

**Flood Protection  
Strategy and Assets  
Manager : Brendan Paul**

**Report for Period Ending 30 June 2000**

**1. Waikanae River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]**

**1.1 Waikanae – Friends of the River**

The Waikanae 'Friends of the River' Memorandum of Understanding is complete and is presented in a separate report on this order paper.

**1.2 Waikanae – Gravel Survey**

The 1999 gravel survey analysis was completed during the period and a programme for review of Council's gravel extraction policy was prepared. This matter is reported separately on this order paper.

**2. Otaki River Floodplain Management Plan [Graeme Campbell]**

**2.1 Chrystalls Stopbank Upgrade [Malcolm Abernethy]**

All physical works are now complete except for the Ramsbottom culvert penstock. The culvert gangway and headwall are complete, with just the penstock to be fitted; not arriving until early July 2000. Project completion reports and as-built surveys will also be completed in the 2000/01 financial year

Valuations and survey plans for lands to be acquired are complete and we have written to the two affected landowners with offers to complete purchase arrangements. Delays in the preparation of plans mean that a settlement is unlikely until the 2000/01 financial year. Financial approval to complete land purchase and installation of the penstock in the 2000/01 financial year will be sought as part of the Fourth Quarter Review.

**2.2 Environmental Enhancement**

A report on public access opportunities for the north bank from the mouth to Chrystalls Bend was completed by consultants. The document will be reviewed over the next month and finalised by the end of July 2000.

### 2.3 **Otaki – Friends of the River**

As for Waikanae, the Memorandum of Understanding for the Otaki 'Friends of the River' group is the subject of a separate report on this order paper.

The annual walkover of the Otaki River was held on 28 June 2000, with about 30 people attending. The walkover covered the areas where major works were carried out in the current financial year and are proposed for the next financial year. The works included in Council's 2000-2010 Business Plan were also discussed, along with issues relating to flood hazard and access.

### 2.4 **Benchmark Survey**

All benchmarks not found during the recent inspection have been replaced and we are now ready to undertake the full cross-section survey programmed for October 2000. New ortho rectified aerial photography of the main river channel will be flown around November 2000.

## 3. **Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan (HRFMP) [Daya Atapattu]**

The HRFMP reached another milestone with substantial completion of the combined Phase 2/3 investigations before the end of June 2000. In September 1998 the Landcare Committee endorsed the concept of accelerating the HRFMP investigations, which would enable:

- Hutt River upgrade works to commence three years ahead of the previous programme.
- Recommending a suite of non-structural measures appropriate for the Hutt Valley two years in advance.

Phase 2/3 completion was substantially achieved through the Advisory Committee's Design Standard recommendations in September 1999, and their 29 June 2000 recommendations for the Environmental Strategy and non-structural measures.

HRFMP Phase 4 comprises policy development for various issues, e.g. services within the floodway and stopbanks, and preparation and publishing the Plan. The target dates are:

Complete the Draft Plan	February 2001
The Public, Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils make Submissions	May 2001
Advisory Committee recommend Plan to the Landcare Committee	June 2001
Landcare Committee consider Plan	August 2001

Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils adopt Plan September 2001

Publish Plan December 2001

### 3.1 Design Standard Implementation

The approved WRC 10 year plan “Towards a Greater Wellington” provides a further \$20 million for Hutt River upgrade works to meet design standard requirements. Capital works programmed for this financial year (2000/01) are:

- Ava Railway Bridge Investigations \$150,000
- Ava to Ewen upgrade designs and resource consents \$274,000

### 3.2 Non-structural Measures

At the 29 June meeting the Advisory Committee recommended a suite of non-structural principles for inclusion in the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan. Landcare Committee will receive a presentation of these principles at the 13 July meeting.

### 3.3 Environmental Strategy

At the 29 June meeting the Advisory Committee endorsed the Draft Hutt River Environmental Strategy and referred it to Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils for their consideration and endorsement. The Landcare Committee will receive a presentation on the Strategy at the 24 August 2000 meeting. Hutt and Upper Hutt City Councils will receive similar presentations during the period July to September 2000.

The Landcare Committee will receive the Environmental Strategy for its formal consideration in November 2000. The target for completing the publication and its launch is December 2000.

## 4. Asset Management Plans [Malcolm Abernethy]

The Base Asset Management Plan (AMP) and the Hutt River Specific AMP were reviewed in early June by Audit NZ. They provided favourable comments and suggested some changes that clarified and improved aspects of the plans. Audit NZ will provide a formal review and “sign-off” for all seven volumes of the plans early in the new financial year (July 2000).

Asset Management Plans are submitted to the Landcare Committee in a separate report (Report 00.491) on this order paper.

## 5. **Wainuiomata Flood Hazard Assessment [Phillip Purves]**

All investigation work for the Wainuiomata Flood Hazard Assessment has been completed and the summary report document is nearing its final form. In particular, the flood hazard maps, which provide the principal information base, have been printed. The final form of these maps presents the flood and erosion hazard as separate areas (on the same map). The reason for separate identification is that the flood hazard is potentially an immediate hazard, while the erosion hazard area provides a reasonable allowance for the potential effects of on-going river processes. River processes and any consequent erosion hazard are not intended to be controlled on the Wainuiomata River.

A brief report on the project will be presented to the Landcare Committee at its 24 August meeting. The Wainuiomata Flood Hazard Assessment report will not be formally presented to the Hutt City Council until after that meeting. However, the Hutt City Council has been aware of the investigations and has sought specific flood risk information, where this has been available, during the course of the investigations.

## 6. **Planning and Development Services [Phillip Purves]**

Written requests for information or advice attended to during May 2000:

	<u>May</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Requests brought forward	21	14
Additional requests received	18	209
Responses provided	13	197
Outstanding requests	26	26

The Wellington City Council is proposing a change to its District Plan that will redefine the flood hazard for the Porirua Stream in Tawa; in line with the findings of an additional flood hazard study that the City Council commissioned in 1997. The proposed Plan change will delete the current requirement for on-site detention storage and allow the City to again collect stormwater impact fees from this area.

The Flood Protection Group generally supports the proposed Plan change but is continuing discussions with the study's consultants in regard to some changes to the flood hazard that the report has identified.

## 7. **Manager's Comment**

At the time of writing, there are two days left in the current financial year. While the pace of work is still frenetic, there is a considerable list of achievements for the financial year. The projects that are substantially complete include:

- The October 1998 Flood Damage projects.
- Phase 2/3 of the HRFMP.
- Asset Management Plans will receive Audit NZ sign-off in July 2000, and thereafter will be operative.
- Wainuiomata Flood Hazard Assessment.

- Chrystalls Bend Stopbank upgrade.
- Upper Rahui stopbank and edge works.
- A successful year in terms of providing flood information and advice.
- The LTFS was completed and adopted.

All represent a substantial achievement for all of the Flood Protection Group.

BRENDAN PAUL

Manager, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

**Flood Protection  
Operations  
Manager : Geoff Dick**

**Report for Period Ending 30 June 2000**

**Flood Protection Operations and Maintenance [Geoff Dick]**

**1. Hutt River**

*Flood Damage Repairs*

The planned repair work for the 1999/00 financial year at Avalon Berms has now been completed, except for the construction of the rock heads. As previously advised these have been delayed by rock supply problems. All remaining work will be completed in the new financial year.

Owen Street is also still affected by rock delivery problems, however, rock deliveries are expected to recommence shortly. The timing of the construction of these works will be firmed up as the rock deliveries near completion.

The remaining Hutt River flood damage repairs are complete.

*Maintenance Work*

With the completion of the flood damage repairs, as far as possible, and the in-channel maintenance works, the focus is now turning to routine winter activities; mainly planting and berm maintenance.

Planning for the annual planting programme is well in progress. The majority of the planting work, both natives and willows, will commence early in July. Some amenity planting of native species has already been completed at Nash Street.

Access tracks have been metalled and graded to prepare them for winter traffic. Several exit points, where access tracks intersect public roads, have been hard surfaced for safety reasons. Large trucks in particular need the surety of good traction when pulling out onto a busy road.

A fence-line clearing run is in progress as weather permits.

## 2. **Kapiti Rivers**

Kapiti staff have continued to be kept very busy by this years big work programme. The focus during June has been the completion of the Upper Rahui Capex project and the Kapiti flood damage improvement works willow planting.

### *Otaki River Flood Damage Repairs and Improvements*

The willow planting for the capex projects is now complete. About 12,000 willows have been planted at Traceys, Stresscrete, Upper Rahui and at Mangahanene Island. In addition 340 “trial plants”, supplied by the Council’s Akura Nurseries, were planted in two bays of the debris fences at Stresscrete. These plants include various species of poplars, willows and alders that will be monitored over the next two to three years to determine which species are suitable for the Kapiti Coast.

A total of 3,500 native plants (including those planted on the successful Arbour Day event) were planted around the Chrystalls Lagoon/Waimanu Stream area. This environmental enhancement project is part of this years Otaki River capex programme.

At Mangahanene the recently reconstruction berm and stopbank face was levelled and sown to grass.

600 tonnes of rock has been delivered to the left bank erosion site downstream of the State Highway bridge. This largely completes the Otaki River flood damage repairs.

### *Otaki River Maintenance*

The annual maintenance planting programme has also commenced with 1,565 willows being planted at Upper Taylors and Upper Hughes. The remainder of the willow planting will be undertaken next month.

### *Waikanae River Flood Damage Improvements*

1,900 rooted-stock willows were rip-planted along both banks of the river as part of the State Highway 1 to Maple Lane improvement works.

## 3. **Water Courses**

Annual clearing runs in the Waiwhetu Stream, Te Mome Stream, and Hulls Creek were completed in the period. This work completes the Wellington watercourses routine maintenance programme.

The repairs to the Korokoro Stream debris arrestor are nearing completion. The job has proved to be more extensive and more difficult than originally envisaged.

Machine-clearing of Kapiti watercourses has been completed for the year. Some isolated hand-clearing of blockages in the Mangapouri Stream was also undertaken. Normal inspections were carried out on the floodgates on the Rangioru Drain and Powles Drain.

4. **Work for Others**

Mabey Road staff completed the construction of a river level recorder tower and associated access platform on the Waikanae River above the KCDC water treatment plant. This work was carried out for the Regional Council's hydrology section.

5. **Resource Consents**

The long-term operational consent application for the Wainuiomata River has entered the consultation phase, with the bulk of the work now completed. It is now planned to lodge the application by 31 July 2000.

The Waitohu Stream long-term consent application is running behind programme. The ecological baseline study and management review draft reports have been received. They will be finalised shortly. The iwi report has yet to be received.

6. **Reach Mower Contract**

Tenders were recently advertised for the contract delivery of reach mowing in the Hutt Valley and in Porirua. Three tenders were received. Currently this work is undertaken in-house using a mower unit based at the Mabey Road depot in Lower Hutt. Reach mowing is the mowing of difficult or steep areas of stopbanks and berms.

The assessment of tenders has now been completed. The recommended outcome is that the work remains 'in-house'. A comparison of our own in-house costs with the lowest tender price reveals that there is only marginal or no cost savings to Council from contracting out. The other two tenders were significantly higher than the in-house cost. In addition a risk analysis shows more risks with contracting than in-house.

7. **Otaki River Mouth Estuary**

At the Landcare Committee on 3 February, Councillors considered a paper on Game Bird hunting on the Otaki River (Report 00.03). An outcome of the discussion was a request for officers to report back on opportunities to resolve unwanted rubbish and vehicle access to the estuarine area.

Some initial work has been completed. A report by Emily Williams has just been received on opportunities to enhance public access on the north bank of the Otaki River between the river mouth and Chrystalls. This report includes concept ideas for enhancing the access to and amenity values of the river mouth lagoon area. From here it is proposed to convert the concept ideas into more firm proposals and then consult with the Friends of the River group.

A Councillor site visit is still to be arranged. The aim will be to prepare a report for consideration at the August Landcare Committee



8. **Gravel Extraction**

Gravel extraction at Upper Rahui is proceeding well and is on track to be completed by February 2001.

Approximately 1,400 cubic metres of gravel was extracted by contractors Gary Holland Earthmoving Ltd and R V Cooper Ltd from over-height beaches in the Waikanae River in the period.

Gravel extraction figures for the year to 31 May 2000 are set out below.

River	Area	Contractor	Period Year 1999/2000 (cubic metres)		Year 1998/1999 (cubic metres)
			Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	4,655	38,391	42,630
	River		Nil	Nil	2,967
Otaki	River	Winstones	Nil	27,622	15,854
	Upper Rahui	Winstones	6,680	41,030	20,454
	Lower Hughes For Chrystals Stopbank	G Holland	Nil	43,870	Nil
Waikanae	River	Winstones	Nil	Nil	Nil
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>11,335</b>	<b>150,913</b>	<b>81,905</b>

9. **Peer Review**

The annual Peer Review inspections of scheme maintenance standards have been completed. This years inspection of Wellington assets with engineering staff from the Operations Section in the Wairarapa looked at numerous sites on the Hutt River and Porirua Stream. The outcome will be reported to the Committee as part of the Asset Maintenance Report in August.

10. **General Comment**

My extended leave is now a rapidly fading memory. However the opportunity to take this time out is still very much appreciated. Thanks to the extra efforts of Andrew, Brendan, Steve Murphy and the rest of the Ops team I arrived back with the ship very much on track for a good year end result. There are some items such as the Otaki River estuary project where some catch-up is required, but these should be brought back on track in the next month or so.

We have purchased a wood chipper for the Mabey Road team. The aim of the chipper is to convert tree waste into wood chips, rather than taking this waste to landfill. The savings in landfill costs alone make it economic to purchase this machine. We also get the benefit of very useful mulch for maintenance and establishment of native plantings. A training session for all staff will be held before this new piece of plant goes to work.

GEOFF DICK  
Manager, Flood Protection (Operations)

## **Regional Parks (Strategy & Marketing)**

**Manager : Susan Edwards**

**Report for Period Ending 30 June 2000**

### **1. Manager's Comments (Susan Edwards)**

This month has been very busy with a number of deadlines looming at the end of the financial year and because of the Regional Parks and Natural Forestry Integration. Much of the work we have been doing is covered in separate reports on this order paper. Other highlights include:

#### **Marketing Course**

I completed a Massey University course in Marketing that I started in February. The course was interesting and gave me a better understanding of the principles of marketing. The greatest challenge was trying to balance a busy job, study and a home life!

#### **Seminars Attended**

This month the Strategy & Marketing team attended three seminars - all were very worthwhile:

- Anne Manley attended the Bio-What? seminar held at Turnbull House.
- Anne and I attended the Forest Monitoring seminar organised by Peter Handford of Forme Consulting and Geoff Cameron.
- Graham Laws attended an Asset Management seminar while in Auckland recently.

#### **AMP Visit to ARC**

Graham Laws visited Auckland Regional Council (ARC) to discuss Asset Management Planning. Audit New Zealand required an independent assessment of our asset valuation methodology and agreed to ARC doing this for us. Graham was able to reciprocate. Comparisons were also undertaken on other asset management related matters like depreciation methodologies and databases.

#### **Belmont Regional Park Roads and Motorised Recreation**

Anne Manley, Chris Wootton and I attended a meeting with Hutt City Council and Department of Conservation officers, and motorised recreation users. The meeting discussed motorised recreational use of Belmont Regional Park and the closure of formed and unformed legal roads in the Park to make them Walkways under the Walkways Act. The Park management plan does not allow motorised recreation, however, some motorised recreation users are pushing for the right to use the legal roads in the Park for their activity. Hutt City Council and the Regional Council are seeking legal opinions relating to the matter.

## **Millennium Totara Grove - Te Marua, Kaitoke Regional Park**

The final Council Arbor Day project was a successful event despite the constant threat of rain.

Addresses were given by the Hon. Marian Hobbs, Hon. Paul Swain and Chairman, Stuart Macaskill, with Councillor Shields as MC. Liz Mellish, representing the Wellington Tenth Trust, was also involved in the event.

Forty children, parents and staff from Plateau school assisted Councillors with the Totara planting. Members of the Wellington Botanical Society and Upper Hutt Forest and Bird planted 10 Miro trees.

Regional Parks staff were extremely busy in the lead-up to the day preparing the car park, information shelter and signs. Pre-dug holes made planting much easier on the day, even though a number had become temporarily waterlogged.

A very large specially prepared cake donated by Upper Hutt PaknSave was well received at morning tea (particularly by the children). Several other items were also sponsored: McLays Meats donated sausages and Coca Cola donated drinks. PaknSave also sponsored snack bars for the other Arbor Day events.

A good collection of photos were taken on the day and will be on display in the Committee room for Councillors to view.

Good publicity and several photos of the various events have appeared in local newspapers.

## **Conservation Week : Saturday, 31 July to Friday, 6 August**

This year the theme is "Enjoy your Parks". The Regional Council will be well represented by staff from Parks and Forests, Biosecurity and Resource Policy who are jointly planning displays in the Wellington Cathedral, the Beehive and in the Foyer of the Council building.

## **2. Resource Management and Planning Issues (Anne Manley, Graham Laws & Ross Jackson)**

### **Brochures**

The Strategy and Marketing team have updated and reprinted four brochures for the Regional Parks:

- the general Belmont Regional Park brochure; "*Bush, hills, views... yours to enjoy*";
- US Marines in Queen Elizabeth Park;
- Butterfly Creek;
- Pencarrow Coastal Trail in East Harbour Regional Park.

We have also started work updating the general brochure for Battle Hill Farm Forest Park.

### **Signs**

Rose Armstrong is working on a number of interpretation/education panels for the Parks. She has designed an information panel on coastal plants that is almost ready to install near the sand dunes at Queen Elizabeth Park. Rose is also working on two panels for Belmont Regional Park. One interprets the history of the Korokoro Valley, the other provides information on the history of the ammunition magazines and Old Coach Road.

Other interpretation work includes:

- Putting together an information panel for Battle Hill Farm Forest Park showing the range of interesting sites people can visit on the property;
- Updating the plant name signs on the Native Forest Trail at Kaitoke Regional Park;
- Updating the accompanying Native Forest Trail brochure.

### **Planting Plans**

Work is proceeding on replanting the site of the film set at the Pakuratahi Forks in Kaitoke Regional Park. The area is being redeveloped into picnic spaces, and replanted by the film company. Regional Council staff provided a concept planting plan for the film company to work to.

We are also starting work on a plan to develop further picnicking and camping facilities on the top terrace near the main entrance to Kaitoke Regional Park. We will be consulting the Environment Division on the environmental education opportunities offered by the area and incorporating any requirements they may have.

### **State Highway Projects**

Staff continue to be involved in a variety of ongoing projects and planning proposals including State Highway 1 upgrade adjacent to Queen Elizabeth Park, State Highway 58 at Haywards and State Highway 2 at Petone.

SUSAN EDWARDS  
Manager, Regional Parks (Strategy & Marketing)

## **Regional Parks (Operations) Department**

**Manager: Bruce Andrell**

### **Report for Period Ending 30 June 2000**

#### **1. Manager's Comments**

The implementation of the new Parks and Forests structure is well underway with the recent appointment of two Senior Rangers. Fraser Oliver is appointed to the Eastern Senior Ranger position. Fraser has previously been employed by the Council as Mobile Ranger; Ranger Kaitoke Regional Park; Acting Ranger Wainuiomata/ Orongorongo Water Collection Area; and since returning from his overseas travel he has been co-ordinating the field data capture for the *Asset Management Plan*. Matt Ballantine is appointed to the Western Senior Ranger position. Matt is an internal appointment, previously Ranger Kaitoke Regional Park and Mobile Ranger.

Both appointments bring good experience to the new Parks and Forests Operations management team.

#### **2. Battle Hill Farm Forest Park (John Bissell)**

##### **Arbor Day Successful**

Arbor Day at Battle Hill was a fun time despite all the gloomy weather and low temperatures. Minister of Conservation, Sandra Lee along with Wellington Regional Council Councillors and the Porirua City Mayor assisted students from local schools to plant 200 native trees along the Horokiri Stream.

##### **Tree Felled for Tokelauan Canoe**

A macrocarpa tree was felled to supply the Tokelauan community with a suitable log for a ceremonial canoe. The group was having difficulty sourcing a suitable log. We assisted with an old tree from a small woodlot on Battle Hill. The canoe will be put on display at Te Papa.

#### **3. Belmont Regional Park (Chris Wootton)**

##### **Cannons Creek Arbor Day**

Regional Council Councillors and Chairman Stuart Macaskill were present at Arbor Day celebrations held at Cannons Creek, along with Porirua City Council representatives and Mayor Jenny Brash. Local kaumatua welcomed everyone to the site and helped introduce the new name of the Cannons Creek Valley Protection Group: now called *Maara Roa* (meaning the long garden).

The name *Maara Roa* has interesting origins; a story of a well known early woman resident in the area, who cultivated a long garden and was hospitable to all travelling in the area.

### **Possum Control Operation Underway**

A contractor is currently undertaking possum control in the Korokoro Valley. Publicity about the operation in newspapers and from signs at Park entrances, is intended to raise Park users' awareness and help ensure people are aware of the risks involved when using the area while the operation is underway. Chris is co-ordinating all enquiries on the operation.

### **Good Public Response from “*Elements*”**

A recent article in *Elements* about a community group restoring part of the Korokoro Valley has generated a number of enquiries. One enquiry has been from a retired engineer with a special interest in the Korokoro Dam and water supply. He was able to reveal some interesting facts about the Korokoro Dam: it was the first concrete gravity fed dam built in New Zealand (1903) and the first stepped spillway dam built in New Zealand. The gentleman is the author of a book: “Walls for Water”. He also has detailed knowledge of the history of the Morton Dam. Chris is organising to meet with Mr Offer to further discuss the history of the Korokoro Dam and water supply.

### **Divisional Manager Visits Park**

Andrew Annakin took time to visit Belmont Regional Park in June. After a quick visit to the Rangers office and residence at Stratton Street, there was time to visit the Oakleigh Street entrance, Rahui Grove and the Korokoro Valley. Highlights included the “Eiffel Tower” detention dam being constructed by Flood Protection in the lower Korokoro Stream Valley. Andrew was also able to see first hand the difficult maintenance requirements of the upper Korokoro Valley track, and walked to the Forks area in the upper valley. The resident feral goat population made a brief appearance before being efficiently despatched by the Park Ranger.

Unfortunately the Ranger managed to get his vehicle hopelessly bogged on the return journey down the stream valley; he blamed unauthorised off-road vehicles using the area. Help appeared in the form of the tracks maintenance team who's experienced vehicle extraction techniques were utilised in the difficult conditions. Despite some early concerns, thanks to the staff assistance, Andrew was able to return to the civilised comforts of Head Office in time for an important meeting with Howard Stone. Chris was left only a little flustered by the occasion, having been subject to only minor laughter from passers by.

#### 4. **East Harbour Regional Park (Chris Wootton)**

##### **Baring Head Bridge Remains Closed**

The bridge that leads to Baring Head across the Wainuiomata River remains closed due to its poor state of repair. The Regional Council is currently involved in assessing upgrade costs and negotiating these costs with the five different parties who share access.

#### 5. **Forest Lands (Dean Hearfield)**

##### **Maintenance Activities**

- The Akatarawa road maintenance programme has been completed this period. Hazardous areas along Rimu Road have been repaired.
- On the Rimutaka Incline Walkway, water run-off problems in historic rail cuttings are currently being addressed by maintenance teams.
- The prison work gangs and Conservation Corp groups are assisting with track maintenance work in the Pakuratahi area.

#### 6. **Kaitoke Regional Park (Matt Ballantine)**

##### **Te Marua Arbor Day**

The Operations team spent a busy two weeks preparing the Millennium Totara Grove site in early June. Very hard ground conditions and poor weather made for tough work. Historically, heavy vehicles used to construct the twin lakes, have parked on the site, compacting the ground. A small digger was used to prepare oversized holes for the totara to help their roots penetrate the ground.

The day itself was very successful with current and past Councillors, school children and parents, and staff enjoying the day.

##### **Rafting and Kayaking Interest High**

Heavy rainfall is increasing whitewater sport activity. Up to 25 kayakers have been entering the river each day from the Pakuratahi Forks. River flows were too much for one experienced kayaker two weeks ago – he walked out an escape route half way down the Gorge after a scare.

The rafting season has also begun. Top Adventures commercially rafts the Gorge in winter taking up to 16 people in rafts or “river bugs” (small inflatable craft that you sit in like an armchair). A new concession agreement between Top Adventures and the Council has been adopted this year.



## **Hutt Water Collection Area Signs Monitoring**

All signs within the Hutt Water Collection Area were checked this month. The signs outline the catchment boundaries and condition of entry into the area. All are in good condition apart from one, which is suffering from a bullet hole.

## 7. **Queen Elizabeth Park (Nola Urquhart)**

### **High Tides Cause Erosion**

Exceptionally high tides and windy weather have caused some erosion along coastal sections of track between Raumati and Whareroa. This has resulted in some concern being shown by Park users. Fortunately these tides are seasonal and are likely to be the highest expected this year. We are repairing the affected sections of the track.

### **Good Feedback about Rangers Newsletter**

The newsletter *Ranger News* was distributed to Park users and to homes surrounding the Park. There has been a good response to the newsletter from local residents and Park users. (Copy included in the last Committee report.)

### **Pampas Grass Removal Continuing**

Pampas grass is being removed from picnic areas by mechanical means, to avoid unnecessary spraying in the Park. Pampas grass is a very aggressive and hardy exotic weed species, which looks very similar to toe-toe, but is much more invasive and a prolific seeder. There has been mixed public reaction to the eradication of the pampas. Some members of the public confuse pampas with the native equivalent - toe-toe. Nola is handing out plant identification pamphlets to people who confuse the two plants.

### **Orienteering Event Held in Park**

On 9 June the secondary schools orienteering champs were held in the Park. Orienteering involves a combination of cross country running and navigation skills.

### **Arbor Day Helps Restore Wetland Site**

Over 100 local children helped plant around 200 native grasses around the wetland at Mackays Crossing as part of Arbor Day celebrations. Representatives of Forest and Bird, Kapiti Environmental Action, Regional Council staff and Councillors attended the day.

## 8. **Wainuiomata Water Collection Area (Scott Farrell)**

### **Northern Boundary Fencing**

Scott is assisting Peter O'Brien (O'Brien Property Consultants) negotiate with neighbours over fencing upgrade costs on the northern boundary of the water collection area; identified as the area posing the greatest risks to catchment biosecurity. Currently the boundary is open to farm stock and feral animals, including sheep, cattle, goats and deer. A fence would assist management of the area by excluding these animals from the forested water catchment, thus improving water quality and soil erosion problems.

### **Wainuiomata Arbor Day**

After the previous week's cancellation due to poor weather, the Wainuiomata Arbor Day went ahead on 9 June. The day went well, starting with a talk to local children by Councillor Dick Werry. The children assisted with the planting of some 300 native trees, before tucking into food and drink supplied by sponsors. A Regional Parks work team was on hand to help out with practical requirements on the day.

## 9. **Regional Parks Maintenance (Dean Munn)**

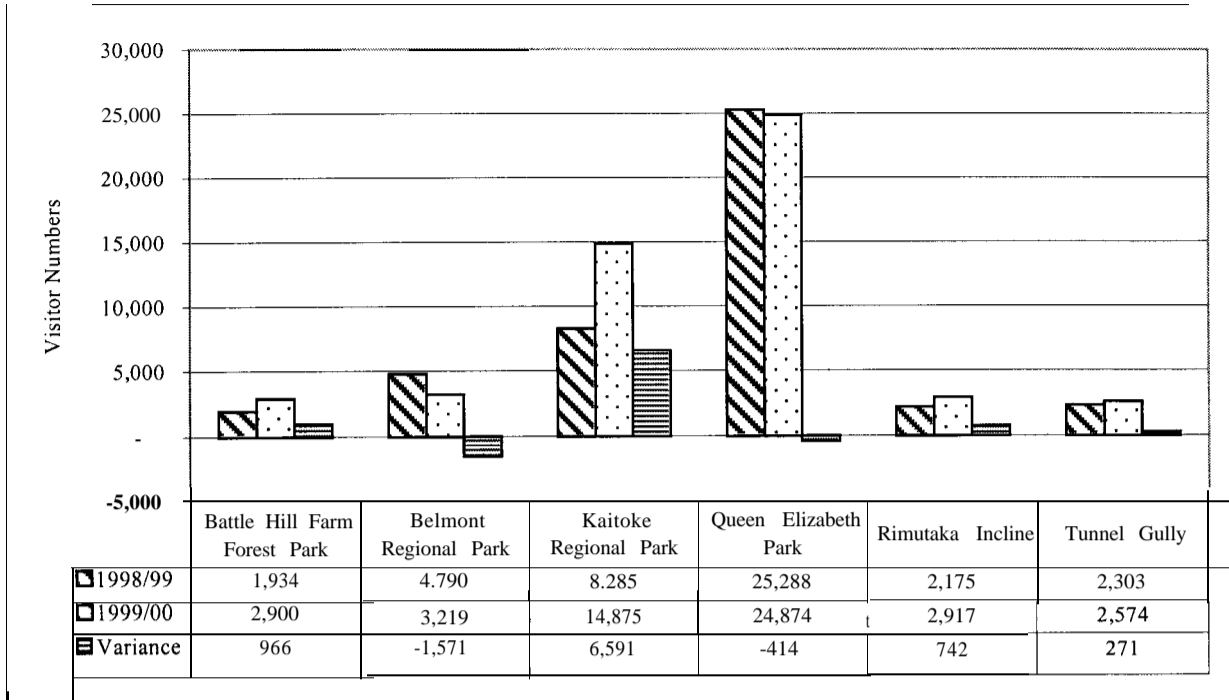
- Maintenance teams were heavily involved in Arbor Day preparation at sites throughout the Region this month.
- Monitoring of structures was carried out by the construction team to standards set out the Structures Manual over the period.
- The track team spent time at Queen Elizabeth Park repairing damage to the coastal track between Raumati and Whareroa.

## 10. **Visitor Numbers**

*See visitor information attached.*

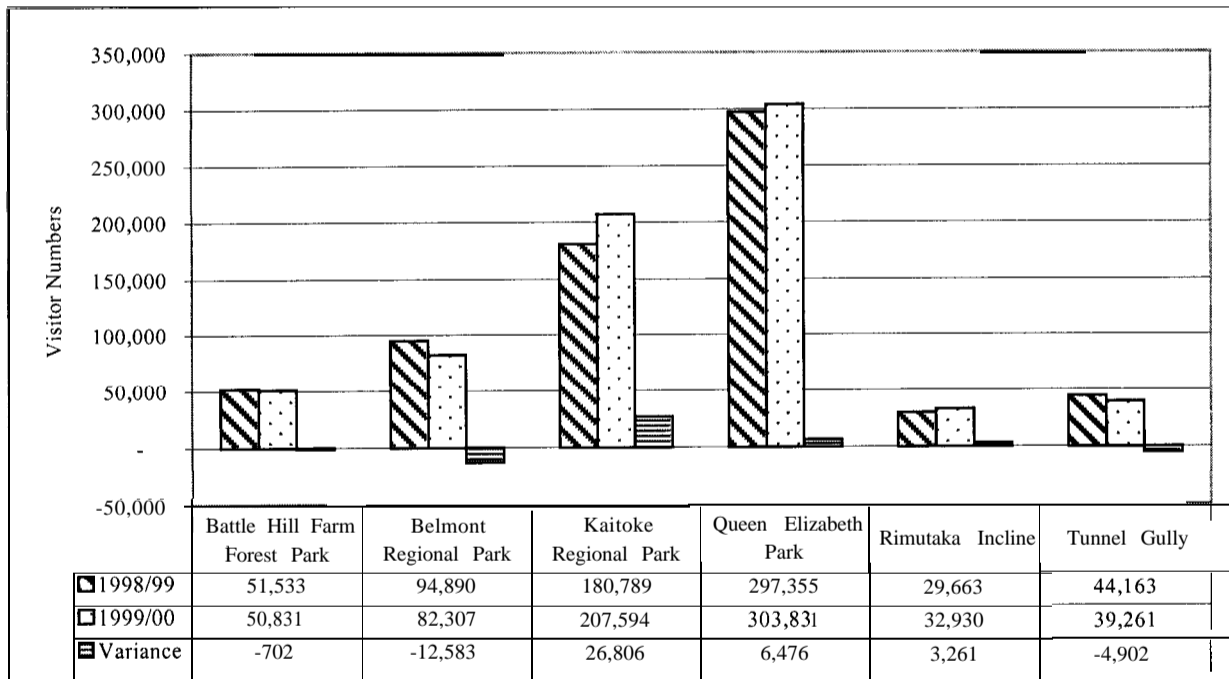
BRUCE ANDRELL  
Manager, Regional Parks Operations

**REGIONAL PARKS**  
**Visitors Information Data**  
**For the Month of May 1999/00**



Park use remained relatively static in May compared to last year, with the exception of Belmont which recorded a 1.5 thousand decrease in visits - possibly due to several wet and cold weekends over the month.

**REGIONAL PARKS**  
**Visitors Information Data**  
**Year-to-Date : May 1999/00**



Overall, visitor numbers remained static for the 1999/00 financial year. We experienced a 2.6 percent increase in overall numbers, totalling 18,364 visits. This is mainly due to increased filming activity and recording of visitors to the Keith George Memorial Lookout at Kaitoke Regional Park. Belmont Regional Park had a noticeable decrease in visitation due to the poor summer weather.



**Natural Forestry Department**  
**Manager : Geoff Cameron**  
**Report for Period Ending 30 June 2000**

**1. Forest Operations (Robin Blake/Geoff Cameron)**

**Forest Health Survey, Akatarawa**

The forest health survey results, reported in full in this Order Paper, confirmed our view of Akatarawa forest. There is a complex set of forest succession relationships going on, worthy of detailed study. The forest is in good health, with animal damage around the margins. This independent advice about animal damage provides us with additional evidence to present to adjoining farmers with a request that they keep their stock within their boundaries.

**Ponga Thefts**

Robin Blake checked the *Tradescantia* spray area during the period, and reported that additional ponga logs have been removed. The culprits have been cutting the pongas into shapes - probably for garden pots. We have advised local garden centres about the thefts.

**Exclosure Plot - East Harbour Regional Park**

Robin Blake worked with Chris Wootton and members of the East Harbour Environmental Association to identify an area for a 20m x 20m exclosure plot on or close to Regional Council land in East Harbour Regional Park behind Eastbourne. The plot will monitor what is happening in the Mainland Island Restoration Area (MIRA) we are assisting with. Robin will guide the building of the exclosure. He will also coach the volunteers about the Landcare Research protocols which will be used to measure the trees and shrubs inside the plot and in the two 'control' areas outside.

**2. Catchment Operations (Robin Blake/Geoff Cameron)**

**Deer Population Monitoring**

Robin Blake completed the deer population monitoring work, and sent the data to the Biosecurity department. We will report the results when they are available.

## **Vegetation Management Plan**

The first draft of a formal *Vegetation Management Plan* for the Regional Council's water collection areas was given to the Water Group for comment. It will now be peer reviewed.

This document provides the forest management rationale and business case for managing the vegetation in the water collection areas. It specifies the levels of service on which the current contract is based, and projects expenditure over the next 10 years. This is the base-line, KNE, model.

Subject to the peer review and Water Group approval, it will be an appendix to the *Environmental Asset Plan*.

## **Vegetation Monitoring**

Landcare Research Limited have contracted to analyse the data from this last summer's assessment work, and enter it onto the national database. They have also contracted to audit the actual data we sent them. The Regional Council still leads the way in having independent audit of vegetation assessment work, although DoC is having some discussions on the topic.

### **3. Rural Fire Control (Geoff Cameron)**

#### **Wellington Regional Council Rural Fire District**

I received the news about the Regional Council Rural Fire District disestablishment decision, reported on more fully in a separate Committee paper.

#### **Hutt Valley Bush Fire Force Relocation**

As reported in my previous Manager's report, we need to find alternative accommodation for the HVBFF. I spent some time with Peter O'Brien looking for suitable premises in the Upper Hutt area. David Etchells from Upper Hutt City Council was also involved as the new fire authority. We identified two main options, one of which is at the back of the Regional Council Upper Hutt Depot. A number of changes would be necessary to make that a viable option. The proposal to make that happen will be developed with urgency.

### **4. Management Issues (Geoff Cameron)**

#### **Rimutaka Incline Recreation Area**

Unfortunately some of the trees to be retained near Summit yard blew over when exposed to the wind after recent logging. Ross Jackson and I visited the site recently and developed a specific proposal for planting indigenous species in the area. We have given this to the Plantation Forestry department, as they have agreed to meet the cost of the trees and preparing the area.

### **Forest Monitoring Booklet Launch**

At the last Landcare Committee, I presented a report on monitoring activities within our forests, and our role in a Sustainable Management Fund project.

On 22 June, Chairman Werry attended a technical seminar, then officially launched the booklet. A copy is tabled and will be available in the Councillors Lounge.

The Seminar attracted about 55 people from as far afield as Auckland and Christchurch. Good representation came from DoC, MfE and MAF at central government level, and from Natural Forestry, Parks Operations, Strategy and Marketing, Water Group, Biosecurity and Resource Policy departments within the Regional Council; there was a good opportunity for networking afterwards.

### **Protection Systems Audit**

Every second year there is an independent audit of our forest protection systems. This is to give a level of comfort to senior management and Councillors that we have systems in place to protect our forest assets in the best way possible. The contract has been let to John Schrider of Forme Consulting; he has audited our systems on two previous occasions.

### **Final Report from the Natural Forestry Department**

This is the final report from the Natural Forestry Department, which ceases to exist on 30 June. I would like to thank Councillors for their interest and support during its life.

GEOFF CAMERON  
Manager, Natural Forestry