, or (ii) preserving and enhancing the ecological values of the area both on and in the vicinity of the trail.

All this is ideally administered through an umbrella concession being granted by DOC to the TRT Charitable Company who, in turn, grant licences to businesses deriving income from the trail (either directly or indirectly). The structures are in place to do this but only if it is reasonably likely that Stages 2 & 3 of the trail are to be built, at which point our 70km 3-day vision of the trail would become a reality. At present there are significant challenges in:

- 1. Securing access (especially through Department of Corrections' administered land subject to a treaty claim).
- Obtaining extra funding (estimated between \$0.75-\$1.0 Million) to build Stages 2 & 3.

3. Finding people who are prepared to commit the effort into seeing it through as Eric and I did for Stage 1.

Your Committee is revisiting these matters shortly and should be in a position to provide an update at the AGM.

#### **Concluding remarks**

Looking back over the year's accomplishments, I am grateful to Committee Members in being prepared to give of their time so we can pull together and get things done for the benefit of the river and those who might wish to enjoy it. A profile of our current Committee Members is provided in Appendix 5.

I wish to acknowledge the many people outside the Committee who are actively involved in supporting us in various capacities. Particular thanks go to Sylvia Smith and Bob MacDonnell for their support with publication matters, to Kristen Wilson for refreshing our marketing strategy and website design during the year, to Mike Forret as our webmaster, and to John Austad for reviewing our financial accounts.

Finally, as your outgoing President, I wish to record my heartfelt thanks to Eric Wilson as Secretary/Treasurer and friend.....it has been a very enjoyable partnership working with Eric throughout my term as President.

I am pleased to move the adoption of this the 11th annual report of the Advocates for the Tongariro River.

**Stuart Crosbie** *President, April 2013* 

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#### $\approx$ FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

#### *For the 12-month period ended 31 December 2012*

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Income		
Subscriptions and donations	5550	6,630
WCEET (Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust)	0	10,000
Interest deposit	156	232
Pharazyn Trust grant	0	5,000
	5,706	21,862
Expenditure		
Post box rental	155	145
Website	650	782
Newsletter	1,595	1,541
AGM, seminar, report and expense	3,764	5,150
Admin postage, stationery and banking	932	901
Planting for the future	0	7,798
Wilding pines	6,969	0
Catchment management plan	0	300
Other	778	150
	14,843	16,767
Deficit	-9,137	5,095

#### Statement of financial position

As at 31 December 2012

	2012	2011
	\$	\$
Current assets		
Bank current account	7,112	7,926
Term deposit	5,039	4,883
Debtor		8,486
Adjustments		-7
Total assets	12,151	21,288
Current liabilities		
Creditors	0	0
Net assets	12,151	21,288
Accumulated funds		
Balance at 31 December 2012	21,288	16,193
Deficit for year	-9,137	5,095
Total surplus	12,151	21,288

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**Stuart Crosbie** *Chairperson* 

Eric Wil-

**Eric Wilson** Treasurer

#### $\approx$ notes to the financial statements

For the period ended 31 December 2012

#### Statement of accounting policies

#### Reporting entity

The Advocates for the Tongariro River Society Inc. is incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908. The financial statements of the Advocates for the Tongariro River Society Inc. have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

#### Preparation of accounts

The accounts have been produced on information provided by your Treasurer and have been verified by John Austad a former Chartered Accountant.

Eric Wil-

**Eric Wilson** Treasurer

#### ≈ APPENDIX 1 » PROPOSED STUDY ON FOOD WEBS IN LAKE TAUPO AS THEY AFFECT THE RAINBOW TROUT POPULATION 4th October 2012

**Submission for the Taupo District Council October 2012 Meeting** *Presented by Gary Brown, Stuart Crosbie, Eric Wilson and Mark Cosgrove* 

This funding proposal is being made by The Advocates for the Tongariro River (AFTR) in the interests of improving the sports fishery and the economy of the Taupo District.

#### The Problem and its economic impact

The trout sports fishery in Lake Taupo has been in deep trouble for some years now; the rainbow trout numbers have declined as has the size and quality of these fish. While fishery scientists and lakes scientists have a hunch that the cause is poor nutrition and that there is concern about changes in the zooplankton populations, there is no clear solution. The concern is that, unless something is done, the present poor status of the rainbow trout fishery will deteriorate further, with damage to both the enjoyment of anglers and to the economy of the district. In 1991, the value of the fishery was estimated by DoC to be \$100,000,000 per annum. It is much less than that now.

#### Building our scientific understanding of 'root causes'

The linkages in the food web, particularly between zooplankton and smelt, are not well enough understood. Research is needed to assess the interactions amongst nutrients, phytoplankton, zooplankton, smelt and trout. A successful scientific study will produce the desired outcome of equipping fishery managers with the knowledge to correct the present imbalances in the populations of the various plants and animals in the food web. These corrections are expected to be in the form of special breeding programmes, addition of nutrients and/or removal of undesirable species.

## Funding a PhD student for a three year study under the supervision of NZ's top freshwater scientist

The Advocates have developed a proposed way forward with Professor David Hamilton (at Waikato University), the leading freshwater scientist in this field in New Zealand, with a world-wide reputation. Professor Hamilton and his team have successfully studied problems in other lakes, especially Lake Rotoiti. One of his doctoral students provided definitive information that has led to the recovery of that trout fishery, to the extent that it is now regarded as the superior freshwater recreational fishery in the North Island. Professor Hamilton has successfully supervised some 20 PhD students to date, an impeccable track record!

It is particularly comforting to note that Professor Hamilton's focus is in applied lake research. There is every reason to have confidence that Lake Taupo's demise can be reversed through the focused research efforts of a PhD student under Professor Hamilton's supervision.

#### Making it work

A budget to fund a PhD student over three years is \$108,000 (stipend \$25k, Fees \$6k and materials \$5k per year). At this stage the AFTR has been granted \$36,000 from the Pharazyn Trust, conditional on the balance being secured at the outset. This would be paid in two \$18,000 instalments over the first 2 years.

The Department of Conservation (DoC) is highly supportive of this proposal and has pledged its support in assisting with the research and making every endeavour to fully utilise the findings and implement the recommended interventions. DoC has also committed to fund \$18,000 in year 1 and a further \$18,000 in year 2 so long as sufficient revenue is forthcoming from the sales of fishing licenses.

Accordingly, we would ask that Taupo District Council match these contributions by funding the final third, i.e. \$18,000 in each of the first two years. In so doing, the AFTR will be in a position to secure all funding.

We look forward to the prospect of TDC partnering with us on this exciting initiative that has the potential of leaving an inter-generational legacy of immense economic, social & environmental value for our children and grandchildren.

## $\approx$ APPENDIX 2 $_{\rm D}$ PROPOSAL TO THE ADVOCATES FOR THE TONGARIRO RIVER: PH.D. STUDY ON FOOD WEBS AND TROPHIC STRUCTURE IN LAKE TAUPO

#### (Prepared by Professor David Hamilton, Waikato University, December 2012)

#### Background to the proposal

Professor David Hamilton, who holds the Bay of Plenty Chair in Lake Restoration at Waikato University, was approached by the Advocates for the Tongariro River (Mark Cosgrove in the first instance) about the possibility of establishing a Ph.D. scholarship to conduct research into the Lake Taupo food web. It is generally acknowledged that linkages of lower levels of the food chain (particularly zooplankton and smelt) that are important in supporting the trout fishery are relatively poorly understood and some fundamental information is required to better assess the interactions amongst nutrients, phytoplankton, zooplankton and higher trophic levels. This proposal puts forward a preliminary work programme and budget for the establishment of a Ph.D. scholarship that would carry out this research.

#### **Background on Lake Taupo**

At 90 meters average depth and with a surface area of 616 square kilometres it is evident that water entering Lake Taupo will remain in it for a long time and that there will be significant lags in water quality responses to any changes in the catchment (e.g., land use change). On average, water entering the lake remains in it for just over 10 years before leaving mostly via the Waikato River or evaporating at the lake surface. The time for water quality in the lake to equilibrate to a change in catchment loads is approximately 2 to 3 times the water residence time. In other words it would take around 25 years to ascertain the response of lake water quality to a step change in loads. Furthermore most of the water entering the lake is derived from underground aquifers where it has also on average been resident for some years following infiltration from rainfall. Thus the water quality in Taupo 'today' is some integration of the inputs in the past 50 years or more.

Climate change has the potential to significantly alter the dynamics of Lake Taupo on shorter response time scales. For example, in the very warm El Niño winter of 1998 the lake did not undergo its regular winter mixing cycle and oxygen was depleted to a greater extent in bottom waters than at any other time. Thus current climate and potential climate change could play a very significant role in the future water quality of Lake Taupo.

A deep layer of relatively high concentrations of phytoplankton establishes in the water column of Lake Taupo during spring-summer-autumn. This layer is very deep in Taupo (around 45 m) compared with other deep Rotorua lakes and is supported by the exceptional water clarity in Taupo. This layer plays an important role in the dynamics of the food web in Lake Taupo, including the trout fishery. It will help to fuel higher levels of the food web including the link to zooplankton, smelt and trout. Research is required to more closely link the dynamics of the Lake Taupo food web, from the algae to the trout. High-turbidity events linked to transport of sediments into the lake (as shown with MODIS remote sensing images) may also affect the deep algal layer and potentially limit the light that supports the deep algae. Climate change models indicate an approximate doubling in the frequency of major storm events in the Taupo region by 2100. This could lead to increased sediment transport into the lake and may necessitate careful management of the 'manageable land', to adopt land use practices to minimise sediment losses to water.

Concentrations of chlorophyll a – an indicator of the biomass of microscopic algae – are increasing around 1-2% per year, based on data from the mid-1990s to present (separate analysis of data undertaken by Waikato Regional Council, NIWA and University of Waikato). Within this period there can be shorter periods of both increasing and decreasing chlorophyll a concentrations due to natural environmental variability. The increases in chlorophyll a show a similar relative time trend to increases in nitrate concentrations in bottom waters of Lake Taupo.

Cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) concentrations generally peak in summerautumn in Lake Taupo. They can be moderately to highly buoyant and benefit from temperature gradients in the water column during this time. It is during this time that directionally-persistent winds can push them on-shore and into bays, potentially forming blooms. This phenomenon contributes to observed variations between monitoring water quality in the middle of the lake and at the shore. People's perception of lake water quality is often most strongly influenced by what they observe at the shore. We know that some Cyanobacteria fix nitrogen gas contained within the water column, thus freeing themselves of limitation imposed on other algae by low levels of dissolved inorganic nitrogen (nitrate and ammonia). More information is required to understand whether nitrogen fixation is important in the nitrogen budget of Lake Taupo. It also means that it is important to ensure that phosphorus loads to Lake Taupo do not increase; there might otherwise be increased risk of increases in Cyanobacteria biomass.

The provision of ecosystem services from Lake Taupo includes, for example, water supply (ultimately as far as Auckland), trout fishing, recreation, hydro power and irrigation. A full economic analysis would build regard for these services as recurring assets which can be maintained and enhanced via land use change and management to improve water quality.

#### Work programme (preliminary)

*Months o-6:* Enrolment, development of proposal and defence of proposal. The proposal will address 3-4 primary areas of interest that are closely related.

Includes: review of literature (Taupo, NZ, global) on food webs in deep, oligotrophic lakes; 2-3 field trips to Taupo to implement preliminary sampling programme for phytoplankton, nutrients, zooplankton; analysis of historical data (some preserved zooplankton samples from some years ago are likely to still exist but identifications have not been carried out); establishment of relevant stakeholder and management contacts (Advocates for the Tongariro River, Waikato Regional Council, DOC, etc.); writing up material.

**Months 6-24:** continue literature review and data collation; maintain sampling programme developed in proposal; implement model and begin to test theories about trophic structure, bioenergetics and top-down vs bottom-up controls on the food chain.

*Months 24-36:* Complete remaining sample analysis; writing up; conference presentation; working model of the lake.

#### Outcome

It is hoped that the information generated from this Ph.D. study will lead to improved understanding of the Lake Taupo food web as well as providing a working model for testing hypotheses about the lake ecosystem functioning (e.g., top-down vs bottomup food chain effects) and for examining different potential management strategies (e.g. changes in nutrient loads) or meteorological conditions to which the lake could be subjected in the future to (e.g., climate change). Ultimately much will depend on the ability to take the research results and integrate them into management of the lake ecosystem by relevant territorial authorities. As a supervisor of this study Prof. Hamilton would use his experience from the Rotorua lakes and interactions with various groups there (e.g., Bay of Plenty Regional Council, Te Arawa Lakes Trust, Rotorua District Council, DOC, etc.) as a working model to ensure that the research is fully utilised and available to better inform plans and policies for protection of the Lake Taupo ecosystem.

#### ongariro **U** rai Department of Conservation Te Papa Atawbai TURANGI TONGARIRO Thisbrochurchasbeen produced by **Tongariro River Trail Ltd.** a charitable company established to build and administer the use and maintenance of the trail. The Tongariro River Trail is VER ADVOCATES proudly supported by Source of Great Lake Taupö genesis energy $\alpha$ C NE side of brinne onely Pool Cicada Poc 500m -Never Fail Pool -Kamahi Pool Admiral's Pool Ipper Birch Pool Duchess Po er's Poo and Bridge **Kowhai Flat** wer Birch Pool Silly Poo Pool

#### pprox APPENDIX 3 » TONGARIRO RIVER TRAIL BROCHURE

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Bain Pool

**frail** 

TURANGI

Viver ongariro

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TONGARIRO RIVER TRAIL

Stag F

---- Route

Toilets Parking TRB True Right Bank

Fongariro National Trout Centre

Shag Hut Pool Red Hut Pool Pool

# USER'S CODE

- ✓ Respect other users
  - Leave no trace
- Bikers give way to walkers and anglers
- ✓ Keep dogs on a leash
- Bikers dismount for boardwalks and bridges
- Protect our iconic environment

## TONGARIRO RIVER TRAIL (TRT)

Trail starts at the Turangi i-site, then to Tongariro River, south to the Red Hut bridge on the the true left, cross the Red Hut bridge and return along the true right to State Highway 1 bridge and return to the i-site. Distance 14kms, Malking, Allow 4 hours.

# THE TRT CAN BE BROKEN INTO TWO SECTIONS.

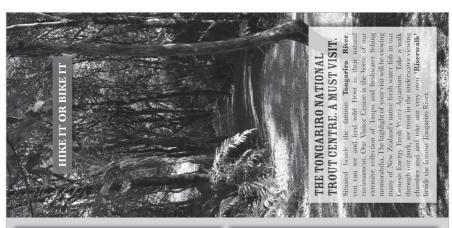
- From Turangi isite to the Major Jones bridge and then back to State Highway 1 and then to isite. Distance 5kms. Walking. Allow 1.5 hours.
- From Turangii-site to the Major Jones bridge to the Red Hut bridge return to i-site. Distance 9kms. Walking. Allow 3 hours.

The river, famous as a trout tream, is a scenic treature in is own right, and with surrounding bushland and ease of access makes an all weather traal. Best views of the river are from the right bank while on the left is a bush walk.

# NOTES ON THE TONGARIRO WALKWAY

Most of the walkway traverses a setub or low forest dominated by kanubis simal expande, thin bark). In may places this is quite tail and native broad-leaved species particularly furchinger and coprosonal and see established underneuth. Other common trees are mation, kowhai, young harcewood, and also some treva reva, akined tree ferns, and the occasional hills tonar. There is even a young timu saping coming through. Native ferns and spawling chabmoses dominate much of the ground layer.

The track crosses a small wetland via a boardwalk and here the kanukai is replaced by much shorter manuka (big capsules, very stringy bark). Native rushes, ferms, toi toi, and flax provide a pleasant foreground to tall kahikatea and totara in the background. Because the vegetation is regenerating from a period of disturbance there are blackberries and introduced concasters in places, but overall these barely detract from the walk as a whole



### $\thickapprox$ APPENDIX 4 " TURANGI CRONICLE 28 OCTOBER 2012 REPORTS OPENING OF THE TRAIL



## $\approx$ APPENDIX 5 $_{\rm S}$ PROFILE OF ADVOCATES FOR THE TONGARIRO RIVER COMMITTEE FOR 2012/13

#### 2012/13 Office holders



#### Stuart Crosbie – President

President for past three years; Committee member for six years.

Stuart is the driving force behind the Advocates' strategic plan, the Integrated Catchment Management Plan (ICMP) framework and the Advocates' statistical analyses on lake levels and river flow rate data spanning the past century. He is an Advocates' appointed director of the Tongariro River Trail (TRT) Ltd and has maintained a policy overview of the trail's development.

Stuart lives in Auckland and is a director of a number of charitable and not-for-profit entities.



#### Neville Young - Vice-President

Vice-President for past two years; Committee member for four years.

Neville is a government appointee to Tongariro/Taupo Conservation Board and the Advocates' key liaison person for central government agencies and politicians.

Neville lives in Wellington and has extensive legal, commercial and governance expertise. This has proven invaluable in formulating the 'optimal' charitable company structure for the governance of the TRT.

#### ADVOCATES FOR THE TONGARIRO RIVER INCORPORATED



#### Eric Wilson - Secretary & Treasurer

Secretary for past seven years and Treasurer for past nine years.

Eric is a local government appointee to Waikato Regional Council's Lake Taupo Liaison Sub-Committee; an Advocates' appointed director of the TRT Ltd; and a key local liaison person involved in just about everything.

Without Eric's sustained dedication and extensive commitment to Advocate matters, our society simply would not survive.

Eric has been a local Turangi resident for past 38 years and a former Principal of Tongariro High School.

#### 2012/13 Committee members



#### Mark Cosgrove – Past-President and Distinguished Member

Mark was instrumental in the Advocates' formation and its inaugural President, as well as taking the role on again in a temporary capacity four years ago. Mark has an intimate knowledge of the river's history and a keen awareness of the science applicable to its ongoing sustainability and management.

Mark is a local Turangi resident and was made a Distinguished Member of the Advocates in 2010 in recognition of his outstanding contribution.



#### Gary Brown – committee member since 2011

As with a couple of other committee members, Gary's family has over 50 years' association with the Lake Taupo fishery and a life-long interest in hunting and fishing. Gary's prime focus as a committee member is therefore likely to be on the state of the fishery and monitoring the effectiveness of DoC's Taupo Sports Fishery Plan.

Gary lives in New Plymouth and is an architect by profession.



#### Virginia Church – committee member since 2011

Although newly elected to the Committee, Virginia's Petition to Parliament in 2001 with some 602 signatures 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.



#### **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 has served as Vice-President from 2006-2010 and has been the Advocates' legal advisor throughout. He is the current Advocates' 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.



#### John Toogood – committee member since 2005

Like Richard and Gary, John's family has 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 and Marja, was recognised in 2010 when the Advocates were the recipient of 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.



#### Tony Charlton – Committee member since 2012

Tony has retired to Turangi from Wellington where he was in Real Estate.

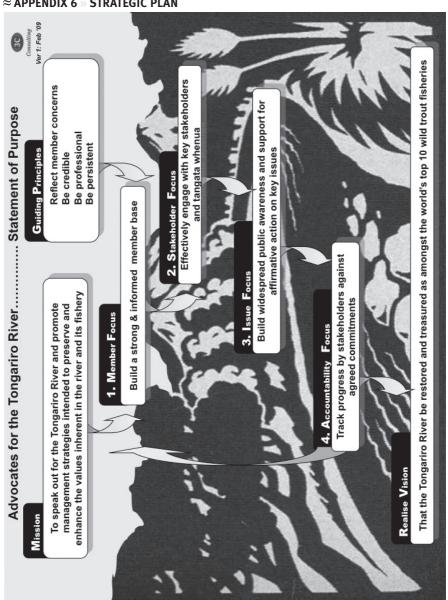
He is a keen angler and outdoorsman.



#### Jeffrey Bennett – Committee member since 2012

Jeffrey is a Kaumatua of Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Turangitukua and is Chairman of Ngati Turangitukua Maori Committee.

Jeffrey brings extensive business expertise from his time as NZ Post international manager based in Brussels. From NZ Post he was involved in mining in Australia.



#### $\approx$ APPENDIX 6 » STRATEGIC PLAN

#### $\approx$ LIST OF MEMBERS

Adams Gary Adams Cecilia Anderson Sue Andrews Charles Appleton Bob Appleton Shirley Avery Bill Bartle Murray **Batson Brian Beasley Anthony** Bennett Jeffrey **Bingham Peter Birss** Claire Blackbeard Rob Boustridge Nicki **Boustridge Wayne** Brace Robert Brandon Danilo Brandon Kurt Brandon Oscar Brown Gary Brown Karilvn Brown Marie Brown Mark Brownlie Bryan Butterworth Warren Butts Mack Canziani Peter Canziani Monique Barry Chapman Charlton lude Charlton Tony Charlton Mark Church Jock Church Virginia Connor Geoff Connor Sue Cosgrove Alison **Cosgrove Mark** Cowan Arthur B Cowan PG Cranfield Sam Crosbie Stuart

Cunnack Renny Curham Tom Dickson Steve Duckworth Bob Duckworth Heather Duff Graham Duff Marion Duthie lan Fliott Helen Fair Bill Frank Trish Freer Chris Freitag Walter **Gabelich Vince** Gav Garv Gav Lorita Gibb Antony Gibb Sonia Glover Bob Godkin Wayne Godkin Wendy Goodall Naomi Grace Andrew Grace Diane Hamilton Ian Haves Carter Hazelwood Robert Hazelwood Robert W Hodder Marie Hodder Selwyn Holden Peter Horton Warwick Hosking Leslev Hughes Mike Hughes Gail Insley Grant Insley Sharan Ireland Garth Jamieson Murray Ionkers W Kemp Honor Kemp Richard Kemp Will

Lintott Richard Lozica Denis Magill Korrie-Lee Macdonald Heather MacDonnell Robert McCallum Elizabeth McCallum John McGregor Rod McGregor Craig McNab Alasdair Miles Kim Mills lim Nahkies Graeme Nahkies Natasha Nott John Peake Anita Peake Mike Perrett Hugh Pritt Christine Renz Ron Renz Isabel **Rickards Adrian Rickards Renee** Riverstone Backpackers Robertson Amanda Robertson Trevor Robertson James Roger Alastair Rosoman Alan Ross Carol Ross Grace Ross Johnathan Ross Miles Sherborne Mary Sherborne Ray Shieff Jenny Shieff lune Shirley Graeme Short Murrav Short Niwa Small Rosemary Small Neil

Smith BL Smith Catherine Smith Mason Smith Peter Smith Svlvia Stevenson Dan Sutton Annabelle Sutton Terry ter Haar Marja Thorpe Ella Thorpe Freddie Thorpe lain Thorpe William Toogood John Toogood Susie Treadwell Mical Truebridge Dick Truebridge Heather Waite Barry Wakefield Rohan Wakefield St. John Watson Richard Wheeler Betty Wheeler John Whyte Elizabeth Whyte Malcolm Williams Peter Wilson Alexander Wilson Fric Wilson Kristen Wilson Lorraine Wilson Marvke Wilson Samantha Wilson Vergne Young Arnica Young Buster Young Chris Young Heydon Young Irene Young Neville Young Valerie

And 24 unlisted.

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$\approx$ COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM	
One form per nominee / /2013	(Tick position nominated)
	President
I nominate:	Vice-President
Signed by nominee:	Committee member <b>Either</b>
	Entrer
Nominator (signed):	
	Or
Seconder (signed):	Secretary/Treasurer
President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and up to 11 committee membe President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 10 committee membe	
One form per nominee	
//2013	(Tick position nominated)
	President
I nominate:	Vice-President
Signed by nominee:	Committee member
	Either
Nominator (signed):	
	Or
Seconder (signed):	Secretary/Treasurer
President, Vice-President, Secretary/Treasurer and up to 11 committee membe President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and up to 10 committee membe	
One form per nominee	
//2013	(Tick position nominated)
· · · · ·	President
	Vice-President
I nominate:	
	Committee member
	Committee member
I nominate: Signed by nominee: Nominator (signed):	Committee member  ither  Secretary
Signed by nominee:	Committee member

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).

#### PROTECT NEW ZEALAND'S GREATEST RIVER & TROUT FISHERY THE MIGHTY TONGARIRO

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