

Flood Protection Strategy and Assets Manager : Brendan Paul

Report for Period Ending 13 July 2001

1. Manager's Comments

This report closes out the 2000/01 financial year, again with a high degree of success. Most projects are approximately to the stages planned or expected, including a number of additional and significant projects that became necessary as the year unfolded. Those that are not finished are either “nearly there” or set up and ready to go.

It is difficult to single out highlights but the completion of the Draft HRFMP is without a doubt a huge milestone. Completing the October 1998 and October 2000 flood damage projects also gives cause for celebration.

The new financial year is, at least at this stage, shaping up to be one of consolidation – something the Flood Protection Group has been eagerly awaiting. Most of the major projects are up and running and require continuity.

2. Waikanae River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

2.1 Otaihanga Road Raising

Construction on this project is well advanced and programmed to be finished by the end of July 2001. 1,400m³ of gravel was extracted from the Waikanae River, adjacent to the Boat Club launching ramp, as fill for the road raising. The gravel extraction was undertaken in conjunction with cross-blading work required in the area, which minimised the local environmental effects of the works.

2.2 Gravel Extraction Consent

Work is progressing on preparation of the resource consent application for the extraction of gravel between the Oxbow and Greenaway Road. Our research has been unable to find any documented outcomes or monitoring of the effects of gravel extraction in rivers. Accordingly, we have decided to undertake a survey, over the next two months, in order to collate some baseline data for inclusion in the consent application. Further monitoring will be undertaken during extraction to measure the effects. The baseline survey, which has support from Consents Management, will delay the lodging of the consent application a further two months.

3. Otaki River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

3.1 Mouth to State Highway 1 Bank Edge Protection Work

The original budget for the bank edge protection project was increased from \$70,000 to \$480,000 after the October 2000 flood events. The final cost of the project is expected to be some \$70,000 under budget principally due to savings made in the way the construction was managed.

Because of uncertainty associated with delivery of the increased rock tonnage (7,500 tonnes of rock placed), the project was managed by the Flood Protection Group. Strategy and Assets and Operations staff (with a part-time seconded engineer) designed, set out and managed plant hire and general construction, including a separate rock rip-rap supply contract. The work was completed before the middle of June.

3.2 Rangioru Outlet Structure

Following a poor response to tenders in March 2001, the project will now be re-tendered in September 2001. We intend to tender the work based on a construction window of six weeks and a completion date of no later than March 2002. This timing flexibility should provide more competitive tenders.

3.3 Otaki River Cross-section Survey

Errors in the benchmark survey have now been identified and corrected, and the cross-section survey work is complete. The survey provides a basis for a bed level evaluation which will identify issues for channel management practises.

4. October 1998 Flood Damage Repairs [Graeme Campbell]

4.1 Summary of Total Project

Table 1 summarises expenditure on the 1998 flood damage repairs and capital works which have been constructed over the last three years. All work is complete with the exception of the Waikanae (SH1 to Maple Lane) south bank land purchase; an estimate of \$15,000 is included in forecast expenditure for this purchase.

The figures below update those given in the Flood Damage Report 00.787 presented to the November 2000 Landcare Committee meeting. The final expenditure is a \$2,808 increase on the forecasts reported to Landcare in November 2000.

Table 1 : Project Summary Expenditure Statement

| | Total Approved Budget | Actual to 30 June 2001 | Forecast to Complete Works | Total | Variance to Budget |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------|-------------------------------|
| Flood Damage Repairs | \$1,756,747 | \$1,829,135 | \$0 | \$1,829,135 | (\$72,388) (U) |
| Capital Improvements | \$2,975,000 | \$2,928,618 | \$15,000 | \$2,943,618 | \$31,382 (F) |
| Total Expenditure | \$4,731,747 | \$4,757,753 | \$15,000 | \$4,772,753 | (\$41,006) (U) |

3.2 Operations Expenditure Projects

All work has been completed and final invoices paid. The work undertaken this financial year was completion of the permeable groynes at Avalon and construction of the rock groynes at Owen Street. Both jobs were completed within the last expenditure forecast.

Table 2 : Flood Damage Repair Project Variances

| Project | Budget | Actual to 30 June 2001 | Forecast to Completion | Forecast Total Cost | Variance |
|--------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Hutt | 1,133,436 | 1,224,800 | 0 | 1,224,800 | (91,364) |
| Otaki | 442,137 | 404,271 | 0 | 404,271 | 37,866 |
| Waikanae | 156,124 | 174,562 | 0 | 174,562 | (18,438) |
| Waitohu | 25,050 | 25,502 | 0 | 25,502 | (452) |
| Total | 1,756,747 | 1,829,135 | 0 | 1,829,135 | (72,388) |

3.3 Capital Expenditure Project

All construction work has been undertaken and final invoices paid. Work undertaken this financial year was completion of the Block Road rock protection works, settlement of the Boulcott land purchase, and completion of the SH1 to Maple Lane works on the Waikanae River. The only remaining item is to complete the south bank land purchase as part of the SH1 to Maple Lane project.

Table 3 : Capital Improvement Project Variances

| Project | Budget | Actual to 30 June 2001 | Forecast to Completion | Total Cost | Variance |
|-------------------------|------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| <i>Hutt River</i> | | | | | |
| Block Road | 300,000 | 332,900 | 0 | 332,900 | (32,900) |
| Boulcott | 735,000 | 544,600 | 0 | 544,600 | 190,400 |
| Subtotal Hutt | 1,035,000 | 877,500 | 0 | 877,500 | 157,500 |
| <i>Otaki River</i> | | | | | |
| Stresscrete | 650,000 | 680,938 | 0 | 680,938 | (30,938) |
| Traceys | 85,000 | 133,350 | 0 | 133,350 | (48,350) |
| Gas Crossing | 110,000 | 99,390 | 0 | 99,390 | 10,610 |
| Mangahanene | 120,000 | 208,500 | 0 | 208,500 | (88,500) |
| <i>Waikanae River</i> | | | | | |
| SH1 to Maple Lane | 850,000 | 865,410 | 15,000 | 880,410 | (30,410) |
| Otaihanga House Raising | 125,000 | 63,530 | 0 | 63,530 | 61,470 |
| Subtotal Kapiti | 1,940,000 | 2,051,118 | 15,000 | 2,066,118 | (126,118) |
| TOTAL | 2,975,000 | 2,928,618 | 15,000 | 2,943,618 | 31,382 (F) |

5. Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) [Daya Atapattu]

5.1 Plan Drafting

The HRFMP reached another milestone when the Advisory Committee considered and endorsed the Draft Plan on 12 July 2001. The Draft Plan includes the relief recommended by the Landcare Committee on 12 June 2001. Hutt City Council endorsed the Plan on 10 July 2001, Upper Hutt City Council will consider it on 25 July 2001, and the Regional Council will consider the Draft Plan for adoption on 23 August. The HRFMP launch is planned for the second week of October 2001.

5.2 Design Standard Implementation

Ava Railway Crossing Investigations

Holmes Consulting Group has substantially completed Stage 2 of the Ava Railway Crossing feasibility study. The feasibility study includes refining the two preferred options and preparing the preliminary designs. Flood Protection Group officers are currently reviewing the Stage 2 draft report. The outcome of Stage 2 will form the basis for the resource consent applications and a Memorandum of Understanding with Tranz Rail on arrangements for river management and the railway crossing. This study will be completed by 30 July 2001.

The Regional Council and Hutt City Council officers are currently considering the scope for joint investigation and preliminary design for a pump station on the Opahu Stream (Black Creek). Hutt City Council has long-term plans for pumping Opahu Stream to ease stormwater flooding. An integrated waterway design, that includes a pump station, could result in overall cost savings to both Councils.

Ava to Ewen Preliminary Design and Resource Consents

The Ava to Ewen preliminary design is substantially complete. AC Consulting Group is currently preparing the design report and the draft resource consent applications. The second round of meetings with the community and major stakeholders has been completed.

A series of meetings was held with Hutt Valley High School and the Ministry of Education to explain the impacts of proposals on their land (part of Strand Park). At their request, further options and opportunities were considered and documented.

We will complete preliminary design and the draft resource consent applications for this reach of the river by the end of July 2001. Reporting on the outcomes of the two major investigations to both the Advisory Committee and the Landcare Committee is likely to be required. The community and stakeholders will then be given the opportunity to comment on the draft resource consent applications before lodging them.

6. **Mangaone Stream Flood Hazard Assessment [Phillip Purves]**

The primary components of the project (survey, hydrology and hydraulics) are complete, except for the freeboard determination required for mapping, results presentation and reporting. Work is continuing on the remaining components, including the preparation of the flood hazard maps.

The consultants advised in their May Progress Report that they would formally request an extension of time to complete the flood hazard investigations to the required standard. This position was not unexpected, as the contract was not awarded until the end of February 2001 and the time frame to complete the project was always tight. The consultants have indicated that they will only require a few weeks extension into the 2001/02 financial year and an appropriate carry forward has been arranged. A report on the results of the flood hazard assessment is planned for the September meeting of the Committee.

7. **Planning and Development Services [Phillip Purves]**

The following summarises the formal, written requests for information or advice attended to during May and June 2001:

| | <u>May/June</u> | <u>2000/01 Year</u> |
|------------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| Requests brought forward | 39 | 13 |
| Additional requests received | 30 | 185 |
| Responses provided | 29 | 158 |
| Outstanding requests | 40 | 40 |

Transpower NZ has advised its proposal to provide a debris deflection barrier at Melling Substation, to protect critical equipment from the potentially damaging effects of flood borne debris in a major flood event. This proposal is an interim measure and is consistent with the ultimate development strategy for the site that was established last year. Eventually all equipment on the site will be located beyond the 80 metre wide erosion hazard zone determined as part of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan. Sensitive components will be located above the 2800 cumec flood level, or flood proofed for that standard.

BRENDAN PAUL
Manager, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

Flood Protection Operations Manager : Geoff Dick

Report for Period Ending 13 July 2001

1. Manager's Comments

Another busy year has just been completed. It's good to have both the remaining October 1998 and the October 2000 flood repair works completed, and to be able to start the new financial year with essentially a clean sheet of paper.

In September we will be presenting our annual asset management report. Without pre-empting that report, my feeling is that our flood protection assets are generally in very good condition as a result of all the additional work over the last three years. However, as usual in this business there is always plenty still to do.

2. Hutt River

The 2000/01 Hutt River maintenance programme is complete, including all flood damage repairs resulting from the October 1998 and 2000 flood events. The works focus is now turning to the annual winter planting programme.

Hutt Valley Main Trunk Sewer at Ava

Works to provide interim protection to the Hutt Valley trunk sewer at Ava Park are complete. Construction of the works (a short section of rock lining and two sacrificial snub groynes) went very well despite the late season. We were lucky to get relatively kind weather, which minimised damage to Ava Park and was a major factor in the job coming in under budget.

Hutt River Trail

We have completed this year's Hutt River Trail maintenance programme, on behalf of Parks and Forests. The latest stint of work was in the Avalon area.

Planting Programme

The annual planting programme is underway. Planting will include willows, native species and some small trials of alternative exotic species including alders and acacias. These trials were prompted by the sawfly threat to willows. We are also undertaking some further native species trials by planting flax and toetoe in more aggressive river edge locations.

3. **Kapiti Rivers**

The October 2000 flood damage repairs are now complete in both the Otaki and Waikanae Rivers. Work completed since my last report includes:

- Reconstruction of the south bank berm in the Ferry Reserve, Otaki;
- Construction of five new rail and timber debris groynes at Sunny Glen and Maple Lane, Waikanae; and
- Modifying existing rail and timber debris groynes at Dricon, Waikanae.

Otaki River Mouth

We continue to monitor the recently completed mouth cut. While the new diversion channel is “holding”, recent heavy surf driven by strong on-shore winds have created a bar at the new mouth. Some follow up work including re-cutting the bar and re-opening the new Pahiko Stream outlet may be required.

Planting

Planting is also underway in Kapiti. Staff are presently cutting out willow poles to supplement the arrival of willow and poplar rooted stock. As with the Hutt, we are also adding some trial species to the planting list, for both visual enhancement along the river banks and as a means of reducing our vulnerability to willow sawfly.

4. **Water Courses**

Annual maintenance runs were completed in Hulls Creek and the Waiwhetu Stream.

Flood Protection staff are attending Waiwhetu Stream Working Group meetings. The Working Group is looking at ways to improve the environment of the stream.

Both the Waimeha and Waitohu Stream mouths were realigned (cut) in the period, as they were outside the trigger point in the Regional Coastal Plan. Both streams had raised water levels in their lower reaches.

We have now obtained a resource consent to undertake routine maintenance work in the Waitohu Stream for three years. The consent covers the reach from the Ringawhati Road Bridge down to Wakapua Farm. Granting of this consent enabled us to complete programmed works in the Stream, including October 2000 flood repairs. Work completed includes channel realignment, cabled concrete block bank edge protection, clearing of flood debris, and layering and planting of willows.

5. **Work for Others**

We completed maintenance of the Taita Gorge river level recorder, and installation of a telemetry pole and aerial at the Mangaone Stream recorder site for the Council’s Resource Investigations Department.

We also carried out maintenance on the Birchville river level recorder for NIWA. Further work is proposed at this site to ensure the ongoing security of the recorder tower.

6. Gravel Extraction

We have received the Hutt River gravel extraction licence document back from Council's solicitors. This part of preparing the licence documents has taken longer than expected, but they are now ready to forward to the selected extractor.

Gravel extraction figures up to end of May are set out below.

| River | Area | Contractor | Period Year 2000/2001 (cubic metres) | | Year 1999/2000 (cubic metres) |
|---------------|-------------|----------------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | Period | Year | Full Year |
| Hutt | Estuary | Winstones | 3,822 | 38,143 | 46,966 |
| | River | | 0 | 0 | 927 |
| Otaki | River | Winstones & G Holland (99/00) | 7,690 | 33,080 | 71,492 |
| | Upper Rahui | Winstones | 0 | 40,220 | 46,350 |
| Waikanae | River | | Nil | Nil | 1,484 |
| TOTALS | | | 11,512 | 111,443 | 167,219 |

GEOFF DICK
Manager, Flood Protection (Operations)

Parks and Forests (Strategy & Marketing)

Manager : Susan Edwards

Report for Period Ending 13 July 2001

1. Manager's Comments

Conservation Board

On Saturday, 23 June 2001, Bruce Andrell, Chris Wootton and I together with the Wellington Conservation Board attended a site visit to the Pencarrow Lakes in East Harbour Regional Park. We briefed the Board on the Council's vision for the Park, the outcomes of the visitor survey and the process for reviewing the management plan. Conservation Board members asked numerous questions and we offered to keep them informed of progress on the management plan. I have attached a letter of thanks from the Board.

On a similar note the Board has also written to us expressing their appreciation of the Council's involvement in Whitireia Park which is also attached.

Probus Talk

Philippa Crisp gave a presentation to Probus (Masterton) on the Council's ecological management role in its parks and forests. Probus members were interested in the range of pests targeted and in our methods of forest health monitoring. Scott Farrell also outlined his role as a Ranger in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Catchment. The group contained several people with knowledge of, and interest in, the field of environmental management and the presentations were well received.

2. Resource Management and Planning (Ross Jackson, Philippa Crisp, & Graham Laws)

State Highway Upgrades

We have continued discussions with Transit New Zealand on the various state highway upgrades during the month, particularly on State Highways 58 and 2.

Landscape Plans

Two further landscape plans were completed during June; Tunnel Gully Recreation Area lower picnic area and Te Marua entrance to Kaitoke Regional Park. These plans will guide future planting and developments in these areas. Both plans will be reported to the September meeting of the Landcare Committee.

Environmental Management Strategy

Philippa Crisp made significant progress on the Parks and Forests Environmental Management Strategy (EMS) during May and June. The Landcare Division chose the *Enviromark* process for preparing its EMS's for both Parks and Forests and Flood Protection. It is a Internet based approach, marketed in New Zealand by *Landcare Research*.

Enviromark is used overseas, however, we are the first organisation in New Zealand to adopt the system. It is suited to the functions undertaken by Landcare and is also being used by the Wairarapa Division.

The system outlines five different levels of environmental performance that can be attained. That allows us to choose which level to achieve at any given time. Our work is audited by *Landcare Research* to ensure the required standards are achieved. Parks and Forests have completed the first two levels and will shortly be submitting them for audit.

Asset Management Plan (AMP) - Database Brief

Officers have worked with a consultant preparing a brief for assessing software packages for a Park and Forests AMP database. Shortly we will call for tenders, assess the suitability of the packages against the brief, and determine possible costings for inclusion in the next Annual Plan.

3. Community Connections (Ross Jackson)

Friends of Belmont Regional Park

Ross Jackson and Chris Wootton attended a meeting of the Friends of Belmont Regional Park. The Friends are making steady progress on the Terms of Reference, and are working well as a group.

Hutt River Trail

Hutt Valley Rotary approached Upper Hutt City Council and offered to pay either \$10,000 or 50 percent of a footbridge over Hulls Creek at Silverstream. Upper Hutt City Council has indicated it will be able to match the contribution. The bridge will greatly improve the existing difficult crossing on the Hutt River Trail.

Rotary members have designed a user friendly map of the Trail and budgeted to install 25 maps over the coming year. They will also install more seats and tables along the Trail. Placement of the new furniture and signs will be in locations approved by Flood Protection staff.

4. Marketing (Graham Laws)

Planning for the next *Regional Outdoors Events Programme* is already commencing. Feedback from last summer's programme has been assessed and was very positive. Graham Laws and the Rangers are planning which events to include in the programme for this summer and how best to market them.

WELLINGTON

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CONSERVATION BOARD

Te Runanga Papa Atawhai O Te Upoko O Te Ika A Maui

G05-209
G05-210

5 July 2001

Stuart McCaskill
Chairperson
Wellington Regional Council
P.O. Box 11-646
WELLINGTON

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| Wellington Regional Council |
| - 9 JUL 2001 |

Dear Stuart

I am writing to thank your Council for the assistance that Officers from the Landcare Division gave on a recent field inspection of the Board to the Pencarrow Lakes. Susan Edwards, Bruce Andrell and Chris Wootton gave up their Saturday morning to accompany the Board to the Lakes.

They provided us with a very informative talk on management issues, some of the management options being considered, and the "signature values" of the East Harbour Regional Park. They were also able to explain where, the East Harbour Park fitted in the wider context of other regional parks managed by your Council. Their attendance added considerably to the field trip.

On a similar note, I would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the contribution that Councillor Chris Laidlaw makes to our Board meetings. Councillor Laidlaw brings considerable experience in the conservation field. In addition, his experience as a regional councillor regarding council programmes and management approaches has added significant value to the consideration of matters by our Board.

As a final comment, on the field trip there was ample demonstration of excellent working relationships between your Landcare staff and Department of Conservation staff. was pleased to see staff in the two organisations sharing their specialist knowledge, management approaches, and general information.

I would be grateful if my thanks -could be conveyed to your Landcare staff and you record our appreciation of Councillor Laidlaw's contribution to our Board - thank you.

Yours sincerely

JX
PP

Peter Bygate
Chairperson

69437

WELLINGTON

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CONSERVATION BOARD

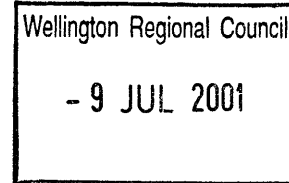
Te Runanga Papa Atawhai O Te Upoko O Te Ika A Maui

G05-210
G05-364

4 July 2001

Stuart McCaskill
Chairperson
Wellington Regional Council
P.O. Box 11-646
WELLINGTON

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Dear Stuart

WHITIREA PARK

It has been some time since the Wellington Conservation Board wrote to you, and it pleases me to be writing on a very positive note about work that your Council is contributing to with regard to Whitirea Park in Porirua.

At our May meeting, we discussed the management of Whitirea Park. We noted that the support of your Council has enabled the Whitirea Park Board and Department of Conservation to manage the park much more positively from the situation that they were in a just couple of years ago when resource levels were holding management back.

The Conservation Board sees Whitirea Park as an important Park in the regional context. As well as significance for having a population of the nationally threatened button daisy (*Leptinella nana*), the Park has significant cultural importance to iwi and as a scientific (historic) site. It has recreational importance not only to local residents, but also to the wider region. The Board noted the potential for active ecological restoration and the potential to expand the involvement of the community in this area of work.

The Board also noted that a range of recreational opportunities exist in the Park, and that controls on vehicles travelling off the formed roads has been largely achieved now, which is a desirable situation. Future planning and development of recreational opportunities will need to take account of the ecological and cultural values, ecological restoration potential and iwi and community interests in the Park. The Board understands that your Council has well-developed planning systems to achieve just this sort of balance.

The Board wish to convey to you and your fellow Councillors and staff that we consider that the involvement of your Council to date has been very positive, and the medium-term intention of your Council to have greater involvement in management of this Park is appropriate.

Yours sincerely

PB
Peter Bygate
Chairperson

69436

Parks and Forests (Operations) Department

Manager: Bruce Andrell

Report for Period Ending 13 July 2001

1. Manager's Comments

1.1 Queen Elizabeth Park : Boating Pond

Councillors Turver, Werry and Macaskill as well as officers attended a meeting with members of the Community Board and Paekakariki Focus Group on 21 June 2001.

Councillor Turver facilitated the meeting where I briefed the group on the issues facing the pond; the cost of upgrading it; the decision-making process and consultation on it to date. A number of people attending the meeting would like to see the pond retained. However, by the end of the meeting there was some acceptance (or resignation) that it had to be removed. There was also a request to have a water body at the Paekakariki end of the Park to compensate for the loss of the boating pond.

We gave a commitment to get together with the Focus Group and Community Board to explore options for a natural water feature; and have positive discussions with the Paekakariki community and other interested parties. Susan Edwards, Manager, Parks and Forests (Strategy and Marketing) will initiate this process.

The pond is in the process of being removed.

1.2 Environmental Work Programme

The Council's Biosecurity Department has completed an aerial possum control operation in the Whakatikei/Puketiro blocks of the Akatarawa Forest. The operation achieved a 0.9 percent residual trap catch (RTC) which exceeded the goal of 5 percent RTC. There has been no reported by-kill of domestic dogs, horses or stock.

Rangers have also been busy completing the vegetation monitoring programme which has involved:

- Rata photography which is used to estimate possum browse damage;
- Installing and measuring hinau and tawa fruit fall plots, to determine if the forest regeneration is being affected by pest animals; and
- Installing and measuring "quick browse plots" to determine the level of damage or recovery of vegetation browsed by deer and goats.

2. Western Sector, Parks and Forests (Operations) (Matt Ballantine)

2.1 Queen Elizabeth Park

Maintenance

Items completed in the period include:

- A tidy up of the MacKays Crossing entrance (restraining road side fences, removing blackberry piles and some scrub clearing);
- Replacement of four picnic tables at Paekakariki;
- Replacement of 300 metres of rusted water pipe at Paekakariki;
- Planting over 2,000 native trees within the wetland area and along MacKays Road;
- Installing lockable bollards at access points to the Paekakariki picnic areas, preventing vehicles damaging the grass; and
- Developing a maintenance agreement with Kapiti Coast District Council for the Wainui Stream whereby both the Council and Kapiti Coast District Council will contribute to programmed stream maintenance.

Ranger Services

Year 9 and 10 (Standard 3 and 4) children from Paekakariki School planted over 150 native trees along the riparian edge of the Wainui Stream. The School is interested in continuing planting next year.

Rangers organised a planting day within the remnant bush on 23 June 2001. Twenty volunteers, mainly from Forest and Bird, Kapiti Environmental Action group, tramping clubs planted over 500 trees.

Aotea College students participated in a beach clean-up day in June. Several classes took part in weather conditions that were far from ideal - very wet and windy. Five bags of rubbish were collected along the Park's foreshore.

2.2 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

Maintenance Activities

Notable items completed this period include:

- An upgrade of the short loop track within the Bush Reserve (involving replacing two boardwalk structures with culverts and re-metalling 300 metres of track);
- Repair of two flood gates, building a new stock fence and repairing 600 metres of stock fencing;

- Spreading 60 tonnes of fertiliser and lime;
- Thistle and gorse spraying, scrub-cutting and drain clearing to improve pasture quality; and
- Erecting a new bench seat near the woolshed.

Ranger Services

Arbor Day was celebrated at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park with a small group of children from Pauatahanui School. The children replaced trees that had died in the summer drought at last year's Arbor planting site. Some of the older children were able to check trees they had planted at previous Arbor Days.

2.3 Belmont Regional Park

Maintenance Activities

Notable maintenance programme work completed includes:

- A six monthly inspection of all walkway structures by park staff (we verified that all structures are safe);
- Improvement work within the Korokoro Dam area (steps have been upgraded, dam lookout structure was water-blasted and handrails replaced and adjacent tracks re-metalled);
- One thousand manuka trees were planted at Dry Creek;
- Installation of four picnic tables for the Belmont woolshed area (to help facilitate the environmental education programme); and
- Re-sealing work at the Oakleigh Street entrance.

Ranger Services

Howard Stone toured the interior of the Park on quad motorbikes during the period. Chris Wootton, the Park Ranger briefed Howard on the issues affecting the Park as well as taking in the hilltop views over Wellington, Hutt and Porirua cities. The visit included the Takapu Block, Transmission Gully, Belmont magazines and Kilmister Block.

Two schools made use of Belmont Regional Park over the period. Stokes Valley School used the Dry Creek valley floor for outdoor based education activities and Hutt International Boys School ran an orienteering course.

3. Eastern Sector, Parks and Forests (Operations) (Fraser Oliver)

3.1 Akatarawa Forest

Maintenance Activities

Maintenance within the Akatarawa Forest during the period has involved:

- Reshaping the Perhams Road formation with a bulldozer; and
- Clearing of water-tables and installation of culverts and runoffs in preparation for the “wet season”.

Ranging Services

Incidents of vandalism have been sporadic and generally of a minor nature. The good communication systems we have with ARAC (Akatarawa Recreation Action Committee) and the users of the block contribute to this. It is becoming clear to Dean Hearfield, the Forest Ranger, that the majority of the users of the block have taken on a sense of responsibility and ownership resulting in improved behaviour and feeling amongst the members of the public that recreate within these areas.

3.2 East Harbour Regional Park

Landscape staff have completed fencing repairs to prevent stock from gaining access to the raised beaches in front of Lake Kohangapiripiri. The raised beaches form a fragile ecosystem providing habitat for banded dotterel and special plant communities. The low lake levels allowed stock to wade around the existing fences and onto the raised beaches.

3.3 Kaitoke Regional Park

Maintenance Activities

The construction team have completed a new five metre long ramp on the Swingbridge Track which replaced an old staircase. Work continues on the upgrading and re-metalling of this track.

The landscape crew have completed a major clean-up of the loop road in the campground area. Vegetation has been cut back, canopy trees released, and bark mulch spread on the garden area. Maintenance has been completed on the Pakuratahi Forks swingbridge.

An area of weeds at the Waterworks Road entrance was cleared by a bulldozer, sprayed and planted with native species including Swamp Flax, Toe-Toe and Kahikatea.

Ranging Services

Around 60 children and adults from Plateau Primary School braved wet conditions to plant over 200 young trees on Arbor Day. Planting the “Rivendell” site, used in the Lord of the Rings filming, helps implement an overall concept plan to make the site an attractive picnic spot.

A partnership between the Youth Aid section of the Upper Hutt Police and the Council has seen youth offenders complete one hundred and forty five hours of work in the Park to date. Tasks included scrub-cutting, tree planting, and track clearing.

A new lease has been negotiated between the Council and Agresearch Farms for grazing rights for a five-year period. The leasee will improve the land with fencing and weed control.

3.4 Rimutaka Incline Walkway

Work has involved:

- Clearing existing water-tables and the installation of several new water-tables;
- Culvert maintenance and replacement where required;
- Filling of potholes with the assistance from Rimutaka Prison; and
- Grading and applying gravel to approximately half of the walkway (the portion that the Council is responsible for).

3.5 Tunnel Gully Reserve

Recent landscaping of the grassed areas and the removal of weeds on the stream bank has significantly improved the lower Tunnel Gully Reserve.

3.6 Wainuiomata

Maintenance Activities

Almost 40 metres of boardwalk has been completed on the new environmental education track at the Wainuiomata Recreation Area. The boardwalk will take users across a small area of wetland and will allow the wetland site to regenerate. The trail provides a variety of habitats as an educational resource for both the Landcare and Environment Divisions’.

New gates have been installed along the northern boundary with the co-operation of the adjoining landowners. The gates provide a physical barrier to the boundary line and also display relevant signage.

The old site office at Wainuiomata has received an internal face-lift and is ready to take on a new role. The removal of a few internal walls and a new paint job has made the building more presentable and functional. It will be used as an environmental education classroom, a meeting and interpretation point for catchment tours, and staff accommodation for catchment animal control operations.

On the Gums Loop Track a culvert washout was repaired using gabion baskets and back fill. The repair makes the track safe from further collapse.

Ranging Services

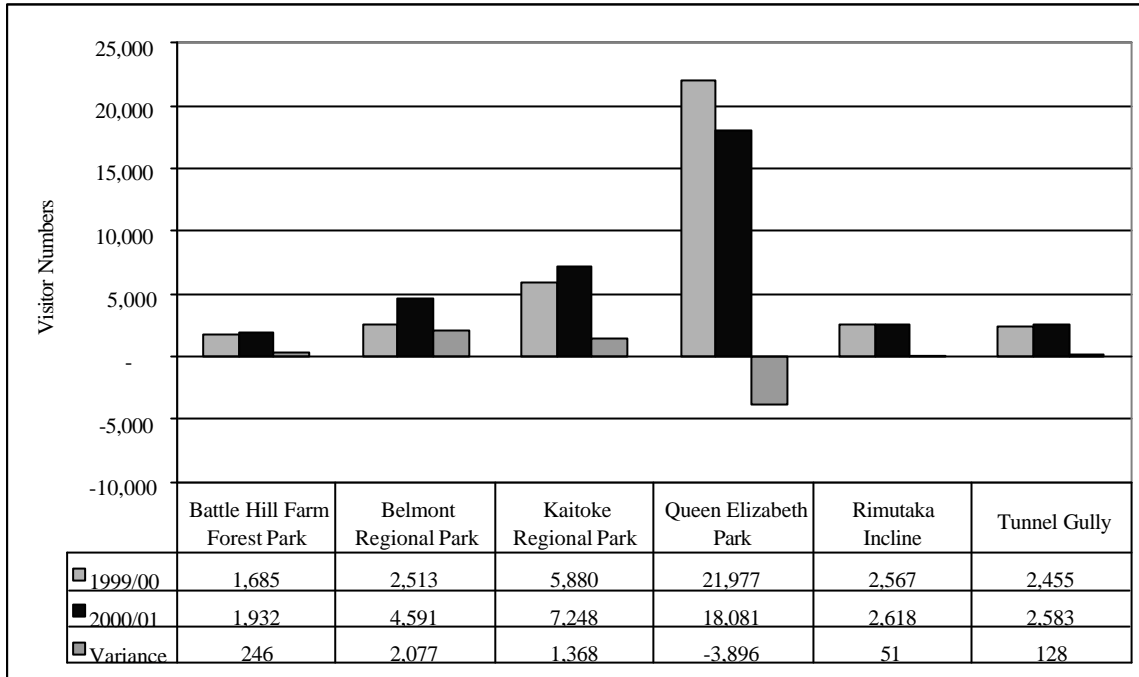
Members of the Wellington Botanical Society attended the June catchment tour. The group contained individual experts in specific ecological fields. One member pointed to a light brown smudge of bryophyte on a trunk and claimed it was previously unregistered but is now named after her.

4. Visitor Numbers

See visitor information attached.

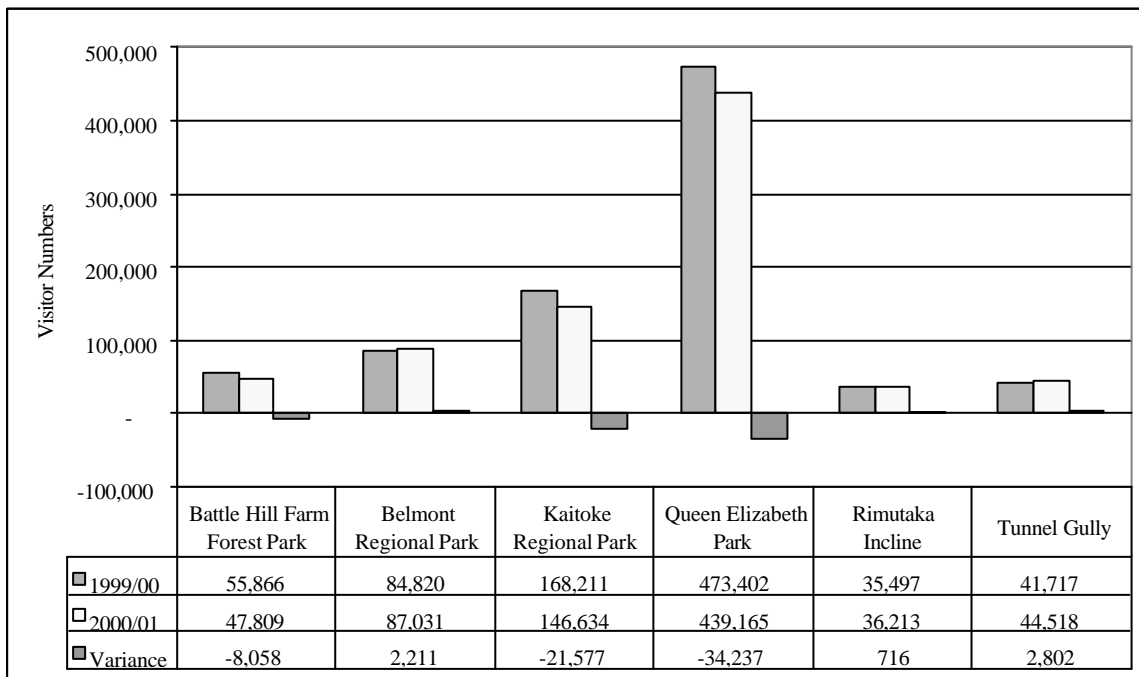
BRUCE ANDRELL
Manager, Parks and Forests (Operations)

REGIONAL PARKS
Visitors Information Data
For the Month of June 2000/01



Queen Elizabeth variance due to cold weather and rain five out of the nine weekend days.

REGIONAL PARKS
Visitors Information Data
Year-to-Date : June 2000/01



Queen Elizabeth Park numbers are down on last year's figures, particularly at Paekakariki, as a result of the windy weather over the summer period. Battle Hill Farm Forest Park visitor numbers are down compared to last year due to fewer events and pony club practice days. Kaitoke Regional Park has a decrease in visitation over the year. This is attributed to the high level of public interest in the Park in the previous year, due to the filming of the *Lord of the Rings*. Tunnel Gully has a slight visitor increase over the year due to receiving a higher profile from summer events and local word of mouth.

Parks and Forests Activities



Lifting track metal down to Korokoro Dam.



Showing them how Pauatahanui School Arbor Day Battle of the Trees Forest



Howard Stone's quad tour of Belmont Regional Park.



During construction of new ramp, Swingbridge Track, Kaitoke Regional Park.



Completed ramp.