

A new era of management for the Parangarahu Lakes area



About the area

The Parangarahu Lakes area is adjacent to the main harbour entrance and recognised by the distinctive Te Rae-akiaki (Pencarrow Head) where the historic Pencarrow Lighthouse is located.

Behind this escarpment lies the nationally significant freshwater lakes, Kohangapiripiri and Kohangatera as well as a dendroglyph site (tree carvings).

The surrounding area used to be grazed but is now free of stock. Native vegetation is returning as well as gorse. Walking tracks allow day visitors to walk or cycle the perimeter of the Lakes.

New era of ownership and kaitiakitanga for Taranaki Whānui ki te Upoko o te Ika

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In September 2009, ownership of the lakebeds of Lake Kohangapiripiri and Lake Kohangatera, the esplanade land surrounding both lakes, and the dendroglyph site was vested in the Trustees of the Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust (PNBST) as part of cultural redress to settle the historical Treaty claims of Taranaki Whānui ki Te Ūpoko o Te Ika (Taranaki Whānui). The surrounding land is owned by Greater Wellington Regional Council (GW) and managed as recreation reserve.

Taranaki Whānui are people descended from one or more of the recognised tūpuna of Te Ati Awa, Taranaki, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāti Tama and other iwi from the Taranaki area. The iwi that make up Taranaki Whānui migrated to the Wellington area in the 1830s and have maintained ahi kā since that time. PNBST was established to receive, manage and administer the assets and rights on behalf of and for the benefit of the present and future members of Taranaki Whānui. As at 30 July 2012 there are 14,379 registered members.

About the lakes



Lake Kohangatera, looking towards Baring Head/Ōrua-pouanui

Lake Kohangatera is fed by Gollan's Stream but is slightly more brackish (salty). Under the NIWA classification system, it has the 10th best lake condition out of 206 lakes throughout New Zealand. Elsewhere, examples of coastal lagoon vegetation have largely disappeared from New Zealand due to human impacts (NIWA, 2011). Two water weeds *elodea canadensis* (Canadian pondweed) and *egeria densa* (Brazilian Waterweed) have been found here. Further work is needed to control the spread of these threats to the lake's outstanding ecological condition.



Lake Kohangaripiripi, Pencarrow lighthouse and Wellington Harbour in the background. Accessible by foot or cycle along the Pencarrow Coast Road, 7km from Burdan's Gate at Eastbourne.

Lake Kohangaripiripi is fed by freshwater from Cameron Creek. It is smaller in area (13 hectares) and slightly shallower. Both lakes have large unmodified wetlands at their heads and are separated from the sea by gravel ridges, created as a result of earthquakes. The lakes contain threatened species of native plants and are also home to native fish.

What's important here to tangata whenua?

Mahinga Kai: The lakes were principally a fishery (eel, inanga, kokopu, whitebait) for tangata whenua over successive generations, and complemented the very rich sea fishery of the harbour and south Wellington coast. The Lakes were important for bird harvesting and were also used in summer months to sun-dry kaimoana caught in Fitzroy Bay between Te Rae-akiaki (Pencarrow Head) and Parangarahu Pā.

Waahi Taonga: The lakes provided an important source for freshwater taonga plant species that were used for building materials, clothing, weaving and the making of fish traps and nets. Both lake sites contain archaeological evidence of stone workshop activity.

Karaka groves and Dendroglyph site: Small groves of mature karaka trees on the upper reaches of both lakes indicate seasonal occupation by Māori. Of particular importance is the dendroglyph site with tree trunk carvings that are extremely rare in New Zealand.

Protection and enhancement of the dendroglyph site is a key management aspiration of Taranaki Whānui, as is the restoration of an indigenous freshwater fishery and improving the fish passage between lake and sea, especially for Kohangatera, the more important fishery.

Establishment of Te Roopu Tiaki

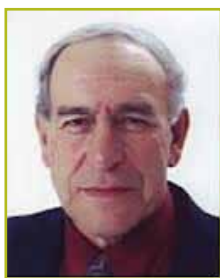
In June 2012 a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by GW and PNBST establishing the Roopu Tiaki, an operational group tasked with developing a long term vision and management plan for the Parangarahu Lakes Area. The draft management plan will be made available for consultation and will cover matters including:

- a) Identify and consider the purpose and functions of the Parangarahu Lakes Area now and in the future, reflecting PNBST aspirations for the Parangarahu Lakes Area
- b) Identify objectives and policies that will guide the future management of the Parangarahu Lakes Area
- c) An overall conceptual and landscape design for the Parangarahu Lakes Area which may include provision for buildings to achieve the aspirations of the Parties and the desired functions of the Parangarahu Lakes Area
- d) Consideration of possible commercial operations on the Parangarahu Lakes Area and, if so, the type of operation sympathetic to the Parangarahu Lakes Area environment
- e) Ongoing environmental and ecological management of the Parangarahu Lakes Area, including studies as required, to maintain the ecosystem in a healthy condition
- f) Consideration of public expectations for the Parangarahu Lakes Area;
- g) Protection and enhancement of the Dendroglyphs and the area in which they are located to take cognisance of these very important cultural markers in the Parangarahu Lakes Area;
- h) Recognition of PNBST as owner of the Lakebeds and Adjacent Land in any Management Plan, Regional Plan or Long Term Plan process.

Te Roopu Kaitiaki consists of six members, three from PNBST and three from Greater Wellington Regional Council.



Mark Te One
PNBST Trustee



Teri Puketapu
PNBST Trustee



Liz Mellish
PNBST Trustee



Tim Porteous
Manager
Biodiversity



Nigel Corry
General Manager
Environment



Amanda Cox
Manager Parks

Te Roopu Tiaki process to develop Parangarahu Lakes Management Plan

The development of the Parangarahu Lakes Area management plan will be carried out in two phases:

Phase One (August 2012 – January 2013)

- Roopu Tiaki Vision workshop and site visit
- Taranaki Whānui and stakeholder consultation (workshops & questionnaires)
- Draft plan is developed, and amendments to the Parks Network Plan (PNP) drafted.
- Roopu Tiaki recommend draft management plan to PNBST & Council for release for public consultation (by end Feb 2013)

Phase Two (February – July 2013)

- Taranaki Whānui and stakeholder consultation (workshops & submissions)
- Written submissions on draft management plan and PNP draft amendment (2 month period)
- Oral submission hearing process by Roopu Tiaki and GW sub-committee.
- Roopu Tiaki recommend final management plan to PNBST & Council following public consultation process (by end July 2013)

The Roopu Tiaki has agreed for the management plan development work to be undertaken by a Project team including Sharon Lee (Planner at GW) and Kim Skelton (Solas Consulting).

Upcoming workshops

Taranaki Whānui workshop

Date: Wednesday 19 September 2012
Time: 6.30 – 8.00pm (Light refreshments available)
Venue: Manaia Whare, Wellington Tenth Trust
24 Marine Parade, Hikoikoi, Petone

General Stakeholders workshop

Date: Tuesday 25 September 2012
Time: 4.30 – 6.00pm (Light refreshments available)
Venue: Committee Room, Level 5, Regional Council Centre
142 Wakefield Street, Wellington

The Roopu Tiaki invites you to contribute your ideas on future management, your vision, and your interests in the Parangarahu Lakes Area by attending a workshop or by completing a questionnaire and returning it by 30 September 2012.

Mailing list for interested parties

You can also register your interest in attending Phase 2 workshops or receiving updates on the Draft management plan by providing your name, address and email on the questionnaire form and returning it to the Project team or by posting to:

Parangarahu Lakes Management Plan	
c/o Greater Wellington	c/o PNBST
POBox 11646	Freepost 166974 (no stamp needed)
Manners Street	PO Box 12164
Wellington 6142	Thorndon
	Wellington 6144

If you have any questions, please email the Project team (Sharon Lee and Kim Skelton) at sharon.lee@gw.govt.nz. Updates on the management plan process will also be available on our websites: www.gw.govt.nz and www.portnicholson.org.nz