

# **Flood Protection Manager's report for period ending 12 March 2004**

## **1. Manager's comments**

### **1.1 February Storms**

The February flood events are having a big impact on our work programmes, and are still dominating much of the Department's efforts. However we consider ourselves lucky on this side of the hill, as apart from the lower Hutt Valley and in Wainuiomata we escaped the worst of the February 15/16 storm. Nevertheless the storm has caused considerable extra work, including:

- The clean up work required in the Wainuiomata River, Porirua Stream and Wellington watercourses in general.
- The damage assessment, re-juggling of work programmes and then getting through the work.
- Responding to a large number of calls from the public wanting some assistance or advice with flooding or erosion related problems.
- Debriefing on our flood response.

February's wet weather has also caused delays to our capital work programmes on all three major rivers, and held up the Hutt River cross-section survey.

### **1.2 Wainuiomata Community Board**

I have been invited to meet with the Wainuiomata Community Board to discuss flooding issues. The invite was sent just before the major February 15/16 storm that hit particularly hard in Wainuiomata. The invite is an opportunity to explain to the Board what flood work Greater Wellington does in the valley and listen to any suggestions or concerns the Board may have.

## **2. Waikanae River floodplain management [Graeme Campbell]**

### **2.1 Friends of the Waikanae River**

There are no matters to report at present.

### **2.2 Otaihangā floodwall**

The Contractor has completed fabrication of the precast panels and is now ready to start on site. The start date for construction on site has been delayed several times due to the wet weather over the last month.

### **2.3 Jim Cooke realignment**

Design of the river realignment has commenced. We plan to prepare alignment plans for the full reach from the Maple Lane down to Greenaway Road. The construction budget is only for the Jim Cooke Park section but completing the preliminary design work for the whole reach will simplify the design of future maintenance and capital works.

We have met with KCDC staff and clarified their position regarding water storage options adjacent to the Waikanae River. We are now able to commence land access negotiations with the one major landowner affected by the works and will do this over the next month.

We have also started discussions with Transpower regarding moving their remaining pylon from the river corridor. This work is not essential to progress the realignment project but will assist with the overall plan implementation.

### **3. Otaki River floodplain management [Graeme Campbell]**

#### **3.1 Friends of the Otaki River**

The open day at Chrystalls Lagoon has been postponed and no new date has been set. The group will however hold a working bee on that day, 20 March, to spread mulch around the existing native plantings.

#### **3.2 Flood hazard mapping**

The flood maps for the Kapiti Coast have now been revised following the comments received during consultation with the affected landowners. Endorsement of these maps will now be sought from the Committee before forwarding them to KCDC.

#### **3.3 Rock protection works**

Delivery of rock rip-rap for construction of 100m of new rock wall extending downstream from the existing Chrystalls Bend works is underway with 1600 tonnes of rock delivered to date. Delivery is behind schedule because of some grading issues and as a result of the recent floods in the Manawatu. Repair work there is taking priority over our work. We are considering an extension of time to accommodate the delay resulting from the Manawatu flood emergency.

#### **3.4 Rangiora floodgates**

The new Rangiora floodgates were stolen some time in the week ending 29 February 2004. The theft was discovered during a routine inspection following a heavy rainfall forecast. A member of the public, following a local news item about the thief, advised police of the likely location of the gates. The gates were recovered by GW staff from a local scrap metal merchant following the advice from police and are now being repaired by the manufacturer. The gates were made of aluminium and had a scrap value of \$570.

### **4. Hutt River floodplain management [Daya Atapattu]**

#### **4.1 Ava to Ewen project**

Cashmore Contracting Ltd, the contractor for the Strand Park River realignment, has arrived on site and is currently constructing the viewing platform near the Ewen Bridge.

Cashmores are also aiming to start constructing the 120 metre rock lining on the eastern side of Ava Bridge in April 2004. Rock delivery to site will start before the end of March 2004. All work in the river bed will cease by 31 May 2004 before the trout spawning season begins. The major river diversion will begin in September 2004.

An information sheet outlining the contractors programme was distributed to the adjoining residents and stakeholders during the first week of March 2004.

Design of the new Opahu Stream Pump Station has commenced. We are currently reviewing a pump station design concept prepared by Truebridge Callendar Beach Ltd, consultants to Hutt City Council.

#### **4.2 Belmont improvements**

Cashmore Contracting Ltd had completed about 50% of the Belmont edge protections by January 2004. However February's wet weather has held up the contract works, now about one-month behind programme. At this stage, we expect to be completed by 31 May 2004.

Construction of the Norfolk Street stopbank has also been delayed by the bad weather. The Mabey Road team who will construct this work is now engaged in urgent flood damage repairs. We now expect to commence construction by the end of March 2004. This work will take about three weeks to complete.

We have ordered close to 4000 native plants for environmental enhancement works at Belmont. We aim to carry out as much of the planting as possible using community volunteers. Some community groups and Advisory Committee members have already expressed an interest in helping with this planting to be carried out from June to August 2004.

#### **4.3 Whirinaki Crescent stopbank upgrade**

We have now sent drawings showing the proposed upgrade options to the major landowners (Upper Hutt City Council, Wellington Golf Club and Silverstream College Board of Proprietors) for further feedback.

#### **4.4 Port Road improvements**

Hutt City Council Consultants, Urban Perspectives is developing a landscape design concept for the reach from the Estuary Bridge to the river mouth. Urban Perspectives made a presentation to the Advisory Committee on 26 February 2004. This design has to be endorsed by the Hutt City Council before we start refining the edge protection design. We now only expect to finalise the design for our edge protection works by June 2004. No construction will be done during this financial year.

#### **4.5 Hutt River bed level survey**

The unexpected February rains have caused 3 weeks delay to the survey. Connell Wagner Ltd had completed about 40% of survey work before the rains. We expect to complete the field survey work by the end of April 2004.

#### **4.6 Implementing non-structural Measures**

GWRC consultant, Tracy Berghan has completed a draft Section 32 analysis for the proposed district plan changes. Hutt City Council officers are currently reviewing this report. We expect to finalise the Section 32 report by the end of March 2004.

Work on producing the Hutt River flooding hazard fact sheet has progressed well. A draft fact sheet was presented to the Hutt River Advisory Committee on 26 February 2004. The fact sheet will be published in April 2004. Reasonable progress is being made on the six emergency management projects, managed by Emergency Management officers of the three city councils.

## 5. Planning and development services [Phillip Purves]

The following summarises the formal, written requests for information or advice attended to during January and February 2004:

	Jan/Feb 2004	YTD
Requests brought forward	14	29
Additional requests received	16	75
Responses provided	7	81
Outstanding requests	23	23

The flood hazard map for the Mangaone Stream has been amended for the area upstream of the State Highway in response to a number of submissions from landowners in this area. A more appropriate recognition of the modelling uncertainty in this relatively small magnitude flood flow catchment is now proposed for the provision of flood hazard advice and the subsequent planning and building controls.

The February floods have increased both the number and complexity of landowner enquiries and thus increased the response time for formal requests.

The lower Wainuiomata River valley flooding was reasonably significant and levels taken since the event will be used to check the current flood model predictions. The 2000 model for the Wainuiomata River has already been useful for providing flood level advice and suitable building location advice on recent subdivision proposals in the area. Not all advice regarding the this flood hazard has been completely followed to date, but it is hoped that the recent flooding will lead to a greater awareness of the hazard and an increased desire to heed the advice given by Greater Wellington.

## 6. Investigations [Phillip Purves]

### 6.1 Waiwhetu Stream hydrology review

A review of the hydrology of the Waiwhetu Stream has been commissioned, as an initial step towards updating the flood hazard mapping for this watercourse (the original flood hazard identification was carried out as part of the Waiwhetu Stream Management Plan during 1996/97). The last review of the stream hydrology was undertaken in 1996, as a precursor to the stream management plan, but it was subsequently recognised that a further review would be needed to better relate actual flood flows to the design flows.

Greater Wellington's Resource Investigations Department was commissioned on 12 February 2004 to carry out the hydrological review and this was just getting underway when the significant flood event of 15-16 February occurred in the Waiwhetu Stream catchment. This rainfall event will provide valuable additional information for the hydrological review and the extent of the flooding will provide very useful calibration data for the hydraulic analysis that is planned to follow the hydrological review.

### 6.2 Waitohu Flood Hazard Assessment

The consultation programme is proceeding in accord with the revised process that was reported to the Committee at its last meeting. The technical investigations remain on-track for completion by 30 June, though the hydraulic modelling component is now being further

refined following the inclusion of some very useful calibration data from the February flooding.

## **7. Operations**

### **7.1 Wellington [Jeff Evans]**

#### **Hutt River**

With the unseasonable weather over the last period, staff have been kept busy removing fallen trees from the river berms, waterways, and generally clearing up after the high winds. The storm of the 16<sup>th</sup> of February caused havoc in many of our watercourses and rivers. The clean up will be ongoing for many months yet, and is covered separately in the flood damage report.

Some spraying of fence lines has been undertaken, but it has been patchy due to the weather.

We have now completed the survey sight line clearing work through to the top end of the Te Marua Golf Club.

Staff have also been kept busy assisting with the Belmont contract, and preparatory work has now started on the new Norfolk Street Stopbank.

#### **Hutt River Trail**

The river trail has suffered flood damage, but mainly through the Taita Gorge area, which is very low lying. Prices are currently being sought to repair the damage and re-metal some of the worst affected areas of the track.

#### **Hutt River ranging service**

A month of unseasonable weather culminating in the floods has affected the usage of the river with visitor numbers down on last year. A family cycle event, which took place on the river trail attracted over 500 entrants and proved to be a resounding success.

A new pedestrian / cycle chicane was installed at the Silverstream amenity area, replacing an ageing stile. Mowing pads have been installed around some of the Rotary signs. Some spraying has been undertaken around car parks and bollards, and around native planting areas.

#### **Watercourses**

Refer to the flood damage report.

#### **Work for other departments**

Staff finished the fabrication of the Air Quality hut, a larger job than first thought. It has now been installed on the corner of Vivian Street and Victoria Street in Wellington.

The damaged hatch on the Waikanae recorder, which was designed to keep people off the platform, has now been repaired.

## 7.2 Kapiti [Garry Baker]

Both the Otaki and Waikanae rivers missed the worst of the effects of the major 15/16 February storm. However, the very unsettled February weather caused a series of small flood events, the largest being of about 5-year return period. This has resulted in a number of erosion areas that will require repair to ensure the integrity of both major river systems. The damages are covered in more detail in the separate February 2004 flood report.

### Otaki River

Routine maintenance activities carried out included:

- Overseeing the rock deliveries for both the Capex rock wall extension, and maintenance top-ups.
- Spraying of noxious plants on islands and beaches throughout the length of the river.
- Stripping of further silts and vegetation off Mangahanene Island in preparation for extraction and channel widening.

### Waikanae River

An emergency repair of an erosion bay by the old pylon foundations upstream of Jim Cooke Park was completed. The erosion was the result of the February flooding.

Extraction from the lower river will recommence during March.

### Watercourses

Numerous tree blockages have been cleared from the Waitohu Stream from below Convent Road Bridge down to the Camping Ground.

The Swamp Road Drain on the Mangaone Stream was machine-cleared, and a number of tree blockages and excess gravel build-ups were removed from the Mangaone Stream.

## 7.3 Operations Support [Steve Murphy]

Steve Murphy spent most of the 16th February in the Waiwhetu area, helping people out as well as observing and recording useful information which will help our understanding of the stream. The human aspect and its affect on people's lives and property was distressing, particularly for the elderly. Steve met several people who seemed almost stunned into inaction when their property was affected.

### Hayward Terrace Flooding

It was particularly revealing to observe the Hayward Terrace area which has been a focus for our attention recently. The Hayward Terrace area was extensively flooded with water entering some dwellings and numerous garages. Steve visited one resident early on the day by climbing along back fences, and was invited inside to see precious possessions floating in 300mm of dirty water in his lounge.

The results of an investigation into improving flood protection to the lower end of Hayward Terrace was presented to the local residents just prior to Christmas. The report concluded that a small side stream passing through the area will largely negate the benefits of any

stopbank. Two residents expressed doubt about the conclusions in the report and have asked for further clarification.

Ironically the stopbank requested by the residents would not have protected them from flooding on the 16th February, because it would have been quickly overtopped. Understandingly, the residents are now more concerned than ever to see improvements to their protection.

#### Waiwhetu Stream – weed clearance

A wet February and raised water levels in the stream have hampered our contractor Excell Limited, to manually control weed growth in the stream. Nevertheless, the inability to get in the stream has encouraged a novel approach to clearing the weed. They have developed a cutting bar which is dragged along the bed of the stream by a person on each bank. The technique is still in development but has the promise of being effective and inexpensive.

#### Requests for assistance

The floods of 16 February have resulted in numerous requests for advice and assistance, generally from rural landowners, and usually because of concern about erosion. Small block holders in particular are sensitive to any loss of land and are generally very appreciative of any advice that Greater Wellington can provide. It is interesting and challenging work which enhances Council's reputation in the community. The contact also provides an opportunity to discuss other watercourse issues with the landowner and promote the fencing and planting of streams generally. Opportunities exist for linking an owners request for erosion prevention with the Environment Division's riparian programme.

Significant erosion issues also exist in the Porirua stream. As much of this area is urban or semi urban there is often an expectation that Greater Wellington must fix the problem. I expect the issue to remain a challenging one.

#### Mowing contract

Tenders were recently sought for the grassmowing of river berms and stopbanks in the Hutt Valley and Porirua. The tenders were publicly advertised in early February, with three tenders received. Tenders are currently being evaluated and the contract will be awarded shortly.

## Gravel extraction

Gravel extraction figures to the end of February 2004 are set out below.

River	Area	Contractor	Period Year 2003/2004 (cubic metres)		Year 2002/2003 (cubic metres)
			Period	Year	Full Year
Hutt	Estuary	Winstones	6,972	27,048	40,362
	River	Horokiwi	0	9,426	13,364
Otaki	River	Winstones	352	11,298	54,004
Waikanae	Above Greenaway Road	Various	0	0	7,472
	Below Greenaway Road	Various	0	950	2,617
<b>TOTALS</b>			<b>7,324</b>	<b>48,722</b>	<b>117,819</b>

**Geoff Dick**  
Manager, Flood Protection



## **Parks and Forests Manager's report for period ending 12 March 2004**

### **1. Manager's comments [Murray Waititi]**

This period has been dominated by storm damage caused in February by heavy rain and strong southerly and northerly winds. As a result, we have spent a lot of the last month doing clean-up work in the Parks and rescheduling our regular maintenance programme to accommodate the urgent work. A report on the damage caused and the action we have taken to date is included in this order paper (see report 04.142).

### **2. Planning and policy [Dr Philippa Crisp]**

#### **2.1 Capital works projects [Graham Laws]**

New MacKays Crossing toilets progressing

The contractor is continuing work on the new toilet block at MacKays Crossing, Queen Elizabeth Park. This toilet block is due for completion in May.

#### **2.2 Asset management**

East Harbour assets reviewed

We have surveyed the tracks and bridges at East Harbour Regional Park and added them to our database. In addition we have begun a programme of upgrading Northern Block structures to meet minimum safety standards.

#### **2.3 Planning and policy**

Natural materials permit system

Parks and Forests have recently instigated the use of a permit system for the removal of natural materials in the parks and forests, i.e. flora, fauna, rocks, etc. The permits have now been classified as high or low impact, depending on the amount or type of material that is requested. Those applying for high impact permits include nurseries and researchers (who often wish to take samples of rarer plants or insects in order to study them). Our Environmental Technician processes the high impact applications, which are then approved by the Manager, Parks and Forests. Iwi are also being consulted during this process. The new system should provide us with better information about natural material removal and aid Rangers in their ability to police such activities.

South Coast Coastal Trail

An initial meeting between Terawhiti Station representatives and Councillors and officers from both Wellington City and Greater Wellington was followed by a field trip in late January. Since that time, a letter has been sent to the Terawhiti owners, summarising the outcomes of the field trip. Greater Wellington officers have continued to liaise with the owners and Wellington City Council officers to progress the feasibility study.

### **3. Marketing and design [Amanda Cox]**

#### **3.1 Information boards and brochures**

##### **Kaitoke Regional Park**

New information panels have been erected in the Park and look great. The Water Group has confirmed that they will also contribute towards new signs at Pakuratahi, the Keith Spry lookout and Te Marua.

##### **Wainuiomata**

Currently there are no information panels at the Wainuiomata Recreation Area. To remedy this we are currently preparing an information panel (which includes a map) for the new kiosk near the Triangle Paddock car park.

##### **East Harbour**

The lack of adequate signage in the northern block has been seen to be a contributing factor to a number of search and rescue callouts over the years. Following discussions with the police we have decided to remedy the situation. Consequently, we are developing 20 new map boards to be placed at the various entrances and at key junctions in the area. Park signs and map boards for the southern block are planned over the next two financial years.

##### **Queen Elizabeth Park**

New maps have been designed for the information kiosks at Paekakariki, MacKays Crossing and Raumati South. We are finalising the wording and receiving quotes for the work.

##### **Brochures**

We have completed the draft brochures for the Hutt River Trail, Kaitoke Regional Park, the general parks and the walking brochures, and are finalising the photographs for each. We expect to see these brochures moving into production over the next month.

#### **3.2 Events**

We have had some very good anecdotal and survey feedback from the Regional Outdoors Programme. People are commenting on the range of events and enjoying the new ones such as the Have-a-go Horse riding, for which an extra session is to be held for both adults and children. Many events have been completely booked out or very busy. Around 70 vehicles (approximately 230 people) attended the three trips with the Back Country Akatarawa event on 14 February, the day before the major February storm. Other events, e.g. mountain biking discovery at Belmont Regional Park were booked out (20 riders) and Kaitoke Water Walk (30 people), assisted by extra press releases and better timing than last year.

Bad weather or its consequences have affected several events. The Horse Trail ride at Belmont has been postponed to the end of March due to storm damage while “Paws in the Park” at Tunnel Gully had to be cancelled due to a dangerous level of scouring of the abutments to the bridge at the entrance.

### 3.3 Volunteer co-ordination

#### Friends of Belmont Regional Park

The Friends are currently looking at projects to pursue, and as they regard education on the Park as very important they plan to develop a series of brochures. The first will recount the history of the Old Coach Road. They intend to make the brochure available on March 13 as the friends are leading a walk as part of the Regional Outdoors programme. They will then develop a series on various subjects including:

- vegetation and ecology
- birds and wildlife
- geology.

These brochures will probably be an A4 sheet (folded) with the Park logo and the words “produced by the Friends of BRP with support from GWRC”.

#### Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park

On 18 February, 125 people attended the first Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park at Paekakariki Surf Club. The meeting was to approve the Terms of Reference developed by the establishment Group and to elect a committee.

Chairperson Margaret Shields spoke to the meeting. It was also attended by GW Councillors Laidlaw and Turver along with KCDC Councillors Spiers, Tristram and Ellis.

The meeting got off to a lively start with debate about the pre-meeting publicity, with several people feeling that there had not been enough. A Kapiti Observer report of the meeting did note that as 125 were at the meeting with a further 25 apologies the pre-meeting publicity can't have been too bad!

A lot of tension existed due to the presence of pro- and anti-motorsport factions, but by the end the meeting finished well with 18 nominees being elected to the new committee. The first meeting of the committee will be held in March to elect a chairperson and secretary. Officers will continue to help facilitate the formation of the group until it is up and running, then gradually take an advisory and support role. This is a similar process to that used with other Landcare Friends groups. It is important at this stage that we continue to support and encourage the group to ensure that the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park group operates successfully in the longer term.

#### Environmental enhancement projects

We are in the early stages of developing a Parks and Forests calendar of planting events for the autumn to spring period. Plantings occupy a significant amount of staff and ranger time in planning and implementation. They also represent a good opportunity to invite park visitors to become more involved in environmental projects.

## Environmental Restoration Network Field Day

Staff are working with DOC's Wellington Conservancy to stage this 4<sup>th</sup> annual field day on Saturday 8 May. Celebrating the work of volunteer restoration groups in the Wellington region, it includes a series of workshops and lectures and provides participants with very good opportunities for networking. This year the event is being held at the Wallaceville Research Station and the keynote speaker is well known ecologist Dr Ian Atkinson.

### 3.4 Landscape Architect Projects

#### Battle Hill Farm Forest Park

We have developed a plan for a viewing platform, gravel paths and native trees for one of the wetland ponds at Battle Hill. The platform will enhance the wetland setting for both school groups and casual visitors. The platform will be approximately 6x4 metres, with a small level change between two sections. We are now applying for resource consent, and construction is expected to start in April.

## 4. Environmental asset management [Dr Philippa Crisp]

### 4.1 Animal Control Operations

Professional hunters have been culling goats in the parks and forests since mid-February. Twelve goats were killed in Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Collection Area, while the current tally for Kaitoke Regional Park is 17 goats shot over two days. More work is to be completed in March, including culling in a new area in the Akatarawa Forest. There have been reports of goat numbers building up around Mount Wainui. A number of bad slips have also developed recently in the area (during the Paekakariki storm episode) and there is a need to get goat numbers down to minimise the browsing of any natural regeneration that is re-establishing on these slips.

### 4.2 Plant control operations

Pest plants controlled in the parks and forests include:

- Japanese honeysuckle, montbretia, broom, buddleia, tradescantia, willow, wongawonga vine and ivy in the Wainuiomata recreation area
- Alder, buddleia, tradescantia, selaginella, Montpellier broom and holly in the Akatarawa Forest
- Old man's beard, pampas, buddleia and elaeagnus in Pakuratahi Forest.

### 4.3 Monitoring

#### General

The stormy weather has delayed scheduled monitoring activities. Jaap Knegtman, the Environmental Ranger, has recorded the current location of the dunes in Queen Elizabeth Park by way-point marking the dune edge using GPS. These locations have now been entered into the GIS and will serve as a reference for recording future erosion extent in the park. Owen Spearpoint has assessed and recorded the health of a newly discovered rare red-flowered mistletoe plant in Kaitoke Regional Park.

## Pest plant surveys

A major survey of pest plants in the northern block in East Harbour Regional Park is underway. Two contractors are completing a grid search of the area and mapping the locations of any pest plant infestations found. A recent helicopter survey in the Mount Climie area resulted in buddleia plants being located. These new infestations can now be controlled before they are able to seed into the area and invade pristine sites.

## Wetlands monitoring

Parks and Forests are assisting Environment Division in developing an inventory of the region's wetlands. The extent and condition of each wetland is being recorded for the Wetland Action Plan and Owen Spearpoint has been completing this work on lands managed by Parks and Forests. Wetlands in Akatarawa Forest, East Harbour Regional Park, Pakuratahi Forest and Wainuiomata/Orongorongo water collection area have already been surveyed and assessed.

## Moss survey in Wainuiomata/Orongorongo water collection area

Peter Beveridge, a moss expert, who works with Te Papa, has been surveying the moss flora of the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo water collection area. He had recorded 150 species at the last count.

## **5. Western sector [Matt Ballantine]**

### **5.1 Battle Hill Farm Forest Park**

#### Pest control work continues

A number of night shoots for rabbits, hares and possums have been carried out due to large numbers of possums coming out onto the farmland from the forest. Trapping is accounting for good numbers as well. Trap lines that run up into the forest show that the possums are keeping close to the pasture areas. This has been brought about by the tremendous growing season and the quality of the pasture.

#### Events prove popular

Events held so far have been the ever-popular Sunset tour, which was blessed with fine weather but cursed with fallen trees. The participants took it all in their stride as part of four wheel driving and were rewarded with some great hilltop views. The Have-a-go horse riding was also a hit and all who participated had a great time and got to grips with the basics of horse riding.

A number of horse events have also been run and the numbers are certainly up this year. The local Pony Club has gone from an average attendance of 16 horses per training day last year to 35 to 40 this year.

### **5.2 Belmont Regional Park**

#### Dance event at Dry Creek

Inner Eye Productions held a dance event at Dry Creek. The venue for this dance party was enthusiastically "raved about" by participants. An ideal venue for such an event and we hope to see this become a regular occurrence held at Dry Creek.

## Mountain biking

Over twenty children and adults learnt about the basics of mountain bike riding. They rode a valley floor course before heading off to tackle the purpose built Danzig Mountain Bike Trail. Hutt Valley Mountain Bike Club assisted on the day with riding demonstrations, bike maintenance and safety tips.

## Takapu track officially opened

The new Takapu track from Takapu Road to Cannons Creek was opened on 29 February. The opening was attended by over seventy participants including local dignitaries, iwi, walkers and general park users. The day was hosted by GWRC and the Friends of Maara Roa.

### **5.3 Queen Elizabeth Park**

#### A bumper growing season

Releasing of native vegetation plantings in the Park has occupied a lot of staff time due to the exceptional growth of both plants and weeds this summer. Staff have also been busy in the nursery potting up plants in preparation for this winters planting season.

#### Events held

As part of the Regional Outdoors Programme, QEP has hosted events including the US Marines' History walk, which attracted about 70 people, and the festive 'Whopper Chopper' with its crafts, fun rides and musical entertainment. Both were successful events despite average weather. We are hoping to see good numbers at the remaining events during March. There are two events to go, the guided Marine Bird Walk and Horse Trail Ride.

### **5.4 Hutt River**

A combined Hutt City Council, Upper Hutt City Council, Greater Wellington family cycle event was held late January. The River Trail from Harcourt Park in Upper Hutt to Hikoikoi Reserve at Petone was used as the route. It was a very successful day with 540 cycles of various designs participating.

## **6. Eastern sector [Fraser Oliver]**

### **6.1 Pakuratahi Forest**

#### Improved entrance to Tunnel Gully

Recent work in Tunnel Gully definitely improves the visual aspect when entering the reserve area. The installation of the new car park has now been completed and the bollarding to prevent vehicle access to the grassed areas has also been completed. Top soiling of the two lower terraces in the reserve has been completed and will be grassed in autumn.

### Deerstalkers' rifle range

The unauthorised use of the deerstalkers' range by the general public has caused concern for the deerstalkers management committee. We have been liaising frequently with deerstalkers on this subject and it appears at this stage that they may well be willing to live with the situation if we can assist with some maintenance to the range on a monthly basis. We have suggested the use of the inmates from Rimutaka Prison, and await confirmation from the management committee on this solution. Several members of the committee think this may be sufficient. We will keep you posted

### Big Coast Mountain Bike Ride

We held the annual Big Coast Mountain Bike Ride this month. This involved approximately 1100 participants and was a two-day event of which the first day involves use of both the Tunnel Gully Reserve and Rimutaka Incline walkway areas. Fortunately the weather was reasonable on the first day and the event proceeded smoothly throughout our areas. Unfortunately a storm on the second day necessitated the cancellation of the final day. The event was cancelled at the campsite on the Western Lakes Road, meaning competitors did not have to attempt the coastal section.

**Murray Waititi**  
**Manager, Parks and Forests**

## Landcare Support, Divisional Accountant's report for period ending 12 March 2004

As shown in the financial summary statement below, Landcare's operating surplus is significantly ahead of budget for the 8 months (\$611,000 or 41%).

<b>Landcare Division</b>					
<b>Financial Summary Statement</b>					
<b>For the 8 months ending 29 February 2004</b>					
<b>\$000</b>					
	<b>Year to Date</b>			<b>Full Year</b>	<b>Full Year</b>
	<b>Actual</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Variance</b>	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Forecast</b>
External Revenue	9,245	9,199	47 F	13,862	13,915
Internal Revenue	637	716	(80) U	1,075	1,052
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>9,882</b>	<b>9,915</b>	<b>(33) U</b>	<b>14,937</b>	<b>14,967</b>
Direct Expenditure	5,376	5,882	506 F	9,087	9,206
Indirect Expenditure	2,423	2,560	137 F	3,877	3,735
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE</b>	<b>7,799</b>	<b>8,443</b>	<b>643 F</b>	<b>12,964</b>	<b>12,941</b>
<b>OPERATING SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>	<b>2,083</b>	<b>1,472</b>	<b>611 F</b>	<b>1,973</b>	<b>2,025</b>
Net Asset Acquisitions	501	381	(120) U	612	608
Capital Projects	782	920	138 F	2,335	2,326

### Direct expenditure

Direct expenditure has a favourable year to date variance of \$506,000 or 8.6%. The key drivers of the variance are:

- The commencement dates of some major rock edge protection jobs have been pushed back due to earlier rock shortages.
- Savings relating to personnel vacancies that have been applied to other projects have not yet been spent. These are programmed to occur by 30 June.
- We have put a deliberate hold on all but safety-related maintenance in East Harbour Regional Park until the land swap with Hutt City Council is finalised. It is likely work will not be completed this year and will need rebudgeting to 2004/05.
- The unusual summer weather we have been experiencing is creating delays in some of the pest animal and plant control operations.



For the December 2003 forecast, we indicated that direct expenditure would be overspent by \$119,000 (although this would be partially offset by savings in other areas and increased revenue). This was on the assumption that all of our work programmes for the balance of the year would continue as planned. However, impacts of the flood damage, rock supply delays, continuing bad weather and delays around the Hutt City Council land swap may now alter this forecast position. We will be in a better position to indicate the predicted year end position after the third quarter end.

### **Indirect expenditure**

The indirect expenditure variance is now remaining fairly stable at around \$140,000. We have forecast that this favourable variance will remain at year-end.

### **Net asset acquisitions**

The main contributor to the unfavourable \$120,000 variance in net asset acquisitions is the earlier than planned purchase of Strand Park. This will disappear by year-end.

### **Capital projects**

The majority of the \$138,000 favourable year to date variance is the result of the decision that has been made to delay anything other than safety related works in East Harbour Regional Park.

**Tina Walker**  
Divisional Accountant, Landcare