

Flood Protection Manager's report for period ending 22 July 2005

1. Manager's comments

1.1 General

2004/05 was an extremely busy year due to the January 2005 floods, and the ongoing response to the February 2004 event. The pressure has been on the Department to do more, and in a shorter time frame.

Overall I think the Department coped well with the recent pressures. Successes include managing the aftermath of January's flood, and making good progress with the damage repairs. The Waiwhetu investigation project is now underway and making good progress. We have improved flood warning procedures for Otaihanga and Hathaway Avenue. However there are still some flood issues in Te Horo where we need to finalise our investigations and response to affected landowners.

The Hutt River capital works are on programme with the Strand Park and Belmont works materially complete at year end. In Kapiti we have still to let the contract for the Jim Cooke Park realignment, but good progress is being made with the three houses being raised early at Otaihanga.

The new year has started well with the weather in July so far being mild and relatively dry. Lets hope it stays that way for the rest of the year.

1.2 Staffing

Susan Borrer (Assistant Engineer) resigned on 17 June to travel overseas. Susan plans to travel through Australia, Ecuador, and Canada before landing in Britain. We wish Susan well with her travels and future. We have yet to secure a replacement for Susan.

John Eyles joins the Department on 1 August in the position of Investigations Engineer. John previously worked for Wellington City Council, and more recently Capacity, in a variety of water related engineering work. John's responsibilities will include the management of the Departments ongoing investigations work programme and the asset management system. John's appointment will provide a significant lift in the Departments capacity in these strategic areas.

1.3 Gravel Extraction

The pressure remains to get increased the Hutt River gravel extraction underway as soon as possible. Hutt River gravel extraction was again raised at the 7 July Hutt River Advisory Committee meeting.

Scoping of the Hutt River consent application to enable extraction from the wet area of the river is well underway. It is almost certain we will need to employ some external expertise to assist with the effects assessment and to help with appropriate mitigation measures. In the meantime Horokiwi Quarry continues to extract gravel from available dry beaches under our existing resource consent.

In Waikanae our existing lower river extraction consent is valid for another 2 years, and will enable us to extract the required volume over the coming summer. Work on renewal of this consent will follow once we have the Hutt River application in hand.

2. Waikanae River floodplain management [Graeme Campbell]

2.1 Jim Cooke Park

Tenders for the Jim Cooke Park river realignment works closed on 14 July 2005. Tender prices substantially exceeded the budget for the work. Assessment of the tenders and the consideration of the best way forward is underway.

The consent documents have also been finalised and we are awaiting final sign off from one remaining party before lodging the consent. We now have final sign off from KCDC following their Committee meeting on 14 July.

2.2 Friends of the Waikanae River

The Friends of the Waikanae River held their AGM on 22 June 2005. About 30 people attended the meeting with the new working group members being elected. The AGM was followed by an inspirational presentation by Fred Lichtwark about the environmental protection work they have been undertaking around the Raglan Harbour.

2.3 Otaihanga house raising

Good progress has been made with all three houses. The Council contribution to the Samuels Makora Road property has been paid following receipt of the code compliance certificate from KCDC and the signed encumbrance documents.

An agreement with Ian Ashby at 15 Toroa Road has now been signed and he is proceeding with the work. A preliminary stopbank design has been completed around the McLachlan property at 21 Makora Road. We are now consulting with KCDC over the plan, as some of the bund needs to encroach onto their reserve land.

3. Otaki River floodplain management [Graeme Campbell]

3.1 Friends of the Otaki River

Construction of the nursery at the Otaki Depot is substantially complete. This has been a big project for the Otaki Friends over the last 12 months.

3.2 Winstones walkway

Further safety signage has been arranged for the new section of the walkway and Winstones have been asked to complete the protection work around the surge pile agreed to earlier. The works and signage are very much of a temporary nature now as Winstones have indicated that they will be progressively vacating the site starting December 2005. It is likely to be 12 months before they are fully established at the new site just upstream of the SH1 bridge. Plans will need to be drawn up for the restoration of the whole site and input will be sought from the community about how the area should be used. The final layout for the walking track will be dealt with as part of that planning work.

4. Hutt River floodplain management [Daya Atapattu]

4.1 Ava to Ewen project

Tenders closed on 12 July 2005 for the Alicetown stopbank reconstruction contract. Tender evaluation is underway and we expect to make a recommendation to the Policy and Finance Committee on 30 August 2005.

We are planning to distribute a newsletter to the adjacent property owners once a contractor is appointed for the Alicetown stopbank reconstruction. We will also update the sign on the viewing platform located at the Ewen Bridge.

Truebridge Callender Beach Ltd is currently finalising the detailed design for the civil works of the Opahu Stream pump station. The civil works contract will include the extension of the existing culvert and construction of the stopbank adjacent to the pump station. TCB expects to call tenders for the civil works contract in September 2005.

Excell Corporation Ltd, sub contracting to Cashmore Contracting Ltd, is currently progressing with the landscaping and planting in Strand Park. We expect this work to be substantially completed by the end of July 2005.

4.2 Belmont improvements

The new flood gates for the Norfolk Street stopbank are currently being made. We expect to install these gates in September 2005.

4.3 Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade

Report 05.370 of this order paper provides an update on the Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade project.

4.4 District plan measures

Further submissions on Hutt City Council District Plan Change No.6, Hutt River Flood Hazard Areas, closed on 17 June 2005 with only one submission, which was from GWRC. HCC officers are currently preparing for a 'hearing' of the plan change proposal.

Upper Hutt City Council expects to commence pre-notification consultation on the proposed district plan change by September 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 June and provides the full year summary for 2004/05:

	June 2005	2004/05
Requests brought forward	8	16
Additional requests received	14	142
Responses provided	10	146
Outstanding requests	12	12

6. Investigations [Phillip Purves]

6.1 Waiwhetu Stream floodplain management study

URS Ltd are making good progress with the collection of the background data for the study, and are currently making some first assessments on a refined consultation strategy and investigation programme in preparation for reporting to the Waiwhetu Stream Advisory Committee at the end of August.

Phil Wallace is also making good progress with the development of the computer hydraulic model. Our aim is to have a set of preliminary flood hazard maps, and have undertaken a first review of the key flow capacity restrictions for the August WSAC meeting.

6.2 Waitohu flood hazard assessment

Completion of the Waitohu Stream study summary report has been delayed by other priorities, including the need to make progress with the Waiwhetu investigations. Completion of the report and its presentation to the Landcare and Environment Committee's remains a high priority.

An internal officers meeting was held to refine and confirm proposed new cutting procedures for the Waitohu Stream mouth. The new procedures resulted from consultation with landowners on the north and south banks of the Stream, and the Waitohu Stream care group. The aim is to get a cutting procedure that is acceptable to GWRC and these parties. The mouth was last cut in May this year.

6.3 Mangaroa River flood hazard assessment

The cross-section survey of the Mangaroa River channel has been completed ready for incorporation into the hydraulic model. A combined one dimensional and two dimensional model (for the channel and floodplain respectively) is being developed. Initial model results are currently expected to be available in early August, which will give a preliminary representation of the flood hazard. There are already a few building and development projects being considered in the Mangaroa Valley for which the initial model results will be of help in assessing.

6.4 Pauatahanui Stream flood hazard assessment

The Judgeford area has suffered significant flooding over the last few years, including disruption of State Highway 58. Both Greater Wellington and Porirua City Council are dealing with an increasing number of enquiries from residents in the Judgeford area of Pauatahanui in regard to flooding. Transit NZ is also concerned at the increased frequency

of flooding which closes SH58. Observation suggests that the increase in flooding is at least partly due to a considerable number of overgrown willows in the stream which restrict flows and have trapped gravel. In some parts the bed appears to have been raised by nearly 2 metres.

Judgeford is similar to a number of areas in the Wellington region where large farms on the fringes of suburban areas are being converted to lifestyle lots. Following meetings with Porirua City Council and Transit staff, I have agreed to contribute to the cost of a flood hazard assessment of the Pauatahanui Stream from BRANZ downstream to the inlet.

The study commissioned by Porirua City Council aims to produce flood hazard information for future planning purposes, and identify key restrictions to the flood capacity of the stream. The work has been contracted to consultants Connel Wagner Ltd. The budget of \$60,000 is being jointly funded by GWRC, Porirua City Council and Transit New Zealand. The GWRC contribution of up to \$20,000 is being funded from our Ongoing Investigations budget.

6.5 Lower Wainuiomata River

On 13 July 2005 the Wainuiomata Community Board considered a paper from Mr Reg Moore about possible improvements to the Wainuiomata River near Khyber Pass to reduce the flood hazard to the lower Wainuiomata flats. The Board passed the following resolution:

“That Council officers ask Greater Wellington Regional Council to inspect and report on the means of removing the restriction in the Wainuiomata River at Khyber Pass to reduce the extent of flooding in the rural area.”

The request is being considered by the Flood Protection Department, both in terms of the work required to investigate the request, and the priority the work can be given.

7. Operations

7.1 Wellington [Jeff Evans]

During June staff were kept busy completing programmed works for the end of the financial year, in particular routine watercourse maintenance.

Hutt River

Horokiwi Quarry has completed extraction of the large beach under the Ewen Bridge. They will progressively extract from beaches upstream of Ewen Bridge as river conditions permit.

Mabey Road staff commenced installation of wooden bollards on the Taita berms to slow down traffic and stop the berm damage that is occurring. The bollards will be progressively installed along this whole reach.

Hutt River trail

Two new walk styles were installed at County Lane, Silverstream.

Staff have been working closely with Rotary on a minor re-design of the river trail signs to make maintenance easier. The installation of new berm signs is underway and some rationalisation of vehicle access to the trail is also being looked at.

Hutt River ranging services

Ranging duties have included patrols and general public relations, including several school talks, and a presentation to the Forest and Bird Society.

A community day was held by the Hutt scout group. A harrier event took place on the Avalon berms, and Upper Hutt Intermediate ran a fund raising river clean up in the Upper Hutt area of the river.

Watercourses

Over this period stream runs were completed in the Kenepuru Stream, Takapu Stream, Taupo Stream, Pinehaven Stream, Te Mome Stream and Hulls Creek. Work is currently underway in the Waiwhetu Stream.

Work for the other departments

Ongoing maintenance and repair work was completed at several water level recorder sites. Mabey Road staff have started the fabrication of several masts for the Air Quality fixed station sites. We have also organised the fabrication of a number of new recorder station tower sections.

7.2 Kapiti [Garry Baker]

Otaki River

The January flood damage repairs have now been completed, except for some remaining rock top ups at Chrystals Bend.

Work completed over the period to the end of June included:

- Maintenance of the right bank haul access roads, 6km in total
- Construction of two new debris fences, plus repairs to existing fences above Chrystals.
- Construction of two new debris fences at Upper Hughes.

Waikanae River

Flood damage repairs following the January 2005 event are essentially complete except for the strengthening of the rock groynes in the State Highway 1 to Maple Lane reach. We need to purchase about 2000 tonnes of rock for this work.

Berm repairs were completed at Jim Cooke Park. Areas of the right bank, where slumping was caused by water turbulence over tree logs and stumps, were topped-up with soil and sown to grass. Some debris in the corridor has still to be cleaned up. All remaining flood debris not taken by "fire wooders" will be buried in excavated trenches in the berms when machinery is on site for willow planting later this month.

Mangaone Stream

The Mangaone Stream annual stream clearing run was completed. The work included machine clearing of the Sims Road to the mouth section, as well as the four main tributary drains (Swamp Road, Sages, Pukenuamu, Powles).

The grade control weir at the Camm bridge was repaired.

Waitohu Stream

The Waitohu Stream annual stream maintenance was completed. Work included the clearing of debris and vegetation from the middle of the channel, cross blading, and planting willows.

Minor watercourses

The annual stream machine-clearing run of the minor watercourses was completed, and included clearing of the:

- Katihiku and Pahiko Drains - Swamp Road to Otaki River
- Ngatotara Drain - State Highway to Rail embankment
- Mangapouri Stream - Bennetts Road to Woottons
- Ngatoko Drain - Old Coach Road to Rangiuuru floodgates
- Rangiuuru Stream - Mangapouri Stream to Rangiuuru floodgates

7.3 Operations support [Steve Murphy]

Health and Safety

We recently ran a very successful manual handling seminar, which all operational staff attended. As it had been some time since operational staff had received any type of manual handling training, the aim of the seminar was to refresh memories and equip them with the skills required to move safely at work. This is particularly important given how physically demanding the work done in the field is.

We are also busy with the input of data into SafeTsmart. As the Landcare Division was chosen to pilot SafeTsmart, we have been working closely with Employment Relations to ensure that the database is implemented smoothly.

Asset management

We are now collating the information gathered about the flood protection assets over the last year, and year end asset inspections are underway.

Preparation of the annual "Asset Management Report" will begin shortly. This report advises Council and Council's auditors on the state of the flood protection assets and whether they are being adequately maintained or enhanced as planned, and the stated level of serviced is being delivered. A summary of the report will be presented to the September Landcare Committee meeting.

Gravel extraction

Gravel extraction figures to the end of June 2005 are set out below. The overall extraction volume was considerably up over the year ending 30 June 2004.

River	Area	Contractor	Period Year 2004/05 (cubic metres)		Year 2003/04 (cubic metres)
			Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	9,156	50,105	40,698
	River	Horokiwi	6,485	30,717	10,380
Otaki	River	Winstones	0	35,366	28,088
Waikanae	Above Greenaway Road	Various	0	2,790	0
	Below Greenaway Road	Gary Holland Earthmoving	0	10,828	7,310
TOTALS			15,641	129,806	86,476

Geoff Dick
Manager, Flood Protection

Parks and Forests Manager's report

For period ending 22 July 2005

1. Manager's comments [Murray Waititi]

The middle of winter for most people generally signals a time to wrap up warm in front of a cosy fire. For Parks & Forests however, it signals the beginning of 'planting season'. This time of year, hardy souls of all ages bear the elements to do their bit for the environment. Long may it continue.

1.1 Schools out for Arbor Day

Once again we were delighted with the enthusiasm from children and adults alike for our Arbor Day celebrations at Queen Elizabeth Park and Battle Hill Farm Forest Park in early June. Around 200 people planted the first grasses near the newly improved wetlands at Queen Elizabeth Park. We then walked over to our ephemeral wetland south of the equestrian paddock, where we have been planting for the last four years, to plant more cabbage trees and kahikatea amongst the existing plants.

Around a dozen GW and ANZ/National Bank support staff stayed on after the official celebrations to do more planting, and we made some good progress alongside the new track in the wetlands. This was a good use of the day and the facilities, and we hope to attract more adult volunteers along next year.

Pupils from three local schools turned up at Battle Hill later that week for our second Arbor Day planting in Swampy Gully. Once again the weather was kind to us and around 500 trees and plants found homes on the base and hillsides of the valley.

1.2 Planting Days

A fortunate encounter with a manager from Westpac's *Business and Technology Solutions and Services Team* led to two very productive and enjoyable corporate planting days at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park and Queen Elizabeth Park. Their staff are offered a day off a year for environmental projects and were keen to come to the parks and forest areas after finding the Paekakariki escarpment a little too precarious for their liking in 2004.

Both days proved very worthwhile for all concerned. GW provided expertise, tea kits, BBQs, shelter, spades and gloves as we do with other planting projects. Westpac provided the lunch and the "muscle". Altogether the 80 staff planted around 1,800 plants in the two parks. These included planting a newly fenced paddock upstream of the wetland at Battle Hill, Swampy Gully (where they also "released" existing plants) and the newly improved wetland at the MacKays Crossing entrance to Queen Elizabeth Park.

While Westpac is keen to return next season, we will also investigate whether this experience can be repeated with other companies. Anecdotal evidence suggests there may be some demand for these types of team building opportunities where people can make a difference to their environment.

1.3 Park visitors feeling satisfied

As part of our newly developed Visitor Monitoring Programme, we recently conducted a phone survey of 500 regional residents, reviewing their awareness, use of and satisfaction with the regional parks and forests. The sample is drawn from across the region according to each city or district's share of the total population.

Our 10 year plan "Towards a Sustainable Region 2003-2013" identifies a target of 75% of our regional residents visiting a regional park in any one year. Last year a comparable phone survey produced a 50% visitation rate.

This year both awareness and visitation rates remained basically the same at 77% and 51% respectively. It was good to see a 6% lift in visitation amongst Wellington City residents, the largest population base situated the furthest from the parks. Battle Hill recorded a doubling of visitation amongst Porirua residents (from 11% to 23%). In general though, achieving a substantial lift in visitation rates will require prolonged effort and investment. More high profile events such as the Pauatahanui Country Festival will definitely help this along.

Last year's survey included a question on enjoyment of the most recent visit to the parks, and we scored an excellent 96%. This year we changed the question to one based on satisfaction, a measure commonly used by other parks organisations. 91% of visitors said they were "quite" or "very" satisfied with the park they last visited as a place to do their selected activity. As a matter of interest, 70% described either walking, bush walking or dog walking as their main activity, with second place going to picnicking.

This summer we will be testing two other facets of our new Visitor Monitoring Programme – park satisfaction surveys and vehicle and pedestrian counters. We need these and other research tools to give us a complete picture of our park visitors, their characteristics, usage patterns and preferences.

1.4 Staffing changes

Nikki La Monica has been appointed as Ranger at Queen Elizabeth Park. Nikki was our Western Sector Mobile Ranger, working between Queen Elizabeth and Battle Hill.

2. Planning and policy [Dr Philippa Crisp]

2.1 Pest Control Operations

The 1080 operations in Wainuiomata/Orongorongo water collection area, Akatarawa Saddle and Kaitoke West are poised to begin. Pre-feed bait will be aerially applied during the next fine weather window, followed a week or so later, by the toxic bait. Bait stations have been placed in the areas in the Wainuiomata Recreation Area that will not be covered by the aerial operation.

2.2 Monitoring

A rodent monitoring line has been installed in the Battle Hill Farm Forest Park bush remnant. The monitoring line has shown that rat numbers are high – 84% of the tunnels contained rat prints. Rodent/mustelid monitoring was also completed in East Harbour Regional Park. Rat tracks there showed in 40% of the tunnels, and mustelid tracks in 10% of the tunnels. This information will prove very useful once an intensive control site is established and the effectiveness of the rat control can be evaluated.

Hinau fruit-fall plots were re-measured in East Harbour Regional Park and both current water collection areas. Possum predation of hinau appeared to be high in both water collection areas, despite the relatively recent 1080 operation in the Hutt catchment. Possums seek out these fruit during the winter months, and any possums present will be eating the fruit.

2.3 Management Planning

Submissions have now closed for the first consultation phase of the East Harbour Management Plan. Fifty three submissions were received, but have not been analysed as yet. There may be some delay in this process, as we now need to recruit a new planner to replace Trecia Smith who left Greater Wellington in July.

A public meeting was held on 29th June to explain the next phase of the Queen Elizabeth Park management planning process. Approximately 25 people attended the meeting, as did a number of Councillors and members of staff. Submissions on the draft Queen Elizabeth Park Management Plan closed on 31st July. These submissions will be analysed and presented to the Committee in due course.

2.4 Capital works

Progress on the 2004/05 capital works programme is reported separately in this order paper (see report 05.364)

2.5 Asset Management

Graham Laws has been continuing to update asset data (track locations and new assets) on GIS and the AMP database. He has carried out field inspections at Queen Elizabeth Park, Kaitoke and East Harbour Regional Parks to verify data and re-assess asset condition. Engineers are inspecting vehicle bridges in Queen Elizabeth Park.

2.5.1 Hutt River Trail maps updated

Hutt River Trail maps have been updated to include trail extensions and to replace signs that have been damaged. Staff have made visits to various Hutt River Trail sites with the Rotary Club, Transit NZ and Upper Hutt City officers to facilitate extending the Trail from Birchville to Kaitoke.

3. Marketing & Design [Amanda Cox]

3.1 Brochures

The revised Queen Elizabeth Park and the *Walking in Regional Parks & Forests* brochures have been printed and distributed to numerous outlets.

This financial year we will be developing new brochures for Belmont Regional Park and the Pakuratahi and Akatarawa Forests. These will complete the series of new brochures for all the parks and forests. There will still be other brochures e.g. hunting brochures, but the plan is to significantly rationalise the range of them and encourage people to use the website as much as possible to access information.

We will also be reviewing our distribution outlets, and developing ideas for a display stand that will show off our range of brochures to much better effect than that which is in place at present.

3.2 Signs

Once the signs for Belmont Regional Park have been printed, we will develop new entrance information boards for the Pakuratahi and Akatarawa Forests. These will complete the upgrade of new information signs for all our parks and forests.

From here we will look to create interpretation plans for each of the parks and forests. Very popular with visitors, good interpretation is a significant undertaking that will need some careful thought and skilled application. The first project off the blocks will be the Rimutaka Rail Trail, developed in conjunction with the Department of Conservation. This month we are finding photos for the individual signs in readiness for our writer to begin preparing the text at the beginning of August.

3.3 Community liaison

The latest edition of *Green Shoots*, our community newsletter, was published and posted to over 850 people on our mailing list together with a copy of the new East Harbour Regional Park brochure. The newsletter is a good way to recognise the contributions of individuals and groups to the parks, and keep them up to date with the latest developments.

The Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park committee held their first meeting since their AGM. John Lancashire was re-elected as chairman and Rachel Kiel-Taylor as secretary. The Friends are completing their constitution, which will allow them to become incorporated, and are pursuing a number of activities that they can work on over the winter. A number of the committee also belong to the Guardians of Whareroa and are involved in advocating for the property to be retained in public ownership. The Friends made a presentation to Park Ranger Chris Muller for all his good work in the park and wished him well in his move to Waiheke Island.

The Friends of Belmont Regional Park held their 4th AGM on 27 June, featuring an address by Dr Hugh Barr on Outdoor Recreation in NZ. Cr Sandra Greig attended the meeting which included a lot of discussion on Landcorp's impending sale of Waitangirua Farm. Peter Matcham was elected chairman and Jill Berridge was re-elected secretary. The meeting thanked Rob Forlong for all his work with the regional parks and in particular his recent behind the scenes efforts to retain Waitangirua farm in public ownership.

3.4 Whareroa Stream Restoration Project

Initiated by the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park, this project was granted an initial \$15,000 by the Council which has gone toward earthworks, 800m of fencing and some plants. Landscape plans were prepared by Annabel Riley in conjunction with a Friends sub-committee with support from the local iwi and DOC. On a recent Saturday morning, almost 500 plants were planted by the Friends and others from the local community, with some very enthusiastic feedback received about the project. We plan to have a second public planting day on 23 July.

Following a second Council grant through the 2005/06 Annual Plan process of \$20,000, the restoration area will be able to be extended a few hundred meters along the stream. Work will commence over the summer.

4. Eastern Sector [Fraser Oliver]

4.1 Kaitoke Regional Park

4.1.1 Filming

The excitement of filming activity has returned to the park with two production companies using the bush back drop of Kaitoke for the children's shows *The Lost Children* and *The New Tomorrow*. Five days filming occurred at sites ranging from the campground area to the Rivendell site.

4.1.2 Mid winter madness!

What can only be described as mid winter madness has seen several groups braving the conditions and camping on the weekends. A group of four even completed a night kayak of the Hutt River gorge! There were also several tour groups of Lions supporters visiting Rivendell prior to the second test but none of the army of camper vans stayed in the park, preferring to be closer to the city.

4.1.3 Te Marua Bush

The strong relationship that has been fostered with the Wellington Botanical Society and Parks & Forests was further strengthened when a working bee was held at Te Marua bush. Invasive weeds and rubbish were removed and native seedlings were planted.

Approximately 1500 seedlings were also planted in one of the bush remnants at Te Marua as part of the Honda Trees Fund.

4.1.4 Maintenance

Low visitor numbers at this time of year allow for maintenance work to be carried out in the campground. All gardens have been mulched and several large exotic trees have been felled. All picnic table and bench tops have either been replaced or sanded down and re-varnished.

4.2 East Harbour Regional Park

4.2.1 Dangerous trees removed

The main project in the northern forest area of the park has been the removal of exotic conifers from separate blocks above Days Bay. Hutt City Council and Greater Wellington contractors have felled a number of pines on the lower end of the Ferry Road and Korimako Road tracks. There are a number of large trees at these sites, most of which had to be felled because of their close proximity to houses. Many are around 60 years old and have started to succumb to the wind and therefore have become a public hazard. They are also a seed source from which the species can spread further into the park and impact on the native vegetation.

4.2.2 East Harbour Environmental Association

A presentation on the management of the park was given to the East Harbour Environmental Association by Parks and Forest staff. This meeting and others held during the year are key to us ensuring we communicate with our key park stakeholders throughout the year.

4.2.3 Search and Rescue

A search and rescue ended on a happy note at the park in late June. Two women got lost between Days Bay and Eastbourne in a currently untracked area. They were eventually found on the middle ridge between Butterfly Creek and Gollans Valley by the ranger and local police officers. They were a bit upset and cold but generally no worse for wear.

4.2.4 Butterfly Creek *Night Time Madness*

This event includes the option of a 9.5 km run or a 7.5 km walk and it's all carried out at night by torchlight. The race encompasses the Muritai track, the Mackenzie track down through the Butterfly Creek valley, and then finishing on the Bus Barn and Kowhai Street tracks. The event has now been running for a number of years and is well attended.

4.2.5 Lakes Block

Upgrades to three of the entrances to the Lakes Block from the Pencarrow coast road have been completed with new gates and post and rail fencing. Hard ground conditions necessitated the use of explosives to blow out the post holes. New map and interpretational signs are currently being manufactured and will be placed at these sites prior to next summer. To compliment this, new track directional signs have been completed and will also be installed.

Another interesting project has been the installation of a 25m boulder barrier on the foreshore near Pencarrow Head. The barrier has been built between the cattle stop on the road and a low tide existing rock outcrop. Prior to this barrier being installed, stock had been freely walking around the cattle stop and entering the block.

4.3 Wainuiomata/ Orongorongo Catchments

4.3.1 Storm damage repairs

Contractors have cleared a number of dangerous overhanging trees from the tracks surrounding the water infrastructure in the Orongorongo Catchment. The trees had "moved" in recent storm events, some blocking the track completely. Slips have again been removed from the track with the use of a small digger. Repairs to the Orongorongo water infrastructure have been completed including the reinstatement of the main water pipe and the construction of a 5m retaining wall.

4.3.2 Filming

During June, July and August, local production company *Cloud 9* have been filming in and around the Morton Dam. They have transformed the grass area in front of the dam into a makeshift orchard, and a tent village behind the dam resembles images from 1910. Filming is ongoing and is for a children's television series which is screened around Britain and the United States. Another filing company have been working in the recreation area for three days in July. They have also utilised our natural setting to form images from the days of early settlers.

4.3.3 Search and Rescue

In June, the duty ranger and other Parks & Forests staff were involved in the police search of the Catchpool Valley for Kay Stewart who went missing from the area. Neighbouring DoC land was thoroughly searched by over 80 search and rescue staff including police,

army, volunteers and Greater Wellington staff. It is important to assist in these operations and maintain contacts in the area as we may be conducting a search in our own area one day.

4.3.4 Illegal access gained to catchment

On 23 June the lock on the gate at the top of the Moores Valley track was cut and removed. This allowed motorbikes to drive up and down the track. The culprits were not caught. A new hardened chain and lock have been put on the gate.

4.4 Akatarawa/ Pakuratahi Forests

4.4.1 Inmates do a great job

Rimutaka prison inmates continue to do a great job on fixing road pot holes. Although this may seem a minor job, we use a truck load of metal about every two months. By using the inmates, we do not have to grade the road surface very often resulting in significant cost savings. The inmates also continue to do culvert maintenance on wet days throughout the Rimutaka Rail Trail and the Tunnel Gully reserve.

4.4.2 Filming

Filming for the Lost Tribe is currently happening in the Tunnel Gully reserve with no negative impacts on recreational users.

5. Western Sector – Matt Ballantine

5.1 Belmont Regional Park

5.1.1 Dry Creek entrance completed

As reported in report 05.364 with this order paper, our staff and contractors have concentrated on completing landscaping work at the Dry Creek entrance to the park. Car park sealing was completed this month and the finishing touches of landscape planting were carried out by our staff. The finished area is a vast improvement over the old entrance. Unfortunately we continue to have vandalism problems at this relatively isolated entrance. We are looking at ways of electronically monitoring this car park to ensure the safety of park visitors and the environment.

5.1.2 Weta accommodation

Officers have constructed “weta hotels” which have been sited on the stream track at Stratton St used by the Take Action programme. Given time, weta should take up residence in these boxes and provide an interesting view for children of these iconic native insects.

5.1.3 Kaka sighted in Korokoro Valley

It has been interesting to receive a reliable report of kaka sighted in the lower Korokoro/Cornish St area. The increasing sightings of native bird species in the area gives us encouragement that the pest work we are carrying out in the park and wider region is having tangible results.

5.1.4 Friends groups

The Ranger attended the Friends of Belmont AGM along with other council officers. A brief presentation was given to the group outlining the past years' work in Belmont Regional Park.

Staff have also assisted Friends of Maara Roa over the period in moving plants on site for their revegetation work at Cannons Creek.

5.1.5 Orienteering popular

The Hutt Valley Orienteering Club held an event based at the Stratton St woolshed in June and utilised much of the park for their event. A further orienteering event was held at the same site later in the month, this time involving the Wellington Lions NPC squad. This was a somewhat different training outing for the team, who enjoyed the experience of orienteering in the park environment. (Hutt news picture 6/7/05).

5.2 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

Staff have been busy with all the preparation required to bring about successful planting days. There is a lot of work that goes on prior to the actual day to ensure that things are ready. There are weeds to be cleared, the sites often need to be mowed or scrub barred, and in areas where the digging is hard, staff often pre-dig the holes to make it easier for the children to put plants in the ground. It is all worth the effort when the day goes off successfully.

5.2.1 Puketiro wind farm

The proposed Puketiro wind farm issue has created interest with park users and the ranger has been approached by quite a few people with queries. All enquiries have been directed to Utility Services.

5.3 Queen Elizabeth Park

5.3.1 Stock fencing

Boundary fencing around Popular Ave in Raumati has been completed. Since the change-over to dry stock grazing, there have been a number of 'escapees' into neighbouring properties and Poplar Ave itself. The new fences will go some way to securing the boundary and give neighbouring gardens a safe future.

5.3.2 Planting days

As stated earlier in this report, the last few months have been spent preparing and organising planting days for Arbor days, community and Corporate planting events. The planning days were focused around the wetlands at MacKay's Crossing and the Whareroa Stream.

Murray Waititi
Manager, Parks & Forests

WELLINGTON LIONS RUGBY TEAM ORIENTEERING AT BELMONT REGIONAL PARK



Divisional Accountants report

Full year financial position 2004/05

The full year funding position for the Division is a deficit of \$234,000 against forecast of \$206,000. Included in the cost for the year is around \$770,000 of unbudgeted (but approved) operational works associated with the storms and floods during the year.

Landcare Division						
Financial Summary Statement						
For the 12 months ending 30 June 2005						
\$000						
	Full Year			Full Year		
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Forecast	Variance
External Revenue	14,547	14,133	415 F	14,547	14,565	(18) U
Internal Revenue	1,057	1,077	(20) U	1,057	1,065	(8) U
TOTAL REVENUE	15,605	15,210	395 F	15,605	15,630	(25) U
Direct Expenditure	10,076	9,271	(806) U	10,076	10,221	145 F
Indirect Expenditure	645	3,955	3,309 F	645	697	52 F
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	10,722	13,225	2,503 F	10,722	10,918	196 F
OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	4,883	1,985	2,898 F	4,883	4,712	171 F
Add back non cash items	(2,086)	969	(3,055) U	(2,086)	(2,056)	(30) U
Net Asset Acquisitions	(3,333)	250	3,583 F	(3,333)	(3,324)	9 F
Capital Projects (loan funded)	4,539	4,647	108 F	4,539	4,897	358 F
Net Reserve/Investment Transfers	847	354	(493) U	847	756	(91) U
New loans	(4,370)	(4,647)	(277) U	(4,370)	(4,754)	(385) U
Internal Debt Repayment	5,348	2,350	(2,998) U	5,348	5,286	(62) U
NET FUNDING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	(234)	-	(234) U	(234)	(206)	(29) U

During the year, we received approval for additional direct operating expenditure of \$950,000 (after rebudgets to 2005/06) to address the flood/storm damage and other projects that needed attention. Because this was such a significant change from budget, I have focussed on variances from forecast in this report.

Direct expenditure

\$145,000 or 1.4% favourable against forecast. Key drivers for this are:

- A number of Flood Protection projects did not progress as far as forecast. These are the Otaihangā house raising where only one house was raised during the year (the plan was for two) resulting in a \$40,000 variance, \$8,000 underspent in isolated works subsidies which are dependent on claims coming in from private land owners and the Waiwhetu Stream flood study which was \$20,000 under forecast.
- The level of internal staff time spent on capital works was also higher than forecast, with an additional \$46,000 being capitalised than planned.

- There were a few projects that cost more than forecast in Parks and Forests. The most significant was the flood/storm damage repair where costs were \$142,000 against a forecast of \$115,000. We also had an overspend on works at Queen Elizabeth Park. A number of fencing jobs and improvements to the rangers accommodation proved to be more expensive than anticipated.

Indirect expenditure

\$52,000 or 7% favourable against forecast. This is predominantly due to the capital works programme being behind forecast position at year end, which has a favourable effect on both depreciation and financial costs.

Asset disposals

\$40,000 or 1.1% favourable against forecast. A settlement of \$41,500 was received from our insurers for the fire damage caused to the Orange Hut earlier in the year which was not forecast. Because we have not commenced rebuilding of the hut, we have used these insurance proceeds to repay Parks and Forests debt (a corresponding unfavourable variance is created in debt repayment). This will ensure that funding is already built into the budget for any new loan to conduct the work in 2005/06. A paper will be taken to Council later this year to seek approval for the rebuilding.

Asset additions

\$31,000 or 9.6% unfavourable against forecast. An additional vehicle was purchased for \$35,000 in Flood Protection to replace a 4wd destroyed in an accident late in the financial year. The insurance proceeds of \$26,000 have been received in the 2005/06 financial year.

Capital projects

\$358,000 or 7.3% favourable against forecast. There were a number of projects in both Parks and Forests and Flood Protection that did not progress as far as planned in 2004/05. Report 05.394 requests the carry forward of some of these projects to 2005/06 to complete the works.

In addition, there were some substantial savings (\$245,000) made in the Strand Park channel realignment works.

This saving in capital expenditure is offset by lower than planned levels of new debt, so for the first year they have very little impact on overall funding. Future savings are created, however, by lower levels of debt servicing.

Reserve transfers

\$91,000 or 12% unfavourable against forecast. The year end “wash up” of Flood Protection surpluses/deficits to river rate reserves and the flood contingency fund was \$99,000 higher than forecast. This was predominantly due to the savings in direct expenditure mentioned earlier. Of this additional transfer to reserves, we will request additional spending of around \$68,000 in 2005/06 (funded by transfer from reserves) to complete those jobs unfinished at 30 June 2005.

Tina Walker

Divisional Accountant, Landcare