



» ≈ ANNUAL REPORT

FOR *THE* YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER | 2007



ADVOCATES  
FOR THE  
TONGARIRO  
RIVER

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## COMMITTEE 2007

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Bob Appleton	»	REPRESENTATIVE, LAKE TAUPO FISHING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Ross Baker		
Robert Brace		
Mark Cosgrove	»	IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
Stuart Crosbie		
Richard Kemp	»	VICE PRESIDENT
Heather Macdonald	»	PRESIDENT
Julian Proctor		
Tuatea Smallman		
John Toogood		
Eric Wilson	»	SECRETARY TREASURER
John Wheeler		

Note: Graeme Nahkies is an Adviser to the Committee

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The Registered Office of  
The Advocates for the Tongariro River  
Incorporated is care of  
213 Taupahi Road, Turangi.  
The postal address is  
P O Box 335 Turangi 2751.  
[www.tongariroriver.org.nz](http://www.tongariroriver.org.nz)

Photograph on front cover:

The Major Jones and Breakfast Pools looking upstream to the Major Jones Bridge.

Photo by Mark Cosgrove.

## **NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The Sixth 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 Monday, 24th March 2008 at 1.30pm.

### **≈ AGENDA**

The business of the Annual General Meeting will be to:

1. Record those present and note apologies.
2. Receive the Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting held on 8th April 2007.
3. Receive the President's Report and approve the Financial Statements.
4. 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](http://www.tongariroriver.org.nz)**  
The following notice of motion is given:

#### **Amendment to Rule 5 – Membership of the Society**

##### **5.3 Associate Member**

- (a) There shall also be an Associate Membership of the Society. The Society may invite and extend the Society's membership to other societies, clubs or organisations whose aims and objectives are consistent with those of the Society
  - (b) The provisions of Rules 5.1 and 5.2 shall apply to Associate Members, modified as appropriate and if necessary to reflect the provisions of Rule 5.3(a).
5. Appoint an Executive Committee comprising a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer (or a secretary \ treasurer) and committee members.  
Note: A nomination form for the Executive Committee is enclosed with this Annual Report.
  6. Consider any other matters.
  7. Stuart Crosbie will address the meeting on determining strategy and action.

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

≈ **MINUTES**

Minutes of the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc held Sunday April 8 2007 at 3.00pm, Tongariro Bridge Fishing Lodge Conference Room, Turangi.

**Present**

Heather Macdonald (Chair), Richard Kemp (Vice Chair), Ross Baker (Acting Secretary/Treasurer), Bob Appleton, Robert Brace, Tony Charlton, Alison Cosgrove, Mark Cosgrove, Stuart Crosbie, Jane Freitag, Walter Freitag, Julian Proctor, Amanda Robertson, Jenny Shieff, June Shieff, John Toogood, Betty Wheeler, John Wheeler, Nita Wilde.

**Apologies**

Sam Cranfield, Will Kemp, Jock McRae, Graeme Nahkies, Tuatea Smallman, Sylvia Smith, Dick Truebridge, Bruce Wilde, Lorraine Wilson, Eric Wilson.

**Minutes**

Moved that the Minutes of the Fourth Annual Meeting of 16 April 2006 be accepted.  
Moved by Richard Kemp, seconded by John Toogood. Carried.

**Matters arising**

nil.

**President's Report**

The President's report was circulated in the Annual Report. Heather Macdonald commented on the key issues

1. Didymo issues – Didymo is not in North Island yet; other Didymo related matters noted were:
  - Public Meeting to raise Didymo awareness;
  - Iceland example of border controls;
  - Funds from Biosecurity NZ for advertising;
  - Radio advertising – the three advertisements were played;

- Attendance by Heather Macdonald at Meridian Energy’s Christchurch Didymo meeting; and
  - Felt soled waders considered major problem.
2. Planting project to enhance river environment;
  3. Removal of feral pines;
  4. Management Plan – frustration at lack of progress;
  5. Keen to make links with Turangitukua.

Heather Macdonald thanked the Committee and moved the report be adopted. Seconded by Mark Cosgrove. Carried.

Mark Cosgrove thanked the President.

### **Financial report**

Moved by Heather Macdonald, seconded by John Wheeler that the Financial Report be accepted, with the addition of the prepared Notes to the Accounts. Carried.

### **Appointment of Committee**

Bob Appleton

Ross Baker

Robert Brace

Stuart Crosbie

Richard Kemp

Heather Macdonald

Julian Proctor

Tuatea Smallman

John Toogood

Eric Wilson

John Wheeler

Note: Mark Cosgrove became a Committee member as immediate Past President

Heather Macdonald nominated as President by Richard Kemp, seconded by John Wheeler. Carried.

Richard Kemp nominated as Vice-President by Bob Appleton, seconded by Tony Charlton. Carried.

Eric Wilson nominated as Secretary/Treasurer by Jenny Shieff, seconded by Heather Macdonald. Carried.

### **General Business**

Anita Wilde described an example of a South Islander fishing in the Tongariro in waders which had not been cleaned.

Walter Freitag asked if there are ongoing Didymo checks in Tongariro – confirmed.

Walter Freitag asked if there is there is Turangitukua representation on the Advocates' Committee – confirmed.

Richard Kemp thanked President Heather Macdonald and Committee.

### **The Chair then passed to Richard Kemp for remainder of the meeting. Five issues were discussed, each with a main speaker:**

#### *1. Didymo Prevention (Julian Proctor & Robert Brace)*

Julian Proctor advised of hideous nature of Didymo in South Island rivers.

Didymo most prevalent in best fishing locations.

NZ's stronger UV light promotes growth faster than Northern Hemisphere.

Tongariro River fortunate in having spawning beds in closed tributaries.

Suggestion that all spawning tributaries must be closed.

Some claim birds spread it, and if so, there is no hope for tributaries.

Alison Cosgrove suggested all fishing gear should be inspected at airports prior to departure.

Amanda Robertson commented on Didymo checks at international airports.

2. *Environment Waikato (EW) River Management Plan* (Mark Cosgrove)  
Genesis's annual financial contribution to Turangitukua was noted.  
Discussion on broadening Delta channel.  
John Toogood asked if EW opposed Turangitukua plans to dredge the Delta – confirmed.  
Mark Cosgrove advised that EW preferred short term plan for stop banks.  
Bob Appleton advised that EW collects rates for dredging.  
Julian Proctor commented on EW's failure to dredge, despite promises when the power scheme was put in place.  
Stuart Crosbie asked if EW have management plans for other rivers.
3. *Outdoor Walking Access Report* (John Wheeler)  
John referred to the recently published Acland Report on walking access.  
It was noted that Taupo District Council should show paper roads more clearly on maps  
Walking public need education on Didymo issues.  
Julian Proctor asked what had happened to true left bank tracks above the Hydro Pool – confirmed still present.  
Heather Macdonald has advised DoC that the signage and tracks between the Hydro and Admirals Pools need to be improved.  
It was noted that there are access problems because of portions of track being privately owned.  
Bob Appleton advised that 300m of track are for licensed anglers only.
4. *Riverbank Planting Programme* (Jenny Shieff)  
Planting project has successfully raised Advocates' profile.  
Good survival rate for trees planted.  
Need to meet and plan further with DoC, to ensure there is coordination between plans for flood protection stopbanks and planting programme.  
Aim is to plant from SH1 bridge to Koura Street swing bridge.

5. *Feral Pines Eradication Programme* (John Toogood)

Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust has granted \$5,000 for poisoning trees.

Application is being made to Huckleberry Pub Charity for additional funding.

EW Initiative Fund may assist – application pending.

John Toogood will consult with NZ Forest Managers.

Mark Cosgrove advised DoC will not allow pines in National Parks.

Alison Cosgrove suggested forest owners should pay a levy of pine trees seeding within, say, a kilometre radius of their forest.

Robert Brace asked if all are *pinus radiata* – confirmed.

Stuart Crosbie enquired which area would be the focus of the work – confirmed that it would be done in stages from Major Jones to Fence Pool.

The meeting closed at 5:10pm

≈ **THE ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2007**

*President Heather Macdonald reports:*

The committee has continued “to speak out for the Tongariro River and promote management strategies intended to preserve and enhance the values inherent in the River and its fishery.” (Advocates’ mission statement)

The most significant achievement in 2007 was the decision made by the parties to the Tongariro River Management Forum, to develop an Integrated Tongariro Catchment Management Plan (ICMP).

This decision is a major milestone for the Advocates, as it was in response to the need for such a plan, that the Advocates was initially established. I wish to acknowledge the vision and sterling work done by Mark Cosgrove who has provided what has often been an up-hill lead in this work since 2002.

My appreciation also to Graeme Nahkies, Advocates member and adviser to the Committee, who was asked by the Committee to evaluate EW’s 2006 River Management Plan, and make recommendations for further action by the Advocates. The committee adopted the recommendations of Graeme’s report, recommendations which subsequently proved to be the catalyst for the Management Forum’s decision that an ICMP was indeed necessary. See Appendix 3 of this Annual Report for Graeme’s evaluation report to the Committee.

At the December 2007 meeting of the Forum, which includes representatives of Turangitukua, the Tuwharetoa Trust Board, EW, DoC, Genesis Energy, the Turangi/Tongariro Community Board and the Advocates, it was agreed in principle to proceed with the development of an ICMP, to be developed over a two year period. This decision promises well for the future of the river.

Other notable achievements in 2007 include:

- The adoption by the Committee of a Strategic Plan with a guiding Strategy Map. The Strategic Plan, developed by the Committee throughout the year, outlines the role of the Advocates in terms of Membership, Stakeholders, Issues and Accountability. It also provides a risk profile to help determine which particular issues should be taken up by the advocates, and an action planning framework. The Strategic Plan is included at the end of this Annual Report and is also on the Advocates’ website. My thanks go to Committee member Stuart Crosbie for the lead he provided in this project;

- Redesigning the Advocates' website to make it reflect the Strategy Map and to make it more informative, interactive and user friendly. Eric Wilson has guided this process, with input from Ross Baker and professional expertise from Mike Forret of Waikato University;
- Successful completion of the initial stage of the feral pines eradication project, led by Committee members John Toogood and John Wheeler, and carried out in cooperation with DoC;
- Another year without Didymo. Thankfully the scare of October 2007 turned out to be a false positive, with the dead Didymo cells found in the Tongariro and other Central North Island Rivers being traced to laboratory contamination.

Reaching agreement on a vision statement for the Strategic Plan involved considerable discussion. Committee members eventually decided that it was both realistic and achievable to strive towards "having the Tongariro River restored and treasured as amongst the world's top 10 wild trout fisheries". It would be helpful to have evidence of the way(s) in which the Tongariro was regarded by any reputable sources. Was the Tongariro ever given a ranking, perhaps in Zane Grey's time or thereabouts, by the House of Hardy or other such organisations? Please let me know if you have seen such a ranking published anywhere.

My Report will now follow the Strategy Map's focus areas:

### **Membership Focus**

At the end of 2007, membership was 291, from 223 households. We have held subscriptions at \$25 per member or \$30 per household, and we are aiming for increased membership in 2008, including an increase in the number of members per household. My thanks to Committee member Ross Baker who has worked on raising awareness of the Advocates and in generating new membership among those visitors to the area who have a passion for the river. Now that we have capacity to sign on and pay subscriptions electronically, I hope that members will encourage others to join the Advocates on: [www.tongariroriver.org.nz](http://www.tongariroriver.org.nz)

I thank Advocate members for their continuing support and generosity. We are aware that our mandate as a society is given to us by our members, and so it is essential for the Committee and members to interact. The redesign of the website has been in large part to improve communication, and we hope it will generate more two way exchange.

As well as providing up to date Advocates news and information about the river, the website is a valuable archive holding papers presented at our public meeting and seminars, including the Virginia Church submission, the document that led to the formation of the Advocates in 2002. Given the value of photographs as a historical record, we are keen to have a rich photograph archive on the website, and would be keen to receive any photos of the river you can send digitally, through the site.

The website allows visitors to join the Advocates, renew subscriptions, and make comment on matters of interest or concern online . We hope that members will make increasing use of this online facility, and encourage others to do the same. We are expecting an increasing number of people to access Advocates' information, including newsletters, which will be made available online. We propose to keep our practice of sending hard copy newsletters, an expensive item, under review. I would appreciate your views on electronic versus hardcopy newsletters.

We have continued to host public meetings, send newsletters and provide press releases to get information out to members and others interested in river advocacy.

- Two newsletters were produced and sent to members, as well as to some 40 other individuals and organisations, including interested Members of Parliament, local and regional councils in the area and public libraries;
- As usual, this Annual Report will be distributed to all who received the newsletters;
- Two public meetings were held in 2007, one in conjunction with our AGM at Easter, and the other in October, which I have referred to above, and which was integral to our Didymo prevention activities. We also initiated and convened a meeting of key Didymo stakeholders in the area;
- Press releases have been made on Didymo and the Feral Pines Project.

In 2007 I was invited to be guest speaker at the annual meeting of the Tongariro and Lake Taupo Anglers Club (TALTAC) here in Turangi, a club whose interests are closely aligned with the Advocates, and with whom we discussed the idea of associate membership. Many TALTAC members are members of the Advocates and we will keep talking with TALTAC about ways in which our two organisations might lend collective weight to issues of common concern.

As a way of recognising distinguished service rendered to The Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc, the Committee has decided that from time to time it will award to a nominated member who has made such a contribution, the citation “distinguished member”. Names of distinguished members will be recorded on the website and in The Advocates annual reports.

### **Stakeholder Focus**

To define the stakeholder umbrella we have drawn up a list which is on the Advocates website.

Getting the owners a of the river bed and the key stakeholders associated with the river to engage with one another and agree on the importance of collective input into an integrated catchment management plan, has been the primary aim of the Committee since 2002. In 2007 this happened. I have no doubt that this kind of dialogue will lead to improved understandings and a better future for the river.

Building and maintaining open and constructive links with stakeholders is most important and generally we achieve this. Our role as a ginger group, however, will inevitably create some discomfort from time to time as has been the case in response to our advocacy for stronger measures to control Didymo.

Bob Appleton has continued as the Advocates’ representative on the Taupo Fishing Advisory Committee and I appreciate the work he does for us.

As a means of presenting a united North Island voice against a Didymo incursion, we invited the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers to join with us this year in writing a paper “Stronger Measures Essential to control the Spread of Didymo” which was widely disseminated, and in hosting a seminar on the topic. See appendix 1 of this report.

Our constructive relationship with Genesis Energy, Tokanau has continued and I thank Tracey Hickman and Jarrod Bowler for their willingness to support us and share information.

The most significant new link we have established this year has been with Tangatawhenua – the owners of the riverbed – through the River Management Forum process. This initial dialogue, which has shown that we share very similar hopes and dreams for the river, has been the beginning of what I hope will become an important ongoing relationship.

## **Issues Focus**

The following six issues provided the focus for advocacy in 2007. See the strategic plan at the end of this report, and the Advocates website.

### ***Issue 1: Didymo***

Our aim for 2007 was to advocate for the North Island to be Didymo Free. Our efforts were directed towards having:

- felt soled wading boots banned in New Zealand fresh water;
- comprehensive inter-island border controls, including airport cleaning stations, implemented at both departure and arrival points;
- ‘Controlled River Status’ assigned by Biosecurity NZ to the Tongariro River now – before Didymo gets here;
- improved strategies implemented by Biosecurity NZ to better protect the North Island from Didymo incursions;
- Check-Clean-Dry procedures adopted by users of the Tongariro and other rivers in the area.

### ***Advocacy Action:***

- Initiating a meeting of Didymo stakeholders in the Central North Island with the aim of generating more public awareness and stakeholder action. Invitations were sent to some 30 people / groups including DoC, Fish and Game, Genesis Energy retailers and accommodation providers. Genesis Energy generously hosted the meeting for us;
- Meeting with senior officials in the Department of Conservation in a bid to encourage the adoption of some kind of clean gear declaration in association with the Taupo Fishing Licence, and to lobby for the removal of felt soles from NZ waters;
- Contributing to local Didymo initiatives, through membership of Central North Island partnership group;

- Designing and printing, with professional expertise of Bob McDonnell and the staff of Cognito Advertising, Wellington, 1,000 postcards “Could You be a Didymo Carrier?” which were distributed locally;
- Production of a paper “Stronger Measures Essential to Stop the Spread of Didymo” in conjunction with the President of the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers. The paper – see Appendix 1 of this Annual Report or the Advocates’ website – was the focus for discussion at our public meeting at labour weekend. The paper was also widely distributed with the intention of influencing policy development activities and hopefullly having some impact on existing policy;
- Holding a public seminar at Labour Weekend, which focused on measures essential to prevent the spread of unwanted freshwater organisms, such as Didymo, See discussion paper appendix 1. Other freshwater matters needing to be brought to the notice of politicians were also discussed with the guest speaker, Shane Ardern, National Party spokesperson for biosecurity and rural affairs.
- Liaison with senior Biosecurity staff, Wellington, seeking improvement on the patchy implementation of Biosecurity/MAFF Didymo checks at Auckland International Airport.

*Advocacy Achievements:*

While felt soles have not been banned, the groundswell against them increased during 2007 and I think it likely we will see a decision in 2008. There was no such groundswell with respect to ring-fencing North Island waterways, however. We continued to lobby for better border controls to be put in place by DoC and Biosecurity NZ to prevent a North Island Didymo incursion. No one knows exactly how we have survived another year without Didymo in the North Island. We are most grateful to the Pharazyn Trust for the funding we received from them in 2007 to support our Didymo related initiatives.

***Issue 2: Feral Pines Trees***

Our aim in 2007 was to complete the initial stage of a project to facilitate restoration of the river environment by eradicating the feral pines trees.

*Advocacy Action:*

We succeeded in our aim to have the pilot phase of this project completed by the end of 2007, following a year of networking among the various stakeholders in 2006. The dead pine trees along the river from the State Highway 1 Bridge to the Red Hutt Bridge are signs of the Advocates' work to date. The cost of this work (\$5,000) was covered by a grant from the Waikato Catchment Ecological Enhancement Trust whose support we very much appreciate. Committee member John Toogood has managed this project with support from John Wheeler, and DoC has worked closely with us providing much appreciated technical advice, tree survey and loan of equipment and materials. We were fortunate to have Will Kemp, fishing guide with forestry qualifications and experience, as contractor.

*Advocacy Achievements:*

The pilot project is complete. As a result of the Advocates' networking and of the actual work done, John Toogood reports a growing enthusiasm for this project among the stakeholders, who like the Advocates, are increasingly keen to see the spectacular river environment enhanced by being free from the encroachment of pest trees threatening the natural vegetation. It is fair to say that the action of the Advocates has helped create a synergy between the stakeholders in the river, with a written commitment from DoC as part of the wrap up of the pilot phase, to:

- Discuss with their forestry consultants the possibilities of removing the trees on the cliff face adjacent to the main road bridge,
- Approach The Department of Correction to ascertain their policy on wilding pines on their land along the river, and to initiate their involvement,
- Approach the new owners of the Mangamawhitiwhiti Block regarding early removal of trees along the boundary while access is still possible,

- Continue to liaise with Environment Waikato in conjunction with the Tongariro River Management Forum and push for removal of the feral pines along the river margins, ie, those that we are unable to poison ourselves,
- Continue to advocate to have the removal of wilding pines included as a strategy in the Integrated Tongariro Catchment Management Plan.

The Advocates' Committee appreciates these undertakings made by DoC. Before undertaking any more work in 2008 the Committee wants agreement in principle from DoC and Environment Waikato to eradicate the feral pines on the of river land for which they have respective responsibility, namely those trees close to the walking tracks and those close to the river's edge. Obtaining funding for the next stage of the work will also be a prerequisite.

### ***Issue 3: Lake Levels***

Our aim in 2007 was to consider whether to advocate for a review of lake levels. The scheduled review of aspects of Might River Power's Resource Consent set down for May 2008 may provide an opportunity for the Advocates to do this.

#### *Advocacy Action:*

The Committee decided that while the Advocates should not take a lead role in this matter, the Advocates would offer support to the groups such the Tokaanu Residents Association in seeking Mighty River's cooperation in lowering the median lake level.

***Issue 4: The Mangamawhitiwhiti Block***

Our aim in 2007 was to encourage the Taupo District Council (TDC) to modify its District Plan, to recognise the eco-importance of river and stream.

The Mangamawhitiwhiti Block of land, situated on the true right bank from State Highway 1 Bridge upstream beyond the Mangamawhitiwhiti Stream – which runs into the Hydro Pool – has been identified by TDC as the first of three land areas in the Turangi area for development. Our understanding is that development into residential blocks is to proceed in 2008.

The Mangamawhitiwhiti Stream is a very important spawning stream for brown trout. Currently the District Plan leaves room for significant ecological damage. The Advocates' goal is to encourage TDC to showcase best ecological principles and eco-development through making extensive riparian provisions for the Tongariro River and Mangamawhitiwhiti Stream, such as having up to 25% of land area being reserve and planted, in order to

- prevent urban runoff,
- provide wildlife corridors; and
- guarantee continued public access and enjoyment.

*Advocacy Action:*

A submission was made by Eric Wilson on behalf of the Advocates on variations to TD2050 (TDC 's Long Term District Plan). The full submission is on the TDC's website.

*Advocacy Achievements:*

Although we received notification from the TDC that no change will be made to the District Plan as a result of the Advocates' submission, there will be further opportunity for stakeholders to make submissions during the resource consent stages of the Mangamawhitiwhiti Block development. I am encouraged to know that DoC will be doing whatever in its power to manage the risks this development poses to the river and the fishery.

***Issue 5: The state of the fishery***

Our aim in 2007 was to have DoC acknowledge that the diminishing size and relatively poor condition of Taupo fishery trout was more than a seasonal matter and was in fact a problem that needed to be addressed.

*Advocacy Action:*

The Advocates' Committee has met with the DoC fisheries manager and scientists, and in response to an invitation issued by DoC, have also made a written submission – see Appendix 4 of this Annual Report or the Advocates' website.

*Advocacy Achievements:*

The concerns the Committee expressed in the meeting with DoC Fisheries was a contributing factor in having DoC acknowledge that there was a problem. At the time of writing this Annual Report, we have not had a response to our submission. Debate on the matter has been stimulated however, and in the December issue of Target Taupo which carries an article on fish size, DoC acknowledges that they are unclear as to the reasons for the change.

***Issue 6: Access***

Our aim in 2007 was to find ways of providing an enhanced network of tracks to provide access to the Tongariro River, for walkers as well as for anglers.

*Advocacy Action:*

We approached TDC asking for a plan showing the unformed legal roads adjacent to the Tongariro River. John Wheeler, whose surveying expertise is of particular value to the Committee provided the lead on this project.

*Advocacy Achievements:*

After some six months, we received a response from TDC in the form of a report to the Turangi Tongariro Community Board. That report, Appendix 2 of this Annual Report, in essence suggests that the issues raised by the Advocates will be best handled by the new walking access agency within MAF.

The Committee received this report with some disappointment. The new Walking Access Agency is unlikely to deal with the issues we raised with the TDC or relieve Council of their obligations under the local Government Act 1974. This matter will be considered further by the Committee in 2008.

DoC has done fine work in 2007 to upgrading existing river access tracks, a matter which the Advocates have made submissions on in past years, and high standard of work done by DoC has made a significant difference.

## **CONCLUSION**

The peak of the Advocates achievements to date was the agreement in principle, made in 2007 by the owners of the river bed and the stakeholders involved in the Tongariro River Management Forum, including EW, to proceed collectively with the development of an Integrated Catchment Management Plan.

With this achieved and a catchment management plan in the pipeline, we can hopefully look forward to the river receiving better and systematic attention in the future as a matter of course.

I suggest that enabling the beauty of the river to be appreciated more widely becomes a priority for the Advocates in the coming year. DoC has greatly enhanced existing tracks and we appreciate the work they are doing, but more of the river now needs to be opened up. Over the next year or two, in cooperation with Ngati Turangitukua and other land owners, and with DoC and EW, I propose that the Advocates work towards developing a network of walking tracks so that more people can enjoy and value this spectacular river and its environment.

If there are issues that you think need advocacy action, please let us know.

I thank Vice President Richard Kemp, Secretary \ Treasurer Eric Wilson, Adviser Graeme Nahkies, Immediate Past President Mark Cosgrove and the Committee for the time, expertise and immense good will they have contributed.

≈ **FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

*for the twelve-month period ended 31 December 2007*

	<i>2007</i>	<i>2006</i>
	\$	\$
<b><i>Income</i></b>		
Subscriptions and donations	3,932	6,937
Grant (BNZ Didymo grant)	-	3,149
WCEET (Waikato Ecological Enhancement Trust)	5,000	2,000
Interest Deposit	986	454
Pharazyn Trust Grant	10,000	-
	<b>19,918</b>	<b>12,540</b>
<b><i>Expenditure</i></b>		
Advertising and Promotion	164	325
Post Box rental	125	125
Website	1,058	517
Newsletter	736	775
AGM, Seminar, Report and Expense	2,548	2,443
Postage, Stationery and Banking	409	604
Didymo	2,419	3,421
Didymo Seminar Christchurch	-	574
Planting For The Future	-	1,996
Wilding Pines	5844	-
Other	450	-
	<b>13,754</b>	<b>10,780</b>
<b>Excess Income over Expenditure</b>	<b>6,164</b>	<b>1,760</b>

**Statement of Financial Position**

*As at 31 December 2007*

	2007	2006
<b><i>Current assets</i></b>		
Bank current account	3968	4,064
Term Deposit	18103	9,107
Debtor	-	2,000
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>22,071</b>	<b>15,171</b>
<b><i>Current Liabilities</i></b>		
Creditors	736	-
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>21,335</b>	<b>15,171</b>
<b><i>Accumulated Funds</i></b>		
Balance at 31 December 2006	15,171	13,411
Net Surplus for year	6,164	1,760
<b>Total Surplus</b>	<b>21,335</b>	<b>15,171</b>

Heather Macdonald  
*Chairperson*

Eric Wilson  
*Treasurer*

≈ NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

*For the period ended 31 December 2007*

**1. Statement of Accounting Policies**

***Reporting Equity***

The Advocates For The Tongariro River Society Inc. is incorporated under the Incorporated Societies Act 1908.

The financial Statements of the Advocates For The Tongariro River Society Inc. have been prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting practice.

***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 which materially affect the measurement of financial performance and financial position 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 shows the financial position as at 31/12/2007.

≈ APPENDICES

**Appendix 1      Page 22**

Stronger Measures Essential to Stop Didymo Reaching the North Island –  
A discussion paper

**Appendix 2      Page 36**

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## Appendix 1 Stronger Measures Essential to Stop Didymo Reaching the North Island

*A discussion paper*

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### STRONGER MEASURES ESSENTIAL TO STOP DIDYMO REACHING THE NORTH ISLAND

#### Introduction

Stronger more stringent and effective measures must be taken to keep Didymo out of the North Island. A clear government policy that effectively ring fences the North Island is needed as soon as possible.

#### The problem

Disappointingly, Biosecurity NZ's (MAFBNZ) measures designed to isolate and control the spread of Didymo have insufficient rigour.

MAFBNZ's main awareness and prevention policies are:

1. An education and awareness campaign, the **“Check Clean Dry”** Campaign, has been designed to raise awareness and encourage anglers and other freshwater users to use recommended cleaning procedures. Unfortunately, this campaign has not resulted in the changes sought. For instance, a high percentage of anglers know about Didymo and how to guard against spreading it, but few are taking the essential preventative action<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> The following extract from BNZ's press release (25th September 07) acknowledges the failure of its “Check Clean Dry” awareness policy:

*“We have been frustrated in the past with the number of anglers who know about Didymo but still do not clean their equipment. I would ask every angler this season to think how he or she could ensure that they do not put our fisheries at risk. It is not a big effort to clean your equipment, but it is very necessary, not just for Didymo but other aquatic pests as well.” BNZ Press release of 25th September 2007.*

2. The second major plank of the BNZ policy has been the establishment of **Regional Stakeholder and Partner Groups**, which have been funded to manage Didymo related actions regionally. Both the Advocates and the NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers are participants in respective Regional Partnership Groups, which have done fine work in developing Didymo Incursion Response Plans. In terms of awareness and prevention strategies however, our experience is that these groups are not in a strong enough position to bring about actions of the sort that many members of the group consider necessary. The limitations of the BNZ policy framework is one of the factors that makes it difficult for these groups to make a difference. Another factor is lack of legislative powers, which are only held by BNZ.

Given the inadequacy of the MAFBNZ policy there is an urgent need for more rigorous, carefully targeted strategies to be introduced as soon as possible. Stronger measures must be introduced to protect New Zealand's freshwater. Didymo is the current concern and urgent action must be taken to control it, but unwanted pests will continue to plague NZ's freshwaters, and under present BNZ policy we do not have the necessary protection mechanisms.

The matter of immediate concern and urgency is that of putting controls in place to prevent the spread of Didymo to the North Island. Didymo spread has become epidemic in the South Island and rigorous North island protection measures are a matter of urgency.

### **The purpose of this paper**

This paper has been developed by committee members of *The Advocates for the Tongariro River* and of the *NZ Federation of Freshwater Anglers*, as a means of stimulating discussion and generating the kind of measures essential to protecting New Zealand's freshwater. Both our organisations are committed to assisting in the anti Didymo campaign through networking ideas that may generate action.

The second section of the paper lists some broader freshwater matters for discussion.

### **Essential Didymo prevention measures**

This paper proposes six new policy measures. Although each of the initiatives will stand alone, the impact will be significantly greater and enduring if implemented collectively.

The measures proposed and outlined below, are:

1. Placing a barrier (ring-fence) around the North Island
2. Ring-fencing the Taupo Catchment Fishery
3. Introducing a “Clean Gear Licence”
4. Placing a ban on felt soled boots
5. Implementing a new and effective awareness campaign
6. Commissioning well funded research.

In the appendix, (page 8) we propose an approach for protecting the Taupo Catchment Fishery, should Didymo be found in the North Island.

#### **1. Ring fencing the North Island**

Putting a biosecurity barrier around the North Island is both urgent, and essential, as exists and operates effectively in other parts of the world<sup>2</sup>.

Live Didymo cells are in effect aquatic hitchhikers. The cells can survive for weeks in damp or wet fishing equipment, clothing and kayaks, boats and absorbent materials, such as felt soles, and in doing so can be spread and over long distances, adapt and contaminate the next body of water.

We need rigorous biosecurity checks and controls on gear being bought into New Zealand in order to preventing the movement of such pests across international borders, and it is encouraging that BNZ is implementing such measures this month. However, we must not stop at that, as controls at international barriers are not enough.

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<sup>2</sup> Iceland has a policy of not allowing any used fishing gear into the country unless the traveller presents a Decontamination Certificate to biosecurity staff upon arrival. The certificate confirms that all freshwater gear has been cleaned using a procedure specified by Iceland, by an approved person, (a vet) in the country the traveller has come from. Iceland has no freshwater pests and is ensuring that the status quo continues.

Given the out-of-control spread of Didymo throughout the South Island, best use must be made of the natural barrier that exists between the North and South Islands as a control measure to prevent a North Island invasion. A biosecurity barrier must be put in place within New Zealand at domestic airports and ferry terminals in order to intercept and treat freshwater gear moving within New Zealand.

The consequence of continuing to allow a free flow of freshwater gear within New Zealand is likely to have dire consequences for the future of New Zealand's freshwater, and the associated businesses, economies and recreation.

***Existing regulation could be adapted***

Domestic border controls of the sort proposed above could be applied under the recent amendment BNZ has made to the Import Health Standards<sup>3</sup>. The amendment will empower MAFBNZ staff, from Mid October this year, to check and treat all freshwater gear coming into NZ. We applaud this initiative, and want to see it applied within New Zealand as well as at our international borders.

Further amending the Import Health Standards to make the measures applicable at our domestic airports and ports, is a logical and essential extension of the steps BNZ is taking at our international airports/ports. New Zealander travellers unwittingly carrying Didymo between rivers and lakes within NZ are as much of a risk as anglers (and others) travelling internationally.

Since it is the North Island waters that urgently need protection, the border control measures, at this stage at least would we suggest, be applied in the South Island at all departure points, when travellers with freshwater gear, etc and a North Island destination check in . At the Picton ferry terminal there would be a dedicated "biosecurity lane" with a drive through spraying system for "at risk" vehicles and boats, as well as procedures for declaring, checking and treating gear.

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3 BNZ recently announced that

"From mid October 2007 MAFBNZ's Import health standards associated with animals or water will be updated to require MAFBNZ staff to treat all used freshwater fishing equipment they determine or suspect is NOT COMPLETELY DRY (inside and out), regardless of whether it has been cleaned before coming to New Zealand." BNZ 17 September 2007 This regulation needs to be made applicable to domestic ports and airports.

***Cost of ring fencing the North Island.***

Significant costs would be associated with this measure, mainly job creation and related staff training costs. Dedicated employment positions, in many cases part time, would need to be established at each point of departure from the South Island.

However, the costs of not implementing this measure and having Didymo (and other such organisms) take hold in North Island waters would be vast and far reaching. For example, the Taupo Catchment Fishery and the business, industry and tourism associated with it, has an economic value of upwards of \$100 million per annum<sup>4</sup>.

***Establishing a North Island ring fence, in summary***

In our view, and indeed in the view of a great number of New Zealanders we have spoken to, putting a biosecurity barrier between the South and North Island is essential. Such a measure needs to be the centrepiece of a rigorous new policy framework.

Procedures being introduced by BNZ at NZ's international airports from mid October 2007 need to be adapted (following amendment to the regulation) so that the same procedures can be applied to travel within NZ, between the North and South Islands.

**2. Protecting the Taupo Catchment Fishery**

A second layer of control needs to be put around the Taupo Catchment Fishery (TCF) in line with the significance of this area.

***Why single out this area for special protection?***

The reasons for proposing this extra level of protection include the following:

Because of its' reputation as a fishery and the fact that it provides all year fishing, it has a very high volume of angling traffic through its rivers and lakes, thus equating with very high risk of Didymo incursion.

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<sup>4</sup> Revenue generated per annum by the Taupo Fishery and associated activities should be available through Biosecurity NZ's updated assessment of costs relating to Didymo. Figures held by DoC Turangi are 1990's estimates.

Secondly, science has established that the environmental conditions in the region's rivers are ideal for Didymo.

Under Treaty of Waitangi provisions, it is a major food source and a significant taonga for people of Ngati Turangitukua and Ngati Tuwharetoa.

As a wild trout nursery it of particular value.

Its worth in economic and tourism terms is widely acknowledged. The TCF and the business, industry and tourism associated with it, has an approximate economic value of upwards of \$100 million per annum.

All steps must be taken, therefore, to afford this area special protection.

***Declaring a "controlled area".***

Provisions for creating a controlled boundary around a high value area already exist in the Biosecurity Act, in the form of what is termed a "controlled area"<sup>5</sup>.

Under sec 131 of the Biosecurity Act, BNZ **or a regional council** may create a controlled area in order to

- Enable the limitation of the spread of any pest or unwanted organism; or
- Minimise the damage caused by any pest or unwanted organism; or
- Protect any area from the incursion of pests or unwanted organisms; or
- Facilitate the access of New Zealand's products to overseas markets; or
- Monitor risks associated with the movement of organisms from parts of New Zealand the pest status of which is unknown"

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<sup>5</sup> "High value" is the term used by BNZ as part of the provisions enabling controls to be implemented in an area once a pest such as Didymo has been confirmed in those waters. The status of "high value" can be contingent upon one or more of a range of values being deemed intrinsic to a particular waterway.

BNZ should use the provisions of sec 131, ss (c) to create a controlled area at Taupo, or over a wider Central North Island area or, better still, over the whole North Island, in order to allow protection measures to be put in place, **before** Didymo reaches a high value area. This would mean that appropriate prevention measures, such as those contained in BNZ provision for implementation **after** incursion, can be put into effect as stringent protection. There seems little sense in the current approach of waiting until didymo is detected, to declare “controlled area” status.

It is essential the Taupo Catchment fishery be given “controlled area” designation **before** a Didymo incursion.

***A “controlled area” provides two-way protection***

Making the TCF a “controlled area, will give the benefits of a two-way filter. This means that on the one hand, if the first North Island Didymo incursion is in the TCF area, ring-fence protection strategies in place in this area will dramatically increase the odds in favour of containing Didymo and preventing its spread to other North Island rivers. On the other hand, the controlled area provisions will also act as a filtering out mechanism when anglers are coming into the TCF.

***Incentives for prevention***

Didymo is different from other incursions dealt with by BNZ, a therefore BNZ needs different mechanisms to deal with it. For example, BNZ normally deals with invasive pests (e.g. varroa bee mite) that affect one industry (apiarists). The operators there can recognise the full weight of the implications of a pest gaining a foothold and so hardly need public awareness campaigns and incentives for implementing controls. In such cases the impact is felt in raw economic terms by those directly involved, putting livelihoods at stake.

With regard to Didymo there is not the same industry based incentives nor is there direct impact on the angling public that does not fully appreciate the implications of casual indifference.

***The idea of ring-fencing high value areas is not new.***

We have in NZ many examples of high value areas that have been “ring fenced”. For example, various islands and parts of the mainland have been declared free from pests, e.g. Maungatautari in the Waikato.

Tiritirimatanga in the Hauraki Gulf; Kapiti Island off Waikanae. Many areas have been treated as controlled areas or otherwise sequestered for disease and pest exclusion purposes, including for bovine tuberculosis, occasional animal disease outbreaks, painted apple moth, tussock moth, American foulbrood disease, etc. The Auckland Regional Council in 1999 declared the Hauraki Gulf and its islands to be a controlled area, and this measure allows programmes to be put in place to successfully exclude a range of pests, and penalties for those who breach the conditions of declaration.

***Cost associated with “controlled area” status***

To ascertain a realistic cost assessment of implementing ring-fencing measures in the TCF, careful cost/benefit and risk/value analysis will be necessary. And to give a true picture the analysis must take into account the values inherent in the fishery, the high levels of exposure to the risk of incursion, and the long-term flow on costs if the TCF is left unprotected.

***Making the TCF a “controlled area, in summary***

Implementing this policy proposal needs serious consideration right now. We cannot afford the consequences of delay.

**3. A Clean Gear Licence**

The second of the initiatives we propose goes hand-in-hand with the domestic border control or ring fencing measure proposed above. For instance, when travellers have had their gear checked at an airport or ferry terminal, they will be issued with a Clean Gear Licence (CGL).

A Clean Gear Licence would be a prerequisite to the purchase of a fishing licence in any part of New Zealand, or must be shown in order to purchase a fishing *licence*.

***Safeguard our rivers by looking after your gear***

As Didymo is often invisible to the naked eye, it can be spread unknowingly. When this fact is put alongside the characteristic, “she’ll be right” attitude, the common response is not to bother. The intention of this CGL proposal is to establish as a widely accepted norm among users of freshwater, the practice of “safeguarding our rivers by looking after your gear”.

It is worth noting that Australia puts NZ to shame in the approach it takes to Didymo. For instance, Australian anglers who regularly fish in New Zealand are increasingly asking the motels and fishing gear retailers in NZ to look after their gear between trips rather than have it subjected to the stringent decontamination procedures at borders in Australia.

***What is a Clean Gear Licence?***

A Clean gear Licence would be in effect a decontamination certificate and a statement of intent to use decontamination procedures as required.

***Getting a Clean Gear Licence***

For anglers<sup>6</sup> getting a clean gear licence would mean:

1. having gear cleaned when purchasing a fishing licence, or on check-in to travel to a North Island destination;
2. agreeing to use the recommended cleaning methods after/ between fishing different rivers;
3. receiving an pack of pertinent well presented information;
4. there would have to be
  - a. approved fishing licence providers;
  - b. a credit card sized card (CGL);
  - c. a plastic pouch for the CGL, with MAFBNZ required decontamination procedures printed on it

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6 Other freshwater recreational sporting groups would be encouraged to implement a “Clean Gear Licence”.

The declaration on the licence card would read something like this:

*“Clean Gear Licence: (Insert name.....) My fishing gear has been cleaned and I will take the action specified on the CGL pouch to avoid spreading Didymo and other unwanted freshwater organisms”.* This would be signed and dated by the angler and the approved fishing licence provider.

### ***Amending the Fishing Licence regulations***

Changes will be required to the fishing licence regulations to make the CGL a prerequisite to obtaining a licence to fish, and to impose fines if fishing without a CGL. While we recognise that politicians may be loathe to stepping in and regulating what is seen as a bastion of freedom, the impact of not doing so will be detrimental and far-reaching.

### ***Costs of implementing a CGL***

Obtaining a CGL as outlined would be quick and simple thus minimising compliance costs for both the licence providers and anglers. Other costs such as provision of the licence cards and information packs would be minimal. Costs associated with regulation change will be absorbed as part of public service business.

### ***Increased surveillance necessary***

DoC and Fish and Game field staff need to interact with anglers and other users much more frequently than at present – perhaps so often that on any one day an angler has a high (100%) chance of being approached by a DoC or Fish and game field official.

### ***The Clean Gear Licence, in summary***

“Safeguarding our waters by taking care of your gear” has to become the accepted mantra, and a Clean Gear Licence a prerequisite to obtaining a fishing licence.

#### **4. Keep Felt Soles out of New Zealand Waters**

Banning felt soles from use in NZ Freshwater would be a small but significant measure in helping to future-proof our waters against a host of undesirable and damaging pests and weed.

##### *The ideal host for aquatic hitchhikers*

Taking felt soles out of New Zealand waters altogether would significantly reduce the risk of spreading unwanted freshwater organisms<sup>7</sup>. The thick layer of felt provides an ideal condition for moving unwanted aquatic life around the world. Didymo cells for example, which are absorbed into the felt, can survive in those damp conditions for long periods; can adapt to new environments as they have in NZ, and will continue to contaminate. It appears that, increasingly scientists are tending to find correlations between arrival of unwanted organisms in various parts of the world, and an increase in the use of felt soles.

##### *Managing the safety factors*

Felt has been considered to provide more sure footing when wading especially in rocky rivers. However, manufacturers, aware of the need to take felt out of the equation are now producing rubber-soled boots with good non-slip properties. Discussions between NZ retailers and overseas manufacturers on the need for alternative materials are well advanced. Safety is therefore unlikely to be compromised by a ban on felt soles.

##### *Associated costs*

Cost associated with banning felt soles is minimal when compared with the potential of felt, as a carrier, to cause long-term harm. We recommend that anglers who currently have felt soled boots would have the soles replaced at no cost to them<sup>8</sup>.

##### *Felt soles in summary*

Allowing felt soles to be used in NZ's freshwater is bad practice in terms of biosecurity risks, and needs to be stopped. NZ can take a lead role in having felt soles banned internationally, an initiative, which would be in everyone's best interests

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<sup>7</sup> Results of tests done for BNZ by NIWA Scientist Barry Biggs in 2006 showed felt soles on fishing boots to hold live Didymo cells for significantly longer period of time than soles made of leather or rubber.

<sup>8</sup> Replacement cost, which would be minimal, would come from the BNZ Contingency Fund.

## 5. A New Awareness Campaigns

The Marine Safety Authority has successfully shifted the norm regarding the wearing of lifejackets by NZ boat users. They did this through a television and poster campaign featuring a well known and widely respected New Zealander.

Using Colin Meads to get recreational boaties to put on life jackets has been a very successful means of penetrating attitudes relating to that particular safety issue. There was approximately a 75% increase in the wearing of lifejackets over the time of the campaign. The same approach would succeed in getting anglers and others to make the changes necessary to protect our waters against Didymo and like freshwater pests.

Further, we recommend the adoption of the ‘**STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS**’ message as was shown at the 2007 NZ Biosecurity Conference by the ‘U.S. Wildlife Service’. We feel that this should be used alongside ‘Check-Clean-Dry’ to emphasize the need to ‘clean all vehicles, boats and fishing gear when moving from one waterway to another’.

### *Have a well known, respected Kiwi give the message*

A significant number of anglers and other freshwater still have their heads in the sand and have yet to be persuaded that the “she’ll be right” approach is no longer good enough.<sup>10</sup> Unlike boat users, the impact of irresponsible behavior in relation to a freshwater epidemic such as Didymo goes well beyond themselves and those with them at the time.

### *A new awareness campaign in summary*

We strongly recommend advancing from the “**Check Clean Dry**” to a NZ wide high profile “Celebrity Campaign,” featuring someone like Anton Oliver and/or Sir Edmund Hillary, as soon as possible ideally incorporating the ‘STOP AQUATIC HITCHHICKERS’ programme as well.

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<sup>9</sup> For the American “Aquatic Hitchhiker” pack on which this idea is based, see [www.protectyourwaters.com](http://www.protectyourwaters.com)

<sup>10</sup> Ref footnote 1, page 1.

## **6. Research into the Ecology of *Didymosphenia geminata* (Didymo)**

### ***Little is known***

A commitment to ongoing research is the final of the measures we consider essential. There are many as yet unanswered questions about Didymo and its impact. We propose that a well funded research approach aimed at fully understanding the ecology of Didymo be undertaken at the highest level of scientific capability. We appreciate the research work done to date by NIWA and other agencies but it is not sufficient nor is the funding adequate.

### ***Proposed approach and benefits and costs***

By taking an ecological approach, much could be learned about the range of Didymo, especially its likely reaction to different habitats and environments. Therein may lie a way of (i) keeping the pest out of the North Island, and, (ii) controlling the impact and spread in the South Island. The use of the copper citrate complex is unlikely to be effective. The immediate and long term benefits of high quality research will far outweigh cost, particularly given the high level of international interest in NZ as a leader in this research field.

### ***Research in summary***

There is much to gain from making research as proposed in this paper, a priority.

## **In Conclusion**

Didymo is a serious threat to NZ's freshwater environment and the economic social and ecological values integral to it.

With the trout fishing season in most of New Zealand rivers are now open for another year, there is a flow of anglers and wet gear and boats (and the probability of live Didymo cells), moving unchecked, between South and North Island rivers and lakes. It is nonsense to let this continue.

Serious threats need rigorous responses. The BNZ campaign has to be much more strident than at present and there needs to be opportunities to introduce even stronger measures in areas of particular value or significance.

**Recommendations:**

The *Advocates for the Tongariro River, (Inc)* and the *New Zealand Federation of Freshwater Anglers (Inc)*, recommend:

- **Ring Fencing the North Island** by extending the amendment to **the Import Health Standards** announced by Biosecurity NZ on 17 September 2007 to all South Island departure points;
- **Ring-fencing the Taupo** catchment Fishery;
- Introducing a **Clean Gear Licence**;
- Imposing restrictions on the movement of **felt soled boots**
- Launching a NZ **wide high profile awareness** campaign featuring a NZ **Celebrity**;
- **Commissioning well funded research** aimed at an ecological understanding of Didymo and its impact; and
- **Taking action** on 1 to 6 with urgency.

*Updated on 2nd November 2007*

## Appendix 2 Rural Walking Access and the Role of Paper Roads

*The report from the Taupo District Council in response to the Advocates request for information*

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Turangi/Tongariro Community Board – Agenda Item



### RURAL WALKING ACCESS ISSUES AND THE ROLE OF PAPER ROADS

#### Suggested Resolution

- 1 That the report outlining rural walking access issues and the role of paper roads be received.
- 2 That Council staff advise the Advocates for the Tongariro River that its policy in relation to the provision of access tracking adjacent to the Tongariro River and elsewhere in the vicinity of Turangi be essentially as outlined within this report.

#### 1. Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to provide appropriate background information and comment, so that the Board will be better able to determine its role, priorities and responsibility along with the responsibilities of other organisations and interest groups when considering requests, for rural walking access assistance in the vicinity of Turangi.

The report discusses some rural access issues raised by a local river access interest group and looks at the proposed role and function of a new walking access agency currently being set up by Government.

#### 2. Significance of Decision

This item does not trigger the Significance Policy.

### 3. Background

#### *Introduction*

The Board may be aware of recent Government initiatives to have a walking access agency [Agency] and associated Advisory Board set up within the Ministry of Agriculture & Forestry with its aim being that *'New Zealanders have fair and reasonable access on foot to and along the coastline and rivers, around lakes and to public land.'*

The Board will be aware of a local river access interest society calling themselves 'Advocates for the Tongariro River' [Advocates] who have made various submissions on river access to the Board, to Council's LTCCP consultation process and have also contributed to a local Turangi focus group meeting to determine walking and cycling issues leading up to the development of Council's Cycling & Walking Strategy.

Much of this report would suggest that the objectives of the Advocates river access proposals and ambitions may well be better furthered by the Advocates working in conjunction with the new access Agency to utilise their specialised knowledge, leadership, negotiation and funding resources. This approach would likely be more productive than relying on resources for such rural access establishment being prioritised from within Council's general Urban Recreation or Transportation functions.

With Council being required to consider the promotion of the social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities, in the present and in the future, attention and prioritisation has been on the provision of recreation facilities generally within urban areas or close urban periphery. It should also be noted that Council's Cycling and Walking Strategy, is generally focused on the promotion and development of alternative modes of transport within communities, leading to sustainable transport options and also as a consequence more healthy communities. To a lesser extent and of much lower priority within the Strategy is the provision of recreation routes remote from urban areas. However, the Strategy suggests that Council would certainly support the facilitation of such rural access routes particularly if they could be considered strategic or linked places of significance.

***Proposed Role of the Walking Access Agency***

In August 2007 the Government accepted the recommendations of an independent panel to set up a central access Agency & Advisory Board to address rural walking access issues. A Board which will provide advice to the Government in setting up this Agency was appointed in October 2007.

The proposed role and function of the access Agency is to develop strategies and provide leadership for the complex issues of promotion, negotiation for, provision and development of public walking access over the various status and ownership types of private and public land.

***Some of the proposed tasks that the Agency will be empowered to deal with include:***

- to consider all forms of access, but walking access be a priority
- undertake an assessment of public requirement and priorities for walking access mapping prior to publishing mapping information about existing walking access. The mapping of unformed legal [paper] roads would be a priority
- to prioritise and carry out negotiations and make agreements with the landholder to create new walking access over private land, including Maori land
- acquire access over private land and fund the acquisition of such rights
- provide leadership and work with local interest groups and local authorities to promote and provide access and signage, etc
- the administration of a contestable fund to enhance and promote public access. Local interest and access groups, along with local authorities and other organisations, will be eligible to apply
- the development, promotion and maintenance of a code of responsible conduct for those walkers using such rural access ways, marginal strips and walkways etc.

### *Past Issues Raised by Advocates for the Tongariro River*

The Advocates have made submissions relating to rural access to the Turangi/Tongariro Community Board in 2003, to the 2004 LTCCP planning process and also made comment during public consultation prior to the development of Council's Cycling & Walking Strategy. They have also made enquiries regarding access over unformed paper roads.

A summary of the Advocates' concerns would appear to be that they would like to see the development of an enhanced network of walking tracks to provide upgraded access to and along the Tongariro River for angling and recreational use.

In particular, it would seem that they wish to see existing tracks extended and upgraded, so that access is provided on both sides of the Tongariro River from the Red Hut Bridge in the south to the SH1 Road Bridge, and then beyond to the mouth of the river and delta to the north.

The Advocates also raise the possibility of being able to utilise access across Department of Corrections [Prison] land to the south of the Red Hut Bridge, they question the rights to access on private roads, Crown roads and unformed legal [paper] roads and they suggest the development of a track over private farm land to join up with a track from the summit of Mt Pihanga linking down to the Lake Rotopounamu Loop track.

#### **4. Considerations**

The bulk of the extended and upgraded track network envisaged by the Advocates would appear to pass over land administered by the Department of Conservation [DOC], Department of Corrections, possibly Transit NZ, privately-owned land and to a lesser extent over unformed [paper] roads under the jurisdiction of Council.

Discussions with DOC staff indicate that they operate and maintain almost all the river tracking to the south of the SH1 Bridge over the Tongariro River. DOC advise that they have recently extended some tracking on the left bank, over DOC land, however, the track has not been completed over a section of privately owned land.

It would seem that the Advocates should be talking to DOC, the private landowners and logically the new access Agency on the feasibility and possible ways to develop a complete loop track in this area.

Where the Advocates have concerns over access across Corrections land further to the south, it would seem logical that they discuss these issues with the Department of Corrections. Alternatively, the Agency may be better able to negotiate 'fair and reasonable access' in terms of its aims, if, of course, this access development proposals fits within its initial and current priorities.

Council only has jurisdiction over local legal roads. It does not have jurisdiction over private roads, Maori roadways, Crown roads or State Highways. For permission to use these road types the Advocates need to approach and discuss their wishes with the respective land owners or Crown identity.

Providing continuous river side access from Turangi north to the mouth and delta area, from Turangi to Tokaanu and from Tokaanu to the delta area could, however, be more difficult. Again, this may be an appropriate exercise for the Agency.

On the right bank the Advocates have identified the unformed [paper] road section of Grace Road, which they rightly concluded they were entitled to walk along. However, a review of aerial photos of the road and a phone conversation with the adjacent landowner, led to the conclusion that the legal road has, in fact, been washed out completely by a meander of the Tongariro River [De Latours Pool] and the locked gate was, most likely, entirely on private property where the farm track skirts around this washout. With continued aggregation of the river bed, coupled possibly with some subsidence occurring on the adjacent delta land over the years, other sections of this paper road may well have become swamp and may be impassable in these locations as well.

For this reason it would appear that access to the lake and along the river might be more easily achieved on the left bank of the Tongariro River by way of Awamate Road and the continuing unformed paper road extending into the previously exchanged "Swamplands" now under the jurisdiction of DoC. The Advocates could pursue this possible option with DoC and/or alternatively with the new access Agency in due course.

***Unformed Legal [Paper] Roads – Definition, Status and Council Practice and Policy***

During establishment of the Agency, information was supplied to the independent panel which suggested that Council had 120km of paper roads across the District. It is understood that this assessment was undertaken by MAF Officers making many assumptions. Council staff are aware of some, but certainly not all, paper roads and hence are not aware how accurate this figure is. For this reason staff are not able to supply detailed lists and maps of these paper roads on request. Given time and resources staff can research particular roads to determine status and location, just as members of the public and interest groups can do themselves also. Any request for information on paper roads is treated by Council as a request for information under the Local Government Official Information and Meetings Act 1987 [which provides that Council may recover costs for supplying any information].

These paper roads could have been laid out or surveyed in the past 120 years or so, generally to provide access to properties or land partitions and also to link locations and other roads. Most paper roads have never been constructed or formed although some may have been formed in the past but have since reverted to farmland or forest as a result of Council policy to maintain a road only to the nearest boundary of the last [often occupied] property. Some paper roads provide internal farm and forest access only and hence Council would not spend ratepayer funds continuing to maintain these roads. These un-maintained roads are generally farmed or utilised by the adjacent land owner. Where a farmer is permitted to erect a gate across a legal road, Council would not maintain the road beyond the gate.

Often, paper roads are not obvious on the ground but generally the adjacent land owner would be aware of their existence from their own Certificate of Titles for their land.

Paper Roads have the same legal status as a fully formed and maintained local road [and they are owned by Council]. The public has a legal right to “pass and re-pass” over any road including paper roads. While this right certainly applies to pedestrians it may not necessary imply absolute rights to the use of motorised vehicles on paper roads. There is no statutory requirement for Council to form any surface or construct any carriageway on a road or paper road.

Council has, in the past, recognised that there exists a certain amount of tension, with this situation between:- the landowner adjacent to a paper road, the public wanting and entitled to access over the unformed paper road and also Council who has jurisdiction and some obligations in relation to paper roads.

Council practice in the past has been to generally accept paper roads being incorporated into the management of the adjacent land, however, each case, as staff become aware of the paper road situation, is treated on its own merits.

The vast majority of paper roads lead nowhere in particular and may be of no real interest to hikers, fishers, hunters and other recreational users such as mountain bike or four wheel drive enthusiasts. These roads have not been advertised as such and the adjacent landowner has enjoyed the use of the land whilst at the same time maintaining the land often weed free and passable if and when required by the infrequent legitimate user.

Some paper roads have been identified as providing bona fide access to forest parks, rivers and other waterways. Where such legitimate access has been demonstrated to Council in the past, Council has required the adjacent landowners to erect swing gates on any fence line that crosses the path of the paper road.

Where this has occurred, signs are required to be positioned on the gate advising that the gate is in fact located on a "Public Road". Tapapa Road, the extension of Taharua Road is an example.

One problem arising, particularly with such advertised paper roads, is the environmental damage that can be caused on sensitive soils as a result of indiscriminate use by motorised trail bikes and off-road 4WD type vehicles [which could possibly be prohibited by way of Bylaws to minimise the concern, however, further research in respect of this would be required].

Another issue that can arise is that of safety responsibilities on a paper road. Likewise further consideration would also need to be given to this aspect which is beyond the scope of this report.

Council's policy on requests for the stopping and disposal of paper roads has consistently been not to and to retain them for the use and enjoyment of future generations. Council would sell them only when an alternative route providing convenient and equivalent legal access has been constructed nearby and/or vested in Council. This has allowed structured development along a paper road and down a valley for instance to proceed unhindered and with little cost to Council. The current policy of retention of all paper roads in Council ownership provides security and greater access and roading options for future generations and the public at large.

Most water way access groups, DOC, Fish and Game, Deer Stalkers Association etc. along with the new Agency, all support Councils retaining paper roads for potential access now or possibly some time in the future. It is possible also that these existing paper roads may be exchanged for more practical legal access in the future. Examples of this would be Poukuru Road, Ohakuri Road and Taharua Road.

#### ***Future Role of Paper Roads***

With the establishment of the walking access Agency there is likely to be much more public interest in the use of specific paper roads for recreational activity. It has been recommended that the Agency give priority to the mapping of these paper roads which have potential for recreational access or activity.

It is widely thought that hand-held GPS units will be useful for access-users to determine where a road is, however, there still needs to be maps and given co-ordinates to work with the GPS unit. At present, Council is not required to delineate the boundaries of any paper roads.

There will be increasing demand for signage to and along these new walking routes. It is unsure at this stage if the Agency or Council would be responsible for the installation and maintenance of such signage or if funding would be available for Council or interest groups for this type of work.

## **Conclusion**

This report discusses some of the rural access issues raised by the Advocates and implied with the setting up of the access Agency and considers that the majority of the Advocate proposals could or would likely be more appropriately addressed by the Agency in due course, once the Agency is established and functioning as intended.

The report also discusses aspects of unformed paper roads which could play an increasing role in the provision of walking access in the future.

### ***Summary of Issues Raised within the Report***

- The establishment of a walking access Agency within MAF could well be beneficial to the Advocates in addressing their aspirations of providing an enhanced network of tracks to access the Tongariro River.
- The aims and objectives of the Agency would suggest that they may be the primary organisation to which the Advocates should look to for assistance.
- Council supports the concept of providing fishing access along the Tongariro River, as does the Department of Conservation, however, Councils' recreational resources and transportation resources are currently prioritised and committed generally within urban areas and for the promotion of alternative modes of transport which in turn promote sustainability and more healthy communities.
- The establishment of the walking access Agency is likely to highlight the presence of more paper roads which will lead to greater public awareness and demand for use.
- There will be tensions generated between adjacent land owners and the rights of the public to access over these paper roads and Council will be increasingly required to ensure this access is not restricted by insisting that appropriate gates or styles are installed where fences cross paper roads.

*Report Prepared by:*

Bob Hopkins  
*Senior Roding Engineer*

*Report Reviewed by:*

Denis Lewis  
*Transportation Manager*

### **Appendix 3 Graeme Nahkies' report to the Advocates Committee**

*An evaluation of Environment Waikato's River Management Plan of 2006*

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To Heather Macdonald  
*President*  
*Advocates for the Tongariro River*

#### **1. Introduction**

You have invited me to review the Tongariro River and Catchment Management Plan prepared by Environment Waikato and to suggest how a broader and more integrated approach to dealing with the multitude of issues affecting this iconic river might proceed.

The purpose of the following report is primarily to assist the Advocates organisation to clarify its thinking about the concept of a catchment management plan for the Tongariro. I hope that it will also assist the other key parties involved. As you are aware, I attended the Tongariro River Management Forum (TRMF) on 11 October and outlined in broad terms some of the ideas dealt with in this paper. I was encouraged by the positive way in which Forum members addressed the need to advance an integrated catchment planning and implementation process.

#### **2. Background**

The Chief Executive of Environment Waikato advised the Advocates (21 June 2007) that the catchment management plan prepared as part of its resource consent conditions for undertaking flood protection in river management work on the river has been approved and is now operational. In the same letter, the Chief Executive acknowledged that the Tongariro River Management forum strongly supported the need to develop a more comprehensive catchment management plan for the river and that a small working party chaired by Genesis Energy would be formed to progress this.

The TRMF, on 11 October, noted that there had been no further progress on this and agreed that Environment Waikato would convene an appropriate planning group which would report to a further meeting of the TRFM prior to Christmas.

### 3. The current Tongariro River Catchment Management Plan

The Advocates has previously expressed its disappointment with the plan that has been adopted. Having now examined it myself I would make some brief observations:

- It is very narrowly based. Its stated purpose is to achieve compliance with Condition 22 of Resource Consent 110223 (to undertake works, including gravel abstraction, debris/vegetation removal, soil disturbance and other bed disturbance associated with construction and maintenance of stop banks on the Tongariro River and its floodplain). Its focus is, therefore, largely on the river channel and the prevention of/protection against flooding in the lower river. It makes passing reference to the hazard posed by riverside vegetation (mainly pine trees) entering the river during flood conditions as a consequence of bank instability but apart from that, few other issues are addressed. At best, it is a lower river 'river-bed' plan; it is certainly not a Tongariro River *catchment* plan. It is even less comprehensive than the draft plan/discussion document published in February 2006.
- As a *plan* it leaves a lot to be desired. The greater part of its content is simply description which while worthwhile in itself, does not constitute a plan. As a plan of *action* it is vague and unfocused. Responsibility for its implementation is relatively undefined and often left in the hands of others (e.g. Taupo District Council).
- Even in terms of what it sets out to do, it appears to lack thorough and rigorous analysis of the problems it sets out to address, and alternative remedies.
- The numerous spelling mistakes and other editorial deficiencies tend to reinforce the impression that it is a narrowly conceived, minimalist compliance effort that has been hastily compiled, although I understand that there have been concerns that it took as long as it did to get to the stage it has.

Given the tenor of the Environment Waikato letter referred to above there is little if any value in continuing to critique this document. The focus of the Advocates and other interested parties should be on progressing the development of a new more comprehensive catchment management plan *for the catchment*.

In that regard, it would seem significant that in the Environment Waikato presentation to the TRMF on 11 October this document was referred to as 'Stage 1' in the catchment planning process with 'Stage 2' (a more comprehensive approach) still to come. There would appear to be no disagreement with that concept although some of the interested parties may be better placed to play their part in advancing this than others.

#### **4. A possible new catchment management plan**

Physically, economically, culturally, and socially the Tongariro River is one of the most important rivers in New Zealand. In some respects it also has a significance and reputation internationally. For example, it is closely linked to the Tongariro National Park which has World Heritage Park status and it is reputedly one of the greatest trout rivers in the world.

Unfortunately, past decisions/developments have damaged the natural state of the river in ways that can probably never be repaired. It is nevertheless, still a great and very important river and there is a high risk of increasing resource use conflict (farming, forestry, recreation, energy generation, conservation of flora, fauna and landscape values, tourism, etc) and considerable further damage and degradation (the risk of a Didymo outbreak is only one possible source of this).

In planning for its future, the Tongariro River and its broader catchment deserve far better than it has received to date from those responsible for its stewardship.

I consider the focus should be on the rapid advancement of the development of a new, more comprehensive catchment management plan. The Advocates organisation should aim to achieve, as soon as possible:

- agreement on the scope of that plan
- agreement on the timing for the preparation and adoption of that plan
- agreement on resourcing for the preparation and adoption of the plan

#### 4.1 *The scope of that plan*

What should now be produced is an integrated catchment management plan that provides a comprehensive basis for the future conservation (and development) of the catchment. Integrated catchment management planning is a widely understood concept applied internationally for more than 20 years in various guises (see various papers by Graeme R. Marshall<sup>11</sup>). Particular attention is being paid to integrated catchment management planning in Australia prompted as much as anything by a high demand for limited water and land resources.

*The fundamental principles of ICM are<sup>12</sup>:*

1. catchments are logical units for natural resource management
2. land, water and other components of the natural system in a catchment are interrelated
3. ICM is needed to provide coordination and cooperation amongst agencies and levels of government
4. a process is needed to resolve 'edge' problems amongst agencies (due to overlapping or shared interests); and
5. local communities, as well as government agencies, have legitimate interests in natural resource management. active participation by local stakeholders in the decision-making process is believed to be essential, in order to:
  - improve access to indigenous local knowledge
  - tap in to 'grassroots' willingness to volunteer for management or conservation activities
  - increase community 'ownership' of environmental problems
  - provide a forum whereby shared goals are more likely to emerge among various stakeholder groups

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11 <http://www.ruralfutures.une.edu.au/staff/3.php?nav=Program%20Leaders&staff=Dr%20Graeme%20Marshall>

12 Graeme R. Marshall. Integrated Catchment Management: a Road Paved with Good Intentions. Seminar paper, Perth, 20 June 1997.

Many of the issues which are commonly referred to in relation to the Tongariro underline that actions taken in relation to the protection and enhancement of the river have been mostly reactive and piecemeal. The essence of good planning is to get ahead of the play to ensure that what does happen is positive, well considered and coordinated, and has widespread support. Some relevant NZ reference points from which we might draw inspiration include:

**The Motueka ICM research program** – a collaborative, holistic approach to large-scale, regional environmental issues. It involves Landcare Research, the Tasman District Council, the Cawthron Institute, Scion (formerly the Forest Research Institute), NIWA, the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences and Otago University. These organisations are working with a range of stakeholders from the community and industry. The program’s goal is to undertake research to help improve the management of land, freshwater and near coastal environments in catchments with multiple, interacting and potentially land and water users. It has interest in this context because the program has attempted to link science with those who manage, live in or use the catchment. It has encouraged research which involves multiple agencies and draws on multiple academic disciplines. It has facilitated people working alongside each other.<sup>13</sup>

**Lake Manapouri** – integrating conservation with hydro-electric development.<sup>14</sup>

**The Pauatahanui Inlet action plan** – this involved the development of a community vision and action plan for the inlet and its catchment. It was prepared by an ad hoc advisory group in association with the local community and other interested parties in response to the need for a blueprint for the future management of an important ecological area.

**Ruamahanga River catchment** – I am aware that in 2003 the Greater Wellington Regional Council proposed an initiative in conjunction with Massey University. This was prompted by council initiatives in biodiversity, and was intended to take an ecosystem approach to managing natural resources in a context that included social, economic and political considerations. I’m not sure how far this has advanced.

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<sup>13</sup> see for example <http://icm.landcareresearch.co.nz>

<sup>14</sup> A F Mark. Integrating Conservation with Hydroelectric Development of Lakes Manapouri and Te Anau, New Zealand: an Exercise in Complexity. 2001.

**Mangatutu River and Catchment Management Plan** – one of Environment Waikato’s own initiatives relating to the Waikato River catchment. On the face of it this appears to be a much more comprehensive approach than is the evident in relation to the current Tongariro River catchment management plan.

At the TRMF on 11 October, Cr Laurie Burdett also referred to the example of a successful community-led initiative at Raglan which may also offer a relevant model. No doubt others will also be able to point to applicable examples.

#### **4.2 Timing**

The vital question is: ‘what is a reasonable timeframe for the development of such a plan?’ If a timetable is not set for this initiative it will never happen. I would have thought that two to three years would be a reasonable timeframe for the sort of exercise that is envisaged. To make it happen, however, will depend on effective resourcing and real commitment.

#### **4.3 Resourcing**

Without realistic resourcing the development of an effective integrated catchment management plan will not be possible. There is a variety of issues including, for example, the following.

- I am sure there are good reasons why the TRMF agreed previously that Genesis should lead the next phase of the development of this plan. However, there is no getting away from the fact that Environment Waikato is the planning authority for the catchment and has the statutory responsibility to ensure that the river and its catchment are well planned and managed.
- I am not familiar with the current organisational structure of Environment Waikato. The engineering and river management group has produced the current catchment management plan (‘Stage 1’) but its further development (‘Stage 2’) will require a broader based multi-disciplinary approach. This will require a much wider range of community and resource planning skills.

- There is a wide range of stakeholder interests that need to be reflected in the development (and implementation) of the plan but care will be needed to ensure that the exercise is not constrained to move no faster than the pace of the least well resourced or least enthusiastic of the participants. There is a number of community planning techniques that would enable the various interests to be identified and their objectives reflected in the initial drafting of the plan.
- This project would require, at least, a substantial commitment of professional resources from within (or contracted on behalf of) the lead agency. I cannot see how Environment Waikato would not be that lead agency. However, it would seem from other similar exercises that there would be other substantial organisations like the Crown research institutes and universities, as well as significant resource users (e.g. Genesis Energy) and resource owners (e.g. the Ngati Tuwharetoa Trust Board) that may be willing to contribute resources to such a project.

The various parties reflected in the membership of the TRMF (and no doubt many others with an interest in the river) have a great deal to gain from the type of exercise I have outlined. Some of them, however, have only a partial interest or a relatively narrow responsibility. Because of its holistic perspective and non-partisan nature the Advocates organisation is in a unique position. It is vital, therefore, that it should continue to make every effort to progress the development of an integrated catchment management plan.

Graeme Nahkies

*15 October 2007*

**Appendix 4 Advocates' Submission to the Department of Conservation on Trout Size**  
*Submission on Trout Size*

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**SUBMISSION ON TROUT SIZE**

**To** John Gibbs Manager Department of Conservation Conservation Fisheries, Private Bag Turangi

**Copied to** Graeme Whyman, Lake Taupo Fishing Advisory Committee, Clo Sporting Life, The Mall, Turangi

**From** The Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc. Po Box 335 Turangi

**Date** 13th September 2007

**Introduction**

1. The Advocates committee wishes to thank you and your staff for meeting with us to discuss concerns relating trout size. Further, we appreciate the wider opportunities you have provided for anglers generally to meet with fisheries staff on this matter, and your inviting of submissions.

**Changing the minimum legal length of trout**

2. The Advocates Committee accepts the case that has been put by the fisheries management for changing the minimum legal length of trout from 45 to 42cm. We are aware that in the history of the Fishery changing conditions have, at times, necessitated changes of a similar nature.
3. However, downsizing the minimum legal length, as an action on its own is not sufficient as it fails to address the causes contributing to the diminished size, number and condition of trout.

### **Observations**

4. A large number of anglers are expressing concern about the diminished size and poor condition of trout. These observations which have been made over the past two or three seasons and calendar years, have increased markedly this year. There is no doubt that the trout are smaller, are fewer in number and a significant number are in poor condition. These fish are not juveniles. They are mature fish spawning as part of the winter run.
5. Fisheries staff have suggested that we may be experiencing the effect of a late season, with the good fish yet to come. We consider this unlikely to be case, as regular spawning activity has been evident in the river over the winter months and an increasing percentage of fish caught are spent and returning to the lake.
6. Soft data has come to our attention in the form of reliable observations, that large numbers cat fish inhabiting the lake are bigger than expected and stomach contents show them to be feeding heavily on smelt. These observations have been made around the Kuratau cliffs and at the Delta.
7. It is likely that catfish pose a greater threat in competing with trout for food than has hitherto been acknowledged, given the characteristics of their feeding habits. And it is reasonable to suppose that the cat fish population has increased to a point where food sources are no longer sufficient for trout.
8. There can be no doubt that the reduction in trout size, numbers and condition, as observed in both the river and the lake throughout at least the last year or two, is a consequence of trout getting insufficient food.

### **Request for more monitoring and analysis**

9. To the best of our knowledge the most recent comprehensive research done on trout food source was that done in 1986 by Theo Stevens. We think it is necessary to have comprehensive current data on food sources and factors relating to associated eco systems, in both the lake and the River.
10. We note no discussion or information on the biota, as opposed to available species in eco systems which are readily available, and would like to see such data gathered and analysed.

11. The Taupo fishery has been traditionally known for its trophy trout. Can we conduct research to indicate whether this particular gene pool has been depleted?
12. We urge fisheries scientists to undertake more extensive monitoring of catfish. For example, monitoring at a greater number of locations and a greater range of depths to get better data on relative numbers of catfish and the extent to which their consumption of smelt, Kura and fingerlings, is impacting negatively on the condition and sustainability and of the trout population.
13. Once comprehensive data on food supply and the factors impacting on it has been gathered and analysed we would like the information to be in the public domain and used by fisheries scientists as a basis for corrective intervention.

#### **Our Request for Information**

14. We would appreciate receiving information about:
  - i. monitoring currently being done in the Lake and rivers
  - ii. monitoring systems being used
  - iii. whether fisheries scientists are confident that current monitoring is producing the data necessary for well informed management of the fishery
  - iv. the extent to which resource constraints are limiting the gathering of data considered necessary by fisheries scientists.

#### **Intervention to redress unfavourable conditions**

15. There are a number of recorded instances in the history of the fishery where intervention has been necessary due to ecological changes that were producing unfavourable conditions for trout. And it is interesting to note that such interventions produced successful outcomes. Indeed among the successful interventions of the past was the introduction of the “wild” trout now populating the fishery. The Advocates Committee would therefore reject any contention that intervention is not acceptable. Where it can be shown as necessary to sustain the health and quality of the fishery, interventions such as those made in the past, are essential.

16. If food supply is found to be a cause of the observations noted in this submission, we suggest a two part response. First, and as soon as possible that a significant injection of smelt be put into the lake to augment what is clearly an insufficient source of nourishment for trout, and second, that comprehensive data gathering be undertaken to determine the reasons contributing to the problem.

**Conclusion**

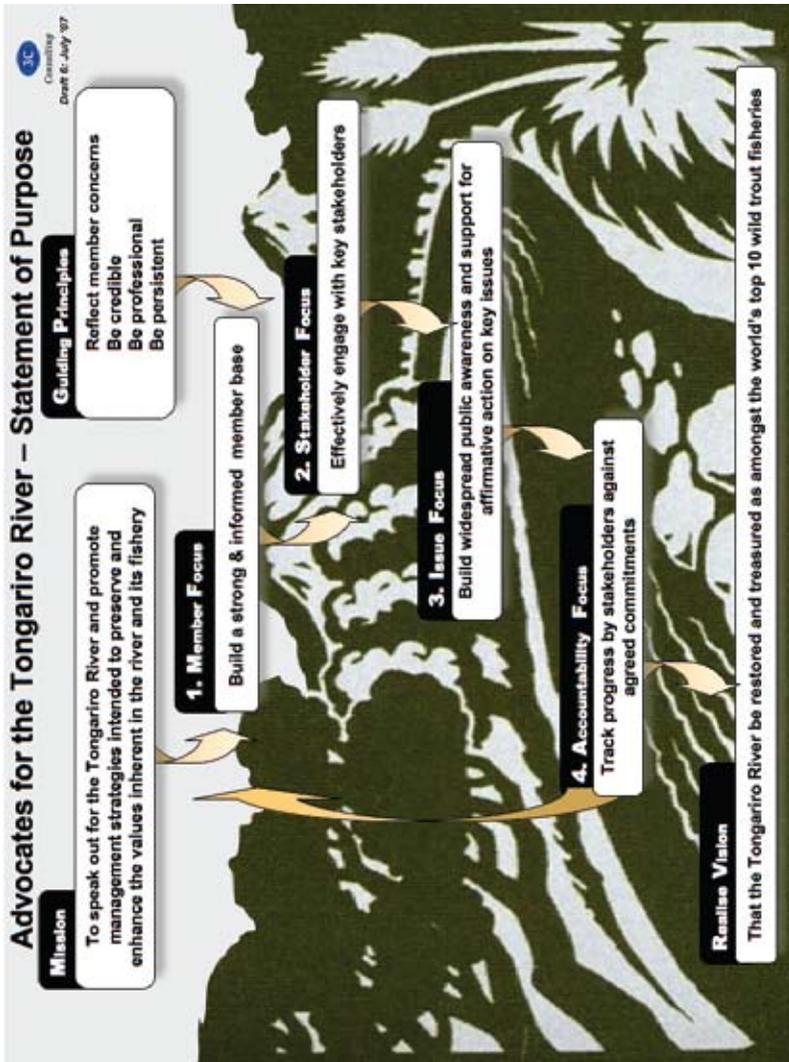
17. The Advocates would like to meet with you and your team around Easter 2008, at a date to be agreed nearer the time, for an update on progress on the matters included in this submission. In the meantime we would be pleased to receive information on monitoring, as requested in paragraph 14.
18. We will be happy to discuss any of these matters with you.

Heather Macdonald  
*President*  
*Advocates for the Tongariro River Inc*

## Appendix 5 The Advocates Strategy Papers

### Strategy Map

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## 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 Advocate's 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 ..... 291 (Dec '07)
- Funds on hand ..... \$14,500
- Website developed
- A strong dedicated committee
- Grants of \$29,000 to date
- Each year member donations have equaled subscriptions

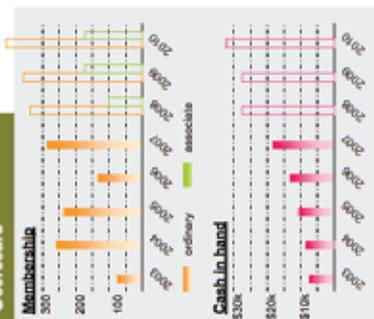
#### Actions for 2007/2008

	WHAT	WHO	WHEN	BUDGET
MA1	Maintain website to ensure it is dynamic and user friendly	Eric/Ross	Ongoing	\$700
MA2	Initiate focused membership drive – letterbox drive & DoC July/ –Issued licence database	Rose/Crile	Dec 07	\$750
MA3	Regularly communicate with members –through website, seminars, newsletters (2/annum), Annual Report & AGM	Heather	4 monthly	\$5,500
MA4	Assemble reference material on the Tongariro River and publish/ reference on website. Support establishment of Tongariro River reference section in Turangi Public Library	Eric/Claire	Ongoing	See MA9
MA5	Survey member satisfaction levels annually and test for emerging issues (synchronise with newsletter 2)	Heather	Annual	See MA4
MA6	Network with other live advocacy bodies (eg Freshwater Anglers, National Trout Centre)	Claire	Ongoing	See MA9
MA7	Develop and maintain Strategic & Annual Action Plan	Stuart	Ongoing	See MA9
MA8	Undertake routine administration, prepare Annual Budget and gain appropriate funding sources for approved projects	Eric	Ongoing	\$1,675
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$7,625</b>

#### Destination by 2010

- Have more than 100 Turangi members
- Have a membership in excess of 500
- 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

#### Scorecard



## 2. Stakeholder Focus

### Effectively engage with key stakeholders

#### Strategies

- S1** Ensure there are robust and integrated Management Plan(s) for the Tongariro based on credible scientific information and sound river management methodology
- S2** Establish 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 Plan
- Attended Environment Court hearings and mediation sessions
- Constructive working relationships with all primary stakeholders ..... but with scope for further improvement
- Good local networks
- National level contacts initiated in some areas as necessary

#### Destination by 2010

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

#### Actions for 2007/2008

ACTIONS	WHAT	WHO	WHEN	BUDGET
SA1	Develop a succinct summary of all the governing and stakeholder interests in the Tongariro River and publish on the website	Heather	Jan 08	
SA2	Maintain strong working relationships with the primary stakeholders – Environmental Walkato, DoC, Genesis and Ngati Tuwharetoa. Conduct annual 'feedback assessment'	Heather	On-going	
SA3	Critique the Tongariro River Management Plan (Turangi Township)	Mark	Aug '07	
SA4	Contribute to development of Tongariro River Catchment Mgmt Plan (whole catchment)	Mark	On-going	\$2,000
SA5	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.	Mark	On-going	
SA6	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	Heather/ Bob	On-going	
SA7	Develop national networks – including DoC, Ministry for the Environment, ResourceNZ – as appropriate	Richard/ Robert	On-going	
		<b>Total</b>		<b>\$2,000</b>

#### Scorecard

##### Management Plans

- Benchmarking shows they are best in class with regular review and updating

##### Stakeholder Feedback

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

**Stakeholder Engagement Levels**  
( number of entities with whom formal dialogue and relationships maintained)



### 3. Issue Focus

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

#### 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: active participant in Action Group
- DoC-AFTR partnership in riverside planting
- Science pertaining to the river has been made available to the public via seminars
- Publicised significant documents, including 1926 Maori Land Act, 1991 Deed of Agreement, Treasury Report on cost overruns in power schemes.

#### Destination by 2010

- 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 2007/2008

	WHAT	WHO	WHEN	BUDGET
IA1	Didymo Prevention – advocate for NI to be Didymo Free and for special preventative controls for the Taupo Fishery	Heather & Robert	On-going	\$6,000
IA2	Fixed Pines & Blewitt – facilitate restoration of the River Margin and continue with planting programme	John T / Crabb	Dec 08	\$40,000 \$9,000
IA3	Lake Levels – seek Mighty River's cooperation in changing their lake level profile to have a lower median level	Mark & Stuart	June 08	
IA4	Mangamwhiri Block – encourage Council to modify District Plan to recognise eco importance of river and stream catchments	Eric & Richard	June 08	
IA5	Fish Quality – encourage DoC to better manage fishery using more up-to-date food-chain ecosystem & biomass data	Bob & Richard	Ongoing	
IA6	Access – gain improved access for anglers and non-anglers alike to a greater proportion of the Tongariro River	John W.		
IA7	Utilise multiple communication channels (newsletters, web site, media releases, seminars, etc.) to raise public awareness & support for taking affirmative action on issues	Heather Richard Eric	On-going	
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$55,000</b>

#### Scorecard



#### 4. Accountability Focus

##### 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 Ministers of Tourism, State-Owned Enterprises and Ministry For The Environment, Environment Waikato, Taupo District Council, EW Advisory Committee for the Regional Environment and Opposition Spokesman for Biosecurity
- Contributed to DoC management review and NZ Walkways Strategy (See AIFTR past Annual Reports for more detail)

###### Actions for 2007/2008

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.	Mark/Stuart	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	Bob	On-going	
AA4 Genesis Management Forum members on an annual basis to ascertain member views on the effectiveness of the forum against its initial terms of reference	Heather	On-going	
<b>Total</b>			<b>\$0</b>

###### Destination by 2010

- EW River Management Plan operating with regular on-site inspections
- EW Catchment Management Plan in final stages of development
- 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 Tongariro River back to 1960-1980s status

###### Scorecard

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

###### Planned Milestones

- % of agreed milestones achieved by key stakeholders on time and within budget



the 1990s, the number of people in the UK who are employed in the public sector has increased from 10.5 million to 12.5 million (12.5% of the population).

There are a number of reasons for this increase. One is that the public sector has become a more important part of the economy. Another is that the public sector has become more efficient. A third is that the public sector has become more attractive to workers. A fourth is that the public sector has become more diverse.

The public sector has become a more important part of the economy because of the increasing importance of services. The public sector has become more efficient because of the increasing competition from the private sector. The public sector has become more attractive to workers because of the increasing demand for public services. The public sector has become more diverse because of the increasing demand for a wider range of public services.

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**PROTECT NEW ZEALAND'S  
GREATEST RIVER & TROUT FISHERY  
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