Advocates for the Tongariro River

Protecting the river – bringing back the bush

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2009

ADVOCATES FOR THE TONGARIRO RIVER

CONTENTS

COVER

Part of a Department of Conservation sign acknowledging the environment restoration efforts of AFTR.

COMMITTEE 2009

Bob Appleton
Ross Baker
Robert Brace
Mark Cosgrove » IMMEDIATE PAST-PRESIDENT
Stuart Crosbie
Richard Kemp » VICE-PRESIDENT
Heather Macdonald » PRESIDENT
Graeme Nahkies
Tuatea Smallman
John Toogood
Eric Wilson » SECRETARY/TREASURER
Neville Young

Notes: Heather Macdonald resigned 14.4.09 and Mark Cosgrove was appointed Acting President. Graeme Nahkies was co-opted to the committee 18.7.09.

Robert Brace resigned 16.10.09 and Neville Young was co-opted to the committee 21.10.09.

The Registered Office of Advocates For The Tongariro River Incorporated is c/o 117 Taupahi Road Turangi 3334

The postal address is PO Box 335 Turangi 3353
Contact can be made through our website www.tongariroriver.org.nz

≈ NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Eighth Annual Meeting of the Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc. will be held at the Tongariro River Bridge Fishing Lodge, State Highway 1, Turangi, on Easter Sunday, 4 April 2010 at 3.00pm. All welcome.

≈ AGENDA

The business of the Annual General Meeting will be to:

- record those present and note apologies
- receive the minutes of the Seventh Annual Meeting held on 12 April 2009 (see below)
- receive the President's Report
- approve the Financial Statements
- approve the Strategic Plan for the 2010/11 year
- consider any other 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, a vice president, a secretary, a treasurer (or a secretary/treasurer) and committee members
- consider any other matters.

Guest speaker **Ross Baker – Report on Tongariro River Access Project** (providing access for all).

At the conclusion of the meeting, afternoon tea will be provided at the Tongariro River Bridge Fishing Lodge.

≈ MINUTES

Minutes of the Seventh Annual General Meeting of the Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc. held Sunday 12 April 2009 at 3.00pm, Tongariro River Bridge Fishing Lodge Conference Room, Turangi.

Present
Heather Macdonald (chair), Richard Kemp (vice chair), Eric Wilson, Bruce Abraham, Gary Adams, Mark Alston, Sue Anderson, Bob Appleton, Garry Baker, Robert Brace, Laurie Burdett (Environment Waikato Councillor), Tony Charlton, Jude Charlton, Mark Cosgrove, Stuart Crosbie, Robert MacDonnell, Glenn Maclean (guest speaker), Diana Marbeck, Jock McNab, Mike Peake, Wayne Rowland, Jenny Shieff, June Shieff, Rosemary Small, Sylvia Smith, Brenda Teague, Clinton Teague, Marja ter Haar, Anthea Tidswell, John Toogood, Dick Truebridge, Neville Young, Lorraine Wilson.

Apologies
Ross Baker, Will Kemp, Graeme Nahkies, Ken Proudfoot, Ron Renz, Tuatea Smallman, Betty Wheeler, John Wheeler.

Minutes
Moved that the Minutes of the Sixth Annual Meeting of 24 March 2007 be accepted. Moved by Heather Macdonald, seconded by Bob Appleton. Carried.

Matters Arising
Mark Cosgrove thanked the Advocates for the award of distinguished member at the previous AGM from which he was absent. He regarded the award as an honour and thanked the society.

President's Report
The President's Report was circulated in the Annual Report. Heather Macdonald spoke affirmatively about:

- the committee and thanked it for its willingness and expertise
- the quality of the Annual Reports, which have received supportive comments from a range of readers

- the difficult path of AFTR as a ginger group which she felt had now earned the respect of other stakeholders of the Tongariro River.
  - Taupo District Council – willingness of the Mayor and CEO to talk with us on access issues.
  - Graeme Nahkies for his leadership in developing an Integrated Catchment Management Plan (TRICMP).
  - Environment Waikato for work on TRICMP and for the grant for the wilding pines project of $36,000.
  - Mighty River Power for the courteous reception and discussion of Stuart Crosbie's paper and for leaving room for further discussion. Stuart Crosbie was thanked for his huge effort in developing a case for another way to operate the level of the lake.
  - NIWA, who at our behest consider it timely to update the book *Lake Taupo*, co-ordinated by DJ Forsyth and C Howard-Williams, 1983.
  - Mark Alston, Bridge Fishing Lodge, for his ongoing support.

Moved that the President's Report be received.
Moved by Heather Macdonald, seconded by Richard Kemp. Carried.

Financial Report

The Treasurer noted the growing importance of internet payment of subs, which greatly reduced the amount of work. The membership form is on the website www.tongariroriver.org.nz but members then have to go to their bank website to make the payment.

The 2009 accounts will reflect the Strategic Plan.
Moved that the Financial Report as in the Annual Report be received.
Moved by Eric Wilson, seconded by John Toogood. Carried.

Appointment of Committee
Bob Appleton
Ross Baker
Robert Brace
Stuart Crosbie
Richard Kemp
Heather Macdonald
Tuatea Smallman
Marja ter Haar
John Toogood
Eric Wilson

Heather Macdonald was nominated as President by Richard Kemp, seconded by Eric Wilson. Carried.

Richard Kemp was nominated as Vice-President by Bob Appleton, seconded by John Toogood. Carried.

Eric Wilson was nominated as Secretary/Treasurer by Heather Macdonald, seconded by Robert Brace. Carried.

The President thanked outgoing committee members Julian Proctor, with his extensive knowledge of the area, and John Wheeler, whose work as a surveyor and a member of the New Zealand Geographic Board made significant contributions to the Society and noted John's willingness to continue to work with us when he was able.

General Business

- Mark Cosgrove proposed Sylvia Smith and Bob MacDonnell as Distinguished Members and spoke of their significant contribution in setting up the Advocates for the Tongariro River and of their ongoing support in producing superb Annual Reports and newsletters to the highest quality. Seconded by Richard Kemp. Carried with acclaim.
- Jenny Shieff proposed that the quality of the Annual Report enabled it to be a candidate for consideration for an award for quality reports. The meeting encouraged the committee to pursue this.
- Laurie Burdett gave a brief summary of Environment Waikato (EW) work and encouraged members to make submissions on the Long-Term Council Coomunity Plan (LTCCP). Mark Cosgrove asked if money was the only objection to the TRICMP not being included in the LTCCP. Laurie stated that, along with staffing, it was, and they would be happy to participate if it could be done without cost to EW.
- Judy Charlton was thanked for her work in releasing strangled plants on the Department of Conservation (DoC) reserve.
- Mark Cosgrove advised the meeting that Tongariro River had been accepted by Taupo District Council as an outstanding landscape feature.
- Stuart Crosbie proposed a vote of thanks for the work done by the President and Secretary/Treasurer.

The meeting was then addressed by Glenn Maclean, DoC Fisheries, on the topic of a research agenda for the Taupo fishery.

The meeting closed at 4.50pm.

We have not inherited the earth from our fathers.
We are borrowing it from our children.
Native American proverb

≈ ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2009

Acting President's Report 2009

Nga mihi manawhenua kaitiaki katoa

To all of you who work to protect the taonga we have been gifted

For eight years, this Society has steadfastly sought to add to the esteem with which the Tongariro River is endowed by the community at large. That you, our members, support this intention by your membership contributions and donations and by electing a committee as strong as anyone could envisage renders that principal task both worthwhile and achievable. The generosity of members is recorded in the financial pages of this report, and I must also thank the Pharazyn Trust for its continued generous support in the form of another donation – this time, for $5,000.

Report to Members and Friends

The strategic plan (Annual Report 2008, p.75) lists three principal fields to guide our decision – making and reporting:

1. To build a strong and informed member base. We have continued to communicate with members (and others) in three ways – the website (recently restructured), an Annual Report and two newsletters. Our seminars (at Easter and Labour Weekend) have a direct educational purpose and this year offered insights into the scientific management of the fishery (Glen Maclean, DoC Technical Manager) and the management status of the river (The ideal long-term management of the Tongariro River by discussing the challenges the river faces, Jarrod Bowler, Genesis Energy, former hydrologist and now Procurements and Contracts Manager). A proposal that might lead to a second edition of the book *Lake Taupo* (edited by DJ Forsyth and C Howard-Williams) is being discussed with the second-named editor, and it may be possible to hold a meeting here of the New Zealand Freshwater Sciences Association in 2010.

2. To engage with key stakeholders. If I listed just some of the people we have met with this year, you will be able to gauge the scope of the engagement: Rick Cooper (Mayor of Taupo); Rob Williams (CEO, Taupo District Council (TDC)); John Campbell (Turangi Area Manager, Taupo District Council); Louise Upston MP (Taupo); Arthur Grace, Huia Paki, Kerry Scott and members of the Turangitukua Environment

Committee; Laurie Burdett and Laurie Donald (Environment Waikato); Dave Lumley, Leith Rhind and Joel Peters (DoC); Corrections Department managers; Chas Hutton (NZ Forest Managers), Geoff Thorp (Lake Taupo Forest Management Ltd). Our relationship with these people is cordial, and we are consulted and kept informed by them. We have worked hard to keep the Tongariro River Management Forum idea active. Recently, we established a link with Ngati Turangitukua Environment Committee; for the first time, a dialogue has been established with this key stakeholder. The road to an integrated catchment management plan now looks a little more certain. One of our committee members, Graeme Nahkies, guides this – the Advocates' most important project, the provision of a catchment management plan for the Tongariro River – with the patience of Job, making small but incisive gains with sensitive stakeholders. As a result, we may now be on the brink of a significant step forward in our wish to walk alongside Ngati Turangitukua in the process of protecting this great river. The Regional Council is still reluctant to advance this cause, but it has not completely closed the door on the matter. It may be that a lack of funds is the reason for deferral. If so, it is difficult to see how the problem can be resolved; already, the district's loan debt for flood protection works is more than $2,000,000, and it will take many years to pay that off from the small ratepayer base here. This debt on a small community trying to protect a nationally important asset is, in reality, too steep.

3. To build public support for action on key issues. We recognise six issues that virtually prescribe our agenda:

3.1. Didymo prevention. Surveillance of the invasive pest-weed *Didymosphenia geminata* continues. We await the results of scientists' studies of this species: Has it lost its vigour? Why is it not already in the North Island? These are some of the questions needing answers. We applaud DoC's agent Didymo Dave (Dave Cade) for his forthright approach reminding river users of their responsibilities to 'check, clean, dry'.

3.2. The river environment. We have two major commitments here – to eliminate wilding pines and to enhance the river's environs by planting endemic species. Both projects are in partnership with DoC and rely on DoC's technical advice. The former campaign is a five-stage wilding pine elimination strategy, of which

the first two stages are now complete. Next, in our third stage we hope DoC will monitor the restoration of native bush as the pines die and decay. Further steps (four and five) are to bring about the elimination of pines on private land and to involve the community in the removal of juvenile pines. A full report on this project is appended (Appendix 1).

John Toogood has continued to guide the wilding pines elimination project, which he established some years ago. Despite a little controversy and, sadly, some misunderstanding where a few people seem not to have grasped the national significance of this biodiversity imperative here, this project has achieved its initial intention and now looks forward to development as further stages become necessary (especially ongoing removal of juvenile pines from the DoC estate). John's hallmark is thorough preparation; he knows how to do the dots and crosses! Always thoughtful and an excellent communicator, our links with DoC (our partner in this project) are mature and based on mutual respect. That the wilding pine problem exercises the minds of the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment and most if not all regional councils, provides, on the one hand extra weight to John's work and on the other, no little satisfaction that this is the way the ecological breeze is blowing. A statement that we published in response to some concerns is appended to this report (Appendix 2).

The second project is to clear weeds from the riverbank and replant with native plants. So far, last winter, an area of about one hectare near Taupahi Reserve was felled and cleared, greatly assisted by Community Detention people. Marja ter Harr organised a planting party of some 30 citizens who planted about 1,000 shrubs one late winter's morning. The shrubs have survived well so far. Turangi residents were able to stock their woodsheds with blocks of wood from the felling.

Further work on this project has seen weed spraying through to the Birches Bridge and clearing of the DoC land between the Reserve and Te Aho Road (several hectares). This, too, has been sprayed by AFTR, and planting should take place in later winter 2010. There will be an ongoing requirement to continue the spraying.

3.3. Lake levels. An investigation of lake shore erosion problems in Lake Taupo took place in 2009. Dr Stuart Crosbie's paper (Fine tuning the resource consent conditions for Lake Taupo control levels, Annual Report 2007, pp.25–60) was made available to this enquiry.

3.4. The Mangamawhitiwhiti Block development. This project seems to have stalled, and a watching brief has been kept.

3.5. Trout condition. Our representatives at the Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee continue to critically evaluate the DoC fishery reports. We await research outcomes eagerly.

3.6. Access. This issue has dominated the Advocates' thinking through 2009. We seek access to much more of the river than can be reached currently by anglers and others and have consulted widely on ways to add to the access. We approached Mayor Rick Cooper for his advice on access, and within months, we found ourselves sponsoring and drawing up an application to the Ministry of Tourism for funding from the Prime Minister's national cycleway scheme. Whether it makes the short list for the PM's fund or not, this proposal is strong and should be picked up locally. The full story was written by Ross Baker and is presented in Appendix 3, and there is a DVD presentation put forward in support of the application.

Arising from this intensive thinking, we needed to rewrite the Issues part of our strategic plan. This new version is in Appendix 4.

This report shows a busy workload. That there are people willing and able to plan and see these projects through to active realisation and eventually completion signifies that they are worthwhile. Undoubtedly, the key factor here is the desire of our members to put something back into the care of the river.

Foremost among committee members contributing to the river's recovery and enhancement is the Society's Secretary/Treasurer. Eric Wilson devotes much time and effort to the day-to-day work required by that conjoint role. If Eric did no more than that his value would be strong, but when you consider his more general role, especially in developing the Society's website (hundreds of hours) and his ecological contributions, further value becomes apparent. Eric is always ready to step up, attending many extra meetings, making presentations (for example, to the Lakes and Waterways Group on our ecological and biodiversity projects) and liaising with community groups. His on-the-spot supervision of the Taupahi Reserve-Te Aho Reserve clearing through the winter and his readiness to meet with DoC, EW, the Probation Service, Corrections, etc is an overview of his attention.

Vice-President Richard Kemp inspires the committee to think carefully about its public utterances and spends many hours ensuring that what we intended to say is what we did say. His counsel is always helpful in progressing our projects.

As well as the aforementioned committee people Ross Baker, John Toogood, Graeme Nahkies, Stuart Crosbie and Marja Ter Harr (who also stood in as secretary), it is with pleasure that, I thank Tuatea Smallman and Neville Young (appointed October 2009) for their ongoing input.

Retirements

Three committee people have retired or have announced their intention to do so soon.

Bob Appleton, our representative on the Taupo Fishing Advisory Committee (a Ministerial appointment) has indicated that he will step down at this Annual Meeting. Bob, supported by Eric Wilson, continued to press the DoC Fisheries staff to adopt scientific investigations into reasons for decline in fish quality. Bob is a foundation member of our Society, and he has extensive knowledge of the Tongariro River Power Development (Eastern) Scheme.

Heather Macdonald was elected President for the fourth time at the 2009 Annual Meeting, but regrettably had to step down for health reasons soon after. Heather made an immense contribution to this Society from its very genesis, and she brought several great skills to bear. Heather will be remembered for her capacity to get the best out of people, her easy manner, legendary hospitality and sharp perception.

Robert Brace also retired from the committee. We hope that this is not a permanent situation as he provided enlightening insights and personal skills valued here.

Outside the committee, I am pleased to record our Society's gratitude to several people.

Sylvia Smith and Bob MacDonnell have overseen the evolution of the Advocates brand from its humble origins to its current standing. At the 2008 Annual Meeting, I was particularly pleased to nominate Sylvia and Bob as Distinguished Members. In doing so, I stated:

"When the idea of forming a group called the Advocates was nothing more than a tiny thought, it was Sylvia and Bob, with their rousing speeches in response to EW proponents at a Project Watershed hearing in Turangi, who helped to convince us that there would be sufficient fire power in the community to set up a group that could tweak the tail of the bureaucrat lion as it were.

Since then, both Sylvia and Bob have contributed to the standing of this Society by both identifying with its purposes and by setting very high presentation standards in our Annual Reports, newsletters and website.

And don't forget their part in our didymo campaign; the posters are graphically strong and the radio slots were forceful.

Sylvia and Bob have concentrated our minds on the need to keep the AFTR brand clear and strong as it evolves.

Here, plainly, the medium really is the message, as Marshall McLuhan told us it would be.

So our Society would be a quite different outfit without its professionally prepared Annual Reports, without its stand-out newsletters and without its state of the art website – not only different but also the poorer.

It is particularly pleasing to have such people join us and stay with us; the street credibility of the Advocates is unquestionable – we are taken seriously.

Sylvia Smith and Robert MacDonnell have much to do with that standing."

Mike Forret is our webmaster, and the website is becoming a powerful archive, library and database. Mike's liaison with Eric Wilson is effective, and between the two, they get the job done.

Bob Glover reviews our accounts and provides advice to the Society. We gratefully acknowledge this assistance.

Mark Cosgrove
Acting President, 4 April 2010

≈ FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the 12-month period ended 31 December 2009

	2009	2008
	$	$
Income		
Subscriptions and donations	9,768	4,674
Grant	0	36,000
WCEET (Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust)	5,000	0
IRD refund	0	188
Interest deposit	1,308	1,959
Pharazyn Trust grant	5,000	5,000
	21,076	47,821
Expenditure		
Advertising and promotion	287	1,130
Post box rental	135	135
Website	765	765
Newsletter	1,368	2,327
AGM, seminar, report and expense	7,485	3,515
Admin postage, stationery and banking	2,373	1,017
Access	5,171	0
Didymo	0	804
Seminar Rotorua Lakes Water Quality	0	490
Planting for the future	2,198	500
Wilding pines	15,603	12,880
Lake level	31	216
Mangamawhitiwhiti	0	0
Trout quality	0	0
Catchment management plan	306	0
Other	0	1,075
	35,721	**24,955**
Excess income over expenditure	**-14,645**	**22,866**

Statement of Financial Position

As at 31 December 2009

	2009	2008
	$	$
Current assets		
Bank	1,686	1,639
Term deposit	27,870	42,562
Debtor	0	0
Total assets	**29,556**	**44,201**
Current liabilities		
Creditors	0	0
Net assets	**29,556**	**44,201**
Accumulated funds		
Balance at 31 December 2009	44,201	21,335
Net surplus for year	-14,645	22,866
Total surplus	**29,556**	**44,201**

Mark Cosgrove
Chairperson

Eric Wilson
Treasurer

≈ NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period ended 31 December 2009

Statement of Accounting Policies

Reporting Entity
The Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc. is incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

The financial statements of the Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc. have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

Measurement Base
The accounting principles recognised as appropriate for the measurement and reporting of earnings and financial position on a historical cost basis are followed by the Society.

Specific Accounting Policies
The following specific accounting policies that materially affect the measurement of financial performance have been applied.

- Subscriptions are recorded on a cash received basis.

Changes in Accounting Policies
There have been no 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 provided by your Treasurer and have been verified by R H Glover a retired Chartered Accountant, and show the financial position as at 31 December 2009.

R H Glover

The young pine trees on the right bank of the Tongariro River obscure the view of the Kaimanawa Ranges, and worse, they suffocate native scrub and trees, reduce the food supply for insects and birds and jeopardise bridges when swept away in floods.

A resident exclaimed, "I can see the mountains now", and these poisoned pines certainly let more light into the scrub layers. While unsightly for a time, there is no other practical way to remove them.

Soon, the pines will rot away and disappear, and the river's banks will return to their original vegetation as this artistic photographic recreation suggests. Native and endemic species such as manuka, kanuka, kowhai, toetoe and other grasses, ti rakau (cordyline species), flaxes and so on will return.

Once the lower canopy is re-established, the podocarps will slowly reappear. Emerging from that canopy will be beech, maire, matai, totara and rimu as can be seen in this photograph of a portion of the riverbank where there are few wilding pines.

Planting morning, 22 August 2009.

This group planted some 1,000 shrubs and trees on a portion of the riverbank near Taupahi Reserve in little more than 90 minutes. The land had been cleared of weeds under the Advocates' supervision as part of a planting project that links the path from the Birches Bridge to Te Aho Reserve. Further preparatory work (tree felling, spraying blackberry, slashing and clearing undergrowth) is under way, and some 3,000 plants in DoC's Turangi depot will go in this winter.

≈ APPENDIX 1

THE RIVER ENVIRONMENT

John Toogood writes

In the December newsletter, we reported on progress with the pines project. To summarise again, we have effectively completed the first two stages of this project, with only the treatment of missed trees, tidying up of some of the felled trees and removal of a selection of the trees along the boundary with the Mangamawhitiwhiti Block to be done.

The next three stages in this enhancement project are to establish where we can go from here (1) by way of eradicating wilding pines on government land and privately owned land and removal of trees along the tracks, river margins and boundaries, and (2) developing a programme to inhibit the re-establishment of juvenile wilding pines in all treated areas. Further (in stage 5), we hope that scientific observation of treated areas will also be carried out so that an overall measure of the effectiveness of the project can be gained. Already there are signs of regenerating native flora. Further funds will be sought once we have developed these stages, but to date, we have effectively completed what we set out to do in initiating this rather ambitious project. But we cannot stop there.

Also as mentioned in the last newsletter, it is worth stressing that the value of projects such as this one has been increasingly recognised in New Zealand, with the growing awareness of the threat to our native flora and fauna that self-seeded wilding pines present, with no greater evidence of this awareness being the TV ONE *Country Calendar* and *Rural Delivery* coverage last year of the local community-initiated eradication programme in the Marlborough Sounds and the concern, with various accompanying projects, about the wilding pines in the Mackenzie Country and Queenstown areas as expressed by the Parliamentary Commissioner for the Environment. There have also been a number of eradication programmes around Lake Taupo and, of course, the wilding pines control programme in the Tongariro National Park.

Obviously, the purpose of these sorts of environmental recovery programmes is to halt and reverse the threat that exotic plants pose to native flora. The habitats of native fauna are also damaged – fewer manuka trees means fewer manuka beetles, which means less food for birds (and, of course, trout!). It is important to remember that, one way or another, we have introduced exotic plants to this country – some have proved pests but most are good and highly appreciated as the wonderful colour in our gardens and the magnificent russet tones in autumn. However, it is fair to say that few true New Zealanders would expect, let alone tolerate, the thought that these exotics might take over and displace their own native species; hence, the national and regional drive to eradicate or control the huge variety of introduced noxious weeds.

The problem with the radiata wilding pines, however, is two-fold. Whereas they grow in only a few small areas in their native California, they grow prolifically almost anywhere in New Zealand, particularly in areas such as the marginal scrublands where native forest does not occur or where it is in the process of re-establishing itself. It is in these areas that the wilding pines will grow rapidly and take over as a 'monocultural' forest, reducing the generation of natives to a few species within it, with the consequent adverse effect on birdlife, and so on. The Tongariro River basin is a typical example.

The second part of the problem is that wilding pines such as *Pinus radiata* do not carry a noxious weed classification, with the consequence that they do not fall into national or regional statutory funding programmes, unless they are located in National Park or sanctioned reserve areas. Funding is available for voluntary work, but the impetus then rests entirely on the initiative of groups such as ourselves. What happens if there are no such initiatives?

In the light of this background, we probably now need to ask ourselves a few questions in relation to the nature of our future involvement in the pines and other possible programmes:

- As an environmental advocate group, how involved in the running of these projects should we really be, as opposed to becoming fundraisers, with others managing the fieldwork? The Department of Conservation in Turangi have made it clear that the current project needs still to be our initiative, but others such as the Natural History Society may well be interested in being included and have alluded to this earlier.

- What can we do to get wilding pines classified and included in national and regional noxious weed control programmes? Plantation forestry is here to stay, but should we be pushing for a levy from the forest industry as well to contribute to the resource pool? It would not be reasonable to put full blame for the problem on the forest industry, but there is plenty of evidence that, in many areas, it has contributed to it.
- The Tongariro River is of paramount importance to the economies of the town of Turangi and the Taupo region as an integral part of the Taupo fishery. Can we advocate for the Taupo District Council to take on a greater responsibility in light of the elevation of the Tongariro and its environs to 'outstanding landscape' in the District Plan, a result of our (and DoC's) submission to that plan?
- The spread of wilding pines is recognised as a major threat to our native flora, but what about other noxious plants such as Scotch broom, cotoneaster and buddleia? If we are to be concerned about the future of the Tongariro environment, should we include these and other exotics in our sights?

Typically, one answer to these questions might be that we spend more of our energy in advocating for the statutory recognition of the Tongariro River and its environs as a national icon so that it qualifies for national and regional government resources, such as funding being made available to DoC for the inclusion of wilding pines in the management of the river environs. We are already advocating for the establishment of the Tongariro River Management Forum to get Environment Waikato to accept more of its responsibility for the river management. Achievement of this would go a long way towards having the Tongariro officially recognised by the Regional Council for the national icon that it is.

These are some of the questions and issues your committee will tackle in the coming year. We welcome any input or suggestions from members.

We hope that our pines project will add weight to even greater national awareness and support.

≈ APPENDIX 2

ADVOCATES FOR THE TONGARIRO RIVER INC. WILDING PINES PROJECT

A Department of Conservation-Advocates Partnership

This Society envisions the Tongariro River corridor being returned as close as possible to its natural state so that the river valley's landscape values and its biodiversity status are restored.

The project – dealing with a problem

A necessary part of this vision is the eradication of exotic pests such as wilding pines. These pines are a problem because they are aggressive colonisers in New Zealand growing conditions (unlike their more restrained growth in their native habitats of North America).

These pines are a special nuisance in areas where native forest regrowth is being encouraged. Here, alongside the Tongariro River, pines are visually intrusive – an important factor where aesthetic landscape values are to be restored. The pest trees also overpower emerging native plants as they win the competition for forest space. For the fauna, they offer none of the advantages of native trees – no berries or nectar, which encourage bird and insect life. Further, pine needles inhibit regeneration of native forest floor flora.

Nationwide, there are many campaigns aimed at curtailing these pest trees. A simple Google search will show the vigour of the overall crusade as New Zealanders restore their respect for native flora; there are over 300 pages of websites. All regional councils are taking action against wilding pines as part of New Zealand's Biodiversity Strategy. The Marlborough Sounds eradication of pines is an often quoted arm of this movement, and nearer home, the Kinloch Community Association is dealing with feral pines near there, and as one drives south from Taupo along State Highway 1 at Hatepe, there are many recently poisoned pine trees to be seen in the Hinemaia River Valley. Nearer home, the joint DoC-Tongariro Natural History Society project to restore the Motuoapa wetlands brought about the poisoning of pine trees, clearly visible from the highway.

The project to eliminate pines started several years ago, with poisoning in the Department of Conservation reserves on the left bank of the Tongariro River upstream of the Trout Centre and later, by the AFTR, on the right bank. The work, unfinished, has moved upstream to about one kilometre above the Red Hut suspension bridge. The effect of the poisoning there is not subtle; there are many trees in the brown stage, in which the needles die and drop. Soon, the skeletons will turn grey, and later, they will rot away.

Understandably, some people are upset by the effect of rust brown pine needles on large trees on the skyline. Of course, if the problem had been addressed say 20 years ago when the trees were much smaller, the visual effects would have been much lower. Conversely, if they were to be left any longer, the ability to manage them would become far more difficult and perhaps cause the increasing persistence of a wilding pine forest. The Department of Conservation had no funding to do this work, and it may have considered that there was little community interest anyway. Even now, with some funding provided through grants made to the AFTR, there is just enough to use this poisoning technique.

At present, there are many middle-sized wilding pines causing distress due to the continued presence of those poisoned trees. Can anything be done to improve the situation? The AFTR have explored several possible options.

Can the visual effects be dealt with quickly?
Removing the skeletal trees, known as standing spars, by cutting them down is dangerous on two counts. First, there is high risk to the safety of timber workers. Second, unrotted spars lying on the ground present heavy fuels, which increase the risk of extreme fire damage should there be a bush fire. Further, the damage to any understorey of regenerating natives as whole spars crash down would be disastrous. Therefore, tree skeleton removal is not an option. The standing spars must be left to rot down.

How long might this take? Climate and weather will play a major role. From about five years, the effects of rotting down should be noticeable.

This method is not only the most cost-effective way of dealing with these pines, but it is also the most effective. The gradual shedding of needles as the trees die means that the light entering the forest floor gradually intensifies. This factor favours the natives; if the whole pest tree is suddenly removed, the survival of young exotics would be favoured.

However, as part of the partnership between DoC and AFTR, it was always intended and agreed that the trees along the access tracks and riverbanks would be felled by contractors with funding arranged by AFTR. Accordingly, there will not be any safety issues in relation to those trees (whether already poisoned or not) along any track areas, as they will shortly be felled and physically removed professionally.

Already, biodiversity gains have been detected. DoC officers report that a stand of juvenile totara in the upper river has been given a better start and should grow to maturity now that the pines there have shed their needles, thus letting light in.

The AFTR appreciate the concern at the temporary harm done to the skyline landscape in parts of the river valley, but how else could this problem be addressed? The AFTR have taken the only course available.

Why are the Advocates involved?
The AFTR regard the river as a taonga of the highest rank in this district, and the Society is committed to helping the river's recovery and eventual restoration. This commitment takes in four practical steps at present:

- Protection of existing indigenous flora. Mature and juvenile kahikatea of noble status on private land at Kowhai Flat have been listed in the Taupo District Council's outstanding and notable trees registry. As such, these specimens form a distinctive attraction for tourists.
- Planting further specimens of endemic species, especially kowhai, along the riverside walkway.
- Weeding amongst newly planted natives, involving AFTR members, residents and occasionally Corrections Department inmates.
- Eliminating wilding pines. This part of the restoration will achieve native plant germination and growth through better light conditions and through improved forest floor conditions and so on as outlined above.

The AFTR have received funding from several sources. These include Trustpower awards and grants from the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust, Pharazyn Trust and the Waikato Regional Council.

These bodies would not have committed their funds if they had not been sure of the quality of the applications mounted by the AFTR, the degree of accountability shown and the Society's growing track record of getting ecologically important things done.

The AFTR have received a number of awards for their ecological work. These include the TrustPower Community Award for the environment and, from the Tongariro Taupo Conservancy of the Department of Conservation, an award that recognises the work done towards the conservation of the natural, historic and cultural resources of the central North Island. There is a DoC-AFTR joint sign located on the riverbank showcasing the important work done by this community group in partnership with the Department of Conservation.

Further activity involving catchment management is in the pipeline.

The Society works within the guidelines of New Zealand's Biodiversity Policy and it co-operates with the Department of Conservation in this task of controlling exotic pest species so that native flora and fauna may survive.

Many of the members of the AFTR are residents of Turangi and keen anglers. We, like everyone else, share this amazing river and are keen to preserve its heritage and quality not only for our own enjoyment but for future generations. The steps that have been taken in conjunction with DoC are in the long-term interests of not just all of us but the river itself.

We warmly welcome the involvement of anyone else committed to the preservation and enhancement of the river and refer you to our website below if you would like to join with us.

Mark Cosgrove
Acting President

For more information about wilding pines, visit these websites:

- www.doc.govt.nz/publications/conservation/threats-and-impacts/weeds/wilding-pines/
- www.wildernessmag.co.nz//index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=70&Itemid=37 or Google 'wilding-pines nz'
- AFTR website www.tongariroriver.org.nz

≈ APPENDIX 3

NEW ZEALAND CYCLE TRAIL PROJECT APPLICATION – TONGARIRO RIVER TRAIL (TRT)

At the time of preparing the Annual Report, the Advocates – and indeed most of Turangi are waiting and hoping this TRT proposal will be one of the successful applications for funding by the New Zealand Cycle Trail Project.

The TRT application by the Advocates is to extend the Tongariro rIver anglers' access tracks to link with other tracks through the Rangipo Prison Farm to connect with Pillars of Hercules and Tree Trunk Gorge.

This proposal has received full support from the community, from the Taupo Mayor, Taupo MP, Taupo District Council, Department of Conservation, Department of Corrections, Genesis Energy, Tongariro National Trout Centre and all other community groups. Many of these supporters materially assisted with the application.

The application is to build a three-day 60 kilometre biking/walking trail circuit from Turangi. Over 60% of the route uses existing tracks. The programme is as follows:

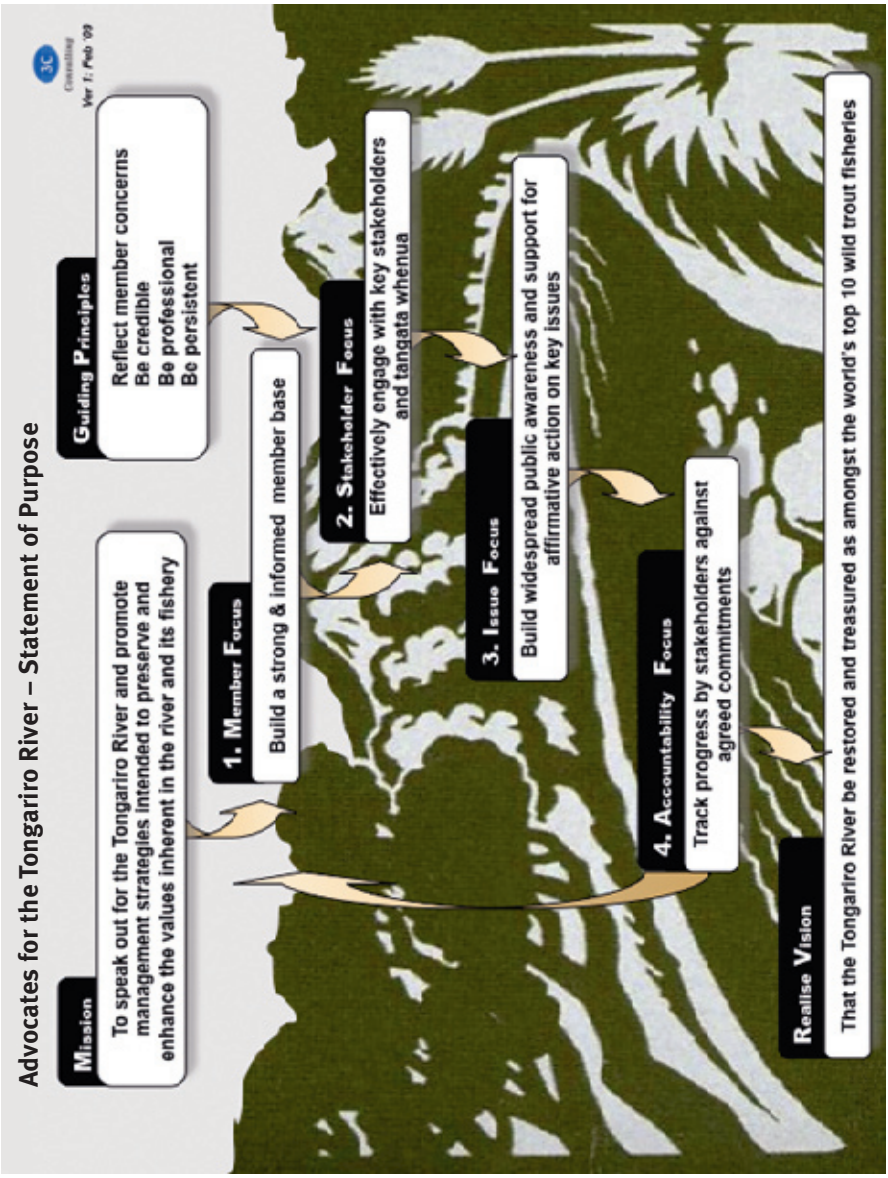
Day 1 leads south up the eastern side (RHS) continuing from above the Duchess Pool to cross the Whitikau River to link with roads through the Rangipo Prison Farm, past the DoC fish trap on the Waipa, and new tracks above the river to Poutu Intake. The main feature of Day 1 is the Waipa Fish Trap. Shuttle buses will provide transport back from Poutu Intake, or many are expected to take the raft option to return to Turangi.

Day 2 has shuttle buses returning bikers and walkers to Poutu Intake dam where the continuing circuit route leads south to Pillars of Hercules to Tree Trunk Gorge and return back on the western side of the Tongariro River on old access tracks. Again, there is a choice of return by shuttle bus or raft to Turangi.

Day 3 again involves shuttle bus to Poutu Intake where the track will lead back along the western side of the Tongariro River with the feature for the return being the Trout Centre (which is currently being redeveloped with a freshwater aquarium).

So what are our chances? Already, the New Zealand Cycle Trail Project has appointed three tracks (out of seven fast-track projects) for the Central Plateau region. Therefore, this region could be considered as already over-represented. Also, there are over 50 applications competing for the remaining funds, which will probably only be sufficient for 12–15 new tracks, so our chances are not good. However, as this proposal received such outstanding local support, the Advocates are considering other funding options – Plan B & C etc.

≈ APPENDIX 4 THE ADVOCATES STRATEGY PAPERS *Strategy Map*



3C Consulting
Ver 4: Feb '10

1. Member Focus

Build a strong & informed member base

Strategies

M1 Gain public involvement and support for the Advocates as an entity and build membership

M2 Be informed and credible through increasing Advocates collective knowledge of all aspects of the river

M3 Sustain financial viability to fund planned activities

Achievements to date

- Have developed respect from stakeholders as a credible organisation
- Current membership ..... 215 (Dec '09)
- Funds on hand $29,000
- Website developed
- A strong dedicated committee
- Passionate core membership
- Grants of $97,000 to date
- Each year member donations have equalled subscriptions

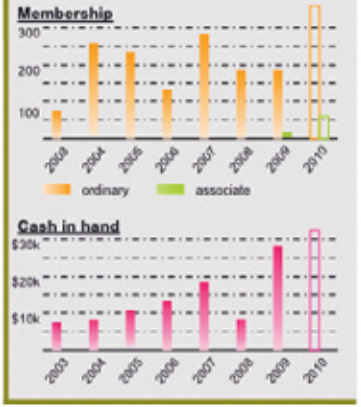
Destination by 2012

- Have more than 100 Turangi members
- Have a membership in excess of 350
- Fishing clubs and other recreational groups of the Tongariro are associate members
- Cash reserves at least $30,000
- 40% of annual income derived from non-subscription sources
- Comprehensive knowledge base established, maintained and communicated on all aspects of the Tongariro River

Actions for 2010

	WHAT	WHO	WHEN	BUDGET
MA1	Maintain website to ensure it is dynamic and user friendly	Eric	Ongoing	$700
MA2	Develop a marketing plan, including reviewing our logo	Stuart, John T, Eric	Apr 10	$2,500
MA3	Regularly communicate with members -through website, seminars, newsletters (2/annum), Annual Report & AGM	Eric/Mark	4 monthly	$7,500
MA4	Assemble reference material on the Tongariro River and publish/ reference on website. Support establishment of Tongariro River reference section in National Trout Centre Library	Eric/Cttee	Ongoing	See MA8
MA5	Survey member satisfaction levels annually and test for emerging issues (synchronise with newsletter 1)	Stuart	May 10	See MA4
MA6	Network with other like advocacy bodies (eg Freshwater Anglers, National Trout Centre, Environmental Defence Society)	Cttee	Ongoing	See MA8
MA7	Develop and maintain Strategic & Annual Action Plan	Stuart	Ongoing	See MA8
MA8	Undertake routine administration, prepare Annual Budget and gain appropriate funding sources for approved projects	Eric	Ongoing	$1,300
			Total	$12,000

Scorecard



2. Stakeholder Focus

Effectively engage with key stakeholders

3C Consulting
Ver 3: Feb '10

Strategies

S1 Ensure there is a robust and Integrated Management Plan for the Tongariro based on credible scientific information and sound river management methodology

S2 Maintain effective relationships with stakeholders with a cultural, management, recreational and/or commercial stake in the Tongariro

S3 Liaise effectively with Ngati Tuwharetoa & Ngati Turangitukua

Achievements to date

- Brought about establishment of Tongariro River Management Forum and agreement to develop ICM Plan
- ☑ Represented on Taupo Fishing Advisory Committee
- ☑ Crosbie report on lake level regime requested by joint TDC/EW Committee on lake shore erosion.
- ☑ Constructive working relationships with all primary stakeholders & good local networks
- National level contacts initiated in some areas as necessary

Destination by 2012

- Comprehensive Tongariro River Management & Catchment Plans in place
- All primary stakeholders respect and value the Advocates balance between (i) working alongside stakeholders whilst (ii) retaining its discretion to act independently
- Comprehensive local and national networks in place

Actions for 2010

	WHAT	WHO	WHEN	BUDGET
SA1	Contribute to development of Tongariro River Catchment Mgmt Plan (whole catchment)	Graeme N, Mark	On-going	$500
SA2	Maintain strong working relationships with the primary stakeholders – EW, TDC, DoC, Genesis, MRP, Ngati Turangitukua and Ngati Tuwharetoa. Conduct annual 'feedback assessment'	All Cmte	On-going	
SA3	Build & maintain good local networks – including Turangi Tongariro Community Board, Ngati Turangitukua, the River Management Forum, Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee, National Trout Centre Trust, TALTAC, and with community through planting/ clearing programme	Local Cmte members	On-going	
SA4	Ensure River Mgmt Plans (i) utilise assessment reports; (ii) have well informed intervention strategies; (iii) include monitoring, reporting & review procedures and (iv) have statutory status.	Graeme N, Mark	On-going	
SA5	Develop national networks – including DoC, Ministry for the Environment, BiosecurityNZ – as appropriate	Richard/ Neville	On-going	
SA6	Through TFAC press for comprehensive ongoing research effort to better understanding the dynamics of the Taupo Fishery	TFAC rep	On-going	
			Total	$500

Scorecard

Integrated Catchment Management Plan

- Benchmarking shows it is best in class with regular review and updating

Stakeholder Feedback

- Annual feedback assessment affirms a constructive relationship with all key stakeholders

3. Issue Focus

Build widespread public awareness and support for affirmative action on key issues

3C Consulting
Ver 3: Feb '10

Strategies

I1 Maintain watching brief on current and emerging issues – their potential impact and mitigation strategies being advocated

I2 Generate increased awareness of value of the river, its heritage, potential and the risks to its sustainability if not well managed

I3 Advocate for actions that will protect and enhance the in- stream values of the fishery and the river environment

Achievements to date

- Raised awareness of potential risks of Didymo incursion and stimulated local action; national ban of felt-soled waders
- DoC-AFTR partnership in riverside planting
- Grants of $41,000 for pine eradication
- Advocates led funding application to Ministry of Tourism for 60km Cycle/Walkway development along Tongariro River
- Science pertaining to the river continues to be made available to the public via seminars
- Analysis of lake level and river flow rate data for past 50-100 years

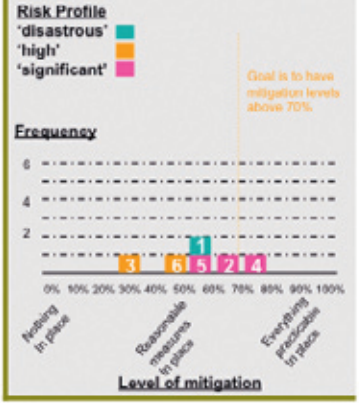
Destination by 2012

- North Island remains Didymo free
- The public (particularly river users) highly attuned to the seriousness of Didymo threat and act accordingly
- Developed AFTR position on industrial Vs recreational use of water, balancing economic and amenity values.
- All 'disastrous', 'high' and 'significant' issues are being managed responsibly

Actions for 2010

	WHAT	WHO	WHEN	BUDGET
IA1	Didymo Prevention – advocate for NI to be Didymo Free and for special preventative controls for the Taupo Fishery 1	Ross, Marja	On-going	$100
IA2	River Environs Restoration – facilitate restoration of the River Margin and continue with planting programme 2	John , Marja	Ongoing	$9,500
IA3	Lake Levels & River Flow Rates – seek power company cooperation in aiding the river to flush itself 3	Stuart, Mark	Ongoing	
IA4	Mangamawhitiwhiti block– maintain watching brief 4	Graeme, Tuatea	Ongoing	
IA5	Trout Condition – ensure our world class fishery is sustained through good science and effective management strategies 5	Richard & Eric	Ongoing	
IA6	Access – gain improved access (for anglers and non-anglers alike) to a greater proportion of the Tongariro River 6	Ross, Stuart & Neville	Ongoing	
IA7	Utilise multiple communication channels (newsletters, web site, media releases, seminars, etc.) to raise public awareness & support for taking affirmative action on issues	President & Secretary	On-going	
			Total	$9,600

Scorecard



4. Accountability Focus

3C Consulting
Ver 3: Feb '10

Track progress by stakeholders against agreed commitments

Strategies

A1 Monitor plans and proposals of local and regional government on catchment management and relevant resource consents

A2 Adopt 'critical friend role' to statutory bodies

Achievements to date

- Presented paper on state of Tongariro River to Parliamentary Select Committee for Local Gov. and the Environment
- Lobbied Central Govt, EW and TDC government agencies (elected members and senior managers)
- Key submissions in 2008 (Mighty River Power on lake levels; Ministry for the Environment on freshwater policy; EW on support for development of ICMP)

Destination by 2012

- EW Integrated Catchment Management Plan operating with regular reviews and updates
- In line with the Conservation Act 1988, DoC leaders in (i) maintaining a full scientific description of the fishery and in (ii) proactively managing river nursery and the restoration of the Taupo Fishery back to 1960-1980s status

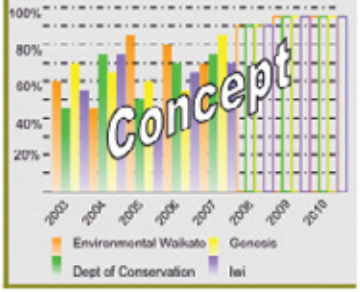
Actions for 2010

	WHAT	WHO	WHEN	BUDGET
AA1	Monitor Environmental Waikato's overall governance of the river via their river and catchment management plans as they are implemented and updated drawing on up to date scientific and engineering information.	Mark	On-going	
AA2	Monitor adherence by Genesis and Mighty River Power to their 35 year Resource Consent provisions for electricity generation, and the need to have provisions reviewed periodically.	Ross & Jock McNab	On-going	
AA3	Monitor DoC longitudinal data on trout catch rates, size and condition in the Tongariro River and the associated causal factors pertaining to the Taupo Fishery as a whole	Richard & Eric	On-going	
AA4	Canvas Management Forum members on an annual basis to ascertain member views on the effectiveness of the forum against its initial terms of reference	Graeme & Stuart	On-going	
			Total	$0

Scorecard

Tongariro River's World Ranking
- International Fly Fishing Rating in Top 10

Planned Milestones (against ICMP)
- % of agreed milestones achieved by key stakeholders on time and within budget



≈ LIST OF MEMBERS

Adams Cecilia
Adams Gary
Anderson Sue
Andrews Charles
Appleton Allan
Appleton Bob
Appleton Shirley
Auckland Freshwater Anglers' Club
Avery Bill
Baker Betty
Baker Garry
Baker Pip
Baker Ross
Ballard Alan
Bartle Murray
Batson Brian
Battell Brian
Bingham Peter
Blackbeard Rob
Brace Robert
Bramley Elizabeth
Bramley Robert
Brown Karilyn
Brown Mark
Butterworth Warren
Butts Mack
Calder Alex
Chapman Barry
Charlton Jude
Charlton Tony
Christmas Andrew
Church Jock
Church Virginia
Connor Geoff
Connor Sue
Cosgrove Alison
Cosgrove Mark
Cowan Arthur B
Cranfield Edith
Cranfield Sam
Crosbie Stuart
Cunnack Renny
Dandy Valerie
Duckworth Bob
Duckworth Heather
Duff Graham
Duff Marion
Elliott Helen
Fair Bill
Freitag Iris
Freitag Walter
Fullerton-Smith David
Gabelich Vince
Gay Gary
Gay Lorita
Grace Andrew
Grace Diane
Godkin Wayne
Godkin Wendy
Hancox Margaret
Hancox Rod
Hayes Carter
Hazelwood Robert
Hazelwood Robert W
Heffernan Rosemary
Henderson Rob
Heron Henry
Hoby Arthur C
Hodder Marie
Hodder Selwyn
Holden Peter
Horton Warwick
Hosking Lesley
Jackson Arlene
Jackson Bernard
Kemp Honor
Kemp Richard
Lean Peter
Lee Ann
Legg Raymond
Littlejohn Richard
Macdonald Heather
MacDonnell Robert
MacDowel Ian
Maingay Cameron
Manawatu Fresh Water Anglers' Club
Manz Arthur
Martin Kevin
Marbeck Diana
McCallum Elizabeth
McCallum John
McCulloch Don
McGregor Rod
McNab Alasdair
Mills Jim
Nahkies Graeme
Nahkies Natasha
Nelson Judy
Nott John
Osborne Anne
Parsons John
Peake Anita
Peake Mike
Peterson Graeme
Peterson Mary
Pritt Christine
Renz Ron
Richardson Roy
Rickards Adrian
Rickards Renee
Robertson Amanda
Robertson Trevor
Roger Alastair
Rosoman Alan
Ross Carol
Ross Johnathan
Rundle Anthony
Scoular Robin
Sherborne Mary
Sherborne Ray
Shieff Jenny
Shieff June
Shieff Sarah
Shipley Amy
Shipley Holly
Shipley Paul
Shirley Graeme
Short Murray
Short Niwa
Small Rosemary
Smith Catherine
Smith Peter
Smith Sylvia
Stevenson Dan
Strand Frances
Strand William
Sutton Terry
Teague Brenda
Teague Clinton
Thomson James
Thomson John
Toft Edwin
Toft John
Tongariro National Trout Centre Society Inc.
Tonks Eddie
Tonks Claire
Toogood John
Toogood Susie
Toy Max
Truebridge Dick
Truebridge Heather
Waite Barry
Wakefield Rohan
Wakefield St.John
Watson Richard
Wheeler Betty
Wheeler John
Whyte Elizabeth
Whyte Malcolm
Wilcox Jenny
Williams Peter
Wilson Eric
Wilson Lorraine
Wilson Vergne
Woollcombe Bill
Young Arnica
Young Chris
Young Heydon
Young Irene

51 unlisted

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

WWW.TONGARIRORIVER.ORG.NZ