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# **BROADSHEET**



**NEW ZEALAND  
ASSOCIATION OF  
RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT**

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**February 2004**

**NEW ZEALAND ASSOCIATION OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**  
**Executive 2003-2004**

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Broadsheet is a newsletter of the New Zealand Association of Resource Management. Authors must be consulted before their articles are cited in publications.

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. Unless specifically indicated otherwise, opinions expressed in the Broadsheet are not to be regarded as the official view of the Association. Copy sent by E-mail is preferred, although typed copy is also acceptable. Items can be sent to:

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The Association's financial year begins on January 1st. Web site [www.nzarm.org.nz](http://www.nzarm.org.nz)

## In this issue...

Editorial .....	2
Regional Roundup .....	4
New Members .....	17
President's Annual Report.....	18
Treasurer's Annual Report .....	20
Election of Honorary Members .....	21
NZARM 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniverary Conference – Keynote Address Bob Priest .....	26
NZARM 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniverary Conference - Abstracts .....	35
NZARM 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniverary Conference Dex Knowles .....	48
Reflections on the Conference Lee Whiley .....	49
Conference Photo Gallery .....	51
The great NZARM fishing trip .....	55
Review of NZARM membership Murray Harris .....	56
NZARM Regional Coordinators Meeting Report Simon Stokes .....	63
NZARM 50 <sup>th</sup> Anniverary Conference Memorabilia – Late order form .....	65
Knowledge Wave 2003 – The Leadership Forum Tabitha Anthony .....	66
Coming events calendar .....	70

## **Editorial**

Dear All,

Cheers

**Chris Phillips**

*PS. If anyone wishes to jump on a soap box and have a rave, feel free to send a letter in to the Editor or if something is really getting to you how about a Guest Editorial?*

# Regional Roundup

## Bay of Plenty

New member **Daryll Hall** says that his two former jobs (Navy and Forestry) made for an easy transition to the Regional Council. Administration and management structures are comparable to the Armed Forces and directing and working with heavy machinery was similar to his forestry job. Rivers and Drainage was the first section that he worked in. This was interesting work and he learnt a lot under the supervision of **Tony Dunlop** in Whakatane (willows clearing presented a few new hazards eg. rotten trees, bees). Since then he has moved to Tauranga to work with **Lawrie Donald** writing and implementing Environmental Programmes for Landowners. He juggles work with study at Massey and raising a young family and enjoys every minute; except the minutes he is awake at night!

**Ed Parkes** reports that apart from having a look at the role of environmental taxation at regional and national levels and the possible role of regional councils in hazardous substance enforcement, he is busily involved in organising a study of pesticide residues present in Bay of Plenty soils. This is a cooperative study with the territorial authorities in the Bay of Plenty. Environment Bay of Plenty plans to carry out the field work early next year and use the results to assess the levels of risk residue posed and to develop policy to guide district councils on any changes needed to their district plans.

**John Whale** is winding up a busy year; three regional plans finished off and an NZARM conference held. The Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Coastal Management Plan is complete, the final chapter was made operative on 5 December. The Environment Bay of Plenty Regional Air Plan went operative on 15 December and the Regional Plan for the Tarawera River Catchment was adopted by Council. It is scheduled to go operative on 1 February 2004. And now for a break!

**Ruth Feist** is (still) finalising the documentation for the Proposed Regional Water and Land Plan, and setting up a sweepstake on the number of appeals (\$2 entry fee). She has also had a promotion to planner/consent officer and processed her first consent (Ruth says don't worry, it wasn't for forestry activities)!

**Norm Ngapo** has been very busy doing consent work for Environment Bay of Plenty, finalising the report on Bacterial Contamination of the Waioho Stream catchment with Jason Power (Stream Care Officer for Env BOP), and writing NZLRI reports for private landowners. He is also getting ready to shift his office over to the beach. Norm is most concerned because he will be able to see the ocean from my desk - He has a suspicion that the work output will decrease markedly next year (we all share that suspicion, Norm!).

As of 1 January 2004, Norm will have a new address and new phone/fax numbers. His new contact details will be: 13 Mason Place, Ohope.

Waiora Soil Conservation Ltd

PO Box 3076

Ohope

Phone 07 312 6318

Fax 07 312 6319

Mobile 027 2902 402

Email [norm@wairasoilcon.co.nz](mailto:norm@wairasoilcon.co.nz)

Norm invites all to call in and see him if you are visiting Ohope Beach over the summer holidays - or at any other time for that matter. If he isn't there, pop in next door and say hello to **Wayne Smith!!**

We recently farewelled **Gavin Williamson** from Fletcher Challenge Forests (FCF). Gavin has joined Mighty River Power as Manager of Environmental Projects, based in Hamilton. It is interesting to hear him extol the virtues of modern hydro-electricity *schemes* having been with the company for such a relatively short time. I'm sure that we will all see a lot more of Gavin on **60 Minutes**, surrounded by a group of angry protesters as he tries to explain the loss of yet another wilderness river and adjacent private property! Seriously, Gavin is greatly missed and he has made a significant contribution to FCF's Health, Safety and Environmental management.

With Gavin's departure, **Glenn Sutton** has assumed full responsibility for the environmental management side of FCF's forest & harvesting operations. Fortunately, his very enthusiastic colleague, **Grant Burke**, keeps the operational sharp-end running smoothly in his role as the company's Environmental Coordinator.

**Glenn's** current and recent projects include managing the company's annual Forest Steward Certification audit for the company, revision of the company's EMS, kiwi surveys with the help of **Willie Shaw** and his team, developing an estate-wide landscape plan (again with the help of Wildlands) falcon research, Regional and District plan submissions and references (particularly with the help of **Bridget Robson** and regularly allied with **Colin Maunder** of the Timber Management Company). One of our recent site discussions concerning our references to the infamous Variation 12 of the Proposed Rotorua District Plan resembled a mini-NZARM conference with participants including **Ruth Feist, Norm, Colin, Bridget and I.**

**Willie Shaw (Wildlands Consultants)** has been doing some interesting work for forestry companies on kiwi management and has also embarked on the preparation of a web-based manual for the management of threatened species for the forest industry. Wildlands have also heavily involved in restoration planning in various parts of the country.

Happy New Year from GS, Killer Whale and the BOP team

**Glenn Sutton and John Whale**

## Taranaki



I print's 'em as I gets 'em – Ed.

**Don Shearman**

## Waikato

**Helen Ritchie** has been busy running training courses with **Michelle Rush** for DOC staff on community conservation partnerships, and also finishing up an education resource for the Te Kauri restoration/education project. Coming up next year she will be doing some work on discussing water allocation issues with communities and may be contacting some other NZARM members about this to glean your good ideas.

**Michelle Gibbs** has been working on willow clearance programs within several catchments in the Northern and Western Waikato areas. Once willow is cleared the catchments will be replanted with natives and non-invasive willow species. With the planting season soon approaching a lot of time will be needed to co-ordinate the ordering and distribution of plants, particularly willow and poplar poles.

Michelle has also been busy responding to general farmer enquiries, developing farm plans to combat erosion and assisting farmers involved with Clean Streams to plan their fencing and planting projects.

**Sue McConnochie** has been working on co-ordinating willow clearance and fencing/planting projects within the Middle Waikato area. Willow clearance is due to start at the beginning of the year with fencing to follow.

Liaison and co-ordination with Care Groups is being handed onto **Nardene Berry** of Landcare. This has historically been the work of Land Management Officers at Environment Waikato.

**Blair Dickie** continues his role in support of the Waikato Biodiversity Forum (see feature article in this edition). Environment Waikato administers the Forum on behalf of the members, this includes receiving, managing, and applying funds as directed by the Forum's Focus Group for the purposes of carrying out the Forum's objectives. It also manages all matters concerning the hiring and payment of the personnel to be employed or contracted for the purpose of implementing the Forum's objectives.

**Bruce Peplow** has been involved with Land Management Officer recruitment with four new staff recently being appointed, two of these being new positions. This additional staff requirement has been needed to assist with the implementation of the Clean Streams project and Project Watershed. The latter is a Comprehensive soil conservation, river management and flood control project covering the Waikato River catchment.

### **Clean Streams Update**

Land Management Officers have been busy implementing Environment Waikato's Clean Streams Project. The Clean Streams project is was set up to encourage and support farmer efforts to reduce the impacts of farming on waterways. The project runs for 10 years and commits up to \$10 million to provide advice and financial support of up to 35% of fencing and planting costs for farmers who want to exclude stock from water margins.

Increasing numbers of Waikato farmers have taken up the opportunity of getting financial assistance with their stream protection projects. In the last six months a further 140 farmers have had applications for a 35% grant accepted and are now getting on with building fences to keep their animals out of streams.

Many farmers find the advice is the most valuable aspect of the project. Field staff have the opportunity to see a wide range of practical solutions on farms throughout the region and can use this knowledge to help farmers to develop new solutions for each situation. Common questions include how far back a fence should be, what standard of fence is required, what planting is best, and how can weeds be controlled.

## **Biodiversity and the Waikato Forum - Leading the Way in a Co-ordinated Approach to Biodiversity**

The Waikato Biodiversity Forum is now in the second year of operation. It provides a primary link between research and management agencies, Iwi groups, private landowners, communities and projects in relation to biodiversity in the Waikato Region. The Forum is a non-statutory multi-lateral body that shares a common philosophy that no one agency, sector or element of society has all the answers to the biodiversity issues that now confront us both nationally and in the region. The key underpinnings of the Forum are that we all have a responsibility and we all have roles to play in progressing the improvement of the region's indigenous biodiversity and what is more, we all benefit from such improvement. The Forum provides direction for local community and private action within a regional context.

The Forum's region of interest extends down to the northern slopes of the Tongariro National Park, across to Mokau on the west coast and up to just north of Port Waikato and includes the Coromandel Peninsula and land west of the Kaimais.

A Focus Group with a part-time co-ordinator manages the Forum. The Focus group has a broad membership with representative drawn from the following groups:- Department of Conservation, Environment Waikato, University of Waikato Centre for Biodiversity and Ecology Research, AgResearch Ltd., Landcare Research Ltd., Waikato District Council (as a representative for district councils), QEII National Trust, NZ Landcare Trust; Forest and Bird, Waikato Federated Farmers, Waikato Raupatu Trustee Company (Tainui), Dexcel, Hamilton City Council, Hauraki Maori Trust Board, Ecologic Society and ACRE. Members of the Forum are welcome to join the Focus group at any time.

The Focus group organises a programme of activities and projects on behalf of the Forum which include:

- The development of a shared vision for the region to tie the national goal of 'turning the tide' with the individual aspirations of community groups with local action oriented restoration projects. This project has reached the consultation phase of the draft Shared Vision for the Region and it is intended to be inspiration to those working in biodiversity enhance now and in the future,
- the development of a region-wide habitat restoration and reconstruction strategy;
- the operation of a free phone service 0800 BIODIV a one-stop shop for biodiversity advice,
- the operation of an eco-sourcing service focussing on habitat restoration projects in the Hamilton Basin and some other areas e.g. the lower Waikato River
- Support and sponsorship of existing projects including the Hamilton City Council initiative of returning Hamilton's gully systems to indigenous species, the Ecologic's Tui 2000 project and the development of a large outdoor natural heritage park which will include a range of habitats from lake and fringing wetland to lowland forest.

Forum membership has risen to around 130 members and is still growing. The members range from the management and research agencies mentioned above to environmental consultants, pest control officers, farmers, native plant nursery owners, school teachers, tramping club members,

hapu groups, environment centre co-ordinators and student's studying biological sciences. The individual members and groups span the region from as far afield as Turangi in the south and the Coromandel Peninsula to the north. The community groups are mostly involved in pest control, planting, monitoring bird life, re-introducing bird species, beachcare and enhancing walkways around lakes, streams and rivers.

The Forum holds 2 meetings per year. Attendance ranges from 45 to 60 each time. The Forum gives members the opportunity to be involved in the development of the Shared Vision on Biodiversity and the region wide habitat restoration and reconstruction strategy. The meetings are also valuable for members to network with each other, become inspired by the work other people are doing, share ideas and learn about new initiatives across the region.

The major strength of the Forum and the Biodiversity Advice Waikato, which is one of the Forums flagships, is that it provides a focal point of reference for sharing information on biodiversity activities across a large region. This focal point can lead to the formation of collaborative approaches on certain activities and promote the opportunity to share ideas on best practice.

New members are welcome. Contact Moira Cursey Ph 07 8465066 or 027 2223791 or email [m.cursey@actrix.co.nz](mailto:m.cursey@actrix.co.nz) to be put on the mailing list for Forum meetings, newsletters and information sharing.

**Bruce Peplow**

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**Nelson - Tasman**

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**Maryanne Baker**

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**Canterbury**

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**Dave Maslen & John Glennie**

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**Otago**

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Greetings from the south where we all seem to be so busy that the year has passed unnoticed. There has been a lot happening in the south since that fantastic time at the Rotorua conference. I can briefly report on the following activities in the south:

### **Otago-Southland Conference 2004 update**

At this stage we have a small team working on the initial planning and it would be true to say that we are behind on our planning. We have a number of options we are looking at but have decided that it will be over 3 days and not 2 and will either be in the last week of September or first week of October 2004. Regarding the location we are looking at two options: one may start in Dunedin and tour south, the other may be based around Gore and work from there. Accommodation will not be an issue at any of the locations.

We hope to have two field trips looking at a great multitude of issues and best management practice that are working and used in the south.

Costs will be kept to a reasonable level as we want to encourage as many persons as possible to attend. There will also be a real push for many related professionals and other organisations ie those that are not members to attend this conference. We will be promoting the NZARM name widely throughout both regions.

That's about all I can tell you at present but will provide more specific details in the next newsletter.

### **Ballance Farm Environment Awards**

This will be the first time that the awards will be run in Otago and so far the entrants are of an extremely high calibre with 3 High Country Runs and two vineyards (we have lots of interest for judges on these properties) but in all have 24 entrants. The diverse types of farms will really test the judges understanding and decision making when it comes to selecting the finalists.

Further south for the third year we have 27 entrants in the Southland awards with plenty of dairy farms and older established properties entered.

### **Otago Regional Council News**

There have been some really exciting new developments in Otago which I can briefly comment on.

#### **1. Dairy Farming Waterway Protection Programme**

The ORC recently launched its programme in an effort to protect and maintain Otago's waterways in particular with the DAIRY INDUSTRY.

The main objective is as follows;

The target exclusion of dairy stock from waterways in Otago by June 2005yr

Currently all dairy farms in Otago are being surveyed, to gauge how much fencing exists already along riparian margins. This will be used as a baseline to measure the progress of this new initiative. Furthermore, a package was sent out to all dairy farmers and associated agencies and consultants informing them of the programme along with a recently published booklet titled "Environmental Considerations for DAIRY Farming in Otago" and questions and answers about the programme.

This has been an interesting approach by the Council and if successful will tend to indicate that a similar approach may be used to improve waterway management on other farm types in Otago.

## **2. Taieri Trust wins Environment Award**

From media release in ODT 16 December 03

The efforts and successes of the Taieri Trust have been recognised through the presentation of an Otago Regional Council Environment Award. Council Chairman Duncan Butcher said the award was for the Trusts impressive work in enhancing public awareness of water quality, and environmental and public health issues in the Taieri catchment. Trust members Gretchen Robertson (who some of you will remember presented that informative talk on the Trusts work at the Rotorua conference) and Monty Wright accepted the award at a recent Council meeting. “The Councils contribution has gone a long way towards making a difference in the Taieri” said Gretchen “and we appreciate the Councils partnership”.

## **3. growOTAGO Soils and Climate data maps.**

This massive programme is nearing completion where a large series of climate maps with considerable computer generated aspects have been taken into account. The programme has been undertaken mainly by NIWA, Landcare Research, Agresearch in conjunction with the ORC and has been mapped at a 1;50000 scale.

There are about 10 climate maps for each matching topographic map at the same scale. The comprehensive set of maps has not been undertaken anywhere else in NZ and includes looking at many parameters such as total rainfall, extreme max air temps, highest min air temp, highest daily mean temp, mean daily grass min temp, mean 10cm earth temp average date of last frost and earliest frost, growing degree days, highest daily wind run to name some. If you are setting up a new venture in primary production there can be no excuse for not having good background information for good decision making about the feasibility of that enterprise.

On the soils side a series of maps is nearing completion at the same scale. It is particularly useful where previously only the general soil survey information and data was available (ie at the old 1;250000 scale). I have not seen many of these maps yet so cannot make any comment on how useful they will be to land planners because in many situations one requires maps at 1;20,000 or better scale when looking at individual farm properties in the 300-500ha size.

**GrowOTAGO** information will be primarily available on CDs which people will be able to obtain from the ORC. Both the CD and website will enable users to zoom in on areas of interest and then over plot the required climate and soil data.

Prepared by  
Murray Harris

**Nicola McGrouther & Tom Heller**

## Southland

**Bala TikkiSETTY**

## Manawatu - Wanganui

**Malcolm Todd**

## Gisborne

## Wellington - Wairarapa

**Dave Cameron**

## Hawkes Bay

**Anna Lambourne** from Dexcel reports that in response to farmers identifying the need for a one stop shop for their environmental information, Dexcel has developed [www.enviroDIRECT.co.nz](http://www.enviroDIRECT.co.nz) a web based searchable database. [enviroDIRECT.co.nz](http://enviroDIRECT.co.nz) provides practical information resources on environmental topics currently faced on farm, and can put farmers and rural professionals in touch with environmental service providers operating in their region. [enviroDIRECT.co.nz](http://enviroDIRECT.co.nz) is a free service to use. To make things as easy as possible [enviroDIRECT.co.nz](http://enviroDIRECT.co.nz) allows online submissions of new information resources, and service providers. [EnviroDIRECT.co.nz](http://enviroDIRECT.co.nz) will be launched at the end of February 2004 so keep your eyes peeled for [www.enviroDIRECT.co.nz](http://www.enviroDIRECT.co.nz)

The Regional Council under **Joe Devonport's** guidance is starting the process for the harvesting and sale of the next area of *P.radiata* within the Tangoio Soil Conservation Reserve. This is approximately 120ha planted in 1977 - about double the area that was harvested at the Devil's Elbow some years ago. The harvesting will not be commenced until Oct-Nov of next year - at the earliest. We are hoping that log prices continue to rise from the recent low point. His student helpers have recommenced the annual blitz on Old Man's Beard and a few other nasties. Planning and setup is underway for the next financial round

of the Council's highly successful and currently oversubscribed Regional Landcare Scheme (RLS). He hopes to get up to Whakatane and find those fish that didn't get caught after the NZARM conference - they should be that much bigger if John and Norm left them alone!

**Neil Faulknor's** main activity recently has been RLS claims and trying to get as many in as possible to try and see if we can free up any money to be able to approve some of the jobs that are on hold. The weather in Central Hawkes Bay has been magic for farmers. The whole district is a green as.....well as green as grass, which means the poles are currently growing very well. Had some comments about the late striking of poplars, but with regular rain that will probably not be a problem. Neil hosted a visit to Kris August's property where some of the NZARM members would have been on the debris dam building course. Results are spectacular, especially alongside the revegetation work he has also carried out, using sulla on the steep mudstone faces (see picture). Then there are the essential extra curricular activities including a week instructing at the ATC Gliding camp at Waipukurau and being on stage for a week in our Waipawa Musical and Dramatic Club's Christmas show.

**John Phillips** has joined Council as an Environmental Scientist: Resource Quality. John comes to us from Horizons MW where he was responsible for surface water quality and ecology. John will have a slightly different focus in Hawke's Bay and be responsible for fully developing a land monitoring programme, although as all good water quality scientists know whatever happens on the land eventually ends up in the water, so there is an obvious link. John will also lead Council's land use intensification investigations aimed at understanding the issues surrounding future land use intensification in the region and what should be done about it. These investigations have 2 more years to go. **Nigel Ironside** is leaving Council to join the Ministry for the Environment as a manager in the Sustainable Industry section.

**Jude Addenbrooke** had a week's holiday on the Chatham'sand in her own words: 'Fantastic. Met all my expectations of windswept, barren, bracken-covered and continually overcast. But then blew them all away with pure white sandy stretches of beach with sparkling clear turquoise tropical waters. The geology and landforms were the best part - an amazing diversity within such a small area, with small andesitic volcanoes pimpled across the northern peatlands, dark orange tuff cliffs, basalt columns like the Giant's Causeway, 53myo shark's teeth in a 20,000 acre shallow lagoon, limestone sculptures and so much more you have to see for yourself.' She even attended a Farm Forestry fieldday - bit of a dismal prospect with the wind and the salt, and 50ha of recently-planted macrocarpas showing signs of canker already. Jude attended a course on using Overseer – the nutrient budgeting tool and is now our in-house expert.

**Neil Grant** reports that things have been pretty hectic of late with a large amount to get through. Including heavy DOC involvement with landuse consent granted by HDC on the multi-million dollar Cape Kidnappers Lodge development proposal of American Julian Robertson, in an Outstanding Natural Landscape. Mr Robertson is already developing the nearby international golf course. The Ahuriri Expressway is now complete and open and the Partnering Group Neil has been involved with has received a HBRC Environmental Award which was really appreciated by members of the group. Initial discussions have been held with HBRC over their proposed review of the Regional Coastal Plan which comes at a difficult time in terms of a number of national coastal management issues. And.....still managing to play tennis regularly with Garth Eyles-recently combined well in a doubles tournament which we nearly won!

**Peter Manson** has spent a similar amount of time as Neil recently dealing with landowners who have taken advantage of the grant assisted soil conservation programme (RLS). It is however nearly sailing weather, not that there is any conflict of course!

A gathering of about 12 farmers from throughout the Wairoa District decided recently to pursue the opportunity to learn more about their farm soils. A visiting farm management professional from Dannevirke, **Tony Rhodes** explained to the group what benefits might be gained from the six month course. The specific nature of the course will enable property owners to understand the strengths and weaknesses of the soil resources of their own farms, in contrast to a single farm approach. This will be a strong move toward improving both production potential and awareness and action in soil conservation work.

At the time of writing **Garth Eyles** was deep in paper comprising notes that will eventually become 2004/05 budgets, but no doubt with tennis and holidays on his mind.

As for **Simon Stokes**? He's the proud father of a new daughter and has already disappeared into the blur of sleepless nights mingled with holiday season.

## **Peter Manson**

### **Auckland**

Happy New Year to you all from Auckland. Big changes at present for Auckland region, as most of you will know via the media. The advent of a proposed Regional Transport Authority under the ARC makes for interesting times when preparing budgets for next year. We're all slowly lifting our heads again too as the 'rates revolt' and associated media onslaught dies back a bit.

New Land Management Officer

**Amy Taylor** started work with us in mid October, doing a variety of Land Management work. Amy brings with her a background in soils and graduated from Massey University, with a BSc and Postgrad Dip in Earth Science and GIS. Following that, she spent three years down in Southland working on the Topoclimate South project, which involved mapping the soils and climate of the Southland region. After that, she did a short stint in Tasmania working on a Land Use Capability project, before returning to home to Te Awamutu, where she began working for Landcare Research in Hamilton. This work largely involved compiling information on tephra deposits from the central volcanic region and entering it into a GIS.

Riparian Workshops

We have just held another 2 Riparian Zone Management 1-day workshops in the region, based on our Technical Publication 148 'Riparian Zone Management Strategy, Guideline and Planting Guide'. We are now reviewing how we deliver these workshops and will look at holding separate 'urban' and 'rural' workshops to better focus on the respective different issues. We are also considering running shorter workshops, targeted for dairy farmers, under the banner of Fonterra's Clean Streams Accord.

Dairy Wastewater Regional Plan

We have reached a milestone in that all 460 dairy farm effluent systems are now either permitted or consented, depending on whether they discharge to land (permitted activity) or water (controlled or discretionary, depending on dilution available). The 'Regional Plan: Farm Dairy Discharges' is the guiding policy document and has been phased in on a district-by-district basis over the last 5 years. Unlike some other regions, the dairy-herd number is declining. In 1990, there were 950 dairy farms in the Auckland region. Whilst the decline in numbers lessens the pressure on the receiving environment from effluent, silage-leachate etc, one can also argue that there are other long-term adverse effects on account of land fragmentation, decline in land and soil versatility, and productive capacity. The ARC will be reviewing this regional plan shortly, to address issues of nitrate-application rates and incorporation into the plan of feed-pad/hard-stand area effluent management.

#### Air Land and Water Regional Plan

Hearings on submissions have been completed now. For our team and rural industry, there remain some outstanding contentious points, - particularly in relation to rules for wastewater from protected cropping systems, rules for cultivation (to guard against soil-loss), and stock-access to water (deficiency in objectives/policies/methods etc!).

#### Mahurangi Catchment issues

For those of you familiar with this beautiful part of our region i.e. Warkworth area, the Mahurangi harbour is showing rapidly increasing levels of stress from sedimentation and a consequent decline in marine benthic ecology/biodiversity. In response, ARC is looking at implementing a comprehensive multi-year improvement programme in the catchment, and engaging the community in an integrated catchment management process.

#### Sediment and Stormwater team news...

A successful forestry field day in September was held at Riverhead Forest, attended by about 60 Forest industry planners, consultants and operators. The day included practical demonstrations of good practice around erosion control, sediment entrapment and associated site management, including hydro-seeding of a hauler site and site contouring. Also included was a practical demonstration of the construction of a decanting slash bund to treat sediment-laden run-off from a loading site. Bowden and Associates kindly provided a BBQ to cap the day off.

The annual sediment-control field-day was once again held at Long Bay in September, coinciding with the start of the 'earthworks season'. Attended by about 250 consultants, contractors, council staff and planners, the day provided a well-rounded mix of information, demonstrations, service and product-displays and a great opportunity for net-working within the industry. A major objective of this day is to maintain a high degree of awareness of rules and expectations around ARC rules and best-practice guides relating to sediment management on earthworks sites. The ARC's cornerstone good practice guide – TP90 ( 'Erosion and Sediment Control Guidelines for Land Disturbing Activities' ) is in it's final review stage and should be in production shortly.

The team has undergone some structural and staff changes recently. **Graeme Ridley** has departed the team for fairer pastures, leading the Consents Team now. In the interim, **Earl Shaver** (our stormwater technical specialist) has been leading the sed team, however **Paul Metcalf** will be returning in February (from a secondment in Parks) to lead the team again. **Roger Seyb** leads the stormwater team. Also, **Timothy Rix-Trott** and **Karyn Hopkins** have left the ARC recently, and **Michael Parsonson** and has assumed a team-leader position in the consents team. (I think I've got all that right!?)

**Tony Thompson**

**Northland**

Nothing from the far North.

## **AND FROM THE SECRETARY**

Now, if it's not already finished it would be good if you could put in a reminder to people to get their subs paid before 31 March (to avoid it being \$70 etc). Invoices will be going out before the end of the week, just as soon as I get them all printed.

One other thing though, as I'm STILL trying to tidy up the membership list. There are a few people that must have moved and haven't changed their address, my idea was to maybe put in a seeking Jo Bloggs sort of thing, see if someone else can let me know whats happened to them. Doesn't help several of them are in arrears! Would that be OK?

## **New Members**

The Executive extends a hearty welcome to the following new members to NZARM.

**Approved at the Exective meeting on .**

**John Paterson  
Allan Hughes  
Victoria Seaton  
Andrew Curtis  
Vance Fulton  
Jonathan Findon  
Phillip Dykzeul  
John Douglas  
Daryll Hall  
Campbell Sinclair  
Don Bell**

## **Ball's Clearing, Puketitiri, Hawkes Bay**

**Ewan McGregor**

An ecological treasure of international significance is the relatively small bush reserve of Ball's Clearing of Puketitiri, western Hawkes Bay. It is 135 hectares in size, with 36 hectares of original forest, which is comprises of a range of giant podocarps, perhaps the heaviest anywhere in existence per hectare, with also an area of canopy Nothofagus.

Podocarps are an ancient sub-group of conifers. They have scales or tiny leaves, like a conifer, but rather than a cone, their seeds are born in very small fruit-like capsules. With one exception this family is confined to the Southern Hemisphere. The main species are totara, rimu, matai, kahikatea, and miro, which, with the kauri (a cone-bearer, so also a conifer) provided us with nearly all our timber before the maturation of our exotic plantations.

Hawkes Bay, with its drier climate and history of natural and man-made fires lacked extensive stands of millable bush upon the arrival of the Pakeha, but Puketitiri with more rainfall was an exception. Much timber came from this district where two large mills operated, both closing in 1941.

Virtually all the magnificent ancient forest there was exploited over a relatively short period. If the bush didn't warrant milling it was cleared anyway for pasture production, especially after World War Two where track-laying equipment made this much more practical, and when fertilizer and the technology to apply it made the resulting pasture immensely productive.

Fortunately though some people had vision and a group, lead by Hastings GP Dr David Bathgate, doggedly campaigned to have a magnificent remaining stand legally protected and in 1945 this quest bore fruit. It became known as Ball's Clearing, named after an Englishman, John Ball, who lived there in the 1890s.

It's ironic of course that the one area spared clearance is called a 'clearing,' which adds a bit of curiosity. In fact an adjacent area of land on the eastern margin was cleared and that is where Ball camped.

Recently a 40-page booklet, written by Patrick Grant and John McLennan and well illustrated with the assistance of the local Department of Conservation, was published by the Napier Branch of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society.

This work deals thoroughly with the animal life of the clearing, and explains how this has been transformed from the days of the moa to the present. Today there are twenty species of birds recorded in the clearing that are either endemic (found only in New Zealand) or native (self-introduced but found also in other countries; and sixteen introduced to New Zealand by man.

But perhaps the most fascinating – for me anyway – was the detailed section on the long-tailed bat of which the reserve has at least the largest population in the North Island and possibly nationally. Much research has been done at Ball's Clearing of this shy and little-understood creature, one of three native species, New Zealand's only native mammals. Bats are the only mammals able to sustain flight, which no-doubt explains why they inhabit this land, which was geologically formed in isolation long before the development of mammals.

At the book's launching Regional Conservator Ken Hunt spoke of the possibility of one day Ball's Clearing being encircled by a predator-proof fence. This is a costly exercise, although the technology of

such a structure is improving all the time. Further, the stream that runs through the reserve creates a major physical challenge to this objective.

Still, this ecological treasure must one day warrant it, but alas DOC doesn't have the resources. Any rich corporates, or individuals (maybe rich Americans!) out there looking for a bit of kudos, and doing some real good along the way? I'm sure that DOC will like to hear from you.

The Puketitiri offers a range of attractions, including the Black Birch Ridge, where the Kawekas can be accessed by car, and the Lemmin Museum, a fascinating private collection of historic artifacts and cars.

The booklet can be sourced from The Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and costs \$12.

## Why-o Waitaki??

(aka what is happening in the Waitaki?)

In August 2003 Cabinet determined that some intervention on water allocation in the Waitaki was warranted. What pushed government to suddenly intervene when almost all (barring the Taranaki Combined Cycle powerstation in the early 90s) RMA decisions had been left to local government?

The reasons are quite straightforward, but signal some wider issues, and also the determination of this Government to take corrective action where it thinks it is needed.

The issues were triggered by Meridian Energy Limited's pending applications to take nearly  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the flow of the lower Waitaki and put it down a canal system and through a series of small hydro-electricity generation plants (Project Aqua) before discharging back in to the river at the bottom of the catchment.

Obviously with a development of this scale and nature, if consented, the opportunities to do anything else with the river or the water in the future are more than a tad constrained. Hence the need to have a strategic look at whether this is a good thing for NZ and for the local and regional community before decisions are made.

The issues included:

- Substantial number of competing demands for water for different activities (mainly hydro-generation vs irrigation)
- Under current law and practice we cant consider applications in anything other than the order of notification, nor can we examine the merits of the various uses
- Processes were rather litigious, and showed all the signs of becoming more so – with the prospect being that the person with the deepest pockets wins. Not particularly good for communities, local govt or the RMA, but very good for lawyers.
- Enormous pressure on small authorities with limited ability to respond.

### So what is Govt up to?

Government has water management well and truly in its sights. The Sustainable Programme of Action, launched early in 03, has as one of its major themes a re-examination of how we manage and allocate water in NZ. A programme has been set up and a number of bods from around regional government are involved in various pieces of early work. However none of this was going to happen fast enough to deal with the Waitaki. Government instead determined that it would call in all the applications to take water from the Waitaki catchment, and introduce special legislation to find a one-off (we hope) fix. Call-in means that the Ministry takes over responsibility for the consenting process from local government.

This legislation puts in place a number of processes that is intended to find a better way through. At present (it still a Bill) it includes:

#### 1 **Water Allocation Framework (aka A plan on steroids)**

Government determined that it wanted to put some form of allocation framework in place that would make decisions about what water was available, and to what uses it is best put (vague memories of the WSCA anyone?). This would go a bit further than the RMA currently provides for, in particular that it can examine economic and social considerations as well as environmental.

## 2 **Independent Board of Inquiry**

Some wise souls are to be appointed to carry out this rather difficult task, and in a rather limited time-frame.

## 3 **Framework left behind as Regional Plan**

The intention is that the framework will be constructed such that it can be left behind for the regional councils to operate as a regional plan, hence sunsetting government's intervention and minimising the risk of creating an enduring unique situation.

While all of this goes on, the applications to take water that were called in, plus all the other land use and associated applications needed for Project Aqua, are notified, but go on hold once submissions close. Once the framework has been prepared (through a public process) and made operative, the applications will be reactivated and heard by a panel of commissioners.

All sorts of other exciting things have been happening to make all of this work. The Ministry has dragged Kevin Currie back in from the "RMA cold" that is ERMA to run the project. One of the first things Kevin has done is set up an office in Oamaru, as well as running the main project from MfE's Chch office.

The Ministry has also appointed a community relations adviser (Jane Whitlock) whose job it is to assist communities through the process and provide a level of support to the TLAs in particular.

One of the big challenges has been to find people who are not already involved to do work – it seems that just about every major RMA firm in the country and virtually anybody in RMA and water consultancy in the South Island has had a finger in the pie somewhere.

Being relatively green (in the sense of new chum) in government, the biggest challenge for me has been negotiating through with all the other government departments – it's one thing to talk to all the councils and involved parties, but bringing in other departments with varying degrees of understanding (and interest) of how things really work is another kettle of fish altogether. Other departments have all sorts of stunts they can pull if they don't like your proposal which can gazump the best efforts. So unless your minister is more important than theirs, you have to keep them in line, in touch, and feeling loved and listened to. (Consultation 101 really)

### **So where are we at?**

We have a Bill in the House in record time (that's a draft piece of legislation that has yet to go through its hearing) – 4 months and 4 days from conception to introduction – and now has to go through the Select Committee process. We are aiming for a report-back in mid-March.

Lots of people are doing lots of work – everybody is busy doing reports on everything from social impact reports to economic evaluations, and handling lots of enquiries.

Submissions close late Feb to early March, but then (providing we get some legislation) the fun really begins with setting up the Board of Inquiry and making it all happen.

### **What does it mean for the RMA?**

There are some real things we need to have a close look at. These include:

- The current water allocation model had its limitations in a world leaning towards a sustainable development approach,
- The idea of there being a "national interest" needs to be re-evaluated, and articulated

- current national policy instruments may be too limited or cumbersome
- how we manage the very real pressures that can be placed on small units of local government by major developments
- how we respond rapidly where there is a policy vacuum
- and more I'm sure as we go...

Cheers from the Big Smoke (not sure that is a PC terms any more...)

Sue Powell

Sue

I look after the local government side of activities to do with the Ministry - in general that means mostly programmes that are directly relating to local government roles and responsibilities.

Key areas include:

#### 1 Sustainable Development Programme of Action

This is a key work area across Government, and includes energy, water, sustainable cities, and youth development. We look after one major area, being water, and contribute to another, being cities.

**Water:** Reviewing what water management means in a sustainable development context. There are 3 major strands, being water quality / land use interactions, water allocation, and waters of national significance. A number of people from regional councils are on working parties within these strands.

**Cities:** The larger programme is around looking at how the different agencies of central and local government operate together in terms of city design and management, and how we might do rather better than now. The key focus is (of course) Auckland at this point. Our component is putting together an Urban Design Protocol.

#### 2 Contaminated Sites Remediation Fund.

This is a programme where we have widened the current funding such that we can fund more than just the really big difficult sites that take years to make progress on. Funding is now available to local government for various phases of investigation and remediation through a contestable fund. And there's lots of \$ in the pot currently.

#### 3 National Environmental Standards.

The Ministry is having its first serious crack at national standards, and the first set is focused around air quality. Not without its controversy. Watch this space for more, including possible topics like septic tanks and landfill acceptance criteria. Helped along by a reference group from local government.

#### 4 National Monitoring.

This is an area under review, but likely to come out looking a few more specifics such as progress on biodiversity protection on private land as well as the periodic council performance monitoring and national state of the environment monitoring.

#### 5 Quality Planning

We maintain a website in conjunction with LGNZ, RMLA and NZPI that focuses on good practice examples, news, and working towards second generation RMA plans.

#### 6 Franz Josef

Wayne Bettjeman has been working hard on finding a solution to the thorny issue of how you move established businesses out of the way of probably the highest risk area of disastrous inundation we are aware of. Tough stuff - there aren't a lot of draconian powers available (yet).

And some words from Bill... (you really need a photo to see the changes since Bill arrived in Wgtn!!!)

Sue said you wanted some words for NZARM here are some scribbles:

It's been nine months since I left Taranaki to join MfE – pretty amazing period for me and my family probably pretty amazing for MfE too! As Dave Brash said in a recent speech “you can take the boy out of the naki – but we don't seem to be able to take the knackers off the boy!”. Certainly leaving the secure networks of Taranaki and the very action orientated style of the regional council there to come to MfE in Wellington has been a bigger change that I anticipated. Don't hesitate to contact me if any of you want a beer in the city, no, I don't' really do coffee yet.

Meanwhile, I thought I would let you know some of the things I am handling that might interest members. The original task I took on was General Manager Sustainable Industry and to that two months ago they added Climate Change and yes acronym is SICC. On the Sustainable Industry side areas of interest might be:

1. Clean Streams Accord  
Monitoring progress (if any of you haven't seen it contact Lachie Grant at TRC for the uptake of riparian planning in the Waiwhakaiho since the Accord, quite dramatic). Work on culvert bridge design stuff to support the Accord and hopefully a publicity programme on water quality in 2005 in partnership with Regional Councils.
2. Damaged Lands  
Responsible for disposing of about 360 pieces of land that MfE has discovered that it owns. Mid Dome in Southland for example, where we are in the process of trying to kill *pinus contorta*. Much appreciate John Mangos and Don Clark and other NZARM members assistance, where would you be without your networks.
3. NZ Waste Strategy Initiatives  
Everything here from collection of hazardous wastes in conjunction with regional councils to work promoting the use of biosolids, projects looking at waste on farms, plastics on farms hopefully leading to programmes in New Zealand like drum muster and chem clean in Australia.

On the Climate Change side

1. Agriculture Emissions Research  
Came in at the end of the fuss over this, quite an exciting area of research in terms of opportunities to improve productivity.
2. Forestry  
Work on Permanent Forest Sink Mechanisms, the Forestry Industry Framework Agreement (FIFA) is complex and interesting. Real cutting edge stuff implementing a climate change policy when there really are no other models to plagiarise from.
3. Local Government  
Local government has a key role in the delivery of the climate change policy. There is a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction (Mitigation) Programme and what we are calling a Local Government Adaptation Programme both of those kick off early this year in conjunction with Local Government New Zealand
4. Monitoring  
The international reporting requirements associated with Kyoto or any other protocol that may emerge are going to be significant. Peter Stephens familiar to many of you has joined us also working with Len Brown ex EW on the monitoring and reporting. Low and behold I even find myself dealing with landcover database II again.

It's only a snapshot, maybe in return I can use broadsheet. I have three vacancies for advisors in the Sustainable Industry sections. Wellington and MfE desperately needs people with rural/regional backgrounds in implementing policy. Its interesting how few people we have here with agricultural or agricultural science backgrounds. Anyone interested in a stint in Wellington?

Cheers

Bill

## Project Green

For those of you following, or unaware of Project Green the following is an update of the project currently.

The Green Project (renamed during the summit conference before xmas to Project Green) began in January 2001 funded by MAF's SFF, New Zealand Business Council for Sustainable Development, and Richmond Meat Company. It involved farmers across the lower North Island, with several meetings and technical work. The aim was to develop a minimum (voluntary) New Zealand standard for sustainable production of sheep, beef, deer, and goat farms. It is a first for the livestock industry as high level Quality Assurance scheme, based around three plans: The Land and Environmental plan, Animal management plan, and Social (responsibility) plan.

At the summit conference in Taupo last year (Nov 03) the project needed to finish and redesign its future. The result has been the establishment of an Interim Governance Board of Kris August, Bill Ritchie (Hawke's Bay), Rod Pearce (Wanganui Founder and Group Leader – Rod is also a member of the NZBCSD), John Stewart (Manawatu), Jeremy Austin .

Their vision is to achieve a standard of food safety, animal welfare, and sustainable resource management that is defensible in all countries of the world. The Board has to establish a legal entity with the intellectual property transferring to the new entity.

They have several key things that they need to achieve in the short term. They need to get industry to further 'buy in' to the whole project concept. There is apparently funding available from several sources and this also has to be secured. And the big list goes on.

The important aspect for you to be aware of is that this programme provides a comprehensive assessment of the environmental issues (including discharges, archaeological sites etc) and has as its platform the land use capability system. It was the only way to provide a suitable professional assessment which could withstand international scrutiny and provided levels of production enhancement opportunities which was also important in the programme. Myself, Lachie Grant, and Rene Wetering were initially involved developing the Land and Environmental plan components, along with AgResearch (Alec McKay). As you can imagine covering all issues on a farm ensuring a farms site specificness is maintained was difficult and in the end complex, but nonetheless achieved. The Councils involvement because of our involvement has reduced but there is still some potential for involvement, particularly as the new Board attempt to complete their plan for farmers, and the need for LUC information, more specific information on soils and other planning information as per planning documents. Note, this also involves ensuring the District or Unitary authority plans are adhered to also.

The ultimate aim is to have this project underpin most farm businesses across New Zealand, giving a farm some level of triple bottom line reporting for their business, to then gain access to international markets. At the same time it will ensure that environmental issues are managed in accordance with that farms resources and local government requirements (in particular). If farmers or others want information or your involvement, please give it some thought and support. As there is to be (potentially) a farm planning review workshop for some Council's this year, a topic high on the list will be Project Green. In Hawke's Bay we are still fully supportive. If anyone wants any information please feel free to keep in touch with myself or Lachie Grant, or Alec McKay.

Regards Simon



**COMING EVENTS - CALENDAR****(from Royal Society NZ Alert)**

<b>9-10 October 2003</b>	
<b>21-23 October 2003</b>	
<b>22-24 October 2003</b>	
<b>3-4 November 2003</b>	
<b>13-14 November 2003</b>	
<b>18-21 November 2003</b>	
<b>1-4 December 2003</b>	
<b>1-5 December 2003</b>	
<b>7-9 July 2004</b>	