

## **Report 00.793**

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Report to the Landcare Committee  
from Andrew Annakin, Divisional Manager, Landcare

### **Divisional Manager's Report**

#### **1. Purpose**

To inform the Landcare Committee about activities and matters of interest within the Landcare Division since the last Landcare Committee meeting, 24 August 2000. Departmental activity reports are also attached.

#### **2. Bali Holiday - 21 October to 9 November 2000**

For the last three weeks I have been on holiday in Bali (where I edited most of this!). Susan Edwards was Acting Divisional Manager during my absence; she did an excellent job. Any important matters during that time are covered in her and the other Managers' activity reports.

It seems that whenever I go on holiday I find the world either having, or preparing for, flood events. A 400 year event in the English city of York struck a particular cord with the design standard for the Hutt River. Here in Indonesia, Jakarta is preparing for the rainy season. The city is 40 percent below sea level, so stop banks are a risky option; the preference is to use the stormwater system and pumps. However, most drains are clogged with rubbish and act as secondary sewers, so their effectiveness is limited; along with significant public health risks. For the upcoming rains, Jakarta has identified 71 separate hotspots at risk from inundation. The city will shortly go on 24 hour flood watch. Loss of life is expected as a matter of course.

Like all our travels through South East Asia, Bali makes you appreciate many things taken for granted by most New Zealanders; like quality drinking water, from a tap. Bali also suffers another Asian disease - the potential to bury itself in rubbish. Traditional Balinese packaging used banana leaves and crude paper (all biodegradable). Plastic now dominates and, of course, does not break down like plant-based alternatives. Rubbish builds up in drifts and is sometimes buried or burned - which made me think about New Zealand's own growing dilemma with landfills.

Another interesting observation (for a supposedly Third World country) is the focus on e-commerce. There is a particular push in Indonesia for e-commerce to drive regional development, especially for government services (something only recently picked up in New Zealand). Asia appears much more concerned with e-commerce than New Zealand.

### 3. **Implementing the Long-term Financial Strategy (LTFS)**

Over the last two months Landcare staff have been busy commencing the new Long-term Financial Strategy (LTFS) work programme. Both areas within the Division have a range of exciting new projects to undertake while maintaining their core activities. They have embarked on these with enthusiasm.

### 4. **Out and About**

#### **St Bernard's Educational Woodlot Planting, 6 September 2000**

Along with Councillor Werry, Howard Stone and various Landcare staff, I attended the official opening and first planting of the St Bernard's College Educational Woodlot at Battle Hill Farm Forest Park. The partnership with the College is the first of its kind in the parks and forests and we hope it will be beneficial to both the school and the Council. The Regional Council received good publicity through the local media.

#### **Presentation of Hutt River Environmental Strategy, 5 and 6 September 2000**

In conjunction with the Flood Protection staff, I helped to present the Hutt River Environmental Strategy to the Upper Hutt and Hutt City Councils. Both Councils have now endorsed and supported the Strategy.

Flood Protection staff are reporting separately on the recent western region floods. My only comments at this stage are that the events were well managed and, as in October 1998, staff were well deployed though resources were tested as the events lingered and repeated. Support from Environment Division (Hydrology) and relations with local emergency management team were also good. The events received good coverage in the media; Flood Protection staff appeared on the TV News and the Evening Post headline "*Flood Protection Works Paid Off*" reflected well on the repairs and system upgrades approved after the October 1998 events.

#### **Geoff Cameron's Farewell, 28 September 2000**

Geoff's position of Manager, Natural Forestry was disestablished through the Regional Parks/Natural Forestry integration. Geoff elected not to apply for a position in the new structure, instead setting up his own environmental consultancy business. Geoff worked for the Regional Council for eight years. His skills and knowledge will be missed. Geoff left the Council with the best wishes of Councillors, management and his colleagues and we hope he will be successful with his new venture.

**Pro-Mall Discussions, 8 October 2000**

I kept a watching brief on the Pro-Mall Development (to be called Valley Plaza) appeal negotiations; led by Flood Protection with support and assistance from the Environment Division. I am pleased to see the positive outcome achieved with the signing of a consent memorandum. This matter is covered in more detail in Brendan Paul's report.

**5. Recommendation**

*That the Divisional and departmental reports be received and the contents noted.*

ANDREW ANNAKIN  
Divisional Manager, Landcare

**Attachment 1 : Managers Reports**