

Flood Protection Strategy and Assets Manager : Brendan Paul

Report for Period Ending 27 April 2001

1. Waikanae River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

1.1 Friends of the Waikanae River

Flood Protection staff continue to assist the “Friends” with planning for their Care Group project. The framework to administrator the project has now been set up and work is proceeding with the ordering of materials and plants.

1.2 State Highway 1 to Maple Lane

Modifications to the Kebbells Bend rock line and grade control have been completed. This concludes the major part of the work required following the October 2000 floods. Construction of four additional debris fences and further willow planting will be undertaken in June 2001.

1.3 Otaihanga Road Raising

Work is progressing well on this project. Meetings have been held on-site with landowners directly affected by the works. All concerns about construction of the works were addressed. Tenders for the works have been received and are being evaluated. Tenders were within the Engineer’s estimate and KCDC anticipate an appointment within 2 weeks; works will start soon after that. The cost of the Regional Council share may be slightly greater than budget for the first stage of the road raising.

1.4 Gravel Extraction Consent

A draft resource consent application for extraction of 40,000m³ of gravel from the Waikanae River has been completed; this document is being used as the basis for the current round of consultation with affected parties. Consultation is expected to be complete by mid May 2001 and the consent lodged by the end of May 2001.

2. Otaki River Floodplain Management Plan [Graeme Campbell]

2.1 Mouth to State Highway 1 Bank Edge Protection Work

Construction work is well under way with the Lethbridge (south bank) edge protections complete and the Winstones work on the north bank about 25 percent complete. A freshet in the river, March 2001, washed away the set out-pegs at Winstone’s; these were replaced. There are no significant budget or timing implications at this stage, although any further delays in rock delivery (a separate contract) will cause concern.

2.2 Convent Road Deflector Bank Design

A meeting was held with the local residents to explain the outcomes of recent investigations undertaken by the Council. The main outcomes were:

- Only minor improvements are possible until the follow-up to Waitohu Stream Flood Hazard Assessment is completed; programmed to start in 2002/03.
- A low deflector bank could provide minor relief and be built for about \$10,000. The local community may undertake construction at their own cost, although there may be some support from the Council.
- WRC Flood Protection Operations will undertake a further tree clearing run in the area, provided landowners agree.
- WRC will approach KCDC about locating a second culvert under Convent Road to lower flood levels on the eastern side of the road.

2.3 Rangiuru Outlet Structure

Resource Consent applications for the work have been lodged and tender documents prepared. Invited tenders are now being called and work is expected to be completed within budget and time.

2.4 South Bank Landowner Meeting

A meeting of riverside landowners on Otaki Gorge Road, opposite Upper Rahui, was held on 22 March 2001. The owners are concerned at the continuing erosion of the cliffs on the south side of the river. The message given to the meeting was that more time should be allowed to see whether the Upper Rahui works and the additional programmed maintenance works are effective in slowing erosion of the cliffs, before further capital works are considered. The owners accepted this approach but indicated they would be making a submission to the Councils Annual Plan. They will present their wish to have the capital works (proposed in the Otaki Floodplain Management Plan) implemented more quickly than currently proposed.

2.5 Otaki River Cross Section Survey

All fieldwork is complete and the surveyors are now checking the data. Analysis of the survey information will follow, to be completed by June 2001.

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

3.1 Plan Drafting

The final consultation phase for preparing the Draft Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan is nearing completion. Public submissions closed on 17 April 2001, however, a number of extensions were given on request. The Flood Protection Group is currently analysing the 20 submissions received so far.

The Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee will hear the submissions and recommendations at a meeting on 24 May 2001. It is hoped that the Advisory Committee will endorse the Plan on 28 June 2001. Following this, the Plan will be submitted to the Landcare Committee prior to consideration by full Council - August. The aim is to launch the plan in October 2001.

3.2 Design Standard Implementation

Ava Railway Crossing Investigations

Stage 1 of the Ava Railway crossing feasibility study is substantially complete, the report will be ready in the first week of May 2001. Of the eight upgrade options considered, the consultant has recommended a new bridge option and an existing bridge option for further evaluation.

A professional services contract for Stage 2 of the study will be negotiated with the Holmes Consulting Group by mid May 2001. It is expected that Stage 2 of the study will be completed by June 2001.

Ava to Ewen Preliminary Design and Resource Consents

AC Consulting Group has started preliminary design for the stopbanks and channel works in the Ava to Ewen reach. The design will include environmental enhancement options from the Hutt River Environmental Strategy. Meetings have been held with the community and major stakeholders seeking input in the design, including:

- Alicetown and Woburn communities (2)
- Ministry of Education
- Hutt City
- Iwi
- Department of Conservation

The consultant has also had separate meetings with the affected utilities.

The next phase of public consultation will be to discuss upgrade options with the community. This will start in the second week of May.

Preliminary design and the resource consent applications will be completed by June 2001.

4. Porirua Stream [Geoff Dick]

4.1 Findlay Street Realignment Works

The project is now fully underway with the following progress made:

- Channel and house relocation design is largely complete;
- Preparation of the necessary resource consent application is underway;
- Approval in principle has been obtained to access all but one of the affected properties.

The current programme calls for all construction work to be completed in late autumn/early winter with property matters including house sales carrying over to 2001/02. Construction this autumn is dependent on a smooth resource consent process.

Initial discussions with Wellington City Council planners have indicated that they wish to further investigate the environmental impacts of the project. Iwi and DOC could be expected to support Wellington City's stance. The expected non-notified consent will almost certainly now be delayed, with consequent deferral of construction.

5. Mangaone Stream Flood Hazard Assessment [Phillip Purves]

The stream survey component of the investigation is complete and hydraulic modeling is due to start.

BRENDAN PAUL
Manager, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

Flood Protection Operations Manager : Geoff Dick

Report for Period Ending 27 April 2001

Flood Protection Operations and Maintenance [Geoff Dick]

1. Hutt River

The continuing settled weather is again enabling excellent progress with the Hutt River works programme. Notable items completed in the period include:

- The third and final *Owen Street* groyne. Some berm improvement works are still in progress.
- A new rock lining at *Maoribank* to replace failing debris fences.
- Refurbishment of a further 150 m of the rail iron and gabion protection works at *Totara Park*, Upper Hutt.
- Repairs to the large steel and timber permeable groyne at *Maoribank*.

October 1998 Flood Repairs

The October 1998 flood repairs are now complete with the construction of the third groyne at *Owen Street*.

October 2000 Flood Damage Repairs

This work is on track for completion by year-end. The main job remaining is to complete bank edge repairs at *Mary Huse Grove*, *Manor Park*. A combination of concrete blocks, cabled in a grid pattern, and willow planting is proposed.

Hutt Valley Main Trunk Sewer at Ava

A request has been received from the Hutt City Council to undertake temporary repairs to a section of the river bank immediately upstream of the *Ava Rail bridge*. Here ongoing erosion has made the Hutt Valley trunk sewer vulnerable. Design of appropriate remedial works has commenced with the expectation that the work can be constructed before the end of the financial year.

2. Otaki River

We also continue to make the most of the settled weather in *Kapiti*.

State Highway 1 to Mouth Improvements

Kapiti Operations staff are managing the day to day construction of these lower river edge improvements. The rock lining at Lethbridge is complete and the right bank work downstream of the Winstones shingle plant has commenced. Further progress is currently delayed due to the rock supply falling behind programme.

Otaki River Mouth

The Otaki River was successfully cut to a more northerly alignment during the period. The job took five days and involved up to eight items of earthmoving plant. The actual diversion of the river took place on Saturday, 21 April, in front of a crowd of about 50 locals.

Diverting the Otaki River mouth is the first stage of the Katihiku flood damage repairs. Stage 2 involves partial reconstruction of the river berm on the south bank (Ferry Reserve) followed by reconstruction of the stopbank. It is expected that the berm reconstruction will be completed this financial year, essentially finishing the Otaki River October 2000 flood damage repairs.

River Survey

The final sight lines for the river survey were cleared across Mangahanene Island following the agreement of the Logan Whanau.

3. Waikanae River

The October 2000 flood damage repairs are now progressing well after a delayed start.

Contractors have widened the Maple Lane weir and raised the Kebbels rock lining. Construction of tree groynes to re-establish the willow buffer planting will follow.

A separate contractor will commence shortly to repair the Sunny Glen and Maple Lane groynes, and construct some new debris groynes.

We have had a request in for some time with the Department of Conservation to grant permission for Council to undertake cross blading in the Scientific Reserve opposite the Otaihanga Boating Club. This work is the first stage in repairing the river bank edge in this reach of the river and removing the shingle build-up in the middle of the river channel. It is now expected that approval will be granted.

4. Water Courses

Periodic Detention workers have now largely completed a successful summer weed clearing run of the *Waiwhetu Stream*. Following a recent inspection, it has been decided that a weed spray run will not be required prior to winter.

Preparations are being made to cut the Waitohu Stream mouth. Staff are consulting with the north bank landowner and members of the Lower Waitohu Stream Care Group.

5. Alternatives to Willows

On 10 April, several Flood Protection (Operations) staff attended a seminar presented by Stan Braaksma, Soil Conservator from the Masterton office, on alternatives to willows for riparian and soil conservation planting. Stan presented his views based on many years of practice in the Wairarapa and through his work on the National Plant Materials Collective Group.

The seminar was valuable and tended to confirm our existing views on the limitations of some species, including natives, but did open our eyes to a range of species for adding variety to riverside plantings.

6. Gravel Extraction

The selection of extractors to remove gravel from the Hutt and Waikanae Rivers has made further progress. Interviews were held with all parties registering for extraction from the Hutt River. It is expected to a contractor will be appointed to extract gravel from the Hutt River by year-end on acceptable terms. Some further work is required to select a contractor for the Waikanae River extraction.

Gravel extraction figures for the period ending 31 March 2001 are set out below.

River	Area	Contractor	Period Year 2000/2001 (cubic metres)		Year 1999/2000 (cubic metres)
			Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	3,360	29,281	46,966
	River		0	0	927
Otaki	River	Winstones & G Holland (99/00)	3,930	16,180	71,492
	Upper Rahui	Winstones	0	40,220	46,350
Waikanae	River		Nil	Nil	1,484
TOTALS			7,290	85,681	167,219

GEOFF DICK
Manager, Flood Protection (Operations)

Regional Parks (Strategy & Marketing)
Manager : Susan Edwards
Report for Period Ending 27 April 2001

1. Manager's Comments (Susan Edwards)

Nelson Lakes National Park Holiday

The highlight of April for me was a week's holiday at Nelson Lakes National Park. This area is like a second home to me, as I spent much of my childhood tramping, snow skiing, water skiing, sailing and ice-skating there. It was wonderful to spend time tramping the hills and generally relaxing in this special place. I also learned a great deal about mainland islands and their contribution to biodiversity, as the Department of Conservation has one of its six mainland islands on the St Arnaud Range. The information was very timely and useful for the Councillors biodiversity workshop the following week.

2. Resource Management and Planning (Anne Manley)

Launch of *Here and Now*

As noted in the Marketing Report, the promotional video for filming in the WRC parks and forests, *Here and Now*, is to be officially launched; Thursday, 14 June at 6.30 pm. Along with Regional Councillors, invitees include location managers, producers and directors from a range of filming organisations, representatives from Film New Zealand and Film Wellington, as well as mayors and officers from territorial authorities in the Wellington Region. You should receive your invitation shortly.

The 12 minute video, produced by the Council's Communications section (for Parks and Forests), is a tool to market WRC locations to moviemakers both in New Zealand and overseas. Some copies of the video have already been distributed, many to overseas filmmakers. Feedback from Film New Zealand, the agency with overall responsibility for marketing New Zealand to international moviemakers, has been very positive.

We have also been approached by agencies responsible for marketing educational opportunities (language academies, etc) in the Wellington Region to use excerpts or copies of the video in their promotional material. There have been a number of enquiries for copies following the reference to the video in an article on filming at Kaitoke Regional Park, in the latest *Elements*. We hope the video helps to widen the network of film companies attracted to our locations by making people aware of the parks and forests, and the variety of scenery found there.

Filming Concessions

Filming activity remained high during April, possibly as a result of the unusually fine weather for this time of year. We expect to see the usual down-turn over winter.

Press Release on Revised Parks and Forests Charges

Anne Manley is preparing a press release on the changes to the Parks and Forests charges approved recently. These revised charges will take effect on 1 July 2001. Officers will emphasise that the charges are based on cost recovery, rather than profit, and note the criteria for waivers and discounts in the communication material. We will also inform people that fees for the first 2 hours of Ranger time for school and other educational visits have been removed (feedback from educational groups has been very positive on this.)

Existing concession-holders will also be informed about changes to the existing policy on concessions and the charges, the reasons for the changes, and that their existing rates will remain in place until contracts come up for renewal.

3. Community Connections (Ross Jackson)

Orange Hut Opening

The Orange Hut opening was a great success with representatives from the Akatarawa Recreational Action Committee (ARAC) and Councillors enjoying a BBQ in the beautiful Akatarawa Forest. Councillor Shields applied the first of the orange paint to the hut and, ably assisted by other Councillors and ARAC members, swiftly completed the first coat over the whole hut. Councillor Turver enjoyed a quad bike ride to and from the Forest with Kapiti 4x4 Adventures.

ARAC intend holding a “*wake*” for the old Orange Hut before removing it from the site.

4. Capital Works Projects (Graham Laws & Anne Manley)

Road Resealing, Queen Elizabeth Park and Kaitoke Regional Park

Both contracts are now complete, except for road markings at Kaitoke.

Rimutaka Incline Walkway Bridge Restoration

Work on restoring the Pakuratahi Bridge is nearly complete. The remaining work relates to removing the old lead paint on the bridge metal work. This has to be done with care to ensure the paint does not contaminate the Pakuratahi River flowing beneath the bridge.

Replacing Paekakariki Beach Toilet, Queen Elizabeth Park

The old toilet has been removed and parts of the septic tank system relocated for re-use at the site of the new toilets, where construction is now underway, for completion in June.

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Workshop

Construction of the workshop and storage shed has commenced, for completion in June.

5. Environmental and Volunteer Projects (Ross Jackson & Philippa Crisp)

Friends of Belmont Regional Park

During April, Ross Jackson worked with the Friends of Belmont Regional Park Steering Group on their Terms of Reference. Work is progressing slowly.

Cannons Creek Valley Restoration and Development Plan

Officers are making good progress working with the Friends of Maara Roa on the Cannons Creek Valley restoration and development plan. The next step is to submit the plan to Landcorp Farming Limited (the landowner) for consideration. We will present the plan to the Landcare Committee, once Landcorp's agreement is obtained.

Queen Elizabeth Park Environmental Enhancement Projects and Arbor Day

Planning work continues on the dune, remnant bush and wetland restoration projects at Queen Elizabeth Park, and organising Arbor Day; to be held at the Park on 8 June.

Rata Monitoring, East Harbour Regional Park

Philippa Crisp is working with the East Harbour MIRO (Mainland Island Restoration Operation) group on rata monitoring. Fifty rata trees were photographed prior to the current possum control operation. Rata trees are a favourite food of possums and provide a good indicator of possum damage and forest health. These same trees will be monitored over the next few years to identify any change (hopefully an increase!) in foliage that may be attributable to the reduction in possum numbers.

Parks and Forests (Operations) Department

Manager: Bruce Andrell

Report for Period Ending 27 April 2001

1. Manager's Comments

Changes to the Environmental Asset Management Work Programme

Philippa Crisp, Landcare Advisor - Environmental Stewardship, and I have changed some of the environmental asset management programme to enhance environmental outcomes and improve our understanding of the environmental status of some areas:

- Additional possum monitoring for the Hutt Water Collection Area will be carried out to accurately determine population densities and distribution. Initial monitoring results showed a high possum population that may warrant treatment earlier than originally programmed. The additional monitoring will help determine the actual state of the Hutt Water Collection Area and the requirements for a control operation. We can then accurately cost the control operation and form a proposal for the Water Group. Philippa has been liaising with Murray Kennedy, Strategy and Asset Manager - Water Group.
- The 2000/01 possum control operation has been changed. We are deferring treating the Pakuratahi Forest until next financial year, when it can be combined with a Tb operation in the adjacent Whitemans Valley. This will reduce the potential re-invasion of possums into both areas and consequentially increase the likely return period for a control operation. Pre-operation monitoring results support deferring the operation for one financial year. The Puketiro/Whakatiki possum operation will be brought forward to this financial year. Biosecurity Department will plan and run the operation. Pre-operation planning and consent applications are underway, with the control operation scheduled for June 2001.

Vegetation Survey Completed

Vegetation plot surveys have been completed at Battle Hill and Belmont Regional Parks and Akatarawa Forest. They have been sent to Landcare Research for analysis and auditing.

2. Western Sector (Matt Ballantine)

Work Programme

Cornish Street Entrance/Korokoro Track

A 20 metre footbridge has been replaced on the Korokoro Track. Materials, prefabricated steel beams and tools had to be flown in to the remote site (see pictures). The previous bridge was reaching the end of its safe and useful life. The bridge sits on historic concrete plinths originally used to carry water pipes from the Korokoro Dam to the Cornish Street Woollen Mill.

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

Maintenance teams have been renewing stock gates and fences adjacent to amenity and grazing areas. This work will keep stock and horses out of the recent riparian plantings.

Queen Elizabeth Park

New rubbish bins have been strategically placed on the inland and coastal tracks to cater for the walkers who pick up rubbish along the beach frontage (not Regional Council land) and for dog walkers to deposit droppings. As with all the parks, Queen Elizabeth Park, has a “take your rubbish home” policy. The new bins are located within the first 100 metres of the start of the tracks so they do not encourage picnickers to deposit rubbish in them.

The old toilet block was demolished and removed from the Whareroa beach road end, as part of this year’s Asset Management Plan project. The toilet had reached the end of its useful life and had been closed for many years.

Ranger Activities/Events

A stag may be heard roaring at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park for the first time. A herd of deer including one stag has been moved into the newly fence deer paddock in the middle of the Park; adding to the variety of stock on show.

General Manager Visits

Howard Stone visited Belmont Regional Park in early April. The visit covered the lower Korokoro Valley where staff have just completed a major bridge upgrade (see photo); and Stratton Street to view the Ranger’s base and the woolshed, where an environmental education facility is being planned. A second site visit is organised to view more of the Park interior.

3. Eastern Sector (Fraser Oliver)

Work Programme Progress

The landscape team have spent a lot of time at Kaitoke Regional Park. Tasks completed include carrying out vegetation cutbacks in preparation for the roading work; spraying, tree pruning and thinning around the campground.

The construction team have upgraded the staircase at the entrance to the Rimutaka Hill Summit track. They are currently upgrading structures on the Kaitoke Regional Park Swingbridge Track.

Flood Damages Consents

All consents have been granted for river repair work in Kaitoke Regional Park, Rimutaka Incline Walkway and Wainuiomata Recreation Area. The consultation process with landowners and Fish and Game has taken five months. This has left us a tight timeframe to complete the works before fish-spawning in May. The Rangers appreciate the assistance

and advice from Resource Consents and Flood Protection staff with the resource consent applications.

Wainuiomata Recreation Area

Environmental Education Track

Work has started developing a forest track for environmental education; providing access to regenerating and mature bush, interesting habitat diversity, a small wetland and a clear forest creek. The track is located east of the Wainuiomata Recreation Area and follows the historical Sledge Creek route, where early settlers once transported timber on horse drawn sledges. The location is accessible and offers a unique historical background.

Kaitoke Regional Park

Te Marua Bush

The Botanical Society held a working bee, controlling weeds in Te Marua Bush. Ranging staff assisted with removing the weeds from the Park.

A power-pramming walk attracted 25 participants on 18 March, as part of the *Regional Outdoors Programme*. The event was a great success but also a timely reminder of the need to identify tracks for certain user groups (prams and swing bridges do not mix!). Barriers in place to stop horses, motorbikes and mountain bikes are also effective against buggies and prams, a concern raised by some participants.

The Police tracked down a group of hikers, after they left their vehicle at the Pakuratahi Forks car park overnight. They left the Park at Te Marua after walking the ridge track. They now know to leave their intentions with the Ranger, if they are going to leave their vehicle in the Park overnight!

Filming

Filming activity at Te Marua kept the Ranger busy on 22 March. Having set-up for the day, the film crew noticed a bad odour next to the catering tent. Upon investigation, thus found a rotting boar on the riverbank. The Ranger removed it and disinfected the area, plus his vehicle - three times.

The Ranger ran two impromptu guided night walks at the request of Scout and Girl Guide groups camping in the Park, since running two *Kaitoke at Night* walks during the *Regional Outdoor Programme*.

4. Visitor Numbers

Park Visitation Database

Over the last few months, some high variances appeared on the visitor information graphs. Kaitoke and Queen Elizabeth parks showed up to 50,000 less visits than last year. An investigation found various problems in the data entry. Also, the Kaitoke Regional Park vehicle movement numbers had been converted twice, manually at the park and in the

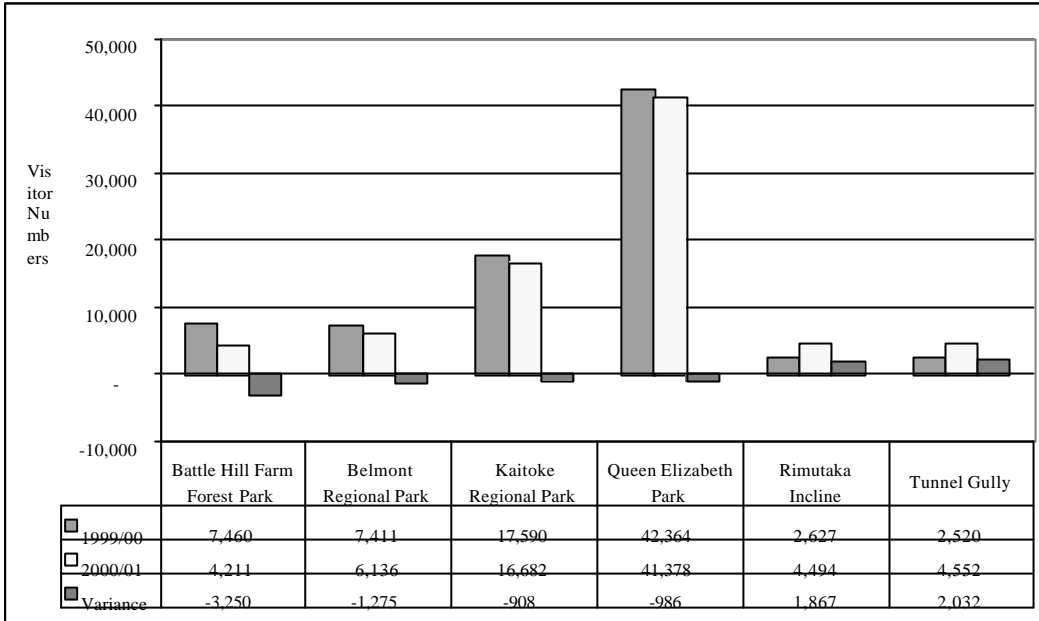
database, overstating the visitation numbers. On the other hand, the vehicle movement numbers had been halved at Queen Elizabeth Park before conversion in the database, understating the visitation numbers. We have reviewed all the vehicle counter readings and corrected the data entry problems back to the beginning of last financial year.

The corrected figures show a general decrease of visitors compared to last year. Most of the variation occurred during the summer months. This is attributed to seasonal park usage patterns and unfavourable weather conditions. For example, Queen Elizabeth Park experienced 16 days of high winds during the month of December. Visitors tend to stay away on windy days, due to the exposed nature of the park. Year-to-date Queen Elizabeth Park is 22,284 or 5.6 percent drop in visits against last year's figures. Kaitoke Regional Park is showing a 12,300 or 9.5 percent drop in visitation. This is due to the filming of the Lord of the Rings attracting large numbers of visitors last year, during the period when visitation is normally lower. This year's visitation numbers reflect more normal park usage during the same period of the year.

See visitor information graphs attached.

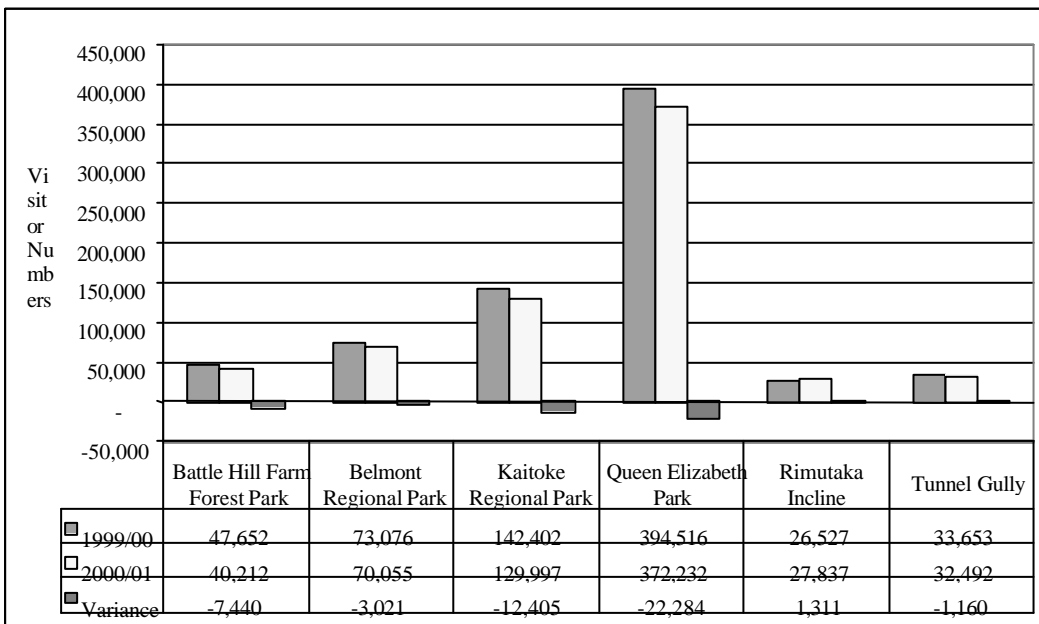
BRUCE ANDRELL
Manager, Parks and Forests (Operations)

REGIONAL PARKS
Visitors Information Data
For the Month of March 2000/01



Battle Hill Farm Forest Park visitors numbers are down compared to March last year. This is due to less events such as pony club practice days. Other locations are within acceptable monthly variances for the period.

REGIONAL PARKS
Visitors Information Data
Year-to-Date : March 2000/01



Construction of Korokoro Track Footbridge

