

Flood Protection Manager's report for period ending 27 June 2003

1. Manager's comments

Year end – some initial thoughts

The 2002/03 financial year has just drawn to a close and we will shortly be preparing our year end quarterly report. My initial thoughts are that the year was a mixed bag, some good things and some disappointments.

In the Hutt River we progressed the Belmont improvements ahead of schedule, got the Hutt River ranger service underway and completed a very comprehensive maintenance programme. Unfortunately all this good work is over shadowed by the delay in the Strand Park realignment works.

Similarly, in Kapiti, the Otaki River mouth enhancement project got off to a great start, major progress was made with the flood hazard review and we completed another section of the edge improvements in the lower Otaki River. However, longer than expected consultation processes have delayed construction of the Otaihangā Domain floodwall.

Progress with implementing the three floodplain management plans will be reported to the Committee in August, along with the annual asset maintenance report.

Staff

It is with some regret (particularly so soon after we finally got to full complement!) that I advise of the resignations from the Department of our two planners Trecia Smith and Al Cross. However the good news is that both are staying with Council.

Trecia is joining the Parks and Forests team to assist with the review of the park management plans. Al has landed the position of Account Manager with Consents Management. I wish them both well with their new roles.

2. Waikanae River floodplain management [Graeme Campbell]

2.1 Friends of the Waikanae River

The Friends AGM meeting was held on 18 June 2003 with 30 people present. The Chairman presented a very comprehensive annual report of the Friends activities, the focus being on the planting and restoration projects supported by the Care funding.

Nine community representatives were elected to the executive committee at the AGM, adding to the Greater Wellington, Kapiti Coast District Council and Iwi appointees. Cr Turver attended and handed over a letter of thanks from the Council to the outgoing Chairman, John Topliff, for all of the outstanding work he has undertaken.

The new executive met on 25 June 2003 and elected Ferial Falconer as the new Chairperson and Claudia Duncan as the Secretary.

3. Otaki River floodplain management [Graeme Campbell]

3.1 Friends of the Otaki River

A meeting of the Otaki Friends was held on 11 June 2003. No specific issues arose that required separate attention by Greater Wellington. The flood hazard mapping review project was discussed at the meeting.

3.2 Flood hazard mapping

Further responses have been received following a mail out of the revised flood hazard maps by the Kapiti Coast District Council. In response to the strong public interest a public meeting was held in Otaki on 27 June 2003 to outline the basis of the hazard map review with 300 members of the public attending.

The key issues raised at the meeting can be summarised as follows:

1. The Otaki community believes the Regional Council is over-reporting the flood risk in the Otaki township. Their perception is based on the fact that the town has not flooded since the early 1930's and their belief that all the flood improvement works completed since then should have reduced the risk even further.
2. The Otaki community believes that we have shifted the goal posts. They are concerned that the overall flood risk to the township has not been significantly reduced, even though we have completed the Chrystall's realignment and stopbank improvements, which has always been believed as the key to protecting the town.
3. The Otaki community wants construction of the Chrystall's extended stopbank brought forward to remove the direct flood risk to the town.

The meeting however, ended on a positive note with most people spoken to by the meeting Chairperson voicing their appreciation for the time taken by GWRC to attend the meeting. They now feel better informed of the issues.

The closing date for submissions was extended at the meeting to 11 July 2003. We will start evaluating and responding to the submissions after that date. We will also be considering the wider issues raised at the Otaki meeting.

4. Hutt River floodplain management [Daya Atapattu]

4.1 Ava to Ewen project

The key issue for this project is the delay to construction of the Strand Park river realignment because purchase of the Strand Park land is not yet complete. At the 26 June 2003 meeting, the Advisory Committee considered the land transfer delays and resolved to send a delegation to meet with the Minister of Education to seek the Minister's assistance in expediting the land transfer. The Chair of the Advisory Committee together with the Mayor of Hutt City Council and Chair of Greater Wellington Regional Council will make up the delegation. We are in the process of arranging a meeting.

At present the agreement with Ministry and Education (MOE) and Hutt Valley High School (HVHS) assumes that we will continue to follow the present process, where land will go through the Maori protection mechanism. The agreement documents are currently with MOE and HVHS for execution. Once returned they will be ready for execution by Council, which once forwarded to the MOE accredited agent will start the disposal process.

Provided the disposal process is commenced shortly we should know by January 2004 whether the land can be transferred to the Council. A favourable decision will allow us to appoint a contractor by the current target date of 28 February 2004. However if the commencement of the disposal process is held up by difficulties getting an appointment with the Minister of Education then some further delay could occur.

Hutt City Council has prepared a draft of the agreement that sets out the responsibilities of Greater Wellington and Hutt City Council for the proposed Opahu Stream Pumping. The agreement covers capital improvements, asset ownership and stream management. We are currently reviewing the draft. We expect to seek Landcare Committee approval of this agreement in August 2004.

4.2 Belmont improvements

Overall we are ahead of schedule with the planning of proposed flood and erosion protection improvements at Belmont.

The necessary consent application for the edge protection works was lodged on 27 May 2003 and submissions close on 8 July 2003. We expect a decision by September 2003. We will start preparing tender documents in July 2004 and expect to appoint a contractor in September/October 2003. Construction is programmed for summer 2004 with planting to follow in the autumn.

Preliminary design of the Norfolk Street stopbank is complete. We expect to also complete construction of this improvement over the coming summer. A resource consent is not required for this job.

4.3 Port Road improvements

The existing edge protections at Port Road (below Estuary Bridge) are in a poor state of repair and need improvement.

The existing edge works, constructed of demolition concrete, were placed to protect the Seaview reclamation. The need to ultimately replace the demolition concrete with rock rip-rap is identified in the Hutt River floodplain management plan, but the priority for capital funding of this work is low. However, in places the risks to Port Road are such that some immediate work is required. Accordingly, \$30,000 per year has been incorporated into the Hutt River maintenance budget to gradually effect repairs in the Estuary Bridge to Waiwhetu Stream outlet section.

Hutt City Council also wants the strip of riverbank adjacent to Port Road upgraded as an important step to substantially improve the overall environment of the Seaview area. Hutt City Council made a submission to Council's annual plan stressing the importance of finding a way of progressing with these improvements.

In response to the submission a joint project team has been set up with Hutt City officers, with an initial meeting held on 12 June 2003. At that meeting it was agreed to develop a long-term development plan for the eastern Hutt River banks. The aim is to present this plan to the Advisory Committee in October 2003.

4.4 Implementing non-structural measures

Developing draft provisions for the Upper Hutt City Council and Hutt City Council district plans progressed well during the 2002/03 financial year (see Report 03.334 to 26 June 2003 Hutt River Advisory Committee meeting).

Preparing draft provisions for the Upper Hutt City Council plan is expected to be complete by mid July 2003. Hutt City Council officers have identified possible amendments to those provisions in their district plan where land use has the potential to be influenced by the Hutt River. Hutt City Council and Upper Hutt City Council will determine the appropriate way of implementing these proposed changes. We will assist the two city councils in preparing materials for these changes.

Five emergency management projects were completed and presented to the Hutt River Advisory Committee on 26 June 2003. Six projects are planned for the 2003/04 financial year.

We provided input for preparing a general 'flood hazard' fact sheet produced by the Resource Policy department. We expect to produce a Hutt River flood hazard sheet in the 2003/04 financial year.

5. Porirua Stream

5.1 Findlay Street

Next month we will prepare a work plan to try and bring the status of this project to a conclusion, and follow up on the submission from Wellington City Council. In the interim we are aiming to tenant the currently unoccupied 44 Findlay Street house. We need to spend about \$8,000 to get the house in an acceptable condition, but this cost will be more than offset by the rental income.

6. Planning and development services [Phillip Purves]

The following summarises the formal, written requests for information or advice attended to during May and June 2003:

	May and June 2003	2002/03	2001/02
Requests brought forward	23	13	5
Additional requests received	31	179	141
Responses provided	25	163	133
Outstanding requests	29	29	13

As shown in the table there was a significant increase in requests this year.

We have received a large number of telephone enquiries from property owners affected by the revised Kapiti flood hazard maps. In turn we have provided many people with an explanation of the hazard, and useful background information to assist them with their formal comments where relevant. These contacts with landowners have also provided the Flood Protection Department with early feedback on a range of issues and concerns related to the revised flood hazard. The feedback has in turn assisted in determining and/or confirming areas for additional investigation prior to finalising the maps. The Kapiti Coast District Council extended the period for comments by two weeks, to 11 July 2003 at the public meeting in Otaki on 23 June 2003.

Preliminary discussions have been held with the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences (GNS) as part of an initial look at developing a database of flood hazard information that can be used by territorial authorities. GNS is proposing to link the flood hazard information with the Quotable Value database so that the information is available on an individual property basis. The Upper Hutt City Council has agreed to its District being used for a pilot study and the Flood Protection Department has been asked to assist with the provision of appropriate flood hazard information.

6.1 Waitohu flood hazard assessment

Work on the hydraulic modelling component of this project is a little behind schedule and will continue into 2003/04. However, all the other component packages programmed for 2002/03 are essentially complete. This includes the project scope, cross section survey, hydrology review and a review of records on past stream management and flood events.

7. Operations

7.1 Wellington [Jeff Evans]

Hutt River

We have now obtained the full schedule of maintenance rock programmed for the Hutt River. The majority of the rock was purchased from the Linton Quarry in Palmerston North.

The old Kennel Club buildings on Harcourt Werry Drive have been demolished. The lease held by the German Shepherd Dog Club expired on 31 May 2003 and a decision was made not to renew it.

We have started landscaping the old Whakatiki shingle plant site in Upper Hutt. This work will be undertaken over several years as funds permit. A new car parking area will be formed and local school groups will be involved in native planting days on the site in the coming months.

Staff have been busy preparing areas for the upcoming planting season. Most of the planting stock will be sourced from nurseries, but larger willow poles will mostly be cut from our own riverside stands of trees.

Hutt River trail

Maintenance work for this period has been typical of the season, consisting of trimming and removing fallen trees from the trail, and the maintenance of seats and signs in conjunction with Rotary.

Hutt River ranging service

Patrols are continuing. The weekends, even in the winter months, continue to be busy with people using the river for walking, running and picnicking.

A prison crew from Rimutaka Prison has been used to prune willow under-growth at Melling. This is part of a trial to open up views across the river and increase public safety.

New 'recycle your rubbish' signs are to be installed at high usage areas of the river. Greater Wellington's policy on litter along the river is to take it home and recycle.

A Hutt River poster is being developed and is in the design stage with a local graphic artist. Stickers and posters are to be used as promotional tools for school groups and the general public.

Watercourses

Stream clearing runs are currently underway in Hulls Creek and the Waiwhetu Stream. We are also giving advice to landowners, and monitoring areas of erosion, along the Wainuiomata River and the Catchpool Stream following flood damage caused by the storm event on 9 June 2003.

Work for other departments

Work has been completed on the Waikanae recorder and a new site gauge has been installed on the UWA3 underground water site at Seaview.

7.2 Kapiti [Garry Baker]

Otaki River

The berm adjacent to the extended toe-rock line at Stresscrete was levelled and top-soiled, ready for sowing to grass within the next two weeks. We are also gearing up for the annual winter willow planting aimed at thickening and improving the buffer zones along the river.

Waikanae River

Log barriers and lockable steel-piped gates were installed at the end of Greenaway Road to exclude vehicles from traversing the river during the summer periods. This job is part of a larger project to enhance the river end of Greenaway Road, and tidy up the eastern end of Pukekawa Reserve. We have received a number of favourable comments from the public on the work just completed.

Watercourses

The annual Waitohu Stream clearing run was completed during the period.

7.3 Operations support [Steve Murphy]

Waiwhetu Stream – flooding

The storm event on the night of 9 June 2003 caused the Waiwhetu to overtop its channel and flood the usual areas beside the stream. No water entered any houses, but a number of sections were inundated at Heather Grove, Rossiter Avenue, Hayward Terrace and Gracefield.

Steve Murphy visited the Hayward Terrace area the day after the flood and spoke to Mr Pell, one of the property owners who is affected by flooding from the Waiwhetu and is lobbying Council for protection. The recent work clearing the restrictive growth from the berm below their properties was very beneficial according to Mr Pell. He felt that the work had prevented water entering his garage.

Steve also met with Mrs Halkett who lives in the same area and presented a submission to Council's annual plan hearings. Her main concern is that a LIM obtained on her property before she purchased mentioned nothing about flooding. We are following this up with Hutt City Council.

Estuary Bridge walkway, Hutt River trail

Construction of the walkway under the eastern end of the Estuary Bridge is underway. The walkway will enable users of the river trail to avoid the dangerous crossing of Waione Street.

Asset management

We have started the work required to prepare the annual asset maintenance report. This report will be presented to the Landcare Committee later in the year.

Gravel extraction

Gravel extraction figures to the end of June 2003 are set out below. Overall the total extraction was up on last year, mostly in the lower Otaki and Waikanae Rivers.

			Period Year 2002/2003 (cubic metres)		Year 2001/2002 (cubic metres)
River	Area	Contractor	Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	2646	37,128	35,238
	River	Horokiwi	3674	13,367	22,680
Otaki	River	Winstones	5584	54,004	36,250
Waikanae	Above Greenaway Road	Various	0	7,472	4,295
	Below Greenaway Road	Various	570	2,617	
TOTALS			12,474	114,588	98,463

Geoff Dick
Manager, Flood Protection

Parks and Forests Manager's report for period ending 27 June 2003

1. Manager's comments [Murray Waititi]

1.1 Installation of truss bridge

As the 2002/03 year draws to a close, a highlight has to be the recent installation of the truss bridge over the Pakuratahi River at Kaitoke Regional Park. The installation was reported in the Dominion Post and Upper Hutt Leader and was witnessed by a group of very proud workers from Greater Wellington and the bridge's manufacturers. The track linking the bridge to the Rivendell site is all but complete, and will be officially opened along with the bridge in spring.

1.2 Staffing

I would like to introduce a few new staff that have started, or about to start with Parks and Forests over the past couple of months:

- Annabel Riley; Landscape Architect, comes to us from the Department of Conservation
- Trecia Smith; an Environmental Planner from Flood Protection joins our planning and policy team to help Victoria tackle the management plans and other policy and planning duties
- Rob Craven, Dean Scott and Colin Knapp have joined our assistant ranger team.

2. Planning and policy [Dr Philippa Crisp]

2.1 Draft Regional Parks Network Management Plan

We have been considering issues raised in the 412 submissions on the plan, assessing potential changes to the plan and developing draft responses to the issues raised for consideration by Councillors. A report is included in this order paper.

2.2 Capital works projects [Graham Laws]

2.2.1 Kaitoke toilets construction progressing

The power, telephone, water supply and sewage disposal field are completed for the toilets and ranger's office on the upper terrace at Kaitoke. The contractor has completed the foundations and flooring and is currently erecting the rest of the structure. Construction should be complete by the time this meeting convenes.

2.2.2 Tenders called for Queen Elizabeth Park toilets

Architects have completed working drawings for toilets at Whareroa beach (4 cubicle) and MacKays Crossing (6 cubicle including 2 disabled access), Queen Elizabeth Park. We have applied for archaeological, building and resource consents and called tenders for the work.

2.2.3 Rimutaka Rail Trail works proceeding

Contractors have fabricated the footbridge for the Munitions Bend Bridge. We have received archaeological, building and resource consents for the bridge and for the car park at the Kaitoke entrance. Pipes have been ordered for the culvert extension and the contractor expects to commence work this month.

3. Marketing and Design [Amanda Cox]

3.1 Park signs

Staff erected all but two of the new interpretation signs at Battle Hill, so they were in place for the Arbor Day event held there on 13 June. We have received some very good feedback from staff and park users.

Staff have commented that the new interpretation boards put up around the Park are already proving a hit. A lot of people like to come out to the Park and wander quietly around soaking up the peace and quiet. The interpretative trail gives them the opportunity to wander from site to site and read about what we are doing in the area. The directional signs have also been painted in Greater blue. The colour stands out well and looks good.

We will conduct a formal review once the interpretation project is complete.

We have proceeded further than we planned with our park entrance signs this financial year. Signs for our high profile sites at MacKays Crossing, Dry Creek and Te Marua were re-furbished and replaced in May. The end of June saw refurbished entrance signs at Raumati South (Queen Elizabeth Park), Stratton Street and Cornish Street (Belmont Regional Park), Waterworks Road (Kaitoke Regional Park) and the Rimutaka Rail Trail (Pakuratahi Forest).

3.2 Arbor Day

We were delighted with the success of our Arbor Day celebrations this year. The first, at Queen Elizabeth Park looked doubtful as teeming rain and strong southerlies threatened to cancel the event. Fortunately the combination of rousing 'navy talk' from Captain Langer of the US Embassy, and a karakia from the Te Ra school children drove away the rain and brought out the sun for a windy but enjoyable planting.

Arbor Day at Battle Hill was a complete weather contrast. We were very pleased to welcome Winnie Laban, MP for Mana, the Mayor of Porirua, Jenny Brash, and Aka Arthur of Ngati Toa Rangitira (who also addressed us at the Queen Elizabeth Park event). Councillor Shields entertained the crowd with her parallels between our special guests and the local birds, and John Bissell (the Ranger at Battle Hill) had the children enthralled as he explained farm etiquette and the order of the day. Around 400 plants went in the ground, which will make an enormous improvement to the new wetland area in years to come.

3.3 Millennium totara grove planting

Councillor Hugh Barr, along with retiring General Manager Howard Stone planted a totara tree each at the Te Marua totara grove in late June. This continues a tradition started in 2000 where all Councillors had a commemorative totara planted in their honour. Unfortunately Councillor Aitken was unable to attend the planting so we will arrange for her tree to be planted at a later date. The Millennium Planting project will develop a totara grove to recognise service to the region given by past, present and future Greater Wellington Regional Councillors.

We have also made other areas available for planting by the community, special contributors, supporters and visitors. Howard Stone planted his tree in one of those areas alongside one planted by David Bellamy.

On 23 July, Greater Wellington Regional Council, Upper Hutt Forest and Bird, staff and colleagues will plant totara in memory of former Council employee Conrad Pharazyn. Conrad was a highly regarded landscape architect who had a big influence on the establishment of the Regional Park network. Forest and Bird are to donate the 1.5 metre high trees, which they have grown in their local nursery.

3.4 Friends of Belmont Regional Park

Approximately 50 people attended the second AGM of the Friends of Belmont Regional Park, featuring a presentation on wind farms. Victoria Owen spoke of the Park planning aspects, Murray Kennedy on the wind farm proposal for Belmont Regional Park, and Boyden Evans of Boffa Miskell spoke of landscape and visual impacts. The major concern of the Friends group seemed to be the threat of the Park being subdivided by roads as a result of the proposal.

The second AGM also highlighted the progress of the now incorporated Friends of Belmont in a relatively short period. They have established mechanisms for gauging the views of members and forming a united view to present to the Council. They advocate independently on key issues, promote the Park and have run their first event. Through their learning and experience they will be a valuable reference group in future development of the Park.

3.5 Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park

The first meeting of the Establishment Group is planned for the evening of Wednesday 2 July. Invitations were sent to all those who have expressed interest, both at the initial meeting and through apologies. Greater Wellington will support the establishment process through independent facilitator Derek Wilshire, which we expect to take around six months.

3.6 Friends of Maara Roa

The Friends of Maara Roa together with Porirua City Council held an Arbor Day planting on the edge of the restoration area which was burnt by arsonists. We have arranged for a contractor to cut and clear some of the burnt area, and will organise additional plants to assist the Friends group as they set about repairing the damage.

4. Environmental asset management [Dr Philippa Crisp]

4.1 Kaitoke goat control operation

A professional goat hunting operation was completed around the Kaitoke weir during May. Hunters worked in the lower Hutt catchment and on one side of the gorge in Kaitoke Regional Park. They culled 42 goats, 5 deer and 7 pigs. Five goats were also caught, fitted with tracking collars and released back into the area to act as Judas goats.

4.2 Queen Elizabeth Park weed control

A major weed control operation was completed at the northern wetland in Queen Elizabeth Park. Willow, Japanese honeysuckle and blackberry at the front of the wetland were removed by machinery and the cleared site will be planted with native vegetation. This manuka wetland is now looking in much better condition. Pest plant control will be ongoing in the area to protect the wetland from blackberry and Japanese honeysuckle re-invasion.

4.3 Rodent and mustelid monitoring

The first large-scale monitoring of rodents and mustelids in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo water catchment area has been completed during May. Staff and volunteers travelled through difficult terrain baiting the tracking tunnels and collecting the inked cards over a period of five days. Forty five percent of the tracking tunnels contained rat prints during the one night that the tunnels (200 tunnels) were baited with peanut butter. One tunnel also had stoat prints.

The tunnels were then baited with rabbit meat and left for three nights to assess mustelid abundance. Two tunnels were found to contain stoat prints during this time. Seventy percent of the 104 tunnels baited with rabbit meat had rat tracking! There appears to be a great deal of rat activity in the Wainuiomata catchment. Ideally this monitoring should be completed four times a year to assess seasonal fluctuations in rodent/mustelid abundance.

4.4 Hutt catchment 1080 operation

The energy crisis appears to be over and the Hutt catchment operation is on again. Both the feed and toxic bait will now be purchased and the feed bait will be sown as soon as possible. Public notification advertisements will be placed in the newspapers at least two weeks before the toxic bait is sown.

4.5 Akatarawa fish passage

The construction of the fish passage at a ford in the Akatarawa Forest has now been completed. The ford was lowered by 1.4m and rock rip-rap installed in the streambed below the ford. A concrete slab has been placed at the new ford level, as requested by Transpower.

5. Western sector [Matt Ballantine]

5.1 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

5.1.1 New arrivals at Battle Hill

There is a feeling of spring already in the area due to the arrival of seven chicks down at the chook house. The chicks roam through the Park and are proving a real hit with visiting children.

The chooks have settled in well now and the crowing of roosters give the Park a real 'farm feel.' It hasn't done much for ranger John Bissell's sleep though as one rooster insists on getting an early start every day at 4am! During full moons the rooster has the habit of carrying on through the night.

5.1.2 Events held

Guardians of the Inlet in partnership with Greater Wellington ran a Grow Safe course at Battle Hill for small farm owners, Wellington Harriers held a cross country training day and the local Pony Club held five very successful training days.

5.2 Belmont Regional Park

5.2.1 Rough weather batters Park

Some storm damage including two large Macracarpa trees felled by the wind occurred during a southerly storm in early June. Staff and contractors have cleared tracks following this storm. Most damage occurred in the Korokoro Valley. All bridge structures were checked and confirmed safe following the storm.

Construction of the Cannons Creek Bridge is well under way. The remoteness of the site and some wet interludes have slowed construction, but the assistant rangers are showing fortitude in getting the work done under somewhat trying conditions!

5.2.2 Pauatahanui Inlet restoration

Consultants on behalf of Porirua City Council are undertaking a study to look at issues affecting the inlet from Whitby and Duck Creek. The upper Duck Creek catchment lies within Waitangirua Farm, which is private land within Belmont Regional Park. Other issues raised at the meeting included possible future recreation links between the Park and the inlet.

5.3 Queen Elizabeth Park

5.3.1 Improvements to beach access

A hard surface beach access track has been constructed near the surf club. This new track links the playground recreation area to the Surf Club and the beach.

We are also in the process of marking designated beach access points with 'beach access' marker posts. These markers are to encourage the public to use specific points to gain access to the beach. It is evident that uncontrolled access is increasing the rate of coastal erosion.

5.3.2 Dune protection

The coastal dune fencing at the Surf Club has been extended and a large area of dune is now protected from foot traffic. In the areas that were previously fenced the resulting re-growth of coastal plant species is having a positive effect on sand dune stability.

Various sites along the coastal strip have been mulched and planted with native coastal plants. The twig mulch that we are using will suppress weeds and retain the moisture increasing the plants chance of survival in the harsh coastal conditions.

5.3.3 Harakeke cultivation and harvesting site

The rangers recently met with a group of Paekakariki weavers as a first step in establishing a Harakeke 'flax' cultivation and harvesting site. There were two options discussed. These were either to source an established collection of weaving varieties from outside the region or develop a Kapiti collection by taking cuttings from local plants. The latter being the preferred option.

5.3.4 Local groups active in the Park

Kapiti Environmental Action and Forest and Bird have once again been actively involved in the protection of the Kahikatea remnant bush. This year's planting day concentrated on completing the buffer zone planting.

5.4 Whitireia Park

Staff attended a workshop at the golf club to discuss current and future issues regarding golf course development. The club wants to develop an 18-hole course from its current nine holes.

The club agreed to provide a concept plan and approach the Whitireia Park Board for approval for future earthworks and hole construction.

6. Eastern sector [Fraser Oliver]

6.1 Akatarawa/Pakuratahi Forest

6.1.1 Maintenance of access tracks and roads

The main priority at this time of year is to control water run off on access tracks in preparation for winter. Clearing and reforming watertables, clearing culverts and installing cut off drains is progressing well throughout the block.

Metalling is in progress on several access roads and walking tracks within the Akatarawa block, Tunnel Gully and Rimutaka Rail Trail. Metalling is also in progress along the top ridgeline section of the Cannon Point walkway.

Ongoing co-ordination with prison inmates has assisted Greater Wellington to perform a wide range of tasks in various parks and forests. These have included vegetation control on walking tracks, track formation work in Kaitoke Regional Park, track metalling at Cannon Point walkway, clearing autumn debris from watertables and culverts on the Rimutaka Incline walkway and removal of gorse, fern and blackberry for environmental plantings at Silverstream Railway Centre.

A short tour of the Pakuratahi Forest and Kaitoke Regional Park was given to a Russian delegation hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

6.1.2 Events held

Featherston Family 4X4 Club family day trip held in the Akatarawa Forest was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Eastern Hills 4 Wheel Drive Club had a family day event in the Akatarawa Forest.

Two separate events held by the New Zealand Military Camp for cross-country activities in the Akatarawa Forest.

6.2 Kaitoke Regional Park

6.2.1 Maintenance

Native plant restoration of the Pakuratahi riverside plantings continues using youths referred by the police for community service.

6.2.2 Events held

A planting releasing day was held with members of the Wellington Botanical Society at Te Marua bush.

6.3 Wainuiomata

6.3.1 Ranging services

Two tours were held during the May/June period. Masterton Tramping Club and Wairarapa Forest and Bird together with YHA New Zealand visited the Wainuiomata Catchment on 18 May. A public/non club (reserved for individuals) tour was held on 15 June catering for 60 visitors. Due to forecasted poor weather only 28 participants undertook the walk.

Using the Prohunt helicopter ranger staff were transported to known remote 'wilding pine' sites. Four mature radiata pines were felled on steep screes above the main Orongorongo valley. Staff have now removed almost all wilding pines on Greater Wellington land in the Orongorongo catchment.



Murray Waititi
Manager, Parks and Forests