



»≈ ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER | 2020



ADVOCATES
FOR THE
TONGARIRO
RIVER

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COMMITTEE 2020

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

LIFE MEMBERS

Dr Mark Cosgrove
Heather McDonald
Bob McDonnell
Sylvia Smith
Eric Wilson

COVER



The Hydro Pool or Ministry of Works Pool. "Named for the works camp set up nearby in Kutai Street, Turangi, for the purpose of erecting the pylons across the Desert Road. The Pool is notable for the number of Brown Trout that are caught from the river bank below the Mangamawhitiwhiti stream." From Pools of The Tongariro River by Allan and Barbara Cooper. Pg17.

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Advocates for the Tongariro
River Incorporated
117 Taupahi Road
Turangi 3334

Contact can be made through our website
www.tongariroriver.org.nz

≈ NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The nineteenth Annual General Meeting of the Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc. will be held at Parklands, Conference Room, on Saturday 22nd May 2021 10.30am. Located on the corner of Te Arahori Street and State Highway 1 (opposite Z petrol station). All welcome.



≈ AGENDA

The business of the Annual General Meeting will be to:

- record those present and note apologies
- receive the minutes of the 18th Annual General Meeting
- receive the President's report
- approve the financial statements
- consider motions of which due notice has been provided. The full rules of the 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 and 10 committee members
- consider any other matters.

≈ MINUTES

Minutes of the Eighteenth Annual Meeting of the Advocates For The Tongariro River, Sunday 26th April 2020, 10.30am using Zoom.

Present

Gary Brown, (Chairperson), Warren Butterworth, Tim Castle, Sam Coxhead, Alasdair Keucke, John Toogood, Eric Wilson, Mike Forret, Julian Proctor, Stuart Crosbie, Virginia Church, Graeme Nahkies, Ian Rodger, Heather Macdonald, Jenny Shieff.

Apologies

Richard Kemp, .

Moved Alasdair Keucke, *Seconded* Tim Castle, “That apologies be accepted.” *Carried*.

Minutes of the 17th Annual Meeting

Moved Warren Butterworth “That the minutes of the 17th Annual meeting held 27 April 2018 be accepted.” *Carried*.

President’s Report

The President’s Report was published in the 2019 Annual Report. The Report was taken as read. Matters arising discussed later in the meeting as unsure of what happens when Zoom time runs out.

Moved Warren Butterworth, *Seconded* Heather Macdonald, “That the President’s Report be received.” *Carried*.

Financial Report

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

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

Election of Officers

The following committee was elected.

		MOVED	SECONDED	
President	Gary Brown	Eric	Heather	<i>Carried</i>
Co Vice President	Warren Butterworth	Julian	Heather	<i>Carried</i>
Co Vice President	Richard Kemp	Julian	Heather	<i>Carried</i>
Secretary	Eric Wilson	Stuart	Gary	<i>Carried</i>
Treasurer	John Toogood	Heather	Warren	<i>Carried</i>
Committee (up to 9)	Tim Castle	Gary	Graeme	<i>Carried</i>
	Virginia Church	Gary	Graeme	<i>Carried</i>
	Sam Coxhead	Gary	Graeme	<i>Carried</i>
	Stuart Crosbie	Gary	Graeme	<i>Carried</i>
	Mike Forret	Gary	Graeme	<i>Carried</i>
	Alisdair Keucke	Gary	Graeme	<i>Carried</i>
	Julian Proctor	Gary	Graeme	<i>Carried</i>

Stuart Crosbie agreed to stand again as a committee member. *Elected.*

General Business

1. Access. Issue is that there is a right of access for anglers from the Delta to the Fence Pool. Where tracks have become overgrown negotiation is required with the private landowners to re-establish tracks. Once formed tracks need to be maintained to keep them open.
2. Windows to view the river from Tongariro River Trail. Committee to discuss with Dave Lumley. Frustration at being close to the river, hear the river but not see the river.
3. Graham Whyman wishes to stand down as Chair of Taupo Fishing Advisory Committee (TFAC). Julian Proctor to be the TALTAC rep. Richard to nominate Julian as Chair at the TFAC meeting.
4. Wilding Pines. Wilding Pines on river flats a concern.

The meeting closed at 11.15am.

≈ **PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2020**

President Gary Brown reports

Nga mihi nui kia koutou katoa

Warm greetings to our advocate members

It is again my pleasure to report on our committee's activities for the 2020 year.

During the year we held 5 meetings, in February, April, June, September and November.

As for the rest of NZ & the world the Covid 19 pandemic had a considerable impact on our Activities, resulting in our April meeting (including our AGM) being successfully held online by Zoom which was a new experience for most if not all of us.

The Covid total lockdown (viz level 4) resulted in no lake or river fishing during the period and our angling members (& the fish) had a holiday. See appendix F2 in which the Taupo Harbourmaster spelt out the impact of the Covid restrictions on the fishery'.

Our intrepid secretary Eric kept in contact with the committee during the year (& particularly during lockdown) maintaining communication with us all regarding the various issues we are involved with, and which I will outline in this report.

The aims of the Advocates for the Tongariro remain as per appendix F1. We have found this document valuable in keeping us on track.

The Tongariro River catchment

As I mentioned last year the river and its catchment area is a highly treasured NZ resource. This has been particularly noticeable since lockdown with increasing numbers of NZers (in the absence of overseas tourists) walking and biking the river trail & enjoying the great river fishing. The riverside native tree planting carried out by advocate members & other volunteer groups is proving effective.

A current issue we are discussing with DOC is the creation of view shafts along the river trail. DOC have agreed to carry out tree trimming in the various areas we have nominated.

River access and river bed maintenance

With the increase in fishing pressure it is important to maintain good access tracks and we are indebted to DOC for the work they do with track maintenance. Track access to lower river pools has however been problematic with river bank erosion destroying some long established tracks along both banks. Our committee has had a series of meetings with members of the walking access commission, DOC and the Waikato Regional Council regarding establishment of new tracks to provide anglers with legal and safe access to lower river pools. Such access crosses private land holdings in many areas & we are reliant on these Government agencies to assist with negotiations with landowners. John Gibbs of the Walking Access Commission attended our June meeting and gave us an outline of the situation re formed and unformed roads along the lower river. He also undertook to discuss access with Fisheries management on our behalf. A further issue in the lower river area is the clearance of vegetation on river islands particularly in the Bain pool area and also the clearance of fallen trees along the river banks. This work is particularly important to maintain stream bed integrity & to avoid bank erosion during floods. These negotiations are ongoing and our Advocates committee have funds available to assist with track formation & vegetation clearance should they be required. Our committee will keep members informed of progress on this important issue.

Access rights have been well documented (see appendix F4) Rod Edwards of WRC also attended our June meeting & advised us of the WRC river management Committee with whom we now liaise re our river concerns.

Taupo / Tongariro Fishery

The number and quality of fish caught in the lake and in the Tongariro River has again improved this year. DOC advise there has again been an increase in the fish trap count. From my observation there has been a large increase in the number of excellent quality fish in the lower river during this summer period-these fish are not in spawning mode and I can't help wondering what has caused this out of season run - perhaps the Covid lockdown or the ongoing effects of Simon Stewart's study & resultant changed management by Fisheries Dept & DOC ??-or maybe it is just a natural cyclic occurrence. It is interesting to note the Waipa fish trap results for the 2020 year showing an increase in size & quality of both rainbow & brown trout passing through the trap compared with the previous year-(see appendix F6). Vice President Richard Kemp is our representative on the Taupo Fishery Advisory

Committee & he keeps us up to date with any relevant information emanating from TFAC meetings. Graham Wyman (owner of Sporting Life in Turangi) has stood down as the longstanding and eminent chair of TFAC. That position has now been filled by one of our committee members Julian Proctor and we wish Julian well in his new role.

Wilding Pines

There is now much greater awareness in NZ of the wilding pine problem and we ask that they be removed from the catchment. Committee member and Treasurer John Toogood has continued this year to implement the eradication and control programme. This involved continuing negotiations with DOC, WRC and landowners.

Biosecurity

The incidence of Didymo is still not fully understood and we are fortunate that to date it has not appeared in the Taupo fishery. It is pleasing to note that Didymo research is continuing and we ask that our members adhere to the ‘Check, Clean, Dry’ message (see appendix F3).

Trout Farming

Government have received a petition from a Mr Clive Baker Edwards in 2018 (which we were not Aware of until 2020) to allow trout farming in NZ. Our committee is firmly opposed to this proposal & secretary Eric Wilson wrote a letter to the Minister of Conservation expressing our concerns .(see appendix F5).

Heather Macdonald

Past Advocates Chairperson Heather McDonald had an unfortunate occurrence during the year.

While fishing the Hydro pool she experienced cardiac arrest which resulted in her being effectively dead for twenty minutes as she floated downstream towards the rapids. Bob South, out walking, alerted fishing guide Ken Drummond who was fishing the Hydro with his friend Ross Fawkner. Ken and Ross turned to see Heather floating behind them and hauled her to shore where they administered CPR under the guidance of Sue Fawkner, a nurse. Luckily Bob's alert, the cold water, plus Ken's annually updated CPR certificate, Sue's support and faultless paramedic, fire service and medical support on the reserve beside the Hydro Pool saved Heather's life.

The end result is that Heather is still with us-hopefully for many years to come.

Financial

Our finances still continue in good order. We are particularly grateful for the a further donation during the year from the Pharazyn Trust and thank all our members for their donations which are of significance to our activity. See report from treasurer John Toogood (appendix F7).

Membership

Our current financial membership is 70. To maintain our credibility with the various people and organisations we deal with it is vitally important that we maintain a strong membership base and I again implore all members to do their best to introduce at least one new member per year to the Advocates.

Communication with our members is a vital part of our committee's role & three members of our team, John Toogood, Mike Forret & Alasdair Keucke have done a great job in updating our website.

Secretary Eric Wilson has also carried out a vital communication link with members with his regular blogs full of interesting information on the river environment, the fishery & local anecdotal feedback.

Conclusion

As mentioned in my report last year we continue to act as a watchdog group for the Tongariro River catchment environment & for the Fishery. .An important function is liaison with iwi and stakeholders.

Stakeholders, and interest groups such as Dept of Conservation, Taupo Fishery Advisory Committee, & any pending legislation which may have have effect on the Tongariro environment & fishery & issues concerning Biosecurity I record my sincere appreciation of the excellent work carried out by our committee during the year & special Thanks once again to Eric & Lorraine Wilson for hosting our committee meetings at their Turangi home & for providing coffee & home cooking.

I trust all our members will continue this year to enjoy the unique Taonga which is the Tongariro River —hopefully without any further covid lockdowns.



Gary Brown President

≈ FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the 12-month period ended 31 December 2020

Income and Expenditure

		2020	2019
		\$	\$
Receipts			
<i>Income</i>	Subscriptions	1,900	
	Donations	2,105	
		4,005	3,890
	Interest	255	
<i>Projects/Grants</i>	Pharazyn Trust	3,000	
		7,260	7,513
Outgoings			
<i>Operating expenses</i>	Admin/general expenses	146	
	Promotion	700	
	AGM, report, etc	782	
	Miscellaneous/subscriptions	-	
<i>Projects</i>	Projects	-	-
		1,628	1,852
Excess outgoings/receipts		5,632	5,661

Statement of financial position

As at 31 December 2020

		2020	2019
		\$	\$
Current assets			
<i>Bank accounts</i>	Current account	4,147	
	Online call account	36,377	
Total assets		40,524	34,891
Nett assets	Opening balance 1 January 2020	34,892	
	Excess expenditure/receipts	5,632	
Nett Funds before commitments as noted below		40,524	34,891

Notes to Accounts

Funds committed for projects	16,341
Net retained unassigned funds	24,183
	40,524
	29,230

Subscriptions and donations

There was a nett financial increase over last year of \$115 to \$4,005 but a decrease in numbers of 15 to 115. We have received some very generous donations.

≈ NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

For the period ended 31 December 2019

Statement of accounting policies

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

Preparation of accounts

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



Gary Brown

President

24th January 2021

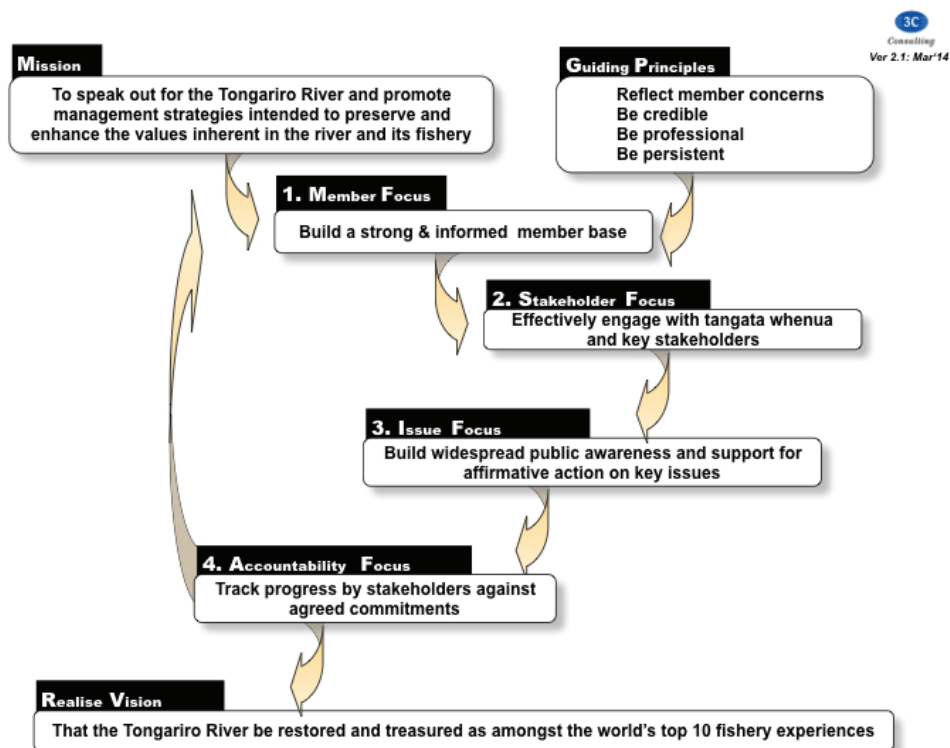


John Toogood

Treasurer

24th January 2021

≈ APPENDIX 1 » STATEMENT OF OBJECTIVES



≈ APPENDIX 2 » COVID19 LEVEL 4 RESTRICTION

Can we Fish during Lockdown?

To fish or not to fish in a time of Covid. I can only pass on official information received in the order that I have received.

Coastguard

Urgent message from Coastguard: uniting against COVID-19. *Yesterday, we heard from the Prime Minister that to combat this virus we need to self-isolate and take individual responsibility.*

Last year Coastguard responded to more than 3,700 calls for help, *proving that regardless of your planning and preparation as a boatie, you can't always rely on your own steam to get home.*

As individuals we need to recognise that our actions can have an effect on others.

We have had a lot of calls and messages from the public asking if they're able to go out on the water during the lockdown period; our answer is no. Should you get into difficulty, you will quickly want help from Coastguard volunteers and staff, requiring them to leave self-isolation and come together to help you.

At this time when we all need to Unite to beat Covid-19, we ask that you stay off the water and out of harm's way. Please don't put yourself or others at risk.

Stay safe, keep well.

From Taupo Harbourmaster

COVID-19 Response measures

From 11:59pm 25 March 2020 all Crown owned ramps and the Motuoapa Marina restroom facilities will be closed until further notice.

Essential travel is allowed ONLY (to the supermarket or pharmacy). Boating, fishing and hunting is not essential. If accidents or breakdown happen on the road, on the water, or in the bush etc. it will take up essential services time and increase potential contamination.

We need your support to protect New Zealand and eradicate COVID-19.

Stay home, stay safe.

Kind Regards,

Harbourmaster Team

Taupō Moana

Fish and Game – Facebook

The Government's clear intention at this stage is that fishing and hunting are prohibited during the Alert Level 4 lockdown period. If and when we receive other advice from the Government we will change our position.

Therefore, Fish & Game New Zealand are urging all anglers and hunters to do the right thing and stay at home while New Zealand is at COVID-19 Alert Level Four.

"Unfortunately, being at Level 4 means that anglers and hunters aren't able to do the pursuits that they love," Fish & Game New Zealand Chief Executive Martin Taylor says.

"The advice we have is that at Alert Level 4 anglers and hunters should not undertake activities that expose them and others to higher levels of risk. We are also advised that DOC huts and campsites are closed as they do not meet minimum separation requirements."

New Zealand Search and Rescue (NZSAR) is asking people to stick to simple outdoor exercise and avoid areas where they could get lost or require search and rescue. NZSAR want to ensure that emergency services are available to help those in the greatest need.

Fishing and hunting, even close to home, inherently carry a degree of risk and it is important for anglers and hunters not to further burden our emergency services and healthcare system. Staying in and around home is simply the right thing to do.

"It is heart-breaking to not be able to spend time in the outdoors, especially as for many of us this is our main way to destress, but we all have our part to play to beat COVID-19," Mr Taylor says.

"The point of the next four weeks is to kill the virus in New Zealand so that life goes back to normal as quickly as possible. Let's stay home for four weeks then we can get outdoors and back into angling and hunting."

The Level 4 lockdown period is scheduled to end prior to the start of the game bird season, and if we are all responsible during the next four weeks the game bird season is on.

We ask for your patience while we piece together the complexities of what we are facing. In particular, we will have further advice on pegging day as soon as possible.

It is our intention to give anglers and hunters ongoing updates.

DOC Trout Fishery – Facebook

We find ourselves in unprecedented times. From midnight tonight the majority of people are expected to stay at home in order to stop the spread of COVID-19. In this time of national emergency, the priority must be to look out for our families and our communities, and in doing so help our country to get through this.

While government advice allows for people to spend short periods of time outdoors to improve physical and mental well-being, recreational activities are not included. Therefore, we must ask all trout anglers in the Taupō Region to stop fishing until this advice changes.

Many trout anglers who fish the Taupō region have already elected to stop fishing. The scale of the challenge facing our communities makes it an easy decision to make.

If we all pull together and respect official guidelines, we could soon find ourselves back on the water.

Stay home, stay safe.

As responsible members there is the wise advice of Winnie the Pooh to follow:



Thanks to all the organisations from whom I have gleaned information on whether we can go fishing.

Eric Wilson

Secretary

≈ **APPENDIX 3 » DIDYMO RESEARCH**

Waikato researcher Dr Alexis Marshall close to solving Didymo's riddle after award



Rutherford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship recipient Dr Alexis Marshall is comparing samples of Didymo from New Zealand rivers with samples from around the world. Photo: supplied Waikato News, by: Danielle Zollickhofer.

University of Waikato researcher Dr Alexis Marshall has been awarded the Rutherford Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship from Royal Society Te Apārangi to investigate the algae species Didymo.

Didymo, also known as rock snot, grows in freshwater streams around the world. The algae is a unique organism growing under circumstances that other species struggle to survive.

Marshall said over the years Didymo became a biosecurity threat as it is an invasive species that quickly takes up the whole habitat.

The Rutherford Foundation Fellowship allows Marshall to focus on a large number of unanswered questions for the next two years.

New Zealand and Chile have the biggest problem with Didymo. However, it has not yet been found on the North Island.

“I’m trying to find out what keeps it away from the North Island so far and why it produces so much mass under bad, nutrient-poor circumstances – no plant does that. We also don’t know whether the Didymo in New Zealand is the same type that grows in other parts of the world. If yes, how is New Zealand Didymo different,” she says.

She also tries to establish why Didymo blooms and if the blooming occurs as the result of adaptation to climate change or a response to introduction to new environments.

In order to find answers, Marshall takes a genomic approach looking at Didymo’s DNA.

“As the algae is so unique, we can’t use the techniques we would normally use as they just don’t work.”

Deputy vice-chancellor research Professor Bryony James says: “Dr Marshall’s work contributes to the freshwater expertise at the University of Waikato, and this Fellowship will help provide insights into a significant environmental challenge facing New Zealand that is still largely understood.”

Historically, Didymo was an inconspicuous background organism found in nutrient-poor northern hemisphere rivers. Marshall says the algae is not toxic, however it deeply impacts how people use rivers as it gets caught on everything and sticks well.

“The problem is that no one wants to clean the Didymo out of the rivers, so all we can do at the moment is trying to stop it from spreading,” she says.

University of Canterbury student Logan Williams found a method to turn Didymo into material for cups and plates.

Marshall says: “It is a great idea to make use of it so people might even want to clean the rivers of Didymo.”

≈ APPENDIX 4 » ACCESS RIGHTS TAUPO FISHERY

Access Rights in the Taupo Fishery

By John Gibbs

Much of the content of this article was first published in earlier issues, especially #32 in 1999, but we think it has enough on-going interest to print it again.

No other sports fishery in New Zealand has such comprehensive access rights as the Taupo fishery. Taupo anglers are extremely fortunate that, in addition to normal access provided on public lands, they have a unique statutory right of access over private lands in many places.

This has come about by a long-standing arrangement between the Crown and Ngati Tuwharetoa iwi, the owner of the beds of Lake Taupo and its inflowing rivers and much of the surrounding land. This agreement has been enshrined in law since 1926 and explicitly recognises the national and regional importance of the Taupo fishery as a recreational asset. Because the fishery is used by so many visitors it also underpins a substantial part of the region's prime tourist economy.

So how did these access rights come about?

The Taupo trout fishery is and always has been a public resource managed under statute. However, because the Crown did not own the lake and river beds, access to the fishery was effectively controlled by the Maori land owners. A number of wealthy overseas anglers recognised the implications of access control and saw a chance to lock up parts of the fishery for their own use by negotiating with the owners for exclusive access rights. The government of the day was concerned that this effective privatisation of a public resource would lead to a loss of a highly valued recreational fishery

as well as an economically important tourist activity.

After some years of negotiations the government passed the 1926 Maori Land Amendment and Maori Land Claims Adjustment Act. Among other things, this provided for access to the fishery and confirmed compensation arrangements for Ngati Tuwharetoa. The prime access provision was the right of access over lake and river beds and the establishment of a 20 metre wide right of way over Maori land around the Lake shore and over specified portions of the banks of the inflowing rivers.

What are these access rights and where do they apply?

The key thing to remember is that the rights of way over Maori land are just that: they don't change the underlying ownership of the land which remains in Maori title and must be respected as such. This is a fundamental difference from the popularly-known Queen's Chain provisions elsewhere in the country, where waterways may be bordered by land in various forms of public ownership.

Activities permitted on the Taupo rights of way are not all clearly defined in law and some have evolved over time through common law and precedent. Essentially, the rights of way exist to provide access to and along the water's edge and over its beds. However, the lake and river rights of way have some important differences in their purposes and provisions.



The lake and river beds access is for all public, not just anglers. Likewise, the lake shore right of way is classed as a general right of way available at all times to pass over and along by whatever means. The key constraint to its use is that it must not be obstructed. It is unlikely that fishing, launching or beaching a boat, picnicking or swimming would constitute an obstruction, but camping would. Lighting fires is not encompassed by the right of way and in any case requires both the permission of the land owner and a permit from the relevant rural fire authority. Similarly, there is no inherent permission for toileting on the right of way.

The river bank rights of way are more precisely defined and specific in their purpose. They:

- are limited to specified distances up both banks of nominated rivers (Table 1);
- can only be used for access on foot for the purposes of angling;
- can only be used by people holding a valid Taupo fishing license;

- do not extend a right of use to the general public.

In all cases the distances are measured along the centre-line of the river. The rights of way apply to all tributaries entering the rivers within the defined lengths, except for the Tongariro River. In practical fishing terms this means the Mangamutu and Te Arero tributaries of the Waitahanui River also have rights of way on their banks.

Just why the particular distances specified were chosen is lost in the mists of time. Some are self-evident, such as the Whanganui Stream which has a waterfall about 1 mile (1.6km) from its mouth, and the Hinemaiaia River which ran through an inaccessible gorge about 3 miles (4.8 km) above its mouth. Less obvious is the Tauranga-Taupo which has many kilometres of good and physically accessible fishing water above the limit of the 3 mile (4.8 km) right of way.

Are the rights of way permanent?

The rights of way only apply over Maori land or land that was in Maori

RIVER	EXTENT OF RIGHT OF WAY
Tongariro	Mouth to Whitikau Stream junction
Poutu	Junction with Tongariro River to old state highway bridge
Waitotaka	Mouth to source (excluding within the boundaries of Tongariro prison)
Waimarino	Mouth to source
Tauranga-Taupo	Mouth to 3 miles (4.8km) upstream
Waipahi	Mouth to source (NB: the Waipahi is closed to fishing)
Hinemaiaia	Mouth to 3 miles (4.8km) upstream
Waitahanui	Mouth to source
Waihora	Mouth to 6 miles (9.7km) upstream
Waihaha	Mouth to 6 miles (9.7km) upstream
Whanganui	Mouth to 1 mile (1.6km) upstream
Whareroa	Mouth to 3 miles (4.8km) upstream (NB: the Whareroa is closed to fishing)
Kuratau	Mouth to 10 miles (16.1km) upstream

Table 1

ownership in 1926. They attach to the title so remain in effect even if the land ownership or status changes. While a right of way may not be revoked, its use as such may be suspended with the same effect. There is also provision to reduce the right of way width. This has been done in a few places, eg the Mangamutu Stream, where the width has been reduced from 20 metres to 3 metres because of the location of dwellings close to the stream bank.

One curious feature of Taupo rights of way is that they are fixed as at 1926 and do not move with changes in lake and river margins. This means that due to erosion or accretion in some places they may be some distance from the waters' edge or indeed out in the water. Given the original intent and the difficulty of establishing precisely where a margin has moved, it seems common sense to treat the current shorelines and banks within the proclaimed areas as being bordered by a right of way.

How is access managed on rights of way?

DOC manages a number of basic walking tracks on river bank rights of way. While these are only maintained with owners' agreement, there are clear benefits in having them. Providing tracks reduces the likelihood of anglers wandering outside their boundaries and inadvertently trespassing on private

land. Formed and maintained tracks also help reduce the impact of numbers of people crossing the land and, of course, make for more useful access to fishing spots. Most right of way tracks are managed at a basic standard to minimise infrastructure impacts. This also recognises that the rights are for foot access only and that most anglers are wearing waders and should reasonably expect to encounter water and mud in pursuit of their sport.

In using the rights of way people should be mindful that they may lie over or adjacent to sites of special cultural significance to tangata whenua. These include marae and urupa (burial sites) and you should take great care not to trespass onto them or desecrate them in any way. Some examples are at Whanganui Bay, Poukura and Waihi.

What other forms of access apply?

Considerable lengths of both the lake shore and river banks are Crown land in some form of reserve or other public ownership, such as forest park or road. Various forms of local body reserves also occur. There is free public access over all these reaches and other uses (eg, camping) are limited by the particular status of the land or governing bylaws. Very small lengths of the shores and banks are in pre-1926 freehold title and thus have no public access at all.

There is some access on private land which has no right of way and is available by the goodwill of the land owners. The best example of this is on the Tauranga-Taupo River where the legal right of way ends at the Pump Pool. However, the Te Rangitua farm trust has generously agreed to allow access within the river bed right up to the winter fishing limit at the Rangers Pool and we maintain a basic marked route along this stretch. It is especially important that anglers honour the spirit of this agreement and treat the land and the owners' rights with the respect they deserve.

≈ **APPENDIX 5 » LETTER OPPOSING FISH FARMING**

Friday, 18 September 2020

Eric Wilson, Secretary
Advocates For The Tongariro River.
117 Taupahi Road,
Turangi 3334

The Minister of Conservation
The Hon Eugenie Sage
Parliament Buildings
Wellington

Dear Minister

As Secretary of the Advocates for the Tongariro River (AFTR), an Incorporated Society with the aim of preserving the natural Catchment of the Tongariro River and maintaining the river as the best trout fishing river in the world, I am asked to write to you to express our concern at the possibility of trout farming being permitted in New Zealand.

AFTR is concerned that the Primary Production Committee has considered the petition of Clive Edward Baker – Legislation to allow commercial trout farming – and recommends that the Government “give serious consideration to commercialising trout farming.”

AFTR is strongly opposed to trout farming being permitted in New Zealand, on the grounds that it threatens our world acclaimed, high value, recreational wild trout fishery, while providing dubious economic benefits.

Recreational trout fishing is of high value to New Zealand

The current value of New Zealand’s wild trout fishery is estimated to be approximately \$1-1.5 billion dollars, based on the extrapolation of previous estimates by DOC and the Cawthron Institute. The Taupo fishery alone has been estimated at over \$100 million dollars. The value is calculated by spending on licenses, fishing tackle, fishing clothing, hire guides, accommodation or fishing baches, food and beverages, vehicles and family holiday destinations. The fishery supports a large number of jobs, many in rural areas with limited opportunities.

Our wild rainbow and brown trout fishery across numerous streams, rivers, and lakes, adds significantly to New Zealand's "clean green image", and is part of the "package" which attracts many high value tourists to New Zealand, with flow on benefits to other tourism sectors. It also has significant intangible value, for the health and enjoyment of New Zealanders.

Trout farming poses risks to our wild trout fishery

The greatest risk is from disease spreading from high density farms or across the border, into wild fish stocks, as experienced in the US, Europe, and South America. New Zealanders are suffering from the spread of the virus Covid 19. We didn't see that, and its impact, coming, nor did we see myrtle rust, Didymo, or Lake Snot, to list a few. The problem with disease is that we don't see it coming, and once introduced, eradication would probably not be successful. As well as disease, there is a high risk of genetic contamination of our wild fish stock, from escaped farm fish.

The risk is also from contaminating our precious fresh water resource. Fish farming can require large amounts of fresh water to stock larger quantities of fish than would be the case naturally, in an enclosed area. The resulting effluent, as in the case of Marlborough Sounds Salmon, then becomes a huge problem and requires the continual movement of the fish farms. The nation's rivers are already under threat.

Some proponents of trout farming claim that trout farms pose no more risk than trout hatcheries. Hatcheries are run by not-for-profit entities working solely in the interests of our fishery. They raise trout fry sourced from wild trout stock in a tightly controlled and non-invasive environment for eventual release back into the wild to live, grow, and breed naturally. It is completely erroneous to compare this to the commercial farming of adult trout in high density pens for maximum yield.

The legalisation of the sale of farmed trout will likely lead to a significant increase in the poaching of wild trout due to the inevitable emergence of a black-market. This could lead to the depletion of wild stock in localised areas.

The economic benefits of trout farming are dubious

While obviously a matter of personal taste, even the best wild caught trout are not widely acclaimed as a great food fish, unless perhaps smoked, and farmed trout much less so. Members of our organisation have visited trout farms overseas, and reported that the fish were of inferior quality for food, possibly due to their unnatural diet of fish pellets, and that disease was present in at least one of the farms visited. We firmly believe that farmed trout are unlikely to find a significant market in New Zealand, and will need to compete against larger scale established operations in overseas markets.

It is highly unlikely that the revenue from trout farming will be wholly incremental, and to the extent that it substitutes existing profitable salmon and seafood sales, could be dilutive to the broader industry.

Fish farming will not only require significant investment from the private sector, but also from government agencies to regulate, monitor, and deal with resulting issues.

We trust that you will give this submission your due consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Eric Wilson

for The Advocates for the Tongariro River

CC: Hon Kelvin Davis – Minister of Tourism

Hon Jacqui Dean – Spokesperson for Conservation

Hon Todd McCly – Spokesperson for Tourism

≈ APPENDIX 6 » MINISTER SAGE RESPONSE

Hon Eugenie Sage

Minister of Conservation

Minister for Land Information

Associate Minister for the Environment

Minita mō Te Papa Atawhai

Minita mō Toitū Te Whenua

Minita Tuarua mō Te Taiāo



Ref: 20-A-0611

13 OCT 2020

Eric Wilson
Secretary
Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc
117 Taupahi Road
Turangi 3334

Dear Mr Wilson

Thank you for your letter of 27 September 2020 regarding the recommendation by the Primary Production Select Committee that the Government give serious consideration to commercialising trout farming.

The Government has yet to consider a response to the recommendation of the select committee.

I can assure you, however, of my commitment to the wellbeing of the recreational trout fishery and I am aware of the considerable recreational and economic benefits that the fishery provides for New Zealand anglers and overseas visitors.

I have copied your letter to the Department of Conservation, as the information you have provided may be helpful to officials.

Yours sincerely

Hon Eugenie Sage
Minister of Conservation

≈ APPENDIX 7 » 2020 WAIPA TRAP DATA

The Waipa fish trap monitoring program started in mid-May last year due to the national COVID 19 response. Our data collection was not strongly affected however, and the trap remained in place till the end of November.

The data shows that 1149 fish passed through the trap during last season, ca 47% more fish than in 2019 (784).

The beginning of the season was relatively low in numbers, however, from June, in particular for rainbow trout, all biometric parameters show important differences.

Both the average length and weight of trout this year (respectively 608 mm and 2.8 kg for browns, and 524 mm and 1.8 kg for rainbows) were significantly higher compared to the 2019 season (600 mm and 2.7 kg for browns, and 512 mm and 1.6 kg for rainbows).

Maximum weight reported also important increased among brown trout (4.0 vs 3.8 kg for females, and 4.7 vs 4.1 kg in males), whereas the length reported a decrease compared to the previous season, except within female brown trout. The condition factors reported important differences for rainbow trout, especially in jacks, for which the condition factor passed from 42 to 46 (43 vs 41 for females).

Additional analysis is needed to compare the actual versus the adjusted run and compare last season data with the entire 20-year dataset, the data collected during last season reports a great season in terms of numbers, biometric parameters, and conditions. These data are also supported by the data collected during the escapement count.

Month	2020					2019				
	BF	BM	RF	RM	Tot	BF	BM	RF	RM	Tot
April	-	-	-	-	-	0	1	1	4	6
May	6	5	4	7	22	14	23	9	13	59
June	88	83	47	68	286	54	70	10	25	159
July	81	34	98	85	298	44	51	40	41	176
August	18	5	119	99	241	17	4	43	46	110
September	3	1	96	56	156	3	3	70	35	111
October	2	0	48	27	77	0	0	54	35	89
November	0	0	35	34	69	0	0	47	27	74
Tot	198	128	447	376	1149	132	152	274	226	784
Average length (mm)	599	623	523	526		589	609	513	512	
Average length (mm)	608		524			600		512		
Average weight (kg)	2.8	2.9	1.8	1.7		2.7	2.8	1.6	1.5	
Average weight (kg)	2.8		1.8			2.7		1.6		
Max length (mm)	700	710	595	610		685	720	600	645	
Max weight (kg)	4.0	4.7	2.8	2.8		3.8	4.1	2.6	3.3	
CF	46	43	46	43		47	44	42	41	
	45		44			46		42		

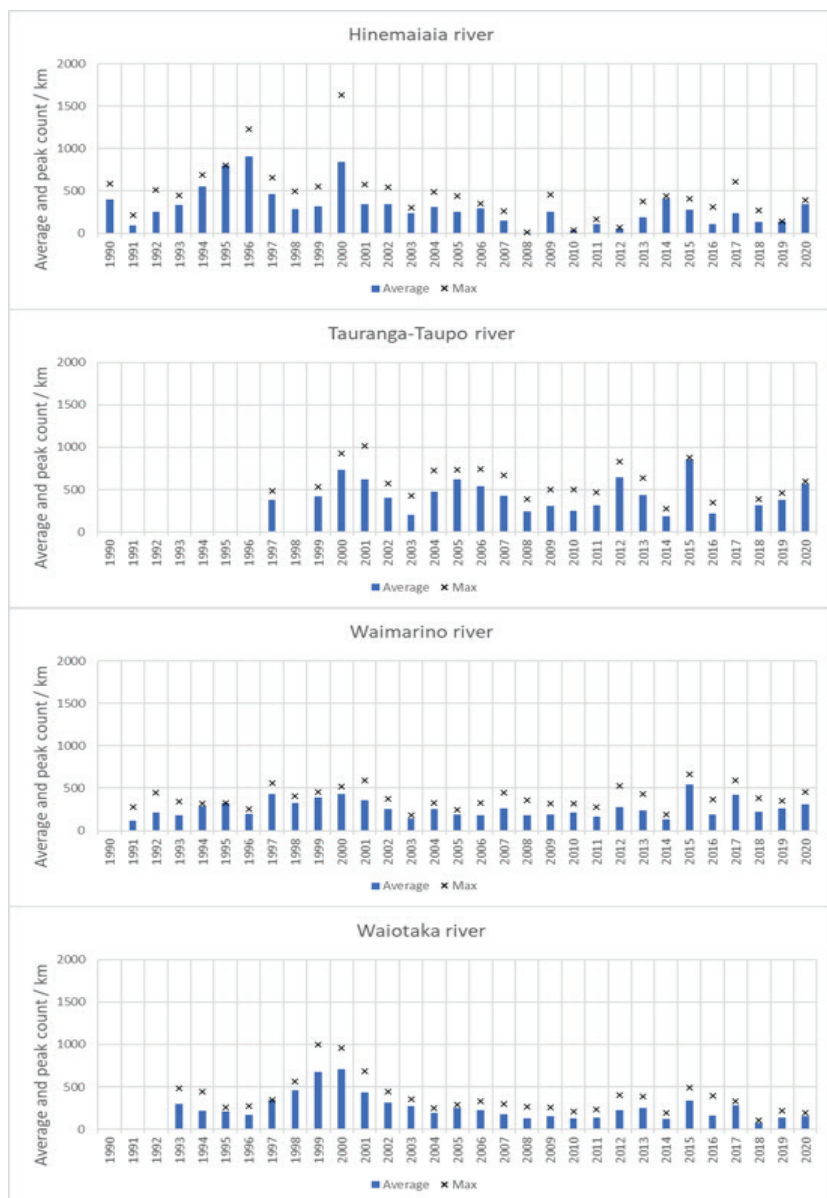
Escapement Counts

This year we ran the escapement count monitoring in four out of five eastern tributaries of Lake Taupo from July to November 2020.

All rivers reported a higher average count compared to the last two seasons and, with the only exception for the Waiotaka, also higher peaks. In the case of the Hinemaiaia, the average was the highest over the last 5 years (345 trout); similarly, the Tauranga-Taupo river reported the highest average and peak (respectively, 565 and 593) over the last 3 years (excluding the 2017 for which no data is currently available). For both the Waimarino and Waiotaka, fluctuations in numbers have been much more modest, but there has been a general improvement.

When compared to the entire 30-year dataset in terms of both averages and peaks, the Hinemaiaia, Tauranga-Taupo, and Waimarino reported a noticeable promising increase.

Escapement count data is hugely valuable. By undertaking enough surveys each season, we are able to draw a reliable conclusion from a temporal perspective (when the peak is actually reached) and calculate a reliable average for a fair comparison across the years.



≈ **APPENDIX 8 » A PHOTO JOURNEY DOWN THE TONGARIRO RIVER**

PHOTOS BY ALASDAIR KEUCKE



Recreational Rafting Run from the Sand Pool



The Poutu Pool



Boulder Reach



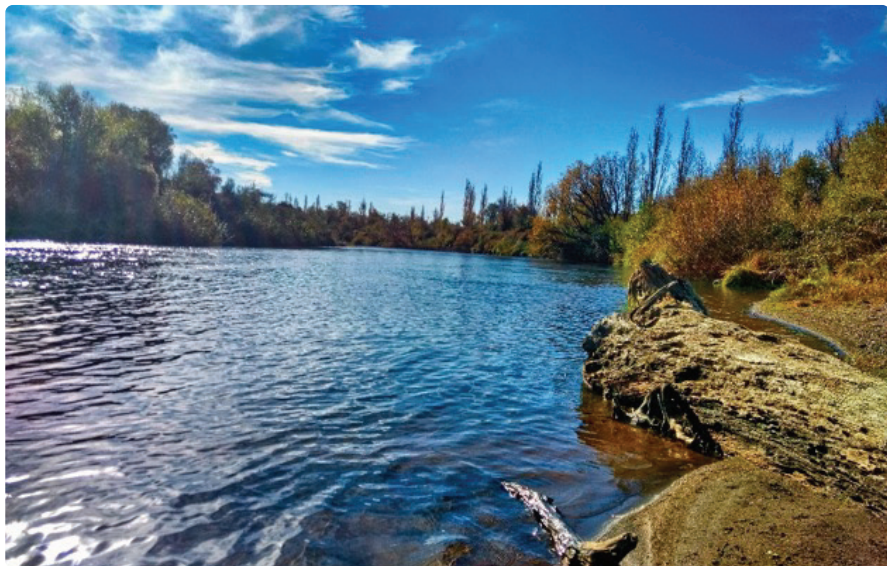
Looking upstream from the Hydro Pool



Tail of the Major Jones Pool



Towards The Jones Pool



Down to Smallman's Reach



A cleansing flood viewed from the Major Jones Bridge

PROFILE OF ADVOCATES FOR THE TONGARIRO RIVER COMMITTEE FOR 2020

2020 Office Holders



Carl Bergstrom

Carl has been a regular visitor to Turangi and the surrounding area for over 35 years, and first learnt to fly fish on the Tongariro River. Now retired after a corporate career, he has more time for fishing, and is passionate about preserving this pristine and world renowned river so that future generations may enjoy it too.



Gary Brown – *President, Committee member since 2011*

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

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



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

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

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



Tim Castle – *Committee member 2016*

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

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

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



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

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

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



Sam Coxhead – *Committee member since 2014*

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

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

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



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

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

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



Mike Forret – *Co-opted member 2017*

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

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



Richard Kemp – *Committee member since 2002*

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

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

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



Alisdair Keucke – *Committee member since 2018*

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

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



Julian Proctor – *Committee member since 2018*

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

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

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

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



John Toogood – *Committee member since 2005, Treasurer*

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

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



Eric Wilson – *Secretary since 2005*

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

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

Enjoys the outdoor environment of the wider Tongariro Catchment.

≈ LIST OF MEMBERS

Anderson	Sue	Grant	David	Fransham	Jessica
Andrews	Charles J	Hamilton	Ian R	Fransham	Mike
Avery	Bill	Hancox	Rod	Godkin	Wayne
Avery	Helen	Hancox	Margaret	Godkin	Wendy
Bamford	Dave	Hayes	Carter	Shieff	Jen
Bartle	Murray	Hutton	Lizzie	Short	Murray
Batson	Brian	Hazelwood	Robert	Short	Niwa
Beasley	Anthony	Hodder	Marie	Small	Neil
Bergstrom	Carl	Hodder	Selwyn	Small	Rosemary
Bergstrom	Jackie	Horton	Warwick	Smith	Peter
Blackbeard	Rob	Hughes	Gail	Summerhays	Anne
Breen	Paul	Hughes	Mike	Summerhays	John
Breen	Ann	Ireland	Garth	Sutton	Annabelle
Brennan	Paul	Jamieson	Murray	Sutton	Terry
Brown	Gary	Jamieson	N S P	ter Haar	Marja
Brown	Marie	Kemp	Honor	Toogood	Georgina
Butterworth	Warren	Kemp	Richard	Toogood	John
Castle	Tim	Keucke	Alisdair	Toogood	Susie
Chapman	Barry	Kirk	Allan	Toy	Max
Church	Jock	Kyle	Frankie	Whyte	Elizabeth
Church	Liam	Kyle	Kim	Whyte	Malcolm
Church	Virginia	Kyle	Stephen	Williams	Gwynne
Cosgrove	Alison	Lean	Peter	Williams	Paul
Coxhead	Sam	Macdonald	Heather	Williams	Peter
Crosbie	Jacqui	McCallum	Elizabeth	Wilson	Eric
Crosbie	Stuart	McCallum	John	Wilson	Lorraine
Cunnack	Renny	McHattie	Ali	Wilson	Godfrey
Dandy	Valerie	McHattie	David	Ramsay	Nettie
Deakin	Peter	Miles	Nick	Rickards	Adrian
Devlin	Judy	Nahkies	Graeme	Richards	Renee
Devlin	Tony	Nahkies	Natasha	Ross	Carol
Dickson	Steve	Proctor	Julian	Ross	Grace
Duff	Graeme	Frank	Trish	Ross	Jonathan
Duff	Marion	Forret	Dr Joan	Shanks	Graeme
Duthie	Ian	Forret	Dr Michael	Shanks	Joanna
Elliot	Helen	Fransham	Benjamin	Sherborne	Mary
Fair	Bill	Fransham	Helen		

4 un-named

≈ COMMITTEE NOMINATION FORM

One form per nominee

___/___/2021

I nominate:

Signed by nominee:

Nominator (signed):

Seconded (signed):

(Tick position nominated)

- ☐ President
☐ Vice-President
☐ Committee member

Either

- ☐ Secretary
☐ Treasurer

Or

- ☐ Secretary/Treasurer

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

One form per nominee

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

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