

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

Report for Period Ending 1 June 2001

1. Waikanae River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

1.1 Friends of the Waikanae River

The Waikanae Friends group have filed papers for their incorporation as a friendly society and their Annual General Meeting will be held on 13 June. The Friends' second newsletter has been distributed and they have recently established an interesting internet website (www.friendwaikanaeriver.itgo.com).

Members of the group have participated in a number of workshops and seminars and have made submissions on the Otaihanga Gravel Extraction resource consents, the KCDC Annual Plan, and the Otaki River water extraction resource consent.

The Friends, in their Care Group role, have confirmed their annual plan and have ordered a significant number of trees for planting. These trees will be planted in the Friends' highest priority area, the south bank near Otaihanga.

Flood Protection staff are continuing to assist the Friends with planning for their Care Group Project.

1.2 Otaihanga Road Raising

Road raising construction has started, with work programmed to be finished by the end of July 2001. Approval has been received to use gravel, extracted from the tidal reach of the Waikanae River under the long-term operational consent, as fill for the road raising. The extraction will be undertaken in conjunction with cross-blading work that is a final stage in stabilising the left bank downstream of the Boating Club hall.

1.3 Gravel Extraction Consent

All parties who were consulted over the proposal (to extract 40,000m³ of gravel from the Waikanae River) have provided feedback. The Department of Conservation and iwi have, at this stage, provided only verbal responses. Overall feedback has been mixed with several groups strongly opposed to the proposal. Evaluation of responses is now underway, and the outcome will guide a strategy for the consent application. Lodging the consent had been programmed for April 2001; this will now be deferred until the evaluation of community responses is complete, and options to mitigate concerns considered.

2. Otaki River Floodplain Management Plan [Graeme Campbell]

2.1 Friends of the Otaki River

The Otaki Friends group have been working with Flood Protection staff to agree a role in managing the Chrystalls Bend environmental area and their involvement in planning for the proposed environmental enhancement works at the river mouth lagoon.

Members of the group have participated in a number of workshops and seminars and have made a submission on the Otaki River water extraction resource consent.

2.2 Mouth to State Highway 1 Bank Edge Protection Work

All work on this project is complete and final invoices are being compiled; work is anticipated to be within budget.

2.3 Rangiuru Outlet Structure

Resource Consent has been granted, however, only one tender was received for the construction work and this was well above budget. It has been decided to delay the programmed completion date (to be formalised at fourth quarter review) and to re-tender the work with more flexible conditions on timing (but retaining the same construction period). It is anticipated that the added flexibility will allow a greater number of contractors to price the work at more competitive rates.

2.4 Otaki River Cross-section Survey

Work is continuing on quality review of the survey data. Initial checks have revealed some anomalies in levels in the upper reach of the river. The consultant will be required to explain the anomalies and, if appropriate, correct the data.

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

3.1 Plan Drafting

The Hutt River Floodplain Management Advisory Committee meeting on 24 May marked a major milestone in the HRFMP project. The Advisory Committee considered 26 public submissions on the HRFMP Consultation Draft and six on the Draft Utilities and Services Policy for the Hutt River corridor. The Committee heard eight submitters who elected to present their submission to the meeting. The Advisory Committee considered and endorsed the officers' recommendations.

The Advisory Committee's recommendations on public submissions are contained in Report 01.340 on this Order Paper. The Policy and Finance Committee will consider the Landcare Committee's resolution and recommendations on the Consultation Draft at its meeting on 10 July.

The Landcare Committee will, at its meeting on 26 July, receive the Advisory Committee's recommended Draft HRFMP. Pending Landcare Committee approval, the Draft will go before Council in August for adoption. The aim is to launch the completed Plan in early October 2001.

3.2 Design Standard Implementation

Ava Railway Crossing Investigations

Holmes Consulting Group was appointed for Stage 2 of the Ava Railway crossing feasibility study. This part of the study will refine options, prepare preliminary design and assess environmental effects based on:

- the **Existing Bridge Option**; which retains the existing structure and minimises the risk to the flood defences through stopbank strengthening, improved edge protections and emergency flood management provisions. This option will not meet the 2800 cumec design standard for the bridge. Other variations on this option will also be considered.
- a **New Bridge**; which replaces the existing bridge with a new structure to meet the 2800 cumec design standard.

Tranz Rail officer involvement is continuing through Stage 2 of the study. The outcome of Stage 2 will be a preferred option we will recommend as the basis for a Memorandum of Understanding with Tranz Rail. This study will be completed in early July 2001.

Ava to Ewen Preliminary Design and Resource Consents

AC Consulting Group has developed preliminary design options for the river realignment and stopbank upgrades. These options have considered and, where possible, incorporated community input obtained through the initial consultation phase completed in early April. The second round of consultation with the community and major stakeholder is proceeding. At these meetings officers are seeking feedback on the preliminary design and proposals to mitigate the environmental effects of the works. In this second round, meetings held so far include:

- Alicetown community
- Woburn community
- A public meeting at the Dowse Art Museum with the wider community
- Hutt Valley High School and Ministry of Education

Further meetings are planned for Hutt Valley High School and Ministry of Education to consider and explain impacts of the proposals on their land (part of Strand Park). Various options and opportunities have been considered and documented at their request.

The consultation process is based on a consultation strategy prepared at the start of the project. The strategy was reviewed by an expert independent "consultation" consultant and her views are now included in the process.

The aim is to complete preliminary design and draft resource consent applications by the end of July 2001.

4. **Porirua Stream : Findlay Street Realignment Works [Geoff Dick]**

An update on the Findlay Street project was given through the 25 May Councillors' Bulletin (Issue 2001/26, item 2.7). The Design Report and Draft Consent Application are prepared. A response has been sent to Wellington City Council's 24 April letter and a meeting set up with their officers to discuss the various issues.

5. **Mangaone Stream Flood Hazard Assessment [Phillip Purves]**

The consultants have carried out the hydraulic modeling scenarios required for this investigation. They are currently assessing sensitivity to various flow conditions and other channel and floodplain features in order to determine the appropriate freeboard for design and mapping purposes. These considerations are critical to establishing a realistic depiction of flood risk for the Mangaone Stream, where relatively small local effects can cause extensive variations in the flooded area. Once this work is complete, and agreed with the Flood Protection Group, then the flood depth maps and hazard zone maps can be prepared.

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

The following summarises the formal, written requests for information or advice attended to during March and April 2001:

	<u>Mar/Apr</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Requests brought forward	42	13
Additional requests received	30	155
Responses provided	33	129
Outstanding requests	39	39

The Environment Court recently declined the Valley Plaza development that was proposed for the St Patrick's College land at Silverstream. As previously reported to the Committee, WRC had reached an agreement with the developer and UHCC, by way of a Consent Memorandum, that could have enabled the development to be protected to the 2300 cumec design flood standard required by the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan.

Wellington City Council has notified its Proposed District Plan Change No.1, for the revised Porirua Stream flood hazard for the through Tawa and the Takapu Stream industrial area. Submissions close on 11 June 2001.

The Hutt City Council has invited the Flood Protection Group to participate in the assessment of options for development of the Hutt Park Raceway land, now that the Council has decided not to pursue the revocation of the reserve status of Hutt Park.

7. **Manager's Comments**

Over the last month three new staff have taken up positions in Strategy and Assets. Robbin Britton an Engineer, Sally Coates an Assistant Engineer who will work part time, and Susan Borrer a Graduate Engineer. I wish them well in their new roles. These appointments will give a big boost to our critical mass and in-house capability. There is still an effective one and a half positions vacant.

The month of June will be an important one, bringing together and completing as many projects as possible before the financial year end. Our highlight over the last period was undoubtedly the Advisory Committee meeting held on 24 May. The HRFMP project team put in a huge effort preparing for this successful meeting. The successful outcome clears the way for the Draft HRFMP to be presented to the Advisory Committee on 12 July 2001.

BRENDAN PAUL

Manager, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

**Flood Protection
Operations
Manager : Geoff Dick**

Report for Period Ending 1 June 2001

Flood Protection Operations and Maintenance [Geoff Dick]

1. Hutt River

This years Hutt River works programme is approaching completion. Items completed in the period include:

- berm improvement works associated with construction of the Owen Street groynes.
- edge protection works at Mary Huse Grove. This job completes the October 2000 flood damage repairs

Hutt Valley Main Trunk Sewer at Ava

Work has started on temporary works to protect the Hutt Valley trunk sewer in Ava Park. The sewer has been put at risk from ongoing bank erosion. Following discussions with Hutt City Council it has been decided that some immediate repairs are required. In the long-term the sewer pipe may require to be re-routed under the railway embankment away from the river.

The temporary bank stabilisation works consist of a short section of rock lining and two sacrificial boulder groynes. Progress on the work will be weather dependent, with trucks and equipment having to cross the grassed park. However, we expect to have the job essentially completed by mid-June.

Hutt River Trail

Flood Protection staff are currently underway with a second phase of Hutt River trail maintenance and repair work. Work was completed in Poets Park, Upper Hutt, and is currently in progress at Avalon, Lower Hutt. This work is being done on behalf of the Parks and Forests group.

Boulcott Golf Club Fence

When the Ariki Street stopbank was upgraded following the 1998 flood, a number of trees had to be removed. Unfortunately this allowed over-vigorously hit golf balls from the Boulcott Course to pass over the stopbank and strike houses directly behind the green. Following discussions with the Club we have now raised (to 4m high) and extended an existing fence to protect the neighbouring properties.

2. **Otaki River**

Otaki staff have been kept busy managing the remaining in-channel works with the aim of getting it all completed by 31 May, the start of the trout spawning season. We largely succeeded except for some follow up work at the mouth cut, despite several small “freshes” in the river causing delays. Fish & Game have agreed to a few additional days work at the mouth to enable that job to be completed.

October 2000 Flood Repairs

The October 2000 flood damage repairs are now almost complete.

At Upper Rahui further work to establish a “centralised” channel was completed. A section of an established beach on the north side was excavated with the excavated material “run along” the base of the south bank cliffs.

Five further rail iron and steel cable debris fences were installed along the right bank at Upper Hughes.

Otaki River Mouth

The new diversion channel has worked as planned with the “old” mouth now beginning to close naturally.

We have commenced the second stage of the project, the reconstruction of the south bank berm. Gravel is being excavated from the diversion cut, thereby widening it, and placed on the south bank. The final repair of the damaged stopbank will be completed next financial year.

State Highway 1 to Mouth Improvements

Construction of the right bank rock lining downstream of the Winstones shingle plant is complete. Some final berm tidying work at the Winstones site will complete this project. Kapiti Operations staff are managing this project.

3. **Waikanae River**

The October 2000 flood damage repairs are also essentially complete in the Waikanae River. Some new rail and timber debris groynes at Sunny Glen and Maple Lane remain to be built. All rock repair works have been completed, including the Maple Lane weir, raised Kebbells rock lining, rock groyne head repairs and the installation of new tree groynes.

The Department of Conservation granted permission for Council to undertake cross-blading in the Scientific Reserve immediately downstream of the Otaihanga Boating Clubrooms. This work is complete and generated considerable local interest. Neighbouring landowners generally welcome a start on the “lowering” of the channel through this reach and commencement of some bank edge protection works. In addition we have had favourable comment from a couple of regular whitebaiters who fish this reach of the river and welcome the easier access and more-stable platform from which to fish.

In planning the Otaihanga cross-blading it became apparent that surplus gravel would be generated and that this could be used for the Otaihanga road raising. About 1,500 cubic metres has been made available for the road raising project.

4. Water Courses

Annual maintenance runs were completed in Stokes Valley stream, Taupo stream, and Te Mome stream, and a run is currently in progress in Hulls creek. The annual maintenance run through the Waiwhetu Stream is planned to start in the first week of June.

The Waimeha Stream mouth is being regularly monitored for possible cutting within the next few weeks. The Waikanae Golf Club and the Kapiti Coast District Council have expressed some concern at raised water levels in the lower reach of the stream and its tributaries. The annual weed clearing run in the lower stream was completed.

Routine annual stream clearing runs were also completed in the Mangaone drainage area, the Rangiuru Stream, the Ngatoko Drain and the lower Mangapouri Stream.

5. Work for Others

Reconstruction of a vehicle ford on the upper reaches of the Wainiomata River for Parks and Forests was completed. The work was within the recreation reserve immediately downstream of the water collection area.

We also provided advice and undertook bank edge repairs on the Pakuratahi River in Kaitoke Regional Park. The work included cross-blading and construction of debris fences and tethered willows.

6. Gravel Extraction

We are in the process of finalising a 'Conditions of Contract' document for gravel extraction from the Hutt River. A lawyer is checking the document before being forwarded to the selected extractors. They will then be asked to submit a firm offer for the gravel. We aim to appoint a sole company by 30 June 2001.

Gravel extraction figures up to end of April are set out below.

			Period Year 2000/2001 (cubic metres)		Year 1999/2000 (cubic metres)
River	Area	Contractor	Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	3,738	34,321	46,966
	River		0	0	927
Otaki	River	Winstones & G Holland (99/00)	9010	25,390	71,492
	Upper Rahui	Winstones	0	40,220	46,350
Waikanae	River		Nil	Nil	1,484
TOTALS			12,748	99,931	167,219

8. **General Comment**

Winter now seems to have arrived after the long warm spell that continued right into mid May. The calm weather also helped with a prolonged autumn display, only now are the river willows finally losing their leaves.

Autumn also saw me heading south for my annual hunting trip to Stewart Island. While I didn't manage to bag a deer this time, and it was generally cold and wet, it was a great way to clear a few cobwebs.

GEOFF DICK
Manager, Flood Protection (Operations)

**Regional Parks (Strategy & Marketing)
Manager : Susan Edwards**

Report for Period Ending 1 June 2001

1. Manager's Comments (Susan Edwards)

Chinese Delegation

The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry arranged for a delegation from the Chinese Ministry of Forestry to visit the Regional Council on 16 May. Councillor Shields hosted the group and wowed them by speaking some Chinese! Council officers gave presentations on the plantation forestry business, and recreational and natural forestry management. Parks and Forests officers took the group on a site visit to the Pakuratahi Forest and Kaitoke Regional Park.

New Zealand Festival of the Arts

During May I met with the New Zealand Festival of Arts 2002 events manager, concerning holding three or four Festival events in the Council's parks and forests. The Rangers are working with the events manager to identify suitable venues. The parks and forests will receive good promotion through the Festival, as it is widely advertised and well attended.

2. Resource Management and Planning (Ross Jackson, Philippa Crisp, Anne Manley & Graham Laws)

State Highway Upgrades

SH2 - Upgrade from Dowse Drive to Petone

Officers provided input into the WRC submission on the Notice of Requirement from Transit New Zealand to upgrade this section of State Highway 2. Parks and Forests concerns relate mainly to access for pedestrians and cyclists (from Petone foreshore and the Hutt River Trail) to the Cornish Street entrance of Belmont Regional Park.

SH58 - Haywards Hill Upgrade

Pedestrian/cyclist connections from Belmont Regional Park across SH58 into Keith George Memorial Park are of interest with this project. Transit may install a large culvert under the road to enable public access. Officers are also having input into re-vegetation methods for the cut batters on the side of the road.

SH2 - Kaitoke Hill Upgrade

Officers have again been working closely with consultants on virtually the same issues as at Haywards Hill - pedestrian/cyclist linkages across SH2 and environmental restoration. Officers are seeking an underground highway crossing at the top of Kaitoke Hill to access the Rimutaka Incline Walkway through to the Wairarapa. The highway upgrade will enhance the parking area around the Keith Spry Memorial Lookout.

In a separate project immediately south of the Mangaroa Bridge at Te Marua, Ross Jackson has provided technical advice on planting and recreational access, to the consultants designing embankment modifications on the edge of the Hutt River. If the work proceeds, the walking access along the river will contribute to the long-term objective of providing a continuous off-road Hutt River Trail from Petone through to Kaitoke Regional Park.

SH1 - MacKays Crossing Overpass

A Notice of Requirement has been advertised for this project. Officers are closely involved in the redesign of the entrance into Queen Elizabeth Park. Construction will be disruptive, but long-term it should have positive benefits making Park access safer.

Launch of Here and Now

On 14 June we will be launching the video promoting the Council's parks and forests as filming locations. All Councillors should have received their invitations by now. Over 100 invitations have gone out to film producers and location managers.

Pest Plant Strategy for the Parks and Forests

Mapping the weeds within the parks and forests is nearly complete. Philippa Crisp is preparing the pest plant strategy. Ranking of control weeds is underway and five-year weed plans will be prepared for each area outlining:

- weed species to be controlled
- methods
- service levels for control.

Asset Management Plan

We have completed the annual inspection and audit of Parks and Forests asset maintenance and upgrades. The joint inspection, by office and field staff, monitors progress in meeting the Asset Management Plan (AMP) service standards and identifies next year's work programme.

Now that the data collection phase of the AMP is completed, we are working with Finance and consultants to refine valuation and depreciation methodologies to ensure we comply with Audit New Zealand standards.

Our current use of a number of spreadsheets and databases for asset management has become complex and difficult to maintain and enhance. We have engaged consultants to define our requirements and provide an evaluation criteria model to assess off-the-shelf asset management products. The consultant's report will also be used to set a brief to develop a new asset management application if proprietary software is not suitable.

3. **Community Connections (Ross Jackson)**

Ecological Restoration Network Workshops

Ross Jackson and Philippa Crisp participated in a number of the Ecological Restoration workshops co-ordinated by the Department of Conservation, with assistance from the Council's Environment Division. The workshops involved a series of lectures and practical restoration planting projects.

Rio + 10 Debate

Ross Jackson and Philippa Crisp also assisted with a display at the Rio + 10 Community Debate. The debate, organised by Ministry for the Environment, was an awareness raising exercise on the 10th anniversary of the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro.

MIRO, East Harbour Regional Park

Several Parks and Forests officers attended a celebration of the Mainland Island Restoration Operation in East Harbour Regional Park. They provided a poster display on Regional Council ecological work in the Park. During his speech, Councillor Macaskill acknowledged the valuable work undertaken by the MIRO volunteers and the ecological importance of the Park. Councillor Werry and officers participated in the after function walk to the giant terrestrial ratas in the forest in the northern part of the Park (behind Eastbourne).

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

Rimutaka Incline Walkway Bridge Restoration

Restoration of the Pakuratahi Bridge is now complete and the old lead paint on the bridge metal work has been removed.

Replacing Paekakariki Beach Toilet, Queen Elizabeth Park

Construction is now underway. The floor is poured and the pre-fabricated concrete walls and roof are ready for installation.

New Whareroa Stream Culvert, Queen Elizabeth Park

Tenders have been called for this work and pre-cast concrete units are due for installation on-site in mid June.

Battle Hill Farm Forest Park Workshop

Construction of the workshop and storage shed is well underway. The floor is poured and the framing is up. Work will be completed by 30 June.

5. Environmental and Volunteer Projects (Ross Jackson)

A report on all the environmental enhancement projects will be presented to the next Committee meeting. Recent progress on core projects is outlined below:

Battle Hill Wetlands Restoration Plan

Detailed design work for re-establishing wetlands at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park is underway. Construction is scheduled for the 2001/02 financial year and will provide a range of planting and ecological restoration opportunities for the community.

Queen Elizabeth Park Projects and Arbor Day

We are currently preparing a management strategy for stabilising, restoring and managing the foredunes at Queen Elizabeth Park. An ecologist, Dr Paul Blaschke of Boffa Miskell Partners, and a coastal expert, John Lumsden, are providing technical advice. The foredunes are regarded as the last largely unmodified dunes on the Kapiti Coast. However, they have been grazed by stock in the past and there are significant weed and erosion problems. One of the first steps in the dune restoration strategy is to determine the native species still surviving in the dunes. Chris Horne and Barbara Mitcalfe, from the Botanical Society, have been undertaking this work for Parks and Forests.

Officers are progressing design work for the wetland and bush remnant restoration projects. The Council's main Arbor Day planting will be held on 8 June, planting cabbage trees in one of the Park's ephemeral wetlands.

Pakuratahi River Riparian Management

We are currently finalising the guidelines for planting along the Pakuratahi River, adjacent to the Rimutaka Incline Walkway. The planting will start next financial year.

In June we will be planting a buffer of native plants on the uphill side of the Ladle Bend wetland. The planting is being done as a series of trials to compare growth in planted versus natural regeneration methods. The trials will be closely monitored to get a picture of the most effective methods for future planting. The wetland was identified as containing unusual plant associations and rare native land snails, by a group of Victoria University ecology students.

Parks and Forests (Operations) Department

Manager: Bruce Andrell

Report for Period Ending 1 June 2001

1. Manager's Comments

All staff are busy completing their annual work programmes for 30 June 2001.

Graham Laws, Landscape Architect, inspected and audited the park maintenance standards and asset upgrades in May. The inspection monitors compliance with the Asset Management Plan service standards and identifies priorities for next year's work programme. The work achieved this year and the results of the audit will be reported to the August Landcare Committee.

Whitireia Park Five Year Maintenance Programme

Matt Ballantine, Western Senior Ranger, and I presented the five year maintenance programme to the Whitireia Park Board on 2 May 2001. The Board agreed to the programme in principle and requested a progress report annually.

This year's maintenance programme involves fencing all the catchment around the Te Onepoto Bay stream. Pest animal and plant control will be done in spring.

2. Western Sector (Matt Ballantine)

Maintenance Activities

A section of eroded steps has been upgraded on the Korokoro Dam track, Belmont Regional Park.

Ranger Services

Friends of Belmont

Chris Wootton, Ranger, Belmont Regional Park and Ross Jackson, Volunteers Co-ordinator, met with the *Friends of Belmont* and *Moara Roa* during the period. Chris is liaising on operational issues. Ross is producing a development plan for the Cannons Creek valley and working with the *Friends* on their terms of reference.

3. **Eastern Sector (Fraser Oliver)**

Maintenance Activities

The construction team has completed the six monthly inspections of all walkway bridges and is currently replacing a staircase on the Kaitoke Swingbridge Track. A high school student gained one week's work experience with the construction team, as part of the Upper Hutt industry/school partnership programme.

The landscape team was busy upgrading part of Tane's Track, at Tunnel Gully and completing the autumn weed control programme across all areas.

The Kaitoke roading reseal was completed during the period.

Ranger Services

Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Public Roar Hunt

The second public roar hunt was held in April in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo water collection area. Participating hunters gave positive feedback. The hunters culled 10 deer, 10 pigs and 11 goats. The goats were shot in an area not covered by professional hunters during January/February. A search successfully found a lost hunter who had spent the night in the Orongorongo catchment. The Police Search and Rescue complemented the Council on the management procedures in place for the hunt.

Flora Survey of Orongorongo Swamp

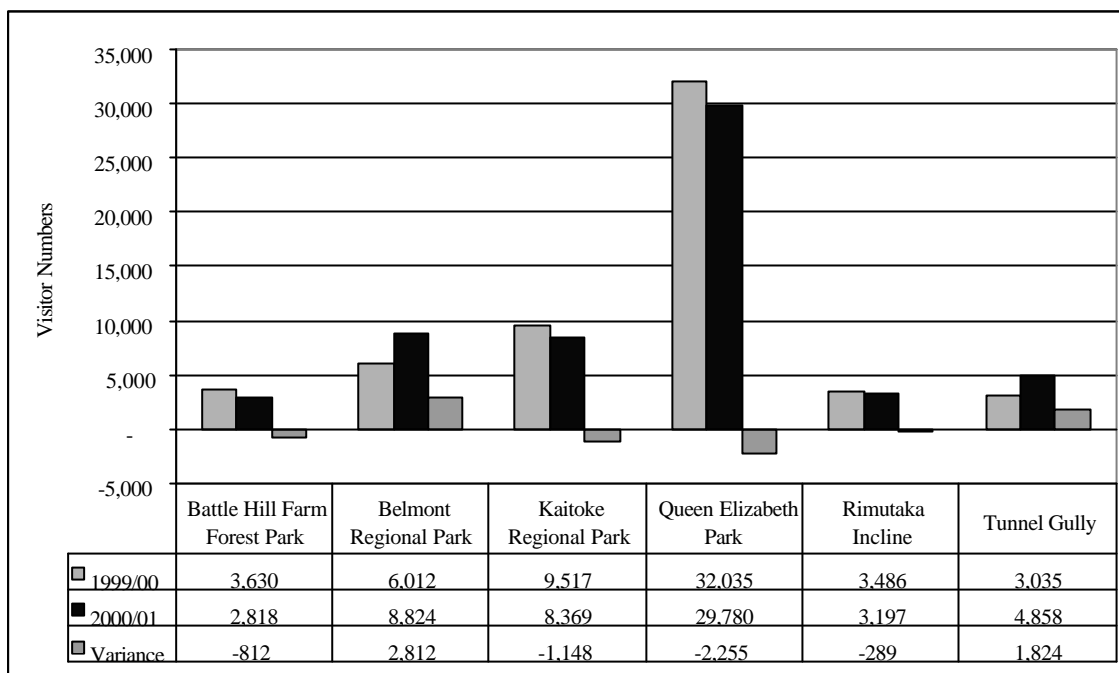
Victoria University Biological Sciences Department carried out a vegetation survey of the upper Orongorongo swamp, in mid April. The survey will provide an inventory of biota and a baseline for condition monitoring in the medium to long-term.

4. **Visitor Numbers**

See visitor information graphs attached.

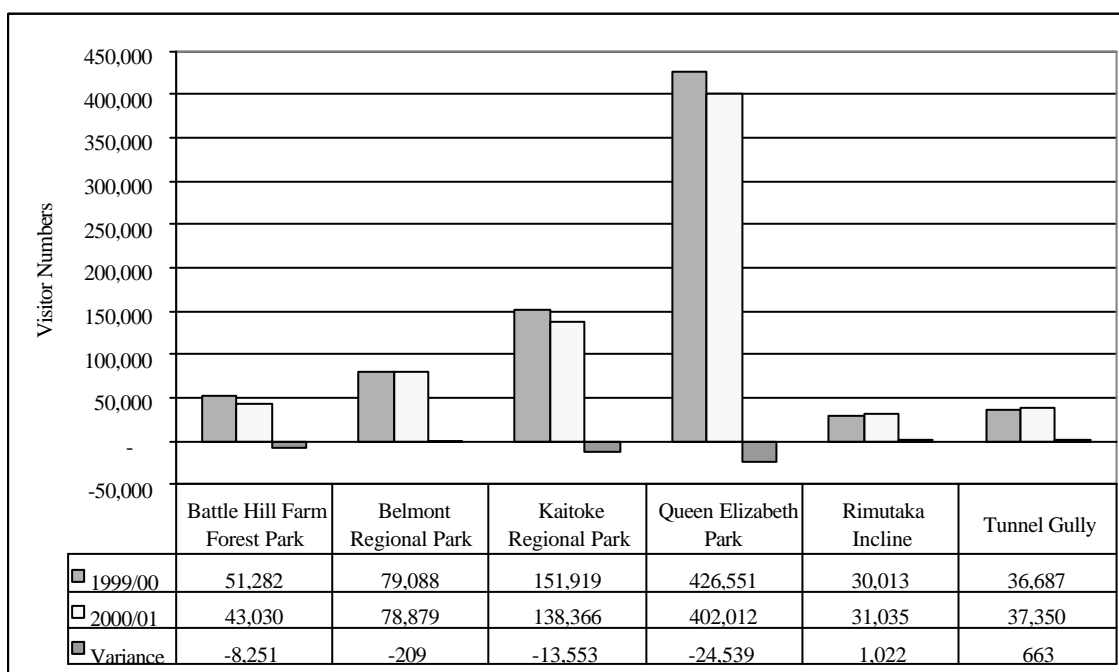
BRUCE ANDRELL
Manager, Parks and Forests (Operations)

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



Queen Elizabeth Park visitation is lower than last year due to windy weekends and the counter being out of action while resealing MacKays Road. Belmont's visitation is higher than last year due to fine weather on every weekend.

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



The network figures are down seven percent on average compared to the 1999/00 visitor numbers.