

Flood Protection

Manager : Geoff Dick

Report for Period Ending 8 November 2002

1. Manager's Comments

It is now five months since the divisional review took effect and I took up full responsibility for Flood Protection following my long time colleague Brendan Paul spreading his wings and seeking new opportunities. To be honest, for myself it has been five months of hard slog. However, the team has accepted the change as a challenge and we have some results to be proud of. Highlights include:

- The Gold Enviro-Mark[®] Award for our environmental management system being presented today.
- The successful commencement of the Hutt River ranger service. The launch of the service was very successful with some great media coverage. The induction programme for Thane Walls, the ranger, is being expertly managed by Fraser Oliver and Jeff Evans.
- The very successful launch of the Otaki River mouth lagoon project.
- Strong progress with the capital improvements programmes in both Kapiti and the Hutt. Hopefully we will shortly be able to report a significant step forward with the Stand Park land purchase.

Recruitment of staff to fill vacancies is progressing steadily. Trina Marshall joined us on 16 October as the new Flood Protection, Divisional Secretary. I hope to be able to make some announcement on engineer appointments shortly.

Finally, I would like to wish Alistair Cross all the best for his wedding on 16 November.

2. Waikanae River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

2.1 Otaihanga Domain Stopbank

A draft report on the costs and benefits of three options has been completed. The three options being considered are:

- Raising the road.
- Raising the Footpath adjacent to the road.
- Constructing a stopbank in the Domain.

This report will now be summarised and forwarded to KCDC and the directly affected residents for consideration and selection of a preferred option. The costs of all options are within budget. A public meeting with all Otaihanga residents will then be held to outline the preferred option.

3. Otaki River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

3.1 Otaki River Mouth Lagoon Enhancement Works

Design of the physical works proposed this financial year has been completed. All of the hard landscaping works, proposed for this year, can be completed within budget. It is proposed to start construction early in the New Year.

3.2 Friends of the Otaki River

A meeting of the Friends Executive Committee was held on 8 October 2002 with the walkover following on 23 October 2002. Approximately 30 local residents attended the day, which involved walking down the north bank from Upper Rahui to the mouth. The group discussed three main issues as they inspected the river:

- Priorities for maintenance works.
- Future Friends projects.
- Access to the north bank.

The discussions were very constructive although no decisions were required of the group in relation to any of the issues.

3.3 Mouth to State Highway One

Preliminary design of the Stresscrete extension works is completed and the delivery of rock rip rap has commenced. The final detail to be resolved is the berm and rock levels as the works transition into the Rail Bridge, although the current section of work does not extend that far downstream.

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

4.1 Ava to Ewen Project

We have pre-qualified four contractors to receive tender documents for the Strand Park River Realignment contract. Ten contractors and rock suppliers expressed interest in this job. We have also advised the pre-qualified contractors of all the rock suppliers, who registered an interest to supply rock, to encourage alliances to be formed for the project.

Opus International Consultants have progressed well with the final design. A draft tender document for the Strand Park River Realignment contract was completed by the end of October 2002. This document will be ready for issue to pre-qualified contractors by late November 2002. However, the tendering process can start only when we are certain that we can get access to Strand Park for construction.

The Regional Office of MOE has recommended a preferred land transfer process to their head office for approval. We have subsequently written to MOE Head office requesting their assistance to complete the transaction in the shortest possible time. Our solicitors have started preparing a draft sale/purchase/lease agreement in which we expect to include an 'access for work' approval clause.

At this stage we do not have an agreed programme with MOE to complete the land transfer. We expect delays in obtaining the 'access for work' approval, leading to a delay in appointing a contractor for the river realignment. Our programme was to appoint a contractor before Christmas 2002.

4.2 Non-structural Measures

Non-structural Measures implementation is on track to complete draft district plan provisions by June 2003. Workshops have been held with Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council officers to ascertain the work involved in amending existing provisions in the respective district plans.

The Regional Council's emergency management team is leading three of the six emergency management projects programmed for this year. HCC or UHCC will facilitate the remaining projects.

4.3 Belmont Edge Protections

At its October 2002 meeting, the Advisory Committee endorsed the scope and programme for the proposed Edge protections and House Raising project at Belmont. This project is progressing well. The topographical and boundary definition surveys were completed by the end of October 2002. Edge protections design has commenced and the preliminary design will be completed by the end of November 2002.

A number of adjoining property owners have encroached onto Regional Council owned berm areas. Our property consultant will study the survey plans and recommend a process for dealing with each individual encroachment. Consultation with these property owners is programmed to commence in December 2002.

A community meeting is planned for March 2003.

5. Porirua Stream

The final stage of the consultation over the options at Findlay Street has been delayed following the decision by the Built and Natural Environment (BNE) Committee of Wellington City Council not to consider the matter at their meeting on 30 October. Instead the paper, prepared by WCC officers, is to be considered first by the Tawa Community Board before being referred back to the BNE Committee. Councillor McDavitt attended the 30 October BNE Committee meeting, and may wish to comment.

We had proposed that the Landcare Committee make a final decision on a preferred option for Findlay Street at this (19 November) Committee meeting. However, it is now recommended that this decision be delayed until WCC has completed their consideration of the matter.

We have now tenanted number 42 Findlay Street. The rental payments will start to offset the costs of repairing the 44 Findlay Street footbridge. Both the 42 and 44 Findlay Street houses share this bridge.

6. Planning and Development Services [Phillip Purves]

The Kapiti Coast Flood Hazard Review is progressing well. We have provided KCDC with a hard copy of the flood hazard maps that we presented to the October Landcare meeting. An electronic version of the maps was also sent to KCDC in the first week of November for insertion into their GIS system for improved public availability.

Producing accurate flood level information for the two floodplains is proving to be a complex and highly involved task. However, we expect that flood level information will be able to be provided to KCDC by mid December and we are informing those who request flood level information from us of this.

Work on draft provisions is continuing. The first official draft set will be presented to the KCDC Environmental Management Committee at its meeting on 28 November 2002. It is anticipated that the KCDC officers will recommend that the provisions and the draft flood hazard maps go out for public consultation, possibly commencing as early as December this year.

7. Operations

7.1 Wellington [Jeff Evans]

Hutt River

The Willow layering programme is now complete. Willows have been cut and layered along areas of eroding bank edge, so they can sucker and take root to protect the bank from further erosion.

The spring spray run is underway. This is done to control noxious weeds and long grass in drainage channels and alongside fence lines on the numerous properties which border the Hutt River.

An ongoing annual control programme to remove and poison Old Mans Beard, Wild Ginger and Japanese Honeysuckle is also under way in the lower river.

Beach ripping, using a bulldozer is underway between the Silverstream Bridge and Totara Park Bridge. This work is done to loosen the river gravel's, enabling the spring floods to move it down the river system, thus reducing the size of large gravel islands forming within the river channel.

Hutt River Ranging Services

The ranging service began full-time on 14 October 2002. Much of the first ten days was spent familiarising Thane with the area and issues. Regular patrolling has also commenced, with Thane meeting valuable work contacts and members of the public on the river. Four positive press articles and one radio interview about the Hutt River Ranger have been noted.

One public event, a charity fun run on 20 October 2002, on the northern part of the river trail, went well.

Berm Maintenance

A contractor removed two abandoned vehicles, one at Taita Drive, the other at Block Road. The Ranger removed loose litter around public access areas/ car parks.

The annual Hutt River trail maintenance programme is underway.

Watercourses

A stream run was completed in the Mangaroa River, during which a large amount of demolition material and numerous car bodies were removed. These had washed out from an old fill site.

Weed clearing in the Waiwhetu Stream is underway, again with the help of Periodic Detention workers. While progress with the weed clearing is, as usual, proving to be slow, a large amount of weed has been removed.

Work for other departments

A new well head was prefabricated and installed on a 300mm artesian bore at the Seaview wool scouring site for Resource Investigations.

7.2 Kapiti [Garry Baker]

Otaki River

The beginning of October saw the commencement of in-channel works following the end of the trout spawning period. Work completed includes cross blading in preparation of rock line extensions on the right bank below Stresscrete, and repairs to the debris fencing at Tracey's on the left bank and above Chrystalls on the right bank. Beach grooming was completed on an island adjacent to Andrews.

The first of two signs providing advice on the Otaki Estuary enhancement project was erected.

Waikanae River

Further willow layering was carried out along both banks of the Waikanae River.

Watercourses

Drain cleanings were levelled on Booth's property along the upper Ngatotara Drain.

Otaki Depot

The Otaki depot renovations are practically complete with only minor finishing and electrical work remaining.

7.3 Operations Support [Steve Murphy]

Waiwhetu Stream

The resource consent application to apply diquat to the stream to control weed growth has been lodged with Consents Management. Thorough and extensive consultation was undertaken because of the perceived controversial nature of the application. This included an article in the Hutt News and sending every property bordering the stream an explanatory pamphlet with a response form. In addition, about 40 copies of the draft document were distributed to interested parties. The majority of responses received supported the application. The application will be notified, with a final decision not expected until early in the New Year.

Meetings were held with residents at 142 – 150 Riverside Drive, in regard to the clearing of a maintenance strip, at the rear of their properties. None of the residents are objecting to the proposal, which will open up a choked section of the stream and improve flood flows through the area. A plan of the proposal is currently being prepared, and will be sent to residents with a letter seeking their written permission for the work to proceed.

Porirua Stream

The resource consent application for the removal of gravel build up in the lower reach of the Porirua Stream has been sent to interested parties for comment. Those comments are required by 6 November 2002. It is planned to lodge the application by mid December 2002.

River Trail

A construction plan has been prepared for the proposed walkway under the eastern abutment of the Estuary Bridge. This will form part of the Hutt River trail and alleviate the need for walkers to cross a busy main road. Hutt Rotary has raised funding for the project.

Chinese Delegation

Alistair Cross and myself escorted a small group of public service officials from Shanghai on a tour of flood protection works on the Hutt and Waikanae Rivers. While they asked many pertinent questions (as we did of them), it soon became obvious that their main interest lay in the environmental aspect of our work. They were impressed with the “naturalness and clean water” of both rivers, and were enthralled when a group of ‘wild ducks’ swooped in to land in front of them on the Waikanae River.

GEOFF DICK
Manager, Flood Protection

Parks and Forests

Acting Manager : Philippa Crisp

Report for Period Ending 8 November 2002

1. Acting Manager's Comments [Dr Philippa Crisp]

1.1 Pa Harakeke Project

Landcare staff have enjoyed working with Environment Division staff and iwi on the Pa Harakeke project. Special flax cultivars used for weaving were planted in the Wainuiomata Recreation Area. Members of the local iwi will tend and harvest these plants, while the Ranger (Scott Farrell) will keep the area clear of weeds and assist with access to the site. It is the first project of its type on Council land and it is hoped that the success of this partnership will encourage further such projects in the Parks and Forests.

1.2 Commercial Opportunities on Council land

A resolution was made at the Landcare meeting in August that a workshop be convened on commercial opportunities in WRC Parks and Forests. Our resources are currently stretched, but we are in the process of appointing a Principal Advisor (Marketing and Design). We aim to present a workshop on commercial opportunities in early 2003.

1.3 Answers to Questions Raised at the Last Meeting

Te Marua Landscape Development Plans Estimates

At the last committee meeting officers were requested to prepare estimates to carry out work outlined in the plans. The main development requirement for the next four years is to complete tree and shrub planting. To carry out all the planting identified, including fencing and two-year maintenance would cost in the order of \$450,000. However, for the next three years the estimate to carry out the priority planting is \$93,500. These estimates are based on contractors. Carrying out community type plantings would reduce the cost. The plantings will be incorporated into future budgets with the implementation phased in according to what resources are available.

Most of the tracks proposed are relatively short and these could be developed over the next three to five years by Council staff out of existing track budgets. In the future the advent of possible large capital items such as a visitor centre or further toilets would have to be applied for through the 2005 LTCCP process.

2. Planning and Policy [Dr Philippa Crisp]

2.1 Forest Monitoring Workshop

I gave a presentation on forest monitoring techniques used on Council land at a monitoring workshop in late October. The workshop was attended by staff from the Department of Conservation and Regional Councils from around the North Island.

2.2 Environmental Management System

Gareth Cooper, Eastern Mobile Ranger, has recently completed a report on ways to minimise the environmental impacts resulting from the use of tanalised timber and paint in the Parks and Forests. Gareth had worked with Brian Leeney and Jeremy Collins (Assistant Rangers) to produce the report. Chris Muller (Western Mobile Ranger) and Nola Urquhart (Ranger, Queen Elizabeth Park) have completed a report on minimising the detrimental impacts of fertiliser, while Tina Walker (Divisional Accountant) has begun integrating triple bottom line reporting into the quarterly reports. The next projects to be tackled include:

- The production of a Best Practice Guide for the use of herbicides.
- The development of a shared Intranet EMS website.
- An assessment of weed spread risks in the Parks and Forests.
- The completion of a checklist for environmentally friendly building techniques.

2.3 Kaitoke to Te Marua SH2 Realignment

Graham Laws attended a Partnering Workshop at the Upper Hutt City Council on 1 October 2002. Transit NZ organised the workshop to maximise the chance of success of the project. Participants included consultants, contractors, affected landowners, road users and council officers. The workshop aimed to create a team approach and shared vision, facilitate people contacts, understand other people's concerns and clarify roles.

2.4 Capital Works Projects

Planning is continuing for the 2002/03 capital works programme. Consultants are completing site investigations and preparing drawings for Whareroa Beach toilets. Engineers are investigating options and priorities for bridge works on the Rimutaka railway route.

2.5 Transfer of the Takapu Block

We have been liaising with Department of Conservation officials and can report that the Takapu Block has now been set aside as public reserve (under the Reserves Act 1977) and that the walkway across the property has been formally gazetted under the New Zealand Walkways Act 1990. The Block is currently under the administration of the Department of Conservation. Before the transfer to the Council officially takes place, the Department will classify the reserve as "recreation reserve" under the Reserves Act and register the walkways gazette notice on the title of the property.

Good progress is being made on matters relating to the transfer. However, at this stage, several technical issues remain outstanding and will require resolution before the transfer takes place. (These include matters relating to legal access to the property, improvements on the property and giving effect to transfer of management of the conservation covenants in Belmont Regional Park.) Officers will continue to progress these issues and will report back to the Landcare Committee as soon as possible.

3. Marketing and Design [Ross Jackson]

3.1 Environmental Enhancement and Community Projects

Potting Days

Two very successful potting days were held at Queen Elizabeth Park and Cannons Creek over two Saturdays in October. About 20 people attended at each venue and everyone really enjoyed the day. Seedlings were being potted on for planting out over the next one to two years. Potting on seems to be quite a therapeutic activity and allows everyone to have a “chat” while at the same time carrying out a necessary task.

Urban Motorway Presentation

Ross Jackson gave a presentation on the landscape developments of the Wellington Urban Motorway to a group of visiting Japanese Highway Landscape Association members. The presentation was in response to a request from Transit New Zealand.

New Track Planned for Belmont Regional Park

At a recent meeting with Korokoro residents attended by Councillors Evans, Thomas and Werry, a request was made for track access from Korokoro to the Belmont Regional Park. Officers have since met with some residents on site to look at opening up the old mill workers track from Rahui Grove down to the Korokoro stream track at the head of Cornish Street. Belmont Regional Park Ranger Chris Wootton is now organising the opening up of the track initially to “Tramping Track” standard. Korokoro residents Barry and Kate Malcolm have located the line of the old track. Another track is proposed further up Korokoro from Maori Point into the valley. This is more extensive and will need to be evaluated at a later date.

State Highway 1 Mackays Crossing

The upgrade of State Highway 1 Mackays Crossing has been approved after two days of hearings. The hearings were attended by Ross Jackson with Maree Saunders from the Environment Division. The appellants have now agreed to withdraw their objections. Transit NZ can now proceed with the detailed design, land purchase and application for funds to allow the project to proceed.

Regional Outdoors

Jo Stanbury is planning *Regional Outdoors* – the summer programme of events in our Parks and Forests. Building on previous years' successes, the Rangers, with the support of other Landcare staff, are putting together a varied programme aimed at attracting first-time visitors to the parks. There is more of the same – popular events from last year, like rainforest walks in Kaitoke Regional Park and historical talks at Queen Elizabeth Park – and we're adding some new activities. The programme will be promoted by radio, on our website and through *Elements*.

Push Play Day

We are promoting a twilight walk to Pencarrow Lighthouse as our contribution to *Push Play Day 2002* on Friday 8 November.

4. Environmental Asset Management [Dr Philippa Crisp]

4.1 Control Operations

Pest Animals

- Prebait was applied 8 and 9 October for the Mangaroa Tb operation (Pakuratahi Forest and parts of Kaitoke Regional Park are included in this operation).
- The Dry Creek possum contract is almost complete.

Pest Plants

The following plants have been controlled in our Parks and Forests:

- Old man's beard in Belmont Regional Park and Akatarawa Forest.
- Sycamore and pampas in Pakuratahi Forest.
- German ivy and convolvulus in Battle Hill bush remnant.
- Climbing asparagus in Belmont Regional Park.

4.2 Monitoring

Bird Monitoring

Owen Spearpoint has started this year's bird monitoring in many of the Parks and Forests. Ranging staff and volunteers have attended bird identification training sessions held by members of the Ornithological Society. New bird monitoring transect lines have been installed in Queen Elizabeth Park, the Hutt catchment and the bush reserve in Battle Hill Farm Forest Park. Bird lines have been in place in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo catchment and at Kaitoke Regional Park for a number of years.

Pest Animal Monitoring

Time-lapse filming in the back dune remnants in Queen Elizabeth Park has been used to assess the types of pests present in the area. Very little seedling growth is occurring in these remnants. A large possum and a persistent cat were recorded visiting the non-toxic baits, which included peanut butter and a dead mouse. Robin Blake has been mapping animal populations and writing notes on the history of animal control on the Council forests.

Vegetation Monitoring

Owen Spearpoint and Keeley Hoyle have re-measured the exclosure plot (and the associated control plot) at Axehole Creek in the Hutt catchment. Robin Blake and Owen Spearpoint attended a forest monitoring workshop where they gave input on a MfE project, which aims to develop a monitoring kit for use by care groups.

Rare Species

- A pair of kaka were spotted in the Eastern Hutt catchment recently. It is thought that kaka may be nesting at this site, as Robin Blake has noticed kaka at the same location in previous years.
- Karikariki from Kapiti Island have been seen recently in Queen Elizabeth Park.
- Owen Spearpoint and Keeley Hoyle have trialled bat listening receivers during their stay in the Hutt catchment. A long-tailed bat has previously been recorded in the Eastern Hutt.
- A Ross seal from the Antarctica made a visit to Queen Elizabeth Park in early October. This species has never been recorded in New Zealand before (except for a fossilised specimen from the Pleistocene era). The seal spent a few days on the beach before returning to the sea.



Figure 1 Ross Seal found at Queen Elizabeth Park

5. Western Sector [Matt Ballantine]

The Chinese exchange visitors spent a day visiting the Regional Parks and Forests. Activities included briefings on ranger services and environmental protection programmes, bush walks and a shearing demonstration at Belmont Regional Park. The group had an enjoyable day and particularly liked the Kaitoke Swingbridge walk.

5.1 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

Thirty sheep have recently made Battle Hill their new home as part of the education programmes being run on the Park. Many students visiting the Park as part of the programmes are interested in learning more about sheep and Ranger John Bissell has obtained a number of different breeds to meet this demand. The students will now be able to learn about the different attributes of the various breeds and then go out into the yards and see them face to face. The breeds will have coloured ear tags and the students will have to pick out the breeds based on what they have learned. Some of the sheep are pets and so will be more settled around a group of students.

Park Rangers John Bissell and Chris Muller recently attended a four-day shearing course at Taratahi training farm in Masterton. This was in reply to the growing number of requests from education groups to see how sheep are shorn during visits. John and Chris will be able to look after the Battle Hill education sheep and visiting groups will see shearing first hand. The course was hard work and John and Chris came away with a healthy respect for Shearers. It will be a while before they can do 300 a day though!

5.2 Belmont Regional Park

Waitangirua Farm has been closed for lambing but reopened on 30 October. As evenings lengthen and daylight savings starts, more people are out and about in the Park. People have abided very well by the restrictions on public access over farm land during lambing this year and Landcorp is happy about how lambing went. Next year the dates will be adjusted to allow public access back into the farmland by labour weekend.

Discussions with the Landcorp farm manager recently reached agreement on establishment of two new public walk tracks through the farmed areas of the Kilmister Block and Takapu Block. These new tracks will add over 4km of accessible trails in the Park. One track offers an alternative route from Boulder Hill to Hill Road. The other track links Takapu Road with the Belmont Trig / Cannons Head area.

These tracks will not be expensive to develop, as they cross farmland, utilising existing farm track and require only way markers, stiles and limited signage.

Possum control work is almost complete at Dry Creek. The work is due to be monitored following Labour weekend to check work has been completed to standard.

This is a huge step forward for pest control work in the park. Dry Creek contains the second largest remnant of native forest after the Korokoro Valley (which was controlled in 2000). There are also benefits to the Landcorp farming operation and neighbours of the Park by the reduction of possum numbers at Dry Creek.

A bait station network in the Cannons Creek valley has been set up and maintained by Wellington Regional Council staff. Now the initial work is complete, volunteers from Friends of Maara Roa will be involved in helping maintain bait stations in the area.

We are working on the upgrade of a footbridge at Cannons Creek to allow a walking track link between Cannon Creek and Takapu Road. An Engineer has prepared a design for the bridge. We are in the process of preparing cost estimates for this structure.

5.3 **Queen Elizabeth Park**

Rangers have been working with six young men from the Lower Hutt branch of the IHC around the Park, once a week. Work undertaken includes potting up plants, releasing seedlings and planting native trees.

The footbridge across Wainui Stream has suffered erosion around its abutments in the winds over the last couple of months. The stream bank around the bridge has also eroded significantly. A beach access way will be installed further along from the area and fencing will help keep people away from the eroding stream bank.

5.4 **Whitireia Park**

Biosecurity staff have been mopping up the last of the possums in Whitireia Park. Bait stations and signage have been removed from the park. Night shoots have yielded good results, lowering numbers of hares and rabbits. No possums have been spotted in the last two night shoots.

6 **Eastern Sector [Fraser Oliver]**

6.1 **Akatarawa Forest**

Ranging Services

Discussions have been held with the new organiser of next years Karapoti Classic, due to take place in early February.

As part of our ongoing relationship, and at the request of the Wellington Police Search and Rescue (S.A.R) team, a full day familiarisation exercise was held in the Akatarawa block. Rangers passed on local knowledge to the team that will be invaluable in future searches.

Maintenance / Activities

Track metalling has been completed on the section of track from Bridge Road to the Birchville dam using both staff and prison labour. This section of the Cannon Point walkway is popular with locals and family groups.

We have continued a programme in conjunction with Kapiti Coast District Council and the Department of Conservation to prevent off road access in the Maungakotukutuku Valley. This is a result of concerns raised by local residents in relation to damage caused to the scenic reserve by quads, motorbikes and 4wd vehicles. The work which involves blocking off an access way to the sensitive areas in the reserve is undertaken on a cost share basis.

6.2 Pakuratahi Forest

Ranging Services

The Ranger co-ordinated a full day field trip with Policy staff from the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries looking specifically at relationships between forestry and recreation.

Maintenance / Activities

Prisoners cut back existing forestry tracks for the Wellington area trail riding groups annual horse trek.

Drill seeding and fertilising of the Summit Yards of the Rimutaka Incline has been completed, which should result in healthy grass growth and suppression of weed species.

In addition, releasing of Douglas fir on the lower terraces of the Pakuratahi river has been carried out.

6.3 Kaitoke Regional Park

Ranging Services

A new volunteer work partnership has been established between the council and the intellectually handicapped (IHC). The group has been coming up one day a week and has been doing planting, releasing and potting work.

Much of our recent work has focused on making sure that the park is ready for the busy visitor season ahead. All buildings have been inspected and maintenance work carried out where necessary.

6.4 Wainuiomata

New Season of Catchment Tours Underway

A new season of catchment tours kicked off on Sunday 13 October. This was one of the two tours set aside for individuals rather than clubs and accommodated up to 60 people. A good ratio of Rangers and volunteer guides were on hand to manage the day's proceedings, which generally ran smoothly. Two tours are planned for November including one into the Orongorongo valley.

Orongorongo Tour Route Finalised

A route into the Orongorongo valley has been chosen for the purposes of phase 3 of the Wainuiomata / Orongorongo access plan. The route will closely follow the old historic pack-track, once used to transport food and equipment by horseback to the tunnel diggers in the Orongorongo valley. The walk over the ridge is approximately 6km attaining a height of around 700m.

Maintenance / Activities

Maintenance included:

- **Roadside Bank Plantings**

The main access road bank above the fluoride plant has been planted up with flax, toetoe and low growing shrub species. This will eventually eliminate weed problems and the need to brush cut site.

- **Sledge Track Loop: Work Underway**

Work is currently underway to extend 'Sledge Creek Track' and form a loop back to the start point. A preliminary route has been marked through the bush and an old bush track above the creek will also be utilised. This will allow for a much-improved route through interesting and varied habitats. The purpose of the project is to give recreation area users more opportunity to gain quality access within the area and to some extent take pressure off the main catchment.

- **Upgrade to Old Sheds**

Two old sheds near the Ranger's residence are currently being upgraded for both storage and historical reasons. Both are typical of early development structures, in which, Scott plans to house a number of relics relating to the early days of the water supply scheme.

PHILIPPA CRISP

Acting Manager, Parks and Forests

Landcare Support
Divisional Accountant : Tina Walker
Report for Period Ending 8 November 2002

Financial Summary

After the first quarter, Landcare is continuing to show a positive result overall with a net funding surplus to date of \$533,800. This is pleasing, even given it is less than the budgeted surplus by \$118,300. The reason for the shortfall against budget is purely a timing matter, as the budgeted timing of loan funding for capital projects is different to that of capital spending.

The operating surplus for the quarter is also positive, with a result \$76,300 ahead of budget. The key drivers of this are a lower than budgeted staffing level as we continue through a recruitment phase and timing issues around the start times of projects. However, all of this favourable year to date variance is expected to be used up by year end as we progress through the work programmes.

Capital projects are still ahead of budget with an unfavourable variance year to date of \$107,800. The majority of this still lies in the Hutt River FMP, with significant work underway on the Strand Park Channel. This is also a timing issue, with the full years work still planned to come in within budget.

Landcare Division					
Financial Summary Statement					
For the 3 months ending 30 September 2002					
\$000					
	Year to Date			Full Year	Full Year
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Forecast	Budget
External Revenue	3,126	3,137	(11) U	12,566	12,566
Internal Revenue	231	272	(41) U	1,088	1,088
TOTAL REVENUE	3,357	3,409	(52) U	13,653	13,653
Direct Expenditure	1,627	1,760	133 F	8,052	8,052
Indirect Expenditure	964	959	(5) U	4,044	4,044
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	2,591	2,719	128 F	12,095	12,095
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	767	690	76 F	1,558	1,558
Asset Acquisitions	-	377	377 F	696	696
Capital Projects	235	127	(108) U	2,706	2,706
NET FUNDS MOVEMENT (DEFICIT)	534	652	118 U	-	-

Full Year Budgets

As indicated above, the division is still looking to be on target overall for the full year (based on the first quarter). However, Flood Protection spending patterns have altered from budget between geographical areas which could cause some concern.

These spending patterns are not likely to put pressure on the overall budget, but may cause difficulties with the river rate due to spending being higher in some areas (Kapiti) and lower in others (Hutt).

The situation will be monitored and revisions of work programmes are currently being considered to manage the issue.

TINA WALKER
Divisional Accountant, Landcare