



Climate change and resource management

What might carbon credit trading mean to resource managers? Simon Stokes takes a look at opportunities and difficulties regarding Kyoto and climate change obligations.

Having been born as a Dannevirke sharemilker's son, then shifting to Wairoa for my 'station' life, I have lived in the farming community long enough to be duty bound to talk about the weather. I can't avoid it. It rolls off the tongue without much thought. But boy talking about the weather has gone to another level!

Napier just received rain all night for the first time in ages. I hope the rest of our region managed a similar dose. Hawke's Bay in parts is very dry. Farmers tell me they haven't had a decent season since autumn 2006, and a dry autumn now will not produce a great winter either.

What I find encouraging is that they are still maintaining soil conservation programmes despite the weather. What is sad though, is that under the local Regional Land Care Scheme, we estimate that no exotic seedlings will be planted for plantation or woodlot forestry this year. Forestry is not facing the best of times, and it is starting to show in re-establishment demand. In 1997-1998 we helped fund 141,000 seedlings, in 2003-2004 114,000 seedlings, dropping to 29,000 seedlings in 2005-2006. We also see it affecting native seedling planting as farmers hesitate over their future tree planting vs. on-farm requirements. Fair enough. Plus, I'm sure the drop in planting is not just because of low harvest returns.

This problem compounds when we consider it against our Kyoto obligations. As resource managers we work in this environment so it's our problem too. Personally I applaud the concept of landowners earning income from land retired from pastoralism or afforested in relation to carbon sequestration.

It provides further opportunity to ensure land is used sustainably. However, everything related to the Protocol has become far too convoluted and negative. Most of this is due to timeframes for emissions and delivering policy to meet those timeframes and the proposed climate change policies. What really concerns me is the potential for policy on climate change to be legislated where local government has to implement it; this will have a major impact on council resources. I just noticed to often the RMA as a background mechanism for all of the recent options proposed.

Therefore, in your roles, please take time and use your experience, whether in facilitation, land care groups, research, understanding planting options, and implementing land management programmes, to participate in all forums. As the leading organisation in New Zealand with experience in extension delivery, vegetation, and land management, we really need to ensure future policies across the board does not impact on our/your successful programmes.

NZARM is prepared to get behind this. Up to \$1500 is available for the support of workshops. This is meant as auxiliary funding for you, as an NZARM member, and particularly for members who sit outside the council system. Look for opportunities to use your skills and our funding. Its about upskilling members and non-members. The issues related to Kyoto and climate change and implementing policies is going to require a lot of extension work over the next 5 years.



I believe we have been addressing Kyoto and climate change/land management issues ever since we entered the resource management career. The fact that there are further income stream options for farmers/foresters reinforces the decision that farmers and you have made over the years to plant and retire various vegetation over the years.

Carbon sequestration is just another benefit of planting as is meeting a farm greenhouse gas budget. There is nothing new in looking into the future in relation to implementing land management work; we do it all the time. Selecting tree species for various reasons in Hawke's Bay requires attention to climate. Farm planning requires attention to climate.

What is disappointing for me is that central government should be spending money and discussion time on exploring avenues for increasing the uptake of current successful programmes throughout New Zealand, increasing the number of people with the skills to help farmers, supporting organisations who already facilitate relevant programmes like the NZFFA and other NGO's, and increasing/developing the amount of science research into meeting the future needs of New Zealand, for example finding and establishing pasture species on dryland hills with a high ME content.

From what I have see and heard so far, money and discussion time is not concentrating on these areas. If only we hadn't ratified.....and as for the weather, well it changes daily, you adjust, and talk about it tomorrow.

A te wa koutou, na
Simon

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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 (CPRM).

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
Private Box 5280
PALMERSTON NORTH.

www.nzarm.org.nz

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:

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Broadsheet is occasionally made available to non-members on a cost recovery basis (\$2.50 per issue).

Editor's note

Einstein once said, "change is like an axe in the hands of a pathological criminal". However, all things change, and NZARM has reached a point where a degree of change was seen as a positive way of keeping Broadsheet relevant to today's professional resource managers.

Welcome to the new and possibly improved Broadsheet. The Exec has decided to give the new format a try, on the proviso that the Editor doesn't get bored and dump the editorship on someone else. Feedback so far has been positive, and I've heard that some similar societies/associations are a touch jealous that their regulation issue newsletters look dull in comparison. So kudos to NZARM and the Exec for leading the way.

Members should also be aware of two other proposals. Firstly, in an effort to lift publication quality, Broadsheet will only be produced three times a year. This is obviously fine with me (since I only managed three last year anyway), and it should blunt the edge of 'getting material for Broadsheet nagging cycle' that our regional coordinators are so fond of.

The other possible change relates to paying the Editor for the publication of Broadsheet. Something like \$150 per issue has been suggested. Personally I'm not too sure about this. It may mean I'll have to take the job seriously.

Sticking with the new Broadsheet theme, the observant reader may have noticed punch-hole guides along the spine. This is just in case one of the Exec's other bright ideas eventuate, namely the supply of a ring-binder to new NZARM members. The idea is that folders will contain an 'all you ever needed to know about NZARM' (which, let's be honest, isn't much) introduction, but will also serve as a volume that members gradually add each successive Broadsheet into (thereby having something nice and tidy to put on the bookcase). Not sure if these folders would be made available to existing members, however.

I'll leave you with what an Australian would call an absolute pearler. It's the labelling on the pictured cookie. These cookies were included in an information pack handed out to farmers at the recent Central Districts Field days. They're supposed to promote the Sustainable Land Use Initiative (a region wide project to advance the control of hill-country erosion). I'll leave it to you to decide how these may have gone down with the farming community.

Hope you enjoy the new Broadsheet,
Andrew Manderson



Rotokare Sanctuary: Ambitious & innovative

We've all heard of the Karori Wildlife Sanctuary; a big budget wildlife reserve protected by vermin-proof fence. Here's a provincial example of something similar. How about a few more of these in the regions?

Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust recently began work to predator-proof fence Lake Rotokare Scenic Reserve. Rotokare is a 229ha hill country reserve located 12km east of Eltham in South Taranaki. The reserve contains one of the few remaining natural lake and wetlands in Taranaki, and is classified as a regionally significant. A diverse range of vegetation types can be found at Rotokare from typical lowland forest to drier hill slopes dominated by tawa, rimu and rewarewa. The lake edge swamp forest comprises pukatea, swamp maire and many large kahikatea. Present bird species include tui, bellbird, kereru, North Island robin, North Island brown kiwi, and tomtit; fernbird and crake are present throughout the wetland area. Other notable fauna include banded kokopu in the streams and gold-striped gecko inhabiting the flax margins.

● Lake Rotokare is a popular recreational spot for boating and walking, or enjoying the stunning scenery. The community has shown an overwhelming amount of support towards the project, and without this we wouldn't be where we are today.

The Trust began a very successful intensive pest trapping network in 2004, and following recommendation from a feasibility study, started fundraising for an 8.4km \$2M predator-proof fence to encompass the reserve. Work began on the fence in November 2006 by Xcluder Fence Company, and in just five months the project is about 75% complete. At a recent open day and walk around the fence line, members of the public commented on the impressive earthworks, many asking who the brave (or crazy?) contractor was. For this we take our hat off

to our amazing local earthworks contractor who has an 'obsession' for taking his bulldozer where most wouldn't dare – thanks Greg!



Preparation is now underway to carry out intensive mammalian pest eradication – seven species including mice will be targeted in 2008. Other projects include the establishment of an education centre and caretaker's residence, 12ha's re-vegetation on gifted farm land, and planning for reintroduction of species once found at Rotokare. If you would like to know more about the project look out for our new website www.rotokare.org.nz or email me at kara.prankerd@gmail.com

Kara Prankerd
Project Coordinator
Rotokare Scenic Reserve Trust

LUC Handbook update

Regular Broadsheet readers will know that the Land Use Capability (LUC) Handbook is set to be updated. The first stage has been completed (a two-day meeting to discuss possible improvements). Your Editor took part in the workshop, and thought that NZARMers might like to know how the project is unfolding.

It was a two day meeting involving 12 council reps and 7 CRI scientists. Purpose was to define the content and form of the new handbook. Workshop organisation was by Grant Douglas, facilitation by Margaret Brown, and most of the background introduction was provided and delivered by Garth Eyles.

As far as meetings go, it wasn't too bad. There was none of the heated debate envisaged by some, and few of the proposals had negative implications for legacy LRI and LUC resources. At worst there was muted CON-TENTION on certain points, and a large dose of good natured IMPATIENCE from one or two who will remain unnamed. Other than that, it was a really free-flowing meeting that achieved quite a lot given the ground that had to be covered.

All up, a total of 46 changes were proposed, some minor and others rather major. Those that held my attention included (1) Redefinition of LUC Class V (to include e subclass, and *negligible to slight* ratings for all V subclasses), (2) Expand and better define subclass terminology, (3) Adopt 2nd Edition inventory protocols (vegetation, rock type, and probably erosion), (4) Selective extraction of alternative material from similar publications (e.g. Our Land Resources, Urban LUC booklet), and (5) a correlation exercise to standardise the old LUC regional classifications to modern regional authority boundaries.

A full workshop report is currently being prepared, and will be made available through the Envirolink website (www.envirolink.govt.nz). The next stage – actually doing something – is already underway.

Environmental education for the kids

EE is a scary thing in resource management. I know some councils interpret it as 'teaching them to see things our way' rather than laying out the facts and letting people draw their own conclusions. Here's an article from Ian Cairns on a slightly different plane of thought, regarding EE in New Zealand schools. It may be worth noting that the GLOBE resources he refers to are excellent, and can be readily adapted for adult EE.

The NZ Curriculum Framework provides a context for developing teaching and learning programmes for environmental education. Schools have an opportunity to develop their own policies and practices that promote a whole school approach to a sustainable environment. 16% of schools nationally have opted to become Enviroschools and there are many other schools who deliver aspects of the curriculum through the theme of sustainability. These schools rely on the desire and commitment of the management, teachers, students and their families to work for the environment. Enviroschools are those which have integrated their environmental policies, programmes and practices and are fully involved in activities such as recycling, composting, seed collection and planting projects. The good news is that the numbers are growing and the support and recognition from the wider community is improving.



The Ministry of Education recognises that quality outdoor experiences that have a clear sense of purpose and are well managed can help students to develop an appreciation and concern for the environment. These learning experiences outside the classroom (LEOTC) are where environmental education organisations can tap into the school curriculum. Such organisations include DoC, Regional and Local Authorities, Fish and Game, and a multitude of public and private trusts.

I want to outline the role of one of these organisations and its de-

livery of environmental education programmes into schools around New Zealand. The Royal Society has been involved in environmental education for a number of years and has been successfully coordinating a programme called the National Waterways Project (NWP) since 2000. A network of regional facilitators and some of the larger Regional Councils are involved. The project is contracted from the Ministry of Education who fund the programme through their LEOTC fund. NWP is a freshwater monitoring programme based around the use of the SHMAK toolbox which was developed by NIWA. It involves a visit to a waterway, usually close by a participating school, where the children record water temperature, Ph, velocity and clarity and note the presence of riparian vegetation and stream bed quality. A search is then made for macro invertebrates and small fish, these are identified and numbers recorded. The SHMAK kit assigns indices to each reading and species and by this method a value can be assigned to the waterway. All ages of school children can participate in and enjoy the outdoor experience. There is even a NCEA unit which some Yr 9 to 11 teachers use, that evaluates two different environmental communities.

In 2006 The Royal Society incorporated NWP with GLOBE (Global Learning and Observation to Benefit the Environment) into a programme called EMAP (Environmental Monitoring and Action Project) GLOBE is a world wide hands on, primary and secondary school based environmental and science programme.

Both NWP and GLOBE are internet based programmes which allow on line recording of information and, in the case of GLOBE, schools can compare data from other parts of the world. With GLOBE, students can collect a range of data, including hydrology, soils, land cover and atmosphere. There are protocols for the

collection of data and field recording sites are confirmed by GPS and universal time. It's a step up from NWP, but schools can decide on the type and frequency of data collection.



Over the past 5 years some 50 schools and 3500 children in Hawke's Bay have been through the programme. The values are not just in having a water experience, but in introducing children to practical science and mathematics. The reactions from both teachers and students has been very positive, and its the only job I have ever had where the clients write lovely thank you stories complete with hand drawn pictures.

The Royal Society web site for these programmes is: www.emap.rsnz.org

Ian Cairns
EMAP Regional Coordinator
Hawke's Bay



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

Weeds on the West Coast

A quick update on the activities of the West Coast Ragwort Control Trust (WCRCT).

Phase two of the project (project extension) has started with the employment of Caryl Coates by NZ Landcare Trust as the Ragwort Project Coordinator. Caryl's main focus is to rear the moths and release them throughout the West Coast and to provide information to farmers on the management of their release sites.

The Plume moth has been reared successfully through to emergence. The Crown Boring moth has recently been received and cages setup of this.

Releases are being carried out area by area. These include the Grey Valley, Hokitika/Kumara, South Westland and Westport. 15 releases have been made between December 2006 and March 2007, adding to those made earlier in 2006. The farmers involved in each of the releases made have been trained by Caryl Coates so they understand how to maintain their nursery release site.

Four properties have been monitored with Plume Moth pupae found at one of the sites. Finding the Plume Moth pupae was unexpected and very promising.

Landcare Research have provided moths for many of the releases and assisted with training and monitoring. Caryl has been making a number of presentations to interested groups.

The West Coast Ragwort Control Trust team.



'Sustainable' New Zealand

ODT Paddock Talk - April 2007. I have no idea what ODT Paddock Talk is, but this is a very good article that takes a frank look at the use and misuse of the sustainability term in NZ.

On the 13th of February (no, it wasn't a Friday) the Prime Minister delivered her 'sustainability' speech. Ms Clark got a bit of stick for the amount of times the word was used, but at least there was an intent. The more relevant question was what does the Government actually mean by 'sustainable'. It's one of those infuriating words that has an extremely high ambiguity and obfuscation index. Worse than the lack of clarity, such words mean all things to all people, and are cloaked in an aura of motherhood and apple pie; perfect for bamboozling the masses. No one would dispute the need for it; whatever 'it' is. And if you question 'it', of course, someone will claim you're against 'it'. Another of my favourites is 'efficiency', or 'accountability', loved by politicians in the 1980s and 90s, especially when foisting a suspect policy on an unwary public.

The questions we should ask when faced which such words are: what do you

mean by 'sustainable?'; 'sustaining' what?; 'sustainable' for whom?; over what scale of space and time? That last one is quite important. If you take the scales out too far, we're all merely indestructible energy, so go for your life. If you narrow it down the other way, what's good for just me, right now, is all I have to consider, so don't give it a second thought beyond your immediate pleasure. Sustainable? Piece of cake.

It's not that I'm untrusting of sentiment, but I am with cant and posturing. The word 'sustainability' is to this first decade of the 21st century what 'efficiency' was to the last two of last century. And what people mean when using these sorts of words really matters. No one pointed out in the 1980s and 90s that you could 'efficiently' stuff a system by using a bulldozer instead of something a little more subtle for the values at issue. Such powerful words need large 'caution' labels.

Continued on page 6

CONFERENCE 07

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. November is most favoured as the time to hold the conference.

Advance notice – this years conference **"From Policy to Practice – achieving changes on the ground"** will be held in Palmerston North on 25-27 September. We will be exploring how changes can be made looking at case studies for Hill country issues, water quality and land use intensification. Field trips will look at some practical examples of what is being done.

Call for papers – please contact the organising committee – TabithaA@xtra.co.nz

MEMBERSHIP

Anyone is welcome to join NZARM, 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 a discounted \$50 if paid before the 31st March. Late payments incur the full subscription cost, which is an extra \$20 (late payments extend administration requirements and end up costing the Association money). All membership enquires to:

The Secretary
C/- NZARM
Private Box 5280
PALMERSTON NORTH.

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.

CPRM

NZARM offers the Certificated Practising Resource Manager (CPRM) accreditation to members. This is a graduated certification system based on three levels, with each level recognising current degree of professional development according to experience & qualifications. Continuing professional development is accredited through an annual practicing certificate. CPRM is one of the few ways resource managers can get their experience recognised as an endorsed qualification (according to Professional Standards laid down by AIAST & NZIAS).

Full details including registration forms available from the secretary or the NZARM website (www.nzarm.org.nz).

REGIONAL 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.

There were no regional meetings planned at the time writing.

www.nzarm.org.nz

EVENTS

Annual LandWISE Conference. SMART FARMING: Extracting Efficiencies. Palmerston North 9th & 10th May 2007. For more information and registration go to www.landwise.org.nz/2007conferenceprogramme.htm Or call Wayne on 021 526 394

CONSERV-VISION 2007 conference to celebrate 20 years of NZ conservation management, 4-7 July 2007, University of Waikato. www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/Conserv-Vision

NZARM 2007 Conference. FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE - achieving changes on the ground. Palmerston North, 25-27 September 2007. www.nzarm.org.nz

Soil Science Society 2008 conference SOIL - THE LIVING SKIN OF PLANET EARTH, 1-5 Dec 2008, Massey University (joint conference with Australian SSS). <http://conferences.massey.ac.nz>

Contact the editor if you have an event you want added

Seeing as we've turned over a new millennial leaf, it might be best if we got a handle on whether the Prime Minister's idea of 'sustainability' will involve another blunt instrument or an approach more suited to the way the world actually works.

I'll be so bold as to claim there are two broad camps laying claim to 'sustainability', and they broadly relate to how people implicitly see the world - their world view.

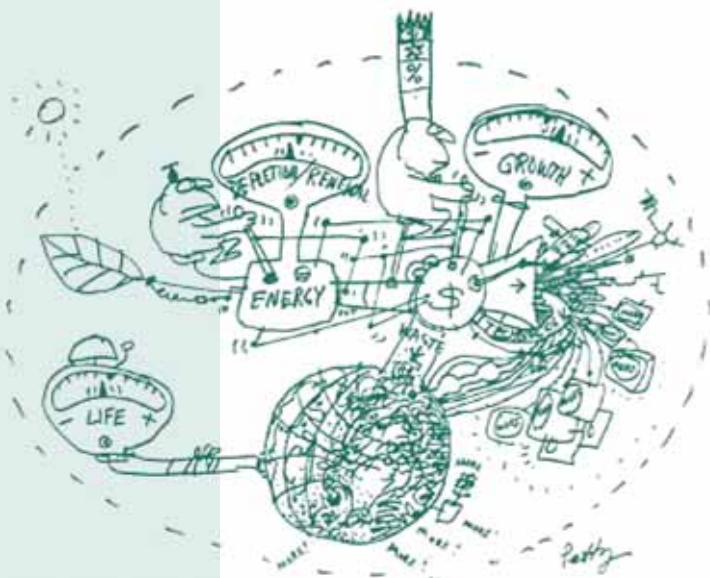
The first camp - I'll call them Structuralists - are all about maintaining sufficient resource yield, usually physical entities, and organisational structures. They tend to like the machine metaphor, where simply aligning one cog with another will suffice. The subscribe to the illusion of a predictable, certain, structurally-utopian future. This is the world of the fact-loving positivists and technocrats - on both sides of the political spectrum - laying the hard mechanical facts out before us all, with a tendency for rigid policies and prescribed practices. Policy is dominated by the centralised 'expertise' of science, economics and technology, and attitudes of command and control. Huxley warned us against this sort of structural utopia in Brave New World. The Structuralists have a faith in the ability to maintain a stasis through time and space. It's simply a matter of putting the pieces together and sitting back and waiting for the utopia to arrive. The quanta of a thing - like the yield of a crop or the area in native vegetation - is more important than its quality or functionality. This is very much the metaphor of the last two hundred years - from Marx to Milton Friedman.

The second camp - I'll call them Functionalists - is concerned with maintaining a broad range of social and environmental capacities and functions in a world they expect to surprise them; not things, but qualities. Yield is not as important as the capacity to recover and renew itself. Quality is important in all things. If you accept that the future is uncertain, then our societies and wider environments need robustness, resilience, and the capacity to respond and adapt. Hard for the technocrat to count, but far more important than knowing the amount of grass we have.

Functionalists tend to like the adaptive systems metaphor, where the future cannot be predicted, and is inherently uncertain. Science and technology are on tap, not on top, and policy is informed by those with no less important localised knowledge. The will to question assumptions and to make wise judgements given specific and changing circumstances are considered higher intellectual virtues than realising a brute fact. This is the world that recognises the need for participation and engagement because all parts of society have knowledge to give and capacity to gain. Environmental and social functions are not confined to either side of the borders DoC and Treasury may have drawn on a map. While goals may be relatively rigid, flexible policies are required to reflect the particulars of time and place, and practices even more so. The Functionalists have no faith in anyone's ability to maintain stasis through time and space, nor do they see that as a worthwhile goal. Change in one of the only certainties, including the change of cherished values, some of which may be working against 'sustainability'. This is not a place that suits authoritarian dogma.

All rather deep, but I think relevant to the debate. There is a strong argument that many of our potential environmental problems relate to the Structuralists' ways of looking at the world; authority and inflexibility wrapped in the current economic and environmental ideologies. When the Prime Minister talks of 'sustainability', it would be nice to know from just what camp the Government is speaking.

Chris Perley
Centre for the Study of Ag, Food, and Environment (www.csafe.org.nz)



MAF Climate & SLM meeting, Dunedin

MAF recently finished a NZ-wide series of public meetings regarding Sustainable Land Management and Climate. They were looking for policy guidance. Murray Harris reports on how things went with the Dunedin meeting.

There was a large turn out of farmers and in particular farm foresters at the recent meeting in Dunedin which was convened by MAF policy and MFE staff at the Dunedin Civic Centre on Thursday 8th March.

A similar format took place at many other main centres around NZ. There was considerable debate (sometimes heated), which made it difficult for the Chairperson to manage but it also highlighted the frustration by many farmers on this matter.

MAF did not have time to comment on all aspects, but gave a reasonable resume of some of the issues and options to manage emissions. The following are some of the options for managing agricultural emissions but in summary they include:

Long Term Options:

- Research- into adaptation, mitigation and measurement technologies and practices for methane and nitrous oxide
- Technology transfer: use of demonstration farms eg N inhibitors, nutrient budgeting and improved crop forage
- Voluntary farm reporting of emissions

Options for encouraging emissions reductions now:

- Incentives for nitrification inhibitors
- Charge on nitrogen fertiliser
- Tradeable permit regime for agricultural emissions-devolution of agricultural greenhouse gas emission obligations and permits to farmers
- Offset schemes for agricultural emissions eg by tree planting and making/using biofuels etc
- RMA standards to control agricultural greenhouse gas emissions eg developing a National Environmental standard ie input and/or output controls
- RMA standards to control new agricultural land use after deforestation eg forestry converted to agriculture and any effects
- Charge where deforested land is used for agriculture eg land converted from forests to agriculture

There was a lot of debate over the possible forestry options that the government may consider which briefly included:

1. Afforestation options

Firstly the Afforestation Grant Scheme (AGS) where growers will be paid grants if they plant forests post 2007. Secondly, they have a choice between AGS and devolution of sinks credits and liabilities. Under this proposal each grower will be given the choice to receive the relevant sink credits and liabilities or seek a grant under the AGS.

2. Deforestation Options

Deforestation of a hectare of mature radiate pine forest is expected to be recorded as an emission of around 800 tonnes of carbon dioxide in the national carbon credit account. That is equivalent to an emissions cost of around \$13000 for each hectare of land deforested (assuming \$15.92 per tonne of carbon dioxide)

It is common for forests to be planted under commercial arrangements whereby the owner of a forest is separate from the owner of the underlying land, such as through a "forestry right" or lease. The Government deforestation controls will be placed on whatever party takes the decision to deforest.

The Department of Conservation, regional councils and private land-owners all sometimes cut down exotic trees for weed control purposes. Such activity is expected to be classified as deforestation, and therefore lead to an emission liability.

Deforestation included 3 concepts:

1. Government pricing mechanisms

Here there would be a flat charge imposed on land use from forestry to another use (ie non Kyoto forests).

2. Market based mechanisms

This proposal sees a tradeable permit regime (is a tax on the industry and will not be liked by farmers). Government would allocate tradeable deforestation permits; forest owners who deforest non Kyoto forests are liable for emissions above the level of permits they hold

3. Using Regulation

Firstly, by centrally determining deforestation levels. This would

mean having to pass new legislation to limit rates of deforestation of non Kyoto forests (ie national deforestation limit). This option is not really acceptable and hopefully will get the thumbs down!

Secondly, by RMA controls. The RMA is in existence and has most mechanisms in place to do this if desired (ie by rule changes).

Summary of the Pre 1990 forest situation & post 1990. The present proposal			
	Planting	Harvest-ing	Deforest-ation
Pre 1990	No credits	No cost	Cost
Post 1990	Credits (retained by Govt)	Cost (retained by Govt)	Cost (retained by Govt)

One of the real issues in the report is the basic breaches in private property rights eg a farmer can change his land use from sheep to dairying with minimal penalties but a change in forestry will impose a penalty under this draft proposal.

There was debate and a motion from the floor that NZ should withdraw from the Kyoto Protocol because will we not make a difference being such a small country if we go ahead with some of these proposals. However, NZ has ratified the Kyoto protocol and is now committed to carrying this out.. Note that the protocol will operate in five year commitment periods (CP) beginning with CP1, which will run from 1/1/2008 to 31/12/2012.

Lets hope this proposal is not a fait accompli by government and that they consider seriously the matters and comments from the public and in particular farmers and farm foresters who stand to lose a lot.

NZARM considered making a submission but in the end this did not eventuate. Submissions closed on the 30th March 2007.

Murray Harris
Land and Forest Consultants,
Dunedin

Welcoming in the new Exec

Those of you who attended the last Annual General Meeting (Christchurch, 2006) were responsible for voting in NZARM's current Executive Committee ('the Exec'). The fad nowadays is to introduce Exec representatives so NZARM members have a better idea of who is at the wheel. However, I really wish I'd organised a quick photo shot at the last conference, because the photos that the Exec supplied are a real handbag. Likewise, the backgrounds each Exec member supplied ranges from full-on curriculum vitae (which I've trimmed) through to not very much at all.

Name: SIMON STOKES

Role: NZARM President

Real Job: Advisor Land Management, Hawkes Bay Regional Council

Background: Simon provided me with everything except a background, so I've made one up as best I can. He hails originally from a dairy farming background in Dannevirke, and then sheep & beef farming in Wairoa. At one point he was at Massey University, possibly doing a degree in agricultural science. Career



wise, I believe Simon started as a bright eyed, bushy-tailed LMO in the farthest reaches of the Manawatu-Wanganui Region (Taumarunui), and was then poached to the Hawkes Bay to become a highly regarded land manager under the mentoring of the well-versed but argumentative Garth Eyles. Like Garth, Simon is a staunch stalwart of the Land Use Capability system and farm planning, and both share a silver tongue when they have occasion to use it.

In his own time, Simon appears to enjoy tramping and holidaying up at Mahia Peninsula. He brings a jolting and refreshing approach to his term as NZARM President, and I imagine his enthusiasm for the role will help lead the organisation forward over the next year or two.

Name: CHRIS PHILLIPS

Role: NZARM immediate past President

Real Job: Scientist, Landcare Research

Background: Chris is a senior scientist with Landcare Research based at Lincoln with research and consultancy experience in the fields of integrated catchment management and erosion process research. He has led and managed research projects in these areas



and has a particular interest in forest harvesting effects on erosion and sediment delivery to streams, and in the role of vegetation in mitigating sediment delivery. He also has an interest in the use of technology for information and knowledge management for sustainable land use, and how information

technologies can improve community participation in catchment management and in the uptake and use of science for planning and policy formulation.

Recognised as a Leading Professional by NZARM & NZIAS; Certified Practising Resource Manager (CPRM). Member of the New Zealand Geological Society, New Zealand Hydrological Society, New Zealand Association of Resource Management (NZARM); International Erosion Control Association (Australasia) (IECA).

Been a member of NZARM since a long time ago – late 1980's or thereabouts and been on and off exec (committee member or Broadsheet Editor) pretty much since the early 1990's. Did a one-term stint as President and currently immediate-past President. Enjoys the odd, and not so odd glass of wine, loved windsurfing but children put paid to that, though am finally getting back on to the mountain bike, albeit near flat tracks with our boys.

Name: MURRAY HARRIS

Role: Treasurer

Real Job: Resource management consultant

Background: 34 years experience in sustainable land management and as a member of NZARM. Brought up in Dunedin, traveled daily to High School at Mosgiel (took agriculture subjects). After graduating from Lincoln in 1973 with a "Degree in Agriculture Science" I was initially employed by the Otago Catchment Board (OCB) as a Soil Conservator working on special survey and investigation projects including many land inventory-land use capability surveys and the development of integrated farm plans.



In 1989 I was promoted to the Senior Operations Officer position with the newly formed Otago Regional Council. responsible for a large staff contingent. Later in 1991 I became Land Manager at the Council responsible for the implementation of the Rabbit & Land Management programme and

property Plans in Otago. Involved in developing new Council policy on land, water and forestry issues.

Time was spent on a 3 month secondment working in Australia for the NSW Soil Conservation service on peri urban land use issues and land use planning.

In July 1994 I decided to take a new direction in life and formed a company called "Land and Forest Consultants Ltd" which specialized in a range of sustainable land use activities and best management practices.

Co-author of the "Soil Conservation Technical Manual" in association with NZARM and Ministry for the Environment in 2001. Involved in a range of projects such as Sustainable Farming Fund Projects. Tutoring at Telford Rural Polytechnic mainly to the "Diploma in Rural Business" course and have been the Regional Judging coordinator for the Ballance Farm Environment Awards for 4 years in Otago.

I was encouraged by Wallace Ramsay Chief Soil Conservator of the Otago Catchment Board to become a member of the Soil Conservators Association and saw the benefits of it joining in 1973 and have been a member since then. I enjoy belonging to a professional group meeting others working in sustainable land management.

I was co-opted onto the executive in early 2002yr especially as there was no one from the lower south island to support the southern members (I think that was the reason). More recently I will be helping Tabitha as your treasurer and hope we can make some progress on a systematic budget which can take the association into the next decade. We have some new expenditure items we need to look at if we are to progress as a professional organization.

Hobbies are sport, family (ps..I am now a grand father and its great!!) enjoying good beer and classy wine.

Name: SHELLEY WASHINGTON

Role: National Regional Coordinator

Real Job: Regional Coordinator for the Central South Island (West Coast and Canterbury) for the NZ Landcare Trust.

Background: I have worked for NZ Landcare Trust for nearly six years. Before that I completed a Bachelor and Masters degree in Resource Studies at Lincoln University.



I've been a member of NZARM for the last few years. I've also volunteered to be the West Coast Regional Coordinator so will be working on getting some members there.

As the National Regional Coordinator on the NZARM executive my roles include:

- Linking exec and regional coordinators.
- Negotiating a regional coordinator for each region.
- Encouraging regional coordinators to update regional member & contact lists, to find new members, and to seek member input into Broadsheet.

- Making sure regional coordinators have information they need to give to new members.
- Promoting the organisation of regional workshops, (incl. information on NZARM financial assistance).
- Arranging a regional coordinator meeting to take place during the annual conference and AGM.

In my spare time my favourite hobby is tramping, the opportunities for exciting tramping adventures in the South Island seems limitless. Haven't needed to be rescued yet! I also enjoy various creative pursuits such as painting, and more recently, limestone sculpturing.

I purchased my first house a year and a half ago and since then have painted the outside, built a deck, designed and planted a native garden, and am now decorating the inside. Like everyone I also love spending time with friends and family and plotting the next tramping trip or holiday. I spent three months in USA & Canada in 2005 and I plan to visit Europe in 2008.

Name: TABITHA MANDERSON

Role: Secretary

Real Job: Environment Network Co-ordinator

Background: I got roped into being on the exec a few years ago now and have been secretary for a couple of 'terms'. I did my University study at Massey, back in the day when they offered Ag Science, and few years later did M.Appl Sc in NRM extramurally.

I've worked for TRC, MfE and Horizons, currently working part-time as the coordinator for Environment Network Manawatu. I'm also back at Massey, this time doing a Masters in Planning. Occasionally I get to ride my horse, which means I can multi-task and exercise the terror terrier Paddy.



Name: ROSS ABERCROMBIE

Role: Co-opted representative

Real Job: ICM Coordinator, Environment Waikato

Background: My work background has been a bit scattered. I started work with AgResearch while completing my masters in the social research group. This involved being a lackey for the team working on farmer learning, supply chain stuff and some environmental topics such as the Whatawhata Catchment Management Group. Following this I worked with Dexcel trying to



figure out how to set up systems for the now defunct Monitor Farm network nationwide. Both avenues built my knowledge of farm systems and padded out my resource management/geography background.

From here I started work with ARC initially doing effluent compliance and consents before also taking on some landcare and land management type work. After 2 years living in Auckland, battling traffic, trying to avoid being killed on my bike from SUV drivers, and gaining a taste for latte's I moved South with my partner, now wife Kirsty and took on work with Environment Waikato. This work initially focussed on an education role with farmers and liaison with farm industry which I have really enjoyed. In September last year I moved sideways in the organisation and took on a coordination role with our ICM projects in the hydro lakes catchment between Karapiro and Taupo. This work puts together most of my past work experiences and interests in 2 catchments. It's a great time learning more about a couple of areas in the Waikato and really looking hard at what sustainability on farm truly means. This project is a lens for our Council and is enlightening future policy as well as checking if we have current policy right, interesting stuff.

As a newly co-opted NZARM exec member (thanks Alan) I'm still working out what this means for me and my work. Locally I try and link into the regional scene and talk a lot with Tane about the need to run an event or two. Personally I enjoy NZARM for the collegial aspects but also the learning had at conferences and events.

Not wanting to sound like a personal ad (but that's what we were asked for) I enjoy mountain biking, road cycling and anything with two wheels. I swim a bit, love fishing if anyone is heading out and needs crew and the odd surf. Can't say I have time for long walks on the beach but hey, maybe one day. Anyway, that's me, get into NZARM and make it work for you.

Name: JOHN WHALE

Role: Co-opted representative (shared)

Real Job: Manager Environmental Planning

Background: John is from a farming background. He travelled for 5 years overseas in the 1970's, came back to work on farms in the Rangitikei then went back to university in the early 1980's.



John graduated as a Regional Planner from Massey in 1984, worked for the Marlborough Catchment Board as a Water Rights Officer, then as a Regional Planner for the Nelson-Marlborough Regional Council during its short existence.

John, Sue and their two kids shifted up to Whakatane to

work for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council in 1993 as a Resource Planner. Currently John is the Manager Environmental Planning at Environment Bay of Plenty. He has been a member of NZARM for about 12 years and is currently the BOP Regional Coordinator. Recently John was co-opted onto the NZARM Executive as a general busybody.

John likes tramping and fishing but says that he doesn't do enough of either!

Name: NORM NGAPO

Role: Co-opted representative (shared)

Real Job: Resource management consultant

Background: Norm holds a B.Agr.Sc. from Massey University, and a Certificate in Maori Studies from the University of Waikato. He holds the Certified Practising Resource Manager (CPRM) certificate issued by the New Zealand Association of Resource Management.

Norm is a soil conservator, with over 32 years experience, working initially in the Hauraki area before moving to the Bay of Plenty in 1980. Norm worked as Senior Soil Conservator for the Bay of Plenty Catchment Commission and its successor, the Bay of Plenty Regional Council.

In June 1998, Norm left the Bay of Plenty Regional Council and established Waiora Soil Conservation Limited. Since that time, he has carried out a variety of work, mainly in the general field of soil and water conservation. Norm undertakes project work for the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, as well as private land resource assessment work for organisations and individual landowners.

Norm's family are originally from the Coromandel Peninsula, and he has affiliations to Ngati Porou ki Harataunga, Ngati Tamatera, and Ngati Awa. Norm is married to Carol, and they have three children who are



now adults, have thankfully left home, and are working in New Zealand and Australia. Norm and Carol live at Ohope Beach, and enjoy fishing, kayaking, and tramping. Norm works from home and checks out the surf and fishing conditions from his office. While Carol enjoys gardening, Norm helps out by

offering helpful advice, and pruning with his chainsaw (when he is allowed to).

Norm has been co-opted onto the NZARM Executive, after being a member of the Executive in the early 1990s.

From the Secretaries Desk

The Executive Committee, with a few new faces, had its first face to face meeting in March. As we don't do the face-to-face meetings that often, there was plenty to talk about. The accounts from the very successful 06 conference were in the process of being finalised, but it proved to be a profitable conference and the NZARM coffers remain very healthy.

The Exec considered an application from Alan Campbell for the McCaskill Award and were very happy to award him a contribution towards a study tour. Alan intends to take a study tour to North America and the United Kingdom late this year. It sounds like an amazing trip with Alan intending to visit over 20 government agencies, Universities and NGOs. The purpose of the study tour

is to investigate international practice in addressing the environmental effects of agriculture, in support of Environment Waikato's Sustainable Agriculture Strategy. Restrictions on hand luggage means it might be hard to tag along with Alan on this amazing trip, but we will get to hear about it when he returns as the Exec have requested that Alan write up a two part article for Broadsheet and present at next years conference about the study tour. Hopefully Alan doesn't have too hard a time deciding what bottles of duty free to bring back.

Thanks to everyone who has been getting their subs in and letting me know updates for the database. If you have any problems please email me TabithaA@xtra.co.nz

Executive news

The Exec held a meeting in March in Napier and the following is a brief summary. The annual conference is to be held in the Manawatu this year in 25-27 September (See page 5). Please put that date into your calendar and come to what is essentially the 'must do' event for an NZARM member. It is an excellent theme and relates well to the current hot topics in NZ.

The Exec approved the co-option of two members – Ross Abercrombie (Waikato) and John Whale/Norm Ngapo (shared role in the Bay of Plenty). This gives NZARM wider representation, particularly in the upper north island where there are many members already.

Shelley Washington is getting her teeth into the role of National coordinator for the Regional reps and is doing an excellent job. It is an important feature of belonging to NZARM, to have all members well informed on many issues and activities. A big thanks to the Regional rep's

also, much appreciated. If you haven't heard from your Regional rep through email, contact Shelley.

The McCaskill Award has been granted to Alan Campbell this year to help with his study tour, investigating international practice in addressing environmental effects of ag-

riculture. Members, please look at using this underutilised award, which can support fund up to \$2000. It would be great to grant it annually.

The Broadsheet is to be updated and we hope you enjoy the new format. The Exec has analysed costs and moved to proceed with the new style, with many thanks to the current editor, Andrew Manderson, for his innovation and work. The Exec has also decided to look at NZARM's website to improve its 'shop window' and potential use.

NZARM's practising certificate (CPRM) is being targeted for promotion later this year, however Alan Campbell (who represents NZARM on the approval board) is investigating changes to the certificate in Australia and whether that affects licensing and its process for approval in New Zealand with the NZIAS.

The rain has ended now, so I should have a clear day for field work in potentially greener pastures. The only clouds on the horizon are coming from the south.

Simon Stokes

CONFERENCE 2007

This years conference "From Policy to Practice – achieving changes on the ground" will be held in Palmerston North on 25-27 September. We will be exploring how changes can be made looking at case studies for Hill country issues, water quality and land use intensification. Field trips will look at some practical examples of what is being done.

Call for papers – please contact the organising committee – TabithaA@xtra.co.nz

Regional roundup

SOUTHLAND

Bala TikkiSETTY's position has been filled by an internal candidate. Nathan Cruickshank has accepted the position as Land Sustainability Officer. Nathan has a degree in Farm Management and work experience with Crop & Food and the Topoclimate Soil Survey Programme prior to joining ES.

Farm Dairy Effluent Strategy. The Council has a goal of "beating" non-point source pollution by 2015. Water Quality monitoring over Southland shows a marked decline particularly in lowland catchments over the last few years. Compliance Officers report tile drains running green from a high number of dairy farms. The application of FDE from traveling irrigators is one of the main causes. Soils are often at field capacity in Southland at the shoulders of the milking season. The promotion of low application systems, deferred storage, installation of a network of soil moisture probes, preparation of FDE Guidelines booklet for dairy farmers and a series of field days in late April are keeping us busy.

Environmental Farm Plans are being drawn up for all ES leasehold land- 5000 ha of flood prone land at the bottom of the Oreti and Mataura River catchments.

Southland District Plan. The SDC has rules governing the modification of indigenous vegetation in Southland. Land Sustainability staff actively promote this rule (with agreement from SDC) and are currently working with a number of landowners in hill country (particularly Landcorp) on their land development programmes.

Stock access to watercourses. Council has been deliberating this issue as part of the Water Plan recently. LS staff have been heavily involved in providing advice and ideas about how ES should proceed. The first cut had all watercourses on LUC Classes I-IV in Southland fenced out from cattle, deer and pigs. Following a huge howl of protest and submissions from the farming sector the current proposal is to require a fence 3m from water edge during the winter grazing land use (fodder crops or pasture). Outside this activity it will be permitted to have stock accessing waterways as long as water quality standards are met.

Forestry. Southland has some large Sustainable Forest Management Permits for harvesting indigenous forests. These are for mainly silver beech. A lot of the areas are on steep land and MAF rely on ES Land Sustainability staff for on going monitoring of tracks, skid trails, watercourse crossings, cut-outs etc.

General. Staff provide one on one advice to landowners on a variety of topics. These in-

clude windbreak treeplanting plans, riparian mgt plans, nutrient budgeting advice, demonstration of VSA. We are also involved in the usual attendance and contribution to Dexcel fielddays, farm discussion groups, monitor farms etc. Topics for our own ES field day programme this year will include wind break treeplanting, FDE application, winter grazing and high country burning.

Jim Risk

MANAWATU-WANGANUI

The Horizons team are flat out trying to get 40 farm plans done by the end of June (excepting Aaron Madden, Hilary Webb and Don Clark who are still doing native trees/wetlands and weeds type work).

Not sure about the Agresearch bunch.

Many NZARM members showed up at a recent workshop on rewriting and updating the LUC handbook. There seems to be a renaissance of LRI and LUC mapping for farm plans, which is great.

One thing I have been involved in lately Crop and Food extending their Land Management Index work into the Manawatu. Land Management Index will hope to predict soil quality from basic land management data. For example: using information on land use, wintering cattle or not, cultivation intensity and years in crop, etc, to predict bulk density, aggregate size distribution, aggregate stability, Olsen P, macroporosity. I have been doing visual soil assessments at the LMI sites. 2006 was a particularly wet spring in our region. As a result, I found several examples of cattle farming (dairy or beef) having quite severe effects on soil structure - as bad as cropping, with VSA structure and porosity scores close to zero on some farms, but up around 2 on others (see photos).



Because we had such a wet spring, compaction has been much more widespread than usual with virtually all paddocks on many farms being compacted, some several times. Meanwhile other farmers who were very worried about soil compaction and pugging have got away with very little damage.

Malcolm Todd

WAIKATO

Gabriele Kaufler, Bala TikkiSETTY and the EE sustainable Ag Team

Nutrient Management: Since the new fertiliser rule (WRP 3.9.4.11) became operative last year we have been working with the stakeholders communicating EW's expectations. The rule requires every farmer who applies more than 60 kg N/ha and year to have a nutrient management plan (NMP) in place. Furthermore, when fertiliser is applied to the effluent irrigation area a nutrient management plan needs to be put in place. A nutrient management plan starts by preparing a nutrient budget summarising inputs and outputs of a farm system, mainly using the Overseer model. This budget is the basis for creating a NMP, which outlines the practical steps taken to reduce and mitigate nutrient and sediment losses from the system. These actions might comprise improving the effluent management, preventing stock access to waterways and creating riparian margins, changing winter management and animals' diet as well as looking after soil health and strategically mining nutrients from areas that show signs of overload. EW has publicised guidelines for NMPs on the web: www.ew.govt.nz/enviroinfo/land/management/nutrients/nutrientmanagementplanguide.htm

To meet the Clean Streams Accord fertiliser companies are currently preparing nutrient budgets for their dairy clients. This is a great start to increase farmers' understanding of the nutrient amounts cycling in a farm system and the potential losses. But without taking action on issues showing up in the budget these nutrient budgets are a waste of time. To increase farmers understanding of nutrient budgets and NMP we have been initiating workshops & are actively supporting field days run by other agencies. An EW paper presented to the FLRC conference in this context pointed out the crucial role of the consultants and advisers supporting adoption of best management practices when working with farmers.

Effluent Management: EW has initiated a campaign to get farmers to sample the effluent nutrient content. This involved setting up a sampling and reporting process together with the laboratory and developing a sampling kit plus sampling instructions, too. The outcome so far is that farmers were quite surprised about the high Nitrogen and Potassium content found in effluent and started to inquire about how to reduce the nutrient loading. Furthermore the potential fertiliser savings showed up quite clearly for those who tested. Inquiries re. effluent systems and suppliers performance as well as necessary storage capacity on different soils have increased significantly.

This learning opportunity helps stepping farmers and their consultants forward beyond “just” compliance. Effluent starts to be acknowledged as a resource to the farm system instead of a waste product to be disposed of.

Ross Abercrombie and Paul Smith

Our ICM project looking into nutrient efficiency on farm in 2 catchments is now getting into the swing of things. We’ve had initial meetings with the farmers, identified some issues and now are commencing farm plans to work thru what can and can’t be done regarding nutrient leakage. Other side work going on includes some rough science to define likely nutrient leakage with different land uses (i.e. forest turning into pasture in the next few years), and, work on the economics of farm system change which will be used to start a technical advisory group. The catchment work is now informing a policy review of the hydro lakes catchment which will go into more depths towards what the social, cultural, economic and environmental targets for this catchment are, and how our policies fit in this mix.

All in all it’s a pretty interesting and busy time for us. Nutrient Management is becoming more important as the Waikato River and other smaller tributaries are starting to feel the effects of years of agricultural intensification. Watch this space.

Emily O’Donnell

Year three of the Peninsula Project has seen the scheme continue to meet targets in Soil Conservation works. Raising the profile of the project through local media has aided in full allocation of budgets and 70% allocation for the coming year.

A shift from historical soil conservation plantings to the use of eco-sourced natives in restoration and soil conservation has been well supported with landowners keen to look at improving biodiversity & conserving precious soil.

This year the Coromandel zone hopes to plant 22,000 eco-sourced native plants through Environment Waikato’s plant tender scheme (40% of EW plant order total).

This financial year has also seen the framework put in place for a Catchment Management Plan for the Wharekawa Catchment (just north of Whangamata). This is a first for the Peninsula Project team, it is hoped that the model developed here will provide the framework for future works. The mountains to the sea approach is well supported by the local community, who provide a crucial grass roots link and help drive and promote the plan.

Rien van de Weteringh

Land Management Officer for the Waihou and Piako Catchments involved with planning and implementation land management and clean streams proposals. Lately much time has gone into the following projects:

Best Practice Dairying Catchments in the Toenepi Catchment one of 4 catchment

projects in New Zealand funded by SMF and Dairy Insights where collaboration between dairy farmers, industry, scientists and regional authorities aims at implementing sustainable farming practices and improved water quality.

Waitete Stream Restoration Project – A community project in a small catchment near Waihi involving landowners, local schools, local industry, interest groups and agencies restoring the Waitete Stream, improving water quality and a creating a wildlife corridor from the bush in the upper catchment right into town

Preparing an Environmental Plan for a high input (50% grass- 50% supplements) dairy farm near Walton (Piako Catchment), a project led by Waikato Innovation Park supported by servicing industries and expertise from science and regional council with a long term vision to build “the worlds most profitable dairy farm” on an environmentally sustainable basis.

Consultation for and preparation of consent for harvesting 80 ha of pinus radiata on the Kaimais and owned by Environment Waikato’s Waihou Valley Scheme.

Therese Balvert & Tane Desmond

Tane’s focus has been on the Upper Waipa and Waitomo Scheme works – both new works and condition assessments on historic works. Therese has been involved with erosion control works on some North Waikato Lakes, and supporting the Shore Futures project on the western harbours, which seeks to gauge public views on how development should proceed within this area.

Together we are again managing EW’s Native Plant Supply Scheme. This year we have contracted nurseries to supply ~50,000 native plants for our Clean Streams projects in the Southern Waikato and Coromandel areas.

Tane Desmond

WELLINGTON

The rain is finally falling the problem is the cold is here with it. There is some concern we are going from a dry summer straight to winter leaving out autumn which will result in farmers not having the feed on hand going into winter.

After the last couple of winters something a bit milder and without the great rainstorms would be very well received.

News on the Regional Council front since the last edition is:

- Dave Cameron seems to be in and out of meetings more often than not, so we haven’t seen much of him. He doesn’t appear to be losing the hair too quickly, so he must be coping with the manager’s position.

- Peter Cameron’s replacement has been found for the nursery and is starting in early May. This winter is going to be somewhat of a baptism of fire and there are some big shoes to fill. We all

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certainly wish Peter all the best for his very well deserved retirement after 44 years with the Wairarapa Catchment Board and now the Greater Wellington Regional Council. His contribution to his work place but also the entire region has been huge and his knowledge and humour will be missed.

- Don Bell and Stan Braaksma have both been appointed as team leaders with Don looking after operations and the junior land managers and Stan looking after the nursery manager and the running of the nursery.

- Not only has the position of the 4th hill country land manager been approved the funding for that position has been granted, with recruitment to start in May with the job starting in early July.

- Megan Banks has started as Michelle Birds replacement while Michelle is away on maternity leave. No sign of the baby yet but due any day.

- Chris Ladd has decided to leave and go back to his dairy farming roots but is staying locally. He is well aware that his ties to the regional council will continue with consents and compliance, lower valley schemes and drainage schemes playing a big part in his new venture. A replacement has been made, Andrew Patrick who is a local chap is starting in mid April meaning there will be an overlap with the old and the new. Pole demand is as high as it has been for the last 2 years so a month's crash course for winter will be occurring for Andrew.

- Tony Faulkner has been busy with his land managers job since starting in mid January and got a very commendable 4 farm plan reviews done and signed off.

- Don Bell has been busy organising a spray day which was run for contractors and other members of the GWRC team. He also ran a Papawai Stream Care Group which looked at willow clearing in and around water ways. Both were well attended.

- BEFA awards are nearing a close with judging finished and awards being announced 26th April at an awards evening.

Well my days as regional rep for NZARM, broadsheet and as a land manager are almost over. It has been a fantastic experience, I have worked with some hugely talented and dedicated people in my team without whose efforts the Wairarapa would be a very different place. I wish them and you all well.

Chris Ladd

BAY OF PLENTY

Norm Ngapo has been busy dealing with resource consent issues; particularly the consents relating to the restoration of the

Matata Lagoon, which are due for public notification. Matata was hit by an intense storm in May 2005, which resulted in debris flows inundating parts of Matata township. Remedial works have been proposed by Whakatane District Council and the first two consent applications have been lodged with the District and Regional Councils.

Norm has also been involved with updating of the Land Resource Fact Sheets for Environment Bay of Plenty. Other matters of interest include attendance at a workshop hosted by MAF and GDC in Dec 2006, A number of other NZARM members were also at the workshop which looked at erosion control plantings on the worst eroding land in the Gisborne District.

Also, in late March 2007, Norm attended another workshop in Palmerston North, hosted by AgResearch. This was also well represented with a number of other NZARM members and looked at updating of the Land Use Capability Handbook. This project is largely due to the persistence of Garth Eyles, who has been an advocate for updating the handbook over a number of years (if not decades!) Well done Garth!!

John Whale has been getting into air planning, working with the Rotorua Air Quality Working Party to set up the Rotorua Air Quality Restoration Action Plan to manage the Rotorua Local Air Management Area. Whew!

René Weterings is just returning from Laos. Been here a month doing some real soil con work on roads for a French power company. He promises to write more on this later.

John Whale

HAWKES BAY

Garth Eyles has been part of a workshop which brought together what he describes as the remaining knowledge of LUC mapping. This is working toward an update of the LUC handbook and will be carried out by scientists from Landcare Research, AgResearch and IGNS over the next 18 months. Garth's really big news however is having his daughter married.

Andrew Curtis has a group of wine growers and orchardists together to look at implications of being Carbon Neutral. He has had success in assisting local growers to access SFF funds. A recently completed project has been the performance of irrigation systems in orchards. That information will be available for distribution shortly.

Peter Manson oversees the councils pole nursery, which is shaping up this year to produce one of the highest yields on record at well over 30,000 poles on a 2 year rotation. Even more poles will need to be pur-

chased to satisfy demand.

Darion Embling has been auditing Fonterra Clean Streams Accord properties. This has involved looking at every waterway on specific farms including culverts and crossings to see how well the owners have done. He has been enjoying this contact due to the fact that he has a cheque book to help them keep at it!

Warwick Hesketh spent much of the last few months on dune care work at Ocean Beach, Kairakau and Pourere. He is now in South Africa on holiday. Lives been tough for Warwick.

Joe Devonport continues his good work as forest manager for the Tangoio soil conservation reserve. Logging has been going ahead lately to take advantage of the good prices and excellent weather. A start is to be made this season on planting the first of several blocks of alternative timber species in the reserve.

Simon Stokes delivered a paper at the Fertiliser and Lime conference recently and has just organised and largely presented a very successful Land Use Capability workshop for land management/soil conservation professionals.

Neil Faulkner as been to the NZ Masters hockey tournament in between theatre and aero club commitments. He has also had time for inspecting the multitude of conservation projects carried on farms in Central Hawkes Bay under the HBRC's Regional Landcare Scheme.

Peter Manson

TARANAKI

A lot has happened since Dec 2006 in Taradise. Spring didn't happen until Jan-Feb but when it did, extreme growth resulted. However, the season went into a 3 week drought with farmers on to once a day milking. Our North Egmont rainfall site (on the mountain), recorded a mere 37mm for February compared to the usual 481mm for the month (1880mm in February 2004). However, things have returned to somewhere near normal – wherever that is.

Dex Knowles has officially retired as Director of Operations and now has the luxury of only working 40 hours per week! River control and land transport projects take up the majority of his time as special projects manager (part time).

Rob Phillips is our new Director of Operations. He completed an Agricultural Science degree at Lincoln College and joined the North Canterbury Catchment Board as an assistant soil conservator in 1979. His early career was spent preparing Soil and Water Conservation Plans and Wind break plans

throughout North Canterbury but with an increasing focus on Banks Peninsula. With the advent of the Canterbury Regional Council the emphasis went off soil conservation, land management and pest management. The first task he was involved in was reviewing the various ways pest boards had rated for pest control and then put in place a classification using pest proneness based on soil types and, in some cases vegetation. A GIS system was used to implement the system across all of Canterbury. Pest management and Biosecurity work soon became the main part of his workload and he then became involved in preparing Regional Pest Management Strategies as well as working nationally on Biosecurity matters. Rob was appointed Pest and Biosecurity Portfolio Manager at Environment Canterbury in 2000 and the Land Portfolio was added in 2005. His national work in Biosecurity continued and he also convenes the Biosecurity Managers Group. Rob says "I was drawn to Taranaki because of its focus with getting things done on the ground and its culture

of working together". "I am thoroughly enjoying his new role in Taranaki including being back in the land management business and there are a number of exciting projects underway here in Taranaki and its good to be a part of them".

Jason Loveridge is busy getting all his farm plans, monitoring and planting projects tied up before he heads to Switzerland for 5 months. Jason and the hillcountry team carried out 20 Visual Soil Assessments recently as part of a stocking rate trial.

Darren Scown is handing over the poplar nursery management portfolio to concentrate on more of the riparian plant scheme tasks. After earlier lease arrangements fell through, Council has just proposed, had approved and purchased a 4ha block to establish its own supply of poplars and willows. Darren will assist in the development phase of the nursery.

Kevin Cash will be taking over the poplar

nursery operations from Darren. Kevin has also been busy taking plant orders, visiting farmplan holders, completing new plans and running hillcountry discussion groups.

Don Shearman is still not playing enough golf because of the building and landscaping projects he has on the go at home. Don is coaching 3 Land Management Officers into running the native plant scheme and has all but handed these duties over. Currently, LMOs have sold 120,000 native plants with another 100,000 to go. Fonterra has sponsored prizes to the value of \$14000 to promote planting by farmers. Those who order 300 plants or more can go into the draw to win a complete riparian planting package, or a flatscreen TV. Taranaki also hosted the Minister for the Environment recently for the release of the third annual report on the Clean Streams Accord. Everything was well organised – including the views of Mount Taranaki for this whirlwind visit.

Don Shearman

OTAGO

Assoc. Prof. Sam Mann, Otago Polytechnic, is working on strategies for sustainability in computing education.

Murray Harris has been busy organising a Sustainable Farming Fund showcase of 9 Otago SFF projects to be held in Balclutha on 26 April. Murray's also busy co-ordinating Otago Ballance Farm Awards judging.

Barrie Wills is working on a sustainable farming fund project in Marlborough. He's also analysing vegetation in the Sharpin willow trial (Japanese willow) in South Otago and the Prebble poplar trial, both which are part of a SFF project on poplars and willows for environmental management and fodder.

Nicola McGrouther and Bruce Monaghan had a great day with other Regional Coun-

cil and Agresearch staff from Otago and Southland looking at "herd home" wintering systems in Southland in March. For many farmers, especially those on tile drain land, wintering cows on saturated soils is creating significant nutrient runoff into waterways. These farmers really need to be looking at other management practices that can be used to reduce runoff. One option is the "herd home" option, wintering cows for 10 weeks inside. We looked at 4 different wintering systems tried by farmers Southland. They ranged in cost from \$480 to \$1500 per cow to build. One issue: making sure the sludge produced is still disposed of efficiently – not sprayed straight out onto saturated paddocks but stored till late spring or summer. Farmers in the region are currently adopting wait and see approach rather than rushing into building herd homes.



Nicola McGrouther

Is LUC used by regional authorities anymore?

In the last issue of Broadsheet Ian Lynn & Allan Hewitt posed an invitation to regional authorities, to indicate whether or not they still use the Land Use Capability system. The only response was from Trevor Freeman at GDC.

Is LUC used by regional councils anymore? Yes, and has been in Gisborne since the 1st edition worksheets were produced. Originally this formed the basis for determining subsidised works programmes through Farm Plans and Catchment Control Schemes incorporating detailed scale LUC mapping.

In 1997 the District Plan was notified. It used regional scale LUC mapping to classify land disturbance and vegetation removal activities as permitted, controlled,

restricted discretionary etc based on land sensitivity. This incorporated the 2nd edition regional mapping when it came out in 1999. More recently we've notified a new rule requiring tree establishment on certain LUC units, after district wide mapping of these units at a detailed scale.

LUC is alive and very well here. It is a brilliant tool firmly embedded into our resource management activities.

Cheers, Trevor.

Letters

Letters to the Editor are a great way to contribute to Broadsheet. As you can see below, there's quite a bit of space available. Any letter is welcome, and we're especially interested to hear your opinion on anything resource management related. "Opinion has caused more trouble on this little earth than plagues or earthquakes" (some French philosopher), which may not be altogether good, but it does make for interesting reading.

LRI & LUC mapping

Dear Andrew

Having been an early soil conservator (1951), I was most interested to read the review [A Review of LUC assessment & the NZLRI in the 21st Century, by Ian Lynn & Allan Hewitt, Dec 06 Broadsheet], as I had wondered myself whether this system was still in operation. It seems that the training of staff in resource mapping has been allowed to lapse, and I regard this as a very very poor situation for basic resource planning.

I am, therefore, at least glad to know that training facilities and staff are available at Landcare Research*, and to learn that land resource officers from PNG, Indonesia and Fiji are receiving training as part of the International Business Group Activities.

I hope to see the responses to your questionnaire in the Broadsheet soon.

Keep up the good work. I look forward to the Broadsheet news on the goings on. I retired in Feb 1986 from the MWD Water & Soil Division (Dunedin) after 40 years government service.

Yours faithfully
Laurie Thomson

* Eds note: To give credit where credit is due, it is Massey University who is teaching LRI mapping and LUC classification, and it is regional councils who've been maintaining training programmes.

Oh, the lamentable lack of vision!

Currently there is new item of research outcome doing the rounds of forestry and environmental field days and appearing in environmental publications. It is about how to poison trees; namely poplars planted several decades ago, mostly with the encouragement and funding assistance of Catchment Boards. (Weed: a plant growing where it is not wanted. But how many have been actually cultivated, and with public funding?)

So it's come to this? While around the globe poplars are being increasingly cultivated – and managed – for timber, we are poisoning ours on their feet. Investigations have been done to determine the rate at which

the roots of poisoned trees deteriorate. It seems to be rather rapid. But what about the deterioration of that above the ground? I do not know what a landscape from hell would look like (and may find out soon enough), but this could be it.

It is not as if this has been unpredictable. We know how large these trees grow – examples are all around the country. Indeed, what is reputedly the biggest poplar tree in the world, the Frimley Poplar, is growing – and starting the long process of dying – in a Hastings park. It would seem that most of the members of the Hawkes Bay Regional Council are unfamiliar with it – and therefore unmoved by its in-your-face message. Therefore it's unlikely that the policy-makers of other councils will be so.



The Frimley Poplar, Hastings, reputed to be the biggest poplar in the world, with a three metre diameter (breast height), and an above-ground root pad covering an estimated 80 sq metres.

What will be the fate of the poplars that are being planted around farms today, plantings that are the boast of Regional Councils that promote this form of landcare? Poisoning maybe? Why not? What are we doing that's different from plantings forty years ago? Yes,

Councils are promoting the need for at least basic silviculture, but how many are being set up with a single leader, let alone subject to full silviculture? Not many I suggest, but those that are look to be developing into fine trees. They're the mirror image of the Frimley Poplar, and an inspiration.

Oh, the lamentable lack of vision!
Ewan McGregor

Just filling up space

Hello Mr Broadsheet Editor,

I'm writing you a letter because I hear you have quite a lot of white space at the back of your pretty new Broadsheet. Evidently NZARMers are a rather un-opinionated lot, who rarely (if ever) put pencil to paper (or fingers to keyboard for that matter). Makes me wonder about those dedicated individuals who regularly make the effort to contribute to Broadsheet. Why do they do it? Have they nothing better to do? They're making the rest of us look bad!

The funny thing is that these regular contributors probably have the least amount of time to spare. They're often the ones juggling half-a-dozen things at once, but still find the time to squeeze a little something in for NZARM and Broadsheet.

I think it was Benjamin Franklin who said "never leave 'till tomorrow which you can do today". The Scottish had a similar one, but in true Scots' style it's hard to make sense of: "What may be done at any time will be done at no time". It's right up there with claiming that bagpipes are a valid musical instrument.

Anyway, the point is that these people regularly jump the gap between thinking and doing when it comes to giving something back to NZARM through Broadsheet.

Excellent new publication by the way. Humour's a bit lame, but I do rather like the hidden ciphers. But it is a little disturbing when you start writing letters to yourself.

Regards
Andrew Manderson



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). The next issue will have a pre-conference theme.

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:

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