



# HAZARDS UPDATE NEWSLETTER

## May 2004

### Current Projects

#### Internet Portal

Want to know what natural hazard information there is in the Region, and how to get it? The internet portal of natural hazard information may be the solution.

The background work for the internet portal has now been completed. The records that were collected from agencies throughout the Wellington Region have now been entered into a searchable database. The database has been both internally and externally tested and we have had some great feedback.

We are now waiting on the launch of Greater Wellington's new look website to launch our site. We will let you know with a marketing campaign when it is up and running.

#### Fact Sheets

There are two more fact sheets on the go. *Flooding Hazard – Kapiti* talks about the flooding hazard from the Otaki and Waikanae Rivers, and also the role of small streams and storm water drains in localised flooding. There is also a small case study on the Paekakariki event on October of last year. *Natural and human-made hazards* will act as an overview fact sheet to introduce our series. It explains what natural and human-made hazards actually are, and what we can do about them.

#### CDEM Group Plan

The draft Strategic part of the CDEM Group Plan has been completed and is available for viewing on the CDEM Group website ([www.wrcdemg.govt.nz](http://www.wrcdemg.govt.nz)). Any feedback on the draft strategic part would be appreciated. Feedback can be directed to the Plan Project

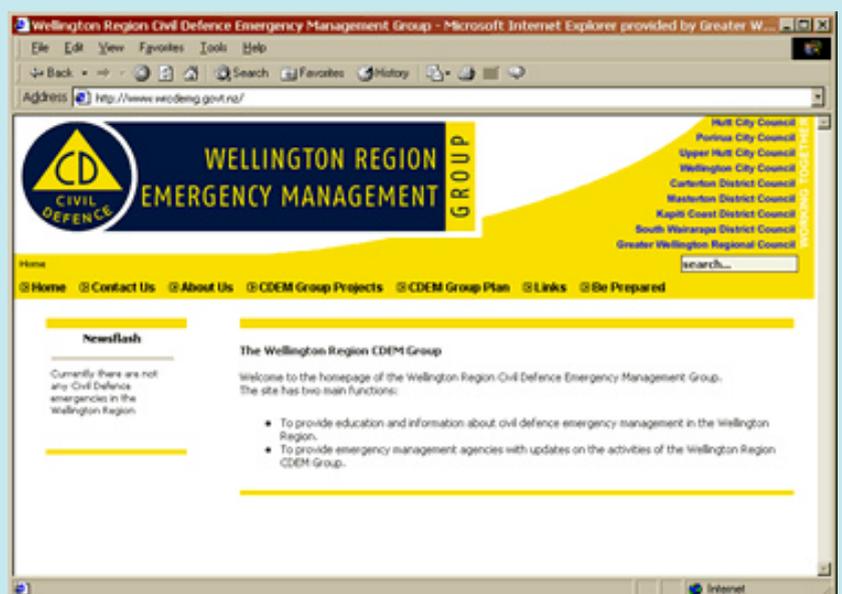
Manager Debbie Cunningham on [debbie.cunningham@gw.govt.nz](mailto:debbie.cunningham@gw.govt.nz) or 04 381 7742.

The focus of Plan development is now the operational part of the Plan. The operational part will define roles and responsibilities during response and recovery. Many workshops and small group meetings are planned to allow all each agency that plays a part in an emergency to contribute to the Plan.

#### CDEM Group Website

The CDEM Group has a new logo and now a website. Check out: [www.wrcdemg.govt.nz](http://www.wrcdemg.govt.nz)

The website will be useful for emergency management agencies to keep up to date with progress on CDEM Group projects and the CDEM Group Plan. The website also has public information about being prepared for emergencies, and links to other emergency management agencies. The content of the website will be developed over time as it becomes more widely used.



Front page of the new website

## Recent Reports and Publications

### Fact Sheets

Do you want to know more about flooding in the Hutt Valley or coastal hazards in the Wairarapa? We have recently written two fact sheets on these issues. *Flooding Hazard – Hutt Valley* discusses the role of the Hutt River and small streams in creating a flood hazard for the Hutt Valley communities. It talks about what we are doing to manage the flood hazard, and gives some advice on how to live with this hazard. Copies are available on our website, or by calling Rylee Petterson on 04 801 1031 or [rylee.petterson@gw.govt.nz](mailto:rylee.petterson@gw.govt.nz)

*Coastal Hazards in the Wairarapa* has been recently added to our hazard fact sheet series. It has been written for those who want to know more about the coastal hazards affecting the Wairarapa and discusses what residents, developers and visitors can do to reduce the risks to themselves and their property. Copies are available from our website, or by calling Sam Barrow at the Greater Wellington Masterton Office 06 378 2484 or [samuel.barrow@gw.govt.nz](mailto:samuel.barrow@gw.govt.nz)

### Wairarapa Coastal Strategy

The Wairarapa Coastal Strategy and its accompanying guideline document *Caring for our coast – a guide for coastal visitors, residents and developers* was launched in April after two years of consultation with coastal land owners and the community.

In recent years the Wairarapa coast has experienced unprecedented pressure for subdivision and development. In response, the Wairarapa Coastal Strategy Group was formed with a vision to “provide for sensitive, sustainable development and management of the Wairarapa coast, which recognises and retains its special qualities.”

These two documents recommend the actions required to achieve this vision and highlight some of the things that you can do as a visitor, resident or developer to help care for the coast.

There is a section devoted to natural hazards within each document. Copies are available from the Masterton Office of Greater Wellington or our web site.

### Kids hazard display at Te Papa

We have recently re-vamped our hazard display in the Nature Space section at Te Papa. Our designer has created cool cartoons depicting all of the hazards that we face in the Wellington Region with messages showing what you need to do to be prepared. There is also a poster showing you what you need to have in your emergency kit.

Very soon we will also have an example of an emergency kit to the display.



## Recent Events

### February Flooding Events

In place of the balmy, dry summer that we had all hoped for, was a wet, cold February! The events that will stick in most people's minds from this February are the flooding events in the lower North Island on the 15-17 February.

Despite not being as badly affected as our Manawatu counterparts, certain places in our Region didn't escape the flooding events.

#### Waiwhetu, Wainuiomata and Miramar Floods

The floods of 15-16 February had the most significant Region-wide impacts. Three main areas received the majority of the rainfall: the Tararua Ranges, the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo area and the Aorangi Ranges. The highest rainfall total was recorded at the Orongorongo rainfall station of 245mm over 24 hours.

The areas that received the worst flooding (and subsequent landslides) were Waiwhetu, Gracefield and Hutt Park, Wainuiomata (photo below) and parts of Eastbourne.





Riverside Drive, Waiwhetu 16, February.

On the morning of 17 February Miramar received a period of short but intense rainfall. This caused some surface flooding in the township and some low-lying streets.



Surface flooding in Park Avenue, Miramar, 17 February

The floods required activation of Councils, emergency services and volunteer agencies across the Region. These organisations worked together to close roads, clear slips, manage traffic, evacuate affected people, provide food and shelter, assess building damage and provide information to the public. The benefits of working together were clearly seen and these lessons will be incorporated into planning for future emergency events.

*The reports: "The 15-16 February 2004 storm in the Wellington Region" and "The Miramar rainfall event of 17 February 2004" discuss the hydrology and meteorology of these events. For a copy see our website or contact Laura Watts on 04 304 5708 or [laura.watts@gw.govt.nz](mailto:laura.watts@gw.govt.nz)*

### The Wairarapa Floods

The recent floods that devastated many parts of the lower North Island in February also caused damage to houses, roads and farm property in the Wairarapa. Civil defence staff in the region were on alert from 15-17 February, monitoring the situation and co-ordinating road closure information to help drivers negotiate Wairarapa roads, 35 of which remained closed for up to 36 hours due to flood waters. Heavy and persistent southerly rain, particularly in the eastern hills and Rimutaka Ranges, caused the Ruamahanga River to flow at its highest ever-recorded level.



Looking west up SH 53 towards the Ruamahanga Bridge, 16 February

We hope you enjoyed the read! Any questions or comments please contact Rylee Petterson on 04 801 1031 or [rylee.petterson@gw.govt.nz](mailto:rylee.petterson@gw.govt.nz)

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

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