



A Great Opportunity for Hill Country Farmers – don't let them miss it!!

Garth Eyles throws down the gauntlet to land managers by exploring the opportunities available through the Emissions Trading Scheme and space planted poplar and willows.

Carbon farming is being widely advocated at the present time and is likely to remain a focus of government policy for a number of years. How can we make this a win-win opportunity for hill country farmers, instead of the current likelihood of their having to sell up or move away from their traditional farming systems?

The solution is out there... further extend the erosion control plantings of poplars to meet the basic 30% potential ground cover in hill country environments. Hill country farmers can successfully integrate pastoral and carbon farming!!

Let's look at the two options currently available:

1. **Wholesale conversion** of pastoral hill country to closed canopy forest (i.e., *Pinus radiata*) to farm carbon. If we look at this option closely we can see that it will:
 - cause even further rural depopulation.
 - mean an increased risk of management regimes comprising little or no silviculture to maximise profit.
 - increase foreign ownership or at least corporate ownership.



Fifteen yr old *Populus xeuramericana* 'Argyle' at 11 m spacing (foreground). Note the shade and the pasture cover.

When the forest has reached maturity (at 40 to 50 years) carbon sequestering is reduced. At this stage the carbon farmers would most likely sell the property or just walk away. (Foreign owners could most easily do this.)

Over mature or unsilvicultured forests will be extremely susceptible to windfall and will have little value.

It seems to me this option is unsustainable. It is anti-community and we are left with the question of what happens to these over-mature, uneconomic forests when they have reduced rates of sequestering carbon? Who is responsible for cleaning up the potential mess?

2. **Two Tier farming.** An alternative to closed canopy forest is two tier farming.

Hill country farmers need a further income source to create consistent, positive returns. We now have this opportunity to add another dimension to hill country farming which will allow farmers to:

- continue pastoral farming (and perhaps even increase production)
- reduce the risk of soil erosion
- provide shelter, shade and drought fodder
- provide a further income source from carbon
- provide timber.

The current government requirement for carbon farming is to aim for a 30% tree canopy cover greater than 5 m high. If a slope is space planted in, say, Kawa, at age 12 yrs each tree could be expected to have a 5 m radius canopy, giving a canopy area of 78 m². This means that to achieve 30% ground cover 39 trees would be needed per hectare, a spacing of about 19-21m depending on the slope gradient. This is the spacing required for mature poplars or willows to be effective in preventing soil slippage as shown by Douglas et al., 2008.

...continues page 3

Inside

Cyclone Wilma, some observations.....	03
Letters.....	04
President's Comment.....	04

Bay of Plenty Regional Meeting.....	06
Regional Roundup.....	09

NZARM

The New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM) is an incorporated society that provides support and focus for people who share a professional interest in the sustainable management of New Zealand's natural resources.

NZARM's purpose is to champion the resource management cause, to promote professionalism, and to maintain a strong community spirit of meeting, sharing, and generally having a good time. Members receive benefit through an annual conference, regional workshops, a Broadsheet newsletter three times each year, and the opportunity to become a recognised professional and accredited practitioner of resource management.

Further information, including membership registration details, can be obtained from the NZARM website (www.nzarm.org.nz) or by contacting the secretary:

The Secretary
C/- NZARM
PO Box 4315 Hamilton East
HAMILTON 3247

BROADSHEET

BROADSHEET is the newsletter of the New Zealand Association of Resource Management. It is now published three times per year.

The Editor welcomes correspondence, reviews of recent publications, interim reports of current research or resource management issues, news items, other articles, and lighter items about members activities and career movements. An invitation to make submissions to Broadsheet is sent out 2 - 4 weeks prior to the publication date. However, SUBMISSIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE EDITOR AT ANY TIME. Generally submissions are sent to NZARM regional coordinators or directly to the Editor. Copy sent by E-mail is preferred, although typed copy is also acceptable. Items can be sent to:

Tony Faulkner
Team Leader (Acting)- Planning Services
Greater Wellington Regional Council
34 Chapel Street
Masterton
DDI 06 370 5663
Mob 0272175169
Fax 06 378 2146
Email tony.faulkner@gw.govt.nz

Note that Broadsheet articles and photos are protected by copyright. Authors must be consulted before their articles are cited in publications. Unless specifically indicated otherwise, opinions expressed in the Broadsheet are not to be regarded as the official view of the Association.

ISSN 1172-9139 (Print)
ISSN 1178-3958 (Online)

Editor's note

G'day NZARMers

It's certainly difficult to think of anything non-natural disaster related at the moment. The Christchurch earthquake(s) have held most of us in a vice like grip for the past few months, not too mention events elsewhere on the globe.

I have tried to think of what this event and indeed other such natural disasters mean to our profession. My first impression is that although we spend most of our time focused on land and water; the physical geography if you like; it is the people living on the geogrpahy that matter.

Earthquakes, with their tectonic driven might have a long history in shaping this country. Uplifting, shearing, down throwing, they change the landscape. As events seen as specks in geological time, they can be fascinating; take for example a seisimically activated earthflow or a distinct change in river direction; or this (see photo) particularly spectacular coastal uplift at Turakirae Head in southern Wairarapa following the

1855 Wairarapa earthquake.

More sobering however, is the anthropological side of the equation, when people and our towns and cities become unwitting participants in a seismic event. During this time, the magnitude and orientation of fault lines becomes a very distant second to water, shelter, food and sadly survival.

The devastation in Christchurch is still raw with long phases of demolition and reconstruction stretching far ahead into the foreseeable future. What has been apparent already though from all reports is the importance of community and their resilience. Ever the optimist, I can only hope that this galvanising of the city's people will serve them well in the future. The importance of a community engaged is a powerful tool whether it be regenerating a stretch of waterway or even rebuilding a city.

Tony Faulkner



Turakirae Head in Southern Wairarapa. The most seaward beach ridge was uplifted during the 1855 Wairarapa Earthquake. (Source D. Homer)

A Great Opportunity for Hill Country Farmers cont.

Continued from front page...

In a fully integrated two tier system the trees would be used for drought fodder or supplementary feed as well as shade and shelter. The fodder would be from either summer pruning or by pollarding or felling selected trees. If the management choice was this fully integrated system it would be preferable to aim for a 60% ground cover. Half of the 60% would always be maintained in a permanent tree cover, the other half would allow for trees to be pollarded or felled. 60% ground cover would require an initial planting of 77 trees/ha, giving a planting spacing of about 13 m.

The ideal management option would likely be a mixture of pollarding (retaining below-ground carbon and soil stabilization) and removal (allowing greater pasture production).

At present, most farmers, even on mudstone flow country, are not planting 40 trees per ha let alone 77, but properly managed this density could be achieved. However, the system would require a new approach to farming, in which the farmer was both a grazier and a forester. I believe that on much of our Tertiary hill country sustainability will only be achieved when farmers integrate trees and grazing. Currently, we either have foresters (using *Pinus radiata*) or graziers using pasture. Much of our hill country was naturally forested before conversion to pasture. To create a more stable and sustainable farming environment more deciduous hardwood trees are needed. Slower growing trees such as oaks have the disadvantage of not having sufficiently high carbon sequestration rates. Really the only suitable tree available is the poplar or the willow. A challenge will be to breed trees that provide a wide but diffuse canopy cover allowing maximum pasture growth beneath the canopy, while taking maximum advantage of the current carbon farming rules.

My challenge to you all is to encourage farmers to take up this further development of hill country farming. The one thing we should not encourage is the wholesale conversion of hill country farmland to closed canopy forest.

Garth Eyles

Douglas G. et al., 2008. Effectiveness of space-planted trees for controlling soil slippage on pastoral hill country. www.sluri.org.nz (register on line to access this report)



35 yr old *Populus xeuramericana* poplars at Wharakeri Station planted beside diversion banks. Note the pasture.

Cyclone Wilma, Some Observations

Bob Cathcart describes the time leading up to and following January 2011 Cyclone Wima and its effects in Northland

The summer of 2010-2011 was shaping up as a continuation of and a more intense version of the 2009-2010 drought. Soil moisture levels in late November were lower than February 2010, at the height of our record drought.

By early November Helen Moodie and her team had re-activated the drought committee and through Dairy NZ and Beef and Lamb NZ were assisting farmers to prepare for the Mother of all Droughts.

Fortunately many farmers had not fully re-stocked and the stock on hand were in good condition. For many the bottom line was looking better from a lesser number of stock - were we heading for sustainable pastoral, particularly dairy, production?

Even if the drought had continued we may not have found the answer to that question. Many dairy farms are now factory farms, no longer relying entirely on feed grown on the home farm. Maize, silage, palm kernel and other bought-in feed increases the carrying capacity well above what the farm on its own can support. If these really are factory farms, are they still operating within the limits of their local district plans? Should they be applying for resource consents?

Fortunately the rains did come and by mid-January rainfall was keeping pace with grass growth and demand. On 22 January MetService issued a severe weather warning as a

...continued page 5

Letters

Hi Tony

I was reminded by Neil's letter in the last Broadsheet thanking the association for his award at the 2010 NZARM conference that I too should thank NZARM for my own award. And while excuses such as the pressures of work will fall on deaf ears, please accept this somewhat tardy letter as a token of my gratitude to you all for making me an honorary member of NZARM

Unlike Neil who may have 'smelt a rat', I for one, was completely taken by surprise by this award. So much so that I can't recall much at all of what I said that evening. In part, perhaps because of the amount of wine I had consumed, or perhaps in part as a result of my poor memory. However, among other things I may have said or I might have wanted to say, it indeed was a great honour for me to be recognised for my contribution over the years to our Association. While I might bask in the glory of this award, there are other contemporaries whose contributions perhaps have been as great and without their help I wouldn't have been in this situation. The one thing I have learnt over the years is that an Association such as ours relies on the goodwill and support of a large number of people to keep it going. I have enjoyed serving on the Exec over many years with such fine people such as Sir Wha Lee, Mike Tuohy, Dave Cameron, Alan Campbell, Sue Powell, Muzz Harris, Norm Ngapo and more recently with Simon Stokes and Ross Abercrombie. Many others of you also served our Association during those years and I would like to thank you all.

At the dinner I might have rambled on a bit about being at home with the NZARM "whanau" – people who see things in much the same way that I do. I might also have said that we who appreciate the land for its inherent values and what it teaches us, sets us apart from others who somehow miss the big picture view and the interconnectedness of things around us. I might also have mentioned that it was especially pleasing for me to be acknowledged as one of those "soil con types" even though I never went through the formal training in agriculture that many of you have.

Perhaps the final thought I will leave you with is that we are all leaders in our own way and we don't have to be a figurehead to show leadership. What we need is passion for what we do. This was brought home to me that night, when one of the first to congratulate me was Kevin Rooke, one of our "traditional" soil conservators, a man very much at the heart of our profession doing what we and others such as Neil Faulknor do best – helping others to care for and manage our land. Through the wine-fogged brain, I guess I must have said something that struck a chord.

Cheers
Chris Phillips

President's comment

Since the last broadsheet when I mentioned the Pike River tragedy we have now had 2 major earthquakes in Canterbury, another massive earthquake in Japan and following Tsunami, and now war has broken out in Libya. Man, the world is going mad and things seem to be on shaky ground in many regions of the world, my heartfelt sympathy to anyone that has been touched by loss recently.

Within the NZARM Executive we have been working hard on redeveloping our Resource Management Certification process. Norm Ngapo, Alan Campbell and Andy Woolhouse have now put together forms to register and I would like to say thanks to that team for their work. The success of this now relies on all of you entering the scheme to ensure you get value out of this. It is designed to offer you information and support in your career and I certainly will be entering the scheme to identify future pathways in my career. We certainly believe that most members will benefit from this scheme.

The 2011 NZARM conference is planned to be later this year to avoid clashes with the other event in NZ in Spring, the Rugby World Cup. For this reason Don Shearman and the TRC crew have set the date for mid November with

some interesting themes coming together. While this conference venue is a little harder to get too I would urge you to strongly consider attending as it will offer some big national issues interspersed with locally relevant show-cases from Taradise.

In the regions, Ben Banks at Bay of Plenty recently held a regional meeting on native tree schemes and erosion control techniques. This was well attended by local NZARM members. Remember if there is a local issue that needs a meeting there is some funds available through NZARM for regional meetings such as these. Regional Meetings offer a chance to catch up with local colleagues and keep an eye on current techniques so please think about possible themes and contact your local regional coordinator or Executive rep to talk themes through.

I hope you all have a great autumn and that winter is kind on local geologies.

See you all at conference.

Ross Abercrombie
NZARM President.

Cyclone Wilma cont.

Continued from page 3...

slow-moving tropical low pressure system approached Northland from the east. Eastern areas from Kaeo to Whangarei received the predicted 150 mm to 250 mm, with probably up to 350mm in some higher eastern areas. There was no major flooding associated with this event.

Six days later, MetService issued another severe weather warning as the remnants of ex-Tropical Cyclone Wilma approached the region. Rainfall amounts of 100 mm to 150 mm were predicted with up to 200 mm about the eastern hills over a 21 hour period.

Wilma drifted southwards over Northland early on in Auckland Anniversary Weekend, the last weekend in January. Regional Council raingauges recorded over 250 mm along the eastern areas of the region from north of Kaeo to Mangawhai. The storm duration was 18 hours with most of the rain occurring over 8 hours. Rainfall intensities over the period were constant at 25 to 40 mm per hour and resulted in record river levels and flows in seven rivers, including the Mangakahia River, the region's largest. Rainfall intensities exceeded the 100 year mark in several places.

As is usual with these events, pockets of severe slip damage suggest that some areas received even more.

The depth and velocity of flooding over roads suggests that floods in many streams were the biggest and fastest for a very long time. Smaller stream channels across a wide area were swept clean of debris, fallen trees and aquatic weeds.

While there was extensive slipping in bush, pine forest, scrub and on farmland from Whangarei through to the Whangaroa Harbour, the heaviest slipping occurred along a band of hill country between Kaikohe and Whangarei and on greywacke hill country immediately north of Whangarei Harbour. Two or three adjoining properties on Class 6e Tangihua volcanic hill country south of Kaikohe suffered 3.5% bare ground due to shallow slipping. Fortunately this land has relatively fertile subsoil and rock and, with a bit of oversowing, will heal over.

Older and more deeply weathered soils on the same rock type suffered larger and deeper slips but a lesser area affected. These deeper movements need poplars and willows and, because of the low pH and high levels of aluminium in the subsoil, are much more difficult to revegetate.

Slipping on greywacke throughout eastern Northland followed a similar pattern to that observed following past high intensity rainfall events. Northland Yellow Brown Earths on greywacke have strongly developed subsoil structure. Clay carried down through the profile accumulates at the base of the columns along the contact with the underlying rotten rock regolith to form a greasy-back or slip plane.

Water flowing over the greasy-back forms a tunnel 100 to 500mm in diameter. During extended periods of wet weather water trickles down between the columns, over the greasy-back, accumulating in the tunnel. Erosion within the tunnel removes support from the surrounding slope and the land slowly moves in leaving concentric steps but the surface relatively intact. Muddy water oozes up out of cracks in the soil some distance downstream.

Under high intensity rains the flow down the subsoil cracks and slip fractures, over the slip plane and in the tunnels is so great that the patch of unstable soil floats up off the slip plane, becomes fluid and flows completely off the site as a debris avalanche.

The various forms of slipping on hill country farms, production forests and in native bush were spectacular but slipping of roadside cuttings and batters was most probably the main contributor of sediment to rivers, estuaries and harbours. Whereas a proportion of sediment from slipping on forest land and some farmland is trapped in vegetation and in wetlands, sediment from roadside erosion is channeled directly into streams.

The ability of wetlands to trap sediment was graphically illustrated at a many sites. Shallow slipping on recently logged pine forest on podzolised hill country soils near Kawakawa was trapped in extensive wetlands that had re-established in the valley bottoms. The slip material formed no more than a small delta at the foot of the slope.

Sediment from the same slipping on an adjoining farm was carried in drains right through to the Kawakawa River.

A wetland fenced and enhanced, with funding support from the Northland Regional Council Environment Fund, did its duty and completely captured detritus from a large slip before it could contaminate a stream and nearby surfing beach Sandy Bay. Again, this is clear evidence that natural or man-made wetlands well up in a catchment are very effective sediment and nutrient traps.

Bob Cathcart
Northland Regional Council

CONFERENCE

NZARM holds an annual conference to promote new learning, information sharing, networking, and a sense of community in the field of resource management. Venues alternate between the North and South Islands, and one of NZ's 16 regional authorities will usually host the conference itself. October-November is most favoured as the time.

This years conference is in Taranaki November 15-17.

MEMBERSHIP

NZARM welcomes new members, particularly if you have an interest in sustainable resource management. Prospective members can apply anytime, by obtaining a registration form from the website (www.nzarm.org.nz) or from the NZARM secretary. Candidates are nominated by two existing members (contact the secretary if this would be a constraint).

Annual subscription is discounted to \$50 if paid before 31 March each year. Late payments after that date are charged at the full subscription cost of \$70. All subscription enquiries to...

The Secretary
C/- NZARM
PO Box 4315 Hamilton East
HAMILTON 3247

As a member of a registered association, members must inform the secretary in writing when they cancel or let their membership lapse. Otherwise the member will continue to be billed for the annual subscription.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

The system that NZARM uses for professional accreditation is currently being reviewed. See the President's comment on page 4

MEETINGS

Regional meetings are key elements of NZARM's mission and service to its members. These meetings are usually designed around a particular regional issue and tend to involve members and interested people from both within, and from adjacent regions.

NZARM supports such events by providing financial support via seed money. Applications can be made to the National Regional Coordinator at any time. Visit the NZARM website for more information (www.nzarm.org.nz), or contact the NZARM secretary.

www.nzarm.org.nz

EVENTS

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome Aboard!

Adrienne Lomax

Courtney Bell

David Birch

Jenny Bond

Johnathon Atkins

Quin Amoire

Ryan Standen

Sara Hunt

Steve Tierney

FUTURE CONFERENCE LOCATIONS

The NZARM executive have released the list below of future conference locations.

2011 Taranaki– Nov 15-17

2012 Central Otago

2013 Gisborne

2014 Wellington

2015 Waikato

2016 Hawkes Bay

Bay of Plenty Regional Meeting

Ki ora e hoa. On 11 February the Bay of Plenty NZARM members had a field day at Lake Ōkāreka with the focus being on methods to achieve water quality targets.

After everyone met up at Boyes Beach we headed off to Crater Lake Farm, a 250 ha deer farm. The farm deer manager Phil Hurst gave us an overview.

- The deer policy is breeding, finishing for slaughter and velveting.
- A red deer herd is run, with replacements purchased as adult hinds.
- Wapiti and red stags are used as sires.



Crater Lake

John Herbert then talked about the process Ngāti Whakaue has been through to get a District Council plan change to allow for subdivision to be undertaken on their property. The vision for the area was to be an eco-farm park-like subdivision, with significant areas retired from pastoral use, planted and re-vegetated with native plants. Some key points of the project:

- Approximately 40ha of area re-vegetated currently.
- Funds for the project stalled, which meant plants (mostly PB3's) were pot-bound as money was not available to re-pot.
- Pre-planting spots were not undertaken as the site was clear of weeds and there was a need to save money.
- Project specifications were to establish native vegetation, not an ecologically representative forest.
- Project had to work to the District Council's Lakes A Zone planting guide.

Alastair McCormick talked about the different land uses and nutrient footprints as modelled using Overseer. This generated some interesting group discussion. We then moved onto Russell's property where Chris Russell talked about the goals for the farm.



Small section of the re-vegetated hill slopes, plants two years old at the Ngāti Whakaue sub-division

When the time came to harvest the trees on the steep (Class VII and VIII) areas they briefed the forestry company on what they wanted – “minimal impact over the site”. This had meant going beyond resource consent conditions. This had obviously increased harvesting costs, but as stewards for the land with a strong connection to the lake it is more about doing what you can the best you can. They ended up contracting PF Olsen's and had a ready-to-harvest plan drawn up and then waited until the money was right.

Some points to note from Chris' presentation:

- Areas that were not suitable for replanting have been left to naturally re-vegetate.
- Easier to work with local authorities than against.
- Optimise your economic gains by being ready to harvest
- Doing your bit for the community is also being active in your environment.
- People's financial positions have a big impact on decisions.
- The landowner can dictate what level of service they want from a contractor.

Sally Haddon and Hamish McGregor from PF Olsen's explained about the GF+ stock and also how harvesting was undertaken. A new area had also been planted in clone redwoods, a joint effort between landowners and Bay of Plenty Regional Council. Two different stocks were used at a spacing of 1000 stems per hectare, with half in the more expensive redwood clones.

Once everyone had grabbed a sandwich and a hay bail we moved onto the next speakers. Trevor Smyth gave us all an overview of

...continued on page 8



Land Use Capability Training Course

16 – 18 May 2011 Napier

Trainers: Norm Ngapo and Garth Eyles

**Course is sponsored by MAF for
Regional Council
Land Management Officers.**

**Fifteen places only available
Be an early bird to secure your place!**

**Venue: Conference Rooms
Kennedy Park Top 10 Resort, Napier**

**For registration or more information email
Mary Anne Eyles: eyles_home@slingshot.co.nz
or ph 06 8445905**

Closing Date: April 1st

Bay of Plenty Regional Meeting cont.

...continued from page 6

how Ngāti Whakaue was incorporated, and how the structure works. The corporate structure involves many arms (farming, forestry, commercial leases, health services), with the returns from investments going back to the owners / shareholders. Trevor is the overall farm manager for the six farms (total of 3230 ha).

Long-term decisions are based around long-term economics, but a key difference for multiple owned Māori land is that there is no capital gain from the land value. This has to be taken out of any economic decision and makes you look really hard at the rate of return on your business (be it sheep and beef, deer, dairy or forestry). A 30 ha area in the Lake Ōkāreka catchment was recently changed from pastoral to forest, and this matched the age-old principle of matching your land type with the best land use. Gerry Moritmer then explained how the forestry was established and the value of that forestry in today's market.



Lunch Time

Mike Goodwin from Landcare Ōkāreka then took us all on the boardwalk, and briefed us all on the formation and goals of the group. It was exciting to see all the native planting, weed control work and construction of the bird hide that has been driven by the community and part funded from the Council. Once there we talked about the community's aspirations, in which the water quality of the lake is at the top. A number of topics came up including;

- Sewerage schemes and impact of old septic tanks.
- Phosphorous in washing powders (some brands have none).
- Urban and rural views are often are often different.
- Public concern that people are doing their bit but the bigger polluters are not.
- Land purchasing for Regional Parks.
- Retiring steep pastoral land and putting it into forestry.

The thread throughout the day was that water quality is of highest importance to the entire community. There are a number of methods that individuals can make towards this, and we know what works. Often the methods cost money. People are often prepared to do the work but are more likely to do it there is a financial incentive or if the method is financially secure. Everybody wants to know that everybody else is doing their part. We have the expertise and we have the knowledge.

A big thanks to the three sponsors; NZ Association of Resource Managers which sponsored the speakers, Bay of Plenty Regional Council which sponsored the lunch. & Bay of Plenty Farm Forestry which advertised the event in their newsletters.

Naku noa na

Ben Banks
Environment Bay of Plenty



Group discussion at Bird hide

BROADSHEET is available
electronically in full colour. Download
from
www.nzarm.org.nz



Clevedon in South Auckland Saturday afternoon following Cyclone Wilma. (Source Stuff.co.nz)

Regional Roundup

HAWKES BAY

An exceptional summer is being followed by a similarly favourable autumn in Hawkes Bay. Working with land-owners who are making gains and who are optimistic for more, is a pleasant change.

Chris Perley has reappeared looking fit and well, after a long period of illness. His rapid recent recovery motivated strongly by the need to roll between coffee shops, no doubt. Meanwhile **Garth Eyles** is busy doing farm plans in various parts of the North Island. He's been spotted attending events where its worth being seen, although he doesn't wear a tie anymore. **Joe Devonport** travels between two council properties located at each end of the region. He has been establishing forest species on the southern one – now completed and due to plant the Wairoa one this winter. Both blocks are destined for treated effluent disposal and as carbon forests. **Peter Manson** oversees the Wairoa based Hill Country Erosion project and **Nic Caviale** with help from a part time facilitator, does all the real work. The project comprises farm planning retirement and non retirement works, but also an emphasis on solving local issues. Several community groups are focussing on topics including kikuyu control, slip revegetation and hill country pastures. **Warwick**

Hesketh aside from recently swimming 2.5km in Brisbane (not the floods) is working with Wairoa DC on a management plan for the Mahanga dunes near Mahia. He also works with the Hawkes Bay Landcorp properties assisting with farm planning. **Brendan Powell** is the in house dairy expert and is currently working with the Taharua catchment farmers to help improve nutrient management – a challenging task on such difficult soils and geology. **Angela Stead** is stationed at the HBRC's new Waipawa office and is dealing with everything from the coast to the mountains and Ruataniwha plains. As the sole female on the Land Management team she's showing the boys how to get things done! **Neil Faulknor** has not actually retired as rumours would have it. He's busy passing on some 45 years of local knowledge to Angela and completing some ongoing projects. Neil is difficult to contact on his cell phone but says that the long periods he spends on the beach are justified because that's where coverage is best! **Ian Millner** has been working with the Huatokitoki catchment group who are partnered with CRP's to carryout locally based environmental and farm research. Ian has been part of the team organising Hawkes Bay's inaugural Balance Farm Environment Award.

Peter Manson

Regional Roundup (continued)

OTAGO

The past 6 months has been extremely variable climate wise in Otago following the major storm events at lambing last year. November was one of the driest on record and it was not uncommon to see hard compacted pastures and top-soil on some of the heavier clay type soil areas under dairy farming in November and early December.

However, this pattern has changed dramatically and the past three months have been very moist and wet and made it extremely difficult for dairy farmers trying to apply dairy effluent in a compliant manner to minimise any runoff and ponding.

The Jan to Feb period traditionally has been the late summer drier months and on some dryland farms 3-4 cuts of lucerne hay has occurred due to the excess, moisture. There has been a big move in Otago and Southland to larger dairy effluent holding ponds eg 90 days. But in this situation it is vital that they be emptied well before the new milking season gets underway.

Otago Regional Council Update on : "Good Water, Good Farming. A new approach to improving rural water quality" *Extracts from the above information sheet*

Advancements in improving water quality in Otago have been considerable including cleaning up point source discharge and many farmers improving the way in which they manage their land and effluent systems to reduce river contamination. Monitoring has shown that about half of Otago's freshwater rivers, streams, and lakes generally have very good water quality, particularly in catchment headwaters, and the upper reaches of the Clutha river/Mata-Au.

However, degraded water quality with raised levels of non-point source contaminants, such as nitrogen, bacteria, and sediment, commonly occur in lower catchment areas, where land is more intensively farmed. Agriculture has had many positive economic benefits for Otago. However, we want to ensure that intensive land use does not lead to waterway degradation.

To meet this challenge, the ORC has proposed a new rural water and urban water quality strategy to ensure Otago's waterways remain healthy. This approach will allow farmers to choose how they manage water contaminants originating from their land.

This new approach under consideration aims to encourage farmers to choose and take actions appropriate to their property in managing water contaminant discharge levels. There is two main components proposed namely:

Setting standards

Most likely involve E coli, nitrogen, sediment and phosphorus. The standards will be determined using scientific assessments, and will also incorporate community expectations for water quality.

The standards would also apply to all discharges coming off land, including:

- Runoff flowing directly overland to waterways
- Drainage water flowing through tile and mole drains and
- Leachate moving to groundwater.

Ensuring Accountability

Once standards are set, farmers will need to ensure that discharges from their land do not exceed these standards. They will be free to choose for themselves the best way of achieving this. If adopted, this approach will take several years to implement.

Considerable work is still required on choosing the necessary tools to measure, to understand the standards and how contaminants move through their catchment and finally determining how to alter their farm practices to comply with the standards.

The next steps will be public forums and field days around the region collecting feedback and fine tuning. So watch this space to see if this new approach is formerly adopted!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The Lake Waiholo Wapori Wetlands Society Project update
Provided by Nicola McGrouther Otago Regional Council

The lake society project started a \$280,000 weed control project in the 2000ha wetland complex over the sum-

mer. The wetland lies 30km south of Dunedin and consists of two large lakes, numerous channels and ponds and large areas of wetland vegetation. The area has significant vegetation, bird, cultural and recreational values.

The aim of the weed control project is to control crack and grey willow, alder and glyceria. During early February this year an intensive aerial spray programme saw all the crack and grey willow sprayed over 350 hectares. Garlon chemical was trialled over a 4 hectare area of both alder and willows in conjunction with DOC. Ground based work has also been undertaken using the basal bark spray technique to kill scattered outliers. More details about the group and this programme can be found at:

www.waiholo-waipori-wetlands.org.nz

Dr Barrie Wills and Bruce Monaghan (ORC) work with the Roxburgh-Benger Conservation Group members.

A re-evaluation of the old Rabbit and Land Management Programme vegetation monitoring plots has been undertaken on properties in the district. So far there has been a good response from landowners and 24 transects have now been assessed on 9 properties in the area. Results so far this year show excellent cover due to the extra rain with lots of white clover observed. Some of the higher altitude sites had thigh deep snow tussock, getting to the point where inter tussock biodiversity is compromised and raising the question of the need to burn!!

Data is being analysed comparing the 1997 and 2002 yr readings. Similar vegetation monitoring has been undertaken on the Earnsclough/Obelisk area and soon to do the Moutere area. Barrie commented on the noticeable change in farmer attitudes to this monitoring and keen to be involved. The value of this work is vital to the future well being of the stock and environment and more farmers and Landcare groups need to be involved.

Murray Harris
Dunedin

Regional Roundup (continued)

NORTHLAND

Dean Evans is whipping the Northland Regional Council Land Management Team into shape, allocating areas, both physical work areas and topic portfolios to champion, for each member of the Team. Each team member is preparing (stealing and adapting stuff from other Councils?) fact sheets and will keep other members briefed on new developments in their topic areas.

Debbie Johnson and **Kathryne Easton** arrived back from the Massey fertiliser conference all fired up. Kathryne is working on a generic Farm or Land Management Plan format which we can use for soil conservation and environmental management across sheep and beef, dairying, horticulture and forestry. The objective is to keep it simple and graphic so that land managers will use it rather than put it on the shelf.

Wayne Teal is learning about soil conservation and working out how and where we can secure poplar and willow pole supplies. Slipping during Cyclone Wilma has renewed interest in soil conservation at both a landowner and political level. It helps to have a new Councillor who was reared on soil conservation work, including planting poplars and willows as a child under a farm plan prepared by **Bob Cathcart** in 1966. The surname Davies-Colley will be familiar to many farm foresters and the next generation is just as enthusiastic.

Kerry Webster is working the Kaipara between our southern boundary with the Auckland Council and Matakoho, an area of extensive soil conservation work in the days of **Gary Fitzwilliam** and later **Lee Whiley**, **Brian Handyside**, and **Kathy Mortimer**.

Lisa Forester, our Biodiversity Specialist, has reached the stage of securing political buy-in for her indigenous wetlands project. This project has involved identifying over 600 areas of indigenous wetlands of various types, recording these on a GIS database, and having independent consultants field check and rank them as to local and regional significance. The next step, subject to

Council agreement, is to write to each of the landowners, explaining to them that they have a regionally significant wetland on their property and offering Council support in protecting and managing the resource.

Bob Cathcart has set out a training programme for the Team covering, as well as the areas in which he can contribute, the specialist areas of other Team members so that all members have an understanding of the various subjects we are likely to encounter or need. Amongst Bob's other projects is an erosion control/land stabilisation programme for the catchment surrounding the Tutukaka sewage treatment plant. Slipping during Cyclone Wilma spread sediment across some of the plant's filter beds.

Geoff Heaps is ploughing on with his resource consent processing with no obvious downturn as a result of the economic climate. **Dave Roke**, who retired last June, enjoys his new role as a roving commissioner for RMA hearings and has even found time to participate, this time as a submitter, in local District Planning processes.

The Northland Regional Council Land Management Team recently met up with the Auckland Council Team at Orewa to discuss what each of us is doing and how we can cooperate, particularly with the shared catchment of the Kaipara Harbour. **Vanessa Vujcich** is expanding the scope of her work within this area and we look forward to some joint projects with her and with other Auckland Team members.

Ursula Buckingham from Hancock Forest Management should be pleased with the observations on sediment trapping in wetlands in recently logged forest areas south of Kawakawa in Bob Cathcart's article on Cyclone Wilma. This forest was established on frequently burnt and highly erodible gumland hill country and logging of the first rotation has given Ursula a few headaches. Forestry is obviously the optimum land use for this land and Hancock Forests is doing a good job developing management and harvesting techniques to suit the land.

Helen Moodie, having now mastered the language, is thriving in her position with Dairy NZ. Her new and old (Regional Drought Relief Co-ordinator) jobs overlapped before the drought broke and while we are now getting growth, Helen is still helping her dairy farmers to juggle current production with the need for winter feed, a task which has not been helped by maize crops and pasture being drowned then cooked in floodwaters and new grass being attacked by army caterpillar. This is real coal-face stuff.

Bob Cathcart.

BAY OF PLENTY

Roz Perry is getting settled in the Rotorua office and is enjoying working closer to home. Since her move from the Mount office, Roz has filled her days learning about the nutrient and land management issues in the lakes area, meeting landowners with operational works planned for this year and catching up where Ben left off. She has also attended the Sustainable Nutrient Management course and the Annual Fert and Lime Conference in Palmerston North while managing to squeeze in a marriage to Joel in March. Watch this space for a name change!!

Norm Ngapo is currently carrying out a range of work for the BOP Regional Council, predominantly dealing with forest harvesting consents and compliance monitoring. Also working with Garth Eyles on preparation for a LUC Training Workshop (sponsored by MAF) to be held at Napier on 16/17/18 May 2011.

Ryan Standen has just recently completed his quad training after showing the trainer how to roll the brand new quad. While not as spectacular as it sounds the trainer had not seen any one do this in 10 years. Fantastic work from the man sent to us from Horizons.

Ben Banks was kept busy organising the regional field trip, also involved with a few other interesting projects. Working out how to remove trees from a intact pa site, pricing up some totara forests and creating some wetland habitat. He has also enjoyed getting out and doing a bit of spear fishing in between rain events.

Regional Roundup (continued)

CANTERBURY

Greeting from ground zero

Well as you all will be aware there has been a lot happening in Canterbury in recent times after a general e-mail around the Canterbury members I have got some updates to share with you.

The Environment Canterbury head office on Kilmore Street in Christchurch is still a no go area so the organisation is currently fixing up a number of locations around the southern area of Christchurch. Space has been secured at five areas around Christchurch with staff undertaking work using remote access until the alternative accommodations are up and running. In addition to this the depots and other offices are getting much more use and work is also occurring within Selwyn and Hurinui District Councils.

I am happy to report that all staff and their family's are well although there is the full spectrum of damage to property from nothing through to 'no access and need to demolishing'.

Ray Maw (*Policy Analyst Pests and Biodiversity*): "I was in the Ballantynes Building, about five steps away from being on Colombo Street, when the quake hit. It was reasonably secure with little panic in the area where I was standing. After a short time I convinced a staff member to allow me to leave the building and it was not until I tried to get along Cashel Mall that the enormity of the event struck home. I picked my way through the rumble in the Mall and the liquefaction effects in Cranmer Square. Once I got back to Environment Canterbury, I commenced Duty Manager work in the Emergency Coordination Centre and remained on shift until 12 March. The ECC was relocated twice, once to abandon the EC bunker because of the risk posed to the bunker by the leaning Copthorne Hotel and re-establish at the ICT centre at Canterbury University. The second shift was brought about with the national emergency declaration and the location of its headquarters in the Art Gallery building on Montreal Street.

Work wise, I will be working from home for a couple of months with the odd foray to the Amberley Office and the Nazareth Avenue office. The main focus is on progressing the RPMS review results and dealing with any issues that might arise from the commissioners decision on the regional 1080 consent application".

Glyn Francis (*Section Manager Biocontrol & Biosecurity*): "I am happy to report that both of AgResearch's campuses in Lincoln came through the Feb 22 earthquake with no damage. Both campuses were fully operational again by 28 Feb. No AgResearch staff members were injured in the earthquake, with property damage ranging from none through to severe damage to houses. AgResearch is pleased to welcome 50-60 relocated ECan staff to its Lincoln campus for the next 12 months."

Hamish Rennie (*Senior Lecturer Planning*): "Lincoln Uni shaken but no sign of major damage and teaching resumed with two weeks knocked off the semester, but with students expected to extend their normal 40 hr week to a 48hr week (i.e. they do more work in own time to compensate for the loss of weeks and no make up lectures provided). Some staff and students who were in high buildings (e.g. sixth or seventh floors) have refused to return to those buildings and have been relocated to two storey buildings – no one is required to enter a building they are not comfortable to enter. Sewage from Lincoln flowed directly into the L2 and then into Lake Ellesmere for a brief period, but is now diverted to Christchurch.

Lincoln was used to base and feed various police and other rescue/recovery teams (including funeral homes support team!), but this is giving way now to housing other organisations with damaged facilities. The Department of Environmental Management seems to be hosting CPIT nursing students and staff; the wool demonstration lab has become a lecture theatre for 200 CPIT nurses and the John Burton Building; John Hayward room have been temporarily allocated to CPIT as have the ground floor of the Natural Resources Engineering Building – so if we need a nurse we should be sweet! We have

managed to retain the tea room for the present. The old artificial aquifer, once used by John Bright, is being pulled down to make way for offices.

Somewhat ironically, I have personally benefitted from the quake – the lack of work for builders has brought the building of my own shack forward as builders are looking for approved funded work! And the place I currently live in at Church Bay had only some horizontal plaster cracks added to the vertical ones of the September quake.

The Fed Farmers have made a significant bridge to respectability amongst urbanites with their organising of the Farmy Army (mostly urban volunteers who benefitted from the organisational skills of the Feds and their supportive heavy equipment and generous food). Unless you have been directly affected by the quake or spent serious time working in the eastern suburbs, it is hard to appreciate the issues here – voluntary organisations still get Wellington 'requests' demanding accounting of projects for which all the files etc are sitting inside cordoned off areas in central Christchurch. I am not sure those from out of town appreciate the conditions (work and personal) that ECan staff are working under."

Peter Weir; "I am continuing to work with MfE on development on a NES for plantation forestry, along with Bridget Robson of EBoP and Trevor Freeman of GDC. Having considered public/stakeholder submissions, MfE are now in their Redesign Phase (this is illustrated in image below and Meeting 6 has just been held). You can access information relating to this process on <http://www.mfe.govt.nz/laws/standards/forestry/index.html#process>.

MfE have recently put out a tender for national level erosion susceptibility mapping. We hope that some senior NZARM members will be bidding on this work (some might feel uncomfortable if a bunch of Aussies scooped the contract) if you want to know more about this then please get in touch (peter.weir@ernslaw.co.nz)."

Regional Roundup (continued)

There have been a few job changes within Environment Canterbury with the Resource Care team dividing their work into two roles – one related to the delivery of the councils biodiversity outcomes (Biodiversity Officers) and those working in related to other areas (Resource Management Co-ordinators). **Shelley Washington** is now under the Co-ordinator arm. **Julia Crossman** has recently joined Environment Canterbury's Planning Team as a Community Facilitator. This is a role that has been created in the recent restructure of the Planning Section, in recognition of the importance of community involvement at an early stage in statutory planning processes. Julia is looking forward to getting stuck into her new role, which by the sounds of it will be focussed on Environmental Flow Reviews, Coastal Planning and the 2nd Generation Regional Plan. I (**Judith Earl-Goulet**) have also changed roles having accepted a position of Extension Services Manager to develop and implement audited self management approaches within the region - an area of work that has strong regional drivers within the Canterbury Water Management Strategy as well as some at a national level. I would love to hear from anyone already undertaking work in this area so please get in touch (judith.earl-goulet@ecan.govt.nz).

Chris Phillips: Since the end of the ICM programme on the Motueka River Catchment and our successful end-of-contract FRST review, Chris Phillips has been busy over the last few months working on a number of projects. One thing that is different is that I have been tied to the office for a long time – something I can't recall as I am normally on a plane to somewhere every couple of weeks. All this time over summer stuck in an office has been good in one respect – getting some writing done – but in others not so good when you like to get out and about. I miss the annual river surveys we have been doing in the last few summers in the Nelson region! Am in the process of getting ready for another FRST review – SLURI – for those of you who know it. Another thing that has been occupying me of late is our preparation for new research as part of AgResearch's Clean Water Productive Land programme that will, for our work on sediment, be focused mostly on the Manawatu, and to a lesser degree on the Kaipara.

In terms of recent events in Christchurch my family are all ok, our house suffered minor damage (we have 2 new toilets and the hot water cylinder has been relocated to where it should be), and I can get the car in the garage without a 4WD which is better than some places in our neighbourhood which have been red-stickered or already demolished. Never thought a highlight of coming home from work would be the sight of a new white functioning toilet! Oh the small mercies! Still, we are lucky, and many people don't even have that to look forward to. For some, they have lost family or friends, houses, and their jobs. In spite of that, the resilience we have witnessed has been amazing and to all those people who have helped get the "system" up and running again a big thanks. On another note I am involved with a trust that looks after one of the rivers in the city (the Styx) and we have had to suspend all our community monitoring because of the damage. Unfortunately the environment comes second in line in these difficult times, so we will have a bit of catching up to do when things settle down.

Judith Earl-Goulet
Environment Canterbury

WAIKATO

Rien van de Weteringh

Rien has been keeping very busy – mainly with the following projects:

Kaimai Catchment Project, Integrated Management Project initiated by EBoP, DoC and EW for the catchments originating on the Kaimai/Mamaku ranges– Community consultation facilitation by NZ Landcare Trust funded (3 year) by MFE Sustainable Management Fund, supported by the three agencies.

- Half yearly stakeholder forum meetings – Dec meeting in Putaruru with field trip to upper Waihou re water quality and Nutrient Management
- Farm Planning Workshop in Waimakairi – Overall farm plan overview with field presentations/discussions on effluent/Maize, Visual Soil Assessment and Riparian Management.
- Catchment Case studies and On Farm Best Management Practices (Biodiversity) in progress.

EXECUTIVE

President: Ross Abercrombie, Environment Waikato, 401 Grey St., PO Box 4010, Hamilton, Ph. 0800 800 401 Mobile 021 471 683. Email: Ross.Abercrombie@ew.govt.nz

Past President: Simon Stokes, Environment Bay of Plenty, PO Box 364, Whakatane. Ph. 0800 368 267 (ex. 9378) or cell 029 756 0311. Email: Simon.Stokes@envbop.govt.nz

Treasurer: Julia Crossman, Environment Canterbury P O Box 550, Timaru. Ph. 03 684 0510. Email: Julia.Crossman@ecan.govt.nz

Secretary: John Whale, John Whale & Associates Limited, 13 Walter Park, Whakatane. Mobile 021 838 601, Ph. 07 308 4517. Email: whale@inspire.net.nz

Members: Norm Ngapo, WSC Ltd, Ph. 07 312 6318, cell 027 2902 402, Email: norm@wairasoilcon.co.nz

Jim Risk, Environment Southland Price Street Invercargill, Ph. 03 2115115, Email: jim.risk@es.govt.nz

Helen Moodie, NZ Landcare Trust PO Box 3026 Whangarei, Ph. 09 4300954, Email: Helen.moodie@landcare.co.nz

Secretariat: NZARM c/- Groundwork Associates, PO Box 4315, Hamilton East, Hamilton 3247. Ph. 07 855 7163. Email nzarm@groundworkassociates.co.nz
NZARM Bank Account: KiwiBank 38-9009-0112026-00

REGIONAL REPS

NORTHLAND
Bob Cathcart (bobc@nrc.govt.nz)

AUCKLAND
Rob Hughes (Rob.Hughes@arc.govt.nz)

WAIKATO
Therese Balvert (therese.balvert@ew.govt.nz)

BAY OF PLENTY
Ben Banks (Ben.Banks@envbop.govt.nz)

GISBORNE
Kerry Hudson (kerryh@gdc.govt.nz)

TARANAKI
Don Shearman (Don.Shearman@trc.govt.nz)

MANWATU-WANGANUI
Malcolm Todd (malcolm.todd@horizons.govt.nz)

HAWKES BAY
Peter Manson (manson@hbrc.govt.nz)

WELLINGTON
Dave Cameron (Dave.Cameron@gw.govt.nz)

NELSON, TASMAN, MARLBOROUGH & WESTCOAST
Barbara Stuart (barbara.stuart@landcare.org.nz)

OTAGO
Murray Harris (landfors@ihug.co.nz)

SOUTHLAND
Jim Risk (jim.risk@es.govt.nz)

CANTERBURY
Judith Earl-Goulet (Judith.Earl-goulet@ecan.govt.nz)

Regional Roundup (continued)

WAIKATO CONT.

Waihou & Piako Catchment Schemes Review –

- Whole catchment schemes with original emphasis on Flood protection, River Management and Soil Conservation
- Review on a sub-catchment by sub-catchment basis with integration of Water Quality, Biodiversity, Animal and Plant Pests to be included in the review and the subsequent management of the schemes
- Kauaeranga Catchment Draft Review completed

ICM Project Team (Ross Abercrombie, Don Harford, Paul Smith)

Ross Abercrombie, Paul Smith and Don Harford have started an evaluation of the three year ICM project in the two Waikato pilot programme catchments. This evaluation comes after three very unexpected seasons and a drought in the Waikato last year. Farmers appear to be responding to this increased climatic variation by building more resilience into their farming systems. Some are dropping stocking rate and reducing supplements. This apparent shift could also be influenced by bankers encouraging farmers to reduce overdraft limits. We continue to work with farmers looking for ways in which nitrate leaching and phosphorus farm runoff can be reduced.

Warren Coffey

Following Cyclone Wilma in January, Warren has been following up on an increased amount of enquiries for Poplar poles for stabilising slips and erosion prone slopes, especially in northern parts of the Coromandel and Onemana / Opoutere areas.

Concern has been raised about the impacts of forestry operations in storm events after forestry slash and sediment came down across roads and farms in the Wilma event.

John Quinn

John Quinn has been part of a transdisciplinary team (mainly from the Pastoral 21 programme, DairyNZ, ECan and CRIs) that has completed a case study on developing a "Preferred Approach" to resolving Land Use and Water Qual-

ity issues in Canterbury using a case-study on the Hurunui River in North Canterbury. This has involved 5 stakeholder catchment workshops and lots of associated science and policy stretch. The results will go to the ECan councillors in April.

John is leading a new study with a NIWA/Cawthron/HBRC team on the factors influencing instream nutrient attenuation along the Tukituki River under summer conditions when the river often develop high algal biomass. Early results found substantial uptake of dissolved N and P into algal biomass along the 80 km of gravel bed river between inputs of enriched groundwater and treated sewage, near Waipukurau and Waipawa, and the coast. This is part of a new FRST programme on Cumulative Effects of Contaminants led by Mal Green.

As part of another new FRST programme on Aquatic Rehabilitation, Richard Storey and John Quinn are collaborating with TRC staff (especially Chris Fowles and Alex Connolly) to investigate the importance of connectivity between restored streams and source populations of invertebrate colonists for the return of sensitive biota to physically restored stream habitat. The council's 30-year-long invertebrate bio-monitoring dataset and their detailed GIS (geographic information systems) data on stream riparian fencing and planting provide a unique opportunity to understand the role of stream connectivity.

Therese Balvert

Starting to mildly panic that it is pretty much April already, and yet another pole and native planting season is about to descend up on us....a time when trees and plants start to invade my dreams (nightmares??)!

The reason that time has flown so quickly this year is due to being kept well occupied by the following projects:

- Coordinating EW's AGS applications for the March round of the Regional Pool.
- Coordinating the Summer 10/11 stage of willow removal from the Mangatangi Stream, and completing Environmental Programme Agreements with farmers to undertake subsequent fencing and planting of the stream.

- Assisting with the ongoing development of the multi-agency Waikato District Freshwater Lakes and Wetlands MOA.
- Preparing funding applications for various Lake Margin restoration/enhancement works.
- Investigating a Bridal Falls stream catchment nutrient and sediment reduction programme with DoC.

Tane Desmond

Has been busy working with Waipa River Catchment IWI reps, Councillors (Regional and District), Stakeholders and local Landowners to develop the Waipa Zone Plan. The purpose of the plan is to set out all relevant information relating to river and catchment services within the zone, describe the levels of service to be provided and identify future strategic issues and demands. The plan will also fully describe the processes in place with regard to work programme planning, asset management, financial management and funding.

This is consistent with a number of legislative requirements under the Local Government Act, particularly in relation to asset management. These requirements include a full description of the assets, their management requirements and replacement, refurbishment and funding policies. There are also requirements of the Auditor General in terms of financial management.

Upon adoption, it is expected that the plans will become foundation documents for the ongoing provision of river and catchment services in the zone, and be the means by which future progress and achievements are measured and reported. They will become significant reference documents for future liaison subcommittee discussions. While incorporating all of the requirements of asset management plans, zone plans provide the opportunity to identify and work towards strategic river and catchment management goals in light of the trends and changes occurring within each zone.

Therese Balvert Environment Waikato

THE 2011 New Zealand Association Resource Management ANNUAL CONFERENCE

15-17 November 2011 - NEW PLYMOUTH



Our community, Our responsibility

Explore topical resource management issues of national and regional importance with a mix of interesting speakers and fieldtrips that feature:

- Keynote speakers on Taranaki's resources, issues and the future of New Zealand's sustainable land management schemes
- Geology and formation of the Taranaki Landscape
- Petrochemical industry 'Think Big' projects - the beginning of collaboration
- Water quality issues and league tables - an interpretation
- The competition for land use
- The scientific evidence that supports riparian management
- Taranaki's riparian and hill country programmes
- The cumulative effects of piping streams
- Environmental management after the Christchurch earthquake
- A Maori perspective (Fonterra's largest milk supplier in Taranaki) on farming and the environment
- Tane's Tree Trust - our common goals
- Carbon and land use - what are the options?
- Coastal sand mining
- Field trips that cover a range of interesting topics and sites

*Come and enjoy
Taranaki's hospitality*

Details will be updated on the NZARM website www.nzarm.org.nz



Regional Roundup (continued)

MANAWATU_WANGANUI

The horizons team are still busy doing lots of farm plans and grant jobs for the sustainable land use initiative (SLUI). This is now in its 6th year. We are up to about farm plan number 335 and climbing. After a slow start (1700 ha treated in the first three years) we have now started to achieve some impressive areas of tree planting and retirement. We have treated 5000 ha of land in the last 2 years. Half the area done is afforestation, a quarter is bush, riparian or wetland retirement and the rest is poles.

On the staff front, the SLUI students are back at university after their holiday work stint, and everyone else is pretty much static.

Malcolm Todd
Horizons

TARANAKI

General

Since September's meeting, the region became drier until drought conditions prevailed just before Christmas. Fortunately, enough rain came around xmas followed by good dumps in January and February, for dairy farmers to recoup lost production and salvage a good season (coinciding with a good payout). The worst affected areas around the coast are not expected to make a full recovery, but overall production is good and the projected \$8 payout is expected to add another 100 million to the region's economy.

Kevin Cash, Quin Amoore and Jess Soper are flat out with initiating works under the "South Taranaki and Re-

gional Erosion Support Scheme (STRESS). It continues to be well subscribed with most of the targets for the current period either met or on track. All last year's works programmes have been audited and signed off. A hillcountry advisory group meeting was held in the Waitotara Valley to review progress and to outline improvements to operational procedures and protocols. There has also been a flood of interest in the Afforestation Grant Scheme which is possibly in its last year. Proposals are being drawn up by the team for the final round of applications and this is taking up a lot of their time. We have interest for around 3-400ha with more native reversion included. Data from the Blaschke thesis satisfies MAF's stems per ha establishment criteria for native reversion and this has rekindled interest from landowners.

Darren Scown has been busy convincing farmers to fence and plant their riparian margins. Plant sales are at 252,000 (330,000 to sell) with nearly 60% of planholders visited. Sales in September 2010 were 80,000 compared to 36,000 for the same time in 2009. 37000 plants have also been sold a year in advance for the 2012 planting season with a 20% discount offered to encourage early orders. Discounts seem to register with farmers if they think they can save money. We have a particular focus on getting farmers to incorporate riparian management into their annual budgets. **Don Shearman** was recently invited by an accountancy business to present to their staff on the importance of annual budgeting and how it affects the success of our native plant scheme. It's great to see that accountants are recognizing the significance of the programme and actively promoting budgeting to their clients. Don, Darren, Kevin

and **Dex Knowles** are also busy organising the next NZARM conference to be held in New Plymouth on 15-17th November.

Don Shearman
Taranaki Regional Council



See you here in November

Sponsorship

NZARM welcomes possible expressions of interest regarding sponsorship of this publication. Successful sponsors could receive preferred advertising and promotion through Broadsheet and NZARM's annual conference. For further information please contact the Editor.

Next issue...

Broadsheet is now published three times each year (April, August, December).

Letters to the editor policy

We encourage reader participation and welcome diverse or varied opinion, but reserve the right to decline inappropriate material. Because of space limitations, all letters should be no more than 300-500 words in length. Letters become the property of NZARM on publication. We will not knowingly publish information that is factually incorrect. You can send us letters via email or regular mail to the editor:

T. Faulkner
Greater Wellington
PO Box 41
Masterton 5840

tony.faulkner@gw.govt.nz