

Flood Protection Strategy and Assets Manager : Brendan Paul

Report for Period Ending 24 August 2001

1. Manager's Comments

Completion of the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan and its formal adoption by the full Council has been the major focus over this period, with Plan printing on track for the end of September and the official launch on 9 October 2001.

2. Waikanae River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

2.1 Otaihanga Road Raising

Construction work is now substantially complete. The items that remain to be completed are some minor landscaping, the raising of a Saturn fibre optic cable and the reinstatement at the extraction site. The total cost of the work is now forecast to be \$115,000 which is \$5,000 over budget. This overspend will be made up within this years budget.

2.2 Gravel Extraction Consent

The work on the baseline survey is progressing. Charles Mitchell, a specialist in the ecological evaluation of rivers and streams, has been engaged to oversee the data collection and to analyse the results. We will lodge the consent application in mid October 2001.

2.3 Friends of the Waikanae River

Two meetings of the Friends have been held since the last report. One of the meetings, held on Saturday 11 August 2001, was a practical session dealing with the Health and Safety issues of working in the River Corridor. This workshop session was required to ensure the Friends are well informed about the issues, particularly when working on Council owned land.

The second meeting was held on 20 August 2001 and the draft Waikanae Gravel Extraction Consent was discussed. Also, a draft copy of the "Friends Guide to Health and Safety" was tabled. The annual walkover of the river is programmed for 18 September 2001.

3. Otaki River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

3.1 Rangioru Outlet Structure

Documentation for the re-tender of the works was completed and advertised on 27 August 2001. Tenderers will be allowed to choose when they wish to undertake construction but the works will have to be completed within six weeks from their nominated start date and before 30 March 2002.

3.2 Otaki River Cross-section Survey

Work on the evaluation of the cross section data is now underway.

3.3 Friends of the Otaki River

One meeting has been held since the last report, with no substantive issues in relation to Flood Protection Group activities being discussed. The Otaki Friends also attended the Health and Safety Workshop held in Waikanae on 11 August. The annual walkover of the Otaki River is programmed for 2 October 2001.

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

4.1 Plan Drafting

The draft HRFMP was endorsed by the Landcare Committee on 26 July and by the Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils on 10 July and 8 August, respectively. The Plan was then formally adopted by the Regional Council on 23 August 2001.

The publishing process is on track for printing by the end of September 2001. The Plan launch is programmed for 9 October 2001, which will be the culmination of more than ten years of work by the Flood Protection Group. The Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils, iwi and the people of the Hutt Valley, have all been involved in getting the Plan to this stage.

4.2 Plan Implementation

Ava to Ewen Reach

Investigations for the Ava to Ewen reach upgrade works have now reached a stage where key decisions must be made before resource consent applications can be lodged and final design work can commence. Construction works are programmed to begin in 2002/03. Report 01.613 on this order paper contains further details on the investigations, the upgrade options and recommendations.

The Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee will consider these options at its 3 September meeting.

5. Mangaone Stream Flood Hazard Assessment [Phillip Purves]

A report on the completion of the Flood Hazard Assessment is included as a separate item on the agenda.

6. Planning and Development Services [Phillip Purves]

The following summarises the formal, written requests for information or advice attended to during July:

	<u>July</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Requests brought forward	13	13
Additional requests received	14	14
Responses provided	14	14
Outstanding requests	13	13

The Wellington Golf Club at Heretaunga has approached the Flood Protection Group in regard to the Upper Hutt City Council's (UHCC) requirement for an esplanade strip to be provided along the Mawaihakona Stream as part of a subdivision proposal that the Club is considering. While the Regional Council has no role in providing direct comment on the UHCC requirement, there is an opportunity to address the issue of WRC access along the Hutt River at the rear of the Golf Club site, including formalising public access for the Hutt River Trail.

PHILLIP PURVES

Acting Manager, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

Flood Protection Operations Manager : Geoff Dick

Report for Period Ending 24 August 2001

1. Manager's Comments

The new financial year is shaping up to be another busy year despite the completion of the flood damage work. Hopefully will only have to complete a normal maintenance work programme.

We want to make progress with a number of management issues such as the Kapiti watercourses review and land related matters such as the Logan land purchase, Mangahanene Island. These will keep senior staff very busy. Additional extraordinary items such as the Waikanae agri-chemical spill are an unwelcome addition to current work loads.

2. Hutt River

The main activity that we have been involved in recently has been the annual planting programme. This work is now complete with 5,100 willows, 2,000 natives and 1,300 trial exotic species planted.

2.1 Willows

The 5,100 willows were planted at various sites along the river this year. The willows are used to either replace plants lost due to flood damage or rejuvenate existing willow stands.

The majority of the willow plantings are the Matsudana "Moutere" variety which appears to be the most suitable clone for along the Hutt River. However, we are also planting two new varieties to see how well they grow.

2.2 Native Species

The majority of the 2,000 natives were planted on the river berms for their aesthetic and diversity values, not for stabilising the river channel. These plants have been mulched using the waste material (mostly willow) from the chipper. The mulching looks good, reduces maintenance, and helps the plants establish. So far there has been little theft of plants, unlike some previous years.

We have also set up a small trial using flax and toe toe as front line defence plantings at Manor Park.

2.3 Alternative Species Trials

In response to the willow sawfly threat we purchased and planted some exotic trial species on the Hutt River. The species chosen were Yoegi poplar, London plane, Italian Alder, and Silver Wattle (*Acacia dealbata*). Hort Research and our WRC Wairarapa Soil Conservation staff recommended these species. A detailed record, and photographs, of the plantings have been kept so progress can be monitored.

3. Kapiti Rivers

As with the Hutt, the main focus on the Kapiti rivers over the last period has been the annual planting programme that is also now complete.

A total of 14,455 willows were planted on the Otaki (12,479) and Waikanae (950) Rivers, and the Waitohu Stream (1,026). The Otaki River plantings included some alternative willow varieties and 500 Yoegi Poplars as an alternative species trial similar to the Hutt.

4. Waikanae River Mouth

We have programmed to cut the Waikanae river mouth this financial year. A recent inspection showed that mouth has met the cut triggers in the floodplain management plan. We also received a letter from a Manly Street, Paraparaumu resident asking us to cut the mouth.

We need to get permission from the Department of Conservation to enter the Scientific Reserve before the cut can proceed. Some consultation with neighbouring residents is also proposed.

5. 2,4-D Contamination, Waikanae River

A small piece of river reserve land on the Waikanae River was contaminated with the agri-chemical 2,4-D (and allegedly 2,4,5-T). The piece of land is located downstream of the State Highway, on the south side of the river about opposite Maple Lane.

The land where the contamination occurred used to be occupied by the former neighbouring farmer, as the legal boundary was not well defined. It is understood that when this occupying farmer sold his hill property (inland from State Highway 1) about three years ago he shifted a number of old agri-chemical drums down to where the current contamination is. Some of those drums, still containing 2,4-D, corroded and spilt their contents on the ground. The contaminated site includes Council land, and land owned by Mr Ted Howarth.

All the leaking drums, some contaminated soil and old trailers have been removed from the site for disposal. The key concern with the contamination comes from a neighbouring property owner because his domestic water bore is located within 20 metres of where some of the leaking drums were located. The bore water has been tested with no trace of chemical being found. However, the neighbour is still and as a precautionary measure has been temporarily connected to the KCDC public water supply.

We (Flood Protection) have engaged consultants Pattle Delamore Partners Ltd to advise on the matter. A preliminary report has been received. Further site investigations, laboratory testing and analysis have been commissioned. This work is expected to take about three to four weeks to complete. The report will advise on what further clean up measures, if any, are recommended.

We are working closely with Council's Resource Investigations Department, the public health authority and the neighbouring landowners to resolve the matter.

The site is currently not considered a health risk to people walking up and down the river as it is fenced and no entry signs have been put up.

6. Gravel Extraction

Horokiwi Quarries Ltd is the successful bidder for the licence to extract surplus gravel from the Hutt River. The company has signed the licence document and it now awaits Council's seal. An extraction programme is being prepared and work should commence shortly.

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

River	Area	Contractor	Period Year 2001/02 (cubic metres)		Year 2000/01 (cubic metres)
			Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	4284	4284	41,797
	River		0	0	0
Otaki	River	Winstones	5150	5150	39,340
	Upper Rahui				40,220
Waikanae	River		Nil	Nil	1,800
TOTALS			9434	9434	123,157

Parks and Forests (Strategy & Marketing)

Manager : Susan Edwards

Report for Period Ending 24 August 2001

1. Manager's Comments

Victoria Owen Starts Work

We have employed Victoria Owen in a new position of Landcare Planner - Policy to assist with the reviews of the parks and forests management plans commencing this year. Victoria and Anne Manley will be responsible for the policy and planning work in the parks and forests.

Victoria comes to us from Te Puni Kokiri, Ministry of Maori Development, where she was a Senior Policy Analyst. Victoria has a background in ecology and resource management. She will make an excellent addition to the team.

Mainland Island Hui

Philippa Crisp attended a Hui in Omapere, Hokianga from 20 to 23 August where information was shared about the management of Mainland Islands. Representatives of mainland island projects throughout the country were present, including scientists and staff from the Department of Conservation, Auckland Regional Council staff and members of private mainland island projects. Philippa found the meeting to be stimulating. Discussions centred on best practice and a field trip was made to Trounson Kauri Forest restoration project.

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 1 and 2. The notice of requirement for State Highway 1 adjacent to Queen Elizabeth Park has been notified and we are formulating our response. Negotiations are proceeding with Transit New Zealand on the cost share arrangement for the State Highway 2 underpass.

Landscape Plans

We have completed a landscape concept plan for Summit Yard on the Rimutaka Incline Walkway. Logging activity is nearly complete and the area is not being replanted by Plantation Forestry. It provides exciting opportunities to enhance the visitor experience by developing picnic and camping areas, and undertaking riparian planting.

Environmental Management Strategy

The Parks and Forests Group has completed the first two levels of the *Enviromark* EMS certification. *Enviromark*, which has been developed by Landcare Research, is a web-based approach to the EMS process. An independent auditor completed an audit of these first two levels (compliance and risk ranking procedures) on 30 July. Some minor changes were required and Landcare Research will award the Bronze and Silver Certificates to us in the near future.

The next step in the process will be the development of objectives and targets to reduce environmental impacts. Philippa Crisp and a consultant will be running a series of workshops with all staff. Objectives will be developed for activities that are considered to have a high risk of causing environmental damage. We will also consider what products we purchase and ways of managing the effects of contractors.

Wainuiomata Community Board Meetings

Councillor Werry, Rob Forlong, Bruce Andrell and Susan Edwards met with the Wainuiomata Community Board to outline the findings of the East Harbour Regional Park visitor survey and discuss the review of the Park Management Plan. The meetings highlighted that access will be the key issue for the review, particularly in light of the proposal put forward by the Chief Executive of Hutt City Council for a coastal highway linking Eastbourne and Wainuiomata.

3. Community Connections (Ross Jackson)

Paekakariki Focus Group

Councillors Werry and Turver, and Parks and Forests staff met with the Paekakariki Focus Group on 22 August to discuss the improvement plan for the Paekakariki end of the Park. This included discussion on developing a water feature to replace the boating pond. We will be undertaking further work on the water feature and reporting back to the Group.

Conservation Week and Awards

We put up a display on the Council's parks and forests, pest control operations and environmental education activities in the Wellington Cathedral during Conservation Week.

Several individuals and groups who work in the parks and forests received Conservation Awards from the Hon. Sandra Lee, Minister of Conservation:

- Chris Horne and Barbara Mitcalfe from the Botanical Society who have worked extensively in the parks and forests identifying plants and weed infestations, and restoring areas like Te Marua Bush in Kaitoke Regional Park.
- Stan Butcher from the Lower Hutt Branch of the Forest and Bird Protection Society who has worked in Belmont and East Harbour Regional Parks.

- Bill Milne, also of the Lower Hutt Branch of the Forest and Bird Protection Society who has worked in Belmont and East Harbour Regional Parks and on the Hutt River Trail.
- Stan Hunt from MIRO, working in East Harbour Regional Park.
- June Rowland from Kapiti Environmental Action who has worked in Queen Elizabeth Park on the bush remnant, wetlands and dune rehabilitation projects.
- Upper Hutt Branch of Forest and Bird who have worked in Kaitoke Regional Park.
- Eastbourne Forest Rangers, working in East Harbour Regional Park.

4. **Marketing (Graham Laws)**

Planning for the next *Regional Outdoors Events Programme* is continuing. Graham Laws and the Rangers are planning the events for this summer, developing some new ideas and talking to Sport Wellington and the Territorial Authorities about joint marketing. We are enlisting support from other divisions, (e.g., Biosecurity, Environment) to help the Rangers with specialised information and interpretation.

5. **Capital Works Projects (Graham Laws)**

Paekakariki Toilets, Queen Elizabeth Park

Architects are preparing designs for new toilets in the vicinity of picnic grounds 1 and 2 at the Paekakariki end of Queen Elizabeth Park. The new toilets will replace the existing block adjacent to the children's playground. The existing block requires frequent maintenance, is deteriorating structurally, has an outdated design and poses safety concerns for users.

SUSAN EDWARDS
Manager, Parks and Forests (Strategy & Marketing)

Parks and Forests (Operations) Department

Manager: Bruce Andrell

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1. Manager's Comments

Benchmarking Visit to Auckland Regional Council

Philippa Crisp, Fraser Oliver and I spent two days in early August visiting Auckland Regional Council's Parks Northern and Southern sectors. The trip was extremely valuable to compare infrastructural and environmental asset management; and the interface between parks and water supply functions.

2. Rimutaka Hill Road Summit Toilets

The summit tea-rooms lease has been re-assigned to Harry Memelink, due to the previous tenant becoming bankrupt. O'Brien Property Consultancy are liaising with Harry to ensure a smooth transition.

3. Planting at Baring Head

The Wellington Tenth's Trust joined Regional Council staff and Landcare Committee Chair Dick Werry in planting trees at Baring Head on 9 July 2001. Over 300 native trees were planted to replace trees in the shelter belt surrounding the houses at Baring Head.

4. Stock Damage Sensitive Plant Communities, Pencarrow Lakes Block

Sensitive native plant communities have been damaged by stock grazing on the raised beaches adjacent to the Pencarrow Lakes at East Harbour Regional Park. The summer drought lowered the lake levels enabling stock access around the protective fence lines. The fences have been extended and the lake levels have return to normal preventing further stock access.

5. Park Closures for Lambing

Both Battle Hill Farm Forest Park and Belmont Regional Park will partially close for eight weeks, during September and October 2001, for lambing. Notices have been placed in local papers and on site advising public of the closures.

6. Volunteers Build Mountain Bike Track at Belmont Regional Park

Hutt Valley Mountain Bike Club are constructing a specialised mountain bike track between Old Coach Road and Stratton Street. The track is being formed in an area of pine forest to allow easier access for “family riders” in this part of the Park. The Club has been holding working bees most Sundays.

7. Locals Help Reduce Possum Re-invasion at Belmont Regional Park

A press release in Porirua and Lower Hutt newspapers has attracted neighbours to help with possum control. We are encouraging people to control possums on their own property, recognising that possums migrate between the Park and private land. Chris Wootton, the Park Ranger is assisting neighbouring landowners by loaning Timms possum traps and installing bait stations on larger rural blocks.

8. Education Programme Pack Released

Stage two of the Battle Hill education programme has been released to schools within the Wellington Region. The package includes a guide that informs educators how they can achieve curriculum objectives using Battle Hill as a resource.

9. Unauthorised Access to Rangers Houses

Signs precluding public access will be placed at the entrance of residential houses on parks to prevent uninvited people entering them. Uninvited people who ignore the signs and enter the houses will receive trespass notices. This is necessary to ensure the privacy and security of our staff and tenants.

10. Rural Fire Protection Plans

Rural Fire Protection Plans will be distributed to the five western metropolitan rural fire authorities by the end of September 2001, for this summer’s fire season. The Plans will assist the Principal Rural Fire Offices fight fires on the Council’s parks and forests. They also meet insurance and legislative requirements in managing the fire risk for Plantation Forestry.

BRUCE ANDRELL
Manager, Parks and Forests (Operations)