

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

Report for Period Ending 11 August 2000

1. Waikanae River Floodplain Management [Graeme Campbell]

1.1 Waikanae – Friends of the River

The first annual meeting of the 'Friends of the River' has been organised for 30 August 2000. The meeting will formally constitute the group and elect officers under their Terms of Reference and Memorandum of Understanding, which were reported to the July Landcare Committee meeting.

1.2 Waikanae – Gravel Survey

The gravel survey analysis was completed during the period and a start made on a review of the extraction policy and its implementation. A meeting is being organised for early September 2000 for interested parties and those who submitted to the annual plan on the matter. Work on the hydraulic impacts of aggradation in the lower reaches is also under way.

2. Otaki River Floodplain Management Plan [Graeme Campbell]

2.1 Chrystalls Stopbank Upgrade [Malcolm Abernethy]

Work on land purchase negotiations continues. The plan for the Williams property is complete and was submitted to KCDC for subdivision approval. As soon as this is complete payment can be made and the purchase finalised. Negotiations with another affected landowner are still continuing.

An opening for the new stopbank and environmental planting is being organised for early October 2000; the event will be combined with a function for the completion of the flood damage projects.

2.2 Otaki – Friends of the River

As for Waikanae, a meeting to formally set up this group is planned for 31 August 2000.

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

3.1 Drafting the Plan

Flood Protection's Resource Planner Alistair Cross and Tracy Berghan from Opus International Consultants started Plan drafting in July 2000. The document format and the structure and content for all chapters are currently under preparation.

Tracy will continue Plan drafting while Alistair is away in Europe from August to mid November 2000. A draft plan will be ready for internal review by Christmas 2000.

3.2 Design Standard Implementation

The 2000/01 implementation budget provides \$424,000 for:

- progressing the Ava Railway Bridge investigations in conjunction with Tranz Rail.
- preparing Ava to Ewen Resource consent applications (including preliminary design).
- progressing the Ava to Ewen river channel realignment detailed design.

Project scoping and meetings with Tranz Rail to agree on a strategy for the Ava Railway Bridge investigations will start in August 2000. Ava to Ewen resource consent investigations and river channel realignment designs will start in October 2000.

3.3 Non-structural Measures

Officers are updating the non-structural measures developed for the Hutt Valley, based on input from internal review and suggestions from Upper Hutt and Hutt City Councils. The modified non-structural principles and outcomes will be recommended to the Advisory Committee for inclusion in the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan in December 2000.

The public will again have an opportunity to comment on the proposed non-structural measures during draft plan public consultation in May 2001 and subsequently through any District Plan change processes. The continuing development and modification of the measures reflect the flexibility recommended by the Advisory Committee in June 2000.

3.4 Environmental Strategy

Officers, assisted by consultant Clive Anstey, will present the Environmental Strategy to the Landcare Committee and Hutt City and Upper Hutt City Councils during August and September 2000. Meetings will be held with specific interest groups where appropriate. Any suggested modifications or improvements will be presented to the Landcare Committee with officers' comments. The target date for publishing the Hutt River Environmental Strategy is December 2000.

4. **Asset Management Plans [Malcolm Abernethy]**

Asset Management Plan development is being completed with particular emphasis on finalising the data management system. The plans will be sent shortly to Audit New Zealand for formal sign off. The asset valuation methodology will be confirmed and valuations peer reviewed by another regional council, before being reconciled with asset valuations held at Corporate level.

5. **Porirua Stream : Findlay Street Realignment [Malcolm Abernethy]**

Realignment of the Findlay Street reach of the Porirua Stream is scheduled for this financial year. The project is fully described in the investigation report approved by the Landcare Committee on 1 September 1998 (Report 98.239). The project has been scoped and a request for tenders from suitably qualified consultants is being finalised.

Consultation with adjacent landowners affected by the project has commenced.

6. **Wainuiomata Flood Hazard Assessment [Phillip Purves]**

Final reporting work for the Wainuiomata Flood Hazard Assessment is complete and a brief report (Report 00.593) on the Flood Hazard Assessment project is included in this order paper.

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

Written requests for information or advice attended to during June 2000, together with the 1999/00 year summary:

	<u>June</u>	<u>1999/00</u>
Requests brought forward	26	14
Additional requests received	19	228
Responses provided	24	221
Outstanding requests	21	21

The Council is currently working towards a resolution of the UHCC ProMall appeal by way of a Consent Order that will require the proposed development to achieve a flood protection standard to the 2300 cumec design flood standard for the Hutt River Floodplain Management Plan. This has been an important issue for the Flood Protection Group as it lies at the heart of the principles for non-structural measures.

8. **Manager's Comment**

A summary schedule of achievements for the 1999/00 financial year is given below. A great year overall!

- The **Flood Damage Project** capital works (Mangahanene, Stresscrete, Gas Crossing, Traceys, State Highway 1 to Maple Lane and Block Road) are substantially complete; notwithstanding further flood damage and materials supply and contract difficulties. Planting and plant hire projects were managed by Flood Protection Operations. The Boulcott land project has progressed well.
- **HRFMP Investigations** – the Draft Environmental Strategy was referred to Upper Hutt and Hutt City Councils for review and endorsement, and a good understanding achieved with both Councils on the principles for the non-structural measures. Successful public involvement programmes accompanied both components.
- **Asset Management** – the base plan and five river specific plans are complete to final draft stage, incorporating Audit New Zealand comment. The Data management system is substantially complete.
- **Wainuiomata Flood Hazard Assessment** – a demanding investigation, reports and hazard maps were completed to high standards.
- **Chrystalls Stopbank** – construction completed to programme and within budget; savings facilitated a strategic land purchase in this reach of the Otaki River.
- **Environmental Project** – a combined Chrystalls/Flood Damages planting project extended the existing Chrystalls habitat area.
- **Providing Liaison and Advice** – 221 written responses provided with at least a similar volume of telephone and informal responses.
- **District Plans** – substantial issues progressed (Upper Hutt City Council and ProMall, Wellington City Council and Porirua catchment on-site storage).
- **Upper Rahui** – edge protections completed (construction by Operations staff).
- **Friends of the River** – Waikanae and Otaki groups established.
- **Ongoing Management** – most recurring activities covered including aerial mosaics for the major rivers and 2000/01 Otaki survey preparations.
- **LTFS** – input provided as requested, and highly acceptable outcomes for flood protection resulted.
- **Waikanae Gravel Survey Analysis** – draft report complete.
- **Porirua Cross-section Survey** – completed and gravel trends analysed.

BRENDAN PAUL
Manager, Flood Protection (Strategy and Assets)

**Flood Protection
Operations
Manager : Geoff Dick**

Report for Period Ending 11 August 2000

Flood Protection Operations and Maintenance [Geoff Dick]

1. Hutt River

Flood Damage Repairs

The two remaining flood damage repair jobs, Owen Street and Avalon Berms, are still delayed by rock supply difficulties. The Wharfe Quarry, Pauatahanui is currently closed while silt discharge problems are rectified and the application for a new Land Use resource consent from Porirua City Council is heard. This quarry will be closed until at least the end of August.

An alternative rock source, the former Brownell Quarry, Palmerston North is being assessed. The rock from this source is of a generally lower quality than from the Wharfe Quarry. In addition, rock from this source would add about 15 percent onto current contract rates. A decision on rock supply will be made shortly.

Maintenance Work

The main activity over the period has been the annual planting programme. This work is now substantially complete with 6,700 willows and 1,500 natives planted. The benign weather has made for very pleasant planting this year.

Existing willow plantings adjacent to the River Road, Upper Hutt are being cut in an attempt to rejuvenate them. Booth willows, which make up a big percentage of the plantings along this reach of the river, have only a relatively short, 15 year, life if left untended.

Ongoing discussions are being held with two Totara Park residents regarding removal of encroachments from the stopbank. A firm but helpful line is being taken to get all landscaping improvements and plantings removed from the stopbank, and fences re-established on the boundary. The stopbank will then be brought back up to required standards.

Some improvement works on the berm adjacent to Block Road, Melling are currently under construction. Bollards are being placed to formalise car parking, stop some of the rubbish dumping and berm vandalism currently taking place, and to generally improve the appearance of the area.

Some scenes for the Lord of the Rings are presently being filmed at Poets Park and at the Whakatiki confluence. The filming is programmed to be completed over four days. Some minor issues over temporary restrictions of access through the film sets have arisen. However, overall, using the river berm for filming is considered to be a positive move.

2. **Kapiti Rivers**

Planting has also been the focus in Kapiti. A total of 11,750 willows have been planted in the Otaki and Waikanae Rivers, and in the Waitohu Stream. Currently a spot on the left bank of the Otaki River (opposite Stresscrete) is being assessed to see if some native planting would be an appropriate enhancement. Pukekawa Reserve in Waikanae will also be inspected shortly, in conjunction with Kapakapanui, to see what in-fill planting of existing native copses is necessary.

Staff are currently clearing weeds, etc. from around the new amenity plantings at Chrystalls Bend.

A comprehensive run to remove large logs, scoured willow trees and other flood debris from the Otaki River channel was completed. However an ‘annual’ fresh a few days later seems to have replaced as many obstructions as were removed.

The upgrade of the Waikanae River survey marks is complete. All survey marks, both on the left and right banks, are correctly labelled with brass plaques, and now have marker posts for easy future location.

3. **Water Courses**

The Korokoro Stream debris arrestor repairs are complete. The structure has been strengthened to ensure it will stand up in the design flood event.

A comprehensive walkover of the Waitohu Stream will be undertaken shortly. This will be necessary to finalise a work programme that can be recommended to landowners and interested parties alike. A series of meetings is proposed to discuss the work programme and ongoing stream management issues with residents.

The Mangaone Stream mouth was cut in the period. The work was ‘certified’ as being undertaken correctly by a number of resident ‘engineers’.

A letter was received from Porirua City Council concerned at a build up of gravel in the lower Porirua Stream. The build up has been surveyed. It is likely that some gravel will need to be removed this financial year.

4. **Work for Others**

The cage on the Pukehinau, Otaki River, gauging station is being repaired for NIWA.

Staff have commenced fabrication of a tower for the new gauging station on the Waikanae River.

5. Resource Consents

The long term operational consent application for the Wainuiomata River is currently in the consultation phase. A number of sign-offs necessary for a non-notified application were received. A meeting will be held with the Fish & Game Council to attempt to resolve a number of issues raised in their response.

The Waitohu Stream long term consent application is running behind programme. The ecological baseline study and management review reports were finalised and received. These are excellent and very valuable reports. The iwi report is yet to be received.

The proposed 15 year term of the Waitohu application is being reviewed. It is now likely that a shorter term consent, or a series of annual one-off consents, will be applied for until the comprehensive flood hazard assessment and stream management review is completed in the 2002/03 and 2003/04 years.

6. Hutt River Mouth Extraction License

Work has resumed on finalising a license to Winstone Aggregates Ltd. An initial discussion over commercial matters including the site rental and extraction fee has been held. It is hoped that a recommendation can be made to the October Landcare Committee meeting.

7. Gravel Extraction

Gravel extraction figures for the year ending 30 June 2000 are set out below. Total extraction was considerably up on 1998/99.

River	Area	Contractor	Period Year 1999/2000 (cubic metres)		Year 1998/1999 (cubic metres)
			Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	3,430	46,966	42,630
	River		927	927	2,967
Otaki	River	Winstones	Nil	27,622	15,854
	Upper Rahui	Winstones	5,320	46,350	20,454
	Lower Hughes	G Holland Hughes Farm	Nil	43,870	Nil
Waikanae	River	Holland/RV Cooper	1,484	1,484	Nil
TOTALS			11,161	167,219	81,905

8. General Comment

Overall 1999/00 was another successful year for Flood Protection (Operations). While it was disappointing not completing the Hutt River flood damage repairs due to rock supply problems, all other significant work was successfully completed. Of particular note was the huge work programme (about 2.5 times larger than normal) managed by Garry Baker and his small team.

The new year is now very much underway and, for the first time in three years, flood damage repairs do not dominate our work programme. May it remain so.

The key current task is to finalise this years work programmes, in particular to ensure they comply with the recently completed asset management plans. My aim is to get out and about with both Garry Baker and Jeff Evans in their respective areas this month as part of signing off the draft programmes.

GEOFF DICK
Manager, Flood Protection (Operations)

Regional Parks (Strategy & Marketing)

Manager : Susan Edwards

Report for Period Ending 11 August 2000

1. Manager's Comments (Susan Edwards)

This report summarises the highlights of the 1990/00 financial year and to outline the key projects the Strategy and Marketing team will be working on this year. Last year was challenging and exciting, and kept the team very busy.

Highlights

Long-term Financial Strategy

The Long-term Financial Strategy required a lot of work during the first half of the year. Everyone in Strategy and Marketing contributed through reports, undertaking presentations, preparing financial information and reviewing documents.

Asset Management Planning

During the first half of the year a large amount of work was undertaken developing the asset database and finalising the asset management costings for the review of the Long-term Financial Strategy. During the second half of the year work focussed on recording remaining information relating to the assets and their condition, and completing input of data into the asset database. Phase 3 of the Asset Management Plan was completed and reported to the Landcare Committee in July.

Marketing, Promotion and Events

During the year we reported to the Landcare Committee on the strategic direction for our marketing activities and the Committee approved an "Action Plan" for us to implement over the next three years.

We also:

- undertook a variety of advertising and public relations activities, e.g., advertising in the Upper Hutt Visitor Guide and articles in "Power Pramming";
- updated, reprinted and distributed brochures;
- updated and designed new interpretation signage, e.g., at Queen Elizabeth Park and Belmont Regional Park;
- ran several displays and events at, e.g., Hutt River Festival, Earth Day;
- prepared a promotional video to encourage filming on Council lands.

Arbor Days

Organising the six Landcare Division Arbor Day events (including the Te Marua Millennium Totara Grove planting) required a large amount of time and co-ordination. They were excellent *Community Connection* projects involving Ministers, Members of Parliament, community groups, iwi, schools and territorial authorities. We were very pleased with the outcome of the events.

Other Community Connections Projects

Ross Jackson has been working on the Battle Hill Millennium Planting project with Porirua City Council, iwi and members of the community. Ross and Chris Wootton have also been working with the Maara Roa group based at Cannons Creek, Belmont Regional Park on environmental enhancement projects. Both projects have a lot of potential to generate enthusiasm within the local communities and opportunities for partnerships between the Regional Council, Porirua City Council and the community.

State Highway Realignment Proposals

Regional Parks staff continued working on the State Highway 1, 2 and 58 upgrades affecting three Regional Parks. This work involved a significant amount of staff time attending public meetings, site visits, consultants meetings, writing comments on proposals, etc.

Filming and Concessions

We received a number of filming applications during the year. The major users have been Palana Productions for the filming of the "Ivanhoe - Dark Knight" TV series and 3 Foot 6 for the "Lord of the Rings" film. Other productions have also occurred, (e.g., The Tribe and television commercials). The areas used most frequently are Kaitoke and Belmont Regional Parks, and the Wainuiomata Recreation Area. Queen Elizabeth Park and the Akatarawa Forest were used to a lesser extent. The filming applications and other concessions, (e.g., 4WD tours in the Akatarawa Forest, Clearlight party at Tunnel Gully) have taken a significant amount of Anne Manley's time. She is becoming an excellent contract writer!

Belmont Regional Park Strategic Visioning

We completed work on the Strategic Visioning exercise for Belmont Regional Park and reported to the Landcare Committee in March. The exercise involved first principles examination of the purpose of the Park and its core values. The Strategic Vision will give a basis to react to potential threats to the Park and to take proactive steps to minimise the threats.

We also undertook a great deal of work on related issues like the Kilmister Block potential sale by Hutt City Council, the Takapu Block potential sale and gazettal of Walkways through parts of the Park.

Rewanui Bush Report

Graham Laws worked with the Wairarapa Division on a report for the Rural Services and Wairarapa and Landcare Committees relating to the possible purchase of Rewanui Bush. Subsequently Graham was asked to research and complete a further report on the origins of the Regional Parks' Land Purchase account. He spent considerable time digging through dusty old files to find the necessary information.

Regional Parks/Natural Forestry Integration

Finalising and implementing the Regional Parks/Natural Forestry integration has occupied a great deal of my time during the year. The transition from Regional Parks to Parks and Forests is proceeding relatively smoothly.

Forest Lands Review

Although a review of the Forest Lands Management Plan has been scheduled for the new financial year, we started addressing some of the outstanding issues and developing a vision for the future of the forests.

This project subsumed further work planned on access to the Wainuiomata-Orongorongo Water Collection Area. Work is currently underway on this issue with a view of reporting to the Utility Services Committee in September.

Visitor Satisfaction Survey

We undertook the annual visitor survey in February/March and reported the findings to the Landcare Committee in May. The results were positive with overall satisfaction rising from 83.5 percent in 1998/99 to 85.6 percent in 1999/00 (however the margin of error is + or - 4%).

Heritage and Conservation Plans

An inventory of heritage sites in Queen Elizabeth Park was prepared by an archaeologist to enable us to protect and manage these sites better.

A heritage architect prepared a conservation plan for the heritage features on the Rimutaka Incline Walkway. This plan gives us a basis to work from when managing and restoring the heritage features.

Akatarawa Recreational Action Committee

We have continued working with ARAC on motorised recreation in the Akatarawa Forest. ARAC undertook to re-build the Orange Hut and prepared a Safety Plan to be used as a basis for all motorised recreation events in the Forest. Our relationship with ARAC is continuing to improve, although pressure is increasing for more areas to be made available for this activity.

East Harbour Regional Park

We started working on access and land rationalisation issues at East Harbour Regional Park, and are working through options and issues with the Hutt City Council and the Department of Conservation.

KiwiWalks Launch

The Council's first *KiwiWalk* was launched at the Hutt River in association with Sport Wellington and the Hutt City Council. A second *KiwiWalk* is located at Tunnel Gully in the Pakuratahi Forest.

Whitireia Park

As part of the Long-term Financial Strategy preparation, we developed a values *Signature* for Whitireia Park, held a site visit and reported to the Landcare Committee. It was an interesting exercise and good to apply the *Signature* assessment to an area outside the Council's own land.

Review of Concessions Policy and Fees

A review of the Council's concessions policy and fees was undertaken late in the year and reported to the last Landcare Committee as a draft for public consultation.

Key Projects for 2000/01

This year will also be a big year for Strategy & Marketing. Key projects we will be focusing on include:

- implementing the Asset Management Plan;
- undertaking the capital works programme (toilets, roading and Whareroa Bridge at Queen Elizabeth Park, rail bridge restoration on the Rimutaka Incline Walkway, roading at Kaitoke Regional Park, Battle Hill workshop);
- reviewing the Forest Lands Management Plan;
- establishing the Care Groups and environmental trails for the Environmental Education and Communication Strategy;
- implementing the environmental enhancement projects in the parks and forests;
- appointing the Volunteers Co-ordinator and undertaking an orientation programme for them and the Landcare Advisor - Environmental Stewardship;
- addressing the East Harbour Regional Park access and land rationalisation issues;
- implementing the Marketing Strategy Action Plan;
- completing the review of the Concessions Policy and Fees.

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

This year the theme was “Enjoy your Parks”. A Regional Council display was established in the Wellington Cathedral, the Beehive and in the Foyer of the Council building. Stuart Macaskill and several staff attended the Conservation Awards presented by the Minister of Conservation. Three groups working with the Council received awards during the evening including Kapiti Environmental Action for their work restoring the QEP bush remnant.

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

Parks and Forests (Operations) Department

Manager: Bruce Andrell

Report for Period Ending 11 August 2000

1. Manager's Comments - Reflection on Last Financial Year

Launch of the New Uniform

The new uniform was launched and issued to all staff in the second quarter. It provides a friendlier and more approachable image, which is aligned with other environmental agencies such as DOC and Auckland Regional Parks. It also provides a more functional range of garments suitable for various weather conditions and operational requirements. To date, staff feedback has been positive with the garments proving their suitability in the field. The uniform has also been adopted by the Wairarapa Division, in particular the Biosecurity department. All credit for this project goes to the uniform development team; Kerrie Chudleigh, Blair Ewington and Thane Walls.

Integration of Natural Forestry and Regional Parks Operations

A lot of time has been spent developing and implementing the Parks and Forests (Operations) structure. The restructure consultation generated positive feedback and constructive comments. Two Senior Rangers have been appointed. One position, Maintenance Ranger was disestablished and the incumbent subsequently opted for voluntary severance after exhausting re-deployment opportunities. All other existing Natural Forestry and Regional Parks Operations staff have been confirmed in their positions within the new structure.

Community Plantings

Significant community plantings occurred in the Korokoro Valley, Belmont Regional Park and the Queen Elizabeth Park remnant bush and wetlands over the year. In particular the fencing of the Queen Elizabeth Park's wetland and planting of the remnant bush attracted positive feedback from the Kapiti Environmental Action, Forest and Bird and Kapakapanui community groups. The groups advised that prior to plantings they had started to lose interest in the park due to lack of conservation initiatives over the last decade. All plantings used genetic material, eco-sourced from the local ecological district.

Arbor Days

There was a significant increase in the number of Arbor Days during the financial year. The Rangers assisted with organising five formal events this year. The Maintenance teams spent approximately five to six weeks in total with site preparation, assisting with running the events and the follow-up work. All the events were well received by the community members involved. The Maintenance teams are currently catching up with the maintenance management activities that were deferred while working on the Arbor Day projects.

The Millennium Celebrations

The millennium New Year's Eve celebrations went smoothly in the parks and forests. The Rangers carefully vetted and briefed park visitors and campers to ensure everyone behaved appropriately and to have a good time.

Asset Management Plan Condition Assessment and Data Collection

Operations staff assisted with asset condition assessments and data collection during the financial year. This information has been put into the Asset Management Plan database to assist Strategy and Marketing achieve the asset improvement programme for the financial year. All information on the database has been checked by Rangers to ensure it is accurate and up-to-date.

Long-term Financial Strategy

The Parks Operations team contributed to refining the asset management costings for presentation to Councillors as part of the Long-term Financial Strategy. Considerable time was devoted into remodelling and costing the maintenance management programmes.

Kilmister Block

The department, in particular Chris Wootton, helped facilitate various tours and community meetings on the proposed Kilmister Block sale. Chris' effort assisted all parties become more familiar with the issues and geography of the area.

Wainuiomata Recreational Hunting Ballot

Regional Parks Operations staff assisted the Manager, Natural Forestry organise the first public recreational hunting ballot for the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Areas during the third quarter. The ballot was timed to allow recreational hunting during the 'roar'. There was strong interest in the ballot. Of the 230 applicants, 40 were successful in getting a hunting block. The Policeman supervising the ballot complimented us 'on the most professional ballot he has observed'.

Bylaws and Personal Safety Training

Regional Parks Operations staff participated in a Bylaws and Personal Safety Workshop in the third quarter. The workshop covered Council bylaws, court procedures, prosecutions, Police involvement/support and the Trespass Act 1980. The workshop was needed to ensure all operations staff are competent in their compliance and enforcement roles.

Community Connection Initiatives

All Rangers have worked to develop and enhance connections with their communities of interest and stakeholders this year. A report summarising all their initiatives and activities has been provided to the Divisional Manager Landcare.

2. Battle Hill Farm Forest Park (John Bissell)

Closed for Lambing

Battle Hill will close for lambing on 11 August and re-open on 20 October 2000. The front paddocks and bush reserve will remain open to the public during this time. Also through agreement with the farmer, the Battle Hill paddock will remain open for public use which will enable horse riders and mountain bikers to continue their recreation on the Park.

3. Belmont Regional Park (Chris Wootton)

Possum Control Operation Korokoro

The contract possum control work in the Korokoro Valley has finished. Post-operative monitoring work is underway and results will be reported to Council next month. Reduced possum numbers will certainly assist native forest and bird life in the Valley to recover to healthy levels. Overall, the possum control programme went well, with good publicity generated about the operation and reasonably good co-operation from the public.

Great Weather Encourages People to the Tops of the Hills

Good warm and calm weather has encouraged many people out and about into the Park over the past month. The weather has been ideal for walking the hilltops from Belmont Trig to Boulder Hill with many people taking advantage of the calm weather.

Korokoro Dam

Chris and Wainui Ranger - Scott Farrell met with an expert on the history of dams in New Zealand who is keen on promoting dams with special engineering or historical significance. He provided a wealth of detail on the construction of the Morton Dam (Wainuiomata) and Korokoro Dam (Belmont Regional Park). An article on the dams will be produced for *Elements*.

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

New Signs Improve Public Access Opportunities at Pencarrow Lakes

Directional signs have been installed between the two Pencarrow Lakes. These signs help guide people on an inland walk across farmland between the two lakes. The walk offers an alternative inland route for people to follow and help raise awareness of public access opportunities on the Lakes Block.

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

Karapoti Gorge Area

Upper Hutt City Council wants to retain management control of the Karapoti Gorge access road to McGhie's Bridge, in the Akatarawa Forest. The original recommendation by the planning tribunal was to vest the land to the Regional Council as part of the Akatarawa block. Dean has identified several safety concerns to Upper Hutt City that may affect recreational access. They will assess the areas in question.

Pizza Anyone?

It is good to see there are still people with a sense of humour using the 'back blocks'. Someone has installed a screen printed sign to warn people they are leaving the delivery area for Pizza Hut! The sign is positioned roughly halfway between Upper Hutt and Paraparaumu, approximately ten kilometres from the nearest tar-sealed road.

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

Arbor Day Preparations

Arbor Day preparations for 2001 have started early for the children at Plateau School. Matt helped all 150 pupils pot up a variety of native seedlings in July. The plants will be planted at Kaitoke by the children at next year's Arbor Day. The idea is to give the children a 'hands-on' approach and continual input into the conservation of their environment and local Park.

Public Planting Day

A public planting day took place Saturday, 5 August, to coincide with Conservation Week. The venue for the project was Benges Flat at the Te Marua end of Kaitoke Regional Park. For sometime now, the flats have been identified as an area for revegetation. Over 1,000 locally sourced plants were planted, including Kahikatea and totara which are dominant in nearby bush remnants.

7. Wainuiomata Water Collection Area (Scott Farrell)

New Quad Aids Boundary Patrolling

A new ATV allows Rangers to access some of the more difficult terrain previously off limits to standard 4WD utilities. The ATV will assist patrolling the northern boundary, which has generally been patrolled on foot to date. It will also be useful for numerous smaller jobs around the catchment and recreation area e.g. forest monitoring and track maintenance.

New Signs Enhance Track

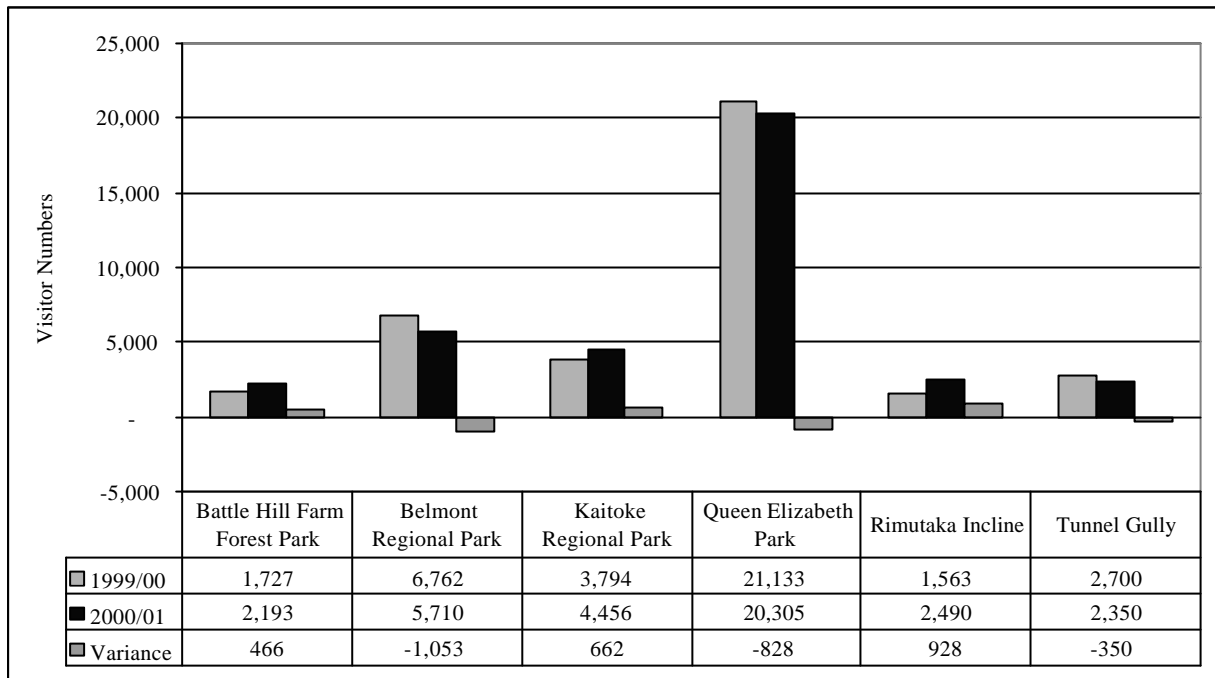
The chances of losing your way in the Wainuiomata recreation area are pretty slim now that new signage has been installed on the popular Gums Loop Track. Ten route marking signs, kindly made by local Wainuiomata resident and ex Regional Parks Senior Ranger John Clay, give walkers a better sense of direction. It's an easy one hour return walk, ideal for young families, with the added advantage of having a number of great picnic stops along the way. The track name refers to the large number of eucalyptus on route and is nothing to do with wearing rubber boots to cross the river; there are bridges in place for that.

8. Visitor Numbers

See visitor information attached.

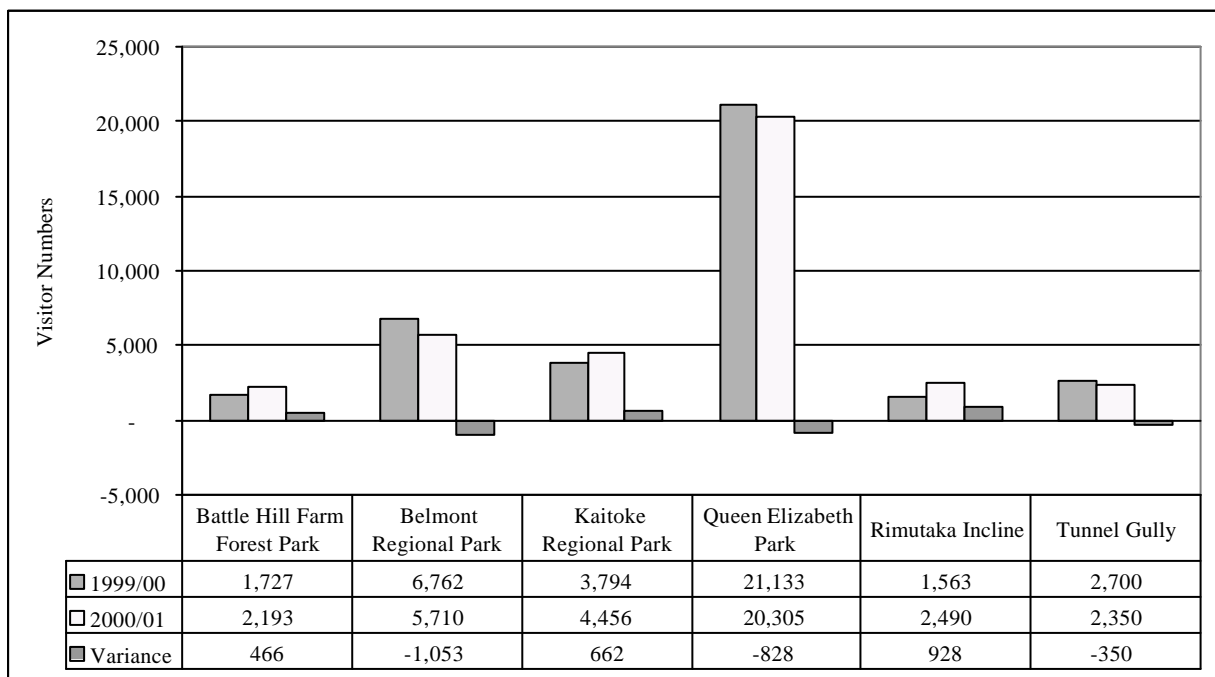
BRUCE ANDRELL
Manager, Parks and Forests (Operations)

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



Park use remained relatively the same compared with last year's figures. The counters at Oakleigh Street (Belmont Regional Park) and Paekakariki (Queen Elizabeth Park) have been damaged and will be fixed in time for August reporting. This explains why the numbers are down in these two areas.

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



Korokoro Valley,
Belmont Regional
Park

June 2000 stuck!

Korokoro Dam plaque
rediscovered,

June 2000

NE WATERWOR
THIS STONE WAS LAID
BY HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR
RICH? MOTHEs, EsqRE
COUNCILLORS:
ALEX FRASER, JAMES WILSON
JOHN C.A.CASTLE, WMG.LODDER
DR LO. PERRY, E.C.PRIEST
THOMAS PRICE. JOHN W.MCLEWEN

Natural Forestry Department
Manager : Geoff Cameron
Report for Period Ending 11 August 2000

Review of Achievements 1999/00 Financial Year

This report summarises the work done by the Natural Forestry Department during the 1999/00 financial year. It was an exciting and challenging year for staff, and a number of significant milestones were achieved.

1. Environmental Asset Management Plan

Continued development of the Environmental Asset Management Plan:

- Integrated the document into the Parks and Forests AMP as Volume 4.
- The Committee noted the change from a Forest Working Plan format to Environmental Asset Management Plan (99.383).
- The Committee noted that Volume 4 will substitute for a Forest Working Plan in Natural Forest areas (00.491).

2. Rural Fire District

- The Wellington Regional Council Rural Fire District was disestablished (99.561 and 00.495), by decision of the National Rural Fire Officer.
- The Council remains committed to the protection of its environmental assets against fire and will enter into contractual relationships with rural fire authorities to achieve this.
- Arranged for a review of Council's rural fire insurance liabilities following the disestablishment.

3. Ecosystem Management

- The definition of appropriate levels of service, and the development of a suite of suitable techniques for ecosystem monitoring (99.667 and 00.401).
- Involvement in a Sustainable Management Fund project which produced a booklet on "Native Forest Monitoring".

- Completed the remeasurement of NVS plots in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection area, with the data audited by Landcare Research.
- Enhanced the level of protection for the endangered species *Brachyglottis kirkii* found in the Akatarawa Forest.
- Completed the new seasons emergent rata canopy photography to detect any change in canopy conditions.

4. **Animal Pest Management**

- Set up a possum population monitoring programme to begin three years after each possum control operation.
- Carried out possum control operations by:
 - aerial techniques: Wainuiomata/Orongorongo (99.459) - 7,500 ha
Akatarawa Saddle/Kaitoke Regional Park - 2,000 ha
 - ground based techniques - Belmont Regional Park - 400 ha
- Carried out control operations against deer, goats and pigs by:
 - short-term contract in the Hutt Gorge and Kaitoke Regional Park
 - recreational hunting in Wainuiomata/Orongorongo

5. **Pest Plant Management**

- Developed a draft strategy for discussion amongst Landcare staff and Biosecurity Department.
- Continued with a control programme against Old Man's Beard in the Bridge Road - Totara Park area of the Akatarawa Forest.
- Continued with control programmes against a number of other pest plants such as *Tradescantia*, *blackberry*, *pampas*, *buddleia*, *wattle* and *boneseed* at Queen Elizabeth Park, Kaitoke Regional Park, Akatarawa and Pakuratahi Forests.

6. **Ecosystem Protection**

- Continued active membership of the Forest Health Research Collaborative (00.402).
- Commissioned a new format forest health survey with a more robust technical basis, and organised the first survey under a new contract with Forest Research Limited. Reported the findings to Committee (00.483).

- Contributed to rural fire preparedness during the Millennium celebrations.
- Set-up and implemented a three stage fire training programme for Parks and Forests staff, including the ability for staff to be assessed against NZQA modules.
- Arranged for an external auditor to ensure that documented systems are in place for the detection, notification and control of fire, insect or fungal attack. The Report concluded that we do have a range of systems and operating plans in place to help protect our natural forests from such agencies.

7. **Community Connections**

- Assisted the East Harbour Environmental Association with a number of projects in their MIRA site behind Eastbourne. The construction of a 20 metre x 20 metre enclosure plot will graphically demonstrate the effect of animals on the vegetation.
- Set-up a *Tradescantia* control trial at Te Marua bush.
- Assisted with KNE scoring at Cannons Creek.

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