



Report **05.395**
Date 27 July 2005
File E/06/16/03

Committee **Landcare**
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Acting Divisional Manager's report

1. Purpose

To inform the Committee about the activities and progress of the Landcare Division since the Committee's last meeting.

2. Manager's reports

The Departmental Manager's reports are attached.

3. 2004/05 year end wrap up

As one financial year comes to a close and another begins, it is timely to reflect on where we have been and where we are going.

2004/05 was a very busy year for the Division. Alongside the planned work programmes were several flood and storm events which created extra work in both Flood Protection and Parks and Forests. Associated with the events was an increased public awareness of the risks of flooding and subsequent calls for the Council to do more, and faster.

The planned disposal of Waitangirua Farm in Belmont Regional Park and Whareroa Farm on the Kapiti Coast by Landcorp was also thrown into the mix during the year. Parks and Forests staff dedicated significant amounts of time to trying to achieve the best result for the region.

The transfer of management of land in East Harbour and Belmont Regional Parks was finalised during the year. This was the culmination of five years of work to achieve the transfer. The new ranger service at East Harbour Regional Park is now well bedded in and positive relationships have been formed with the local community.

We had one of the best Parks and Forests Regional Outdoors programmes since the programme started, with high attendance and excellent feedback.

2005/06 is also gearing up to be a very busy year. There is still a significant amount of work required to complete the works resulting from the January 05 floods and August 04 storms, in particular clearing dangerous trees in Belmont Regional Park and the finishing up of works in the Hutt, Otaki and Waikanae rivers.

Reviewing the management plans for our regional parks will continue in 2005/06. The programme for this year is to complete the Queen Elizabeth and East Harbour Regional Park plans, and have Belmont Regional Park and Battle Hill Farm Forest Park well underway.

Environmental asset protection continues in our parks and forests in earnest in 2005/06. This year is an exciting one as we will see some developments being made in establishing mainland islands in the Wainuiomata/Orongorongo Water Catchment Area and East Harbour Regional Park.

The Flood Protection capital works programme is another busy one and will see significant gains in the protection of the benefiting communities. Key items in the plan for 2005/06 include the completion of the Strand Park and Jim Cooke Park channel realignments, good progress in the Alicetown stopbank upgrade and starts being made on the Chrystalls Extended stopbank and Ava Railway bridge improvements.

The Division is looking forward to 2005/06 being a challenging and fulfilling year, and I think we collectively have our fingers crossed for a settled spring and summer.

4. Recommendations

That the Committee:

1. ***Receive the report.***
2. ***Note the contents of the report.***

Report prepared by:

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Attachment 1: Department reports