

Flood Protection Manager's report for period ending 10 June 2005

1. Manager's comments

1.1 General

Good progress has been made with the flood damage repairs following the January floods and for the Hutt River the Capital Works programme has also remained firmly on track.

Gravel extraction remains a key issue for the Hutt River though we are in the process of obtaining resource consent to increase the extraction rate. Discussions in relation to the increased extraction volumes have also been proceeding with the preferred contractor for this work, in tandem with the consent application.

The Porirua City Council has recently decided to investigate the flooding problems for the Pauatahanui Stream and we are looking to contribute a third share to the study. Similarly, Upper Hutt City Council wishes to proceed with scoping a joint study for the Pinehaven Stream and we are anticipating input to this in the near future

1.2 Staffing

Susan Borrer leaves this month for her OE and we wish her well for her travels. Susan joined us as a Graduate Engineer in May 2001 and for the last two years has been our resident hydraulic modeller. Susan was also carried out the design work for the Belmont edge protection works on the Hutt River and then followed up as the Engineer's representative on site for the construction contract.

James Flanagan has just joined us as an Engineer to help maintain our engineering ranks. James' principal role will be assisting Daya Atapattu with the implementation of the upcoming capital works projects for the Hutt River.

John Tinetti and Kevin Fewtrell joined the Wellington Operations team in last month as Riverhand and Tractor Driver/Riverhand respectively. It is good to have a full staff complement again at the Mabey Road Depot.

2. Waikanae River floodplain management [Graeme Campbell]

2.1 Gravel extraction

Work has continued on finalising the technical report resulting from the recent survey. The report was completed on 17 June 2005. We have started preparing documentation for a variation to our existing Operations and Maintenance consent to provide for a change in gravel extraction methodology and enable the additional gravel to be extracted with minimum impact.

2.2 Jim Cooke Park

Final design of the realignment is complete. Draft tender documents have also been completed and are awaiting final approval before being released for tendering.

2.3 Friends of the Waikanae River

The Friends of the Waikanae River and Flood Protection have held a number of planning meetings over the last month to work out how to keep up the momentum of the Friends work. It was agreed that staff from the Otaki depot will set aside more time in their maintenance programme to do clearance and spraying work to provide cleared areas for the Friends to plant. This agreement has been documented and will become an annual meeting for both the Friends and Flood Protection work programmes. It will help to eliminate areas of conflict where the activities of both these groups overlap. The additional \$10,000 approved in the annual will be a big boost to the progress of their work.

The South Bank haul road track has now been upgraded to an impressive standard. This improvement has been very well received by members of the Friends group and the local community in general.

2.4 Otaihanga house raising

We are still awaiting a code compliance certificate for the work on the Samuels property at 73 Makora Rd before payment is made to them. The work is complete and we have contacted KCDC Officers who have advised that a retrospective building consent is being sought and that it may be another week before this is complete. Ian Ashby at 15 Toroa road has finalised his quotes and we are now preparing an agreement for the GW contribution to the work. A stopbank design has been completed around the McLachlan property at 21 Makora Road and a meeting is being arranged to discuss this option with the owners before proceeding further.

3. Otaki River floodplain management [Graeme Campbell]

3.1 Friends of the Otaki River

Construction of the Friends of the Otaki River nursery at Flood Protection's Otaki depot has now been started and is expected to be completed by the end of June.

The group has been involved in the development of an interpretation sign for the stretch of the Otaki walkway between SH 1 bridge and the estuary. This new section of walkway will be fully developed when the Winstones plant moves off site in the near future.

4. Hutt River floodplain management [Daya Atapattu]

4.1 Ava to Ewen project

Cashmore Contracting Ltd is on track for completing the Strand Park river realignment contract ahead of schedule. The main realignment is complete and the contractor is currently progressing with the landscaping works and tidying up of site. We expect the contract works to be completed well before the scheduled completion date of 31 August 2005.

The next stage of the Ava to Ewen project is to reconstruct the Alicetown stopbank. At a meeting with the adjacent property owners held on 25 May 2005, we put in place agreed procedures for dealing with issues connected with stopbank construction. Opus International Consultants Ltd is currently finalising the tender documents for the stopbank reconstruction contract. We received applications from seven contractors to register interest for this contract. We have selected four contractors following an evaluation process. Tender documents will only be issued to pre-qualified contractors.

Truebridge Callendar Beach Ltd has called tenders for the procurement of pumps for the Opahu Stream pump station.

4.2 Belmont improvements

We are pleased to inform that the Charles Street stormwater pipe extension and landscaping works at Belmont are now complete.

Quotations have been invited for the fabrication of the flood gate for the Norfolk Street stopbank. We expect to complete this work by September 2005.

4.3 Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade

Truebridge Callendar Beach Ltd has completed the preliminary design of a floodwall option for the Wellington golf course section of the stopbank. Wellington Golf Club prefers the floodwall option as more trees can be saved. At a meeting on 2 June 2005 with the Wellington Golf club, we agreed to proceed preparing an agreement based on the floodwall option. We are on track to make a recommendation to the August 2005 Landcare Committee.

4.4 District plan measures

Hutt City Council District Plan Change No. 6, Hutt River Flood Hazard Areas, received a total of nine submissions. Further submissions on Plan Change No.6 close on 17 June 2005.

5. Planning and development services [Phillip Purves]

The following table summarises the situation in regard to the number of formal, written requests that have been attended to during April and May:

	April / May 2005	YTD
Requests brought forward	11	16
Additional requests received	20	128
Responses provided	23	136
Outstanding requests	8	8

6. Investigations [Phillip Purves]

6.1 Waiwhetu Stream floodplain management study

A Project Manager for this study has been appointed from the six engineering consultancy firms that registered their interest in this. URS Ltd. has been appointed on an initial short term contract, through to the next Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee meeting. After that, a longer term contract will be set up for the completion of Phase 1 in accord with the direction that the Committee sets for that work.

At this stage URS will concentrate on programming considerations in order to provide options for speeding up the project as was requested by the Committee on its 26 April 2005 meeting (Minute No. WSA 050204).

Meanwhile, the hydraulic modelling work is progressing well and a preliminary flood damage assessment has been carried out.

6.2 Waitohu flood hazard assessment

The Summary Report for this project has been drafted but will not be reported to the June Committee meeting as previously advised. Some operational issues have arisen, such as the concerns expressed over the recent cutting of the stream mouth. It is important to ensure that the messages conveyed in the summary report are clear and in accord with the community consensus.

6.3 Mangaroa River flood hazard assessment

The control survey over the full length of the Mangaroa Valley has been completed and the survey team is now underway with the cross-section survey. The survey package (being carried out by Landlink Ltd. for the project consultant SKM) is behind programme, but the consultant advises that this should not affect the overall programme for the project. A

revised programme was provided by the consultant (SKM) in mid April 2005, to reflect the delayed contract start date and their preferred scheduling of the work packages. The revised programme still meets the original completion date for the project.

7. Operations

7.1 Wellington [Jeff Evans]

The flood damage works planned for this financial year are almost finished. Staff worked hard to complete this work so we were out of the river by the end of May as required by our resource consent conditions.

The big challenge next year will continue to be the sourcing of a reliable rock rip-rap supply. We will need rock to complete the remaining flood damage works and there is a requirement for maintenance rock as well. Rock purchase will continue to be a frustration in the Wellington region until a more stable sustainable source is found.

As a consequence of the January 2005 floods a tidy up of the toe of the stopbank at the narrow point in the Hutt riverbank carpark became necessary, in order to halt further deterioration of the stopbank of this critical location. A low concrete toe wall has been constructed over an 80m length, which greatly improves the stopbank security and gives better definition to the edge of the roadway. It replaces the unsightly and messy edge that had developed.

Hutt River trail

Maintenance for this period has included resurfacing of the trail along the Belmont berms, sign maintenance, vandalism repairs and general asset seasonal work.

Hutt River ranging services

Over this period ranging services included the usual fare of patrolling and surveillance, following up on incidents and the usual public interface with river and trail users. We have been working with volunteer groups such as Rotary and local school groups to plant native trees and shrubs.

Rotary have had several working bees in the Belmont re-vegetation plot areas and Randwick school have had working bees, weeding and blanking the native plantings behind their school. Cloud 9 film productions are using part of the river bank at the back of County Lane for filming of the Tribe TV series.

Watercourses

The Porirua stream run is still underway. Staff have recently installed a heavy duty concrete access ramp into the stream above the Station Road Bridge to allow access for truck and trailer units while gravel extraction is being undertaken.

Work for the other departments

We have been doing minor work for Resource Investigations, mainly sourcing materials, and some small mechanical engineering jobs.

7.2 Kapiti [Garry Baker]

The recent spell of fine and settled weather has enabled, good progress to be made on completing all the in-channel work projects associated with the January flood damage.

Waikanae River

Extraction of gravels from the Pukekawa Reach, and further extraction from the vicinity of Jim Cooke Park was completed.

January flood damage repairs that were completed up to the end of May included:

- Left bank rock training groyne - 100 tonnes of rock top-up and 365 m³ of overburden placed
- Otaihanga Boating Club - berm reinstated, top-soiled and grassed
- Left bank access road from El Rancho to Jim Cooke Park - reinstatement completed
- Right bank edge anchored willow poles placed below Jim Cooke Park, and below Walnut Grove
- Maple Lane groynes - rock retrieved from channel and repairs completed
- Maple Lane - elevated walkway constructed between groynes
- Kebbells Corner rock grade control structure - rock retrieved from channel and repairs completed
- Sunny Glen rock groynes - rock retrieved from channel and temporary repairs completed
- Left Bank below SH Bridge - grade control structure extended, and bank edge strengthened using concrete blocks

Otaki River

January flood damage repairs completed up to the end of May included:

- Katihiku stopbank – earthworks repair, toe rock placement (250 tonnes), top-soiled and grassed
- Mangahanene - left bank edge protection (earthworks), and right bank rock line repair (400 tonnes)
- Stresscrete - rock line repair (200 tonnes)
- Chrystalls - main wall block mattress
- Waimanu Culvert Repairs
- Above Chrystalls - channel realignment and berm reinstated
- Barretts left bank - block mattress constructed
- Upper Hughes left bank - high level ramp for asset inspection

- Lutz Thurley - channel diversion and berm reinstatement
- Upper Taylors - rock barbs 6 & 7 repaired (50 tonnes)
- Mansells left bank - bank edge protection completed

The Campbells left bank stopbank edge channel diversion and cross blading repairs resulting from the January flood will be completed by 2 June. Fish and Game agreed to a two day extension of works in the river beyond the normal finish date of 30 May.

Other work completed during this period included spraying noxious plants and weeds on berms, and tree-clearing off fencelines at Lethbridge on the south bank of the river.

Waitohu Stream

The Waitohu Stream mouth was realigned.

7.3 Operations support [Steve Murphy]

Asset management

Two important tasks soon to be completed are the updating of the asset register and the asset condition checks.

Monitoring the condition of flood protection assets is a crucial component of our asset management plans for the Hutt, Otaki, Waikanae, Porirua and Wainuiomata Rivers. All important flood protection assets in these schemes are visited annually and assessed for any maintenance required, by considering a number of relevant factors. The simple score system below is used to summarise the condition of each individual asset.

Condition Rating	
1	Meets required standard - no maintenance required
2	Meets required standard - scheduled or minor maintenance required
3	Below required standard - specific maintenance required
4	Below required standard - major maintenance or renewal required

Asset condition scores not only indicate which individual assets need attention, but in combination with other factors will over time indicate general trends in the overall state of a river scheme and the state of the region's schemes in total.

The Hutt River inspection has been completed, with the remaining planned for completion over the next few weeks. A report summarising the results of the asset monitoring programme will be presented to the September Landcare Committee meeting.

Waiwhetu Stream

As indicated in the last month's report, weed growth in the Waiwhetu stream is quickly outstripping the Contractor's ability to manually clear. Again it was necessary to spray the

stream margins to prevent a complete blockage in the channel. The spray run has worked well but has left a wide brown swathe on the sprayed bank edges along the length of the stream.

The hand clearing contract is also due for renewal. The current contractor has indicated a reluctance to renew at present rates because of the staff difficulties it causes. Manual clearing costs are expected to increase markedly if present standards are to be maintained.

Hawkes Bay visit

A number of flood protection staff from Wellington and Wairarapa recently visited with staff of the operations section of Hawkes Bay Regional Council. The primary purpose of the visit was to observe the construction and operation of a physical model of a section of the Tutaekuri river.

Hawkes Bay has been hit hard by willow sawfly with the majority of their willow edge protection on some rivers either dead or dying. The physical model was built to test the effectiveness of a variety of alternative protection methods, and is proving a very useful tool in that regard.

Computer modelling is the usual method used these days and the construction of a physical model is a rare event indeed. While computer modelling is good at rapidly testing a number of scenarios, a physical model, if constructed well, will give the observer both the results and an appreciation of the mechanisms at work.

Gravel extraction figures to the end of April 2005 are set out below:

River	Area	Contractor	Period Year 2004/05 (cubic metres)		Year 2003/04 (cubic metres)
			Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	3,150	40,950	40,698
	River	Horokiwi	8,279	24,249	10,380
Otaki	River	Winstones	4,294	35,366	28,088
Waikanae	Above Greenaway Road	Various	2,790	2,790	0
	Below Greenaway Road	Gary Holland Earthmoving	2,250	18,190	7,310
TOTALS			20,763	121,545	86,476

Phil Purves
Acting Manager, Flood Protection

Parks and Forests Manager's report for period ending 10 June 2005

1. Manager's comments [Murray Waititi]

1.1 Wellington Regional Recreational Initiatives Group (WRRIG)

As Councillors are aware, GW is a member of the WRRIG which seeks to collaborate in the strategic planning of leisure and recreation in the region. Sport and Recreation NZ (SPARC) have approved a grant of \$50,000 from their Active Communities Fund, for a research project to form a base for a Regional Physical Activity Strategy (RPAS). Complementing the Wellington Regional Strategy, this RPAS will help WRIGG develop a more integrated approach to considering what facilities and programmes we need in the Wellington region.

Given SPARC's considerable investment in the *Push Play* brand the group is also working on a more effective *Push Play* website. This will be set up as a central point for people wanting more information on physical activity opportunities. In the first instance it will be a simple link to the various council websites, but later people will get access to databases of sports and activity clubs, and ideas for more unstructured activities e.g. an hour's walk on moderate terrain in eastern Wellington City.

1.2 Coastal Restoration Day at Queen Elizabeth Park

Environment Division and Parks and Forests staff organised and ran a very successful Restoration Day with DOC and the NZ Ecological Restoration Network for members of environmental care groups. Held at Queen Elizabeth Park on Saturday May 21, it was attended by 120 people. The Tramways committee was very helpful in providing the Museum as the main base and transport to the beach to look at sand dune trials. The keynote presentation on coastal dune issues was given by David Bergin from Forest Research of Rotorua. This was followed by a series of workshops and field trips around the park.

Philippa Crisp also ran a workshop on the dunes at Queen Elizabeth Park as part of the day. Attendees were interested in the revegetation trials that had been run in the park in conjunction with Dave Bergin and the Coastal Dunes Vegetation Network.

1.3 Staffing changes

We are very pleased to welcome landscape architect Angela McArthur who will be filling in for Annabel Riley who is on maternity leave. Angela has extensive experience as a landscape architect for Wellington City Council advising on resource consent applications. She has also been running her own landscape consultancy business for a number of years.

Unfortunately, we are also about to farewell some staff that have decided to leave the Council. Chris Muller our ranger at Queen Elizabeth Park is leaving to take up an

appointment with Auckland City Council as a ranger on Waiheke Island. Brad Connelly, one of our mobile rangers is off on his big OE, and Trecia Smith, one of our planners, is about to join Ministry for the Environment as a Senior Planner working on the Flood Risk Management Review.

They have all contributed immensely to Parks and Forests over the time they were with us, and I wish them well in their future endeavours.

1.4 Dune expert visits

Parks and Forests and the Department of Conservation combined forces to bring a dunes expert from Bay of Plenty, Greg Jenks to Wellington to give talks at a number of venues about the restoration of foredunes. Greg visited Queen Elizabeth Park and provided feedback to staff about the progress of the foredune planting trials currently in the park.

2. Planning and policy [Dr Philippa Crisp]

2.1 Pest Control Operations

A grid of bait stations has been installed in Korokoro Bush in preparation for a possum control operation planned to begin this month. Intensive hunting has started in the northern section of Pakuratahi Forest and 41 goats have been culled so far. Judas goats are currently being checked in Wainuiomata/Orongorongo water collection area and Belmont Regional Park. Pest plant control work has slowed because of weather and contractor difficulties. Some infestations controlled are:

- Old man's beard on East Harbour and Akatarawa Forest
- Wilding pines in Ladle Bend and Draper's Flats wetlands in Pakuratahi and Akatarawa Forests

2.2 Monitoring

Owen Spearpoint and Mark Lynch have re-photographed 55 rata trees in East Harbour Regional Park as part of our possum impact monitoring. Rata is a preferred food of possums and digital photography can be used to show improvements in foliage density once possum numbers have been lowered.

Dr Ian Payton, a Landcare Research scientist has completed an audit of the vegetation monitoring work that was undertaken this past summer, in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo water collection area and the Lakes Block at East Harbour. The auditor has indicated that the vegetation plots have been completed to a high standard.

2.3 Environmental Planning

The East Harbour pest plant plan is in the final stages of completion after the pest plant survey information was collated and analysed. There are some big challenges to be faced in controlling pest plants in the northern forest at East Harbour. One of the worst infestations is of climbing asparagus (snakefeather), which covers many hectares on the eastern side of the park. This weed is very invasive and threatens the integrity of the indigenous forest. A major campaign is being planned to begin next year to control this weed.

2.4 Management Planning

The draft Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan was approved by the Landcare Committee for consultation on 12 May. Public submissions on the draft plan are sought until the end of July 2005. The Regional Forest Lands Plan: Future Water Collection Areas Management Plan was adopted by Council on 17 May. The Plan will now be published and made available at Council offices and libraries. Letters will be sent out to interested parties advising them of the plan's availability.

3. Marketing and design [Amanda Cox]

3.1 Brochures

The East Harbour Regional Park brochure is now printed and distributed to several outlets. It was also circulated to all recipients of Green Shoots community newsletter (around 1,000 people) at the beginning of June.

We are also updating and reprinting the *Queen Elizabeth Park* and *Walking in Regional Parks* brochures. Both have been extremely popular, but need refreshing and updating especially the walking brochure with the introduction of the "signature" traverse route in Belmont Regional Park. We also intend to promote the opportunity to enter the ballot for the guided tours into the Wainuiomata Water Collection Area in the walking brochure, as the demand seems less intense than in previous years.

3.2 Signs

In addition to the larger sign projects at Belmont Regional Park and East Harbour Regional Park, we are addressing some of the smaller jobs that have been waiting in the wings:

- Repairing some fading and increasing the size of the Greater Wellington brand on the entrance sign for Queen Elizabeth Park.
- Updating a large street sign on Dowse Drive, Maungaraki so that people in vehicles driving past can clearly see the distances to the Oakleigh St and Stratton St entrances
- A new parks information board for the Keith Spry memorial lookout over the Stuart Macaskill Lakes at Te Marua
- Improving road signage to Tunnel Gully from SH2
- Updating two map boards at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

3.3 Arbor Day

Greater Wellington is now in the fifth year of our very successful and well received Arbor Day celebrations at Queen Elizabeth Park and Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

This year we planted in the reshaped wetland near the entrance to Queen Elizabeth Park. Transit NZ joined us for the ceremony and several of the local schools sent pupils along.

At Battle Hill we once again planted in Swampy Gully, filling this former paddock with the tough “pioneer” species such as toetoe, manuka, flax, cabbage tree and mahoe. It was a pleasure to again see the children from the local schools involved in the event.

3.4 Community liaison

During the last period all three Friends groups (Friends of Belmont Regional Park, Friends of Maara Roa and Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park) held their regular monthly meetings. Their main topic centred on the sale of Landcorp land. Staff attend these meetings and provide information on upcoming events and activities in the parks.

On 30 May the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park held their second AGM in the Raumati Hall. Even though this large dimly lit building was like an "icebox" 66 people attended the meeting including Crs Turver and Aitken along with several Council officers. A presentation on the draft management plan for Queen Elizabeth Park was given by Fiona Shaw and the contents were generally well received. A new committee of 15 was elected, including the current chairperson John Lancashire.

3.5 MacKay’s Crossing – SH1 upgrade

Officers have directed the restoration work on the wetlands being carried out by Transit NZ contractors. Further improvements to the drainage within the park are being designed and will be implemented over the next few months. Planting of the wetlands commenced as part of the Arbor Day celebrations and will continue over the next few months.

3.6 Whareroa Stream Restoration Project

Site excavation work on stage one of this project is complete and the planting will be carried out by the “Friends” in June and July. The aim of the project is to remove stock access to the stream and to allow a more natural meander to develop. We will also plant riparian vegetation in an effort to improve the water quality.

3.7 Heritage Landscapes Conference

Ross Jackson attended the NZ Institute of Landscape Architects annual conference on heritage landscapes during May. A greater awareness of the value of landscapes that have evolved in NZ (both pre and post Maori and European settlement) is developing in this country and this was examined in a wide variety of papers on the subject. Much of what

was discussed is very relevant to the Wellington region and specifically to our Parks and Forests network.

4. Western Sector [Matt Ballantine]

4.1 Belmont Regional Park

4.1.1 Korokoro Valley

Our staff have been busy upgrading footbridges in the Korokoro Valley. Four bridges that had suffered damage during the December floods have been raised above flood levels. Doing this work should lessen repairs required as a result of any future flooding in the Korokoro Stream.

4.1.2 Dry Creek Entrance

At Dry Creek, the redevelopment of the entrance is proceeding well, with landscaping complete and surfacing of the car park area underway. The work has definitely improved the attractiveness of the entrance for park users, especially family groups wanting open space for picnics or relaxation.

4.1.3 Information Panels

We have been working on upgrading the entrance information panels over the last month. The new panels are currently being designed and produced. They will provide a significant improvement to the level of information provided to park visitors.

4.1.4 Visitor levels encouraging

Visitor levels remain good throughout this period, even though the days are closing in and poor weather is becoming frequent. The good weather in the weekends has encouraged many people to be out and about in the park. Gracefield School visited the Stratton Street woolshed classroom over three days to take part in the Take Action programme run by Greater Wellington.

4.2 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

4.2.1 Don't look!!

A ram was "introduced" to the Council education mob's ewes. This will ensure that new lambs are being born when the school visits start in earnest in spring.

4.2.2 Flood damage repairs

In conjunction with the work we are currently doing at the Korokoro Valley, Belmont Regional Park, the lower bridge in the bush reserve was lifted following damage sustained during the December storms. It is now on new piles and is a lot higher out of the stream. Two large hazardous pines were also felled and cleaned up during the works.

4.2.3 Mushroom Season

Mushroom season has arrived for the year. There are a lot of mushrooms on the farm and many people enjoy coming out for some exercise with the chance of finding enough for a meal.

4.2.4 The Conservation Corps

The Salvation Army Conservation Corps has been visiting Battle Hill as part of their curriculum for six years now and usually sends two groups per year to the Park. Each course usually spends up to three weeks on the Park carrying out a variety of work. At the end of each section a week is spent on the Park on a 'bush drop' where Corps members have to sleep out and look after themselves and their team members while self managing the work set for them.

The Corps has been back out at Battle Hill lately working on assisting with maintenance in the re-vegetation and riparian areas and carrying out possum control.

4.3 Queen Elizabeth Park

4.3.1 Whareroa Stream restoration

As mentioned before, the Friends of the park project to restore part of the Whareroa Stream is progressing well. Excavators have reshaped the Whareroa streamsides, turning a straight ditch into a naturalised habitat. Fencing and planting are yet to be completed.

4.3.2 Paekakariki Entrance

At the Paekakariki end of the park contractors are removing large amounts of pampas in an effort to eliminate this weed from the park. Mulched gardens that include toi toi plantings will replace the pampas.

5. Eastern Sector [Fraser Oliver]

5.1 Kaitoke Regional Park

5.1.1 Track extension

The Pakuratahi River walk was extended 300 metres through a stand of Hard Beech forest as part of the ongoing work to complete the track from the campground to “Rivendell” and the Pakuratahi Forks. The completed section not only enables track users to wander under these lovely trees but also encourages them off the narrow gorge road which is dangerous for pedestrians.

5.1.2 Alleged thieves identified

The quick thinking of a Wellington Rover Tour guide resulted in identifying the people that have been suspected of breaking into vehicles at the Pakuratahi Forks car park. Upon hearing his car alarm activate, the guide phoned the ranger. The ranger then locked the park entrance gate thus trapping the alleged thieves in the park. A Police dog team was called in and, although unsuccessful in catching the alleged thieves, they did retrieve stolen items. Their abandoned vehicle was impounded and wallets were found identifying them. A warrant is out for their arrest. An associate tried unsuccessfully to release the vehicle and she was charged and convicted of making a false statement. This was a pleasing development and there have been no further thefts from vehicles in the park as a result.

5.1.3 Te Marua Entrance

An area was fenced off at Te Marua which will be trialled as a restoration site. Manuka slash will be cut and laid down and the area left to regenerate. This area will over time, link two important bush remnants of Totara and Matai.

5.1.4 Celebrate Life Totara Planting Programme

The flexibility of the Celebrate Life Totara Planting Programme this year has enabled strong ties with the community to be developed. By allowing people to plant their Totara outside of organised planting events, people are choosing to plant on the actual day of special anniversaries or birthdays. This adds greatly to the significance of tree planting. Over a dozen trees have been planted since the programme was featured in “Elements”.

5.2 East Harbour Regional Park

5.2.1 What’s coming up

The East Harbour ranger is continuing to liaise with various organisations and community groups regarding the management of the park. There are number of interesting projects in the pipeline including the Lakes Block track network development, of which, the consent for a 75 meter boardwalk has been granted. Other key projects include the extension and intensification of the East Harbour Mainland Island work.

5.2.2 Track work continues

The Howard Road track from the top of Point Howard to the Wainui Hill has now been re-graded partly re-routed and metalled. This is a high use track and often held water making it very muddy. Slippery, steep sections have been re-graded making the track accessible to more people, this has led to some great feedback from locals.

A barrier has been installed at the entrance to the Howard Road track at Point Howard. This is being done at track entrance locations throughout the park in an effort to curb trail and mountain bike use. A further barrier has been installed above the Wainui Hill lookout.

A contractor is currently refurbishing the main entrance sites to the Lakes Block along the Coast Road. This work includes installing new gates and post and rail fencing.

5.2.3 Events Held

Two high profile events have been held at East Harbour Regional Park in recent weeks:

The Mt Lowry Challenge, a 12.5km hill run, was held on Sunday 10 April. The run utilises the tracks in the park behind the Eastern Bays and passes over Mt Lowry, the parks highest point. The event attracted over 250 competitors.

Part of the Crazyman Multisport Challenge, (now one of Wellingtons premier sports events) was held at East Harbour on Sunday 1 May. Around 16.5km of the park's Western Ridge was used for the running section of the event, starting at the Korohiwa track in Eastbourne and finishing on the Puriri track in Wainuiomata. Over 300 people took part in the event.

5.3 Wainuiomata/ Orongorongo Catchments

5.3.1 Lower Dam decommissioning

Preparation has begun to create the lake behind the lower dam as part of it's decommissioning. A digger was used to remove existing willow trees, and to shape areas that will be used for recreation. Re-growing willows will be able to be monitored and controlled over the next two years before the dam is finally flooded.

5.3.2 Track repairs

Repairs were made to the Bez's track which was affected by heavy rain. The track runs from the end of the Orongorongo access road to the foot bridge across the Orongorongo river. Several slips were cleared and all culverts cleaned out with the use of a small digger. A large washout on the track was filled in with material from the culverts.

5.3.3 Boundary fence

Stage three of the boundary fence down Moores Valley ridge is almost complete. Again the fence is of a very high quality. Ladders are being built at the end of the bait station lines currently being put in so the fence is not damaged when these lines are serviced.

5.3.4 Better parking

The front carpark has been extended to provide more parking for visitors to the Recreation Area. Bollards and a judder bar were removed and the area sealed and road marked.

5.3.5 Ranging

Rangers have been busy monitoring contractors and access in and out of the catchment area. Contractors have been working on flood repairs in the Orongorongo Valley, on the Orongorongo access road, along the fence line, in the old dam and in the proposed Mainland Island area. It is an important part of the Rangers role to be aware of who is where and when they are due out, especially when people are working in remote areas.

Due to the cooler weather, the Recreation Area has seen a drop in the number of users, although there are still some keen dog walkers and people exercising. On the positive side, there has been a drop in the amount of vandalism and rubbish around the place.

5.3.6 Walking tours

The final tour of this season was held on Sunday 22 June. Numbers were down on previous tours but a good time was had by all. Rangers have thanked all the volunteer guides that help make the experience. We all look forward to next season's first tour in October.

5.4 Akatarawa/ Pakuratahi Forests

5.4.1 Maintenance continues

Staff have been removing autumn debris trapped in watertables throughout the roading network on the Rimutaka Incline walkway, Tunnel Gully Reserve and the Akatarawa Forest. Culverts have also been inspected at regular intervals in preparation for winter. We have also applied top course metal to the Rimutaka Incline walkway i.e. the sections we

have not metalled in the last 10 years and to the access road throughout the Tunnel Gully Reserve.

The removal of dead Eucalyptus trees that are situated in the Tunnel Gully Reserve picnic area has been ongoing over the last three to four months. Unfortunately a large proportion of these are dying or are already dead.

Flood protection repair work has also been completed on the Rimutaka Rial Trail. This involved repairing a significant 25 meter on a narrow section of road just before Ladle Bend.

The prison crews are busy with a range of tasks including placing gabion baskets around the main supports of our bridges within the Tunnel Gully Reserve. The baskets have become necessary because of several large rain events experienced in the past 12 months that have scoured the bottom of the existing bridge abutments. Other jobs for the crews include vegetation control on walking tracks in Tunnel Gully and the Cannon Point Walkway, and on wet days we often have them maintaining culverts and remove debris etc.

5.4.2 Events Held

During this period we have had various four-wheel drive recreational club events, horse riding events and driver training for both police and GWRC staff.

Murray Waititi
Manager, Parks and Forests

Landcare Support, Divisional Accountant's report for period ending 10 June 2005 Year to date funding position

At the end of May 2005, Landcare had a net funding surplus of \$797,000 which is \$627,000 ahead of budget. The most notable variance in the results is the year to date savings of \$610,000 in debt repayment and interest costs resulting from the Mabey Rd sale. The total savings in 2004/05 from this sale is forecast at \$685,000 which has gone a long way towards funding the damage caused by the January 2005 floods.

Landcare Division					
Financial Summary Statement					
For the 11 months ending 31 MaY 2005					
\$000					
	Year to Date			Full Year	Full Year
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Budget	Forecast
External Revenue	13,217	12,868	348 F	14,133	14,565
Internal Revenue	903	988	(85) U	1,077	1,065
TOTAL REVENUE	14,119	13,856	263 F	15,210	15,630
Direct Expenditure	8,566	8,296	(270) U	9,271	10,221
Indirect Expenditure	348	3,619	3,271 F	3,955	697
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	8,913	11,915	3,001 F	13,225	10,918
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	5,206	1,941	3,265 F	1,985	4,712
Add back non cash items	(2,151)	882	(3,033) U	969	(2,056)
Net Asset Acquisitions	(3,303)	250	3,553 F	250	(3,284)
Capital Projects (loan funded)	3,655	4,478	823 F	4,647	4,897
Net Reserve/Investment Transfers	405	249	(156) U	354	756
New loans	(3,655)	(4,478)	(823) U	(4,647)	(4,794)
Internal Debt Repayment	5,156	2,154	(3,002) U	2,350	5,286
NET FUNDING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	797	170	627 F	0	(205)

We are tracking fairly well against the full year forecast position of a funding deficit of \$205,000. However, our operating surplus is now expected to be slightly higher than forecast due to some unexpected savings in Flood Protection operating expenditure including personnel costs.

Impact of January 2005 floods

Of the \$1,138,500 worth of flood damage repairs approved in report 05.24, we expect to spend around half (\$525,000) in 2004/05 with the balance to be completed in 2005/06. Our initial estimates were that around \$623,000 of the damages would be funded from the river rate and flood

contingency reserves. This amount has now reduced to around \$540,000 reflecting further operational and debt servicing savings.

A further \$120,000 was approved for raising 3 houses at Otaihanga. We forecast in March that we would complete 2 of these houses at a cost of \$80,000 with the third being completed in 2005/06. It now appears that the 2nd of the houses that were planned for 2004/05 will also not be completed in this financial year.

Tina Walker
Divisional Accountant, Landcare