

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

Report for Period Ending 12 April 2002

1. Manager's Comments

We have just passed the third quarter milestone in our year and the associated management review that will follow provides a good opportunity to gauge both physical progress of our work against programme and the corresponding financial position. At this stage I believe we are very well placed to meet our targets within overall budgets.

There are no projects or significant tasks that are causing concern in our ongoing activities and policy work. Noteworthy progress has been achieved in asset management, the Porirua Dams safety reviews, our environmental management system, the Waikanae gravel extraction consent, our work with the Kapiti Coast District Council (KCDC) on their District Plan provisions, the regular monitoring activities on our major rivers, our new plan indexing and management system, and the routine advice we provide on flooding and erosion issues.

With the exceptions noted below, all capital projects are tracking very close to programme or are complete – the slight slippage in the major Ava to Ewen project resulted from a further design iteration for the railway bridge waterway. The effect was to slightly delay the resource consent application, however the delay will not affect the project's construction programme. The capital projects that have not progressed are the Findlay Street realignment; the Melling Bridge investigation; and the Stage 2 Otaihanga Road raising.

2. Waikanae River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

2.1 Otaihanga Road Raising

Earlier this year a decision was made to cease work on Stage 2 of the road raising project as the community did not appear to support the works. A meeting date with residents affected by the Stage 2 works has yet to be arranged. Design work on the Stage 3 options, in the vicinity of Otaihanga Domain, is continuing in order to maintain the momentum of the project. It is hoped to have all Stage 3 design work, including the approval of KCDC as land owner, completed by 30 June; construction will be programmed for November 2002.

2.2 Gravel Extraction Consent

A Coastal Marine expert, Dr Jeremy Gibb, was engaged to provide additional advice on the likely impacts of the gravel extraction on coastal erosion to the south of the river mouth. This work is being undertaken to satisfy one of the submitters to the consent who was concerned that the work may worsen their current coastal erosion problem. This advice will be completed by the end of April 2002.

2.3 Friends of the Waikanae River

A meeting of the Friends Working Group was held on 3 April 2002. The Friends are progressing well implementing the Care Group Funding and are on programme to meet their annual plan targets. John Topliff, Chairman of the Friends, prompted a walkover with Councillor Turver and John Gilbert to show them the work the Friends have undertaken over the last year, and what their plans are for next year. John Topliff will prepare a list of activities he would like assistance with over the next 12 months and WRC staff will confirm with him which of those activities we can support within our ongoing maintenance programmes.

3. Otaki River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

3.1 Otaki River Mouth Lagoon Enhancement Works

A draft plan for the area has been prepared and presented to the Friends of the Otaki River. Their comments and those from iwi, DOC and Fish & Game are being sought before the plan is finalised. Reaction from the Friends was very positive.

3.2 Friends of the Otaki River

At a meeting of the Friends Executive Committee, held on 3 April 2002, an update was given on the Council's proposal for gaining access through the Winstone Aggregates plant. The next meeting of the Friends is programmed for 22 May 2002.

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

4.1 Ava to Ewen Improvements: Consent Process

The resource consent application for the Ava to Ewen flood protection works was notified in March 2002. Public submissions close on 29 April 2002. A non-notified application for the proposed interpretation platform and relocating existing services was lodged with Hutt City Council in mid April 2002. All going well, decisions on consent applications could be expected by late June/early July 2002.

4.2 **Ava to Ewen Improvements: Detailed Design**

Tenders have been requested for detailed design of the river realignment and Alicetown stopbank, and for construction management of the river realignment. A consultant will be appointed by the end of May 2002 and a contract for construction of the river realignment will be let by the end of December 2002. A prioritised list of projects, prepared for the proposed environmental enhancement works, was considered by the Hutt River Advisory Committee on 11 April 2002. Implementation of these enhancement works will be integrated with the structural works.

4.3 **Ava to Ewen Improvements: Strand Park**

Ministry of Education (MOE) representatives have verbally informed us that they will not object to the resource consent application. They require that the issue of alternative playing fields be resolved before agreeing to sell the land to the Regional Council. MOE and Hutt Valley High School representatives are currently considering a Hutt City Council proposal to accommodate school games at existing and alternative grounds, with some limited access to the Hutt Recreation Ground. A response from MOE is expected by the end of April 2002.

4.4 **Non-structural Measures**

At its meeting on 11 April 2002, the Advisory Committee reviewed the scope and programme for implementing non-structural measures. The Committee resolved to request Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council to consider the programme in the context established in the HRFMP and their own responsibilities for hazard management. A set of generic district plan provisions will be prepared by the end of June 2002.

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

The following summarises the formal, written requests for information or advice attended to during March 2002:

	<u>March</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Requests brought forward	8	5
Additional requests received	14	114
Responses provided	9	106
Outstanding requests	13	13

An informal working group of KCDC and WRC engineering and planning staff has been set up to guide the review of the Otaki and Waikanae flood hazard maps. The first meeting of the group was held on 8 March 2002 at the KCDC offices.

BRENDAN PAUL
Manager, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

**Flood Protection
Operations
Manager : Geoff Dick**

Report for Period Ending 12 April 2002

Flood Protection Operations and Maintenance [Geoff Dick]

1. Hutt River

March has been a busy month on the Hutt River. Work completed includes:

- extending the Stokes Valley Stream outlet training bank rock lining 60m upstream.
- cross-blading and beach grooming at Totara Park, Whakatiki and in the Bypass downstream of the Moonshine Bridge.
- stopbank maintenance adjacent to the Hutt car park, at Marsden Bend, in the Boulcott Golf Course, at Whakatiki and at Totara Park.
- site inspections and attending a meeting aimed to get the berm filling at Manor Park completed to agreed finished levels and sown to grass prior to winter.

Staff and Rotary volunteers are being kept busy trying to keep the Hutt River Trail up to a good standard. However, the job can get a bit exasperating with the damage caused by a small proportion of the public. A recent example was a vehicle that left the motorway at Belmont, drove down the motorway embankment, over a seat donated by Rotary and then exited what is normally an area closed to vehicles.

2. Kapiti Rivers

The annual Waikanae River channel maintenance programme is complete. Work completed included topping-up rock groyne at Sunny Glen and Maple Lane, some willow layering at Jim Cooke Park and El Rancho, and beach grooming at Jim Cooke Park. We also lowered an outlet pipe that drains an old channel meander on the south bank of the river opposite Pukekawa Reserve to assist in the native planting restoration work.

The Waikanae River mouth cut diversion bund was strengthened by adding a further 1,000 cubic metres of sand to it. The bund needs to be maintained until the old river mouth at the Paraparaumu end of the estuary closes. Recent high tides and strong westerly winds had eroded the bund.

An offer, subject to formal Council approval, was made to the Logan Whanau to purchase their land on the south bank of the Otaki River. Purchase of this land is seen as the best means to settle a grievance claim caused by the extension of the stopbank down to the Ferry Reserve in 1978. In the meantime we are holding off commencing the permanent repair of the Katihiku stopbank which will require entry into the Logan land. Nevertheless, this job is ready to go and, if the land issue is resolved quickly, we will have the work completed by the end of May.

3. **Watercourses**

We propose to spray the aquatic weed in the Waiwhetu Stream later this month. Manual clearance by Periodic Detention workers has failed to clear the weed to an acceptable standard before winter arrives. Before we can exercise our resource consent to spray we are required to meet a number of conditions, including consulting with the Waiwhetu Stream Action Group. This is currently in progress.

We have now obtained a long-term resource consent to carry out in-channel maintenance works in the urban section of the Wainuiomata River. The consultation phase of the consent was lengthy, due mainly to negotiations with the Fish & Game Council (to avoid notifying the application). The Wainuiomata River is highly regarded as a trout fishing and spawning river.

Protection works were completed in the urban section of the Mangaroa River (Te Marua) where erosion was threatening private property. A recent 'fresh' had exacerbated an already worrisome situation for four property owners. The work was carried out under the emergency provisions of the Regional Freshwater Plan, and consisted of shifting the active channel off the eroding face and planting of a protective band of willows.

The annual Waitohu Stream run is now essentially complete. Work completed in March included some channel shaping and erosion repairs upstream of State Highway 1, cleaning out the gravel catch area on Whakapua Farm and some erosion repairs upstream of the Old Coach Road bridge.

We are about to commence negotiations with a landowner to gain improved access to the Waitohu Stream downstream of the Old Coach Road bridge. In this reach we need access for heavy machinery so we can remove trees, logs, etc. to open up the floodway. This should help to reduce the flooding risk to Convent and Bennetts Road residents.

4. **Porirua Debris Arrestor**

The downstream end of the Porirua debris arrestor was damaged in the flood event of 22 November 2001. The resource consent application for the repairs has been lodged. The repair work will commence immediately following issue of the consent and is expected to be complete by the end of April, with some native planting to follow.

5. **Native Planting Trials**

Steve Murphy and Trecia Smith have been working with the Wellington Botanical Society to set up native plant trials on the Hutt River. The proposed trial will evaluate the potential of selected native species as erosion protection plantings. A recent meeting with Barbara Mitcalfe and Ian Atkinson, of the society, identified a total of four planting sites from aerial photos. The four sites were chosen to represent a range of conditions and will be confirmed by a joint site visit on 16 April. A range of maintenance regimes will also be tested over the five-year life of the trial.

6. **Depots**

A contract has been let to a local Otaki builder to complete the refurbishment and upgrade of the Otaki Depot. The floor slab for the new two bay garage has been poured. The new garage will be completed first, then the builder will proceed with the re-cladding and external upgrade of the existing building, and finally the interior refurbishment.

Work has also commenced on preparing a specification of requirements for a new Lower Hutt depot, now that the Mabey Road depot is likely to be sold. A key consideration for the new depot will be location both for day to day work and to ensure that we can operate effectively during a major flood event. The preferred locations are in the lower valley either at Avalon / Wingate, or in the vicinity of Belmont/Manor Park.

7. **Gravel Extraction**

A draft long-term licence for extraction from the Otaki River has been drafted and sent to Winstone Aggregates Ltd for consideration.

GEOFF DICK
Manager, Flood Protection (Operations)

**Parks and Forests
Strategy & Marketing
Manager : Susan Edwards**

Report for Period Ending 12 April 2002

1. Manager's Comments (Susan Edwards)

Anne Manley and I went to a tourism seminar on 12 April 2002. Tourism New Zealand (TNZ) ran the seminar, which covered:

- the latest trends in international tourism
- the type of tourist and the main countries they are targeting with their marketing campaign
- key issues and problems with the tourist industry in New Zealand
- the impacts of the 11 September 2001 terrorist attacks on the tourist industry.

One of the key issues TNZ raised was the quality of tourism services in New Zealand. TNZ is concerned at the increasing number of comments about the poor quality of many of New Zealand's visitor experiences and the low standard of customer service.

2. Policy Development and Planning (Anne Manley / Victoria Owen)

Parks and Forests Management Plan Reviews

March and April have been very busy months for Victoria Owen and Anne Manley working on the management plan reviews. Work has included:

- Ara Tahi and Councillor workshops
- eight reference group sessions were held dealing with recreation, environmental, heritage and commercial issues
- public telephone survey report was received
- environmental scan and trends research has been commissioned
- meetings have been held with iwi and territorial authorities.

Anne and Victoria are currently collating the information from the submissions, surveys, research, reference groups, etc, in order to come back to the Council seeking policy direction on any issues at a workshop in May 2002. They will provide Councillors with an oral update of the key issues and process for completing the draft plans by the end of the financial year, at this Landcare Committee meeting.

Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Water Collection Area Access Plan Review

Anne and the Rangers have started reviewing the Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Water Collection Area Access Plan. We are currently in Phase Two of the three-phase Plan. After each year the Plan is reviewed through the Utility Services Committee. During the review, the Committee recommends to the Council whether to proceed to the next phase and, if so, whether to amend the proposed programme.

A report will go to the Utility Services Committee in either June or July 2002.

3. Environmental Protection (Dr Philippa Crisp)

The environmental planning projects have progressed well during April. Activities of note include:

Mainland Island Presentation

Philippa Crisp gave a talk to the Council's officers Mainland Island Steering Group (including three Department of Conservation staff) on the options for mainland island sites on Council lands. She explained the work we are currently doing on forest monitoring and pest control, along with the core values and species present in each location. This information will help identify potential Mainland Islands. The Group is undertaking further investigation before reporting back to the Council.

Environmental Management System

Last financial year Parks and Forests achieved Bronze and Silver standards in the Landmark Environmental Management System (EMS) process. This year we are going for Gold. The major component of work to achieve the Gold standard is to set objectives for improving our environmental practices and plans for how we are going to achieve the objectives. Philippa has made good progress on the objectives during March. She has held workshops with all Parks and Forests staff to discuss and get their input on the proposed objectives.

Fish Surveys

Philippa has organised fish surveys in several of the streams and rivers within the parks and forests to determine what species are present. Some species are good indicators of healthy stream ecosystems. Rare giant kokopu were found in the Wainui Stream in Queen Elizabeth Park and the Gollans Stream in East Harbour Regional Park.

4. Marketing (Graham Laws)

The *Regional Outdoors Summer Events Programme* is now finished, with good attendance and positive comments being received from the visitor feedback forms distributed after each event.

We co-operated with the New Zealand Festival organisers to promote events at Queen Elizabeth Park and Tunnel Gully held in early March. Both events went off very well.

Graham Laws, Angie Gooch and Steve Edwards organised the launch of the latest *KiwiWalk* (the Swingbridge / Terrace Loop at Kaitoke Regional Park). The launch, held on Sunday 24 March, was undertaken in association with Sport Wellington, Sport and Recreation New Zealand, and Upper Hutt City Council. The launch went well, even though fewer people turned up than we expected.

A full report will be presented to the June Landcare Committee on the Programme and the marketing objectives for the year.

5. Capital Works Projects (Graham Laws)

The capital works projects are progressing well.

- The Stratton Street wool shed extension is completed and was officially opened on 22 March 2002.
- The Queen Elizabeth Park (Paekakariki) toilets are finished.
- Restoration of the Ladle Bend Bridge and the three metre bridges on the Rimutaka Incline Walkway is completed.
- Work is progressing on the Battle Hill interpretation.
- Mills Construction was the successful tenderer for the Tunnel Gully toilets. The contractor started work after Easter. Work will be completed during May 2002.

6. Environmental Enhancement Projects (Ross Jackson)

Work is progressing on all the environmental enhancement projects. Several of them are now completed. The major work remaining is on the Battle Hill Swampy Gully wetland restoration. The contractor is due to complete the work in May. A full report on this year's environmental enhancement projects will be presented to the July Landcare Committee

Ross Jackson is organising several planting days with community groups, Care Groups and schools during May and June. Ross will send a memorandum out to all Councillors through the Bulletin outlining all the proposed planting days.

A planting day will be held on 31 May 2002 at Queen Elizabeth Park in memory of the Queen Mother. The Park is named in her honour.

Council staff are co-hosting with the Department of Conservation, a restoration day for the Region's environmental groups at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park on Saturday 20 April 2002. Councillors are welcome to attend.



SUSAN EDWARDS
Manager, Parks and Forests (Strategy & Marketing)

**Parks and Forests
Operations
Manager : Bruce Andrell**

Report for Period Ending 12 April 2002

1. Manager's Comments

All work programmes are on track to be completed by the end of the financial year. A number of staff are taking annual leave (a well earned break) now the busiest period is over. The western sector team have been busy costing the flood damage repairs in Zone One of Belmont Regional Park; which will be reported at the third quarterly review.

2. Environmental Asset Management [Bruce Andrell]

2.1 Monitoring Programme

The environmental monitoring team have caught up on their monitoring programme, after the weather delays over the summer. We completed the re-measurement of the permanent vegetation plots and animal pellet lines in the Hutt Water Collection Area; measuring the tawa fruitfall plots in the Wainuiomata Water Collection Area; installed new bird monitoring lines in part of the Akatarawa Forest; and assisted the Environment Division conduct electric fishing surveys in parts of the Pakuratahi Forest and Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area.

Barbara Mitcalf and Chris Horne have completed a botanical survey covering key areas of the Wainuiomata and Orongorongo catchments. A full report of their findings is being co-ordinated by Philippa Crisp. General feedback from Chris and Barbara is that the forest understorey structure has suffered from pest animal browse.

2.2 Pest Control

Old Mans Beard control work is continuing in Belmont Regional Park. Staff have been working with Biosecurity to set-up a possum control operation in the Dry Creek block.

Scott Farrell has been busy removing gorse and heather from the sides of the Orongorongo Valley access road.

3. Western Sector [Matt Ballantine]

3.1 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

The inaugural Pauatahanui Food and Farm festival was held at Battle Hill on 17 March. Organised by the Pauatahanui Pre-school and Plimmerton Rotary Club with support from the Regional Council, the event was a fundraiser for the pre-school. Eleven hundred people enjoyed and sampled a variety of exotic foods and viewed displays and demonstrations, such as wood chopping competitions, rural fire, vintage machinery, shearing, wool spinning, Morris dancing and country music. The Wellington Cross Country Vehicle Club took 4WD trips and there were also pony rides onsite for the children.

Battle Hill is proving popular with school groups for education outside the classroom. The traditionally popular time of year is spring, but due to demand teachers have had to book ahead to have a programme run by the Park Rangers. Up to a busload of children per day have been visiting the Park to attend the programme. Battle Hill offers a wide range of environments and land uses for the children to observe within short walking distance and is free; which appeals to the teachers on a tight timeframe and limited budget.

3.2 Belmont Regional Park

Schools have started using the newly completed education facility at Stratton Street. It is also useful as a facility for the *Regional Outdoors* programme and talks to community groups, such as one given to Hutt Valley Probus recently.

The Wellington Area Horse Trail Riding Club held a successful event at Dry Creek and the Kilmister Block. The club intends returning next year and making the event bigger. Camping bookings have been popular at Dry Creek over the period with Girl Guides and Army Cadets both using the area.

Construction staff have completed refurbishment of a footbridge on the Oakleigh Street/Korokoro Dam walk and are pre-fabricating material for another footbridge to be flown into the Korokoro Valley by helicopter.

Community Liaison

There have been a number of meetings Chris Wootton has attended over the last period:

- ACTS Institute; discussing future developments of the Dry Creek entrance.
- Friends of Belmont.
- Porirua City Council to discuss maintenance and development of entry points on Porirua side of Belmont Regional Park.
- Department of Conservation officers to look at issues to do with Takapu Block land management/hand over.

3.3 Queen Elizabeth Park

Over the last month Queen Elizabeth Park has hosted several major events.

- The Festival in Park was held at the Paekakariki end of the Park. The weather was windy, overcast with frequent showers. Luckily the weather improved in the afternoon ensuring around 700 people enjoyed the afternoon's programme.
- The Kapiti Mountain Bike Adventure began and ended at the Park again this year. Several hundred riders set out for a two-day cycle around the Kapiti Region. This is a charity event run by the local Rotary Club.
- The North Island Equestrian Champs attracted over 100 riders, who participated in show jumping and cross-country events within the southern block.

The Arbor Day plantings have needed to be "released" several times this summer, due to the moist weather. All plantings have put on good growth.

3.4 Whitireia Park

The Whitireia Park Board approved the proposed possum control operation which will be implemented by the Biosecurity Department.

4. Eastern Sector [Fraser Oliver]

4.1 Akatarawa Forest

There have been 19 events in the forest during this period including:

- a fundraising enduro for the Kapiti Primary School.
- the Karapoti Classic Mountain Bike Event (with approximately 800 riders).
- a Bushcraft Course for junior members of the Kapiti Pig Hunting Club at the Orange Hut.
- 19 four wheel drive club trips.

The area has been extensively used by the Army and Police for driver training and the Police Special Operations Squad for exercises.

4.2 Kaitoke Regional Park

The Swingbridge Track was opened as a KiwiWalk by Cr Margaret Shields on 24 March 2002. KiwiWalks are part of the push-play programme set-up by Sport and Recreation New Zealand. Between 70-80 people enjoyed a leisurely stroll around the track with a barbecue to follow. Special thanks to Ranger, Steve Edwards' wife Sherry who assisted with the day in many ways.

The Upper Hutt Custom Car Club ran a trolley derby on the road leading to the Te Marua Treatment Plant. About 30 trolleys entered and a good crowd enjoyed the racing. This may become an annual event.

4.3 Wainuiomata

Ranging patrols indicate unauthorised public access is minimal.

Two catchment tours were held throughout this period, both were well attended.

This year's public hunting ballot attracted 175 applicants for the 40 positions. Hunting started at Easter and will run through to ANZAC Day (25 April).

A landscape concept plan has been produced for the Wainuiomata Recreation Area to clarify how the area is to be developed.

The first volunteer interpreter training evening was held on 27 March. A wide group of experienced people (including botanists, scientific professionals and Council staff) are involved. A detailed training resource manual was issued to everyone and a second training evening will be held on 17 April, prior to the volunteers assisting with the May and June tours.

BRUCE ANDRELL

Manager, Parks and Forests (Operations)

Landcare Support
Divisional Accountant : Murray Waititi
Report for Period Ending 12 April 2002

As at 28 February 2002:

Operating Surplus:	\$346,100
Capital Project Surplus:	\$285,800

Annual work programmes have begun again in earnest, and everything is ticking over just nicely.

The holiday season and the abnormally wet summer period have all but come to an end allowing Landcare to get on with scheduled works. Both Flood Protection and Parks and Forests are comfortable with the progress made to date on their respective work programmes, and neither are anticipating any problems delivering what was scheduled for the year.

Landcare's financial position as at 28 February 2002 is, again, pleasing.

On the accounting front, two projects of interest are currently being undertaken.

Firstly, I am implementing a corporate initiative that allows personnel to enter the time they spend on projects directly into SAP. Electronic Resource Costing will replace the current manual system that sees staff filling in resource costing sheets and forwarding them to Finance for processing. Resource costing is important to Landcare because it allows us to accurately measure the true cost of projects. The main advantage of the electronic system is that information will be available online in "real-time". Rollout should be completed by the end of April 2002.

Secondly, I am assisting Flood Protection to confirm asset values for inclusion into SAP in accordance with the new fixed asset provisions of Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 3 by 30 June 2002. FRS 3 now demands that assets represented on the Balance Sheet of an organisation reflect the current value of those assets rather than the historical cost of purchasing them. As a majority of Landcare's asset base is made up of stopbanks and landholdings that do not have "commercial" value, valuation methodologies have had to be devised in order for a reliable valuation to be reached. Following that, the rationale behind those methodologies has to be thoroughly scrutinised by qualified and experienced people to ensure their rigour. Final "sign-off" of valuation methodology is expected to given in late April 2002 in time for our 30 June 2002 deadline.

MURRAY WAITITI
Divisional Accountant, Landcare