



## AGENDA

AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH AND GAME COUNCIL

10<sup>th</sup> June 2023



## AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME

**A Meeting of Council will be held at the Waikato Deer Stalkers Hall, Wairere Drive, Hamilton on Saturday 10 June 2023 commencing at 11 a.m.**

### AGENDA

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\* Denotes attachments

**N Juby**  
**Chairman**

01/06/23



## AUCKLAND/WAIKATO FISH & GAME



**Minutes of a Meeting of Council**  
**held at the NZ Deerstalkers Hall, Wairere Dr, Hamilton**  
**on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2023 commencing at 11:00am.**

**PRESENT:**

**Chairman:** N. Juby  
**Councillors:** E. Williamson, D. Cocks, P. Shaw, G. Annan, B. Barnes, T. Clark.  
**Staff:** B. Wilson, A. Daniel,

**1. APOLOGIES:**

G. Dickey, J Dyer, C. Sherrard, M. Barker, D. Klee, C. Robertson

It was moved;  
**that apologies be accepted.**

**Annan/Shaw – CARRIED**

**2. POSSIBLE CONFLICTS OF INTEREST ARISING FROM MEETING AGENDA:**

Nil.

**3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS OF 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023:**

It was moved;  
**that the minutes of the previous meetings of the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2023 be accepted as true and correct records.**

**Annan/Shaw – CARRIED**

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES:**

Councillor Clark expressed his disappointment at the decision by the NZ Council to support the Minister of Conservation's decision regarding the phasing out of lead shot for .410 shotguns.

Councillor Cocks observed that although the national office had supplied copies of all the regional submissions received on the .410 issue, the individual regional councils had not been directly asked for their opinions as requested by Council.

Councillor Barnes stated that as Chairman of the NZ Council he did not vote on the .410 issue but believed that the Minister was always going to ban lead shot unless Fish & Game could provide considerable evidence that lead shot was accepted internationally for shotguns of this calibre. He didn't believe that it was in Fish & Game's interest to oppose

the Minister on this issue, and indeed the Minister was testing Fish & Game as to whether it was going to step up and support “his” (her) decision.

The Chairman reminded Councillors that submissions on this issue had been received by the NZ Council from just four regions of which only two had opposed the phase-out decision. Consequently, he didn’t believe that there was much point asking the regions individually for their opinion especially as most regions didn’t bother submitting.

Councillors Williamson and Clark as movers of the March 2023 resolution agreed that they were supportive of the Chairman’s decision not to directly approach the individual regions.

It was moved;

**that Council supported the decision not to request from the other Fish & Game regions their position on the proposed phase-out of lead shot for .410 shotguns.**

**Cocks/Clark – CARRIED**

## **5. COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE:**

Nil.

## **6. CHIEF EXECUTIVE’S BI-MONTHLY REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:**

### **6.1 Bi-monthly Chief Executives Report**

Dr Daniel reported that drift dive surveys had been completed on the Awakino, Mangatutu and Waihou rivers and that he intended to survey the Waitawheta River soon. He noted that the rivers were generally 4°C colder than in previous years, which was probably beneficial to the trout population in that it allowed for more river habitat to be available to trout.

Councillor Annan complemented Dr Daniel on his recent Awakino video.

Mr Wilson updated Councillors on the consent application for maintenance work on Fish & Game wetlands, and on the proposed Fish & Game/DOC work programme for the Whangamarino Weir.

It was moved;

**that the Chief Executive’s Bimonthly Report and Financial Statements be accepted.**

**Cocks/Shaw – CARRIED**

## **7. BOTULISM PRESENTATION:**

It was agreed that this agenda item would be postponed until the June Council meeting due to Mr Klee’s non-availability.

Mr Wilson provided a brief update on recent botulism outbreaks in the region. He informed that the only large outbreak was confined to the Whangamarino with only minor outbreaks elsewhere. Although there was a contractor still working in the wetland, the numbers of affected birds were declining rapidly and would continue to do so with the cooler weather.

**8. DUCK STRATEGY:**

Mr Wilson noted that the strategy was produced in 2013 and that it had been superseded by the 2021-2031 Management Plan. Nevertheless, the main objectives of the strategy had been implemented including considerably more effort on RMA processes and wetland restoration.

Councillor Williamson believed that the strategy was fundamentally flawed because it did not take into consideration the impact of over-harvest due to the 4-week season. He did not believe that there was any shortage of duck habitat, and in his opinion the season should be reduced to 2 weeks.

Mr Wilson replied that staff believed the main limiting factor for the duck population was duckling survival influenced by the relative absence of good quality rearing habitat (good water quality and pest fish free).

It was agreed that licence holders would be surveyed during the game season for their opinion on reducing the season to 2 weeks.

**9. SUMMARY OF NES-F AMENDMENTS:**

Councillor Williamson welcomed those aspects of the new legislation that allowed minor earthworks to be undertaken without requiring a consent.

It was moved;

**that Mischa Davis is thanked for her report and her work on this legislation.**

**Cocks/Williamson – CARRIED**

**10. 2023/24 DRAFT BUDGET AND OPERATIONAL WORK PLAN:**

Councillors expressed their concern that licence fees were not keeping up with inflation.

Mr Wilson explained the need for a new field officer who would be appointed as part of a succession strategy that will allow for the new officer to work with current staff next summer.

It was moved;

**that the draft operational work plan and 2023/24 budget applications be accepted.**

**Annan/Cocks – CARRIED**

The meeting rose for lunch at 1:10pm and resumed at 1:30pm.

**11. OSH UPDATE:**

The March 2023 OSH report was tabled.

It was moved;

**that the OSH report for March 2023 is accepted.**

**Annan/Shaw – CARRIED**

**12. GENERAL BUSINESS:**

The chairman provided an update of his discussions with the Northland Council. He didn't believe that the Auckland/Waikato Council should be directly involved with negotiating financial arrangements with Northland.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 1:45pm.

UNCONFERMED

**Bi-Monthly Chief Executive's Report****June 2023**

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**OUTPUT 1: SPECIES MANAGEMENT**

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**Project 1111: Drift Diving**

**Drift Diving:** The Waitawheta River and Mangatutu Stream drift dives were completed in March. Both streams had reduced numbers of fish likely due to the abnormally cool water temperatures allowing fish to occupy lower elevation habitat. There was damage from flooding events noticeable in the Waitawheta but both streams had adult and age 0 fish indicating there is no justification for closure.

**Project 1112: Banding/Shoveler Counts**

**Banding database:** Roslyn has copied and redesigned the banding database for the Wellington region. Existing data was imported so that band recovery reports can be completed. Additional information was added so that a map with location pins can be provided for hunters. Training was completed for Wellington regional staff, Corinne Deans and Matt Kavermann, regarding the recoveries section of the database. Other aspects of the database will be redesigned at the start of the banding year.

**Project 1161: Trout Releases**

**Trout releases:** The first of three Lake Pupuke/Quarry Lake fish releases was completed just after Easter for the school Holidays. Parkinson's Lake fish release is scheduled for May 17.

The 2023/24 fish order was submitted and will remain unchanged. Although brown trout were requested for Parkinsons Lake there is currently no holding space at the hatchery to supply the fish.

<b>Lake</b>	<b>1+ RBT</b>	<b>2+ RBT</b>
Pupuke (Quarry Lake)		600
Moana-nui		200
Whatihua		200
Parkinson's		200
Arapuni (Normal)	2000	
	2000	1200

## **Project 1122: Harvest Surveys**

**Lake Arapuni:** Tag returns from lake Arapuni spawning run have been trickling in but no wild fish tags have been reported.

## **OUTPUT 2: HABITAT PROTECTION/MANAGEMENT**

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### **Project 1211 RMA**

**Waikato District Plan appeals:** Ward Group has withdrawn their appeal requesting the rezoning of rural land north of Meremere and adjacent to the North Shepherd Wetland. We opposed this appeal.

I attended a meeting regarding Conservation Lots and Transferable Development Rights. We are seeking better protection, maintenance, and enhancement of wetlands through subdivision and development incentives. This includes support for Conservation Lot provisions for the protection of wetlands. The commissioners at the district plan hearing rejected the concept of Conservation Lots because it was considered that wetlands and SNA's would be protected by the new national regulations and thus conservation lots, and especially transferable lots, would not be required. From the mediation outcomes, I'm confident that conservation lots will be reinstated but not transferable lots.

**Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan:** We made a submission on the Hauraki Gulf Fisheries Plan which is one of the key actions in Revitalising the Gulf, a broader project that sets out to manage and ultimately restore a healthy Hauraki Gulf. Fish and Game owns and manages wetlands within contributing catchments of the Hauraki Gulf. Also notably, the Waihou/Piako area, where we manage a number of wetlands, has been listed in the greater Sea Change Plan as a high priority catchment meaning there is a strong focus on reducing sediment and contaminants in this area. The Sea Change Plan also recognises the importance of wetlands for improving water quality, effective in reducing sediment and other contaminant discharges from land from reaching the marine area. One of the goals of the Sea Change Plan is to reduce sediment entering the coastal marine area to levels which support healthy marine habitats which will in turn support more abundant marine life. We noted in our submission on the Fisheries Plan that an integrated approach is required that considers catchment discharges originating inland of the coastal marine area. As such the Fisheries Plan needs greater recognition of the interactions between freshwater, catchment-based land-use activities, and the coastal environment. We consider that the Fisheries Plan should follow suite of the Sea Change Plan by containing specific management objectives and actions to minimise sediment erosion off the land, capture sediment runoff before it reaches the marine environment, and stabilise sediment already deposited in the marine environment including the Firth of Thames.

**Hauraki Coromandel Catchment review and workshop:** Clare attended the Hauraki Coromandel Catchment review and workshop in May. There was a consensus from the group that the emphasis should be on the naturalisation of river and streams in both the Hauraki and Coromandel districts. Clare followed up with recommendations of a *River Styles* assessment which has previously been undertaken in the Waipa River catchment. The *River Styles* assessment provides an overview of the controls on river character and

behaviour to support appraisals of current river management and restoration strategies. Findings from the study can support cost-effective approaches to proactive river management and rehabilitation. A similar approach in the Hauraki Coromandel catchments would be helpful in determining the validity of the current approach and whether other methodologies could be implemented that may be more suitable.

**Draft Waikato Water Security Strategy:** We were contacted by the Waikato Regional Council to submit on the Draft Waikato Water Strategy. Mischa and David had a meeting in February to discuss the strategy and raise our concerns. We later submitted a feedback document expressing our concerns with regards to the strategy. We noted that while the strategy provided good information on the current situation of water security in the Waikato, especially on how overallocated some of the catchments are, the strategy however reads more of a summary document that fails to provide detail on how those issues will be addressed. We stated that more detail on addressing those issues is required including setting timeframes for the development of the Waikato Security Management Plan so that we know where we are heading and by when. We also noted that we would like to be part of any collaborative working groups in developing the Waikato Security Management Plan.

**Glenenergy Solar Farm:** We were contacted by Glenenergy to consult on their proposal to establish an Energy Farm on the shores of Lake Whangape. The Energy Farm will comprise of a 200+ MVh solar farm comprising more than 350,000 individual panels, battery storage, hydrogen gas production and vertical farming, set amongst a more traditional operational sheep and cattle farm. This is the first solar farm application we have been consulted on and no doubt there will be more to come. Our initial concerns were for any impact the proposal might have on Lake Whangape which is a significant waterfowl hunting area for example bird strike due to birds mistaking solar panels for water, and that any wetlands in the area are adequately protected. They later sent us their Ecological Impact Assessment – which we consider largely addressed our concerns. We were pleased with the proposal for extensive wetland restoration work including a 10m buffer around each identified wetland. With regards to the solar farm itself, due to the uncertainty of the effects of the solar panels on birds, with this being a novel activity at this scale in New Zealand, we sought greater certainty for adaptive management if monitoring revealed that adverse effects do occur on birds because of the activity. They have since responded stating they are waiting on council-initiated peer reviews of various reports, including ecology, and will then look to answer our questions regarding adaptive management.

**PF Olsen FSC Audit:** We were contacted by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) auditing group, known as Preferred by Nature, specifically about auditing the forestry company PF Olsen. One of the requirements for FSC certification is that the forestry company must have broad support by NGO's such as ours that may be affected by its forestry operations. While Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game do not currently have any access arrangements to PF Olsen managed forests, we consider that they should be providing public access, especially for gamebird hunters, as part of their obligations to the wider community as good corporate citizens. Exotic forestry blocks provide valuable habitat for upland game birds such as pheasant, quail and partridge, and recreational hunters rely on continued access to these areas which are mostly held in private ownership across New Zealand. We decided to make a submission on behalf of Fish and Game nationally highlighting the cultural and

recreational importance of game bird hunting in forestry areas and in turn allowing for access to hunters and gun dogs. This is especially considering the Northland Fish and Game Council recently having had a problem with the Northland Forest Managers placing stricter regulations on hunter access to forestry blocks.

**Waitomo District Plan:** We are awaiting an update with regards to the Proposed Waitomo District Plan. The last update was received on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January 2023 that Council staff are currently working on the summary of submissions and will make this available as soon as possible.

**Lumbercorp and Max Birt:** David and Clare submitted on both Lumbercorp and Max Birt's consent applications for the discharge of treated stormwater. We're concerned about the potential effects of contamination entering the surrounding drainage networks and ultimately Lake Waikare. The Lumbercorp site has a history of discharges which have led to elevated levels of contaminants in receiving environments that exceeded previously consented limits and relevant guidelines. David has been working on the application since it first lodged in 2015. During that time there have been multiple stakeholder meeting with a considerable amount of work to ensure that the conditions are robust enough. However, the latest data showed an almost continuous discharge occurring from both sites this year which raised some further questions. Although we acknowledge the wetter than normal conditions, we question whether the sizing of the ponds is adequate to futureproof the sites and our concern has always been what happens if there is an exceedance, with no immediate solution is discovered through the adaptive framework. Post submission, we have been working with Tonkin Taylor and the applicant, pushing for a requirement of remediation or compensation if avoidance and on-site mitigation is not viable.

**Parkinson's Lake fish kill:** Parkinsons Lake had a significant fish kill due to a low DO event in April. Adam Daniel investigated the fish kill and found that a newly cleared drain from a single farm was discharging contaminated water from poorly managed dry stock grazing into the lake. The fish kill was caused by contaminated water consuming the oxygen in the lake. The Waikato Regional Council was notified.

Adam requested and reviewed the available lake monitoring data that revealed high faecal coliform events from high stock numbers and poorly managed land use. Nutrients in the lake are trending upward and likely to result in future fish kills. After several unproductive emails to council enforcement staff the matter was referred to catchment management staff. Adam requested a legal opinion from Clair and Mischa who responded with the relevant NPS FM provisions. Adam has informed the council of their responsibility to produce a catchment management plan to halt or reverse the water quality deterioration in a timely manner.

**Lake Tomarata:** Adam took part in the lake hui for Lake Tomarata to help local iwi determine a pathway to achieve restoration outcomes for the lake. Auckland Regional Council have been netting the lake to reduce rudd and tench numbers and had informed iwi that the fish removal would achieve their management goals of restoring aquatic macrophytes and freshwater mussels. Adam requested and reviewed that lake water quality data that indicated the chlorophyll a concentration and macrophyte cover breached the national bottom lines set out in the NPS FM. The lake monitoring data documented lake stratification and low DO events that would kill all freshwater mussels in areas of the

lake deeper than three meters going forward. Adam informed the group that fish removal without water quality improvements was pointless and a waste of money. Adam also informed iwi of the council's responsibility to halt degradation and to produce a lake management plan that included land use change. Council staff have identified land use as the primary cause of the lakes deteriorating water quality but have not been willing or able to address the issue.

**Healthy Rivers:** Mediation is now completed. The current timetable for the Hearing is:

- Waikato Regional Council evidence due 26 May
- Parties' evidence in chief (supporting our appeal points) due 16 June 2020
- Parties' rebuttal evidence (opposing others appeal points) due 30 June 2020
- Expert conferencing in the weeks of 24 and 31 July 2023.
- Date of hearing is unknown at this time but could be later this year or early next year.

**National RMA Legislation:** All the F&G RMA staff meet once a fortnight and are working closely together on national matters. Clare and Mischa are currently working on the national submission on '*Strengthening national direction on renewable electricity generation and electricity transmission*' Consultation Document (NPS-REG). Our overriding concerns are:

- Wind energy and solar farm development and operations can negatively affect wildlife and significant habitats, particularly birds.
- Hydroelectric dams can impact fish passage to include trout and indigenous fish species.
- Electricity Transmission Network (ETN) activities – this may include game bird habitat and significant indigenous biodiversity which could be impacted.
- Wind farms and bird strikes.

### **Project 1221: Council Wetlands**

**Consents for F&G wetlands:** The Government announced a change to the legislation covering wetland restoration which came into effect on the 5<sup>th</sup> of January 2023. This change was at the request of F&G and other parties, where we put considerable effort into lobbying the Ministry of the Environment for this change. There is now a requirement to complete a Restoration Plan for natural inland wetlands which Clare has been working on for each of Auckland/Waikato Fish and Game Council wetlands. These restoration plans were completed and sent to the Waikato Regional Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of May, and we are waiting for a response.

**Dean Wetland:** John lost his mobile here while spraying gorse, it slipped under all the old dead gorse leaves and branches. By driving the truck close enough to Bluetooth, the onboard phone-pad then activated and was used to get someone to ring him. Voila! A useful trick to know perhaps.

**McKenzie Wetland:** A lot of organic rubbish was floated out from under the McKenzie Wetland willows and floated off downstream in the flood. However, there was no significant damage seen here.

Willows on the stopbank on the northern border of the McKenzie Wetland, where it meets the Cathcart Wetland, have been encroaching on vehicle access here. They have now been sprayed hard back by staff.

**North Emmett Wetland:** In flood conditions the Mangatawhiri River enters this wetland across the access road on the eastern side and leaves via the western, but not before also smothering the fence there with a huge amount of floating waterweeds picked up by the floodwaters. Fortunately, the new staples held.

A boundary hedge of bamboo from the neighbouring property is of the spreading type and is becoming a serious nuisance, for instance, blocking the access track here. It has also been sprayed hard back by staff to restore vehicle access.

**Aka Aka Wetland:** Heavy rain created significant issues with the several important access culverts. Pondholders used their initiative to fix this before the season opened.

**Cocks Wetland:** A number of hunters before the gamebird season contacted John with concerns about the safety of handling or consuming ducks obtained in the Whangamarino that might have botulism. The scholarly info he has states that: "Biologists now know that the Type-C strain of botulism causes nearly all the epizootics of botulism in waterfowl, (and that), the toxin from Type C does not harm people, but Types A,B,E and at times F cause serious food poisoning and sometimes death in humans". In NZ the latter has often been associated with poorly bottled shellfish.

### **Project 1231: Other Land**

**Predator trapping:** John installed a "Mink-Police" trap monitoring alarm, (from Alpeco in Rotorua), a couple of km from where he lives. This sends a text message whenever it catches and also a daily emailed report if it hasn't that also shows it's battery status and signal strength. This certainly makes trapping more efficient. 7 rats were caught in a week and then New Zealand's fattest possum, (stone dead), in the 2 Fenn traps monitored, with nothing since. One of the F&G pondholders near Meremere has a similar but local product that saves him time and expense regularly checking an empty trap, he now goes only when it has caught. It also daily pumps out a small amount of a Good Foods mayonnaise, described as "creak for possums". His monitoring alarm was paid for by a grant F&G assisted with. It has worked a treat ever since.

### **Project 1235: Trees**

**Oaks:** In early May this year John collected seeds from the Massey owner of an arboretum who has 2 large water oak trees, (*Quercus nigra*), both originally from Eastwoodhill arboretum established 1910, and also a mature water hickory, (*Carya aquatica*). Also John collected in Gladstone Road, Parnell another quantity of water oak acorns and also from

Tauranga, shingle oak acorns, (*Q. imbricaria*), from the old Anglican cemetery there. These are all very rare trees in NZ but ones that we have been trying to obtain since Peter Howard's days back in the 1970's. Peter obtained some seed from the US Forest Service in Georgia but some he struck out on some varieties. He intended to graft willow oak, (*Q. phellos*), as the several NZ trees he knew of were self-infertile, meaning they needed a second tree nearby to pollinate them before they'd bare fruit. John's not sure if he ever did this, but perhaps a Hamilton Council gardener who was following our annual reports closely was inspired to do so. There are now 3 such large willow oaks growing alone, (so no cross-species pollination issues), outside the Hamilton Library. In early May there were acorns galore which John collected. Hamilton F&G's Keith Smith and John plan to plant these in plastic PB-8s.

### **Project 1241: Assessment/Monitoring**

**Largemouth Bass:** Adam responded to an eDNA detection of Largemouth Bass (*Micropterus salmoides*) and Asian Perch (*Siniperca chuatsi*) at Lake Puketirini at the request of DOC who did not have a boat driver available to sample the lake. Fish and Game provided a boat/skipper to collect follow up eDNA tests. Adam and Matta Daniel assisted DOC and University of Waikato staff to collect and filter 85 eDNA samples. All samples were negative for both species. It has been determined the original positive detection may have been contaminated by fish meal or fertiliser in the lake.

**Golden Clams:** Clams (*Corbicula fluminea*) have been found in Lake Karapiro and are likely throughout the Waikato system. Adam has been asked to participate on a panel of invasive species experts set up by MPI to manage the incursion. The small clam species can self-fertilise producing up to 10,000 offspring per individual annually. The clams are edible and common in the aquarium industry, as a result they are an invasive species throughout the world with no known removal methods available. The clams are filter feeders and eat phytoplankton. It is likely that the clams will colonise most lowland waterways in NZ but will not have a significant impact on sports fish or waterfowl. Golden clams can reach densities of several thousand per square meter and will be a threat to the already fragile populations of native calms. The primary impact of Golden clams will be the clogging of water intakes as the juvenile clams are microscopic and once inside water intake systems they can grow to 30mm.



## **OUTPUT 3: PARTICPATION**

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### **Project 1311: Access Negotiation**

**Access:** John contacted past F&G ranger Max Crockett about the Ako Street access in Kakahi for fishers to the Whanganui River. It seems this access cutting shown on maps past the rodeo grounds and down the cliff from this street was washed away by a flood. The Waitea Branch Road is now the safe and practical access to this section of the river.

Adam visited to the Waimiha Stream for an access negotiation on private land that will be followed up in May.

### **Project 1341: Other Publications**

**Videos:** Adam and Roslyn have now released short videos on the Awakino drift dive, Waitawheta drift dive, Quarry Lake fish release and Lake Arapuni fishing comp. Roslyn has developed logos and video formatting to make the branding of A/W videos consistent. To date the videos have been released on the A/W Face Book page but will eventually be migrated to a dedicated YouTube channel. The videos have attracted between 800 and 1300 views making them far more popular than reel life written content.

## **OUTPUT 4: PUBLIC PROMOTIONS**

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### **Project 1431: Liaison Advocacy**

Community Adam fished with approximately 20 youth on the Whanganui River for the Taumarunui Community Kokiri Trust. The fishing was more successful than the last outing but there was a need to have a ratio of 4 kids to an experienced angler to make future events more successful.

Adam assisted the Kaitiakitanga Trust to teach a youth group how to fish the upper Waipa River on the Oliver's property. The participants were taught how to fish, camp and cook their catch over an open fire. Fishing was very successful and appreciated by the participants and their care givers.



John assisted Auckland Zoo by banding a second brown teal botulism recovery from Omaha that was now ready for release. Cloacal eversion is the usual way banders sex ducks, but some knowledge of brown teal is a useful cross-check. Their different plumage between males and females varies at different times of the year, also juveniles and adults differ. Females also have a deeper voice, much like mallards. We sometimes get brown teal in our banding cages at Parakai, also mallard hybrids there that superficially look like brown teal, but which are much larger and crossed with domestic ducks. It is crucial to make the right ID to fit the right sized leg band. Recovering dead brown teal, (from botulism), and also banding live brown teal recoveries is a very useful way to get hands-on experience with this significantly smaller species that once was a common gamebird in NZ until habitat loss heavily impacted on it.



**Photo 1:** The smaller birds on the right-hand side of this c.1910 photo are most likely brown teal, then common legal game.



**Photo 2:** One of the dead brown teal recovered by F&G at Omaha near Warkworth.

## **OUTPUT 5: LAW ENFORCEMENT**

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### **Project 1511 Ranging**

**Maimai disputes:** The usual maimai disputes that occur every year. For instance, one maimai was tagged up with a junior tag, which can't be done in this region, so that fixed that. Another had already been marked up but probably rats ate the paper tag, bits of which were on the floor. However, several other unrelated hunters saw the guy go in and tag it, confirming his story along with his licence purchase details. Unfortunately, another hunter who'd been in his spot 38 years lost it when he was held up by an accident which he naturally enough stopped to assist. There is nothing in the Wildlife Act which allows us to intervene on compassionate grounds, so the takeaway lessons here are; mark up early if it is last year's spot, use an adult tag and put some serious protection around that paper tag. Plastic tags can take 10 working days to arrive, if they do, (which was another complaint).

John and other F&G ranging coordinators joined in a Zoom meeting with the new Firearms Safety Authority. While we have our own private opinions about the new laws, such as gun registration and the carriage of firearms, we agreed that the role for F&G is to impartially advise our licence-buyers so they can best understand how to comply.

**New Rangers:** Adam interviewed two ranger candidates and vetted them through the Fish and Game community. Adam has now interviewed four potential honorary rangers in preparation for training later this year.

## **OUTPUT 7: COUNCIL**

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### **Project 1721: Donations**

**CAF:** Adam and Ben updated the required annual CAF reporting to remain eligible for overseas donations.

## **OUTPUT 8: PLANNING REPORTING**

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### **Project 1841: National liaison**

**Martime NZ:** Adam has been preparing for the national Maritime NZ audit on behalf of the NZ Council and A/W Fish and Game. The review will audit A/W boats and safety systems. Three other councils will be visited and audited separately.

## **OUTPUT 9: ADMINISTRATION**

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### **Project 1912: Administration**

**Permits:** Roslyn has issued over 150 General authority permits and 55 forest permits. This is a little down from last year but some more may be added by the end of the season.

**Website:** There have been two website development meetings with one being a training lesson on how to edit the new website. Roslyn has attended both and has been asked by Corina if interested/able to take more charge of the changes that are needed to be done. This is still to be finalised on what the scope of work this includes.

There is not a set date yet on when the new website will be going live to the public. The page to report a duck band still needs to be finalised as a map for the hunter to pinpoint the location may be added.

B. Wilson

**Chief Executive**