



Meat & Wool's new LEP Tool Kit

Meat and Wool New Zealand are set to release their Land and Environment Planning (LEP) Tool Kit in early December 2008. Your editor takes a bias look at the kit, and discusses why it should be of interest to resource managers. Views expressed are not those of NZARM.

Meat & Wool New Zealand (M&WNZ) are 'an industry-good body for red meat and wool'. Presumably this means they do good things for sheep, beef and goat farmers. Farmers pay compulsory levies (e.g. \$0.40 per sheep, \$3.60 per cattle beast), and in return they get research, marketing, extension and other benefits. This is an excellent way of Government forcing industry collectiveness and development, but it doesn't mean that all farmers are collectively happy about it.

M&WNZ are obliged to listen to their levy payers (so they do). A very strong and clear message has emerged for the organisation to get more proactive with land and environmental management. In part this is driven by ongoing concerns of market threats to the sector's 'clean and green' image, and the ever-present worry that regional councils will get trigger happy with the RMA. Laconically your editor would suggest that there was also concern of being left out in the cold (or in the spotlight) given the amount of time, money and effort that other sectors have been investing in environmental management.

Enter M&WNZ's new environment policy! Fairly unexciting so it won't be repeated here, but just to say that it now includes words like 'environmental' and 'sustainable'. On the back of this policy comes the release of the Land and Environment Planning (LEP) Tool Kit, which is perhaps a little more exciting. The Kit aims to provide farmers with

a graduated approach to the what, where and how of on-farm land and environmental management.

Development of the Kit was undertaken according to four key requirements:

1. The Kit will have a number of progressive levels, with the first levels being especially achievable to encourage further progression.
2. Design will be based on regional council 'farm plan' concepts, with scope for group application via the Monitor Farm Programme.
3. The Kit is intended for individuals with scope for assistance should it be required.
4. The Kit will build upon existing tools and resources already available (minimal 'reinventing the wheel').

Some will be aware that development has been somewhat protracted, with several changes in design, project management and even contracts along the way. But like cheese, good things take time, and the results have stimulated a bit of interest.

Anyway, what's in the Kit is covered by the enclosed LEP brochure. Basically there's two components. Firstly, workbooks and guidelines are provided at three levels of difficulty. Farmers get to choose where they'd like to start, depending on their situation, and whether or not they already have some form of farm plan. Each workbook/guideline takes a stepwise approach to building a farm LEP.

Secondly, there's a heap of support material, including example LEPs, a 'how to' reference guide, and an interactive CD that not only bundles the whole kit electronically, but also includes resources that are normally only available via the internet. And it all comes wrapped in a pretty folder (not pictured).

Well and good, but why should the LEP kit be of interest to resource managers?

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What's in the LEP Tool Kit?



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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.

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.

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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Editor's note

This is my last edition as Broadsheet editor. I just like to say thanks to all those regular contributors who helped make my life easier, particularly the Exec and the regional coordinators. Your new editor is Tony Faulkner from Greater Wellington.

So with that said, where's my departure plonk? Going by the two bottles of wine that Chris Phillips got after 13 years (1 bottle per 6.5 years), I should be due almost half a bottle. But none of that South African paint thinner that Tabitha served up for taste testing at the 2007 Conference.

Article submissions to this Broadsheet edition were a bit light, although the Regional Roundup count is up on last time. In lieu of submitted articles I made up one of my own, and poached Garth Eyle's conference paper for inclusion. I was kind of surprised that no one submitted a conference roundup or photos. Prof. Cumberland also gives a nice old fashioned serving about poor land management in the South Island.

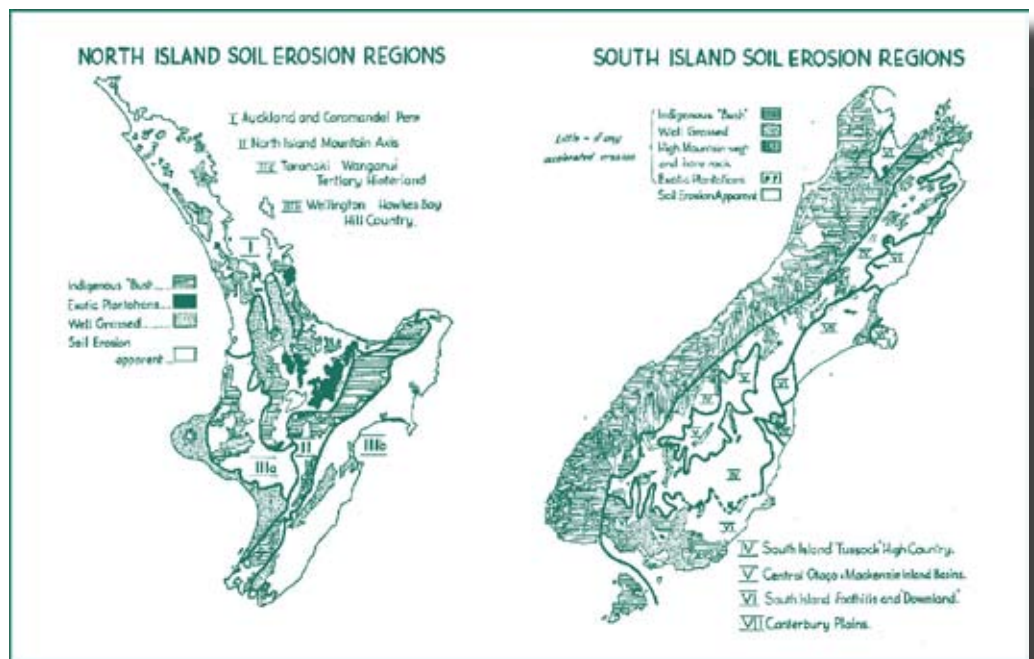
The only other thing I'd like to mention is the uncertainty of resource management under the National Government. Better or worse? Farmers seem to be writhing in gleeful anticipation, but how much can really change without a fairly hefty rework-

ing of the RMA?

Perhaps administrative changes? Government reining in regional autonomy? Certainly there has been ongoing efforts to produce various national policy statements, and maybe National could give them that last push? There's also whispers of less MfE responsibility, greater ERMA responsibilities, and a general shift towards an EPA style of resource and environmental management.

There will be change, but the same old problems will persist. Things will get shuffled, people will figure out how to get around new restrictions, and there will be a whole new stream of *bright* ideas and much re-packaging and reinventing the wheel.

Cynical, but I'm happy to be proven wrong.



New Zealand's first nationwide erosion survey by Cumberland, published in 1944.

Cumberland criticizes SI land management



Kenneth Cumberland is famous in the early development of soil conservation in New Zealand. Amongst other things, he undertook NZ's first national soil conservation survey, adapted the fractional code land classification system to NZ (the forerunner of the US LCC system and therefore NZ's LUC system), and has received numerous distinctions including Fellow of The Royal Society of NZ and Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (CBE). A recent letter to the Christchurch Press shows that he is still very passionate about soil conservation.

Poor land management: Travelling between Christchurch and Blenheim, we noted the storm damage caused to roads, the rail and private property.

The substantial cost of restoration would not have been necessary had landowners been more forthright about their land management over the past 60 years. Invariably, the recent damage emanated from land already slipped and gullied and where no soil preservation measures had been undertaken.

The next storm will inevitably repeat the damage unless land owners apply basic good management to erodible areas.

For more than 60 years the causes and costs of soil erosion have been known. For most of that time the ability of forest cover to ameliorate causes and minimise costs of erosion has also been clear.

Merely sowing grass seed to hide current erosion damage, and otherwise managing the damaged land as before, is failing to correctly address the problem.

Real caretakers of land address the problem by destocking and getting forestry established in the gullies and on slip faces. All forms of forestry have been found to do the trick. Virtually eliminating the erosion of the same land under pasture.

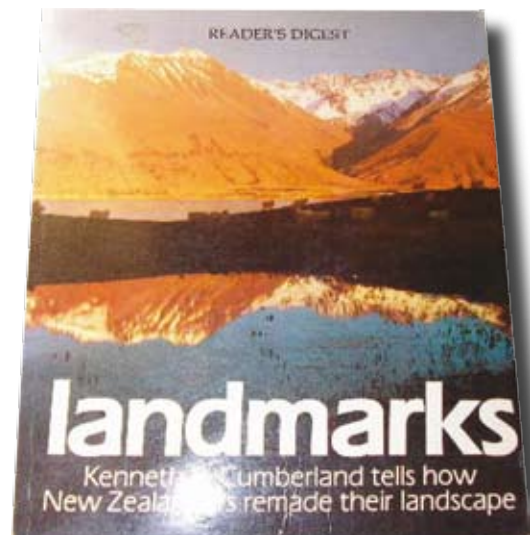
Perhaps the bill for tidying up the erosion from the next storm should be sent to those who have failed to address the problem?

KENNETH B. CUMBERLAND
Emeritus Professor of Geography
University of Auckland

GARTH CUMBERLAND
Manurewa

Yet another Cumberland achievement: **LANDMARKS**, both a TV series and a book. He's even got his own Te Ara page:

www.teara.govt.nz/TheBush/UnderstandingTheNaturalWorld/GeomorphologyAHistory/4/ENZ-Resources/Standard/1/en



Peter Weir (Chair of the NZFOA Environment Committee) suggested this piece be included in Broadsheet. He also had the following comment to add:

Regrettably there is an older generation of Council planners and central government officials who failed to listen to Cumberland teaching, or heed the message in his 1981 TV series "Landmarks" and the accompanying book, and worse a new generation who are not empowered to act on his earlier warnings on sustainable land use.

Were we wiser back then?

Garth Eyles gave an interesting speech at the 2009 NZARM Conference. It is reprinted here for the benefit of those who were unable to attend. Other presentation papers are available from the NZARM website.

I would much rather be talking about the future than the past because I believe our profession is now on the way up, following a period in the doldrums. New professionals are being employed and the importance of the land is now being recognised once again. But that was not the topic I was given. When I first looked at the title in the draft programme I read it as “We were wiser back then” but when I looked again I saw the “Were” at the beginning and this converted it to a question. Or was it a challenge to me?

So why did I take up Simon’s challenge? I believe that the new generation of professionals should be aware of the previous national structure, the policies and how these were implemented, so you can compare them against those used today, so that in more effective systems can be developed.

I also believe it is important for you to know the extent to which the government restructuring in 1988 effected water and soil conservation, as not many people do. I believe the following information is very important. It was obtained in discussions with Dex Knowles, who has been in the center of the profession for more than 50 years and was a member of the Ministry of Works and Development’s Residual Unit, whose job it was to close the place down.

- In the water and soil movement in the 1980s there was about an even number of professionals in central government and Catchment Authorities. There was significant central government direction, policy formation, science backup, technical planning, expertise and training.
- In 1988, with the closing down of MWD and National Water and Soil Conservation Authority (NWASCA), Government changed all this. It removed about 1,000 professional and technical staff from the central government water and soil conservation movement. At the new Regional Councils, during their first 5 years, about 50% of their operational, technical and professionals were lost.
- \$30m per yr was dropped from government grants for soil conservation and river and flood control works.
- The central co-ordination of planning, policy, works and research was removed.
- Within the central government re organisation, no one over the age of 50 was transferred to the new organisations and so substantial institutional experience was lost.

In this brave new post-1988 world 13 new empires, the Regional Councils and one Unitary Council, were initially established to deal with their own “unique” problems – with no effective central government support, or back up, and no dedicated research arm.

SO were we wiser back then? Back then we had had 40 years experience, developing from base zero when the Act was passed in 1941. The system had evolved to one which seemed to work well. It wasn’t perfect but it worked.

Looking back I see some areas where we WERE wiser then and so I intend to take up the challenge and, using five examples, show the benefits of national co-ordination and policy implementation with adequate national funding, staff training and career paths.

1. Research

Effective applied research (especially operationally orientated) has been a cornerstone of the development of soil and water conservation.

Pre 1970, soil and water conservation relied on DSIR to provide much of its necessary research. This situation proved ineffective as DSIR always had other and greater priorities within the limited science budget. So during the early 1960s, Government was persuaded to bring Dr Williams (Chief, US Soil Conservation Service US Dept. Agriculture) to NZ to review and recommend on our SC& RC activities. One recommendation was the creation of an applied research arm dedicated to the needs of NWASCA and the Catchment Authorities. Three centres, soil conservation, water quality and hydrology were established and they spent a very, very productive 15 years providing the knowledge needed by the Catchment Authorities and by NWASCA. (e.g. this was when the NZLRI was undertaken, remote sensing introduced etc.)

With the revolution in 1988, when the competitive model for research was introduced and the CRIs were created, the science centres were closed and we returned to the dark ages of pre 1970 – there were always higher priorities for blue sky research set by committees in Wellington who had no idea of what was really needed “out there”. Consequently, today, most of the applied scientists have gone.

Regional Councils have endeavoured to create a unified front to lobby for research. The first effort was about 1995 when a committee of representatives from RCs co-ordinated a wish list for FORST and presented this to various CRIs. The committee did not last past the initial presentations. I believe internal politics was to blame - something to do with the committee not reporting to the Resource Managers Group.

Recently a similar group was formed (under the Resource Managers Group) and a research strategy is being prepared to present to FORST. There are assurances it will be listened to!

I will give one example of the impacts of the current policy:

Plant Materials - willow and poplar material is essential for erosion control on pastured Tertiary hill country. NWASCA funded a \$2m p.a. plant materials programme to ensure adequate material was available to Catchment Authorities, and that new material was being developed to guard against new invasive diseases. The introduction of CRIs saw the funding for this activity reduced and then cease. For the last decade every government organisation approached for funding has agreed the work was needed but it was not their responsibility to fund. Ten years later we are still struggling to get long term funding. Because of this, Regional Councils suffered badly when sawfly burst through a poor biosecurity surveillance at Auckland airport and devastated river berm willows in the summer dry environments throughout the North Island. In Hawke’s Bay, alone, this has cost ratepayers in excess of \$8 m as hard rock protection, instead of willows, is now needed in susceptible berm areas on the Heretaunga Plains. Quite simply this cost was a result of there being no sawfly resistant materials available.

I believe it is iniquitous that the Regional Councils do not have control of the research monies available for water and soil conservation based research. Until they do the system simply will not work. We are just tinkering with a failed model.

What is needed is a restructuring of research. The government needs to fund a research organisation specific to the needs of water and soil and sustainable land use. This needs to have long term funding with projects controlled by an appointed board (comprising regional councils, central govt and industry). Outputs would be solutions to the applied and practical needs of Councils. Scientists would be able to concentrate on their research instead of their survival.

The CRIs should be made commercial research companies and told to look after themselves.

You say this is just not possible— Yes? Just remember the major changes made in 1988 – there is no reason why this process could not be repeated.

2. National Co-ordination

The concept of each regional council being able to set its own priorities and to apply the RMA according to its own “unique” needs has great potential BUT there are such huge variations in population, physical risk and potential, wealth and capability as well as overriding national priorities that I believe strong, central, co-ordination is a must. Remember we are half the size of NSW and have a lower population than Sydney.

Previously there was a system of central co-ordination through NWASCA and its councils. Government grants allowed national priorities to be implemented and national standards to be maintained. Currently there is no such system, making the implementation of Central Government priorities difficult.

Your challenge is to find a way to have national co-ordination without destroying the ability of regional councils to deal with issues in ways that best suit their regions.

3. Maintaining Specialised Expertise

NWASCA provided a core of nationally available specialised expertise. An example is river control design engineers. MWD had a group of river control design engineers who were available and could assist any catchment authority. This was because there was generally not enough work in any one catchment authority for a long term, full time position, nor was there a career path. This is still the case today.

Your challenge is to create groups of specialists, sufficiently large to have a career path, who can provide assistance to Councils, obviating the need for each Council to have its own part time or short term specialist.

It is possible that Australasian groups could be created for particular activities as the Australian state organisations have been undergoing downsizing and restructuring akin to ours. These groups would also be available for international contracts, as this would further hone their skills. We must find ways of sharing expertise if we are to minimise costs and develop experts with NZ experience.

4. Career Structures

The development of career paths for professional groups is a subject I hold dear as, without it, our ability to pass on our experience to our successors is lost. Our expertise is generally not gained from the text books, rather it is gained in the field and so cannot be bought in when needed.

In the previous system there was promotion within our profession to a second tier level (Chief Soil Conservator – Chief Engineer) and above this there were central government co-ordination roles in Water and Soil Division, MWD.

In the current structure, there is generally a poor career path for land management advisors (and other technical people). There is no consistency of positions and responsibilities across councils. Each council has a different structure and different responsibilities for land management officers and different levels of promotion. Promotion often requires moving into a different area of work and usually into administration.

With the current university funding system being based on “bums on seats”, getting a new academically trained graduate land management officer is a thing of the past. On the job training is essential to fill in the gaps.

Previously one of NWASCA's functions was the national co-ordination of training. Training programmes ensured new graduates were introduced to different environments throughout the country as well as training them for specific core tasks. Qualified (certificated) staff could work anywhere in the country.

Today there is no national co-ordination. Training depends on either our professional associations or on the regional council technical groups. In land management, training has generally depended on individual councils organising courses and inviting other councils to send staff - a very ad hoc approach.

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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.

Venue and details regarding the 2009 NZARM Annual Conference have yet to be decided.

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 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.

PROFESSIONAL ACCREDITATION

The system that NZARM uses for professional accreditation is currently being reviewed.

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

Nothing going on that I know about.

Contact the editor if you have an event you want added

Were we wiser back then? con.

Your challenge is to co-ordinate activities within regional councils such that:

- *staff can be promoted within their defined professional occupation without having to shift into other occupations*
- *national training is established which ensures graduates with a range of qualifications gain quality "on the job" training to fill in the gaps*
- *inter-regional experience for staff is available*
- *groups of specialised staff, above critical mass, are formed to deal with inter-regional specialist situations*

5. Integrating Land & Water Management

This was an area where national co-ordination had been established and processes put in place for catchment authorities to undertake integrated land and water management planning.

The process began in the 1970s with the development of WASRMPS or Water and Soil Resource Management Plans. These plans were designed to provide the scientific backing and technical information for the allocation of water use within catchments. They became operational in 1979. Sixteen million dollars p.a. of government grant was made available, rising to \$25m by the mid 1980s for the resource investigations and surveys leading to their preparation. This was a bold new move to integrate land and water use.

The loss of central government funding and co-ordination in 1988 means different regions now address the integration of land and water use in different ways. We are only now edging back towards integrated catchment planning

Today, applied research is ad hoc and there is no co-ordinated approach, FORST and MORST do not have the capability to ensure integrated programmes are developed and so we are left with MAF trying to fill the void with its various SFF schemes.

What is needed is an understanding of all the issues associated with integrating water and land use and a structure set in place to provide this knowledge base and the range of techniques which can be used nationally to achieve integrated use. This would include a mix of pure and applied research, development of efficient management techniques and policies. I believe the country is too small and the issues are too important to be decided on a local or region by region basis alone. National direction is needed.

Implementation

My view is that to achieve what is needed there needs to be some form of national organisation, with legislative and financial underpinning, which is responsible for a nationally consistent system of integrated and sustainable land and water management. It must be:

- responsible to central government
- responsible for regional councils
- staffed by senior people with field experience
- in control of setting the research programme and its funding
- responsible for technical training
- responsible for core groups of expertise in specific fields e.g. river flood design, economics and integrated planning.

The organisation would be run by a board appointed by Government from relevant departments, industry (including the agri industry), and regional government.

Summary

In each of the five areas I have discussed you will have seen my assessment of what is needed to improve the current system. So were we wiser back then? In most areas I believe we were.

Each year intensified land management systems increase the pressures on the physical capabilities of the soil, and test their physical and chemical limits. New agricultural systems are imposed with little regard to the soils' capability to sustain them. Yet nowhere do we see any co-ordinated programmes to understand what the physical limits of these soils are!

To improve the current system, so we can be wiser than we were back then, we need nationally focused research programmes. This is fundamental to the survival of our soils and the success of our society, and is fundamental to growing our wisdom.

Your challenge is to develop a national system that allows our soil and water resources to be used within their physical limits, otherwise our society will not be sustainable.

Acknowledgments

Dex Knowles for information, Ian Cairns for comment on the text and Mary Anne for editing.

Whose high country?

Use and management of the South Island high country has been contentious at times, so much so that Roberta McIntyre decided to write a book about it. Graeme Anderson comments on his impressions of the book.

Whose High Country? A history of the South Island high country of New Zealand. Paperback. Roberta McIntyre. First published September 2008, Auckland, NZ. Penguin. NZ\$45.

Author Roberta McIntyre was assisted in the production of this book by a number of fellowships and trusts (2005/06) as well as Victoria University for room and services. My comments on this book should not be construed as a review or critique.

Book content is presented in three sections:

Section 1: Exploitation and challenge 1200 – 1870s

Section 2: Pastoral precedence 1870s - 1980

Section 3: Modern era controversy 1980-2007

Since the 1973 publication of "Hold this land", Lance McCaskill's history of soil conservation in NZ, I have not discovered any published full record of events, causes and effects in the field of soil and water conservation or resource management management from that date.

In Section 2 of the book, Chapter 8 "Nature takes its revenge 1912 -35", the first of a number of pastoral/high country commissions was formed in 1920. As they travelled the length of the South Island they were able to observe and listen to many expert witnesses. The effect of rabbits, particularly in the arid areas, the spread of St Johns Wort were both noted. Also the effect of fires on Beech forests and the increasing deer population.

While the Commission concluded amongst other findings "That burning should be carried out with the utmost care", they were not impressed by Leonard Cockayne's botanical plots in the high country with experimental sowings of exotic grasses and clovers. "Their focus was on pragmatic farming considerations rather than environmental issues".

Chapter 9 deals with "high country run-holders and the soil conservation movement 1935-48. Much of this era is covered in McCaskill's book, but author McIntyre has drawn much on the comments of Dave McLeod (Grasmere Station) and Ron Anderson (Mt Algidus Station). She also draws on the findings of Vic Zotov (Botany Division DSIR, 1938) (whose work represented the beginnings of the rehabilitation of Molesworth Station) and various other sources.

Post WWII saw the introduction of aerial over sowing and top dressing, 4-wheel drive vehicles, and dozers, all of which make a dramatic change to high country man-

agement. In 1940 the high country committee came into being with Lands Dept. Administration. Good husbandry clauses were written into lease conditions.

Chapter 10 – winds of change in the high country 1949-83. The 1949 Sheep Industry Commission, amongst many findings, declared "if assistance was given to providing fertiliser, rabbit extermination, and replacement of cover on depleted areas, there would be no accelerated erosion on a national scale in New Zealand".

The SC&RC Council was roundly abused for spreading a flood of propaganda on Molesworth Station, "using rhetoric evocative of WWII propaganda". Catchment boards which had mushroomed into "a veritable empire within our shores claiming powers exceeding the Crown itself", and should be abolished.

I can personally say that this recommendation was an eye opener for the future ambitions of those of us on the second group undergoing training as soil conservators at Lincoln that year.

This chapter also covers the growing influence of urban-based communities and groups such as Federated Mountain Clubs, Royal Forest and Bird Society, Deer Stalkers Association, Fish and Game, and those perusing public access rights.

Section 3: Modern era controversy 1980-2007. This section consists of subsections covering tenure review, public access, run holder resistance to externally imposed change, foreign ownership, and a new frontier. The text is well supported by bibliographic references, endnotes and indices.

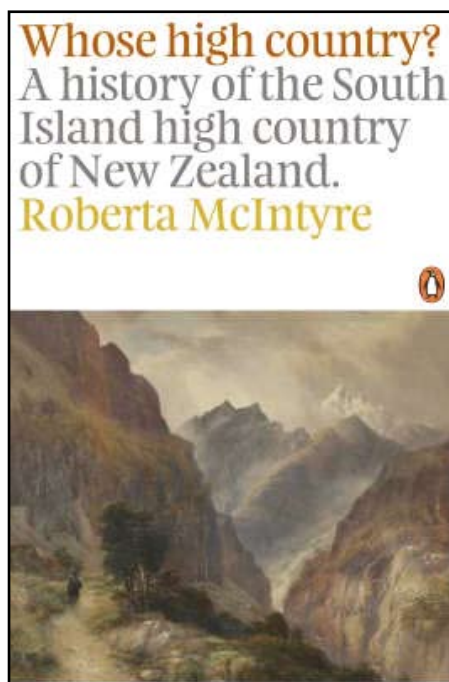
I would strongly suggest that this book be necessary reading for the NZARM members involved with high and hill country work and management, non only in the South Island, but also in the North. Ngamatea Station and the upper Ngaruroro Catchment are mentioned as well as Guthrie-Smith's iconic book, "Tutira".

I found it interesting reading. The description of the pressures on present day land owners, from tenure review, public access demands, as well as fluctuations in the returns on productions, all in the face of global financial conditions.

As an example of fiscal prudence, in my own declining years, do as

I did; request and borrow the book from your library. Good fortune to all in 2009.

Graeme Anderson (Life Member, NZARM).



New Outstanding Contribution Award

NZARM has a new award, hence forth known as the NZARM Outstanding Contribution Award (OCA). The first OCA (ocka?) was presented to Garth Eyles at the 2008 NZARM Annual Conference dinner for his untiring efforts over the years in promoting and contributing to the updating of the Land Use Capability Survey Handbook. Background and policy regarding the award is presented below, and nominations are invited by the Exec.

1. Background:

At the December 2007 Executive Meeting, it was agreed that an organisational award be developed for distinction/recognition of achievement in resource management. The award would not necessarily be an annual one, rather only when the criteria have been achieved. The criteria were ratified at the May 2008 Executive meeting. As part of the background to this award, the objectives and the code of ethics from the NZARM Constitution are set out below.

1.1 The Objectives of the Association

In pursuing the goal of the Association, the objectives of the Association shall be:

- to represent and promote the views and interests of persons who are involved or interested in resource management in New Zealand;
- to promote good practice, competence, and ethics in resource management;
- to promote effective communication and transfer of information between members, other resource management practitioners, and the community, concerning resource management;
- to encourage community awareness of the nature and value of resource management.

1.2 Code of Ethics

Every ordinary member of the Association must comply with the following Code of Ethics:

- (a) A member must seek to:
 - (i) promote the philosophy, science, and practice of resource management; and
 - (ii) Advance or achieve the objectives of the Association;
- (b) A member through his or her conduct must uphold the dignity and standing of the resource management profession and the reputation of the Association;
- (c) A member must act in a friendly, fair and honourable manner in all dealings with other members and must not do anything that may unjustly or unfairly affect the reputation of a fellow member;
- (d) A member must be prepared to co-operate with and help fellow members, professional colleagues, decision-makers and the community at large in pursuing resource management;
- (e) A member must bring to the attention of the Association through the Committee, any act or omission of any fellow member that may bring discredit on the Association or its members or the resource management profession.

Every ordinary member of the Association who is professionally engaged in resource management or who holds a Resource Management Certificate must also comply with the

following Code of Ethics:

- (a) A member must maintain a contemporary professional awareness and understanding of the philosophy, theory, and methods of practice of resource management;
- (b) A member must recognise the need for and seek to provide for:
 - (i) adequate and reliable information; and
 - (ii) integrated decision-making; and
 - (iii) appropriate public participation in decision-making; in all professional resource management practice;
- (c) A member must carry out all professional work with integrity, honesty, fairness, and objectivity;
- (d) A member must ensure that any professional advice or information that he or she may give is within the scope of expertise and experience of the member to give;
- (e) A member must always acknowledge other professional advice or information that may contribute to his or her own provision of advice or information;
- (f) A member must always continue to seek and undertake professional development and education so as to remain competent in resource management practice.

2. NZARM Outstanding Contribution Award - Criteria

This award can be conferred on any member of the Association in recognition of any special contribution to resource management in NZ. The contribution should be consistent with the objectives of the Association, and be of significance in that it promotes the philosophy, science or practice of resource management.

The award is different from the Honorary Member category in that an Honorary Member has given outstanding service to the philosophy, science or practice of resource management. The Outstanding Contribution Award would not necessarily look at service, but rather at the significance of a particular contribution that the recipient has made.

2.1 Examples of how a recipient may qualify for an award:

An Award Recipient may have developed a new technique associated with resource management practice or information transfer;

An Award Recipient may have produced a publication that is of special significance to the organisation;

An Award Recipient may have made a contribution to resource management in NZ, which is of special significance;

An Award Recipient may have been responsible for developing or successfully promoting a particular approach to resource management that is adopted by people involved in resource management within NZ.

2.2 Process

Nominations for the award shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Committee at any time up to one month prior to the Annual Conference, and shall be confirmed by majority vote by the Executive Committee. Any member of the Association can submit a nomination. The President of the Association shall present the award at the Annual Conference. There should not be any requirement that the award is presented annually, nor should there be any limit on the number of awards that may be presented in any one year. If the Award Recipient is not at the Annual Conference, the award shall be announced at the conference and the Executive shall be responsible for presenting the award to the recipient at a

later date. It is possible for a member to receive more than one award at different times.

2.3 Form of award

The Award shall be in the form of a Certificate and an inscribed trophy/plaque.

2.4 Name of award

The Award shall be called the "NZARM Outstanding Contribution Award".

Letter from our first OCA recipient

Dear Simon,

This letter is to thank you and the Association for the honour you gave me with the presentation of the Outstanding Contribution Award at the 2008 NZARM Conference.

In these days of 'rapid change' in the rural community it is gratifying to see that some systems continue to meet the test of time. The LUC system of land assessment was developed by practical people for a practical use at a time when reductionism was gathering force in this country. It proved an essential tool for developing sustainable land use systems at the farm level and, despite 20 years in the doldrums as land management went through a period of decline, it is still recognised as essential. The current updating of the handbook provides an opportunity to include the increased knowledge gained since its write up in the 1960s and to illustrate its continuing relevance to the new group of career land management officers.

We need to remember that despite the continuing development that pushes the limits of soils the basic issues are the same; the rock type still has a controlling influence on our predominantly young soils, the weather still controls both short term production (droughts or wets) and long term production through soil loss from erosion, and the vegetative cover influences production, stability and biodiversity. All these, combined, effect both the on-site productivity and the off-site effects. Without a holistic understanding of the interactions of each factor we cannot effectively develop sustainable land use patterns that both maximise production and protect the environment.

We all work in a fascinating environment. I wish you, the next generation of Land management advisors, all the best in interpreting, holistically, the needs and potentials of our rural land surface using the LUC classification system.

Kindest regards, Garth Eyles



President's comment

Welcome to the last Broadsheet for 2008. I'd like to thank Andrew for his editorial contribution to Broadsheet over the last three years and he should be very pleased with the quality of publication he has provided and is leaving us with. Tony Faulkner will be our new Editor in Chief, based in the Wairarapa.

I'd also like to thank Andrew Fenemor, Glen Lauder, and their supporters for coordinating the 2008 conference in Nelson. There were 135 conference attendees over the 3 days and NZARM has made a small profit. 'Are we wiser than we were' was an excellent theme and could have generated discussion for several more days. Overlaid across the technique of integrated catchment management, you got the impression that the fundamentals haven't changed, but how we look at them have.

This was made apparent to me by the variety of speakers and their themes of resource management as they see it in New Zealand currently. It is a snap shot of the future. It was interesting to hear Tuwharetoa's environmental manager commenting on the role of dairying as a land use and the internal complexities of dairying, for them, as a business option around Lake Taupo. Those big decisions are shifting from a local government domain to others and they are going to need support and advice to help make those decisions. The future in this context opens up some interesting career opportunities.

I also listened with interest to a farmer from Marlborough who has started using lucerne and saltbush on his drought prone property, as feed and for soil conservation. The catalyst for action was a drought and the agent for change was the land care group. While I and many others were enthralled by his presence, I want to add a bit of realism. Lucerne and saltbush have been in existence for a while in New Zealand and people have understood both plants capability in dry landscape for even longer. The Plant Materials Handbook Vol 2 Introduced Plants (NWSCA,1986) and Drought Proofing Your Farm – a MAF tech publication from 1989 for the South Island both have information on lucerne and others plants. I remember also discussing with farmers the use of lucerne as a pasture species in the dry hill country of Hawke's Bay, but I, and the plant, failed the marketplace test when compared to modern rye grass varieties at the time. Make no mistake; both the Marlborough and Hawke's Bay decisions were underpinned by a business position. The principles of sustainability affected change in Marlborough,

but it is still about a business and its productivity relative to profitability. Let's not kid ourselves that this was a new concept or that sustainable farming was shining like a new star. The change could have been achieved years ago. How many catalysts do we need to convince landowners of the good science and knowledge that exists?

I feel we have a lot of wisdom. There is ample amount of information in the soil conservation, forestry, and agricultural sectors, that can achieve the changes required. What we need to focus on was summed up nicely on day two, and that is to get out and get stuck into our work. But, the wisdom we still need to gain, the strength we still need to secure, is to ensure that this mantra is enshrined in strategic and operational policy, at national and local government levels, and to communicate our knowledge in a modern resource managers world.

Your new Executive is meeting soon and we will continue to ensure members get a professional service and benefits from belonging to NZARM.

Have a pleasant, safe, and relaxing Xmas.

Ka kite te ano

Simon

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

Meat & Wool's new LEP Tool Kit con.

Continued from page 1...

There's probably going to be the expert nay-sayers who will criticize M&WNZ's initiative irrespective of what they are trying to achieve. The Kit's too this, too that, or it doesn't do this or that. It may not be perfect, but that's hardly a good reason to shoot it down before it even gets off the ground. Constructive criticism, however, is very much invited. But please take the time to understand the material, and provide feedback in a forum where it can be useful and debated about.

They are also going to need help. This is new territory to M&WNZ, and few of their staff will have the necessary skills for helping farmers develop LEPs. But why should resource managers, particularly regional councils, provide assistance? It's not their initiative, they don't have enough on-the-ground staff, and the whole LEP approach may contrast too strongly against existing council programmes.

Firstly, M&WNZ's LEP initiative has the potential to reach farmers in a way that councils cannot. It's like they already have a foot in the door, and farmers are more likely to trust an industry initiative rather than a council one.

Secondly, M&WNZ have perhaps NZ's most effective rural extension system already in place (the Monitor Farm Programme). They are already using this system to promote land and environment planning, but could have far greater influence with council 'how to' demonstrations.

Thirdly, meat and wool farming represents a lot of environmental impact in NZ. The sheep and beef sector includes almost half of all farms (46%), and by far the

majority of agricultural land (68%). That's almost 30,000 farms and 10 million hectares of land (NZ Stats, 2007). While intensive farming has a greater impact per unit area, the sheer expansiveness of sheep and beef farming means the total impact could be comparable, if not greater, when considered on a whole of NZ basis.

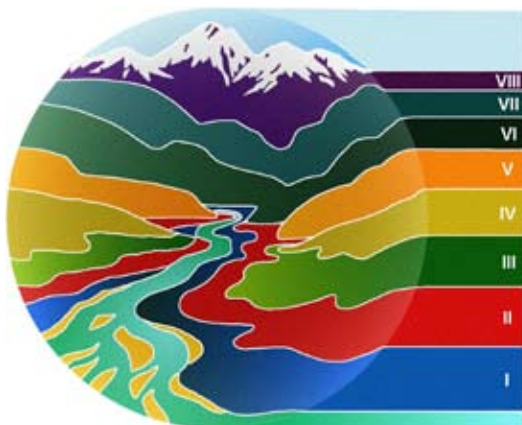
Fourthly, consider the demand and interest that several thousand farmers could create. Some councils may see this as an unwanted pressure on their resource management teams, while others will see it as an opportunity. How much new resourcing could be justified if there were several thousand farmers knocking on your door?

Lastly, LEP is a nationwide initiative, and therefore carries the greatest potential for promoting NZ Inc. Regional initiatives are fine, but they tend to be quite particular to the region in question, and difficult to aggregate and compare. LEP uptake is regarded as an OECD agri-environmental indicator, and can therefore be used to aid marketing and political voice.

Many regional programmes will already dovetail into the LEP framework. In this case, farmers won't need to do much at all (if anything). Likewise, because most other environmental programmes are trying to achieve the same or similar end point, then farmers aligning what they have already done is not going to be in conflict.

If you would like a copy of the full Kit, then please use the M&WNZ contact in the brochure. Politeness is important because these Kits have been produced and paid for by the meat and wool sector.

Land Use Capability Survey Handbook 3rd Edition - Announcement for Envirolink-funded workshops



The 3rd Edition of the LUC Handbook is nearing the final stages of completion.

A series of national workshops are planned to present and explain key changes between editions. Three workshops are planned for the North Island, and one for the South Island, probably starting in March 2009.

The target audience is experienced practitioners (the workshops are not training courses), particularly those within regional authorities. Each workshop will run for half a day. Locations and specific dates will be announced in early 2009.

For more information, please harass Grant Douglas, AgResearch, DDI +64 6 351 8072 or via email:

grant.douglas@agresearch.co.nz

Regional Roundup

NORTHLAND

Watz happening in Northland?

What with restructuring, refocusing and those leaving, there are a few new names at the Northland Regional Council.

The old Land Operations Department has been split into three separate sections. **Graeme MacDonald** has taken his CDEM activities off into a separate department, as has **Don McKenzie**, who has established Biosecurity as a separate "programme". **Bruce Howes** has had enough of coastal hazards and has been appointed Senior Programme Manager Land and Rivers. Under Bruce are two teams, Land and Rivers. **Joseph Camuso** has been appointed Rivers Programme Manager. **Bob Cathcart**, looking to take life easier and distance himself further from the politicians, has been appointed Land Programme Manager.

Other members of the Land Team are **Kathy Mortimer**, **Debbie Johnson**, **Curtis Harris**, **Laura Shaft**, and **Kerry Webster**. Supporting us in Kaitia are **Peter Wiessing** and **Doug Foster** who do land management along with a multitude of other Council stuff.

Kate Banbury is at Victoria University furthering her work on sediment and in particular how to explain sediment detachment, transport and deposition to the man in the street/paddock/marae.

Bob Cathcart

WAIKATO

John Quinn and colleagues at NIWA, AgResearch and MAF used a novel approach to present an invited paper to an international conference in Ireland in mid-November on Grassland Systems in Europe and the EU Water Framework Directive. Instead of travelling to the conference, the talk was filmed and shown as a movie with questions from the conference floor answered over the phone from Hamilton. Although this did not allow conference networking, it enabled input to an important event that fell at a very busy time and incurred no carbon emission. The conference organiser was complimentary about the presentation and pleased with how this innovation worked.

A broad ranging review paper, based on the talk by NIWA, AgResearch and MAF staff, was also submitted for publication in a special issue of *Tearmann* - the Irish journal agri-environmental research. The paper and DVD of the talk may be of use as a training tool - email j.quinn@niwa.co.nz if you would like a copy of either or both.

Quinn, J.M., Wilcock, R.J., Monaghan, R.M., McDowell, R.W., Journeaux, P.R. (2008). Grassland farming and water quality in New Zealand. Invited presentation to: International Conference on Sustainable Grassland Systems in Europe and the EU Water Framework Directive. 12th - 14th November 2008, Teagasc, Johnstown Castle Research Centre, Wexford, Ireland.

Tane Desmond

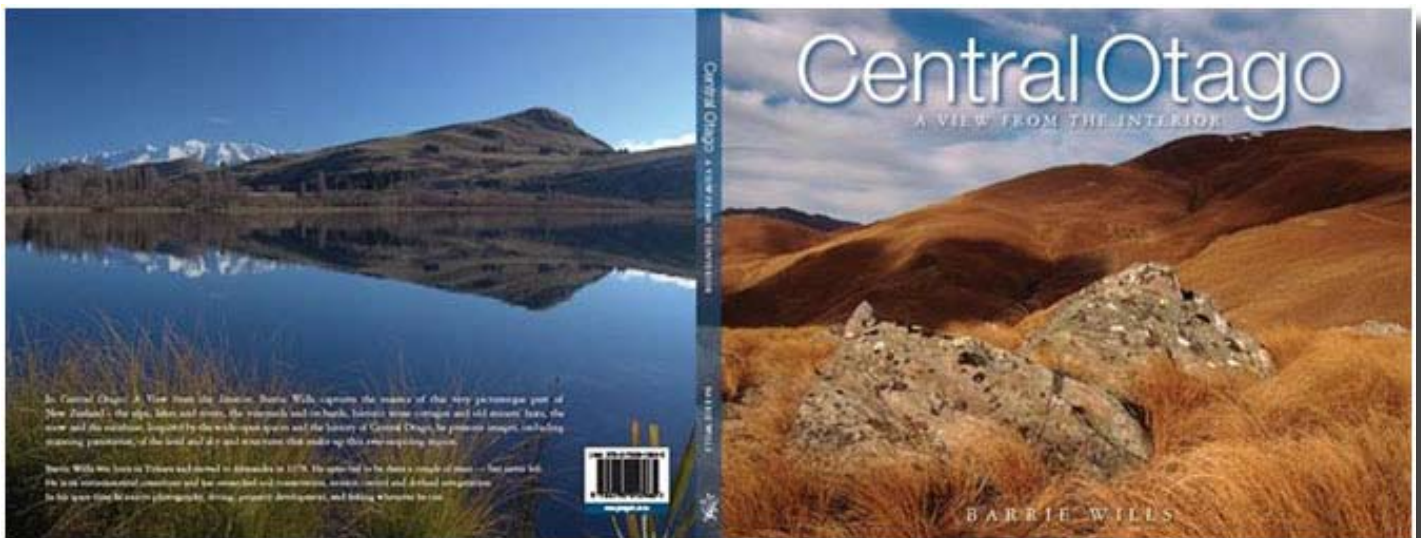
OTAGO

Hi from Otago. We are enjoying the rain and sun! - whew basked in days of 20+ degree heat this month. Everyone is flat out and busy, or so they tell me, so just a couple of contributions this time.

Nicola McGrouther has been busy working with the Waihola community on a large catchment and community based project to sustainably manage the Waihola Waipori wetlands, a nationally significant 2000 ha wetland south of Dunedin. The group includes the community, stakeholders and agencies and has undertaken a number of activities this year including developing a strategic plan, holding a boat trip field day around the wetlands (alot of fun and informative) and run a public workshop looking at how to manage the invasive weeds in the wetland. The group are now applying for funding for a full weed risk assessment report for the wetlands as a stepping stone to building a full management strategy for weed control and plant restoration across the wetlands.

Barrie Wills writes that about some of his happenings this year - my apologies to Barrie that this got missed out of the last broadsheet.

"In April the Starborough/Flaxbourne Soil Conservation group hosted a field day at Doug and Fraser Avery's, Grassmere. As indicated in an earlier Broadsheet article, my involvement with that has been via the Sustainable Farming Fund on the dryland shrub and pasture side of things, establishing plants like saltbush, tagasaste, red-stemmed wattle, dorycnium, wheat-grass, sheeps burnet etc on those hungry, dry, tunnel gullied faces.



This is the cover of Barrie Wills's new book, published recently by Reeds/Raupo in NZ. It contains many images of landscape, life and leisure in Central Otago.

Well - it was an amazing turnout. The largest attendance at a field day I have ever been involved with - some 430 registrations plus a few hangers-on and the organising team. I guess the numbers tell you something about the uncertainty still out there in the rural sector - particularly sheep/pastoral farming. CRT came to the party with a huge tent and still they flowed out the back. Somehow we got them all on vehicles and around the farm - twice! We hope they learned a lot from Doug & Fraser's management system and lateral thinking in a dryland system - they are making the most of their good lucerne land, looking after it when productivity and stock prices drop, and utilising more and more of their marginal land as the conservation plantings phase into fodder bank productivity.

I also had a recent visit to Western Aussie - mostly holiday but also seeking out some landowners who use shrubs as an integral part of their pastoral management. Tagasaste is widely used over there as a browse shrub, plus a plant related to saltbush - Rhagodia. I liked what I saw and will be keeping in touch with a nurseryman I met who is carrying out some selection work on it with a view to importing some in the future. I can fully recommend climbing the big Karri trees down south of Perth - the 'Dave Evans' tree in Warren National Park is 75m to the top. I climbed it in a southerly blast, swaying 1.5m at the top - sure gets the adrenalin going oh boy!

Other work of late has involved a review of DoC environmental reporting associated with Tenure Review on a property near the Mackenzie Pass, Fairlie. I remain very unimpressed with their approach in terms of the selection of isolated and outlier blocks which, in my view, have marginal ecological



Aussie Karri tree



Rhagodia - An Aussie browse shrub



Jetting down the Waipori River

value on a regional basis, and their tenuous justification for seeking full Crown control over larger land areas that would literally see the property become an uneconomic unit. Furthermore, on a property which has very little Hieracium and excellent stands of silver and snow tussocks primarily due to judicious management, no credit for this is afforded to the lessees. It is about time DoC stopped grabbing land and started talking to landowners in an effort to set up joint management partnerships that might benefit both parties". Barrie Wills.

That's all from Otago

Nicola McGrouther

TARANAKI

Spring conditions are better than the last couple of years because it hasn't turned cold and slowed growth down as much. However, it is expected to be dry again this summer. Don, Jason, Darren, Dex and Kevin all attended the NZARM conference in Nelson recently, were all very well behaved and enjoyed the annual catchup with fellow NZARMers.

There's sustainability in them thar hills according to the latest results from the five-yearly monitoring programme completed by Landcare. A detailed analysis of the 25 hillcountry sites covering 900 ha shows that 87.4% of the

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Regional Roundup con.

monitored area is now being used sustainably, up from 85% in 2000 and 83.9% in 1994. These are encouraging results, with good progress towards the Regional Soil Plan's target of 89% sustainability by 2011.

Special Projects Manager, **Dex Knowles** has returned rejuvenated from a vacation in Fiji and has been devising a recovery plan for the damage sustained to river control works in the Stony and Kaihihi rivers after the April event.

Don Shearman has been planning work programmes as part of the LTCCP and has also been working with the biodiversity team to develop a planning process. Our Regionally Significant Wetlands are also included in our Key Native Ecosystem Inventory where the aim is to eventually have a biodiversity plan in place for them. Biodiversity plans will go beyond protection and enhancement works for wetlands and will also include appropriate animal and plant pest monitoring and control to protect the identified ecological values of the site.

Jason Loveridge has been busy with farmplans, the monitor farm and the farm forestry association. He has also reformed a farm discussion group where the Emissions Trading Scheme - forestry and carbon farming, Permanent Forest Sink Initiative are all topics on everyone's lips these days.

George Powell is busy preparing farmplans as well as visiting farmers in the hill-country as part of the annual visits. He has also converted from fly fishing to surfcasting for leisure activities.

Darren Scown has bought the latest KTM Super Duke 1000 motorbike and is off on it to the Burt Monroe ("World's fastest Indian") bike rally in Invercargill the end of this month. Darren has a propensity for injuring himself during Dec/January so we hope he returns uninjured. He has been flat out ringing farmers to espouse the virtues of getting a riparian plan done for their properties. It looks like most dairy farmers will have one by the end of this year.

Kevin Cash is still busy developing Council's poplar nursery and at the moment is planning for the construction of a building for the site. Kevin has also been flat out working on his house and is hoping to move in by Christmas.

Don Shearman

HAWKES BAY

Activity within the Land Management section has been frenetic and widely varied. If some of the older members of the team (like me), are looking a little shell shocked, please forgive us, we are only country folk after all, and the pace of change has gone ballistic.

In a short space of time, we have moved from Environmental Management into the new Strategic Development Unit, we have a new Manager Land Management **Chris Perley**, who is supporting the forest industry and paper manufacturers (or he would be if we printed out all the reports he circulates relating to sustainable resource management). Chris has many new, and innovative (he would probably say they are just common sense) ideas for sustainable land management and the promotion of the same, and this often leads to animated discussions at our meetings and other gatherings.

Peter Manson has taken on the role of team leader, charged with overseeing the activities of the section, and making sure we achieve our objectives. Recently returned from a trip to the Mediterranean – he is quite happy to enjoy the NZ climate again.

Andrew Curtis has a new role in addition to his responsibility for arable activities on the plains areas and irrigation efficiency. His title now is Strategic Advisor Land & Water (strategic interferer he said he has been referred to), but the new position allows him to look at new techniques for the sustainable management of soil and water. A new SFF project of his will be to study fruit tree water use and irrigation efficiency.

Joe Devonport has been readying some enthusiastic students to carry out forest work in the Tangoio soil conservation reserve. He has also been overseeing the admin of the Regional Landcare grant Scheme and reviewing some of the funding options. With the tight financial situation for many rural land owners, uptake of this year's round has been slower than usual and we are having to promote the scheme, and the grants available to assist with environmental works. **Warwick Hesketh** has been looking at storm damage, particularly along coastal areas, but has also managed to look at a proposed Nga Whenua Rahui covenant to protect the ecological values of the beach, from Tangoio to the Pakuratahi Stream. Both he and Ian are our latest trained facilitators.

Ian Millner is coming to grips with the Farm Planning role, and is looking at new formats for plans, making them more practical for farmers to use on a day by day basis. He is also casting a fresh eye over some of our other systems and initiating discussion on whether change is needed. A highlight for him has been the chance to hear some excellent presentations at the Grasslands Conference.

We have also welcomed our newest member **Brendan Powell**, who From a Hawera dairy farm to an Ag Science degree at Lincoln, through a series of life adventures that brought him back to the family farm, then share milking before applying for his job at HBRC. Partly because of that background, Brendan will be our dairy expert and will also look after the Tutira geographic area as well.

Neil Faulknor have been doing the usual, sorting planting jobs in our unstable coastal areas, and promoting the RLS. With Andrew's new role, he has also gone back to looking after works on the Ruataniwha Plains. As a team, and our developing involvement with the climate change, carbon scenario, we attended the HB Farm Forestry seminar/workshop on carbon, and an excellent workshop it was.

Neil Faulknor and Peter Manson

MANAWATU-WANGANUI

In the last week of November the whole team of Environmental Management Officers Soils will be up LUC mapping at Atihau. The Atihau Incorporation is one of the largest maori incorporations in the country. With 44,000 hectares of hillcountry and dairy farm land under active management, getting them on-side is vital. **Garth Harmsworth** and co. from Landcare Research are also doing mapping work on Atihau.

We have two new students working for us in the hill country fam plan programme; **Stuart Standen** just for the holidays and **Travis Carter** will move in to a permanent position.

Apart from that the team are same as normal, flat out implementing farm plans and writing a few. In 2005-06 AgResearch wrote 8 farm plans for us, as part of developing the format and concepts. In

2006-07 we did another 40, in 2007-08 we did over 80 and this and future years we will write 100. Around three quarters of them continue to be written by private contractors; LandVision (**Lachie Grant, Sarah Dudin** and co) and **Sharn Hainswoth** of Soil Suitability Assessments also does a couple.

Recently we hosted the Taranaki team for a 2 day field trip looking at an unconsolidated sand hill country farm and a proposed subdivision and wetland in the sand country. Of particular interest was the proposed subdivision, smack in the middle of a 4 hectare moving sand dune. The dune is currently busy gobbling up fully grown pine trees. Development seems to have stalled on this particular subdivision. We thought that it will definitely be possible to turn the dune into streets and houses, but fraught with risks and costs. There is not much room for mistakes in that environment, lest tonnes of sand blow over the top of

Grant Cooper, Hamish Mulcock and I will be at the NZ Society of Soil Science conference here in the Manawatu, including hosting a field trip in soft rock hill country.

Malcolm Todd

BAY OF PLENTY

Since the last Broadsheet, **Norm Ngapo** has been involved with a range of consent processing work for Environment Bay of Plenty, including major earthworks around Rotorua; Rotorua Airport extension, and site works for the proposed Youth Justice Facility on State Highway 30 at Horohoro.

Also, Norm and **Glenn Sutton** and **Andy Woolhouse** sit on the Forest Operators Accreditation Panel. This is run by Environment Bay of Plenty under the Regional Water and Land Plan. The Panel has recently assessed a number of applications for Accredited Forestry Operators to carry out forestry operations in the Bay of Plenty as permitted activities rather than requiring consents. Norm and **John McIntosh** have just finished lecturing the Water and Soils Management Paper at the Wahre Wananga O Awanuiarangi in Whakatane. On the personal front, Norm and family had a break just before the conference for a week in the Sunshine Coast in Australia, checking out the humpback whales at Hervey Bay and the amazing ecology at Fraser Island.

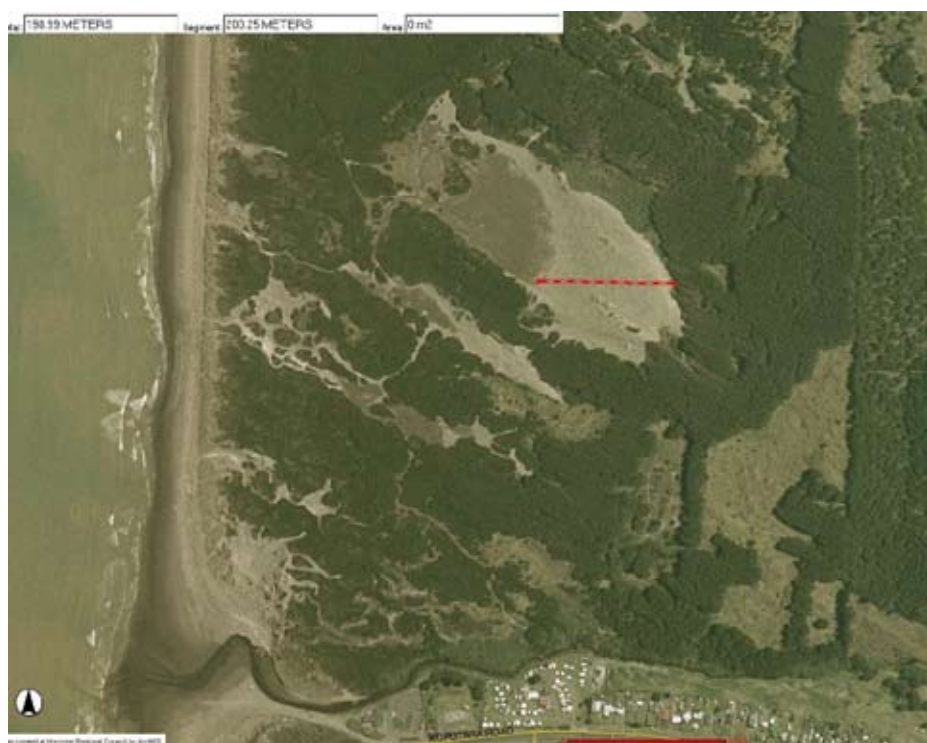
Back home, Norm has been working on his boat trailer in preparation for the summer fishing season, and checking out the oysters in Ohiwa Harbour with **John Whale**.

Anthony Olsen reports that he started at Boffa Miskell on 17 November as their new Senior Cultural Advisor; taking over from **Antoine Coffin** who has taken over **Paul Tapsell's** position as the Curator Maori at Auckland Museum. Anthony will be working out of the Tauranga office with **Craig Batchelar** and Te Pio Kawe; although will continue to live in sunny Matata.

El Presidente **Simon Stokes** has been a busy Manager; with the Environment Bay of Plenty 10 year plan review, associated budgets, and the second generation of the Regional Policy Statement, amongst ensuring the eastern area rural folk are catered for. Implementing the Ohiwa Harbour Strategy which requires managing many threads of actions that are occurring in and around the harbour. Re-assessing the advisory service the Council provides, to compliment the funding programme. This will be focusing the Council on working with the industry people and groups to deliver information across to landowners. Simon says "I enjoyed an excellent four days in Nelson with colleagues and new faces at the NZARM conference, believe it or not but there's quite a lot to build on at the moment!" Simon has also walked into some countryside looking at the Motu catchment, near Toa Toa, three hours virtually uphill and shredded his soft heels. Also, "DOC flew me into the Whirinaki River and we discussed biodiversity as we walked out, beautiful spot for anyone wanting to go somewhere new." Simon is looking forward to Xmas break!!

Robyn Skelton is celebrating having a full team in the Environment Bay of Plenty's Land Resources Tauranga section after the year of staff changes as the council restructured. The Land Resources team looks after the western part of the Bay of Plenty, covering biosecurity, biodiversity, coastal management and parks. The latest recruit is the Parks Land Management Officer. Papamoia Hills Regional Park is the main parks' responsibility and the council is currently working on implementing the management and revegetation plans working with the tangata whenua advisory committee.

The last couple of months have been quiet for **Glenn Sutton** in regard to paid work with a marked decline in the number of subdivision proposals. Preparation of these proposals includes the involvement of fellow NZARMers **Norm Ngapo** and **Anthony Olsen** at times. As well as subdivisions, he is also working on a number of new quarry developments. Glenn and



Proposed subdivision in the middle of an actively moving sand dune. The red line is 200m, and the area of the dune is 4ha.

Regional round up (continued)

Andy Woolhouse also completed an environmental audit for Mighty River Power of the company's new geothermal power-station development.

However, on the non-paid front, life is very full and interesting. Glenn and Janice have finally got their covered wagon or 'prairie schooner' all the way from Poland; also their harness and most importantly – the team: Ed & Jock. After some interesting initial beginnings, Glenn reckons that he and the team are becoming a smooth running machine. Friends and family are always good to test those early driving skills on before going public! Glenn & Janice plan on developing this into a commercial tourism venture.

Also this year, Glenn has become a father-in law; will be a Koro next year (still coming to grips with this) and has just sold the home property. Currently, he has no idea where he and Janice will be living. Never bored!

John Whale went to China for a month, he and Sue had a good look around Beijing, going to all the usual tourist spots. Went three hours by bus to the north of Beijing to go hiking through villages in the countryside and it took two hours on the motorway just to get out of the city! Very dry up there, rainfall is low and so is the humidity. What little water they have they struggle to manage well – if at all. Water contamination is a huge problem.

John also went south to Yangshuo to see the amazing karst landscape, and went by riverboat down the Li River from Guilin. Enjoyed wandering around the paddy fields; rice harvest was on.

John's biggest impression about China was the sheer scale and speed of development in and around their cities; they don't have anything like an RMA to contend with and in places their development is not at all environmentally sensitive, but the speed with which they build massive structures, liberally lubricated by the greasing of palms, is impressive. The Chinese take economic development seriously, overriding all else. Unfortunately some of Beijing's precious historic areas (Hutongs) are vanishing under new high-rise. Attractions; amazing history, good food is cheap and tasty, good beer costs 50c a 600ml bottle, taxis across Beijing for \$4, ticket to any station on the Beijing underground for 50c, bus ticket 20c and Zespri kiwifruit cheaper than you get in an NZ supermarket!! Wouldn't want to live there though. John predicts another Chinese Revolution within five years; it's what they do – hope the world is ready!

John Whale



Integrated environmental management - reducing carbon emissions and saving fuel with Jock, Ed and the Prairie Schooner!



Fertile river floodplain with karst hills and bamboo, amazing topography near the Yangshuo Mountain Retreat



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Next issue...

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